



THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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Festival of St. Lucia blesses GAC once again

Grace LaTourelle
Staff Writer

Gustavus Adolphus College was founded in 1862 and christened in 1876 by Swedish Lutheran immigrants. Thus, the school honors its founders' heritage by participating in Swedish traditions and services. Among the cultural traditions is the Festival of St. Lucia, which has been celebrated at Gustavus since 1941. This year's Festival of St. Lucia will take place on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023.

In Swedish custom, the Festival of St. Lucia marks the Christmas season annually on Dec. 13. Lucia was an Italian woman who devoted her life to God. She aimed to use her dowry to help the poor but was ultimately alerted to authorities for her Christian beliefs and died a martyr. Swedish legend illustrates a woman "clothed in white and crowned with light" appearing on the shore of Varmland, Sweden, helping the poor and hungry during a famine; this event followed her death, yet the woman was said to be Lucia.

Lucia, whose name literally translated to light, exemplified being a light to others. Gustavus honors Lucia with the Court of St. Lucia, composed of six Sophomore women. The students chosen should reflect the qualities and legacy of Lucia: courage, leadership, service, strength, and compassion. The court is solidified through campus nomination, an ensuing vote by Sophomore



Student workers in the CIE.

Sophia White

women, and finally further nominations by the Guild of St. Lucia, a Senior honors society.

St. Lucia is represented at the festival by one Sophomore woman, elected from the Court of St. Lucia. The Court all wear white robes, a red sash, and a wreath crown to pay tribute to Lucia. However, the chosen St. Lucia will have lit candles adorning her crown to encapsulate the 'light' aspect of the tradition. Current Junior Cristina Sirbu was the 2022 festival's St. Lucia.

"For me, being St. Lucia meant a new beginning and a new opportunity to start anew," Sirbu said. "On the day of celebration, I did not sleep all night so I used that moment to reflect on the things that I was grateful for throughout my time at Gustavus and what was to come in the future."

Being a light, as outlined by the criteria for the Court of St. Lucia, can be portrayed in many ventures. Current Senior and

St. Lucia 2021 Abby Joy Neptun along with Sirbu both highlighted the importance of volunteering and serving the community. The event is also celebratory of the Sophomore women and their role and presence within the Gustavus community.

"In a world where there are so many labels and standards that women have to uphold, it's nice to have a festival dedicated to recognizing a group of women who are doing amazing things," Neptun said.

The festival of St. Lucia has components taking place throughout the day on Dec. 7. The events begin with the Court of St. Lucia singing carols through residence halls. Following this is a ceremony taking place in Christ Chapel at 10:00 a.m. Finally, there will be a luncheon and program in Alumni Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Reservations for the luncheon program are necessary. Tickets cost 30 dollars and are available for purchase on the Gustavus website.

The luncheon will be a Swedish Smorgasbord with guest speaker, Gustavus Alum, Meghan Krause '00. Krause's presentation is entitled 'Creating your Purpose-Powered Life'. The workshop will be centered around harnessing the power of purpose.

"In the spirit of the Festival of St. Lucia, a time-honored celebration of light triumphing over darkness, my presentation takes on a special resonance. Purpose isn't a nice-to-have; it's a must-have," Krause explained.

St. Lucia exemplified the sense of purpose with her serving attitude towards the poor and in need. Thus, Krause will explain the nature of purpose and how it impacts Gusties.

"Purpose is the engine that propels us forward, nurturing our self-concept, supporting our health, and enriching the lives we touch...understanding and embracing purpose can be a lifeline that becomes one of the most clarifying and affirming ways to get unstuck and reorienting us toward service," Krause said.

Ultimately, St. Lucia represents light, service, and the Christmas season. All students are welcome to attend the Chapel service and luncheon program to celebrate.

Moreover, the advisor of the festival, Barb Taylor, raised the question, "Why is this still something we should be celebrating now?" Taylor, as well as Krause recognized the broader connection to all Gusties as well as the historical connection and tradition of Gustavus's uplifting and empowering women.

"This festival is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of women," Krause said.

Neptun commented on the theme of women empowerment as well. "... [I]t's a great way to uplift a group of girls who deserve all of the recognition. The girls on the court are so deserving of honor and respect in this role, and people should come and recognize their amazing work and character."

While this event honors the Court, the Gustavus community is also encouraged to introspectively reflect and practice gratitude.

"This event is meant for a time of stillness and peacefulness," Sirbu commented. "...try to access that mindset of gratefulness and stillness, use that time to reflect on someone that was a light in your life and reflect on their goodness..."

There's a Swedish children's song, Sankta Lucia, in which the lyrics say: "Mörkret ska flykta snart ur jordens dalar så hon ett underbart ord till oss talar. Dagen ska åter ny stiga ur rosig sky Sankta Lucia, Sankta Lucia."

This translates to "Darkness shall take flight soon, From earth's valleys. So she speaks Wonderful words to us: A new day will rise again From the rosy sky... Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia!"

Gusties are welcome to celebrate the holiday in any way they can and recognize the broader impacts the tradition has on their community and lives.

"The whole Lucia legend is built around the concept of light within darkness. I think the whole idea of trying to bring light as in bringing hope or bringing something positive into challenge... or dark times...I think that is a message that is wonderful for us

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Events Calendar

Christmas in Christ Chapel
 December 1-3, 2:30 and 7:30 PM
 Christ Chapel

Winds of Christmas
 December 5, 10-10:30 AM
 Christ Chapel

Q&A With the Deans
 December 5, 7-8 PM
 Virtual

CAB Winter Goosechase
 December 8, all day
 Campus

Teachers Talking: Fostering Curiosity in an Antiracist Manner
 December 8, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
 St. Peter Room

Daily Sabbath Calendar

Holy Communion:

Mondays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Chapel and Chill:

Tuesdays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Music & Message:

Wednesdays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Chapel Break: Creative Reflection:

Thursdays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Musical Showcase:

Fridays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Student Senate Updates

End of November

- *Technology committee is working closely with GTS to aid students with wifi issues. If you have any issues, put in a ticket with GTS and they are able to help in a timely manner and your issue may help them to fix the same issue that other students are having*
- *Senate discussed the longevity of the GusBus and the funding that goes along with it*
- *If any members of the community have questions or concerns with the inner workings of Student Senate, they can email their representatives or go to @gac.studentsenate on Instagram to find linktree resources*

Look out for more Senate updates in December's Gavel Gazette!

Contact Public Relations Chair Kira Woods with any questions at kirawoods@gustavus.edu

Follow the Student Senate Instagram! : [gac.studentsenate](https://www.instagram.com/gac.studentsenate)

Campus Safety Report

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

- On Wednesday, November 15, there was a report of car damage to the right front wheel (rim) and vehicle trim.

Friday, November 17, 2023

- On Friday, November 17, Campus Safety responded to a suspicious incident at the Heating Plant.

Saturday, November 18, 2023

- On Saturday, November 18, Campus Safety responded to the report of non-GAC vehicle damage.

Thursday, November 23, 2023

- On Thursday, November 23, Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm in Uhler Hall. It was found that a student was cooking and set the alarm off, there was no fire.

Sunday, November 26, 2023

- On Sunday, November 26, Campus Safety noticed a vehicle had been broken into in the South West parking lot. The student was notified and a report was also filed with the Saint Peter Police Department.

Contact the Campus Safety office 24 hours a day at 507-933-8888.

Teachers Talking: GAC discusses showing intercultural curiosity the right way



A picture of Gusties together.

Submitted.

Elliot Steeves
Staff Writer

Professor of Spanish and Chair of LALACS studies K. Angelique Dwyer will give a talk today, Friday, Dec. 1st, entitled “Teachers Talk: Fostering Curiosity in an Antiracist Manner.” The session will be held in the St. Peter Room for Faculty at both 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The talk, on a research project by Dwyer entitled “Measuring Intercultural Competence via Community Engagement”, concerns the measurement of intercultural skills that students in Gustavus Spanish classes develop through community engagement. Through the Language Buddies program, Gustavus students volunteered for community engagement at various sites, including

St Peter, Le Sueur, Le Center, and Cambria public schools.

When putting together a study on how students would engage with the program, Dwyer came up with six different areas students could score on: Openness, Empathy, Worldview Framework, Curiosity, Cultural Self-Awareness, and Non-Verbal Communication.

“Because the world is becoming more diverse, it is more important to be respectful to each other, and get along,” Dwyer said. “It is one thing to be tolerant, and it is another to understand someone culturally and respect them because of that. Another key aspect of that is privilege; understanding it, and better understanding the role you play and the result.”

The talk on Friday will contain a series of charts and graphs detailing all of the findings. The most important finding, how-

ever, was that Gustavus students ranked quite low for Curiosity and Non-Verbal Communication.

“Curiosity is key toward whether someone wants to understand another culture,” Dwyer said. “A low score indicates, essentially, that you are either passive about wanting to learn another culture, or that you do but you are scared to come off as bigoted.”

This was a critical finding with implications for whether a student was engaged in any of the outreach programs at Gustavus, such as Language Buddies.

“Students are connecting their skills between English and Spanish,” Dwyer said. “They are paired with kids from Guatemala, Columbia, Central America, and Mexico. And at no point are they curious about how someone came to this country?”

Dwyer is certain that they are. “They are either scared or pas-

sive about it,” Dwyer said. “[My main takeaway was that] I need to develop more assignments in class of what non-racist curiosity looks like.”

Some Gustavus students seem to fear that attempts to be curious about one’s culture might come across as a microaggression, or even a bigoted attack. Dwyer’s focus on Friday will concern how Gustavus can model curiosity in a positive, non-racist manner.

The talk will concern data compiled from students in Spanish classes from 2016 through 2019. The research was funded by a President’s Student Faculty Grant and was done with the written reflections of over 381 students.

Two students were immensely helpful to Dwyer. Junior Cosette Melton Hanily measured the anonymous reflections against the scoring rubric. Senior Lauren Lambert created all of the graphs

within Dwyer’s presentation and looked at how the six above-mentioned areas varied over time for each student.

While the first findings may have been foreboding, the others were very positive. Gustavus students scored especially high in Openness, as well as Worldview Framework.

“Instead of a small worldview, we realize that we have students from Guatemala, from Somalia, and other countries all around the world,” Dwyer said. “We also have a lot of empathy. We recognize struggles, and we can put ourselves in someone else’s shoes.”

So, while some of these findings may have been stark, the picture shows a college that is open and learning, and adjusting to an increasingly diverse world.

Destress Fest is here to help Gusties take the first step to managing stress

Katie Samek
Staff Writer

The GustieWELL Office and the Peer Assistants would like to invite you to relax, rewind, and let go of your worries about finals for a while at De-Stress Fest. This event will be held on Wednesday, December 6th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the JCC-Heritage, St. Peter, and Three Crowns Banquet Rooms, all of which are located on the upper floor of the Jackson Campus Center.

This year's De-Stress Fest features several new activities to help Gusties unwind during finals season, including but not limited to aromatherapy socks, massage and pressure point therapy, DIY zen gardens, stick-and-send letters, and much more. Along with all of these events, there will be doorbuster prizes and a giveaway raffle for attending the event, with prizes including UGG slippers, two Squishmallows, two Comfies, a heated blanket, a weighted blanket, an essential oil diffuser, a wax melter, a professional massage, and many more prizes!

Several other campus organizations will also be in attendance

during De-Stress Fest, each with their own collaborative events and special topics. The Campus Activities Board will be hosting a Spa Day, with a build-your-own hot cocoa station and self-made spa kits. The Counseling Center will be focusing on mindfulness exercises and responses to stress cycles, as well as walkthroughs on setting goals for finals and a fidget toy giveaway. The Digital Wellbeing Peer Mentors will be targeting and promoting digital mindfulness strategies. Health Services, Learn to Live, and the campus dietician will also be on-site during this event to provide helpful tips and strategies regarding overall well-being.

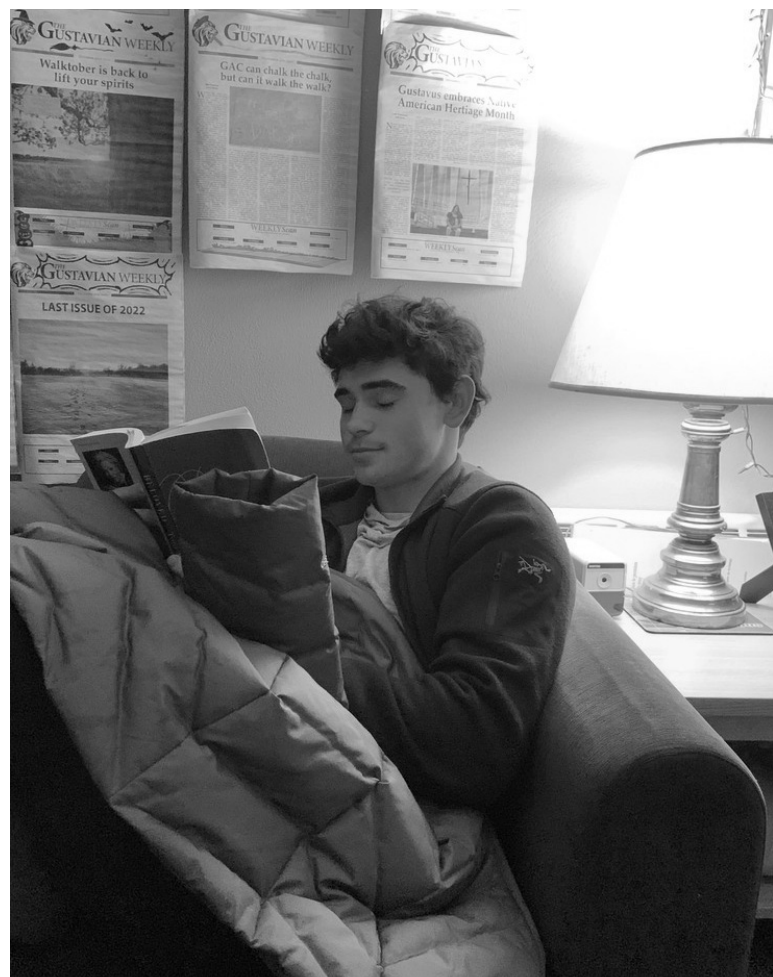
"As we come to the last weeks of the semester and finals, students are generally experiencing high levels of stress," GustieWELL Coordinator Justine Schultz said. "The GustieWELL and Peer Assistants are hosting De-Stress Fest with the intent to help students understand the negative impacts of stress and learn healthy ways to cope with stress. All students would greatly benefit from attending to learn and engage in stress reduction strategies, and have a great time doing so."

The GustieWELL Office has



A Gustie relaxing in a hammock with a book.

Submitted.



Gustavian Weekly's Sports editor relaxing very relaxingly

Carter Brown

been hosting De-Stress Fest for several years now and is dedicated to providing quality wellness education and resources that support and enhance the lifestyles of our students. Student attendance is routinely high at this event -usually numbering in the hundreds- and has become a great way for students to engage with several of the well-being services offered on campus during one of the most stressful times of their school year.

"The Peer Assistants are an integral part of the GustieWELL Office and mission," Schultz said. "Without their constant efforts and contributions, this event would not be made possible."

Students will have the opportunity to learn a variety of de-stressing skills at De-Stress Fest, as the event is designed to provide students with the tools

they need to manage stress and promote overall well-being. By participating in De-Stress Fest, students can gain insights into effective stress management, develop practical skills for well-being, and discover resources to support their mental health throughout their academic journey. By equipping students with tools that extend long beyond the event, they can leave De-Stress Fest knowing they can take a healthier and more balanced approach to life.

"This event is meant to be a space to step away from stressors," Mental Health Therapist for the Counseling Center Jessica Auel said. "We want students to know that they are not alone in facing academic challenges and that we are here to help. De-Stress Fest intentionally gets students together by creating an environment that fosters genuine

human connections and support networks, which is crucial in promoting overall well-being."

With finals and the end of the semester rapidly approaching, the GustieWELL Office would like to encourage students to keep a close eye on their physical, mental, and emotional health in the last few weeks before Christmas break. Stress can negatively impact all aspects of college life, and it's important for students to check in with themselves during this difficult time and make sure they're not overworking themselves. Events like De-Stress Fest not only serve to remind students to slow down and take time for themselves amidst a hectic finals schedule but also provide them with a space to reconnect with their peers and supply them with the tools they need to finish their semester strong.

50th Annual Christmas in Christ Chapel



Christmas in Christ Chapel

Sophia White

Amelia Dewberry
Staff Writer

This weekend Gustavus hosts the 50th annual Christmas in Christ Chapel. Christmas in Christ Chapel (CinCC) features an orchestra, a dance ensemble, a handbell ensemble, and three choirs. These ensembles come together to perform Christmas songs in a church service-like setting.

This year's theme is Grace Embodied: Celebrating 50 Years of Christmas in Christ Chapel. Senior Lindsay James from the Gustavus Choir said that the music is "centered around justice and a call for community in times of strife." Much of the text comes from the Book of Revelation and all the ensembles interact with the idea of New Jerusalem.

"There are certain hymns and texts that have been repeated throughout the years ... that a lot of alumni and people who've

been before will remember."

Conductor of Gustavus Choir and Music Director Dr. Brandon Dean noted that "there are a few subtle nods toward the history of the service" including the hymn "Of the Father's Love Begotten" and brass and organ music to "honor the roots of the earliest days of our musical collaboration." James added that "there are certain hymns and texts that have been repeated throughout the years ... that a lot of alumni and people who've been before will remember."

The community and long-standing tradition of CinCC is what makes it special. "I feel like there's a lot of support from all sides of Gustavus. They come to watch even if they don't necessarily know people in the show, which is really meaningful," James said. Because CinCC is more of a church service than a concert, the audience is more like a congregation, according to James. There are "more opportunities for congregation interaction in the performance

with hymns, prayers, and readings that the congregation joins in on, making it more connective," James explained.

"I feel like there's a lot of support from all sides of Gustavus. They come to watch even if they don't necessarily know people in the show, which is really meaningful."

The diversity of musical expressions across the different ensembles is a strength of CinCC. Dean described that "each ensemble has a unique 'voice' it adds to the service, and I always enjoy how the service is propelled forward through the variety of textures, tones, texts, and ranges." Christ Chapel Ringer and Junior Kailyn Walukas agreed that the opportunity to listen to all the other ensembles is one of the highlights.

While Christmas in Christ Chapel is a meaningful and memorable experience for those

involved, it is also a strenuous commitment. Musicians have been rehearsing since early to mid-October to prepare a spectacular performance. Between the choirs, orchestra, handbells, and dancers, "it's a giant group effort to bring everybody together and put all the pieces together," James stated. Walukas added that the large time commitment for rehearsals right before finals "definitely puts a little extra stress on studying ... but I think it's worth it."

However, this time commitment makes CinCC an important bonding time. James finds the rehearsals "really fun because you get to spend a lot of extra time with your choir people." Additionally, they come together every year the night before the concert holding hands and singing "Silent Night" to try to prepare for the shows. "It's really sweet because we are all kind of connected in that moment ... so it's kind of a special thing for seniors," James explained.

"It's a giant group

effort to bring everybody together and put all the pieces together."

Performances are tonight at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 4:00 p.m. The Saturday evening performance will be livestreamed. Tickets are still available for the Scandinavian holiday buffet prior to each show and can be purchased online.

GUSTIE of the WEEK

David Obermiller

Colleen Coleman
Staff Writer

This week's Gustie of the Week is Dr. David Obermiller, who is an Associate Professor in History, Environmental Studies, and Japanese Studies. He received the Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2015 for his excellence in the classroom, and enthusiasm for teaching and advising. Obermiller holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and a Master's and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

Obermiller came to Gustavus in 2008. He chose to relocate to Gustavus while looking for schools in southern Minnesota and stated "The way the job description was written, it was almost like it was written just for me." He liked the idea of bringing an East Asian curriculum to a school with a European focus and considered that a challenge and an opportunity to make a bigger difference to students that would never have considered East Asian.

"I think it's an opportunity to get students excited about a content area, and so I try to work hard to offer a GenEd experience that hopefully students will remember in a positive way and think it's worth their time."

Obermiller states that his favorite opportunity at Gustavus is to teach and work with students, not only advising and

mentoring them but especially teaching general education courses. "You get all types of students: whether they're first or fourth years, with lots of different majors, so it's a really difficult thing to do," Obermiller said. "I think it's an opportunity to get students excited about a content area, and so I try to work hard to offer a GenEd experience that hopefully students will remember in a positive way and think it's worth their time," Obermiller stated.

First-year Grace LaTourelle stated that in her first semester, Obermiller has already become a great role model for her. "He's one of those teachers that will leave a life-long lasting impact on you in the way that you write, learn, connect, act, and think. Dr. Obermiller inspires me in the things he's done - how he's led a life of not only changing and growing himself but also revolutionizing the world," LaTourelle said. LaTourelle said that being in Obermiller's class pushed her to become a deeper thinker and a more compassionate human.

Senior Maggie Anderson stated that Obermiller and his classes have changed her life. "He was my FTS professor over Zoom, and on Zoom again in the spring of that Covid year. Somehow he managed to keep all of us laughing, inspire us, keep us engaged, and give us hope through the computer screen," Anderson said. Anderson said that with Obermiller's support, she has grown tremendously in her writing and in her own intellectual curiosity. "He is one of the most passionate people I have ever met and always works to bring the best out of every student," Anderson

said.

"He's one of those teachers that will leave a life-long lasting impact on you in the way that you write, learn, connect, act, and think. Dr. Obermiller inspires me in the things he's done - how he's led a life of not only changing and growing himself but also revolutionizing the world."

Between Obermiller's three academic programs he's involved with, he doesn't have a lot of extra time, but states that an extracurricular activity he enjoys is Boom Time. "We play soccer on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons - it's a group of faculty, staff, students, coaches, and people from the St. Peter community that just get together and play recreational soccer," Obermiller said. "It's an opportunity for people to make connections in ways that they typically wouldn't that's been going on for the last about 10 years. In academia, you kind of get confined by this style that you don't get a chance to break out of, which has made it one of my favorite experiences on campus," Obermiller said.

Junior Jonathan Cordano

stated that Obermiller has shaped his college career into what it is today. "While the courses he offers are quite rigorous, I can confidently say that he is the most motivating and compassionate professor I've had in my time at Gustavus," Cordano said. Cordano also stated that while the course content he has learned from Obermiller's classes has been invaluable, he also enjoys the perspective and things he's learned about life from talking to Obermiller.

Obermiller stated that his favorite part about Gustavus is shaping the paths of students he works with. "I think that students who know very little if any history, they tend to take something more familiar like US or European history. Sometimes students who take my Introduction to Modern East Asia class have a lack of interest - and I find it a welcome challenge to get them to care about the content area," Obermiller said. Obermiller stated that there are many students who take that class that end up becoming history or Japanese studies majors.

"It's the best aspect of a liberal arts college which is intellectual serendipity, where you take a course you would've never taken by your own choice and then you find it quite interesting," Obermiller said. Obermiller's office door is covered in many postcards from students in numerous countries in Asia, of which he says that about 80%

of those students who studied away didn't consider it until he advocated for it. "It greatly altered their undergraduate experience because it wasn't on their radar on their first day here until they took my course and it led them down a different intellectual path," Obermiller said.

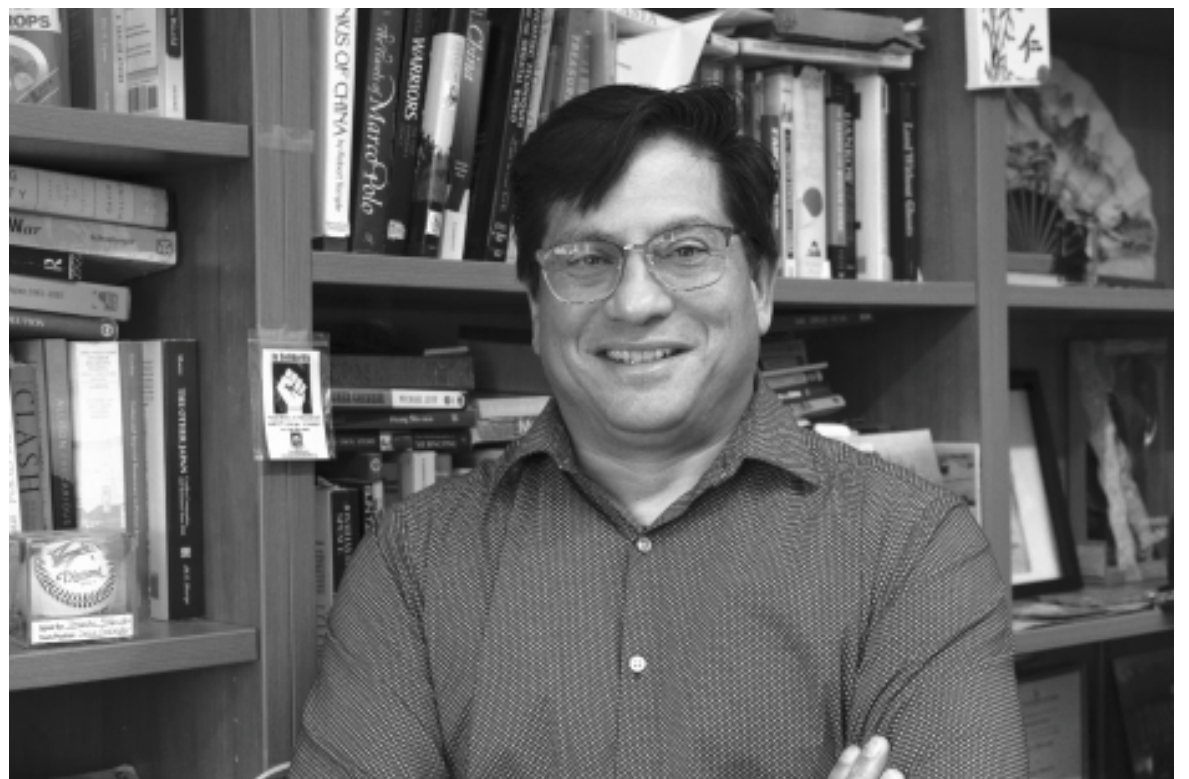
Senior Sydney Mancini claimed that Obermiller is one of her favorite professors, with him teaching some of the most rewarding classes she has ever taken. "I know I can count on him to bring his passion, insight, and brilliance into each class," Mancini said.

Junior Anders Taylor stated that Obermiller always goes above and beyond what he can do for his students. "He is always eager to help foster our curiosity on any subject; ask him about his tea collection!" Taylor said.

Obermiller continues to influence students in and outside of the classroom for years on end. Taylor describes Obermiller as insightful, and inspiring, and that his day is "better every time [he] meets with [Obermiller.]" "Whether by giving baby plants to his environmental history students, offering tea to those who enter his office, or simply by stopping for a quick chat between meetings, he makes it clear that he genuinely cares for his students," Mancini said. "Gustavus really lucked out getting Obermiller as a professor," Taylor said.

Do you have a suggestion for a Gustavus student, professor, or staff member who could be our next Gustie of the Week?

If so, send their name, position on campus, and a short description of why you think they should be recognized to
weeklylettertotheeditor@gmail.com
for a chance to be featured!



Dr. David Obermiller

Soren Sackreiter

WORLD ART PROJECT Comes to the Schaefer Art Gallery

Taylor Storlien
Staff Writer

Professor Stanley J. Shetka will be transforming the Schaefer Art Gallery over the next 62 days into his office, classroom, studio, business, and home. The Collateral Healing Initiatives Project and “The Life Course” will begin in the Gallery this Thursday, Nov. 30th, and continue until the end of January 2024. This project will display collected materials that Shetka has received from people all over the world. While Shetka was attending Wimbledon School of Art 50 years ago, the WORLD ART PROJECT Concept was born. It centers around Collateral Healing Climatism: “The things I create and make/need must contribute to reversing climate disintegration. If it does not, it is not art!” Shetka said.

Shetka has been at Gustavus Adolphus College since 1979. Now, he is the president, originator, and owner of WORLD ART PROJECT, and the President and CEO of Collateral Healing Incorporated, an artist studio corporation. Additionally, he is the Vice President of

the Virginia A. Groot Foundation and is currently a member of the board of Directors, Head of the Artist Selection Committee, and the first grant recipient of 1989.

To participate in the WORLD ART PROJECT, each person is invited to choose one item, material, or substance that is of personal importance to them and include a signed piece of paper currency: a one-dollar bill, or if outside the USA, include one paper currency note equivalent to the value of one U.S. dollar. “You may write WORLD ART PROJECT, your name, signature & date, or the name of your selected material or substance, on the outside border of the paper currency,” The WORLD ART PROJECT flyer states. Before being placed back into circulation, all paper currencies will be officially stamped with WORLD ART PROJECT on the outside border and also signed by the artist and Shetka.

He continues to accept materials and encourages participation from others: “I especially invite all past, current, and future students, faculty, and staff to visit and participate. The many milestone events

in my life did not happen in a vacuum. My education did not begin or end in school. We cannot teach art; we display the will and desire to continue by example and projects for all.” His plan is to invite community members, parents, and business leaders into the Gallery to participate in various events such as conversations and lectures. “With the community-engaged installation, I aim to create a platinum LEED-certified living gallery connected to a maker space to be utilized by every department and every course. It takes a village; graciously, we all live and work at Gustavus,” Shetka said.

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is “...the world’s most widely used green building rating system,” states the U.S. Green Building Council’s website. It provides guidance for buildings so that they may become healthy and highly efficient while also cutting costs, in order to provide benefits that range from the environment to both social and governance. This system is integral to Shetka’s project, as it focuses on reducing humanity’s carbon

footprint. “So, if you have heard of a building that is LEED Gold or LEED Platinum certified, this means the building earned between 60-79 points or 80 plus points, respectively. This is the highest green certification a building can receive. Gustavus means to have its first building!” Shetka says. The U.S. Green Building Council’s website says that “LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement, and it is backed by an entire industry of committed organizations and individuals paving the way for market transformation.”

Shetka’s Collateral Healing Initiative Project is “committed to creating cost-effective environmental solutions within all human activities that utilize water, air, and plants,” the Collateral Healing Initiative Project flyer states. Its purpose is to display the powerful interconnection between humans and their behaviors, values, and systems of life. It is “about identifying and defining an art movement which involves a new aesthetic within the economics of water, air, plants, and all human activities,” the flyer also states.

An example of an item do-

nated is a lock of hair from then 42-year-old Christa Halmosi who is from Germany. Currently, she is 77 years old. This item is a testament to the longevity of this project. The WORLD ART PROJECT statement says: “Every day throughout his life on earth, artist Stanley J. Shetka continues to create one work of art from all the individually selected materials or substances he continually receives from everyone in the world.”

In regards to items donated, The WORLD ART PROJECT poses this question: “Ask yourself, ‘What material or substance of matter represents your stay on earth?’ From your hands, you are contributing a memory or reminder that represents an aspect of your life on earth that is important to you.”

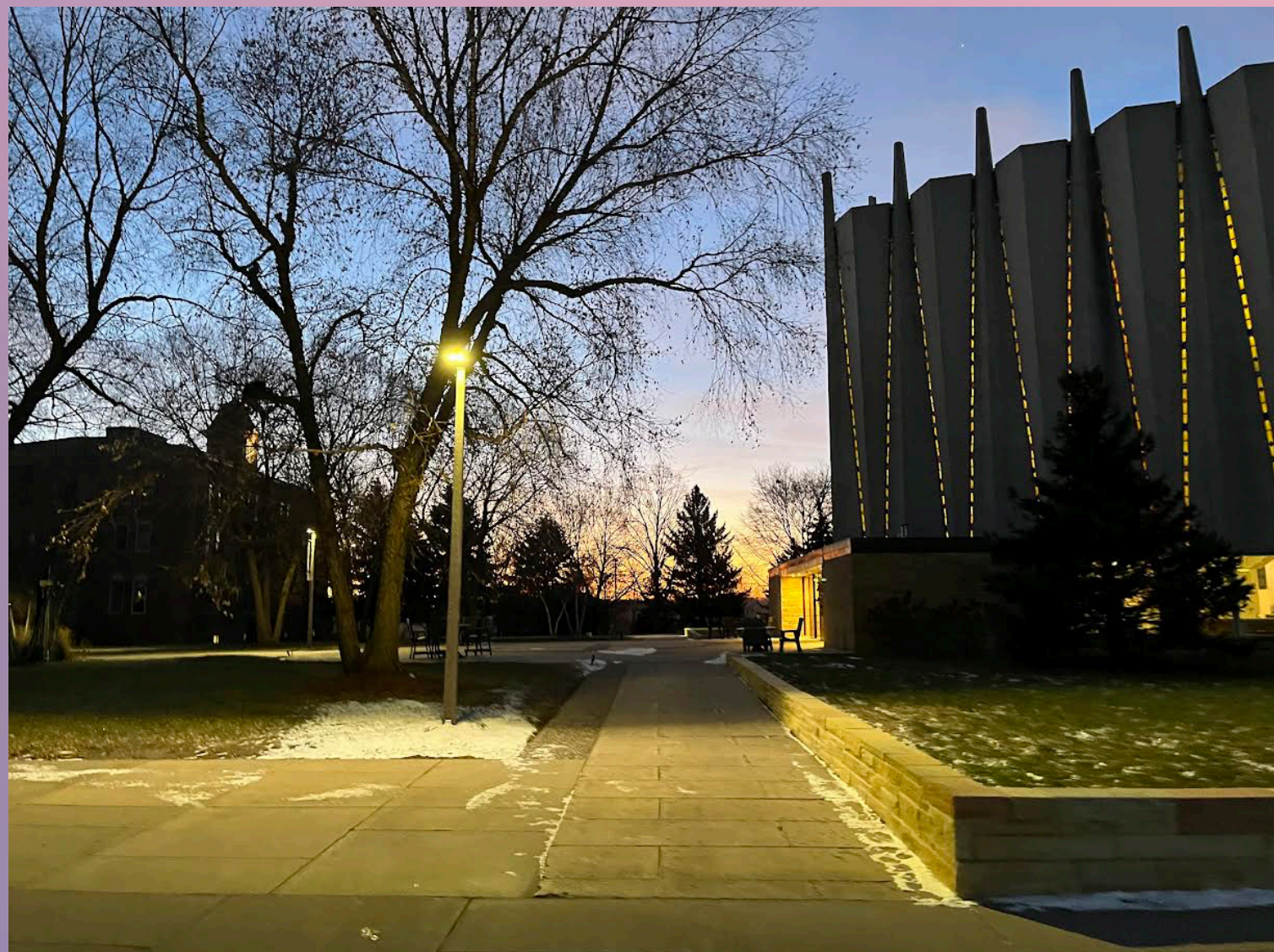
If an individual chooses to participate, they can send their one package to WORLD ART PROJECT, P.O. Box 40, Webster, Minnesota 55088.



Schaefer Art Gallery

GUSTAVUS IN THE EARLY MORNING

Our home on the hill can be so busy but it's never really busy in the morning. If you ever find yourself up early, make sure to enjoy the peaceful moments on campus. Finding some peace is a great way to get through these next few stressful weeks.



An article that is just for the girls



Raquel Vaughn
Opinion Columnist

There's a list unlike any other. A list of things that are just for the girls. Any girl knows of a thing or two that, in the grand scheme of things, only girls are allowed to say, do, and have. Of course, this is completely satirical...or is it? Instead of leaving this list of things in the back of our minds, my sister and I created it together.

First off: pillows. Men, realistically, can have one pillow on their bed. Two is pushing it. But if there are any more pillows... they might as well invite themselves over to the sleepover party because they're one of the girls. The same goes for stuffed animals and blankies. Stuffed animals are just for the girls— unless it's a stereotypical teddy bear. The boys can have a teddy bear but it can't be too fluffy. And men can have blankets, of course, but not "blankies." Blankies are for the girls.

"Stuffed animals are just for the girls- unless it's a stereotypical teddy bear. The boys can have a teddy bear but it can't be too fluffy."

Drinks such as lemonade, matcha, sparkling water, water with lemon, and Sprite are for the girls. And if a man is to drink sparkling water, let it be La Croix. How could I deprive the boys of La Croix if Danny Gonzalez himself drinks it in every single one of his videos on his second YouTube channel? Furthermore, Starbucks is just for the girls. The boys can have anywhere else: Caribou, Dunkin', Scooters, and even Mc-



Girls hanging out

Submitted

Donald's breakfasts.

Straws are for the girls. Don't ask me why because they just are. Every time my family has gone to a fast food restaurant, I've never once seen my dad voluntarily grab a lid and straw for his soft drink.

Hydroflasks are for the girls, especially ones with stickers on them. The only men who are allowed to have a Hydroflask are the ones who go hiking on the regular and bring their Hydroflask with them. Other than that, they can use one of the plastic ones that you can get from Wal-Mart. The girls value their Hydroflask because to them it's so much more than a thing you drink out of – it's an emotional support item. And that goes for the newly popularized Stanley Cup as well. If you don't see me with my water bottle (especially my Hydroflask), then you know there's something not right.

Cupcakes are for the girls. The boys can have the actual cakes that you have to cut in order to get a piece. Along with that: frosting. The boys can have frosting, obviously, but it depends on what kind. The girls get buttercream frosting, and the boys can have the rest.

Candles, bikes with baskets,

the right side of the road, and good handwriting are all just for the girls. What's a man doing on the right side of the road anyway? Any guy I've driven with is almost convinced they are Dom Toretto and go Fast and Furious on the left side of the road.

The boys get the typical black, blue, and red ink from the basic ballpoint pens and the girls get all the fun-colored pens. Oversized sweatshirts are just for the girls unless you've got a pass from the girlies. And you would know if you have a pass from them...

"Cupcakes are for the girls. The boys can have the actual cakes that you have to cut in order to get a piece. Along with that: frosting."

Posting yourself on Instagram is just for the girlies. Guys can have Instagram and even post on it, but only pictures of their visit to the local coffee shops (that aren't Starbucks), nature, group photos, and their pets. And just like that, selfies are for the girls too.

Long fingernails are just for

the girls...unless you're a queer man because you could probably rock those fingernails better than any girl I know. Rings are for girls, except for the plain bands. FaceTime, TV dramas, clouds, fuzzy socks, and Croc charms are all just for the girls.

Men can keep their 5-in-1 shower bottles because shampoo and conditioner in separate bottles are also just for girls. Buying two or more bottles for use in the bathroom, whether that's in the shower or in front of the mirror, is a significant part of girlhood. Furthermore, men can keep their slivers of soap that eventually break apart and fall into the shower drain. Loofahs and bottled body wash are for the girls.

Fields of grass to run through, lay, and take pictures in are for the girls. The boys have no business being in the grass. As my sister said, "They get gravel." Bamboo toothbrushes, bringing your own lunch, Kleenexes, iPhone chargers that are longer than three feet, thank you cards, airport runways, fantasy romance books, lotion, emojis, private stories, and presidency are all considered just for the girls. If you find a male president, consider it a red flag.

Of course, there are still many

other things that are on the list such as Google Slides themes, Canva and PicsArt, cracked phone screens, and cute laundry baskets. But my sister and I didn't want to leave the boys out. Of course, there are some things that girls should just not have, say, or do.

As we've said, the girls get the cute laundry baskets. The boys get the plastic white ones. Girls get gum but the guys get everything else as far as mints go. Movies about war are just for the dudes. As well as Jordans, pick-up trucks, the color gray, and the "100" emoji. I'm sure there are other emojis out there that the boys feel so inclined to use and they can go ahead and use them, but the "100" emoji was made specifically with them in mind. Mountain Dew and Mellow Yellow are just for the boys. And last but not least, Top Golf. Or just golf in general.

Everything else not mentioned is totally fair game. I think we can all agree that there is one thing on this planet that is for both the guys and the girls: Dr. Pepper.

It is alright to make mistakes



Houston McLaury
Opinion Columnist

Welcome back Gusties from your respective breaks! I hope that no matter where you traveled to, no matter the distance and who you had to spend time with, you had a fantastic time nonetheless. As we come back to our dorms, we inch closer and closer to the end of the fall semester each day, and with that comes the most dreaded days of all: Finals. Where our wits and knowledge are tested on everything we've learned over the past fifteen weeks. And, in these last few weeks, I want to focus on a lesson that we all need to learn at some point or another: It's okay to be wrong.

Now, why should we focus on learning this lesson when we only wish to strive for suc-

cess, when being wrong and incorrect about things is the last thing we want? This is not about hoping to be incorrect, but rather, our response when we learn we are wrong about something. We can do one of two things: deny our incompetence, stick to our guns, and remain steadfast in the lack of knowledge we hold. Or, we can admit our faults, apologize for being wrong about something, and strive to do better. In our response, we build up our future selves as either ignorant to the truths of the world or becoming well versed in all kinds of knowledge. By accepting our mistakes, we can easily and quickly learn from them.

"This is not about hoping to be incorrect, but rather our response when we learn we are wrong about something."

When advancing into Finals week, take the mistakes made in past lessons, discussions, and tests, and focus on them. Look at what needs to be worked on and focus on them to overcome the difficul-

ties they present. By looking at our mistakes like difficulties with specific concepts in physics, lessons in a language one is unfamiliar with, or the names of each bone in the hand, we can become better at our respective fields of knowledge. Without looking back at our mistakes and admitting to them or at least acknowledging them, we do not become better people. So, forge forward into the week with a mirror, examining the mistakes made in the past to better inform yourself of the tasks ahead of you.

"When advancing into Finals week, take the mistakes learned in past lessons, discussions, and tests, and focus on them."

This ideal should extend beyond the academic world and bleed into life as well. We will make mistakes in our personal lives as well, and without proper remedy, they can fester and boil over. So, while it is important to admit to our mistakes, that is not the only step that needs to be taken. We must strive to do, to act,

to be better in the future after our mistakes. If we are not at least trying to be better, then we aren't. Strive for better and work towards it! It will be a lot of work, and know that if you are a better person than you were yesterday, something is working. We will go through great periods of change in our lives where we will control very little. With what little control we have, we can be the best people we can be for the people around us, for this world, and for those who will inherit it. So, please never stop striving to be better, never stop putting sand in that torn sack, and never let the weight of the world drag you down, Sisyphus. We must be better.

"If we are not at least trying to be better, then we aren't. Strive for better and work towards it! It will be a lot of work, and know that if you are a better person than you were yesterday, something is working."

This idea is important to me simply because it took me a

while to come to terms with it in middle school. The naivety of childhood stuck with me, and I quickly fell off of many activities I should have stuck with, simply because I didn't want to confront the mistakes I made while doing them. It shut me out from many opportunities I should have taken advantage of. But, through doing my best to learn from any mistakes I make, I can continue to strive to be a better person and a better student in any aspect of life.

By becoming okay with the mistakes we've made and more so from learning from them, we can all strive to be better. Whether that means in an academic sense in this approaching finals season or through our personal lives, being able to learn from our mistakes is the best lesson any person can take with them. Never stop striving in your academics and in your life to be a better person than you were the day before. If you do this, the world will be your oyster.



Student fails an exam

Submitted

Normalize Christmas coming early



Sophia White
Opinion Columnist

Many people choose to believe that Christmas music should not be played until after Thanksgiving is over, but I disagree with that. Christmas music should be an acceptable form of music at any time of the year. Who would argue with some Michael Bublé or Mariah Carey playing on the radio? Not only that, but Christmas lights should be up throughout all the seasons to show joy and your festive spirit. I mean, just look at all the pretty lights on the trees, ornaments hanging to and fro, and the blues, golds, greens, and reds that are the source of all joy. Is that too much to conceptualize?

There is something about Christmas that gives me ceaseless joy. It can be an overwhelming time of year, but the idea of preparing for a grand celebration with family makes up for it. Even if it is not the correct time of year. It is just as fulfilling in July as it is in December for me. In part, because of all the nostalgia that stems from its roots.

"There is something about Christmas that gives me ceaseless joy. It can be an overwhelming time of year, but the idea of preparing for a grand celebration with family makes up for it."

Christmas movies like Home Alone, Elf, and Christmas Vacation give me vivid dreams of making peppermint coffee and Christmas trees. Nothing gives me sweeter joy than to see Will Ferrell eating maple syrup spaghetti. Maybe it's the image of a winter won-

derland where I am playing in the snow and sledding down the most glorious powdered peaks. The last time I did that, I ended up head-first in a pile of snow in a handstand with my sister. Yet, it is worth any injury for me, because of all the laughing and smiles.

I am fully aware that loving a holiday this much is not entirely reasonable to some, but it is something I think about when times are rough. Especially as a college student during the roughest time of the semester. I am sure that is something that everyone can relate to at the least - that desperation for the holidays and to receive a break. A break from being assigned a sixth essay in this one week.

I've started making a whole section in my notebooks dedicated to lists of things I need to get done this day, and this day, and the weekend. It feels debilitating like I'm on the verge of burnout. It is that last push till the end, and I am putting all

my physical and mental capabilities into gear. But, when I think about Christmas and how close it is... I feel better.

My mental illness dissipates with the smell of hot cocoa. And I think about all the gifts I received over my entire life and what each meant to me. Even the weird ones, like my Nicholas Cage pillow or my tortilla blanket. Possibly, it is due to the fact that Christmas (similar to Thanksgiving) is a season of thanks. I feel the most gratitude when I get the quality time with my loved ones that I've been searching for during the past few months of school. Time to sit down, whether in quiet or chaos, I'd take either at this point. Some time for my mind to remain still and not race to the next thing.

I have had plenty of questionable, unpleasant Christmas' on my time on this Earth and it seems to cause more complex emotions for me as I get older. That aspect is dif-

ficult because it is miserable to deal with extended family that argue with one another about politics, ethics, religion, or overall life in general when you finally get to that age where you understand what is happening around you and how to articulate your own beliefs. No one wants to debate with Grandpa during Christmas about human rights.

"I am fully aware that loving a holiday this much is not entirely reasonable to some, but it is something I think about when times are rough."

Even with all these difficult times and conversations, I still believe in the core of what this time means with families: being grateful for genuine loving connections with your family or friends. I can still see those snippets of

time when I feel that child-like wonder I had for Christmas when I was a kid, and, usually, that can happen at any moment when I spend a perfectly still moment with the people I love and notice how much I love them. It just reminds me of Christmas and how I'd feel that all throughout the season. Just how much I want to see them light up and smile when they receive a gift or a hug.

It's something people need more often than during the one holiday in a year. I wonder what the world would be like if people pretended every day was Christmas or some holiday that they love. Would the world be better for it or would people be bored? I believe it would foster a feeling of love and gratefulness that might help us process our feelings as a society of workaholics because rest and gratitude are a recipe for happiness. It certainly helps to get gifts and pretty lights too.



Article author's dog- Martin Luther

Movies From Swank: *Almost Famous*

Will Sorg
Movies Guy

I doubt there's a movie that captures following your passion in life as accurately as *Almost Famous*. Writer/director Cameron Crowe had plenty of experience to draw from as he started out as a writer for Rolling Stone when he was 18-years-old. Most movies are built out of the lived experience of the people who make them, but this one more than others draws from its creator's feelings on youth and the early part of figuring out your life. In the film, the fictional character of William Miller - played by Patrick Fugit - is a painfully accurate 15-year-old who gets his chance to be a music critic by following an up-and-coming band named Stillwater. The whole film really lovingly recreates 1970s America through the lens of a young man completely out of his depth.

Almost Famous brings you on a journey with its young protagonist through the ups and downs of the rock community. And this film is a journey. It is an odyssey through adolescence and a truly honest one at that. The rock and roll scene is not given a peaches and roses portrayal here. It certainly doesn't get into extreme decadence, but you would be hard-pressed to find a movie that makes fun of everyone involved in the '70s rock scene as much as this movie. The magazine writers, the rock stars, the fans, the groupies, and even William himself are all given a very nuanced portrayal. It makes the film feel very honest because, as William tries to find his way in life, he comes to understand that people are imperfect.

There's a whole cast of imperfect people in this film. Conceited rock stars, a neurotic mother, and underage groupies are the most important figures of complex humanity that William Miller faces in his journey through life. There's a lot of subtlety in the way that the film tackles the reality that pretty much everyone can be selfish and exploitative. It's an undercurrent throughout the film that definitely contrasts with the way the film is structured. As William is the main perspective we view the other characters through, and he himself is a 15-year-old, we don't fully see all the warts involved in other people's lives. At the very least, each character starts as an almost romanticized version of themselves before the film slowly reveals the humanity and fallibility in each of them.

Really the most important thing to know about this movie is how fun the whole thing is. It has a perfect storm of good qualities. This movie is hilarious. All these well-realized characters make for perfect comedic moments as their party animal behavior is juxtaposed with the audience being able to see how truly ridiculous most of the characters act. The actors also perfectly sell their characters. You would be hard-pressed to find a more charismatic and fun cast and a lot of the key actors give some of their best performances in this movie. Cameron Crowe's direction is stellar, and it is obvious that his passion for the story made everything else that much better. It is always wonderful to watch a movie that started as a passion project because a lot of the time that movie ends up stirring up the audience's own feelings of passion and joy. *Almost Famous* accomplishes just that and much more.

I am enraptured by this movie. I am taken in by Adam and Harry's romance, something I have not talked much about but is essential when looking deeper into the film's themes. I am in awe of the perfect performances by every single cast member. This is a movie that demonstrates why film is such a wonderful medium. It feels like a soft caress in the middle of a thunderstorm. It breaks down the viewer's defenses through its achingly human story and in the end, you are left awestruck by what plays out in front of you. The movie's importance is not derived from its message or themes or even its acting. All it does is make the strangers who watch it feel a little more seen, and to me, that is an indescribable feeling.

Horoscopes!

Aries: Get yourself a present this month.

Taurus: Try reading some poetry.

Gemini: Start a new holiday tradition this month.

Cancer: Put on some ambient YouTube videos.

Leo: Don't let finals get in the way of your sleep schedule. Have a cutoff time for your work.

Virgo: Text a relative you haven't talked to in a little bit.

Libra: Go to midnight express this year.

Scorpio: Make a list of things you've got to get done before the end of the semester.

Sagittarius: Try to quit a bad habit this month.

Capricorn: Finish a long side project this month

Aquarius: Go people watching sometime, it's fun!

Pisces: Doodle for fun and see what you can make.



Will Graves

Men's and Women's Basketball win

St. Olaf gets destroyed



Submitted.

Parker Burman
Staff Writer

Prior to an extended break due to the Thanksgiving holiday, both the Gustavus Men's and No. 15 ranked Women's basketball teams faced off against conference rival St. Olaf. Both teams would blow out the Oles in two very convincing early season victories by a score of 97-59 for the Men and 87-47 for the Women.

For the Men, the Gusties and Oles exchanged early buckets to start the contest before the Gusties pulled ahead to a 7-5 lead on a jumper from Senior Evan Wieker, 2:57 into the game. This lead would never be relinquished by the Gusties as they only continued to build on it throughout the first half of the game. Thanks to a shot drained from beyond the arc from Junior Guard Brady Kienitz prior to the close of the frame, it pushed the Gusties up to a 19-point lead heading into the break for a score of 49-30.

"I feel that I performed well but it was a really great team win. We jumped out to an early lead and never really looked back. We were making the right plays and just trusting in each other to the fullest," Junior Spencer Swanson said.

The second half was much of the same with the Gusties continuing to roll all over St. Olaf. Gustavus's largest lead of the game was achieved by First-year Myles Barnetter -the first points of his collegiate career!- to push the score to 97-57. Several other players made both their Gustavus and collegiate debuts including First-years Isaac Dearborn and Jack Schmitt, who both saw time on the court for the Gusties. In the waning seconds of the game, St. Olaf would manage one final basket to attempt to close the gap but ultimately lost, leaving behind a 97-59 Gustavus victory.

"We have taken good steps to start the year off. Played some tough teams to start, and having all of those games be on the road does not make it any easier. I think we learned a lot about ourselves in those first 3 games, and to come back and win the next 2 against great teams really showed the resilience of this group," Senior Wyatt Olson said.

Five Gusties scored double-digit points, led by Swanson who had 22 points on the night, shooting 10-14. Sophomore Carson Koch added 11, while Kienitz and Senior Adam Biewen both added an even ten to

the score sheet. Gustavus shot 67.8 percent from the floor, going 5-for-7 from beyond the arc in an efficient shooting night. The defense clamped down the Ole Offense allowing only a 43.4 shooting percentage and forcing ten turnovers.

"I think it goes back to how we executed that game. I thought we did a great job of getting the shots we wanted on offense. Anytime we can do that, we are going to feel really good about our performance," Olson said.

Much like the Men, the Women dominated the Oles early and often on their way to an 87-47 win. The No. 15 ranked Women showed that they will be a team to reckon with all season long in a game that moved to 2-0 on the season and dropped St. Olaf to 1-3.

Just four minutes into the game the Gusties held a double-digit lead and would never give it back leading by a video game type of score 30-6. The Gustavus offense slowed down slightly in the second quarter, as they only put up 16 points and allowed a total of nine to enter the break by a score of 46-15. This 31-point lead at the half allowed Head Coach Laurie Kelly to clear her bench allowing this to be a complete

team victory for the Gusties with everyone contributing in some capacity.

Junior Forward Morgan Kelly led the team off of the bench with 15 points in just 16 minutes of time on the court, including going 3-for-3 beyond the arc. Junior Forward Rachel Kawiecki was second behind Kelly on the score sheet putting up 14 points of her own. Senior Syd Hauger and First-year Kaitlyn Schaefer contributed 11 and nine points respectively, showing the balance between veterans and young players on this team.

"I think that the team was really happy being able to have a great offensive game against Olaf. Shots were falling, energy was high, and we were able to execute offensively and defensively. Our defense really took the pressure off of our offense. We were able to force a lot of turnovers and push the ball quickly, allowing us to get quick, easy scores. Our defensive game also took pressure off of our offense, giving us the ability to move the ball around and look for the highest percentage shot we could get on offense. Being able to score 87 points also made the atmosphere exciting for our fans," Morgan Kelly said.

"It's nice to start with a veteran group and we came out of the gate just like our opener," Head Coach Kelly said. "We established ourselves in the first quarter and played really well. To be able to play that deep and get everyone some experience, especially our eight freshmen, was great to see. We saw some good things. We shot well from the three-point line and defensively we held them under 50 points. It was a great opportunity for us early in the season to keep learning and growing."

Both the Men and Women will next face off against Augsburg on the road on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. for the Women and at 7:00 p.m. for the Men. With the season still in its early stages, there are plenty of opportunities to get out there and support your Gustavus basketball program.

The Weekly is hiring!



**Open Positions:
Sports Writers**

**Interested? Contact Editor
in Chief Mel Pardock!
mpardock@gustavus.edu**

Volleyball season ends in round 2

Softball sweeps Hamline, splits with St. Mary's



Gustie pitcher throws a strike.

Submitted.

Teddy Kaste Staff Editor

Gustavus Women's volleyball team competed in the NCAA tournament this past week as they traveled to Oshkosh, Wisconsin to play in it. Had they won three games in Oshkosh, they would have moved on to the quarterfinals which take place Nov. 29th through Dec. 2nd in Claremont, CA. However, they were eliminated in the second round by the host school, UW-Oshkosh.

The Gusties won their first-round matchup against #12-ranked Calvin 3-0. Gustavus won the first set 25-22, the second 25-19, and the third 25-18 to defeat Calvin and earn the right to play #3 ranked UW-Oshkosh on their home court in the second round of the tournament.

UW-Oshkosh not only had the home-court advantage but also an astonishing 34-1 record on the year coming into the game. Their prowess was just too much for the Gusties as they were defeated 3-0. For the second year in a row, the Gustavus Women's volleyball team exited the NCAA tournament in the round of 32. Despite the loss, the season would undoubtedly be considered a success, as Gustavus claimed the MIAC

championship while going undefeated in the MIAC and won the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Senior Marlee Turn said of her favorite memories this season, "My favorite memories from this season are the MIAC championship game and our tournament in California. Both were so fun and had amazing competition. Going to California at the beginning of the season was also amazing because we got to explore a new area together and create so many wonderful memories."

"I am going to be taking a 9th semester, so I can return for my last volleyball season. I am very excited to play one more year with this amazing team!"

If you thought Turn was leaving, turn that frown upside down as she announced, "I am going to be taking a 9th semester, so I can return for my last volleyball season. I am very excited to play one more year with this amazing team!" Gustavus Volleyball had six seniors this past season, all of whom are eligible to play the 2024 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic canceling their 2020 season, so these women will be faced with a big decision.

Senior Kasie Tweet also an-

nounced, "I have actually decided that I am going to take a 5th year, so I will be back for another season next fall!" The Gusties have two commitments from seniors to come back for their fifth year and play the 2024 season and more commitments may be to follow.

"I have actually decided that I am going to take a 5th year, so I will be back for another season next fall!"

For Fifth year Sydney Olson however, she has now played her final match for Gustavus volleyball. "Gustavus Volleyball has meant the world. While the program gave me temporary achievements on the court, Gustie VB has more importantly brought meaningful friendships and life lessons that will last me a lifetime. For that reason, I am forever grateful for this program and what it has given me!" Olson said of her experience.

Olson went on to describe the feeling of playing in her fifth year, "As the season and my career was coming to an end, I more than ever felt extremely grateful to experience the MIAC championship and NCAA tournament one last time. I prioritized taking in every moment I had left on the court with my team and gave it my very all one last time." Olson

represented the Gusties with honor and class and she will be missed at Gustavus.

Overall the Gusties finished 26-7 on the season with a perfect 11-0 record in MIAC play. The season started out in California at the UC-Santa Cruz Slug Fest. Here the Gusties were able to enjoy not only volleyball, but the state of California, and all it has to offer.

Sophomore Sydney Timm said of the trip "My favorite off-court memory was our pre-season trip where we traveled to California. I loved seeing the Redwoods with the team as well as the Santa Cruz boardwalk."

Gustavus lost a few matches this year, but if it was an MIAC matchup the Gustavus Women were untouchable going 11-0 in MIAC play, which was capped off with the MIAC championship win against St. Olaf, which was an absolute thriller.

Turn said of the MIAC championship, "The MIAC championship is always the best because of how many fans come and support and the joy of winning the MIAC." Marlee Turn has known nothing other than MIAC championships, as Gustavus has won the MIAC three years in a row and she will have a chance to make it four next year.

Although the MIAC championship was a great success and victory in itself, the grand

prize for all NCAA sports is the NCAA national championship, which the Gustavus women had their sights set on. That dream was alive and well after the first round as they disposed of #12 ranked Calvin, an extremely formidable opponent 3-0.

The next round against Oshkosh was sadly a different story, but what the Gusties did accomplish was incredible this year, and with so many players returning next year has the potential to be even better.