



Africa Night shows campus how to have fun by showcasing different cultures

Grace LaTourelle
Staff Writer

Africa Night was held last Friday, on April 26th, 2024, and was led by the Pan-African Student Organization (PASO). Gusties were able to attend the annual tradition, as well as be part of the festivities.

"Africa Night is an event where PASO members get to share talent and bits of their culture with the Gustavus and wider Saint Peter community," Senior and PASO DLC Representative, Angel Obiorah said. "It is meant to be a night of pride in one's background and foster curiosity and a new perspective on the many backgrounds of students on campus, especially those that the media does not shed much (positive) light on."

Taking place in Alumni Hall every year, Africa Night works to celebrate Pan-African students and faculty as well as educate students on campus via the night's events. Students and faculty showcased raps, spoken word, singing, and performances with instruments that are native to West Africa.

"A lot of amazing things happened. We had performances from students and faculty that were amazing. There was an original skit written and performed by members of the organization that was pure entertainment. Finally, a fashion show that caught everyone's attention," Junior and PASO E-board member, Taona Mhwandagara said.

The night concluded with African cuisine, free for students.

"...the food was delicious consisting of cuisines (Jollof, puff puff, Injera, Tibs, Samosa) from Ghana and Nigeria with great West African influences to food popular in East Africa especially in Ethiopia and Somalia," Obiorah said.

Among some of the special



A photo from a skit during Africa Night.

Izabela Taylor

and fun moments of the night, some people highlighted one of the skits as being especially funny and interesting. Obiorah, who acted in the Secrets of Azar skit, especially denoted its impact.

"...I had to put on my outfit for my coronation as the new Queen, my dress would not go over my head because my Afro hairstyle was so big. Members of the crowd had to come up and help me pull my dress down and fixed up my outfit so I could go on stage," Obiorah said. "Seeing how people offered help immediately rather than just watch me fail was so heartwarming and created a sense that...they are not just spectators but were involved and interactive with the show we put on for them."

The showcasing of different African cultures was considered impactful for many people.

"Another lovely moment was watching Dr. Kyoore perform on the Gyile...with his son... [it] was endearing and so authen-

tic to his identity as a Ghanaian man. It really enriched the atmosphere and made me miss home and hearing such familiar sounds and music," Obiorah said.

PASO members described how Africa Night meaningfully affects them and their organization, through the celebratory festivities.

"Many students of the organization are international students and often feel unheard and unseen on campus because of their background. An event like this makes them feel appreciated by the school, especially when it is well attended," Mhwandagara said.

The night was important not only for the performers but also for the Gusties who attended. Obiorah illustrated how the event fostered curiosity and positivity surrounding the different cultures and how peers relate to one another.

"People showing up to Africa Night gives us some sense of in-

clusion, belonging, and excitement as people with different backgrounds are willing to learn the African culture which broadens their knowledge," Junior and Social Chair for Our Story, Richard Nyakson said.

PASO holds events throughout the year, such as the Black Gala during Black History Month and an event called Our Story, which is a panel to talk about the experiences of the organization's members. PASO also does community outreach and volunteer work in collaboration with the St. Peter Food Shelf and the CIE.

"People should be more willing to branch out and try new Orgs on campus. Rather than sticking to what you know, learn something new so you have more tools in your arsenal and how to communicate and love those around you no matter how different they are or the lives they have lived up until now," Obiorah said.

PASO encourages students to attend the annual Africa Night event as well as their future events that introduce students to the organization as well as foster community and connections.

"You get to experience something new and exciting and informative and the biases you may have developed about 'people from Africa' changes and evolves," Obiorah said. "These events help humanize and expand cultural palettes, especially since they are so accessible and personal to the community and neighborhood."

This year's Africa Night event has left many students with new memories, interests, and understanding of their peers.

"For the individuals that attended either for the first time or not, we hope that they got to experience a small part of what Africa as a continent is like. Our music, languages, food, and culture," Mhwandagara said.

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Published weekly on Fridays, except during academic breaks, by the students of Gustavus Adolphus College. Subscriptions are available from THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY for \$50 per year.

Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the institution or of its student body. The editors assume full responsibility for editorial and unsigned material.

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Events Calendar

Theatre Production: Peter and the Starcatcher
 May 9 - 11, 8 - 10 p.m., May 11 - 12, 2 - 4 p.m.
 Rob and Judy Gardner Laboratory Theatre

Celebration of Creative Inquiry
 May 10, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 Beck Atrium

Late Night Book Fair
 May 11, 8 - 10 p.m.
 Heritage Banquet Room

Gustavis Jazz Ensemble Mother's Day Concert
 May 12, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
 Crooners Supper Club, 6161 Hwy 65 NE,
 Minneapolis, MN

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

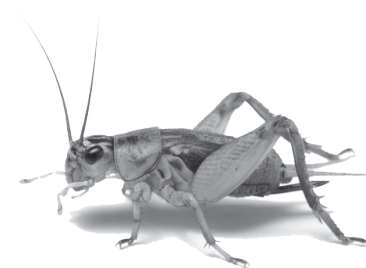
The Senate reviewed the list of charges for this year, each committee was tasked with looking into issues pertaining to their group. Everything that the Senate at large had charged committees with have been completed, some of these topics include; meeting with marketing to discuss the GustieBot, looking into DuoAuthentication and seeing if there was a better way to verify devices, and having thorough conversations with the Dean of Students to work on academic accommodations

This upcoming week the Senate will review budgets that organizations on campus have submitted for the next year. Within this, the Senate is pushing to increase the student activity fee by \$10 this upcoming academic year and then tie it to tuition the following years. This will allow organizations on campus to receive the funding they need to flourish, due to inflation the amount of money they were receiving a few years ago is no longer up to date with the amount they need. Please reach out to any member of the Senate with any questions

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



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

Gustavus Esports to host open house for everyone



The Gustavus Esports' new gaming lab for practice.

Submitted

Katie Samek
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Esports League would like to cordially invite you to their Esports Open House, which will be held every Friday through the end of the academic school year from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the newly opened Esports facility, located in Beck Hall room 303. This event is open to both students and faculty and will feature an open gaming room for all to try as well as information on the program itself.

Esports is a relatively new organization here on campus, initially being founded in Fall 2021 as a student organization. Over the last few years, the team has expanded from a small group of dedicated students to

an officially recognized club sport, complete with its own on-campus facility located in Beck Hall and a full-time Esports director, Even Haldeman. Currently, there are four teams that students can join, each corresponding to a different competitive game: Valorant, League of Legends, Overwatch, and Super Smash Bros.

"Esports here at Gustavus started off as a student org back in the fall of 2021 - my first year here," Junior Lukas Lennartson said. "I've been involved with Esports at Gustavus for the past 3 years. I'm currently a member of the Valorant team under the display name tototie, and just last week, we celebrated our playoffs victory for the second semester in a row."

Within the last year, the student members of the Esports team took it upon themselves to

advocate for a dedicated space and an official director, going to some of the higher-ups at Gustavus to make their case. Their requests were officially granted at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, and this open house event will serve as a way for students interested in learning more about the Esports program at Gustavus to learn about all of the new changes that have come to the organization and view the updated space.

"Esports is beginning to work its way out of the niche here on campus and that is wholly in part to the students that participate," Haldeman said. "We have been founded and supported by a strong group of students that have built this program to be one for the students, by the students."

While the Esports team is still relatively small, it has gained

several new members through the events it has hosted over the last few years, including tournaments for both MarioKart and Super Smash Bros. At the heart of this organization is a group of dedicated student gamers who have built a welcoming, inclusive community for all Gusties to compete, have fun, and make friends.

Students interested in joining the Esports League here at Gustavus can reach out to team director Evan Haldeman at ehaldeman@gustavus.edu. Students can also support the Esports team and watch matches through their official Twitch channel, which can be found at [GustavusEsports](https://www.twitch.tv/gustavusesports).

"Currently, there are 4 official teams, which are Valorant, League of Legends, Overwatch, and Super Smash Bros," Lennartson said. "If you are inter-

ested in any of those games, then please reach out. Also, if you want to suggest a game that you're currently interested in, you can reach out to [Haldeman] for that as well and suggest that a new team be made for it."

The Esports team is also looking for interested faculty who might be open to incorporating Esports into their programming and requests that those faculty reach out to Haldeman for more information and to discuss specifics.

"We want to stress that all students are welcome in our space, regardless of prior experience or skill level," Haldeman said. "This organization has a lot of heart behind it, and we'd love to see it continue to flourish and expand throughout the coming years."

Professor Jill Locke to host abortion care forum for future preparedness



Image of protestors advocating for abortion.

Submitted

Elliot Steeves
Staff Writer

All twenty students in Political Science and Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies Professor Jill Locke's Challenge Seminar on Abortion in the Post-Dobbs Era will hold a poster display in the lower level of the Jackson Campus Center on May 8th from 2:30-3:45 p.m. Both Peace Coffee and cookies will be available, and the students will be open for discussion about the past, present, and future of abortion care.

Challenge Seminars at Gustavus are often encouraged to have some sort of public-facing component as part of their course. In the case of Locke's seminar, students wanted to create an informative public series of posters concerning the past, present, and future of abortion care in the United States.

"The more I discussed the

idea with students, the more we liked the idea of some kind of installation," Locke said. "The idea was developed organically, and there was a lot of information that students felt like people didn't know."

Locke confirmed that there will be around ten posters total on display, each done by a different group of students. One group will display a poster on the original underground network that helped access abortion pre-Roe, featuring organizations like the Jane Collective and the Clergy Consultation Services. Another will show maps and data from the Guttmacher Institute displaying the availability of abortion on a state-by-state basis.

Still, another poster will contrast different myths and facts about the abortion procedure. There will also be a poster displaying the physical and mental health effects of both receiving and being denied the procedure.

Locke's seminar gleaned much of this information from course readings done throughout the semester. These texts included The Turn Away Study by Dr Diana Greene Foster, which focuses on a ten-year study on what happens when women are denied abortions, as well as Obstacle Course by David Cohen, dealing with barriers to access to abortion in the United States.

Two other course texts were You're The Only One I've Told by Dr Meerah Shah, a compilation of different stories from women on why they received an abortion, and Ejaculate Responsibly by Gabrielle Blair, a book that argues in favor of moving the abortion debate toward why men aren't adequately held accountable for unwanted pregnancy.

Planned Parenthood employee Alli Stalin Carlson '11 will visit the forum. (Currently waiting on question responses, delete this if I do not add them in by tonight).

Locke has taught the course not as a philosophical debate around whether abortion is ethical, but simply a treatment of abortion as a healthcare procedure.

"We are looking at the circumstances under which the state regulates abortion and its effect on public health, and the standing of full-fledged citizens who could get pregnant and might seek an abortion," Locke said. "I am very concerned, as a democratic theorist, about the court's role in this."

Locke also emphasized the issues present in reading the Dobbs decision as it is written: with the goal of returning abortion to the states and allowing people to vote on it.

"There is difficulty in getting ballot initiatives to actually work," Locke said. "The goalposts keep moving. If we take the content at its face that this should not be controlled at the federal level, to put it mildly, there are many obstacles."

Locke was reminded through-

out the process of teaching the seminar how important it is for students to come together from multiple disciplines to grapple with issues such as abortion.

"I do think we need to be less siloed in our majors and our departments," Locke said. "There are a lot of big challenges, like abortion and democracy, that are not issues just for GWS and Political Science students. That isn't something that is siloed into one or two departments."

As for students who are on the fence about attending the forum?

"There isn't a moment of, 'Here's the lecture!'" Locke said. "You are literally talking to students about their posters. You can just walk by, grab a coffee, and hear something! You'd be surprised by what you can learn, and the care that students put into these posters is really impressive."

All students who are interested in this interdisciplinary event are welcome to attend.

Gusties take the stage in Peter and the Starcatcher

Amelia Dewberry
Staff Writer &
Jay Erickson
Variety Editor

Next weekend, Gustavus will be putting on the play Peter and the Starcatcher. Performances will run May 9th, 10th, and 11th at 8:00 p.m. and May 11th and 12th at 2:00 p.m. in the Rob and Judy Gardner Laboratory Theatre. The May 12th performance is intended for families, with a scavenger hunt for kids beginning at 1:00 p.m. outside the theater and an opportunity to take photos with the cast after the show.

Peter and the Starcatcher is a Tony-winning play, adapted from the book by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson. In an exciting story involving pirates and magic, the play tells the origins of Peter Pan, Captain Hook, Tinkerbell, and other familiar characters. The play is intended for ages 8 and up, which doesn't happen often in Gustavus's performances. Tickets are still available but are quickly selling out.

He landed on Peter as he felt it was a "...great piece to share with [the] wider community, including families",

The play is directed by Associate Professor in Theatre and Dance and LALACS Henry MacCarthy. MacCarthy chose Peter and the Starcatcher because he wanted to put on a show with good music, that provided good performance opportunities to students as well as an opening for interesting costume and stage designs. He landed on Peter as he felt it was a "...great piece to share with [the] wider community, including families", MacCarthy said. Many plays at Gustavus are targeted towards older audiences, so having a show with a wider audience will hopefully increase the show's turnout.

Beyond the acting seen on stage, lots of work goes on leading up to the performance. Senior Continuing Assistant Professor in Theatre and Dance Larissa McConnell led the costume design and production team. She appreciates that her costume shop student employees



A production of Peter and the Starcatcher

Submitted

"are eager to tackle any project thrown at them, from Alf's body padding to Mollusk padding, to mermaid skirts and wigs. No matter what it is, there is a willingness to jump in and make the best costumes they can."

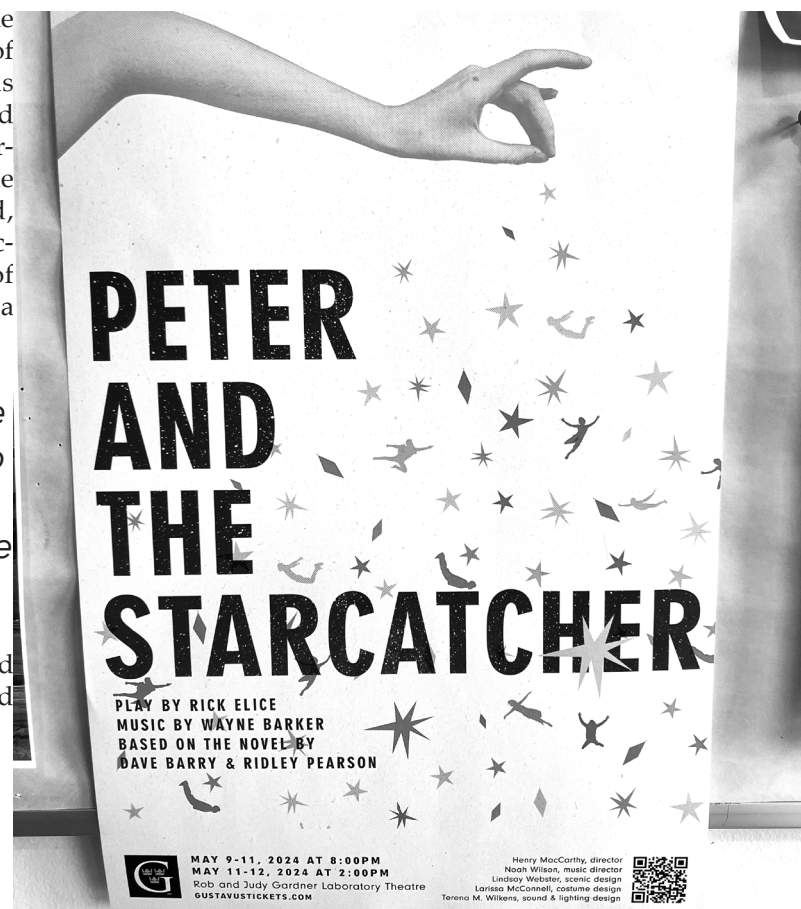
McConnell praised Senior Mar Rodriguez-Guzman, the Associate Costume Designer who designed the mermaids Alf, Ted, and Mrs. Bumbrake. "I loved guiding her through the design process and watching her learn to collaborate, research, design, re-evaluate her decisions, and then bring her designs through the costume shop for the workers to bring to life," McConnell said.

She also mentioned Senior Myra Nelson who worked on Mrs. Bumbrake's skirt as her Costume Technology focus. "She was able to interpret the design, create the pattern, and then sew it all together. The skirt is much more complicated than it may appear and Myra was able to make it look amazing," McConnell said.

MacCarthy invites everyone to come see Peter and the Starcatcher. "Theater is one of the few things that we do as a community and come and experience together", MacCarthy said. He hopes that people will come to the show and, through watching the characters "go through a journey of transformation", will "learn a little bit about themselves".

"Theater is one of the few things that we do as a community and come and experience together"

So bring your family and come on down to see Peter and the Starcatcher next week!



Poster advertising P&TSC

Sophia White

GUSTIE(S) of the WEEK

Eli Simon & Beck LaCanne

Colleen Coleman
Staff Writer

This week's Gusties of the Week are Seniors Eli Simon and Beck LaCanne. Both are from Faribault, Minnesota, Simon is a Communications major while LaCanne is a Studio Art and Art History double major. Both are involved in the Fine Arts department, are student workers in the Fine Arts office, and are involved in many theater productions.

Originally drawn to Gustavus for its small community vibe and proximity to home, Simon came to Gustavus and quickly became involved in campus life. "I met Eli freshman year when we were in the same quad in Co-Ed. He said he liked to act and I immediately started having visions of him in movies and brought this to his attention," Senior Patrick Stonecipher said.

Originally starting her college career at a different school, LaCanne visited campus to see Simon but was drawn to transfer to Gustavus for her Sophomore year. "What got me to come here was just how nice everyone was, 'cause Eli went here all four years so I came to visit him. Everyone was just extraordinarily nice and just really focused on collaboration and creativity, so I thought that was really nice," LaCanne said.

When looking back on their time together at Gustavus, Simon and LaCanne both cite theater productions *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and *Cymbeline* as some of their favorite experiences. "I was personally a part of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and that production was

stressful but really enjoyable. It was a J-term show, so I got to know the cast and crew really well, and I am probably most proud of that on my theater side of things," Simon stated. Being an Anderson scholar, Simon has been involved in the theater department since coming to campus. "Cymbeline was super fun. The cast was small enough where you could get to know everyone, and all of us said it was unlike any cast we've ever worked with. Everyone was actually friends on and off stage, which was really cool," LaCanne said.

When thinking about her favorite part about Gustavus, LaCanne looks back on the close community on The Hill. "I really think Gustavus echoes a small-town vibe - people are really aware of each other and focused on teamwork, which is something I really appreciated. Especially in the Art department, it's just full of collaboration," LaCanne said. Being a part of the Senior Art Major cooperative the Comeback Kids, LaCanne has embraced her creativity at Gustavus. Another one of LaCanne's favorite experiences on campus was the Comeback Kids' exhibition last semester at River Rock. "We did everything, from the marketing, making the pieces, installing it, and communicating with the store owners. It was a huge win and we had a great turnout and support from campus," LaCanne said. "Beck's art is incredible, and often a testament to her character as well. I might be biased, but my favorite work of hers is a charcoal drawing of this cool abstract skull she made for me for Christmas. It was

such an unbelievably thoughtful gesture that just blew me away," Stonecipher said.

Recently, Simon's time has been focused on starting his own business. Bluestem Films focuses on video and photo production in south central Minnesota and is a team of two with Simon and his good friend from home. Simon has been involved in the Gustie Cup recently, focusing on pitching to investors and working with Gustie alumni and professors to work on forming the company and gaining connections. Simon hopes to take away real-life skills from his time at Gustavus and working with the Gustie Cup. "Being open and honest with the people around you is really important. You'd be really surprised how flexible and respectful people actually are when you give them a little honesty. Taking that with me, I'm starting a business and I want to be really transparent with my clients and I think that will help us go a long way," Simon said.

Having recently studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark together, LaCanne and Simon studied European Arts and Cinema and Strategic Communications respectively. During their five months abroad, the pair took five different classes, got engaged, went to nine countries, and explored life abroad for the first time for both of them. Being Hasselquist Scandinavian Scholars, the pair loved the support of the Study Abroad office throughout their time on campus.

"It was a big surprise for us to go abroad together, we're not really the type of couple that has to stick together. After we went to a study abroad fair, we both were really interested in the program and thought it was kind of convenient. We then talked to our friend Cora and realized she was also going to Denmark, and then by happenstance all three of us went which was really special," LaCanne said. "We would each make dinner at least once a month to spend time together, as well as Beck and I taking Danish together,

we had tons of fun," Senior Cora Pelkey said. "Since coming back to Gustavus, we are all closer than ever - whether it's our weekly morning coffee dates, or staying up until 2am waiting to watch a Formula 1 race, it's always a great time. I love them like they are family, and I am so honored to have them in my life," Pelkey said.

After graduation, Simon plans to pursue Bluestem Films full-time within the next 2 years. LaCanne will be working in Arlington, TN with a 3-month goldsmithing program at New Approach School for Jewelers. Afterward, LaCanne will come back to Minnesota to work for a small jewelry company in Faribault. The pair is a prime example of what it means to be a Gustie: involved, passionate, and creative. With the pair's innovation and kindness, Eli Simon and Beck LaCanne continue to have a lasting impact on the Gustavus community and will continue to inspire originality long after their graduation.

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!



GoWs Eli Simon & Beck LaCanne

Soren Sackreiter

Diversity Ball: a celebration of community

Taylor Storlien
Staff Writer

Last weekend was the annual Diversity Ball, where students come together to “celebrate diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging of Gustavus students,” Senior and DLC Secretary Celeste Thalhammer said. During the week leading up to D-ball, the Diversity Leadership Council collaborates with other student organizations to help put on events. Last week, there was PASO Pool Day, OLAS El Campeonatito, CAB Food Truck, WAC x SRF x GWIL Women are Funny comedy event, and PASO’s Africa Night.

Diversity Ball is coordinated by the Diversity Leadership Council Executive Board as well as the DLC Events Committee and is extensively planned a few months in advance. To those who haven’t attended, D-Ball is

where “Every year awards are given out to students who are passionate and dedicated to advocating for DEIB issues here at Gustavus,” Thalhammer said. The evening included a dinner, awards ceremony, and student performances, and then it ended with a dance and a professional DJ.

The performances included AfroSteppers, Waking Hours, and a band that Junior Cristina Sirbu put together last minute, that “...consisted of current and graduated gusties as well as some St. Peter community members,” Sirbu said. Waking Hours performed original songs and Sirbu’s band performed “I Will Survive” by Gloria Gaynor. Sophomore Vatuazenj Vang had seen AfroSteppers previously and enjoyed all of the performances: “Whatever it is, the group has this way of capturing the audience’s eyes and the way they move in

sync is always so alluring. The second performance I wanted to highlight was the singing done with Cristina Sirbu and her band. Her voice is always so inspiring and powerful as it brings the entire crowd together. It always seems that whenever Cristina sings she integrates the vitality of the crowd with her serenades,” Vang said.

The Bruce A. Gray Diversity Honors Award was awarded to Vang, and this moment ended up being the most impactful for him: “At that moment, I had felt that this miraculous moment represented all the hard work I put into making Gustavus a better place for the future. Receiving my award was just a great honor that I was happy to receive and hopefully in the future, I want to continue working on making our community shine,” Vang said. Vang wasn’t the only student who was surprised when receiving

an award. Sophomore Linnea Beckstrom was awarded “The Champion of Interfaith Award.” “Honestly I was really surprised and I was the first award announced so I didn’t really know what to do. I was really glad I didn’t have to give a speech! It felt really awesome though and I really appreciated getting recognized for my hard work,” Beckstrom said. She extends a huge thanks to DLC, MSA, AST, and a special shout-out to Tom Flunker, for helping her this year.

The night left many with strong emotions and memories. Senior Sudikshya Karki was nominated for DLC Champions, Cultural and Ethnic Understanding: “This award is given to students in an effort to recognize their commitment to fostering intercultural understanding and dialogue at Gustavus. I felt very emotional but enjoyed it a lot. It was very nice to see everyone come together and celebrate DEIB,” Karki said. First-year student and member of CAB, Mary Steffen attended her first Diversity Ball: “As a first-year student, it was awesome to see so many people come to this event to celebrate diversity. Nearly every table was full and everyone was so supportive of the performances, the award-winners, and of each other,” Steffen said.

“... it was awesome to see so many people come to this event to celebrate diversity. Nearly every table was full and everyone was so supportive of the performances, the award-winners, and of each other,”

Diversity Ball is an opportunity to celebrate DEIB – Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Belonging. It is “... all about recognizing and supporting passionate individuals who are advocates for DEIB, and thus the Center for Inclusive Excellence, as well as Diversity Leadership Council, comes together to create awards for certain individuals,” Sirbu said. Some of the awards that are given are the Elizabeth Coco Award, Bruce

Gray Award, and Outstanding Senior and Freshman Award, along with many others. But as a whole, the event was a celebration of community: “Watching people interact with each other has made me realize the potential Gustavus Adolphus College has to offer. That night was a celebration of champions who fight to make this college a better place. And watching the praise and happiness that night made me realize that the smaller community of people fighting for campus are constantly growing,” Vang said.

Many enjoyed the dancing, “For me, my favorite part of the night was the dance, it was so much fun to spend time with my friends after such an inspiring event,” Steffen said. For seniors, it was a great end to the event: “My favorite part of the night was when seniors were recognized and when we all started dancing at the end. It felt really nice to see everyone dancing and celebrating the night together,” Karki said. Steffen said the “food was to die for” and many agreed that the food was delicious. Overall, Diversity Ball was a wonderful experience for many who went: “The food was great and the performances were definitely the highlight of the night. I will definitely go next year no matter if I get nominated and I would recommend others to go as well!” Beckstrom said.



D-Ball award winners Lupe and Dasha

Submitted



Dr. Paschal Kyoore performance with his son (left top), fashion show (middle top)



Somali Dhaanto dance (right top)

All pictures taken by Izabela Taylor

AFRICA

Ethiopian Eritrean dance (left bottom), spoken word poem (middle bottom)



NIGHT

Afro Steppers (right bottom), crowning of Africa Night queen, Emilia Laryea (center page)



How to live in a small town



Raquel Vaughn
Opinion Columnist

Small-town living is not for the faint of heart. There's rarely ever anything to do, and you can get from one side of town to the other in 15 minutes or less. I'm from Fairmont, MN, which is south of here and has a population of about 11,000 people. The closest Target and Starbucks is an hour away in Mankato, MN. Don't get me wrong, we do have grocery stores and coffee shops. We have Wal-Mart (which is either extremely busy or abandoned and never in between), Hy-Vee, and a Fareway. Other than our failed Starbucks (which is now Cavers Realty), we have coffee shops: Caribou, Scooters, Graffiti Corner, and another one that sells expensive Italian coffee and is only open until noon. This is what Journey was talking about when being a "small-town girl."

I'm aware that the majority of everyone reading this currently lives in St. Peter and also has to drive out of town to get to the closest Target and Wal-Mart. But what's 10 minutes to an hour? When I lived in Sherburn, MN, a town ten times smaller than my hometown, I had to drive 15 minutes to get to the closest Kwik Trip. That's right, I had to not only work at Kum & Go but sign up for a rewards card from there. What's embarrassing is that Sherburn is one of two Minnesota locations for Kum & Go. If anyone is qualified to talk about surviving in a small town, it's definitely me.

As I've already stated, Fairmont has a Wal-Mart. When everything closes at seven or eight at night, my friends and I would go to Wal-Mart and mess around. You can't necessarily be a weirdo in Target because it's Target. But



Downtown St. Peter, small town

Submitted

Wal-Mart is a different story. You can go through the apparel section, the athletics, and the party aisle. In my opinion, the most fun thing is messing around in the toy aisle. There's bound to be a lightsaber or sword somewhere. And if the toy section fails, then there's always the electronics section, where you can imagine having all the things you're too broke to buy. You can be as obnoxious, loud, and silly because nobody cares. At the end of the day, Wal-Mart will always be an option. And if your town is so small that it doesn't have one, then any store will do.

My hometown also has a few opportunities to just chill if sitting and chatting is more your style. Graffiti Corner is always a good option. It's a frozen yogurt and coffee shop with vibes similar to River Rock here in St. Peter. Or there's Edie's, a breakfast diner that is open until 1:00 pm. I rarely go there because of their short hours, but their hashbrowns are better than any-

thing I've ever had in my life. I'm aware you may not have a Graffiti Corner or an Edie's, but any coffee shop and diner would work.

"The stars are prettier out there. And when you look past the smell of manure, you can pick out the scent of fresh grass in the spring. . ."

Fairmont is small enough to be considered a hick town but big enough to have a few things that keep the younger generation occupied. Although considered a city where your grandparents would live, Fairmont has a mini golf course, a water park, a movie theater, and five beaches. Sure, the mini golf course may be infested with spiders, and the coolest thing about our movie theater seats may be the plastic

cupholders, but these are places where memories are made.

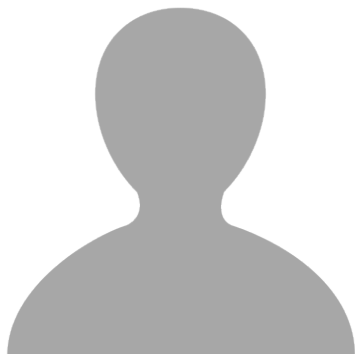
Look, I understand that living in a small town is more like surviving than anything else. Your closest friends probably live on a farm 30 minutes away from your high school. Or maybe when your movie theater closed down for nearly five years during Covid, you had to drive an hour away just to see a movie. Or maybe you're just bound to run into somebody you know no matter where you go. People I graduated with work at the US Bank in my hometown. Not even my bank is a safe place anymore!

But there's something beautiful about small towns. They are the few places on earth where things don't matter. If you're successful, smart, good-looking, and extroverted, then that's great, but you come from a small town so it doesn't really matter. Like, of course, you're smart—there are only a hundred other people in your graduating class. And if you're not, that doesn't

matter either. You're from a small town so it's only up from here. If the rules do not apply to Fairmont, MN, then they most likely don't apply to your small town either.

Romanticize your small town, and you'll begin to understand that maybe it's not all that bad. Eat ice cream at the park, read your book by the lake (or maybe just even in your car during a rainstorm), or grab your friends and take a trip to the nearest grocery store. You can drive as fast as you want there. The stars are prettier out there. And when you look past the smell of manure, you can pick out the scent of fresh grass in the spring, too. Small towns are beautiful because at the end of the day, where else are you going to find a library, three bars, two churches, a Bible bookstore, and a smoke shop all on the same street?

The GustieBot is strange, not evil



Jonas Doerr
Opinion Columnist

On March 14th, Gustavus released a new feature to help attract new students: the GustieBot. This new feature is an AI that generates pictures of either a lion or of users from an uploaded headshot doing activities one might do at Gustavus. Although members of the Gustavus community have been voicing complaints about it, it is not the disgusting threat to human expression that many are making it out to be.

"The GustieBot was built to be a fun, clickable way to help prospective students see themselves at Gustavus. We know Gusties have multiple roles and identities -- they're

biologists and wide receivers and tenors and gamers and volunteers, and, and, and. They're doing all these things, all at the same time, all at the same place." Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management in Admission, David Kogler said

The initial post on Instagram introducing the GustieBot said, "FYI, this is brand new (and still in beta mode), so let us know what you think!" People took them up on that.

User @peterbjorklund_ commented, "Take the art out of a Liberal Arts College, classic." User @tristan.elwell commented, "Unintentionally ironic hashtag: Why, Gustavus, why?!" User @lindseykolhase commented, "Why is money being spent on a generative ai program when there literally isn't drinkable water in the art building." Many other comments also voiced discontent with the GustieBot, arguing that the funding should have gone to "real artists" and supported Gustavus art students.

Were these complaints fair? I tried the GustieBot to see if it really was the threat to Gustavus art majors people seemed

to be claiming it was. I didn't want to put in a headshot, although the website doesn't store those photos, so I chose to be represented by Gus the Lion. I selected several characteristics, like a baseball cap, chose a location (dormitory), put in my major (Communication Studies), and put in an activity I'm interested in (Ultimate Frisbee). The result was amusing, but not very threatening.

Gus stood wide-eyed in something resembling a Norelius dorm, wearing a newsboy cap and holding a thin, cheap-looking frisbee. Behind him was a bed so close to the ceiling only a cardboard cutout could sleep in it and a banner on the wall reading, "ETC-FURCATEON." Gus clearly had been studying hard in his Communications classes.

This sort of art didn't seem like it would take any jobs away from art majors. I asked Megan Lipke, a Junior Studio Art and History double major, if she felt threatened by AI art. She said no, and added, "I think human artists bring their flaws. Just like some people prefer the original vocal art-

ist's sound to that of autotune, others prefer the subtleties included in an artist's work. I also think the process adds to the artwork. For example, playing a song as you bottle up an artwork so the song is "contained" in the bottle, or the emotions someone has behind a piece. Some people use found materials to create their piece. AI cannot do that."

"AI will only become a bigger part of school and the workplace in the future. Asking for it to be hidden away is counterproductive."

Lipke recently had a piece displayed in Beck Hall bringing awareness to children in Nairobi, Kenya who are addicted to jet fuel and glue. It used foam silhouettes and plastic bottles to create a physical display of the sad situation; AI can neither make physical art like that nor promote a social movement like that. Similarly, other art students at Gustavus bring both a level of talent and social awareness that AI will not replicate. To support them, take a look at the Senior Studio Art Majors exhibition in the Hillstrom Museum opening May 4th through the 25th, or the Junior Studio Art Majors exhibition in the Schaefer Art Gallery, open now until May 14th.

The other argument made against the GustieBot is that it is taking away funding that could have been better allocated to various portions of the Fine Arts department, such as improving the drinking water or paying art students commissions. While it's true that those are noble causes, the admissions and fine arts departments have different budgets and goals. Should those budgets be reallocated? Maybe, but Fine Arts students already have their work displayed more prominently than any other collection of majors. Also, the GustieBot, according to the admissions department, has been effective so far.

When asked about the impact of the GustieBot so far, Kogler commented: "Since it launched in mid-March, we're really happy to see that more than 4,500 people have used the

GustieBot. We're just starting to use the GustieBot in innovative ways, such as at college fairs. Recently in a gym full of college representatives, a group of students walked up to our table and saw a postcard for the GustieBot and asked what it was. That curiosity gave our admission counselor an opportunity to connect and tell the students more about all the great things Gustavus has to offer."

"We love seeing the drawings and installations and exhibits around campus with art made by Gusties. We should continue talking about other ways to highlight artists' talent and work. The GustieBot wasn't created to replace anyone's art or to promote specific majors. Instead, the GustieBot is meant to make the key point that Gusties get more out of college by being able to live all parts of their life, in a high-quality way, without having to choose or compromise. We think this is an authentic and useful message to make for prospective students. Once we've engaged that student, we can follow up with stories about Gusties making art, or doing research, or studying abroad, preparing for careers, or using AI in helpful ways." Kogler said when asked about the controversy over the use of AI.

AI will only become a bigger part of school and the workplace in the future. Asking for it to be hidden away is counterproductive. Students need to learn how to develop skills that set them apart from AI, not be shielded from the modern workplace reality. Instead of moralizing against it and passively complaining about how "gross" it is, we should continue including it in our education so that we know how to control rather than be controlled by it. The GustieBot is one first step towards bringing Gustavus into a future-minded educational system.

gustiebot.gustavus.edu



Gustiebot image creation

Submitted.

The joys of crafting



Houston McLaury
Opinion Columnist

There comes an odd joy when something is finished. This joy is different from finishing a long book series, a long TV show, or some other form of entertainment that is provided to you. No, this joy comes from the act of creating. There is an act of love that goes into the process of creation, whether it's a short story, a drawing, music, needlework, or even essays and formal papers for some courses. The journey taken on the act of creation is often reward enough for some people, not to mention the sense of accomplishment that comes along with it.

"There is an act of love that goes into the process of creation, whether it's a short story, a drawing, music, needlework, or even essays and formal papers for some courses."

Yet this is a joy that is readily being replaced; where we are not expected or held to create things simply to create, but instead to consume media simply for the act of consumption. Without craft, whether it comes from music making, writing, art, or any other number of ways we can express our deeper selves, we lose the joy that the process of creation brings us, the chance of knowledge it can impart onto us, and the risk at the connection we take when we share our creations with other people.

When creating something, it's good to take on the mindset of "it's about the journey, not the destination." When you are making anything, there will be times when you doubt yourself, if you're even

skilled enough to make something, or if it will be as good as you hope it to be. But it's important to let yourself fail. Without failure, you won't learn and you won't improve. So, make whatever you want. If it's something silly, say a poem about ham sandwiches, a crocheted piece of fabric with a picture of sliced bread, or a wood carving of a snail, take joy in the act of creation.

"When I talk about the act of creation, there's more to it than just the process and the knowledge that comes with it."

Not everything you make needs to be a masterpiece or profound in every way. Let yourself be silly, and if you pull a deeper meaning from that silliness, you'll be all the better for it. There is a peace that will overtake you, a focus on that subject where the world melts away. In this journey of creation, you will find joy and peace, as long as you are willing to fail, but still create something.

When I talk about the act of creation, there's more to it than just the process and the knowledge that comes with it. In the creative process, one has to accept that you aren't going to get everything right on the first try. This is what makes the process so frustrating: not being able to get something exactly the way you want it. But it pushes you. In failure, the mistakes you make help to inform you on what works and what doesn't work for you. You'll need to experiment, see what styles you like, and what form you prefer, and try to create from there.

"Let yourself make mistakes, be curious, search for knowledge, and make silly things, make things that are awe-inspiring, make for the sake of creation. . ."

And, thanks to the internet, there are instructions online on how to pick up a craft with ease. Or, if you'd rather learn

from a book there is always the library and bookstores which can offer a whole plethora of knowledge on your craft. In this experimentation and search for knowledge, you will find an avenue that allows you to freely express yourself. Along the way, you will make mistakes, but by pushing past them or fixing them, you can make anything.

Another joy that can come from creating is the act of sharing it with another person. Sure, by sharing it or showing it to another you expose yourself to them, but in that exposure, true connection can be had. They can tell you of their own creations and through this, you can grow closer. Or you can keep your craft to yourself and have it be something just for you. Instead of making something to show it off, it would be made simply to be made, and there is beauty in that. Neither one of these approaches are wrong, so don't be afraid to do both.

Throughout history, we have tried to improve our respective crafts. The act of

creation makes us human, so never stop working on whatever craft you love. Let yourself make mistakes, be curious, search for knowledge, and make what you want to make, either for yourself or for other people. Make things that suck, make silly things, make things that are awe-inspiring, make for the sake of creation, and revel in all the joy it can bring to you.



Gustie making art

The Sweet East

Will Sorg
Movies Guy

Coming-of-age films have been a staple of American cinema for almost as long as Americans have made movies. Through the years, each generation has had its own cultural landmarks when it comes to these movies. *The Breakfast Club*, *Superbad*, and even more contemporary ones like *Ladybird* all reflect the times they were made in and often serve as a time capsule for the experience of growing up in the era it was made. *The Sweet East* is like a coming-of-age horror story.

Now the film is not a horror film, even if there are some scenes that kind of feel like that, but neither is it your conventional teen drama. The film is a satire dramedy directed by Sean Price Williams, starring the talented Talia Ryder and a cavalcade of freaks to accompany her on her journey through the American East Coast. Ryder plays Lillian, a high school senior who breaks away from her school trip to Washington DC after a restaurant shooting forces her to escape through an impossible hidden tunnel in the restaurant. If that sounds almost too over the top, then you would be right. What follows is essentially Lillian wandering from place to place and the people she meets along the way. These people just happen to be insane.

The film's colorful cast of supporting characters is easily one of the best parts. There are so many standout characters: an indie filmmaker, played by the always wonderful Ayo Edebiri, a secret neo-nazi college professor, and even famed singer Nick Cave's son playing an anarchist with an uncomfortable amount of piercings on his penis. The film shifts wildly in tone and setting constantly and it is an impressive juggling act to make all of these disparate characters and sequences work together cohesively. Lillian is the glue that holds these disparities together.

It becomes overwhelmingly clear early on that Lillian is not upset by her seemingly forced exodus from her normal life. Rather, she seems desperate not to return home for as long as possible. This ambition for independence is never said outright but rather colors her every interaction. She's a sponge for experiences, soaking up quirks from other characters and constantly changing her intentions. Talia Ryder plays Lillian with just enough ambiguity that she's always interesting. Even still, Ryder's physical acting is impressively able to convey emotions and thoughts. Without saying much at all about herself, we still know exactly who she is.

As much as the film is absurd, it does have some genuine commentary on growing up in modern America. The film is shot on 16-millimeter film stock, which makes the visuals very grainy. The film grain, the warm tones of the film's color palette, and the handheld camera creates a very personal viewing experience. At times it is documentary-like, deeply interested in documenting the kind of surreal alienation felt by young people growing up in America. The absurdity helps to highlight that some of the scenarios Lillian is put in are not as insane as one might think. There's a lot to be afraid of as a teenager in America and in a lot of scenes, Lillian's age and gender certainly tinges her interactions with specific characters. It's a strange strange movie but even if the weirdness isn't a plus (for me it is), this film is an underseen little gem from last year that I'm glad I caught and I hope I've put it on your radar too.

Horoscopes!

Aries: Better to over-prepare this week than to be unprepared.

Taurus: Do not let yourself get caught in the late semester doldrums

Gemini: Go home this weekend and do something there you can't do here.

Cancer: Mosey downtown

Leo: It's okay to let go of some things.

Virgo: Make sure your sleep schedule is still on track this month

Libra: Never ever try the lemonade that kills you from panera.

Scorpio: Take a walk in the arb's grasslands

Sagittarius: Play some tennis at the bubble for fun!

Capricorn: Do your work early so there's time to relax

Aquarius: Drive around to somewhere new

Pisces: Eat a sweet treat as a reward for your hard work this semester

LAST WEEKS ANSWERS

1. Barret, Beretta, Browning, Taurus (Gun brands)
2. Doc, Happy, Sneezy, Dopey (Seven Dwarves)
3. Joe, Tom, Matty, Jake (Taylor Swift Exes Eg. Joe Alwyn, Tom Hiddleston, Matty Healy, Jake Gyllenhaal)
4. Alan, Michael, Rudolph, John (Donald Trump Lawyers Eg. Alan Dershowitz, Michael Cohen, Rudolph Guiliani, John Rowley)



Will Sorg
Unwilling Comics Guy

Golfers take 5th out of 14

Strong first day followed by lackluster 2nd day



Teddy Kaste stares at golf ball longingly

Submitted.

Teddy Kaste
Sports Editor

This past weekend, the Gustavus Men's and Women's Golf Teams each played in a tournament, the men played in the SJU Invite where they took 5th out of 12 teams while the women played in the St. Olaf-Carleton invite and took 7th out of 12 teams.

The first day for the Men was at Wapicada, and it was a dark, gloomy, and cold day in Sauk Rapids. The course was exceptionally tight with thick rows of trees lining each hole ready to smack away any errant golf balls and cause trouble for golfers. The golfers had also never seen Wapicada prior to playing it in a tournament, so Sophomore Sauk Rapids native Cole Paulson stepped up and delivered a 45-minute-long presentation on how to play the golf course.

Paulson stated, "Going into a course with a game plan is crucial to creating confidence and situational awareness on the golf course. I was fortunate enough to be the only guy on the team who had played Wapicada in the past so I'm glad that coach gave me the opportunity to provide the team with some insight on the course in our preparation for

the SJU invite."

Junior Teddy Kaste shot a 70 on day one to lead the Gusties, Sophomores Chris Gutuza and Pelayo Perez Crespo shot 74s and Senior Tommy Hiniker fired a 75, which added up to the team total of 293 and was good enough to put the Gusties in a tie for 3rd going into day two.

"game plan is crucial to creating confidence and situational awareness on the golf course, I was fortunate enough to be the only guy on the team who had played Wapicada in the past so I'm glad that coach gave me the opportunity to provide the team with some insight on the course in our preparation for the SJU invite."

"Today was finally a round that the team is capable of shooting," Assistant Coach Randy Stuckey said. "We have been waiting for this. Each player came with a game plan that would produce their best score. I'm glad they were com-

mitted to that plan. We are in a good position for a good battle tomorrow. It was a great day for Teddy and fun to see six red birdies on his card. Really a good one for him."

The conditions were looking rough for day two of the SJU invite with rain and whipping winds in the forecast. Rumblings around the golf course speculated that perhaps day two would just be canceled entirely, making it a one-day event, but the rumors never came to fruition and the golfers played on day two in harsh conditions at Monticello Country Club.

Perez Crespo led the team through the tough conditions on day two, shooting a 74 to move up the leaderboard and into 10th place. First-year Blake Forrest shot a 77 which was followed by Kaste and Gutuza, both posting 78s on day two. Overall, the day was not friendly to the Gusties as they moved down into 5th place out of 14 teams. Bethel won the tournament highlighted by an albatross (A score of 2 on a par 5) from their #1 golfer.

Assistant Coach Stuckey still had a positive outlook on

the weekend, despite the poor play on day two he stated, "The solid round they put in on Saturday and during very poor conditions on Sunday, I did not hear any complaints about how difficult it was to play in the cold, windy and rainy conditions. The weather is something you cannot control so you have to accept the conditions and play through it without it affecting your game. As a coach, it is important to emphasize that you accept and embrace the challenge. When you do, you have an advantage over other teams that are not up for the conditions."

The Women's Golf Team was at Willenger's golf club for the St-Olaf and Carleton invite. Senior and Captain Annika Reirson led the way for the women shooting an 83, First-year Maren Masters and Sophomore Lauren Hubbard both turned in solid rounds - both carding 84s, respectfully. First-year Riley Zebroski shot a 90, which totaled a team score of 341, putting the women in 7th place after day one.

Coach Scott Moe said on the day, "Willengers got the best of us today. It's a really good golf course but it is very tough from

about 100 yards and in every hole. We didn't play that bad, we just were not able to have the recovery shots or the up-and-down that we normally do."

"The team needs to work on coming out of the gates better and starting tournaments off strong the first day," Masters said.

The women were ready to get back on that golf course for day two, but the weather had other plans and due to the downpour of rain, the day was canceled and the women went home.

Gustavus' Golfers have only one more tournament left in the season with the women in the Carleton/St. Kate's invite and the men in the Bethel triangular. Make sure to show your Gustie Golfers some support in their final weekend of competition!

Gustavus Softball splits another series

Gustavus wins one loses one against St. Olaf



Softball player slings ball across infield

Submitted

Kieran Ripken
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Softball Team traveled to Northfield last Saturday for a doubleheader against St. Olaf and recorded the team's third consecutive split series. The Gusties won 7-6 in the first of two games before dropping the second 10-2. Gustavus progressed to 19-17 and 13-5 in the MIAC on the season.

In the first game of two, the Gusties stormed out to a commanding lead. Senior Madi Mueller stepped up to the plate in the leadoff spot and tattooed a solo home run over the left field wall for a 1-0 lead. A double from First-year Carly Olson brought in the next run for the Gusties, scoring Junior Kayla Herda. Sophomore Lauren Lambert singled to left and scored fellow classmate Caitlin Olafsson to raise the score to 3-0. A fielder's choice and error scored Olson and an RBI from Junior Greta Dahlen scored Lambert. When the dust settled, the Gusties had poured on five runs in the first inning.

"It was huge to get that big of a lead right away [because it gave] our pitchers a safety blanket to go in and do their job without as much stress... St. Olaf is a good hitting team and we knew that going in, so having a lead took some of the pres-

sure off right away," Olafsson said.

The Oles would not go away easily, scoring a run on a solo homer to left in the second. In the third, Olson tacked on another double and scored Olafsson who had walked previously in the inning. The home team would respond yet again, scoring three in the bottom of the third inning to close the gap to 6-4. The Oles would tally another run in the fifth to bring the score within one.

In the sixth inning, Olson rose to the occasion on offense for the third time this game, registering a third RBI double that would prove to be the game-winning play. Olson's RBI scored Sophomore Olivia Guggenberger, who had singled earlier that inning.

The Oles continued to stick around, logging another solo home run in the bottom of the sixth; however, St. Olaf's comeback bid was suppressed by First-year Megan Sherwood in the circle to earn the Gusties their 19th win of the campaign.

"Our team has been working hard all season both in games and practices, and I think it is really paying off," Sherwood said.

Sophomore Maizie Anderson pitched 4.1 innings and was credited with her 11th win on the season. Sherwood closed the door on the Oles in 2.2 innings of work and earned her first career save in the process.

"It was a very competitive game, but I knew that my defense was there to back me up. I was glad I could help keep the lead that Maizie had started in the circle and [was] happy we came out with the win," Sherwood said.

In game two of the doubleheader, St. Olaf broke the ice with an RBI single in the first inning for a 1-0 lead. Gustavus responded in the second, tying the game on an RBI double courtesy of Dahlen. The Oles would answer with a two-run homer to right center to seize a 3-1 lead in the bottom of the second. The Gusties would not regain the lead.

An RBI groundout from Herda scored Mueller in the third, which would prove to be the final run of the day for the Gusties and narrowed the deficit to 3-2. St. Olaf scored again on an RBI single in the fourth to extend the lead 4-2. The Gusties had a prime opportunity to cash in at the dish in the fifth with bases loaded,

but consecutive strikeouts ended the inning.

In the fifth, the Oles would tack on another run from a solo shot. In a similar fashion to the Gustie win just hours earlier, the Oles borrowed their visitor's strategy from the previous game and racked up five unanswered runs in the sixth inning. St. Olaf's prowess at the plate in game two culminated in a 10-2 loss for the Gusties.

"We learn something new every time we play... We've seen a lot of what they have and it makes us even more prepared going into the conference tournament," Olafsson said.

"I think we just need to trust and have confidence in ourselves and our abilities the rest of the way through this season because we have worked hard to get to where we are now," Sherwood said.

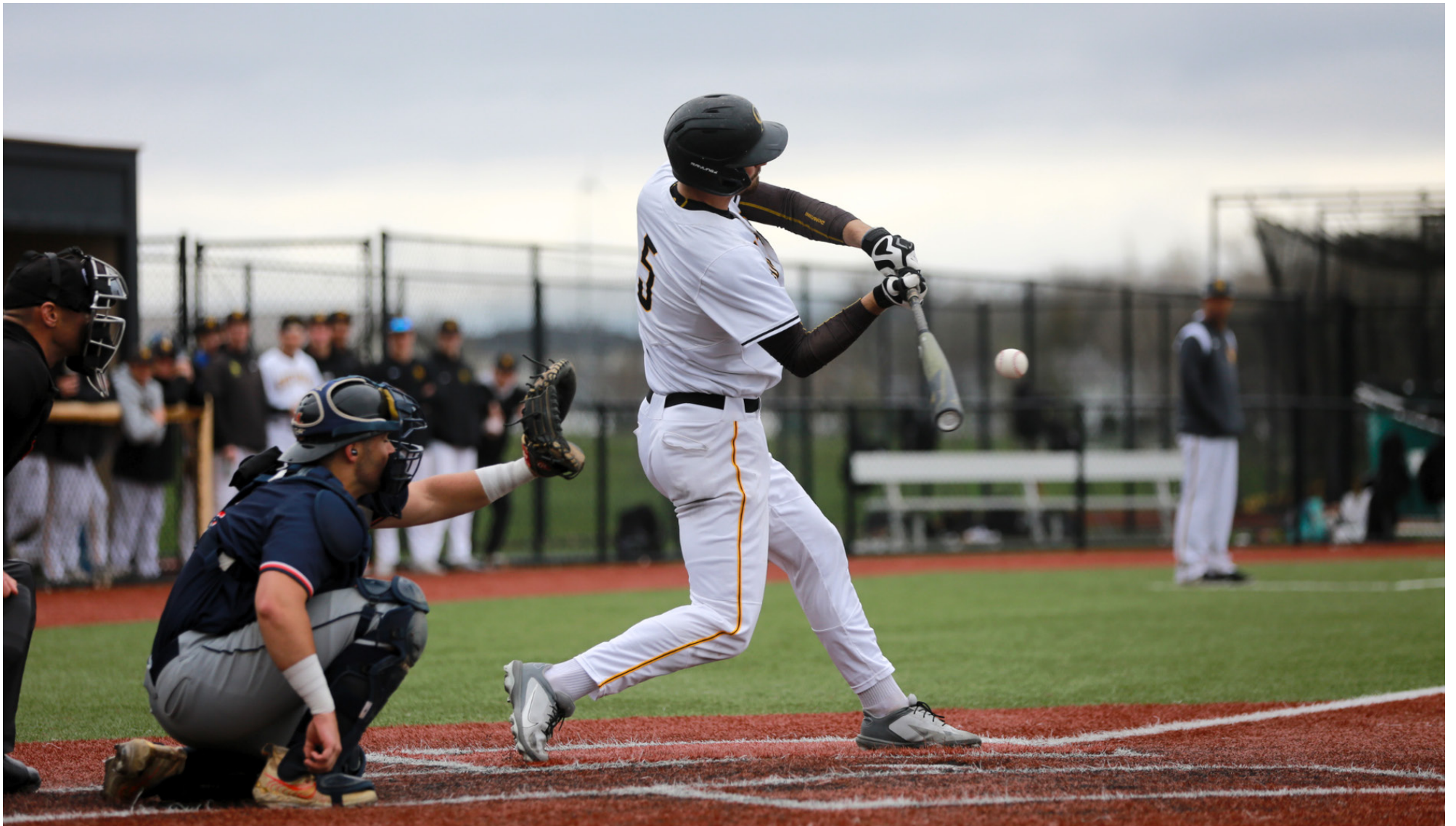
"The MIAC is full of teams where anyone can beat anyone. We expect to play good games and play our best game to ensure some wins at the end of the season and feel confident going into the conference tournament," Olafsson said.

Looking ahead, the Gusties will host Carleton on Saturday, May 4th for a doubleheader in

what will be the team's regular-season finale. The Knights are 13-19 (4-14 MIAC) on the season and have dropped nine of their last ten. The team's last four matchups during the regular season have resulted in a split series; however, the Gusties have outscored the Knights 16-10 since 2022.

Gustavus Baseball bests Macalester

Gustavus keeps playoff hopes alive with wins



Gavin Baker races around 3rd base

Submitted.

Parker Burman Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Gustavus Baseball Team squared off against conference rival Macalester in a homestand doubleheader. In game one of the weekend series, Gustavus held on to an early lead for an important 9-6 win over Macalester. Game two saw lots of offense but it was all one-sided as the Gusties came away with the 11-1 win over the Scots.

Following a one-run first frame from the Scots, the Gusties belted a pair of homers in the bottom of the inning. Senior Bryce Novak smashed a solo shot to right-center field on the first pitch of his at-bat. Senior Chris Knowles, not to be outdone, belted his own homer on a fly ball to right field to drive in a pair of runs giving Gustavus a 3-1 lead.

"My teammates did an awesome job of setting me up and putting me in good situations to be able to drive in runs so all the credit to them," Knowles said.

In what was to be a back-and-forth battle all game long, Macalester fought back in the

top of the second to tie the game 3-3. A Macalester sacrifice bunt moved a pair of runs up a base to put runners on second and third, followed by a single to knock in a run. A swinging strikeout from the left hand of Senior Adam Biewen went wide to allow another Scot run to score.

Gustavus would go on to score four more runs in the bottom of the third and an additional pair of runs in the fourth. Macalester would score a combined three runs across the fourth and fifth innings to make the score 9-6. After the fifth inning, no more runs would be scored in the final two frames of the game. Junior Hunter Sheehan in relief of Biewen tossed a 1-2-3 six inning helping to prevent any chance of a Macalester comeback. Sheehan would come back to the mound in the seventh for three more outs to secure the save of the day.

"To be honest, I wasn't fully satisfied with how I pitched on Saturday. I made some mistakes that the hitters took advantage of. Overall though, I was pleased that our hitters helped me out and got me

some run support early on in the game. That allowed me to pitch freely and just focus on throwing strikes which ended up being enough to get the job done," Biewen said.

"Our pitchers did a great job of limiting runs especially when they threatened and got runners on and in scoring position. The offense also did a great job of continuing to score and add to the lead. It was a great job of keeping the pressure on them even when they were starting to come back," Knowles said.

Game two would see nearly as many runs scored as in game one but all but one of the twelve runs scored would belong to the Gustie offense. In his first start of the year, lefty starter First-year Benny McDonald began the contest with three straight strikeouts. Gustavus started the game's scoring in the bottom of the first as First-year Danny Gavin scored on a Knowles groundout. Senior Gavin Baker would score on a single from Junior Brady Schmitz, the first of a three-hit day for Schmitz.

"I think just staying aggres-

sive and swinging early in the count has been a big thing for me. Sometimes I watch too many pitches and find myself in unfavorable 2 strike counts and tend to struggle, so finding ways to swing early and do damage on the first couple of pitches of the at-bats is when I'm at my best. I was able to do that in my first at-bat and my confidence was up for the rest of the game," Schmitz said.

"Overall [we] got the job done and felt pretty solid. It was a good feeling to be able to go out and start my first collegiate game. I got told right as the first game ended I was going to start and from that moment my mindset was just to go have fun and shut them down," McDonald said.

Novak extended the Gustie lead in the second, driving in a run for his fifth hit of the day. Gavin continued the Gustie offensive outburst, driving in two runs with a single that dropped into shallow left field. With runners standing on second and third, Schmitz launched a three-run homer deep beyond the outfield fence, putting the Gusties up 8-0.

In a third scoreless inning of work, McDonald picked up his fifth strikeout of the day. Baker and Schmitz would both score in the bottom half as both were hit by pitches and advanced on a passed ball, before scoring on a single, putting Gustavus up 10-0. The Scots finally broke through in the sixth as a run scored on a passed ball, bringing the score to 10-1. Gustavus would score one more run in the sixth to reclaim the ten-run lead.

With a pair of non-conference games against Bethany Lutheran canceled this week the Gusties have just two games left on the schedule. Gustavus will play Saturday at 6:30 p.m. for a late-night doubleheader against Hamline.

"We really have our backs against the wall going into these last four games. We are in fifth place and with only the top four teams making playoffs, it's now or never. All we can do is control what we can control and if a few other games go our way we'll be right where we wanna be in a week" Biewen said.