Greetings Class of ’02,

A new voice greets you with this class letter. I’m Karen Warkentien and I join Katherine Medbery Oleson (my former roomie!) as co-class agent. I’m excited to begin this new role and gladly welcome your news, suggestions and feedback at kwarkent@gac.edu.

Happy autumn! The recent cold, windy days we’ve had here in Minnesota remind me how glad I am to not be walking across campus at a 45 degree lean to keep from blowing over. For students at Gustavus and others of you in places where time is measured in terms of semesters, breaks and graduation dates, the year is just getting under way. For those who are now on “real people” time, year’s end is starting to come into view. However you measure them, the years fill up and pass by. Can you believe that this year’s freshmen (or were we supposed to say “first year students?”) class will graduate in 2008?!

I’ve spent the last year and a half working for a regional college campus ministry. As a result, I have the chance to make weekly trips to Gustavus and also travel to several other colleges and universities where I meet many different students. These visits bring back memories of searching for the right college and reaffirm my selection of Gustavus. From the faculty, staff and students to the food and jungle plants, Gustavus sets itself apart in a variety of areas. One thing I notice is that Gustavus students are participators. They don’t just show up—they show up and do something. Gustavus students and alumni don’t go into the world to survive it. They go into the world to thrive in it. It is “extraordinary people” that have made Gustavus an “extraordinary place.” If you haven’t been back, try to find a way to get there—it can be a pretty relaxing visit without all those pesky classes. Check out the Gustavus website for a schedule of upcoming events of all varieties.

So what’s the story with Gustavus always asking me for money? Don’t they realize that I’m still paying for my education? We can come up with tons of reasons not to give—and do. We like money and it tends to be easier to come up with reasons to keep it than to give it up. But beyond cliché, it really is better to give than to receive. It feels good to freely give and I would submit that a true measure of financial success (and freedom) is having the ability to give generously. We’re all at different places financially. For some, generosity might mean giving a dollar a month (or year) and for others it might mean getting your name on a building (okay, so maybe in like 50 years). Regardless, Gustavus will not force us to give or guilt us into giving. They simply ask, “Will you give?”
For many students, just the first year of college can cost more than they have possessed in their entire pre-college lifetime. Without financial assistance, Gustavus would have been completely out of the question for many of us. Alumni Fund gifts help provide student scholarships and help Gustavus maintain the standard of excellence that we’ve come to expect.

Like me, you may have wondered if this standard of excellence really has to cost so much. I figured somebody somewhere had to be wasting a whole lot of money. So I did a little asking around (because, hey, I’m not going to throw my money into a bottomless pit—even watching it burn would be more fun than that). I found that the raw cost of a college education at Gustavus compares favorably to that of other MN private colleges as well as State Universities. Here’s some of what I learned:

- The cost of tuition, fees, room and meals for new students this year ($28,765) is within about $500 of St. Thomas, Hamline, St. Benedict and St. John’s. Gustavus is also $2000 less than St. Olaf, $5000 less than Macalester and $8000 less than Carleton.
- The cost of tuition, fees, room and meals this year for a non-resident student at the following large public universities is: Minnesota (TC) - $23,860, Wisconsin (Madison) - $25,930, Michigan - $33,836. The public subsidy these universities receive reduces tuition for resident students by 60-70%.
- Food charges at Gustavus are the lowest of the nine month four year colleges in the MN Private College Council. They have not increased in three years and are only 6% higher than they were six years ago.

So why give to the Alumni Fund? Give because you want to give. Don’t give out of guilt or obligation. Give because you want to be part of making something happen. Give because someone gave to you and you liked it. And after you’ve given, sit back and enjoy watching your dollar(s) at work.

Our class has been a busy bunch. Many have found jobs or are continuing in school, others have gotten married and even started families. Here are some updates. Check them out!

**Weddings**
- **Brandon Cass** to **Maggie Dalen** on July 17
- **Carrie Reiling** to **Miguel Angel Jimenez Perez** on August 5
- **Disa Isaacson** to **Andrew Luers** on October 4, 2003
- **Jared Vinar** to **Joey Schmitz** on September 5, 2003
- **Jennifer Boorman** to **Robert Schurrer** on June 6
- **Jennifer Lopez** to **William Bean** on June 26
- **Kara Fox** to **Dan Galvin** on September 4
- **Kate Haschig** to **Dan Wright** on January 3
- **Katy Duncan** to **Jon Davenport** on August 21
- **Michelle Kurtz** to **Chad Wright** on January 23
- **Molly O’Keefe** to **Josh Kramer (’01)** on July 24
- **Paul Jabs** to **Michele Simmonds (’04)** on January 31
- **Renee Carlson** to **John Meyer** on August 2, 2003
- **Shannon LeMay** to **David Tupy** on December 27, 2003
Births
Henry Jessop born July 16 to Annie Holland Jessop and Matthew Jessop
Luke Dinger born January 10 to Beth McBroom Dinger and Justin Dinger
Annie Vinar born March 10 to Jared Vinar and Joey Schmitz
Maci Lynn born July 19, 2003 to Michelle Kurtz Wright and Chad Wright

General Updates
Alex Gulck is doing theater in Minneapolis
Amanda Havnen is in the biomedical engineering program at Wake Forest University
Amber Krahmer is in the veterinary medicine program at the University of Minnesota
Amelia Greiner is studying science and environmental communication at Cornell
Andrea Wentzel received a master of arts degree in music with an emphasis in music therapy from the University of Missouri – Kansas City on May 8. She is currently doing an internship in music therapy at Bethany Children’s Home in Womelsdorf, PA.
Anna Cousey Wildgrube is currently employed as the 4-H program coordinator in Rice County
Anna Larson Weispfenning is an auditor at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Boston, MA
Anne Freier is a field teacher/naturalist at the University of Rhode Island, W. Alton Jones Camp
Annika Wilson is employed by Wade Financial Group as an executive assistant
Ariana Peterson is pursuing a master of arts degree in teaching at Hamline University
Daryn Collins is a master’s candidate in the department of biology at the University of Minnesota – Duluth and is a teaching assistant in the department of chemistry
Dena Kill is in nursing school and is coaching high school hockey
Ellie Roscher is pursuing an M.A. in theology – urban ministry at Luther Seminary
Emily Dale graduated with a master’s in public health, global health promotion from George Washington University, where she served as a student commencement speaker. Emily also researched diabetes in Ecuador and is heading to Russia for a fellowship to work with HIV/AIDS prevention.
Erin Halligan-Hanson is employed by St. Paul Travelers Companies, Inc. as an underwriter – technology division in CA
Hunter Jenzen is employed at the Waseca County Sheriff’s Office
Janelle Evenson is working for the public accounting firm Boulay, Heutmaker, Zibell & Co.
Jared Vinar is in sales for Cable Connection and Supply
Jayne Sommers is head resident of Norelius Hall and assistant director in residential life at Gustavus
Jennifer Bean-Lopez is employed by Clemson Montessori Schools
Jennifer Schiebe is a graduate student in the physician assistant program and public health at George Washington University
Jessica Grimshaw graduated from Vancouver Film School in October 2003
Jon Dale is pursuing his M.A. in cultural anthropology at the University of Arizona
Jon Dumpys is in the master of divinity program at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
Josh Peterson is a home mortgage advisor with UBS Mortgage LLC
Joshua Vest is attending the Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery
Julia Mahin is substitute teaching at the elementary level. She is also teaching swimming lessons and lifeguarding.
Julie Christenson is a mental health practitioner at the Fraser Child and Family Center
Katherine Medbery Oleson graduated with an M.A. in communication from the University of Washington.

Katie Hein is a territorial sales representative for Forest Pharmaceuticals in Wisconsin.

Kristina Campbell is a nurse in the adult oncology unit at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, CA.

Laura Wagner is serving in the US Air Force.

Linda Reuter is in the physical therapy program at the College of St. Catherine.

Maggie Dalen is an account operations specialist at General Mills, Inc.

Marit Vagstad is a marketing associate for Harper Collins Publishers in New York, NY.

Matt Erickson is working as a chemist for Guidant (cardiac rhythm management).

Matt McCabe is an IT manager at Insights and Solutions in Arizona.

Matt Tjosas is in the chemistry program at the University of Minnesota – Duluth.

Matthew Miller is studying physics at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Meghan Harney is in medical school at the University of Minnesota – Duluth.

Michelle Kurtz Wright is a 6th grade teacher at Miller Intermediate in Houston TX.

Molly O’Keefe Kramer is a replenishment expert for Target Corporation.

Molly Sevcik is in a cancer pain research program at the University of Minnesota.

Nathan Keller is a biological science technician for the National Park Service – GGNRA in San Francisco, CA.

Nissa Peterson is in the doctor of physical therapy program at the College of St. Catherine.

Paul Jabs is a lead fraud agent for BestBuy.com.

Phil Royer graduated from the U.S. Army – Baylor University Graduate Program in Physical Therapy on June 9, where he received the Distinguished Honor Graduate Award, which is given to the top Academic student in the PT program. He also received the Top Physical Fitness Award. A 1st LT., Phil is now assigned as a physical therapist to Winn Army Community Hospital in Fort Stewart, GA.

Renee Schmidt works in the group sales department at Valleyfair! Family Amusement Park.

Rick Schuft is volunteering at an orphanage in Juarez, Mexico.

Sara Brigger Gleason is pursuing an MBA at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Shannon LeMay Tupy is a special education teacher in Apple Valley.

Tommy Valentini is pursuing a master of theological studies at Candler School of Theology – Emory University.

Wendy Bryant is an associate program manager with Ryan Partnership.

And here’s what’s happening on the hill:

143rd Academic Year Begins

Classes began Sept. 8 with 633 first-year Gustavus students and 2,500 in all. Long-standing orientation traditions such as the Square Dance and President’s Banquet have been joined by newer traditions like Gustie Greeter Orientation Groups and the Reading in Common program. These newer programs were created to provide a more meaningful transition and to encourage students to meet others outside their residence hall.

Nobel Conference, The Science of Aging

The 40th Anniversary of the Nobel Conference focused on the Science of Aging. The campus hosted over 6,000 guests October 5-6 to learn about the research molecular biologist are conducting on longevity, Alzheimer’s, and delaying debilitating disease and how this impacts life expectancy, the economy, and the health-care system.
New Residence Hall
Work crews have been busy this fall constructing a new residence hall on campus. The goal is to have the building enclosed before winter. The building, located southwest of the football field, will house 200 students in suites and apartments and is scheduled to open for fall 2005.

Gustie Pages
Looking for a dentist, doctor, lawyer, pastor, Realtor, and much more? Make it a Gustie! The Gustie Pages is an online database of Gusties who have submitted information about their profession. Use the Gustavus network to meet your needs or submit your professional information if you would like other Gusties to be your customers.

Extraordinary Place
Gustavus is once again ranked among the top 100 liberal arts colleges in the nation in *U.S. News and World Report's* annual college rankings. Gustavus is one of five Minnesota colleges in the top 100 national liberal arts colleges for overall quality (Carleton, Macalester, St. Olaf, Gustavus, St. John’s). The ranking, groups schools into categories based on a national educational classification that includes national liberal arts colleges, national doctoral universities (University of Minnesota, St. Thomas), regional masters degree-granting universities (Hamline, St. Catherine’s, Bethel, Augsburg), and comprehensive regional colleges (Concordia-St Paul).

Thanks for reading and thanks for all you do for Gustavus! It’s always fun to hear what people are up to so keep sending those updates to be included in the next letter or Quarterly. Also, a guest writer traditionally does the winter class letter. Please let either Katherine or me know if you would like this privilege. If we don’t hear from anyone, be on the lookout for phone calls and bribes! I hope to hear from many of you!

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2002 Co-Class Agent
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