

# THE CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Welcome to the first CIE monthly Newsletter of the 2021-2022 school year! The CIE is a welcoming and supportive place that accepts and appreciates individuals from all walks of life. Our goal is to connect students with educational programming, campus events/activities, and resources that will help you dig deeper into the terms: culture, diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, identity, and intersectionality.



(Gain mentors and mentees pose for a group photo on graduation day, September 3rd.)

## The GAIN Institute

The GAIN Summer Institute took place from Sunday, August 29th, through Friday, September 3rd. Follow [THIS LINK](#) to learn more about the program, or to read a little more about how this year's institute went.

## EVENTS THIS MONTH

### Lyrical Café

The Lyrical Cafe (LC) is a platform for all students including BIPOC to express their cultural talents through poetry, rap, song, and dance. The next LC is on 10/29 @ 6:30pm, instead of 10/22. To recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our theme is "Resilience" for the 10/29 LC. To sign up & perform email Kareem at [kjwatts@gustavus.edu](mailto:kjwatts@gustavus.edu).

### Scavenge the Arb

On October 14th at 5pm, We will have a scavenger hunt throughout the Arb, focusing on CIE programs and campus resources. We'll have snacks available and some CIE staff getting active on campus. Start in the interpretive center and see where the clues take you!



(Top: A student performs at Lyrical Café, 9/24.) (Bottom: Students gather to watch Lyrical Café performances, 9/24.)

## First Forward

First Forward is a network that strives to provide sustained and intentional support for first-generation college students at Gustavus. In addition to providing guidance and resources, the network serves as an avenue for the campus community to a) acknowledge the journey, and b) celebrate the accomplishments of those who identify as first-gen. Use [THIS LINK](#) to learn more.

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings all,

I hope that the fall semester has been treating you well so far. As this is the first edition of the CIE Newsletter this year, we are still working out the content/material that you will see each month. Please note that our goal is to a) provide you with updates and previews of the unique endeavors the Center has been, is currently, or will be engaged in throughout the year, b) highlight staff profiles, and c) inform you about partnership/programming endeavors (DLC orgs, First Forward, CICE, LALACS, etc.).

If there is something you would like to add/see as a part of the Center for Inclusive Excellence monthly newsletter, please send an email to: [g-mymonthlycie@gustavus.edu](mailto:g-mymonthlycie@gustavus.edu).

Moving forward, if you would like to be kept in the loop regarding upcoming events and programs sponsored by the Center, as well as would like to continue to receive the monthly newsletter, please request to be added to the [g-mycie@gustavus.edu](mailto:g-mycie@gustavus.edu) email alias.

Peace...

Tom Flunker

## The Center Spotlight



(Marshall Bell with his cat, Jules)

### Marshall Bell

Hello, friends! I am a current graduate student at Minnesota State University, Mankato in their College Student Affairs program and interning here at The CIE for the year! I graduated from Gustavus in 2016 with a degree in Biology and Geology while managing to tag on a minor in the Classics. I was a CF, Performed social justice theater, and participated heavily in DEI initiatives while I was a student here. Feel free to ask me about my Gustavus experiences!

Outside of work and academics I enjoy spending time with my fat cat named Jules (included in the picture), consuming too much anime, and playing games online like Phasmophobia, Old School Runescape, and Geoguessr. You can find me in The Center on Mondays and Thursdays between 9-4PM. I'm always looking for ways to support students, so whether it's Center programming or you just need to discuss a bad day, I encourage you all to lean on me.

Be Well!

## All Means All

Phone: (507) 933-7449

Instagram: [@gustavus\\_thecenter](https://www.instagram.com/gustavus_thecenter)

Lower level of Johnson Student Union

Website: <https://gustavus.edu/diversity/>

# Office Hours in The Center

## Sunday

**Writing Tutors**

5:00pm - 10:00pm

**Calculus Tutors**

6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Eamonn McCulough** (Biology Tutor)

7:00pm - 9:00pm

## Mondays

**Jane Lalim** (Academic Support Center)

11:30am - 12:30pm

## Tuesdays

**Ursula Lindqvist** (Scandinavian Studies)

11:00am - 12:00pm

**G. Zebrasky & M. Chase** (Writing Tutors)

7:00pm - 10:00pm

**Sophia Nelson** (Stats Tutor)

7:00pm - 9:00pm

## Wednesdays

**Jelean Petrika** (Biology)

9:00am - 10:00 am

**Lisa Heldke** (Philosophy/Nobel Conf.)

1:00pm - 2:00pm

**Pam Kittelson** (Biology/Fellowship Programs)

1:00pm - 2:00pm

**Darsa Donelan** (Physics)

1:30pm - 3:30pm

**Scott Bur** (Chemistry)

1:30pm - 2:30pm

**Jenesis Tompkins** (Latin Tutor)

5:00pm - 6:00pm

## Thursdays

**Darsa Donelan** (Physics)

11:30am - 1:30pm

**Pam Pearson** (Multilingual Coordinator)

1:30pm - 2:30pm

**Jenesis Tompkins** (Latin Tutor)

5:00pm - 6:00pm

**G. Zebrasky & M. Chase** (Writing Tutors)

7:00pm - 10:00pm

## Doug Thompson Office Hours

**Vice President for Equity and Inclusion**

October 7, 2:00pm - 5:00pm in **Anderson 209**

October 14, 9:00am - 12:00pm in **Confer 230**

October 19, 1:00pm - 5:00pm in **Nobel Steamery**

# GAIN INSTITUTE

The GAIN Institute (formerly SIAS) and program is a peer mentor program for incoming 1st-year Gustavus students.

The acronym stands for Gusties Attaining Interpersonal Networks). The Institute strives to provide mentoring and early access to incoming Gusties, many who identify as first gen, multilingual, BIPOC. The design of the program attracts students who may benefit from a week of team building, resource connections and networking, college level academic previews, and campus/community wayfinding, prior to that actual start of the academic year.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the institute did not take place last year, so it was crucial to host the program this year in an effort to provide a boost for this year's participants as they begin their transition to college life at Gustavus...especially having navigating the educational and social challenges associated with COVID-19 over the past year.

The restart of the program welcomed a small, but eager and engaged cohort. An unintended benefit of having a smaller group of participants this year was being able to have 1 to 1, personalized peer mentoring. Throughout the week, it was great to be able to incorporate several crossover events with the International student Orientation.

On behalf of the CIE staff, the GAIN student coordinators and mentors, and this year's GAIN participants, thank you to everyone who took time to meet with the group throughout the week, either through panel discussions, themed sessions, or just taking time to address the group. Also, a special shout out to Martin Lang for agreeing to lead (kinda last minute) the academic preview on Tuesday and Thursday morning!

Click [HERE](#) for photos from the GAIN team building session at Kerfoot Adventure Camp in Henderson, as well as the closing ceremony in the Anderson Atrium.

# First Forward

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What is meant by first generation?

The term first-generation typically refers to someone whose parents did not attend college.

As such, the First Forward Network looks to provide accessible academic resources and social connections in efforts to eliminate gaps or barriers, while providing an intentional boost for our students, whether they meet the formal definition of first-generation, or simply recognize the need to fill some of the hidden academic, institutional culture, or social networking gaps that may be present.

(Taken from the Gustavus website)

In the CIE, we have worked to set up four (4) workshop sessions that we believe are crucial to know about. Even though it's a program mainly for those who are first-generation, we believe anybody could benefit from coming so everyone is welcome!

More information about these sessions will be sent out soon but as of now, the four topics of each session are listed in order:

1. Study Skills - October 12th, 2021 at 5-6 PM
2. Mental Health - October 28th, 2021 at 5-6 PM
3. Technology Services - November 9th, 2021 at 5-6 PM
4. Financial Aid - November 30th, 2021 at 5-6 PM

Please fill out [THIS FORM](#) so that we are aware of how many students to expect at the sessions and how many refreshments will be needed.