

inside

- Coming Events
- Student Profile
- Advising Center
- Organization Focus
- Goings On
- Meeting Schedule
- Spotlight

Diversity Center

C. Charles Jackson
Campus Center
Phone: 507-933-7449
gustavus.edu/diversity

Virgil Jones

Director
vjones@gustavus.edu

Cheryl Hastings

Administrative Assistant
chasting@gustavus.edu

GUSTAVUS 
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Extraordinary People. Extraordinary Place.

at the center

Wounded Knee, Minnesota Style

by **Karen Larson**

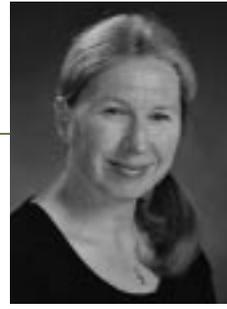
Everyone seems to know about the tragic massacre at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Ethnic tensions on the American plains ran so high that they sparked a mass killing of Lakota men, women, and children by the U.S. military in December of 1890.

Fewer people know about another sad December—December of 1862 in Minnesota. The Dakota Conflict was centered right here in this river valley. The treaty of Traverse des Sioux, signed in 1851 on the northern edge of what is now St. Peter, eventually led to the conflict in the summer of 1862. The U.S. government chose not to honor the treaty, and along with it the peace pipe that was shared at the time of the treaty's making. Land that was to have been preserved for Dakota use forever was taken away eight years later.

1862 found local Dakota angry, spiritually demoralized, and hungry. Perhaps the worst of all was the depth of the insult offered by a people who had entered into a sacred circle of caring by smoking the pipe, and who then completely betrayed that trust. Some Dakota leaders counseled peace, but there were young men who chose to spearhead a confrontation with settlers anyway.

The conflict itself was the stuff of movies. New Ulm was besieged, Fort Ridgely attacked, and memorable acts of compassion, bravery, and brutality took place on both sides of the ethnic divide. In the aftermath, the U.S. government undertook the largest mass execution in the nation's history, hanging 38 Dakota men in Mankato, Minnesota, on December 26, 1862. The hanging took place after President Abraham Lincoln commuted the sentences of almost 300 other Dakota, due to a lack of proper evidence at trial.

What is the "history" of the Dakota Conflict in the minds of many non-Indians is not really history at all to many local Dakota people. The event still lives for them, and their culture remains in spiritual and social recovery from that tragic time. Those of us who do not share the burden of their grief as cultural insiders should remember the history with them, as a way of making sure that our future together with them is worthy of the peace pipe that was shared in 1851, and which, through the depths of Dakota graciousness and brotherhood, was shared again in front of Christ Chapel in 2001. ■



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diversity center newsletter

HigHER Ground

“To see what is right, and not to do it, is want of courage or of principle.”

– Confucius



“My time abroad made me realize that while education is crucial, it is no longer enough—action has to accompany education.”

– Noemi Lopez

“Our Story” Conference

PASO, Pan Afrikan Student Organization, will present the eighth annual “Our Story” Conference, addressing “Debt Forgiveness for Developing Nations.” on Saturday, Nov. 10, with registration beginning at 11 a.m. in front of the Market Place. Keynote speaker for the conference is John Jal Wang, deputy chairman for Sudan Relief & Rehabilitation Association, located in London, U.K.

coming events

This day-long conference celebrates the rich heritage of the Afrikan Diaspora by promoting awareness of the struggles and triumphs of its people. The term “our story” is used as an aid to recognize that documented history has not always been accurate and truthful about Afrikan descendants’ experiences in this world. ■

Noemi Lopez

My name is Noemi Lopez, and I am a senior psychology major and theatre and dance minor at Gustavus. As a prospective student, I was drawn to Gustavus because of the sense of community and motivational spirit that permeates the campus. Though the academic life is certainly rigorous, I have appreciated the non-competitive atmosphere; students readily support each other both in and outside the classroom.

I found it incredibly easy to make friends and become involved in a plethora of activities that are available at Gustavus. I have been involved in choir, Big Partner/Little Partner, the Wellness Program, Gustavus Dance Company, “I Am...We Are” Social Justice Theatre Troupe, Crossroads, and Chi Kappa Chi sorority, as well as a variety of theatre and dance productions.

I was strongly encouraged to study abroad, and Gustavus made the process simple and affordable. I spent a semester in India with Gustavus’s program on Social Justice, Peace and Development. I learned about issues of class, caste, religion, gender, and most importantly what it means to be a world citizen. I came to Gustavus with the

student profile

opinion that educating myself and others about issues of justice was the most important thing I could do. My time abroad made me realize that while education is crucial, it is no longer enough—action has to accompany education. Living in India was one of the highlights of my college career and one I would not have been able to participate in without Gustavus.

Faculty, staff, and students have all had a huge impact on my life, not only furthering my intellectual capacities but also furthering my involvement in the arts and dedication to community service. After college, I plan to attend graduate school in psychology and would love to eventually work in a college counseling center.

When I leave Gustavus, I know there is much I will miss: my cozy dorm room, the Courtyard Café, snowy walks in the Arboretum, those moments in class when everything just “clicks,” midnight Ben & Jerry’s runs, and, most of all, the people who have made this school my home. However, as with any home, I know that I am always welcome back. ■

Does Fear Follow You Around?

First tests: "I've never seen a C or D or F. This isn't who I am, but no one knows that."
"Did I lose my brains over summer?"

"My high school study skills don't work here."

"I have a disability but I want to see if I can do well without accommodations."

Making friends: "If I don't join everything, go everywhere, do everything, I will be left out and have no friends. I have to stay up until 2 or 3 in the morning so I don't miss anything."

What to Remember

Your offer of admission is a sign of the College's confidence in you that you have what it takes to do well. Believe it and take advantage of campus resources for tweaking your study skills, for accessing information to help you make good decisions, for trusting you will self-correct and be the intelligent, well-rounded student you recognize in the mirror.

There's a reason the Advising Center provides academic support (Jane Lalim), advising, planning (Julie Johnson), and disability services (Laurie Bickett). We would be happy to talk with you. Just call x7027 for an appointment.

There is no other semester like your first semester in terms of making numerous transitions, but don't use that as an excuse to wait until spring semester to do your best work.

Don't wait to take advantage of your resources (your professors, adviser, Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Diversity Center, departmental tutors, Collegiate Fellow).

Find Perspective and Move On

1. Do you know why you're here? What's your first reason? What would you be doing if you weren't in college? Can you consider that being a student is your full time job?
2. Where do you stand today—grades and points in each class?
3. How many more graded opportunities do you have between now and the end of the semester? Talk with your adviser and professors.
4. Can you identify any changes you need to make in how you use your time, prepare for class, how you read, how you balance studying with sleep, exercise, and nutrition?

Call the Advising Center (x7027) to make an appointment. We'd like to meet you! ■

College Republicans *organization focus*

The members of the College Republicans (CRs) of Gustavus Adolphus College foster and promote conservative principles to our members and educate the campus community. We welcome anyone who wants to expand their intellectual diversity.

As an organization we volunteer on political campaigns in election years, put on the 9/11 Never Forget Project, co-sponsor Pizza and Politics, and do other various activities in

collaboration with the State CRs and other colleges. We have the opportunity to attend various conferences and put on activities, such as bringing conservative speakers to campus with Young America's Foundation.

We meet bi-monthly, on the second and fourth Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Faculty/Staff Lounge. ■



Diversity Events

- November 16
International Festival, 6 p.m.
Shabbat Dinner, 7 p.m.
- November 17
Hmong New Year, noon
- November 20 & 27
Meditation, 7 p.m.
- November 30
Shabbat Dinner, 7 p.m.

College Calendar

- November 16
Festival Showcase
Choreographers Gallery, 7 p.m.
Wind and Vasa Wind Orchestra,
 7:30 p.m.
- November 17
Festival Showcase:
A Celebration of Student Work,
 starting at 1 p.m.
- November 18
Scholastic Book Fair, 1 p.m.
Percussion Ensemble
Fall Concert, 1:30 p.m.
Festival Showcase:
A Celebration of Student Work,
 starting at 1 p.m.
Stargazing, 8 p.m.
- November 19
Scholastic Book Fair, noon
Voices from Darfur National
Speaking Tour, 7 p.m.
- November 20
Scholastic Book Fair, noon
Proclaim, 9 p.m.
- November 21
Swing Night, 9 p.m.
- November 22–26
Thanksgiving Recess
- November 27
Stargazing, 8 p.m.
- November 28
Bible Study, 8 p.m.
Swing Night, 9 p.m.
- November 29
Study Abroad CIEE On Campus,
 4 p.m.
Stargazing, 8 p.m.
- November 30
Christmas in Christ Chapel,
 7:30 p.m.

Student Organization Meeting Schedules

Diversity Leadership Council
 WEDNESDAY : 4:45 p.m. : Leadholm

Asian Cultures Club
 WEDNESDAY : 7 p.m. : Walker House

College Democrats
 TUESDAY : 8:30 p.m.

College Republicans
 2nd & 4th THURSDAYS : 7:30 p.m. :
 Faculty/Staff Lounge

Crossroads Exec Board
 e/o SUNDAY : 8:30 p.m. : IC Lounge

I Am We Are
 THURSDAY : 10–Midnight : Black Box
 Theatre

Interfaith Forum
 e/o THURSDAY : 4:30 p.m. : Old Main 103

International Cultures Club (ICC)
 THURSDAY : 6 p.m. : International
 Ed Office

OLAS
 TUESDAY : 7:30 p.m. : Gustie Den

Pan Afrikan Student Organization
 TUESDAY : 5 p.m. : Board Room

Peer Assistants
 SUNDAY : 9 p.m. : PA Office

Queers & Allies
 WEDNESDAY : 9:15 p.m. : Faculty/Staff
 Lounge

SOFA
 *TUESDAY : 9 p.m. : Diversity Center

Womyn's Awareness
 WEDNESDAY : 8 p.m. : WAC

*Tentative
 e/o = every other

World Watch and Cultural Connections are brought to you by *Crossroads*. The members of *Crossroads* share an interest in world cultures, languages, and contemporary global issues. Through their interest, members work to develop a broader understanding of the world in which they live and contribute to the education of the College community as a whole.

World Watch

Democratic Republic of Congo—Rebels lead by Tutsi General Laurent Nkunda are refusing a government ultimatum to hand over their weapons. This order comes in the wake of continued fighting between rebel and government forces in the eastern Nord-Kivu region, which is a result of a breach in the cease-fire agreement. Meanwhile, the UN peace-keeping forces are continuing to call for an end to the fighting, which has uprooted more than 370,000 people from their homes in less than a year. According to UN estimates, the total number of displaced people in the restive eastern province has risen to 750,000.

Cultural Connections

November 22—Thanksgiving (United States): A traditional North American holiday to give thanks at the conclusion of the harvest season. The Plymouth settlers (who came to be called “Pilgrims”) set aside a day immediately after their first harvest in 1621 during which they held an autumn celebration of food, feasting, and praising God. Contrary to legend, there is no evidence that any Native Americans actually attended the event.

November 26—Day of Covenant (Bahá'í): Abdu'l-Bahá, the eldest son and appointed successor of Bahá'u'lláh, referred to this day as the ‘Centre of the Covenant’ established to safeguard the unity of the community.