

## inside

- Organizational Focus
- Student Profile
- Calendar
- Spotlight

### Diversity Center

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## at the center



### Make the Most of the Writing Center

Rebecca Fremo | *Writing Center Director and Associate Professor of English*

Writing is tough. I teach writing, but it's still challenging for me. My essays go through an intensive, messy process. First, some sort of idea gets me thinking. I consult relevant scholarship, and I imagine what I might bring to the

conversation. I formulate an argument. I plan, I outline, I free-write, I brainstorm. Then I draft. Rough drafts help me come to know something. They're exploratory and disorganized. But when I write a second draft, I hone my thesis and argument, figure out the structure, and draw tentative conclusions. That second draft goes to readers. I ask friends or Gustavus colleagues to tell me what *they* think. That feedback lets me know if I've achieved my purpose.

Writing Center tutors will provide this kind of feedback at the Diversity Center—before you submit papers for a grade. Tutors will read your paper and “say back” what they hear. Is the thesis clear? Is the argument strong? Does the evidence persuade? Is the structure logical? These issues—thesis, argument, evidence, and structure—are the most important ones. We call them “global” issues, and tutors focus on them first.

Now, my writing process doesn't end after one round of feedback. I revise again, keeping specific readers in mind this time. I focus on style, sentence length and structure, and grammar and mechanics. These issues are considered “local,” and I handle them near the end of my process. Tutors will encourage you to approach these issues last as well. Now, I know that might feel frustrating! But I ask tutors to push you to revise globally *before* you edit. Many writers lose control of local issues like grammar and mechanics because they're unclear about thesis and argument.

Why am I telling you this? I want you to understand why Writing Center tutors seem to “put off” talking about punctuation or grammar. Still, if you feel entirely confident about your thesis, argument, evidence, and structure, and you want to focus your attention on sentences, grammar and mechanics, then they will can help you focus on these issues. But you'll have to tell us what you really want.

If English is your second language, or if English is simply one of many languages that you speak at home, you may find that the “technical stuff” about writing—all the “local issues” —are tough for you. That's because your brain is processing information from two or more language systems at once! Your best resource here is Katy Young, our new E.L.L. (English Language Learners) tutoring specialist. Her contact information is posted in the D-Center, and you can also find it on our web site: [www.gustavus.edu/writingcenter](http://www.gustavus.edu/writingcenter).

It's the Writing Center's job, to paraphrase scholar Stephen North, to make better *writers*, not better *papers*. While we're really excited when one of your papers gets an A, we're even more excited when writers learn to recognize their own strengths, or when they understand their own writing processes. ■

## student organization

The International Cultures Club, led by Mengdi Wu and Chelsea Kramer, is a student organization that brings international and American students together to promote international awareness and appreciation of different cultures. Members of ICC are provided with opportunities to interact with members of cultural organizations at other schools. ICC organizes many cultural events that are open to the Gustavus community and have planned several events including the International Festival on Friday, November 14.

The International Cultures Club meets on Mondays at 5:00 pm in the International Education Office. Membership and all their exciting events are open to the Gustavus Community.

### Meeting Schedule

#### **Asian Cultures Club**

Wednesday, 5 p.m. | Walker House

#### **Building Bridges**

Wednesday, 9 p.m. | Board Room

#### **College Democrats**

Monday, 6 p.m. | Board Room

#### **College Republicans**

Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. | Faculty/Staff Center

#### **Diversity Leadership Council**

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. | Rundquist

#### **International Cultures Club**

Monday, 5 p.m. | International Education Office

#### **Orgulla Latino Association**

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. | Gustie Den

#### **Pan Afrikan Student Organization**

Monday, 7:30 p.m. | Gustie Den

#### **Queers and Allies**

Wednesday, 9:15 p.m. | Faculty/Staff Center

#### **Student Outreach to Foster Care and Adoption**

Wednesday, 6 p.m. | Diversity Center

#### **Womyn's Awareness Center**

Tuesday, 1 p.m. | Womyn's Awareness Center

## department focus

### The Center for International and Cultural Education

Carolyn O'Grady | Director

We are located in the Carlson International Center (our door is on the north side of the building). Come visit us. We have many materials available for students.

When you stop into the Center for International and Cultural Education you will meet our Director Carolyn O'Grady and Linda Shaw the Assistant Director and Coordinator of January Interim Off-Campus Study. Melinda McCannell-Unger is the Interim Study Abroad Advisor from October to January while Jill Fischer the Study Abroad Advisor is on leave. Jeff Anderson, International Student Services Coordinator and Nancy Plamann our Finance Manager are also looking forward to meeting you.

We work with students who are studying off-campus, either on a domestic or international program, recruit and advise international students coming to Gustavus to study, and work with faculty to help incorporate global perspectives into their curriculum.

Did you know that about two-thirds of Gustavus students study off-campus? There are 140 approved semester or year-long programs for students to consider, as well as signature semester programs such as the Gustavus Term in Sweden (Spring semester), the Term in India (Fall semester), and the Term in Germany (Fall semester). And each January Interim there are many off-campus study opportunities led by Gustavus instructors. In January 2009 there will be courses going to Washington D.C., Tanzania, India, Argentina, Guatemala, South Africa and Namibia, Australia and New Zealand, Ecuador, and the United Kingdom.

We also have student exchanges with eight institutions in other countries:

- China – United International College
- France – Centre de Linguistique Appliquee/Besançon
- Japan – Kansai Gaidai University
- Malaysia – Universiti Sains Malaysia
- Sweden – Mora Folkhögskola
- Sweden – Uppsala University
- Sweden – Växjö University

Pick up our bi-weekly series entitled Tales from Abroad to read about students and faculty who have lived or studied abroad and share their experiences.

If you want more information, check out our website <http://gustavus.edu/academics/ied/> for everything you need to know about off-campus study (where, when, how, how much). Contact us at x7545 or come into the office to sign up for an appointment with one of our peer advisors who have studied off-campus. They are here to help you talk about what you might do. ■

# KAITIE O'BRYAN

## *student profile*



**I continuously strive** to balance my life and Gustavus has certainly helped me not only achieve some balance but also find a focus for my life. I am currently a junior here at Gustavus and a mathematics and studio art double major. This combination of logic and creativity has been an essential force in my journey at Gustavus. I also value education—I love learning and I love teaching. For this reason I tend to spend my time working at the Writing Center, tutoring at the D-center, or working with Spanish-speaking students at the local middle/high school through Study Buddies. These are just some of the ways in which I have been able to get involved at Gustavus.

While I have taken a lot of classes and learned a lot of things in them, the most important lessons I have learned thus far have been gained through my experiences outside of class. Through going to Proclaim, working on the Fine Arts and Culture committee of CAB, and interning at United Health Group I have learned that there are countless ways to put your skills to use in the world. Gustavus is so much more than just a place where you go to classes—it is a place where you get involved and interact with the world around you. I feel blessed to have ended up here and been given so many options and opportunities by the faculty and students at Gustavus. ■

*“I feel blessed to have ended up here and been given so many options and opportunities by the faculty and students at Gustavus.”*

*“For those who have seen the Earth from space, and for the hundreds and perhaps thousands more who will, the experience most certainly changes your perspective. The things that we share in our world are far more valuable than those which divide us.”*

— Donald Williams  
Astronaut

## spotlight on

### World Watch and Cultural Connections

are brought to you by Crossroads. Through their shared interest in world cultures, languages, and contemporary global issues, 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. Think Globally, Act Locally—The Crossroads Program.

### World Watch

#### **Borepanga, India: Clashing Religions** —

Two historically impoverished groups, the Panas and the Kandhas, face a contemporary tension concerning their religious beliefs. Several Hindus from the Kandhas group are threatening Christian believers of the Panas group to either leave or convert to Hinduism. The situation is escalating as radical Hindus continue a violent storm toward Christian believers; Christians must decide whether they are willing to change their beliefs for safety.

#### **Vienna, Austria: Compromising with**

#### **North Korea** —

Until recently, North Korea has banned inspectors from their nuclear sites. In an agreement with the U.N., North Korea will allow nuclear inspections in return for having the United States delist North Korea from the “states that sponsors terrorism” roster.

#### **Podgorica, Montenegro: Unrest** —

Police fired tear gas at thousands of angry pro-Serb Montenegrins who pelted state buildings and fired flares Monday to protest their government’s recognition of Kosovo’s independence. Some 10,000 protesters gave the country’s pro-Western government until Wednesday to withdraw recognition of Kosovo.

### Cultural Connection

#### **November 2 — Dia De Los Muertos (Mexico):**

Day of the Dead focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and relatives who have died.

#### **November 4 — Melbourne Cup (Australia):**

The first Tuesday in November, Australians everywhere stop for one of the world’s most famous horse races, the Melbourne Cup.

#### **November 15 — Shichi-Go-San (Japan):**

Prayers are offered for children’s growth.

#### **November 30 — First Day of Advent (Christian):**

A time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

## goings on

### Diversity Center Calendar

#### November 6

**Chill Out and Wellness Fair** | 10:30 a.m.

**Wang Ping Reading** | 7 p.m.

#### November 9

**SOFA Family Play Date** | 3:30 p.m.

### College Calendar

#### November 5

**Gusties go to the Timberwolves game** | 5 p.m.

**Opa! Greek Dinner and a Movie** | 6:30 p.m.

**Coffeeshouse Performance: AdriAnne Lenker** | 8 p.m.

#### November 6

**Magnus Ranstorp '85 lecture** | 7:30 p.m.

#### November 10

**Hard Questions** | 7 p.m.

**Democracy Matters** | 7:30 p.m.

#### November 12

**Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit** | 6 p.m.

#### November 17

**Hard Questions** | 7 p.m.

**Democracy Matters** | 7:30 p.m.

#### November 17–20

**Hunger and Homelessness Sleep Out** | All Day

#### November 19

**Study Abroad Fair** | 4 p.m.

#### November 20–23

**The Lesson** | 8 p.m.

#### November 24

**Hard Questions** | 7 p.m.

**Democracy Matters** | 7:30 p.m.

#### December 5–7

**Christmas in Christ Chapel** | 3:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

#### December 9

**Kwanzaa** | 6:30 p.m.