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### Diversity Center

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MAKE YOUR LIFE **COUNT**

at the center



## DAY OF THE DEAD

By Mayra Taylor

The American culture has been forged by layers of traditions incorporated by waves of immigrants throughout the centuries. Probably no other Holiday

from Latin America has penetrated the fabric of the country like Day of the Dead celebrated almost simultaneously with Halloween. Theories and myths about the origin of Day of the Dead abound in México and other parts of Central America. Scholars, journalists, visitors and bloggers alike have offered a variety of explanations that date back to pre-Columbian civilizations.

The origins of this celebration appear to be a mix of indigenous and religious beliefs which developed into a series of folkloric traditions followed during this time of the year by the majority of the population in México and neighboring countries. Because Mexicans celebrate and make fun of death, the stores are flooded these days with skulls, candy, bread of the death, and merchandise to decorate the traditional altar that families, particularly in rural areas, erect in memory of the deceased.

Altars or *ofrendas* are decorated with flowers, the marigold being the prominent one. Four elements are represented in the traditional *ofrenda*: water, wind, earth and fire. Water for the deceased who come to visit on the night of November 2nd, wind to help the soul reach its destination, earth represented by the products of the soil in the form of food to be offered to the out-of- this- world visitors and fire to illuminate their way.

Many artistic manifestations are part of the celebrations of Day of the Dead in this country. Renowned museums like the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago have large special exhibits during October and November. The Minneapolis Institute of Art currently exhibits works of *ofrendas* by Latino students from the area. Other organizations have annual processions commemorating the immigrants who have died while crossing the US-Mexican border, while in detention, or as victims of hate crimes. These celebrations represent magnificent examples of the adaptation of this holiday in the United States.

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# Higher Ground

diversity center newsletter

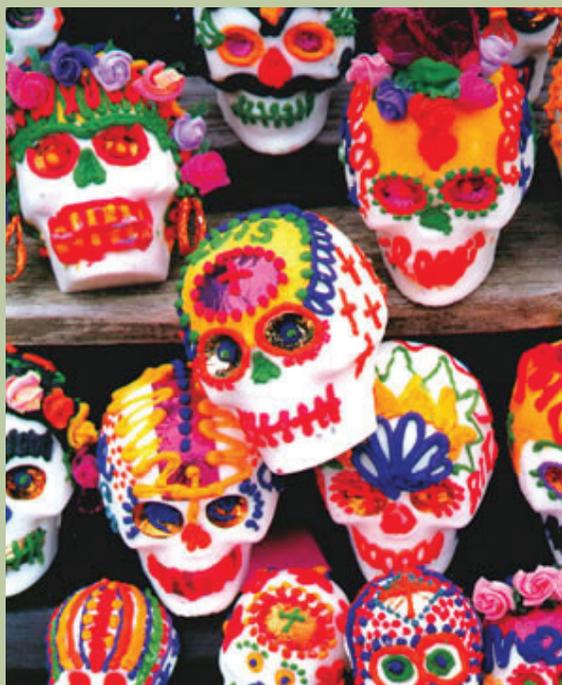
## *organizational focus*

### OLAS

Orgullo Latino Association / Latin Pride (OLAS) is the student organization that provides the students of Gustavus Adolphus College and the St. Peter community with a venue to learn about Latin America and Spanish cultures. It helps develop awareness for and promote the history and language of Latin America and Spanish countries. This is accomplished through activities and events in which an interchange of cultures takes place.

Last year OLAS put on a Cinco de Mayo celebration in the Caf. They brought in a mariachi band and Aztec dancers as well as delicious, authentic Mexican Food. One of the Aztec dancers talked about the significance of Cinco de Mayo and why we celebrate it. This year OLAS is excited to put on other events like Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and Posadas (Celebration of the Nativity in Mexico), just to name a couple.

If you are interested in learning more about Latin and Spanish cultures, check out one of OLAS's meetings. They are held in the Gustie Den on Mondays at 7 p.m.



## *department focus*

### The Career Center

By Kristen Nelson

Want to make the most of your time at Gustavus and be prepared for a great career after life on the hill? The Career Center wants to help! You don't need to be a senior or have a great GPA to visit the Career Center—you should come in every year (even as a first year!), and regardless of your academic record. Here's a sampling of our many services and resources:

- Help discovering a career direction through the Strong Interest Inventory
- General career counseling and “next steps” planning
- Special advising for students seeking a health profession
- Events featuring employers (information sessions and recruitment)
- Semester or summer internships for academic credit
- Career explorations over Interim for credit
- Practice interviews through InterviewStream
- Many workshops and job fairs
- Large resource library of books, guides, videos, and worksheets
- Personal résumé and cover-letter assistance
- Example books of past students' resumes, cover letters, and other information
- New blog: [www.gustavuscareercenterblog.blogspot.com](http://www.gustavuscareercenterblog.blogspot.com)

The Career Center is open M–F, 8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. Call x7586 to schedule your next-day appointment, or drop on in to check out our library. We also have “Quick Questions” every day from 2 to 3:30 p.m. If you need help or advice during that time, we will have someone able to see you immediately. Come in soon—we would love to work with you!

## *student profile*

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*“Take life by the Horns”*

### **Eric Noun**

My experience at Gustavus has been one filled with memories. Memories of when my parents first dropped me off here my freshman year. Memories of my first Minnesota winter and how ridiculously windy it is on campus. Memories of times that I really wanted to leave but also times where I was glad to be a part of this community. I have met many interesting people during my years here at Gustavus and a few of them I can call my friends.

Here at Gustavus I am a management major and with this degree I want to find a job in marketing or sales. On campus, I am a member of PASO as well as I Am We Are. Also during these four years, I found a new passion, which is acting. I performed in a play called *Topsy Turvy Mouse* and I was in “E Pluribus” for two years. I am very thankful for these opportunities because all my life I felt that something was missing, but through this experience I have found what I had been missing.

On a different note, the Diversity Center has been a place where I can just get away from everything and talk to others. I have been coming to the Diversity Center since I was a freshman. Technically it’s like my second home because this is where I spend most of my time besides my room. Virgil Jones has been there for me through the good times as well as the bad. I just want to thank everyone who has helped me be the person I am today, because without them I wouldn’t be anyone.

## Diversity Events

### Tutoring in the D Center

Writing Center Hours  
Monday and Tuesday 7–9 p.m.  
Thursday 5–7 p.m.

Tutoring Times: 7–9 p.m.  
Monday: Physics  
Tuesday: Chemistry  
Wednesday: Biology  
Thursday: Calculus

**Professor Office Hours:** We also host office hours in the Diversity Center for Assistant Dean of Students Deirdre Rosenfeld and Professors Lisa Heldke, Martin Lang, Brandy Russell, Henry McCarthy, Peg O'Connor, and Thia Cooper.

**Mix It Up:** Join us in the Linner Lounge on Thursday, Nov. 19 from 7 to 8 p.m. for snacks, games, and a few laughs!

**“Mentoring for Student Success” Program:** If you are a first-year student participating in the Diversity Center’s “Mentoring for Student Success” program (MSS), you have an excellent opportunity to learn the basics of writing a resume. Join your faculty/staff mentor in the Campus Center’s St. Peter Room on Monday, Nov. 16, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

## College Calendar

**November 1 & 7** | 2–4:30 p.m. | Anderson Theatre  
Theatre: *Far Away, Seven Jewish Children, and Seven Palestinian Children*

**November 2** | 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Evelyn Young Dining Room  
Our Story Conference: Interracial Dating Show

**November 4** | 7–9 p.m. | Courtyard Café  
Our Story Conference: Faculty Panel

**November 5 & 6** | 8–10:30 p.m. | Anderson Theatre  
Theatre: *Far Away, Seven Jewish Children, and Seven Palestinian Children*

**November 5** | 3:30–4:30 p.m. | Career Center  
How to Find an Internship Workshop

**November 5** | 5:30–6:30 p.m. & 6:30–7:30 p.m. | Diversity Center  
INROADS: Internship Opportunities

**November 7** | 11 a.m.–4 p.m. | Alumni Hall  
Our Story Conference: Keynote Speaker Wendy Coakley-Thompson

**November 8–19** | Spring Registration

**November 13** | 7 p.m. | The Dive  
Zeta’s Annual Probate

**November 13** | Course withdrawal deadline

**November 17** | noon | Diversity Center  
Phillips Scholarship Informational Meeting

**November 17** | 4–7 p.m. | Heritage & St. Peter Banquet Rooms  
Study Abroad Fair

**November 23** | 4:30 p.m. | Diversity Center  
Phillips Scholarship Informational Meeting

**November 25–29** | Thanksgiving Recess

**December 1 & 8** | 7–9 p.m. | Three Crowns Dining Room  
Video Screening: *Last Chance for Eden*

**December 2–4** | 6 p.m. | Melva Lind Interpretive Center  
Julgran Celebration and Cookie Contest

**December 4–6** | Christmas in Christ Chapel

**World Watch** and **Cultural Connections** are brought to you by the Crossroads Program. 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

**Afghanistan: UN Pressures Karzai** — The United Nations Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) has found that almost one in three of Afghan president Hamid Karzai’s votes from the August 20 election would have to be disqualified, cutting his total by 954,526 votes and reducing his percentage of the vote from 55 percent to 48.3 percent. According to Afghan law, anything less than 50 percent should trigger a run-off election. Karzai resists such a move and has long maintained that the extent of electoral fraud is being exaggerated by the international community.

**Brazil: Brazil’s President Vows to Fight Gangs** — Italy will today pay tribute to the six Italian soldiers who were killed in a suicide car bomb attack in Kabul last Thursday.

**Sudan, United States: Obama Turns Cautious on Sudan** — After months of contentious deliberation over U.S. policy in Sudan, President Barack Obama has announced his administration’s long-awaited position on the largest country in Africa. In a mid-October statement, Obama called Darfur an unqualified “genocide” and announced that the U.S. would renew sanctions against the country.

**China, European Union: China, EU will hold Summit in November** — The second Sino-EU summit of this year will be held in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, at the end of November. Discussions will center on global warming, energy, and the financial crisis.

## Cultural Connection

**November 2–4 — Cambodia Water Festival (Cambodia)** It is the largest three-day festival in Phnom Penh celebrating the end of the raining season and the start of the fishing season. The Water Festival is a national holiday that is looked forward to all year.

**November 2 — All Saints Day (Mexico, United States, Latin America, South America, Canada)** All Souls Day (also known as “The Day of the Dead”) is a day celebrated in Mexico, Latin America, and South America as El Día de los Muertos. The holiday is dedicated for the living persons to visit their dead relatives in their graves and to honor them with those items which they were very fond of.

**November 5 — Guy Fawkes Day (United Kingdom and some former colonies)** Celebrates the downfall of the Gunpowder Plot of November 5, 1605, in which a number of Catholic conspirators, including Guy Fawkes, were alleged to have attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London, England.

**November 27 — Native American Heritage Day (United States)** Signed into law by President Bush in 2008, and observed on the day after Thanksgiving, this day honors the various Native American tribes that have inhabited the North American continent.

**November 28 — Albania Independence Day (Albania)** Proclaiming Albanian independence after 500 years of Ottoman Turkish occupation; in a further decisive act, the Congress officially issued the Vlore proclamation, which marked the formal declaration of Albania’s independence on November 28.

**November 30 — Philippines Bonifacio Day (Philippines)** Andrés Bonifacio y de Castro (November 30, 1863–May 10, 1897) was a Filipino nationalist and revolutionary. He was a founder and leader of the Katipunan movement, which sought the independence of the Philippines from Spanish colonial rule and started the Philippine Revolution. He is considered as a national hero of the Philippines.