



GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI

CURRENTS OF CHANGE

NOBEL CONFERENCE 62

THE
N**BEL**
CONFERENCE
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

OCTOBER 6 & 7, 2026

WELCOME TO

This is the first time the Nobel Conference is centered on a place, and when I was invited to be the chair my initial reaction was, “Oh, this will be easy!” In comparison to previous Nobel Conferences I have helped plan—on topics like soil, the oceans, and climate change—this seemed comfortably small. However, when our planning committee began deliberating, we were quickly humbled by how vast the concept of the Mississippi can be.

With the speakers assembled here, we hope on the one hand to celebrate the great strides we have made toward reducing pollution and raising awareness about the value of the Mississippi over the last 100 years. And on the other hand, we’ll highlight ongoing and future challenges for the Mississippi while giving you concrete actions to support river research and education.

As we begin, a key question I’d like you to grapple with is: What is the Mississippi River? Is “the Mississippi” all of its tributaries—the Minnesota River, the Missouri,

For more than 60 years, this conference has brought together the world’s leading minds to explore pressing scientific questions and the moral implications they inevitably raise. As the only annual conference in the United States authorized by the Nobel Foundation to carry the Nobel name, the college takes this responsibility seriously—so seriously, in fact, that most faculty members cancel classes so students can attend in person.

Now more than ever, it is important for citizens to engage in scientific and ethical discourse. That’s part of why the college champions this conference: it models civil discourse and intellectual engagement at their best. It teaches our students how to disagree without being



I am delighted you are joining us at Nobel Conference 62, where we will take a deep look at the complex ecological and sociological

importance of the Mississippi River. The river informs the landscape, ecology, livelihoods, and cultural practices across states and throughout history. At Nobel Conference 62, we will explore the complex interplay between ecology and human involvement in defining what we know and how we engage with the river. As an Ecologist, I am deeply interested in the tension between human influence on the Mississippi as both life-giving and life-altering. I look forward to listening to the scientists, historians, and indigenous relatives as they explore these important ideas about this critical waterway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Volin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "J" and a stylized "V".

John C. Volin, Ph.D.

President,

Gustavus Adolphus College

NOBEL CONFERENCE 62

the Ohio, and so many more? What is “the Mississippi” if you’re a fish, especially a fish that’s nearly identical to your ancestors living way back in dinosaur times? What is “the Mississippi” if you’re a person living next to any river in the watershed, helping your community grapple with floods, industrial contamination, or sociopolitical threats? What is “the Mississippi” if you’re a farmer living many miles from a river channel, but knowing that the pollinators and soil and nutrients you depend on are all tied up with water?

And finally, what is “the Mississippi?” If this morning you woke up anywhere in the vast Mississippi watershed, you most likely drank water from the river itself or water that was flowing through the ground toward the river, and you most likely ate some food that was grown in the watershed. Thus, the water in your body right now is merely on a short detour from the land, into your body, and back into the river. So I ask you this: Are you “the Mississippi?”



LAURA TRIPLETT, PH.D.

Professor of Environment, Geography, and Earth Sciences, Chair of the 62nd Nobel Conference

disagreeable, how to listen with an open mind to views they don’t share, and—perhaps most importantly—that you don’t need to be a subject-matter expert to take part in meaningful intellectual dialogue.

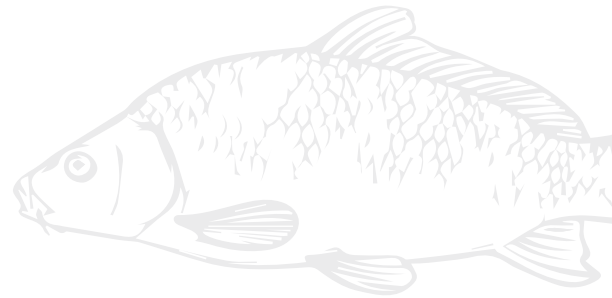
The roster of past speakers reads like a who’s who of global scientific research. Over its history, the conference has featured more than 110 Nobel laureates, along with numerous Fields Medal winners, Turing Award recipients, and MacArthur “Genius” Fellows.

Thank you for joining us and welcome to Nobel 62, The Mighty Mississippi: Currents of Change.



PHILLIP VOIGHT, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Director of the Nobel Conference



TUESDAY

OCTOBER 7

8:30 a.m. Doors Open to Christ Chapel

SESSION 1

8:45 a.m. Musical Prelude

Indigo Sabin '27, *alto sax*; Dylan Halom '27, *tenor sax*; Ciaran Heidelberger '29, trumpet;
Willow Hovland '29, guitar; Holden; Docherty '27, bass; Daniel Gordon '27, drums

9:00 a.m. Academic Procession & Conference Opening

Processional

Welcome

John Volin, Ph.D.
President of the College

Conference Introduction

Phillip Voight, Ph.D.
Nobel Conference Director, Professor of Communication Studies

Reading from Minnesota Poet Laureate Dr. Gwen Westerman

"De Wakpa Tanja Odowan / Song for the Mississippi River"

Gwen's poems, essays, and short stories appear in numerous publications, including the Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry (2020); the Minnesota issue of Quiltfolk (January 2020); and New Poets of Native Nations (Graywolf Press, 2018).

Her poetry collection Follow the Blackbirds (2013) was published by Michigan State University Press

9:30 a.m.

First Lecture

Introduction

Ursula Lindqvist Ph.D.

Professor of Scandinavian Studies



NICHOLAS PINTER

Professor in Applied Geosciences in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Associate Director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis

300+ YEARS OF ‘RIPARIAN CONSENT’: LIVING WITH FLOODS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI

Nicholas Pinter is a geomorphologist specializing in flood hazards and river systems. Dr. Pinter has become one of the nation’s leading voices challenging conventional approaches to flood management and documenting how engineered river systems paradoxically intensify the very flooding they were designed to prevent.

Dr. Pinter earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1992. His research focuses on earth-surface processes operating over anthropogenic time scales—what he calls the “Anthropocene”—with particular emphasis on how human modifications to landscapes create and amplify natural hazards. His work combines fluvial geomorphology, hydrologic modeling, statistical analysis, and hydraulic modeling to assess river dynamics, quantify flood risks, and provide scientific foundations for sound natural hazards policy.

Dr. Pinter’s research on the Mississippi River system has fundamentally challenged the levee-dependent flood management paradigm that has dominated American river engineering for over a century. Through detailed hydraulic modeling and analysis of stream gauge data across the Mississippi River basin, he and his collaborators have demonstrated that levees create a dangerous feedback loop: by constricting river channels and blocking access to natural floodplains, levees force floodwaters higher than they would otherwise rise, pushing devastating flood surges onto communities across the river and both upstream and downstream. His studies show that every single percent of floodplain land enclosed by levees produces measurable increases in flood heights for neighboring communities—transforming what were historically 100-year floods into 10-year events in many locations along the heavily engineered Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Dr. Pinter’s research on levee setbacks—moving levees farther back from river channels to restore floodplain storage capacity—demonstrates that strategic redesign of flood protection systems can simultaneously reduce flood heights, lower long-term economic losses, and restore vital wetland ecosystems. His modeling along the Middle Mississippi River shows that optimized levee setback configurations can reduce flood damage while providing critical habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife. These findings have informed national conversations about “working with nature” rather than attempting to control it, and have influenced flood management strategies from the Netherlands’ “Room for the River” program to emerging discussions about managed retreat in vulnerable American communities.

Dr. Pinter received the Eco-Alianza Environmental Stewardship Award in 2024 and has published extensively in leading scientific journals. His research has been featured by NPR, ProPublica, and numerous media outlets covering flood disasters and climate adaptation. At the University of California, Davis, he co-teaches the popular course “Ecogeomorphology of the Colorado River—Grand Canyon” and leads NSF-funded research on sustainable water management and disaster preparedness, training the next generation of scientists to approach river management with systems thinking and ecological humility.

HIS LECTURE

Flooding is the most damaging natural hazard in the world, and nowhere more so than the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Major floods have reshaped communities as well as national policy, and strategies for managing and mitigating this flood risk have evolved over time. One non-structural approach, called “managed retreat,” refers to moving residents and infrastructure up and/or away from rivers, theoretically removing the threat of flooding once and for all. These case studies offer empirical lessons on the political, financial, and social conditions that enable or hinder adaptation. Future flood-risk management requires translating lessons from past successes and failures into more equitable, climate-resilient programs that integrate local leadership, federal coordination, and sustainable planning.

10:15 a.m.

Second Lecture

Introduction

Kelle Nett ’16, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychology Science



NICK ESTES, PH.D.

Associate Professor in the Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota

AT THE EDGE OF EMPIRE: THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, SETTLER COLONIALISM, AND THE OCETI SAKOWIN

Dr. Nick Estes is an Associate Professor in the Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota, the oldest American Indian Studies department in the United States. A historian, journalist, and community organizer, Dr. Estes has emerged as one of the most influential voices documenting Indigenous resistance movements and articulating visions of decolonization rooted in centuries-old traditions of struggle for land, water, and sovereignty.

Dr. Estes received his Ph.D. in Indigenous Oral Histories and Colonialism from the University of New Mexico in 2017. His research focuses on Indigenous histories with emphasis on decolonization, oral history, U.S. imperialism, environmental justice, anti-capitalism, and the Oceti Sakowin (the Seven Council Fires of the Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota peoples). He previously served as American Democracy Fellow at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University (2017–18) and taught in the American Studies Department at the University of New Mexico before joining the University of Minnesota faculty in 2022.

Dr. Estes is the author of the award-winning book *Our History Is the Future: Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance* (Verso, 2019). He co-edited with Jaskiran Dhillon *Standing with Standing Rock: Voices from the #NoDAPL Movement* (University of Minnesota Press, 2019), and he is the co-author with Melanie K. Yazzie, Jennifer Nez Denetdale, and David Correia of *Red Nation Rising: From Bordertown Violence to Native Liberation* (PM Press, 2021).

In 2014, Dr. Estes co-founded The Red Nation, an Indigenous resistance organization committed to liberation of Native peoples from capitalism and colonialism. He serves as lead editor of Red Media, an Indigenous-run nonprofit media organization that publishes books, videos, and podcasts, and co-hosts *The Red Nation* podcast.

He is a member of the Oceti Sakowin Writers Society, a network of Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota writers dedicated to defending and advancing Oceti Sakowin sovereignty, cultures, and histories.

HIS LECTURE

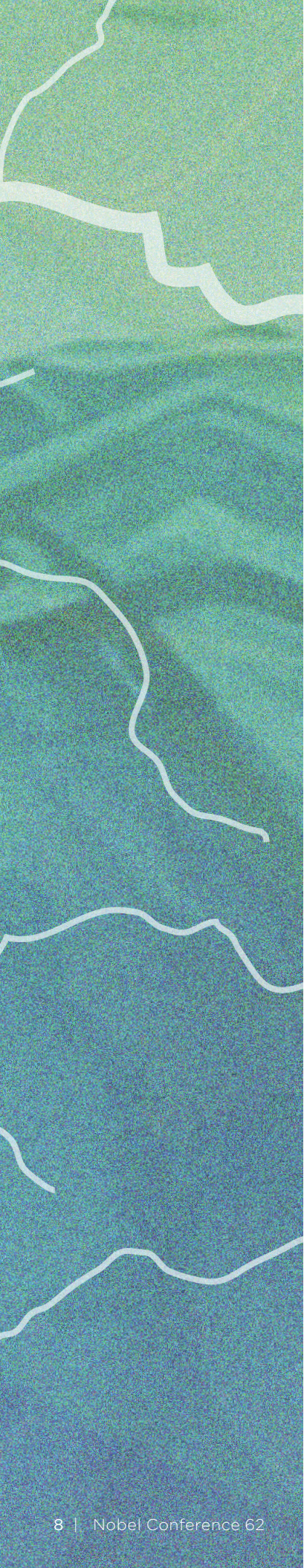
In 1787, the Mississippi was the Western-most boundary of the fledgling United States. That included the lands Dakota people called Mni Sóta Makoce (pronounced mni-SOH-tah mah-KOH-chay). The river itself served as a tool for American explorers and settlers to make economic and military inroads into the region.

Understanding the history of conquest is essential for making sense of the recent federal invasion of Minnesota. At the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers was the Dakota site of emergence known as Bdóte. It was here that Americans built Fort Snelling, which is today home to the ICE regional headquarters. This talk examines the history of militarization of the Mississippi River in Mni Sóta Makoce and how it facilitated settler colonialism and westward expansion.

11:00 a.m. Panel Discussion with All Conference Speakers and Audience Q&A

11:30 a.m. Lunch
See lunch options on page 21.

11:30 a.m. Book Signing
Speakers and presenters will be signing copies of their books outside of the Book Mark.



12:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions

No ticket or pre-registration is required. Only Breakout Session #1 will be livestreamed.

Each breakout session is 45 minutes and feature both Gustavus faculty members and outside presenters to speak on Mississippi River related topics.

CHOOSE FROM AMONG THE FOLLOWING:

1. HIDDEN FIGURES OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

LOCATION: NOBEL HALL, WALLENBERG AUDITORIUM

This session will be livestreamed.

If one begins near Lake Itasca, the source of the Mississippi, going all the way down to New Orleans, there are hidden tales of people, places, and things that keep The American Story alive. Folklore figures. Small town heroes. Seedy taverns. Schools. Parades. Art. Cemeteries. All with a story. In this presentation, Thomas Annesley will start in Northern Minnesota and take the audience on a journey down the Mississippi River to New Orleans and back again, stopping along the way at places where there just might be a story worth telling.

Presenter: Tom Annesley '75, Active Emeritus Professor, Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan

2. MINI RIVERS AND MEGAFLOODS

LOCATION: NOBEL HALL, ROOM 1342

Come play with a river! The Gustavus Department of Environment, Geography, and Earth Sciences has two research-grade "stream tables" with which we explore how rivers change through time and how they intersect with landscapes and human infrastructure. In this breakout session, Gustavus Geology students will guide participants through a hands-on demonstration of how rivers react to changing conditions. Participants will have an opportunity to design an experiment. This session is limited to 16 participants, first-come first-serve. (The stream tables will also be available for unstructured experiences during other conference breaks.)

Presenter: Julie Bartley, Professor of Environment, Geography, and Earth Sciences

3. WATER AND WELL-BEING: THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF EXPOSURE TO BLUE SPACES

LOCATION: NOBEL HALL, ROOM 1413

This talk will review the growing body of psychological research examining the benefits of exposure to rivers, lakes, oceans, and other "blue spaces." Throughout his review, we will also discuss some of the psychological processes that might help explain the effect (e.g., mindfulness, awe, etc.).

Presenter: Patrick Heath, Professor of Psychology

4. THE RIVER WILL NOT WAIT: GREEN CREW YOUTH LEADING ACTION ON THE MINNESOTA RIVER

LOCATION: NOBEL HALL, ROOM 1412

This session invites participants to explore the Minnesota River through the framework of *The River Will Not Wait*, which challenges us to reconsider water not as a system we manage, but as a force that responds on its own terms and timelines. Drawing from regional ecology, hydrology, and lived experience within the basin, we will examine how agricultural practices, urban development, and watershed alterations shape the river's health and trajectory. Moving from abstraction to immediacy, participants will engage in guided discussion and reflection grounded in place—this river, this landscape, this moment.

Presenter: John Barisonzi, President of the Lower MN River Watershed District

5. CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY: CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

LOCATION: NOBEL HALL, GARDNER LAB THEATER

The Mississippi River is a force that has an impact on the cultures and communities living along it from Minnesota to Louisiana. While urban spaces become more disconnected from the river and the green spaces that line it, climate change is wreaking havoc on those same spaces. Learn about the challenges these changes are creating, along with emerging solutions to mitigate climate change and connect people back to the river with nonprofit Mississippi Park Connection and the National Park Service.

Presenter: Charlotte Cowdery, Volunteer Coordinator for the Mississippi Park Connection

6. DISCOVER THE HEADWATERS: FRESHWATER SCIENCE AT ITASCA

LOCATION: NOBEL HALL, ROOM 3300

Come explore the Mississippi River headwaters through the eyes of a scientist. Through hands-on activities and displays, discover the freshwater research happening at the University of Minnesota's Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories, where scientists use lake sediments, water monitoring, dragonflies, loons, and other clues to understand the headwater's ecosystems and how they're changing.

Presenter: Emily Schilling, Associate Director of the Itasca
Biological Station and Laboratories, University of Minnesota

7. SWIMMING UPSTREAM: WHY RIVER CAMPAIGNS ARE A TOUGH SELL

LOCATION: NOBEL HALL, ROOM 2300

This talk explores three reasons that we do not “see” the river. First, the river is a boundary, so we split it lengthwise. Secondly, we are more interested in what's happening upstream than downstream. Finally, the river is a thousand things: metaphor, ditch, fishery, source of water.

Presenter: Reggie McLeod, Editor of *Big River magazine*



SESSION 2

1:30 p.m.

Reconvene and Musical Prelude

Music curated by Jackson Churchill, Jazz Ensemble Director at Gustavus Adolphus College

1:45 p.m.

Video: “The River in Our Backyard”

Produced by: Jenna Anderson, Halima Bigirindavyi, Amelia Dewberry, Amara Easley, Zachary Sullivan

2:00 p.m.

Third Lecture

Introduction

Elizabeth Danka, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Biology



SOLOMON R. DAVID, PH.D.

Assistant professor of aquatic ecology in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota

ANCIENT FISHES AND THE MODERN MISSISSIPPI: CONSERVING THE PAST FOR OUR FUTURE

Dr. Solomon R. David serves as Principal Investigator of GarLab at the University of Minnesota. An internationally recognized expert on ancient fishes, Dr. David’s research focuses on the ecology, conservation, and management of native non-game fishes, particularly “living fossil” species such as gars and bowfins and their critical roles in freshwater ecosystems.

Dr. David earned his Ph.D. and M.S. from the University of Michigan-School of Natural Resources and Environment and his B.S. in Biology from Ohio Northern University. His work challenges the outdated “rough fish” paradigm, advocating for the conservation value of native species. His research examines fish biodiversity from the Great Lakes to Louisiana bayous, and addresses how habitat connectivity and ecosystem restoration benefit aquatic life.

A passionate science communicator, Dr. David co-leads the annual Gar Week social media campaign with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. In 2025, he and colleagues Alec Lackmann, Jason Schooley, and Dennis Scarnecchia received the American Fisheries Society’s Award of Merit for their collective efforts to advance understanding, appreciation, and conservation of native non-game fishes in the United States. Through GarLab’s active presence on social media and his diverse popular and scientific publications, Dr. David demonstrates how effective science communication can transform public perception and policy around freshwater biodiversity conservation.

HIS LECTURE

What can living fossil fishes tell us about ecological change and adaptation on the Mighty Mississippi River? Fish and other wildlife depend on the river in surprisingly similar ways to humans, yet we’ve drastically altered the Mississippi River. Through the ancient aquatic lineages of gars and other native species, we’ll explore multi-faceted science

communication to increase public awareness of the importance of freshwater biodiversity. How can “river monsters” help us restore habitats? Could some of the slowest-evolving vertebrates help improve modern medicine? Why do we consider some species valuable game fish and discard others as rough fish? Amidst these currents of change, we’ll discuss the concept of diverse fishes and diverse voices: how listening to diverse groups of people allows us to better conserve fish diversity, and how conserving diverse fishes can benefit diverse peoples.

**2:45 p.m. Panel Discussion with All Conference Speakers
and Audience Q&A**

3:30 p.m. Gustavus Dance Company

LOCATION: SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF CHRIST CHAPEL

Please join the Department of Theatre and Dance as student dancers and actors embody myriad ways of knowing the Mississippi River. **Before Us**, co-created by professors Ernest Briggs, Sarah Hauss, and Jill Patterson, honors and considers indigenous perspectives of the Mississippi, delving into historical and societal ways of understanding the river and one’s connection to its space and place.

Dancers: Abigail Brand ’29, Maggie Dumonceaux ’30, Chloe Flinner ’30, Jenny Jones ’27, Joanna Mai ’28, Annalise Maiers ’28, Ella Nenovich ’29, River Picha ’29, Catherine Ryan-Shagler ’30

4:00 p.m. Seven Mile Creek Park River Exploration Event

Seven Mile Creek joins the Minnesota River at Seven Mile Creek County Park, just a few miles south of campus. Join us at the park to experience the rivers you have been hearing about and to participate in river-focused, hands-on activities led by students, faculty, staff, and community members. Choose your own adventure as you pick from stations on the geology of the park, water chemistry, fish communities in the water, faith and science discussions, presentations of recent student research, and more. The park is less than 15 min. away from campus and features shelters, accessible seating areas, and free parking.

Drive on your own, or you can take a complimentary bus that will continuously pick-up and drop-off from 3:45–6 p.m. The bus will pick-up from in front of the Jackson Campus Center at the three-flags circle.

**7:30 p.m. Showing of the film, *We Are the River,*
*How the Mississippi Shaped Minnesota***

LOCATION: NOBEL HALL, WALLENBERG AUDITORIUM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Produced in 2026 and first shown this past September on TPT Twin Cities PBS, this film showcases the Mississippi River from her pristine beginnings near Lake Itasca, as it winds through Minnesota’s prairies, valleys and cities.

With stories told by Indigenous Minnesotans, historians, educators, and river stewards, *We Are the River* explores the conflicts and contradictions that have surrounded the Mississippi for hundreds of years and celebrates signs of hope and triumph in this resilient ribbon of flowing water.

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 8

8:30 a.m. Doors Open to Christ Chapel

SESSION 3

8:45 a.m. Musical Prelude

Indigo Sabin '27, *alto sax*; Dylan Halom '27, *tenor sax*; Ciaran Heidelberger '29, *trumpet*;
Willow Hovland '29, *guitar*; Holden Docherty '27, *bass*; Daniel Gordon '27, *drums*

9:00 a.m. Welcome, video of *From the Delta to the Headwaters: A Counter-Current Journey in Jazz*

9:20 a.m. Fourth Lecture

Introduction
Amanda Nienow, Ph.D.
Professor of Chemistry



LISA SCHULTE MOORE, PH.D.

Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agricultural and Life Sciences in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management and Director of the Bioeconomy Institute at Iowa State University

ALL TOGETHER IN THE WATERSHED: CONNECTING WHAT HAPPENS ON LAND WITH WHAT'S IN OUR WATER AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

Dr. Lisa Schulte Moore is a landscape ecologist working at the intersection of agriculture, ecology, community resilience, and policy. Dr. Schulte Moore has pioneered practical, scientifically rigorous solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing American agriculture—from soil erosion, water pollution, and biodiversity decline to rural economic decline and market diversification.



Dr. Schulte Moore earned her B.S. in biology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, her M.S. in biology from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and her Ph.D. in forestry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She joined Iowa State's faculty in 2003, where she has built a career defined by transdisciplinary collaboration and farmer-centered research.

Dr. Schulte Moore is co-founder of the groundbreaking Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips (STRIPS) project, which has transformed agricultural conservation across the Midwest. Her team demonstrated that strategically placing native prairie vegetation strips—covering just 10 percent of a crop field—can reduce soil erosion by 95 percent and nitrogen and phosphorus runoff by 70-80 percent, while simultaneously supporting biodiversity including native pollinators and grassland wildlife. Importantly, prairie strips represent one of the most cost-effective conservation practices because they can be planted on the least productive portions of fields.

As Director of the Bioeconomy Institute, Dr. Schulte Moore leads efforts to develop a circular, producer-first bioeconomy that transforms agricultural residues and perennial crops into renewable energy, materials, and chemicals. She also directs C-CHANGE (Consortium for Cultivating Human And Naturally reGenerative Enterprises), which began as an Iowa State Presidential Initiative and grew into a major USDA-funded project exploring how continuous living cover—keeping roots in the ground year-round through diverse crop rotations and perennial plantings—can meet multiple societal goals simultaneously.

Dr. Schulte Moore's honors reflect the transformative impact of her work: she is the first Iowa State faculty member to receive a MacArthur Fellowship (2021), and is a fellow of the Ecological Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Leopold Leadership Program. She was named an inaugural Top Agri-Food Pioneer by the World Food Prize Foundation in 2024.

HER LECTURE

Just as the Mississippi River and its tributaries shape the lives and livelihoods of the people who depend on them, the choices we make throughout the watershed shape the river's health and resilience. Agriculture has an exceptionally large impact because it comprises the majority land use in the basin. In this presentation, you'll learn how farmers and their supporting networks are coming together to strengthen agriculture while improving water quality. You'll see how small, practical changes on the land can spark big, positive impacts downstream, and why each of us has a meaningful role to play.

10:05 a.m.

Fifth Lecture

Introduction

Darsa Donelan, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Physics



EHAB MESELHE, PH.D.

Charlotte Beyer Hubbell Chair and Department Chair of the River-Coastal Science and Engineering at Tulane University

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER: A CENTURY OF CONTROL, CONSEQUENCES, AND THE LEGACY OF THE 1927 FLOOD

At Tulane University, Dr. Ehab Meselhe helped establish the pioneering academic program in 2017 to address the complex interdisciplinary challenges facing river-deltaic-coastal systems. Dr. Meselhe brings nearly 30 years of expertise in coastal wetland hydrology, sediment transport, and hydrodynamic modeling to his work at the nexus of physical, ecological, and social processes in threatened coastal landscapes.

Dr. Meselhe earned his master's and Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Iowa and is a registered Professional Engineer in Louisiana and Iowa. Before joining Tulane, he spent 15 years as a professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and served as Vice President for Engineering at the Water Institute of the Gulf, where he became one of Louisiana's foremost authorities on coastal restoration science.

As Louisiana's technical lead for the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study, Dr. Meselhe developed the numerical models that provided the scientific foundation for Louisiana's 2012 and 2017 Coastal Master Plans—the state's comprehensive \$50 billion blueprint for combating catastrophic land loss. He played a central role in designing the Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton sediment diversions, massive engineering projects intended to reconnect the Mississippi River to its delta and rebuild disappearing wetlands by mimicking the natural processes that originally created Louisiana's coast. His recent research explores innovative “pulsing” approaches to sediment diversions that could balance land-building goals with impacts on coastal fisheries and communities.

Dr. Meselhe's work exemplifies his core conviction that technical solutions must integrate community knowledge and cross-disciplinary collaboration. He has pioneered participatory modeling sessions where coastal residents work alongside scientists to refine restoration strategies, ensuring that affected communities have meaningful input in decisions about their landscapes. His approach to river-coastal science recognizes that saving vulnerable deltas worldwide requires both engineering expertise and the integration of ecological understanding, social equity, and community resilience.

HIS LECTURE

The Mississippi River has always been the lifeline of the Gulf Coast. Over the past century, humans have drastically changed the river. We built dams, levees, cutoffs, and other structures to control floods and make navigation safer and more reliable. These efforts also changed how the river moves, how much sediment it carries, and how it interacts with the coastal landscape. By comparing the past with the present, we can see just how much the river's ability to deliver land-building sediment has declined. Louisiana's coastal restoration plans depend heavily on diverting sediment from the Mississippi River to rebuild wetlands, but reduced sediment supply makes these challenges even more complex. Overall, this talk highlights how much we've altered the river, how those changes continue to affect our environment, and why understanding the past is essential for planning Louisiana's future.

10:50 a.m.

**Panel Discussion with All Conference
Speakers and Audience Q&A**

11:30 a.m.

Lunch

See lunch options on page 21.



SESSION 4

12:30 p.m.

Musical Prelude

12:45 a.m.

Sixth Lecture

Introduction

Martin Lang '95, Ph.D.

Professor of Communication Studies



BEVERLY WRIGHT, PH.D.

Professor of Sociology and Executive Director of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)

TROUBLED WATERS: HOW RACE, CLASS AND CLIMATE INTERSECT ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Dr. Beverly L. Wright is a pioneering environmental justice scholar, advocate, author, and professor of sociology who founded the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ) in 1992—the first environmental justice center in the United States. Born and raised in New Orleans near Louisiana’s infamous “Cancer Alley”—an 85-mile industrial corridor housing over 150 petrochemical plants and refineries—Dr. Wright has dedicated over three decades to addressing environmental racism and health inequities that disproportionately burden communities of color.

Dr. Wright earned her B.A. from Grambling State University and both her M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her groundbreaking research combining demographic data with Toxics Release Inventory reports revealed the stark correlations between race and pollution exposure, fundamentally shifting how environmental justice is understood and addressed.

As Founder and Executive Director of DSCEJ, Dr. Wright developed the innovative “communiversity model”—a partnership approach that integrates community concerns and lived experiences into research and policymaking. Under her leadership, DSCEJ has provided hazardous waste worker training, developed environmental justice curricula for New Orleans Public Schools, and created the nation’s first environmental justice mapping tool. Following Hurricane Katrina, which destroyed her own home, Dr. Wright spearheaded the “A Safe Way Back Home” program, training workers in hazardous waste removal and helping displaced residents safely return to their communities.

President Joe Biden appointed Dr. Wright to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council in 2021, and in 2024 she was named Vice Chair of the EPA’s inaugural HBCU-MSI Federal Advisory Council. Dr. Wright’s co-authored books include *The Wrong Complexion for Protection* and *Race, Place, and the Environment After Hurricane Katrina*.

HER LECTURE

Why are certain communities perpetually exposed to environmental hazards while others remain protected? This presentation examines the Mississippi River Chemical Corridor, an 85-mile corridor that once housed plantation slavery and now hosts the densest concentration of petrochemical facilities in the United States with African American and poor white communities bearing the health burdens of industrial proximity.

Dr. Wright will explore how racism rooted in historical misconceptions about nonexistent human differences created the ideological foundation for environmental inequity. She will demonstrate how land ownership patterns, property valuation systems, and political power disparities continue to shape who lives where and how various entities perceive and value the river.

The presentation addresses a stark sociological paradox: regions with the greatest natural resource wealth often exhibit the highest rates of poverty and environmental degradation. Dr. Wright will conclude by examining the hope in presently emerging grassroots shifts toward sustainability. These patterns suggest that while science has historically been deployed to justify injustice along the Mississippi, it can be reclaimed to advance environmental equity when communities lead the inquiry.



1:30 p.m.

Seventh Lecture

Introduction
Amy Kochsiek Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Environment, Geography, and Earth Sciences



KELLY APPLGATE

Commissioner of Natural Resources
for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP, WATER, AND THE FUTURE OF RESOURCE DECISIONS

Kelly Applegate leads a department responsible for environmental and resource protection, cultural preservation, tribal enrollment, and programs that support tribal harvesting under treaty rights. A tribal member who has served the Mille Lacs Band for more than two decades, he is currently serving his second four-year term as Commissioner.

Throughout his career, Applegate has worked to protect the sacred gifts entrusted to his people by the Creator, including clean water, healthy ecosystems, and culturally significant resources such as manoomin (wild rice). His work has included wetland restoration, wildlife conservation for rare species, protection of sacred sites, invasive species management, and safeguarding treaty rights.

Applegate also serves on several regional and state boards focused on environmental stewardship and natural resources. In addition to his public service, Applegate is an Emmy Award-winning film producer for the short film *Water Over Nickel — Protecting Our Water, Community, and Manoomin*.

HIS LECTURE

For Indigenous communities, water is more than a natural resource—it is a living relative that sustains culture, food systems, and ways of life. In Minnesota, the Mississippi River watershed and its surrounding lakes have supported the lifeways of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for generations. Today, these waters sit at the center of a growing debate about how society balances the demand for materials used in modern technologies with the responsibility to protect fragile ecosystems and communities.



Kelly will explore how Indigenous knowledge and stewardship principles can inform today's most urgent environmental challenges from mining and energy transitions to emerging water contaminants like PFAS and pharmaceuticals.

Drawing on the Ojibwe Band's experiences interfacing with state and federal government entities, corporations, and environmental groups, Applegate will illustrate how decisions about resource extraction reverberate across interconnected systems. Applegate's presentation also poses the question: How should societies weigh short-term technological needs against long-term environmental responsibility?

Blending personal perspective, ecological science, and lived experience, Applegate's talk demonstrates how Indigenous teachings on interconnectedness and responsibility to future generations can guide more just and sustainable environmental decisions.

**2:15 p.m. Panel Discussion with All Conference
Speakers and Audience Q&A**

3:00 p.m. Nobel Conference 62 Closing Remarks

3:00 p.m. Mississippi River Action Expo
LOCATION: ECKMAN MALL
(FIRST FLOOR OF BECK HALL IF INCLEMENT WEATHER).

EXPO PARTICIPANTS:

- *Big River Magazine*
- Carpenter Saint Croix Valley Nature Center
- Dodge Nature Center
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Ney Nature Center
- Parks and Trail Council of Minnesota
- The Gar Lab
- Gustavus Adolphus College Department of Environment, Geography, and Earth Sciences
- Gustavus Adolphus College Faith, Science and Ethics Camp
- Metropolitan Council Sacred Water Shared Future Campaign

EXPLORE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ON CAMPUS

Many places on the Gustavus campus will be open to guests during the conference. Take the opportunity to visit them during the lunch break or following the day's lectures. A campus map can be found online or on page 30-31.

GEOLOGY MUSEUM

Visit the Chester Johnson Geology Museum in the lower level Nobel Hall of Science inside the north entrance.

SCHAEFER GALLERY EXHIBITION

The Schaefer Art Gallery offers exhibitions and events to support the Art and Art History Department, augment the educational experience of students as a whole, and engage members of the surrounding communities. The annual nine-month exhibition calendar includes a combination of Art and Art History Department student exhibitions, contemporary work by regional and national artists or artist groups, artist lectures, and discussion-based workshops. You can find the Schaefer Fine Arts Center in the Studio Arts Building.

GUSTAVUS ARBORETUM

Take a self-guided walk through Minnesota's biomes in the Gustavus Arboretum on the south end of campus. Open until dusk.

SCULPTURES

Take a self-guided tour of the Granlund sculptures on the Gustavus campus. Pick up the brochure at the Nobel Conference information desk near the entrance to Christ Chapel.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Welcome high school students! Find out what role Gustavus might have in your future as a student. Stop by the Admission Office in the Campus Center or learn more online at gustavus.edu/admission-aid.

THE BOOK MARK

Visit the campus bookstore to find Nobel Conference speakers' books, videos, and products along with Conference T-shirts and other Gustavus merchandise. The store is located in the lower level of Jackson Campus Center and will be open during the Conference from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Find more at bookmark.gustavus.edu.



20% OFF

SELECT BOOKS AT THE BOOK MARK

Visit the campus store for Conference T-shirts and books, gifts, cards, clothing, and supplies. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



BOOK MARK

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

bookmark.gustavus.edu

INFORMATION

INFORMATION & MESSAGE CENTER

Located in the lobby of Christ Chapel, the Nobel Conference Information Desk may be reached during Conference sessions by calling (507) 933-6060.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

Panel discussions including your questions are always a highlight of the Conference.

Questions may be submitted in the following forms:

- Email to nobelconference@gustavus.edu
- If you're in Christ Chapel, submit them in writing to one of the ushers.

If we are unable to address your question, please take the opportunity to discuss your thoughts with other conference attendees or leave a comment on one of the Nobel Conference social media accounts.

ACCESSIBILITY ASSISTANCE

Christ Chapel is wheelchair accessible. A limited supply of hearing assistance units will be available during the Conference on a first-come, first-serve basis and can be checked out at the information desk in Christ Chapel. Open-captioning services will be available during the Conference.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are on both levels of Christ Chapel, as well as in Nobel Hall of Science and Jackson

MULTIFAITH SPACE

The Bonnier Multifaith Center is available for personal prayer, meditation, or reflection during the Nobel Conference. It is located at the south end of Anderson Hall on the main floor.

CERTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE

Certificates of attendance for continuing education credits are available at the Nobel Conference information desk.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Nobel Conference on Facebook and Instagram (@nobel_conference) and be sure to tag the Conference in your posts.

WEB ARCHIVES

Nobel Conference lectures and panel discussions will be archived at gustavus.edu/nobelconference. Archived lectures provide a snapshot of history of important scientific developments from the past 60 years.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

The following options are available for lunch or snacks.

The Gustavus Market Place: The main College dining room is located in the upper level of Jackson Campus Center. Food is available for purchase a la carte.

Courtyard Café and the STEAMery: The Courtyard Café is located on the lower level of the Jackson Campus Center, and the STEAMery is in the Nobel Hall of Science near Anderson Theater. Both are open during the Conference and serve coffee, pastries, sandwiches, and snacks.

Bring Your Own Lunch: Tables are available in the Jackson Campus Center banquet rooms for those who wish to provide their own lunch.

ZERO-WASTE CONFERENCE

We aim to make the Nobel Conference a zero-waste event. Whenever possible, we will use compostable, recyclable, or reusable materials. Please help the effort by selecting the appropriate bins in which to dispose of items you no longer need.

UNDERSTANDING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER: A GLOSSARY OF RIVER-RELATED TERMS AND CONCEPTS

4R plus approach: an agricultural nutrient management strategy that applies the right nutrient source at the right rate, at the right time

Clay flocculation: the process where suspended clay particles stick together to form larger, heavier clumps

Communiversality model: an approach developed by Dr. Beverly Wright that connects academic institutions with local communities to generate knowledge, research, and solutions for social or environmental challenges

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): a voluntary, long-term program compensating farmers for retiring environmentally sensitive or highly erodible cropland and establishing permanent vegetation such as grass or trees

Crevasse splay deposits: fan-shaped deposits of sand and silt that form in floodplains when floodwaters break through river levees

Deposition: the process by which weathered or eroded materials settle and accumulate in new locations

Estuaries: part of coastal ecosystems where freshwater from rivers mixes with saltwater from the ocean, resulting in unique habitats

Green mining: mining that is more sustainable or sourcing the materials mined to produce 'green' technologies, including electric cars or solar panels

Hydrograph: a graph that displays the rate of water flow or the water level over a period of time

Managed retreat: relocating a population or infrastructure due to sea-level rise, climate-driven flooding, and other threats

Mississippi Delta: a landform created from the deposition of sediment carried by the Mississippi River

Morphodynamic analysis: the study of how physical processes shape the form and evolution of coastal ecosystems

Nonpoint nutrient pollution: the movement of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus into rivers, lakes, and wetlands from widespread sources

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Services

Riparian buffers: vegetated areas along streams, lakes, and wetlands that protect water quality and reduce bank erosion

River sediment diversion: a coastal restoration strategy that redirects river water and sediment into nearby basins to rebuild wetlands and reduce land loss

Rough fish: a term used by agencies to describe less desirable freshwater fish that are undesirable to anglers and not traditionally game fish

Sustainable agriculture: an integrated system of plant and animal production that both meets human food needs while protecting natural resources and ecosystems

Wetland: an area where water covers the soil, permanently or seasonally, creating unique habitats that support aquatic vegetation and diverse ecosystems

For more terms go to
gustavus.edu/nobelconference

MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERSHED MAP



The story of the Mississippi River is one of both permanence and change. Recent geological research dates the river to approximately 70 million years ago, far older than previously believed. The current form of its basin was largely shaped by the retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet during the most recent Ice Age, though the river has also been transformed by centuries of human engineering, and its channel continues to shift gradually over time.

The river flows approximately 2,340 miles from Minnesota to the Mississippi River Delta at the Gulf of Mexico. When we also view the multitude of tributary rivers and streams in the Mississippi watershed, it becomes clear how water connects and weaves together far disparate parts of the continent.

The economic, societal, and environmental importance of the Mississippi is difficult to overstate. The basin encompasses more than 40 percent of the U.S. land area, and more than 18 million people rely on the Mississippi for their drinking water supply. It moves approximately 60 percent of U.S. grain exports, making it essential to both Midwest farmers and global food supply chains.



Experiential Learning Meets Personal Growth

The Gustavus Signature Experience (SigX)

combines professional development with self discovery. By completing one of our experiential pathways—internship, research, study away, or course practicum—you'll gain the practical skills employers are looking for and clarity about who you are and who you want to be. Every SigX features:

- > Guided reflection combined with professional skill building
- > A dedicated faculty mentor and peer cohort community
- > Perspective that builds your story and the confidence to tell it
- > Access up to \$3,000 of financial support



What's your SigX?

Choose one—or more—and customize your experience to fit your goals!



Internship

Leverage our 30,000-strong alumni network to gain professional skills and experience.



Research

Conduct impactful, high-level research in collaboration with world-class professors and institutions.



Study Away

Expand your horizons with domestic and international programs that create new perspectives.



Course Practicum

Engage in vocational learning through a practice-focused course that engages the community.

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Go Beyond.



Find out what role Gustavus might have in your future as a student. Stop by the Admission Office in the Campus Center or go to gustavus.edu/admission-aid to learn more.



FULBRIGHT AWARDS

In the 2023–2024 academic year, Gustavus was named one of 32 national Top Producing Fulbright Institutions



TOP 20

for Best
College
for **WOMEN
IN STEM**
(Washington Monthly)



in Minnesota for
TOP PERFORMERS
on **SOCIAL MOBILITY**
(U.S. News and World Report)

WHERE FAITH & CURIOSITY UNITE

A week-long on-campus experience



GUSTAVUS

Faith, Science,
and Ethics Camp

JUNE 20–24, 2027

Relationships in the Age of A.I.

GUS GOES THERE

Gus Goes There is an educational video series that puts scientific discovery in conversation with ethical inquiry, and is designed for middle and high school students. With "Gus" the Lion serving as tour guide, each episode explores how thinking about a particular scientific issue has evolved over time. Using footage from more than 60 years of Nobel Conference lectures, the series invites students to think critically about the ways science changes in light of new evidence, new technology and new ways of thinking about the world and our place in it. *Gus Goes There* is challenging students to grapple with the complex intersection of science and technology.

Each five-minute episode is accompanied by a teacher's guide that includes central concepts and discussion questions, designed to support Minnesota Department of Education science standards.



Scan here
to watch
the videos!



2026 NOBEL CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND FACULTY LIAISONS

Elizabeth Danka, Darsa Donelan, Lucie Holmgreen, Amy Kochsiek,
Jared Land, Martin Lang, Ursula Lindqvist, Amanda Nienow,
David Obermiller

Event Manager: Todd Ginter, Senior Manager of Signature
Events & Experience

STUDENT LIAISONS

The student liaison program offers Gustavus Adolphus students an exclusive opportunity to serve as hosts for Nobel Conference speakers. Selected students spend months reading peer-reviewed work by the speakers, creating audience enrichment events, helping plan the Conference, and publicizing the event on social media.

During the Conference itself, liaisons guide speakers around campus, share meals with them, and get to know them on a first-name basis. The program is open to students of any major. For more information, email Phillip Voight at pvoight@gustavus.edu.

Thank you to the following student liaisons: Katelyn Benschoter, Madison Burman, Camille Finney, Jack Griffieth, Erin Grube, Elsey Hagen, Olivia Hagestuen, Rae Howlerda, Ethan LaLumiere, Emmie Larson, Grace LaTourelle, Annalise Maiers, Jacqueline Mansergh, Destiny McDowell, Anyah Moffett, Brayden Nordeen, Freya Rising, Madeline Schilling, Copeland Steele, Kendall Wiggins, Autumn Wunschel

From the Delta to the Headwaters: A Counter-Current Journey in Jazz

Produced by:
Katelyn Benschoter
Alexandra Kane
Rebekah Moll
McKenzie Simon
Zachary Sullivan
Featuring: David Stamps

The River in Our Backyard

Produced by:
Jenna Anderson
Halima Bigirindavyi
Amelia Dewberry
Amara Easley
Zachary Sullivan

"Triplett Talks" and "Mississippi Mini Mic" social media shorts

Produced by:
Xander Barnd
Chloe Knutson
Anika Smuts
Zachary Sullivan
Madison Walker

THANK YOUS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Heroic Productions for providing the sound, lighting, camera equipment, and staff. Also, a special thank you to Matt Dobosenski '99, Assistant Director of Institutional Events and Media Services for providing the Livestream production.

Thank you to Maggie Koerth and Mark Braun for serving as Livestream hosts.

Thank you to the Mississippi Park Connection.

Thank you to the Gustavus Facilities department for all your hard work and dedication to help produce this event.

Thank you to the Gustavus Dining staff for your service and preparation.

Chapel Entrance music "Conversation"

Composer: Yumiko Oshima-Ryan

Loon Sound Recording: Josh Gumiela

Thank you to Paddlefish Brewing for creating "The Long River" beer in honor of this year's Nobel Conference. Paddlefish Brewing Company is a small craft brewery located right here in Saint Peter! Opened by two 2023 Gustie grads, Paddlefish focuses on crafting community and great beer with its internationally awarded recipes and beautiful taproom right on Minnesota Ave. Go try a pint of "The Long River" while here for the conference!



Chaplain Richard Elvee Nobel Conference Director 1979-1999

On Friday, May 15, 2026, Richard Q. Elvee died at the age of 91. "Elvee" served as chaplain at Gustavus from 1962 until 2000. He was the college's first full-time chaplain and the first chaplain of Gustavus' Christ Chapel. He was well known for the interdisciplinary dimensions he brought to his sermons. But Elvee did more than serve as chaplain to thousands of Gustavus students and employees.

Chaplain Elvee believed that faith and science were not at odds with one another, but were instead invaluable conversation partners. Throughout its history, Nobel has been a science conference that discerns moral implications. When there was a Nobel Conference topic proposed, Elvee used to ask, "Where's God in all of this?"

Throughout this academic year, Gustavus is honoring Chaplain Elvee with an empty chair on the chancel, in gratitude for his remarkable legacy and to acknowledge his continued impact. Gustavus will host a memorial service for Chaplain Elvee on November 1, 2026 (on the occasion of All Saints Day). The service will begin at 2 p.m., with an extended prelude beginning at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in worship or via livestream.



THE FUTURE OF WORK:

HUMAN PURPOSE BEYOND AUTOMATION

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2027



CONFIRMED 2027 SPEAKERS:

Guy Hoffman is an Associate Professor and Mills Family Faculty Fellow in the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell University, where he heads the Human-Robot Collaboration and Companionship (HRC²) group. He holds a doctorate from the MIT Media Lab in human-robot interaction, a master's degree in computer science from Tel Aviv University, and a Master of Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design. His research focuses on the algorithms, interaction patterns, and designs that allow people and robots to coexist in the workplace and at home.

Jon Kleinberg is the Tisch University Professor of Computer Science and Information Science at Cornell University, known for his work in algorithms and networks. He earned his B.S. in computer science from Cornell in 1993 and his Ph.D. from MIT in 1996, and has been a Cornell professor ever since. His research has since expanded into social networks, algorithmic fairness, and the intersection of computing and the social sciences, and he co-authored the widely used textbook *Algorithm Design* with Éva Tardos. Among his honors are a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" in 2005 and the Nevanlinna Prize in 2006, awarded alongside the Fields Medal as a premier distinction in computational mathematics.

Anton Korinek is an Austrian-American economist and professor at the University of Virginia's Department of Economics and the Darden School of Business, where he

serves as Faculty Director of the Economics of Transformative AI (EconTAI) Initiative. He studied economics, mathematics, and law at the University of Vienna before earning his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2007, where his dissertation was supervised by Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz. His current research examines the economic and financial implications of artificial intelligence, focusing on how to steer AI progress toward shared prosperity and on AI's implications for economic growth, labor markets, inequality, and market concentration; he has testified before the U.S. Senate on AI's impact on the workforce. He was named to *TIME*'s 2025 "TIME 100" AI List and Vox's 2024 Future Perfect 50.

Tressie McMillan Cottom is an American writer, sociologist, and an associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science and an affiliate of the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life (CITAP) at UNC-Chapel Hill, and she is also an opinion columnist at the *New York Times*. She is known for shaping discourse on race, gender, education, and digital technology, blending analytical insight with personal experience in an accessible style. She is a 2020 MacArthur "Genius" Fellow and has won the 2023 Joseph B. and Toby Gittler Prize from Brandeis University and the 2025 Thomas Wolfe Prize, and she is a 2025–26 National Humanities Center Fellow.

Rada Mihalcea is the Janice M. Jenkins Collegiate Professor of Computer Science and Director of the Michigan AI Lab. She holds two Ph.D.s, one in computer science and engineering from Southern Methodist University in 2001 and one in linguistics from Oxford University in 2010. Her research focuses on natural language processing, multilingual AI, and computational sociolinguistics. With Paul Tarau, she invented the TextRank algorithm, a classic method still widely used for text summarization, and her team has also built software using AI to detect deception that outperformed human judges at spotting lies in high-profile courtroom video.

Pat Pataranutaporn is an Assistant Professor of Media Arts and Sciences at the MIT Media Lab, where he is the founding director of the Cyborg Psychology research group and co-director of the Media Lab's Advancing Humans with AI (AHA) program. His work sits at the intersection of AI and human psychology, designing human-AI systems for human flourishing and studying how AI shapes human psychology through his "Cyborg Psychology" framework. His projects include Future You, which lets users chat with an AI-simulated older version of themselves; Wearable Reasoner, a device that prompts critical thinking during decisions; Living Memories, AI-generated characters that serve as digital mementos of loved ones; and Machinoia, which integrates with users' past, future, and alternate selves.

Aza Raskin is a designer, technologist, and co-founder of the Center for Humane Technology, an organization dedicated to exposing the harms of persuasive technology and reorienting the tech industry toward human wellbeing. He is also co-founder and president of the Earth Species Project, a nonprofit using artificial intelligence to decode non-human animal communication. Raskin was an architect and subject of the Emmy-winning Netflix documentary *The Social Dilemma* and co-hosts the podcast *Your Undivided Attention*.

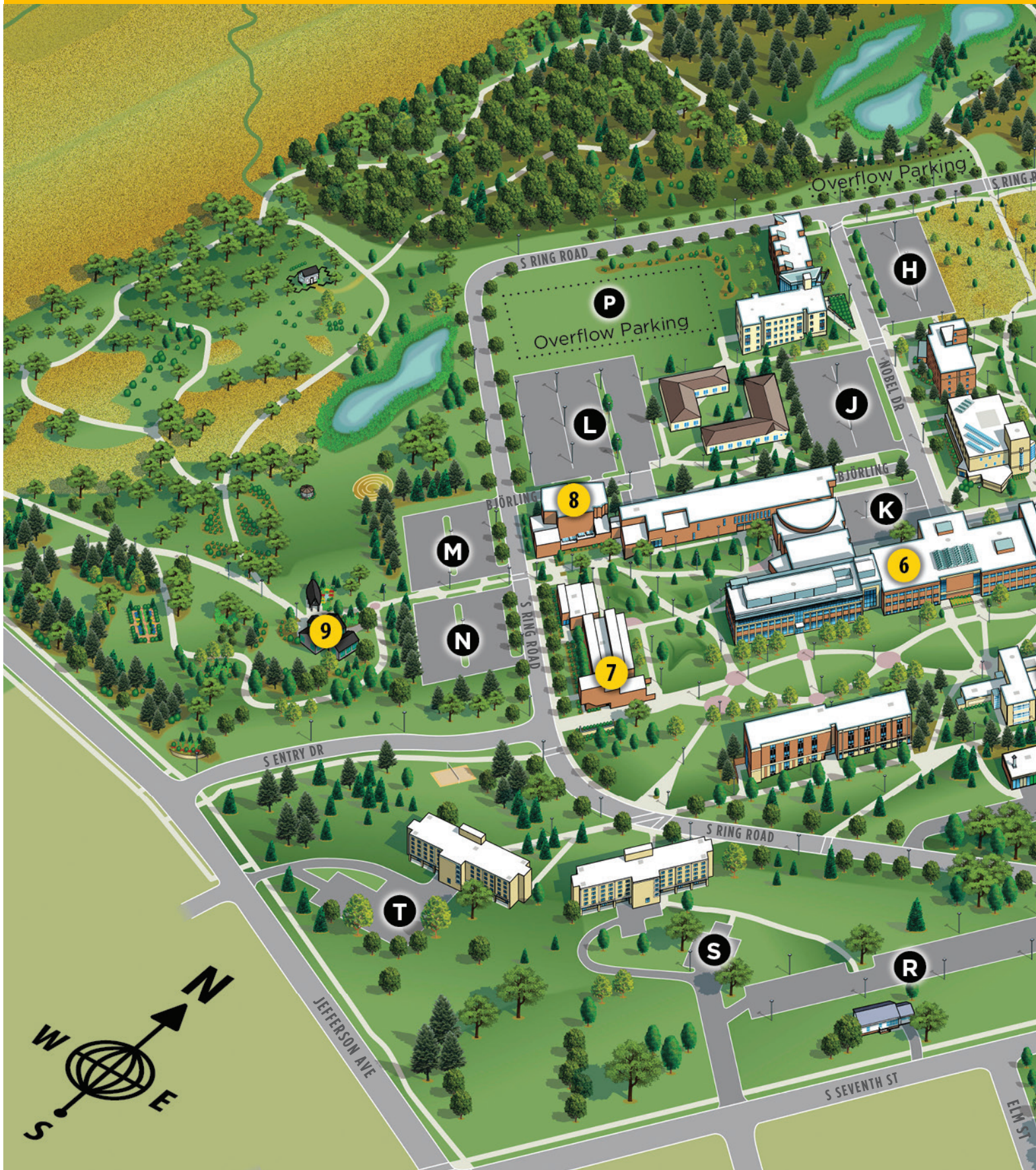


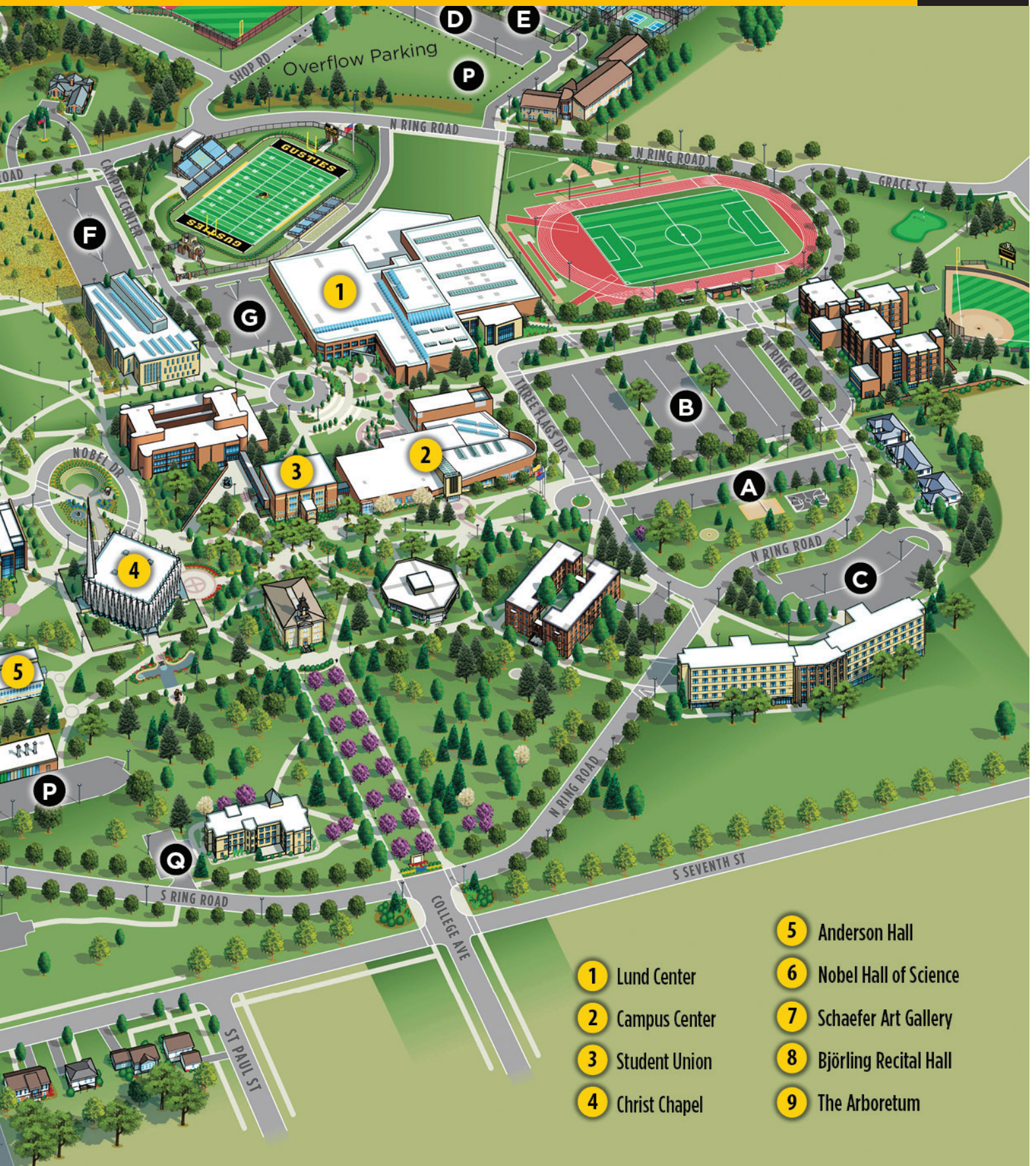
NOBEL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Core endowment funding for the conference was permanently secured through the generosity of the late Reverend Drell and Adeline Bernhardson. The Bernhardsons recognized and celebrated the historic relationship between the Nobel Foundation and Gustavus Adolphus College. By establishing this endowment, they secured the core funding for the success of the conference and established a platform on which the conference can expand its reach and impact. Other core funders to the Nobel Conference include Dawn Ekstrom Michael '67 and Ted Michael, the late Russell and Rhoda Lund, the RJ Foundation and Steve Sether. The generosity of these donors will ensure new generations of high school students, the Gustavus community, and avid and longtime Nobel Conference attendees can enjoy this renowned academic conference.

Your support helps ensure that this remarkable tradition can continue to be provided free of charge. To make a financial contribution to the Nobel Conference endowment, please visit gustavus.edu/nobelconference.

CAMPUS MAP





- 1 Lund Center
- 2 Campus Center
- 3 Student Union
- 4 Christ Chapel
- 5 Anderson Hall
- 6 Nobel Hall of Science
- 7 Schaefer Art Gallery
- 8 Björling Recital Hall
- 9 The Arboretum



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