

## GSW RECEIVES \$13K GRANT FOR ALCOHOL ABUSE AWARENESS



Colby Hernandez  
Staff Writer

GSW iHelp Peer Educators at last semester's preview day. Photo provided by University Relations.

In order to promote awareness for alcohol abuse, GSW has received a grant totaling \$12,595.60 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. GSW staff member Angie Christmas is one of the ones helping to organize the event. The purpose of the grant is to ensure the safety of students and promote awareness of alcohol abuse. In order to comply with this rule set, Angie Christmas and GSW student Kerrison Whitney are organizing events to make sure students take this problem seriously.

"I hope to bring awareness to alcohol and other drugs to the campus community through programming and tabling events," Christmas explained. She wants to promote alcohol abuse awareness "by informing [the student body] about the dangers of alcohol and drugs, and presenting them with factual information."

Events they are planning will both promote alcohol abuse awareness and provide a fun and safe way to learn about the problems facing our generation. One program they are working on will be a Spring Break Safety Initiative with a goal to promote safety and awareness tips for



Alcohol abuse awareness event involving impairment goggles. Photo submitted by Angie Christmas.

students traveling for Spring Break. Other programs include Alcohol Bingo, Alcohol Jeopardy, Think Fast, and Pedal Kart Crazies, which will focus on driving while under the influence.

"Driving involves multiple tasks, the demands of which can change continually," Christmas said. "To drive safely, one must maintain alertness, make decisions based on ever-changing information present in the environment, and execute maneuvers based on these decisions. Drinking alcohol impairs a wide

## IN THIS ISSUE

### INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL OPENING GAME

PAGE 2

The opening season of intramural basketball season kicks off with games between the Bluestrips vs the 94 Feet Elite, and the Tunnel Vision vs the BCM Warriors.

### SOFTBALL PROSPECT CAMP PHOTOS

PAGE 2

Image series on GSW's annual softball prospect camp, where high school athletes come to learn from GSW's softball team.

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ELLE KLUKSDAHL

PAGE 3

Former GSW student Elle Kluksdahl describes her experience starting off at GSW and eventually finding her calling in Alaska.

### ASK THE CANES

PAGE 6

Ask the Canes makes its grand return with the following question: do you prefer online or in-person classes, and why?

range of skills necessary for carrying out these tasks. Youthful age has been cited as one of the most important variables related to crash risk. Young drivers are inexperienced not only in driving, but in drinking, and often combine the two activities. Roadside surveys indicate that young people are less likely than adults to drive after drinking; however, especially at low and moderate BAC's, their crash rates are substantially higher than those of other groups."

Stay safe, Hurricanes.

**INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

**INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL SEASON OPENS WITH A BANG**

Amari Rudison  
Staff Writer



*The BCM Warriors compete against the Tunnel Vision. Photo by Amari Rudison.*

Intramural basketball season kicked off on January 23. There were two games: one at 7:00 and another at 8:15. The 7:00 opening game was between the Bluestrips and the 94 Feet Elite, and it ended in a narrow victory for 94 Feet Elite, who won 41-40 against the Bluestrips.

The 8:15 game was against the BCM Warriors and the Tunnel Vision, with Tunnel Vision winning 54-22 against BCM. BCM didn't let that stop them from being a crowd favorite though. Tunnel Vision had the advantage over a couple of three-point shooters, and BCM had the advantage of speed. It was a tough game for both teams, and their hard work didn't go unnoticed. BCM sported their own merch with their logo with dark gray and black fits, and Tunnel Vision matched with their black and red fits.

When one of the athletes on the BCM Warriors was asked after the game how they felt about their performance, they said, "We did okay for our first game, and with a little practice, we'll do well. Our hustle the entire game was strong . . . I think with more practice this week, we'll be back and have more points on the board." The BCM Warriors and all other teams will continue playing throughout the rest of this season, all through January and February.

**IMAGE SERIES**

**GSW HOSTS SOFTBALL PROSPECT CAMP**

Jackson Carlstrom  
Editor-In-Chief

On January 15, GSW's softball team hosted their annual prospect camp. High schoolers from all across Georgia and surrounding states came to the GSW softball field for a day to learn from Coach Nicki Levering and GSW's softball team.



*Lauren Davis, Megan Wellman, and Ryleigh Yates, athletes with the Lady Dukes, with GSW Softball Coach Nicki Levering. Photo submitted by Lady Dukes SE.*



*Sara Payton Schmidt trains on GSW's softball field. Photo submitted by Sara Payton Schmidt.*



*Lauren Davis meets some of the Canes on GSW's softball team. Photo submitted by Lady Dukes SE.*



*Shelby Morgan with GSW Softball Coach Nicki Levering. Photo submitted by GA Power Fastpitch 06 Williams.*



*Jaelyn Phillips with GSW Softball Coach Nicki Levering. Photo submitted by Firecrackers Yearly 06/07.*



*Ella Romano with GSW Softball Coach Nicki Levering. Photo submitted by Tampa Mustangs Fastpitch.*

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# FROM AMERICUS TO ALASKA: AN INTERVIEW WITH ELLE KLUKSDAHL

Jackson Carlstrom  
Editor-In-Chief

In the fall of 2020, Elle Kluksdahl stepped foot onto Georgia Southwestern's campus to begin her college journey as a freshman nursing student. After spending a year and a half's worth of semesters at Georgia Southwestern, Kluksdahl eventually found herself over 4,000 miles away from Americus, as well as the only state she had ever lived in.



*Elle Kluksdahl experiences the unique bore tide in Alaska. All photos submitted by Elle Kluksdahl.*

Kluksdahl describes the process that originally led her to Georgia Southwestern to start her degree. "I actually had never planned on going to college. I think I was 3 years old when I said for the first time that I'm not going to college, which is really funny because I always loved learning. I just didn't want to go to college. I originally wanted to be a full-time artist or an entrepreneur, and just paint and do pottery and sculptures," Kluksdahl said. "And then when I was 17, I became a Christian, and that was when I decided to go to college. My original decision was to, first off, expose myself to people my age and find Christian community, and also encourage even younger Christians or talk to people who aren't believers. And I felt like college was a good environment to expose myself to that."

Kluksdahl started off as a nursing major, seeking to have a career where she could help others, but she eventually switched to psychology after discovering her passion for it while taking a required psychology course her first semester. Outside of classes, Kluksdahl was heavily involved with GSW's Baptist Collegiate Ministry, attending small groups and worship nights whenever she could. "The lessons were something that I really enjoyed and got a lot from," Kluksdahl said. "And I loved the opportunity to worship with other people. That wasn't something that I got to do a whole lot in the past. The churches that I briefly went to before with my family didn't put a huge emphasis on worship. I think BCM is where I really fell in love with congregational worship. Actually, now at my church here, I lead worship sometimes, which is something I wouldn't have done if I hadn't fallen in love with it at BCM first."



*Campus outreach with BCM.*

It was with BCM that Kluksdahl would soon find herself in Alaska for the first time through Send Me Now, a Georgia Baptist-affiliated group that sends college students all across the country for summer mission trips. "That was not something that I ever wanted to do in the past," Kluksdahl said, describing when she first applied to serve with Send Me Now. "I never felt called to do a mission trip in the past, but that was something, upon hearing about it, that Jesus put into my heart, which encouraged me to go do it."

Of all the summer mission trips that Send Me Now offered, the Alaska trip was completely off Kluksdahl's radar at first due to its length, taking up the entire summer. But after an official at Send Me Now recommended Alaska as a good choice for her, she couldn't stop thinking about it. "We could put our top three or five mission trips that we wanted to do," Kluksdahl said. "And about 20 minutes before the deadline, I just couldn't get Alaska off my mind. I knew I was looking at all of them and had some bias due to the length of the trips. So I put a Post-it note over the locations and dates of the mission trips on my screen so that I could just read the description and look at and prayerfully consider the best choice for me based on that. And it kept turning out to be Alaska every time . . . That one just kept speaking to me."



*Elle Kluksdahl with Mama Minor.*

After choosing Alaska as her top choice, Kluksdahl was eventually selected for the Alaska mission trip to serve alongside 16 other college students. Kluksdahl describes some of the details and highlights of her Alaska mission trip. "Some weeks, we served at different VBS's. Some weeks, it was just doing labor around houses or churches for people. And then every week, we would have downtown evangelism. We would just go and talk to people. And that was always an interesting experience," Kluksdahl said. "I had never been threatened for believing in Christ until then, and that was heartbreaking, but also I still knew that this is something that I'll always have a passion for, sharing Christ, because we can just see how much the world needs it based on their reaction to it."

After returning to Georgia, Kluksdahl started her sophomore year of college in the fall of 2021, intent on continuing to pursue missions in Americus, but her future was a little uncertain to her. "So coming back to GSW, I think the first thing I did in August was I applied to the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). I didn't necessarily do it with the intention of going, but Jesus had made it clear in a very loving, gracious, gentle way that this is where He wanted me. But also I still had a place at GSW if I wanted to be here. He was just giving me the opportunity between the two, which is not how I usually get a lot of decisions. Usually, it's like 'hey, this is where you're going. This is what you have to do,'" Kluksdahl said. "It wasn't a decision I made until October or November that I actually officially decided to move. But it was something that I talked about with Brian, the minister at BCM, and asked for his wisdom about. And it was something I talked about with Mama Minor and Ashley Denby and Emily Hooper . . . So the last half of the semester was definitely preparing to leave and getting everything sorted. But the first part of the semester was still just intentionally being there and not preparing as if I was going to leave . . . I kept thinking, 'this is where I am right now.' Not drifting off to 'this is where I might end up being.' I still wanted to be intentional about being at GSW."

Kluksdahl describes her preparation process during the final weeks leading to her big move to Alaska. "I needed to prepare myself for a very big change. And that was a lot of practical steps that involved moving, like packing and selling. What am I going to keep? What am I going to take with me? How much do I actually need to bring? And then a lot of spiritual and emotional aspects. How does this change my life? What am I going to do when I get there? And then just a lot of time depending on the Lord and a lot of time spent with Him before moving, then during the moving process, and then after I moved. Because I needed a lot of help with the adjustment to living in another state and moving to Alaska by myself as a teenager," Kluksdahl said.

To prepare for the temperatures in Alaska, Kluksdahl started training herself during the weeks before her big move. "I actually did a little bit of research on that before coming because I was pretty concerned about coming up. They were having negative twenties and negative thirties when I was set to move up, and in Georgia it was like 60 degrees," Kluksdahl said. "I found out that if you turn down your AC pretty low, it'd help. So the week before I left, it was like 61-59 degrees in my dorm. It was really cold. And I'd go walk around really early in the morning in shorts and a t-shirt, and it was like 30 degrees, to acclimate my body to that."

Kluksdahl booked her flight for the day after finals, and, after her exams, she moved up to Alaska. Kluksdahl describes what it was like adjusting to living in Alaska. "It took me a little while to get used to the dark because at the point that I came into Alaska, it was the winter solstice, which is the darkest day in Alaska. We had about two and a half hours of sunlight, and that was it . . . That was probably the hardest part to adjust to," Kluksdahl said. "I would say I probably didn't adjust all the way until maybe September last year. It took quite some time to get acclimated, plugged in with my church and my life group, build a few friendships, and even then, I'm still building friendships. I'm still learning. And then getting adjusted to a different school that uses a different system. A different job. A different state. Different laws here. And driving in the snow, too, is a little bit of adjustment."

Kluksdahl describes her first two semesters at UAA. "My first semester at UAA was hectic. I was working on the weekends and a few weeknights, and I was very involved on campus. I had a lot of time and a lot of energy for that," Kluksdahl said. "And then last semester looked a little bit different just because personal life events prior to the semester inclined me to slow down a little bit and take a lighter semester . . . During this time, I started a new job working at a counseling center, which is really enjoyable. I'm not a counselor, but I get to do everything but counseling. I get to do the intakes, which means I get to get all of a patient's personal history and then pair them with



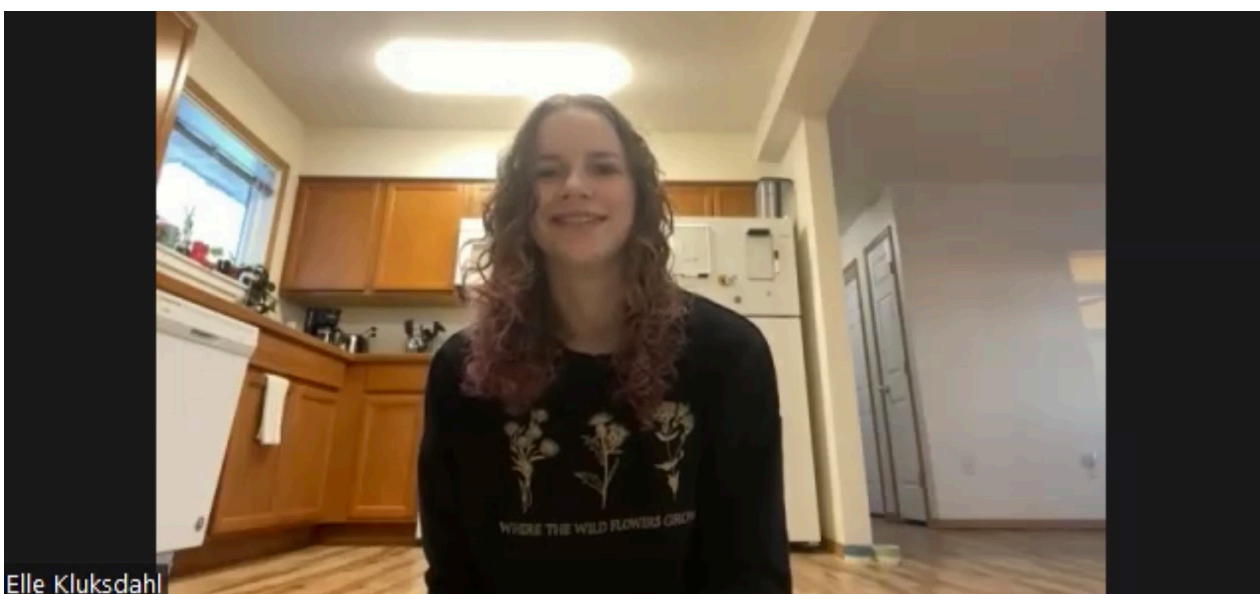
Church service on a boat in Vakdez, Alaska, during her summer mission trip.



All 17 interns gather and pray in Kodiak, Alaska.



Construction efforts during the Alaska summer mission trip.



Elle Kluksdahl shares her experiences from living in Alaska in the Alaska portion of the interview. Video by Jackson Carlstrom.



Elle Kluksdahl receives her acceptance letter from UAA.



After moving to Alaska, Elle Kluksdahl tries out snowboarding.



Campus outreach with Mosaic.



Hiking on the top of Little O'Malley Peak in Anchorage.



A moose caught relaxing in Elle Kluksdahl's backyard.



6 AM sunrise walk at Knicade Beach with a fellow UAA student.

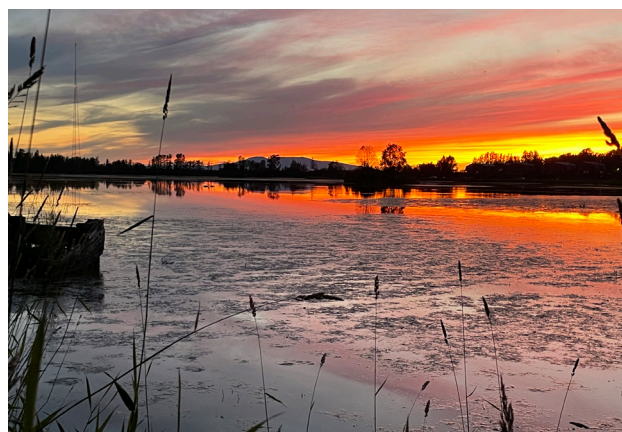
a counselor, which is one of my favorite things to do. I also get to do all of the accounting and H.R. and scheduling and all of the technical numbers and small details that keep a business running."

Just like at GSW, Kluksdahl continues to pursue missions on campus. "It has been very strange," Kluksdahl said about being a student missionary at UAA. "UAA is not a very Christian college. Alaska as a whole is very not Christian. So I think the approach that I have had is just seeking out relationships, and just that one-on-one friendship with college students. And just investing and pouring into them and loving them. It has definitely helped to also find a few other Christian students that I can be friends with too." Kluksdahl is also active on campus with Mosaic, a campus ministry at UAA similar to BCM that hosts their own services, events, and missions on campus. With Mosaic, Kluksdahl has participated in outreach tables, worship nights, and more.

After trying out several different churches in Anchorage, Kluksdahl was eventually drawn back to True North Church, the church she attended while on her mission trip in 2021. "It was ultimately the life group that drew me back to it. I found a lot of churches that have really good teaching and I really enjoyed listening to their lessons. But they were also churches that I could walk in and out of without finding any people or having really any real conversation. And that was one of the big differences with True North, is that they're very involved in their body . . . And it was ultimately that experience that brought me back," Kluksdahl said. "And then serving in my life group has been big for me. A lot of the people in the life group, they're in different stages than me. And for me, I have a lot more flexibility in things. I don't have kids. I'm not married. I'm still in college. So there's a lot of freedom in my schedule. So just grabbing coffee with someone and learning about them and listening to their story is impactful. Probably that and worship have been the two areas that I've mainly served in at church."

Despite her time in Alaska being short, Kluksdahl has seen plenty of what the largest state in the US has to offer. "One of my favorite places that I went to was Juneau, Alaska. They call it a mini San Francisco. It's beautiful. You can rock climb there, which I'll probably do next fall," Kluksdahl said. "Also, I've gotten to see the northern lights. I actually saw them last night on the way up to my staff dinner in the Valley, which was really cool. And it's just ridiculously beautiful all the time. It's very hard to imagine living in a state so beautiful and having so many people still not believe that there's a God. That's one of the most shocking things because it's just everywhere up here. I mean, it's everywhere else too, but here, you have 20,000 foot mountains surrounding you, and volcanoes, and the ocean right up against you."

Now, one year into living in Alaska, Kluksdahl looks back at all her experiences and describes how continuing her degree and pursuing missions in Alaska has impacted her, and how she's settling into her new home. "I think continuing my degree and pursuing missions here is where I am. This is where I intend to be for a while. Jesus has made it very clear that this is somewhere I'm settling down for at least a little bit. . . I have the intention of putting roots down here and staying in one place," Kluksdahl said. And so that has shifted my mindset of 'we're here on missions' to 'we are always on missions and every day is still missions.' And if you are a believer in Christ, everywhere you go is a mission field. Even if you're in a church, there are still people that don't believe. There are people that are unsure. There are younger Christians and there are older Christians there, and there are people to pour into and gain wisdom from . . . Shifting to 'I live here now and I'll be here' while keeping that 'you're always on missions' mindset is where I'm finding my balance here."



Sunset on a lake in Anchorage.



First Christmas living in Alaska.

## ASK THE CANES

## Do you prefer in-person or online classes?



VS

**Junior Special Education Major**

"I prefer in-person classes because it feels more personal. I can go to the professor before or after class and ask questions about assignments. In-person classes help me with my major because I have ample opportunities to 'teach' and interact with other teachers."

**Sophomore Art Major**

"Personally, I would choose in-person classes, because the stuff I'm learning requires hands-on learning. Online classes aren't bad, but for my major specifically, they aren't great for me to get what I need like I can get from an in-person class."

**Senior Computer Science Major**

"I prefer in-person classes. If I take online classes, I don't have to go to class physically, which is good. But I find it easier to learn when in-person, and there are still limitations with taking classes online. I'd also rather communicate in class with professors and classmates."

**Junior Criminal Justice Major**

"Online classes work better for me just because I also work a full time job and can't commute to in-person classes that are 30 plus minutes away every day. If I did not work full time, I would probably take more in-person classes."

**Junior Nursing Major**

"I prefer in-person classes because it helps me focus better and make new friends. Online classes are okay for when I have to commute, but I tend to get distracted easily, plus I procrastinate more."

**Freshman Criminal Justice Major**

"My major is online, but if I had the choice, I prefer in-person classes over online classes because I like having a face-to-face guide."

## MEET OUR WRITERS

Jackson Carlstrom  
Editor-In-Chief  
jcarlstr@radar.gsw.edu

Emma Porter  
Staff Writer  
eking5@radar.gsw.edu

Samantha Gainous  
Staff Writer  
sgainous@radar.gsw.edu

Amari Rudison  
Staff Writer  
arudison@radar.gsw.edu

Colby Hernandez  
Staff Writer  
chernan4@radar.gsw.edu

Kennedy Tyson  
Staff Writer  
ktyson4@radar.gsw.edu

Talik Hill  
Staff Writer  
thill19@radar.gsw.edu

Dr. Ashley P. Jones  
Faculty Advisor  
ashley.jones@gsw.edu