

# Taona Mhwandagara

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## EDUCATION

**Gustavus Adolphus College**  
**Bachelor of Arts: Management**

**Languages:** Fluent in English, Shona

Saint Peter, MN  
Anticipated graduation date: May 2025

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Tennis and Life Camp: Tennis Instructor, Stringer, Counselor;** Saint Peter, MN May 2023 - Present

- Support camp participants in developing and refining their tennis techniques through individualized and group coaching sessions and training activities.
- Assist in organizing team-building activities to foster community amongst camp participants as a dorm counselor.
- Serve as the key partner in providing high-level stringing services for campers and instructors.

**Gustavus Adolphus College: Tennis Instructor and Stringer;** Saint Peter, MN September 2021 - Present

- Coach groups of students aged 6-18 in tennis to enhance their skills and performance.
- Conduct comprehensive skill assessments to identify areas of improvement and formulate targeted training plans for individual students aged 6-18 years old.
- Work with a diverse audience of public and private participants for the men's and women's tennis teams.

**Gustavus Adolphus College Dining Services: Waiter and Cashier;** Saint Peter, MN September 2021 - May 2022

- Operated the cash register, managing financial transactions with precision and maintaining an accurate till at all times.
- Performed food preparation and presentation, ensuring food quality and appearance met customer expectations.
- Collaborated effectively with team members to carry out day-to-day operations, resulting in effective customer service and minimal wait times for customers.

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

**Black Men's Success Initiative, Minnesota Private Colleges** Saint Paul, MN

Eddie Phillips Scholar May 2023 - May 2025

- Selected as one of four students at Gustavus Adolphus to receive leadership development skills and a two-year \$10,000 merit award.
- Partake in cohort programming such as engaging in networking opportunities, participating in a summer leadership course, and attending the Big XII Conference on Black Student Government.

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, MN

**Pan-African Student Organization: Events Chair** September 2023 - Present

- Elected in the Spring of 2023 to serve on the 2023-2024 executive board for the Pan African Student Organization.
- Responsible for building out educational opportunities for students to engage in learning about African culture.
- Curate small- and large-scale events and panels for the student population and the executive board.
- Serve as an advocate to support the development, services, & intersections of students as part of the Pan-African Student Organization.

**Prepare Ministries: Executive Board** Spring 2023 - Present

- Assist in leading a dynamic and engaged Bible study group consisting of 20 members, fostering a spiritually enriching and inclusive environment.
- Facilitate discussions that encourage critical thinking and biblical interpretation, promoting a deeper understanding of scripture.
- Effectively communicate with group members through regular updates, emails, and social media, ensuring clear and open lines of communication.

**GustieWELL: Peer Assistant** May 2023 - Present

- Develop educational programs/workshops building awareness on campus of various topics related to well-being, including mental health & stress management, healthy relationships, nutrition & physical activity.
- Act as a resource for students seeking information, guidance, and support related to well-being, and a confidential environment to discuss concerns.

**Student-Athlete Advisory Committee: College Representative** September 2022 - Present

- Serve as a liaison between student-athletes and the athletics department providing valuable feedback and insights on issues that impact developmental supports.
- Organize and participate in community service projects and fundraisers, demonstrating a commitment to both athletic and social responsibilities.
- Advocate for student-athlete interests by serving on various committees and task forces including those related to NCAA regulations, academic policies, and student-athlete welfare.