

# THE Concordia Courier

Investigate. Inform. Ignite. Involve.

Volume 6, Issue 1

Concordia University Irvine

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

## Remembering 9/11: A decade later

BY ELYSSA SULLIVAN  
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

On Sunday, Sept. 11, Concordia will be presenting a convocation, remembrance ceremony and concert in recognition of the ten-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 2001. The convocation will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the CU Center for Worship and the Performing Arts, and the ceremony and concert will follow at the same location at 4 p.m. Tickets are free.

The speakers for the convocation are Chaplain (Colonel) Jonathan Shaw, Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto and Dr. Timothy R. Furnish. Each speaker will be presenting a lecture for about an hour. They will not be reading academic lectures, but instead will be pulling from their life experiences to present three diverse lectures: *The Role of Religion in the War on Terror, Where Have All Those Weapons Gone?*, and *Eschatology in the Middle East after 9/11*. Each lecture will be fact-centered, with re-

spect towards these sensitive events.

Shaw is an U.S. Army Chaplain (Colonel) currently assigned as Command Chaplain at U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He has been published in a variety of theological and military journals on subjects ranging from world religions to systematic theology to exegesis.

Siemon-Netto has been an international journalist since 1958. He has covered events such as the construction of the Berlin Wall, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the war in Vietnam. On September 11, 2001, he was working in Washington, DC as religious affairs editor of United Press International. Today, he is the director of the Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life and a Visiting Professor of Journalism here at Concordia University Irvine.

Furnish earned his Ph.D. in Islamic history from Ohio State. During the Reagan years he was an Arabic linguist in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

After serving as a Christian Army Chaplain, he specialized in Islamic eschatology, Mahdism, Islamic fundamentalism, jihadism, the Hidden Imam and their holistic relation to modern politics.

Professor Jeff Held, Conductor of the Concordia Wind Orchestra, said, "When things go wrong, we rise up and come together. As musicians, we need to stir that." His desire for this concert is to provide a dignified, respectful remembrance of the events that affected us all so greatly. This is a concert he has wanted to put on for a couple of years now, and the progression of the music is a clear representation of that.

The first song the wind orchestra will play is an arrangement of *Amazing Grace* "composed for the children of the victims of September 11, 2001." From there, the band will move into *God Bless America* and *Summon the Heroes*.

This event is designed to bring together faith and patriotism, two things deep within the hearts of Christians in America.

## Continuing the Core Curriculum

BY ZACH BORST  
ARTS/REVIEWS EDITOR

After the inaugural year of the Core Curriculum was completed, freshmen were asked in an online survey what they found to be most rewarding about the program. The overall answer? "Gaining knowledge." From that same survey the two most common answers for strengthening or changing the Core were "Nothing" and "It was great," or a combination of the two.

This year, incoming students took the ETS (Educational Testing Service) Proficiency Profile. The test measures proficiency in reading, critical thinking, writing and mathematical skills. Freshmen will take the test prior to their first semester, before starting the Core, and again after their fourth, and final, semester of the Core. Dr. Scott Ashmon, Director of Core Curriculum and Associate Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, said, "We're interested in seeing how the students have developed foundational academic skills in the Core."

The second year of the Core will introduce courses offered by the History and English departments. One English and one History course will be linked starting with Homer and ending in Shakespeare. The second linked pair of courses covers literature and history from the Enlightenment through the terrorism of 9/11. Building on the first year courses of Biology, Theology, Philosophy and Math, sophomores will still be asking, "What is truth?" but in the guise of other questions.

"From the Core experience we're dealing with the same questions, but in different facets," said Dr. Daniel van Voorhis, Department Chair of History and Lead Faculty for Core History 202. He asks the students in all of his history courses existential questions that will point to the truth of the human experience. "What should I believe? How should I be governed? What is the essence of social equality?" Students will not simply be questioning truth in a theological or physical sense, but they will be gauging truth against other cultures and the West's past to find truth that is still relevant today.

Dr. Kerri Tom, Department Chair of English and Lead Faculty for Core English 201, said she has not created a set of questions, but will compare the public world of history to the private relationships that are focal to literary study. She plans to ask: "What does it mean to be a brother? A friend? A daughter?" Tom is thankful that sophomore students will come with the experience of the first year of the Core. "The first year Core professors challenged the students to make the hard connections," Tom said. The connection between history and cultural production will seem obvious, but will be that much more enriching for students of the Core.

New additions to the Core staff this year not only include English and History faculty, but also Core peer tutors—students from every discipline, except Biology—who hold office hours for students of their Core section. "Core peer tutors help students with basically anything pertaining to the course," said Ruth Ellis, '11 and Core Peer Tutor for English 201. Tutors like Ellis will be a valuable resource for students and will help foster the intellectual camaraderie and community of the Core Curriculum.

## Global Enterprise tackles China

BY STEPHEN PULS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Eleven Concordia students traveled to Beijing and Shanghai as part of the China Business Study Tour last May. Roger Philips, Professor of Business, accompanied the group as the instructor of BUS-321: Global Enterprise China.

Students visited businesses throughout the country in their study of the Chinese economy, while also taking part in a number of cultural experiences. Visits included trips to a winery, silk factory and a Volkswagen dealership.

Philips focused the course study around why China views the West the way that it does and the nation's unique business perspective. Students attended lectures at Chinese universities and also recorded a blog of their experiences each day as a part of the class.

"It's an amazingly dynamic economy there," Philips said. He pointed out specific benefits to studying the Chinese economy, including its recovery from a global recession and its rise as a power of global export. "Half the buildings you see were built in the last five years," said Philips, "The architecture talks to you itself." He also referenced a few coming challenges to the economy, citing heavy disparities in the class structure and a need to increase consumption as two concrete examples.

A substantially full schedule kept the students busy throughout the entire day, to the point in which Philips lectured on the bus as a way to maximize time.

"It was a different kind of shepherding leading students around a foreign country," he said. "Halfway through the trip, they were looking after me." Philips referenced sleeping at the Great Wall as the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROGER PHILIPS

pinnacle of cultural experience for the students.

Travis Rigsby, senior, described the trip as a life-changing experience. "We saw the craziest acrobatic show ever, and appeared to be famous because everyone wanted pictures of us," he said.

Rigsby was especially thankful to Philips for

being an amazing tour guide. He cited the normal occurrence of cramming 25 people into a single elevator as a particularly favorite memory.

Coinciding with Concordia's theme as the Great Commission University, the business department hopes to continue this experience in future years. This global focus will continue through opportunities such as an International Entrepreneurship class that will be offered as a part of this year's inaugural May term. If this sounds at all interesting to you, keep your eyes peeled because another China tour could be in available to undergraduate students in the spring of 2013.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROGER PHILIPS

**Interested in studying abroad?  
Have an idea for a mission trip?  
Inspired to make a new connection?**

Check out...

**Office of Global Programs—Admin 106.  
Dan Waite: Executive Director of Global Programs  
Faith McKinney: Director of Global Programs**

## Faculty Letter

A Letter from  
the President:

Dear Concordia Students,

I wish you the Lord's richest blessings as you begin this new academic year at Concordia University, and I pray that all of your endeavors meet with great success.

This is an exciting time of year at Concordia as we welcome over 500 new and 900 returning undergraduates to campus for the fall semester. Add over 1,600 new and returning graduate students, and our total enrollment should top 3,000 this year.

We've come a long way since 1976 when Concordia University (named Christ College until 1993) began with 36 students and one building. Many things have changed in 35 years, but Concordia remains committed to providing an excellent liberal arts education in a Lutheran, Christian context and to developing students intellectually, socially and spiritually.

If this is your first semester at Concordia or if you are a returning student, I urge you to study very hard and to commit yourself to the opportunities to learn more about yourself, your world and your Lord this year.

You will be given many opportunities (OK, "assignments") which call on you to read, analyze, synthesize, create, compute and apply as you never have before. Embrace those opportunities. By embracing them, you will learn and grow (and you'll get really smart).

I also urge you to take advantage of all the opportunities for engagement available on a residential campus like ours. Yes, your academic work comes first, but that work can be and should be supplemented by the wide variety of activities for growth and service promoted or organized by Concordia's talented student services staff.

Finally, I urge you to take advantage of the spiritual life opportunities offered on campus. Our six weekly chapel services are organized to provide multiple ways for you to praise our good and gracious God, to learn more about Him and His word and to grow in your own faith.

This year, why not strive to become a "bilingual" worshipper, conversant in the language of traditional worship as well as in the language of contemporary worship? In both "languages" it is our goal to offer to God our prayers, praises and thanksgiving for His underserved blessings to us.

So, welcome (back) to Concordia! May your time of study, engagement and worship this year be truly blessed.

Kurt Krueger  
President

## Editorial

Founding ourselves  
in fear

STEPHEN PULS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."**

—Proverbs 1:7 ESV

I love hiking. For me, taking a trip into the wilderness allows for an opportunity to remember how puny I really am. I think to myself "How long has that tree stood there?" "What made that rock look that way?" "Wow, are there really that many stars?"

Ascending to the top of a mountain brings an interesting clash between stark nature and worldly civilization. On the average day, I'm pretty big. Upon reaching the summit, I quickly realize the lies I tell myself every day. If I feel like this when I can overlook a few cities, imagine what it would be like to view the vast expanses of the universe.

God blessed Solomon as one of the wisest men the world has ever known. This wisdom was not determined by his intricate prose and astute judgment, but rather by the perspective in which he viewed the world. Solomon's wisdom was founded on fear—positive fear.

It is difficult to understand how to live in fear

of God daily. Perhaps this is because it seems contradictory to try to love and fear something simultaneously. If we could somehow comprehend God's infinite power, then this might come a little easier. We would have an idea of the eternal punishment that He is capable of justly delivering (I'll pass on that), while also understanding the fullness of His grace and mercy.

Our lives are a vapor. While it may be bleak to think about, there will most likely be little trace of most of our lives 100 years from now, regardless of some of our accomplishments. We are not that great, we're insignificant.

At the same time, Scripture tells us in Psalm 139 that the Lord knew our thoughts before we entered our mother's womb. We may be insignificant to the world, but we are certainly not insignificant to the Almighty God.

Solomon writes that the fool tells himself there is no God. We may solve some complex equations, write a killer paper, or graduate summa cum laude, but man remains foolish without proper foundation. The Psalms tell us that "the angel of the Lord dwells with those who fear him." (Ps. 34). I sure would not mind receiving that blessing.

This year I pray that everything we learn is founded in fear. That we take time each day to sit in awe of God, realizing our earthly insignificance, and infinite worth in heaven.

# THE Concordia Courier

## WE NEED...

- Writers  
[Features, Opinion, Campus Life, Arts, Sports, International, Health, Political, Humor, Reviews]
- Copy Editors
- Photo Editors
- Photographers

## YOU CAN GET CREDIT...

- Newspaper 1, 3, & 5 [1 unit]
- COM 222:  
Theory & Practice of Journalism  
[3 units]

## OR YOU COULD JUST HAVE FUN...

- Freelance

## Want to get involved?

[newspaper@cui.edu](mailto:newspaper@cui.edu)

# THE Concordia Courier

Stephen Puls, *Editor-in-Chief*

Joshua Young, *Assistant Editor*

Zach Borst, *Arts/Reviews Editor*

Elyssa Sullivan, *Campus Life/  
Local & Global Interests Editor*

Erik Olsen, *Sports/  
Everything Eagles Editor*

Ashlie Siefkes, *Faculty Adviser*

*Faculty Advisory Board*

Dr. Ken Ebel

Dr. Korey Maas

Professor Lori Siekmann

Dr. Daniel van Voorhis

Primary funding provided by  
the Office of the Provost

1530 Concordia West, Irvine CA, 92612  
Lambda Lounge  
[newspaper@cui.edu](mailto:newspaper@cui.edu)  
[cui.edu/studentlife/student-newspaper](http://cui.edu/studentlife/student-newspaper)

## Writers

Anna Hayhurst, Ben Bolognini,  
Catherine Standridge, Emily Goins,  
Emily Geske, Nannette Tawil, Paul  
Mendez, Natanya Moody, Jon Bennett

*Copy Editor*  
Emily Geske

Publishing by Anchor Printing  
[anchorprintingoc.com](http://anchorprintingoc.com)

Comments? Suggestions?  
We want to hear from you.  
Write a "Letter to the Editor."  
[newspaper@cui.edu](mailto:newspaper@cui.edu)

Letters to the Editor must be typed and include the author's full name and telephone number. Letters that are printed may be edited for space and content. Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Concordia Courier*.

The opinions expressed in *The Concordia Courier* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration, faculty, staff or student body of Concordia University. Editorials reflect the views of the majority of the editorial staff.

Place a  
classified ad!

- Selling a book?
- Need a job?
- Have a cool idea?

Email [newspaper@cui.edu](mailto:newspaper@cui.edu) to have an ad placed in the next issue.



## Student Leaders Speak

Emily Goins  
ASCUI Student  
Body President

### United living in a healthy environment

Last semester, the ASCUI executive board chose a verse to be used as Concordia's theme for the 2011-2012 academic year. Through much discussion and consultation we chose a verse to best illustrate our goals and purpose as a team, as well as represent the direction we would like to see CUI grow in this upcoming year. The verse is from 1 Corinthians 12...

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

This verse in particular appealed to us due to the emphasis on our unity in Christ. Our team has worked non-stop over summer and specifically these past few weeks to incorporate this theme of "Unite" into our weekly, monthly, and even daily goals throughout this year.

September is really the beginning for us to make this theme a reality. ASCUI has decided to dedicate the month of September to recycling and healthy living. We will be focusing on encouraging and improving upon the recycling and healthy living options our campus and community have to offer. Be sure to keep an eye open for healthy programming, new vending machines, new cafeteria options, as well as utilizing our "Dream Machine" located in the Gym walkway by the Bookstore and CSLD.

We would love to hear your input and ideas as well this year. After all, you make up the majority of our campus population! On behalf of ASCUI and Senate, I would encourage you to attend our weekly open forum Senate meetings and begin to put your ideas into action!

## Intramurals are back!

Co-Ed Intramural Volleyball Begins Sept. 12

All Players must sign up online at [imleagues.com](http://imleagues.com) using your Concordia email.

-Create a team as a captain

-Join a created team by one of your friends

-Play as a free agent and be placed on a team

-Two girls must be on the court at all times, plan your rosters accordingly

All Rosters are due online by Sept. 7. Visit the CSLD for more information.

Don't put it off any longer, secure your chance to compete today!

## Abbey west mission coordinators collaborate to go local and global

BY BEN BOLOGNINI  
GLOBAL MISSIONS COORDINATOR

As abbey west "glocal" missions coordinators, Mai Vu, Vicky Chiem and myself hope to create a student-led movement at Concordia. We hope that this movement will spark a mission-minded wildfire throughout our campus—one that will burn a desire among us all to, as Christians, think outside of ourselves and lend our time, abilities, and finances to the betterment of this world and the people living in it.

Abbey west is an on-campus ministry team that serves the students and faculty in the creation of disciples of a new generation. The "abbey" in abbey west is another word for a church, sanctuary, or place of rest in Christ. Jonathan Ruehs, Director of Student Spiritual Life, says the "west" is an idea sprung from nineteenth century America that we

are to "go west" and expand to the far reaches of the land. In addition, our immediate mission field is located on the west coast. We have opportunities to serve and spread the gospel to our neighbors in Southern California. But moreover, the abbey west brand evokes much more. It is a culturally relevant ministry that leads and fuels the spiritual life of the student body to be Christ centered.

Dan Waite, Executive Director of Global Programs, is new to Concordia's faculty this year. He describes the ministry of Jesus to his disciples as one that prepares us for mission work throughout the world. For three years, Jesus taught his disciples how to relate to friends, enemies, and foreigners alike. He describes parables of helping the unclean and associating with beaten-up Jewish men when others would not. Likewise, Jesus exemplifies that there are no barriers to helping others when he, a Jew, converses with the Samaritan woman at

the well. This ministry and teaching is designed to prepare his disciples long before Matthew 28 ever emerges. We are to follow this example. We are built up in Christ's ministry and teachings and therefore go to the far reaches of the world in service and love.

An abbey west missions sponsored event entitled "Breakfast and Brainstorming," will take place on Monday, Sept. 12 at 9:00 p.m. At this late-night breakfast event, we want to hear your voice. We are interested in brainstorming where you, as a student, envision this movement going.

We want to hear what you have in mind in terms of where you would like to travel on a mission trip (local or global), which non-profits you would love to support, whom you would like to reach out to, and possibly a name for this movement. This event is open to all and will be held in Eagle Rock.

## Holos House offers unique living learning opportunity

BY JOSHUA YOUNG  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

This semester marks the beginning of Concordia's first "Living Learning" community called Holos House. Holos means "complete, entire, whole" in Greek and was offered to freshmen who showed an interest in a healthy living community.

By the time rooms were assigned to the incoming freshmen, the number of students showing interest was larger than expected and people were accepted on a first-come first-serve basis. Holos House is a part of the substance free housing in Rho.

This project is essentially the brainchild of our own Rich Slaymaker, who saw a similar program start up at Azusa Pacific University. He was later able to see the success of Living Learning communities while studying for his masters in higher education.

Living Learning communities seem to offer a win-win for everyone involved. Incoming students gain a sense of community right from the get go,

as well as being provided ample opportunity for student leadership. Also, students who become involved and integrated early on in their college careers have a much higher chance of staying with the university they started at, which most universities prefer.

The community will cover one topic each month, including spiritual discipline, exercise and healthy eating. The idea is that students will gain the ability for self improvement through education outside of the classroom. In addition, they are working with ASCUI in an attempt to put together an event that would promote recycling and possibly get a few trees planted in the process.

Holos House is, in essence, a trial run to see how a living learning community will function at Concordia. That being said, the future already looks bright. Promise exists for future growth as there is currently a waiting list of students desiring to be a part of this inaugural program. First-time Resident Assistant Courtney Ordaz will be taking these young students on the first steps in their journey. It's a daunting task for a first time RA to spear-

head a first-time program, but she said that she is excited about the opportunity and likes to stay positive. She also said that it is a good opportunity for incoming freshmen to be exposed to professors around campus as well as students in leadership.

The theme for September is "relationships and communication." For this event, Ordaz will be pairing up with another RA in Rho, Gabe McDermott, for a sunset trip up French Hill. This trip will involve a picnic as well as a time capsule to which all of the students can contribute.

Students will be writing down one thing that they are excited or nervous about and the capsule will be buried until the end of the school year. This should prove to be a fun learning experience as well as a chance to bring people together.

The placement of Living Learning communities on college campuses is a rapidly growing trend and for good reason. Students tend to enjoy the sense of community, and administrators like to see their students involved. Hopefully Holos House does well, and the program will see another year at Concordia.

## Ruehs family to bring spiritual outreach to campus community

ANDREA HAWKINS  
STAFF WRITER

After a three year absence, Jonathan Ruehs has returned to Concordia as Resident Coordinator of Spiritual Life, living in Kappa 103 with his family. Ruehs is a graduate of Concordia in the Director of Christian Education (DCE) program. Though it is not his official title, he is also becoming known as "The DCE Guy" on campus. The Ruehs family has dedicated their lives to be in mission for God.

According to Ruehs, he wants to share his life

with others on campus, and through that be able to share the love of Jesus Christ. Prior to moving here, Jonathan worked at Concordia University of Austin, Texas. His position, however, wasn't best suited for him, as he felt he was like an administrator to students, instead of ministering to them.

Campus Ministry has always been a desired position for Ruehs, and Concordia provided the perfect opportunity. In the aftermath of his interview, many friends and colleagues made the comment that this job was designed for him, even wondering if the position was created with him in mind. The

three-bedroom apartment for their family of five only made the position that much better, and it was eagerly accepted.

On campus, Ruehs participates in a number of programs. He is working closely with Pastor Anderson and abbey west ministries, including Beloved and Battalion and the Youth Ministry Teams. He is here to be a spiritual presence on campus and can be seen at chapel services. Sometimes he can even be heard, whether through his enthusiastic yell at this year's opening SHOUT worship or in the Monday Bible studies he will lead this December. He is also available as a great personal resource to students, whom he loves to meet and get to know, as well as being present as a Spiritual Counselor on campus.

Extremely welcoming and personable, he is easy to talk to and is passionate about Jesus; his passion is exactly what makes him an invaluable resource to the spiritual life of the Concordia campus.

Kappa 103 may be the magical dorm with three bedrooms, but it is most importantly the home to a wonderful family. Ruehs, with the indispensable support of his wife Brenda, and their three children, is sure to enrich the Spiritual Life of this campus--causing God's presence to increase throughout the Concordia community.



PHOTO BY ERIK OLSEN

### Brown bag outreach!

Serve in downtown Santa Ana with civic engagement this fall.

Visit CSLD for details.

# New women's volleyball coach is ready to serve up success

BY NANNETTE TAWIL  
STAFF WRITER

Dan Fisher was recently hired as Head Coach of Volleyball. Having only been on campus for two months, Fisher coached his first game on Wed. Aug. 24 in the gym. He made the decision to join the program in early June, seeking a different experience at Concordia. Traveling from the University of Hawaii, where he previously coached, Fisher was very open to the possibility of moving back to the mainland to coach at his first Christian college. "I'm going to focus on going hard everyday, developing fundamentals and focusing on a culture of trust," Fisher said.

Fisher grew up in Santa Barbara and played volleyball his whole life. He fondly remembers when his brother would call out his name to go play with him in their backyard. Fisher only played for fun until he reached the age of 16. "I got serious about volleyball and knew that's what I enjoyed doing," Fisher said. He began to progress in his passion and talent for volleyball, and he took up playing at the beach, where he and his friends would meet for games.

Fisher's experience can clearly be seen in the quality of the programs he has worked with throughout his career. His previous job at the University of San Francisco especially sticks out in his mind, as that is where he got to coach women's volleyball for the first time—it was a job he stayed with for two and a half years.

As much as he enjoyed coaching at the University of Hawaii, Fisher felt that it was simply the right time for a new change. "I picked up my bags and brought my family over here," he said, "because it was such a great opportunity to leave with great timing."

Fisher is particularly excited to implement a new plan to synchronize practices in order for the team to excel. He said, "Practices will be very goal-oriented. We will talk about different focuses and

I will explain to the team why we are doing each drill. I will spend a lot of time working on each emphasis, and train in practice as if we were playing in a real game."

"My expectation for the team is for everyone to show up and get better and better. My job is for the team to win a national championship!" Fisher said. The team is 3-1 through its first four games and will take on Menlo College Sept. 2 in the Asics/Crowne Plaza Labor Day Tournament.



COURTESY CU ATHLETICS

## Brewing success: New coach brings experience

BY PAUL MENDEZ  
STAFF WRITER

New Cross-Country and Track & Field Head Coach Jim Brewer comes into Concordia with 15 years of experience, working with high school and college runners. The factor that ultimately finalized Brewer's decision was a strong draw to the atmosphere at Concordia. Based on Brewer's style of coaching, ideals like faith and competition are strongly encouraged to create a new program for the current runners.

The team training routines are essentially simple with a variance in routes and levels of difficulty from day to day. There is also an individual approach dedicated to working with the runners to assess each athlete, and establish the different strengths and weaknesses among the members of the team.

With three main goals based on academia, athleticism, and community, Brewer plans on not only developing a strong team, but also stronger members of society.

Brewer feels strongly about the high quality of his runners, not only as a team but also as individuals. He specifically mentioned Rick Avila, an incoming transfer, as being a particularly versatile runner. However, there have been some problems, such as returning injuries that could have an effect on the season. But, with time, Brewer believes that the team will get stronger. Immediate issues such as this are especially concerning to Cross-Country runner Jenny Mallen. Members of Track, like Emily Ramey, junior, will have until the Spring semester to work out the minor details of the season as a whole.

No matter the issue, the team is still confident that this will be a good season, with a focus on each athlete spending time with the program itself, getting the students involved and integrated to join everyone together and build a sense of community.

Brewer would like to invite the outside student body to include the team into their everyday schedule, either by means of offering support or by actually becoming a part of the team itself.



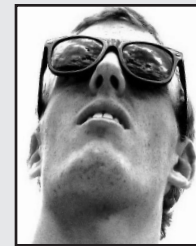
COURTESY CU ATHLETICS

## Congratulations Concordia Baseball: 2011 NAIA National Champions



COURTESY CU ATHLETICS

## SportsLine



Stephen Puls  
Editor-in-Chief

### Help Wanted

The coming lockout has NBA players scrambling for ways to keep themselves entertained, while simultaneously searching for a means of income that can satisfy the needs of their sometimes ludicrous lifestyles. Below lies a list of potential venues for players to enjoy their sabbatical:

#### 1. Besiktas Cola Turka: Istanbul, Turkey:

Play alongside Deron Williams in the world's hippest city. Players can remain sharp with competition that proved to be too tough for Allen Iverson last season. After the game, players can feel free to float along the Bosphorus Straits with an Efes in hand while experiencing the spice of historic Istanbul.

#### 2. Rucker Park: Downtown New York City:

This is nothing close to The Professor bouncing the ball off some actor's head as a part of the AND-1 Mixtape tour. This is real street ball. Former playground stars such as Rafer Alston and Smush Parker have been the most recent products of this venue, a court which was once ruled by Doctor J and Wilt Chamberlain. Players have legitimately taken up this offer, as Kevin Durant recently scored 66 points in a game there.

#### 3. Concordia Basketball:

Players can finally complete their college degree by taking advantage of the generous NAIA eligibility rules. Become the ideal team player under Ken Ammann, leading the team with an average of 12 points per game en route to the Buffalo Funds NAIA Tournament Final.

#### 4. Cheshire Jets: British Basketball League:

Join the formerly known Ron Artest in his campaign for "Metta World Peace." Suckers for dairy must tread lightly, as a diet consisting of high amounts of the world famous Cheshire cheese could deliver a fatal blow to an NBA career.

#### 5. World Series of Poker:

Paul Pierce has already paved the way by participating in this year's main event. This is probably an area where players won't want to model their game after Charles Barkley.

#### 6. Regal Barcelona, Spain:

The possible combination of the brothers Gasol and Ricky Rubio would turn this Spanish club into its futbol contemporary. A lockout would bring an appealing twist, as basketball would add a global intrigue similar to that of soccer.

#### 7. Join the NFL

In high school, Allen Iverson led his team to a state championship, while LeBron was named first team All-State receiver in his freshman year. Dwight Howard would make Antonio Gates look like PeeWee Herman.

#### 8. Armani Jeans, Italy:

What a Mascot!

#### 9. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Israel:

Join Israel's finest sports team and winner of five Euroleague Championships. Recent signings of Jordan Farmar and John Scheyer fortify the backcourt with fundamentals. U.S. players must hurry as no more than four non-Jewish players are allowed on the roster.

#### 10. Play Soccer:

I still feel that Lamar Odom is a better goalie than Tim Howard. No leg would be able to beat the sheer length and athleticism of some NBA players (at least in this country).



## Artist Spotlight

Derek Nahigyan

### The craft of improv

My name is Derek Nahigyan, and my craft is improv. Improv is a collaborative art that values audience participation and, most importantly, making people laugh.

Because improv is spontaneous and made-up on the spot, players must be well-versed in storytelling. A basic scene structure works accordingly: The first player sets the scene (through pantomime), the second player establishes the relationship, and the third player creates the conflict. The rest of the plot is filled in like *Mad Libs*. A scene about two parents worrying over their hospitalized child can have stakes just as high as a 30-year-old desperate for an amphibian companion. It's just a matter of stakes.

Now, while that is the basic scene structure, improv should *never* be mistaken as a form of sketch comedy—the players make it up as they go. Many people picture the way they think in lists or images, however improv harkens back to an age-old system—the brainstorming webs of the third grade.

You're given a prompt—that's the scene structure—and the next step is to choose the theme or thesis, a.k.a. the bubble in the center of the web. This is always provided by the audience. From there, an improviser will start branching into various ideas and decide, logically, which route to take. Using the example mentioned previously, a poor scene would be an amalgamation of two branches: The mother desperately searching for an amphibian friend. Part of an improviser's job is listening to the unfolding scene. As players assume roles and relationships, different branches are shut down to maintain the scene's genre. What makes this impressive is improvisers can typically do this mental math in less than five seconds because it's largely influenced by team chemistry.

No one person can carry a team; everyone works together to reach a common goal. Unlike sports, where fans follow their home teams, improvisation does not yield a massive community. Many players are on multiple teams, ranging from a 5 to 20 mile radius. What's important is how the team collaborates.

Improv is the only art I know of that thrives off of random facts, trivia, and knowledge. Every movie you've seen, every book you've read will have something for you to draw from. You get the suggestion of "banana" and suddenly, you're not limited to yellow fruit but *Mario Kart* obstacles, *Curious George*, potassium enriched treat (from *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*), or even using the skin of the banana as a cure for warts. Yes, it's true. All the knowledge accumulated from three or four different, highly individualized players creates one exemplary, collaborative scene.

The variety found in improv helps keep the brain healthy and stimulated. More than that, improv is a group of people working tirelessly together to speak the language of the soul—laughter.

For more information, you can find Improvinitus on Facebook or visit our website at [www.improvinitus.com](http://www.improvinitus.com).

**Do you act, dance, draw, jam, model, sculpt, sing, write, etc.?**

**Be featured in the Courier's "Artist Spotlight!"**

**Tell us what you do at [newspaper@cui.edu](mailto:newspaper@cui.edu).**

# Contemporary chamber group strives to create unique orchestra experience

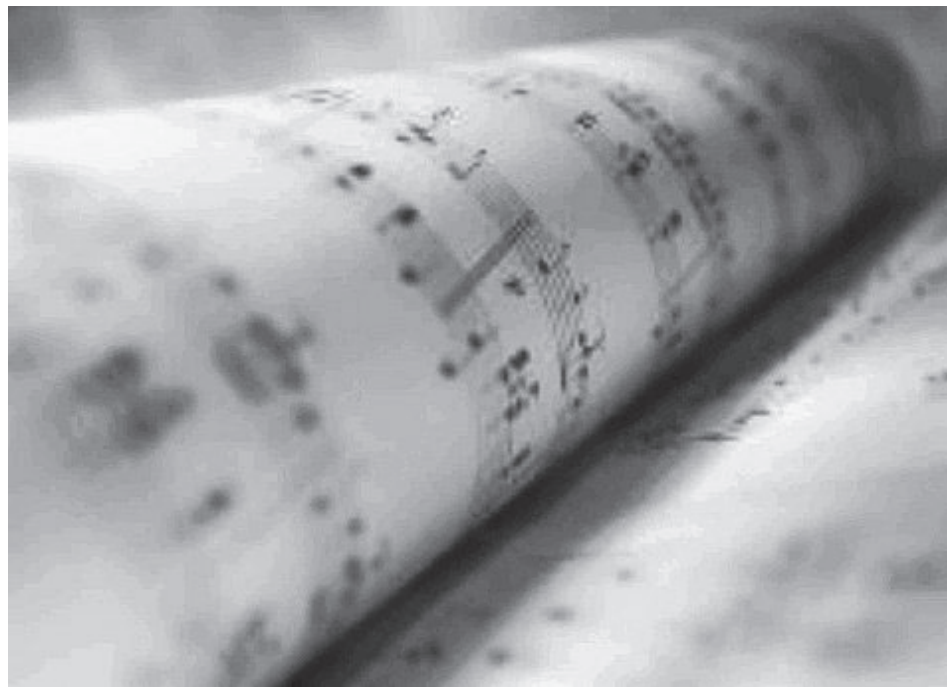
BY JON BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

The Contemporary Chamber Group is a performance orchestra group open to anyone on campus. Students can compose or play any kind of orchestrated music from the metal style of Apocalyptic, to romantic flow of Mozart, to the grand orchestral sounds of Zimmer. The group hopes to develop a solid sense of community by composing new works together.

The idea for starting this group came from Brian Pereboom, junior, with the helpful assistance of some of the faculty of the Music Department. He set up the group to give students the opportunity to play songs that they would like to play rather than a strict canon chosen by a director. "It's whatever the group wants," Pereboom said. "It's set up like a democracy so everyone gets to choose, not just one person."

"I'm so excited to be a part of this group. I've been involved with many groups, but this is the first one where I get to choose what to play," said Carmen Aleman, senior and founding member of the New Contemporary Chamber Group.

Although the group's main focus is on playing classical orchestral pieces, there are opportunities to try something experimental or contemporary. Pereboom discussed ideas of involving instruments such as an electric guitar for one of the groups. Not to turn the group into a rock band, but the idea would profoundly impact the broad variations in composing musical works. This is meant



to be an opportunity not only to express new ideas in orchestral composition, but to put them into practice as well.

The group aims to play two performances--one each semester. The students would be divided into groups as small as a quintet to as large as an octet. Currently, the group consists of only seven offi-

cial members, so there is plenty of room to grow. Meetings will be held once or twice each week in an attempt to accommodate the busy schedules of students. For those who are interested in joining, visit "Concordia University's New Contemporary Chamber Group" on Facebook for more information about signing up and performances.

## Check out these local attractions for students!

Whether you are new on campus or just looking for some new things to check out, here are some places to start!

### Irvine Improv:

Every Tuesday night the Irvine Improv, conveniently located at the Irvine Spectrum, has a discounted comedy show for college students. The improv is a great and fairly inexpensive way to have a laugh with your friends. Prices can vary so be sure to call ahead and find out before you go. Comedy Juice College Night is showing tonight.

### Seegerstrom Center for the Arts:

The Seegerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa offers "student rush tickets" to local students looking to see a show. Call ahead the day of a show, and students can receive the best available remaining seats at a discounted price. Go see *The West Side Story* and the San Francisco Ballet in September.

### Z Pizza Concordia Discount

In the mood for a Pizza Pie? Flash your student ID at Z Pizza on Alton for a special Concordia Student Discount. Get yourself 2 slices for right around \$3. Available from open to close!

## Coming soon to Concordia!

### *The Importance of Being Earnest*

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Peter Senkbeil

Showing: Oct 6-9

**PURSUE THE TRUTH.**

**SERVE THE LORD.**

**SEEK JUSTICE.**

**[TRINITY LAW SCHOOL]**

Trinity Law School is a **Christian Law School** that believes that a legal career is more than a profession. It is a Calling.

We are offering **All Concordia Graduates** the opportunity to serve God through the law. If you meet the admission standards for the regular JD program, we will give you a **50% Scholarship**.

For more information or to apply online, go to [www.TLS.edu](http://www.TLS.edu)

**TRINITY LAW SCHOOL**  
2200 North Grand Avenue | Santa Ana, CA 92705 | 800.922.4748 | [www.TLS.edu](http://www.TLS.edu)

# Discover the World, Discover Yourself

ANNA HAYHURST  
STAFF WRITER

People thought I was crazy when they heard I was planning a six-week trip to South America. By myself. And I speak no Spanish. Yes, it sounds like a one-way ticket to kidnapping, drug lords, and general scenes from *Taken*. But I did it this past summer, and I survived! I accomplished a dream and a trip that I had pined after for years. This is my short and sweet version of the highlights, and what I discovered about myself and others.

My inspiration for this adventure was the Las Lajas Cathedral in Ipiales, Colombia. If you're one of the few people to whom I have not shown a picture of this cathedral, go look it up now. Absolutely stunning. It spans a valley in the lush green hills of southern Colombia and looks like a medieval castle. Seeing that cathedral was the central reason for my entire trip to South America. However, I couldn't pass up the other fun things along the way: bungee-jumping off a bridge in Ecuador (for \$10!), doing a four-day jungle trek to Machu Picchu, sand boarding down 100-foot dunes in Peru, and relaxing in hammocks in the Colombian Caribbean heat for a few days.

As usual, some things went wrong. I was constantly lost. This is normal for me, especially since I don't speak the native language. Very often people would talk to me, mock me, insult me, or make suggestive comments directed towards me, but I had no idea what was going on, which was probably a blessing. There was also the issue of getting robbed. When five masked men come on your bus with guns and demand everything from the passengers, and your camera, ipod, cash, credit cards,

license, and 60 liter travel backpack are stolen from you seven days into a six week trip, it really makes you question whether or not you want to continue. Although my family was horrified, my schedule was disrupted, and every time I needed money after that it had to be wired to me, I did indeed continue.

The whole "going solo" thing scares a lot of people. However, my standard line is, "Just because I left the country alone, doesn't mean I was alone the whole time." Quite the opposite! My favorite thing to do when I travel is meet other travelers. There's nothing more enjoyable to me than getting settled into a hostel dorm room filled with 15 other people crammed into bunkbeds with backpacks, clothes, shoes, and books scattered everywhere, meeting the two people bunked next to me, going out for dinner and a beer, and traveling with them for the next three days until our paths eventually split. I loved asking questions and finding out about other cultures and hearing wild stories.

The downside, though, was saying goodbye. Perhaps it was because I was traveling alone and didn't have another person as my constant companion throughout the trip, but I found it difficult and draining to move on and leave people I had become friends with. After traveling with an Israeli guy for five days and going through the robbery experience together, I felt actual grief leaving him, knowing that most likely we would never see each other again. I was emotionally exhausted by the end of my six weeks; I can only imagine how the people who had been traveling for six months or more felt.

I've always maintained that I would have no problem marrying someone from a different culture, as long as he had the morals and values I want

in a guy. This trip made me realize I will probably end up marrying an American. Out of the people I met from 40+ countries, from all ages and backgrounds and stages of life, I met only two other people who were religious. Two. I talked about religion fairly often with people. I'm always interested in what other people believe, so I would regularly bring up the topic in conversation, or someone would notice me reading my Bible and ask me about it. Religion is a foreign concept to a lot of the world. The United States, while not unified in one religion like Catholicism usually unites Hispanic cultures, is a very religious nation.

So many of the fellow travelers I met had no concept of faith or of God. Their world was the thrill of the unknown: alcohol, drugs, new party every night, new partner every night, and a philosophy of "who knows what I'll do back in the real world, let's not worry about it now." I love spontaneity, but I am grounded in the fact that I have goals for my life and a Father who is watching over me and loves me and knows my future. I still like the idea of meeting a spicy foreigner who loves the Lord, but based on my experiences from this trip, it doesn't seem likely.

I loved this trip. It challenged me. I met awesome people and saw some awesome things. I improved my Spanish from 20 words to a solid 55 words. I learned that while being robbed is traumatic, things could always be worse. If anyone else had had the money or the time to go with me, I would have loved to have a companion. But I wasn't going to make this dream contingent on a partner to accompany me. Rather, the adventure is having the confidence in myself and the guts to brave an unknown world—and succeed in making it home in one piece!

## Defying borders, defining lives in China

BY EMILY GESKE  
STAFF WRITER

I am sure teaching English is difficult, but could you imagine teaching it in another country? How about another country where you don't speak their language, and the culture is completely different from American society? That is precisely what Professor Adam Lee and ten Concordia students experienced this summer.

The team of eleven began their month and a half journey on June 11, heading for Teng Chong, China, where they spent two weeks with students at five different schools in the area. The team taught by conversing with the kids, allowing them to practice dialogue and encouraging them to think in English rather than mentally translating into Chinese.

When asked about his best memory from the

trip, Ben Helge, '11, replied with a story about a boy he befriended. After just two weeks, the boy told Helge via note that he thought of him as a brother, a statement that carries even more weight in China than it does here. Helge commented, "When you're there with the people, it calms any fears you might have."

Next, after taking a week to travel, the team continued on to Shenzhen where they spent the remaining three weeks teaching English at a summer camp for elementary and junior high students. The camp culminated with a performance for the parents during which groups of kids sang and danced to distinctly American music.

Though it rightfully seems like our students had a significant impact on their Chinese pupils, the teaching went both ways. The two main virtues learned from the Chinese culture were hospitality and unity of family, according to Professor

Lee. The former was displayed the first day of the group's excursion when the host school sent several prestigious members of the board hundreds of miles just to greet the Concordia group. The generosity continued when host families treated their adopted members to "epic dinner banquets" and showed them around the local areas.

A trip like this was bound to have an impact. In fact, Ashley Turner, '11, got a job offer from the school in Shenzhen and returned last week to resume teaching. Though the team was young and not necessarily experienced, they served selflessly. "Passion and love are more important than experience in changing lives," Lee said, who was impressed by this group's attitude.

The same trip will be available to graduated seniors this coming summer; if any professor is interested in leading, contact the Office of Global Programming.

## Fikisha Focus: A Summer in Kenya

BY CATHERINE STANDRIDGE  
STAFF WRITER

I never thought I would go back to Kenya, yet here I was, 7:30 on a Thursday morning, sitting in LAX waiting for the rest of my team to show up. In the fall semester of last year, I traveled with the Around-the-World team to ten different countries, and I absolutely fell in love with Kenya. I delighted in the hospitable people, the lively music, the differences in culture, the vibrant colors, and the pleasantly overwhelming sense of joy—even the dirt was beautiful to me. I made it my personal goal to someday be reunited with this place that evoked so many uplifting emotions. I had no idea that I would be blessed with the opportunity to return just eight months after my departure. What an astounding example of amazing grace!

For two months out of the summer, I worked as an intern with Fikisha—an organization that helps bring hope and restoration to the homeless youth living in the slums of Nairobi. These young men, who have been forced to live on the street, taught me more than I could have ever shared with them. Their humility, confidence, and joy, while being surrounded by life's struggles, gave me a new sense of determination to fight against the injustices of this world and also helped me to realize that God has blessed each one of us regardless of the circumstances in our lives. It was definitely shocking to hear all that these young boys go through on a daily basis—they are living in a society where their families have abandoned them, churches reject them, policemen brutally assault them, and the people in their communities cast them aside and constantly feed them with the lie that they are worthless. It became our goal to show each individual their true worth in Christ. We worked alongside Kenyan mentors who have already been assisting these boys for many years. The relationships we were able to form with them still amaze me.

One of Fikisha's top goals is to assist the street boys in getting off of the street and back into school. One way we attempted to accomplish this task rested in our Narcotics Anonymous meetings that we held twice a week, since most of the boys are struggling with an addiction to a variety of different drugs—mainly sniffing glue. During these meetings, we also held Bible studies in which the boys could share verses that spoke to them, and we would also share a small lesson about an issue on our hearts. In addition to these efforts, we started a wedding invitation business in order to provide the boys with steady income and a sense of accomplishment. The boys make the invitations and a small amount of money is raised for them, while the organization is able to raise more money to go towards school funds for the boys. One member of our team labored over creating a video of the story of each of the boys in the hopes of gaining more sponsors. This would help the young men living on the street to be able to afford going back to school.

It was an amazing learning experience for me, and the assurance that I was being used as an instrument of God's will gave me such peace. I know that God will use the relationships and experiences that I have had this summer for His glory. I thank Him for the gifts and blessings that He has given to me, and I am excited to see how else He will use me in the future.



COURTESY ADAM LEE



People of Concordia crossword

A look back at WOW

**Across**

- 3. Freddie \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Jordan's capitol city
- 6. Dirty Harry/Sandusky Auto Parts
- 7. That guy that wears bowties
- 9. San \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. X-Country beermaker
- 13. Gammon's look-a-like/ Business Dean
- 16. Fugitt's fatherland
- 18. RHO AD's cool name
- 20. (C)igma (c)enior RA
- 22. Laker PG/Volleyball Angler
- 24. Strange Argentine shoe (singular)
- 26. Retired football star/green plant
- 27. Provost with two first names
- 29. Forever \_\_\_\_\_
- 31. "Anti-virus" English Prof.
- 33. Lonnie and Adam's last name

**Down**

- 1. ASCUI Secretary
- 2. Austin says (basketball)
- 4. NAIA Coach of the Year (baseball)
- 8. You have a Bursar hold
- 10. Softball's "clear gem"
- 12. Ammann's Alma Mater
- 14. Motorcycle Biologist
- 15. A terrible golfer/bad haircut
- 17. Peanuts creator
- 18. The front gate favorite (swing shift)
- 19. Thanks for the breakfast burrito
- 21. Moon pioneer
- 23. A Rosenblatt by any other name
- 25. The "really strong" Costa Rican
- 28. Student Body President
- 30. Associate Athletic Director
- 32. ESS Prof. with the Hawaiian shirts



Stay sharp with sudoku

	6		8	7				2
	9		6					3
		2	1				9	7
5		1						
9								8
						2		5
1	4				3	8		
2					8		6	
7				5	1			2



# Fright Night movie review

BY ERIK OLSEN  
EVERYTHING EAGLES EDITOR

When it comes to Horror movies nowadays, there are two things I hate more than anything else: vampires and remakes. So, the recent *Fright Night* redo already had two major strikes against it in my mind, months before I ever entered the theatre.

To be honest, I wasn't all that enamored by the '80s original starring Roddy McDowell (IMDb him, kids... you might learn something), but I have enough respect for it to understand why it holds a solid spot not only in the hearts of Horror fans, but in the Horror genre, itself. The previews didn't look too promising. But, hey, it was rated R and the vampires didn't sparkle or quote Shakespeare, so I figured it couldn't be all bad. And it's not—not at

all. In fact, it's one of the best remakes I've seen in a long time.

Taking its cues from the original, this update centers on teenaged everyman Charlie Brewster (Star Trek's Anton Yelchin)—a reformed geek with an out-of-his-league girlfriend (Solitary Man's Imogen Poots) and a hip realtor mom (Toni Collette channeling "The United States of Tara," minus the multiple personalities).

But this semi-charmed life soon turns to chaos when his ex-best friend, Ed (SuperBad's Christopher Mintz-Plasse), comes to him with a theory that a recent string of disappearances in the neighborhood are linked to a vampire (Horrible Bosses' Colin Farrell)... who just so happens to be living right next door.

What struck me the most about this film was

how much fun it was. This is due, in large part, to Colin Farrell, who hijacked the show with his portrayal of Jerry the vampire—For an evil, blood-sucking creature of the night, he's actually quite likeable, and it's obvious that Farrell is having a great time playing him. After the decidedly joyless (and pointless) HALLOWEEN, Texas Chainsaw, and Nightmare on Elm Street remakes, it was nice to see a film that was vibrant, colorful, and looking to entertain.

Some of the film's best scenes come during Jerry's interactions with Charlie and his posse. As all good Horror fans know, vamps can't enter homes unless they're invited, and the film plays around with this a bit, throwing in some funny, intentionally awkward moments when the conversation dies down and Jerry's left standing there, just waiting for someone to finally invite him to come inside for a beer or a quick bite.

I also really appreciated the cool facial-effects throwback to the vampires in the original, as well as Lisa Loeb's random appearance as Ed's mom. By that point, the surprise cameo by the original Jerry—Chris Sarandon—was just icing on the cake.

That's all fine and good, right, but what about the 3D? I'm not a big proponent of it... at all... but I actually thought the 3D in this film was pretty effective, especially in comparison to 'Final Destination 5.' Burning embers and blood splatter fly off the screen and into your face.

If you're absolutely dying to see it in 3D, you won't be disappointed. But, if 3D is irrelevant to you, don't bother spending the extra cash—it's well done and it's cool, but it's not entirely necessary. Films like *Avatar* need 3D as a crutch to lean on to make up for what's lacking in more important departments. While other films, such as *Captain America*, are great with or without 3D. *Fright Night* falls into this category as well.

Usually, with these remakes, I go in having some sort of strong attachment to the original film, which means, more often than not, I leave the theatre disappointed. But this was the first time when it had been awhile since I last saw the original, and I didn't have any real loyalty to it anyway, so I went in completely unbiased. I'm not sure how diehard *Fright Night* fans will react to this movie, but when judged on its own merits the new *Fright Night* is a solid flick that stands up well in the Horror arena and stands out as one of the more entertaining options at the multiplex.



## The War on Drugs' Album like Ambient Noise

BY ZACH BORST  
ARTS/REVIEWS EDITOR

The War on Drugs, a Philly-based band, released their album *Slave Ambient* on Aug. 16. Described by their label, Secretly Canadian, as a composite psychedelic and Americana-folk group, The War on Drugs have a lot of critical appeal, but their recent album is certainly not addicting.

Drummer Mike Zanghi begins the first track of the album, "Best Night," with a slow beat that cuts into double-speed. "Best Night" does not gather speed afterwards. The speed change is not dynamic, but instead sounds like an editor cut the track abruptly. Front-man, lead singer and guitarist Adam Granduciel is often compared to Bob Dylan and Tom Petty and sounds something like them, but the first song of *Slave Ambient* sounds more like ambient noise than an appealing indie album opener.

Sure, The War on Drugs resembles Belle & Sebastian, but they don't offer much within the genre. Granduciel certainly may sound like Dylan, but he does not carry a folk track with the same energy as Dylan did. Granduciel sings, "I have a thousand miles behind with a million more to climb so it's you our hope survives without fighting." There is no climb, and certainly no fight, in this song even with the steady guitar strumming, drum beat and interesting use of samplers. "Best Night" flows and then fades without leaving much of a mark on the listener.

"Baby Missiles" opens up with an anthemic organ theme, an upbeat rhythm and contains intriguing guitar and harmonica solos. Granduciel sings quickly, as if he were singing "We Didn't Start the Fire," and reaches some Jonsi-esque falsetto notes. The song is a fast three-and-a-half minutes that fades away quickly; it is fun and may pique your interest, but it has no struggle, climax or chorus to speak of.

"Original Slave" is dynamic. Far more intriguing than "Best Night," it is completely instrumental. Zanghi succeeds in reaching a beat worthy of his audience's interest, Granduciel teases with the harmonica, and a bee's drone of a synth simply gets louder and louder. The third member of the band, bassist Dave Hartley, is hidden underneath the synthesizers, but counters the frequent pound-

ing of Zanghi's drums with some downbeat bass-slapping. This song, like "Baby Missiles," keeps your attention and then fades away—something is missing.

"Black Water Falls" is a five-minute bookend to the album that parallels "Best Night" nicely. Granduciel performs his best on the album with his steady acoustic guitar's ebb and flow. His voice seems more present in this song, and even more like Dylan, than before. At his best, Granduciel is a softly dynamic storyteller. He explains, "You'll understand why I leave so suddenly with the breeze." As organic and unified as this last track is for The

War on Drugs' sophomore album, *Granduciel* should explain instead why he appeared so late on the record.

*Slave Ambient* has some interesting tracks, but overall I was unimpressed. The War on Drugs is certainly not your thirteen-year-old neighbor's band practicing in the garage—but there is no "war" and certainly no struggle with the music. Granduciel, melodic and raspy, never seems challenged vocally. And as energetic as Zanghi and Hartley can be, they aren't pushing the boundaries of psycho-hipster-folk rock, or whatever Secretly Canadian calls them.



## Core book Review: Pilgrims Progress

BY NATANYA MOODY  
STAFF WRITER

The Darjeeling Hills Bible School was no more than a single dilapidated room perched on the apex of a Himalayan hill in Mirik, India. We ascended that great height every morning, until we were looking down at the valley through the clouds from Mr. and Mrs. Rai's house. Knowing that the fresh, sweet puri cooked every morning in the Rai family's kitchen was waiting for me at the top of the hill kept my untrained feet climbing further upward. The Rais hosted our two-week stay, during which we were to help teach at their Bible college.

Mr. Rai had specifically requested that Adam Lee, Assistant Professor of English, teach John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* because it was this text that led him to Christ. Bunyan also became a Christian because of the religious texts in his wife's library. No doubt the authors of those texts were also brought to the faith by the texts they read, and so on. These of course all point to the Bible, the ultimate text.

The copies of *Pilgrim's Progress* we were given were created by some dedicated person who typed the entire book verbatim to be printed out for all the students. As I weighed the pirated copy in my hands, I imagined the hours of typing letter by letter, word by word, page by page, all for the benefit of this small class.

The clouds grazing the hilltops floated through one door and out the other as Professor Lee lectured on the multiple levels of narration in *Pilgrim's Progress*. Bunyan authored the story, the narrator tells the story of Pilgrim as he sees it in a dream, and Pilgrim's journey tells our story—the narrative of salvation, the progress of sanctification, and the final glorification. Pilgrim's story is an analogy of our own lives as Christians.

The ten students, mostly Nepali, spoke English as a second language, making the 17th century prose we were studying even more difficult. We weren't as concerned with them understanding the intricacies of the language as much as we wanted them to hear the story.

I took my place at the front of the classroom as the narrator, reading out loud the story of Pilgrim's journey from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. The dialogue of the novel is written like a play, so everyone in class was assigned a character. The classroom was their stage and everyone acted their part, gesticulating while they talked and miming whatever I, the narrator said.

Every day we would climb the hill to take our parts in the story. As it progressed, we grew to love our protagonist, and as he passed through the Slough of Despond and the Pleasant Meadow and the Valley of Humiliation we recognized those places because we had been there too at some point in our lives.

We looked forward with longing and excitement when Pilgrim finally crossed into the Celestial City and, knowing our common destination, we celebrated together our own eventual arrival there, cheering and laughing and clapping at the close of the story.

