

THE CONCORDIA

• COURIER •

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The Wellness Center and Campus Safety expand with move to new building

KIARA AZUMA
CAMPUS EDITOR

The Campus Safety and Wellness (CSW) building opened on Mon., March 3. The Wellness Center moved from the first level of the Student Union, and the Campus Safety Department moved from the Administration building. The move provided expansions and efficiencies for both departments. The Wellness Center can be accessed through the east door of the building facing the Concordia East neighborhood, and Campus Safety can be accessed through the west entrance, across the Lower Quad.

CSW building previously housed the Lutheran Church-Missouri Pacific Southwest District Office (PSWD). The PSWD has relocated to Concordia's Spectrum Campus.

For the Wellness Center, the move allowed the expansion of their medical clinics from two to four as they anticipate the arrival of students from Concordia's new Nurse Practitioner program that requires internship placements.

"Additionally, we now have fourteen therapy rooms to support the growing mental health needs of our students and the increasing demand for internship opportunities among counseling students in the Townsend program. In the previous academic year, the Wellness Center

recorded over 5,300 student visits," said Michelle Laabs, Associate Dean of Student Wellness. They are also expanding their services to provide a Wellness Room and an atrium. The Wellness Room will feature two massage chairs, which will be accessible through a self-scheduling calendar. The atrium will host therapy dogs regularly.

The Campus Safety Department also had a smooth process of transitioning into the new CSW building over three days. "Equipment and offices were moved in phases over three days, with the front-facing office that served as the University switchboard being moved during non-business hours. This ensured that the Campus Safety Office and the University's business lines were available. Campus Safety Dispatch and Patrol Operations continued without interruption as well," said Raul Morales, Director of Campus Safety.

"The remodel of the CSW puts all Campus Safety Department functions and offices in a hub that will enhance efficiency and service. The location of the CSW and the interior offices promotes a welcoming and relatively private environment for those who need Campus Safety Services," added Morales.

The location of the CSW building has also provided additional benefits for both Campus Safety and the Wellness Center. "Our offices are more visible as we are located at the corner of Concordia West and Dorm Road. Signage that is soon to come will enhance that visibility from the road," said Morales. The parking lot outside of the CSW building is also designated for those who come for service at the CSW.

In addition to the Wellness Center and the Campus Safety Department, the CSW building will provide new services,

including the Career Closet and an expansion of the Helping Hands program.

The Career Closet is expected to launch in fall 2025. "This initiative aims to enhance student career readiness by offering access to professional attire for interviews, presentations and formal meetings. Additionally, we are exploring other clothing needs, such as winter jackets for camping and outdoor activities," said Laabs.

(Continues on pg. 3)

Become a College Corps Fellow! Applications are open now

KIARA AZUMA
CAMPUS EDITOR

College Corps applications are open now and are due March 28. Students can apply by submitting their resume and cover letter on Handshake. Both new and returning applicants can expect an in-person interview after submitting their application.

Concordia is one of four private universities in California participating in the College Corps program, which includes over 40 college institutions across the state. This state-funded service and fellowship initiative allows students to focus and serve in fields of K-12 education (provide tutoring services to local schools or organizations), food insecurity (serve at a local food bank or food distribution center), or climate action (serve at local organizations focused on making positive environmental change).

Students are expected to accomplish a total of 450 service hours over the course of the academic year, which averages to about 15 hours a week. With these service hours, College Corps fellows have the unique opportunity to make a positive community impact, access professional networking and development, and gain real-world skills and experience.

With their service, fellows can earn a living stipend and Education Award, which together amounts to \$10,000.

(Continues on p.2)



PICTURED ABOVE: Expanded services allow students to receive wellness checks

Photo courtesy of: Ann Ashmon



PICTURED ABOVE: 14 new therapy rooms allow expanded access to mental health support

Photo courtesy of: Ann Ashmon

(College Corps, cont. from p.1)

“Fellows can opt to receive the stipend in the form of a paycheck every two weeks or have the earnings go straight to their existing student bill at CUI. Once students reach 450 hours at the end of the year, the final Education Grant becomes available and can be applied directly towards school the following semester,” said Lucas Brawner, Associate Director of College Corps.

Brawner described how students fulfill their 450 hours. “This includes our larger events like Symposiums, Mid-Year Learning, and Commencement, coming up on April 15th. Also, part of the 450 hours includes professional development and training opportunities for growth in areas outside of their focus area,” he said.

Keelie Huebner-Chan, senior, is a current College Corps Fellow with a focus on food insecurity. She has been a part of the College Corps since her freshman year. “I initially chose [food insecurity] because I had the most experience with it. I had volunteered to help package food for people in need a couple of times, and I thought it would be the most fulfilling of the options. I knew that I would also be able to connect more directly with the people within my community,” said Huebner-Chan.

“I’ve met a lot of amazing people throughout my time, and helping people is something that is really rewarding. I volunteered at a food pantry for the first two years, and have been helping out more recently at a thrift store [all the proceeds go directly to the food pantries],” Huebner-Chan explained. “My experience has been mostly positive,” she added.

Senior Leah Sugita also shared her experience. “This year while working at [South County Outreach], I see the impact I have serving my direct community

through my time at the pantry and thrift store. I feel more of a connection to the community around campus and like to get to know the clients and customers who come in and see my face every week.”

Interested students must meet at least one of the following criteria:

Needs to work part-time and/or borrow student loans to meet educational costs

Qualifies for a State Cal Grant, Federal Pell Grant or Middle-Class Scholarship

Must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, legal permanent resident or AB 540 Eligible Dreamer

Those who become Fellows are required to be full-time undergraduate students, complete a National Service Criminal History Check and Live Scan upon selection, maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA, and study stateside for the entire academic year (no study abroad).

“Aside from the money incentive, College Corps is honestly a great opportunity to make connections,” said Huebner-Chan. “There’s the chance to make friends, understand your community, and make important relationships with people for future job opportunities. It definitely helped me break out of my shell when I was just a shy freshman, and you’ll make strong connections with people you thought you would never meet!”

For more information, visit cui.edu/studentlife/career-services/californians-for-all-college-corps or contact Lucas Brawner at lucas.brawner@cui.edu. Apply online at Handshake or scan the QR code on the flyers around campus to fill out an interest form.



PICTURED ABOVE: College Corps fellows pack backpacks with supplies
Photo courtesy of: Lucas Brawner



PICTURED ABOVE: College Corps fellow Jun Sohn picking up branches during service event
Photo courtesy of: Lucas Brawner



PICTURED ABOVE: Group picture of all College Corps members
Photo courtesy of: Lucas Brawner

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(Wellness Center cont. from p.1)

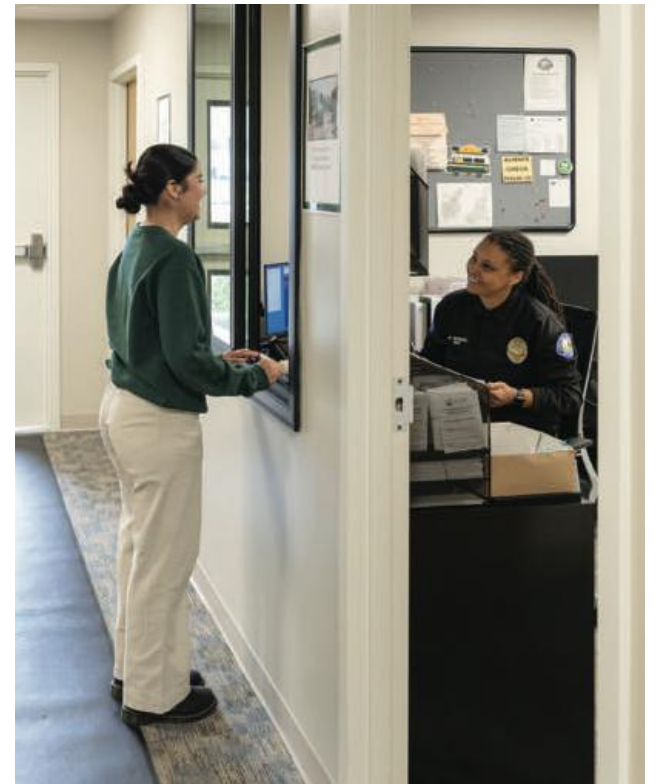
Helping Hands is an existing resource at Concordia University. They provide assistance with different resources and connections, including food, shelter, clothing and academic resources. The Wellness Center wants to ensure students can thrive throughout their academic journey by supporting their basic needs.

“Our plan is to launch a food pantry in fall 2025. Currently, Helping Hands operates entirely through the generous donations of faculty and staff, but we are expanding our outreach to local churches, grocery stores, and the larger Concordia community,” said Laabs. “Additionally, we are collaborating with the Department of Nursing and College

Corp to staff the center. More info to come on donation and operation details.” For anyone in need of resources or looking for more information on the Helping Hands program, visit cui.edu/studentlife/wellness-center/helping-hands.

“Dr. Thomas’s decision to move the Campus Safety and the Wellness Center to the new CSW brings focus to the importance of Student Services at Concordia. The location, and remodeling of the CSW welcomes the campus community to take advantage of our services,” said Morales.

Students who want to visit the new CSW building are encouraged to join the grand opening hosted by ASCUI and Student Senate on March 20 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



PICTURED ABOVE: Students can find the Campus Safety front desk in the new location
Photos courtesy of: Ann Ashmon



PICTURED ABOVE: The Wellness Center now has a large waiting room to accommodate students
Photo courtesy of: Ann Ashmon



PICTURED ABOVE: Campus Safety’s new base of operations
Photos courtesy of: Ann Ashmon



PICTURED ABOVE: The building includes beautiful new conferencing spaces
Photo courtesy of: Ann Ashmon

Marty the Golden Eagle in: Split the Difference

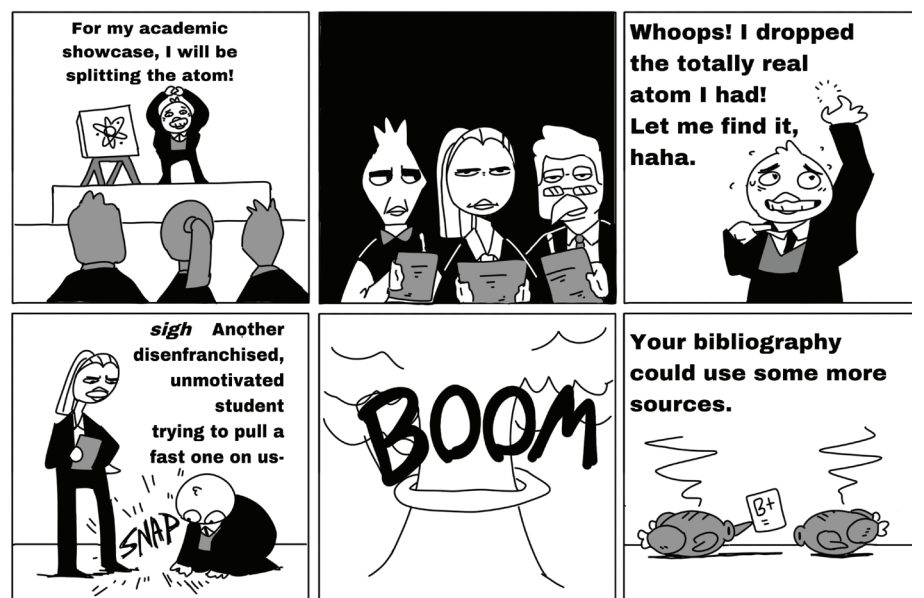


Photo courtesy of: Dylan Arant

Looking ahead: “Crafting a Savory Resume” workshop

AUDREY KAUFMAN
STAFF WRITER

After last week's full schedule of “Life After College” events, Concordia's Center for Career & Vocation is still going strong with more exciting upcoming events.

Starting at 6 p.m. on Wed., March 26, the Career Studio will be hosting a resume revision workshop titled “Crafting a Savory Resume.” At the workshop, students will receive some practical writing tips and have an opportunity to meet with Career Center staff to refine their resumes. As an added bonus, the first fifteen students will also receive a free Chick-fil-A sandwich. Open to all students, this workshop is a perfect opportunity to improve your future career confidence and be resume ready to engage with potential

employers.

Katherine Olea, Assistant Director of Career Development, said that the workshop is directed to any and all Concordia students looking to create their best resume possible. With so many internship, job and graduate school opportunities, every student can benefit from having a well-written, professional resume.

“The event starts with a quick 10-minute overview of what makes a strong resume, followed by an open session where Career Center staff will be available to answer questions and provide personalized feedback,” Olea said. With the help of the Career Center's trained staff, students can expect tailored guidance and feedback to assist in any stage of the resume-writing process.

“A resume will be an important

part of my career goals in marketing because it will allow me to stand out as an eligible candidate for internships and jobs,” said Alannah Batty, Business Administration major. Although Batty has had some previous experience with writing a resume, she believes that a second opinion and additional proofreading from an expert will help keep the resume concise and effective.

According to Olea, all resumes and career documents should leave a lasting impact. “A memorable resume isn't just about listing experiences; it's about telling a compelling, results-driven story that makes you stand out to employers,” Olea said. With the help of the “Crafting a Savory Resume” workshop, this goal can be achieved by all students at Concordia.

Be sure to stop into the Career Studio (located on the upper level of the library) on Wed., March 26, at 6 p.m. for an impactful resume review.

If students are unable to attend the event, fear not! The Center for Career & Vocation is open every weekday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., to assist students with any career-focused questions. In addition to the resume services,

students can also receive guidance with major and career planning, job and internship searches, career and personality assessments, and more! To set up an appointment, go to the “Career Center” tab on Handshake or go to the Career Center's website: cui.edu/studentlife/career-services.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY IRVINE CENTER FOR CAREER AND VOCATION

Spring Events

January:
10th - What Can I Do With My Major?
23rd - Profile Power Up: Master Your Professional Presence

February:
5th - Brewing Success with Resumes
7th - Camp, Ministry & Internship Fair

March: Life After College Week
3rd - Full-Time Hiring Expo and Understanding Health Insurance Workshop
4th - Financial Literacy Workshop and Campus to Career: Student Athletes Experience
5th - Career Closet Pop-Up & Grad School Fair
6th - HELP! I need a job! - Job Search Strategies
7th - Field of Education Hiring Fair
26th - Career Cuisine: Crafting a Savory Resume

April:
9th - Campus to Career: Your First 90 Days!
28th - May 2nd - Senior Walk-in Appointment Week

The Hispanic Leadership Conference creates community and brings clarity



PICTURED ABOVE: Erika Sanchez responds during a panel at last year's Hispanic Leadership Conference
Photo courtesy of: Concordia Hispanic Leadership Conference



PICTURED ABOVE: Marty the Eagle greets students at last year's Hispanic Leadership Conference
Photo courtesy of: Concordia Hispanic Leadership Conference



PICTURED ABOVE: Families interact with Concordia's staff at last year's Hispanic Leadership Conference
Photo courtesy of: Concordia Hispanic Leadership Conference

GISELLE PARRA
STAFF WRITER

On March 19 at 8 a.m. Concordia will be hosting its eighth annual Hispanic Leadership Conference. This free event is open to all high school students and their families who dream of creating a better life through a college education.

With lectures and discussions available in both English and Spanish, this event strives to engage the whole family and help families realize that college can go beyond a dream and become a reality.

“Events like this Hispanic Leadership Conference are important because we prepare the next generation of college students,” said Gio Brito, Assistant Director of the Unity Center. “There is a big Hispanic population in Orange County and we play an important role in showing these students that going to a four-year university is achievable.”

The day starts with the opening remarks from Gaddi H. Vasquez, who served as a U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and currently operates on many boards and commissions in California. The son of migrant workers, Vasquez was the first of his family to receive a college degree, and he has risen to incredible heights in terms of civil and community service.

Following Vasquez, Professor Jonathan Calvillo, who has published significant research on faith in Latino communities, will be giving the keynote speech. After the keynote, Cavillo and Vasquez will be joined by Dr. Samuel Perla (EdD '22), Principal of Santa Ana Unified, and CJ Calderon, Chief of Staff of Goodwill Orange County. Together, they will discuss where they started and how their roots have brought them to where they are now.

Two breakout sessions will follow these featured conversations. Within each section, there are six different talks to attend. For example, attendees can view Concordia's Marine Lab and receive a tour from the students who work, volunteer and research in the lab. They can also attend a Collegiate Sports and Recruitment talk that discusses different opportunities available through sports, hosted by Concordia's staff members Megan Feuerstein and Glory Fung. They will walk students through how to research programs, get in touch with coaches, and show off their skills to help them get recruited.

For those interested in the sciences, there is the virtual anatomy lab led by Dr. Scott Gaines, where participants can experience a detailed 3D model of the human body and learn about how technology is transforming anatomy education. A nursing breakout

session is also offered to learn more about nursing school at Concordia's Spectrum Campus.

Students can also attend a “Keys to College Success” session with Tutoring Coordinator Jacob Lange, where students can learn the different ways that college can support them academically. A “Future Focus: Real World Career Exploration” will also be hosted by Katherine Olea, Assistant Director of Career and Vocation. After a hosted lunch, there will be a student panel, a parent session and campus tours.

“This Hispanic Leadership Conference has been hosted at Concordia since 2016,” said Brito. “It is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to get a roadmap of what the path to college looks like. There are workshops, guest speakers, and of course, free swag!”

Being a first-generation college student is an experience that is often discussed only in passing. However, those who are first-generation college students jump through mental, economic, and social hurdles that impact them during the entire college application, decision and attendance process.

“I didn't feel prepared at all,” said Desiera Melcher, junior. “It was completely new territory with little to no guidance. It wasn't just figuring out how to navigate my class load, or find time for friends, family and outside activities, but learning how to navigate college as a whole. From the application process, to FAFSA, to any and all documentation required.” The events at the Hispanic Leadership Conference are tailored to helping students understand what they need to succeed and feel prepared for college.

“Coming into college I was absolutely terrified,” said Melcher. “A huge part of it was also a feeling of not belonging, being the first to break out of the cycle. My grandparents were immigrants from Mexico and weren't given that chance from the beginning. My mom also fell into the cycle, becoming a single mom of two by the age of 18. I would constantly hear I would be the same. College felt unrealistic, and I felt almost wrong to be here. [But] after getting here I knew there were resources.”

This conference is tailored to helping students understand college and get the support they need. “It isn't easy breaking out of stereotypes and stigmas set in place for the kids that grow up in poor minority communities. I'm working at my fullest potential for them, to hopefully pull them out of the cycle too,” said Melcher.

For more information about the resources offered at Concordia, or about the Hispanic Leadership Conference itself, visit www.cui.edu/hispanic or contact hispanic@cui.edu.

Night of Hope brings together music and worship

SOPHIE THOMAS
STAFF WRITER

On Fri., March 14, abbey west will be hosting the annual “Night of Hope,” from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Starting in 2011, this event will follow a tradition of over 10 years for a celebration of the arts and the hope we have in Jesus.

To kick off the night, four singers and songwriters will be performing a combination of covers and original music. Starting at 5:15 p.m. with music by junior Amy Held, followed by seniors Ana Carvalho at 5:35, Darian Trujillo at 5:55, and Kaity Bills at 6:15. After each 15-minute set, taking place in the Student Union, there will be a brief spotlight on a selection of local nonprofits.

Part of the Night of Hope is intended to “inspire all of us to think about how it is that we can be bringers of hope in the midst of the world,” said campus Pastor Quinton Anderson. To take action, attendees are encouraged to participate in the night’s service project benefiting Charity on Wheels. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to getting those experiencing homelessness and poverty off the streets and on the road to self-reliance.

The service project will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the breezeway, where guests are invited to help prepare hygiene kits

to be distributed by the nonprofit. “Help & Hygiene Kits” is one of the organization’s key avenues of service; their goal for the evening is to pack at least 500 kits for those in need.

This event will also feature Director of the Center for Worship Leadership Rev. Steve Zank and Concordia alumnus Blake Flattley as a musical duo. Their set, starting at 7 p.m., will transition the night towards the Amphitheatre in preparation for the main concert.

Founder of Charity on Wheels, Zach Southall, and his band, “Streetcorner Revival,” will be playing from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. This group has dedicated its music and proceeds to directly benefit initiatives of the Charity on Wheels Foundation.

“Interwoven with that,” said Anderson, “will be stories of how hope is being brought to the homeless in Orange County through Charity on Wheels.” Following this will be more time to pack hygiene kits for the organization.

Admission is free and open to the public. Those unable to attend are encouraged to consider donating to the hygiene supplies by purchasing items from their Amazon Registry. Those interested in contributing can do so by visiting <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/ITA1H5COLJFW>.



Experience the spirit of Aloha Ka Pu’uhonua Hawai’i Club’s 4th annual luau

HAKU DUDOIT
STAFF WRITER

Ka Pu’uhonua Hawai’i Club is set to host its annual luau on Sun., April. 6, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Commons Lawn, just outside of the CU Arena. The event will celebrate Hawaiian culture with traditional food, live music and entertainment.

This year’s theme, “Ua ola loko i ke aloha,” translates to “love gives life within,” which was created by freshman Jai Viela, Secretary of Ka Pu’uhonua. This reflects the importance of love and community among the people of Concordia. “We hope that we can give attendees a true experience of Hawai’i – showcasing the beauty of our culture. We also hope to showcase the hard work of Ka Pu’uhonua Club and how we are trying to be a home away from home for those away from Hawai’i,” said Viela.

The club has been organizing luaus since the 2021-2022 academic year, with this year marking the fourth annual event. For the club, the luau is a significant tradition that strengthens bonds within the community. Junior and President of Ka Pu’uhonua, Maleah Kanayama, shared how club members have been involved with planning and executing the luau this year. “To fundraise, we make spam musubis. Many of the members help by making musubis and then selling them out to everyone on campus. Also one of the freshmen stepped up to teach Hula for the luau as well,” said Kanayama.

Attendees can expect a feast catered by Nalu’s Grill, featuring traditional Hawaiian dishes such as Kalua pork and cabbage, chicken katsu, mac salad, white rice and Haupia. In addition to the food, Hawai’i club member freshman Lyla Sato said, “The evening will be

filled with great raffle prizes that are exclusively in Hawaii, a snack bar that includes local Hawaiian snacks, fire dancing, hula performances, games, and live music from a band called “Aloha Spirit.”

The luau will take place in the evening for the first time, creating a more relaxed and festive atmosphere. According to Kanayama, “Check-in will open at 5 p.m. and attendees are encouraged to dress in Aloha attire. Early bird tickets are available for students at \$10 until March 28. Tickets are required for entry and can be bought online.” “There will be advertisements around campus for you to scan QR codes and purchase tickets,” said Viela. The event is family-friendly, and all are welcome to attend.

For those interested in volunteering, “The club will first reach out to its members and then extend invitations to the broader student body if additional help is needed,” said Kanayama. According to Viela, “If you would like to get involved with this event, you can join us and dance! Or email kapuuhonuclub@cui.edu to see how you can help.”

The Ka Pu’uhonua Hawai’i club invites everyone to join in celebrating Hawaiian culture and the broader Asian-Pacific Islander community at this year’s luau. Beyond the food and entertainment, the event can be seen as an opportunity to learn more about Hawaiian traditions and to connect with diverse cultures. “Having the luau definitely brings awareness to the Pacific Islander culture and is a comforting time to gather and meet new people,” said Sato.

Don’t miss out on the island vibes, grab your tickets and join in for an evening of Aloha!



PICTURED ABOVE: Students enjoy live music at a past Night of Hope
Photo courtesy of: Leslie Norton

PICTURED ABOVE: (Top) Hawaiian dancers performing at a previous luau
(Bottom) Past attendees enjoy authentic Hawaiian food
Photo courtesy of: Concordia University Irvine

Storytelling in “Wings” brings the Theatre Department to new heights

REBEKAH MICHEL

ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

As students are nearing the end of the spring semester, Concordia's Theatre Department is preparing their final production of the year “Wings” written by Arthur Kopit and directed by Tony Vezner. Opening on March 21, “Wings” tells the story of Emily Stilson, a former stunt pilot, as she experiences a life-threatening stroke. Audiences experience an introspective view of how Stilson views the world and her journey with her therapist.

With the story taking place inside Stilson's head, a large majority of the spoken lines in the show belong to her character played by senior Theatre major Isabella Mangahis.

“In this show, my character is a former aviatrix and wingwalker. Flight is therefore not unusual to her and is something she finds a lot of joy in, so, naturally, we've incorporated a couple of lifts in which the ensemble carries me to give the impression of flight....I have to give so much credit to our movement choreography, Michael, who has been incredibly encouraging, has helped me to see how movement can progress a story, and has given me the space to build leadership while we rehearse these pieces,” said Mangahis.

“Wings” relies heavily on teamwork as several other students work in an ensemble to help make the story come to life. “It has been stressed that despite Emily's mammoth amount of lines, the ensemble is so important in terms of constructing her post-stroke world,” said sophomore English and Theatre major, Nicole Kramer.

Perhaps one of the most pivotal and intricate elements of the show is the choreographed movement and lift sequences. While planned lifts and stunts

could easily become a point of concern or fear for an actor, the cast of “Wings” has found the process of learning the movements enjoyable and safe. “The rehearsal process has been good. We are doing different lifts and having someone there step-by-step to tell us and show us how to do these safely is great,” said sophomore Theatre major Rebecca Kadera.

While impressive and visually stunning, the teamwork and movement of “Wings” serve the greater purpose of portraying the inside of Stilson's head as she struggles to use language following her stroke. “This has been one of the most unique experiences that I have gotten to be a part of...the ensemble work in the show is something truly special,” said junior Theatre major Cara Winkelman. When asked about one element that they are most excited for audiences to see, Winkelman said, “I think that the staging, design and acting is going to truly impress people.”

As the Theatre Department continues to produce excellent performances that covers a range of subject matters from serious to light-hearted, the themes of language and medical tragedies in “Wings” have been deeply impactful for many cast members and they hope audiences will resonate with them just as much. “I wish that the students and faculty gain an understanding of what a patient like Stilson goes through and the real struggles that stroke victims have,” said freshman Josiah Ruehs. Kramer shared that sentiment adding, “I hope they remember that language is such a gift that some lose or do not have. Communication in all its forms is a beautiful thing.”

“Wings” will play at the Studio Theatre on March 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 7:30 p.m. and March 23 and 30 at 2 p.m. Concordia students can reserve free tickets for one performance by using the code CUISTU at checkout. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit simple.tix.com.



PICTURED ABOVE: Ensemble movement and choreographed sequences tell the story of the inside of someone's head following a stroke. Photo courtesy of: Rebekah Michel



PICTURED ABOVE: Actors in the Theatre Department carefully learn various lift sequences to prepare for “Wings”. Photo courtesy of: Rebekah Michel



PICTURED ABOVE: “Wings” written by Arthur Kopit and directed by Tony Vezner will open at the Studio Theatre on March 21. Photo courtesy of: Rebekah Michel

“Devil in the Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke” raises awareness of the dangers in family vlogging and child influencers

BELLA SAGUM

STAFF WRITER

Hulu released a new docuseries titled “Devil in the Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke,” a tell-all of an abusive mother who ran the YouTube family vlog channel “8 Passengers.”

“8 Passengers,” which grew to 2.5 million subscribers during the 2010s, showed off a loving Utah family, together and full of joy. Audiences all over the world got to look into the everyday lives of each family member. Ruby Franke, who ran the channel, often showed it from her viewpoint and controlled the narrative through what she told and showed the audience. This led to the cultivation of the idea that she was “America's Mom.”

What audience members didn't know was that Franke could be cruel behind closed doors. In August 2023, news broke of her and Jodi Hildebrandt's arrests after four of the six children were found abused and malnourished. Both women plead guilty to child abuse charges.

“Devil in the Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke” follows Franke's journey from the start of their channel in 2015, experiencing virality as a family and its succeeding lifestyle changes. The series tells of a shift for them after a whistle-blowing moment where one of the children had mentioned in a vlog that their bedroom was taken away for months as a punishment. The internet audience grew suspicious, and according to multiple news sources, the pattern of abuse worsened over the years, hitting a peak after getting involved with Hildebrandt. Hildebrandt, a therapist who surrendered her license, led a program called ConneXions, a service rooted in family counseling. Ruby turned to ConneXions and Hildebrandt for parenting advice. Hildebrandt became the therapist of some members of the Franke family, but as Hildebrandt and Ruby's relationship grew, Hildebrandt brought Ruby on her ConneXions team as co-founder.

As her involvement with ConneXions grew, Ruby's posts online became more problematic.

The online audience grew to be deeply concerned about Ruby's harsh parenting style and the state of the Franke family. The audience only became aware of the full severity of the abuse after one of her children, only 12-years-old, fled Hildebrandt's home in an emaciated state, asking a neighbor for help.

This docuseries is seen through the lens of never-seen-before footage and private interviews with those closest to Franke, including her now ex-husband Kevin Franke, and their two eldest children, 21-year-old Shari Franke, and 20-year-old Chad Franke. The youngest four children

remain uninvolved from the series, keeping them unnamed with their faces blurred, in order to protect their privacy.

After hearing about Shari and Chad's experience of being on a platform at a young age and having their childhood turn into a business, the series hopes to raise awareness about the dangers of family vloggers and bloggers, and the risk of sharing your family and

child's life on the internet.

Shari Franke, who is now a #1 New York Times best-selling author for her book titled “The House of my Mother,” now advocates for protecting children who may find themselves in similar situations that she was raised in. She helped draft HB322, a bill that would protect child influencers in the state of Utah. It passed unanimously in the Senate on March 7 and now awaits the governor's signature.

She also further advocates her point, and recently shared her engagement announcement, asking for her privacy to be respected as she will not be posting about her future husband and children. She requested via Instagram, “I've had my voice and agency taken for so long, and now, I'm putting my foot down.” She continued, “I'll continue to advocate for kids who didn't have a voice,” and concluded, “This is my wish, and my gift to my family.”

“Devil in the Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke” is now available and streaming, only on Hulu.

Men's lacrosse prep for Rocky Mountain conference play

MAKTZILL DE JESUS AND
LYNDSAY DEVARGAS
STAFF WRITERS

The Concordia University Irvine men's lacrosse team has faced a challenging start to the 2025 season, holding a 2-5 overall record but showing resilience in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) within NCAA Division II play at 1-1. Despite early season struggles, the Golden Eagles are looking to build momentum heading into a critical stretch of conference competition.

The season opened with a tough 8-13 loss to No. 17 Colorado Mesa in San Rafael, but the team bounced back with a hard-fought 12-10 victory over Dominican. A road trip to Florida saw Concordia face nationally ranked competition, including a heartbreaking 8-9 loss to No. 16 Florida Southern and setbacks against Saint Leo and No. 2 Tampa.

Colin O'Connor, a graduate student studying Organizational Leadership takes the field as a long stick midfielder. He has seen the team grow and improve since the start of the season as they "developed a lot of grit and resilience since our first game against Colorado Mesa. With one of the toughest schedules in Division II, we've been competing against nationally ranked teams. The games in Florida proved that we can hold our own at that level, leading to a top 20 win against Rollins."

Ryan Stiller, a freshman attacker on the team, said about the Florida tournament, "The first two games I was in a bit of a slump. I didn't necessarily play badly, but I could have played better. For the third game, I

played very well, had two goals against the No.2 ranked team."

Joseph Switzer, a freshman midfielder, said, "The runs in Florida are super memorable and some of the key takeaways from Florida were the play style and speed of the game and how we were able to adapt to the best teams in the country."

Returning home, the Golden Eagles continued to face top-tier opponents, dropping their home opener despite the weather condition of rain to No. 2 Adelphi before earning a thrilling 12-11 overtime victory against No. 14 Rollins.

With conference play ramping up, Concordia will look to capitalize on home field advantage in upcoming RMAC matchups, including key games against Adams State and No. 20 Westminster. The team remains focused on improving execution and consistency as they push for a strong finish to the season. Switzer said the team goal "is to dominate the RMAC and advance to the play-in tournament." O'Connor aspires to "win the rest of our conference games, secure the RMAC tournament title, and compete in the NCAA tournament."

O'Connor said, "Cade Poe and Drew Klingman have been dominant at the X. They're battle-tested and ready to make a big impact in conference play."

The Golden Eagles will retake the field on March 15, hosting Adams State in a pivotal RMAC showdown. For more information visit the 2025 men's lacrosse schedule at cuigoldeneagles.com.



PICTURED ABOVE: No. 5, Max Texter and No.3, Chad McFadden stand side by side with their arms around one another
Photo courtesy of: Instagram: @cuilax

Softball is in a league of its own

EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

Golden Eagles softball stole the show during their time in Hawaii, facing Hawai'i Hilo, Chaminade and Hawai'i Pacific. They returned to the nest as the PacWest Team of the Week after securing eight wins and only one loss. Ultimately, winning all three series with 66 total runs for the nine-game stretch and adding to their dominating 20-3 record.

Freshman Kacie Gossett came out with a striking appearance during her start against HPU in game one, throwing her first career no-hitter. Only being her fourth start for the Golden Eagles, Gossett earned the PacWest Pitcher of the Week. Gossett was supported by the Golden Eagle offense who worked to close out the game with a triumphant 16 runs.

"Having a team that you can trust to do their part offensively and make amazing plays defensively really contributes to my confidence as a pitcher," said Gossett. "Also, having coaches and teammates who have continuous confidence in me allows me to have confidence in myself and my abilities."

Sophomore Audrey Robles is also coming in hot after tallying ten total runs and nine RBIs during the trip. "Up to bat, being aggressive to want to hit strikes and wanting to get on base is the mindset I played with throughout the games," said Robles.

Graduate student from Grand Canyon University, Kayla Rodgers, has also proved herself to be a valuable and consistent force at the plate for the Golden Eagles. Rodgers is currently leading the team with 30 total runs, ten of which she earned during the week of competition in Hawaii. Rodgers said, "As a team, our success came from fighting for one another. If one person got out we all had confidence that the next person would get the job done. Our mindset was to be intentional with everything we do. From warm ups to the

game, we were intentional in attacking and competing with one another."

With this unbreakable attitude, nobody will be able to stop Concordia softball. "We played well and it all came down to the mentality that no one could beat us," said Robles.

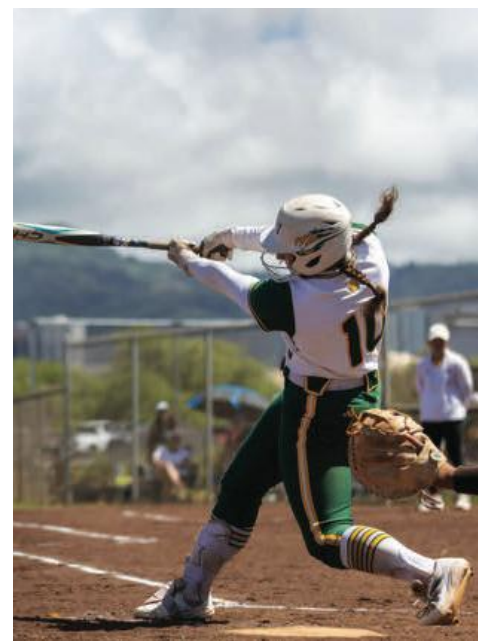
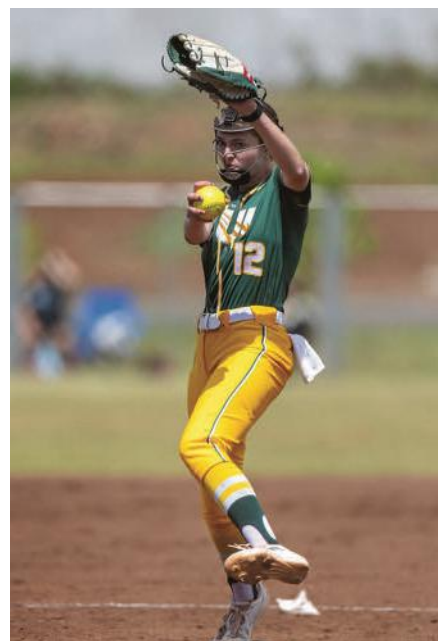
Despite the turnover of athletes, our beloved Golden Eagle softball consistently finds ways to beat their competition and find success on the field year after year. "Since we are a young team, I have noticed accountability and grit from all of the girls to step up, knowing the expectations that are held for Concordia softball," said Robles.

The consistency of this team also comes from the strong foundation of the coaching staff, led by athletic director and head softball coach Crystal Rosenthal. "Our coaching staff does an incredible job of preparing us for each game by really studying the other teams and allowing us to do so as well. They are able to come up with a successful game plan based on this familiarity with our opponent," said Gossett.

In their #GoldenEra, this hardcore team just made their season debut on the National Fastpitch Coaches Association's Division II Coaches poll at No.25, and look to continue climbing the ranks. The Golden Eagles currently rank No.1 in the PacWest conference and look to defend their position as they continue conference competition.

Tomorrow, Sat., March 15, the Lady Eagles will host Pace University, all the way from New York, in the Golden Eagles Stadium for a doubleheader at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. Conference competition will resume on March 19 against PacWest newcomers, Vanguard University, as the women welcome them to the Golden Eagle stadium for their first face-off with their NCAA DII title.

For all things Concordia softball, from statistics, schedule, player info, live streams and news, visit cuigoldeneagles.com. Don't forget to follow @cuisoftball on Instagram for the inside scoop!



PICTURED ABOVE: (left) No. 12, Kacie Gossett winding up her pitch (right) No. 10, Kayla Rodgers swinging at the plate
Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon



PICTURED ABOVE: Athletes standing in a line, holding hands for the national anthem
Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon

Men's volleyball alum Logan Glave leads Golden Eagles to first win as interim head coach

SAMANTHA CAMPION
STAFF WRITER

Concordia Irvine men's volleyball alumni Logan Glave earned his first career win as interim head coach and snapped the Golden Eagles 10-game losing streak in a series sweep against Jessup University on March 7.

Glave's promotion to interim head coach came after the departure of former interim head coach Chris Seiffert, who left midseason to pursue an assistant coach position at Loyola Marymount University for the women's volleyball team.

Glave received the news last Monday, and admitted it was a surprise filled with mixed emotions.

"I'm really excited for Coach Seiffert and his new job, it's a big step up for

him," said Glave. "I was not expecting to become a head coach at Concordia at this age, but it's a new adventure that I'm ready to give my all to these guys for the last six weeks."

After graduating, Glave initially had his professional interests set on either a military or firefighting academy. However, an annual catch-up text from Seiffert opened the door to an assistant position at his alma mater.

Seiffert had served as an assistant coach during Glave's senior year at CUI before he took over as the interim head coach last season and led the Golden Eagles to a 6-19 record.

"It's not just about winning games, it's about growing the individual as an athlete and a person," said Glave. "That's what Seiffert did for me and I am super grateful to him as he helped me grow as a person. I'm excited to see how these guys

grow as teammates, friends and people."

Despite his first loss against The Master's University in straight sets at the helm of the Golden Eagles, Glave spent the first week assembling a staff composed of former teammates and CUI alumni, resulting in two thrilling victories over the Jessup Warriors.

The four set win over Jessup marked the Golden Eagles first win since the sweep against D'Youville University Jan. 18, improving CUI to a 6-11 overall record.

Glave addressed his team's competitive nature in the practice gym, encouraging them to view this as an opportunity to prove to themselves and others that they could turn the season around, even in the midst of adversity.

"I think we've had a shift in our mindset and culture after our season wasn't going as well as we wanted it to," said Glave. "I emphasized that this is a clean slate for us and I want us to have the mentality that this is a brand new season for us. Forget our record beforehand, it's a new season and we are 0-0."

Long Island University transfer setter/middle blocker Kasey Clouet and middle blocker John Rzepniewski from Westcliff University saw the benefit of the team's fresh start.

Clouet earned his first career start at setter in the first matchup against Jessup, finishing the night with 35 assists and a team-high seven digs. Clouet played the majority of this season in the

middle blocker position for the Golden Eagles, currently ranking fifth on the team in kills with 65.

Rzepniewski registered four kills at a .222 hitting percentage in his fourth career start, just two kills short of reaching a career-high five kills in the loss against the Master's on Jan. 31.

In only his fifth start of the season, outside hitter Gage Doble matched a season-high 15 kills and outside hitter Ties Cornelissen followed closely behind with 12 kills.

The Golden Eagles defeated the Warriors in straight sets in the second match of the series 26-24, 25-19, and 25-18. Doble and Cornelissen combined for 21 kills on the night and middle blocker Clement Osahon Jr. added six kills on 11 attempts for a .455 hitting percentage.

Setter Makai Lipson shared that the team is committed to supporting Glave through this transition and determined to give him their best effort. "He's sacrificed a lot in order to accept this role and his effort towards our team throughout this whole process has ignited a fight in us for the rest of the season," said Lipson. "We are focusing on one day at a time, concentrating on each rep and not looking at the end result."

With only 10 games remaining in the regular season, the Golden Eagles are eager to carry this momentum under Glave into Mountain Pacific Sports Federation play, setting their eyes on upsetting the No. 15 Grand Canyon in a two-game series on the road in Phoenix, Ariz.



PICTURED ABOVE: Former outside hitter Logan Glave played for Concordia Irvine from 2018-2022 and led the Green and Gold to the program's first series sweep over Stanford in 2022.

Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon



PICTURED ABOVE: Libero Cruse Ae'e (No.16) led the team in celebration after pushing the seventh ranked Brigham Young Cougars to a fifth set Feb 14.

Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon

Beach volleyball delivers with a historic start to their 2025 season

STAFF WRITER
MAKAMAE DU PONT

Concordia beach volleyball is receiving national recognition, following a historic victory over Pepperdine and strong performances in recent tournaments. The beach volleyball team looks to keep making positive strides in their season within the next month.

Junior Kelia Giusta opened up about the team's recent success. Giusta said, "The Pepperdine win was a very big deal for our team and beach program. We have put so much effort, mentally and physically, into this team to get to this point. It shows us that there is a reward for all the time and effort we put into this program."

Giusta added, "Our team chemistry has been stronger this year than any past years I've been here at Concordia. The team has been hardworking and eager to win." With the recent successes, Giusta believes they are "finally getting the respect they deserve" as they continue to pull off major upsets.

Giusta's pair, Gabrielle Reinking, a junior, gave some insights about the team. Reinking said the team "committed to the culture and the hard work needed to produce victory on and off the court." She added, "Whether it was weights, practice or the classroom, everyone holds each other accountable."

Reinking said that the captains are keeping the team rolling with their energy, and the coaches are

helping with drills, mindful activities and film. Reinking added, "This school and team has a lot of talent, [she also believes they] will bump up in the rankings."

Korah Nordin, sophomore, explained they are getting ready for their upcoming tournament. Nordin said, "Our mindset and goal heading into the LBSU tournament this weekend is to not underestimate ourselves." Nordin added they "created a team mantra at the start of the season: to pursue history with excellence and confidence."

With a strong start to the season, the team has fulfilled their mantra with wins against Pepperdine, CSUN and Cal State Bakersfield. "Receiving votes in the national AVCA poll last week was a huge

deal for us. I can't wait to see what we accomplish next," said Nordin. This was the first time in the program's history that they have received votes in the AVCA coaches poll.

The beach volleyball team gets ready to take on teams like Tarleton State and Boise State in the LBSU tournament this coming weekend. They play two games on Sat., March 15, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. And two games on Sun., March 16, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. They will all be played in Long Beach: Saturday at the Long Beach Sand Courts, and Sunday at Rosie's Dog Beach. Make sure to follow @cuigoldeneagles and @cuibeach on Instagram for updates and the latest announcements for their 2025 season.



PICTURED ABOVE: From left to right- Eva Prewitt, Olivia Highstreet, Tatum Smith, and Nicole Miller.
Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon



PICTURED ABOVE: Kelia Giusta left, and Gabrielle Reinking pose for photo.
Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon