

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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Student leaders call students to Christ-centered involvement with “Beyond Measure”

JORDAN VANDER VEEN
STAFF WRITER

“Beyond Measure” is the theme student leaders picked to guide Concordia students through the academic year. It is inspired by Ephesians 3:14-21. Brody Collins, ASCUI president, said, “The leading value for all student leadership is how can we surpass knowledge, which is what it says in the verse, and how can we pursue God in a deeper way.”

Collins believes the campus must intentionally be more Christ-centered this year.



PICTURED ABOVE: ASCUI President, Brody Collins, and ASCUI Communications Director Jai Viela posing for a picture outside of CSLD.

Photo courtesy of: Jordan Vander Veen



PICTURED ABOVE: ASCUI president Brody Collins outside of CSLD.

Photo courtesy of: Jordan Vander Veen

The ASCUI group has been working hard to bring all the different student departments together and remind them that the main goal is to serve Christ. Collins explained, “I think the cohesiveness between events and showing up for games will create a stronger school pride on campus.” Student leaders’ main goal is for Concordia to have school pride that shines through the lens of Christ’s love for us.

Student leadership is calling every Concordia student to get involved this school year. “Go to things and do not go with skepticism. Go with optimism and make the event better by you being there,” said Collins. ASCUI is working hard to provide exciting events for students. A new event they are thrilled to introduce is Boot Scoot and Boogie. “We are going to have a live band, hopefully vendors, food trucks, drinks, an area to hang out, and then we are going to try to get all [of] the school here on a Friday night to have a line dancing night,” explained Collins. This event will take place after the Fall Festival in November. Collins encourages students, “Just go. Give it a chance and go.”

Jai Viela, ASCUI communications director, said, “Go to events, network, and meet new people. Come to our big ASCUI events.”

Concordia offers plenty of opportunities to get involved. Get the most out of the college experience by attending events and expanding social horizons. “I recommend that you go to all the events because they are fun and that is how you meet new people,” said Viela. “Just put yourself out there.” Student leadership is putting in effort to plan events, and you get to do the easy part of attending. The events are a great way to meet new people and keep you socially involved.

Viela said, “We can’t do our job without you, and we’re looking forward to hearing your ideas.”

Collins agrees, “Our job is basically to support you guys.”

Student leadership needs your feedback to make student life more enjoyable. The student leaders are happy to hear any questions, concerns, or ideas that you may have as a student. “ASCUI is basically a direct method to get to administration if you’re a student,” said Collins. “So if you are a student, come find us if you have something that you feel like needs to be changed here on campus.”

For more information, head to the ASCUI page on the Concordia website; all the student leadership contact information is there. You can also follow @_ascui on Instagram to stay updated on the upcoming events happening on campus.

Charlie Kirk shooting raises conversation, questions about safety

KIARA AZUMA
ONLINE/MEDIA EDITOR

On Wed. Sept. 10, conservative activist Charlie Kirk was fatally shot during a campus event at Utah Valley University. Kirk, 31 years old, was the founder and CEO of Turning Point U.S.A. and host of the popular radio show, “The Charlie Kirk Show.” According to his website, Turning Point USA is a “nonprofit organization dedicated to rallying, organizing, and empowering students to advocate for principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government.”

The shooting occurred during one of Kirk’s stops on his Turning Point U.S.A. tour, where he visited school campuses across the United States.

For Generation Z, the shooting was one of the first instances that the generation witnessed mass news headlines regarding a major political figure being shot and killed.

Dr. Bryan Santin, English professor, said, “While it is difficult to tell how the Charlie Kirk assassination will impact young adults today, since it is still so fresh, I think it may impact them in ways that are analogous to how the John F. Kennedy assassination impacted the Baby Boomer generation.” He quoted American novelist and essayist Don DeLillo, who stated in his essay, “American Blood,” that the Kennedy assassination became “our major emblem of uncertainty and chaos.”

He believes that Kirk’s assassination may impact Generation Z the same way. “The Kirk assassination may come to serve as a defining image of disorder for a new generation, shaping their sense of history, politics, and cultural identity,” Santin said.

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Move With Purpose blends fitness and faith

ARIANA ROSALES
STAFF WRITER

Students, faculty and staff now have the opportunity to start their mornings with a workout that strengthens both body and spirit. A new workout class, called Move With Purpose, launched this semester, offering a unique blend of cardio, strength training, music and prayer.

The 45-minute class, led by instructor and Concordia’s Visits and Events Coordinator, Maureen Stewart, takes place every Wednesday and Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. in the new CU Recreation. Designed for participants of all fitness levels, the class aims to strengthen physical health while also encouraging spiritual growth.

“It is not a straightforward fitness class,” Stewart said. “What makes it different is that we focus on the Lord and connect your mind, body, and heart to pursue healing through Move With Purpose and the new lessons each week.” Stewart mentioned that each week there is a new “Big Idea” message, which includes a verse and journal questions.

Move With Purpose combines high-energy cardio with strength training movements, all choreographed to a soundtrack of upbeat pop hits and contemporary worship songs. Stewart added that she mixes the soundtrack with music that students grew up with and current music. She said, “I want people to know some of the songs and be happy when they hear songs that they know and love. Such as One Direction, Miley Cyrus, and worship. I also love taking suggestions from participants.”

“The music controls your feelings and energy throughout the workout,” said Jess Morales, a junior who attended one of the first classes. “When a worship song is playing, you’re moving more slowly, and you feel your mind slow down. When an upbeat song is playing, you feel confident and your heart rate goes up.”

Prayer is woven into the class, with Stewart leading participants in moments of reflection. She said, “I hope that they feel stronger in their bodies and that they feel closer to the Lord as we pray and talk about healing.” It reminds students that fitness can be more than a physical discipline. Preslie Fisk, a sophomore, said, “The atmosphere makes me feel so welcomed. The music is great, and being surrounded by those who have the same drive as me is uplifting and refreshing.”

Fisk added that the early morning schedule has been a motivating factor. She said, “My schedule is packed with school and work this semester. Being able to get my workout in first thing in the morning has been so helpful, and I feel productive and accomplished.”

Morales mentioned that Stewart’s energy and passion for the Lord and the class are contagious and inspiring. She said, “It makes waking up at 6 a.m. worth it. The class is so fun, and a great way to connect with your body, faith and friends.” Morales recommended the class to those looking to boost their mood and mindset. She added, “You’re getting more than just a workout. You’re getting prayer, fun memories and strength.”

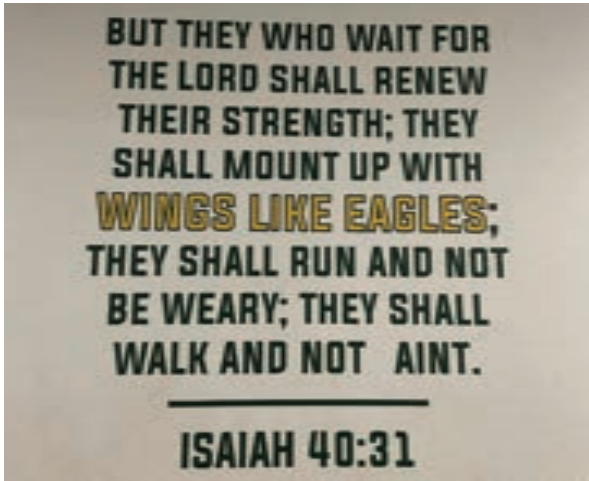
Stewart, who in 2012 became a professional fitness instructor, said, “My experiences and the Holy Spirit inspired me to start Move With Purpose.” She mentioned how important it was for her to create a fun program that makes people feel stronger in their bodies. She added, “There is a sense of community, and everyone leaves happy. I hope people find so much joy in the class that they don’t want to miss it.”

The class is free to all Concordia students, faculty and staff. Stewart said she hopes to see the class grow and potentially expand in the future. “Ultimately, I want God to bless the people who decide to go, and I hope He helps them however they need,” Stewart said.



PICTURED ABOVE: Rec’s new Move with Purpose class is all about early morning exercise that makes your body and spirit feel good.

Photo courtesy of: Maureen Stewart



PICTURED ABOVE: Each Move with Purpose class includes Bible verses and journaling questions.

Photo courtesy of: Maureen Stewart



PICTURED ABOVE: Led by Maureen Stewart, Move with Purpose is an outlet for students who are focused on exercising, with a focus on upbeat music and faith.

Photo courtesy of: Maureen Stewart

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Intramurals take the field as flag football kicks off the season

KAYLA CIMARUSTI
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday nights at Concordia are kicked off with high energy, as students hit the field for intramural flag football. Their season has started with fast plays, loud supporters and campus spirit.

Jessica Borton, a Business Management major and Student Coordinator, said putting the season together took a lot of preparation. “We sit down as a team and decide all the dates of when flag football will start, and when sign-ups open and close,” she said. “As people signed up, we made all the teams, hired refs, it’s a lot of planning, but we work together on it.”

For Borton, the job goes beyond planning. Having played flag football herself every year, organizing the league now carries personal meaning. “I love it because I used to play, and I know what it needs to succeed. I want to help others experience it the way I did.”

Flag football has been the opener for Concordia’s intramural season for years, and it is a tradition, Borton said, that will continue. “It’s one of our biggest and most popular sports, and it’s always been the first one, so we kept the tradition going.”

Fellow coordinator Ryder Natzic, a Business Marketing major, emphasized the energy and effort behind the scenes. “There’s a lot of communication, planning, organization and fun,” he said. This year, participation is high. “We had seven teams this year. Last year, we only had six.”

Natzic also hoped intramurals would give students something beyond competition; a sense of belonging. “I hope students gain a piece of Concordia,” he said. “Kids who don’t play sports here can still be part of athletics, especially if they loved sports in high school.”

He added that the timing of the season helps build excitement. “Fall just feels like football season. The NFL is starting, the weather’s changing, and the air smells like football. People want to get outside and play.”

Jedidiah Rufner, Business Data Analytics major, highlighted the sense of connection and the behind-the-scenes teamwork. “A lot

of planning went into it, from generating ideas with Jessica, Ryder, and our supervisor Kryssa,” he said. “We had to make sure we covered every base, like tabling, posters, and lots of communication across campus to get students to join.”

For Rufner, flag football is more than a game. “It helps bring together students who might not have met otherwise. It even connects staff and students. It builds a sense of community outside the classroom and outside athletics.”

Opening night, he said, makes all the hard work worth it. “Just seeing everything we put into creating the league come together and being able to watch everyone have a good time, playing, and competing for the championship is the most rewarding part.”

Joseph Panetta, a Business major with an emphasis in Data Analytics, is a team captain. He said he returned to the league after playing last year. “I’m really competitive, and I like to play sports and win,” Panetta said. “Intramurals are a good way to remember that sports are supposed to be fun.”

Panetta said he became captain by chance after forming the team. He said he enjoyed the role because it allowed him to keep things light-hearted. “I do enjoy being captain because some people take intramurals a bit too seriously,” he said. “I just want to remind everyone we’re here to have fun.”

Panetta described his team as competitive but focused on balancing performance and fun. “We’re serious competitors,” he said. “We’re not happy when we lose. We want to win, but that doesn’t mean we’re not having fun doing it.”

He said the highlight of the season so far had been seeing the team come together.

“Week one, we almost got into a fight; that was kind of cool,” Panetta said, laughing. “But really, it’s just been about seeing our players come together and create a football team out of people that don’t play football. Us being as imperfect as we are is what makes it fun.”

Concordia’s intramural flag football league continues throughout the semester, with students competing for the season championship.



PICTURED ABOVE: Intramural Flag Football continues to be one of the most popular and anticipated intramural sports at Concordia.

Photo courtesy of: Kayla Cimarusti



PICTURED ABOVE: Intramural Flag Football is bringing campus spirit to the field this fall

Photo courtesy of: Kayla Cimarusti



PICTURED ABOVE: Flag Football Games kick off Concordia’s season of intramural sports.

Photo courtesy of: Kayla Cimarusti



PICTURED ABOVE: Flag Football requires lots of communication and organization from student leaders with the ultimate goal of having fun.

Photo courtesy of: Kayla Cimarusti

Passport Week introduces students to local favorites

TYNA ROMOFF
STAFF WRITER

The first week of September, Concordia hosted “Passport Week.” A weeklong series of activities designed to give students new experiences, highlight local spots and get students involved. Each day had a different theme, making the week feel like a “journey” through the community.

Monday: Hiking Adventures

The week began with an invigorating hike in Laguna Park. Students enjoyed fresh air, stunning views, and bonding with others outside the classroom. For Kailah Peery, a junior studying Business Marketing, the hike was very memorable. “The views were a lot better in general because you could see the beach from where we were,” said Peery. “There were a lot of hills and it was difficult to get up them, but it was rewarding in the end.”

The hike was about two miles long, lasting around an hour, with 20 participants.

Tuesday: Shopping Favorites

Conversations shifted indoors for an exciting discussion about the best shopping spots in Orange County. Students shared their favorite malls and local shops. On CU Recreation’s Instagram, they posted a listing of malls, shops, and thrift stores around Irvine. Bethany Wagner, a junior studying Business Marketing, said, “I love Zara because it has a lot of staple basic clothes.”

Wednesday: Orange County Eats

Food took the spotlight midweek. Students swapped recommendations for their favorite cafes and restaurants. Wagner noted, “My favorite restaurant is Rakkan Ramen because it’s good food, not super expensive, and the servers have always been kind to us... Coffee Dose in Costa Mesa is a very cute spot, especially for pictures... I like the food and coffee there.” CU Recreation also posted a video for students where ASCUI President Brody Collins listed various food and drink locations in Orange County. Students can view the video as a reference when looking for a new place to eat with friends.

Thursday: CU Recreation Rentals

Students were able to learn all about the different gear and equipment available for rent from CU Recreation. From camping gear to beach cruising bikes, Thursday’s showcase revealed resources many students didn’t realize were available at their fingertips. See website <https://concordia-university-irvine-b13e.boooqableshop.com/> for gear and equipment rentals.

Friday: Surfing at Doheny Beach

Waves and sunshine set the tone as the Surf Club met at Doheny Beach. Around 70 students came out, with about 50 trying surfing for the first time. Mikel Villarreal, a senior Engineering major, highlighted what stood out most. “I think just seeing that [students] are new to the school and seeing them get involved, even if it meant driving off campus,” he said.

The vibes at the beach helped make it a successful event. “It was good, there weren’t too many people...and the people who didn’t know how to surf were able to try it out,” said Villarreal.

While Doheny might not have the biggest waves, Villarreal said it’s perfect for beginners: “Probably not [the best waves]. In terms of teaching people, though, I think it’s a good place.”

The next CU Surf event is taking place on Sat., Sept. 20.

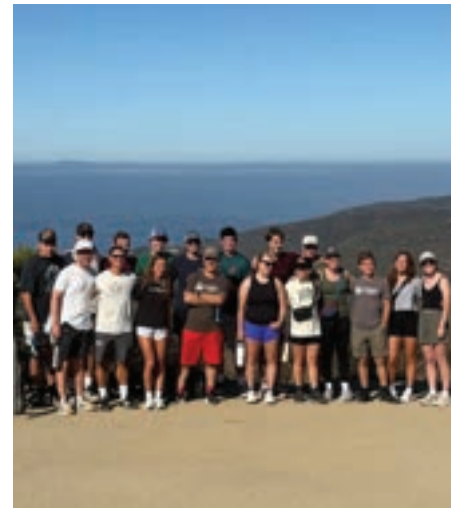
Saturday: Run Club to the Farmers Market

Energy stayed high as Sat. morning kicked off with the Run Club taking a light jog to a local farmers’ market. After the run, the students were able to cool down while exploring the farmers’ market and other local vendors.

Sunday: CU Birdies Golf Meet Up

The week ended with the CU Birdies Golf Club gathering to discuss their favorite course. They shared tips and connected over their love for the sport.

Passport Week was much more than just a series of activities; it was an opportunity for students to connect with one another, discover new hobbies, and take advantage of both local and campus resources.



PICTURED ABOVE: CUI Students on Hike in Laguna
Photo courtesy of: CU_Recreation



PICTURED ABOVE: CU Surf Club at Doheny Beach
Photo courtesy of: CU_Recreation

Concordia Speech & Debate kicks off new season with passion and purpose

HOPE YONEHARA
STAFF WRITER

With fresh faces, renewed energy, and big goals, the Concordia University Speech & Debate team is ready to launch into a new 2025 season.

Director Konrad Hack set the tone with his outlook, “I want everyone to have fun and do their best. That being said, winning is fun, and I am hoping to get everyone to their full potential as quickly as possible.”

Sharing this enthusiasm, team captain Laura Gibson added, “As captain, my goal for this season is to equip and empower our team with the tools and resources they need to be successful in life, feel confident going into everything, and build a community where people feel like they can be authentically themselves.”

Preparation to reach these goals is already underway, with hours of practice, research and fine-tuning performances. Speech coach Rebekah Symank explained, “We are working to all have high-quality literature and topics so we have solid rough drafts. We’re

also working to build a culture of constructive feedback where team members share their thoughts and ideas, and we use each coaching session to build better speeches.”

This year also welcomes several new members to the team. For many, it’s their first time competing in college speech and debate, and they’re eager to learn from their experienced teammates. Anna Schatte, a freshman speech member, said, “Despite being here for only a little while, I already feel like part of the speech and debate family. And I am looking forward to working with my family to perform amazing speeches and using my voice to spread awareness about important issues.”

Benjamin Zapf echoed that sentiment. “I am eager to learn from my peers about how to make the type of arguments that would be taken seriously in my previous debate league. I never had people to go to tournaments with and travel with before, so it’s cool to now have teammates to learn from,” he said.

Beyond all the preparations for this upcoming season, what truly sets the team apart is its dynamics.

Teammates emphasize not just competition but also camaraderie and support for one another. Josiah Schade, a freshman speech member, explained, “I love everyone on the team. The environment is very competitive but also fun, welcoming, and laid back. Furthermore, the team is set up so that the students can succeed and feel supported which is something I really appreciate.”

Emma Ford agreed saying, “I feel so happy about this upcoming season. Everyone is so supportive. For example, during my first round of NPDA, I did very badly, but my coach reassured me and told me that I did very badly in [early] high school debate but improved over time, and that the same thing would happen with NPDA.”

As the season begins, Concordia’s Speech & Debate team is stepping forward not only with sharpened skills and new members, but also with a shared commitment: to compete fiercely, support one another deeply, and grow together as both performers and people.



PICTURED ABOVE: Concordia University Speech Team at the 2025 American Forensic Association National Speech Tournament
Photo courtesy of: Hope Yonehara

Concordia Choir brings joyous sounds to Mayor's Breakfast and upcoming Hymn Festival

REBEKAH MICHEL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As fall approaches and students acclimate to the semester, members of the Music Department make their first public performances of the school year. With a season that ranges from hymns, orchestra tours, commercial projects, to handbells, the Music Department is preparing for another vibrant year of concert offerings to all students, faculty and audiences beyond Concordia.

For The Concordia Choir, directed by Dr. Michael Busch, students were met with a challenging repertoire and a full season of performances very early in the semester. “This year is more challenging than any of the four years that I have been in The Concordia Choir. But we are pulling up, showing up, and rising to the occasion,” said senior Olivia Thoeleke.

As the premier choir of Concordia, The Concordia Choir is active outside of campus and frequently performs for events in the community. On Fri., Sept. 12, singers from The Concordia Choir sang at the Orange County Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the Irvine Marriott. “This event is a high-profile gathering of local political and church leaders, and we’re grateful that Concordia University will be represented by some of our very best students,” said Director of Choral and Vocal Activities, Dr. Michael Busch.

In addition to mayors from cities across Orange County, Robert Pelinka, president and general manager of the Los Angeles Lakers, was the keynote speaker and in attendance. The Concordia Choir performed a set of three pieces, including spirituals, choral anthems, and a rendition of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. “It was nice to sing in a smaller setting for people who have the power to make change in Orange County. I am not from California, but I still

got to see some of the political leaders from an opportunity with The Concordia Choir, which is not something that I expected,” said Theolke.

After a successful performance at the Orange County Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, students in The Concordia Choir have no time to waste as they prepare for the annual Fall Festival of Hymns 2025: “Hymns of Light and Love.” On Oct. 4, The Concordia Choir and The Master Chorale will fill St. John's Lutheran Church in Orange with sounds of hymns and sacred music. Sophomore Emma Martinez said her favorite piece is, “I think ‘Seek Him the Seven Stars’ is the best because it is magical, whimsical, and takes you on a journey.”

Accompanying The Concordia Choir as a guest artist, organist, and composer, Benjamin Culli will work with the students to perform select works from over four hundred of his own compositions. “I think pieces like ‘Seek Him the Seven Stars’ will sound really cool with a live organ. It will add to the ambience of the concert and the music,” said Martinez.

With more than 100 voices lifting praise, the Fall Festival of Hymns continues to be a concert that is a favorite for many students and faculty at Concordia.

For more information or tickets for Fall Festival of Hymns 2025: “Hymns of Light and Love,” please visit www.simpletix.com.



PICTURED ABOVE: Select students from The Concordia Choir sang at the Orange County Mayors Prayer Breakfast for various political, civil, and religious leaders. Photo courtesy of: Concordia Music Department

Review: The passing of the arts in the play “Collected Stories”

COLIN WHEELER
STAFF WRITER

“Collected Stories” by Donald Margulies is a play about the complex relationship and interactions between a writing professor, Ruth, played by LouLou Schiavo, and her student Lisa, played by Abigail Elizondo. Ruth is an experienced short story writer, while Lisa is a young up-and-coming writer. “Collected Stories” focuses on the meeting of Ruth and Lisa, with both sharing stories they have written and life stories they’ve lived. Themes of mentorship across generations are prevalent throughout the whole show as it compares the young aspirations of Lisa and the learned wisdom of Ruth.

Elizondo and Schiavo do a great job drawing the audience into the world and the relationship these two characters form. Both mentioned the important work they put into the rehearsal process to understand their characters. Schiavo said there was “never a moment where we could sit back and breathe. It was always from the moment you walked into the door, you got to be ‘on.’”

Although pacing felt a bit slow at the beginning of Act One, both actors were able to use their space effectively, engaging the audience. It picked up towards the end of Act One until the end of Act Two, with the play's climax, where Ruth and Lisa part ways after a fight. The fight is between the personal stories Ruth shared and the taught and story-hungry writer Lisa, wanting to write what was honest to herself and what she had heard from her mentor. Elizondo said that the story's ending is “crazy in how it all ties together. Ruth says that things are never resolved in a relationship,

and that’s so true.” A play with such a small cast like this one can sometimes be a rarity in theater, but as Schiavo said, “Small cast shows like this are good because it really strengthens actors and puts the attention on strengthening specific skills.”

For Schiavo and Elizondo, this was their first show with the Theatre Department. There were both high expectations and trust given to both of them for their roles in this play. Elizondo said, “I was so fortunate that [Tony] Vezner, our director, was able to trust me on this, especially for it being my first show, because it’s such a tight-knit show. I feel incredibly lucky and excited for the future. I think it’s great here at Concordia's Theatre program.”

This play surely touched my heart and the hearts of many others who went out to see the show, with many moments that left a great impact on both the cast and audience. A moment for Schiavo that stuck out to her was during Act One, Scene Three, where Ruth sits with Lisa, Schiavo said, “I tell her that I am very very proud and she's just like looking at me a couple of inches away. It’s just her and I. I feel like that line is so dialed in. I love that line because I actually am so proud of Abby.”

Now that “Collected Stories” has finished, Concordia's Theatre program is now looking towards their next musical, “Little Women.” Elizondo said that she is “super excited for ‘Little Women,’ I’m going to be doing costumes for that. I love the story of ‘Little Women.’ It is such a good show. I’m really excited to work with a big cast again.”



PICTURED ABOVE: The Concordia Choir and The Master Chorale will fill St. John's Lutheran Church in Orange with sacred music at their annual Fall Festival of Hymns. Photo courtesy of: Rebekah Michel

Concordia men’s soccer team introduces new head coach

LAURYN SCOON
STAFF WRITER

Men’s soccer has hired a new head coach, Joshua Glover, along with a new coaching staff. Glover and staff bring in new ideas and leadership, in hopes of guiding the team to a 2025 championship season.

A former collegiate and professional player and a recent Division I coach, Glover shared his initial thoughts on the team. He said, “I saw talent. I saw a hunger, a curiosity, a desire to grow, and a desire to be better.”

Glover said that while his goal for the team is to win games, be successful within the PacWest Conference, and the year as a whole, his main expectation is that “we continue to grow as a group, that we hold each other accountable and to the standards of excellence that we’ve set both on and off the field. So if we can do those things, I think the results will follow.”

The captain of the team, Domenyk Jara, a graduate student who plays the center-back position, conveyed how Glover’s leadership has already helped the team this season. Jara said, “He came in hungry in his first year as head coach. He set a standard for the team the moment he arrived while holding himself to it too and leading by example.”

Jara added, “As a true believer and follower of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Josh leads with strength, courage and faith. He is also very open with us and allows us to communicate with him openly, resolve anything, and be proactive.”

With one win and two losses this season, Glover emphasized that beyond these statistics, the core values he would like the team to embody this year are “togetherness, accountability and resilience.” He added that this comes from Galatians 6:9, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap the harvest if we do not give up.” He said, “Using these values, we want to seek to glorify God as we do that on the field and off the field. It starts with that, and that’s a primary goal for us.”

Jara echoed his coach’s remarks, “Having these principles [togetherness, accountability and resilience] lays the foundation for us as a team to always go back to and reference when trying to win games, as well as when things may get tough.”

Sophomore George Peterson, a recent transfer from Hope International University who plays the right wing position, also shared how he feels these core values will be beneficial to the season. Peterson said, “That [togetherness, accountability and resilience]

is our culture, and Josh has built that into us. Everyone is following that, and that is going to help us win games and hopefully, win the conference – that is our main goal.”

Peterson feels Glover’s leadership is a positive addition to the team, implementing “a good team culture and keeping Christ as the center.” He also thinks Glover will help him grow, individually. “I definitely just trust him to take me in and give me an opportunity, and I think it is going well so far,” he said.

For more information about Men’s soccer upcoming games, visit <https://cuigoldeneagles.com/sports/mens-soccer/schedule> and follow their Instagram @cuigoldeneagles and @cuimsoccer for more information.



PICTURED ABOVE: The men’s new head soccer coach Joshua Glover
Photo courtesy of: CUI Athletics



PICTURED ABOVE: The Men’s soccer team lined up before the game against Cal Poly Pomona
Photo courtesy of: Lauryn Scoon

Women’s volleyball starts off strong and eyes a PacWest Conference title

JORDAN VANDER VEEN
STAFF WRITER



PICTURED ABOVE: Women’s Volleyball is celebrating a point against Cal State Dominguez Hills
Photo courtesy of: Golden Eagle Dropbox

Women’s volleyball kicked off their 2025 fall season with a perfect 3-0 record at the Golden Eagle Classic, receiving PacWest Team of the Week honors. The Golden Eagles achieved a clean sweep at their home tournament, conquering Western Oregon, Cal State Dominguez Hills and Texas Woman’s University on Sept. 5 and 6.

The team is buzzing with excitement after a successful weekend defending the nest, and

players said they are hungry for more.

Junior Kayden Croy said, “It’s very exciting and even though we have a lot of work to do, I feel like it’s definitely reassuring to all the hard work we put in the first few weeks.”

The PacWest team of the week is not settling there. Sophomore Macy Sheer said, “We want a bigger thing at the end of this season so all these little accolades throughout the year will help us reach that end goal.” That end goal is winning a PacWest championship.

These ladies are ready for all the challenges they will face this season. For Junior Dominique Vadeboncoeur, success will come from tenacity. “I think [we need to accept that] we are going to have things that aren’t going our way,” said Vadeboncoeur. “Instead of using those as excuses, [allow] them to be felt and [move] on quickly because everyone is feeling that way,” she said.

The key to success is not just the hard work they have put in on the court, but also the intentional bonding off the court. Sophomore Delaney Gregg said, “A strong team chemistry has helped us a lot. I feel like we really grew closer together in the preseason and double days, and it feels like we’ve just really bonded together. I feel like trusting each other helps us a lot.”

This year’s motto, “We over me,” encapsulates the team’s culture. “We, the team, like everyone together is greater than one person, so putting the team before yourself is the goal,” Sheer said. “I think everyone just cares so much about each other, and I think we all just want the best for each other and the best for our team.”

The ladies feel like their success is a result of the team culture they have built. They work hard on and off the court to care for each other and build that trust that a team needs to be successful. Croy added that support is the foundation of their success. “I feel like everyone is pouring into each other, so I would say supportive is our team culture right now.”

The volleyball team hopes to build on this success as they start games in the PacWest Conference. Come out and support the Golden Eagles at their conference opener Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. The ladies will face the 2024 PacWest champions, Chaminade, at home.

Visit <https://cuigoldeneagles.com/sports/womens-volleyball/schedule> to find more games and information on the Women’s Volleyball team.



PICTURED ABOVE: Women’s Volleyball posing for a picture after their green vs. gold scrimmage.
Photo courtesy of: Golden Eagle Dropbox

Cross country finishes first meet in fourth place

CHAD HAYES
STAFF WRITER

Bryce Philbeck, a sophomore majoring in Communications Studies, and Gavin Hellerstedt, a senior majoring in Engineering, are members of the Concordia men's cross country team. They sat down in the Lambda Lounge and talked about their first two meets and expectations for the rest of the year.

Philbeck is a new team member, having only been at Concordia for a year and a half. He has loved his time at the university so far. Philbeck chose Concordia because of the family aspect; he knew it was one huge family, and they treated student athletes with support. "It feels a lot more team-based than my last school; it's like a family here," said Philbeck. His favorite moment so far on the track team was when he ran the steeple chase. He said, "Running steeple chase was my favorite. I have so many friends who run it, and being able to run with them was great."

Their first meet, the Coyote Challenge, occurred in San Bernardino on Sept. 6. The team placed fourth. For the Coyote Challenge, Philbeck's main preparation involved drinking plenty of water for hydration, getting sufficient sleep and maintaining a balanced diet.

For the team's next event, Philbeck kept the same routine. He said, "Keeping good sleep and nutrition is important, so

nothing changed for this event." Philbeck wants people to understand the importance of mental preparation for cross country and hopes that the younger generation of runners understands the crucial role it plays. Another part of his routine is the music he listens to before a meet. Philbeck's favorite pre-game artist to listen to is A\$AP Rocky.

The men's cross country team had its second meet at the Biola Invitational in Fullerton on Sept. 12, placing seventh out of 17 teams. Philbeck has loved the team's progress so far and is excited for the team to make more progress.

Hellerstedt has been on the team for all four years and has loved his time here. Hellerstedt switched over to cross country after he realized that soccer wasn't the sport for him, and he's pleased with the decision. His preparation for the meet was making sure to get some good sleep. The main thing that Hellerstedt wants to change is focusing on his mentality before the next meet.

Hellerstedt's biggest piece of advice for the next generation of runners is, "Trust the process, but also enjoy the process." One thing Hellerstedt wishes he had known before he started track here was how well his body was going to get used to more high-mileage running.

Hellerstedt chose Concordia because the coaches wanted to get to know him more. Instead of focusing on just his running capabilities, they focused on his character. Hellerstedt is very proud of the team's result, focusing heavily on team culture, and they are getting better at it. His favorite moment with the team was going to a conference with his teammates and just running as one big group like a family.

Looking to the future, Hellerstedt has an interest in coaching. He said, "I don't understand the science

behind the sport too much, so it would be great to become an assistant coach instead; if not that, I could be a great hype coach."

Cross country is in for a huge season after their first two meets. Their expectations are set even higher, and the team is excited to have better results. The team will be running at the UC Riverside Invitational on Sat., Sept. 27. More information regarding the team and their schedule can be found on <https://cuigoldeneagles.com/sports/mens-cross-country>.



PICTURED ABOVE: Hayes chatted with members of the men's cross country team to get their thoughts on game day preparation and the current season.
Photo courtesy of: Chad Hayes

Charlie Kirk shooting

(Continued from pg. 1)

On the same day, a shooting also took place at a Colorado high school. Two students were injured, and the shooter fatally shot himself. A few weeks prior, on Aug. 27, a shooting occurred at a Minneapolis Catholic school, resulting in two fatalities. These events, along with the shooting of Kirk occurring on a college campus, raise the question of how students and faculty should respond in the case of a violent intruder on Concordia's campus.

Raul Morales, the director of the Department of Campus Safety, gave his input on how Concordia handles situations of violent intruders and potential school shootings or violence.

"The Concordia Campus Safety personnel are great listeners, which is the best way to keep people safe. We always strive to create a partnership with students so that we can work together to prevent incidents and solve problems that can arise," said Morales.

Morales explained that the department works to fulfill its motto: "There is Safety In Service." Campus Safety works to be visible, transparent, and caring for the people of Concordia. "This promotes all our partnerships on campus, which makes people feel comfortable in coming to Campus Safety for any and all concerns. This is the cornerstone of preventing crimes and helping before an

incident occurs," said Morales.

On Tues., Sept. 23, Campus Safety is hosting its annual Violent Intruder Response Training at DeNault Auditorium (Grimm Hall South). The training will take place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with an hour of presentation, followed by an hour of exercise. Campus Safety is partnering with the Irvine Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Department for this training. For students who stay the entire session, they have a chance to win a prime parking space for a month or five free coffees at Eagles Landing. For those interested, RSVP at <https://forms.gle/YmsgRhhvybXHEkNq6>.

Morales added, "Our employees are dedicated safety experts who truly care about providing a safe

and tranquil environment so that educational processes can be achieved." He invites students to contact Campus Safety at any point of concern and refer to the Campus Safety website for additional resources. The Campus Safety Department has a video on their website, along with further information on what students should do in the case of a violent intruder. Please visit <https://www.cui.edu/campus-safety/critical-incident-guidelines>.

For any questions, contact campussafety@cui.edu.

No shortage of art museums to visit in Orange County

CHLOE ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

Orange County has a wealth of art just waiting to be seen! One can easily view local art, historical artifacts or contemporary art within thirty minutes of campus.

The Hilbert Museum of California Art has a wonderful collection of paintings that depict California scenery and culture. In addition to the regular collection of California art, they have several new exhibitions. These exhibits include a collection of Japanese woodblock prints, Pueblo pottery, and original animation production cells from Disney movies. Located 26 minutes from campus, this museum is nestled in the heart of Orange. chapman.edu/arts/hilbert-museum.aspx.

The Bowers Museum has a diverse collection of artifacts and art. Some highlights of their permanent collections include ancient Chinese art and artifacts, art of the Pacific Islands, artifacts of Orange County history and Californian art. Brooklyn Pietsch, a sophomore, said, "It's eye-opening to see what different cultures value and how that translates into the art they make." A new exhibit displays several Terra Cotta Warriors and over 100 newly uncovered artifacts from the famous Qin dynasty tomb. The Bowers Museum is a 23-minute drive from campus, and visitors must purchase tickets online. bowers.org.

The Laguna Art Museum presents a variety of artworks from Southern California's history. Their galleries contain early California art, California impressionism, California modernism and contemporary art. According to

Sara Fletcher, Associate Professor of Studio Art, "Laguna Art Museum has diverse exhibits, and an easy time to visit is during the first Thursday of each month, during the Laguna Art Walk, when they have free admission and tend to have live music and docents." The Laguna Art Museum is 32 minutes from campus and within walking distance of the beach! lagunaartmuseum.org.

The Orange County Museum of Art, or OCMA, is a contemporary art museum. "The OCMA is definitely more modern! It's fresh, funky, and anything but boring. It definitely challenges what art can be, and it's unique to see modern sentiments reflected in art," Pietsch said. OCMA has ever-changing exhibits featuring art from living contemporary artists. Visitors enter the museum for free, as long as they reserve a ticket on the website. OCMA is twelve minutes away from campus and is located along the Avenue of the Arts. ocma.art.

The Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California has rotating exhibits throughout the year. The museum changes exhibits about every three months, and their newest one opens on Sat., Sept. 20. It features California landscape paintings and explores how California's natural landscapes have changed over time. Fletcher said, "This is an easy place to visit as the admission and parking are free, and right outside in the plaza is a small coffee shop where you can discuss or contemplate the art you just saw." This museum is 10 minutes away from campus and is perfect to visit in an afternoon. imca.uci.edu.



PICTURED ABOVE: Terra Cotta Warrior from the Bowers Museum
Photo courtesy of: Chloe Robinson

Add Roger's Gardens to fall activities checklist

SYDNEY WEAVER
STAFF WRITER

Roger's Gardens opened its annual Midnight Market Halloween Boutique. Kick off the fall season with a trip to the garden, a spooky walk through the boutique, and pick up a pumpkin to get in the spirit.

Roger's Gardens is located at 2301 San Joaquin Hills Road in Corona del Mar. The gardens are open to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for free and feature fresh fall produce, beautiful plants, homeware, and, of course, pumpkins for the fall season. There is also a restaurant on site – the Farmhouse – which features a farm-to-table menu. The Halloween Market adds to the fall feeling and is a great place to spend an afternoon exploring and grabbing lunch or dinner.

Leticia Lechuga, a seasonal employee at Roger's for four years, loves working during the holiday season. She said her favorite part of fall at the grounds is the Halloween area. Her favorite room in the market is "where we have the candles, the cats, and the light-up eyes." Lechuga said the most special thing about the market is that, "Every year it changes. We have such unique, interesting items, and the artists [on display] are involved in this," She said everyone should make it a tradition

and come each year because "it's really spectacular."

Fransica Baldwin is a new seasonal employee at Roger's. She loved the atmosphere and overall garden so much that she wanted to be a part of the team. Her favorite part of the fall season at Roger's is the Halloween shop. She says everyone should come "to experience the shop, and the creativity that goes into it."

The garden's atmosphere transforms into a fall scene where you enter and follow the trail of pumpkins and gourds to the Halloween Market. The market displays artwork and decorations for purchase. The setup includes different rooms and themes, making it feel like a cozy yet slightly haunted mansion. The pumpkins and gourds of various shapes, colors, textures, and sizes are available for purchase with prices ranging from \$1.99 to \$49.99, depending on their features.

Amy Hirsch, a Long Beach resident who drives to Roger's every holiday season, says her favorite part is "the creative display in each room that keeps pulling you to the next." She comes "at the start of each September to get in the fall spirit, get a delicious meal, and pick out some pumpkins without the chaos or entrance fee of a pumpkin patch."



PICTURED ABOVE: Midnight Market boutique rooms
Photo courtesy of: Midnight Market Halloween Boutique