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Student Veterans Alliance Club, celebrating Concordia's veterans

KIARA AZUMA

STAFF WRITER

Concordia's Student Veterans Alliance club builds a community for veterans and dependents of service members attending Concordia University. In honor of Veterans Day, the club is preparing several events on campus for the week of Nov. 11 to 15.

"Service to others' is our motto that encompasses the command of God to love our neighbors," said Marin Mowad, sophomore and president of the club. "Our service to our country unites us, service to God guides us, and service to our community fulfills us. Our common purpose is to bridge cultural gaps between veterans, dependents and non-military students."

Mowad, a military dependent, stated that she has deeply valued her experience working with military-affiliated students and learning about the vets' military experience and their transition between military and civilian life. Her goal as president is to help create a more organized community for military-affiliated students to come together.

"It has been an enriching experience where I have gotten to meet many members from all branches and dependents who have worked hard to get where they are," said Brandon Lauford, junior and vice president. His goal for this club is to foster a welcoming community focusing on growth, good memories and academic success.

Lauford served primarily as a 0111, Administrative Specialist in the Marines. He mainly worked in the legal department, creating court-martials, promotions, rank reductions and the brig. Lauford also worked with security details and the Wounded Warrior Battalion.

Student Veterans Alliance organizes and sponsors several different resources on campus. Some of their regular events include holiday parties, support groups, study hall hours and Bible studies. The Alliance has scheduled a full slate of events and activities next week to honor Veterans Day.

On Mon., Nov. 11, they will have a flag raising, and on Tuesday, the club is hosting a veterans panel. On Wednesday, there will be a hike at Shady Canyon. On Friday, the Student Veterans Alliance will greet at Chapel. For the entirety of the week, they will be tabling and have a pull-up bar in front of the Student Union for the school to try to beat David Goggin's 24-hour pull-up record.

Another major resource that Concordia provides strictly for military-affiliated students is the Staff Sergeant Matthew Thompson Veterans Resource Center (VRC) in the Admin building on campus. Students can access workstations, printing, coffee, tea, espresso, a food pantry, an ice machine, scantrons, office supplies and a TV.

The center is named after Staff Sergeant Matthew Thompson, who died August 23, 2016, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Thompson was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). He graduated from Concordia with a B.A. in Theological Studies in 2011.

"We have two staff members, myself and Anna Bidondo, who help students understand their benefits, how to obtain more benefits, and orient students to successfully graduate and fulfill their vocations," said Richard Lewis, Director of the Veterans Resource Center. Lewis attended Concordia as a student and is a veteran himself; his Army service included deployments and temporary duty assignments in West Africa and the Middle East.

"The VRC has been really helpful for us veterans. We have a place to work, relax and connect with other veterans or active military," said Jesse Linares, senior. "It's nice to have people around who have gone through similar experiences in life." His military background is six years of active duty with the Navy, working as a hospital corpsman.

The Veterans Resource Center also offers a work-study program. "Being a work-study for the Veterans Resource Center has been my favorite part. Not only do I get to help veterans on campus with career paths and offer peer-to-peer support, but I am also able to work off campus with other veteran organizations and bring those resources to Concordia. I love attending veteran-oriented seminars and collaborative efforts," said Nicholas Piazza, junior. He was in the U.S. Army, part of a Heavy Weapons Company with the 10th MTN Division to Afghanistan and Stryker unit 3/2 CR, out of Vilseck, Germany.

Piazza shared his experience as a veteran at Concordia. "My first event was the Hunt, where another veteran and I attended together. I immediately was welcomed by students, and within a period of a couple of hours, I felt like I belonged. I felt like I wasn't being judged for being an older student or for being a broken veteran. I felt like I

was accepted and supported for who I was in that moment."

There are multiple ways students can support and acknowledge the veterans on campus. Mowad encourages students, whether military-affiliated or not, to attend club meetings and events to get to know members better and learn more about the military.

Lauford stated to show support for the country or branches of services. "This sort of recognition allows a veteran to reflect on the trials that we endured in order to succeed at the task at hand."

"I think the most important thing is to help facilitate a sense of belonging," said Lewis. "Concordia is a great place to make friends and rebuild the camaraderie that veterans left behind in the military."

Information and updates regarding the Student Veterans Alliance can be found @cui_veterans on Instagram.

Donald Trump secures second term in historic election, Schiff takes Senate

HOPE YONEHARA

STAFF WRITER

The Nov. 5 election results are in. Donald Trump won both the popular vote and more than the 270 Electoral College votes needed to secure the top of the ticket; he will be the second president to serve two non-consecutive terms. Meanwhile, Adam Schiff claimed the U.S. Senate seat. A closely-watched race in Orange County between Scott Baugh and Dave Min remains too close to call. Amid this historic election season, it is essential for Americans to remember the power of dialogue.

Cianna Ruiz, an Orange County native, commented on the Harris-Trump campaign saying, "This is like high school drama but in the govern-

ment. Kamala is pretty good. She is focusing on the issues of the people. But Trump is acting like a teenager and being unprofessional. He needs to grow up and focus on what the country needs instead of bad-mouthing Kamala."

Referring to the Schiff/Garvey contest, Dr. CJ Armstrong, Professor of History and Theology said, "One is a proven lawmaker with a record of law-making and the other a Republican celebrity candidate," he said. Garvey is most well known for his experience as a Dodgers first baseman. Schiff took 57.3% of the vote while Garvey secured 42.7%, Schiff's win was not a surprise.

(Continues on page 8)



PICTURED ABOVE: The Veteran Resource Center team
Photo courtesy of: Martin Mowad

Fall Family Festival brings an enjoyable evening filled with games, music and fun for all

KENT BEWLEY
STAFF WRITER

The Fall Family Festival took place on Fri., Oct. 25, at the Student Union patio during the evening hours from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Students were able to reunite with their families on campus and were free to attend the festival as long as they wore wristbands that they received outside on the patio.

Activities included a miniature bounce house for little kids, axe-throwing on the lawn grass across the patio, drawing stations where attendees could have an image of themselves drawn out and “cakewalks” for anybody who wanted to win a free prize of a seasonal pastry like pumpkin pie or cookies.

Complimentary food and beverages such as caramel apples and coffee were available for all in attendance. There was also a showing of the Pixar animated movie “Coco” on the side lawn near the under-construction CU Center.

There was also a musical performance by members of the abbey west band, who performed country music songs in the cool evening setting. Country classics such as “Take Me Home, Country Roads” by John Denver, “Sweet Home Alabama” by Lynyrd Skynyrd and “Have You Ever Seen The Rain” by Creedence Clearwater Revival were sung mainly by Amy Held, a junior in the Music program.

Held’s favorite part of the Fall Family Festival was the music performance because she believes, “It was the perfect way to unite everybody at the festival and watch them all move together!”

Held’s favorite song that she got to sing on-stage was “Boot Scootin’ Boogie” by Brooks & Dunn, and she

added that she loves the “shape and melody” of it. “It’s also got a lot of words which make my songwriter heart happy,” said Held.

A very special activity that occurred while Held was on stage was line dancing as audience members got involved in dancing to the tunes of good songs for the dancing style.

Held liked the line dancing at the festival since, “It took all the focus off of me!” The line dancing took place in front of the stage, which was set up between the Grimm Student Union and Eagles’ Landing.

The energy level at the Fall Family Festival was good-spirited and friendly, as some students whose parents or family members were not present also attended the event.

Held said that the energy level on campus overall “is always great because it seems to be motivated by the love of God.”

“It is so wonderful seeing Christ-like attributes in my peers and watching this body build itself up while being rooted in Christ,” said Held.

Held shared that this year’s Fall Festival “definitely raised the bar,” even though she “would have liked it more if [she] had won the cakewalk.”

The Fall Family Festival was a great opportunity for students and their family members to come together to have a fun and enjoyable time here on the Concordia campus. For more information on upcoming events, please visit the MyCUI app and look out for flyers detailing the next big seasonal gathering, Concordia Christmas, which is set for Thurs., Dec. 5 from 6 p.m to 8:30 p.m.

Taco Talk on love and God inspires living-learning communities

HEATHER HERSHFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Two living-learning communities, Bella Amore and Global Village, hosted a Taco Talk on “The Will Of God In Life & Love” on Tues. Oct. 29 with spoken word poet and musical artist Micah Bournes.

Bournes shared his life experiences with love, relationships and God through spoken word poetry at the event. He had a Christian perspective that appealed to students through relatability. Senior Reagyn Shoop is a Resident Assistant for the LLC Bella Amore and helped host and plan the event. Shoop mentioned how important this Taco Talk was for the community. While the event is catered towards LLC residents, it was open for any students to attend.

“It brought the art of poetry and specific discussion concerning the pursuit of love, hope and justice to residents’ doorsteps. The LLCs are designed to hold a community that wants to take a deeper dive,” Shoop said. “Bournes offered this through his eagerness to share his experiences within a blend of spoken word and personal storytelling founded on the faithfulness of God.”

Alongside Shoop, Resident Assistant Tessa Ermeling from the LLC Global Village helped prepare the event. Two faculty members residing in the LLCs also contributed to the event. Associate Dean of Student Life Amanda Norris in LLC Global Village and Dr. Kristen Koenig in LLC Bella Amore worked to prepare the Taco Talk.

“We were excited to see the gifts and wisdom that Micah would bring to the LLCs, where the Concordia Community had the opportunity to come together. This is why we do what we do! The LLCs are designed

to bring everyone from everywhere for community and enriching discussion,” Shoop said.

Shoop had a big takeaway from the event that impacted her as a Christian. “Bournes’s plea regarding the Lord’s faithfulness in loving us was comforting. I believe that most college students come to a point in time when they are scared about what is to come next. What job will they have? Where will they live? Who will they be? These are all questions that we wrestle with...questions that cause anxiety. Bournes reminded us of God’s Faithfulness, in that He follows us no matter where we go, where His love and peace will never cease.”

“I enjoyed the intermingling of Bella and Global Village residents,” said Amanda Norris, Associate Dean for Student Life. “I also really enjoyed Micah’s spoken word poetry. He shared poems and short stories that were very relatable. My biggest takeaway was prioritizing loving your neighbor well. Although it can be challenging sometimes, it is ultimately what God wants us to do.”

Bournes’s testimony inspired residents to remain faithful to God despite uncertainty and turmoil. The Taco Talk allowed students to engage in an open discussion in fellowship with one another while focusing on spirituality at the core.

“I admired the participation of the residents as an effect of Micha Bournes’s work! I witnessed residents who had been inspired to continue the conversation past the event, heavily engaging with the themes of love, hope and justice, specifically as we strive to follow after Jesus,” Shoop said.

For more information on how to apply to live in an LLC, visit <https://www.cui.edu/studentlife/living-learning-communities/how-to-apply>

Courier Career Tip of the Issue!

CULTIVATE PERSEVERANCE

There will be times where you fail. Do not let this discourage you from your goal. Learn from mistakes, refine your skills and keep pushing toward your goal.

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A day of remembrance: Concordia's Día de los Muertos event

ANA GUERRERO RÓDENAS
STAFF WRITER

Last Wed. Oct. 30., Concordia's Valerosos y Curiosos STEM Grant partnered with the Unity Center to host a community event in Denault Auditorium to commemorate the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos. Students Naomi Nakaya, Manuel Cardenas and Martin Martínez facilitated an educational discussion about Hispanic contributions to science, which was followed by a screening of the movie "The Book of Life."

Before the film screening, a speech was given about tradition and education. The event organizers aimed to emphasize Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in the presentation. They wanted to "use the time to bring light on

Hispanic contributions to science," Martínez said.

Attendees were also introduced to the traditions of Día de los Muertos. The holiday actually consists of two days of celebration, starting on Nov. 1. On this first day, called the Día de los Inocentes, those who led a virtuous life are commemorated. "It is usually intended to celebrate infants and children," Martínez said.

The following day, Nov. 2, Día de los Muertos is famously celebrated. On this day it is believed that the soul of the deceased returns to the world of the living, and so the holiday centers on the lives of adults.

Celebrations consist of preparing "ofrendas," which are altars including "pictures,

marigold flowers, candles, items the person favored in their time and past possessions," Martínez said. But depending on the region or family, these days are lived in different ways, "Families may also visit gravesites, or create communal celebrations that entail music, dancing, and traditional foods. My family typically partakes in ofrendas."

The altar and the offerings are central to the celebration of the holiday. These altar construction often has two levels, representing heaven and earth, with a third level sometimes added to represent purgatory. In addition, objects that represent the four elements of life are placed on it: water, fire, earth and wind.

The tradition of offerings encompasses many traditions,

though the tradition may vary on the part of those with Mexican roots but who reside in the United States.

"My family holds our Mexican culture very dear to our identities, so we do celebrate it the way my family back in Mexico does," Martínez said. "Because the communal aspect isn't as strong in America, it may differ for some," he added.

The event also included a screening of "The Book of Life," which is inspired by the tradition of Día de los Muertos and tells the story of a young man who embarks on a journey through the world of the dead. The film heavily emphasizes the power of love and family, reflecting the important themes of the holiday.

Students remember loved ones during All Saints' Day chapel service

BELLA SAGUM
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 1, students gathered in the gym for a special chapel service for All Saints' Day. All Saints' Day is a day of reflection of family and friends who believed in Jesus and are now resting with Him.

Rev. Dr. David Loy, Dean of Christ College, said, "Many churches in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commemorate All Saints' Day by inviting members to share the names of family and friends who were believers in Jesus and passed away in the preceding year."

Rev. Quinton Anderson, Lead Pastor and Assistant Vice President of Spiritual Life and Development, said that in this time of reflection, we, "set aside to remember those who have lived in faith, and died in Christ, who now rest from their labors."

Anderson described the heart behind this holiday and explained that there are three things we do and reflect on. Anderson first said, "We do this to give God thanks for His grace given to them through faith in Jesus," and, "We do this to be strengthened in our faith; reminded that the grace and promise given to them has been secured by Christ for us as well." Last, "We do this to remember their examples of walking by faith as excellent models for our life," he explained.

The service started with an opening song called "United in Christ," a welcome from Rev.

Anderson, a baptismal remembrance. After that, Psalm 116 was read aloud. Loy said that in All Saints' Day tradition, "Often special hymns are sung during the service as well, and passages from the Bible are read, to remind us of God's promise of eternal life in Christ and to give thanks to God for keeping His the departed Christians faithful during their lives," and that "This is the same practice we follow here at Concordia."

Afterward, Dr. Steven Mueller, Vice President and Chief Mission Officer, gave a devotion about grief and what this celebration of life means. Later, the service, following typical LCMS All Saints' Day traditions, had a "Roll Call of the Saints."

Emily Davis, Administrative Assistant to the Campus Pastor, said, "During this part of the service, Pastor Anderson reads from a list of submitted names of baptized Christians who have passed in the last year. This list is composed of names submitted by the Concordia community through our online link or through the physical cards we offer. After every name is said, a bell toller will ring their bell in remembrance. After the list is read, we have a moment of silence."

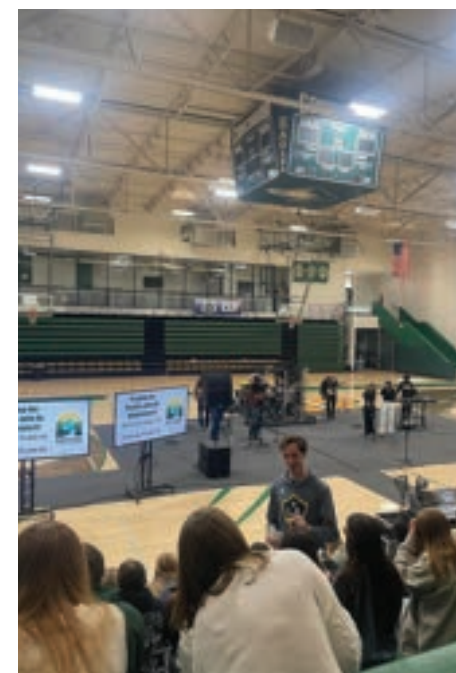
Davis continued, "The purpose of this service is to give thanks to God for the gift of grace that He has given

to each of the Saints through faith in Jesus Christ. This is also a reminder that the grace and promise given to them has also been secured for us, and to remember their example as excellent models for our faith and life."

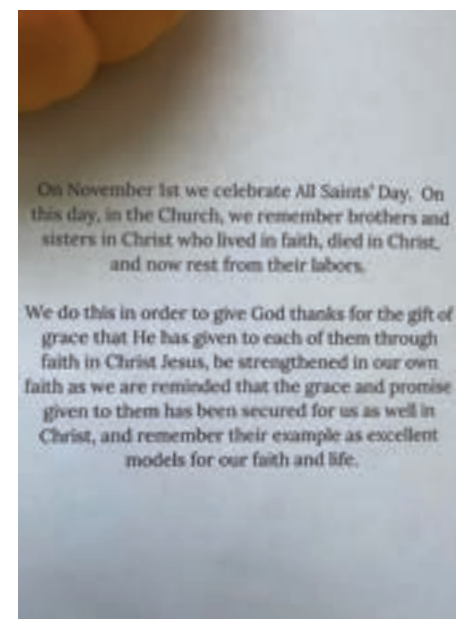
After this roll call, Loy said, "A prayer is said asking for God to keep us who still walk this earth as faithful to Christ as the saints who have passed away before us." The service wrapped up with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's grace and promise, and a closing song "For All the Saints," often associated with All Saints' Day, according to Anderson.

Before he attended, Loy reflected on his personal investment in the service. Loy said, "My parent's names will be read during our service here at Concordia... It will be a bittersweet moment for me because it will remind me of the sadness I feel about losing them, but it will also remind me that they are now resting from their earthly labors and waiting for the day when Christ will raise them again in the resurrection."

Abbeywest encourages you to come to the next special service, "Concordia Candlelight." This celebratory worship service will be held on Dec. 10, the Tues. of finals week, as a way to celebrate Christmas before students leave for break. This service is open to not just Concordia students and faculty, but to the whole community as well.



PICTURED ABOVE: Students gather for All Saints' Day service. Photos courtesy of: Bella Sagum



PICTURED ABOVE: Part of the service hand-out is open, underneath a pumpkin. Photos courtesy of: Bella Sagum

Freshmen voices heard at second annual Freshman Feedback Sessions

AUDREY KAUFMAN
STAFF WRITER

As the fall semester nears its close, Concordia freshmen were invited to share insights, opinions and recommendations at the Freshman Feedback Sessions. The sessions, hosted by Concordia University President, Dr. Michael Thomas and his wife Kim Thomas, were held on Tues., Nov. 5 and Wed., Nov. 6 to maximize student turnout and collect as much feedback as possible.

"In partnership with the President, Dean of Students, and Associate Dean of Student Success, the First-Year Experience team thought that the feedback sessions would be a good way to hear from our new students about their experiences," Jessica James, Assistant Director of Orientation and Student Activities, said.

In the past, the Freshman Feedback Sessions were held during the Week of Welcome, but in order to generate more productive conversation, the event has since been moved to later in the semester, when students have had time to acclimate to college life. At the sessions, students were given the opportunity to voice their opinions and be heard by university leaders. "It is a key opportunity for students to make an impact on their campus and direct their concerns through the appropriate channel of advocacy," James said.

PAL Coordinator Elise Schult assisted in publicizing the Feedback Sessions to raise student awareness of the event. "These sessions are needed as Concordia is always trying to improve the first-year experience that students have," Schult said. "These sessions give an opportunity [for] Concordia staff so they know what to improve going forward. It is also helpful to know what went well so we can continue to strive for those experiences."

At the Feedback Session on Tues., Nov. 5, participating freshmen asked questions about dorm regulations including AC units

and kitchen appliances, expressed interest in the campus construction projects and offered suggestions for creating practical INT 100 assignments.

Bodie Meyer zu Drewer, a freshman in attendance at the Tuesday evening session, said he was glad that he came to the event. "There wasn't any pressure to say anything in particular," Meyer zu Drewer said, "It was a very open discussion."

Other freshmen attendees were impressed with the level of approachability and the ease of communication with Concordia's executive members. "I'm glad I came because I could see how invested Dr. Thomas is in all aspects of the school," Chloe Proctor said. "It was [also] lovely to have different admin from around the school coming to talk with us one-on-one after the session."

"It was nice to stay informed and the President was very realistic with his answers," freshman Carissa Moll said. While listening to freshmen input, Thomas offered explanations regarding Concordia's distinctive Core curriculum, current construction timelines, INT objectives among other topics deemed important to Concordia students.

Concordia faculty, staff and administration have many reasons for holding the Freshman Feedback Sessions, but its primary purpose is to make college a positive, memorable and meaningful experience for first-year students. "It is pretty rare for a university to host something like this," James said. "We want to be doing work that aligns with the wants of students and the best way to get that information is to ask them!"

Missed the Feedback Sessions? Don't worry! Ask friends and classmates about their key takeaways, bring additional feedback to the ASCUI Executives and Senate representatives or get in contact with the Office of Orientation and First-Year Experience in the Center for Student Leadership & Development.



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Email showcase@cui.edu with questions.

Aerie journal now open for submissions!

CHLOE ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

may be submitted, and for literary submissions, up to five poems and/or two prose pieces may be submitted.

Submissions are now open for Concordia's art and writing journal, The Aerie! This year, the submission deadline is Fri., Dec. 6, at midnight. The Aerie is an annual journal featuring the work of talented students, alumni, faculty and staff. The journal accepts submissions in creative writing and the visual arts.

Keelie Huebner-Chan, senior, said, "The Aerie is a great opportunity for aspiring writers to get their work officially published." Huebner-Chan submitted her work in the writing category in both her freshman and sophomore years. If your work is accepted into The Aerie, you are an officially published writer or artist as "The Aerie is a publication you can list on your resume," said Sara Fletcher, Associate Professor of Studio Art.

The Aerie is open to work from any staff member or student, not just English and Art majors. Huebner-Chan said: "Even if it feels like a daunting task to be submitting your writing, I would say give it a chance anyways. You never know!" It may be the first time sharing artwork and writing with others, which can be scary. But it is worth it in the end. So many readers pick up The Aerie journal to find encouragement or entertainment in all the beautiful works inside its pages.

Choosing what artwork and writing to send in may be challenging. However, each category accepts multiple submissions. Fletcher said for the art category, up to five pieces

Submissions are entered by emailing concordia.aerie.art@gmail.com with the artwork image or writing file sent as an attachment. This year, the panel of judges is "looking for beautiful, well crafted, and meaningful writing and art," said Fletcher. There are several requirements for each art and writing piece, and specific guidelines for each category may be found on The Aerie website. www.cui.edu/aerie

After the deadline, Concordia's team of editors will go through all of the submissions. A panel of professors judge the art submissions, and a panel of professors and students judge the writing submissions. Kristen Schmidt, Professor of English and advisor for The Aerie, said, "All submissions are read "blind," and writers and artists are notified if their work is chosen."

Then the final submissions are organized into a magazine format, with a work of writing on one page next to an artwork. Fletcher said, "Pairing writing and art side by side helps illuminate the meaning of each."

The finished journal will be printed as a high-quality and full-color magazine. Additionally, hard copies of past editions of The Aerie can be found in the art room lobby across from the lower library level. One can look through the pages to see the creativity of the past years. There is also a digital catalog of all The Aerie journals online, which are on the abovementioned Aerie website. Consider submitting creative work to The Aerie this year!

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THE AERIE

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Friday, December 6th at midnight

Visit www.cui.edu/aerie
for submission guidelines

Concordia Handbells ring for Breast Cancer at SoFi Stadium

REBEKAH MICHEL
ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

On Oct. 27, during the Los Angeles Chargers game at SoFi Stadium, an arena of 70,000 fans were met with sounds and instruments that are rarely heard or seen at a pro sports game. In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month, Concordia Handbell's ensemble took the field during halftime to give a performance in honor of those who have "rung the bell" and won the fight against breast cancer.

For Concordia students involved with handbells, this performance was not only unique in its setting, but also to the audience that it was able to reach. When asked about the experience of being on the field of SoFi Stadium, sophomore Commercial Music Colby Garvin said, "I felt out of place for sure. I can't imagine what the spectators thought seeing handbells at a football game... It definitely felt like a moment of

asking myself how did we get here? The whole experience felt like a dream."

While Concordia provides its students with an abundance of opportunities to play for sizable audiences, this was the largest audience that many of the students had ever played for. "Until the game, the most people I've played to was the Segerstrom Concert Hall which holds around 1,700. Showing the football fans our performance was such a big moment," said senior Psychology major Abigail Prom.

The art and performance of handbells is one that requires dedication, prolonged focus and coordination. "The biggest challenge that can come with playing handbells is the need to be in sync with your fellow players," said junior Theology major Ceiveon Watkins. While sometimes overlooked in comparison to other instrumental ensembles, handbells provide

a great sense of teamwork for the students. "Unlike any other orchestra or choir, you aren't playing your own instrument within a larger group, but rather sharing one instrument as a group," said Watkins.

While the performance was an effective and exciting way to bring handbells to a large audience of sport goers, this half time was also for a great cause. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and Concordia handbells were joined on the field with many breast cancer survivors. "It was also such a blessing to be joined on the field by numerous breast cancer survivors. As we played, they were able to ring their own bell, symbolizing their accomplishment. There was so much joy filling the stadium at that moment and it made my heart very happy," said Prom. Ringing bells took on a greater meaning as the game attendees and musicians remember those who have "rung the bell" against breast cancer.

For the students involved in handbells and the Music Department,

this was an unforgettable achievement and performance. Senior English and Theatre major Meg Rocha found the whole experience meaningful and memorable. "We got to play for Breast Cancer Awareness," she said, adding, "There were the other cool parts such as watching the Chargers score a touchdown from the sidelines mere moments before we stepped out to play, seeing the inner workings of SoFi Stadium and being on the jumbotron. At the end of the day, we were brought in to support a really important cause, which makes it that much more special."

Concordia Handbells will continue to perform throughout the SoCal area this year and will tour throughout Phoenix, Arizona in late Feb. For more information about handbells or to buy tickets for one of their upcoming performances please visit www.cui.edu/arts/music or visit www.simpletix.com.

Pen-pals, perfume, and (im)perfect timing intersect in Concordia's "She Loves Me" musical

MADLYNN CHATWIN
STAFF WRITER

The theater season is in full swing at Concordia, with the Theatre Department preparing their upcoming fall musical "She Loves Me," directed by Susanna Vaughan, written by Joe Masteroff, with lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and music by Jerry Bock.

An adaptation of the 1937 play "Parfumerie" by Miklós László, "She Loves Me" is set in a 1934 perfumery in Budapest and follows a well-loved romantic plot that many are sure to recognize from the film "You've Got Mail" by Nora Ephron. The story focuses on the character of Georg Nowack—the perfumery's timid assistant manager, his banter with his new coworker Amalia Balash, and the anonymous pen pals they have been exchanging romantic letters with who might not be so anonymous after all.

In an age where instant gratification is expected of every form of entertainment, "She Loves Me" provides a refreshing break from busy life. "We are currently living in a time where we run our nervous systems rampant with social media, misinformation and a heavy curriculum for us students," said Bradley Weaver '26, who plays the character of the sales clerk Steven Kodaly.

"This show is an opportunity to disengage with the unnecessary noise in our society," Weaver continued. The production is the perfect opportunity to focus on something more lighthearted and relaxed, and enjoy the antics that ensue with miscommunication between characters. "I would love for the audience to sit back for a couple hours and enjoy a laugh... or many," Weaver said.

The production also features subplots of important growth and change for supporting characters, such as Ilona Ritter, an alluring store clerk, and Mr. Maracheck, the owner of the perfumery. "Each character grows substantially as a person, whether it be Ilona, learning

to value herself more as a woman and raising her standards of men," said Camile Beeson '26, "or Mr. Maracheck finding joy in discipling a younger friend, all are better people by the end of the show." Beeson plays the role of the waiter at the Cafe Imperiale, whose role is to maintain a curated romantic atmosphere for Amalia while she waits to meet her anonymous pen pal.

Not only does "She Loves Me" provide learning experiences for the characters within it, but it gives chances to the cast to grow as people as well. The Theatre Department values education, which is why Weaver thoroughly enjoys participating in productions at Concordia. "The students, staff and faculty do such a fantastic job at creating an atmosphere that feels professional, but still educational," said Weaver.

The department also understands the importance of community in an environment that can be as competitive as musical theater. "I love the community that seeks to tell stories that are greater than ourselves," said Beeson. "We are not in competition, but we are on a team, seeking to tell the best story possible." At the end of the day, Beeson is "most excited for audiences to relax and enjoy a good rom-com."

"She Loves Me" is set to premiere at the Studio Theatre on Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m., with additional performances on Nov. 16, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 17 and 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be reserved in advance online, and Concordia students get one ticket for free by using the code CUISTU at checkout.

Tickets are available for sale at the door, but it is recommended to purchase ahead of time as it is common for shows to sell out. To purchase tickets or learn more information, please visit www.simpletix.com.



PICTURED ABOVE: Several members of the "She Loves Me" cast..
Photo courtesy of: Rebekah Michel



PICTURED ABOVE: Cast members rehearsing a scene on the set of "She Loves Me".
Photo courtesy of: Rebekah Michel

Jazz Ensembles Fall Concert features dedicated musicians and incredible directors

TERESA MCLAUGHLIN
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Jazz Ensemble's Fall Concert is set to hit the stage on Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borland-Manske Center Charlie and Ling Zhang Orchestra Hall. It is going to be an evening filled with dynamic performances and a variety of jazz styles, featuring the Concordia Jazz Combo and the Concordia Jazz Orchestra, led by Associate Professor and Director of Music Education, Christian Hauser and Adjunct Professor Len Montgomery. The ensembles will perform an eclectic range of pieces, each carefully selected and arranged to showcase the talents of Concordia's jazz musicians.

Hauser, who directs the Jazz Combo, brings a unique educational approach to his group. "One of the things I really like doing with Jazz Combo is having the students become the arrangers," said Hauser. "This approach allows students to take an active role in and ownership of the songs, through crafting everything from the structure, solos sections, dynamics and stylistic changes," explained Hauser.

The concert will feature a wide range

of musical styles and arrangements that highlight the students' personal tastes and influences. Hauser encourages his musicians to bring their own preferences into the mix, resulting in a setlist that is diverse and deeply personal. "I asked them what interests you? And what song would you like to help lead and teach the group," Hauser asked. One of these selections includes a jazz rendition of a classic song "Jambalaya on the Bayou" by country songwriter, Hank Williams.

The song was selected by guitarist, Khang Cao, whose mother is a fan of the Carpenters – who performed the song in the '70s. This type of personalization allows the students to connect with the music and bring their own unique voices into the performance. Another one of the Jazz Combo's pieces, "The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem," was originally a folk song, but has been arranged with a jazzy flair for the concert. "The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem," has also been recorded for the upcoming PBS special for this Christmas season.

Among the original works being performed is "Peppermint," written by Ethanael Batiansila, a

trumpet player and composition major at Concordia. This piece provides an opportunity for Batiansila to showcase his own compositional style and provides him with a self-contained ensemble to feature his creativity, Hauser shared. The concert will also include the piece, "Stormy Swing," arranged by student jazz pianist Peter Rivette, further emphasizing the commitment to encouraging students to take ownership of the musical process.

Montgomery, who directs the Concordia Jazz Orchestra, brings a similar student-centered approach by carefully crafting a program that plays to the strengths of his ensemble. "For me, it always starts with personnel," Montgomery said, noting that he begins his planning by assessing the strengths of each section and soloist. This approach allows him to create a well-rounded concert experience, incorporating a variety of jazz styles with ballads, funk, Latin and swing. Montgomery emphasized, "This is a killer band...I think it's the best band we've had."

One of the highlights of the orchestra's setlist is a heartfelt ballad performed by lead trumpet player Keith Ransons, titled "I Remember Clifford." This piece serves as a tribute to jazz trumpeter Benny Golson. It holds

additional significance as its composer passed away in September of this year, at age 95, making it a "double tribute" in Montgomery's words.

The concert will close with another piece composed by Peter Rivette, a high-energy piece titled "Melodic Combat." This piece, features "combating melodies," and is an exciting and intricate composition that promises to leave a lasting impression on the audience. It's a really "fun tune and great to play," Montgomery said. Rivette's composition exemplifies the high level of creativity and dedication that Concordia's students bring to their music.

Montgomery wanted to praise the commitment of his students, who meet for only 75 minutes a week, yet spend additional time in sectionals to master challenging pieces. "Almost every week, the saxophones are working after rehearsal on their own, and the trombones ... and the trumpets," he said. "A shout out to the students," Montgomery closes, highlighting the dedication that drives the musician's performance quality. Beyond the music itself, Montgomery is hopeful that the audience will be moved by the unique energy of live jazz.

Concordia student film screenings? Theatre & Film professors see it in the future

KIERSTYN BUSK
STAFF WRITER

The Theatre and Film Department's new Film and Digital Video Production emphasis aims to provide students with an interdisciplinary dynamic that will expand educational opportunities and academic offerings.

Lori Siekmann, a professor of Theatre and the chair of the Theatre and Film Department, shares her vision for the program.

Siekmann said, "The first goal would be to build the emphasis to the point where our students are creating film projects that we submit into film festivals." Siekmann envisions an environment where students can achieve "high level professional excellence" in the industry without compromising their values, aiming to prepare them for successful careers while maintaining a mindset for the Lord.

The Film and Digital Video Production emphasis is the newest addition to the Theatre major. The other two emphases that a student could choose from in the Theatre major include the Acting and Directing emphasis and the Design and Technical Production emphasis.

The department is in the process right now of changing the name of the major to "Theatre and Film major," a change that has yet to be approved. The name change should help reduce confusion regarding adding film to the existing major. New, prospective students considering attending Concordia in any of these areas in the Theatre and Film Department can seek scholarship opportunities on the department's website: <https://www.cui.edu/arts/theatre/scholarships>. Note that current students are not able to add

this specific scholarship opportunity to their existing financial aid package.

The department uses a 360-degree approach that makes students more competitive in their chosen field and better at their artistic craft. For example, "We make everyone in the major take an acting class," Siekmann explained, "so that directors know what actors need and we make everyone take a directing class so that actors know what the director is looking for."

Reflecting on the unique challenge of integrating film into the existing Theatre framework Siekmann said, "A unique challenge is to show that connection that theater and film are both ways that we tell stories. One is live on stage and one is on screen but there is so much overlap that it makes a lot of sense to put film and theater together."

This year also marks the first time with a full-time faculty dedicated to the film emphasis. Andrew Gutierrez, assistant professor of film and media studies, graduated from Chapman University with a master's in Film Directing. Gutierrez brings with him an extensive background in film that is sure to inspire and attract students who are passionate about cinema. His goal stems from his own experience in film.

Gutierrez said, "I want to be what I never had because where I grew up and in the environment that I grew up in, getting into film was...might as well have said that I was going to the moon. That is why I want to help."

"There's things that we are going to be doing here that no other school is doing and how do I know? It's because I was there." Gutierrez acknowledges that spreading the word about this new program is a significant challenge, as other established universities have

longer lasting reputations. He noted, "We are the new kid on the block and that's the tough part."

Gutierrez is hoping that in the future the department can hold film screenings in the soon-to-be newly remodeled CU Center. These films aim to inspire prospective students into joining the Theatre and Film Department. Gutierrez also hinted at a special project that he and a couple of other departments have been working on.

The project involves a collaboration with the Music and Graphic Design Departments. This interdisciplinary program will allow seniors in the Theatre

and Film Department to petition for an opportunity to have their film scored by the Music Department and their movie poster and credits can be designed by the Graphic design Department. Gutierrez said, "No other school is doing that."

This innovative partnership between theater and film is sure to give students a well rounded and opportunity filled education. If you want to join the Theatre and Film Department or want more information, contact lori.siekmann@cui.edu or andrew.gutierrez@cui.edu.



PICTURED ABOVE: Andrew Gutierrez in office
Photo courtesy of: Kierstyn Busk

Water polo is the sport to watch as they begin conference games

JOSEPH PANETTA
STAFF WRITER

Men's water polo is red hot right now as they look to take the conference by storm and add onto their three game win streak. They are currently 10-16 with a 2-0 conference record.

Concordia has had a lot of difficult opponents so far and a losing record may not be a fair representation of how good they really are. However, men's water polo is making no excuses and only looking at how they can improve.

"We play against DI teams all year, which some might see as a disadvantage since our league only has seven teams," said Konstantinos Koulouris, graduate utility. "However, I believe these challenging games against DI opponents help us grow more than easy wins would. It's not just about the record; it's about learning from failures and refining our approach to success." Koulouris is having a stellar season so far, with 91 points in 25 games.

"I believe I wouldn't be in this position without my teammates and coaches. Their support and guidance have a major impact on my performance, and I gain strength from them every day. I've never experienced such a supportive and friendly environment as the one we've built here. The key to my personal achievements is rooted in the trust we share. I'm truly grateful to be part of a team like this," Koulouris added.

Concordia has managed to put forward one strong performance after another including back-to-back wins against Division I schools Mount Saint Mary's University and Wagner College. They also put up a valiant effort in a heartbreaking 19-20 loss against number four ranked Pepperdine University.

The success that they've had so far and will have in the future is all thanks to this tight knit brotherhood who are willing to work hard for each other every day.

"Our team is definitely capable of even being better and our record doesn't show some of the accomplishments we have had this season so far," said sophomore center

Cade Peterson. They are working hard to have their talent reflected in the record this week by "mastering the different plays we run in the pool" and "[watching] film breakdowns [of] our opponents."

"We are also preparing in practice by our coach's game plan to beat Biola for the second time this season so we can secure the number one seed in conference championships in late November," said Peterson.

"Our main focus is to maintain momentum and stay consistent with our game plans and practices. By doing this, we can keep building confidence and chemistry as a team, progressing with each game. Our current goal is to sustain high intensity and keep a strong sense of control throughout the season," said Koulouris.

While water polo may not be the most popular sport among students in Southern California, our men's team needs all the support they can get for these games, and the fans can have a great time cheering on the team.

Concordia plays all home matches at William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center. The center creates a great atmosphere for fans to enjoy the game from and is surrounded by the many shopping centers of Irvine for students to go get food from after.

"For non-water polo fans, I would simply tell people that there is never a dull moment when watching the sport," said junior center defender Luke Addington. "The objectives of the game are simple and easy to understand: score more goals than the other team. Water polo is a fascinating sport to watch as there is always something happening, all while people in the water are fighting it out between each other and trying to score goals in the process."

Peterson adds that the games "are fun to watch with the excitement of our high scoring performances and how physical it can get in the water."

Come watch their home conference opener today at 7 p.m. as they look to beat Biola and move to 3-0 in the conference. To stay up to date, follow their account on instagram, @cuimwp.



PICTURED ABOVE: Concordia prepares to take on BIOLA in their first matchup.
Photos courtesy of: N/A



PICTURED ABOVE: Senior goalie Griffin Beth denies BIOLA.
Photos courtesy of: N/A

The 2024 annual Golden Eagle Golf Classic was a hit!

JADEN HENDERSON
STAFF WRITER &
EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

The annual Golden Eagle Golf Classic was held on Nov. 4 at the Coto de Caza Golf Club and allowed Concordia's student-athletes to represent Concordia Athletics and connect with donors.

The student-athletes who attended the event are members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee or SAAC. Hunter Hornaday is a senior thrower on the track and field team and a member of SAAC. "The overall purpose of SAAC is giving student-athletes on campus a voice," said Hornaday.

In order to ensure that student-athletes are heard and that their interests are represented in decisions that impact them, this committee provides an opportunity for athletes to communicate their ideas, opinions and concerns to the administration.

Being a part of SAAC is an honor for Hornaday. "It means a lot...the school has put a lot of trust in us as a committee to be a voice for athletes." As a student-athlete, Hornaday knows how important it is to stand up for his teammates and ensure they have the resources they require to succeed on and off the field or court.

Helping out at fundraisers like the

Golden Eagle Golf Classic is one of the opportunities involved with being part of SAAC. "Our role at the event is to interact with donors," said Hornaday. Crystal Rosenthal, Associate Vice President of Athletics, and Brittany Pereda, Assistant Athletic Director of Operations, encourage SAAC student-athletes to attend events like this to create deeper connections and community with the donors to represent Concordia and the Athletic Department.

This year was Hornaday's third year attending the Golden Eagle Golf Classic. "Being a part of this event is just awesome. I assist with the post-dinner after their tee time," he explained. "I'm just there to converse with them and let them know that the student-athletes care." The event has served as a means for Hornaday to engage with the community, generate funds for the department and express gratitude to the sponsors of their programs.

This fundraising event has a long history with Concordia. "I'm a senior, and this event has taken place even before me," Hornaday said.

With a high attendance each year, the Golden Eagle Golf Classic is a vital component of Concordia's athletic program. "At a minimum, we get 72 golfers, but it's usually 75 or more," said Hornaday. With the aim of increasing the amount of money raised to help the athletes who represent the university in both athletics and academics, the event grows every year.

It's tip-off time for men's basketball

EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball tied their laces and showed out for their exhibition game against Hope International on Nov. 2 in the CU Arena. For their first competition of the season, the Golden Eagles clawed their way to victory clutching their first win, 66-60 over the Royals. This exhibition match, while not counting toward regular season stats, helped polish up the team and set the standard for the start of the regular season.

With the turn of the season, came a flock of new Golden Eagles to the nest to cheer on this year. With only five returning athletes on the court, men's basketball might've uncovered some newfound strengths. "We already have an amazing culture throughout the entire team," said sophomore stud, Charlie Dalton. "We have a different sort of energy and passion about us this year, and you can tell everyone genuinely wants to see their teammate succeed and will do whatever it takes to get the win."

Graduate student Jayce Catchings has already made his mark on the court as he lead the team against HIU with 18 points and nine rebounds. "Our camaraderie on this team is special," said Catchings. "On and off the court our relationships with on another are great which helps when we face adversity to know that we are family and got each other's backs out there."

Against HIU, the Golden Eagles were down 27-31 at the half and did what they needed to overcome the Royals. Junior Jackson Tucker said, "This game really tested our toughness, even though we were down in the first half. We did a good job of rallying together and being able to finish the game on a win."

"Our first competition was never going

to be perfect ... we did a great job at just going out and competing as hard as we could," said Dalton. "We will get back into the gym and continue to push each other during practice, as well as finalizing some of our offensive and defensive schemes to prepare us for a big weekend ahead."

The Golden Eagles have a keen eye on success this season and are determined to put in the work necessary to tally some victories this winter. Catchings said, "We have big goals in mind and in order to do that, we have to make the decision to come in and get better every day. If we keep doing that and playing the right way, I like our chances against anybody."

The Golden Eagles will face Cal State LA on the road today, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. The San Marcos Cougars will then enter the Eagles nest on Sat., Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. for the Golden Eagle's home opener.

For all things men's basketball, visit cuigoldeneagles.com. Don't forget to follow @cuimbasketball and @cuigoldeneagles on Instagram and keep an eye out for these Golden Eagles in your feed. Dalton said, "It's going to be a fun season." So you won't want to miss a second of it.



PICTURED ABOVE: #12, Jayce Catchings goes up to the basket against HIU.
Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon

(Continued from page 1)

On the local front, student Timothy Wu commented on the Orange County contest between Scott Baugh and Dave Min. “I know Scott Baugh personally. He is a person of good character... This will be a very tight race,” he said.

No matter what your political beliefs are, it is crucial to continue re-

maining in dialogue with one another.

Lucy Swan, History and Political Thought major said, “The best we can do as ‘the people’ is exercise the civic virtue of civil discourse, disagreeing and deliberating on whether or not something is a good policy, to come to a better conclusion about how our country should operate.”

Armstrong concurred with Swan. “We need to have open and civil dialogue so that we can call out actual evil and have a world where our voice can shape living at peace with one another,” he said.

Further contributing to the conversation about polarization, Dr. David Schulz, Professor and Chairman of Communications Studies, said, “Part of our politi-

cal polarization is akin to a team mentality that people have imported from sports into politics. That is, politics, like sports, has become a zero-sum game. If my identity is crushed because my team lost or a politician won, my identity is not truly mine. Many Americans’ polarized frameworks for understanding politics often results in a loss for democracy.”

Daylight savings time – why do we still do it?

LEYA ALOM
STAFF WRITER

Each year, as the clocks change, many wonder why we continue adjusting our lives for daylight saving time. With ongoing discussions about its relevance, students and professors at Concordia shared how the time shift impacts their routines and whether they think the practice still serves a purpose.

Starting Sun., Nov. 3, Californians, and most of the country, moved their clocks back one hour, beginning “standard time” which lasts until March when “daylight saving time” restarts.

According to CalMatters, this shift in the spring brings more daylight later in the day, but the sudden hour of lost sleep can be unsettling and even lead to increased health risks, as experts have observed.

The time change raises questions for Concordia students. They shared how daylight saving affects their routines and sleep schedules and whether they believe it still has a place these days. Biology professor Dr. Jana Reiland offered a scientific take. While she does prefer lighter mornings for her early rising she does acknowledge the adjustment can be difficult. “It throws off our routines,” she explained, adding that even her pets struggle with the change, due to their feeding and sleeping schedules out of sync.

She believes that the original purpose of saving energy might be outdated in today’s world with newer, efficient energy sources. “I think we just continued doing it because it’s habit,” she said.

Reflecting on how daylight saving was initially relevant for farming and energy conservation. If given the chance, Reiland says she’d vote to end the practice, preferring a stable longer schedule that would cancel out the need for these seasonal adjustments altogether.

For Maya Kay, a junior on the women’s lacrosse team, the time change has its advantages, especially as an early riser for 6:30 a.m. practices. “It used to be tough waking up when it was still dark,” she said. Now, with the sun rising earlier, Kay finds it easier to get out of bed and start her day with the energy boost that the natural sunlight provides.

Although she once supported ending daylight saving time, she’s since changed her mind. Appreciating how it aligns her schedule with daylight hours. “I feel more tired earlier, but that’s okay since I need to be up early anyway,” Kay added.

On the other hand, Caleb Rahn, a sophomore from Minnesota, has a different perspective shaped by his experience with the harsher seasonal shifts back home. For Rahn, daylight saving feels more significant in Minnesota, where winter

days are shorter and colder, making each hour of daylight count.

“In Minnesota, it’s a bigger deal because of the dark and cold, and there’s a noticeable adjustment that comes with it,” he explained. Despite these shifts, he has adapted to the routine and feels that he handles the transition similarly in California. However, he recognizes that for colder regions, the extra hour of evening light has more impact than it might in California’s weather.

Gabriella Hiraldo, a senior from Texas, has a unique perspective. She appreciates daylight saving for the way it “spices up” the year, adding a sense of the season changing. “It gives us something to look forward to,” she said. Enjoying how the early sunsets set a

cozy mood, especially around Christmas.

Ashley Velarde, a freshman from Southern California, described a “love-hate” relationship with daylight saving. She admits that the shift often leaves her feeling more tired, with some days ending as early as 6:30 p.m. For Velarde, the change feels unnecessary, especially given the already demanding college schedule.

As the debate over daylight saving time continues, it’s clear that the twice-yearly clock change affects everyone a little differently—students, athletes, professors and even pets. With so many perspectives on its impact, the question remains: is it time to end this tradition for good, or does the time change still have a place in our routines?

Marty the Golden Eagle in: A Moment to Reflect



Photo courtesy of: Dylan Arant