

THE CONCORDIA

• COURIER •

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Concordia University Irvine

Your time has come to lead Concordia!



PICTURED ABOVE: Current ASCUI representatives! Photo courtesy of: cui.edu

LILY CASTOR
STAFF WRITER

"If there's something you want to see happen at CUI, this is your chance to put them into action," said Samuel Schult, ASCUI president and fourth year.

The time has come. ASCUI elections are around the corner for both president and vice president. Voting will take place online on Wed., Jan. 24 and Thurs. 25, followed by the announced winners on Fri., Jan. 26. On Wednesday, students will be sent an email explaining how to vote for the candidates, and voting will remain open until the next day. Additionally, ASCUI will be promoting

the election outside of the cafeteria on both days.

Interested in being a campus leader but missed the deadline to apply for president or vice president? It's never too late to apply for other roles on campus, including but not limited to a PAL Coordinator, Residential Assistant or a member of LEAD and abbey west.

ASCUI is just one of the many student leadership groups on campus. The team's goal is simple, which is to "be the pulse of the student body and find out what improvements students want, whether that's physical spaces, events or feelings," said Amanda Norris, Director of Student Life and Leadership

Development.

Norris, who was named a Greater Irvine Chamber 40 Under 40 Honoree in 2022, is in the fifth year in her role at Concordia and she points to the value of "students getting a pulse for the students." "Many people think we are just another leadership group that plans events. That's a big misconception. We actually don't plan events... everything consists of weekly meetings with administration to discuss what students like and don't like," said Norris.

It's Schult's first year on the ASCUI team, with previous leadership experience in Concordia Cares and intramurals his sophomore and junior

year. While he has been in lead roles before, ASCUI serves as a "group of five people that summarize the voices of students on campus, connecting with students and being the voice of what the student body is and then bringing that to administration," said Schult.

"It's definitely the best job I've had," the ASCUI president continued. "It's not difficult and you get to hang out with a lot of cool people. The staff who oversee you and the connections you make are really awesome. It's very rewarding to have your say on campus and then see it get done."

ASCUI is transformative and rewarding, not just for the individuals running the organization as a team, but for the whole student body to see change come to life on campus before their eyes.

"I love seeing the growth from when they initially come together as a team. It changes from awkwardness to becoming a family. By the middle of the semester, we are a little family. Before you know it, they are scheduling meetings with Dr. Thomas on their own, taking initiative and making things happen," said Norris.

One of Norris's favorite parts of her role is being an advocate for students. "Hearing concerns on campus holds weight when coming from the students, so being able to back them up and give them

confidence is huge," said Norris.

Getting easily involved is one of the greatest opportunities Concordia provides. It may sound overwhelming or nerve wracking to run for roles on campus, but Schult assures that fresh and new ideas are always wanted and welcome.

"CUI is in a cool spot where you have the ability to build new traditions and culture, and that's needed in student leadership. We need new voices," said Schult.

"If you are even an ounce interested in running for a role, schedule a meeting with me. I meet with people all the time to talk about any leadership position. We talk about what you're interested in, your strengths, what you're nervous about... I always say, 'Apply! What's the worst that can happen? Just do it,'" said Norris.

For more information on upcoming elections, applications and all things ASCUI, reach out to Amanda Norris at amanda.norris@cui.edu or head to the Concordia website under Student Leadership to find current ASCUI representatives.

Get your hands on Handshake

JENNA HOFFMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Attention all Concordia students! If you are looking for internships and jobs both on and off campus Handshake is the perfect tool for you.

Handshake is the largest career community where employers can recruit students like you.

Director of Career Development and Vocation, Mariah Lucas, said, "JoinHandshake.com serves as an invaluable tool in navigating the complexities of the professional landscape. It offers a personalized experience, presenting tailored job and

internship opportunities aligned with your academic pursuits and career aspirations."

Even if you aren't ready to juggle the pressure of both school and a job yet, Lucas explained that "beyond mere job listings, the platform is a thriving community hub, connecting you with career fairs, workshops and industry-specific events both on and off-campus." "Joining Handshake early and establishing your presence in the work sphere is a great way to get started. Handshake is a gateway to networking with professionals who share insights, advice and potentially mentorship opportunities," said Lucas.

Handshake also has helpful tools if you are completely new to applying for jobs and internships. "The wealth of resources available on JoinHandshake.com is equally impressive. From resume refinement tools to interview preparation resources and industry-focused articles, it provides comprehensive support in honing essential skills for today's job market," explained Lucas.

Lucas said, "With LinkedIn receiving 77 applications per second, it feels overwhelming trying to compete for jobs that are being flooded with applications. Handshake creates a connection with employers that bypasses the main job market venues.

It is used by employers seeking out college students or recent graduates."

Recent Concordia graduate Delainie Delgado '23 has credited her usage of Handshake to helping grow her experience and build her resume and skill set in the digital space. Delgado said, "I got an email about Handshake promoting it my freshman year. I created an account and looked at jobs but didn't want to get one right away so I had a chance to settle in."

Delgado "applied as the social media intern for the following year." Gaining experience through her internship during college has taught her the skills that she will need in her career

after college.

"Handshake gave me knowledge about the job search process. I was able to learn what words to search for the jobs I wanted. It also gave me a better idea of what jobs were out there and gave me something to work for," said Delgado.

Delgado's final advice for finding a job as a college student is to "build your LinkedIn early. Handshake helps you get jobs while you're in school, and LinkedIn will continue the process after you graduate."

Take control of your future and join Handshake today!

Jared Orzol remembered for “smiles, questions, jokes and fun”



PICTURED ABOVE: Jared Orzol
Photo courtesy of: The Orzol family

MADISON ZUNIGA
CAMPUS EDITOR

On Dec. 19, senior kinesiology student Jared Orzol, age 23, passed away in his sleep in the comfort of his home in Dove Canyon. His connections at Concordia remember him as a cheerful, fun and friendly student, who gave sincere care to both his studies and his peers.

“It was my pleasure to have had Jared in the classroom over the past semesters,” said Dr. Nathan Meier, Kinesiology faculty member. “He was a transfer student who brought a lot of smiles, questions, jokes and fun with him.”

“I am the Kinesiology Chair and Jared was in two classes with me,” Dr. Vance Tammen. “[He] would share card tricks with students and show magic tricks. I would intensely watch the tricks and I could never figure out how he did them. He had such a nice talent.”

Orzol’s interest and care for his classmates stood out to those who knew him. “Jared was a

super friendly student who always knew every other student’s name,” said Tammen. “He enjoyed talking with others and he always made sure to ask how they were doing, and how their week was going.”

“He quickly learned classmates’ names, greeted them and asked how they were doing when they entered the classroom,” said Meier. “He enjoyed bringing donuts to share with his classmates at the end of each semester. He took joy and pride in learning and shared his enthusiasm with others by checking in with them, making sure they were understanding the material and offering his help when he could.”

Professors also recalled Orzol’s academic dedication. “He was quick to participate in discussion, share his thoughts and ask questions,” said Meier. “We interacted often in front of Eagles’ Landing as he studied between classes.”

“Jared would always stay after class to talk about the concepts we covered during class,” said Tammen. “I will miss Jared very much and I will miss our class interactions. Jared was a student who loved Concordia and who loved the mission of Concordia.”

Concordia mourns for the loss of one of its own, and all are encouraged to pray for peace and comfort for the Orzol family during this difficult time. “Jared loved the Lord and knew

that he was redeemed through Christ’s death and resurrection,” said Tammen. “The loss of a child is the worst experience a parent can have, and I continually pray for his parents, Brent and Jade, and his sister, Delaney.”

“Many aspects of God’s Image showed through in Jared like love, gentleness, kindness, hope and joy,” said Meier. “Please, join me in praying for his dear family as they carry grief, but also beautiful memories, and remind each other often of Christ’s victory on the cross and the promise of eternity with our great God and Redeemer.”

Contributions to the Epilepsy Foundation in Jared’s memory are encouraged at <https://give.epilepsy.com/page/33651/donate/1>.



PICTURED ABOVE: Jared Orzol
Photo courtesy of: The Orzol family

ASCUI

Welcome back Golden Eagles!!

We hope everyone had a restful and relaxing break and that you were able to enjoy some time off from classes. ASCUI is more than excited to kick off semester two here at Concordia. We are looking forward to what 2024 has in store for CUI. Campus is already brewing with some great events and some things to look forward to. We kicked off the semester with our Spring Involvement Fair on the CU Center Patio. Mason Dalbeck, our ASCUI Club Commissioner, gathered all our clubs and organizations to get students involved for this upcoming semester.

This included clubs such as Comm-Unity, Women in Business, Disc Golf & Ultimate Frisbee Club, Black Student Union, Nuestra Voz, Student Veterans Alliance, other student life events like ASCUI, RES, LEAD, AbbeyWest and more! All of these are great ways for students to get involved with their different hobbies & interests around campus this semester. If you want to learn more about any of these clubs, stop by the CSLD, and we can get you connected!

As we start the new semester, it is important to stay rooted in our

theme for this year. John 15:5 says, “I am the vine and you are the branches. You have a fruitful life when you abide in me and I in you.” This is a great reminder for all of us as we start a new year and new semester at Concordia. When we abide in Christ’s love for us, we are able to have fruitful lives in Him. Let’s live our life in the vine this semester as we abide in Christ and as He abides in us.

With that, ASCUI hopes you have had a great start to the spring semester. Keep your eyes open for all the events we have coming up. Spring is filled with lots of amazing opportunities to get involved. If you are looking to get even more involved by having a student leadership position next school year, applications open on Jan. 29! Right now, we are wrapping up our ASCUI President and Vice President applications. So keep your eyes open for an upcoming election!

Lots of good things are coming this semester. Welcome back everyone!

Go Golden Eagles,
ASCUI Secretary
Elise Schult

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Let's go clubbing! *with Madison Zuniga*

Learn language and culture with the ASL club!

MADISON ZUNIGA
CAMPUS EDITOR

Concordia's newest club welcomes you to join them as they explore Deaf culture and American Sign Language in an educational, interactive and authentic way.

Maddie Durkin, sophomore, serves as president of ASLCUI, which she founded last semester. "I have been wanting an ASL club on campus for a while now and was so excited to start," she said. "We have only had a few meetings but it has been going great."

As a Liberal

Studies major in the Lutheran Elementary Education Program, Durkin has designed the club with effective and approachable education in mind, and has utilized resources such as Google Classroom and short vocabulary videos to provide members with easy access to resources. She said, "I love teaching and this club gives me a great opportunity to teach something I am passionate about."

ASL CUI represented themselves at the recent involvement fair by running an engaging and informative table, featuring posters of



PICTURED ABOVE: The ASL CUI board members
Photo courtesy of: Ariel Spilman

historical Deaf people such as Beethoven, offering educational

pamphlets and books, and inviting students to learn signs. "The involvement fair went so well," said Durkin. "I got to teach signs and talk about the club. About 30 people were added to our email list!"

ASL CUI scheduled several regular meetings last semester, and hopes to continue their curriculum in the spring. "ASL club was a nice way to practice ASL from when I learned in high school," said Abigail Freeman, a freshman member of the club. "It's also good to talk to friends if you can't use your voice. Like if you have food in your mouth or you are across the room."

"ASL club is super fun," said Rebecca Symmank, senior club member. "I have already learned the alphabet and a bunch of other words." She went on to describe the movie night event hosted in the fall: "The movie

night with CODA was epic. I hadn't heard of it before and it was a great movie. It was also a cool way to learn about Deaf culture."

Durkin has several plans in the works for the next few months, potentially including a bingo night, a silent dinner, and collaborations with off campus Deaf organizations. She encourages students to look out for posters. "I am looking forward to adding more events this upcoming semester. I want to reach the entire population of CUI since ASL can be applied to everything."

If you are interested in joining ASL CUI, reach out to Maddie Durkin at madison.durkin@eagles.cui.edu.




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CONTACT AVERY CASTEEL AT AVERY.CASTEEL@CUI.EDU FOR ANY QUESTIONS

Concordia's Bible study community fosters fellowship and faith

MADISON ZUNIGA
CAMPUS EDITOR

Concordia's Bible study groups started the semester strong with a collaborative community event last Thurs., Jan. 11. The co-ed small group mixer welcomed students to join a close-knit community where they can be supported and bolstered in their faith.

Both the women's and men's ministries—Beloved and Battalion—were represented at the event, as well as the Athlete Bible Study (ABS), allowing for students to engage with the entirety of Concordia's Bible study community. “[This mixer] is a time where we can all be in fellowship, where we can touch base and see each other after the winter break, and meet new people,” said Emma Johnson, senior Beloved Coordinator. “Having a crossover between the men and women's ministry is just really special.”

“Maybe the best part of my week is getting together with my brothers in Christ, reading the Word and being in awe of the glorious gifts that God continue to give us, and knowing that we can be there for each other and pray for each other,” said Battalion Coordinator Noah Martini, sophomore. “We can continue in the rest of the week in that community and know that God is with us, and it's this wonderful comfort that I get every time I'm in small group. At this mixer, the goal here is to introduce people to that kind of community.”

“Bible studies are a really great way to meet and hang out with people that you might not necessarily know... but who are like-minded in wanting to pursue a deeper relationship with Christ,” said Johnson. “I feel like it's also a very

safe space for anybody at any level of spiritual walk, whether you're a new believer, or whether you have been in the faith since childhood.

“I feel very firmly that we try to establish a curriculum and dynamic that is very open and welcoming, that's just a safe space to explore things that matter to you on a philosophical and personal level, but then also to be vulnerable about the things that you don't know, or the things that sometimes are troubling in your life,” Johnson continued.

“I'm a Bible study leader because I felt God putting it on my heart to do it again this year,” said Haley Moses, senior. “It's a great way to get people from across campus and across different disciplines

together to talk about a commonality between us, which is our faith in Jesus Christ. We have a good curriculum done by our abbey west women's ministry leader and we can dig into the Word together.”

“I love being a Battalion leader because it gives me an opportunity to focus on people individually,” said Andrew Held, sophomore. “My small group is five, six guys so I'm able to speak with them in a very personal way, it's a great way to build community. I want to be able to be intentional with a few people and really be able to pour into them.”

Jonathan Dose, sophomore ABS Coordinator, described the particular mission of the athlete-oriented group. “Our goal with

Athlete Bible Study is to create a sense of belonging for athletes who might find their identity is only inside their sport.”

Dose, who is on the men's swim and dive team, added, “When you're in the pool or on the court, putting so much practice into your sport, you can find identity only in that, and it can become your idol, and you can put it above God. We want to create a hospitality at ABS, and grant athletes a sense of belonging and show them that their identity is in Christ.”

Whether you attend ABS meetings or join a weekly Bible study at a time that works for your schedule, the Bible study ministry leaders encourage you to participate in this active community of

fellowship and faith. “Please join us!” said Martini. “I'd like everyone to receive life from God's Word. Sometimes we miss out on engaging in Scripture with people in our culture and around our same age. At small group, we're all gathering around having the Scripture in common, and that's where we receive life.”

Look out for future ministry events, such as the Beloved Women's Retreat in March. To connect with a Bible study, contact Emma Johnson at emma.johnson2@eagles.cui.edu for women's ministry, Noah Martini at noah.martini@eagles.cui.edu for men's ministry, or Jonathan Dose at jonathan.dose@eagles.cui.edu for athletic ministry.



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Timetable for 2024 President's Academic Showcase

October 2nd - January 19th Sign Up Window

March 11th - Students submit papers

March 26th - Present your research at the Poster Session

April 3rd - Finalist Presentations

Who runs the world? “Girls Like That”



PICTURED ABOVE: Directed by Sarah Ripper and written by Evan Placey, “Girls Like That” will open on Jan. 19th and run until Jan 28th. Photo courtesy of: Isabella Mangahis

REBEKAH MICHEL
MUSIC COLUMNIST

In an age in which conversations about mental health, feminism and sexism abound, Concordia’s Theatre Department prepares to send an emotional and moving message with their upcoming production of “Girls Like That” by Evan Placey.

Directed by Sarah Ripper, “Girls Like That” is inspired by the true stories of female victims of cyberbullying, who then committed acts of suicide. The plot follows a group of students at an all girls Catholic school, among which is Scarlett. When Scarlett’s nude photo of herself gets leaked around the school, the girls must decide if they should unite or be torn apart by rumors, bullying and jealousy.

Starring an all female cast, “Girls Like That” is a gripping production that does not shy away from the tough realities of being a woman in the age of social media. “Theater for me has always felt so male dominated, especially at the amateur level,” said senior Meg Rocha. Rocha plays the role of Scarlett, as well as Scarlett’s female ancestors.

While this production is culturally relevant and is applicable to young women of today, it also highlights the fight for women’s rights within the last century. “I love seeing how far we’ve come as women in one century! At the same time, ‘Girls Like That’ shows some backwards steps and despite what you’d think, a lot of it has to do with women inflicting harm upon their own gender,” said Rocha.

Concordia was originally set to premiere “Girls Like That” in March of 2020. After only one public performance, the production was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now set with a new director and cast, the messaging of “Girls Like That” is as relevant as ever. The cast hopes that this production sparks conversation about the various themes presented.

“Since this show is created for women to act and to tell this story, I feel as though most of the topics

that are covered resonate with me heavily,” said senior Catalina Tan. Tan plays one of eight ensemble girls that serve as a narrator and provides an inside look into the story through the eyes of Scarlett’s peers.

By addressing social issues and telling this story, the Theatre Department feels that this production will move audiences and leave them to question the role that social media plays in regards to mental health and standards for women.

“I want audiences to see these characters’ negative actions and be able to recognize the flawed system that the women of our generation have to grow up in. This acknowledgment should then inspire them to look for ways to support and empower others, instead of feeding into the problem or just being a bystander,” said Kate Nyer. Nyer plays one of the ensemble girls who wrestles with these topics throughout the course of the show.

“Girls Like That” will play at the Studio Theater on Jan. 19, 20, 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 21 and 28 at 2 p.m. Concordia students can reserve free tickets for one performance by using the code CUISTU at checkout.

Please note that this production is suitable for audiences 17+ and does include mature language, sexual references and mentions of suicide. Following select performances, a post show talkback will be held on the topics of social media and bullying with counselors from the Wellness Center. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [simpletix.com/e/girls-like-that-tickets-142415](https://www.simpletix.com/e/girls-like-that-tickets-142415).

Concordia Music Competition Overview

RYN CASTEEL
PERFORMING ARTS

Concordia is poised to celebrate the profound language of music through its upcoming competition, taking place in the Borland-Manske Center on Jan. 27 and 28. It’s an event that promises to be a symphony of talent and passion.

Concordia has long been recognized for its commitment to fostering creativity and excellence in the arts. The music competition serves as a testament to this dedication, providing a platform for students of all ages to showcase their exceptional musical talents.

The categories for this event will include Piano, Harp, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double bass, Oboe, Bassoon, Flute, Clarinet, Horn, Trumpet, Tuba, Trombone, Saxophone and Percussion for the instruments. For voice, there will be Classical and Musical Theater and any chamber ensemble group, from duo to octet, will be allowed in the running. The ages for performers range from under seven years old to over the age of 25.

The competition covers various categories, accommodating a wide range of musical genres and instruments with purpose. Although entries have been closed for this event, those participating have a chance to win up to \$200 in scholarships for the CUI Summer Chamber Music Festival of 2024, and second place has the opportunity to be awarded \$100. There will also be trophies and medals given out for places first through fourth,

including one for an honorable mention.

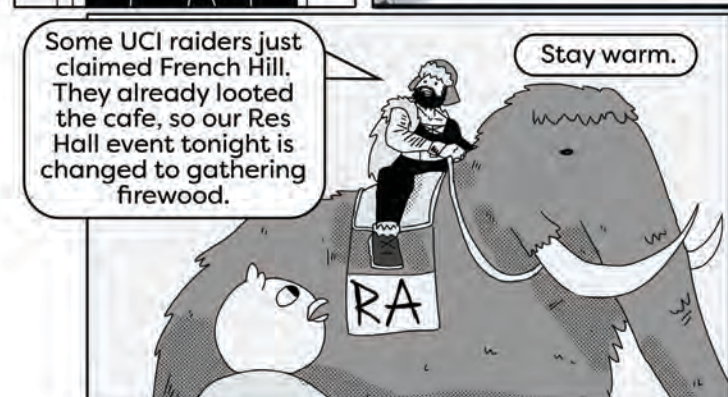
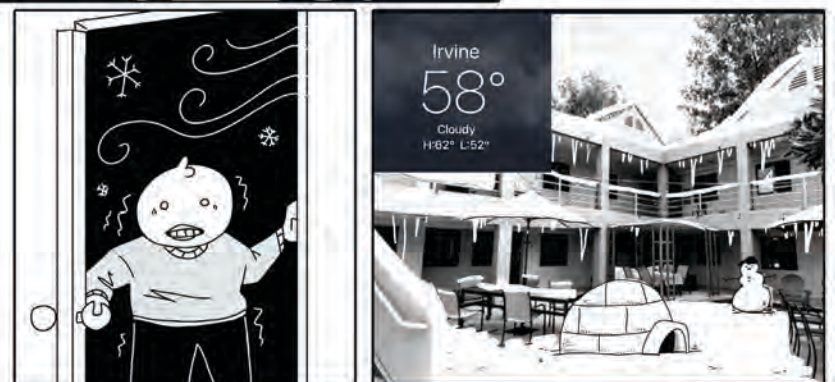
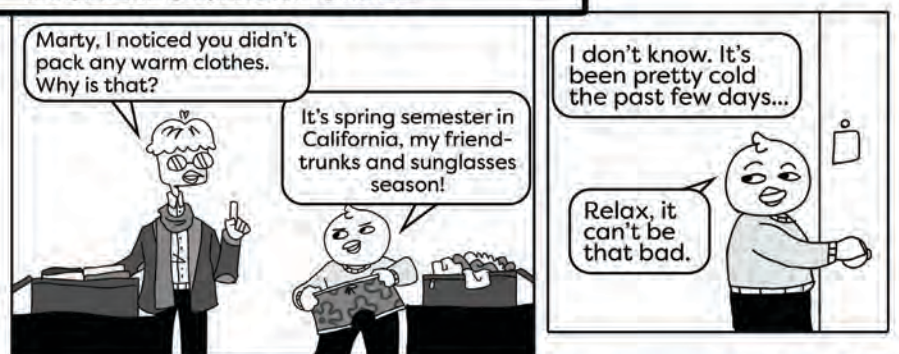
A distinguished panel of judges will preside over the competition. Their expertise and discerning ears will contribute to a fair and insightful evaluation of each performance. The feedback provided by the panel will not only recognize outstanding achievements, but also offer valuable insights for the growth and development of the participants.

One of the defining features of the music competition is its commitment to community engagement. The event has catered to not only students on campus but also music enthusiasts from the broader community. This inclusive approach aligns with the university’s idea of nurturing a love for the arts beyond its campus boundaries.

As the dates of Jan. 27 and 28 draw near, anticipation for Concordia’s music competition reaches a crescendo. Make sure to be encouraging to those who you may know that will be stepping up to perform, and best of luck to all participating. You can find out more about this event by visiting <https://www.simpletix.com/e/concordia-music-competition-tickets-142418> or reach out to the Director, Dr. Hyejung Shin at hyejung.shin@cui.edu.

Courtesy of: Dylan Arrant

“A CALIFORNIAN CHILL”



Q&A with Brittany Pereda, Assistant Athletic Director of Operations & Development and Senior Woman Administrator

OLIVIA HIGHSTREET
STAFF WRITER

Brittany Pereda graduated from Loyola Marymount with a double major in Law and Business Marketing as a softball student athlete, and received her MBA from Concordia while being a graduate assistant coach for the softball team. Pereda has been on the Concordia Athletic staff since 2017 and is the Assistant Athletic Director of Operations and Development, the Senior Woman Administrator, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Advisor and the Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

Q: How did your previous work experience help you before coming back to work at Concordia?

A: "The years between graduating from CUI with my MBA and returning in fall 2017 were full of what seemed to be very random jobs. I was trying to figure out my career path while taking jobs to pay the bills. Looking back, each job I had, no matter how significant, prepared me for this role. Each job provided its own unique experience, skillset and networking opportunities that perfectly led me to where I am today. When I was in the grind of that period of my life, I didn't realize God was setting me up for this job."

Q: What inspired you

to take on the role of overseeing the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee?

A: "If you know me, you know working with SAAC is my favorite part of my job. Oftentimes because of my role here at CUI my interaction with student-athletes can be centered around difficult conversations or traumatic experiences. Working with SAAC is the consistent, positive, bright light that refills my tank and reminds me what it's all about. Plus, I just think they are the coolest."

Q: As the Title IX coordinator, can you explain what it is?

A: "I serve the campus and our athletics department in a two-fold way. I serve as one of three Deputy Title IX Coordinators on this campus, alongside Megan Bouslaugh and Stephanie Staley to oversee all things Title IX. Simply put, Title IX is a federal regulation prohibiting discrimination based on gender. This can include but is not limited to, sexual assault, harassment, dating violence, stalking, etc. Specifically for athletics, my Title IX role is to ensure that our male and female student-athletes have equal opportunity to participate in collegiate athletics at CUI and maintain NCAA compliance in that regard."

Q: What are the

challenges of your Title IX position?

A: "We all know CUI is a very small campus where you see the same faces regularly. Majority of the conversations, disclosures or investigations I receive remain confidential so sometimes it can be challenging separating the human side of me and the protocol of the process. Someone might have just disclosed a life changing moment to me, and being able to balance grace and compassion with difficult questioning and justice can be a challenge."

Q: What do you love most about your positions at Concordia?

A: "The nature of my role can be heavy, emotional yet rewarding and impactful all at the same time. Even through the difficult conversations, it is very rewarding to be able to lead and serve our student-athletes. To see them succeed and be a part of their journey is the greatest joy. This is also the primary reason I teach a class or two so I can continue to engage with students and be a part of their story. I love that every day is different and slightly unpredictable as well!"

Q: What advice would you give to a college student going into their future career?

A: "Say 'yes' until



PICTURED ABOVE: Brittany Pereda
Photo courtesy of: Krash Kamon

you're exactly where you want to be. That one relationship or that one job might just be the ticket to getting you to where you want to go. Yes, you might stretch yourself thin, get tired, but I feel like people hand-cuff themselves by overthinking opportunities, situations and relationships. It may not make sense at the moment, but as you look back on your life, everything starts to line itself up to get you exactly where you are. Also, never stop learning. Nothing is useless. Be coachable and a great listener."

Q: Do you have any advice for women specifically who are interested in a career in athletics?

A: "There are so many opportunities in athletics and the more education

we can get out there about the opportunities that exist, the better. While we have a long way to go, there are increasingly more women represented in college athletics administration and we are very fortunate to have a predominately female administration at CUI. Whether it is the SWA role (my role), or Director of Athletics, compliance, sports information, etc. there are so many incredible opportunities. I would encourage you to get curious about what opportunities exist and figure out what aligns with your skill set."

Mark your calendars as spring sports take flight

EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

Gear up in your favorite green and gold attire for an action-packed upcoming spring season of Concordia Athletics. While women's and men's basketball still have many weeks to go of their PacWest conference, the swim team is slowly approaching the end of their winter season.

Before the swim team's PCSC Championships in February, they will travel to the Central Valley to face Fresno Pacific on Jan. 20 for their last

conference meet.

As the swim team goes up to Fresno, the Fresno Pacific basketball teams will visit the Eagles Nest the same day, Sat., Jan. 20. The women will compete against FPU at 2 p.m. and the men will compete shortly after at 4:30 p.m.

Women's water polo will kick off their regular season opener at the UC Santa Barbara Invite this weekend. On Jan. 19., they will compete against UC Santa Barbara and Ottawa Arizona at Santa Barbara High School. The following day,

Jan. 20., they will be in Long Beach, matched up against La Verne and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

The men's and women's track team will also begin their season this weekend as they travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Invitational.

Men's volleyball has a strong start with two full sweeps against Long Island University and Springfield College. On Wed., Jan. 24., at 7 p.m. in the CU Arena, they will face Central State

and hopefully continue the sweep streak.

Stunt has their first scrimmage the following day, on Jan. 25., at 7 p.m. in the CU Arena.

On Jan. 27., softball will have a friendly competition against visiting Golden Eagle alums at noon as they prepare for their busy, action-packed season. That night, women's Lacrosse will also begin their season, facing Long Beach State at 6 p.m. at Long Beach.

This spring, show off your Golden Eagle pride by supporting your

fellow students. To catch all the action, follow your favorite Concordia athletic teams on Instagram and check in at cuigoldeneagles.com to stream live competition and track game-time statistics.

Tennis welcomes back alum Ellie Johnson as head coach

EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

Counting down less than a month before the tennis season begins, the men's and women's teams welcomed Coach Ellie Johnson to take over the program this last December.

As a former Concordia student-athlete, Johnson's impressive collegiate tennis career remains in the record books, ranking in the top 10 all-time with 33 career wins in singles play.

Johnson graduated from Concordia in 2015 with a bachelor's in Exercise Science. She stayed to earn her master's in Coaching and Athletic Administration while working as the tennis team's graduate assistant coach. Johnson spent six years coaching at Westmont, though she has been attached to Concordia as an adjunct professor since 2019.

"It was during my master's that I really knew I wanted to be a coach, especially at the collegiate level," said Johnson. "College tennis coaching is a unique opportunity to make an individual sport a team sport."

Johnson was very successful while coaching at Westmont, earning the

Golden State Athletics Conference Coach of the Year in 2019 and 2021.

In her return to the Concordia tennis program, Johnson said, "It feels as though the spark that was there when I was competing for Concordia has been fanned into a great flame and both teams are ready to take the program to the next level."

Senior Tiffany Carrillo has played a significant role in leading the women's team for the last four years of her collegiate career. "We've been pushing ourselves daily, striving to overcome different challenges and motivating each other," said Carrillo. "This commitment to facing obstacles together has strengthened our bond and contributed to our growth."

Johnson shares this commitment, "My number one goal is to get to know my players and begin to build relationships with each of them. I want to use this season to lay the foundation for the years to come in a way that will make way for the success we desire and can achieve."

Both men's and women's teams are looking toward a season of continued growth and success. "They have a strong desire to take the program to the next level and even within the first

week, I have witnessed how they care for each other and genuinely enjoy the time on and off court together," said Johnson.

"Coach Johnson has been pushing us to become the best version of ourselves," said junior Alicia Da Re, "I believe her drive and no-nonsense attitude will help us with our physical and mental aspect of the game."

Carrillo said, "Coach Johnson's coaching approach is full of positivity, creating a motivating and encouraging environment that fuels

our determination and commitment, especially as we aim for nationals."

Looking toward nationals, Johnson said, "Of course, my outcome goal for both programs this spring is to be top in the conference and make it to the national tournament."

"As a team, we're gearing up to overcome that stretch of making it to nationals and winning the conference," said Carrillo. "We've always been one step away from achieving it, but this year, we are ready to give it all we've got and make those goals a reality."

One of Johnson's goals involves the student body's participation, striving "to get more campus involvement in the tennis matches."

Support the men's and women's tennis teams! The first match of the season will be at Redlands on Feb. 3. The women's home opener is on Fri., Feb. 9., at 1 p.m. against Santa Clara. The men's home opener is the following day on Sat., Feb. 10., at 11:30 a.m. against Caltech.



PICTURED ABOVE: Tiffany Carrillo moves towards the ball
Photo courtesy of: Krash Kamon

Men's volleyball clutches back-to-back sweeps

OLIVIA HIGHSTREET
STAFF WRITER
EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's volleyball had an exciting preseason last fall and an even better start to their spring season. With back-to-back sweeps against Long Island University and Springfield College, the Golden Eagles' preparation and training will continue to shine on the court.

Gil Herold, graduate student and middle blocker said, "Our preseason tournaments showed the team and other teams our

potential for this year. We learned where we stand in our training and what we need to work on. With having so many new additions to the team, the preseason tournaments let us build chemistry before we get into season."

This team chemistry was undeniable in the first two games as every player navigated the court like clockwork. Each athlete had each other's backs on defense and encouraging support on offense. The intensity brought on the court was contagious to the stands, filling the CU Arena with an electric energy.

Liam Roberts, senior outside hitter, addressed how they plan to continue to improve by adopting an "aggressive mindset." He said, "The goal of this mindset is to put more pressure on our opponent's passers to put them out of system more consistently, even if it means missing more serves high, hard and deep."

This aggressive mindset helped the Golden Eagles pressure their competition to make more errors and average higher statistics than their opponents. In their total six matches, they have a combined 68 kills, nine aces and 14 blocks.

A transformation in mindset when tactically attacking opponents is one factor of the game and Makai Lipson, junior setter, addressed the other, which is the needed shift in team mindset. "In order to succeed, we need everyone to have the same mindset about what our end goal is and what we need to do to reach it. Maintaining focus is imminent to our success."

The team experienced a change in the coaching staff

as their former assistant coach, Chris Seiffert, was named interim head coach in November. Coach Seif joined the men's volleyball coaching staff as an assistant in 2022 and is currently in his third season with the Golden Eagles. For the past two years, he coached two of his current athletes, Max McCullough and Jacob Reilly, on the USA Under-21 National Team.

Reilly had good things to say about his experience with coach Seif. "He has such a great eye for the game, so being coached by him in the USA gym and at Concordia has really developed me as a player," Reilly said. "I am able to bring the training that I got from USA with him back to Concordia, and he holds me to that training. We are so fortunate to have Seif as our coach; he leads our team super well, and I am excited to keep working with him."

Lipson said, "With the change in leadership of our staff, rather than fragmenting, our team has made great strides in becoming more united. I think more than anything

this coaching change has brought us more together and taught us that we need to rely on each other more."

The sense of camaraderie and brotherhood among Concordia men's volleyball has visibly set them apart so far this spring season. Roberts said, "I am going to do everything I can to be a good teammate and enjoy my last season as a Golden Eagle."

"This being my last year, I am excited to get back on the court with my brothers and put on a show," said Herold, "There is an indescribable energy playing in the CU Arena that is unmatched to anywhere I have played before. It's exciting to be in the same gym as the best student section, The Flight Club. Our opponents for sure don't feel the same."

To support men's volleyball and encourage another sweep, they will face Central State on Wed., Jan. 24, at 7 p.m. in the CU Arena. Bring your energy. Bring your friends.



PICTURED ABOVE: Men's volleyball cheers in huddle
Photo courtesy of: Krash Kamon

Work in-person, or work from home? Here's what Concordia students have to say.

CHRIS SEXTON '23
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

COVID-19 changed the state of the job market by introducing the world to the concept of stay-at-home work. Concordia students have many different opinions regarding remote work, here is what they are saying.

Nati Zicker, a senior Business major and aspiring actor, said that while many aspects of work are now able to be performed at home and remotely, "I don't think the job itself has changed much." Zicker also said that he liked the idea of hybrid jobs that can be done both remotely and in the office, "I want the ability to work at home if

I want to. But if I want to come in and work at a desk, I can do that too."

Zicker is not alone in his observations. Forbes magazine published an article in February 2023 that said, "The terms 'remote work jobs' and 'work from home jobs' have hit their highest Google Trends search for all time in January 2023, indicating an enthusiasm and desire among job seekers for these positions."

Yet, despite the success of the implementation of remote work, working in the office still may prove to be the superior method. Senior Engineering major Jake Stuart said, "I like that human connection. I work best with others. Work is a little easier to do

with that in-person connection. Online, it is easy to get distracted and mess around." Stuart added that while many people lost their jobs over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were also "a lot of online opportunities. People took advantage of online jobs."

Stuart's concerns regarding the quality of remote work in spite of the growing usage and practicality of working from home is a concern that should not go unaddressed. This idea was brought up by junior church leadership major Gordon Cucullu who said, "COVID-19 shut down the entire world... and the following year people were still trying to figure that out." Still, Cucullu was able to find

success in the post-COVID job economy. He said, "I've had so many post-COVID jobs. I'm making a great resume for myself."

The job market is changing. The opinions, observations, and experiences of Concordia students show that remote work is here to stay, while the in-person method may also be available or preferred..

What type of job should you get? In the end, that comes down to you and what you think is best for yourself. Concordia Career Services is here to help. The Career Center is located in the top floor of the Library Arts building, or can be contacted through their email at career-center@cui.edu.

Concordia Career Service's mission is to "support the mission of Concordia University Irvine by helping undergraduate students discover their calling and vocation, create a road map toward career readiness, and live out their calling." If you have any questions about a job, your career, or whether you should work remotely or in-person, Concordia Career Services will be happy to help you out.

Tuning into awards season

JENNA HOFFMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The beginning of each year is an important time in the entertainment industry as it is classified as awards season. This year, like many years before it, history was made, feathers were ruffled and nominees were snubbed. Here is everything you need to know so far about this awards season and what you have to look forward to in the next few months to come.

On Jan. 7, the Golden Globes kicked off the awards season with a lot of anticipation as to who would win the major categories. A lot of publicity followed each counterpart of "Barbenheimer" as the duo dominated at the box office and with critics. "Barbie" received a rating of 88% on Rotten Tomatoes, while "Oppenheimer" received 93%. The excitement around the release of

the movies made people flock to the theaters.

The winners of the major categories for the Golden Globes were

Best Motion Picture - Drama: Oppenheimer

Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy: Poor Things

Best Motion Picture - Animated: The Boy and The Heron

Cinematic and Box Office Achievement: Barbie

Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture — Drama: Cillian Murphy

Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture — Drama: Lily Gladstone

Best Original Score: Ludwig Göransson

Best Director: Christopher Nolan

Best Original Song: "What was I made for?"

Lily Gladstone made history by being the first Indigenous Best Actress

winner for her role in "Killers of The Flower Moon." "Oppenheimer" swept all of the major categories, beating out "Barbie" for the coveted awards.

These accomplishments were slightly overshadowed by some disparaging remarks made by the award show's host, Comedian Jo Koy. Throughout the evening, Koy joked about some of the nominated projects admitting that he had only seen Netflix's "Beef." This became abundantly clear when he compared the two film front runners, "Oppenheimer" and "Barbie." Koy said, "Oppenheimer" is based on a 721-page Pulitzer Prize winning book about the Manhattan Project" he then remarked, "and 'Barbie' is on a plastic doll with big boobies." As the cameras panned to the crowd, it was clear that the joke did not land and even made some of the celebrities in the audience grimace.

Koy continued to joke about "Barbie," saying, "The key moment in 'Barbie' is when she goes from perfect beauty to bad breath, cellulite and flat feet" he paused then adds, "or what casting directors call character actor."

It is clear that Koy didn't understand what the message of "Barbie" was, and that its goal was to combat the same misogynistic thinking and comments that he displayed in his monologue.

On Jan. 15, the Emmys took place, and three shows stood out above the rest, securing almost every award of the night. With 27 nominations for the night, "Succession" took home six Emmy awards for Best Show, Best Actor and Best Actress, among many others. "The Bear" matched "Succession's" success by also securing six awards for the night. Finally, "Beef" came in close behind the other two shows, taking home five awards that night.

At the awards, Elton John became a part of the exclusive club of EGOT winners. He secured an Emmy for Outstanding Variety Special (Live) for "Elton John Live: Farewell From Dodger Stadium." He is now the 19th person to receive an Emmy, Golden Globe, Oscar and Tony or EGOT.

Coming up on Feb. 4 are the Grammys, and people will be keeping an eye out to see if "What Was I Made For" by Billie Eilish will continue its winning streak. The Oscars will close out the awards season on Mar. 10, so tune into both awards ceremonies to see the next memorable moment in real time or just to watch your favorite celebrities take home a coveted award.