

THE CONCORDIA

• COURIER •

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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Mark your calendar! Life After College Week is coming up.

MADISON ZUNIGA
CAMPUS EDITOR

Looking for a job after graduation? Interested in developing crucial career-building skills? You're in luck! The Department of Student Success is putting on a large-scale, high-profile series of events the week after mid-semester break, from March 4 to 8, to help prepare students for their lives after college.

Monday, March 4: Student Success will be hosting 13 local companies at the General Full-Time Hiring Expo in the Breezeway. You don't want to miss the opportunity to connect directly with recruiters from The Walt Disney Company, Thrivent Financial, Enterprise Mobility, EBizCharge, or the United States Secret Service. Yes, Disney will be there; a first for Concordia!

"I would encourage our juniors and seniors to attend the expos," said Mariah Lucas, Director of Career Development & Vocation. "Seniors should attend with a resume in hand ready to apply on the spot. Juniors should attend with resumes in hand to potentially apply for internships or to start building a connection with a recruiter for next year."

Tuesday, March 5: From 2 to 3 pm, Student Success will put on the Cash and Cookies Workshop, designed to help students become more comfortable with handling their credit score, debt and finances. Enjoy gift card raffles, Insomnia cookies and financial advice in Student Union 201!

"Student loans can feel like a huge looming shadow

on the horizon," said Lucas. "Learning how to budget can feel overwhelming when you start to think about affording a place to rent and utilities and necessities. Students have the opportunity to learn how to utilize their credit score to their advantage and how to create a budget that provides the opportunity for students to plan for the expected and unexpected events that follow graduation."

Wednesday, March 6: Two back-to-back workshops will be held in the Career Center: "Utilizing Your Transfer Experience" from 10 to 10:30 a.m. and "Brewing Success with LinkedIn" from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Transfer Success Coach Joie Annunziato described the transfer workshop. "It will discuss traits that transfer students embody and how those translate into furthering their education with graduate school or into the workforce," said Annunziato. "Students will hear sample interview questions and practice incorporating their past experiences into their answers."

Lucas emphasized the importance of understanding LinkedIn. "With LinkedIn receiving over 77 applications per second for the various jobs posted on LinkedIn, it feels overwhelming and daunting trying to find a full-time position. First impressions are made in the first five seconds you interact with someone. These employers want Concordia students and have taken the time out of their schedules to come here to build connections, so don't waste this opportunity to get to the front of a hiring manager's list."

Wednesday, March 6: The Closets and Close-Ups event will also be held on Wednesday from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union Patio! For the third year in a row, generous Concordia staff and faculty will donate professional clothing for students to build their wardrobes at no cost. Free professional headshots will also be offered.

"Many items we received the past two years included ties, heels, blazers, slacks, belts, dresses and more, many of which were dry cleaned," said Amanda Norris, who hosts the clothing drive. "During our first Closet & Close Ups about two years ago, one of the students that took a suit came up to me a week later and let me know that they wore it for a job interview and got an offer. It's such a blessing to be able to give back to our students and help them expand their professional wardrobe, as many professional clothing items are not very affordable for the average college student's budget."

Thursday, March 7: Students will have the opportunity to receive professional advice from Concordia alumni at the Career Compass event. "We will be having guests from Microsoft, Amazon and the Pacific Southwest District Office of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in attendance," said Lucas. Prepare some questions and enjoy a taco bar from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Student Success Lobby!

Friday March 8: Life after College Week will close out with the Education Hiring Expo. If you're a senior in education hoping to work locally, make sure to engage with representatives

PICTURED ABOVE: Life After College week events
Photo courtesy of: Mariah Lucas

from the Saddleback Valley Unified School District, the Capistrano Unified School District, the Orange Unified School District, Christ Lutheran in Costa Mesa, and the Newport Mesa Unified School District. Several highly competitive districts will be present, offering an exclusive opportunity to make a good first impression!

"Our students are successful in building relationships with employers when they are friendly,

approachable and make an effort to understand the company or organization they are talking to," said Lucas. Taking advantage of the Life After College Week events will help develop the skills you need to be successful in the professional workspace.

For more information about Career Services, contact careercenter@cui.edu or follow them on Instagram at [cui_successcenter](https://www.instagram.com/cui_successcenter) to stay updated about career events!

Professors talk about why hip-hop belongs in the classroom

JOSEPH PANETTA
STAFF WRITER

Hip-hop is so much more than just sounds and lyrics. On Tues., Feb. 13, Dr. Bryan Santin led a conversation with UCLA English Professor Dr. Adam Bradley at the Polis Plaza LLC event on the poetics of hip-hop.

"[Hip-hop] opened up a world to me...hearing that music for the first time was a profound

thing," said Bradley. Bradley is the founding director of the Laboratory of Race and Popular Culture at UCLA and is also an avid hip-hop fan. Santin held a discussion with the professor about his hip-hop background, research and incorporation of it into the classroom.

"Hip-hop performers are artists. As much as we want to make them icons, celebrities, truth tellers... ultimately [hip-hop performers] are artists

and artists have freedom to use language in ways that artists often do," said Bradley.

Bradley is well known for his studies of hip-hop music as poetry and has written multiple books such as "Book of Rhymes: the Poetics of Hip Hop" and "The Anthology of Rap." He has also held interviews with various artists.

Bradley took a deep dive into hip-hop artists as cultural influences rather than just music

makers.

"[Bradley] said 'hip hop performers are artists' and I think he meant that they can do things that they want to do, to disturb us," said Trevor Dixon, a sophomore who attended the event.

This event came in the midst of Black History Month and Bradley stressed the importance of how "Black American literature emerges" out of rap as "[rappers] shape what it is perhaps even to be Black...Rap is defining a certain

type of Black voice."

"[Hip-hop] tells us something about African American literature as a heritage and African American cultural production," said Santin.

Along with the importance of hip-hop to the Black community, is the fact that it is an art form to impact the whole world beyond one culture. "As Black as the history of rapping is, it is itself an artistic practice [with] a set of

Professors talk about why hip-hop belongs in the classroom

tradition that can be learned,” said Bradley.

Think hip-hop and classwork are an unlikely pairing? Prominent hip-hop artists like Kanye West have family ties to education. “Kanye West’s mom had a PhD in English,” said Santin, who teaches a number of English courses where hip-hop is involved in the curriculum, such as the analysis of a Kendrick Lamar album.

Santin currently teaches a class called “Modern and Contemporary Poetry,” which is unofficially referred to as “African American Poetry and Hip-hop.”

“Whenever I was reading Shakespeare or poetry, I saw a lot of thematic similarities [to hip-hop],” said Santin. “To introduce Shakespeare, I would take some rap songs and show that these are not worlds apart.” While hip-hop and classical poetry are different mediums of expression, they are very similar thematically in what they try to accomplish.

Hip-hop is more than words and rhythms. It is a reflection of where society is at a point in time. Upon viewing hip-hop as poetry rather than simply adolescent music, it can become a tool to learn about people.

“We’re surrounded by popular culture and it is something that we



PICTURED ABOVE: event speaker Adam Bradley
Photo courtesy of: adamfbradley.com

should be able to critically analyze because it shapes who we are and how we think,” said Santin. “An education should give you critical ways of thinking of everything, not just things in the past.”

Santin ensures that his students are well informed on contemporary culture, especially involving rap. However, his students only receive about “25% of what [he’s] researched” as he dives deep into the topic on his own and presents at conferences, including one on his most recent paper entitled “The Bard of Avon meets the Bard of Compton” which will compare William Shakespeare and Kendrick Lamar.

“Often it can be a challenge to have something that students feel is worth spending their time on. This time, we had a really good amount of students at

the [Polis Plaza] event compared to past events,” said Julia Swan, junior and one of the organizers of the event. “It was really cool to see how hip-hop songs are kind of just modern poems.” Swan deserves a huge shoutout for her work in advertising and arranging the amenities of the event.

Attendees at the event could consider themselves in good company. “Hip-hop is associated with coolness,” said Santin.

For more information about Santin, hip-hop and his classes involving hip-hop, please reach out to bryan.santin@cui.edu. There will also be a Polis Plaza event with Santin and Reverend Dr. John Nunes on Christianity and identity politics in April.

Incoming WSCUC visit!

JENNA HOFFMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

and adaptation, among other items.

From March 6 through 8 a committee from WSCUC will visit and review Concordia’s campus and curriculum to ensure that the institution is up to standard and cultivating informed and well-rounded students.

The visit will also determine whether Concordia will earn reaccreditation from the WSCUC association. Institutions can have their accreditation reaffirmed “for a period of six, eight or 10 years,” said Deborah Lee, Accreditation Liaison Officer, and her accreditation team.

When the WSCUC committee visits Concordia’s campus, they will conduct classroom observations, open forums with current students, open forums with alumni and meetings with President Michael Thomas, faculty and staff.

In their review of Concordia the WSCUC committee will be looking at Concordia’s alignment with accreditation standards, quality of education, mission and purpose, institutional effectiveness, commitment to diversity and inclusion, transparency and accountability and innovation

Students have been encouraged to get involved and participate in all of the excitement surrounding the reaccreditation activities that Concordia has been hosting. Lee and Concordia’s accreditation team advise students to stay informed. “Be aware of the accreditation process and the purpose of the WSCUC visit. Understand that it is a review of the institution’s educational quality and effectiveness,” Lee said.

There are many ways to show support by participating in the 40 days of prayer, adding to the Eagle Board outside of the Student Union on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and joining the Prayer Calls that will be happening on Feb. 29 and March 7 from 3:30 to 3:45 p.m. These calls are a “special time of focused prayer” for the university.

As a part of the accreditation visit, Concordia is asking students to share their Top 10 “What makes Concordia cultivated” list by using the hashtag #builtgolden. So check your email for more information about how to get involved and support Concordia through this process.

ASCUI

Hello Golden Eagles!

We hope everyone is having a great second semester of school. Everyone seems to be staying busy with classes, games, events and more around Concordia. We hope you are all remaining stress-free and handling the semester well.

Keep your eyes open for everything coming up! We are headed into the Academic Advising season. Make sure you are reaching out to your advisor and getting your next semester of classes ready. Additionally, Housing Hype Night is approaching soon! If you are looking at living on campus next semester, start getting your checklist ready of everything you need to

be prepared for applying for housing. LLC applications are live! Are you looking at living in one of our LLCs? The application process for this is open. Make sure you get your applications in if this is something you are interested in.

Keep pushing through until spring break! Have a safe trip whether you are staying close by, going on a trip or headed home. We hope this is a restful time for everyone. Take time to rest up before the end of our spring semester. That is all for now! Until next time....

Go Golden Eagles!

Your Secretary,

Elise Schult

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

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Freshman and senior team up for success in CUI Forensics

MADISON ZUNIGA
CAMPUS EDITOR

Hudson Winchel, freshman, and Benjamin Wagner, senior, have joined forces on Concordia's Forensics team, and their partnership has yielded many positive outcomes this speech and debate season. Each has several awards to their name, and together, they are currently ranked third in the nation in NPDA (National Parliamentary Debate Association) debate with a 5/1 win-loss ratio.

"We've gone to three major debate tournaments this year, each of which was grueling and hard with stiff competition," said Wagner. "We placed first at PSCFA (Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association) with an undefeated record." The team placed second and made it to the quarter-finals at their other major tournaments.

Sean Nowlan, Director of Debate at Concordia, said, "Benjamin and Hudson have been joys on this team to have. They bear the perfect mix of competitive spirit, care for their teammates and enthusiasm for debate. As captain of the team, Benjamin has served an admirable role as both a spiritual and competitive

leader to his lowerclassmen."

"Being in a freshman-senior team has been a huge blessing for me, primarily because Benjamin has been able to mentor me every step of the way, teaching me the ropes of the new debate format (NPDA) that I am unfamiliar with," said Winchel. "I wouldn't be doing nearly as well this year if it wasn't for Benjamin's guidance and patience. I'm also glad that we've been able to see success, especially since this is Benjamin's last year. I think the pressure it has put on me has been healthy and ultimately led to more success on the team."

Winchel and Wagner both recognized how their faith impacts their partnership. "Hudson, more than anything, is my brother in Christ," said Wagner. "This means that we're able to have a lot more than debate partners; we've had a ton of lovely discussions about theology. All in all, I'm glad Hudson is my partner, he's a great guy and an equally great debater."

"I think what makes Benny and my partnership special is the fact that, despite being fiercely competitive, we have a firm foundation on what matters most, which is our focus on Christ," said Winchel. "Sometimes I get a little competitive, and Benny

brings me back to Earth, and sometimes Benny gets a little bit humble, and I need to spark a competitive spirit within him. But ultimately, both of us have very similar moral compasses, which have helped us ground our debates with clear perspective on what really matters."

"I'm astonished at how well Hudson has grown this year as a freshman," said Wagner. "He soaks up information like a sponge and is constantly improving in every facet of debate. Not only that, but he is relentlessly positive. Hudson is nothing short of a remarkable human being who is always willing to put in extra work, and—win or lose—give glory to God in it all!"

Winchel comes from a speech and debate family, and has been involved with speech and debate for over seven years. His experience has paid off, as he has won IPDA several times this year and received the top overall debater award at the Bernacchi DVC tournament. At Concordia's home tournament, one of the largest of the year, he was a finalist in extemporaneous speaking and IPDA, and won impromptu speaking. "[I] ultimately took the tournament champion award," Winchel said, "which



PICTURED ABOVE: Wagner and Winchel with first place trophies. Photo courtesy of: Benjamin Wagner

recognizes the top overall debater and speaker at the tournament, which was a huge unexpected blessing."

"Speech and debate at Concordia is a tremendous blessing and is an amazing environment," said Winchel. "It allows me to refine my public speaking ability while allowing me to more accurately know what I believe, and the reasons behind it. Being involved in speech and debate has given me a strong voice to accurately articulate what I

believe and why I believe it."

Concordia's Forensics team has several spring tournaments coming up that they are currently preparing for. Winchel and Wagner plan to attend Nationals, where they will close out their season of success.

For more information about speech and debate and Concordia's Forensics Team, contact the Director of Forensics, Konrad Hack, at konrad.hack@cui.edu.

Gotcha! unites students in water-gun fun



PICTURED ABOVE: Gotcha! players with their Hunt issued water guns. Photo courtesy of: Alexis Borland

ARIANA ROSALES
STAFF WRITER

Gotcha! is back this year and in full effect. The exciting game around campus is bringing students together as they engage in playful competition for the third year in a row. Helping students unwind before Spring Break, the game

started Mon., Feb. 12 and ends Fri., Feb. 23.

Gotcha! is a game in which players try to eliminate one another using water squirt guns. The goal is to be the last person standing. The winner of the game gets a \$400 cash prize.

Students who wanted to play had to sign up and pay a \$5 entry fee. They were

then given a small water squirt gun, provided by the Hunt, and assigned a target to track down and eliminate through the Gotcha app. The basic rules do not allow students to use any other water gun that was not given by the Hunt. Friends can help, but no person is allowed to make physical contact with the target. The insides of all buildings and sports practices are considered safe zones.

There are two main rounds to the game. In the first round, students are given targets to find and attempt to eliminate them with a well-aimed water squirt. The second round is a free-for-all, allowing students to get anyone out who is playing the game.

Players have strategic ways of staying in the game for multiple rounds. Samantha Sinclair, a senior, said, "I would just walk in different paths to my classes to not be seen or told where I was." She added that the best thing players can do is reach out to other students to find out who is looking for them and try to avoid that person.

Kathleen Bennett, a senior, said that she avoids getting shot by, "figuring out who has me by process of elimination and avoiding them as much as possible; and making sure no one knows my work schedule." Bennett added, "I think I could definitely win by hiding out in safe zones and waiting to see my target(s)."

Beyond the thrill of the chase and requiring participants to think strategically, the game brings students together through diverse interactions. Sinclair said, "That really is the whole point of Gotcha, which is to reach out to people that you are close to or really don't know at all so you can do your best to win the game." Sinclair added, "I really enjoy watching the videos of people getting out because some of them are pretty funny."

"I think it's a great way to get to know people you would never have interacted with before," said Bennett. "When you see someone's face around campus that you recognize from the game, it's a common ground to talk, laugh or strategize

about."

The friendly competition ends with the last person standing, winning the prize of \$400, and the second-place winner gets \$100. The player with the most eliminations wins a \$75 prize, and a \$50 prize goes to the person with the most creative comment.

The Associate Director of Residence Life & School Spirit, Alexis Borland, said, "If there are multiple players on the last day of the game then the student with the most eliminations wins."

As students prepare to head home for break, they witness experienced strategists and first-time participants turn the campus into a lively battleground and create lasting memories.

Stay up to date with Gotcha! by following the Hunt on Instagram at [@cui_thehunt](https://www.instagram.com/cui_thehunt).

ASCUI hosts open forum with Dr. Michael Thomas



PICTURED ABOVE: President Thomas speaking with students on campus
Photo courtesy of: cui.edu

KIARA AZUMA
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 14, ASCUI hosted an open forum with Concordia's president, Dr. Michael A. Thomas at Denault Auditorium from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This forum allowed an opportunity for students to ask questions as well as for Thomas to address student concerns.

Mrs. Megan Bouslaugh, Vice President of Student Affairs, Dean of Students, Chief Title IX Coordinator, and Mr. Tim Odle, Vice President of University Operations and Athletics, were also in attendance.

The main topic of concern addressed by Thomas was the increases in tuition and boarding mentioned in the letter sent to all students and families. "This is the hardest letter I write," Thomas said, "We spend a lot of time on how to talk to you in a fair way."

He went into detail, explaining the decisions made by the university. "Concordia is a small city," Thomas said, "We run a hotel – residential halls. We run a school. We run a restaurant. We run a coffee shop. We run a police station, a health care, and a mental health care clinic. We run a sports facility. We run a bookstore and a library. We run a church. We run a post office, a performance hall, and a recording studio. We run a budget of [approximately] \$85 million a year as a nonprofit organization."

Thomas explained that Concordia is shouldering the increased costs of all goods and services by 27% due to the inflation in California since 2019. This required a shift in the budget that was funded mainly by raising revenue either with tuition or philanthropic giving. In addition, the minimum wage increases in California impacted the budget, as Concordia has over 1,000 employees on payroll to cover, including student workers.

"We really try to provide stability for faculty and staff and YOU," said Thomas. "We are really trying hard to pay our faculty and staff a good wage to not only recruit them but to keep them."

A question asked during the forum included potential raises in scholarships or financial aid. Thomas encouraged students to talk to the financial aid office if their family situation has changed and there needs to be an adjustment made to their financial aid package.

Thomas also addressed the new cost of parking. He explained that all the roads on campus are maintained and paid for by Concordia. This includes paying for gatehouses and gatehouse security staff. The cost of parking per semester is still significantly lower than other universities, such as the University of California Irvine, which charges \$135 a month for parking for residents.

For those concerned about getting a parking spot, especially with the new cost, Odle reassured students that at least 148 additional spots are open that are not used every day. Concordia also plans to release 10 spots in the parking behind Rho for students and leave six for faculty.

Thomas also emphasized that "not a single dollar" from a student's tuition will go into the new buildings being built. The CU Center renovations are expected to begin in May, and they hope to be complete by fall of 2026, in time for Concordia's 50th anniversary. The two athletic buildings are expected to begin construction by late summer or early fall, which will include a state-of-the-art weight room and fitness center. These buildings are funded by donors.

A question was asked about donor money earmarked for the buildings and if it could be allocated to fill the student budget. Thomas explained that these donations are funded specifically for the buildings, and much of the endowment money that goes into scholarships comes from estates. However, the speakers noted that they look for opportunities to be more flexible with donations when possible so funds can be directed to the areas in most need.

The forum also included a discussion regarding diversity, and Thomas was asked about his idea of getting more diversity on campus. Thomas noted that increasing diversity in the student body can be inspired by having a more diverse faculty. He added that gender equality and representation is also in his sights. "We have to work on that. I want to work on that," Thomas said.

Along with Thomas, Bouslaugh also valued the opportunity to get students' ideas on increasing diversity and encouraged attendees to reach out about it. "You have the best perspective of your stage of life and age," she said.

Campus Safety hosts RAD training for women

TABITHA JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Campus Safety hosted a free four-part Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training series for women. RAD is a program focused on instilling life saving knowledge to reduce risk and harm of rape or abduction. The course consisted of three full lectures followed by a hands-on portion to put skills into practice.

The training was conducted by Candice Spruill, Administrative Assistant and Patrol Officer; Priscilla Guerrero, Campus Safety Officer; and Maria Arredondo, Administrative Sergeant of Campus Safety. This is the first time the university has conducted a women-only multi-part self defense series.

It's important to offer a session like this, Spruill said, "particularly as it's a women's only course." A Rainn.org study noted that girls and women "ages 12 to 34 are the highest risk years for rape and sexual assault. "I just think it's good for women to have some type of basic self-defense today," Spruill said.

Guerrero stressed the "situational awareness learning" part of the course. "[We teach] being aware of what is a risk, recognizing risk, avoiding risks," she said.

Madeline Stokes, sophomore, said, "I found the training to be so useful and I am surprised I've never heard of RAD before." Stokes had never taken a self defense course and said she learned "how to spot

people who may be a threat, how to stand and understand stances." Stokes noted that the course pushed her comfort zone but said she "felt the time was worth it."

Lauren Martinez, senior, said, "I wanted to attend RAD training as I thought it would be good to see some different insight into how I can better protect myself on a day-to-day-basis." Martinez has attended self defense training in the past but wanted to "freshen up on my understanding of self defense and what I can do if I were put into a bad situation."

Spruill said, "RAD is important because even though some of the skills are beginner level or a reminder to things you are already aware of, it never hurts to practice self awareness and physical defense techniques."

90% of self defense training are cautionary actions meant to stop a situation before it even begins and these skills have been proven to have life saving effects. Spruill said, "Practicing is being prepared and being prepared can save your life in a life threatening situation."

Along with education, the attendees became allies to each other during the practice sessions. "One thing especially today is that they're motivating each other," Arredondo said. "They're encouraging each other. At the beginning of the course we always see more of a shy response and everybody's a little bit reserved," she continued, "Right now we're on the third day, and I see they are more lively, more in tune with it."

Campus Safety plans to host future training sessions on RAD and other safety topics.



PICTURED ABOVE: RAD self-defense instructors and students
Photo courtesy of: Caroline Wong

Women's water polo knows how to fuel a fire



PICTURED ABOVE: #6 Melinna Galbraith running the offense
Photo courtesy of: Valerie G. Photography

EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

During a sunny weekend in Northern California, women's water polo competed in the Bay Area against Santa Clara, Marist College, CSU Monterey Bay and CSU East Bay. Returning 2-2, the Golden Eagles battled tough competition on Friday but used that momentum to find their groove on Saturday, securing wins against Monterey Bay and East

Bay.

After a frustrating first day of competition, falling short to Golden Coast Conference rivals Santa Clara, the Golden Eagles were fired up for the second day and determined to leave the pool with victories. Senior Tamsyn Evezard said, "The successes and lessons learned on day one ignited a profound sense of unity and purpose, propelling us towards greater success on day two."

Graduate student

Melinna Galbraith said, "Our team does not lack a work ethic, and we all know and understand the hard work it takes to get the results that we want." Unafraid to rise to a challenge, the Golden Eagles prepared for another day of competition.

Bouncing back and raising the energy on the second day made for a thrilling pair of competitions. Against Monterey Bay, the Golden Eagles set a new season scoring high with 18

goals, ultimately taking the win 18-11.

Senior Andie Perreira tallied three goals against Monterey Bay and has been a crucial part of the Golden Eagles family over the last four years. "A lot of people may think that our success comes from those in the water, which is true, but our greatest strength is the constant support we offer one another," said Perreira, "We are one big family and would do anything for one another."

Finding strength in unity, Galbraith said, "We wanted to focus on our bench energy in games by not only celebrating success but also maintaining a positive attitude and staying engaged even during challenging moments." Galbraith recorded four assists against Monterey Bay, helping the team to victory.

Shortly after securing the win against Monterey Bay, the Golden Eagles got back in the pool for a nail-biting performance against East Bay, taking the Pioneers to overtime. Pushing through the fatigue of a long weekend, determination fueled them to pull ahead of East Bay after staying

goal for goal with them all game. Finishing with a 10-7 win, Abby Mammen and Perreira secured the overtime goals to close out the tournament with a sweet victory.

"Everyone on the team is fully bought into working together to win," said Mammen. "We as a team are not afraid of hard work and being on a team of heavy, both freshman and seniors, we all work together to help each and every one grow and be better everyday."

Evezard shared an insight into what guides the team for success, saying, "Ultimately, our team ethos, RAD - Resilient, Adaptive and Driven - highlights our collective success in embodying these qualities throughout the tournament this past weekend."

After displaying such resilience and focus last weekend, the Golden Eagles will strive to continue this trend for their home opener against Fresno Pacific today, Feb. 23. With plenty of competition to come, these Golden Eagles are taking flight and will definitely be a team to look out for.

Women's basketball secure a sweet senior night win

EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

On Feb. 19, the CU Arena was flooded with flowers and bittersweet sentiments in celebration of the seniors last ever home game. The seniors soaked up their final moments playing in the Eagles Nest while their family and loved ones packed the stands from wall to wall. Facing Hawaii Pacific, the Golden Eagles gave a thrilling performance, finishing with a 68-63 win.

Despite the Shark's unrelenting defense, the Green and Gold maintained the lead throughout the game. Seniors Teagan Thurman, Savannah Felix and Stephanie Lee all played significant roles in leading the team to success.

For an extra special and unforgettable night, Thurman officially became a member of the 1,000 club, hitting her 1,000th career point in the third quarter. After an effortless shot, sinking it from the free throw line, the stands erupted in nonstop celebration while the teams played on. Thurman said, "I will miss the connections I built and

being able to play the sport I love every day." Thurman finished the game with nine points, four rebounds and four steals.

Lee, a graduate senior, was at the top of the stat board with 14 points. Performing under pressure in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter, Lee silenced the gym and shut down the Sharks after making four straight perfect free throws. Lee leads the team this season with 39 three-pointers.

Felix tallied ten points, six rebounds and two steals, adding to her current 232 points and 155 total rebounds this season. After five years of being a Golden Eagle, Felix has had a substantial role in the growth and leadership of the team. "There is something truly special about going into battle with your team, sharing both the highs and lows, and growing together, both on and off the court."

As these seniors prepare to pass the torch and hang up their jerseys, their presence will continue to influence the team and the future athletes to come. "Cherish every moment and treat every day like it is your



PICTURED ABOVE: The women's basketball team gathers around the seniors
Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon

last because soon it will be," said Thurman.

"Embrace every practice, game and team meeting as an opportunity to grow and learn," said Felix. "Remember, it's not just developing and growing as an athlete, but also an individual."

Celebrating senior night doesn't mean the season is over just yet. With two pivotal games left of the season, Thurman said,

"Honing in on execution and our defense, as well as playing together, is the key for the next couple of weeks."

Felix said, "These next two weeks are about solidifying our legacy as a team and individually pushing one another to finish hard in the final stretch."

Looking toward these final games, women's basketball will hit the road to face PacWest conference

leader Azusa Pacific and Westmont on Feb. 24 and March 2. Currently No.5 in the conference, if the Golden Eagles clutch these finals wins, they will secure a spot in the PacWest Conference Championship tournament in March.

Keep an eye on women's hoops through @cuiwbb on Instagram and all things Golden Eagles @cuigoldeneagles.

The women's lacrosse team dominates with a 5-0 win



PICTURED ABOVE: Women's lacrosse team moves up to 5-0 record after win against Northern Arizona University
Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon

HEATHER HERSHFIELD
STAFF WRITER

After winning the Santa Barbara Shootout and two home games, the women's lacrosse team has high hopes for this year's season with an undefeated record of 5-0. With new freshmen players, a new assistant coach and good camaraderie among players, the team has a recipe for success.

The Santa Barbara Shootout started the season with four games over the weekend of Fri. Feb. 2, and Concordia left being undefeated, going 3-0. They defeated San Jose State 17-2 on Feb. 2 for the regular season opener. On Feb. 3 they won against Chico State 13-1 and UCLA 8-7. The fourth game of the shootout on Feb. 4 against Saint Mary's was canceled due to inclement weather.

Sophomore Maya Kay, a player on defense, enjoyed the opening season games and felt it boosted the team's comradeship. "Santa Barbara was great for team bonding because we got to be with one another on and off the field throughout the weekend," Kay said. "It was a good opportunity to see the skills we've been training throughout the fall being executed on the field this season."

Women's lacrosse continued this win streak back on campus with their home opener against Biola, winning 12-6 on Feb. 10. Their most recent game was on Feb. 18, where they won against Northern Arizona University with a score of 10-6.

Junior and midfielder Genevieve Maczko has played lacrosse for nine years and appreciates her fellow teammates' spirit. "We have each other's backs on and off the field," Maczko said. "It's been a group effort from everyone on the team and the coaching staff to win the past five games.

We have all worked harder, set higher goals for ourselves and kept positive mindsets."

Players on the team commented that it feels fuller with the ten new freshmen players and that they bring a lot of skills and energy to the field. One of these freshmen, Lyndsay Devargas, plays the attack position on offense and has appreciated the opportunity to play for Concordia. "Playing on a collegiate team is more fulfilling because you have a community there for you," Devargas said. "It's a whole different level, at a higher and faster pace."

Another new addition to the team is graduate assistant coach, Sarah Watts. Last year, the women's lacrosse team did not have an assistant coach, and many players expressed their

Courtesy of: Dylan Arrant

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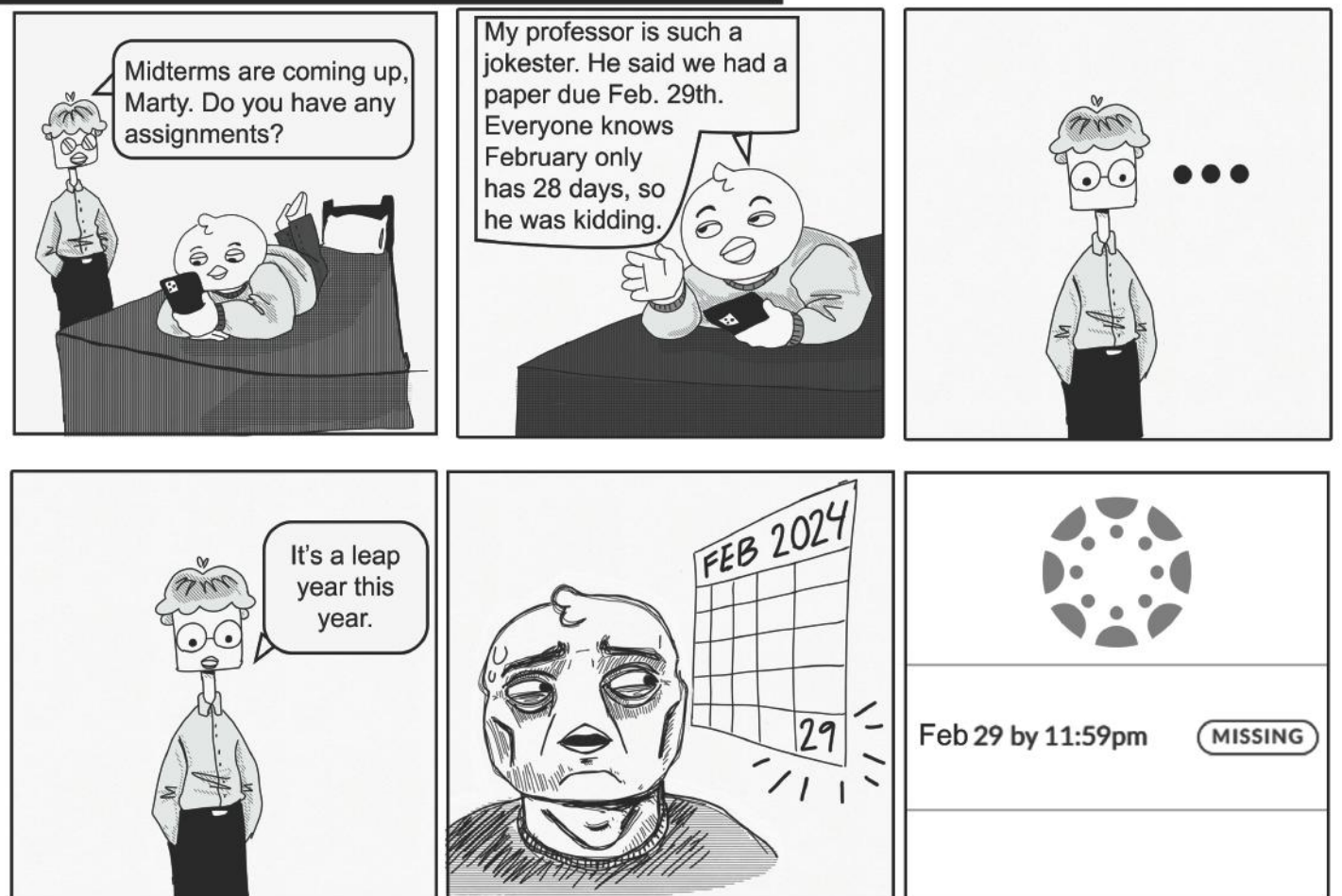
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Leaping To Conclusions



Concordia Choir takes their music on the road!

REBEKAH MICHEL
MUSIC COLUMNIST

With mid-semester break on the horizon, the Music Department is excitedly awaiting this year's Concordia Choir Tour across California, Arizona, Indiana and Michigan. Serving as this year's annual performance tour, The Concordia Choir, under the direction of Dr. Michael Busch, will travel during the duration of mid-semester break, sharing their musical gifts with others.

Tour season and traveling as an ensemble is one of the main highlights for members of Concordia Choir. "Going on choir tours gives us opportunities to see the world and perform for many different audiences. As an incoming student, I was drawn to Concordia because of its music tours.... I love that we get to learn about the cultures and environments we visit," said Katrina Liao '24. Liao is a Church Music major and is participating in her fourth year in Concordia Choir.

The experience of singing for audiences beyond Southern California, is one that is also enriching the

musicianship of students, and further prepares them for the realities of touring as musicians. "As a musician, choir tours help develop quick flexibility and adjustment to new performance venues. We don't have that much time to rehearse in our venue before the actual concert, so we have to get used to our stage and acoustics quickly," said Liao.

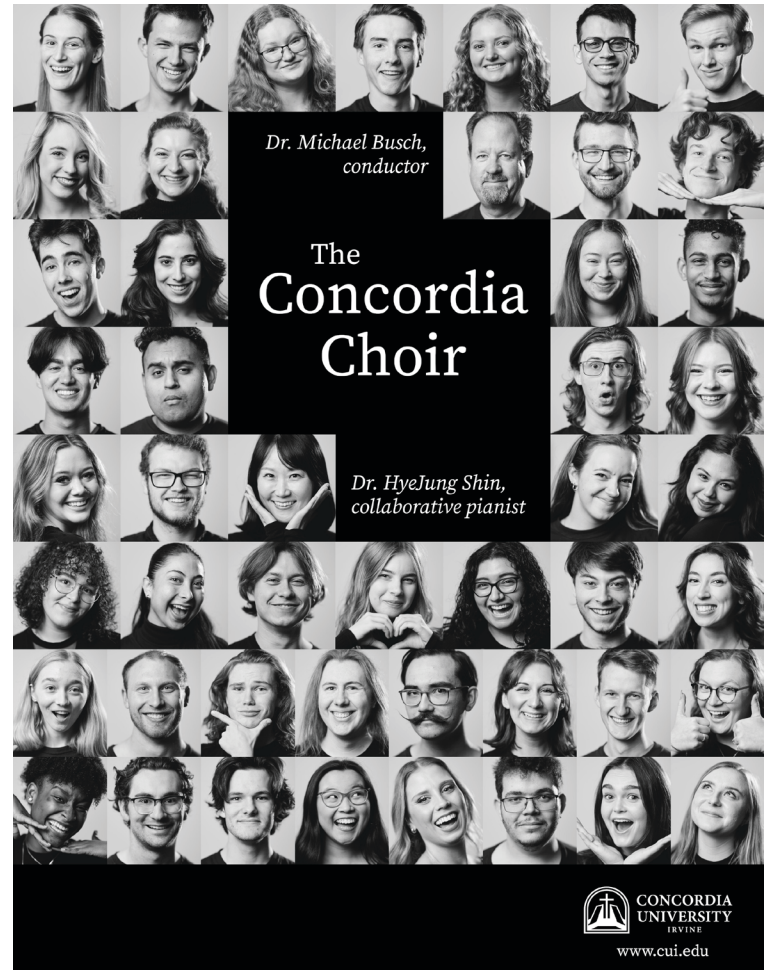
The 2024 Concordia Choir Tour includes a full performance itinerary of visiting the Best Practices Conference (LCMS) in Phoenix, Arizona; Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana; and various Lutheran Churches in Michigan and Indiana. "The experience of sharing music with other churches and communities across the USA is meaningful to me because we are able to share our message with people of different backgrounds and faiths. It is a great experience being able to share the good news through music," said Mia Grund '27. Grund is a Commercial Music major and is preparing for her first tour with Concordia Choir.

For Concordia Choir,

tour season falls during the middle of the academic year this year, leading to a great use of time management and effective rehearsal time for all the students involved. "Balancing tour season amongst academics is hard, especially because it also falls into a big season for the Theatre Department and as a recitalist," said Anna Martin '24. Martin is a Music Education and Vocal Performance major who is preparing for her third and final tour with the choir.

While Concordia Choir's tour repertoire will be heard throughout the U.S. this month, students and faculty can enjoy the tour concert from our own CU Center on March 8 as part of their Home Concert. "Audiences can expect to hear a very diverse concert. We are performing classical pieces and gospel music, hymn settings and secular pieces. We have several acapella pieces and others that feature piano, organ, violin, cello and percussion," said Liao.

For sophomore Ashley Kosenen, the highlight of the tour repertoire this year is "Let My Love Be Heard" by Jake Runestad. "It truly is a chilling sensation to



hear all of the different parts colliding... The text by Runestad inspires me to grow closer to God and uplift Him through music," said Kosenen.

As the Concordia Choir shares their gifts and touches the hearts of audience members on tour, students and faculty

can expect a joyous Home Concert on March 8 at the CU Center for Worship and Performing Arts at 7 p.m., as a finale to their tour season. Concordia students can reserve free tickets for one performance by using the code CUISTU at checkout. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit simple.tix.com.

Penguins, monkeys and monsters "Under The Bed," oh my!



PICTURED ABOVE: With puppet design by Eve Stanton, "Under The Bed" brings children's stuffed animals to life for memorable adventures!

Photo courtesy of: Rebekah Michel

REBEKAH MICHEL
MUSIC COLUMNIST

The childhood dreams of stuffed animals and monsters hiding under the bed are coming to life for the Theatre Department with their upcoming production of "Under The Bed." Written by Brendan Murray, and directed by Tony Vezner, "Under The Bed" follows brother and sister, Jo and Mo, as they conquer the fear of what's hiding under their

bed. Along the way, they meet new friends and take whimsical adventures ranging from the North Pole to the South Seas.

As a show for the young and the young at heart, the cast of "Under The Bed" has had to learn to adapt their performances for audiences of all ages, particularly children. "Being a part of something that is intended for children has brought back so much childlike joy, positive attitudes into my life and admiration for

how kids see the world. As for obstacles, I suppose my biggest challenge has been trying to find the voice of a 4-year-old," said junior Isabella Mangahis. Mangahis is a Theatre major and plays the role of the sister, Mo.

While the ages of the actors are significantly older than some of the characters in "Under The Bed," there is a great deal of nostalgia that occurs when producing children's theater. "Through playing

as a child, I've recalled so many similar memories of playtime, fear of the imagined unknown and the agency to speak without fear or judgment. It has made me feel a sense of longing for my younger self," said Mangahis.

Adding to the whimsical nature of the show, "Under The Bed" notably features puppetry in its production. With puppetry design, construction and coaching by Eve Stanton, the familiar stuffed animals that many grew up with come to life in this production. Featuring life-size puppets of a penguin and monkey, the process of maneuvering puppets with the whole body has been a learning experience for the cast.

"Fitting the practice puppet to the dimensions of my body, as well as learning to act with the puppet's body out in front of me, has been very challenging. I think that my unique challenge is that I have never acted in a show before, so I am developing both acting skills and puppeteering skills," said Timothy Sloan, '25. Sloan is a Math major and can be seen as the Penguin Puppeteer.

Producing children's theater at a university is a special opportunity for

the Theatre Department to reach a greater audience of children and families. "I think younger audience members and families are going to appreciate the childlike imagination for 'Under The Bed.' Hopefully, that imagination never fully fades away for them," said Sloan.

While Concordia students and faculty may no longer have nightmares about the monsters hiding under the bed, the light-hearted nature of this show is hoping to reach those who still feel young at heart. "I want them to be able to reminisce about how beautiful it is to let oneself be imaginative and curious about the world, because that is truly a superpower to keep as you grow older," said Mangahis.

"Under The Bed" will play at the Studio Theatre on March 9 and 15 at 7:30 p.m., March 10, 16, and 17 at 2 p.m. and March 13 at 11 a.m. Concordia students can reserve one free ticket by using the code CUISTU at checkout. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit simpletix.com/e/under-the-bed-tickets-142416.

Black women celebrate Black excellence

NICHOLAS ESMERAL
STAFF WRITER

With Black History Month coming to a close, students both in and out of Concordia shared their thoughts on Black excellence and navigating the college experience as a person, specifically a woman of color.

Vice President of the Black Student Union, Indyah Alex, said, "It's a month to celebrate me and my culture." Alex said, "It is important to know where we originate from and not to forget our history."

Junior Alyssa Fulmer celebrates Black History Month because "It's a way for us to see how Black culture has influenced society." Fulmer said, "It's important to see how Black excellence has contributed to America."

Kira McLeod, a junior at Prairie View A&M Uni-

versity in Texas, shared her perspective as a Black woman attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). McLeod said, "Often, I see our history being erased... Many things are overshadowed or taken away because America is trying to hide certain elements from our history that are hard for people to stomach because it makes them feel uncomfortable." McLeod added that it's important to recognize the uncomfortable moments so they don't repeat themselves and people are still held accountable.

McLeod looks up to Mae Jemison for her contributions to the Black community as the first Black woman in space. McLeod said, "That alone as a Black woman pushes the boundaries of showing what spaces we can enter even when everyone is against you." Alex said Martin Luther King Jr. is important because

of his peaceful approach to equality. "MLK is important because he was a peace activist," Fulmer said, "Malcolm X is also important because he didn't promote violence but rather sticking up for the Black people, which is where we get our resilience from."

"Michelle Obama is a great role model for young Black women in the world," said Fulmer. "[Actress] Issa Rae [has portrayed] multiple types of Black people," said McLeod. "Not just the people who are ghetto or sassy, she showed the awkward Black girl or the suburban Black girl." McLeod said, "Because Black people are put in a certain role that you have to act a certain way; if not, then you're considered whitewashed and cast out." McLeod added that Rae made diversity within Black culture feel normal, and she respects her for that.

Alex said, "Black ex-

cellence is a way to cheer on Black people for the things we do." "It's important to remember how strong we are when facing tough challenges, and Black excellence shines a light on the creativity that we bring to the world," she added.

"Black excellence to me is seeing the Black community succeed and prevailing through all the obstacles thrown at us," Fulmer said, "It allows us to flourish as a community." McLeod said, "Black excellence is pushing boundaries and stepping into rooms where we aren't represented and making it known that we can be accepted in this space by putting in the effort."

As a Black woman at an HBCU who grew up in a white-populated suburb, McLeod said, "It's nice not being the token Black person. I can just be a student." At Prairie View McLeod said she doesn't feel the necessity to have

watched every Black show or to have played spades growing up to feel accepted by her community.

At Concordia, Alex said, "You have to find your small-knit group of people, and many times, there aren't any other Black people in it." Fulmer said, "Being on a sports team has helped me feel more welcomed and accepted." She added, "I see my team more than my family; if I didn't, I would feel alone."

Black History Month is a reminder to celebrate the beauty of Blackness and the contributions of Black people to society. It's a month to recall all the achievements that they have made as a community and mark significant events in Black history, both the good and the bad.

Return to Arrakis in the long anticipated "Dune: Part 2"



PICTURED ABOVE: Regal Cinema in the UTC, where *Dune 2* will play starting March 1
Photo courtesy of: Jenna Hoffman

MADISON ZUNIGA
CAMPUS EDITOR

Moviegoers can finally enjoy the sequel to 2021's "Dune" when "Dune: Part 2" releases in theaters March 1. Viewers and fans have waited over two years to return to the eerie and majestic world of "Dune" for the next thrilling installment of Paul Atreides's story.

From award-winning Canadian director Denis Villeneuve, "Dune" was a dramatic plunge into the complex universe of author Frank Herbert. Renowned for its grand and artistic cinematography, the first movie wove a tense tale of political disarray and deadly plots on the planet Dune. The movie ended with the deaths of beloved characters such as Oscar Issac's Duke Leto and Jason Mo-

moa's Duncan Idaho, and the tentative safety of Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) and Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson) in the desert land of the planet Arrakis.

"I'm looking forward to how the story and world evolve from the first movie," said Aris Howsepian, junior. "Dune 1" was very focused on world-building and setting the stage for massive events. I hope

that the second film can deliver on all of the hype that the first film built up."

Viewers eagerly anticipated the continuation of the Dune saga, especially after the Hollywood WGA/SAG-AFTRA writers and actors strike added a four month delay to the original November release date. "This is the first blockbuster of 2024," said Howsepian. "Since it was delayed by the SAG/AFTRA strike, the anticipation is even more tangible. This movie will set the standard for this year's major films, so I'm expecting it to set the bar high."

"It's very exciting to see the catch up from the WGA/SAG-AFTRA strikes," said Ella Hachee, senior. "I am most excited for the different content 'Dune' brings to the screen. Although it is a major franchise, it is separate from the other big players so I hope it will be successful to prove that fresh ideas still sell."

"I read 'Dune' over the past summer for the first time. I enjoyed the unique sci-fi setting and integration of theology and philosophy with the powers Paul Atreides has as a Mes-

siah figure," said Dylan Arant, junior. Arant said that reading Frank Herbert's 1965 novel granted him a greater appreciation for how Villeneuve adapted the text into film.

Villeneuve certainly captured the essence of Herbert's story, and movie-goers are in for an epic experience whether they have read the source material or not. "I thought the cinematic rendition of the first movie really captured some of these philosophical and theological elements with the visuals and soundtrack," said Arant. "I look forward to see how the movie further develops these ideas!"

Starring Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya, Rebecca Ferguson and Florence Pugh alongside a large international celebrity cast, "Dune: Part 2" will have a lengthy runtime of two hours, 46 minutes. Ready to return to Arrakis? Find a theater on Fri., March 1, and settle in for an epic conclusion!