

THE CONCORDIA

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INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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# College Corps Media Day encourages fellows to share stories



PICTURED ABOVE: Madeline Stokes and Isabel Maldonado shared their experiences being fellows in College Corps. Photo courtesy of: Heather Hershfield

HEATHER HERSHFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

On Wed. April 3, Concordia's #CaliforniansForAll College Corps hosted a media day to have College Corp fellows who participated in the program this year share their stories. The purpose was to demonstrate the difference they have made in their service to the community.

College Corps is a state-wide fellowship program in California that grants

students \$10,000 toward tuition in exchange for completing 450 hours of service. Members of the program are called fellows. College Corps aids them financially while students are in school but also they provide an impact on the local community and develop valuable skills.

At Concordia, fellows can choose from three different service options that suit their interests. They can work in K-12 schools, food banks or climate action organizations for the environment.

Sophomore Computer Science major Madeline Stokes went the environmental route and serves at local Tanaka Farms in Irvine. Stokes is from Texas and has always appreciated animals and is familiar with farms. Therefore, she took the opportunity to help the farm, located just down the road from Concordia, through College Corps.

Stokes title is a barnyard assistant and she takes care of the livestock by feeding them and cleaning the barn. The farm has a horse, a mule, donkeys, pigs, cows, chickens and

goats.

"I'm a Computer Science major and a lot of the stuff I do for school is on a computer screen," Stokes said. "Serving at the farm is a good way to explore another part of my interests that is very different from what I normally do."

She said that working there has improved her social skills since she gets to talk about the animals to people visiting the farm. Stokes expressed that the work is humbling sometimes, especially when cleaning up after the livestock, but it has been well worth it for her.

"My mindset shift was really important," Stokes said. "I'm focusing less on superficial things now and being more like this is for a good cause, and it's helping out the animals."

Sophomore Biology major Isabel Maldonado helps members of the local community struggling with food insecurity by working at a food pantry called South County Outreach in Irvine. The pantry allows people to pick out the different items they may need, such as canned goods, dairy products, meat, fruits and vegetables. It is different from other pantries because it allows people

to choose their desired products and retain the dignity of a supermarket-like shopping experience.

"I really like talking to customers more than anything. I think there's a good social aspect to it as well," Maldonado said. She has met many different people and gotten to learn about their lives on a personal level.

For Maldonado, it was an enlightening experience to get outside of herself and focus on the people in need. "There's a lot of gratitude from the people coming in," she said. "You're genuinely seeing these people in poverty. They are struggling, and it's very real."

Both College Corps fellows shared that they have gained life-long skills because of the program and appreciate the opportunity to give back to their community and see their efforts helping others.

For more information about joining College Corps for the 2024-2025 school year, visit <https://www.cui.edu/studentlife/career-services/californians-for-all-college-corps> or email [jennifer.pfrogner@cui.edu](mailto:jennifer.pfrogner@cui.edu).

# Women's lacrosse looks to bring home gold

JOSEPH PANETTA  
STAFF WRITER

Concordia Women's Lacrosse has finished the season 9-2 and will be heading to Phoenix, Arizona with the hopes of bringing home the Western Women's Lacrosse League (WWLL)

Division II championship. On Fri., April 13, they will be taking on UC Santa Cruz in the first round of playoffs.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to reach [the] playoffs with the team this year", said Jessi Borton, sophomore midfielder. "It has been a great season so far

compared to last year, and I love seeing the improvement we are making as a team."

Borton is second on the team in goals scored, despite not playing attack.

The women's lacrosse team has gone on a tear this season, rightfully earning a playoff berth as they've developed

into a team that nobody wants to face. This is a huge turn around from their disappointing 2023 season which saw them go 4-6 and miss the playoffs.

Concordia is currently ranked as the third seed in the WWLL DII.

Sophomore goalie Darby McGregor attributes much of this

success to the revamped coaching staff. Head coach Dylan Miles added graduate assistant Sarah Watts and goalie coach Liv Kirk who "has given us that confidence on the field that we need to lead our defense."

Concordia rolled its way to nine wins, most

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# Fatima Nava named March student employee of the month



PICTURED ABOVE: March Student Employee of the Month, Fatima NavaPhoto courtesy of: Erin Komin

MADISON ZUNIGA  
CAMPUS EDITOR

The Center for Career & Vocation has recognized Fatima Nava as Student of the Month for March! Nava, a senior, works as a student website developer with the Concordia Web Team. Fatima received a certificate and a gift in acknowledgment of her efforts and was featured on Instagram and in the Career Studio.

"Fatima has taken other student employees under her wing and gone out of her way to help train them, answer questions and be a go-to resource in the office," said her supervisor, George Allen, Associate Vice President of Marketing. "Whenever we have hired a new student on the web team, she has welcomed them and even adjusted her schedule as much as can to be in the office at the same time as them. She does this with patience, kindness and wisdom."

The Center for Career & Vocation evaluates the Student Employee of the Month using the NACE career competencies of Career & Self Development, Communication, Critical Thinking, Belonging & Inclusion, Leadership, Professionalism, Teamwork and Technology.

Nava was recognized for Leadership, as she achieved organizational goals by capitalizing on personal and team strengths, and Teamwork, as she maintained a collaborative environment that appreciated the diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities of a team.

The Center for Career & Vocation reviews nominations for Student Employee of the Month every third Tuesday, and all faculty and staff supervisors are welcome to nominate student workers. Look forward to the April Student Employee of the Month, who will be featured in May!

# ASCUI



PICTURED ABOVE: ASCUI members in the new theme verse crewnecks Photo courtesy of: Elise Schult

Hello Golden Eagles!

Your ASCUI secretary is back again with more updates! We hope you are all having a fantastic end to your semester. It's the home stretch! We're almost there. Stay focused and lock into these last few weeks of school, Golden Eagles.

If you were around the Student Union Patio for lunch on March 25, you would have seen our Theme Verse Day! ASCUI worked together to organize some activities to help remind students of this year's theme verse. As we get closer to the end of the year, we do not want to forget our reminder for this year.... to abide in Christ!

John 15:5 reminds us that if we abide in Christ, He will abide in us. This semester we created a reminder on a crewneck for people to purchase and wear. These crewnecks had the phrase "Life in the Vine" written on them as a reminder to live our life in the vine of Christ. In addition to crewnecks, we also had students pot their own succulents, wood-burn their own coaster, and make an iced coffee. It was a great chapel and afternoon to be reminded about God's unconditional love for each and everyone of us!

We are already getting ready

for the next school year as the ASCUI team for the 2024-2025 school year has been hired! We are so excited to get this team ready to lead the next year's student body. Natalie Annunziato has been elected to be our next ASCUI President, along with Carrie Hinrichs as the ASCUI Vice President.

The new communications director is Julia Swan, a rising senior majoring in English and Secondary Education with a minor in Lutheran Teaching. Julia said, "I am excited to find new ways to connect with the student body and experiment with creative ways to communicate events and ASCUI updates around campus."

Next up is our new ASCUI club commissioner, Landon McIntire! Landon is a rising senior majoring in Business Finance. Landon said, "I am most excited to learn about and serve the clubs here on campus, as well as pursuing my passions like music, athletics and following Christ."

Up next, the new ASCUI secretary is Emma Agronovitz! Emma is a rising junior majoring in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Christ College. Emma said, "I am looking forward to communicating with

the student body and making a difference for students."

And last but certainly not least is our new ASCUI treasurer, Nikko Brovick. Nikko is a rising junior majoring in Theological Studies. Nikko said, "I am most looking forward to being involved in the community and culture of CUI and to meet students I might not know."

We are so excited to welcome this new team and to get them ready for a great next school year. Let's stay focused as we wrap up the end of the semester! Keep an eye out for some events to end off the school year strong such as I Heart CUI day, The Hunter Games, and more. That is all for now. Keep it up, Golden Eagles!

Yours Truly,  
ASCUI Secretary  
Elise Schult

# THE CONCORDIA COURIER

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# Presenting the President's Academic Showcase posters and winners

MADISON ZUNIGA  
CAMPUS EDITOR

On Tues., March 26, over 20 undergraduate students presented their academic research in the poster session for the interdisciplinary President's Academic Showcase competition. Over \$5,000 in prize money is awarded to the winners and finalists of Tier One for upperclassmen and Tier Two for underclassmen.

"Why I participate in this is because it's a great opportunity to connect with more professors in the research field, and really prepare me for my future career. Currently I'm looking at occupational therapy,"

said Reagan Wagner, who won second place in Tier One.

Wagner said that even though the showcase project might seem intimidating, it's worth the time and effort. "You have a great mentor pairing and for everyone who is participating in it, it's a lot of fun to see other projects and have that experience of learning with each other." The following students earned top marks in the poster session.

For more information about the President's Academic Showcase, contact Dr. Nathan Meier at nathan.meier@cui.edu.

## Showcase winners and finalists

Here are the results of the 2023 President's Academic Showcase following the poster session:

### Tier One Winners:

**1st Place:** "Evaluating the Effect of Equine Conformation on Core Muscle Activation for Use in Hippotherapy" from Vanessa Royal, senior.

**2nd Place:** "The Effect of Horse Characteristics on Kinematics of Gait Pattern at the Walk" from Reagan Wagner, junior.

**3rd Place:** "Exploratory Cross-Sectional Analysis of Lifestyle, Psychometric factors, Fitness and Function in Parkinson's Disease Patients" from Oliver Di Martino, junior.

### Tier One Finalists:

**Honorable Mention:** "Abiding with Jesus: The Significance of Abiding (Menō) in John's Gospel" from Gina Bertaina, junior.

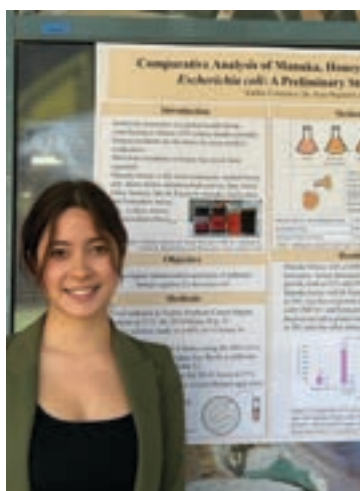
**Honorable Mention:** "Investigation of Computational Modeling Accuracy in Malate Dehydrogenase Structure Predictions and Interactions" from Andy Kapoor, senior.

### Tier Two Winners:

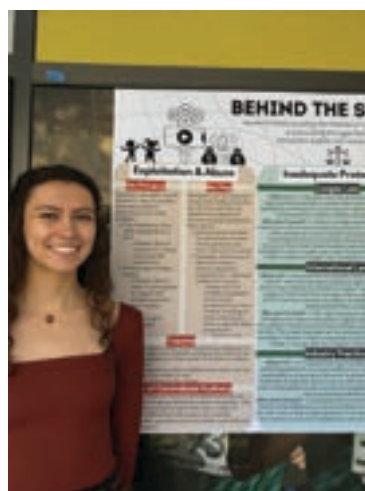
**1st Place:** "Gospel Themes in Shakespeare's The Tempest" from Grace Leininger, sophomore.

**2nd Place:** Theatre: A Path to Empathetic Evangelism" from Camille Beeson, sophomore.

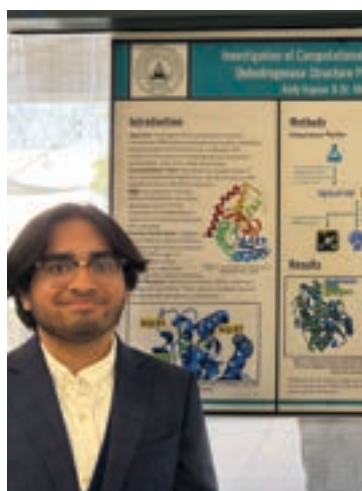
**3rd Place:** "From Rebellion to Remembrance: Unveiling Historical Memory through Star Wars" from Andrew Reeder, sophomore.



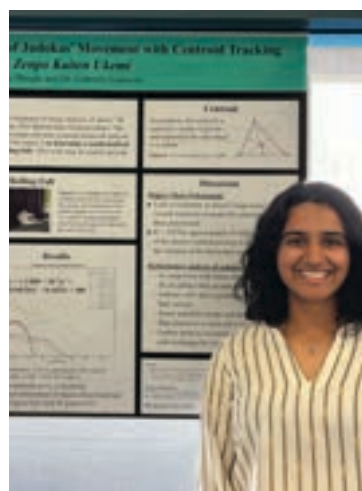
**PICTURED ABOVE:** Sophia Lourenco, sophomore Biology major, researched antimicrobial properties compared in different honeys against *E. coli*.  
Photo courtesy of: Alexis Borland



**PICTURED ABOVE:** Teresa McLaughlin, senior Communications major, studied the legal protections for child influencers.  
Photo courtesy of: Alexis Borland



**PICTURED ABOVE:** Andy Kapoor, senior Biochemistry major, assessed the accuracy of computational modeling with enzymes.  
Photo courtesy of: Alexis Borland



**PICTURED ABOVE:** Gargi Bhogle, senior Mathematics major, did a mathematical interpretation of a specific somersault used in judo.  
Photo courtesy of: Alexis Borland



**PICTURED ABOVE:** Jaela Thornburg, junior Liberal Studies major, compared AI and calculators in terms of technology in the classroom.  
Photo courtesy of: Alexis Borland

## Graduating seniors urged to complete First Destination Survey

JENNA HOFFMAN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you are a graduating senior, you have probably seen or heard about the First Destination Survey, and wondered what it is for.

Director of Career Development & Vocation Mariah Lucas explained that the "Center for Career & Vocation wants to know where our graduating Golden Eagles soar to next." The First Destination Survey hopes to evaluate what seniors' plans are after graduation, whether that be "graduate school, part/full-time employment, entrepreneurial endeavors, missional or volunteer work or enlistment into the armed forces."

Lucas said that it is "important to complete the survey because we use it as an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of our

academic programs and the relevance of the education they provide, ensuring they meet the needs of both students and the job market." The Center for Career & Vocation wants to be as effective and helpful as possible, and filling out the survey provides valuable information. "We want employers to be excited to hire our students and the First Destination Survey highlights that," said Lucas.


An important step in the process is creating a Handshake account in order to complete the survey. Lucas said, "It is important to have a Handshake account because it is your one-stop opportunity to connect with employers looking to hire students and recent graduates."

Joining Handshake can help graduates, and continuing students, in

the job search process. "Handshake provides job and internship opportunities tailored to your interests and skills, where employers can view your profile and approach you with job opportunities," said Lucas.

If you have yet to complete the First Destination Survey, make sure you take a couple of minutes to fill out the information so that Concordia can help current

and graduating students on their career paths and future success. While you're there, take the time to search on Handshake for job opportunities. Lucas said, "With [Handshake's] user-friendly interface and robust features for resume building, networking and application tracking, it's the ultimate tool to kickstart your career journey."



Hey seniors, if you are walking in May, we want to know!

Where are you headed after graduation? Check your **Eagles email** for a link to the **First Destination Survey** today!

# Concordia's Women in Leadership connect at community luncheon

MADISON ZUNIGA  
CAMPUS EDITOR

On Fri., March 22, the Advancing Women in Leadership Committee hosted the Lead With Joy Luncheon to celebrate Concordia's women faculty and staff members. With over 50 in-person attendees and many more joining virtually, the event connected and commemorated women from across the Concordia community.

"We strategically host this event in March, which is Women's History Month," said Dr. Ashlie Andrew, the co-chair for Advancing Women in Leadership and the Director of Organizational Leadership at the Townsend Institute. "This is just an opportunity to all come together to help to uplift and find ways to encourage women to pursue leadership positions in their respective vocations."

Andrew, who works remotely for the school, flew to Irvine to attend the event. "Faculty and staff are tuning in from all across the country, and it's wonderful to have them with our resident faculty and staff as well," she said.

"These luncheons are ways for the women on our campus to get together to

share in the joys and the struggles of what it means to be a woman in leadership," said Jessica James, Assistant Director of Orientation and Student Activities. "We learn from each other and we can then take those lessons into the broader Concordia community."

The theme of the luncheon was Leading With Joy, and the panel featured female leaders across disciplines and careers. The panelists from Concordia were Monique Nunes, Associate Dean for Student Engagement, Dr. Barbara Howard, Director of Assessment and Accreditation in the School of Education and Heather Vezner, Dean of the School of Education. Noel Fairchild, the Director of Christian Education at Light of Christ, and Dr. Mary Scott, the CEO of Orange Lutheran High School, also served as panelists.

"For me, leading with joy and with other women means finding ways to be full as a person, so that in our fullness we can serve each other," said Zoë Litzenberg, Assistant Director of the Writing Studio. "A lot of my job is helping to connect with students and faculty, so an event like this is really fun and valuable, because it is all about the connections that we have to each other."

"It's amazing to have the opportunity to be here and learn from the leaders that are not only teaching us but guiding us, and learning from professionals who have really invaluable experience," said Claire Oppedahl, president of the Women in Business club. Representatives of the club volunteered at the luncheon by helping with the check-in process. "We're grateful to be here to help serve all of the women on campus!"

"It's nice to see students here and all of our employees," Vezner said,

"It's good to be able to come together to participate in professional development and communication and conversations centering around empowering and advancing women."

"We are just so excited to pour into our community here on campus and at large and support up and coming leaders through mentoring and providing events," said Dr. Lori Doyle, Director of the M.A. Educational Leadership and committee member for Advancing Women in Leadership. "We are always open to ideas from

our community on how we can best serve. We just love to show how events and camaraderie and collegiality and research can all come together as we support our present leaders and future leaders on campus and also beyond our campus. It's just an honor to be a part of this group!"

For more information about Advancing Women in Leadership, contact co-chair Ashlie Andrew at ashlie.andrew@cui.edu.



PICTURED ABOVE: Representatives from Women in Business Club volunteer at the event  
Photo courtesy of: Madison Zuniga

## Housing Hype Night revised to reflect student feedback

TABITHA JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

Housing Hype Night is a student-centered event for residential students to select their housing assignment for the following year. Before attending the event on April 10, students were required to fill out the Fall 2024 Housing Application, be enrolled for the 2024-2025 school year, pay their housing deposit and have a roommate group of two or four.

Based on feedback collected from students via Google Surveys as well as input from the student Senate, Housing Hype Night has been revised since 2023. Modifications to the event have been made to best suit the needs of students as well as organizational needs for the daunting task of placing 850 students into four buildings.

A criticism by students from 2023 was prizes being raffled off – and won by – Residential Assistants (RAs). To resolve this, Alexis Borland, Associate Director of Residence Life & School Spirit, said, "Housing Hype Info night had prizes, and RAs were not eligible for them." A reserved parking spot, a sum of flex dollars and a visa card were raffled and won by students only.

At the 2023 Housing Hype Night, upperclassmen did not receive priority housing selection privileges over underclassmen, as priority was based on having a complete roommate group. Due to feedback from students, upperclassman priority was reinstated for 2024, with full roommate groups of seniors and juniors being the first to choose.

Victoria Clemens, Rho Resident Director, reported that "wait time" was a top issue from last year, saying, "The line was too long for students outside, and students inside the Caf became bored from waiting."

To limit wait time, the 2024 event was revised in two ways.

First, applications for the Learning Living Communities (LLCs) in Upper Quads opened early this year, allowing for students of Upper Quads to be placed in their housing assignment on April 9. Not only did this improve students' ability to snag the LLC they wanted; it also meant 156 students were already placed before Housing Hype Night started.

Second, Housing Hype Night was held in Grimm Hall allowing for one classroom to be utilized for students applying to Lower and another classroom for students applying to Sigma.

LLCs being filled the night before also meant a significant amount of students were not required to be at the event on April 10. Likewise, separating students applying to different buildings and not hosting a raffle the night of Housing Hype Night hoped to increase the speed of the event.

Additionally, the Residential Housing Department placed a table outside the cafeteria during lunch hours on April 8, 9, and 10, offering students the option to 'pre-check' for Housing Hype Night. This was meant to increase the speed of the Housing Hype Night and give students an opportunity to clear any holds restricting their housing application.

The Residence Life department has made extensive alterations to this year's Housing Hype Night based on responses and evaluations from students. Be on the lookout for surveys regarding Housing Hype Night 2024 to continue improving campus events and the community.

## Ka Pu'uhonua Hawaii Club hosts another successful lu'au!

ANNA WELSH  
STAFF WRITER

dedicated and in honor of those affected by the Lahaina, Maui fires last fall," said Johnson

This past weekend on Sun., April 7, Ka Pu'uhonua Hawaii Club celebrated their third annual Lu'au: Aloha Ke Akua.

Lu'au's are a long standing tradition that first appeared as early as 1850. Since then the term has come to represent a traditional Hawaiian party in which people feast on Native Hawaiian meals such as poi, poke, k̄alua pua'a and other tasty cuisine. Along with stuffing yourself full of delicious foods, lu'au's also invoke lively music, vibrant dancing, and of course, good company. These are the keys to a successful, extravagant lu'au.

These events are often held as a celebration on special occasions. They have become a stage in which hula dancing, chanting and storytelling have found new lives. Lu'au's are a way to ensure that old traditions continuously flourish in today's modern world. They are a testimony to the rich Hawaiian culture and a celebration of all of the good things that the islands have to offer.

Concordia's Ka Pu'uhonua Hawaii Club lu'au was no exception! The club put on a beautiful traditional dance performance, and celebrated with plenty of delicious food and a multitude of fun activities.

Senior and member of Ka Pu'uhonua, Isabella Johnson said, "The Hawaiian club's goal this year was to make our tickets the most affordable they've been... tickets this year were only twelve dollars. A lot of our funds came from spam musubi fundraisers that helped reduce the cost of ticketing."

While Ka Pu'uhonua was not fundraising for any particular organization, the lu'au was indeed a dedication. "The lu'au was

The Lahaina fires in Maui devastatingly took a place on the list of top ten deadliest wildfires in the United States. Ka Pu'uhonua wanted to do something special for the people of Maui that were tragically affected by this natural disaster.

At the lu'au, there were a variety of games and entertainment. There were trivia games, raffles with prizes for the lucky winners and a game known as "gimme gimme," that all accompanied the lu'au. There was also, of course, beautiful dancing and music performed by a local college band known as "Pots n Pan."

There was a crafts table where attendees could color their own slipper or surfboard shaped keychain. The lu'au also had an origami station set up for people to create beautiful paper animals.

According to Maleah Kanayama, member of Ka Pu'uhonua, the dances were "choreographed by one of the freshmen named Tyna Romoff, who does professional Polynesian dancing."

"We had popular snacks from Hawaii that my parents brought and everyone could make their own little goodie bags," explained Kanayama.

Ka Pu'uhonua worked hard to put on the incredible event and looks forward to hosting another lu'au next year. You don't want to miss out on the opportunity to either celebrate your own culture or get the chance to immerse yourself in Hawaiian culture at Ka Pu'uhonua's annual lu'au!

# Visit from Composer John Wasson inspires Concordia Wind Orchestra

REBEKAH MICHEL  
MUSIC COLUMNIST

As students in the Music Department work diligently to fine tune their craft, they were recently given the opportunity to learn and work alongside a well respected professional in the field, John Wasson. Across the third week of March, composer and arranger Wasson paid a visit to the Music Department and gave a series of masterclasses, clinics and a final concert with the Concordia Wind Orchestra.

As a sought after composer and arranger, most famously known for his work on the Academy Award Winning film "Whiplash," Wasson was able to share his knowledge and expertise with the music faculty and students.

With the Director of Orchestra Activities, Dr. Jeff Held, on a sabbatical for the semester, students in the Concordia Wind Orchestra have been challenged by adapting to new conductors. "There is always an adjustment to working with a new conductor. The instrumentalists must pay closer attention to the style of their conducting because

each conductor will try to evoke different musical expressions from a piece. Working with Wasson was different because he composed all of the pieces we performed. He was so kind and welcoming to any questions we had regarding the pieces," said Ruth Pearson. Pearson is a junior Flute Performance major and has been a part of Concordia Wind Orchestra for three years.

In addition to rehearsals for the Composer in Residence concert, Wasson shared his professional experience and knowledge to students across the Music Department through his workshops. "As someone who is interested in music composition, I attended both of Wasson's workshops and learned a lot during the time that I spent there," said Caleb Vaughn. "He answered all of my questions about composition techniques and shared his methods for coming up with ideas for pieces." Vaughn is a junior Commercial Music major and is studying composition and jazz piano.

As Concordia helps to prepare all of their students for professional careers, hands-on learning experiences from guest

instructors and speakers is one of the most critical parts of students' education in the Music Department. "Getting to work with a composer is wonderful, but getting to attend masterclasses and lessons throughout an entire week is a special opportunity. The student musicians get to know the composer and understand the background story for their compositions, which in turn helps us perform the music with passion," said Pearson.

Wasson's visit at Concordia ended with the Composer-in-Residence Concert on March 23 in the CU Center. The program was a delight to all who attended and was a highlight for all of the students involved to play under his direction. "Playing in the final concert and seeing everything come together in the end was a magical experience. Seeing the joy that it brought to Mr. Wasson to see his music being performed live was a great feeling," said Vaughan.

For Pearson, a particular highlight of the program was a new work that was specially commissioned for the Concordia Wind Orchestra. "My favorite piece in the program that we played was 'Triumphant



PICTURED ABOVE: Known most notably for his work on the movie "Whiplash," John Wasson is a sought after composer and arranger for orchestral music.

Photo courtesy of: Erik Der

Processional Overture' which was commissioned for CWO. It was fun to hear John Wasson's incorporation of scripture using imagery of Christ's coming. As the piece continues, a musical theme interweaves as it is passed to each section of the orchestra," said Pearson.

Wasson's faith and pairing of music alongside scripture was shared throughout his visit at Concordia, adding another element of meaning to his time that was spent with the students. "It is inspiring to hear how he incorporates his faith in his

music through the use of scripture and hymns in his works," said Pearson.

Serving as an example of how Concordia demonstrates excellence in education, Wasson's visit to the Music Department provided inspiration, meaningful insight and a performance experience for all students that will benefit their education and better equip them for their future musical endeavors.

## Video Games Concert showcases an innovative genre of music

REBEKAH MICHEL  
MUSIC COLUMNIST

When attending an orchestra and choir concert at Concordia, audiences can often expect to hear classical or sacred repertoire. However, the upcoming Video Games Concert on April 13 hopes to defy this expectation and present musical works with a choir and full orchestra celebrating popular games including "Final Fantasy," "Halo," "Starfield," "Skyrim," "World of Warcraft" and "Civilization."

Serving as one of the final concerts of the semester, the Video Games Concert will feature the Concordia Symphony and Wind Orchestra, Donne di Canto and Men's Chorus under the shared conductorship of Dr. Elliott Bark, Dr. Clarissa Shan and Len Montgomery.

Outside of the annual Concordia Christmas concert at the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, the Video Games Concert is the most collaborative concert among all of the ensembles in the Music Department. "This concert is the closest thing to our Segerstrom concert

that will happen. Anybody who liked the Concordia Christmas performances or wishes that they could have gone, should attend this concert," said Victoria Hicks, sophomore and a member of both Donne di Canto and Concordia Wind Orchestra with clarinet.

For members of Donne di Canto and Men's Chorus this concert provides a special opportunity to sing alongside an orchestra. "Each song requires teamwork to sound its best. As for the singers, it has been a thrilling experience because I have never sung with an orchestra before. The opportunity to try something new has been an enormous learning experience for me," said Shane Perry. Perry is in his first year with the Men's Chorus, under the direction of Shan.

As for the repertoire of the concert, music from video games is one of the most popular genres amongst students in the Music Department and is one that has gained a lot of appeal in recent years. "There is a misconception that video game music is not essential or just silly. But as this concert will show,

video games now have an orchestral status and its music can be performed at the level of a movie score," Perry explained. "This will also bring a different audience to the concert such as gamers or curious music listeners who never thought that video game music could reach a Grammy Award-winning status."

One other unique aspect of the Video Games Concert is its pre-concert lecture given by Inon Zur, composer of "Fallout," "Starfield" and the "Dragon Age" soundtracks and Jennifer Miller Hammel, a KUSC radio host and video game recording artist. The pre-concert lecture introduces gamers and non-gamers to the music being performed that evening and will share professional insights into the genre of music.

As a concert to attract both video game fans and non-gamers, the Music Department hopes to provide an experience that is enjoyable for all audience members, across various age groups. "Students and faculty should attend this concert because it features cross-generational games such as 'Tetris,' 'Halo' and 'Final Fantasy.' Even though

some faculty may not know these games, perhaps their children do, allowing them to watch a production with game music that they know," said Perry.

Concordia's Video Game Concert will take place on April 13 in the CU Center, with the pre-concert lecture

beginning at 6:15 p.m., and the concert following at 7 p.m. Concordia students can enjoy a free ticket by using the code CUISTU at checkout. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [simple.tix.com](http://simple.tix.com).



# Women's lacrosse looks to bring home gold

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

notably of which was a 24-3 win over California State University, Northridge in which McGregor was able to remarkably find her name on the scoresheet.

"Everyone loves playing with each other and everyone plays for the girl next to them," said Gen Maczko, junior midfielder and defense. "No one thinks that [we are] a one person team and everyone wants to see everyone succeed and do well."

Other memorable victories include the 17-2 season opening win against San Jose State and 9-8 overtime thriller over Cal State Fullerton.

This historically good season has not only been thanks to the coaches, but also thanks to the brilliance of the players.

"Honestly, the key to turning around our record had to do with a mix of new teammates, a better relationship between us girls, and hard work," said McGregor. "This year we

had I think around 10 more girls join the team all who are super talented, which definitely aided in our success, and it helped motivate our returners as well, especially me. We just work together so well and have such a strong team bond now."

One of the most impressive parts of the women's lacrosse season is the lack of age and experience among the players. There are no true seniors on the team, which has forced juniors like Maczko to step into leadership roles.

"The two years before this I got to watch how the other upperclassmen lead the team and how they would set an example for everyone. I knew coming into this year that I was going to be one of the only upperclassmen and I was prepared for it," said Maczko. "Since I am one of the only upperclassmen, a lot of my teammates look to me for help and my goal is to always help them as much as I can. I want to make sure they feel comfortable and

are ready to play."

The only other juniors on the team are midfielder Samantha Gomez and attack Melinda Ibanez. The players have done an exceptional job of playing above their age and maturely gelling into a championship contender.

This season has not come without its share of challenges and controversy, including an 8-11 loss at the hands of reigning champions Cal State San Marcos.

"When we played San Marcos last time, I think we were all very nervous because their team was a similar rank compared to us," said Borton. "They were beatable, but we must have let the nerves get to our heads. If we play them in [the] playoffs, we can just play our hearts out and not let the nerves get the best of us."

Our women's team has been far from lax this season and they're going to have to keep that same vigilance when entering the playoffs this weekend.

"The key for us is going to be staying in the game and playing the full four quarters all out," said McGregor. "We have had games this year, for example San Marcos and San Diego, that were so close and we had them, but we just seemed to lose it a bit. We have learned a lot from those games and are bringing the energy and have put in so much work on and off the field, so I think keeping the same energy and mentality we have had the past couple games will be our key."

In order to come home with gold, the women will have to play and win three games in two days. The first round matchup with UC Santa Cruz will be at 11 a.m. Mountain Standard Time, with the semi-finals being later that day. The finals will take place the following day.

If the women win the WWLL tournament, they will secure a spot in the national tournament and a chance to reach glory on the biggest stage.

While the playoffs will not be held here at Concordia,

make sure that you wish the best of luck to our women's lacrosse team when you see them on campus.



PICTURED ABOVE: Riley Finch and Borton celebrating a goal over Biola.

Photo courtesy of: @thelaxjournal and @ecdwlax on instagram

## STUNT is headed to Nationals



PICTURED ABOVE: CUI STUNT Team  
Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon

BRECKYNN WILLIS  
STAFF WRITER

STUNT is headed to their first National Championship as an NCAA DII sport at the end of this month. Nationals will take place April 26 through 28 in Missouri, where the team will get to showcase the work they've put in all season.

This season has been very unique for the

STUNT team. Becoming an NCAA sport and sporting a new coaching staff has called for change and adjustments. "It has definitely had its challenges, but I am loving every aspect of this new journey," said assistant coach, Janae Magpale, who joined the team this year.

Concordia STUNT is one of the few DII programs in California, so they did a lot of traveling this season

to play against other schools. This brought on its own set of challenges that the team has learned to navigate. "There are different scoring and rules in other states. The lack of consistency in judging can be hard," said junior, Lindsay Pineiros.

"Since STUNT is now an NCAA sport, it has become more competitive and the intensity level has amplified. We are now following new regulations and learning

to maneuver in a different atmosphere," said Magpale.

One of the benefits that has come with joining the NCAA is receiving more coverage and recognition. "We've started to get the social media coverage and support from students and staff that we deserve," said flyer/tumbler Christian Greene. The team is happy to see more and more people showing up to games and learning about their sport.

"By being recognized as our own sport it allows people to focus on what STUNT really is and appreciate our athleticism, skills and hard work," said sophomore Abigail Anderson.

The team's regular season came to an end on April 3. in their game against California Baptist University. With a few weeks to reset, the team is reflecting on the season and moving forward. "We had a rocky start, but we came back from a short break and everyone's mindsets had shifted. It's nice to know that even if we have a rough start,

we can turn the season around," said Greene.

These next weeks will not be easy on the team. The women are focusing on what will get them the best results at nationals. "There will be a lot of repetition," said Greene. "We're going to be perfecting the routines we have down, and maybe adding in one more."

Performing the same routines as all the other teams means that the women will need to be as close to perfect as possible. "A lot of other teams have the same levels down that we do, so we'll be trying to set ourselves apart from them to have the best shot possible," said Pineiros.

"Practices are getting more intense, and the pressure is on for these girls. As coaches, we are really focusing on making sure they are healthy and prepared for anything," said Magpale.

Follow along with STUNT as they head to Nationals by checking out @cui\_stunt and @cuigoldeneagles on social media!

# Balancing talent and unity on the diamond toward conference playoffs

ARIANA ROSALES  
STAFF WRITER

The baseball team has been making waves this season, showcasing their balance of individual talent and collective camaraderie. With a current conference record of 10-10, the Golden Eagles have exemplified resilience, determination and a strong sense of unity, which has pushed them towards the possibility of clinching a spot in the PacWest Conference Playoffs in May.

The remarkable performances of the individual players on the team has contributed to the Golden Eagles' successes this season. Jake Covey, a pitcher and junior on the team, was named 2024 NCAA DII pitcher of the week. Covey currently has 51 strike outs, nine earned runs and 1.96 ERA. Covey said, "I feel my performance directly reflects the preparation I do, and the dedication to my team and personal growth."

Demonstrating precision and control on the mound, Covey said, "I stay focused by understanding that getting caught up when something doesn't go my way only guarantees that the next thing won't go my

way either. If you want to be successful, you can't lose sight of what's next because of what just happened. Maintaining that frame of mind is what helps me stay competitive for each pitch no matter the situation."

Covey added that it is important to not be afraid of failure, on and off the field. He said, "There's a reason you are in that critical moment. You've earned the right to be there, so you don't have to do anything extra; you just have to find a way to be yourself."

Isaiah Walz, a shortstop and freshman on the team, has demonstrated maturity and determination throughout the season. Walz said, "I am always trying to bring the energy in the dugout and on the field, executing the play and at times sacrificing myself for the team to get the run."

"Being a freshman, I have faced adversity a lot, and at times struggled with it," said Walz. The newcomer to the team shared how he makes adjustments to his mindset in order to contribute to the team's goals, on and off the field. "I make sure to adjust and put in that extra work to eliminate what hasn't been working for me, whether

it's in the classroom or on the field."

The heart of the team's success this season has been their shared culture of unity and support for one another. Mike Dixon, an outfielder and senior on the team, said, "Baseball is a team sport, and every hit or run scored results from the team's collective effort. We have a tight-knit group of players who are skilled individually and work seamlessly together on the field."

Dixon has exhibited leadership qualities through open communication and stressing the importance of synergy with his teammates. Dixon added, "I constantly emphasize the importance of unity, resilience and unwavering determination. I remind my teammates that our success depends on our ability to work together, overcome obstacles and always keep sight of our goals. By staying committed to each other and maintaining a positive mindset, we can achieve anything we set our minds to."

Walz said, "Being that young player on the field, I have learned from the older guys that things aren't always going to go

my way. Failing is a big part of learning, and I need to play my game." He highlighted that the sense of brotherhood on the team strengthens their game and mentality.

Looking ahead, the Golden Eagles are learning from their setbacks as they strive towards the conference playoffs. Covey said, "I believe we all, myself included, need to work on our consistency. The majority of the games we have lost are games where we beat ourselves through easy mistakes, which our opponents capitalized on. I genuinely believe if we take care of our business, control the things that we can control, we are a very

hard team to beat."

"Our goal remains unchanged as a team," said Dixon. "That goal is to give our all in every game, continue improving, and ultimately make a strong push towards the conference playoffs."

The Golden Eagles' next game is on their home turf today. This will be a doubleheader against Hawai'i Pacific. The first game will begin at 2 p.m. followed by the second matchup at 5:30 p.m. Follow @cuibaseball and @cuigoldeneagles on Instagram to keep up with the latest updates. To stream the live games, visit cuigoldeneagles.com.



PICTURED ABOVE: Conor Meehan #45 (pitcher), Owen Gott #52 (catcher)  
Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon, goldeneagledropbox

## First person: Capstone podcast explores athletes' mental, physical and spiritual well-being

LILY CASTOR  
STAFF WRITER

"You need Sabbath rest. You need time that you spend by yourself and with the Lord. You need that time to breathe," said Jonathan Dose, sophomore on Swim and Dive.

Capstone season is in full swing for seniors at Concordia with presentations just around the corner. Communication Studies seniors, including myself, are preparing our projects to showcase to our mentors during finals week, displaying all we have learned through our hands-on and vocational lectures throughout the years.

Consisting of a podcast and article, my capstone project is geared towards a large population of Concordia students, namely, athletes. The podcast is titled "Inside the Mind of Collegiate

Athletes." This under an hour podcast features some exciting guests, so be sure to check it out by searching my podcast title on audio.com.

Using techniques learned in my Communication Studies and Psychology classes, along with my aspiration to be a high school counselor in the coming years, I invited three guests to join the inaugural podcast and talk through their mental and physical journey as collegiate athletes.

I was very blessed and thankful to have had guests Madelyn Almodovar, senior, Jonathan Dose, sophomore, and special guest Glory Fung, Associate Athletic Director for Student Athlete Health and Well Being, join me in a time of vulnerability and open conversation discussing self care, time management, mental well-being and more.

"God put me here for a reason and he set this path for me to go through these struggles. I was able to regain my love for the sport, but it was difficult," said Almodovar, senior, when discussing the range of waves in emotion she felt for Cheer and Stunt during the busy academic season.

My goal is for other athletes to tune in to the podcast (yes, you!) and experience connection and relatability with other like-minded athletes, ultimately allowing athletes to learn more about their strengths and weaknesses on and off the court, field or pool. The exploration was supported by helpful tips from Fung, associate AD.

"The community helps. Being able to talk to other athletes about my struggles and hear their own experience helped a lot," said Almodovar after talking about ABS - Athletic Bible Study

- during the podcast recording.

Athletic Bible Study is a student athlete run Bible study that meets at 6:30 every Wednesday night in the Golden Eagle den. Stop by for some good conversation with like minded athletes on campus!

"It builds community and reminds the next person that we are not perfect individuals and we are doing this together. We have to continue to share stories, the goods and the bads," said Fung.

Fung recognizes the countless pressures athletes feel in their day to day routines, whether it be on the field or not. These pressures create exhaustion and stress, especially when trying to constantly, "be something for someone else," said Fung.

"We wanna do well. That's what we came here for," said Dose, sophomore, when

discussing the pressure he feels to perform well in and outside of the pool.

Student athletes, remember that there is, "nobody else like you out there. You are the unique person that you are and you bring a lot to the table that might not be measurable on the field," said Fung.

Sometimes these emotions, stressors and expectations get the best of us, but Fung reminds listeners that, "There are ebbs and flows of our life. There's time to grind but there's also time to exhale."

Tune into my podcast, "Inside the Mind of Collegiate Athletes" on audio.com to hear the full conversation. Special thanks to Glory Fung, Madelyn Almodovar and Johnathan Dose for digging deep and sharing some raw emotion with me earlier this month. Listen now!

# TikTok ban could impact content across multiple platforms

NICHOLAS ESMERAL  
STAFF WRITER

On March 13, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a vote on a potential ban of TikTok. President Joe Biden has openly stated that he would sign the bill into law assuming it makes its way to his desk.

Professor of Communication Studies, Dr. Lucas Hatlen is not a regular user of TikTok but does frequently watch content on YouTube shorts. Hatlen said, "I often see the TikTok watermark in the corner, so I do view a lot of TikTok content, even if it is not through the app itself."

This raises an argument that if a Tik-

Tok ban were to occur, would these videos still be available to repost on other platforms like YouTube shorts or Instagram Reels?

Ariana Murray, a sophomore Business Major said, "I do frequently view TikTok content, it's a way for me to connect with my friends and boyfriend." Murray said, "TikTok has become an everyday thing for me, I'll open the app without even noticing."

Murray said that she also makes content on TikTok, "I don't take it too seriously, it's more for me to just have fun and share funny moments that I have with my friends," she said.

A big topic regarding the situation is specula-

tion that TikTok is potentially feeding information about its users to the Chinese government. Murray said, "I don't think that TikTok is a risk for American citizens, although there is a reason to be skeptical there really isn't any proof."

"I don't see much explicit 'pro-American' content on the app, it's more or less people sharing their experiences living in the United States like New York or Texas even," Murray said.

Hatlen said, "I regularly get served brief clips from old films/TV shows, and war movies are pretty common." Hatlen said that the most frequent clips come from "Saving Pri-

vate Ryan" and the show "Band of Brothers," which he considers both to be "pro-American" in a sense.

Hatlen said that he doesn't think that TikTok is a danger greater than any other social media platform, however, the U.S. government considering this ban as an abundance of caution is reasonable.

Murray feels lawmakers are perhaps exaggerating the issue. "I think that the U.S. has bigger things to worry about rather than banning an app used by millions of people within its borders," she said.

Both Hatlen and Murray said that they think it's more of a domestic issue rather than a foreign government

actually trying to manipulate the United States.

In the United States alone, TikTok has reported 148 million monthly users. It's also important to note that many of these users do make some sort of income from posting videos. The revenue made from creating content on the app is many people's way of life.

The Senate still has yet to vote on whether or not it will get passed to Biden. Users of the app, especially content creators, are encouraged to follow information regarding the proposed ban.

## Say hello to the super bloom!



PICTURED ABOVE: California poppies paint the hills orange  
Photo courtesy of: Shutterstock.com

a reservation, you can camp for the night in the park or you can just make a day trip to catch a glimpse of the super bloom.

### 4. Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area

In April you can see lupines, bush sunflowers, and purple nightshade if you make it up to the Santa Monica Mountains. Some trails with especially good views can be found in Malibu Creek State Park, Point Mugu State Park and Topanga State Park.

Some of these parks have an entrance fee, so make sure you check their websites to see how much it will cost to enter before you make the journey out. Get out there and see the super bloom!

JENNA HOFFMAN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Much like last year, this spring the perfect conditions have been created for another California super bloom. This year, you have a good chance of seeing fields of flowers if you know where to look. Here is a list of places where to see the beauti-

ful California wildflowers and when is the best time to see them in full (super) bloom.

### 1. Death Valley National Park

Staying in bloom mostly in early April you have an opportunity to see some mariposa lilies, desert paintbrush, and monkey flowers

along Badwater Road.

### 2. Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve

Up until mid-April just an hour outside of Los Angeles, this reserve is one of the best places to view the California super bloom, especially if you're hoping to see some poppies. This

year, they are expecting an above-average bloom in the area.

### 3. Joshua Tree National Park

In the month of April, you have the chance to see many different wildflower species and desert blooms located on the eastern side of the park. If you make