



THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

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Legacy of Leaders: Interview with our Presidents



President Kurt Krueger, Rev. Dr. Jack Preus and Rev. Dr. D. Ray Halm talk in front of Grimm Hall after the conclusion of the interview

KENDRA SITTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Wed., Mar. 16, Concordia hosted a historic interview with university President Kurt Krueger (2010 to present), and former presidents Rev. Dr. Jack Preus (1998 to 2009) and Rev. Dr. D. Ray Halm (1980 to 1998). In an intensive two-hour interview in Krueger's home, the three presidents, illuminated Concordia's history as well as offered leadership insight to the current generation of adults studying at Concordia University Irvine.

Before delving into heavier matters, Halm and Preus shared pranks pulled on them by Concordia faculty when they became president. When Halm moved into the dormitory on his first day in office, he crawled into bed a little ways only to find it was short-sheeted. "They wanted to find out how I would react - whether I would lose my temper or whether I would take it in good humor," said Halm. "I never said a word. In the morning, people were watching and I knew they were watching, but I never said anything." A few weeks after he moved on campus, the secretaries finally marched into his office to demand if their prank had worked. He admitted that it did, glad to have passed the first test from Concordia's staff.

Preus had a similar prank pulled

on him on his inaugural day. His boxes of books had been mailed ahead and one of the secretaries had hidden alarm clocks in each box set to go off at different times. "On my first day, I of course had occupied myself with dignified, 'presidential things,' then throughout the afternoon alarms would go off, deep down inside these boxes. After the third or fourth time (of alarms going off), I realized, 'Oh, I've been set up,'" said Preus. When Krueger, then a provost, came to welcome him, Krueger said, "You (Preus) actually had the temerity to accuse me of planting those." Preus laughed and said, "It had to be the provost. Who else would dare?"

By the time Krueger took office, this informal, fun culture had ebbed to the point that his first day in office was rather "benign." This change in culture should be expected considering that at the time Halm first arrived there were only three buildings and 147 students - the university now has over 4,000 students annually. Despite vastly different experiences at Christ College and Concordia, the three men had similar lessons they learned while in office. Most importantly was the impact of their words. Even now, the value their words have as men in leadership was demonstrated by the way numerous members of Concordia's administration intently listened from the kitchen and dining room of Krueger's house during the interview.

As they talked, the room was still as warm air swirled in from the porch despite the swarm of people filling the room.

"(At first) I didn't realize how the words I say every day to different people have such an impact," said Krueger. "They remember what I say and it's coming from the president now. To me, it might just be an off-hand remark. But to them, it's 'Kurt said this, so this is how he wants us to proceed.' That I didn't understand." After a few years, Krueger became much more introspective and measured with his words. To describe this phenomenon, Halm said, "There is never a moment in which you are not the president."

Halm gained similar insight when a discussion with the board underscored "the impact that your words have everywhere on the campus - with the students, with the secretarial staff, with the recruitment officers, with the fundraisers, with the parents, with the pastors and congregations. You say something and if it is the least bit startling, it will be known throughout the district within a week." Summarizing the importance of knowing when and where to speak, Preus concluded, "A superior officer never makes suggestions. They're always direct orders. And they're heard as direct orders, whether they're a suggestion or not."

During their tenure, each presi-

dent made decisions that were necessary, but not well received. For instance, Halm sold acres of land to housing developers, in order to pay off debt, to the chagrin of many campus detractors who wanted to maintain ownership of the land. "Our credibility skyrocketed," said Halm, "we were able to approach the church and other campuses with a different level of respect than what we had prior."

Krueger also made a decision that fundamentally changed Concordia's culture. "This wasn't necessarily a hard decision but the repercussions from my making the decision were difficult to live with. I pretty much decided on my own to not allow alcohol in any of the residence halls," said Krueger. However, when several student services leaders and other administration came to him about the many problems created by alcohol on campus, he made the decision unilaterally.

Preus added, quoting the adage that "adversity makes you stronger," not just in a personal sense but as an institution that survived the trials of its founding and more recent challenges, "Concordia is stronger because we went through those difficulties," said Preus.

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Treading water: 2016 Women's Water Polo

SARAH JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

2008: Barack Obama was elected President of the United States, China hosted the Summer Olympics in Beijing and Concordia Women's Water Polo played their first conference game in school history. For the past eight years, the Women's Water Polo Team has swam thousands of yards and practiced for hundreds of hours in order to compete with the top schools in the nation.

Water polo is known as one of the most difficult sports to participate in. Players must constantly tread water while wrestling with

*"Losing
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play for one
another."*

opponents and swimming from one end of the course to the other, competing to score the most points to win the match. Considering the strenuous and required physical activity, there is a generalized respect given to this women's water polo team and their new coaching staff for their efforts.

Dreason Barry took over as head coach of the Eagles this season after serving as an assistant coach last year. This promotion makes Barry the fourth head coach in the brief history of the program. Impressively, Barry played for the USA Men's National Team from 2002-2009 and professionally in Italy and Australia for three years.

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ASCUI Corner: distracted driver awareness

ARIANA SADEGHIPOUR
ASCUI SECRETARY

April is Distracted Driver Awareness Month and ASCUI wants to raise awareness on the Concordia campus. Campus safety and Dean of Students Dr. Gilbert Fugitt, are working alongside various faculty, staff and students to decrease distracted driving on campus.

Distracted driving is not uncommon - proof of its existence on Concordia's campus can even be found in social media postings. Distracted driving can be defined as "any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving." This includes "texting, eating and drinking, talking to passengers, using a GPS system, and adjusting a stereo." When asked, a group of 20 student drivers all admitted to driving while being distracted.

How can the Concordia community decrease the amount of distracted drivers? The Irvine Police Department has the following suggestions: "Place your phone on silent, put it in your glove box, or in the trunk to avoid use while driving, pull over and park if you need to make a phone call or text, tell the driver you are uncomfortable with their cell phone use if you are the passenger, and if you are talking to someone who is on their phone while driving, tell them to call you back when they have parked in a safe location." There are key steps that can be taken to minimize the number of distracted driving incidents on campus. Make an effort to keep yourself, your passengers and other drivers on the road safe.

Distracted Driving Facts & Statistics

Approximately 448,000 people were injured, and 5,474 were killed due to collisions involving distracted drivers (NHTSA)*

16% of teen drivers involved in fatal collisions were reported to have been distracted (NHTSA)*

40% of teens say they have been in a car when a driver was using a cell phone in a way that place people in danger (Pew Research)

Drivers who use hand-held devices are 4 times more likely to be involved in injury traffic collisions (Monash University)

Text messaging creates risk of a collision 23 times greater than normal driving (VTI)**

Headset cellphone use is not substantially safer (VTI)**

Use of a cell phone while driving reduces driver reaction time to the equivalent of a blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent (University of Utah)

57% of drivers recognize talking on their phones is a serious threat to their safety (FOCUS DRIVEN)

Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37% (Carnegie Mellon)

NHTSA- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 2009 report*
VTI- Virginia Tech Traffic Institute**

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Putting the ‘Scholar’ in Scholar-Athlete

ZACK MOGHADDAM
STAFF WRITER

Track & Field Head Coach, Danny Bowman, has made a significant effort to ensure that each of his student-athletes have the opportunity to succeed in the classroom. Since Bowman took the reigns of Concordia’s track team in 2014, he has encouraged his athletes to gather at a designated time for a study hall to fulfill their educational responsibilities for ten hours per week.

Bowman is no stranger to achieving excellence and developing athletes. According to cuieagles.com, Bowman has led his athletes to 86 school records, 24 athletes to individual National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Championships, coached 46 NCCAA All-Americans, 31 NAIA All-Americans and one NAIA National Champion

Though Bowman possesses an impressive coaching record, he stresses the importance and priority of academics for his student-athletes. “The philosophy is that academics are a big deal,” Bowman said.

The concept of the study hall is to give the athletes an allotted three hours-a-day, four days-a-week to tackle their respective studies. The team meets in a reserved classroom with a coach who volunteers their time to supervise and assure that the athletes are focusing on school work. Bowman said that students new to the team are required to log in ten hours per week during their first semester. Once they are in their second semester, their hours are regulated based on GPA.

Under Bowman’s leadership, the ten-hour study hall he implemented has had fruitful results for the student-athletes. Bowman said the study hall helps his team with time management skills and improving their overall grades. “We had our highest GPA last semester,” said Bowman.

Even though attending the study hall can be tiring, it has cultivated the team into scholarly-minded individuals. The weekly study sessions enable them to study in a peaceful environment while adding the resource of peer tutoring from their fellow teammates if needed.

Junior Cameron McLeod, hurdle runner, said that the study hall is ben-

eficial by providing a team environment off the track where the athletes can solely concentrate on school. “It definitely has helped me [with academics],” said McLeod. “Track is good, but having good grades is what really matters.”

The implications of study groups are known to have a positive effect on students. According to Delaware

“We had our highest GPA last semester”

Valley University’s blog post from last September, the benefits of studying in groups include the reduction of potential procrastination and the gaining of a new perspective on school material.

Senior mid-distance runner Jasmine Barron reflected on the positive aspects of study hall that have impacted her as a student for the last four years. “Study hall was really beneficial for me. It helped me stay focused on my studies,” said Barron. Even though Barron was not required to attend study hall after her freshman year due to her outstanding GPA, she said that she found herself still attending. Barron is one of the many athletes that have achieved success because of the accountability that study hall provides.

Coach Bowman has not only established an environment of excellence on the track but has also instilled an expectation of scholarly perseverance for his athletes. The athletes have responded well to Bowman’s expectations that decent grades are essential within the track program. Through the implementation of study hall, the Track & Field athletes have strong support outside the classroom starting the day they start classes at Concordia.

Bump, set, spike gets sandy



YVETTE MENDOZA
STAFF WRITER

This spring marks the beginning of a new season of volleyball as it breaks new ground, literally. The sophomore season of Women’s Beach Volleyball is underway as the team prepares for their upcoming games.

There are many elements and skills that can be transferred over from indoor to beach volleyball. However, the sport has a different set of rules and regulations that classifies it entirely separate from traditional volleyball. One of the biggest differences in beach volleyball is that it involves teams of two players rather than six. The game also differs with winning a match. Teams play to 25 points (with a lead of 2+ points) to win the best-of-five games. In beach volleyball, the first team to 21 points (with a 2+ point lead) and wins the best-of-three games is the winner of the match.

The skill set needed to play well in this sport can be more challenging. “You have to be able to pass, set, hit, serve, block, and dig,” said Head

Coach Kari Pestolesi. Since the sand offers less mobility than hardwood floor, it makes getting to the ball a difficult task. “On the beach you don’t move or jump as high as you normally do when you’re playing indoor,” said junior Taylor Dennison. “You have to work harder on defense and offense.”

As the team moves onto their second year of competition, they are finding themselves facing these obstacles head-on. “Last season we didn’t know what to expect. Coming into this season it was much easier to be prepared and know what we needed and how we needed to train,” Pestolesi said.

This season, the team has become more organized and created set teams of two, which allows each team to build a consistent partnership. In addition, most returning players are learning from their inexperience last season when they became a part of an official beach volleyball team. “Last year was my first year competing competitively for a beach volleyball team,” said junior Rachel Flynn. “I think this year we are a lot more orga-

nized and prepared for what we will face.”

According to Pestolesi, the addition of beach volleyball as a competitive sport is in compliance to Title IX which states all institutions must offer an equitable amount of educational and athletic opportunities to men and women student-athletes. The inclusion of the new sport has given the team members a chance to play their favorite sport in a different way.

“Lifting and training on the sand, I think, has benefitted us all and gave us a nice break from the gym,” said Dennison, adding that playing beach volleyball has helped improve the team’s indoor volleyball skills.

To see the team in action, grab your sunscreen and towel and make the drive over to Huntington Beach on Thurs., April 14 at 2 p.m. as they face off against CSUN. As Dennison puts it, “not very many people can say they’re going to watch a sport on the beach!”

Treading water: 2016 Women’s Water Polo



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Prior to joining the Eagles, Barry was an assistant coach at UCI. With years of other coaching experience, Barry is a valuable asset to the program’s coaching staff.

His first game as head coach took place on Jan. 30, when the Eagles took on LMU and CSUN to start off the new season. Each game ended in a loss, but those defeats did not discourage the Eagles. Following the first tournament in Riverside, the team has played the remainder of the season in search of their first victory.

Through 13 games, the Eagles still have not been able to deliver a win and the season has been

challenging for their first year as an NCAA DII team. Following the change in coaching staff and graduation of numerous senior players, the team is facing a transition year internally and externally with the new pool of competition. The majority of the team is comprised of freshmen players. These women are given the utmost respect for competing with larger universities like SDSU and LMU with strength and determination.

As a leading scorer and three-year team veteran, junior Emily Varisco speaks with confidence about her team camaraderie. “This year has been tough, there’s no question about that. This is an entirely new team from last year,” Varisco said.

“Losing game after game isn’t enjoyable, but it’s teaching us how to build each other up and play for one another. Practices have more direction now as we know what we need to work on and we are beginning to figure things out.”

The team has four games left, with the next home game on April 21 at 1:30 p.m. at the Woollett Aquatic Center, located at Irvine High School. Bring your friends, wear your green, and give the Eagles the fan base they deserve!

Transitioning from backpack to briefcase

With spring break in the rear-view mirror, Concordia seniors are looking ahead to graduation and, for many, entering the job market. Use this timely info-graphic, shared thanks to Victoria Jaffe, Director of

the Office of Career Development Services, to sharpen your job preparedness.

To identify opportunities and resources, highlight your skills on a well-crafted resume and prepare for

upcoming interviews, visit Career Services, located in the Student Success Center, across from the gym. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Life on the Road: How Concordia Commutes

EMMA DEEHAN
STAFF WRITER

On campus there are many students who are deemed “commuters.” This title simply means that a person does not live on campus and must therefore drive, walk, take the train or bus to arrive on campus. Dealing with commuting is difficult as the minutes get added to the trip and navigation continues to “re-route” and update based on current traffic. The question then remains, “How are CUI students surviving the commute and why are they doing it?”

Senior Robert Romero lives in the Parkwood apartments directly across the street from campus. His short commute is made worthwhile because “it’s cheaper to live off campus.” If he arrives early he takes a nap in his car or listens to music.

Junior Allie Kyte lives in Irvine but chose to commute due to the fact that she does not want to have roommates, but her close proximity does not eliminate her commute time. Kyte has to leave 45 minutes early to get to her evening class on time, while in the morning she has a short 10 minute drive. In order to deal with the extended time in the car she makes sure to “leave on time, play loud music and drive really fast.”

Sophomore Winston Robinson commutes from Costa Mesa five days a week. He leaves early to get

to Lacrosse practice and arrives home around 12 a.m. because of his work and school commitments. He commutes to enjoy his freedom. “I have no problems with the commute,” said Robinson, “but for those who do need ways to deal with the commute: leave early, be disciplined and show up on time.”

By far the student with one of the longest commutes is Junior Jacqueline Samples. Samples travels from Riverside five days a week, the drive takes her an hour or more. In order for Samples to prevent a three hour commute she leaves her home at 4 a.m. each day. What keeps her going is the thought of, “being able to take a nap when I get here,” said Samples. “I think commuting is a good investment. The amount of money I’m saving makes it worth it, I won’t have anything to pay off when I graduate.”

Commuting is an intense decision that requires discipline, dedication and patience. With distance not being the biggest issue, rather traffic, a unique app has been created to help drivers not go mad. A life hack available for any driver is Waze, a phone app that is user driven, it updates based on what users see and changes the path of the driver to get them to their destination in the shortest amount of time. For more information on Waze, check the Google Play or iTunes App Store.



lead, but that’s not it. The important thing is to serve.”

Halm said, “I think one of the ingredients that good leadership requires is a sense of humor. You’ve got to have that and you can’t be afraid to use it.” Humor’s ability to diffuse otherwise uncomfortable situations is a necessary tool in leadership. The men agreed that being willing to make mistakes and laugh at them is an essential part of not taking oneself too seriously.

The presidents of Concordia laid a solid foundation, starting with Rev. Dr. Charles Manske, that has launched Concordia into a strong and innovative institution. As demonstrated in their interview, being the public representative of Concordia is not without its strains. “It creates a certain energy, but it also depletes a certain energy. At the end of 18 years, I was exhausted,” said Halm.

Each man has taken the mantle of leadership and shaped a generation



of learners that have walked through Concordia’s doors. Their experience of mischief from staff, nurturing students and the responsibility of the institution provides a level of wisdom only found from people who have lived out the lessons of leadership.

Presidential Interviews

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As they recounted the many changes at Concordia, videographers and photographers memorialized the scene as they sat neatly in adjacent chairs.

While presidents are always accountable for decisions on the campus, the collaboration of campus faculty often shaped an upcoming

decision. Halm went from office to office asking staff what color they wanted the CU Center roof to be. His survey led to the iconic blue-roofed CU Center. Today, many decisions are made after a committee spends ample time studying an issue. When Preus was president, he created a ‘dream team’ tasked with answering the question, “How can we do a better job each day to offer education to more and more students?” From this, the Adult Degree Program and many other non-traditional forms of education launched at Concordia. The collaboration with staff is a part of Preus’ leadership model, who believes ‘leading from behind’ is how the best leaders behave. In other words, empowering others to advance the goals of the university.

Near the end of the interview, the three presidents offered advice to student leaders. “Take a chance, step up,” said Krueger, “don’t wait for somebody to ask you to join an organization, a club, or whatever that might be. Put yourself forward in a humble, servant leadership sort of way.” Krueger wants to encourage new students who are 18 or 19 to be in-

involved in leadership. “You will make some mistakes, but be bold about it,” he said, “you develop leadership skills by doing.”

Preus found that in his perspective, “to lead is to serve. You may be in charge, but as Christians we never lead in order to lead. We always lead in order to serve.” He wants leaders to re-orient their focus so that they are always reminded of the purpose of their leadership. “We sometimes think that the important thing is to



Conquering Core in Cambridge

This semester, four Concordia students are studying abroad at Westfield House in Cambridge as part of Concordia’s Core Cambridge program. Under the instruction of CUI professors Dr. James and Dr. Susan Bachman, these students study Core English and History as well as other courses offered by Westfield House of Theological Studies. This week, the students and professors share some of their favorite memories and observations about life in England.



Is British food better?

ELISE LOGAN
STAFF WRITER

You know the stereotype: British food can only be described as “bor-ing” and “blah.” In our experience, the food in Cambridge is actually de-licious and a nice twist on the food we are already used to. Nobody told us, however, about all of the raisin-y de-serts! Perhaps I like the food because I’m not a picky eater: my motto is “live to eat,” not “eat to live.” Regard-less, we all enjoy every opportunity to immerse ourselves in the world of cooking and eating in the U.K.

Let’s talk about fish and chips. Everyone knows the meal as a classic British dish, and I’ll have you know that it certainly is one of the best. Caught daily in rivers and ocean wa-ters, cod, pollock and haddock come to your plate ultra fresh. Served with chips and doused in vinegar, the meal is hearty and authentic. Out to eat with one of our native housemates, Marissa was the first of us to try the British method of pouring vinegar all over her fish and chips. She approves, saying that it “enhances all the fla-vors.” Pubs all over Cambridge churn out plate after plate of fish and chips, but the quickest way to get your fill is to head over to one of the local food trucks stationed downtown. Food trucks might be even bigger here in Cambridge than they are in Orange County. Their specialties range from fish and chips to falafels; from crepes to elaborate waffles.

Food is big for us here at West-field. We have special meals and bev-erages with our professors every few weeks. Birthdays, arrivals of new stu-dents, cookouts, community meals, after church gatherings - we use every excuse to have a party. Our principal, Dr. Cynthia Lumley, spoils us with elaborate spreads of fabulous food and delicious desserts - even with glu-

• • •  Recipe  • • •

TITLE: *English Scones*

SERVES: 12 PREP: 5 Min

2 C Flour

4 tsp Baking Powder

1/2 tsp Salt

4 tbsp Butter (room temp)

1 Egg (lightly beaten)

Milk (enough to add up to 3/4 C with egg added)

1 Extra Egg

Oven 400° F

Mix flour, baking powder, & salt

Add Butter

Rub in with fingers until it resembles crumbs

Add Milk & Egg to Dry Mix

Should have a soft, dry dough

Pat dough on wooden surface until 1.5 inch flat

Press out 2.5 inch circles

Put scones in a greased tin

Brush scones with extra beaten egg

Bake for 13 minutes until well risen & golden

ten free options! One of our favorite food-related events, however, is hosted by the students. We call it House Tea, and it includes a lot more than just a cup of herbal water.

Every Thursday afternoon, our little Westfield House family gets together and enjoys a spot of tea. This is a long standing event at Westfield, reflecting the famous cultural British tradition. A dozen of us, students and faculty, meander into the main classroom of our house of studies following our Vespers service, where we are greeted with the aroma of fresh-baked goodies and brewing tea. The treats vary from week to week, but our tea selection usually follows in the classics: English Breakfast, Earl Grey, Assam. Students volunteer to host House Tea each week with Westfield sponsoring all the supplies. Over time each of us have been able to discover untapped kitchen skills, which always comes in handy. Who would have thought that baking would serve as a great stress reliever? Some of our fa-vorite recipes have been mini-cheese-cakes, homemade donuts, truffles, classic cookies and scones. House Tea blends the best of community and good food, too.

Enjoy this quick little recipe we provided for traditional English Scones (pronounced “sc-ons” here). The absolute best way to eat these little guys is to cut them in half and spread on clotted cream first, fol-lowed with your favorite kind of jam.

Suitable American substitute for clot-ted cream: heavy cream, or maybe even a bit of Cool Whip! These dense biscuits are just sweet enough to bal-ance fresh tea and just savory enough to leave you satisfied.

Don’t let your perception of Brit-ish food be the road block that keeps you from visiting the U.K. Put it on your travel destinations list. We not only speak the same language, but the food is awesome!

Global Programs: A Travel Resource

AMANDA DRUCKREY
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Global Programs has made an incredible effort to en-sure students have a chance to study abroad, no matter their situation. Faith McKinney, Director of Global Programs, said, “We have so many programs. We can find one for any-one.” McKinney emphasized how important it to study abroad for one’s personal development. The admin-istration has found many different ways to help students experience life abroad, including, in some cases, in-stitutional support.

Global Programs has some great partners that give students the chance to go abroad. Most students use a third-party program that is part-nered with Concordia. American In-stitute For Foreign Study (AIFS), one of these partners, offers programs all over the world, for anywhere from three to twelve weeks. The deadline for summer study abroad opportuni-ties is today and applications for fall are still available for AIFS until May 1 or the program fills.

Mission and service trips are other options Global Programs of-fers. “We are trying to adopt a few projects and stick with them,” said McKinney, citing that Concordia’s travelers who serve provide the most help to an area in need when “we are there multiple times.”

Currently, there are four locations of mission and service trips. Global Programs recently launched a part-nership with a village in Guatemala that was visited during Thanksgiving break, spring break and will be again in May.

Another group travels to an or-phanage in Mexico to host a Vac-a-tion Bible School (VBS). For years, Concordia has been a part of a ser-vice opportunity to teach English in China. Every other year there is a trip to Hungary, where students work at a Lutheran church and run a camp for kids so they can play sports and learn English.

If a student cannot take off a whole semester to study abroad, Global Programs offers spring trav-el courses. Travel courses typically begin with a class in the spring se-



mester and travels abroad in May to complete the course.

The deadline for fall study abroad is today, but there are many oppor-tunities next year as well. If you are interested in studying abroad, mis-sion trips or spring terms, contact Faith McKinney. You can make an appointment with her by going to <https://faithmckinney.youcanbook.me>.

Second Handbell Invitational held

JASON RYAN
STAFF WRITER

The second Handbell Invitational Concert of the semester will be held in the CU Center on April 2 at 4 p.m. All handbell ensembles will be performing. According to the Concordia website, "The Concert Handbells, Spirit Bells, Chapel Bells and Carillon Ringers, perform a richly varied program of the finest handbell repertoire with some of the best ensembles in Southern California's universities, churches and high schools. Each ensemble rings its own selections, and the concert culminates in a mass ring."

CUI will be teaming up with Mater Dei High School, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, The Master's College, Valley Christian High School, and Will C. Wood High School to put on this performance.

The invitational provides an opportunity for collaboration that students appreciate. "It's great being able to work with other performers. Both the ones in our group here and the others who will be joining us at the invitational," said sophomore Laura Meitzner. "Every group has a different personality which is clear from how the performers interact and I love seeing how that manifests itself."

Concerts like the invitational give students the opportunity to demon-

strate the progress they've made in the art they've committed themselves to. "Since I was a kid I used to watch the handbell [players] up at my church. I always wanted to learn how to ring like them," said senior handbell ringer Christian Woodfin. "I'm looking to do my ringing and be inspired by all the other great ringers around me. Looking to take my ringing game to the next level."

In general, being a handbell performer gives students some unexpected opportunities as well. "I never imagined that I would still be playing handbells now, but I've been to some great places because of it - including Puerto Rico and Australia," said Meitzner. "The tours are great and it's nice to have a break from the books and essays to play music a few times a week."

For anyone interested in joining the ensemble, contact the directors. Students who have been playing bells since elementary school and students who have never seen a bell in their lives are both welcome. "Come and talk with Dr. (Herb) Geisler. He will place you where your talent would fit best," said Woodfin. Auditions are held at the beginning of the semester or by appointment.



Photo of Concordia's Spirit Bells. Taken during a church outing this year.

Field Trip to the Getty Villa

KRISTEN SAULMAN
STAFF WRITER

Dr. C.J. Armstrong, professor of History and Political Thought, has taken students and teachers to the Getty Villa in Pacific Palisades, CA, for the past six years.

The Villa is a museum that

"You don't have to go to Rome to get a good sense of Roman culture, just come to the Pacific Palisades"

houses some of J. Paul Getty's collection of art and artifacts from ancient Greece, Rome and Etruria. Although Armstrong encourages students to visit the museum, he never made it a requirement for his class, until now. Armstrong chose three Saturdays to take students to the museum and if the students car-pooled together, they get free parking as well as free admission. As part of their course requirements, the students of Armstrong's Ancient Greece and Rome class attend two of the three planned excursions to the Getty Villa. Each visit details artwork that is relevant to the material that the class is covering.

Armstrong said that he made it a requirement because when students can physically visualize what they are learning about, "it becomes that



much more real and less abstract."

Each trip is meant to replace a traditional class period and lasts about two hours. A tour through the museum is led by Armstrong, which highlights specific artifacts that correspond with the subject material covered in the class. Senior Robert Oscar Flores de Apodaca said that visiting helped him "take in more and appreciate a lot more" of Greek and Roman art and architecture.

At the beginning of the trips,

Armstrong passed out a packet of papers with images of different pieces of art highlighted on the trip. "Visual is just as important as the literary record," said Armstrong.

Students currently in the class bring their friends to learn about ancient Greek and Roman culture, and some of Armstrong's previous students come as well. Sophomore Kayla Biar said that although she is not currently in the Ancient Greece and Rome class, she did take the class last year and went on the trips

this semester as a guest. Seeing the artwork in person provides context to what they learn in class and "puts life into it," said Biar. In addition to encouraging students to bring guests on the trips, Armstrong also tells the students to enjoy the museum and have fun learning about what they are looking at. He even told students to take selfies with statues.

"You don't have to go to Rome to get a good sense of Roman culture. Just come to the Pacific Palisades!"

said Armstrong.

Standard admission into the museum is always free, but parking is \$15. The Getty Villa is open every Mon.-Sun. from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tickets are required in advance enter to the Villa. For more information please visit <http://www.getty.edu/visit/villa/plan/groups.html>.

What's new on Netflix?

A column that details the highs and lows of Netflix to assist Concordians in the ongoing struggle of picking something to watch.



Freaks and Geeks: A low commitment, highly entertaining homework procrastination solution

COURTNEY HENTZ
LAYOUT EDITOR

"Freaks and Geeks" is a one season show that has been on Netflix for quite some time. You've probably seen it pop up in your suggestions dozens of times as a cult classic. I know I did! And most likely, you probably scrolled right on by it. Perhaps you were thinking "this show again? It only has one season -- it can't be good!" But oh how wrong you are!

The fact that it is only one season is not a bad thing! We have this idea that more is better but that isn't always true. Don't get me wrong, when "Freaks and Geeks" ended I was outraged at the fact that it was never renewed for a second season.

A one season show also has its benefits. This type of television phenomenon is what I like to call: low commitment TV. This basically refers to the fact that when you start an episode of a new show you feel obligated to finish it, especially if the show is good. And when you find a good show you begin to spiral down the Netflix abyss, watching episode after episode until you have completely forgotten all of your responsibilities. While this lifestyle is completely healthy (at least that is what I tell myself), it is not the most productive. The experience is really only possible during the summer or breaks.

This is where low commitment TV comes in. Shows that are currently at the first couple of seasons or

have only produced one or two seasons are perfect. You simply can't go too far down that spiral because you run out of material. If you love binge watching, this is the perfect form of television.

Seeing as finals are looming, starting a fantastic new series with tons of seasons is not a good idea. I made this very same mistake my freshman year when I started the very popular show, "The Office" right before finals. I eventually had to log out of Netflix and give my friend the authority over my password. While this drastic plan worked, I instead recommend starting a low commitment television show such as "Freaks and Geeks" now. You will finish it before finals and eliminate all bingeing temptations.

I don't want to ruin any of the plot, but it should be noted that this show was the breakout role for tons of your favorite actors and actresses. The main character is played by Linda Cardellini who you might know from "ER," "Scooby Doo," "Mad Men," and "New Girl." Some other cast members include: John Francis Daley (aka Sweets from "Bones"), James Franco (from literally - my editor would like me to point out that this is an incorrect usage of the word literally and that I really mean to say figuratively... every good movie ever), Seth Rogan (who is also in tons of stuff but I prefer to think of him as James Franco's soulmate), Samm Levine (who you will totally recognize but not be able to put a name to because

he plays as a secondary character in everything now), Jason Segel (known for his role as Marshall in "How I Met Your Mother"), Marin Starr ("Knocked Up," "Superbad," "Adventureland," "The End" - to name a few), and Busy Philipps (Laurie from "Cougar Town"). Wow that was a long sentence!

Anyway, that lineup alone should be your reason to watch this show. Not to mention it's a fantastically accurate representation of high school, family, teenage life and the 80's. Just trust me - this show is a must watch. If you don't like that it's only one season, just finish it and feel accomplished!

A call for happiness

KARINA DIEZ
LOCAL/ GLOBAL EDITOR

The Dalai Lama once said, "Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions." The United Nations began a campaign in 2012 to bring the world together in a celebration of happiness.

The nonprofit behind the campaign, Action for Happiness, dedicates itself to inspiring a more joy-filled and nurturing world. According to the campaign's official website, "A profound shift in attitudes is underway all over the world. People are now recognizing that 'progress' should be about increasing human happiness and wellbeing." Mar. 20 was officially observed as International Happiness Day and 193 countries have

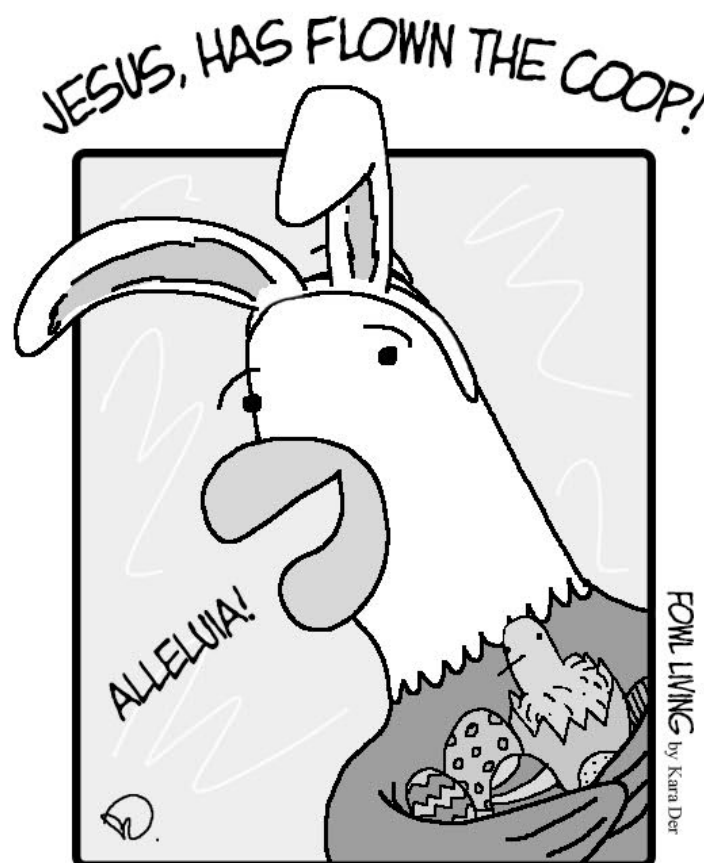
voiced their dedication to the holiday as well as to proclaim the message that it centers itself on. Prior to the launching of the campaign, the UN made it clear that happiness is not only a "fundamental human goal," but a human right, one that will benefit and bring the world closer together as a united force.

"Advertisers tell us that happiness comes from buying their products. Celebrities and the media pretend it comes with beauty and fame. And politicians claim that nothing matters more than growing the economy," said Action for Happiness. The question this leaves to everyone else is: what truly inspires happiness? According to recent studies, giving, relating to and accepting others are among some of the areas

that give people the most bliss.

In light of recent world tragedies, it is important that the topic of happiness is discussed. It seems like every time you log on to your social media accounts or turn on the news, there is a new horror that has occurred. In November, it was France. Just last week, it was Belgium. On Easter Sunday, it was Pakistan.

Ephesians 5:21 says, "Be willing to serve each other out of respect for Christ." It is important to recognize that we are one human race and the understanding of cultures different than our own will spring forth a more peaceful world for generations to come and improve the prosperity of the world.



Vans celebrates its 50th Anniversary

EMMA B. DEEHAN
STAFF WRITER

On Mar. 16, the widely known surf-wear brand, Vans, commemorated its 50th anniversary. They celebrated all around the country at many of their locations including New York, Texas and Canada.

Surfwear is one of their main lines and surf culture is how they rose to prominence. According to an article in The Orange County Register, *Cashing in on the SoCal Culture*, Orange County is the

“Customers have influence over the apparel industry because popularity determines what is in fashion. Companies like Vans use this to their advantage and have succeeded through this tactic.”

“capital of the surfwear industry.” The O.C. is a surfwear cultural home base and Vans is the supplier. Senior Christian Woodfin said, “I think there’s two different types of surfers. There [are] surfers who are going after Vans and Hobie and they have [their] stuff and they love it.” Other surfers go to thrift stores. Woodfin added, “I think [there are] a lot of people like me who [think,] ‘aw I picked this up at the thrift store and it’s sweet.’” Surfers in the O.C. have the ability to determine, in some way, what exactly surfwear culture is. Vans has been able to pick up on what is in style regarding surf-



wear and that has allowed them to survive for 50 years.

“I am familiar with Vans and love their brand. Their shoes are insanely comfortable and durable,” said senior Sarah Johnson. “I think that surfwear isn’t technically only for surfers either - it’s more so just what the surf shops know customers want. Essentially, anything that a surfer [might] wear can be [considered] surfwear.”

It could be the climate or simply the mindset, but cool, relaxed and beach-friendly clothes have been a trend in Orange County since the 1960’s when the area was put “on the map in the world of surfing,” according to Kathryn Bold at the Los Angeles Times.

Concordia’s Dr. Russell Mangum, resident faculty in the School of Business, gave insight and information on Vans’ success, cit-

ing the quality and authenticity of the product over 50 years. In addition, the brand has taken into account what the customers feel and has connected with them on an emotional level.

Plus, Vans has been flexible; evolving internal structure at the company as it grew. According to Mangum, Vans has been able to stay informed about what the customers want and has been able to

supply what is being demanded.

Customers have influence over the apparel industry because popularity determines what is in fashion. Companies like Vans use this to their advantage and have succeeded through this tactic. To find more information on Vans go to www.vans.com.

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