

Inside This Issue...

ASCUI Corner	pg. 2
Eagles Drafted by MLB	pg. 3
Core in Cambridge	pg. 5
What's New on Netflix?	pg. 7

Volume 10, Issue 1

Concordia University Irvine

Friday, September 4, 2015

In loving memory of Dr. Charles Manske

KENDRA SITTON
LOCAL/ GLOBAL EDITOR

Dr. Charles Manske, founding President of Concordia University Irvine (formerly known as Christ College Irvine), passed away on July 4, 2015. Manske overcame great challenges when he worked to found the university, which he met with perseverance and vigor.

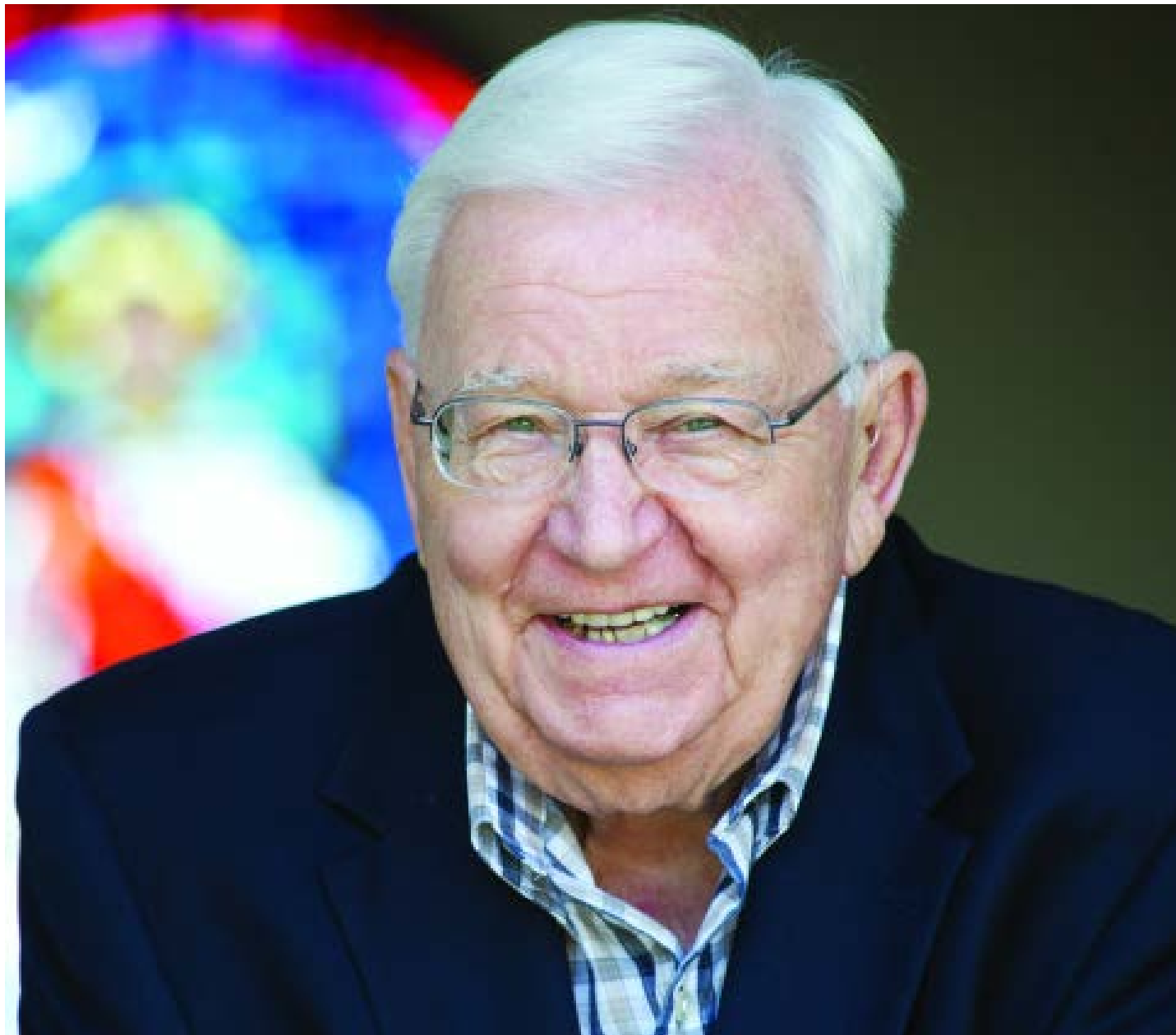
"Dr. Manske was a man of uncommon vision and determination," said CUI President Kurt Krueger. "All of us who study, teach, and serve at Concordia University Irvine are indebted to Dr. Manske's vision to establish a university dedicated to the values of Lutheran higher education and committed to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ."

Manske was born in Sebewaing, Mich., in 1932. He earned his M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in urban church ministry, and his M.A. from Washington University, St. Louis, in sociology/anthropology and communications. He went on to complete his Ph.D. in social ethics, sociology of religion and world religions from University of Southern California twenty years later.

In 1953, Manske changed his plans from attending law school to pursuing a career that honored God through education. He wrote down a set of life goals. On the list was to become a campus pastor and to start a new Lutheran college in Southern California. Both of these goals were achieved in his lifetime as he served as a campus pastor at USC for 15 years before founding Christ College Irvine in 1976.

"Dr. Manske was a man of uncommon vision and determination."

"He was a very strong leader," said Rev. Dr. Martin Schramm, Professor of Communication, who was a part of the original team of professors who taught when Christ College opened in 1976. Schramm was aware of many of the obstacles Manske faced while founding Concordia. Much of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was wary and some even directly opposed the new college because of financial stressors on the Synod, which led to the closure of three other colleges. Also, some did not believe that a Lutheran school could be successful in Southern California. However, Manske saw Southern California as the future of Lutheranism because of its location near the



DR. CHARLES MANSKE, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF CONCORDIA (PHOTO TAKEN FROM CONCORDIAIRVINE.BLOGS.CUI.EDU)

Pacific Rim and Latin and South America. He viewed it as a great way to reach the nations for Christ. Manske maintained a close relationship with the president of the Synod branch in the Pacific Rim, which enabled six of Christ College Irvine's original students to be from Hong Kong. It was his personal convictions that led to Concordia being the "Great Commission University."

Pastor Jonathan Ruehs, Associate Campus Pastor, '95, studied under Manske as a student at Concordia and years later attended church

with him at Light of Christ Lutheran Church. "He was very confident in what he set out to do," Ruehs said. "He was a very tenacious individual."

A memorial service was held on July 18 in the CU Center. Ruehs noted that the CU Center was packed, which led to DeNault being opened up for overflow. When people had the opportunity to share about Manske, Ruehs recalled, "Everyone said how much Chuck was about the Gospel. Person after person after person brought that up. Everyone who knew Chuck

knew there were no holds barred; we have to get the Gospel out."

In an interview for an edition of the Concordia magazine, Manske said, "My goal is to serve Christ. I want to bring people to Christ, to be his ambassador on earth. I don't want to pursue an occupational line of my own." Through his founding of this university, which each year equips students to serve Jesus around the world, his legacy of putting God before his personal plans continues and will continue long into the future.

The Master Plan: an update about the update

KAYLA LARDNER
CAMPUS EDITOR

In the next few years, Concordia's Master Plan will bring a major renovation to the campus, but that all depends on the City of Irvine approving the changes. The plan is currently in the submission phase and is awaiting the city's support before any modifications to the campus can begin.

"My hope is that we can get it all approved by the end of the school year," said Ronald Van Blarcom, General Counsel and Associate Vice President of University Services, '83.

The Master Plan, which has undergone

some changes over the past year, begins Phase One with a brand new Music, Worship and Theology Building behind the Library, road improvements near the East Gate and Dorm Road, an Astronomy Center near the Heritage Garden and an extension of the Baseball parking lot.

Of the issues facing students on campus, "I would say the top one is parking," said Emily Dailey, ASCUI President, senior. "We get that all the time. There are mainly three lots that students can park in, because the dorm lots are always filled with resident students. So parking is probably the biggest thing."

"The whole plan adds about 200 parking

spaces," Van Blarcom said. "In Phase One, there's a lot of taking down buildings and adding parking. I think we'd get about 100, maybe a little more than that."

"Parking is an issue," said Mitchell Piantanida, junior. "We need to expand to keep up with the growing population of the student body."

Additionally, as a student in the Music Department, Piantanida is also looking forward to an addition of an improved music center which will help solve many problems.

"We need more practice facilities, because there are about ten rooms available. With the amount of students we have, during congest-

ed hours where everyone is free to practice, they are all full," Piantanida said. "Also, we only have three available classrooms for our students, which is an issue, especially if we're trying to do an independent study or a small group class, because the big rooms are obviously taken by the bigger classes."

With the next three phases bringing other major changes, including new athletic facilities closer to the fields and a possible pool and new dorm building, the face of Concordia will change considerably in the coming years.

Continued on page 4

ASCUI Corner: setting a vision

ARIANA SADEGHIPOUR
ASCUI SECRETARY

Prospective senators met this past Tues., Sept. 1, in DeNault Auditorium to discuss their future as possible student leaders here at Concordia University Irvine. Vice President Catherine Foster, junior, called this meeting in order to encourage and motivate her fellow students to apply. After working all summer alongside President Emily Dailey, senior, Foster articulated the vision for the 2015-2016 ASCUI Senate to students that attended.

For those who are not familiar with ASCUI Senate and were not able to attend the informational meeting, ASCUI Senate is composed of elected student representatives from every grade level who meet together once a week and discuss possible policy changes. This includes both positive and negative concerns brought up by the CUI student body. These elected individuals embody the primary voice of students, and work as liaisons to express students' ideas to the faculty and administration.

This year, Foster's vision is to improve the

effectiveness of ASCUI Senate. Foster stated that one step in achieving this goal includes, "reorganizing the committee system in order

*ASCUI seeks
"to improve the
process of finding
solutions to
students' complaints,
concerns
or suggestions."*

to improve the process of finding solutions to students' complaints, concerns or suggestions." The senators are divided into different commit-

tees, such as University Services, Bon Appetit, Campus Safety and Housing. In these individual groups, senators meet weekly to develop new concepts or ideas to improve the Concordia campus.

Foster also plans to develop the roles of each senator. "I plan to heighten the standards and responsibilities expected of ASCUI Senators by giving them access to a larger knowledge base for this position," Foster said. "This will all begin with their first training day, which will occur the first Saturday after elections, which take place on Sept. 10 and 11." Throughout the semester, Foster plans to maintain these expectations through the use of personal meetings, bonding, and by providing a support system.

Do not forget, applications for ASCUI Senate are due today, Sept. 4, by 4 p.m. in the CSLD. Also, remember that all students and faculty are welcome to attend ASCUI's open forums, which are held every Wednesday starting at 10:30 a.m. in Student Union 202. The ASCUI Executive Board looks forward to a year of helping build community on campus and developing direct communication from the ASCUI office to the Concordia campus.

A letter from the Dean of Students

Dear Concordia Eagle,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 academic year! I am honored and humbled to be your Dean of Students and to have the privilege of working with you. We have some exciting initiatives happening at CUI this year, such as the relaunch of the Peer Minister program with Abbeywest. We also are committed to continue building the learning communities such as Bella Amore, Holos House, Global Village, WINGS, and Wittenberg Hall. God has greatly blessed CUI with wonderful students and dedicated faculty and staff. I am confident this will be the best year in the history of Concordia University Irvine.

My role on campus will be to engage students and find out how to properly meet your needs while navigating your educational journey at CUI. I will be working with the Associated Students of Concordia University (ASCUI) and Student Senate in discussing ways that we can make the student experience even better. I am eager to build relationships with various departments throughout campus and mentor students when appropriate.

I want to be relevant and transparent to the students, working with them through their journey at CUI. Focusing on the greatest part of my calling at CUI is the wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our student body whether it is through chapel, Bible Studies, devotions, one-on-one meetings, lunch, etc. I consider this to be paramount in my role and I feel incredibly blessed to have this opportunity.

With that, I want to say you are all in my prayers and I am excited to have each of you at CUI. Please let me know how I can be of service to you...my door is always open.

In Christ,
Gilbert Fugitt
Dean of Students



ASCUI EXECUTIVE BOARD

LEFT TO RIGHT: ARIANA SADEGHIPOUR (SECRETARY, JUNIOR), EMILY DAILEY (PRESIDENT, SENIOR), RYAN VAN DUSEN (TREASURER, SOPHOMORE), CATHERINE FOSTER (VICE PRESIDENT, JUNIOR), AND ROSE JONES (COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, JUNIOR).

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Major League Baseball drafts two Eagles

CELINA STRATTON
CONTRIBUTOR

In June, professional baseball hosted its annual Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft and two Concordia Eagles were chosen by professional organizations. The young draftees were right-handed pitcher, Tyler Mark, and outfielder, Mitchell Esser.

Shortly after their run in late May at the NAIA World Series tournament, they found out the good news. Esser was drafted in the 24th round by the local Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, while Mark was swooped up by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

“I was at my house in San Diego watching the Draft live stream on MLB.com with my mother, Martha. I was following the Draft to see if and when I would get picked up,” Esser said. “My name was announced on my computer by the commentators delivering the draft picks. The Angels were on the board and my name was announced.”

Mark was with both of his parents when he got the call from the Diamondbacks’ scout. He was drafted in the sixth round, the highest draft pick ever to come out of Concordia University.

Soon after the draft, Mark and Esser signed contracts with their designated teams in mid-June and began playing in the Arizona League, the league specifically for rookie players. Though Mark was only a junior last year, he made the decision to join the Diamondbacks organization immediately. Esser, a senior last year, plans on finishing his degree from Concordia once his baseball career is over.

Esser and Mark are ecstatic about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play professional baseball. “It was my ultimate goal to play professionally since high school. I’ve wanted to play professional since the age of six but didn’t think it was possible until high school,” Mark said.

“The most exciting part of this opportunity is being able to compete against some of the best baseball players and competition in the world. Also, the opportunity at hand is truly amazing. I am able to continue my passion of playing baseball and strive to advance as far as I can in this game,” Esser said.

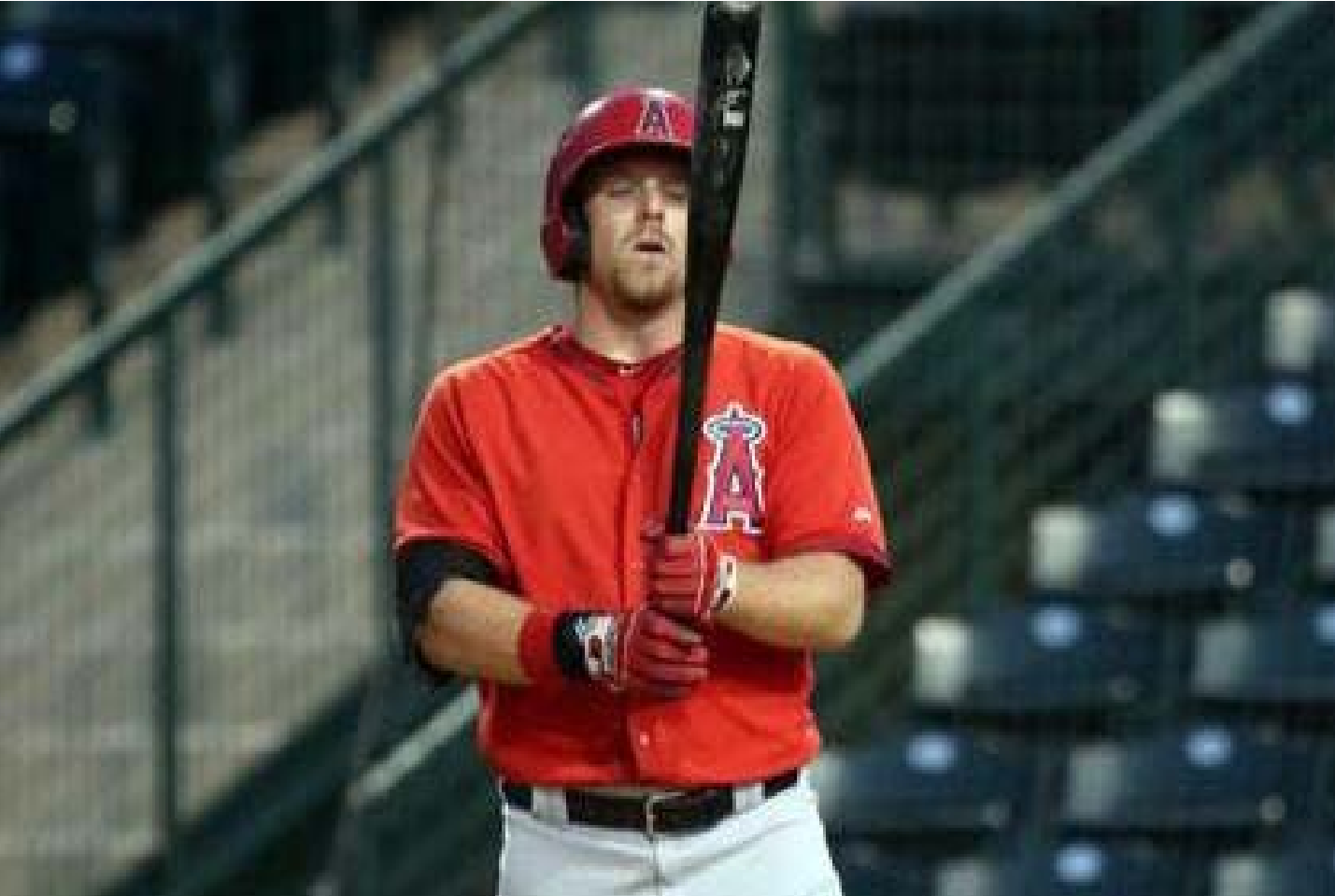
Before their final season came to a conclusion, both players had a giant impact on the team. According to cuieagles.com, Mark, the Eagles’ closing pitcher, set an NAIA record with 24 saves last season. In addition, he was named First Team NAIA All-American, the only baseball player in program history to be honored. Esser was only the second player to be chosen to the NAIA Gold Glove Team and committed no errors in centerfield all season.

The two Eagles have made their mark on Concordia baseball and the opportunities it can produce to future players, especially now that the program is in transition to joining NCAA Div. II.

As he parts from his baseball career here, Esser said, “I think that our drafts show how serious [Concordia’s baseball] program is. I hope this past draft shows the players at Concordia that anything can happen. If you work hard and strive to win baseball games, good things can happen.”



TYLER MARK, ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS (PHOTO TAKEN FROM CULVERCITYOBSERVER.COM)



MITCHELL ESSER, LOS ANGELES ANGELS OF ANAHEIM (PHOTO TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK)

Baseball falls short at NAIA World Series

CELINA STRATTON
CONTRIBUTOR

In May, Men’s Baseball competed at the national level in the 59th Annual Avista-NAIA World Series in Lewiston, Idaho. Though the Eagles were able to beat the top-seeded team, Oklahoma Baptist University, they fell short with a loss against Lewis-Clark State College and were soon eliminated by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Fla.) in a one-run game.

The Eagles’ last World Series appearance was in 2011 when they came out on top and were crowned National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Baseball National Champions. Every season since then, the team has been

working to construct another winning team to compete in the Series tournament.

Even before the series, another victory run for the team looked promising after defeating Westmont College to secure their third title in the Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) Tournament Championship. Veteran players knew early on that this was a promising team ready to compete against the best.

Senior first baseman and outfielder, John Bornhop, noticed the team’s transformation from the beginning of the season to the end of the year competing at a national level in the NAIA World Series. “I can say our greatest improvements have to do with playing well as a unit and strengthening the bond we have amongst ourselves,” Bornhop said.

By playing as a unit, there was opportunity for many players to shine during the tournament. Some of the standout players were outfielders John Doering and Bobby Shiroky, seniors last year, and pitchers Dillon Moran, a sophomore last year, and recent Major League Baseball drafted player, Tyler Mark, who was a junior last year.

According to cuieagles.com, the Eagles graduated eleven seniors, including eight starters. Though the team has lost a significant number of players, the coaching staff is grateful for the vital experience the remaining team members have gained.

Former Head Coach Mike Grahovac added what a privilege it was to participate in the NAIA World Series and how beneficial the experience

is for the returning team members. “We are now moving up to NCAA Division II, so this experience [for returning players] is invaluable!”

As a team leader, Bornhop also said, “The World Series is the final stepping stone to the ultimate goal of any team-oriented baseball player. Whether winning or losing, we want to play at the caliber of play that we know we are capable of.”

As the university is in the second half of its transition away from NAIA, the Eagles will now compete in the NCAA Division II PacWest Conference. The team will begin their inaugural season officially as NCAA competitors early next semester.

GCS15 conference held at Concordia

“...to teach, equip and connect pastors and church leaders to be effective ministers of the Gospel amid the changing dynamic of global Christianity.”

LIANNA JORDAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Great Commission Summit (GCS15) was held at Concordia University June 1-2. The second-annual GSC is a two-day conference that exists “to teach, equip and connect pastors and church leaders to be effective ministers of the Gospel amid the changing dynamic of global Christianity.”

Church leaders and lay people of many different Christian denominations attended to gain insights on our call as Christians to fulfill the Great Commission. In the Great Commission, found in the last chapter of Matthew, Jesus commissioned his disciples to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Rev. Bil Hood, Director of Church and Community Relations, planned and organized GCS15. “We are looking for church leaders (to attend this conference), both pastors and lay leaders alike,” Hood said. “The event is very broad, theologically and denominationally.”

Each of the two days of the conference featured a keynote speaker, breakout sessions and a roundtable discussion.

Rev. Soong-Chan Rah was the keynote speaker the first day. Rah, Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, author of several books and board member of World Vision, Sojourners, the Christian Community Development Association, Evangelicals 4 Justice and the Catalyst Leadership, delivered his keynote address to challenge the denominationally diverse audience to pause and understand how the world and church is changing, rather than rush to fix these changes. “Americans are so restless to fix problems,” Rah said.

Additionally, Rah added that the idea of an “American Christian” is rapidly changing. In relating with American Christians, Cheri Chan, who works in the Office of Global Programs, said that it’s important to remember that “many of the faces and speakers of American Christianity are actually minorities now.”

Breakout sessions included topics of “Latinos and the Church,” led by Gerardo Magaña, Local Engagement Pastor, Mariners Church;

“How Might Confessional Theology Sound in the Majority World?,” led by Dr. Charles P. Arand, Professor, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; “Funding Faith Institutions,” led by Rev. Mark Whitlock, Pastor, Christ Our Redeemer, A.M.E.; and “Telling the Great Story: The Catholic Church and Evangelization,” led by Fr. Gerald M. Horan, O.S.M., Vicar for Faith Formation, Diocese of Orange and Katie Dawson, Director of Faith Formation, Diocese of Orange.

“Missions are completed for God’s glory. We join Jesus on His mission until He returns.”

Ed Stetzer was the keynote speaker the second day. Stetzer, Executive Director of LifeWay Research, author of numerous books, church planter and contributing editor for “Christianity Today,” delivered his keynote address on the topic of fulfilling the “Missio Dei,” the mission of God, in light of the metanarrative of the entire Scriptures.

“God is on a mission, and that mission started in Creation, through the fall, and in our redemption,” Stetzer said. “The Gospel is not something you do; it’s something Jesus did.” As a result, Stetzer added, “People saved by Jesus would naturally serve like Jesus.”

“Missions are completed for God’s glory. We join Jesus on His mission until He returns,” Stetzer said.

...the master plan

continued from page 1

For freshmen this year, if all goes according to plan, by the time they graduate in 2019, they will be able to experience parts of Phase One, specifically the new Music, Worship and Theology Building.

“Especially with how our Music Department is focusing more and more on recruiting, the freshman class (in the Music Department) right now is bigger than the junior combined with the senior class,” Piantanida said. “So it would be nice if we could have the facilities to support this new, incoming group.”

“If all of the schedules go as we’re planning right now, we would start building that building and hope to open the doors before they would graduate. I think for that senior year, that building would be open,” Van Blarcom said.

For current students, the Concordia they know and love will look very different after

the Master Plan is completed.

“I love the campus as it is. Beautiful views. You can see fireworks. We have French Hill,” Dailey said. “From everyone I’ve talked to, they love this campus, but there are always little things here and there (that need updating). I understand that it’s an older campus. A lot has changed since 1976, so I’m really excited to see what it will look like.”

“It will be weird that the things that I recognize and remember from walking around and being a student might not be here (in the future), but I would be happy in the sense that the institution in which I decided to further my education is going to be a bigger and better school,” Piantanida said.

For Van Blarcom, the Master Plan will usher in a Concordia very different from the campus he attended in 1983. “It’s been a real joy for me to work on this,” Van Blarcom said. “I’m a graduate of 1983, so all of the buildings that were here when I was here will not be here, and I’m ok with that.”

New student? Here are some tips!

Don’t have a car on campus? Here are some things to do...

Take advantage of the FYE shuttles

CU Rides is amazing! It’s located in the RES office and you can rent bikes for free

Make friends with the upperclassmen! But try to give them gas money every once in a while

Hike French Hill!

If the parking lot is full outside Grimm Hall, your best bet is...

Baseball or Egypt. It’s not the best, but at least parking passes are free at CUI!

If you don’t have class until 9:30 and you’re a commuter, just make your way on to Baseball. Skip Grimm. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$100!

Park down in the Baseball lot and run

Best place for late night eats around campus...

Definitely UTC (University Town Center)! There are so many choices -- everyone can find something they are craving In-N-Out!

CHIPOTLE! I also highly recommend Urban Plates or Blaze Pizza. Super yummy in my tummy

Cha! Look for coupons at events around campus

Best study tip for new students...

Do it! Study for your tests, go to class, do the reading and you will do well. You are paying a lot to be here. Don’t let that money go to waste!

Don’t sacrifice too much sleep to study; your brain needs rest to perform at its best

Note cards are God’s gift to students!

Save binge-watching Netflix until your reading is done

Best food in the caf...

Turkey Burgers are an all-time favorite but they are not a common occurrence. My more frequent caf favorite would be the chicken tortilla soup

Breakfast burritos will get you through college

Tortilla and chicken from the grill to make a wrap

An on-campus event you won’t want to miss...

Rock the Amp, because Men’s and Women’s Volleyball is on point

Don’t miss Concordia Candlelight! It just so happens to be President Krueger’s favorite too. We can’t both be wrong

RES Hall events

Poker night

Night of Hope

Green & golden

Practical ways to be a good steward of God's gifts at Concordia

KIMMY OLIVAR
CONTRIBUTOR

In the midst of a drought, California residents are encouraged to find new ways to save water and “go green,” but the issue of green living reaches far beyond water conservation. For a college student, there is seemingly no incentive to even care about these issues at the moment—no water bill, trash fee, or electrical bill to discourage carelessness. It is important to understand that the lack of immediate consequences does not abate the severity of its effects. By making minor adjustments now, individuals can attain wiser lifestyle choices that promote sustainable living. Even for college students, there are very practical advantages to becoming more environmentally friendly.

Students should time their showers. Some individuals may complain that the propagandized “five minutes” is unrealistic, and that may be true for many, but a shower should never take more than ten minutes. Many of the dorm rooms on campus are not equipped with low-flow shower heads, which means that for every minute the water is running, approximately five gallons of water are being used. Not only will taking timed showers reduce this water usage, but it can help students better manage their time.

When a room is unoccupied, turn off lights. This will save energy which is produced by coal-, gas-, oil-, and fossil fuel-powered turbines and keep a dorm room cooler.

If possible, students should limit how many dishes they use in the caf. A superfluous amount of dishes used increases the number that must be washed. By only using what is necessary, students can help cut down dish-water.

Recycling bottles and cans is probably one of the most well-known, but poorly practiced components of sustainable living. Trash cans across campus contain recyclables carelessly discarded as waste. Student Body President, Emily Dailey, senior, states that ASCUI is “currently working with University Services to put the [recycling] plan into action.” Until then, students should take it upon themselves to refrain from improperly discarding recyclable materials. Recycling receptacles are located in Grimm Hall, Sigma Square, and between the bookstore and the CSLD.

Support the local community garden! Concordia University has an on-campus garden located across from Beta, next to the Egypt parking lot. The Heritage Garden is open to all who are interested in volunteering and its produce is distributed among volunteers, community members in need, and has even provided leafy greens for our own cafeteria. The garden is a distraction-free area where students can flee stress in a natural environment.

The garden can benefit from organic waste, such as compost. Composting is the process of allowing organic waste, like fruits and vegetables, to decompose with the soil. This can be accomplished easily by storing banana peels or coffee grounds in an old coffee can, or other closed container, lined with a produce bag, and dropping the waste in the garden's worm holes as needed. This provides nutrients in the soil for future plants and cuts down dorm room trash stink.

Students should take it upon themselves to make a conscious decision for sustainable living strategies.

Conquering Core in Cambridge

This semester, 11 Concordia students are studying abroad at Westfield house in Cambridge as part of CUI's first-ever 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.



MONICA JORDAN
CONTRIBUTOR

Hello from the CUI Core Cambridge students! We've just finished a busy and fun first week of classes here at Westfield House in Cambridge, England.

This beautiful old city is home to the University of Cambridge, Britain's second oldest university, founded in 1209. The University is renowned for its strong academics. For us Irvine students, this means adjusting to a slightly different learning environment. In contrast with American universities, emphasis is placed on delving deeply into topics through intensive reading. The first week of Old Testament we had to read all 50 chapters of Genesis in 3 days! Doing serious independent work ahead of time, though, means that we are able spend class time in discussion geared toward specialized distinctions. Our class sizes top out at 11 students, further encouraging reading and discussion-based learning.

As part of a Study Abroad program, many of us are taking a Global Perspectives class. Its topic, though, is a little unconventional: British Science Fiction. We get to read classic science fic-

tion works, discuss and analyze the genre and compare it to American science fiction. One of the biggest hits of this class is the scheduled time to watch science fiction movies!

As important as our studies are, we're also finding plenty of opportunities to have fun. We've grown closer to each other as well as made great friendships with students at Westfield House who hail from such institutions as Concordia Chicago, Concordia Wisconsin, Valparaiso University and both LCMS seminaries. Together we've found that this town itself is an amazing place to explore, study, and live.

The city center has something interesting in every nook and cranny. There are 32 Cambridge colleges, 30 of which have beautiful chapels. The Cam River runs right through town and offers the amazing experience of punting on the Cam. The punters, many of whom are Cambridge students and are very knowledgeable regarding Cambridge history, offer insider information that can border on wacky. Punting takes you under many bridges, one of which was the Mathematical Bridge designed by Sir Isaac Newton that was so perfectly de-

signed it didn't need any bolts or fastenings to hold it up. The University boasts many famous students, including Newton himself. Many of us have been to the pub where Watson and Crick announced they discovered DNA or in the courtyard with Newton's famous apple tree.

Living in and adjusting to a new city is an intimidating task anywhere, and the beautiful United Kingdom has certainly presented its own set of problems. With some balance of patience, wits and teamwork, though, we've all survived thus far! Slowly we're learning which way to check for oncoming traffic, which one of the coins is 50 pence (it's the seven-sided one) and how to navigate a British grocery store. Grocery stores are no exception to the rule that shops, houses, roads and just about everything here operates on a much smaller scale than do most of those found in America. We managed to find some American peanut butter, so I think we'll all be okay. We're excited to see just how much Cambridge has in store for us! And, of course, we miss everyone at Concordia, appreciate your prayers and look forward to talking to you about Brit-speak in the next issue of *The Courier*!

Get Involved with *The Courier*! If you have story ideas for us, would like to write yourself, have photography skills, are interested in editing and page design or want to express yourself through illustration, *The Courier* may have a place for you. Contact us at drafts.courier@eagles.cui.edu or find us in Delta Lounge of Lower.

Theatre Department off to great start



PHOTO FROM SPRING 2015 PRODUCTION OF "RECKLESS" (PHOTO TAKEN FROM THEATRE.BLOGS.CUI.EDU)

ALEXANDER CARR
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

Only two weeks into the semester, the Theatre Department could not be busier. Between classes, auditions and rehearsals, all while building a welcoming atmosphere for new and returning students alike, the Theatre Department is hard at work. Clear your schedules, because they have quite the story for you.

On Tues., Aug. 25, the shows of the season were officially announced in the Studio Theater as part of the department's theater kick-off meeting: three plays, one musical and two student-directed one acts. "Each one of those plays is a new exploration," said Tony Vezner, Associate Professor of Theatre. "Creating a season is creating a series of challenges to be met throughout the year."

This year, Lori Siekmann, Assistant Profes-

sor of Theatre, leads the first exploration into the historical fiction piece "Two Rooms." Set in the 1980s and based on true events, "Two Rooms" follows American professor Lainie and her struggle to decide how to act when her husband, a professor as well, is kidnapped and held hostage by Middle Eastern Terrorists in Beirut, Lebanon.

"It's called 'Two Rooms' because Lainie has taken a room in her home and taken all of the furniture out. It's just empty," Siekmann said. "This room symbolizes the cell that she imagines [Michael, her husband] being in. When we see her, it's her room. Sometimes in the play we see him in that same room. It's the same set." With the 15th anniversary of Sept. 11 only a year away, today the play allows audiences to take a reflective look at where America was as a country then and where it is now.

The season starts on a serious note, but Siekmann doesn't intend to let this be just an-

other history lesson. "I don't want it to feel like a dusty period piece," Siekmann said. "Really, the strength of it is the character relationships. What it does is it takes all of these politics and makes it about human beings. It brings the humanity into what could be just this philosophical debate."

Alongside the challenge and excitement of the new year, Tuesday's meeting also embraced the freshmen. "I got there and each of them had a welcoming spirit," said McKenna Brand, freshman theater major. What Brand appreciated most was the continuation of the theater mentor program, where each freshman is partnered with an experienced fellow student of the department for support on and off the set. "It's just great to be welcomed that way and kind of taken under a wing and have someone ask, 'Can I help you? What's going on with life?'"

But theater majors aren't the only ones welcome on the stage. "Students can audition for

the shows; those are open to everybody," Vezner said. "Theater majors and non-majors -- you don't have to be a theater major to audition for a show." This opportunity extends to other grounds within the Theatre Department also. Groups like Improv-ceivable, which will hold its first show Mon., Sept. 14, welcomes all students to participate in auditions to join the improv group the following day.

The first show of the semester, "Two Rooms," will premier on Sept. 11. Students can reserve tickets by visiting the box office found in the CU Center or showing their student ID at the door of the performance. The show will run two weekends. After that, the stage is cleared for the next show and the cycle begins anew. "I love the day after a show's closed," Vezner said. "It's gone. The stage is empty; it's a blank page. It's time to start over. At that moment, everything is possible for that next show."

IMPROV-CEIVABLE

FREE SHOW

SEPTEMBER 14 | 7:30PM
IN THE STUDIO THEATER
IMPROV JAM TO FOLLOW
AUDITIONS HELD SEPTEMBER 15 AT 7:00PM

How to Start A Club Workshop

Sept. 10th @ 7pm
Grimm Hall 126

If you're interested in starting a club on campus, come to this workshop to learn about the process and pick up an application packet.

Sponsored By LEAD Clubs & Orgs

What’s new on Netflix?

“They Came Together”- but I wish they hadn’t

A new column that details the highs and lows of Netflix to assist Concordians in the ongoing struggle of picking a movie to watch on Netflix

COURTNEY HENTZ
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AND
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CONTRIBUTOR

“They Came Together” is a romantic comedy that satires romantic comedies. As people who love satires and romantic comedies, Jordyn and I decided to watch this movie with every hope that it could be our new favorite rom-com. With a star cast of Amy Poehler, Paul Rudd, Bill Hader, Ellie Kemper, Cobie Smulders, Jason Mantzoukas, Christopher Meloni, Jack McBrayer, Kenan Thompson, Max Greenfield, Adam Scott and John Stamos, we were a little nervous. I mean, this movie could be as good as “Love Actually” but more likely it would end up as the next “New Year’s Eve” or, even worse, the next “Valentine’s Day.”

The beginning of the movie moves about as fast as Concordia’s internet. Once the story finally kicks off — Amy Poehler and Paul Rudd’s characters begin to tell the story of how they met — the rom-com clichés are satirically stated at a ludicrous rate. Now, as we said before, we love satires so we were expecting to laugh but unfortunately, these jokes themselves were clichés. The movie poked fun at all the right things and made the characters as thinly veiled as any other rom-com, but it was just not as funny. Each scene had moments that made us laugh but the jokes were not constant enough, nor were they in any way unique. Everyone knows that there is a formula to a successful rom-com and that all of them are basically interchangeable. To make a movie about the overused formulas is not a good movie because, in the end, NO ONE CARES. No one cares that rom-coms are formula-driven and for some reason always based in New York City. No one cares that rom-coms have the same klutzy female lead or fear-of-commitment male. No one cares that the main characters always start out hating each other and then predictably fall in love. NO ONE CARES! Romantic comedies have always been this way and they always will be — and they will continue to sell well to women and make money. Creating a movie that pokes fun



at a bunch of cliché clichés does not make for a good movie.

In the end, the movie dragged on for far too long (and that is saying something, seeing as the movie was only 83 minutes to start with). We can honestly say that this is not a must-see movie on Netflix. Do not watch this movie if you too have

heard the clichés of the romantic comedy and are over it. Do not watch this movie if you too have a deep-seated love for Amy Poehler and do not wish to see her in a less comedically-attractive light. Especially do not watch this movie if you value your time and do not wish to spend 83 minutes of your life on overused clichés

about a subject no one really cares about. Perhaps with satires, one should stick to the classics like the original “Scary Movie” series, which are also on Netflix. Good luck with your binge watching, Concordia. Maybe we just saved you 83 minutes that you can spend doing your Core reading assignments — or maybe not.

Mexican
Independence Day
\$1 Commuter Lunch Tickets

September 16th

Purchase Tickets in the CSLD

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COFFEE
TALKS

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT VARIOUS
CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS IN A
NON-JUDGMENTAL ENVIRONMENT
WITH FREE COFFEE

SEPTEMBER 9TH & 23RD
10:30-11:00AM
IN THE EAGLE LOUNGE

PRESENTED BY: LEAD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

New Eagles: Q & A



Benjamin Lange

freshman

Where are you from?

I'm from Evanston, Wyoming. Dude, the first time I ever visited this campus was last Wednesday (before SOAR). The first time I ever saw California was last week! Kind of a leap of faith, but it was so worth it. So worth it!

Why did you choose Concordia?

It's a really long story. Part of it was the Debate team. Part of it was the Behavioral Science program. Part of it was my dad and both of my grandfathers are all pastors of the LCMS. That was a little bit of a connection. I had family in the area; that was cool too.

What has been your favorite part of SOAR?

It's so cool! There's such a sense of community here! I like it so much. It's good energy. I like it.

What is a way you're going to get involved at Concordia?

I'm getting involved in Debate. I'm planning on getting involved in like Intramural stuff, but at the moment, I haven't found a way to fit that in. It's crazy. There's a lot of stuff to do. I like going to stuff like this (Shout Tailgate).



Peter Sathre

sophomore transfer

Where are you from?

I'm originally from Kingsburg, California. That is in Central California, basically in Fresno County.

Why did you choose Concordia?

I chose Concordia not only because it was a suggestion from my sisters that went here, but I truly believe this is a great place, a great environment for me to be in as far as just a Christly atmosphere. And also just being challenged with the diversity here as well, learning not only how to get used to it, but to really grow in ways I haven't grown before.

What has been your favorite part of SOAR?

I would say it's just the camaraderie of people. It's like how friendly people are and how open they can actually be. It's just the fact that if you have a question, they'll most likely answer it for you. They'll be open enough and point you in the right direction. I really appreciate that and just the amount of fun you can possibly have when you're hanging around the right people.

What is a way you're going to get involved at Concordia?

I'm already joining the Concordia Choir, so I'm really excited about that. I just like to be an open person as well for anybody that has questions. If I can be a resource for anyone or they can be a resource for me or whatever. In any way that comes up or God leads me as well.



Jean Enoch Berus

freshman

Where are you from?

I am from Haiti.

Why did you choose Concordia?

I am Lutheran and it's a church connection. And I get a scholarship here.

What has been your favorite part of SOAR?

It was Monday the opening service. I liked it. Also, the classes I liked because they are new to me and I'm trying to catch up with everything, trying to understand the first part of school. It's really exciting. I like it.

What is a way you're going to get involved at Concordia?

For now, I don't know exactly. I'm looking for any opportunities. I would love to participate in as much as I can.



Andrea Mejia

freshman

Where are you from?

Anaheim, California.

Why did you choose Concordia?

I liked how it wasn't in the middle of a city where it was all traffic. I like the campus how it's the middle of nature. And the classroom sizes are really small!

What has been your favorite part of SOAR?

So far, I think I'm really excited for the Beach Bash. That's what I'm looking forward to out of the SOAR activities.

What is a way you're going to get involved at Concordia?

Right now, I got involved with some of the cultural clubs and Diversity Awareness. Also, I want to get into Fusion or Lead.



Michelle Pettet

freshman

Where are you from?

Ridgecrest, California. You probably don't know where that is. It's Bakersfield area.

Why did you choose Concordia?

I liked the environment here and I run track here. And so, I just feel a community here and I really like the nursing program. I want to do that when I'm a junior and senior. And the religion too, because I'm Lutheran, so it felt perfect.

What has been your favorite part of SOAR?

When we played a throwdown game and we just played games with all the different PAL teams. It was so fun interacting with some of my friends that were also freshmen. It was fun playing tug-of-war or all kinds of other games. It was just really fun getting to know other people.

What is a way you're going to get involved at Concordia?

I just want to try to do as much as possible – the clubs, try to get involved with church, go to everything I can.



Amy Pedroza

freshman

Where are you from?

Santa Ana, California. So, like ten minutes away from here! I'm a commuter.

Why did you choose Concordia?

First of all, I didn't know this school existed. I don't remember how I found out about this school, but once I stepped on campus for orientation it just felt right. The community welcomed me. The location. The class sizes. And knowing that I could have a one-on-one conversation with my professors. It was very important for me to feel that connection, unlike other schools with classes of 200, 300 students. I didn't even want that. That's why I chose Concordia.

What has been your favorite part of SOAR?

There's a lot. I think probably how they welcomed us and how everyone seemed to get along very well. No one of us seemed to be left behind. There was something for everyone, whether you're a commuter or a resident. There's some way to make you feel involved in SOAR.

What is a way you're going to get involved at Concordia?

I plan to come to events after school as well as get involved in clubs. I'm not sure what specifically I want to join yet, but I definitely want to apply for Senate.



CONCORDIA STUDENTS EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE MANY FUN ACTIVITIES DURING SOAR
(PHOTO CREDIT: CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY IRVINE- FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE FACEBOOK)