



THE CONCORDIA
• COURIER •
INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

Volume 10, Issue 7

Concordia University Irvine

Friday, December 11, 2015

Fall 2016 Around-the-World Semester team selected



First official gathering of the fourth Around-the-World Semester team for fall 2016. (photo credit: Adam Lee)

AUSTIN WEBSTER
STAFF WRITER

The team of “Roundlings” to go on the Around-the-World Semester (ATW) in Fall 2016 has been selected and is beginning preparations for the trip. The students who have been selected will circumnavigate the globe as they study for a Global Cultural Studies minor in ten countries across five continents. This is the fourth ATW trip.

The upcoming journey begins in Japan, then continues on to China, India, Greece, Czech Republic, Ghana, Morocco, England, Ecuador and finally stopping in Costa Rica before heading back to Irvine.

“This will be the first Around-

the-World Semester to have three full-time professors on the whole trip. This is also our first trip to include Central America as one of the destinations,” said Adam Lee, Assistant Professor of English and one of faculty members on ATW.

Lee, along with Tony Vezner, Associate Professor of Theatre and Heather Vezner, Assistant Professor of Education, will be leading the 28 students around the world with four graduate assistants and the Vezners’ children.

Classes have been held in the foothills of the Himalayas or overlooking the dynamically-cultural Indian city of Kolkata.

Kendra Sitton, junior, is going to be a first-time “Rounder” this fall.

Though this is a study abroad program, “this trip wouldn’t be possible without missions work,” said Sitton. “I appreciate that the heart of this trip, through each class we take and each new experience, is service and missions in the communities we get involved in.”

Other Roundlings also expressed a desire for the team to become a cohesive group of travelers throughout the experience. “I want to experience uncomfortability and embrace the different cultures with arms wide open, eating food that is not considered food here, dancing in ways I do not normally (which is hard to find, you know what I’m saying, boogie WOOGIE), laugh in ways I have not before,” said senior Christian Wood-

fin. “I am most stoked for the work God will do through us, in us, and around us.”

Lee said, “ATW IV will mark over a hundred Concordia students who have now participated in this program, and will also bring our total nations visited to over 40 in six years.”

Kimberly Harding, a junior admitted into the competitive program, said, “I am most excited to see God’s beautiful creation within the different countries we visit, the people we meet, and in our group. I also am excited to see how people from another part of the world live and how it differs from our ordinary lives.”

These students embark on their

exciting journey on Aug. 1, 2016 and are set to return Dec. 17, according to Lee. This spring, the team will take cultural and anthropology classes together in order to prepare for the path ahead as well as bond with one another. They will plan for upcoming challenges, like only being able to carry 50 pounds of luggage for the entire trip, and how to overcome these obstacles together.

There is much to do and learn. As much preparation is being done for the trip, those embarking on this endeavor request prayers from the community at Concordia for the ministry opportunities and cross-cultural relationships created during the trip.

ASCUI Corner:

Looking back on this fall semester

EMILY DAILEY, SENIOR
ASCUI PRESIDENT:

"The best experiences that I have had as ASCUI President have been meeting with administration. Not only do we talk about what students have brought to Senate, but we also have conversations about the university and where Concordia is headed, which is exciting. There are moments in time where we get new ideas and think of ways to improve the university by looking at the views of students and administration. Lastly, the best part of being in the ASCUI President position is being able to meet many students and show them that we, ASCUI and Senate, are doing what we can to make the improvements they are looking for."

CATHERINE FOSTER, JUNIOR
ASCUI VICE PRESIDENT:

"This semester, I enjoyed getting to meet with Concordia administrators to discuss upcoming projects. When meeting with them, we would discuss ways to implement projects that ASCUI Senators had been working on all semester in their assorted committees. Some of the projects I got to discuss with administration were hydration stations, additional amphitheater lighting, and ice machines in the RES halls. I am excited to continue to work on these upcoming projects next semester. Additionally, I loved having the opportunity to serve and lead ASCUI Senate."

ARIANA SADEGHIPOUR, JUNIOR
ASCUI SECRETARY:

"Over the course of this semester, I have had the opportunity to work on various fun projects. The two opportunities that I loved being a part of were Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Concordia Christmas. I had the pleasure of overseeing the planning and functioning of these two events. The planning of these events was a great opportunity to challenge myself and help me grow as a Concordia leader. I am so thankful to have shared so many experiences with the ASCUI Executive Board this semester and cannot wait to return to campus on Jan. 7 to begin Spring Training."

RYAN VAN DUSEN, SOPHOMORE
ASCUI TREASURER:

"During this holiday season, and the winding down of a chaotic semester, it is particularly clear to me that sometimes the little things make the biggest difference. This semester has been a whirlwind. There have been plenty of parts that would be worth mentioning as my favorite. However, despite all the blissful adventures that I could choose to point out here, the thought that immediately comes to mind is a recent ladder certification training I completed for ASCUI Concordia Christmas. The process of certification itself holds no special value to me except that it allowed me to meet a lady named Patty. Patty Barcenas works in Building 20, a maintenance building behind Rho. The part that surprised me is that her job, an unheralded occupation usually seen as handling the formality of risk management, is her passion. Not only did Emily and I learn to never paint a wood ladder (don't do it) and the specific angle at which to place a ladder (75.5°), we also witnessed the powerful compassion of a woman who treated us like her children. I know Patty taught me a lot about ladders, but I learned more about the importance of slowing down and appreciating my blessings."

ROSE JONES, JUNIOR
ASCUI COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:

"As Communications Director, I enjoyed preparing the "Toilet Talks." I tend to get a lot of feedback on them, not only from students but also faculty. Every theme I have posted is stuff that reflects my personality and it makes me feel more creative than I actually am. I recently just did a contest called #CUIThankful and it was awesome to see so many students post content to enter the contest. It was also sweet to see a lot of peers be thankful for their roommates or the different things that they are involved in, such as sports or speech and debate. Lastly, I love my Task Force meetings that I have with Peer Health Educators, LEAD, Screaming Eagles, Abbey West, and The Theatre Department. A representative from each group comes and together we talk about our events and try to develop ways to spread word of other group's events. The hope of this is to increase audience attendance across the board."



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."
Romans 15:13

In Christ,

*Emily, Catherine,
Ariana, Ryan, & Rose*

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

Lianna Jordan, *Editor-in-Chief*

Courtney Hentz, *Layout Editor*

Kayla Lardner, *Campus Editor*

Kenrda Sitton, *Local/Global Editor*

Stevie Goldstein, *Sports Editor*

Alexander Carr, *Arts & Reviews Editor*

Faculty Advisor

Caroline Janik-Wong

Faculty Advisory Board

Brian Gaul

Dr. Scott Keith

Brianna Springer

Dr. Daniel van Voorhis

Writers

Lindsey Delas Alas, Karina Diez, Lauren Higbee, Hannah Howell, Monica Jordan, Kaylin Kemper, Sam Leanza, Cameron Mcleod, Kaitlyn Miller, Julian Myers, Samantha Palmer, Jasmine Polee, Ariana Sadeghipour, Tiffany Thompson, Austin Webster

Comments? Suggestions?
We want to hear from you.
Write a "Letter to the Editor."
drafts.courier@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor must be typed and include the author's full name and telephone number. Letters that are printed may be edited for space and content. Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Concordia Courier*.

The opinions expressed in *The Concordia Courier* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration, faculty, staff or student body of Concordia University. Editorials reflect the views of the majority of the editorial staff.

1530 Concordia West, Irvine CA, 92612
Delta Lounge
final.courier@gmail.com
cui.edu/studentlife/student-newspaper

The Courier staff asks that you dispose of your copy in an environmentally-friendly way. **Thanks!**

Don't forget to "like" us

on *The Concordia Courier* Facebook page. You'll find links to PDFs of old issues and updates on our current work. Videos previewing the most recent issue will be posted as well.

**Follow us on Instagram
@ConcordiaCourier too!**

Men's Volleyball prepares for 2015-2016 Season



JULIAN MYERS
STAFF WRITER

As the new year approaches, Concordia Men's Volleyball team is ready for the 2015-2016 season. Their first game of the season will be held against UCI on Dec. 30.

Looking forward to the season, freshman middle blocker Hunter Howell said, "I have looked at our schedule and it is extremely tough. Every team we play will be a battle." With vigorous training, a different schedule from last year, and new recruits, the Men's Volleyball team will look forward to success in the up-

coming season.

Since there are no games until the end of the month, the team is putting their focus into training. "Practice right now is very intense. Players are fighting for spots, so the competitive level is high. The upcoming season will be difficult, so the coaches are training and conditioning us hard for preparation," Howell said.

They are having long double days; the first practice starts before the sun rises, and the last practice ends with the sun down. In between practices, players are expected to take care of all academic priorities, so they can put everything aside except volleyball

when at practice.

Looking at the schedule and results from previous years, this year's schedule presents new challenges for Men's Volleyball. Since Concordia is transitioning into NCAA Division II, the competition has become a lot tougher.

"We travel to UC Santa Barbara as well as away games at USC and UCLA. I'm looking forward to the competition and can't wait to start playing those big-name teams," Howell said.

In years past, the team did very well in the NAIA, winning a National Championship in 2013 and being the

runner-up in 2014.

As the Men's Volleyball team transitions into a more difficult conference, they added some recruits that will help face their tough schedule. Some of the new freshman recruits include setters Christian Rodriguez and Isaiah Kaaa, as well as middle blockers Spencer Lane and Hunter Howell.

These new recruits add a wealth of talent and youth to learn from their upperclassmen teammates. "I have been given the chance to learn under some great players in my position who are upperclassmen. I plan on taking what I learned and apply-

ing that into the game," said Howell. It will be exciting to track the success of these new recruits throughout this season and their careers as Eagles.

Get ready to cheer on the Men's Volleyball team as their season begins on Dec. 30 at UC Irvine at 7 p.m. Check the Eagles website to follow the teams progress and to check the schedule.

Their home opener is against Southern Alberta Institute of Technology on Dec. 31 at noon. Make sure to come out and support your Eagles!

Coaches' Corner

HANNAH HOWELL
STAFF WRITER

With the spring season right around the corner, coaches are excited to see how their teams will perform after preparing all fall season. I got a chance to sit down and talk to some coaches about what they are hoping to see from their teams this season and even got to ask them something that may help you get to know these coaches a little better.



DANNY BOWMAN
HEAD COACH: TRACK AND FIELD

Team goal: Leave your Legacy

Hope for the season: Establish themselves in the PacWest tournament and upset many teams

Goal for the seniors: Leave a legacy for yourselves and others to follow

Favorite pump-up album? Skillet 1996



JOE TURGEON
HEAD COACH: BASEBALL

Team goal: Play fast

Hope for the season: Continue tradition that has been established the last few years

Goal for the seniors: Enjoy the game and experience your last year; build a foundation for those to come

Are you a Belieber? Yes



CRYSTAL ROSENTHAL
HEAD COACH: SOFTBALL

Team goal: Be the best you can be on and off the field

Hope for the season: Compete to win conference

Goal for the seniors: Take advantage of the opportunity to start something different and leave your mark in the PacWest

Who would you want to sing a karaoke duet with? Sara Bareilles



SHAWN PATCHELL
HEAD COACH MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Team goal: Student first, athlete second

Hope for the season: Continue home winning streak and get better on the road

Goal for the seniors: Continue the culture they have created both on and off the court

Do you ever listen to Taylor Swift alone? Not yet, but looking forward to it

New competition offers students a chance to turn their business ideas into cash

TIFFANY THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

The brand-new Cornelius Business Plan Competition emphasizes the importance of experiencing entrepreneurship. This competition allows students to test out the viability of potential business ideas. This is all thanks to the vision of Stephen Christensen, Dean of the School of Business, instructor of entrepreneurship and founder and managing director of Concordia's Teen Entrepreneurship Academy.

"Create a few jobs. It's great; it's the American way. The key is for each person to have a business in an area they are passionate about."

There is a prize pool of \$17,500 that was generously donated by the Cornelius Family Trust.

The competition is designed for students regardless of major and will help them to discover the viability of their idea. A business plan template is provided and each team answers the following questions: What's the problem you want to solve? How big is the problem? Who is it a problem for? Why is your solution the best? "These questions will force people to think it through," Christensen said. "Whether or not they start the business is not the important thing. The important thing is that students go through the thought process."

Students create their own teams with a minimum of 2-3 people consisting of a financial, marketing, operations, and visionary person. "Nobody does anything great alone," Christensen said.

Each team is then matched to executives based on domain expertise. The purpose of the competition is to allow students to go through the "thought process of everything that goes into a business, because 90% of our students will end up working for someone in a business," Christensen

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Concordia University Irvine School of Business website. The URL is www.cui.edu/academicprograms/business/index/id/25700. The page title is "2016 Cornelius Business Plan Competition - Win \$7,000". The main content includes a "REQUEST INFO" button, an "APPLY NOW" button, and a "REGISTER NOW" button. The text describes the competition, its prizes, and the registration deadline: "Monday, November 30, 2015 through Friday, December 11, 2015". A list of prizes is provided: \$7,000 for First Place, \$5,000 for Second Place, \$2,500 for Third Place, and \$1,000 each for places 4, 5, and 6. The page also features a "Related Links" section with various program links.

said. "Even school teachers -- a school is a business. We really want to teach students the entrepreneurial mind-set, and the mind-set is always asking 'what if?'"

Christensen wants students to add value to the companies they go to work for and to not just be technically competent, but have an innovative mind-set.

"It's a hands-on, roll up your sleeves practice of what we're going to do when we get out of here experience," Christensen said.

Business students get two units

of internship credit. The entire process from start to finish consists of approximately 90 hours of work and spans from Jan. 21, 2016 to Apr. 15, 2016, when the judging occurs. "It's no different from doing an internship around the corner, but it's better because a team is assigned to an executive and the executive evaluates the internship credits. Instead of the student having to go to the company, the company comes here," Christensen said.

There are four workshops that teams will attend that address the fol-

lowing: the business idea, important questions to ask, financials and putting it all together. Essentially, a step-by-step guide is provided for each team to ensure their success.

The requirements for winning are simple. A rubric is given at the beginning of the competition to simplify the process, "similar to getting the answers to a final," Christensen said. Four judges, who are business owners, will be given the rubric and utilize it during the students' presentations and cash awards are given for those who place in first through

sixth place. \$7,000 is awarded for first place, \$5,000 for second, \$2,500 for third, and \$1,000 each for fourth, fifth, and sixth places.

Christensen wants students to know that it doesn't have to be a billion dollar business idea. "Create a few jobs. It's great; it's the American way. The key is for each person to have a business in an area they are passionate about," he said.

Today is the deadline to sign up teams, but late registration is accepted. For more information and to sign up, visit www.cui.edu/bpc.

What are Concordians doing for break?



Cory Nakamura is a junior from Hawaii. His major is ESS. He plans on leaving campus to go to his friend's house in San Diego to celebrate Christmas and enjoy his break. He most looks forward to relaxing during the break and spending some time off from school.



Alex Ponce is a junior from Torrance. He is currently majoring in biology. Next Friday, he is leaving campus to go back to his hometown to be with his family for the holiday. Ponce is mostly looking forward to eating Christmas dinner.



Martin Thomas is a senior. His major is communication studies. He is from San Diego. Thomas will be going to San Diego for Christmas break to spend Christmas with his family. His favorite thing about Christmas is the love and the jokes that come with being around his family.



Raynesha Harris is a junior sociology major. She is from San Diego. She is most excited about seeing her family and spending Christmas with them because she rarely gets to see them.



Minh Dang is a sophomore from Fountain Valley. He is a psychology major. Since he is a commuter student, he is leaving campus next Friday immediately after classes. His favorite thing about going on break from school is sleeping and spending time with his family.



John Roach is a junior transfer student from Apple Valley. He is majoring in psychology. His plan is to spend Christmas with his family. This season, Roach is mostly looking forward to seeing his family and eating Christmas dinner with them because he misses having home cooked meals.

Conquering Core in Cambridge

This semester, 11 Concordia students are studying abroad at Westfield House in Cambridge as part of Concordia'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. This week, the students and professors share some of their favorite memories and observations about life in England.

MONICA JORDAN, CONTRIBUTOR & DR. SUSAN BACHMAN, CONTRIBUTOR

One thing we've all learned studying at Cambridge University--a lot of college is the same the world around. You go to lectures, take notes, read books and articles, write papers, have to remember to keep your phone charged, and figure out what to have for breakfast. Take our quiz to see how you rank, not in regular IQ but in CQ: identifying famous people who studied at Cambridge.

The grading scale at Cambridge is different here, so we will score you this way:

70-100% A. Smashing, dearie. Genius.

60-70 B. Cor blimey...You gave it all you're worth.

50-60 C. Easy peasy...Half's good...

40-50 D. A bit of a bodge, but not bad .

10-30 Good Go, ol' chap. Something's better than nothing.

- 1) Shakespearean award winner, but known to us as leafy, loyal and large-eyed Professor Sybill Trelawney in Harry Potter.
- 2) Heir to the throne of England, husband to Diana, then Camilla and father-in-law to Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge.
- 3) Master of Humor, History, and Silly Walks.
- 4) It all started with the boat trip to the Galapagos Islands...
- 5) Everyone's favorite genius doctor, but it was his American accent that gobsmacked everyone.
- 6) Actor with range, from Gandalf to the X-Men.
- 7) Scientist who struggled with fame and fallout from the Atom Bomb invention.
- 8) British gentleman or God of Mischief?
- 9) Actress in "The Mummy," but also wife of James Bond.
- 10) She's been known to monkey around...

Answers: 1) Emma Thompson 2) Prince Charles 3) John Cleese 4) Charles Darwin 5) Hugh Laurie 6) Ian McKellen 7) Robert Oppenheimer 8) Tom Hiddleston 9) Rachel Weisz 10) Jane Goodall

Concordia reacts to San Bernardino shooting

KENDRA SITTON
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

Last week on Dec. 2, 14 people were killed by a co-worker and his wife in a mass shooting in San Bernardino.

In what was only his third speech from the Oval Office, President Obama said on Dec. 6, "The terrorist threat has evolved into a new phase. As we've become better at preventing complex, multifaceted attacks like 9/11, terrorists turned to less complicated acts of violence like the mass shootings that are all too common in our society."

After addressing the ISIL threat abroad, Obama's speech outlined ways to prevent these mass shootings by terrorists in America by not allowing people on the no-fly list to buy a gun, making it more difficult to buy powerful assault weapons, and creating a stronger screening process for those who come to America without a visa.

Obama said, "Our success won't depend on tough talk, or abandoning our values, or giving in to fear. That's what groups like ISIL are hoping

for. Instead, we will prevail by being strong and smart, resilient and relentless, and by drawing upon every aspect of American power."

Although these efforts will help in the future, it is important not to forget the 14 grieving families in San Bernardino.

Concordia student Kana Tesfa, junior, wrote about victim Isaac Amanios on Facebook. She said, "I found out that Isaac Amanios had come to my mom's funeral years ago. That entire month had been such a blur that I am sorry to say that I do not remember you. But thank you for your kindness, thank you for your compassion, and thank you for your support. I am so sorry this happened to you, but I know that you are with God now. May you rest in peace. May you all rest in peace."

Isaac Amanios, Shannon Johnson, Bennetta Bet-Badal, Aurora Godoy, Larry Kaufman, Harry Bowman, Yvette Velasco, Sierra Clayborn, Robert Adams, Nicholas Thalasinis, Tin Nguyen, Juan Espinoza, Damian Meins, and Michael Wetzel will be remembered for a long time to come.



A memorial near the Inland Regional Center, in San Bernardino, California, where fourteen people were killed in a mass shooting last week. CREDIT PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE RAEDLE / GETTY/ newyorker.com

Christmas at Concordia

JASMINE POLEE
STAFF WRITER

As the colored lights, artificial snow and shiny decorations begin to pop up on and off campus, it becomes nearly impossible to forget that Christmas is coming. As the big day draws near and the Christmas spirit begins to take hold, there is no better way to express the love and reason for the season like gathering together with family and friends to celebrate. Here at Concordia, we give students and faculty several options to do just that.

Each year our university organizes three core events to celebrate the Christmas season: ASCUT's Concordia Christmas, the Music Depart-

ment's Concordia Christmas Concert and abbey west's Concordia Candlelight. Of the three, Concordia Christmas stands as one of the longest-held traditions on campus and it grows larger every year.

The goal of Concordia Christmas is to bring the students of Concordia together alongside the faculty, staff, alumni and the surrounding community to celebrate in a fun and interactive way. This year, the Who-ville-themed event featured rock walls, a zip-line, a dessert truck, and even a surprise guest appearance from Santa Claus, who came and took many pictures with the community.

"Going into the event, I wanted to see our campus and community interacting and being in fellowship

with each other," said Claire Brainard, sophomore student Senator. "I wanted people to have a place to enjoy some fun interactive activities and free food, all centered on the true meaning of Christmas." Keeping Christ a part of the celebration, one of the highlights of the event was the live nativity scene. "It reminded us that although we may have the Grinch and Santa out having fun and taking pictures, the real reason for the season is Jesus and his birth," Brainard said.

More opportunities are available to celebrate Christmas at Concordia. The Christmas concerts continue next weekend and Concordia Candlelight will be held next Tuesday. Concordia Candlelight focuses on bringing everyone together through worship. At

the Candlelight, there will be a service that includes a reading of the Nativity story and gifts for young children. During the service, there will be the singing of Christmas carols and the event will conclude with lighting of candles, followed by cookies and cider.

The Concordia Christmas concerts began last weekend and continue through this weekend as well. At the concerts, there will be over 225 musicians playing, four conductors, and over 2,000 attendees. The theme of the concert is "Love Came Down at Christmas."

"My hope for this event is that the audience will understand that 'Love Came Down at Christmas' through the birth of Jesus Christ," said Kara

Der, sophomore.

This concert is widely appreciated by those who attend. The concert will feature a combination of classic and creative arrangements. The collaboration of the choirs and musicians make for powerful pieces. "When they joined together for 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing,' I almost cried it was so good," said Sam Leanza, senior.

Tickets for this weekend's concerts can be purchased by contacting the Box Office at (949) 214-3418 or online at boxoffice@cui.edu. The next show will be held in the CU Center tonight at 7:30 p.m. and tomorrow at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Concordia Candlelight will take place on Tues., Dec. 15 in the CU Center at 7 p.m.

Girls and guys deliver perspectives on gift-giving

LINDSEY DELAS ALAS
STAFF WRITER

With Christmas right around the corner and finals coming even sooner, we caught up with what students on campus are doing to check people off of their Christmas gift lists.

Zack Moghaddam and Devlynn Chambers, both seniors, are focusing their Christmas shopping on their families. This Christmas, they are mainly shopping for their parents, grandparents and cousins. The ladies at Concordia are also focusing on family and close friends as well. Senior Amanda Mork, who you can find working on campus at Emendare, has her parents, brother, grandparents, boyfriend and a few friends she's shopping for and is finding it hard to find the perfect present for all of them.

Shea Frates, another senior, is

making things simple this season and focusing on the perfect gift for her mom. The level of difficulty when shopping for what exactly to get everyone was a tie between the

"The level of difficulty when shopping for what exactly to get everyone was a tie between the girls and guys. Moghaddam and Frates found shopping simple and their go-to is Amazon."

girls and guys. Moghaddam and Frates found shopping simple and their go-to is Amazon. They are able to shop from the comfort of their own homes and can avoid the hectic crowds at the mall where Chambers says he goes when looking for gifts.

Mork said, "Target! You can get everything there!" Target is known to be the place where you walk out with exactly what you *weren't* expecting to buy, but for Christmas, it can take care of all your holiday needs as a one-stop shop.

Chambers braves the chaotic malls and shops until he finds a gift for each person on his list.

The girls start shopping early and have their shopping done at least a week before the holiday, to relieve some of the stress that comes with last-minute shopping. Gift wrapping is also a priority for Chambers and Frates. Frates admits, "I want it to look

"The guys both agree that their ultimate Christmas gift this year is to simply be able to spend time with their families."

perfect," and Mork agrees that gift wrapping is very important when gift-giving.

Chambers said, "I'm a pretty

terrible person at wrapping gifts, but if other people can do it for me, awesome!" It looks like the outside is just as important as the inside when gift giving for the girls.

So what is on their Christmas lists? Frates' ultimate gift would be a spa day to relieve the stress of finals so that she can get ready to come back for her last semester. The guys both agree that their ultimate Christmas gift this year is to simply be able to spend time with their families. Chambers and Moghaddam aren't looking for the material things, but are just excited to end the semester so that they can be with their families.

When it comes to shopping this Christmas, both the guys and girls of Concordia have got their strategies in place and even though the guys tend to start and finish a little later, they'll definitely have their presents under the tree in time for Christmas morning.



Concordia students Amanda Mork, Shea Frates, Devlynn Chambers, and Zack Moghaddam

The Presidential Election of 2016

As a forum for the student body, The Concordia Courier allows students the opportunity to report on and express thoughts and opinions about issues they view as important. The Courier does not endorse candidates or organizations in connection with any political campaign or election. Opinions expressed by student journalists are their own and are not reflective of Concordia University Irvine.

Feel the Bern

KARINA DIEZ
STAFF WRITER

As the presidential election of 2016 quickly approaches, Bernie Sanders' ability to connect with the youth and appeal to millennials throughout the nation has become undeniable. Sanders' message has resonated with college students all the way from New York City, New York to Manoa, Hawaii, as well as in Irvine, California. Sanders' understanding and compassion for social issues is the driving force behind his younger backers.

At UCI, Sanders supporters have formed a group called the BernEaters. "What students learn in college courses about issues surrounding wage deprivation, lobbying, corporate media manipulation, economic injustice, racial injustice, access to healthcare, climate change, and the history behind the struggle for social justice all coincide with the message that Bernie Sanders expresses and has been consistent on for a very long time," said the BernEaters. "Sanders not only speaks about these issues; he has repeatedly taken action on them, demonstrating his commitment to the people's interests and putting the country first."

A little ways down the road, at our very own university, students are expressing their affinities for Sanders. "Bernie Sanders is appealing to young audiences across the country because of his authenticity; he is not your average politician," said Shea Frates, senior. "Bernie truly cares about the middle class and isn't afraid to say what needs to be said, even if his views aren't popular with the majority of Americans."

Sanders' empathy strikes a chord among the young adults of America be-

cause of their ability to connect with people from around the globe and recognize the struggles that perhaps do not affect them on a personal level, but impact the worldwide community. "I think the youth of today have noticed [the] deficiency in care for not only American citizens but also human beings," said Kana Tesfa, senior. "Because we are more aware of the inequality through [our] newfound technology, we witness the youth of today caring more about the entire population instead of just the individual."

Sanders has promised tuition-free public higher education, an absolute dream for the university student who has been living off Top Ramen for the past couple of years. "Bernie Sanders appeals to many millennials and college students because a large portion of the population has to manage an increasing rate of student loans," said Tesfa. "The idea that this debt could be lifted off the average college student's shoulders is extremely alluring."

Aside from agreeing with the political agenda that Sanders is pushing, his supporters truly believe that he will fulfill his declarations, if elected. "He understands that the campaign is not just about Bernie Sanders - it is about the people and the power of the people," said the BernEaters. "His consistency and care for the American people will bring the American people together, as well as change the image of the country on the world scope."

For more information on Bernie Sanders and his political platform, visit www.bernieanders.com. To view five updates each day about the Presidential Campaign, visit *The New York Times* "What to Know about the Presidential Race Today."

Defense Spending: Too Much of a Good Thing?

SAM LEANZA
CONTRIBUTOR

Originally published in The College Conservative, 11/17/2015

In the (Nov. 17) GOP Debate—what was arguably the first actual debate of the election season—one of the most fiery discussions was on defense spending policies. Naturally, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) walked the libertarian line against Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), with Paul arguing that defense spending was, at a certain level, not very "conservative." He boldly asked, mostly of Sen. Rubio, "Can you be a conservative, and be liberal on military spending?"

This audacious question sparked a fire under Sen. Rubio that prompted him to say, in one of the biggest lines of the night, that "I know that Rand is a committed isolationist; I'm not." He built his platform on the issue, claiming that "we can't even have an economy if we're not safe," and that "the world is a safer place when America is the strongest military power in the world."

Sen. Ted Cruz followed up in Reagan-esque fashion, remarking that "we have to defend this nation. You think defending this nation is expensive. See how expensive it becomes not defending it."

So how are "conservatives" supposed to think about defense spending? The field of potential candidates is all over the place on this particular issue.

We can break this down into three non-exhaustive categories of approach: isolationists, budget-minded expansionists, and pure expansionists

First, we have the isolationist: Sen.

Rand Paul. He tries to separate himself from a crowded field to argue that we spend too much on national defense. (I wouldn't cast this stone so fast, if I were him: just eight months ago, he proposed a plan that called for "a nearly \$190 billion infusion to the defense budget over the next two years—a roughly 16 percent increase.")

Our second category, represented by Sen. Cruz, consists of those who want to increase spending without increasing our gargantuan deficit.

Finally, we have our third category, represented by Sen. Rubio, that wants to increase defense spending significantly. Notice, however, that this third category lacks the caveats that appear in the first two.

Of the three options, Paul's is the only one that actually proposes a downsizing of our military spending. Paul probably justifies this position by disengaging the U.S. from a majority of its current global involvement, meaning that defense funds are being spent internally rather than externally. He emphasized this at the debate, claiming that "you can be strong without being involved in every civil war around the world." While this position may not win more hawkish Republicans, it opens him up to eager—but less radical—libertarians, as well as anti-war conservatives who feel alienated within the GOP.

With all of the terrible tragedies going on in the world, including recent events in Paris, we need to be ready. This cannot be doubted. But if our defense is that important, how do we pay for it? In my view, the clearest option for any real conservative is to cut frivolous spending, which would free up funds to protect America's top priority: its existence.

Jazzing up your life: Concordia Jazz Combo on display

CAMERON MCLEOD
STAFF WRITER

The Jazz Combo's concert was held at Good Shepherd Chapel on Mon., Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. The director, Dr. Tom Mueller, Assistant Professor of Church Music, displayed two ensembles to the student body. The concert was a relaxing time to appreciate the talent from all of the music.

Each ensemble played four separate songs from all walks of history. "Each ensemble is split up by skill and instrumentation," Mueller said.

The distinction between

both bands provided a separate and original sound for themselves. Together the ensembles provided excellent entertainment and a night to remember.

The first group had instruments ranging from flutes to banjos. The band performed classics like, "La Vie en Rose" and "Cantaloupe Island" from Herbie Hancock.

Accompanying the classics was a piece arranged by Nate Darlington, sophomore. Darlington's piece was a mix between bluegrass and jazz, titled "Salt Creek," which brought out a banjo. Darling-

ton dazzled the audience with his banjo skills, which were accompanied by the rest of the talented ensemble. The performance was a great time to see students' work in action.

After a small intermission, the next ensemble performed. This ensemble featured fewer performers, but retained a sound just as big as the first.

The Combo presented some of the finest musicians Concordia has to offer.

In addition to the students, a member from the community, Shawn Waggoner, played his tenor saxophone with the band. His involvement was ap-

preciated as he provided one of the pieces they performed. The piece was a wonderful tune, which gave way to show the talents of pianist Adam Dougherty, freshman, and drummer Chris Matthews.

The performers were able to show off their talents in a solo during the concert. Each solo was executed with great skill and precision.

Altogether, it was a great night and awesome experience. The ensembles played exceptionally well and performed to a very high standard.

Not only was there great music, but good energy from

the crowd as well. The night exemplified how dedicated these musicians are to their craft.

Mueller has done an amazing job getting these ensembles ready for their performances. Next semester there is another jazz concert planned for April 18 at 7 p.m.

While waiting for the next jazz performance, Concordia has other genres of music on display throughout the year. To check out all Concordia's Music Department has to offer, visit www.cui.edu/gomusic for more event listings and information.

Concordia continues mission in Guatemala

SAMANTHA PALMER
STAFF WRITER

Over Thanksgiving break, a team of Concordia students and faculty headed to Guatemala for a mission trip to bring the Gospel and clean water to the town of El Progreso, Guatemala.

The team included juniors Steven McCarthy and Kimmy Olivar, seniors Jordan Buuck, Jared Martin, April Hall, Ryan Fink, Hayden Killeen, and Taylor Quijada, and faculty members who led the trip Dr. John Norton, Professor of English, and Pastor Jonathan Ruehs, Associate Pastor, Outreach. Not only was the trip a success, but fellow CUI students also learned things they never expected.

During Chapel last Friday, the team shared their experiences and some of the things they will remember most about El Progreso.

Ruehs opened up the presentation in chapel with a few jokes about the bumpy “Indiana Jones” drive they had to make each day into the town piled in a van together. He also had a clip prepared that showed us

their drive, helping everyone understand that there was no exaggeration to comparing the roads to that of a ride with Indiana Jones. Ruehs gave time to some of the students to tell us a little bit about their experience. Junior Kimmy Olivar gave a heartfelt presentation about one of the mothers who lives in El Progreso and all the ways she sacrifices for the people she loves. “Even though she had nothing, she gave everything she had to her children and the people of El Progreso,” Olivar said.

Senior Hayden Killeen discussed the water filtration systems that they gave to the people of El Progreso and how it will bring better health to the village. He also mentioned the mini Vacation Bible School (VBS) that the team put on and the children who came every day were excited to learn. Killeen said that the time spent was valuable to the people of El Progreso. “I am so glad that I got to give them my time and I wouldn’t change it,” Killeen said.

It was clear to see that CUI had a great team aiding the people of El Progreso. Each of the students who voiced their stories had something

different to share in achieving their goal of building this new relationship. Senior Taylor Quijada said, “The people of El Progreso taught me what it means to be part of a community and how every person brings a different gift or contribution to it,” Quijada described how with the same goal in mind, they all took home a different lesson learned.

There are more opportunities to become a part of this team. Trips to Guatemala will be held three times a year over Thanksgiving, Spring, and Summer breaks. The next trip in Spring 2016 will offer an athletic camp along with the VBS. The Summer 2016 trip will team up with our Nursing Program to offer El Progreso residents medical checkups and immunizations that they do not have access to.

If you would like to make a donation to help for future trips, visit gofundme.com/tr6pytdw. More information on Concordia’s missions and how to get involved can be found at cui.edu/academicprograms/global-programs/global-outreach.

Top seven winter favorites

KAITLYN MILLER | STAFF WRITER

As finals week approaches, students can take comfort in their favorite Christmastime memories, as the stresses of the end of the semester begin to melt away. Concordia’s students have a lot to look forward to once Christmas break begins, including the following:

Starbucks holiday drinks

“I love Starbucks Peppermint White Mocha because it reminds me of my first love, my pet gerbil, Peppermint,” said junior Austin Webster.

Snow - even though we must travel somewhere else to get it

Freshman Jennifer Appling said, “I grew up in Colorado and I love all the memories of having snowball fights and drinking hot cocoa by the fire.”

Christmas lights

Junior Cameron McLeod loves getting a group of friends together with hot cocoa and piling into the car to go and judge who has the best Christmas lights.

Scarves, leggings and boots even though it’s only 60 degrees

Freshman Sarah Ladick said she loves wearing these things because “it is a way to accessorize and stay warm at the same time.”

Christmas music

Senior Tiffany Thompson said, “It is an indicator of the holiday season and always lets me know joyous things are coming.”

Spending time with family

“I like to spend time with my family over the holidays, because it reminds me of when I was younger and got to be around them all the time,” said sophomore Greg Warner.

Christmas!

Sophomore Michael Hammerle said, “Christmas was always clouded by my birthday, which is on the 26th. But when I got to high school, I began learning more about my faith. So now, I am a firm believer in the phrase ‘The reason for the season’ because I feel people are still clouded like I was about what Christmas is all about.”

How to find food without the Caf

KAYLA LARDNER
CAMPUS EDITOR

Food is a necessity for all human beings, college students included. But there is an epidemic arising for all college students who, by no fault of their own, have fallen into the trap of caf food. Caf food is always there, and although it may not always be a favorite, food is food.

Many college students’ grocery lists consist of 16-packs of soda, bags of chips for late night cravings with a few candy bars and energy drinks thrown in for good measure; thus, cooking is not really on their minds. But, as long as cafeterias are there, cooking doesn’t need to be occupying space in a brain flummoxed by ancient history, philosophical ideals, and calculus equations.

Unfortunately, I too have fallen prey to easy food and now that I am bracing myself to return home with only a fridge and a mother to turn ingredients into food, I have forgotten how that process works. I don’t know how to find food. As a starving college student, fast food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner is ridiculously expensive, and so finding food-like ingredients around the house and magically turning them into edible meals is my only option.

When my mother is home, I can ask her, but now that I’m an “adult”, food preparing is part of my responsibility. But, finding food-like substances is hard enough.

Apparently, we have things called pantries and cabinets which contain these substances, but due to my starvation, the search is just too much. Supposedly, there are things called supermarkets which also carry these substances, but I hear that these places take plastic cards or paper and metal tender discs as a way of paying for these things, so that won’t work either.

Basically, I’m in a pickle, no pun intended.

Now, my only choice to end my reign of hunger is to learn how to cook. But, this is difficult for someone



who can barely boil water. What I’ve started doing is something that was abhorrent to every fiber of my being: asking my mother for help. I realize that she does know how to turn ingredients into food, and there must be something that she can teach me.

Whenever she begins preparing dinner, I force myself to get off the couch, turn off Jeopardy, and actually learn something. It’s hard, but I’ve found that once you learn some basics beyond microwaving leftovers

and boiling pasta, cooking can be fun.

The wok has become my best friend, because with just a little oil, some vegetables, a bit of meat, and a dash of something extra, I can actually make food. As long as I don’t cut off all of my fingers in the process, the result actually tastes edible, even better than caf food most days. Once you get all of the ingredients in there, just stirring the wok can actually be fun.

I’ve grown to enjoy the slow cooker too. Its application is similar to the

wok in terms of ingredients. Cut up some veggies, add in some beans, some meat, and you have a simple soup or even a stew. You just have to add in water or a broth of some sort, but once you do that, you don’t even have to stir. It’s the lazy man’s meal. I am a lazy chef, but I am also an impatient one. The intensely enticing smell emanates from the crock pot and surrounds everything within a mile of the kitchen. Once that smell hits my nose, I just can’t wait a moment more

before needing to devour the entire meal, slow cooker and all. The slow part of the slow cooker is the downfall of any college kid meal.

Despite my newfound skills, I will probably revert back to boiling pasta and applying store bought sauce for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I have learned to love cooking, but cooking takes time away from Netflix and napping; time that I just can’t afford. I have learned one thing for certain: I can’t wait for caf food again.