



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

Volume 11, Issue 10

Concordia University Irvine

Friday, February 17, 2017

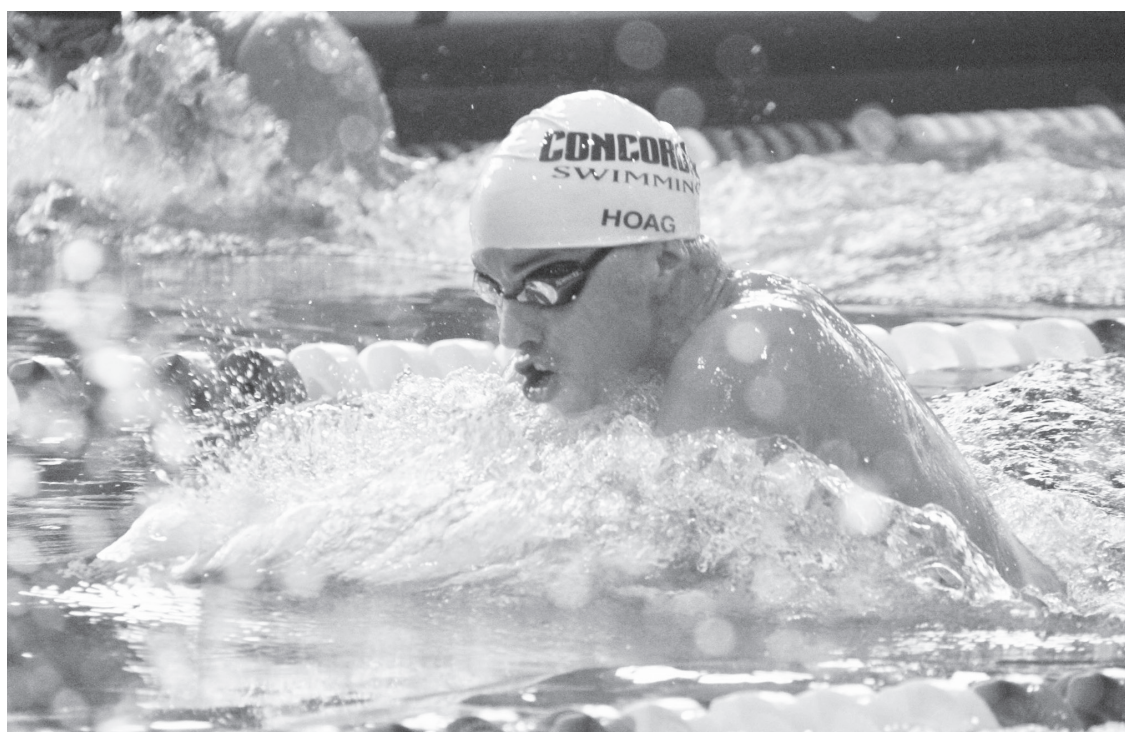
# Concordia Swimming and Diving: Breaking records and taking names

EMILY CHAN  
STAFF WRITER

Swim season has officially ended. Next year, 2018, will be the first year Concordia Swimming and Dive can compete in the NCAA Division II National Championships in North Carolina; however, let's look back on the accomplishments from this past season. The meets that the Eagles competed in this year were the Malibu Invitational, Pomona-Pitzer, Fairbanks Alaska, Collegiate Winter Invite, CBU Double Dual Meet, Biola Quad Meet and the Pacific Collegiate Swim Conference Championships.

Looking back at all of those meets, each of them different from the next, freshman Maxwell Wickens reflects, "My favorite meet was either the Alumni meet or Conference. The Alumni meet was a lot of laughing and good times but Conference was when all the hard work paid off for everyone."

According to Head Coach Jeff Boss, over half of the swim team this year was new. Most were freshman men and women, each of them positive and hard working. There were close to 50 student-athletes on the team this year, which is a large



Sam Hoag, photo credit: Minh Dang

group to manage, but the men's and women's team, for the ninth semester in a row, were awarded by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America, the Scholar All-American Award for success in the classroom. Meaning they had an average GPA above 3.0.

A few highlights in the pool was when CUI defeated the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in a dual meet and won the Collegiate Winter Invitational for the 4th year in a row.

At last week's event, the

Pacific Collegiate Swim Conference (PCSC) Championships at East Los Angeles College in Monterey Park, CA on Feb. 7-11, the teams scored a huge achievement and a majority of the team achieved new PRs. According to cuieagles.com, after the four-day event, the women's team placed seventh out of 11 teams and the men's team placed fourth out of six teams in the event.

Some other notable achievements made at this event was that Senior Men's Captain, Ryan Caverly broke a school record on the first day in the 1,000 Freestyle event with a time of 9:42.96 and on the second day in the 500-yard Freestyle with a time of 4:36.66. "Breaking two school records was something that I will never forget. Since I've been a freshman at Concordia, I always wanted to break the top ten (times list of Concordia History) in the 500 and 1000, but never imagined that I would claim the top time and have the school record." Caverly said.

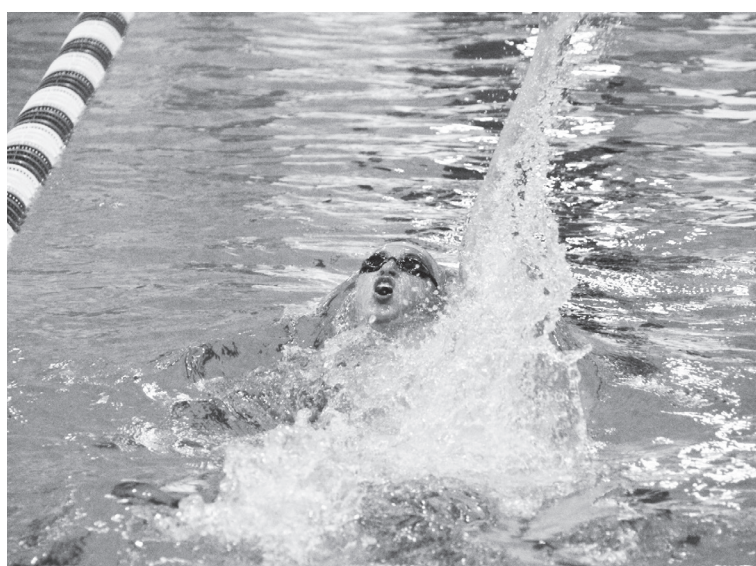
Another standout senior was Dylan Alba. He placed second out of eight in the 50-yard Free-

style with a time of 20.27, placed second in the 100-yard Freestyle with a time of 44.78 and broke a school record for the 100-yard Freestyle on the last day with a 4:41.90. Caverly and Alba broke a total of three school records at this meet.

Also with a solid performance, junior, Baliee Blanke-meier achieved a time of 4:36 in the 400-yard IM event and a time of 2:06.07 in the 200-yard Butterfly. Competing for the first time in the PCSC Cham-

pionships and coming out third out of 24 athletes in the 200-yard Freestyle event with a time of 1:54.87. Freshman Madeline Dodge explains, "It felt so great placing third my freshman year, I didn't go into the meet thinking that could happen but when I saw on the scoreboard that I was third, I couldn't think of anything else besides how awesome it felt!"

Overall, this season was a lot of fun, filled with hard work and many enjoyable memories. Senior Women's Captain Maile Wilson explained, "The team dynamic that our head coach, Jeff Boss, our assistant coach, Kayle Morris, and our team captains have built this past year is something that is very unique and special. Swimmers are unlike any athletes - we stare at a black line for four hours a day, swimming endlessly to essentially race for a matter of minutes and/or seconds. We are extremely disciplined and mentally tough. Rain or shine, through injuries (serious or not), we are out there swimming to obtain the goals we set for ourselves." I think this phrase sums it up the best, "CUI Swim and Dive is a more than just a program - it's a family."



Caden Carver, photo credit: Minh Dang



Jessica Wilson, photo credit: Minh Dang



# Introducing the 2017-2018 ASCUI Executive Board

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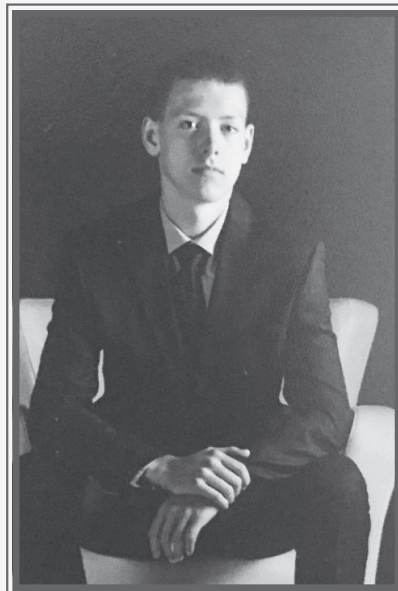
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## Track teams race into Concordia record books

JAKE PENSE  
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's track program had a fantastic opening to their year with four record-breaking performances from multiple athletes at Westmont College during the Sunshine Open. The Women's Track Team started in Santa Barbara with a stellar performance in both the field events as well as on the track.

Sophomore Sarah Herron took first place in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.77 seconds. She earned a new school record. Fellow Eagle D'Oni Evans, sophomore, took a prized second place in the competitive race. Herron was pleased to share the podium

with her teammate and soon also shared the new entries on the record book with other Eagles as well.

With a new school record on the track, the women's team set their sights on the field events next. Sophomore Tamlyn Kurata had an impressive showing in the Javelin. She tossed a personal best of 40.45 meters, which not only gave her a first place nod but a spot in the school record books. The records did not stop there for the women's team field events. Sophomore Sarah Stafford stunned the competition when she heaved the weight toss 15.86 meters. She took home first place and solidified her place in Con-

cordia's records.

The women's team's prize-winning performance was difficult to follow, but the men did not miss a beat. Sophomore Josh Fry tied a personal best clearance in the pole vault with a leap of 4.70 meters. This jump was good enough to land him the second spot on the podium. Freshman George Plantenga kept the medals pouring in with a second place finish in the weight throw; he was able to launch it 12.80 meters.

Moving off of the field events and onto the track, the men's distance medley got things moving with an impressive third place finish. They ran in 10:18.50 minutes, a good time, but the competition was stiff. The star who emerged from the men's team was junior Chris Henderson, who captured a first place podium spot in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.92 seconds. Henderson's time set a new Eagles school record and rounded off the fantastic weekend for both teams.

At the Concordia University-Nebraska indoor meet, Stafford shined bright as she broke her own school record with a 16.60-meter weight toss. Henderson had another record-breaking performance at the Soka University Indoor Qualifier. He broke his own school record in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of



Westmont's On Your Marks Meet, courtesy of cuieagles.com

8.83 seconds. In addition to that record breaking performance he also etched his name in the school record book in the triple jump

with a jump of 13.83 meters. Concordia's track team will be back in action on Feb. 17-18 for the Joe Davies Classic in Golden Colorado.



Soka University Qualifier, courtesy of cuieagles.com



Concordia University Irvine Athletics logo, courtesy of cuieagles.com

## Men's Volleyball: eyes set on the prize

ALBERTO GONZALEZ  
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Men ended a 2015-16 season well with big wins over Ivy League powerhouse Princeton and two wins over past NAIA foe, Hope International. The Eagles had a successful 10-win season. With another year left of ineligibility from the NCAA II playoffs, the team has put together a grueling 2016-17 schedule.

Sophomore Hunter Howell, a bright light in the future of the Men's Volleyball Team and current starter explained, "We want what is best for our future. The coaches have put together something they know will only make

us better and prepare us for down the road. We will be ready for the 2018 postseason." Howell, a 6-7 sophomore recorded 74 kills his freshman year which led all underclassmen.

This season did not start off with the same non-conference schedule like the previous year, and the Eagles struggled through losing three straight matches before starting the gauntlet of games in January. Unlike some of the easier competition the Eagles played early in the season last year, this year began with games against elite programs such as University of Southern California (USC), University of California, Irvine (UCI) and Brigham Young

University (BYU) who each beat the Eagles. But battling against some of the top talent in the country has only helped the team as they prepare to compete fully in NCAA II next year.

Despite a brutal schedule, the Eagles now have a 11-7 record, a solid bounce back from their early struggles. The Eagles have been led by young talent, Howell, and the mature junior, Jonathan Predney, who have each been lighting up the scoreboard. Howell, who hardly had 110 points all season a year ago, has 110 points midway through the 2017 season. Howell said, "I feel like my improvement is owed to my coaches and my teammates for believing in me and all the work we did in the off-season. We didn't do all those sets of bench for no reason."

He is up at 6 a.m. week after week for a vigorous weight training program. As a freshman, Howell was only 145 lbs, now he is a solid 175 and growing. Weight lifting partner and redshirt freshman Alec Krilis said, "Hunter is a beast. He is like a train that never runs out of fuel. His stamina and energy is unmatched." There is no ceiling for this young standout. The program contains an exciting future for him and the rest of the team as they battle new competitors.



Eagles vs. Princeton, courtesy of cuieagles.com



Men's Volleyball vs. Merced, courtesy of cuieagles.com



Eagles vs. Irvine Valley College, courtesy of cuieagles.com



# Students debate validity of immigration executive order

RYAN CORSO  
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 27, President Trump signed an executive order called "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry to the United States," better known as the immigration ban. This executive order bars citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States for the next 90 days and suspends the admission of all refugees for 120 days. The countries included are: Syria, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Iraq, Yemen and Somalia.

This is Trump's first executive order to face objection from the judiciary branch. Initially, a judge out of Boston ruled in favor of Trump's ban. However, shortly after, U.S. District Senior Judge James Robart of Seattle issued a nationwide restraining order blocking the travel ban put in place by President Trump. It is likely that the judicial path that this order will take is just beginning.

Trump's administration took the decision to the 9th Circuit Court for appeal. Unfortunately for Trump, the 9 circuit court upheld the previous federal court's decision. The White House Administration has begun the process to appeal that decision as well. With the persistence of Trump's administration and that of the opposition, it's almost inevitable that this issue will make its way through all remaining courts to the Supreme Court. In

fact, historically speaking, the 9th Circuit Court is the most overturned.

The immigration ban has received a lot of attention and the issue has been highly talked

about on campus.

Senior Nadia Steck gave her perspective and spoke specifically about the countries listed on the ban. "The language of the order cites 9/11 and terror at-

ious administrations." In ways, Marvin is correct about the climate Christians may face. A study by the Pew Research Center, revealed that Christians face harassment in 108 countries. The same report

one religious group to another under the pretenses that one group is a greater victim of violence. This prioritization also seeks to cast doubt and paint all Muslims as a homogenous group."

Another major issue that UNHCR's data points out is that Christians don't often reveal their identities. UNHCR data indicates that in Syria, 1.5 percent of the 1 million refugees are Christian. In Jordan, 0.2 percent of the 655,000, in Iraq, 0.3 percent of the 228,000, and in Egypt, 0.1 percent of the 115,000 refugees are Christian. None of these are proportional to the population. Ultimately registering with the United Nations is a necessary step to be considered a refugee and if Christians aren't doing so then they remain ineligible.

Many Syrian Christians have fled to Lebanon because of the long-standing links between the two countries and the support of the Lebanese government. Yet, the issues over discrimination and immigration are mysteries that have yet to be solved, as the conflict over Trump's ban continues in the United States.

In the meantime, it's important that we analyze both sides of the issue and take into consideration all effects of the ban. It's not only an issue regarding national security but the lives of millions of individuals fleeing war-torn regions. For more information visit [www.unhcr.org/](http://www.unhcr.org/)



Courtesy of CNN.com

about on campus. Yaw Kyeremateng, Director of Forensics Individual Events shared his concerns on the personal impacts that the ban had on individuals during its short period of activation saying law abiding people may "fall victim to this."

Senior Luke Marvin defended the legality of the ban, stating it's "Legal under Title 8 Section 1182(f) titled "Suspension of entry or imposition of restrictions by President," and clarified that it is also, "aligned with the threat assessment of the previ-

ous administrations." Some of the more controversial details on the topic were in regards to religion, an area Marvin and Steck had much more to say. "One criticism of Trump's executive order is that it will give priority to Christian refugees," said Marvin.

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# Lady Gaga, the real Super Bowl MVP

FRANKIE RUBINO  
STAFF WRITER

Fans everywhere gathered around the television to watch the New England Patriots take on the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI. The game took place on Sun., Feb. 5 at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas, regularly known as home to the Houston Texans. While the game proved to be an exciting comeback victory for the Patriots, and even made history as the first Super Bowl game to go into overtime, football fans and non-sports fans alike were drawn in by the equally exciting half-time performance given by pop-sensation Lady Gaga.

The thirty-year-old pop star rose to fame with her outlandish sense of fashion and catchy dance anthems, and today, is a household name. For her Super Bowl performance, Gaga dazzled fans by rappelling from the stadium ceiling, undergoing elaborate costume changes and singing a mash-up of patriotic songs and classic hits in her 13 minute performance.

Concordia students praised the performance as well. "I loved every second of the Super Bowl [performance] because she played songs that everyone knew! The whole house was rocking, even the parents that were there," said Makayla Predney, senior.

Despite all the movement and excitement that took place throughout Gaga's performance, it seemed that the highlight of the show was when Gaga finished singing, dropped her microphone, and jumped off of the stage in a dramatic exit. Seniors Sabrina Manriquez and Chelsey Gray shared similar opinions that Gaga's "mic drop" moment and departure from the stage left a lasting impression of the performance.

Another notable aspect of Gaga's performance was the overall themes of nationalism and unity. The lack of a political agenda being present in the performance came as a pleasant surprise to many and a refreshing change amidst a time of vicious political strife. While some found hidden

political threads, virtually all critics agree that the messages were not overt.

Senior Amina Suljic was one who appreciated the themes in Gaga's performance that did not push a political agenda. "I thought her performance was great and I am happy it wasn't political at all," said Suljic. Gaga set the stage with a tribute to America with a combination of "God Bless America" and "This Land is Your Land." She followed with preaching a message of unity and self-acceptance, singing her popular anthem "Born This Way."

The outspoken star, who openly endorsed Hillary Clinton in the recent presidential election, taught Americans an important lesson with this performance: the American people can all come together, regardless of who won the election, to celebrate the traditions of our country and accept one another's differences.

Gaga's half time performance left an impression that far outlast Super Bowl Sunday. Gaga was up for the challenge, delivering an

elaborate performance and showing us that she is an ever-changing presence in the music industry today. Most importantly, her performance let the Super Bowl be what it is: an opportunity to indulge on chips and guacamole, and not a political rally.

Gaga will be kicking off her

"Joanne" world tour this year, and it is safe to say that following this performance, fans in attendance will be in for a great show. Gaga will play two shows at The Forum in Inglewood, California on August 8 and 9. For additional tour information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.ladygaga.com](http://www.ladygaga.com).



Lady Gaga performing at Super Bowl LI, courtesy of Us Weekly (Patrick Smith/Getty Images)





Christopher Wren Library, Trinity College, Reading Room, one of the first designed with huge windows (1676-95) to give maximum light. (Wren Library)

## Have you got the stomach for London's "Cereal Killer"?

*Semester by semester, Concordia students study abroad at Westfield House as part of Concordia's Enduring Questions and Ideas (Q&I Core) Cambridge program. Under the instruction of CUI professors Dr. James and Dr. Susan Bachman, these students study English and History, attend Cambridge University lectures, and take part in other required and elective courses offered by Westfield House of Theological Studies. Each week, the students or professors share with Courier readers some of their favorite observations about life and study in England.*

KIMBERLY GAONA

Imagine you have just flown into London. Quick, name the top three popular destinations you'd like to see. If you're like us in the Cambridge Program, you'd like to see Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, London Eye, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

If you are interested in upscale restaurants or the London food scene you might plan a trip to one of the restaurants of celebrity chefs Gordon Ramsey or Jamie Oliver. I consider myself a "from-scratch" cook and make my own stuffed peppers and tortas de papa (herbed potato pancakes). I would have never guessed that I'd enjoy visiting an unusual cafe called The Cereal Killer.

The Cereal Killer Cafe has its niche of every imaginable type of breakfast cereal, from the super healthy to the super sugary. This place has recent-



Mel Malanowski and Kimberly Gaona in front of a sample of the cereal offerings at the cafe, photo credit: Mel Malanowski

ly become a popular stop for both tourists and London natives.

Nestled strategically on a



Beds, Bookshelves, and vintage kids TV welcome customers into a comfortable setting, photo credit: Mel Malanowski

side street in Shoreditch, an inner city district on the east end of London, The Cereal Killer Cafe puts you in the cen-

ter of the hipster side of London. The area itself is plastered with modern and in-your-face murals, street art and highly

fashionable shops.

The outside of the cafe looks professional, business-like, white and black, while the inside explodes with color and images that take you back to childhood. Nobody can resist dozens of cereal boxes overflowing the wall behind the counter. You can't help but like a place that offers great cereal and takes you back to a less frantic time of life.

They offer wide variety of cereal ranging from American Classics like Captain Crunch, Fruit Loops, Fruity Pebbles, Cheerios, or for the healthy minded, some granola. They also offer a large variety of British Classic cereals

as well like Shreddies, Country Crisps, and Coco Pops. The British knock-offs—we gave them a pass.

For the really adventure-some foodie with a sense of humor the Cereal Killer Cafe provides a variety of different cereal cocktails with fun and unique names such as Unicorn Poop, Shooty Shooty Bang Bang, Bowloccino, and Sticky Monkey. Bowloccino is where cereal meets cappuccino. The Cereal Killer Cafe does to cereal what Gordon Ramsay did to British cuisine, reinventing the way people eat.

The Cafe offers about 15 different types of milk to suit everyone's dietary restrictions. This cafe transforms an ordinary and dull breakfast into gourmet cereal.

The whole place offers a

sort of kids' playroom vibe, while the music piped in is similarly nostalgic and mostly 90s grunge. The staff wears cereal print onesies that adds to their 90s theme.

The two-story cafe gives plenty of room for customers to enjoy their cereal. Beds with superhero sheets replace chairs, and the whole decor brings back nostalgic childhood memories. Multiple old fashioned televisions looped through vintage cartoons.

The cafe's cereal paraphernalia, decorated with family-friendly DVDs, bobbleheads, vintage milk bottles, all give the place a homey and comfortable feel.

Compared with buying your own cereal and milk at a



The Cereal Killer Cafe, a new London destination, courtesy of [www.cerealkillercafe.co.uk](http://www.cerealkillercafe.co.uk)

grocery store, paying 5 pounds (\$7.50) for a bowl of Lucky Charms or Rice Krispies seems steep, but we were paying for the atmosphere, and it was well worth it.

## Beyond the politics: humanitarian crisis in Aleppo, Syria

DIEGO PEREZ  
STAFF WRITER

Since Thurs., July 19, 2012, Aleppo, Syria has been at war. Aleppo is located 30 miles south of the Turkish border. Since the civil war started, there has been a constant struggle with the people in Aleppo. According to Forbes, "Some 217 of 422 schools in eastern Aleppo are either destroyed, damaged or inaccessible."

With children being left out of school and the recent bombings, Aleppo is in dire circum-

stances. Qatari broadcasting network, Al Jazeera, explains, "There is no food and they are running out of water. No one can afford to buy a piece of bread because the prices are too high and people are eating one meal of rice and mint, or one packet of instant noodles a day." Despite the hopes of Aleppo becoming a better place, there are constant bombs that continue to deteriorate the city.

As often occurs with war, many individuals who had no engagement in the war

whatsoever, are still affected. "I think it is truly sad that so many people have been caught in the crossfire," said Richard Ewell (15'), Co-director of Debate. A lot of the people who have been casualties in this conflict have been civilians who don't really pledge allegiance to the rebels or the Syrian government, but have been systematically targeted nonetheless." Politics and policy aside, it is universally unfortunate for innocent individuals to be attacked. "It certainly is a tragedy when you can't survive

in the place that you live, and you cannot be sure of a place that you can go," said Dr. Clinton Armstrong, Associate Professor of History.

Many people have had the same thought: what can we do? "Stay informed, pray and serve our neighbor to the best of our ability depending upon our vocation individually, and in the community in which we live in the here and now," said Dr. Armstrong.

While Aleppo and other places in the world are facing terrible times, we must come

together to make the effort to protect everyone's safety. "I think supporting refugees is generally a good thing, I feel this is an easy way to help the people who are victims in violence in Syria," Ewell elaborated.

If we all come together in the time of crisis, a devastating situation can bring unity instead of division. Organizations already working to help victims of the war on the ground in Syria are Preemptive Love ([preemptivelove.org](http://preemptivelove.org)) and World Relief ([worldrelief.org](http://worldrelief.org)).





SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18  
4:30 P.M.

The Concert Handbells and Spirit Bells of  
Concordia University  
are joined by  
Bellissimo of Redlands Adventist Academy  
Mater Dei High School  
Pacific Bells

Each ensemble rings its own selections,  
culminating in a mass ring.

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## Handbells at Concordia: The upcoming concert and national honor

RYAN KETCHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Tomorrow, Sat., Feb. 18, marks the 27th annual Handbell Invitational Concert. The event welcomes different schools to showcase their best songs. This year we have Mater Dei High School, Bellissimo from Redlands Adventist Academy, and a local group called Pacific Bells. Concordia will have our Spirit Bells, Resound! and Concert Handbells playing. Dr. Herbert Geisler, Professor of Music and director of the handbell program, is excited to keep up the Handbell Invitational's long tradition.

The Concordia handbell programs have been some of the top programs in the nation for the past

several years. Geisler founded the handbell program at the University of Michigan and his many years of work with music, and handbells especially, has made the program at Concordia very successful.

This year, the Concert Handbells group was invited to the National Handbell Seminar in Anaheim. To qualify, the Concert Handbells sent in a video of their performance and was accepted as one of the outstanding groups, alongside top programs from Hong Kong to Australia.

"Some of the best will be in Anaheim and it is truly an honor to be asked to perform," Geisler said.

The Handbell Invitational Concert prom-

ises to be a worthwhile event, and audience members can look forward to a polished performance shaped by focused practice twice a week for the past month. Feb. 18 won't be your typical handbell performance. "We will mix in a few jokes and a few skits," Geisler said.

Typically, there are only two handbell concerts a year held at Concordia so you won't want to miss it. Come out to the CU Center and support our handbell program and see what our nationally recognized program can do.

The Handbell Invitational Concert 2017 takes place this Saturday at 4:30 p.m. in CU Center.

## Concordia Choir Concert prepares singers for summer tour in Germany

SYDNEY FINCHER  
STAFF WRITER

On Fri., Feb. 24, the annual Concordia Choir Spring Concert will be held here on campus in the CU Center. The concert covers a repertoire ranging from classical Bach composed in 1733 to more contemporary music from composers like Moses Hogan whose most recent work was done in the early 2000's. This assortment of selections articulates the Concordia Choir's diverse set of musical skills.

Dr. Michael Busch, Concordia Choir Director, hand selected each of the concert's selections. After the concert, the choir plans to take these same pieces to Germany this summer for the 500 anniversary of the Reformation, the time famous for Martin Luther's nailing

of the ninety-five Theses. While the tour will mostly be in Germany, the choir will be making an appearance in Austria as well. This nine day tour will visit places like Berlin, Munich, and many historical sites throughout Germany.

Kierstyn Jacobs, junior, says she enjoys the Concordia Choir and is looking forward to this concert. Jacobs is a talented soprano and has been singing in choirs most her life. While she often listens to contemporary folk music to get her through the day, Jacobs thinks there's an appeal to choir music that can grow on listeners. "I like classical music because it allows the music to speak for itself," said Jacobs. "Even if you don't enjoy classical music, this concert will be very diverse and entertaining."

This group of 60 students comes together to praise God every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through the hymns and work assigned. Looking forward to the Germany tour ahead of her, Annie Demuch, junior, is "excited to take her music elsewhere." This concert is special to her because it showcases what the choir is bringing to the table in Germany.

The Feb. 24 concert is free for students, but reserve your seats fast because this annual concert has been known to sell out. The Concordia Choir will be performing a similar concert during a mini tour the following Sun., Feb 26, in San Diego. So kick off your Spring Break by sitting back and relaxing to some awesome music sung by your fellow Eagles.



Home Concert  
Friday, February 24, 2017 • 7:30pm

Concordia University Center for Worship and Performing Arts  
1530 Concordia West, Irvine  
Tickets: [www.cui.edu/GoMusic](http://www.cui.edu/GoMusic)





## Library is setting up blind dates—with books!

HOLLY SPENCER  
STAFF WRITER

Bummed you didn't have a date this Valentine's Day? It's not too late! The Library is setting you up on a blind date—with a book! From now until March 8, the "Blind Date with a Book" display will be up in the center of the Library near the stairs to the lower level. The table features a variety of genres including fantasy, drama, humor and short stories. "Most of the books are from our popular reading section," said Laura Dubell, Instruction Outreach Librarian. She said the

books are purposefully not academic. "It's supposed to be a quick read," said Dubell.

The display is decorated in amorous reds and pinks, with the books wrapped in brown paper and red ribbon. To give you a clue about the book, the genre and first sentence are written on the front. Other than that, it truly is a blind date. Once you've chosen your book, make sure to check it out at the desk. After that, you can "date" the book up to for three weeks.

According to Dubell, "Blind Date with a Book" is hoping to promote "the

Library as a place where students can hang out, not just a quiet study area." Alisa Pimentel, freshman and Library Student Assistant, said that she visits the Library "three to four times per week outside of work." She already went on a blind date with a book and was pleasantly surprised with her pick. Pimentel said, "Look out for classics like 'The Hobbit' and 'The Great Gatsby.'" There are about 50 books ready to be checked out, so feel free to date the books again and again. But, if another cover catches your eye, they won't mind if they see you

"checking out" other books.

"Blind Date with a Book" first started last year and the Library was eager to bring it back this year. "We're really excited about this display. This is probably our biggest display that we do throughout the year," said Dubell. Dubell also expressed that the Library is seeking to expand its popular reading section. She said if she were to check out a blind date book, she would choose Historical Fiction. "That's definitely my favorite."

It can be difficult to find time to read for pleasure in college, but exercise some

self-love this month and give your brain a break from academic books. Stop by the Library before March 8 to check out one of these hot items and take them for a date. To find out more in-

formation about upcoming events in the Library, follow their Instagram account@concordiabiblio. For more information on the Library's hours, please visit [cui.edu/library](http://cui.edu/library).



Photo Credit: Holly Spencer

## Be a Green Dot Bystander: stopping assault

PAIGE HEISER  
STAFF WRITER

The annual Green Dot Bystander Certificate Training was held in the RPC on Wed. Feb. 8. The training was intended to help students learn how to safely step into and prevent different high-risk situations such as: stalking, sexual assault and violence in relationships. Along with the presentation, the students were given a free Green Dot t-shirt, dinner and dessert. The two hour

presentation described different situational examples involving stalking or sexual assault acts. The training allowed students to learn how to make smart decisions and utilize different tactics in order to stop violence. The teaching stressed the benefits of being an active bystander and stepping in when someone is in need.

The Peer Health Educators: Alyssa Braun, sophomore, Stephanie Goodrich, junior, and Paige Heiser, sophomore, hosted the

event in order to educate the student body on what to do. Braun said, "The most valuable information I learned at Green Dot was that there are many tactics you can use to intervene in a situation that seems it could get violent... I think these tools are valuable for students to know so that anyone can be an active bystander and help cause positive change."

The Green Dot training teaches students ways to help intervene in situations

that would otherwise lead to negative outcomes. Goodrich said, "The most valuable piece of information I've learned from the training was how to safely step into a situation according to my personality." Even if you aren't an extrovert, you can still intervene in low risk ways, which can ultimately save someone from harm. Some of the tips that were addressed in the training were: directly asserting yourself if the situation

seems aggressive, using techniques to distract from the situation and knowing that even as a bystander, you should help someone in need and be assertive. "I think this event does a really good job of giving students the tools they need to be an active bystander. Whether they are outgoing or not, there are different ways for them to intervene," said Braun.

Goodrich has been a part of Peer Health and has been teaching about Green Dot

for two years. "My favorite part about Green Dot was interacting with different people and learning about their connections to the event," said Goodrich. It is important to educate students about sexual assault and how to be an active bystander. Being an active bystander can help save a person from a horrible situation. Approximately six students, all women, showed up to the Green Dot event, but those six ladies can make a huge difference on campus.

## Global Village offers job-hunting advice for students with international experience

ZIXUAN WANG  
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 8, Global Village held a Professional Development night for students looking to use their international experience to improve their career prospects. Dr. Dan Waite, Executive Director of Global Programs, who has lived in over 40 countries, hosted the event with students from Global Village in the hopes of highlighting the importance of international experience.

"This event isn't only for international students," said Dr. Cheri Chan, Assistant Director of International Student Success. Half the students who attended were Americans. "This speech was open to everyone who has international travelling experience [and] want to use that experience to build up a profile," said Chan.

Waite understands the many challenges facing soon-to-be graduates. According to Waite, statistics show that 80% of all college graduates aim to make

\$25,000 a year or above, but only 50% of them achieve this goal. International experiences allow students to tell employers who they really are by setting them apart from other applicants.

In order to use time abroad to its full potential, Waite offers three pieces of advice. First, students need to learn how to connect with the real world through meeting people from other cul-

tures. Second, students need to know what they are passionate about. And third, they need to be able to discuss their life's mission in the right way. A life mission would express three objectives: one's interests and how they relate to the world's most profound needs and resources. Ideally, goals should fulfill all three objectives. Once students have set a goal, they can begin searching for jobs

which allow them to reach their goals.

Once students actively begin to search for jobs after graduation, Waite said that, "there are seven important qualities employers are looking for." These qualities are critical thinking and problem-solving skills, the ability to work with people, adaptability, creativity, communication skills, accessing information and

curiosity. Those qualities may be difficult to develop. However, problem-solving abilities, communication skills and the curiosity to try new things often develops naturally in a new environment.

When applications require letters of recommendation, students should tell the reference their dreams and goals so whomever is writing the letter better understands who the student is. This personal touch allows the student to stand out from competitors without international experience.

If you are interested in incorporating stories from your time abroad into your professional experience or if you'd like to learn more about Global Village, keep your eye out for similar nights coming soon. "We are thinking about having more events like this in the future," Chan said. For more information on the International Studies Department, go to [cui.edu](http://cui.edu) for program information and contacts.



Photo Credit: Kendra Sitton



# Netflix Reviews: Black Mirror

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

BRADEN DELANNOY  
STAFF WRITER

Netflix has become known for their daring original content including shows like "House of Cards," "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "Stranger Things" and many more. On Oct. 21, 2016, Netflix released a third season of their sleeper hit, "Black Mirror." A strange mixture of science fiction, satire, psychological drama and suspense thriller, "Black Mirror" stands out as a show unafraid to swing big and take risks. "It's a show that doesn't

stick to conventional norms and is okay with going past people's comfort zones to give a narrative on our society," said Jordan Kirby, senior.

"Black Mirror" premiered on Channel 4 in the United Kingdom on Dec. 4, 2011 and was created by Charlie Brooker. The series had two seasons and a Christmas special. After seeing relatively high streaming numbers, Netflix decided to order 12 original episodes.

Of the many Netflix original series, "Black Mirror" is easily the most original. It's an anthology series, mean-

ing each episode functions as a self-contained, stand-alone story with a unique cast, setting and plot separate from the rest of the series. But, "Black Mirror" demands more than a casual viewing and isn't for the faint of heart.

"Black Mirror" sets episodes in an alternative present or future and takes a blunt look at technology's relationship to modern society. The first episode of the first season, "The National Anthem" explores how people are glued to technology and miss what's going on around them as a result.

The commentary on this issue is grotesque, but incredibly poignant. Without spoiling any major plot points, the British Prime Minister's beloved Duchess is kidnapped. The group behind the kidnapping then demands the Prime Minister perform a lewd act on live television as ransom and a way to ensure her safe release.

Every episode explores an aspect of technology and how people and culture are shaped by the devices around them. In "Be Right Back" characters use social media to communicate with deceased loved ones, and "The Entire History of You" explores what it'd be like



Courtesy of twitter.com

if people had the ability to re-watch and analyze memories.

I encourage the hesitant to look beyond the disturbing plot points in order to see the larger message the series is trying to convey. It asks the question, can the promises of technology mask humanity's corrupt nature? "Black Mirror" seems to think the answer is no. Humanity can go far, but there will always be irrevocable issues throughout history and into our future.

While the series has a bleak opinion of the future, it's a cautionary tale. A warning of things possible and not of things already passed. Ad-

ressing societal possibilities and trying to learn from them is the first step to towards societal improvement and understanding what can be done to make the world a better place. "Black Mirror" gives us the opportunity to see that ignorance is not always bliss.

"Black Mirror" is everything that television should be: entertaining, binge-worthy, thought-provoking and reflective of all humanity's successes and failures. Be prepared for adult subject matter and situations, but, equally, brace for interesting and thought-challenging topics.



Courtesy of pinoyexchange.com

## FOWL LIVING

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