



# THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

Volume 11, Issue 4

Concordia University Irvine

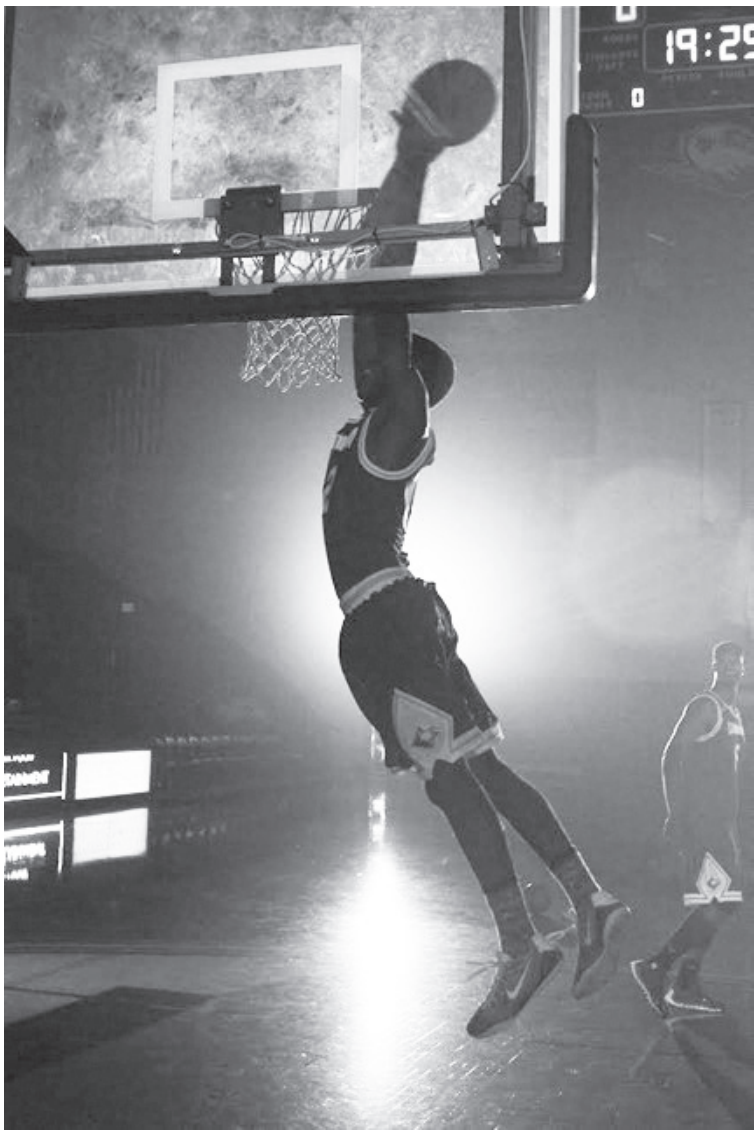
Friday, October 21, 2016

## Countdown to Midnight Madness!

DARBY SCOTT  
STAFF WRITER

With basketball season approaching, one of Concordia's most popular annual traditions is finally upon us. It's official, Midnight Madness is tonight. In accordance with the tradition, the pre-party will begin at 9:30 p.m. outside of the CU Arena and the doors of the gym will open at 10:30 p.m. Although many Concordia students have had the honor of attending previous Midnight Madness events, Head Stunt and Cheer Coach, Amy Haney, said tonight will be bigger and better than ever before.

For students who have yet to attend Midnight Madness, you're in for a treat! The purpose of Midnight Madness is to bring the student population together through their excitement over basketball season. After the gym doors open, players and coaches from both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams will be introduced, the cheer and dance teams will perform and students will have a chance to win prizes in interactive games. Haney and the Screaming Eagles have worked hard to ensure this year exceeds expectations. "Every year," said Haney, "Screaming Eagles tries to stick with tradition while incorporat-



Basketball player dunking (courtesy of cuieagles website)

ing new and exciting aspects." This year's upgrades include bigger prizes and more (free!) food at the pre-party. Haney expects tonight's attendance to be one of the

largest Midnight Madness crowds to date.

Another feature of Midnight Madness is the cheer team's performance. Haney said, "the cheer team has been preparing [for tonight] since August." The big transition to NCAA Division II has come with big changes to the stunt and cheer teams. "We've doubled the roster this year with 20 new athletes on the team, including four male athletes," said Haney. Senior and captain of the cheer team, Nicole Lamb, stated, "students can expect a ton of energy and awesome skills from our routine this year. It's going to be an entertaining, and action packed show for sure."

The cheer team is thrilled to be performing at such a popular event. When asked about tonight, sophomore and captain, Mackenzie Feeken, said "Mid-

night Madness is a chance for the whole school to come together to celebrate our athletics and get pumped for basketball season. It is also one of the only times the student body gets to see the competitive side of cheer and that's really exciting!"

*Continual support in our transition to NCAA is always appreciated and necessary for Concordia athletics to grow.*

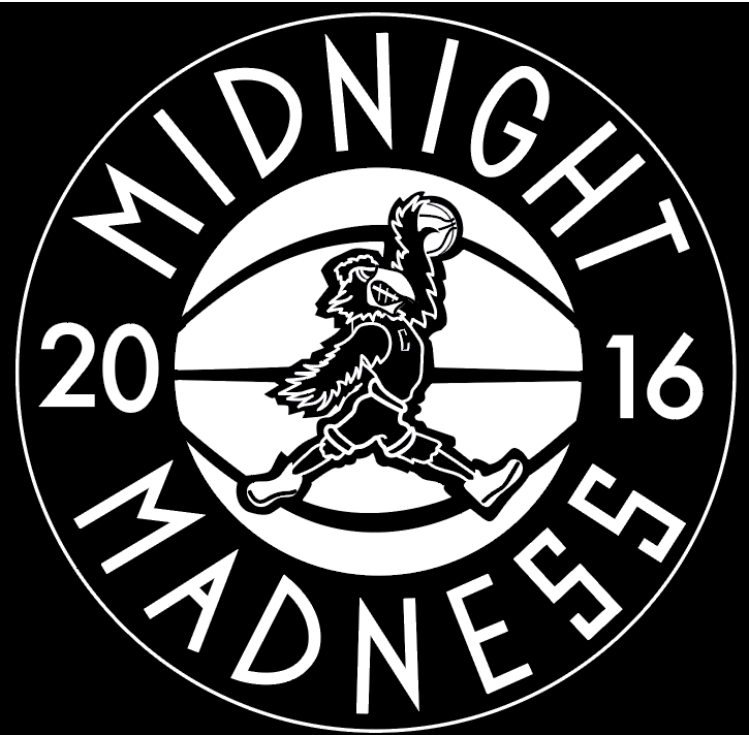
The Men's and Women's Basketball programs appreciate the support from the student body. Gabrielle Johnson, senior, is a member of the Women's Basketball team and has experienced Midnight Madness in previous years. Johnson said the basketball program is most looking forward to "the excitement of all the fans" at Midnight Madness. "It gets the student body happy for the basketball season of both the men's and women's teams," Johnson added. The basketball programs are pumped up and ready to kick off the season with an electrifying Midnight Madness event.

Tonight's Midnight Madness is unique in that it is taking place in Concordia's final year of transition before becoming an offi-

cial NCAA Division II university. With this in mind, Feeken said "CUI students can expect Midnight Madness to be a really fun high-energy night that is about them just as much as it is about the athletes," adding "continual support in our transition to NCAA is always appreciated and necessary for Concordia athletics to grow exponentially." The athletes feed off of their fellow student's exhilaration, and Midnight Madness serves that purpose well. "Midnight Madness often sets the tone for basketball season which is crucial this year as we are still making the transition into Division II," said Feeken.

Still unsure if you want to spend your Friday night on campus? If the free food, special prizes, music and lawn games do not draw you in, take into consideration how Lamb described her Midnight Madness experience: "Midnight Madness is definitely the biggest event at Concordia. The atmosphere is nothing you could ever put in words; so much adrenaline and school spirit." Midnight Madness is an annual tradition which has proven to be a fan favorite for students and faculty alike. Each year Screaming Eagles works to preserve the tradition of the event while reinventing it.

So tonight, gather a group of friends, bring your appetite, grab your student ID card, pump up the basketball teams for their upcoming season and enjoy the festivities starting at 9:30 p.m. at the CU Arena.



Midnight Madness Logo by Dane Vande Gutche



The Cheer Team at last years midnight madness PC: Amy Haney, Cheer Head Coach



# Believe: CUI Pinktober in full swing

JESSICA JAMES  
ASCUI SECRETARY

It is mid-October, which means that we are fully immersed in Breast Cancer Awareness (BCA) Month. The 2016 BCA shirts sold out within two weeks in the CSLD. Every Wednesday, students that come into the CSLD wearing pink will be tallied and the ASCUI team will donate \$1 for each tally to the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF). The NBCF's mission is to provide help and inspire hope to those affected by breast cancer through early detection, education and support services. We are excited to partner with the Provost, who has agreed to match ASCUI's donations.

Students have enjoyed pink giveaways at the Dig Pink game, writing our friends Around-the-World® postcards, and creating a photo

booth together to show our support for BCA. You can still participate in Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On Wed., Oct. 26, the ASCUI team and



Concordia Students and Faculty created the photobooth backdrop on Oct. 12 in their support for those battling breast cancer.



ASCUI and PHE's have teamed up this year for Breast Cancer Awareness month.

the Peer Health Educators will be outside of the Student Union with baby pumpkins that you can paint pink and display just in time for Halloween. Also, the Caf will be delivering some fun pink treats.

We are so proud of Concordia for coming together

to show their support for the cause and to honor those who have been impacted by breast cancer. If you want to learn more about breast cancer and how you can join the fight against it, please visit [nationalbreastcancer.org](http://nationalbreastcancer.org)

## First Person: Why I didn't tell friends and church about mom's cancer

EMILY CHAN  
STAFF WRITER

There are moments in your life that you will always remember without hesitation. Whether it's high school graduation or the day you moved on campus to live on your own. For me, I have two of those moments, the first being when I found out I was accepted into this school and the second was when my mom sat me down and revealed to me that she had stage two breast cancer.

It was my senior year and all was well, we were four months from graduating and leaving behind the title of "high schooler" to officially become "college students." She sat me down in the kitchen and explained the bad news. My first thought was, "Why is this happening?" then my mind transitioned to, "What if [blank] happens?" And as those what ifs

ran through my head, I tried to process and figure out what it meant for how our life was now and how it could change. Yet, contradictory to the emotions running through my head, the first thing out of my mouth as silent tears ran down my face was, "Does this mean we will be wearing more pink?"

Let's just say that the month before her surgery was not a great time for me. I was more withdrawn from my friends and was livid. I was angry at people, God and most of all myself. Sometimes I thought that my life was too easy and ultimately it felt like karma because I was not thankful for the life that I was given.

So while my mom was off telling everyone but our family, I chose to tell specific people. People who would notice that something was wrong with me because of how often I was with

them. Yet out of the few people I told, I decided not to tell my best friend. That decision still gnaws at me because I had some sort of misconceived idea that if I told people about what was going on, I would drag them down into a hole of anguish along side me.

Along with not telling my best friend, I kept this terrifying secret from my church.. I was not close with my church until my senior year of high school and the church members were always there for each other. I assume I was avoiding the comment that every person makes when someone is going through a hard time. The comment that "God has a plan." How was I supposed to know that He had a plan when I barely knew if this supposed plan was for better or for worse. During that month I stopped going to my youth group mainly to avoid that comment and honest-

ly, holding it all in was tearing me apart and it felt as if I could burst at any moment.

I finally told my best friend, and many others, after my mom's surgery to remove the cancer was deemed successful. It felt as if something was lifted off my shoulders although I knew it was not finished yet. My mother started her radiation treatments after coming back from our vacation and it continued all the way until the beginning of September.

When I got on campus my new friend, Andrew Ashby, freshman, told me something that helped me through the rest of that week, after I broke down and confided in him. He quoted Romans 5:3-5, "Not only do we rejoice in the hope that God gives us but we also rejoice in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character;

and character, hope." After that, I realized that there are people who are going through or had already gone through something similar to my predicament. I now know and hope other people realize that there are always people out there who are willing to help no matter how long they have known you.

I do not want to dwell on the past any longer and look towards the future with open eyes. Her radiation was successful and she is now deemed cancer free. She is beginning to transition back into working full days. So overall, keeping things in and not telling people is not exactly a great thing to do and although I hated the comment "God has a plan," He really does and sometimes it is okay to just let go.

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

Tiffany Thompson, *Editor-in-Chief*

Kara Der, *Layout Editor*

Kayla Lardner, *Campus Editor*

Karina Diez, *Local/Global Editor*

Yvette Mendoza, *Sports Editor*

Alexander Carr, *Arts & Reviews Editor*

*Faculty Advisor*

Caroline Janik-Wong

*Writers*

Celina Stratton, Anneliese Lane, Jami Derby, Darby Scott, Blake Warye, Kendra Sitton, Mimi Borbas, Sarah Dixon, Alice Hoover, Samantha Jensen, Suzy Reyes, Emily Chan

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

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](https://www.instagram.com/ConcordiaCourier) too!

1530 Concordia West, Irvine CA, 92612  
Delta Lounge  
[final.courier@gmail.com](mailto:final.courier@gmail.com)  
[cui.edu/studentlife/student-newspaper](http://cui.edu/studentlife/student-newspaper)

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



# Diving into the Water Polo Program

BLAKE WARYE  
STAFF WRITER

Rising up out of the water, the Concordia Men's and Women's Water Polo Program is beginning another season under Head Coach Dreason Barry. Barry is in his second year as head coach after being the assistant coach for the 2014 season. Barry became the third head coach in the Concordia men's program history, and the fourth head coach in the women's program history when he took over in the fall of 2015. Barry came to Concordia after working as the assistant coach at UC Irvine from 2009-2014. Before starting his coaching career at UC Irvine, Barry was a member of the USA Men's National Team from 2002-2009, where he won the ASUA Cup in Brazil in 2006. "Taking over the team has not been easy," said Barry. "Building a senior tradition of leading by example and self-control takes the example and

self-control of the coach. Things are moving in the right direction and as far as I can tell, great things are in the future for Concordia Water Polo."

One of the biggest challenges for a new head coach is finding motivating factors within a team and refining the player's skills. Junior Emily Varisco, on the Women's Water Polo team, has been very impressed with Barry for the first two years of his tenure at Concordia. "Barry has been an awesome motivator and coach for this team. He is working to get us in shape and ready for the season ahead. Barry is really big on fundamentals and understanding why we are doing the things we are doing. Also, he is a really great motivational speaker, which really helps during a tough practice," said Varisco. Having a coach with the experience Barry has can help build the skills and motivate the water polo team. Barry sets goals for the team in and out of the pool. "Goals of ours are to

be responsible in the community, stay healthy physically and mentally, and ultimately lead by example, and consider others more important than yourself, because that is what Jesus did," said Barry.

Concordia is entering the final year of the transition to NCAA Division II, and all coaches have been called on to contribute. Barry and his teams have risen to the challenge, "It has been a transition, but we all buckle down and do the best we can with what we have," said Barry. Players are excited for the move to NCAA Division II as they know they will be playing against more competitive teams and tournaments. Varisco added, "The transition of moving to the NCAA has really pumped up the energy on this team. Being able to be in a conference and compete for an end goal is really motivating."

The men's season is nearing its end, but you can still go and catch the three remaining home games



Head Coach, Dreason Barry (courtesy of cuieagles website)

against CalTech, Santa Clara and Air Force Academy. If you are interested in attending the Men's Water Polo matches during the fall season or the women's matches during the spring season, go to cuieagles.

com to get the full schedule for each team. Matches are played at William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center, which is located just ten minutes off campus at 4601 Walnut Ave. Irvine, CA 92604.

## CUI to host Latina Leadership Conference

SUZUY REYES  
STAFF WRITER

Concordia is hosting its inaugural Latina Leadership Conference on Sat., Oct. 22. The goal of this conference is to inspire young women by giving them the information and tools to explore college options. The half-day conference is designed for first-generation Hispanic high school and community college students.

Lizz Mishreki, Director of Public Relations, said, "Conference organizers want to

paint the picture for attendees. [It is] for students to realize that college is do-able, and that others have gone before them. And for parents to encourage their daughters to go to college in order to achieve a brighter future. It's Concordia's hope that attendees will understand that college is not a dream, it's a plan. And this conference, we hope, will help them to navigate the road to college."

There is going to be an important keynote from Alejandra Ceja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative

on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Other panel members in attendance are Hispanic professionals who've graduated college and hope to motivate other young women to do the same.

Along with amazing speakers, there will be breakout sessions which will explore majors such as Biology, Business and Government, Communication, Education, Nursing and Psychology. Lunch is provided, followed by an information fair with sponsors, local colleges and more. These groups will work

to inform and educate the attendees on pathways to success.

"Already the excitement and anticipation of our faculty, staff and student ambassadors--many of whom are first-gen Hispanics like our attendees--is amazing. We look forward to engaging with attendees, and begin to nurture relationships with them," said Mishreki.

"All ethnicities collectively make up the university and in my opinion are what make Concordia University such a comfortable environ-



Pictured Above: Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics seal, PC: sites.ed.gov/hispanic-initiative/

ment to learn and grow in. It is important to have a voice and learn about each other's cultures," said Valeria Angel, former president of Nuestra Voz ('16). "As a president and a first generation Latina, my goal was to share with other Latino and non-Latino students how colorful and diverse our culture can be. Concordia allowed Nuestra Voz to help provide a comfortable atmosphere where many could learn about our Latino heritage."

To register, see the schedule or for more information about the speakers and workshops, visit: [www.cui.edu/latinas/](http://www.cui.edu/latinas/). Follow the conversation at #LatinasAdelante.





# CUI BONO asks: Why are you here?

MIMI BORBAS  
STAFF WRITER

CUI Bono, a student centered organization, held their annual retreat the second weekend of October in Big Bear. Ten faculty members, along with 30 students, spent a few days away from campus and classrooms to talk about why they are on campus and in classrooms. CUI Bono gathers together in events throughout the year like the retreat, lectures, debates and fireside chats to encourage students to think about the bigger picture. “Have you ever had a great conversation in class and then just wanted to keep going? You can do that at CUI Bono,” Kimberly Oliver, senior, said. Membership is voluntary and unrestricted



Dr. Steve P. Mueller, Dean of Christ College

as the group aims to foster as many points of view as possible with faculty from multiple disciplines.

Dr. Clinton Armstrong ('12) Associate Professor of History, explains that the



PC: Mimi Borbas

name CUI Bono basically means “for whom is this a source of good” in Latin. He believes that college is more than units, and this organization is a chance for students to “meet people who care about education, thinking and the deeper things.” The faculty attending the CUI Bono retreat are volunteers. They choose to attend the retreat and provide lectures, resources and time, showing a deep investment in students success in not just their classes, but in life. The group gives students the “op-

portunity to talk to professors about something more than just getting an A in their class.”

On top of a mountain in Big Bear, settled in the trees and next to a small lake, the faculty and students of CUI Bono came together for the weekend. Faculty lectures were held throughout the retreat and conversations naturally blossomed in any and all subjects from theology, Greek mythology and personal experiences. Students canoed and hiked during free time and Dr. Armstrong retold the Greek stories explaining the constellations around a roaring fire pit in 30 degree weather — a welcome hiatus from the recent heatwave.

Dr. John Lu, Associate Professor of Psychology, led the first of four lectures. Dr. Lu focused on curiosity as an academic value, saying that curiosity often separates the good students from the great students. He said, “Don’t take information for granted, ask questions, go for depth. Look for professors that have different views than your own.” A cautionary tale was presented through the “intellectual candy” that the internet and the culture of immediate satisfaction have provided, spoiling

our intellectual dinner so to speak. For those of us struggling to stay awake in our 7:30 a.m. classes, Lu offered this piece of wisdom, “Nothing is boring.”

Dr. Steven P. Mueller (for those of us in Core Theology, the author of “Called to Believe”), the Dean of Christ College, has been at Concordia for 22 years and four years before that as a student.



PC: Mimi Borbas

A systematic theologian, Mueller discussed the various different expressions of religions through three common categories. In short, when comparing or exploring denominations, Mueller said to ask the question “What do we have in common?” as it gives a basis to begin understanding. Dr. Jeffrey Mallinson, Profes-

sor of Theology and Philosophy, poetically summed up the weekend by reiterating the major themes discussed in a metaphorical manner. College and life are about “trying to sort out the stimuli” and the abundance of information thrown at us every day in the most constructive way possible. He encouraged students to “find joy in the things that are right in front of us” and constructed meaning from the weekend through the analogy of music.

Caleb Speakman, a junior and history and political thought major, summed it up best. “CUI Bono fostered a sense of camaraderie that allowed us to better understand and appreciate each other’s perspectives,” said Speakman. “It successfully integrated meaningful dialogue with good fun.” This university that we all attend is unique, but only through exploration and curiosity can students discover the hidden gems like CUI Bono and utilize the professors and resources at our disposal. General information about the group is available under the Student Groups category of cui.edu or you can contact Matthew King at matthew.king@eagles.cui.edu.

## The Jannese Davidson Memorial Tournament: A Concordia tradition

ALICE HOOVER  
STAFF WRITER

For the last three years, Concordia has hosted a speech and debate tournament named in honor of beloved Forensics coach Jannese Davidson. This tournament was founded after the former Director of Individual Events lost her battle with Lupus. “Jannese was a force of passion and positivity when it came to forensics,” said Angelica Grigsby ('14), Assistant Director/Coach of Individual Events. “In many ways, she made the Individual Events portion of the Forensics team a force to be reckoned with and respected.”

This year, the Jannese Davidson Tournament hosted over 300 individual event entries, as well as 125 debate entries for the three styles of debate that were offered. The large number of entries is primarily due to the tournament’s lack of entry fees, as Grigsby notes this allows for schools to bring more students to tournaments at a much lower cost. Sophomore Robert Como, who competes in Individual Events, said, “It’s a really good way to recruit, because [the tournament] is here and they get to see our cozy little cam-

pus.” The free aspect of the tournament allows for a focus on what forensics is all about. Grigsby said, “A free tournament is not about awards, it is about allowing students to compete in an activity that allows them to give voice to the issues they most care about.”

However, hosting a tournament means that Concordia’s team was both competing and helping to make the tournament run smoothly. “There was an interesting clash between competing and hosting at the same time,” said Benjamin Lang, a freshman on the debate team. “On the one hand, it felt like we had a responsibility to help out the other teams, make sure their rounds went smoothly and on time. On the other hand, we were competing on our home turf, so we had to defend it from all challengers.” With such a large pool of competitors, the competition gets tough and Como noted that this is the most difficult tournament he has been to this year.

In addition to the challenges of competing and hosting, there are also plenty of benefits. Como noted that it was a learning experience for him. Although it is his second year and he understands how to



PC: Angelica Grigsby

compete, he learned a lot about running the tabulation room and the rest of the tournament. Concordia’s team also had a large portion of their students place in the top ranks for individual events, as well as having multiple debate teams advance to elimination rounds. A special congratulations to Jamie Whittington-Studer, Diego Perez, Heather McManus and Mimi Borbas for taking first place in their respective events. On the debate side, congratulations to Luke Marvin, Josiah Popp and Benjamin Lang for placing first in Parliamentary debate as a three person team. Lang found that the tournament helped him gain a bet-

ter understanding of complex theory positions. “[During the debates] the arguments just clicked in my head.”

Hosting a tournament is a tough job, but Grigsby said, “The team really made hospitality a priority...Our students went above and beyond to ensure their fellow competitors had a good experience. This included answering questions, being guides and giving up their mid-semester breaks to do so.” This created a pleasant tournament environment for all who attended. Lang stated, “Whether [competitors] won or lost, they came across as highly competitive, but still polite and professional.” Every-

one at the tournament enjoyed their time outside of rounds. Como noted, “I think the really great moments were when I got to see people I hadn’t seen in a while [and], as lame as it sounds, the cleanup because we were all together, helping.”

Concordia’s team is grateful to not only host a tournament that honors such an amazing woman, but that also allows them to serve their community. “The favorite part for me is getting to see the two worlds I am part of exist in the same place,” Grigsby said. “Being able to share our campus with the Forensics community is a special experience.”



# ATW Travel Diary: Czech Republic

KENDRA SITTON  
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

As we exited the train in the Czech Republic to a delightfully damp rainy day, the team was greeted by Ben Helge ('11), our host missionary.

For the first time in ATW history, a former Rounder hosted an Around-the-World® team. Nearly three years ago when Helge, the Graduate Assistant from ATW II, became a missionary through the LCMS in the Czech Republic, Professor Adam Lee was immediately excited about the opportunity for the itinerary of the trip to include this Eastern-European country. Meeting Helge was not the only record broken by ATW IV — a 2:30 a.m. Greek language class in the Kolkata airport be-

came the latest class ever held. However, this meeting connected to the very heart of what Professor Lee originally dreamed of happening when he created ATW.

"One of the goals of ATW when I started this program was to raise up missionaries," Lee said. He hopes other Rounders can be visited by teams in the future. For all those potential missionaries on Concordia's campus, Lee said, "I'd love to see people who feel called to a place, like he was initially to Hungary, to act on that, to find a missionary organization... and go there to start spreading the love of Jesus."

Helge first gained interest in missions after joining Concordia's bi-annual trip to Hungary. The next summer he spent seven weeks in China with the launch

of the Concordia's teaching trip there. While on ATW II in Bolivia, he sent in his application to be a missionary with the addendum that he would go anywhere in the world. "I've had the experience where in two weeks we had that relationship that was fairly deep and I shared the gospel. I've been here two years, and for me the blessing is that you see the growth and see people changed or not changed," Helge said.

Since moving to Havířov, Helge dedicated himself to learning the Czech language even with the unique "Ř" sound that even local children cannot master until they are three or four years old. More recently, he enrolled in classes for a driver's license, a small act which demonstrates his investment in the country. After



Ben Helge '11, former Rounder PC: Adam Lee (courtesy of travel\_stained on Instagram)

first arriving in a country, Lee said, "The best thing you can do to show people you love them is to learn about their country."

Helge's ministry centers around the relationships he creates with students in local public schools, in English clubs and with local church plants. "He is very authentic and real with the students he interacts with. They all have no doubt that he cares about them as individuals. I think the Holy Spirit uses that — his love, his attention and his non-judgmental acceptance of them as friends and humans that God has created — to open their hearts to the gospel, to Jesus," Lee said.

For students interested in following his path in short and long-term missions, Helge advised praying for yourself as well as finding a community of believers to pray for you and the work you are doing. "It's [prayer] the most powerful thing ever. It's what guides you; God is who guides

you," said Helge. "I've learned a lot of that here, from the Christians I've met. It's evident that prayer is essential to their faith. It's challenged me to think about it more."

Helge exudes a genuinely loving and interested attitude to each person he meets. He shows incredible consideration as he asks questions and seeks to learn. His ability to listen gives him the ability to speak. To all Christians, Helge urged, "Share the gospel whenever you have a chance. There's nothing to fear; sharing the gospel is never a bad thing."

Just as his ministry in the Czech Republic expresses the generosity and love of Jesus, he extended that same hospitality to the Concordia community while hosting ATW. "If anyone wants to come back or come visit, you can come on in," said Helge. "There is always something to see or to do or someone to meet."



Nyssa McCarthy PC: Adam Lee

## Life after Core

***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.***

SAMUEL ST. JOHN

I'm a student studying at Cambridge University, rooming in Luther Hall with the sophomore CUI students. As I watch my friends, Jonah, Madi and Benji cope with Core, I have the perspective of a survivor.

First, I'm glad Core is over for me. No more stressing over finding the perfect core that fits my schedule. No more carrying pounds of books that permanently stunted my growth and my sleepless nights full of tears are down to a minimum. I now have the freedom to dedicate myself to my major classes and study what I want to study. And what better place to study history and theology than in Cambridge, England?

I am honored and humbled to walk the same streets that C.S. Lewis and Isaac Newton walked. Here I can enjoy a pint where

Francis Crick and James Watson announced the discovery of DNA.

Traveling as a junior with the Core students, I now watch as a veteran the ongoing battle between students and the Enduring Questions and Ideas in their courses. Lauren Shon explains that, "Although I'm being overwhelmed by readings and constant write ups, I enjoy identifying the connections between history and literature."

However, as I dive into my major classes, I have to admit that Core has made me better in my every day studies. Core consisted of ratios, endless reading and wrangling over what it means to be human, and it all pays off. It's paying off for me here in Cambridge.

Each Core pairing instilled in me different techniques I continue to use in my major classes. For example, math is infamous

for its Golden Rectangle, Fibonacci sequences and infinity. But from math, I learned that details matter. Core Philosophy taught the importance of critical reading. In turn, this tool gives me the strength to tackle Martin Luther's rich philosophical and theological writings.

Having survived so much Core reading, friends of mine concur that in both science majors and business majors they are not afraid to tackle complex ideas with complicated vocabulary.

Core Biology and Theology forced me to question and defend ideas I accepted without truly understanding. As I watch Concordia students wrestle with history and literature, I attend Cambridge University seminars in Biblical Language. I am seeing the rewards for paying attention to important definitions and distinctions. In my doctrine classes,

we tie ourselves in knots probing the complication of Christology, theology and the Trinity.

*...Core has made me better in my every day studies.*

In Core English and History, all Concordia students dig into original texts. Here at Westfield House in Cambridge University, all seminars and lectures stress engagement with original texts. Original text lowers the chance for misinterpretation and widens our appreciation for understanding. In the case of Virgil's "Aeneid," students are recognizing how classical literature influences contemporary writings. Sophomore

Aaron Borkovec, noticed Venus' cloud of invisibility was similar to Harry Potter's invisibility cloak. He exclaimed, "It's amazing to see how J.K. Rowling used classical writings, such as Virgil, to further create her own world."

In my chosen field of theology and history, reading original texts keeps us all from being misled by some wacky new approach.

Though however daunting and menacing Core may be, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I am here to tell you that there is life after Core. From my perspective as a junior, I am telling my friends here that it might be hard to see past the sea of assigned readings. But remember: each Core pairing is packing you full with ideas and skills to keep you afloat not just in your upper division classes, but for the rest of your life.



# Annual Fall Choral Concert welcomes the changing seasons

ANNELIESE LANE  
STAFF WRITER

The Fall Choral Concert kicks off the holiday season tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the CU Center. This event is free to students looking for a fun and beautiful experience performed by a musical collage of voices. It is a great time to gather and appreciate all of the hard work the choirs have accomplished.

Dr. Marin Jacobson, Director of Men's Chorus and Donne Di Canto, is excited for the upcoming concert. "The music is quite inspiring, and the diversity of styles will keep the audience wondering what they are going to hear next," said Jacobson. "One of the most moving pieces the men will sing is called 'By Faith' with words by Kristyn and Keith Getty. It affirms God's faithfulness and our statement that we will trust God until God's mission is complete."

Knitting a choir together is hard work, but Jacobson's enthusiasm makes the process seem well worth the effort. "Each fall, the choirs have many returning and new members, so one of our goals is to become a unified ensemble. There are musical and interpersonal aspects to our unity," said Jacobson. "We focus on listening to one another to create a unified sound that expresses the composer's vision and the meaning of the text. We work on unifying vowels, synchronizing



onsets and releases, dynamic contrasts (louds/softs), tuning and managing our breath."

Collaboration is one of

the aspects Jacobson enjoys most about her job. "Leading choirs is quite exciting work because every time the choirs

meet, they are striving together toward a common goal, and as they sing, they are creating beautiful music with mean-

ingful words that bring encouragement and inspiration to choir members and to the people who hear them sing," said Jacobson. "In the Fall Choral Concert, I'm excited for the choirs to share their gifts by creating beautiful music that encourages the audience and brings glory to God."

Choir members are thrilled for this event and are excited to show the dedication and the work that went into preparing the concert. Junior Sarah Dixon, President of Donne di Canto, expressed her excitement for the upcoming event. "This is the first big performance of the year," said Dixon. "We had the 40th anniversary concert and have sang in chapel, but this is the first concert that we have been working toward and leading up to."

Showing off the hard work is always exciting, but it can also be a difficult. "The most challenging part is [right before] the concert when we are polishing everything. It can be stressful, but it's important to really get everything down and feel secure and ready for the concert," said Dixon.

One challenge the choirs will face will be singing in the diverse languages of the many pieces. "We are singing a piece in German, African, Latin and English," said Dixon. This concert is sure to inspire all in attendance. Drift in like a leaf in the autumn wind and enjoy the musical event taking place tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the CU Center.

## Guest artists grappled with culture, race and God during on campus concert

JAMI DERBY  
STAFF WRITER

On Thurs., Oct. 6, students gathered around the Global Village lounge to hear a live concert featuring spoken word artist, Micah Bournes, and singer-songwriter Aisea Taimani.

Taimani was first to perform. Each of his songs held a message and tackled relevant topics in today's culture. One of his songs was about technology and how social media culture can interfere with our relationships. Another was about being a peacemaker in the world and his song titled "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" was about how music has the power to educate and challenge people.

In his second to last song, "Let's Jump on a Plane," Taimani sang in four different languages. The lyrics bounced from Korean to Pakistani, then dipped into Spanish and finished in English. The words

were the same in each language, so every mother tongue was singing, "all we are saying is give peace a chance." This song had everyone clapping and talking to their neighbor about how beautiful the languages were sung and how well the meaning and words

*"My worth  
came from the  
fact I'm created  
in the image of  
God."*

came together at the end.

Taimani's last song was a personal one. Through the lyrics, he shared his childhood desire to be free, accepted and loved by those around him. In the song, he calls on God to free him from his feelings of

failure. Taimani sang, "Why do I continue to do the things I don't want to do. Someone save me from myself. Grace will you remember? Don't forget my name." Taimani's words were packed with emotion, and his performance connected those words in a way that helped the audience feel them. He wrapped up his performance by saying "I am Aisea Taimani and I am your brother," and welcomed his good friend Micah Bournes to the stage.

Bournes' first poem was titled "Native Tongue." Speaking from his experience as an African-American, Bournes expressed how he'd been judged for the way he spoke and how some wrote-off his African American Vernacular English as uneducated. His second poem again channeled his ethnic identity and was about how his college friends at times made him feel dumb for being the only man of color in their

group. Bournes "felt like [he] had to prove something because of the stereotypes," but explained that he overcame these feelings by realizing that, "My worth came from the fact that I'm created in the image of God." His poetic contemplation of racial topics and his loud, passionate voice grabbed the audience and never let go.

Bournes' last poem, "Freak Show," talked about a topic familiar to anyone who has taken a New Testament course at Concordia. The idea is the ones with the most need are a priority to God. The needy are the ones who will end up in heaven because "somewhere along the way they believed," said Bournes.

After the performances, the two stayed around for a Q&A where students asked the artists questions about being creative writers and about how to wrestle with topics like prejudice and theology, espe-

cially when you're surrounded by different perspectives.

The performance left me amazed. Both artists were able to articulate such strong messages in their performances. The overall satisfaction at the event seemed high, with students staying afterward to talk with the performers and fellow students.

Micah Bournes and Aisea Taimani didn't just give students a great performance; they gave them an opportunity to think broadly about how to use music and poetry to voice their opinions about the things that matter in this world. If you would like to see Micah Bournes (@micah-bournes) or Aisea Taimani (@aiseataimani) perform, then follow them on Instagram for upcoming performances.



# Netflix Reviews: The Ranch

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

CELINA STRATTON  
STAFF WRITER

If you're a fan of Ashton Kutcher and like short 22-minute shows you can binge-watch in a single weekend, then "The Ranch" is for you. This Netflix original is about Colt Bennett (Kutcher), a semi-pro football player with a dwindling career who returns home to his family ranch after a nearly two-decade absence.

Just to start, I am becoming a huge fan of Netflix original shows. I've watched "Orange is the New Black" and "House of Cards." Both have incredible evolving plots. The problem is they can both get pretty intense at times. "Stranger Things," one of the most talked about shows right now, is next on my list and I'm sure it gets just as intense. So before I commit to another one of those emotionally draining roller coasters that we keep calling "shows," I decided to escape the realities of school and Orange County living by diving into this sitcom about a small town with big personalities.

The first episode is about



Sam Elliott, Ashton Kutcher, Danny Masterson, and Debra Winger (courtesy of Netflix)

Colt's return to the ranch. Surprised and displeased, his grumpy father, Beau (Sam Elliott, "Tombstone" and "We Were Soldiers") reluctantly welcomes him back. More enthusiastic but still (for lack of a better word) "salty," Colt's brother Jameson, aka "Rooster," (Danny Masterson, "That '70s Show" and "Yes Man") also gives him a less-than-warm welcome back.

The main cast rounds out with the two leading ladies of the show — Colt and

Rooster's bar-owner mother and estranged wife of Beau, Maggie (played by Debra Winger) and Colt's former high school sweetheart, Abby (played by Elisha Cuthbert).

"The Ranch" is unlike other shows in the sense that a single season is broken into two parts made up of ten episodes each, with each set of episodes being released months apart. Season one part one is mostly about Colt's adjustment being in his hometown in Garrison, CO and everyone else's adjustment to having him back.

Though the first couple episodes revolve around Kutcher's character, the show quickly evolves and starts fleshing out the ensemble cast. The clashing of personalities and generational gaps, especially between Beau and his boys, is hysterical. After working together for several years on "That '70s Show," Kutcher and Master-

son have an established chemistry and comfort with one another that shines through when they partake in their frequent sibling bickering.

What's even more hilarious are the interactions between Beau and his boys. This old-school skeptic sometimes has trouble keeping up with modern-day technology, latest fashion trends and more. For example, in one of the first episodes, Rooster asks Beau if he wants to watch TV later that night. Beau replies, "Like what?" Rooster says, "I dunno. Something on Netflix?" which prompts Beau to ask, "What the (bad word that starts with an 'F') is Netflix?" It's funny because the show is a Netflix original, get it?

To add a little more insight into the show's actual content, I have to warn you, inappropriate language is frequently used. Another rea-

son why "The Ranch" is so unique is that you go into the first episode expecting it to be like a traditionally wholesome sitcom, then the first F-bomb is dropped (and I might add, it was perfect comedic timing on Elliott's part).

Since it was in its pilot season, writers were careful not to push the profanity too far. But given the success and positive audience response, they were able to push the envelope a little further in part two and use profane language to make the dialogue more organic to the personalities of the characters.

I admit it — I have not seen more than one season's worth of the beloved "That '70s Show," nor did I keep up with Kutcher's small screen return on "Two and a Half Men." I can say that after watching season one of "The Ranch," I quite enjoy Kutcher's performance, and tolerating his loud acting style is not a chore at all. Sure, he tries to add a "country" accent that is choppy and inconsistent, but the fact is Kutcher is actually a funny guy.

I don't want to give too much away, but I'll let you know that this show is funny and worth at least a couple of hours of your free Saturday afternoon to quickly get through an entire set of episodes. Give it a shot and if you find yourself bored or it's not really your thing, just catch a younger Kutcher and Masterson on "That '70s Show" which is also streaming on Netflix.



Ashton Kutcher and Danny Masterson (courtesy of Netflix)





# Communication Studies Department welcomes Dr. Erin Nelson and Dr. David Schulz

KAYLA LARDNER  
CAMPUS EDITOR

Concordia's Communication Studies Department welcomed new faculty members Dr. Erin Nelson and Dr. David Schulz.

The department is strongly staffed explained Professor Trish Ollry, Communication Studies Department Chair, "Both Dr. Nelson and Dr. Schulz were great candidates... In terms of the gaps we knew we were going to need to fill, they were certainly our top two choices."

Nelson began studying communication after taking a family communication class which studied couples with different communication styles, namely one partner growing up in a teasing household, while the other did not, and the conflict that arises.

A lightbulb went off for Nelson. "It just explained why people experience this," said Nelson. "[It] opened my eyes [that] you can study this stuff and find out why relationships work or don't work."

From there, she studied with a professor working on interpersonal communication, specifically "a family going through cancer [analyzing] their conversations, going from diagnosis to death" said Nelson. By combining health and interpersonal research, she was able to help "people understand how to talk about really difficult topics... I wanted to understand how people manage that illness."



Dr. David Schulz PC: Kayla Lardner

With Nelson's interest in relational dynamics and the interpersonal side of communication and Schulz' background in rhetoric, "The two of them together we're just kind of the perfect pair," said Ollry. "They're both so well qualified. They both have their terminal degrees [and] their strengths are complementary. Where Dr. Schulz strengths are in rhetoric, [this] filled the gap from Dr. [Martin] Schramm."

For Schulz, controversy has always interested him. "I was on my high school newspaper, thought I wanted to be a journalist, because I want to uncover all the wrongs in society," said Schulz. "I just wanted to cover controversy... Story after story that I proposed to my editor just got shut down." It wasn't until he was asked to cover something less polarizing, specifically the debate team, that he found a new calling in communications.

After leaving journalism to focus on debate, Schulz began to develop his skills and his interest in rhetoric, specifically social movements, public memory and technological determinism.

"Part of my trajectory is about being a change agent," said Schulz. "I've always been interested in how change happens, how do social movements come together." Public memory is "how do we as a culture remember something collectively... How people remember, but also forget things."

"[Schulz has] a passion for rhetoric and [wants] to bring that into the study of communication," said Dr. John Norton, Department Chair of English and Modern Languages and Professor of English. "I think that's why [he's] a gift to the school, because [he brings] a very serious, very academic approach to rhetoric."

With new faculty brings the

opportunity for a new communication department. "We all want to really boost the communication department," said Nelson. "We had such a legacy leave last year [with Dr. Schramm], and so now we're all trying to make it great going forward, trying to build up our major."

One of the ways the department wants to achieve that is by utilizing the strengths of the new faculty to create new courses.

Schulz' background in video production "is something we're definitely interested in doing," said Ollry. "It'd be such a nice addition to social media, journalism and public relations, where all of those are having more of a video component, and Dr. Schulz brings some great experience in terms of developing some curriculum that would give students a chance to develop those skills."

Nelson also hopes to "devel-

op some new courses. I would really love to teach a health communication class or a family communication class. I think those are incredibly relevant... for our society and what the students will face in the future."

The goal of the department is to capitalize on the strong foundation and unique skill sets Nelson and Schulz bring, while enhancing the visibility and the size of the department as a whole. The new faculty bring their passionate interests in communication, enhancing the department and readying it to reach new academic heights. "Communication is everywhere," said Nelson "It's everyday, and everyone can use it, in a minor or a major."



Dr. Erin Nelson PC: Kayla Lardner

## FAFSA process changing to benefit students

TIFFANY THOMPSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Financial Aid Office notified students of the changes to the 2017-2018 FAFSA via email and regular mail in September. The changes are very different from what students are used to and the Financial Aid Office wants to make sure that students are "well educated on the changes to FAFSA and...take advantage of the earlier opportunity to file..." said Ken Dillinger, Financial Aid Assistant Director for Graduate & Adult Studies as well as Financial Aid Counselor for Athletes, Credential, MED, DCE Interns and Nursing Students. The changes to FAFSA are the following: earlier FAFSA submission as early as Oct. 1 and the use of earlier income tax information. The ability to use earlier income tax information means that students will use their income and tax information from a year earlier than usu-

al. For example, instead of using 2016 tax information for the 17-18 school year, students will use the tax information from 2015. These changes benefit students because they allow for students to not have to bring their FAFSA up to date at a later time. It also allows for the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to be used because the taxes have already been filed and are the same as the year before. Basically the new changes to the process allow for students to easily retrieve income and tax information without having to wait, go back in and adjust their FAFSA—which sometimes negatively affects their Financial Aid awards. The Financial Aid Office is holding a Facebook contest as well. If you like or comment on their posts about the changes to FAFSA you get entered to win a \$10 Amazon gift card. Visit @ConcordiaIrvineFinAid on Facebook for more information.

### *Deadlines for Continuing Students*

**Jan. 20-** Spring Readmit, FAFSA's received after this date will not be eligible for any need based institutional aid.

**March 2-** FAFSA Priority deadline for federal and state aid.

**April 1-** FAFSA's received after this date will receive 25% less in need-based institutional aid where appropriate

**June 1-** FAFSA's received after this date will receive 50% less in need-based institutional aid where appropriate.

**July 1-** FAFSA's received after this date will receive 75% less in need-based institutional aid where appropriate.

**Aug. 11-** Final deadline for all financial aid documents. However, additional documents may be requested to complete your financial aid file during the term. All additional documents must be submitted 14 days prior to the close of the term.

**Sept. 2-** FAFSA's received after this date will no longer be eligible for any need-based institutional aid.

**Questions? Email Financial Aid at [finaid@cu.edu](mailto:finaid@cu.edu).**