



# THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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## Tonight! Midnight Madness Celebrates the Start of Basketball Season



CUI cheer team at 2016 Midnight Madness  
PC: cuieagles.com

ANDERSON CLARKE  
STAFF WRITER

Midnight Madness, one of Concordia's largest student events of the year, is tonight. The celebration to kick off the athletic season will take place tonight on the lawn in front of the CU Arena.

Midnight Madness is a well-known event celebrated by colleges all across the country with the goal of getting students and faculty pumped for the upcoming men and women's basketball season. This year Concordia has an even greater reason to be excited, as we are now an official member of the NCAA.

Midnight Madness will begin with the pre-party at 9:30 p.m. on the lawns outside of the CU Arena. This year's pre-party will feature a DJ, tacos,

Red Bull, giveaways and more! At 10:30 p.m. the party will move inside the CU Arena where our school mascot, Marty the Eagle, will make a grand entrance. The men's and women's basketball teams will then be introduced and the head coaches for both teams will give pep talks to excite the crowd.

The festivities will continue with the first performance of the year for the Concordia cheer and dance teams. The cheer performance is a huge part of Midnight Madness and it is their first chance of the year to show off the results of their hard work that began in the summer. Sophomore flyer and tumbler, Brigitte Alvis-Labadie said, "Midnight Madness is the biggest performance of the year and I am looking forward to the adrenaline rush of

performing in front of friends and family for the first time this year."

Alvis-Labadie said students should come to watch their cheer performance at Midnight Madness because the team "has so many talented gymnasts and incredible routines with stunts that we've put together to show off."

The performances will be followed by party games that will allow members of the crowd to compete for prizes such as cash, Lakers tickets and a flat screen TV. After the crowd plays to win prizes, they will watch the highlight of the night- the dunk contest. The dunk contest will feature members of the men's basketball team as they wow the crowd with a variety of impressive dunks. This event will finish with dancing in the

CU Arena until midnight.

Amy Haney, Cheer and Stunt Coach and Screaming Eagles coordinator said that Midnight Madness is packed full of excitement, especially since we are now an active NCAA D2 member. "My favorite thing about Midnight Madness is seeing our whole student body come together for one big night celebrating not only athletics, but also being an Eagle," said Haney. "It's so awesome to see months of planning come to life and seeing the students having a great time."

Midnight Madness is an event you don't want to miss! Make sure you make your way to the lawns in front of the CU Arena tonight to celebrate and rally around the basketball teams while being entertained by cheer and dance performances.

## Caf Cashier Earns Regional Recognition

ANNIE STUDDERT  
STAFF WRITER

Bon Appetit employee, Aracely Alfaro, earned regional recognition for her outstanding customer service and commitment to excellence as Concordia's weekday cafeteria cashier

Alfaro won the award for the "Superhero of Excellent Customer Service" of the Pacific Northwest, California, and parts of Utah. It is part of the campaign by Compass Group North America. Each year, Compass Group NA holds its annual "Night of the Stars" Gala to honor its top employees. This year's theme was "Superheroes."

Laura Hodge, Café Manager, describes Alfaro as "the face of The Caf." Hodge and the management team submitted Alfaro's nomination in April of 2017. "The company gives us an opportunity to help our staff shine," said Hodge.

Originally from El Salvador, Alfaro is a native Spanish speaker. However, this does not hinder her unique ability to connect with the hundreds of students and faculty that come through the cafeteria doors every day. Alfaro makes customer experience a priority with simple ges-

# ASCUI Survey Inspires New Seating on Campus



PC: ASCUI

MADDY HAASE  
ASCUI SECRETARY

During the last month, University Services and ASCUI joined forces. Their goal was to create a comfortable on-campus space for students to study and relax with friends. At

the beginning of the semester, ASCUI conducted a survey to learn what students liked and wanted improved on campus. The survey showed students want more places to hang out with friends. The new seating in front of Eagles Landing, around the CSLD (Center for

Learning and Development) and just outside the CU Center music wing is the result.

The new seating inside Eagles Landing, modeled to emulate the feel of a coffee shop, gives students a more ambient space to talk and work with friends. The seating

outside Eagles Landing offers more space for students to sit and enjoy the outside. Don't worry, if you liked the old tables, they're still on campus. These tables can be found along the wall of the commons lawn behind the CSLD and the bookstore. Repurposing the old

furniture into new locations gives students an opportunity to spread out and enjoy more diverse seating options along the grassy area.

One of the final updates that has occurred outside of Eagles Landing is the addition of the pergolas located near the flagpole next to the common lawns. This will provide students with a shaded, comfortable seating area.

Along with all the changes to Eagles Landing, there has been new seating in place in between the CSLD and the bookstore. There is outdoor furniture that allows students, both commuters and residents, to sit and do homework or relax between classes. There will also be furniture placed in all of the resident halls to allow more space for students to hang out near the dorms. The final piece of outdoor furniture was placed outside of the CUC, in front of the music doors.

All of these changes and improvements made are to help students feel welcome on Concordia's campus.

Thank you for the feedback that ASCUI receives, as it is beneficial and essential. Without it, students lose out on opportunities to shape and form a better campus for all. We hope that you enjoy the new amenities.

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# Chris Gould Earns His 100th Win For Men's Soccer

REESE FLYNN  
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's Men's Soccer team walked off the Eagles Field on Sat., Oct. 14 with a 4-0 victory over Chaminade, but it was no ordinary PacWest win. Chris Gould, Director of Soccer, earned his 100th win as the Head Coach for the men's program. Even after achieving such a significant milestone, Gould focused on the bigger picture. "It's impressive for our program to achieve it," said Gould. "I think it a reflection of the types of individuals that have come through the program and the coaches."

As a former soccer player and Concordia graduate of 2006, Gould is the epitome of a Concordia Eagle, now coaching both men and women's teams. Gould appreciates that this milestone happens to be at his alma mater and knows that success begins with a great

foundation.

Gould found a gem in the recruiting process back in 2014 with Connor Gordon, graduating from Edison High School in Huntington Beach. Gordon, now a senior, got a glimpse of Concordia soccer culture during his recruitment. "[Coach Gould] actually cared about what was best for me as a person, not only as a soccer player. He treated me with respect and honesty, which is also something that is very rare to find in the college recruiting processes," said Gordon.

After being a part of many victories, Gordon has also seen the challenges, especially during the time of transition from a NAIA program to NCAA Division II. Gordon feels lucky to have been a part of his coach's 100th career win and he reflected on the program's various ups and downs. Gordon said, "It has been amazing to see the positivity and determination in a coaching staff. [Gould] has made endless

sacrifices and contributions to the program, and it is an incredible honor to return the favor and honor his legacy with the win. I am very proud to be a part of this program."

While Gould is credited with all the wins of the past and the ones that will be sure to follow, he points out that he has had help along the way. That help includes his old teammate and longtime assistant coach, Cheyne Gordon '05. Gould said it is important to have Cheyne Gordon on the bench with him to serve as a "soundboard" but also pitch in ideas. "The coolest part of the journey is doing it with someone who is also invested at the same level. We are invested as people, not [just] as coaches, or former players," said Gould.

From the bleachers, it seems that Gould and Concordia haven't missed a beat. Athletic Director, Mo Roberson said the achievement is a "well-deserved honor for Coach Gould and a



PC: Troy Makalena

testament to the great student-athletes he has been able to recruit." Roberson said this achievement is fitting since Gould was named PacWest Coach of the 2016-2017 year.

Many accolades and championships have come Gould's way over the course of his tenure at Concordia, and the future looks bright. The men's program is currently competing for a top position in the PacWest Conference, but because of their

recent Northern California trip being postponed due to the wildfire, it has put them behind for now. That trip is also delaying the inevitable for Gould securing another milestone, 100-career wins as the women's soccer coach. Seemingly, only Mother Nature can slow Gould and his soccer program down. As long as he surrounds himself with great coaches and quality players, success will continue to come Gould's way.

## Watch out PacWest: CUI Women's Tennis Player wins Regional Championship

SAMANTHA SCHUSTER  
STAFF WRITER

On Sat., Sep. 30, senior Anastasiia Kuprina won the 2017 ITA West Regional Championships, earning herself a spot in the National Championships and showing the rest of the PacWest that the Concordia Women's Tennis Team is a force to be reckoned with.

Kuprina prevailed in the finals where she faced fellow Eagle and freshman newcomer Ghazal Pakbaten with a score of 6-2, 6-0. "I stayed very focused and think I played really well. It's kind of hard to play your teammate," Kuprina said. "Usually, when I win the point I like to scream, but that's hard to do when you're playing against your teammate and friend. I couldn't be as emotional as I normally am, which helps me to keep going and keep my energy up."

Kuprina didn't seem to have a problem with her stamina, as she didn't drop a set throughout the entirety of the tournament. Her closest match was a 6-2, 7-5 win over Azusa Pacific's Kara Hinton in the round of 16. Kuprina says her ability to finish her early matches quickly played a factor in her final match against Pakbaten. "My teammate had a really tough tournament, so she was pretty tired for the final," said Kuprina. "I believe she's much better than



Left to right: Coach Jonathan Sanchez, Johanna Keeline, Ghazal Pakbaten, Anastasiia Kuprina, Hanna Riterova, Ashley Glick, and Haley Diefenbach

the score shows."

Concordia had yet to make it past the round of 16 in the past two years of participation in the tournament, so to have not only one, but two Eagles in the finals was a big step in the right direction for the tennis program. "Two

girls [from the same team] getting to the finals... That just doesn't happen very often—in any program—so that was pretty cool," said Coach Jonathan Sanchez.

Kuprina wasn't the only Eagle to make history at regionals this year. "That was the best perfor-

mance we've had at regionals collectively as a team since I've been here," said Sanchez. "We had some really big wins."

On her way to the finals, Pakbaten took out the #1 seed and last year's champion Jensyn Warren of Stanislaus State with

a score of 7-6(5), 6-4. Junior Johanna Keeline defeated UCSD's #3 singles player Becky Chou in a tight 3-set match. Plus, junior Sam Schuster pulled out a 3-set win against the #1 singles player for Dominican University.

With the tournament win, Kuprina had the opportunity to represent the Eagles in the ITA National Championships in Georgia over mid-semester break. With an unlucky draw, Kuprina faced the #1 seed, Hanna Volikova, from the University of Indianapolis. Kuprina took last year's runner-up to three sets and almost pulled off the upset, but in the end, fell short with a score of 6-4, 6-7(4), 6-1.

"I think I did pretty well, just got really tired in the third set," said Kuprina. "I lost because I wasn't prepared physically for this tournament, so that's something I'll be working on to prepare for the upcoming season."

"It was my expectation that we would do well," said Sanchez. "The way we trained before the tournament isn't going to change too much from the way we're going to train after the tournament because I've always trained [our team] believing that we were capable of beating any team in our conference."

The official women's tennis season will start early February and their schedule can be found at [www.cuieagles.com](http://www.cuieagles.com).

# Carmany Jones Wins PacWest Player of the Week

ANDERSON CLARKE  
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Forward, Carmany Jones has won the PacWest Women's soccer player of the week for her performances for the week of Oct. 2-8. Jones, who is from nearby Lake Forest, Calif. led the league with three goals in the Eagles two games for the week. Jones scored twice in the Eagles 3-2 loss to California Baptist University, before then scoring again in the Eagles 4-0 win against Chaminade University.

Jones who now leads the team with five goals on the season said that "receiving this award makes me feel accomplished knowing that I can bring recognition to our team and school." She listed winning PacWest Player of the Week as the second biggest achievement of her young career, only behind being offered a scholarship to play college soccer at Concordia. Jones' achievement is even more impressive as she is only a freshman.

She said that "beginning the season as a freshman and transitioning to college soccer was a big challenge." Jones added, "she was on a more intense schedule and had to learn that coming in as a freshman you have to start from the bottom." Her biggest challenge was adapting to the increased speed of play. It's a big



Courtesy of Concordia Athletics

difference from high school and club soccer.

When asked about how the team is doing this season Jones said "I think the team is really good this year. We are relatively young with a freshman class of eight. We actually only have two

seniors. But with that being said, every player plays an impactful and important role in this program.

"The returning players really helped all of the freshman feel a part of the program and brought us closer together which translat-

ed to the way we play on the field. So far this season we have had a few unfortunate losses but we're continuing to get better and understanding that those losses only make us better."

When asked about the teams goals for the remainder of the sea-

son Jones said, "we're striving to finish out the season strong and hopefully it will lead to a trip to the tournament."

The lady Eagles will look for their next win on Oct. 21 at home when they take on Biola University.

## Personal Reflection: Las Vegas Shooting Aftermath

ASHLEY SANDS  
STAFF WRITER

On the night of Oct. 1, a 64-year-old man fired rounds into a crowd of music festival attendees, killing 58 individuals and injuring hundreds from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. After taking these lives, the shooter killed himself. Meanwhile, panic spread across the strip as people fled to safety and others responded to what is now the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

On Monday, Oct. 2, I woke up in a state of disillusionment. After four hours of sleep, I texted all my friends from home to ask if they were okay. One of my friends told me she left before the shooting, but knew one of the deceased. I found out I knew him too. We had been co-workers. His smile could light up a

room, and his welcoming spirit had always made me feel accepted.

That day, I couldn't function. I cried for hours. I thought about his family and friends and how painful it must be for them. My mind failed to comprehend that he was gone.

But somehow, the people around me managed to go about their day. I wanted every person to take a day off from personal responsibilities and understand the pain. All day, I kept to myself; the Bible my only companion.

The second day was almost

worse. My alarm couldn't wake me up. I tried to focus on my professors, but all I could think about was my co-worker who was now gone. I thought about the fear and confusion everyone must have experienced. I felt entangled in the midst of an event I didn't witness. I tried to do my homework and normal tasks, but nothing felt right.

For the next few days, I spent more time with friends. They took my mind off of the situation, made me laugh and helped me appreciate life more. It is now more apparent to me how precious life is. In light of the

pain, I prayed it would become more bearable.

Two weeks later, I am still upset. I am still angry. But I've found peace in scripture. Psalm 62:2 says, "He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken." Every time pain reenters my heart, I go back to this verse. It reminds me that no matter the situation, I will not fall apart. I shall not be greatly shaken. I've accepted that I can't control what happens in this world, but I can choose who I turn to when tragedy strikes. This tragedy has made me rethink the way I live

my life—each day with a purpose.

Although evil is present in tragedies like this one, I know that love overcomes. I am unable to comprehend why this happened or how someone is capable of such violence. But, I have hope that God will restore broken hearts—including mine. I will never forget what happened. Every individual affected by this shooting is in my thoughts and prayers. Las Vegas won't be defined by this tragedy.

*Editor's Note: Our prayers go out to those affected by the Las Vegas tragedy. If you, or someone you know, is struggling, please utilize the Wellness Center's counseling services. For more information, please visit [cui.edu/studentlife/wellness-center](http://cui.edu/studentlife/wellness-center) and click on "Counseling Center." Thank you to Ashley for bravely sharing her story.*

**"Las Vegas won't be defined by this tragedy."**

# Breast Cancer Awareness Month: How Susan G. Komen Is Making a Difference

HAILEY O'NEIL  
STAFF WRITER

Susan G. Komen Orange County is an organization dedicated to helping women and saving lives within their community. Their main goals are fighting, preventing and working to cure breast cancer. Komen OC was founded in 1991 by a group of individuals looking to make a difference in their community and help fight breast cancer.

Komen OC is the largest breast cancer organization in the U.S. and conducts more research than any nonprofit outside of the federal government. Over 38 million dollars have been donated since the organization was founded, with 75 percent invested in local breast cancer health and medical care, and the remaining 25 percent in research. Komen OC

helps ensure that individuals battling breast cancer have the resources to fight their battles regardless of age or background.

The organization's health and medical ser-

It is a way for survivors throughout the community to come together and celebrate their victories as well as support those who are still fighting

Marketing Director

and two 5K races.

In the midst of the events, they also have a Breast Cancer Survivor's Tribute. "While not always a happy day for some who've lost friends

be able to do the work that we do without the help of the thousands of volunteers who contribute much of their time to the organization," said Cozort. The volunteers raise awareness within their community and help by encouraging others to get mammograms, helping with events, or lending a sympathetic ear to the strong fighters or survivors.

For those who are looking to get involved with the Susan G. Komen Orange County organization, they are putting on several events throughout October in support of breast cancer awareness month. The list of these events is available on their website, [komenoc.org](http://komenoc.org). There are also opportunities to donate or volunteer at these events. Cozort said, "Every role is so important and helps us get closer to the cure."

*"Komen OC helps ensure that individuals battling breast cancer have the necessary resources to help fight their battles regardless of age or background."*

vices are made possible by different fundraising events that they put on, one major event being the Race for the Cure. Komen OC puts on this race as a tribute to survivors and to fundraise so those still battling can get the proper care they need.

Julie Cozort said, "The Race for the Cure is always a heartfelt community event. We see thousands of people who are happy to be at the race." Their most recent race took place on Sun., Sept. 24 at Fashion Island and featured a one-mile run

and family to the disease, you can see the sense of support and togetherness that they feel from being there," said Cozort.

Komen OC gives a huge amount of recognition to their volunteers for making their events possible. "We would not

# Anaheim Hills Fire Impacts Students At Concordia

SARAH KRETSCHMAR  
STAFF WRITER

The Anaheim Hills fire, known as the Canyon 2 fire, began Mon., Oct. 9 at 9:45 a.m. due to vegetation. It began off of East Santa Ana Canyon Rd, west of Gypsum Canyon in Anaheim Hills which is approximately 20 miles from campus. Spreading across 9,217 acres, the fire caused many people to evacuate in cities such as Anaheim, North Tustin and Orange.

In total, 3,500 structures were threatened, with 80 of them destroyed or severely damaged as a result of the fire. 1,660 firefighters came to Orange County's aid in over 250 fire trucks.

Fortunately, the wrath and flames of this fire were subsided and as of October 18, the fire was 100% contained. Although the fire may have passed, the devastation it caused in lives and homes remains.

Because this fire took place

so close to Concordia, it affected many of Concordia's students and professors. Several classes were cancelled because professors were unable to make it to Concordia because of the many road closures that were in place during the fire. Students who lived in the affected area had to be evacuated from their homes because of the fires.

Holly Spencer, senior, was evacuated from her home in Anaheim Hills. She recalls being able to see the flames from the porch of her home and the heavy smoke and ash that took over her neighborhood. Spencer called the scene of heavy smoke and ash as "something apocalyptic." Spencer had to evacuate her home and only had 20 minutes to grab valuable belongings. She grabbed her sentimental essentials and things that would be nearly impossible to replace. Spencer was very thankful for the understanding professors who were sympathetic towards her

situation. Spencer is from Las Vegas, and has had a perspective change due to the mass shooting in her hometown and the evacuations in her current home. "I am simply more grateful for each day," said Spencer.

Gabriel Phillips, senior, was

for many families."

Michael Nava, senior, also had to deal with the repercussions of an evacuation. Nava lives on campus but his parents and two siblings live in North Tustin and were evacuated. Nava said, "[I] felt scared to know that my family and

she quickly grabbed important documents and the family's four pets. While gathering their things, she could hear the helicopters announcing a mandatory evacuation. Eilefson said, "It was pretty scary thinking that was the last time I may see my house."

*"In total, 3,500 structures were threatened, with 80 of them destroyed or severely damaged as a result of the fire."*

also affected by the fire. His home was in potential danger with a fire only two miles from my house."

home was in potential danger with a fire only two miles from my house."

Amy Eilefson, senior, was yet another student who evacuated from her home. Eilefson lives in Anaheim Hills. She got home and was informed that they had to evacuate so

Thankfully, the Anaheim Hills fire is now contained and is no longer a threat. Coming just one week after the tragedy in Las Vegas, it is more apparent now more than ever that we should all be united in Christ and pray for those affected by these tragedies.

# Concordia Wind Orchestra Invitational

JASON RYAN  
STAFF WRITER

Last Tuesday, Oct. 17 Concordia's Wind Orchestra partnered with local schools and held this year's first Concordia Wind Orchestra Invitational Concert in the CU Center. Len Montgomery, conductor of Brethren Christian High School, and Dr. Tony Mazzaferro, conductor of Fullerton College Concert Band, led their groups through a set of fantastic music. Following, there was a performance by the Concordia Wind Orchestra.

"The CU Center is a very unique performance venue for bands due to its reverberant acoustics and aesthetic look," said Dr. Jeff, Held, Director of the Concordia University Irvine Wind Orchestra ensemble. "It is enjoyable to know how much other groups enjoy coming here to perform and their sound takes on a life of its

own in our space."

On top of being a unique experience for visiting bands, playing at Concordia can be a useful experience as well. "These high school invitationals are a great way to expose the Concordia Music Pro-

gram to prospective students," said Cassandra Forrero, junior student and member of the Concordia Ensemble. Partially because of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Concordia Wind Orchestra Invitational is programming music based on Lutheran hymnody or the organ style of toccata (a technical virtuosic piece of

music). According to Dr. Held, "The most familiar piece we will perform is Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor and we'll do it

with Dr. Tom Mueller on the organ." As for one of the advantages of having a collaboration of high school students and colleges students alike, "We are making more friends at different high schools, and when

schools that participate."

As far as advice goes for future students looking to get into the Concordia Orchestra band in years to come, Dr. Held encourages young musicians to "audition as soon as possible."

The invitational is in the past, but there's still many Concordia music programs to come. The Fall Choral Concert is Sat., Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the CU Center. The Box Office is located in the Music Department office in the CU Center and is open Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Box Office is also open in the lobby of the Studio Theatre one hour before each performance. Tickets may be purchased online by selecting the event in the calendar. All students receive complimentary tickets to campus performances. For more information, please email [boxoffice@cui.edu](mailto:boxoffice@cui.edu) or call (949) 214-3418.



Dr. Held leading orchestral performance. PC: CUI Facebook

gram to prospective students," said Cassandra Forrero, junior student and member of the Concordia Ensemble.

music). According to Dr. Held, "The most familiar piece we will perform is Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor and we'll do it

students hear the Concordia Wind Orchestra, they have been impressed," said Dr. Held. "We have seen a number of auditions from

## Little Known Ministry Group on Campus Brings Scripture and Smiles to Area Youth

KAILEY VIGIL  
STAFF WRITER

Crayons and chickens and bears! Oh my! ACTS (Acclaiming Christ through Theatre and Service) is the theatre ministry team on Concordia's campus. Each year, students from various majors including theater, education and theology gather together to create skits that spread the Gospel.

The campus bible verse is always the theme for these students' skits and are usually geared towards elementary age children. Several workshop days are held in order for ACTS members to analyze the verse, brainstorm, write the script and rehearse. The plays are approximately 10 minutes long and packed with physical comedy. In past years, students have dressed up as crayons, chickens,

pilots, and this year: bears.

The campus verse this

is playing off the word "bear" this year and have written two skits

ly really early, but total-

ly worth it when you see the kids' faces light up with excitement while you're on stage," said Kylee Sullivan, senior. Concordia's Director of Campus and Community Outreach, Pastor Bil Hood, picks students up in the morning and takes them to a school in Southern California to perform the skits and talk to the children about the love of God.

Senior Holly Spencer is a second year member of the group and she's excited for what's to come this year. "I love getting to make a fool of myself in hopes that the kids will laugh and better remember the message behind our skits," said Spencer.

The ACTS team is also dedicated to helping Orange County by doing community service. Throughout the year, ACTS members

find service projects to participate in to get involved in the community. They have done anything from volunteering time at elementary school fall festivals to cleaning up river channels.

The group had their first outing last Wednesday to Christ Lutheran School in Costa Mesa. The team had a successful response from students and teachers alike. The group hopes to have more similar responses to their skits in the future.

ACTS auditions are held early in the fall semester, but it's not too late to get involved. Director of ACTS, Callie Johnson, asks students looking to help their community through fun projects to get involved. For more information contact [callie.johnson@cui.edu](mailto:callie.johnson@cui.edu) or [lori.siekmann@cui.edu](mailto:lori.siekmann@cui.edu).



First ACTS performance of the year at Christ Lutheran Costa Mesa. Left to right: Holly Spencer, Kailey Vigil, Kylie Sullivan

# Caf Cashier Earns Regional Recognition

Continued from p.1

tures like walking those who are new to The Caf to familiarize them with the different stations. Bon Appetit management regularly receives comment cards reporting that a brief interaction with Alfaro “made their day.”

Alfaro was surprised to have received the award. “Mainly God gave [the award] to me, but it was also my boss, Laura,” she said with a smile.

“All of the faculty and staff on campus know her and most of the students know her name within the first few weeks of starting school,” said Hodge. “I love seeing the senior students that come by the Cafe the last week of classes to make sure they say goodbye to her before they graduate.” Hodge said that some



Alfaro and her boss and Bon Appetit Manager, Laura Hodge. PC: Annie Studdert

students even give Alfaro cards and small gifts. Alfaro traveled to

Orlando for a well-deserved, all-expenses-paid vacation and to

receive her “Superhero” award on October 18. Stop by The Caf during

breakfast or lunch and be sure to offer your congratulations!

## 2017-2018 President’s Academic Showcase is Officially Underway

JAMI DERBY  
SPORTS EDITOR

The 15th annual President’s Academic Showcase is just around the corner. Students of all academic disciplines are encouraged to consider participating in the competition.

Up to three units of credits can be earned as well as over \$5000 in prizes!

The competition is split into two levels, one for freshman/sophomores and one for juniors/seniors. A selected panel of faculty from various specialties serve as judges for the competition. Prizes range from \$200 to \$1500.

Students may submit a scholarly research paper up to 25 pages in length as well as an academic poster for the showcase. An oral presentation will be required for the five finalists.

”The Academic Showcase is a perfect opportunity for students to prepare for grad school and to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor,”

Dr. Erin Nelson, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, suggests taking an idea or topic from a paper written in one of

need a faculty advisor for their project to help guide them through research. Nelson suggests reaching out to a professor in your desired area of focus and asking them if they would be willing to work one-on-one with you to compete in the showcase.

The competition is interdisciplinary, meaning students from biology, english, theology, behavioral sciences, music, theatre, education, business, communication studies, psychology, art, chemistry, history, anthropology, linguistics and mathematics (i.e. any academic discipline) can participate and do research.

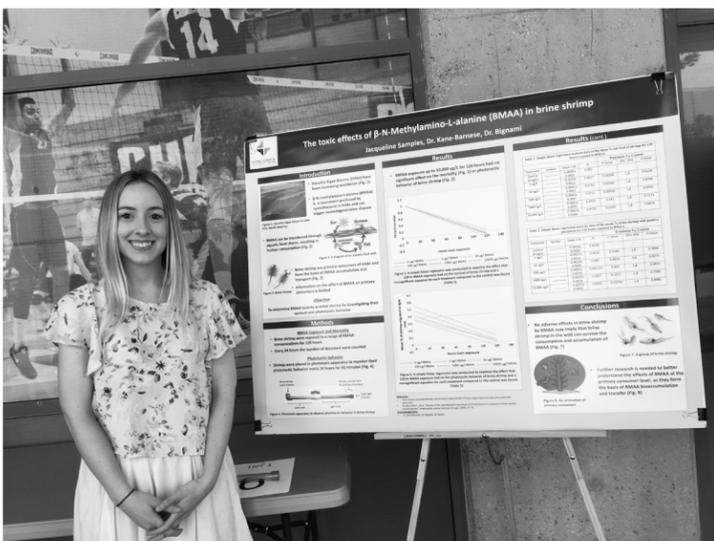
Nelson also notes that the academic showcase can be a great resume

boost especially for those looking to pursue a higher education. “Besides the monetary prizes, this is an excellent opportunity for you to exercise your academic muscles and delve deeper into a particular discipline and experience cutting-edge research,” said Nelson.

The window for sign-ups is open now through Jan. 26 and the research paper is due March 20.

Other important dates: Academic poster- due April 5, finalist presentations- due April 11.

Questions can be directed to faculty members or the President’s Academic Showcase Coordinator, Dr. Melinda Shulteis at Melinda.shulteis@cui.edu.



Student Jacqueline Samples presents at the 2016 Academic Showcase. PC: Caroline Wong

said Dr. Melinda Schulteis, coordinator of the 2017 Academic Showcase. “That’s not something you get to do at a lot of universities, so it’s a huge benefit to our students.”

your classes and turning it into a research project. Each student will

***“The window for sign-ups is open now through Jan. 26 and the research paper is due March 20.”***

# Netflix's Options For a Perfect "Fright Night"

TAYLOR STICKLE  
STAFF WRITER

Halloween is less than two weeks away, and many are tucking in and turning on horror films for a quick fright to get in the mood for this ghoulish holiday. I set out to help my fellow Eagles find the perfect scare-inducing film. I put my fear of horror films aside, put on my favorite pair of "CUI" sweat pants, grabbed the fluffiest pillow for face burying I could find and dove into the "Halloween Picks" section on every college student's favorite cinematic viewing device—Netflix.

I decided to begin with a Stephen King classic, Fritz Kiersch's *Children of the Corn*, originally released in 1984. The movie opens up with Vicky (played by Linda Hamilton) and her boyfriend Burt (played by Peter Horton) in a hotel on their way

to a medical internship that Burt is trying to land. On the way through Nebraska, the couple runs into problems when they come across a town called Gatlin, where the children have created a religious cult and murdered all the adults in the town.

Since the movie premiered in 1984, the costuming, set, and props are very cheesy. The acting isn't incredible, but I wouldn't call it unbearable. This film does an excellent job of building suspense through the use of music and carefully planned camera angles. Luckily for those of you who are like me and are easily frightened by horror films, there aren't many parts that make you jump.

Overall, *Children of the Corn* receives 3 out of 5 pumpkins. It is entertaining, and perfect to have playing in the background at your Halloween party, but if you're

looking for a real scare, the old-school graphics and terrible fight choreography make it almost comical.

Next, I decided to jump into something a little more contemporary: Mike Flanagan's 2016 film *Hush*. In this film the antagonist, Maddie (played by Kate Siegel), is a woman who has lost her ability to both hear and speak after a bad case of meningitis as a teenager. She lives alone in the mountains with her cat, and one night a man with a crossbow appears at her home with a taste for murder!

The entirety of the film takes place in and around Maddie's home. The murderer torments Maddie psychologically and physically throughout this 1h 21min thriller. The movie is more suspense than anything else. Though be warned, there are some seriously bloody scenes. Overall, *Hush* receives 4 out

5 pumpkins for its ability to make you simultaneously not want to watch yet not able to look away. It's not the scariest movie on the list, but if you're looking for a mild-moderate scare, this is the movie for you!

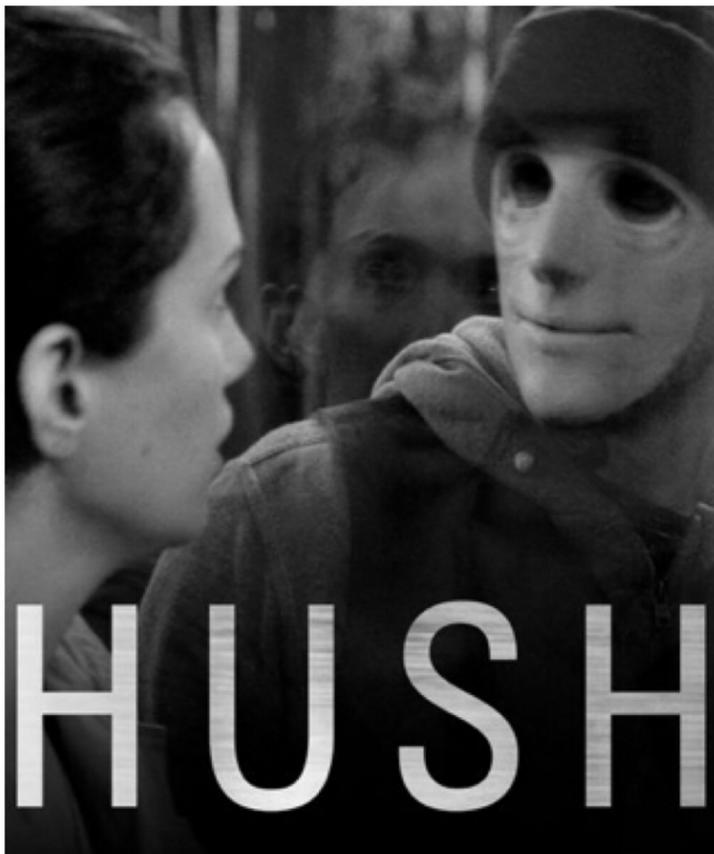
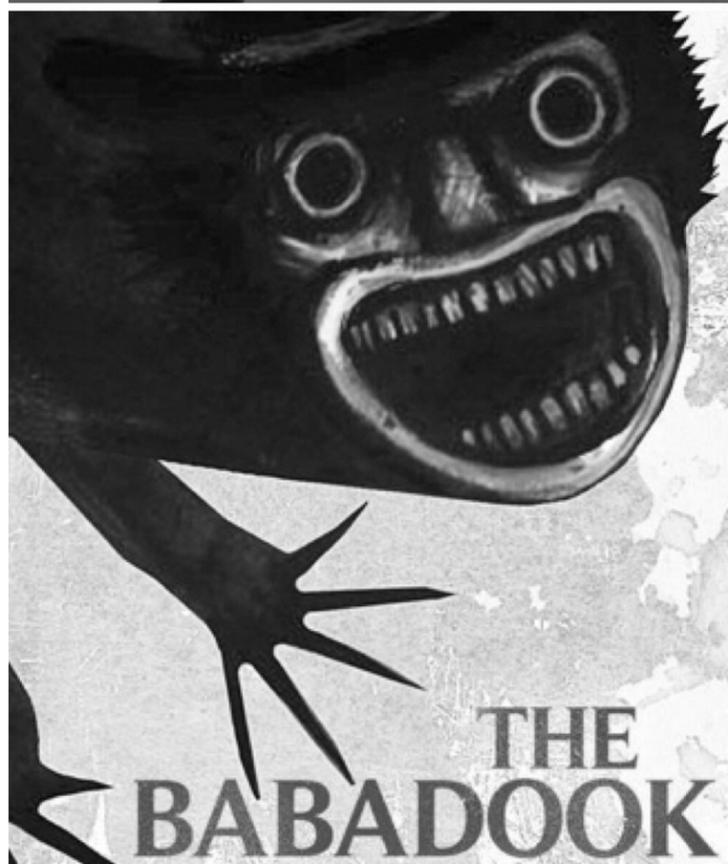
Third up isn't a movie, it's the Netflix original series *Stranger Things*. For those who have not yet seen *Stranger Things*, it is a thriller/horror/dramatic series that premiered on Netflix last year. In the first episode, we see a young boy by the name of Will Byers (played by Noah Schnapp) disappear at the hands of the Demogorgon, a beast from an alternate dimension known as "the upside-down." Season one centers around Will's friends and family trying to find him, while simultaneously dealing with a lot of "stranger things" that are happening around their normally quiet town of

Hawkins, Indiana.

With the second season set to be released on Oct. 27 this year, now is the perfect time to cuddle up and acquaint yourself with this winner of the Screen Actor's Guild Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series. Overall, *Stranger Things* receives 5 out of 5 pumpkins for its incredible writing, amazing plot and wonderful acting.

Last, but certainly not least, is the 2014 Australian horror film, and Empire Award winner for Best Horror: *The Babadook*, directed by Jennifer Kent. This film is about a storybook shadow man that knocks on your door with an ominous *ba ba DOOK! DOOK! DOOK!* and once let inside, never leaves and brings your nightmares to life.

The *Babadook* is great if you are looking for a movie full of suspense, artistic shadow play, and a few nightmares. Overall I give *The Babadook* 4 out of 5 pumpkins. It is absolutely worth a watch and perfect for a Halloween Fright Night!



*Children of the Corn* (1984; directed by Fritz Kiersch)

Gore: 🍷  
Frights: 🍷  
Comedic Relief: 🍷🍷  
Suspense: 🍷🍷  
Overall: 🍷🍷🍷

*Hush* (2016; directed by Mike Flanagan)

Gore: 🍷🍷🍷  
Frights: 🍷🍷  
Comedic Relief: —  
Suspense: 🍷🍷🍷  
Overall: 🍷🍷🍷🍷

*Stranger Things* (2016; directed by Matt Duffer, Ross Duffer, Shawn Levy, Andrew Stanton, Rebecca Thomas)

Gore: —  
Frights: 🍷  
Comedic Relief: 🍷🍷🍷  
Suspense: 🍷🍷🍷🍷  
Overall: 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

*The Babadook* (2014; directed by Jennifer Kent)

Gore: 🍷  
Frights: 🍷🍷  
Comedic Relief: —  
Suspense: 🍷🍷🍷🍷  
Overall: 🍷🍷🍷🍷