

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

Volume 12, Issue 9

Concordia University Irvine

Friday, February 2, 2018

Revisiting the veterans: How the VRC feels more like home

DANIELLE WALKER
STAFF WRITER

Three issues ago, the Concordia Courier highlighted the U.S. Staff Sgt. Matthew Thompson Veterans Resource Center and the honorable ceremony following Sgt. Thompson's passing. This week, we take another look at the VRC. Specifically, we look to Steven Leader, VRC Manager, and appreciate the positive change he's created for the 40-plus student veterans on campus, making them feel more comfortable by giving them a place to go.

Since the VRC moved from the third floor of Admin to the first, many new resources have become available. "With the move, it became ADA compliant, which means it is more accessible for all

our veterans on campus throughout the day," said Leader.

The move has also brought more students into the center. "We typically have three to five students in and out every hour from 8-4," said Leader. It also gave the ability to have 24 hour access with a specific key code, which has created a significant increase in the usage of the center. For example, Leader said commuters have decided to come to campus earlier instead of sitting in traffic.

Leader said that utilization of the veteran's center is important because it helps check in with students, making sure they are attending classes as well as finding out if they have any issues with their funding or if they need anything.

The center also offers coffee, tea, soda, snacks and phone charging stations as a way to help out and make veterans feel more welcome.

Cameron Monahan, senior and Marine veteran, takes advantage of the resource center often because of the comfortable environment, free printing, charging stations, resources and the benefits. When asked if there were any improvements that he would like to see brought into the veterans center, Monahan said, "It is decked out more than I expected it to be. Moving created a better environment. That was the greatest improvement of all."

For students who are not veterans and are interested in joining the military, the center now has ASVAB

study books as well as the vast amount of knowledge and experience from the veterans who have served and contact information to learn more about the enlistment process.

Veterans will also need to keep in touch with Leader to make sure they are up to date and ready to apply for a new \$25,000 scholarship which will be available only for veterans. The advisory board is still working out the application process, but this opportunity will be available for veterans who have an honorable discharge and are not fully funded by the G.I Bill, along with a few other requirements that are still in the works. The board is hoping to have this scholarship ready to be utilized by Spring 2019.

Debating Religious Liberty & Discrimination: A Recap

TAYLOR STICKLE
STAFF WRITER

On the evening of Tues., Jan. 30, Concordia's Department of History and Political Thought and the School of Arts and Sciences hosted a much anticipated debate about Religious Liberty and Discrimination in the CU Center.

The two men debating were Dr. John Corvino, Professor and Chair of Philosophy at Wayne State University and LGBT-rights advocate, and Dr. Ryan T. Anderson, the William E. Simon Senior Research Fellow at The Heritage Foundation.

Corvino and Anderson co-authored "Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination," which was what inspired hosting this incredible display of good civic discourse. The debate used the "Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado" Supreme Court case as its main touch point. Still under review, the case questions the legality of Jack Phillips, the owner of a Colorado bakery, refusing to sell a wedding cake to

Continued on p. 7



Irvine Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Schoot, Steve Leader, President Krueger, Lynda Thompson, Mark Thompson and CW2 Jake Marker at the ribbon cutting for the new office
Courtesy of the U.S. Staff Sgt. Matthew Thompson Veterans Resource Center

ASCUI Election Coming Soon: Meet the Candidates

MADDY HAASE
ASCUI SECRETARY

ASCUI Elections are right around the corner. This is your chance to vote for next year's ASCUI Executive Board. The Executive Board is committed to giving students a voice, hearing their concerns and relaying what they hear to faculty, staff and upper administration. There will be elections outside of the caf next Thursday (2/8) and Friday (2/9). Come out and vote and show your school spirit.



ASCUI Presidential
Candidate:

Jessica James:

Jessica James is a junior from Corona, CA, and is running for ASCUI President. She is majoring in Communication Studies with minors in Business and Youth Ministry. Jessica has 3 years of leadership experience at Concordia as a senator, the ASCUI Secretary, a LEAD Student Activities Coordinator and the ODK VP of Service. She is a Bible study leader on campus and interned at Saddleback Church last fall. Jessica has worked at both In-n-Out and Chick-fil-A and it would be "her pleasure" to serve as President!



ASCUI Vice President
Candidate:

Isabelle Upchurch:

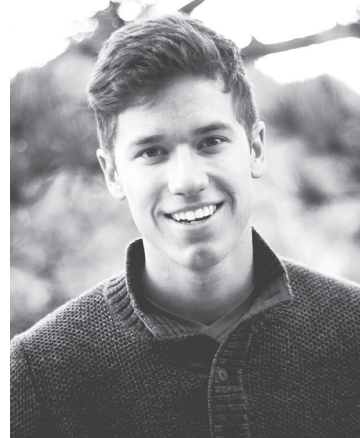
Isabelle Upchurch, from Wake Forest, North Carolina, is currently a sophomore majoring in Liberal Studies. She hopes to become a special education teacher at a Lutheran school and wants to be your next ASCUI Vice President. She currently serves as the ASCUI Treasurer and feels that this experience will help her progress and enhance the Vice President role if she is elected. She also is part Donne Di Canto, works for Phonathon, and serves as a women's bible study leader here on campus. In her free time, Isabelle enjoys hanging out with friends, going to the beach, being active and watching Netflix.



ASCUI Treasurer
Candidate:

Melissa Evans:

"I'm Melissa and I like hiking, puppies and the beach"



ASCUI Communications
Director Candidate:

Forrest McFarlan

Forrest McFarland is a Sophomore Communications major with experience in media management and graphic design. He's an RA and a Student Senator, and he wants to become your Communications Director because all of his friends kept saying "run Forrest run!"



ASCUI Secretary
Candidate:

Katie Depol:

"I currently work at my church as an administrator where my button-pushing, word-forming skills have been mastered. I take minutes, plan/facilitate events and manage projects that enhance the church behind the scenes. Vote Katie for ASCUI Secretary, I get things done the right way."



ASCUI

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Courtesy of CUI

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Concordia Irvine swim and dive season update

TRISTAN SELF & VICTORIA PELERAS
STAFF WRITERS

This year's Swimming and Diving Team is one of the most competitive Concordia has seen in recent years. With well-seasoned upperclassmen and young, energetic underclassmen, this year's team has had a successful season not only in the pool but also in the classroom where they were recognized as a Scholar All-American team. As the swim and dive season comes to a close, the team will compete in the Conference Championships and then look forward to Nationals.

Bailee Blankemeier, senior, is currently one of the four captains who represent the 52 competing athletes on the swim

team. Blankemeier's 16 years of swim experience has resulted in quite an impressive résumé. Not only has she been nominated and named an All-American, but she also is a National Champion in the 400 IM and second place finisher in the 500 free and 200 fly.

Blankemeier will appear at the Pacific Collegiate Swim and Dive Conference (PCSC) Championships in two weeks and although postseason has yet to be determined, she believes there is a good chance she will make an appearance.

Blankemeier was quick to give praise to this year's swim team as a whole. "This year we have a lot of young swimmers and they bring a lot of excitement and energy to the team." However, this season has

not been a cakewalk. This is Concordia's first year as a NCAA institution, which has added "a lot of pressure and desire to try to qualify for postseason."

Senior men's captain, Minh Dang, is also looking

this being my last year of collegiate competition. I'm also excited to see how my teammates will perform since some of them will be competing in their first conference finals meet."

Emma Mocharnuk,



Minh Dang competes in the 100 fly at the Malibu Invitational, Courtesy of Concordia Athletics

forward to conference finals coming up. Dang said, "I'm excited to see how I'll perform with

sophomore, has been swimming for six years, but this is the biggest event in which she will swim. Going

into her first conference finals, Mocharnuk said, "I am so excited because I love travel trips, and we are really prepared for this meet." Mocharnuk will be swimming the butterfly and freestyle events and said, "I am really looking forward to the 100 freestyle because I feel like I have the most potential to improve in that event."

Our swim athletes have prepared long and hard in order to succeed at Conference Finals. The team will appear at the PCSC Championships Feb. 13- 17 in La Mirada, California. Those who then qualify for the National Championships will fly across the country in mid-March to compete in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Track and Field Team making strides and breaking records

JOHN ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Track and Field Team has been tearing up the 2017-2018 indoor season. With four meets already in the books, the team is in the bulk of their indoor season. Yet, the team has been keeping their eye on the prize, competing for top spots at Indoor Nationals.

We have seen the Eagles soar to new heights against tough competition all indoor season. Looking to compete against the best in the country, the team traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Collegiate Invitational. While competing against over 800 athletes from top NCAA Division I programs, several Eagles were able to snag top 20 finishes.

Jayson Baker placed 12th in the 800-meter with a time of 2:01.02. On the women's side, Jenna Lanskey's time of 1:42.69 in the 600-meter earned her a 16th place finish. Head Coach Danny Bowman was pleased with the results against tough competition and looks forward to the upcoming meets.

The following weekend,

Concordia's best athletes traveled to Pittsburg, Kansas for the Pittsburg State Invitational. The Pittsburg State Gorillas are former Indoor Division II Champions and host to this year's Indoor DII Nationals. Strategically, Coach Bowman placed this meet on their schedule to get a feel for the environment and level of competition. At the Invite, the Eagles came to race, placing several top ten finishes and breaking three Concordia school records.

Tamia Prince started it

off with the 60-meter hurdles breaking the record with a lightning fast 9.02 seconds. Hannah Hanson then took over the High Jump edging out the record with a 1.69-meter jump. To cap off the historic meet for the women, the 4x400-meter relay team of Madison Hergert, Halimat Adeyemi, Fatoumata Wague and Morgan Schepker captured the record and tenth place combining for a time of 3:58.52.

The men were also able to accomplish a seventh-place finish in the distance med-

ley relay. The team of Angel Aguirre, Tyler Arnold, Jayson Baker and Hector Arteaga combined for a time of 10:37.03. The proud group was able to leave Pittsburg with new goals as they look forward to Nationals in March.

With four more meets in February, the Eagles look to hone in on specifics and get as much rest as possible, despite a rigorous training and travel schedule. The team travels all around the country this indoor season, competing in meets in loca-

tions ranging from Golden, Colorado to the upcoming meet in Seward, Nebraska at Concordia Nebraska Indoor Invitational.

You can catch your Concordia Track and Field squad locally on Feb. 10 at Soka University just down the 5 Freeway in Aliso Viejo.

If you are not able to make it, you can cheer on the team at home during the outdoor season coming up. The Team 4 Titus & Ely Meet takes place on March 31.

The meet doubles as a fundraising event for Coach Bowman's family. The Bowman's two sons were both diagnosed with a rare recessive neurodegenerative disorder. The money raised goes to research of the disorder and to help alleviate family medical bills. The meet is always an important day for the Concordia Track and Field family. Lanskey talked about how the team needs to look out for each other. "We are a big team, but an even bigger family," said Lanksey. Be sure to come loud and proud as the Eagles athletes look to put on a show for the home crowd.



Courtesy of: cuieagles.com

Off campus fun that won't break the bank

ALEXIS DOREMUS & FRANK
LAGAFUAINA
STAFF WRITERS

Students of Concordia can experience a fun night out without having to travel far. In Irvine alone, there are multiple hangout spots that are affordable, even if you don't have your own car.

Not far from Concordia, there is the newly built Five Point Amphitheater, serving as a new concert venue located outside of the Great Park. Students can find fairly cheap tickets for a multitude of various artists. Some upcoming concerts later this year include Foreigner (Aug. 1), Niall Horan (Aug. 5) and Charlie Puth (Aug. 15). For more information on the venue, go to <https://www.fivepointamphitheatre.com>.

Senior Samantha Jensen said, "I would say the best local hangout would be the Irvine Spectrum. There are plenty of shops, restaurants and there's a movie theatre there as well." The Irvine

College can be stressful, so it's important to take the time to just get out and have some fun.

Spectrum is a ten minute drive from Concordia, with a Regal Cinemas, as well as a range of food options from fancy sit down restaurants to cheaper take-out style chains.

The Irvine Improv also resides there, with cheap tickets available on site as well as through Groupon.

Plus, stop by Umami Burger next door for karaoke on Thursdays from 9 p.m. to close. Dave and Buster's also houses a large amount of arcade games of all kinds, and offers a deal on games on Wednesdays. For details on hours and store information check out https://www.shopirvinespectrumcenter.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=locallistings&utm_campaign=yext-2017.

Jensen also suggested the nearby Boomers for a round of mini golf or go karts, as well as Irvine Lanes, which offers various specials throughout the week. These specials include the popular galaxy bowling, which is \$12 dollars a person Tuesdays 9 p.m. to 12 a.m., and \$18 a person Fridays and Saturdays 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Local, but with beach views, is Fashion Island. Nestled in Newport Beach, it boasts a variety of boutique shops, department stores, and eccentric dining like Lemonade, known for its modern style and healthy menu options, along with upscale chains like The Cheesecake Factory. Described as a "fun, local hangout," junior Kaitlyn Tarango refers to the spot as one of her favorites, and perfect for some post beach day fun, or even for just a laid back day out. For more details check out <https://www.shopfashionisland.com>.

For those who enjoy a less crowded venue, the nearby University Town Center is the perfect spot. Junior Anderson Clarke said, "Some of the public places I enjoy attending include the beach,

Irvine Spectrum and the University Town Center. I find them fun because they are outdoors and I can take my friends there."

The University Town Center is about five minutes away and is like the Irvine Spectrum, but on a smaller scale. Students can go shopping, watch sports on the televisions of restaurants, and above all else, take time to get to know each other and settle down from all of the craziness they have to face in college.

College can be stressful, so it's important to take the time to just get out and have some fun. It is quite apparent that our school is surrounded by exciting places to visit that everyone can enjoy, so why not get out and explore, and maybe even meet some new friends!

New semester, new eats

KARINA DIEZ
MARKETING MANAGER

Brio Tuscan Grill
Where the happy hour is fantastic - cheap eats are the best eats.
Location: Irvine
Cuisine: Italian
Best Dish: Margherita Flatbread

Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen
It's not like you needed another excuse to visit the Disneyland Resort, but here's one for you anyway!
Location: Anaheim
Cuisine: Creole
Best Dish: Pasta Jambalaya

Snooze, an A.M. Eatery
If you would love to eat breakfast for all three meals of the day, this is the place for you.
Location: Tustin
Cuisine: American
Best Dish: Pineapple Upside Down Pancakes

The Old Spaghetti Factory
Pasta lovers unite! They have every kind of pasta and sauce your little heart can imagine.
Location: Fullerton
Cuisine: Italian
Best Dish: Spaghetti (duh!)

Urth Caffe
It's only steps away from the beach. Grab a bite and enjoy the view.
Location: Laguna Beach
Cuisine: Farm to Table
Best Dish: Grilled Cilantro Chicken with Pesto Sandwich



Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen



Orange County Transportation Authority



Irvine Spectrum Center



Courtesy of Yelp



Visit Laguna Beach

Crossing borders: Missionary work in Mexico

CATALINA SALAZAR
STAFF WRITER

From Jan. 27 to 28, 17 students were led by Pastor Jonathan Ruehs and Dr. Cliff Pawley down to Tijuana, Mexico. Once there, they set out to work alongside Pastor Ramon, Director of the Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry (LBCM), who is in charge of the Casa Hogar

Sonrisa de Angeles orphanage. So far, Concordia has built four houses in Tijuana, Mexico through this partnership.

Pawley, Program Director of Athletic Training Education, has worked in Christian education for more than 17 years. The nine students he led focused on building a 12x12 house

for a family. "You have given something to someone who does not have what you have," said Pawley. He expressed that as a Lutheran University there should be emphasis on ministry work.

Pawley shared that he wishes to motivate others to participate in future mission trips. "Follow your walk in Christ," he said. "I expect to have God open their eyes, just like He opened mine."

Allison Shult, junior, has a lot of experience in mission trips. She has taken part in six mission trips to Poland with her church. She was very excited to attend this one to Tijuana with Concordia as well. "This is an easy way to let yourself be used," Shult said. "Anybody with any skills can allow themselves to be the hands and feet of Jesus."

When asked what motivated her to go, Shult said, "I like how accessible it is. It's a weekend; two days of my time, and a three hour drive... Why not go?" Through this trip she realized that "even though there is a language barrier, there



Concordia team blessing the finished product before going to church. The house the team build is in the back. Photo Credit: Dr. Cliff Pawley



Lifting the first wall. Photo Credit: Dr. Cliff Pawley

are ways to communicate through activities."

Ruehs does not just want people that are bilingual or have past experience. Ruehs said, "I look for students that are open, eager to learn, willing to be challenged and to grow." He noticed that the students that have gone in the past want to be part of this experience again. "What I saw was house building and willingness to serve others," said Ruehs.

Ruehs and his group of eight students helped in the orphanage by playing with the kids. Shult was part of this group and said she was looking forward to being

with the kids and "letting them be kids."

Before crossing the border, the students, Pawley and Ruehs attended church with Ramon. While Ruehs gave the service in English, Ramon gave it in Spanish. "Language doesn't have to be a barrier," said Ruehs. He shared how amazing it was to see everyone in the room "worshipping the same Jesus, the same Lord."

If you are interested in the mission trips Concordia has to offer, be sure to visit: <https://www.cui.edu/es-es/studentlife/campus-ministry/missions> for more information.

Students share experiences from Around-the-World

SARAH DIXON
CAMPUS EDITOR

The 2017 fall Around-the-World Semester students are back at Concordia and they have endless memories and experiences to share. The Around-The-World (ATW) Fall 2017 Semester consisted of 29 people who visited ten countries: China, Thailand, India, Rwanda, Croatia, Greece, Germany, Spain, Guatemala and Costa Rica. These countries and cultures taught the ATW students about themselves, about others, and about

God.

The ATW trip consists of classes, mission work, and free time for excursions in every country, including visiting the Great Wall of China, riding elephants in Thailand, going to the original Olympic stadium in Greece and much more. Aside from experiencing so many cultures and monumental places, students take five classes during the ATW semester that go toward a Global Cultural Studies minor.

The students helped out

the communities in every country through service work, such as visiting churches in Germany and Costa Rica, and helping at an orphanage in China. "You learn how to live with people on your team but also the people in each country and their culture," said Maia Jorgensen, sophomore.

The ATW team also learned about themselves. "After seeing so many things, I see that there's a lot I still don't know about myself and the world, which helped me further shape who I am and learn about the kind of person I want to be," said Jorgensen. Lauren Kelley, senior, said that a takeaway from the trip is to "always live life with humility."

Kelley said that different countries and memories are constantly on her mind. "When someone asks what your favorite country was, it's more of a 'this is what I'm feeling at the moment, this is what's on my heart right now,'" said Kelley. "Right now I'm thinking about



Live Nativity that they did in Guatemala

working with the Mother Theresa homes in India, and being able to be there and be helpful to them."

"My favorite memories were the unplanned team bonding things we did," said Jorgensen. "In Costa Rica we would have class together, eat in the same room, and every day after service work we would all play soccer and frisbee for hours."

Jorgensen and Kelley advised everyone who has thought about going on a future ATW semester to keep an open mind about your expectations. "Don't

get caught up in what you think it's going to be based on what the past trips have been," said Jorgensen. "Think of it as your own experience and take it for what it is rather than what you're expecting."

Overall, the trip was full of humbling, amazing and heartwarming experiences that changed the lives of the students and leaders who went on this journey together.

Learn more about the program at cui.edu by searching "ATW."



First day after landing in China

Buddhist Influence: Orange County Museum of Art features International Artist in Solo Exhibit

TAYLOR SAMEC
STAFF WRITER

Young Chinese artist, Shi Zhiying, is helping The Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) embrace the spiritual side of painting with her newest exhibit, “Shi Zhiying.” Titled after her name, this meditative collection is Zhiying’s first ever exhibition in a U.S. museum. Her zen, monochromatic painting style is influenced by both Buddhism and the natural world. This display arrived at the museum on Oct. 7, 2017, and will be available for viewing until Feb. 25.

Zhiying produces artistic works that are known worldwide. A student of Shanghai Fine Arts College, Zhiying’s international acclamation started with her oil paintings. From there, she pursued her love of painting and art. The details and passion she pours into her work is what makes her work so admirable and



‘Ocean’ from 2014. Her artwork radiates peace and serenity. PC_ <https://www.ocma.net/exhibition/shi-zhiying>

loved.

OCMA’s Assistant Curator, Alyssa Cordova, has been an employee of the museum for over four years and appreciates Zhiying’s work. “I love it; it is a wonderful exhibit that resonates with a number of people,” said Cordova. “Her work is aesthetically pleasing and represents a quiet beauty of nature.”

OCMA CEO and Director, Todd Smith, played a personal role in bringing Zhiying’s work into its own exhibit. Smith first saw Zhiying’s art during a trip to China, and had the privilege

of meeting her at a museum in Tampa, Florida back in 2013. Once Smith became director of the museum, he wanted to have her portfolio presented. Her first contributions to the OCMA were placed in a collection called “My Generation: Young Chinese Artists in 2015.” This collection led to her having her very own exhibit today.

OCMA is unique in that it focuses on diverse and international artists. For example, last year, the California-Pacific Triennial exhibit showcased pieces from in and around the Pacific Rim.

It included artists from all over the world, from Los Angeles to Japan to Australia.

The museum is diverse and strives to include artists of all nationalities. “Since the museum was first established in 1962 as the Balboa Pavilion Gallery, it has always included regional and international artists,” said Cordova. Newport Beach is on the Pacific Rim and convenient for international artists from Asia to send in their art pieces to be displayed. However, even artists that are not included on the Pacific Rim are put on

display at the museum.

Zhiying is just one example of the international talent on display at the OCMA, and Zhiying’s exhibit has been so popular that the museum extended the dates for an extra two months. It was supposed to end in December 2017, but is remaining open until the end of February 2018.

Replacing Zhiying’s exhibit in February is a collection called “Pivotal.” It is a collection of the museum’s favorites. The Pivotal exhibit is currently on display, but will be expanding into the Shi Zhiying exhibit space at the end of February.

Overall, a trip to the OCMA to see Zhiying’s exhibit and other fantastic pieces of art is worth it. Zhiying is a talented artist and may one day be a household name. For more information on this exhibit and other fun art pieces, please visit <https://www.ocma.net/>

All Shook Up! A Rock and Roll Musical you can’t help fall in love with

MAKENNA MYERS
FREELANCE WRITER

Have you ever wondered what Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” would look like if it were set in 1950s small town America? “All Shook Up” directed by Concordia’s own Lori Siekmann has got you covered! Packed with stellar vocals, high energy dances and delightful humor that will leave you with a stitch in your side, “All Shook Up” is a spectacle Elvis himself would want to get up and rock along with.

“All Shook Up” is a musical celebration of the complications of love, set to the tune of classic Elvis hits. It features songs such as “Jail House Rock,” “Heartbreak Hotel,” “Blue Suede Shoes” and “Can’t Help Falling in Love” that take audiences straight

into the jukebox era.

Though the show is based around Elvis hits, the king of rock and roll himself is not a character. The story centers around young mechanic, Natalie Haller, played by senior Kyleigh Hoyer, who dreams of a life outside of her humdrum town filled with people as colorful as the grease stains on her coveralls.

Her whole world changes the moment the mysterious pelvis-shaking roustabout Chad, portrayed by sophomore Michael Solomon, rolls into town on his motorbike with intent to get the town shaking. Chad, with a swing of his hips and a kick of his blue suede shoes, sends Natalie’s dreary home spiraling into a tangle of love so hilariously complicat-

ed even the most experienced romantics would look at it and shudder.

“All Shook Up” is a product of the hardworking cast, crew and pit

“In addition to our wonderful director, Lori Siekmann, we have gotten to work with an amazing choreographer and music director that have challenged us to be great performers.”

band. Every person involved worked for months to prepare the spectacle, rehearsing through portions of Christmas break and into the late hours of the night during tech week. When asked what made this rehearsal process unique, senior Emily Porr who plays spunky,

young Lorraine commented, “In addition to our wonderful director, Lori Siekmann, we have gotten to work with an amazing choreographer

and music director that have challenged us to be great performers.”

“All Shook Up” brings in every aspect of theatrical performance, but is particularly centered around that groovin’ fifties dance. Freshman and dance enthusiast Savannah Stame noted that this

musical is special to her because “As a performer, I love dancing. It is such a joy to be able to sing and dance to Elvis’ hit songs. ‘All Shook Up’ is a show that energizes me, challenges me, and gives me joy.”

“All Shook Up” had their first round of shows last weekend, the house packed with excited theatre patrons of all ages and backgrounds. If you’re still without a ticket for the closing weekend, they are unfortunately sold out, but a waiting list has been created. Get your name on that list for a chance to see this joyous celebration of love and the king of rock and roll Elvis Presley, tonight and tomorrow on Feb. 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. You can’t help but fall in love with this musical!

Debating Religious Liberty & Discrimination: A Recap

Continued from p. 1

a same-sex-couple. Phillips argued selling the cake would violate his religious liberty because traditional Christianity often considers marriage as bond held only between a man and a woman.

Corvino opened the debate by clarifying that both he and his opposition, whom he referred to as his friend, were in favor of liberty and against unjust discrimination. He continued by stating that the purpose of their book, and the debate, was to create more public dialogue about the topic, which Anderson repeated when it was his turn to speak.

Anderson argued on behalf of Phillips' constitutional right to freedom of religion. For Phillips, Anderson furthered, the wedding cake symbolizes a holy union instituted by the Christian God. Thus, selling one to a same-sex couple would endorse their union, an act Phillips morally opposes. Anderson argued that forcing Phillips to make a cake would be unconstitutional. Thus, Phillips should be able to reserve his right to refuse service.

Corvino argued on behalf of the homosexual couple's right to service. In his argument, Corvino drew a distinction between denying service on the grounds of "design" versus "use."

In Corvino's view, denying service on the

grounds of design is wholly legitimate. The problem of discrimination begins when one starts to deny service on the grounds of use, because somethings use and the user are intrinsically linked.

Corvino provides the analogous example of a hypothetical baker denying to serve a Jewish family

most interesting aspect to the debate was not what they discussed, but how they discussed it, engaging in side stories, and a few well-placed jokes, to keep the audience engaged.

In response to the event, Judith Teruya, senior and captain of Concordia's nationally ranked debate

more sensitive topics have become increasingly hostile in the public sphere, specifically in politics as of late. Moderator for the debate and communication professor, Konrad Hack, said that the debate was a valuable lesson for students and other attendees on how to converse with those who

questions," said Dr. Russell Dawn, Director of Vision-Mission-Vocation and debate organizer.

"The speakers told me afterward that they were impressed with the quality of questions, which was wonderful affirmation both of our students and of the education they're receiving here."

Senior Anna Joy asked how these speakers suggested to start a conversation about more controversial topics with others on campus, to which Corvino responded, "As a college professor, student groups will sometimes come to me (Democrat groups, Republican groups) and say they want to have better dialogue. Should we have a debate? Should we have a panel? And I say, 'we should have pizza.'"

Corvino explained that "these conversations [don't] always have to be about getting together to hash out our differences. It is about coming together, building relationships and getting to know one another, remembering that the political stuff is a means towards us having flourishing lives."

So let us take a lesson from an inspired evening on campus, grab a slice and get to know one another.

If you missed the debate, you can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/concordiairvine/videos/10155560771083495/>



Dr. John Corvino (left) and Dr. Ryan T. Anderson engage in a constructive conversation at the debate Tuesday evening

a cake for a bar-mitzvah. Because a bar- or bat-mitzvah is intrinsically linked to the Jewish identity, to discriminate against the cake's use, is to inherently discriminate against its user.

And the same, he argued, can be said about the "Masterpiece Cakeshop Case."

Both speakers brought well thought out, researched and diverse sides to the argument, but perhaps the

team, stated "their willingness to engage directly with the other side with mutual respect was what stood out the most."

She expressed her appreciation on how both speakers put an emphasis on having well thought out arguments, and encouraged the audience to create an atmosphere that welcomed cordial disagreement.

It is hard to deny that conversations about

hold beliefs that oppose one's own. Hack believed that the event was a great example of how one can be respectful even when conversing with someone who disagrees.

After the debate portion, the floor opened up to attendees to ask questions and prompt further discussion from the speakers. "I was proud of our students for asking such thoughtful, interesting

Concordia Cares puts on special Valentine's Day event to spread love through Southern California



SARAH DIXON
CAMPUS EDITOR

Concordia Cares is responsible for many great events around campus, and this year for the first time ever, a special Valentine's event will take place on Feb. 6 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Feb. 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the CU Center Patio.

Any student or faculty member can bring a dollar (cash only) to buy a valentine for a spe-

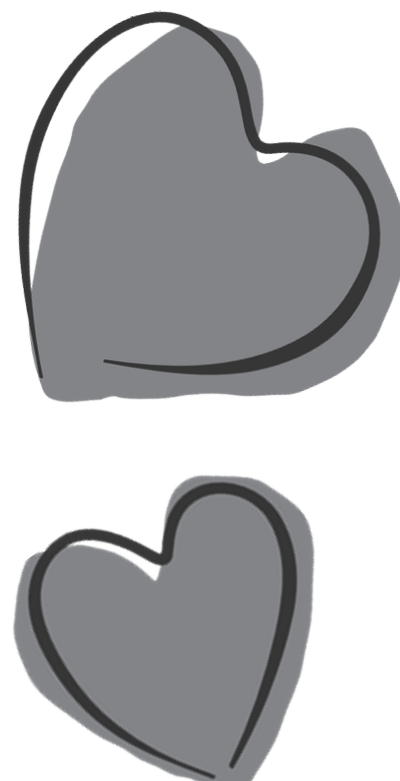
cial someone during the event. Concordia Cares will deliver sweet treats and valentines to the recipients' dorms. These valentines can also be retrieved from the CSLD during the week of Valentine's Day.

Participants who donate a dollar will not only make someone's day with a valentine, but they will also help the community. The donated money from this event will send a valentine to children at Chil-

dren's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) and Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). Students and faculty can also

write a digital message for children at CHLA on laptops at the event. The hospital will then hand deliver the cards to the patients.

This special event is a great way to make a friend's day and touch the lives of patients at the Children's Hospitals of Orange County and Los Angeles. Give some love to others during this event at the CU Center Patio on Feb. 6 and 8!



Courtesy of Pixabay

The 2018 Grammys: The highlights of hip-hop

EVA REYES
STAFF WRITER

The 60th annual Grammy awards premiered last Sunday, at 4:30 p.m. on CBS. The music awards show was held in New York for the first time in 15 years, with Late Show host James Corden as emcee. The night was packed with star studded performances, celebration and powerful messages.

The show opened with a performance by Best Rap Album and Best Rap Song winner Kendrick Lamar. Surrounded by dancers in army fatigues, Lamar began the show with three songs from his album, "Damn." Chavonne "Vida Starr" Taylor, 90.7 KPFK radio hostess, stated Lamar was her favorite performance of the night. "He always finds a way to create a full artistic performance that reaches a wide audience," said Taylor.

Walking away with four Grammys that night, Lamar also included comedian Dave Chappelle in his set, who also won Best Comedy Album of the Year.



Kesha performing her song, "Praying" curtesy of CBS

"I just wanted to remind the audience that the only thing more frightening than watching a black man be honest in America, is being an honest black man in America," Chappelle stated in his performance with Lamar. The rapper and comedian used the performance

to send a political message of solidarity and strength while providing audiences with a powerful statement.

Now in its 60th year of production, the Grammys showcased the evolution that music is undergoing. "Hip-Hop is becoming central to music now. Even pop artists are looking to work with these producers to get a more nuanced sound," said Taylor.

Xavier Daniels, junior and theatre major, said, "The Grammys is worth watching because music is worth listening to." The Grammys works to bring audiences together using music as a platform. "Watching The Grammys is full of drama,

excitement and even new performances that can make the atmosphere undeniable," said Daniels.

One notable performance was given by rapper Logic, who performed his song, "1-800-273-4485." The song tells people dealing with depression that they are not alone. With the phone number to the suicide prevention hotline as the title, CNN reports that since the song has been released, calls to the hotline have jumped 50%.

Although Logic did not win any awards, his performance sent an unforgettable message of love and acceptance. At one point during his performance, the artist

took hold of the microphone and delivered a message of strength to those affected by sexual assault. "Hate is ugly. Women are stronger than any man I've ever met. And unto them I say 'stand tall and crush all predators under the weight of your heart that is full of love they will never take away from you,'" said Logic. While he spoke, background singers and the artist himself donned sweaters with the suicide prevention hotline. At the end of his performance, the network displayed the hotline contact information for a full five seconds before moving on with the show.

The Grammys was a big night for singer Bruno Mars who walked away winning all six categories he was nominated in: Best R&B Song, Album and Performance as well as Album, Record and Song of the year. His performance with Cardi B was a fun filled 90s explosion. The pair remixed their song "Finesse" with Cardi B's "Bartier Cardi" for a funky hip-hop production that lit up the show.

Filling the stage with colorful costume and dancers, the musicians showcased one of the many ways music changes through collaboration. "Music is evolving; there are new styles coming out that show me a new wave of music is coming through, and I love it," said Daniels.



(from left to right) Cardi B with Bruno Mars and dancers performing "Finesse"



(from left to right) Khalid, Logic, and Alessa Cara performing "1-800-273-4485"