

THE CONCORDIA

• COURIER •

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

Volume 13, Issue 6

Concordia University Irvine

Friday, December 7, 2018

Concordia raises voices and holiday spirits at Segerstrom



PICTURED ABOVE - Concordia ensembles at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

SYDNEY FINCHER &
NATHAN M. SMITH
STAFF WRITERS

On Sat., Dec. 1, our Music Department performed for the greater Orange County community. The world renowned Segerstrom Hall hosted the university’s musical groups for a holiday concert. Two sold out performances were held in this magnificent center for arts.

The concert hall was packed. Both shows had a full house of spectators giving life to the Christmas themed auditorium. It seemed as though the stage was nearly as full as the audience. With 180 vocalists, an orchestra of fifty to sixty, and handbell groups, musicians were lined up in perfect rows with just enough space to walk on and off stage. Of all the things to notice, the most outstanding was the intangible: the feeling of anticipation.

“The Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall is a world class concert hall and what a tremendous blessing it is that Concordia is able to hold our concerts in a facility that was built for this” said Dr. Michael Busch, Concordia Choir Director. Busch added, “our Christmas concerts have a long tradition” and as they have grown, a larger venue was needed to hold all the musicians.”

Students who performed at the concert were proud of the performances they gave. “I feel like it's an honor. It's an honor to perform in Segerstrom, I'm hoping it will become a recurring thing,” said Jonathan Stueve, a senior in the Concordia Choir.

Having over 200 people on stage a truly a group effort. “I think it's big because we're all collaborating as a group; all these separate ensembles coming together to make great music and worship the Lord,” said senior and Concertmaster

Heidi Fleischbein. She added, “I loved interacting with my friends and it would be great to come back in the coming years.”

Singing at Segerstrom Hall was a momentous occasion not just for the music students, but for all Concordia students. Though Concordia was founded less than fifty years ago, we’re becoming quite renowned. With Concordia’s athletic ascension into NCAA

Division II, the Speech and Debate team ranking among the Top 20 in the nation and the Music Department being asked to perform in a distinguished concert hall, one could say it's a pretty great time to be an Eagle.

PICTURED ABOVE - A view from the stage of the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.



Drinking your Cafecito

GIOVANNI BRITO &
CATALINA SALAZAR
STAFF WRITERS

Cafecito is an event that brings guest speakers that were first-generation college students and are now working professionals onto Concordia’s campus. On Tues., Nov. 13th, Cafecito was held at the Eagles Nest from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. with guest speaker, Vincent Sanchez. He is the oldest of four siblings and the first one to graduate from college. He has a major in Political Science and a minor in Economics from the University of California Irvine in 2014. He currently works as the Deputy District Director for the former Congresswoman Mimi Walters.

During his college years at UCI, Sanchez faced many barriers. A lack of resources, feelings of failure, and being away from family were just a few that crossed his mind. He said, “I didn’t like to call home with problems, the home has its own things to deal with.” It was through this that Sanchez was able to build his independence and make it a strength. Something that he always remembered was that “things don’t have to be perfect, as long as you do your best.”

Internships were of key importance to Sanchez and would help him in his pre-career days. His ‘hustle mentality’ and discipline made him travel up the ladder quickly. He reached his current job as Deputy District Director which is filled with new obstacles every day. He credits his success to his networking skills.

Continued on pg 3

Concordia Christmas festivities

KATIE DePOL
ASCUI SECRETARY

It's that time of the year again! The semester is almost over, Christmas is almost here, and Concordia Christmas came and went. To recap Concordia Christmas for you, it was so fun! Due to the rain, we were moved into the gym which turned out to be awesome!

On the floor of the gym, we had a roller-skating rink that had free skates and a broomball tournament. The winning team got gift cards and bragging rights as the first ever champions of broomball at Concordia! There was a photobooth where students could take endless pictures that had them standing in the middle of the mystic town from It's a Wonderful Life: Bedford Falls. The swing dance floor was chalked full of swing dancers and even dance lessons!

We had another photo booth with Santa for kids to take pictures with, but one new feature was that Santa

was sitting next to a 15-foot tree! This is Concordia's newest Christmas addition that will be put up every Christmas season for years to come. It was complete with Christmas lights, decorative ornaments, wrapped Christmas presents, and a Bethlehem star situated at the top.

At the top of the gym, we had a root beer float bar with delicious vanilla ice cream and made-to-order donuts. The donuts were formed, fried and topped with sugar or powder and ready to eat right before your eyes! Other student leadership groups held booths with activities for students to participate in. RES had gingerbread houses, LEAD had an angel ornament making station, and abbey west was making lovey blankets for future mission trips to Mexico.

On the other side of the gym in the Eagles' Nest, hot chocolate, coffee, and other hot beverages were available. There we showed the movie theme, It's a Wonderful Life, for people to watch while

sipping hot cocoa. Eagles' Nest also acted as a viewing room for the roller-rink.

The students were given a chance to enter into a raffle ticket contest where they could win a Series 3 Apple Watch for first place and two large gift cards for second and third. Additionally, the last I SPY ASCUI clue was given away at Concordia Christmas which had students frantically running around to figure it out in order to receive their free trip to Catalina! Last, but certainly not least, the horse carriage was awaiting guests for a ride up and down the breezeway in a decorative wagonette!

Overall, Concordia Christmas was a blast!

Word Search

A C O D S W Y Q B P Y L A R C N S P O Z
F N O A A S X E M T E T E G V E L G W D
M P N M F W T E I G H G G E E O K Y J T
S T N L E H Q F O R N L K U W E K L H F
A T E R L T L B X A Z I W Z S L E I G H
Y P R E N J H M M C N R V T D T Q Y O S
H B H E W P P N E U U E X I E I K C E S
I E A O E K E K H P U S Y M G U E C P Z
M D Z B A Z W F U I X M R P W S G M N Z
W T U H T U O X L D B V C I F D G V Z F
A Q P I N Z N C X F S A X D R H W I B G
R A L X G S N L A S N O W A Z R R T Y J
P B X S G G T B R F K H U T S S E Q F R
Z V D V D Q D N Z U S N T Y V I E C U B
S U P P R A N C E R D X E I N U D T D D
T X R D S W F L W S T O K R G U N Y A C
H B J H N E X I V M E G L V U I I I N L
G X E N A C Y D N A C R Q P P J E J C A
I R S I P R E N N O D O P S H Y R D E O
L G A X T C R T E B N I I G Z A E D R C

Word Bank

BABY	DASHER	REINDEER
BETHLEHEM	DONNER	RUDOLPH
BLITZEN	ELFS	SANTA
CANDYCANE	GIVING	SLEIGH
COAL	LIGHTS	SNOW
COMET	MANGER	TREE
CUPID	PRANCER	VIX
DANCER	PRESENTS	

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



Ashley Sands, *Editor-in-Chief*
Samantha Schuster, *Online Editor*
Sarah Kretschmar, *Sports Editor*
Charlotte Waite, *Campus Editor*
Eva Reyes, *Arts/Entertainment Editor*
Nathan MacGregor, *Layout Editor*
Caroline Janik-Wong, *Faculty Advisor*

Writers
Alex Burge, Tad Dufelmeier, Makenzie Elder, Christian Fuca, Natalie Lawer, Elizabeth Mahin, Melissa Malanowski, Caralin Nunes, Kelly Ogas, Alejandro Peraza, Connor Plutko, Nathan Smith, Amar Vadhia, Taylor Samec, Danielle Walker and Dominique Yoder

Don't forget to "like" us on The Concordia Courier Facebook page. You'll find links to PDFs of old issues and updates on our current work. Videos previewing the most recent issue will be posted as well.

Follow us on Instagram @ConcordiaCourier too!

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

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

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

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

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

Fun holiday festivities in Orange County



PICTURED ABOVE - Disneyland celebrates the holiday season all the way through January 6, 2019. Photo from: <http://allears.net>

TALOR SAMEC
STAFF WRITER

The holidays are fast approaching, and Orange County is getting ready by having tons of fun activities for friends and families to take part in and get into the holiday spirit. Here are some of the best places to go to spread some holiday cheer.

One fun activity offered is ice skating at the Irvine Spectrum. Skaters can feel the wind hit their face as they glide on ice in the crisp Irvine

air. This event is available from Nov. 2 through Jan. 6. The cost is \$18 per person and an extra \$2 is added for the skate rental. Skaters can also enjoy \$5 off every Thursday if they take part in the costume theme. The themes range from crazy Christmas hats to Christmas jammies! The ice skating rink is open daily from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Get into the holiday spirit with one of winter's top activities. For more information on this fun event, please visit <https://www.irvinespectrumcenter.com/>

entertainment/attractions/ice-rink

Local theme parks such as Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm also do festivities for the holidays.

Disneyland decorates their whole park and brings holiday foods to both Disneyland and California Adventure. They even have special parades and firework shows! The holidays at Disneyland go from Nov. 9 through Jan. 6. Disneyland is a perfect Friday night activity or way to destress after finals for those students that have annual

passes. Junior and annual pass holder, Rosemary Hernandez is excited for the holidays at Disney, "Disneyland is a special place for me, and I love going with family and friends. The holidays and lights make it that much more magical," stated Hernandez. For prices and more information, please visit <https://disneyland.disney.go.com/events-tours/holidays-at-the-disneyland-resort/>

Knott's Berry Farm transforms itself into Knott's Merry Farm during the holiday season. Tickets start at \$50, and park goers get to enjoy fun shows, a magical snowfall every night and more festive treats. The festivities and decorations continue at this park from Nov. 16 through Jan. 6. Knott's Berry Farm is a perfect place for students that enjoy a little thrill in their life and still enjoy the holidays at the same time. Students do not want to miss out on seeing Snoopy dressed up for the holidays while riding some thrilling rides. There's even a magical ice skating show! For more information on Knott's Merry Farm, please visit <https://www.knotts.com/play/merry-farm>

Fashion Island already held their annual tree lighting

ceremony. Junior, Amy Thompson was excited to attend this annual event. "I go every year with my family, and it is always a beautiful event. I love starting the holidays at the tree lighting," said Thompson. The tree is lit nightly at 5 p.m. until Jan. 6. Feel the magic of Christmas at Fashion Island. For more information, please visit <https://www.shopfashionisland.com/events>.

Overall, these are only a few of the fun holiday activities that Orange County has to offer. There are many more festive things to do to get into the holiday spirit, so gather up some friends and family and dash through the snow to take part in these fun activities! It is the most wonderful time of the year so don't miss out!

Finals week is around the corner

ALEJANDRO PERAZA
STAFF WRITER

Starting Mon. Dec. 10, finals week begins, and that means caffeine fueled students and full library study rooms as students cram for their final exams. If you're stressed out, there is hope for you. Fellow Concordia students provided some tips and activities that may help reduce stress levels and prepare you for what is to come.

Nick Vreeland, senior, said "It's a stressful time." Students may feel as if there is so much to do before it is over but at least Christmas break is here right after all the tests are done. So, at the very least, if it seems like there is no light at the end of the tunnel, there is.

Concordia brought dogs to campus for students to pet in an attempt to alleviate stress. Chase Uden, senior, said, "I'm not super worried about finals because I feel like the hard parts of getting my projects and papers done before finals are complete. Now I'm just going through all the things I have already learned and it's less stressful."

For those who need a little

guidance and help, here are some tips from fellow students sharing what works for them. Shane Welter, senior, said, "I like to use night time to study as much as I can and learn as much as possible before the final." Vreeland, on the other hand, said, "studying is important but also be careful of studying too much because I think people can often overdo it and that can be very detrimental as well."

Uden said, "When prepping for finals week, I set ahead in my schedule what days I'm going to study for each final and how I'm going to prep for each final so that when it comes down to it, I don't have to leave anything to chance."

There are great places to study around campus. Welter said "I like to study in my room," but for those who are working in groups, the library's study rooms are a great tool to help get things done. Concordia has extended hours at the library giving students more time to prepare for their exams.

Vreeland said, "I like to work in Beta." This was backed up by Uden, "I like to study in Beta upstairs when I really want to get stuff done." So, if you ever

feel as though the library is a little too cramped, you can find great spots on campus if you know who to ask.

There is still time to plan and study ahead so that you can be successful. For those who are seniors, you might already know what works best for you. However, for those who need a little guidance, thanks to these senior's comments and Concordia for providing stress reducing activities, hopefully you will find finals week less scary than you imagined. Remember, Christmas break is around the corner and you'll be done soon!

Drinking your Cafecito

Continued From Pg 1

One piece of advice Sanchez shared was, "keep the conversation flowing" when meeting new people and treat it more like a normal conversation rather than an interview. He also advised not taking rejection personally. "Companies go into these events with an agenda of their own and sometimes have candidates in mind so they may not speak to you in quite the same manner," Sanchez said.

Some words of encouragement that Sanchez parents installed him that helped through hard times at school were, "todo se puede en esta vida" which translates to "everything can be done in this life." He encourages that with the right mindset and motivation success is possible.

Lizz Mishreki, Director of Public Relations, created Cafecito as an initiative for the Hispanic First Generation Program. She states, "I started the Cafecito series as part of Concordia's Hispanic initiative so that first-generation college students can learn from a first-gen influencer's journey, what worked for them, and what they might do differently if they

had to do it all over again. I want first-gen students to see someone who grew up like them, in the same kind of home with the same kind of customs and traditions, and what they did to navigate the road to college." She continued, "They're intimate conversations--limited to a handful of students--in a lounge setting. I didn't want a classroom with a podium and desks. Students get that all week. This is a time for a comfortable yet honest and inspiring conversation."

For more information on when the next Cafecito event will be, check out your Eagles Insider Email. Mishreki shared her advice for all students, "I would encourage not just first-generation college students to attend, but students interested in learning about how to apply their degree, and what "after college" looks like."

For more information on Cafecito make sure to contact Lizz Mishreki at

lizz.mishreki@cui.edu or (949) 214-3146.

Men's Volleyball season preview

SARAH KRETSCHMAR
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's volleyball season is right around the corner and the Eagles are eager to keep improving and break a top ten national ranking. Carrying 26 players, the Eagles are returning a strong core as well as having brought in a very strong recruiting class.

Coach Shawn Patchell, men's volleyball coach is in his sixth year as head coach. Patchell played four years on the men's volleyball team at BYU and went on to play professionally in Spain. Patchell is looking forward to the season and getting better every day. Patchell describes his team as detail oriented.

He acknowledges the hard work of his coaching staff and players in "focusing on the little things and transferring the details to the court," Patchell said. Adding, "the major strength of our team is the culture. The upperclassmen have done a great job leading and setting the standard of a very focused culture." He credits seniors Chandler Gibb, Hunter Howell and Isaiah Kaaa for

the competitiveness, success and growth that Concordia has received. Patchell also looks forward to opposite hitter Luke Krzmarzick and outside hitter Erik Boisvert taking charge on the court.

Boisvert is a freshman from Palos Verdes, California. He is an outside hitter and comes to Concordia from Palos Verde Peninsula High School. He looks forward to "celebrating with the team" after playing games and talks fondly of the past tournaments that the Eagles played in.

Krzmarzick, freshman and Kinesiology major from Torrance, California is an opposite hitter for the Eagles. "I'm most excited to get to know all the guys on the team when we travel to play other schools. I would describe our team as a soup, all different but come together to make something great," said Krzmarzick when asked what he thought of the team.

After a few tournaments in the beginning of November, Krzmarzick said "I thought we showed a lot of potential of what we are capable of.



PICTURED ABOVE:-Men's volleyball unites after victory over GCU in MPSF tournament last season. Photo from cuieagles.com.

That being said we could definitely improve many aspects of our game but overall the team looked like we could hang with anyone. I'm just thrilled to be a part of such an amazing group of guys and it will be sweet to see what we can achieve together."

Chandler Gibb, senior setter from Huntington Beach is excited to begin the season. Gibb came to Concordia from Coach Patchell's alma mater, BYU Utah. An English major, Gibb

hopes to play professional overseas after graduation and possibly write a novel. "I am excited to play with my brothers, my friends. Our team has a lot of potential," said Gibb. With that being said, Gibb described the goals for the season as winning a conference championship followed by a national championship.

Finishing last season ranked 13th nationally, the Eagles look to break a top ten national ranking starting Dec. 26. Patchell is looking

forward to games against #12 UC Santa Barbara, #9 Cal State Northridge, and reigning national champions, #1 Long Beach State to begin the year. The Eagles open up their season against Cal State Northridge on Jan. 3 at 5:30 p.m. at UC Santa Barbara as part of the UCSB Asics Invitational.

The hot ticket in town- men's basketball update



PICTURED ABOVE: Cameron English looking to score in overtime loss against Cal State LA. Photo from cuieagles.com.

TAD DUFELMEIER
STAFF WRITER

The men's basketball team might just be the hottest ticket in town right now. They won their last five games and first two conference games after returning home from a two game road trip to Northern California. They beat Dominican University and snuck out with a tough overtime victory over Academy of Art. The Eagles are on a roll heading into their conference opener at home on Wed., Dec. 5.

It hasn't been all smooth sailing this season though, having faced their fair share of adversity early on. There is a widespread understanding in basketball that no one starts off the season 100% healthy, whether that be bumps and bruises or something worse contributing to that feeling. But for the Eagles, that notion would be an understatement.

Having lost veteran leadership from the likes of Michael Mellinger, a senior starter, who tore his ACL before the season began, Denzel Holt, a redshirt sophomore who has been sidelined for 8 games with a back injury and Tyler Lacour, a senior who went down with a knee injury in their most recent game, the Eagles are missing some monumental players.

These key losses have lead to a slow start for the Eagles, having begun the season with a 1-4 record. This is all before something clicked on Fri., Nov. 16, when the Eagles beat Sonoma State in a convincing 84-68 victory. Since then they have been on a tear, winning their last 5 games.

While this resurgence may come as a shock to some, none have expected this outcome more than Kyle Gray, a history major and junior who is new to the team this year. Going on

record days after their last lost on Sat., Nov. 10, he said "I believe our team is going to go on a ten game win streak, mark my words." Gray has had a big hand in this run by being the X-factor and much needed spark plug off the bench.

Now with a much improved record of 6-4 and lots of momentum heading into their conference opener at home, a tough challenge lies ahead of the Eagles as they take on Azusa Pacific, an opponent they are 1-5 against in their last 6 meetings.

For more information on times, locations and where/how to view the games, be sure to check out cuieagles.com and see if their streak continues.

Women's basketball opens up league play 1-6



PICTURED ABOVE: Eagle of the week, Kennedy Fulcher shooting free throws. Photo from cuieagles.com.

CHRISTIAN FUCA
STAFF WRITER

On Sat. Dec. 1, Concordia women's basketball earned their first win. After a struggle in the beginning of the season, the Eagles looked to step it up as they enter into league play. The Eagles are currently 1-6 in league following Wednesday's loss to Azusa Pacific University. The Eagles have been led by sophomore, Kennedy Fulcher, who had a solid pre-season, but really showed her skills in the second league game.

In San Francisco this past weekend, the girls lost to Dominican University, putting them at a five game losing streak to start the season. However, with a win against Academy of Art, the team now sits at a 1-6 record. Fulcher went off for 30 points and 18 rebounds as the team got their first win in an outstanding offensive performance against the Academy of Art on Dec. 1.

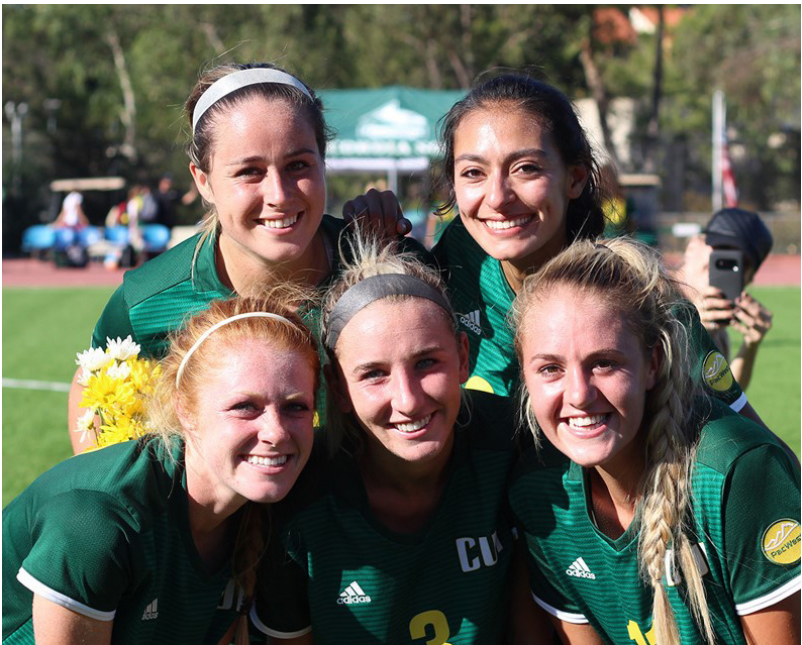
The Eagles defeated Academy of the Art 83-59. Fulcher has had a major impact on the team to start the season. Fulcher said "we look to repeat what we did on Saturday and stay successful the remainder of the season." Along with Fulcher, sophomore Riley Friauf has played a big role for the Eagles this year on both sides of the ball. When asked if Friauf believed the team had a chance to win the PacWest, she responded "absolutely". Friauf displays great presence in the paint and racks up a lot of minutes for the Eagles.

For more information on the women's basketball team schedule and results, be sure to check out cuieagles.com. Live stream the games from your phone and cheer on your Eagles anywhere you go!

Concordia soccer graduates 13 seniors



PICTURED LEFT: Men's soccer seniors after win on Senior Day. Photo from cuieagles.com.



PICTURED RIGHT: Women's soccer seniors after win on Senior Day. Photo from cuieagles.com.

SARAH KRETSCHMAR
SPORTS EDITOR

The Concordia soccer season has come to an end with the men's soccer team finishing third in the PacWest with a record of 7-4 and the women's soccer team finishing 7-3-1 and also third in the PacWest. Both teams had great seasons and in total will graduate 13 seniors.

The women's team is graduating five seniors: Mckenna Carrillo, Keely Abt, Morgan Serres, Kryssa Johnson and Katie Gast.

Mckenna Carrillo, defender from Anaheim Hills, California will graduate this May with a Liberal Studies degree and an emphasis in child development. She plans on completing her teaching credential and earning her master's in Education. "I will miss stepping out on that field every day with my teammates by my side and hearing the girls yelling from the sidelines," said Carrillo.

Kryssa Johnson is from Rancho

Cucamonga, California. She will graduate this spring with a degree in Communication Studies. Johnson is unsure of her plans after graduation but is very thankful for her time spent at Concordia and is trusting in God's plans for her. To her younger teammates, she said "Enjoy every second, take it all in and soak it all up."

Katie Gast will graduate this spring with a degree in Pre-Physical Therapy and Allied Health. Gast is from Ladera Ranch and hopes to go to a local Physical Therapy school after graduation. Gast said "I will miss the team the most. These girls have been such a bright light in my life, helping me grow as a person on and off the field. Soccer has been a part of my identity since I was little and so it is scary to be done with playing; however, this sport has given me my life long best friends and I am so thankful for Concordia women's soccer."

Keely Abt, a Business Marketing

major, will graduate this May. Abt is from Spring, Texas and plans to stay in business after graduation. "I will miss the competitive aspect, my teammates and practice drills the most," said Abt.

Men's soccer will graduate seven seniors: Eric Torres, Julian Font, Connor Gordon, Ari Claro, John Letona, Ty O'connor, Alex Zawitkowski and Jose Garfias.

Eric Torres will graduate in May with a degree in Business Marketing and a minor in Economics. Torres is from Santa Ana and said "I am thankful for my family and coaches for all of their support throughout my career." Torres plans to go into sales and travel the world. He has Iceland, Amsterdam and Spain in mind. To underclassman, Torres said "take advantage of every moment and have fun."

Julian Font, Irvine native and forward for the Eagles will graduate this May with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing. He hopes

to pursue real estate and eventually branch into entertainment while continuing to write and produce music. He said "I will miss being able to see my brothers and coaches every day, as well as seeing my parents supporting me from the sidelines of every game."

Ari Claro is from Hawaiian Gardens, California and played center back and left back for the Eagles. He will graduate in May with a Business Administration degree with an emphasis in Marketing. After graduation, he hopes to continue his soccer career as a professional. "I will miss the camaraderie of the team the most," said Claro. "Getting to know your teammates and the brotherhood that comes with this team is something you can't find anywhere else."

Connor Gordon will graduate this December with a degree in Biology. Gordon is from Huntington Beach and plans to pursue professional soccer after graduation. He said "being around a great group of

teammates every day is the thing that I will miss most." Gordon also tied the all-time career scoring record for the Eagles.

John Letona, a Mission Viejo native, will graduate in May of 2019 with a degree in Business Finance. After graduation, Letona plans to get married to his fiancé Taylor and find a job in his field of study. "I will miss the brotherhood and constant interaction with my team. They have become like family to me," said Letona.

Jose Garfias, center midfielder, will also graduate this coming Spring with a degree in Marketing and a minor in Economics. He is from Costa Mesa, California and plans to continue playing competitive soccer in the Premier Development League. He said "I will miss the relationships I built with my teammates the most."

These seniors will now go on to pursue other callings but will remember the great moments and people they encountered during their time at Concordia.

NEWPORT RIB COMPANY EAGLES OF THE WEEK

SAM SCHUSTER
SOCIAL MEDIA &
ONLINE EDITOR

Katie Timmerman

Favorite Moment from this Season: Midnight Madness
Favorite Movie: A Simple Favor
Favorite Music Artist: Miguel and Khalid
Favorite Color: Blue
Celebrity Crush: Michael B. Jordan
Dream Vacation: Europe or Costa Rica
Hobbies: Sports, Photography, Baking



Jaclyn Brown

Favorite Moment from this Season: When my teammate Clarice Buchanan broke the school record for digs at Chaminade
Favorite Movie: Harry Potter
Favorite Music Artist: Jason Aldean
Favorite Color: Very Light Pink
Celebrity Crush: Chris Hemsworth
Dream Vacation: Nassau, Bahamas
Hobbies: Visiting Coffee Shops & Beach Volleyball



Kennedy Fulcher

Favorite Moment from this Season: Just hanging with my teammates
Favorite Movie: Forrest Gump
Favorite Music Artist: Rihanna
Favorite Color: Rainbow
Celebrity Crush: Rihanna
Dream Vacation: Costa Rica
Hobbies: Swimming, Skiing, and Chillin
Fun Fact: Speaks French



Kryssa Johnson

Favorite Moment from this Season: Definitely Senior Day! I got to start and finish my college career with such a unique group of girls and it was great being able to spend Senior Day with them and then having 4 out of 5 of us seniors scoring goals.
Favorite TV Show: This Is Us
Favorite Music Artist: All country, especially Sam Hunt
Favorite Color: Blue
Celebrity Crush: Zac Efron
Dream Vacation: Thailand
Hobbies: Working out, Cooking, Drawing, Camping, Hiking, Spending time with my family and friends
Fun Fact: I have webbed toes and it makes me run faster



Update: wildin' wildfires in California have been contained

DOMINIQUE YODER
STAFF WRITER

According to the California Department of Forestry Protection and the National Interagency Fire Center, the 2018 wildfire season was the most destructive in the state's history. Wildfires are a natural mechanism, essential to forest ecosystems, but when out of control they can cause destruction to both the environment, wildlife and civilians. The most detrimental fires in California this season over the past few months were the Carr Fire, the Woolsey Fire and the Camp Fire.

With a series of wildfires spreading down the California coast, this year there was a total of 7,579 fires burning an area of over one million acres, which is the largest amount of burned acreage recorded in a fire season.

As of Sun., Nov. 11, the fires caused nearly \$3 billion in damages as well as put a strain on the environment.

The Carr Fire was located in Shasta County and spread to over 200,000 acres of land. There was a national disaster warning declared in Northern California due to the severity of the Carr fire, destroying 1,079 resident homes, 22 commercial structures and 503 outbuildings.

The Woolsey Fire was located in Ventura County and spread almost 97,000 acres of land over the month of November. The Woolsey Fire destroyed 341 homes and 1,500 structures.

The Camp Fire, located in Butte County destroyed the town

of Paradise. There were over 19,068 structures destroyed and there are 249 civilians currently unaccounted for.

All three wildfires are confirmed contained and communities are coming together in order to rebuild and support all who have lost.

When a fire advances from low intensity to high intensity, the positive benefits are outweighed by the negative when it comes to the environment, posing a detrimental threat to soil, water, air quality and surrounding species.

Noah Diffenbaugh, Stanford Earth System Science Professor, explained how atmospheric conditions for California wildfires are expected to worsen in the future because of the effects of climate change in California.

"What we are seeing over the last few years in terms of the wildfire season in California is very consistent with the historical trends in terms of increasing temperatures, increasing dryness and increasing wildfire risks," Diffenbaugh said.

The Central Valley, as well as Northern and Southern California, saw drastic increases in air pollutants due to this year's wildfire season.

The Orange County Fire Authority offers a multitude of free public services including presentations, train-the-trainers, station tours, school programs, fair exhibits, safety classes, community events, educational materials and social media campaigns. For more information, please visit <https://www.ocfa.org/SafetyPrograms/EducationAndOutreach.aspx>



PICTURED ABOVE: The aftermath of the Carr Fire in Redding, California. Photo from the San Francisco Chronicle

The university is subject to a number of potential natural and technological hazards which might require the evaluation of segments or the entire population. These include, but are not limited to: wildfires, severe weather erosion, floods and technological failure.

To learn more about Concordia University's campus safety plans, please visit <https://www.cui.edu/Portals/0/uploadedfiles/StudentLife/Campus-Safety/encyProceduresBooklet.pdf>.

Border control brings tears to eyes

CARALIN NUNES
STAFF WRITER

What began as a peaceful march of Honduran immigrants seeking refuge in the United States on Nov. 25, 2018 quickly turned into a fiasco as hundreds of protestors rushed the border. Border Patrol members were stationed there to help regulate the crowd and active-duty military was reported to have aided the set-up in preparation of the march.

It was not long after 11 a.m. that the protestors took to the border and about 15 minutes later that U.S. and Mexican police successfully shut down and halted any vehicles or persons from crossing into the States. Approximately 45 minutes after the officers regained control of the border tear gas and a "flash-bang" grenade were used on a group of immigrants attempting to force their way into America and observers disclosed that rubber bullets were also fired at people during their efforts to cross.

Controversy has struck this topic; many people argue that the use of tear gas, "flash-bang" grenades and rubber bullets is a war-crime, whereas others argue that it is constitutional and well within the common and approved defense methods. Junior Jordan Quinn agrees with the latter, stating, "We have every right to defend our border just like every

other country." Those in support of the former argue that these tactics are nothing short of a war crime; however, methods such as this have been used several times in the past with no mention whatsoever.

During 2013 both pepper spray and tear gas were wielded at the border against a group throwing rocks and bottles at agents. It was under the Obama administration that 152 uses of pepper spray occurred, along with 27 deployments of tear gas, all in the year of 2013. Quinn, in support of soldiers sent to the border stated "If we have to use the military to prevent people from entering our country illegally, then it is perfectly acceptable to do so. Otherwise, we are no longer a [united] country."

Mahlena O'Neil, junior at the University of Georgia, on the other hand, stated that her issues lie with the fact that "innocent children were brought [to the border]. I do not think it should be legal to shoot tear gas at kids." The use of tear gas is illegal only under circumstances of war — the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993 that declares this tactic chemical warfare does not pertain to any domestic affairs, thus making this a go-to method in times of defense. To keep up on this trending topic visit foxnews.com, cnn.com, or any other news source.

PICTURED BELOW: A few individuals try to cross the border in Tijuana, Mexico. Photo Courtesy: Los Angeles Times



Enough is enough! after Borderline shooting.

MACKENZIE ELDER
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 7, heartbreak struck California, yet again, when a mass shooting hit Borderline Bar in Thousand Oaks. Twelve innocent lives were taken and dozens of others were treated at local hospitals. At least a dozen families spent Thanksgiving with an unoccupied chair and an empty place in their hearts following the tragedy.

The shooter, 28-year-old Ian David Long, was described as a veteran suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Long had previous contacts with law enforcement, in April, when officers responded to a disturbance at the house where he lived and was described then as "irate and acting irrationally." A mental health specialist decided not to detain him after meeting with him.

The Nov. 7 attack marked the 307th mass shooting in the United States in the first 311 days of 2018. The recurring topics of gun control and mental illness

have continued in hierarchy discussion, but our country has not made any policy changes yet in regards to this issue.

Republican and Democratic leaders hold different views regarding gun control. Although they are united in their conviction of these mass shootings, they disagree about whether to make gun control laws stricter or less stringent. Those on the right side suggest that the issue is one of mental illness rather than gun control.

Kory Chan, junior, said the thought of a shooting goes through her mind every single time I am at a concert while I'm supposed to be enjoying live music with my friends. "It's sad that we have to think about that, but it happens anytime I'm in a room full of people."

Nara Wolfe, senior, said that it's important to discuss this issue if we intend on making change.

We might suspect that these deaths are a predictable outcome of our country's lack of political will to make a change and an

underinvestment in prevention approaches that work. A proposed solution would be to focus on public health that centers on drawing from evidence and addressing the factors that increase or decrease the risk of gun violence.

As our families, communities and country reel from terrible tragedies, we must vow to change our culture and our policies to stop this cycle of violence. We should be able to live safely in our homes, feel safe in our communities, go to school with no worries, pray in our houses of worship, shop in our malls and walk through our streets and neighborhoods safely. Together we can take action in the memory of those who died and demand that this never happens again. Please take action and support changes in policy to prevent gun violence.

An evening with speech



PICTURED ABOVE: Speech team after showcase in Good Shepherd Chapel, photo courtesy Eva Reyes

EVA REYES
ARTS & REVIEWS
EDITOR

On Tues., Nov. 27, COMM-unity club presented the annual fall speech showcase. Held in Good Shepherd Chapel, the evening was filled with laughs, tears and emotion, provided by our very own award winning speech team.

Students presented various platform, limited preparation and oral

interpretation events that they've been competing with this year. Platform speeches are typically informative or persuasive in nature and have a clear message. Limited preparation events are speeches where the speaker is given a topic on the spot and is given either 5 or 30 minutes to prepare. Oral interpretation events include the use of poetry, drama, prose and/or a combination of genres in order to present an argument.

With showcase topics ranging from gender politics in Disney to the lived African American experience, the event gave students the opportunity to engage in relevant subject matter. As students add performative nuance to current events, they add human perspective to topics that are often hard to talk about.

"Speech supports empathizing with another regardless of who they are or where they've been, this

is important to creating a better society," said Natalie Wellman, sophomore.

Platform speakers were not only informative, they were funny. Sophomore, Godesuloh Bawa opened the night with a hilarious After Dinner Speech. While comical, his message was clear when presenting the problems, causes, and solutions to people using, "uncivilized" to refer to African countries.

With seven performances that night, the Good Shepherd Chapel was filled with storytelling and platform speeches. While entertaining, each performance contained a crucial message or argument. "What we do and argue is all based off academic research and we find unique ways to entertain people in order to get them to listen to these hard to hear stories," said Robert Como, senior.

With each performance, students delivered an impressive range of speaking quality and physical movement. The duo presented by Como and partner Jasmine Washington, senior, gave

a powerful glimpse of the "African-American horror story." Using a program of drama, prose, news articles and poetry interpretations, the duo gave a chilling performance. At times, the pair seemed suspended in air when showing the reality of Black pain and life.

Many students on the speech team are community college transfers and offer a unique perspective to current events. "Our unique experiences can be eye-opening for students, but speech teaches us how different people communicate," said Como. He added, "It's about listening to exactly what a speaker is trying to get across."

As the fall semester comes to a close, the team looks forward to the upcoming spring semester and national tournament season. If you would like information regarding the forensics team or would like to join, please visit their Facebook page at Concordia University Irvine - Forensics or email the Director of Forensics Yaw Kyeremateng at yaw.kyeremateng@cui.edu

Orange County Museum of Art has moved



PICTURED ABOVE: "Gone, Gone Way Beyond," by Kathryn Garcia, photo courtesy Elizabeth Mahin

ELIZABETH MAHIN
STAFF WRITER

Attention all lovers of contemporary and modern art— The Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) has moved to 1661 Sunflower Ave in Santa Ana near South Coast Plaza. The museum will be operating at this location temporarily during the construction for the newly designed building, planned at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa.

OCMA's new building was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect

Thom Mayne and his firm, Morphosis. The new museum will be 25,000 square feet of exhibition space, over twice the size of its previous location. It will include a mezzanine and storefront galleries, a multipurpose education hall, a spacious roof terrace and administrative spaces.

"This is the location the museum needs to be because it is at the center of the arts in Orange County," said Todd Smith, OCMA's Director.

"What is missing from the Segerstrom complex and SCR [South Coast

Repertory] is a visual art component, and we, as the world-class modern and contemporary art museum in Orange County, should be and need to be part of this," said Smith. Construction for the new building is set to begin in spring of 2019 and open around 2021.

While the new vision for OCMA remains under construction, people can still go enjoy all of the museum's current contemporary art at the current Santa Ana location.

One exhibit going on until Mar. 17, 2019 is by artist Kathryn Garcia entitled "Gone, Gone Way Beyond." The artists' work is influenced by her belief in the importance of introspection in today's society. Through sculpture, drawing and performance, Garcia references ancient feminine mythologies. In this way, she offers her audience opportunities to see meditation as a pathway for greater awareness.

Another current exhibit also available until Mar.

17, 2019 is "The Face The Mouth The Back" by artist Valentina Jager. This work calls attention to a different societal issue— the desensitization of violent imagery in the media. Jager's work shows tension in contrast with seduction. The bright and dark color contrasts work to represent the beautification of violence in our media and news.

These are just two of many exhibits OCMA currently has on display at their Santa Ana location. Hours are Thur., 11 a.m.-

8 p.m., and Fri.-Sun., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission and parking are both free, so regardless of budget, anyone can take in the modern work of local artists.

PICTURED BELOW: "The Face The Mouth The Back," by artist Valentina Jager, photo courtesy Elizabeth Mahin



Vlogmas 2018 with Meredith Foster

MEL MALANOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The holiday season is in full swing! With Christmas break just around the corner, I can't help but get excited for increased productivity featuring hours on the couch watching YouTube videos with maybe a cookie or two in hand. What better way to lazily get in the Christmas spirit than watching other people get into the spirit instead? My favorite series to binge during the holiday season is lifestyle vlogger, Meredith Foster's countdown to the 25th in her daily Vlogmas videos.

Vlogmas has been a YouTube tradition among many users,

including Foster. Here, viewers can watch the holiday season unfold each day from the comfort of their homes. The concept itself may seem showy. Why watch rich influencers decorate their tree or shop? Surprisingly, Foster is not a waste of time. Her heart for others and joy for the Lord make the true meaning of Christmas gleaming through her videos.

In previous years, Foster had Vlogmas as a way to bring awareness of love, compassion and giving for the holiday season. As a Christian, Foster reminds her five million subscribers to spread the love of God every chance they get, especially during the holidays. Her second

channel, VlogsbyMeredith, becomes increasingly popular around December due to her loving spirit.

In last year's Vlogmas video entitled, "I Was Stood Up: Vlogmas Day 2," Foster and her friends took on Christmas festivities like holiday shopping while discussing the importance of self love. She described her recent experience of being stood up by a friend as making her feel extra lonely during the most wonderful time of the year. Instead of wallowing in her sorrow, she poured her energy into healthy relationships, surrounding herself with true friends and close family.

At one point in the video,

PICTURED BELOW : Meredith Foster celebrates the holiday season with her puppy.
Courtesy of Google



Your favorite song, "Verified"

EVA REYES
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

If you've ever looked up the lyrics to a song and wondered what they really mean, Genius' Verified is here to help. The youtube show and website aims to help listeners better understand their favorite songs by having the artists break down word for word what their truly lyrics mean.

Typically running about six minutes, the Youtube show sits down with artists to have them candidly explain some of our favorite song lyrics. From internet sensations like, Hobo Johnson explaining the viral hit "Peach Scone" to bigger name artists like T-Pain, the show has something to offer everyone.

As we nod along to music we usually come up with our own interpretations of what song lyrics mean. "Verified" gets the significance of songs from the artists themselves. "I like to get an inside perspective of the state of mind an artist was in when they wrote their song and I then can create a deeper connection," said senior, Acacia Ingram.

Let's take, the first lines of Chance the Rapper's song, "Blessings." "I don't make songs

for free, I make em for freedom; Don't believe in kings, believe in the Kingdom," While on the surface it seems like Chance is referring to the kingdom of heaven, the rapper explains for "Verified" that it's actually about working towards artistic independence.

Along with a Youtube series interviewing artists, Genius has a website where they provide song lyrics as well as interpretations. Online, the platform annotates lyrics with explanations given by the artists and Genius users. Pulling together artists tweets, previous interviews, articles and even historical references to dispense the clearest lyric interpretations.



PICTURED ABOVE: Verified gives users the ability to interpret the meaning behind song lyrics.

As music continues to evolve, listeners look for new ways to draw significance from their musical choices. "Verified" contributes to a space where artists have a chance to attribute meaning to the words in their songs," says Ingram.

Genius offers artists a platform to explain their work and gives listeners a chance to connect with their favorite artists on an even deeper level. Next time you find yourself looking for a song lyric, try Genius' "Verified" on Youtube or the lyric website genius.com, you might just find you like that song a little more.

PSA: Don't use an illness to get out of finals!



PICTURED ABOVE: The Sick Note poster photo courtesy google

AMAR VADHIA
STAFF WRITER

As college students, some of us have come up with small lies on occasion to avoid things we do not want to do. At times, these lies require us to have a doctor's note as proof of being sick. Okay, to be honest, not everyone lies about why they have missed a class or an assignment. However, if you are anything like Daniel Glass from Netflix's "Sick Note", your lie might spiral out of control.

"Sick Note" starts off by presenting who Daniel Glass is before obtaining a "sick note" from his doctor, Dr. Ian Glennis. Glass is a compulsive liar; faking an injury in order to get a few free days off of work and lying to his girlfriend constantly (she of course gets sick of it and breaks up with him).

When visiting his doctor for a faked illness, he gets misdiagnosed with cancer. Distraught, Glass tells his colleagues, best friend and girlfriend about the devastating news. Surprisingly, his life changes for the better, as his boss and colleagues now treat him with respect, his best friend cries for him and his girlfriend takes him back.

Glass later receives a call from his doctor, giving him the good news. He was misdiagnosed. A normal person would be relieved from hearing this, right? Not Glass! He decides to keep the ruse going. Through a series of events that I will not divulge, Glass and

well. She provides a friendly reminder to her viewers that beyond the gifts, Christmas cheer can be found through the love of Jesus and good company.

Her annual countdown to Christmas starts soon, and I for one cannot wait to see what surprises she has in store this year. Subscribe to VlogsbyMeredith on YouTube to stay up to date with all her latest postings. Until then, in the words of Foster, "stay you, stay true."

Glennis work together to keep the lie alive. Throughout the show, there are plenty of close calls, betrayals and laughs to be had.

Side note, before I forget, Ron Weasley is in the show! That's right! The actor playing Daniel Glass is indeed Rupert Grint who got his break from the famous Harry Potter franchise. Other cast members include the talented Nick Frost as Dr. Ian Glennis and Lindsay Lohan as Katerina West. Honestly, this is the first time I have seen Lohan in anything since Mean Girls back in 2004.

For those who do not remember who Nick Frost is, he was in Hot Fuzz and Shaun of the Dead. The show currently has two seasons on Netflix; the first with six episodes and the second with eight episodes. It is a relatively short watch but perfect for someone craving a show with British humor.

As the Fall 2018 semester is coming to an end and work is building up, I urge you not to watch this, or any other show as I have been doing. Focus on what really matters: the work needed in order to obtain the goals you have in mind. Only after you have finished working for the day or for the week, set aside some time to relax. Grab some snacks, some friends and a comfy blanket, then watch "Sick Note." Good luck with your finals Concordia! Oh, and do not fake an illness in order to get out of finals, that doesn't work.