

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

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Concordia University Irvine

February 14, 2020

Dr. Michael A. Thomas inaugurated as Concordia's Fifth President

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Michael A. Thomas was inaugurated February 7 as the fifth president of Concordia University Irvine in the CU Arena. The inauguration ceremony was attended by students, faculty, staff, donors and community leaders as well as Thomas' family and his parents.

The Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies, regional director of the North America Lutheran Hour Ministries and a friend and colleague of President Thomas, gave the inaugural address. Music participants included The Concordia Choir, Concordia Sinfonietta, Concordia Concert Handbells, Contemporary Worship Ensemble and high school choirs from Crean Lutheran, Lutheran High, Orange Lutheran and Victory Academy. Also in attendance were representatives from the Concordia University System, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Pacific Southwest District, various Concordia Universities and Biola University and Chapman University. Dignitaries included State Sen. John Moorlach, 37th district; State Assemblyman Steven Choi, 68th district; and Christina Shea, City of Irvine Mayor.

In his address, President Thomas spoke about being faithfully curious. He talked about maintaining a sense of wonderment through life as students, as well as adults. "As a very new member of this community, I bring one distinct advantage: I see Concordia with new eyes. I can tell you without a doubt that the love and care that you have for students and for one another is palpable," said President Thomas, "Certainly there are challenges and obstacles, but this community knows collectively that we provide an exceptional, holistic education for all students."

He also shared about growing up as a first-generation college student. He's the first in his family to attend college. Following his address, Thomas was presented with a presidential medallion to mark his inauguration. Crafted



PICTURED ABOVE: President Dr. Michael A. Thomas during inaugural speech. Photo courtesy of Dion Chung.

by Concordia Professor of Anthropology Dr. Jack M. Schulz, the sterling silver cross illustrates Christ at the center of all things with a gold center.

President Thomas concluded his speech by saying, "It is extremely humbling and a sacred

passion for higher education, makes him the ideal person to lead Concordia Irvine into the future," he continued.

Prior to being named President, Dr. Michael Thomas served as the Executive Director of the Lutheran Institute for Theology

"It is extremely humbling and a sacred honor to serve alongside all of you as the fifth President of Concordia University Irvine. Thank you and may God continue to bless our collective mission and this university which is dedicated to living out the Great Commission of Christ Jesus!"

honor to serve alongside all of you as the fifth President of Concordia University Irvine. Thank you and may God continue to bless our collective mission and this university which is dedicated to living out the Great Commission of Christ Jesus!"

"Dr. Thomas brings extensive higher education experience," said Ron Levesque, chair of the Board of Regents. "He is highly relational and possesses a strong commitment to Lutheran theology that, when combined with his

and Culture and a Professor of Religion at Concordia University Portland. At the Institute, Thomas was responsible for the academic and administrative oversight of academic disciplines, campus ministry and external church relations. Prior to this role, Thomas served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, after serving as Director of the Honors Program. Thomas has worked across multiple disciplines, including curriculum, faculty and staff development, governance,

enrollment and student life.

Many students were in attendance at this inauguration including ASCUI treasurer Dion Chung. "Dr. Thomas is really energetic and is very student centric. He really goes out of his way to eat lunch [with students] or even meet students on campus," said Chung.

Isabelle Upchurch, ASCUI President and choir member, read scripture at the ceremony. "Being able to sing in the choir and read the scripture at the presidential inauguration was an honor and I was extremely humbled to be a part of such a monumental day in Concordia's history. I think Dr. Thomas is going to be a great addition to this University and I am so excited to see how he will continue to grow and evolve the students and mission of Concordia," said Upchurch.

Dr. Michael Thomas earned his Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Concordia University Portland before earning his Master of Arts in International Studies from the University of Washington's Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. Thomas also holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies: Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity from the University of Virginia.

Music Department presents Valentine's Day Concert

JOHN SYMANK
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's Men's Chorus and Donne di Canto, the all-women's choir, will be performing in "A Night for Valentine's," the Valentine's Day concert hosted at the CU Center on Sat., Feb. 15.

The performance is a unification of two normally separate groups, who will be performing both individual pieces for their choirs as well as other group numbers. Styles of music provide a vast range of genres, from jazz to contemporary pop to traditional choral pieces to a Canadian folk song. Shawna Gardner, freshman, talked about some of her favorite pieces that will be performed. Gardner said, "I love 'The Song of Ruth' by David N. Childs, 'Savory, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme' arranged by Donald Patriquin, and 'A Thousand Years' by David Hodges and Christina Perry."

The two groups are excited to be working together for the first time since the fall choral concert. Godesulloh Bawa, senior, said, "It's a fun time, especially because we get so used to singing and rehearsing with just tenors and basses. It's great to hear our sound as one choir." Two pieces which will not only infuse jazz style into the concert but also help unite the choirs are "Shaboom" and "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square."

The concert will be taking place the day after Valentine's Day because the music that has been chosen for the performance is largely romantic or centers around themes of love. Additionally, many pieces also highlight a focus on God and His love for humanity. Some pieces, such as "The Song of Ruth" and "Set Me As a Seal," take their lyrics directly from scripture.

Continued on pg. 7

February Word Search

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

Word Search

- Adore
Cold
Hearts
Kiss
Romance
Winter
Arrow
Cupid
- Hug
Love
Sweethearts
Chocolate
Flowers
Joy
Pink
Valentines

Let’s go clubbing: Nuestra Voz

ASHLEY GRAJEDA
STAFF WRITER

Nuestra Voz is Concordia’s Hispanic/Latinx club and is a great way for students to be involved with the school and meet people that have similar interests. Their mission statement is: “Nuestra Voz wishes to represent the unique cultures and perspectives of Latino, Hispanic, Chicano and indigenous students on Concordia University, Irvine campus, to educate the campus and students about these unique cultures and perspectives, and to engage the campus community as a whole on issues relevant to us civically and culturally.”

Giovanni Brito, senior and club President, said “anybody can join the club, our club members do not have to be of Latin or Hispanic descent.” Brito added, “our door is always open and we want to continue to welcome new members.”

The club helps students stay motivated and encouraged throughout their academic years. They host events and have guest speakers at the meetings. Brito said, “through activities and guest speakers we learn more about what is attainable when we work hard.”

The guest speakers are selected by having club members voice what they would like to learn more about. This provides first

generation students to expand their options. Guest speakers may consist of people with similar careers that members are interested in and want to know more about the steps or things needed to help aid them towards their goals. Members are allowed to make suggestions on what they would like to talk about at the meetings or new things that they would like to incorporate.

Club meetings allow for students to vocalize their opinions and perspective on current or past issues as well as share experiences. The club allows students to have guidance and a sense of community. Senior, Victoria Garcia, the club Treasurer said, “Nuestra Voz tries to create an environment where students can meet others with similar stories and experiences.” She added, “I hope they gain a better connection and understanding of cultures similar to their own, but also to spread awareness of important customs and the differences.”

Nuestra Voz is an inclusive club, the students allow others to share their perspective of life and are ready to learn about other cultures. Brito said, “the best way we can learn about each other’s culture is when we welcome diversity. It is a club for the community, for all Concordia students.”

Meetings are held biweekly on campus on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11 a.m. and Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m.

in Grimm Hall 127. To be considered a full member students must attend meetings, hold a 2.0 GPA and complete two hours of community service each semester. Nuestra Voz also offers culture sashes to graduating seniors who are a part of the club as long as they meet club requirements.

For those who are interested in Nuestra Voz or becoming involved with the club, you can go down to the academic advising center found in the Gym Breezeway and talk to faculty advisor Robert Marquez, as well as senior board members President Giovanni Brito, Treasurer Victoria Garcia, Vice- President Esmeralda Cardenas, Secretary Johanna Gardea or Marketer Yaileen Zamora who can all be reached at this email: esnuestravoz@gmail.com. For more information on upcoming events and meetings follow their Instagram @cuiuestra.voz.

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CU Serves Day a great success

GIOVANNI BRITO
& ESME CARDENAS
STAFF WRITERS

On Tues., Feb., 4., Concordia hosted the first-ever CU Serves Day. This day was dedicated to service around the Orange County community. There were various locations that opened their doors for Concordia students, staff and faculty to come together and help.

The different charities that participated included: United Way OC - Book Doctor, United Way OC - Family CareCenter, Goodwill OC, Habitat For Humanity, Second Harvest Food Bank, Surfrider Newport Beach, Hope Builders, Orange County Rescue Mission, Mariners Church, Saddleback Church, Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Newport Bay Conservancy and Charity on Wheels.

Senior Charlotte Waite shared about her experience helping at the Second Harvest Food Bank. “It was an amazing experience to go out and serve not only with my peers but also

with professors and staff I look up to.” She added to “follow your interest and hobbies because there are numerous organizations that encourage volunteer help and need it. Find your calling to serve!”

Tyler Haase, ASCUI Club Commissioner, also reflected on CU Serve and stated, “There were around 1,000 people that served at the event. It is amazing to see the Concordia community come together as one whole and make a difference.” Haase added, “It is important to remember to continue to work even after CU Serves is over. We can always help out the community.”

One of Concordia’s goals, as stated in the mission statement is to “empower students through the liberal arts and professional studies for lives of learning, service, and leadership.” CU Serves allowed students the opportunity to explore different charities and become leaders of service. Junior, Josiah Zepeda,

embraced that message. Zepeda said, “I think it’s important to serve because we are able to improve the quality of human life.” He added, “We have the ability to create change in society when we work together.”

Students, faculty and staff who participated in CU Serves Day received a complimentary lunch. Bon Appetit provided tacos, churros and agua de horchata. DJ Cashmaster was also at the cafe keeping the party atmosphere alive. There was also a slideshow displaying the various pictures taken throughout the day with the hashtag #concordiaserves.

Overall seeing the students come together to embody Concordia’s heritage and mission of creating “wise, honorable and cultivated citizens” was empowering. It was incredible to see the direct impact that their service efforts can create. As students experience the different ways that they can make an impact, they begin to understand how to maintain a better world and environment for others. The lessons learned and efforts put forth can carry over into their lives outside of Concordia. This is why Concordia Serves is impactful as well as successful. We can’t wait for next year!

"Students, faculty and President Dr. Thomas on first annual CU Serves Day"



Softball's Concordia Kick-Off Classic nets four wins for Lady Eagles

SYDNEY SPRINKLE
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 31 through Feb. 2 the softball team hosted their first-ever tournament, the Concordia Kick-Off Classic at the Orange County Great Park where they went 4-1 against five well ranked teams.

The Eagles played five games in three days against Chico State, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State San Marcos, Cal State East Bay and Stanislaus State. The other four teams competing in the tournament were Azusa Pacific, Biola, Hawai'i Pacific and Western Washington. The Eagles scored four wins and just one loss against Chico State, who is ranked 20 according to NFCA Coaches Poll.

Veteran players reflected on Concordia hosting their first-ever tournament. Junior,

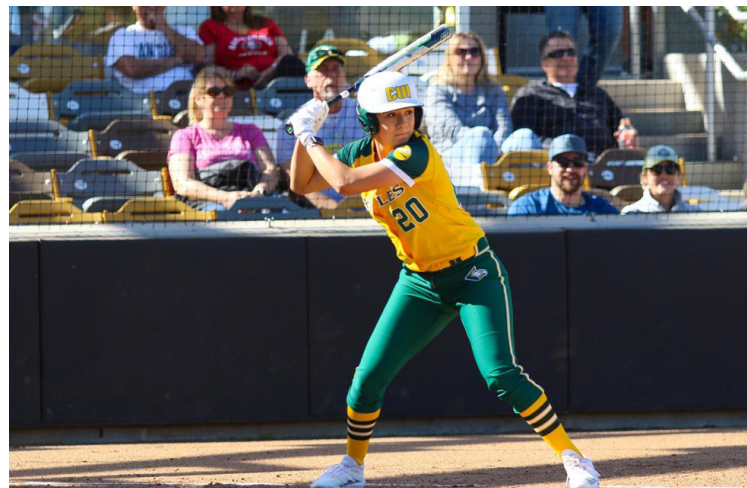
two time All-American, 2019 Pacwest Pitcher of the Year and all-tournament honoree, Callie Nunes, said "I wasn't nervous, just anxious to get to play considering we had a long gap since the last time we played." Nunes continued, "I was expecting the team's play to be a little more aggressive but still thought we played well for our first games back." She also said that "the team needed these games to see where we were and it helped exactly point out our weaknesses and strengths."

Amanda Gjertsen, senior, and 2019 First Team All-Pacwest player, showcased her talent during the first games of the season. Gjertsen was awarded All-tournament honors along with Nunes, and contributed greatly to the Eagles' success. During the first games of the season, Gjertsen said, "I was nervous before the games but when I stepped on the field, it felt

good to be back."

Senior outfielder Michelle Lieng added, "I think the team was well prepared because the coaches push us hard and focus on the details." Both Gjertsen and Lieng agree that walking out of the tournament 4-1 is something to be proud of, but also acknowledge the areas of improvement that need correction in order to excel during the rest of their season.

Despite having a team full of upper-classmen, some of the freshman additions stepped up to the plate during their first collegiate games. Freshman pitcher Raeonna Flores earned two wins over the weekend and pitched a good game against Chico State. Following Flores' first collegiate games, she said, "I wasn't nervous at all. I was super excited to get out on the field and play with my team." Flores added, "I



PICTURE ABOVE: Senior, Alyssa Turner up to bat during the Concordia Kick Off Classic. Photo courtesy of Troy Makalena.

came in with a winning and competitive mindset. I was expecting to win because that's what Concordia softball is all about."

After a long weekend of softball, the Eagles had a week off to practice and perfect their play before their home opener on Feb. 15 against Saint Martin's. Traveling from Washington,

Saint Martin's has also started their season with four wins and one loss. Watch the two-time defending PacWest champions take the field, tomorrow, Sat., Feb. 15 at noon and 2 p.m. as they look for two more wins. For more information regarding the softball season, visit cuieagles.com.

Concordia's track and field team shines in New Mexico tournament

SARAH ZIMMER
STAFF WRITER
& SARAH KRETSCHMAR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Concordia's track and field team represented the Eagles well last week at the University of New

Mexico for the Collegiate Classic Indoor Track and Field Meet. This is a huge event for college

athletes and the meet was hosted in Albuquerque. This meet is the primary location for the USA track and field indoor championships and holds all of the NCAA DI championships. Concordia's track and field team competed against many competitors



Pictured above, Tamia Prince of track and field. Photo courtesy of cuieagles.com.

last week including Alabama, Kentucky, San Diego State, UCLA, UCI and many other DI and DII teams.

Head coach for track & field and cross country, Keegan Bloomfield, said, "Our team competed well in a lot of events. For many of our student athletes, this was their first meet of the season so we wanted to see how training was applying to them." Bloomfield also mentioned that there were several standout students who ranked highly for the Eagles, including senior Tamia Prince, who recorded the number one time in the nation for the 60m hurdles.

Prince, a senior from

Carson, competes in the indoor 60m dash, 200m dash and 60m hurdles as well as the outdoor 100m dash, 200m dash and 100m hurdles. Prince's favorite event is the short hurdles. "I felt overjoyed after hitting my goal so early in the season. I leaped around the track as my team cheered for me," said Prince. She continued, "I am looking forward to going to indoor nationals and traveling with all my teammates/friends!"

Another star was junior Malia Avila, who shattered the school record in the 200m dash. Junior Chais Hamilton was a standout in the men's weight throw. He

set a personal record during the meet.

Coach Bloomfield hopes for a big finish to the indoor track and field season. "We head to Grand

Valley State for one of the best meets in the nation. We hope to qualify more people for nationals

on the women's side and we are pursuing our first ever men's national qualifier," he said.

Concordia's track and field team is one to continuously look out for during the season. The teams are in action through May, breaking records and taking names.

Concordia basketball update

EMMA MOCHARNUK
SPORTS EDITOR
& MIYLAN EUBANKS
STAFF WRITER

On Sat., Feb. 8, the Concordia men and women's basketball teams traveled to Oakland to take on the Holy Names Hawks.

The women kicked off the night with a 72-45 win over the Hawks.

"We knew we needed to take care of business against Holy Names. Their post player put up a lot of points

the first time we played them so we made sure to focus on her this time around. Keeping our focus on some of their key players and on each other helped us get a lead and keep it," said junior Kennedy Fulcher.

After a successful game for the Lady Eagles, the men took the court. The Eagles came out victorious with a close score of 94 to the Hawks' 91.

"This game was one of our best all season as far as playing together as a team and focusing on ourselves and our

game rather than focusing on the other team," said senior Rob McCoy.

Going forward, both the men and the women's team are looking to continue improving and striving to be the best team they can be going into the end of season playoffs in March.

"We are looking to continue working on our post defense and hopefully get some more wins under our belt. We just want to be the best that we can be going into playoffs," said Fulcher.

"I am excited to see how far we can go as a team throughout the rest of the season and going into our championship games," said McCoy.

The team is currently 12-4 in conference play. "At the end of the day... I make it fun and live in the moment. A loss is not the end of the world. You learn. It makes you want to do better and go again, said White.

The Eagles face off again tomorrow against Chaminade University. The women play at

5:30 and the men play at 7:00 p.m. At the women's game, the athletic department will also be recognizing baseball's youngest member, Liam Knowles, who will be signing his official National Letter of Intent to Concordia in affiliation with Team IMPACT. During the men's game, the 2019 softball team will be recognized for their PacWest conference championship. Go Eagles!

Interested in music education? Reed on.

MEILINDA LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

On Sat., Feb. 1, the music department put on its third annual Double-Reed Day. This is one of Concordia's Music Education Days. Double-Reed Day provided workshops for participants of all ages to learn more about double reed instruments and how to make double reeds.

A double reed instrument is an instrument that uses a reed with two pieces of thin wood tied together to produce sound. Examples include an oboe, bassoon or an english horn. Elizabeth Low-Atwater, Professor of Bassoon, explained, "With any instrument, vibration is needed to create sound. Our reeds consist of two very thin pieces of a plant called *Arundo Donax* Cane that vibrate against each other to start this sound. Our instruments amplify this sound into what everyone hears."

For most students, learning how to play the instrument is only half the battle. Low-Atwater said, "For students and others who see themselves as hobbyists, I think knowing how a reed is constructed gives them a deeper appreciation for where their sound comes from." Siri Lyon, Professor of Oboe, added, "[Knowledge of reed-making] is important because it takes away some of the mystery surrounding the instruments. The oboe, for example, is often described as the hardest instrument to learn and a big part of that is because of reeds. They are fragile in multiple ways - not only can they easily chip or crack if roughly handled, but they can change depending on the weather. Learning how reeds are made and how to adjust them over time brings a player better knowledge of the oboe or bassoon and the confidence that they are in control over their instrument."

The event also included

vendors specifically targeted towards double-reed instruments as well as a double-reed ensemble performance. Sophia Flores, Oboist for Sinfonietta, said, "I picked up the oboe this last semester and have been participating in Sinfonietta. Double Reed Day was a really informative experience for me because I only very recently entered the double reed universe, so I felt uninformed on my instrument. However, there were many people there to inform students on how to build reeds and how to properly care for a double reed instrument in general. I especially appreciated that there were vendors there to help the students purchase what they need to be successful on their instrument."

Effie Hill, Bassoonist for Concordia Wind Orchestra and Sinfonietta, discussed how Double Reed Day gave her more insight on her instrument, citing the reed making workshops as well as the double-reed

ensemble performance. Hill recommended that everyone attend Double-Reed Day, "[People who don't play double reed instruments] could learn about different more exotic instruments that an average person might not know about. In my opinion, any experience with music is a good experience because it allows you to enjoy a different kind of art that you might not normally experience."

Lyon encouraged more people to participate in Concordia's Music Education Days, "The only requirement to attend Double Reed Day is to have an interest in music as well as the oboe and bassoon! Our event is open to all ages and skill levels, so no matter if you play a double reed instrument or not you will go away learning something new. Besides double reed players, I would strongly recommend this event to parents of a student learning these instruments as well as band/orchestra directors."

Low-Atwater added, "I would definitely recommend it! I have had a number of parents and teachers who attended in the past really get into the reed making. It is a craftsmanship that most would appreciate if one enjoys studying how things are made and constructed."

The music department's next Music Education Day, Clarinet Day, will be on April 4. If interested, use the QR code below to register or contact Ron Nelson at ron.nelson@cui.edu.



Homecoming 2020, a night to remember

MELISSA KLEMSZ
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 31, students joined together at Concordia's annual homecoming dance. What could easily have turned into the terrible high school cliché ended up being a night that students thoroughly enjoyed, thanks to the clever planning by LEAD and an Eagle population who will take any excuse to spend the night on the dance floor.

Trabuco Golf Club was transformed into "A Night in Ancient Greece," a theme that was brainstormed by LEAD member Sam Hood, junior. "The theme gave a subliminal nod to Greek life formals," said Hood. "We were also inspired by all the beautiful pictures of

Greece posted by students who went on ATW®."

The theme was carried out beautifully. The venue was a split between indoor and outdoor accommodations. At the front of the venue was a horse-drawn carriage. "The horse and carriage was a fun and surprising addition," said Forrest MacFarland, senior. In the interior of the building was a large dance floor with plenty of space for students to walk around and mingle. There were games in the corner of the room, including poker tables. Lining the longest wall were snack tables filled with candy, treats and different soft drinks for students to enjoy. The outdoor areas had large tables and space heaters, as well as plenty of good spots for photo ops. Also

featured were two ring-light style photo booths.

As for activities, the central focus of the homecoming dance seemed to be the dancing itself. Jonah Sielaff, sophomore, said that dancing with his friends was the highlight of the night. Focusing on dancing was a new idea, according to Hood, who said that they emphasized the dancefloor when choosing the venue and the surrounding activities. Anchored by a colorfully lit DJ booth, the large dance floor was packed for most of the night.

Students kept the night rolling by requesting various songs that they knew would get the dance floor popping. This lifted the mood and led to an energetic dance party that did not stop until the event ended at

11 p.m.

What were some of the best moments of the night? Hood stated, "I loved seeing students who often did not come out of their shell on campus having the time of their life. One student even said that it was her first dance ever." MacFarland added,

"I enjoyed taking pictures with friends, seeing some impressive and hysterical dance moves and seeing everyone dressed to the nines." The night was an excellent opportunity for students to come together and enjoy a night of good fun and great friends.



Photo courtesy of @_ASCUI Instagram

Concordia Forensics gears up for nationals

AMANDA OZAKI-LAUGHON
CONCORDIA FORENSICS

This past weekend, speech and debate kicked up the heat at tournaments hosted by CSU Los Angeles and Point Loma Nazarene University, as they prepare for the nationals tournaments in March. The team brought back a lot of trophies; here are the highlights:

At Point Loma Nazarene University, seniors Denise Sprimont and David Vasquez won first place in parliamentary debate and have secured their position as the #1 team in the national rankings (found at nptedebate.org), defeating the University of Oregon in the finals. They also took First Place Speaker and Second Place Speaker, respectively. Concordia Debate now has six teams qualified for the National Parliamentary Debate Association championship.

At CSU-Los Angeles, seniors Tilford Clark II and Kouamy Davis-Brown took first place in their duo performance... TWICE! Senior Natalie Wellman took third in her Persuasion event and senior Ingrid Becker took second in Informative speaking. Junior Damon Mitchell received fifth place for his Programmed Oral

Interpretation. Concordia Speech now has nine competitors qualified for the American Forensics Association National Championship.

Overall, Concordia placed second in tournament sweepstakes for debate and third in tournament sweepstakes for speech, defeating USC, UCLA, Grand Canyon University and more. Go Eagles!

PICTURE RIGHT: From Left to Right: Natalie Wellman, Damon Mitchell, Kouamy Davis-Brown, Tilford Clark II, Ingrid Becker.

Photo courtesy of Amanda Ozaki-Laughon.



Michelle Obama is halfway to an EGOT

ZOE JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Along with being a former first lady, and the first African-American one at that, Michelle Obama won a Grammy at this year's award show for best spoken-word album for her book "Becoming." Obama's fantastic start to 2020 was only the beginning. She won an Oscar on Feb. 9 for her production company's film, "American Factory." That places Obama halfway to rarefied air. An EGOT, the title people hold when they have achieved winning an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and a Tony, has been won only by fifteen people.

Obama's book, which was created into an audiobook and read by the former first lady, details her growth from a struggling family life, to becoming a lawyer and eventually the first lady of the



United States. In an interview with Oprah regarding her book she said, "What I realized was that achievement mattered, and that kids would get tracked early, and that if you didn't demonstrate ability—particularly as a black kid on the South Side from a working-class background—then people were already ready to put you in a box of underachievement. I didn't want people to think I wasn't

a hardworking kid. I didn't want them to think I was 'one of those kids.' The 'bad kids.' There are no bad kids; there are bad circumstances."

Obama accepted the Oscar with her husband for their production company's documentary "American Factory."

Obama won her Grammy, facing competition from Eric Alexandrakis who was nominated for "I.V. Catatonia:

20 Years as A Two-Time Cancer Survivor," Sekou Andrews & The String Theory for "Sekou Andrews & The String Theory," and Adam Horovitz, Michael Diamond, Scott Sherratt and Dan Zitt for "Beastie Boys Book." As for her Oscar, Obama's film beat out "The Edge of Democracy," "Honeyland," "The Cave" and "For Sama."

"American Factory" accurately expresses the economic and cultural struggle of a General Motors manufacturing plant in Ohio as it is bought out by a company from China. Cao Dewang's empire is followed by Julia Reichart and Steven Bogart to provide a different perspective to the story of a billionaire's attempt at working in America.

Both Michelle and Barack tweeted after the Oscars ceremony. Michelle wrote, "Congrats to Julia, Steven,

and the whole crew on winning Best Documentary for #AmericanFactory, Higher Ground's first release! So glad to see their heart and honesty recognized—because the best stories are rarely tidy or perfect. But that's where the truth so often lies."

Barack also tweeted, "Congrats to Julia and Steven, the filmmakers behind American Factory, for telling such a complex, moving story about the very human consequences of wrenching economic change. Glad to see two talented and downright good people take home the Oscar for Higher Ground's first release."

Michelle's accomplishments are numerous beyond the Oscar and Grammy, and while it may seem unlikely that she is going to be in the running for a Tony anytime soon, she is one woman who should not be underestimated.

NASA astronaut Christina Koch leads the way for female astronauts



PICTURED ABOVE:
Record breaking astronaut, Christina Koch.

ADYSON CASTEEL
STAFF WRITER

Christina Koch is breaking barriers for women in space exploration. Koch returned to earth on Feb. 6 which marked the history-making number of 328 consecutive days in the International Space Station; the longest mission time ever held by a female astronaut.

The North Carolina native surpassed the previous record of 288 days held by retired NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson in 2017. Koch's ship landed in Kazakhstan this February before the crew was taken back to the United States. The incredible feat was not a direct goal of Koch when she first started her mission. In a broadcasted interview with ABC News' David Kerley from the space station, Koch said, "I didn't necessarily know what this mission was going to turn into when I launched. But I think one of the things about the astronaut corps is that we are taught to be adaptable and ready for anything in a mission that comes our way."

Koch is not alone when it comes to female astronauts making history. She participated in another history-making feat alongside NASA astronaut Jessica Meir when the two completed the first all-female spacewalk in 2019. A big event in itself, the pair exceeded expectations shortly afterwards by stepping out of the International Space Station twice more.

Koch sets the stage for future female generations to continue making these types of achievements a common occurrence. Already, there are growing numbers of girls out there becoming more involved in scientific fields.

Physical Science Professor Jana Reiland is delighted to see this growth. She said, "I love that women are given these opportunities, in hopes that it inspires the next generation of female scientists. As a result of the STEM education system being readily available, we are seeing extraordinary discoveries and achievements by our young scientists that are coming onto the world stage."

Dr. John Kenney, the Physics Department Chair and Professor of Physics and Chemistry, shared his story of the growth he has seen within science. "Many decades ago, in my honors general chemistry class freshman year in college, there were 30 students enrolled: 28 men and two women. From kindergarten to Ph.D., I had only one female science or mathematics teacher, Mrs. Stella Vann, in high school geometry and trigonometry. Incidentally, she was an outstanding teacher," said Kenney. "In my 38-year career as a college chemistry/physics professor, I've had the privilege to see even greater percentages of women in my classes and mentor them in scientific research. I see them thrive in medical school, dental school, veterinary school, PA school, the military and world-class Ph.D. programs."

Kenney also reflected on the significance of the female space flight record. He said, "I applaud astronaut Christina Koch's record flight time. Quite apart from its immediate significance, it will serve as inspiration for future generations of women to reach for the stars and to do what has never been done before."

Koch's example sparks passion in young women to become more involved in scientific and astronomical programs.

For more information, visit the official NASA website, nasa.gov to learn more about space travel and to keep current on the newest scientific discoveries. Interested in star gazing? Concordia's Physics major includes courses in astronomy. For more information, visit the official NASA website, nasa.gov to learn more about space travel and to keep current on the newest scientific discoveries.

Dollars and Census: Earn easy summer money!

CHARLOTTE WAITE
CAMPUS EDITOR

While this year may feel like it is dragging on for millennia, in fact, our semester is almost over with less than three months left of school. This leads to the question: What on earth are you going to do this summer? If your first thoughts were about trying to find a job, then I may be able to help. The 2020 Census not only benefits the country, it can also benefit you directly through one of their numerous jobs offered nation-wide.

Here are some quick facts about the census before we dive into the job opportunities. The 2020 nation-wide census starts this April and lasts until July. It is 10 questions, in 10 minutes, every 10 years. Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year as well as how many seats in Congress each state gets.

Now, I promised you job opportunities and I will not let you down. The census is offering hundreds of thousands of jobs for temporary positions; this is perfect for college students like you and me to earn a little extra cash this summer.

The United States Census 2020 website reads our minds, "Could you use extra income? Jobs for the 2020 Census offer competitive wages that are paid weekly. Authorized expenses, such as mileage, are reimbursed for employees doing field work."

Jobs are offered throughout the country and in Puerto Rico with wages depending on the

region. For instance, in Orange County wages range from \$19 to \$21 while in the Richmond Area Census Office in Virginia rates start at \$21.50 and go up to \$24.

Not only do they have nice pay wages, they also offer flexible hours. "Temporary positions for the 2020 Census feature flexible hours—a perfect fit if you are looking to earn extra money, even if you already have other commitments," stated the census website.

"The real selling point is the flexible hours," said senior Maria Perez. "The summer is always such a conflicting time between needing to work and wanting a break to enjoy yourself. Working for the census would be convenient because it has a great hourly rate, and I know that by July I will be done to enjoy the rest of the summer."

If working for the 2020 Census interests you, apply now online at recruitment.2020census.gov/ats/careersite/census.aspx?site=1&c=census. Hurry fast, these job openings will not be up for long.

If you are still not convinced, more information about different job availability can be found at 2020census.gov/en/jobs.html.

For more information on the census, check out Concordia Courier issue 14.9 or go to the official census website at aa.2020census.gov/en.html.

Real Leaders podcast teaches mindful leadership

RYLEY EDWARDS
STAFF WRITER

Real Leaders podcast helps influence and direct inspiring entrepreneurs to learn leadership lessons from successful CEOs, entrepreneurs and celebrities. Kevin Edwards, host of Real Leaders podcast, and Mark Van Ness, founder of Real Leaders magazine, explained the mission and importance of the podcast, as well as why it is essential for young and upcoming entrepreneurs to check it out.

Real Leaders podcast is a podcast presented by Real Leaders magazine, an entrepreneurial magazine founded by Van Ness, an active impact investor, advocate for gender-balanced leadership and founder of several leadership networks promoting business as a force for good. He also founded SVN, a global commercial real estate firm and served as CEO for 22 years. Real Leaders is the world's first sustainable business and leadership magazine established in 2010. Real Leaders magazine aims to inspire better leaders

for a better world. Van Ness said, "We want to ensure that the next generation of leaders, in all spheres of influence, are exposed to the best and brightest minds in the hope that they are inspired to find profitable business solutions that benefit humankind."

Van Ness started the magazine with the hope that he could redefine what it means to be a leader by encouraging business leaders to reject the idea that the sole purpose of business is to enrich shareholders. Van Ness said, "If I could show CEOs how they could be more successful by addressing serious social and environmental issues, business could become a force for positive impact in the world."

Real Leaders podcast was created with the same intention as the magazine: to redefine what it means to be a leader. Edwards, host of Real Leaders podcast said their goal is to, "inspire listeners to end business as usual through powerful and authentic discussions with today's impact leaders." as well as, "to help listeners influence their organizations

and surrounding communities." It is a great source of reliable information for any inspiring entrepreneur.

You will be hard pressed to find a better podcast that covers more high level business leaders using their operation to scale positive impact. Edwards interviews high level executives from companies who measure the triple bottom line (people, planet, profit). The podcast covers a wide range of different topics from all different types of people.

Edwards said, "Our guest range extends from a nationally recognized 10-year-old leading recycling efforts in California to Paul Stamets a mycologist urging people that if we don't save fungi then climate ecosystems will collapse."

Of all the guests that have been on the show, Edwards said his most memorable interview was with Hip-Hop and R&B legend, Akon. "He flew half-way around the world just to speak with us about how he is leveraging his star-power to bring energy to his home country of Senegal, providing energy to 100 million people



in sub-saharan Africa. I left thinking, it's weird that it took a Rapper/R&B singer [who some critics labeled a misogynist], to do something that we all take for granted and should have been done a long time ago."

Real Leaders podcast asks challenging questions to CEOs that young adults want to know then breaks down their answers in a way that makes sense. It is the go to place for people looking to inspire their thinking and open up new channels for job hunting. They

have also created videos for students to inspire purposeful careers and give them direct insight from CEOs in a fun and creative way. They inspire a new and better way to do business that is essential to the future of our nation and the world. If you are an inspiring entrepreneur I highly suggest you check out Real Leaders podcast, which you can find on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or on their website at real-leaders.com/podcast.



The 2020 Oscars

PICTURED ABOVE: Director Matthew Cherry and Producer Karen Rupert Toliver of Academy Award winning animation short "Hair Love".

ALEXIS RIOS
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR
& GABI BECKMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Oscars was a highly anticipated night for students across the board. Taking place only 53 miles away from campus, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, the 2020 Oscars was a night filled with glamour and recognition of revolutionary films and film-work.

However, the most thrilling moment for students was seeing the surge in diversity. The 92nd Academy Awards was a historic event. "Parasite" written and directed by Bong Joon-ho won multiple Oscars and made history as the first foreign-language film to win

Best Picture. "Parasite" transcended language and cultural barriers touching all audiences. The film was unique as it was a blend of multiple different genres including drama, dark comedy, horror, and social commentary. Overall "Parasite"'s powerful message on class differences struck a universal cord and led it to dominate the night ending with four Oscars in total.

Dion Chung, ASCUI treasurer was very happy to see that "Parasite" had won Best Picture. "I personally think that it's really cool that this South Korean film was able to break through mainstream media. It is hard for foreign films to make it big in American but the fact that it did is awesome," said

Chung. Other wins included Laura Dern for her role as the brassy divorce attorney in Noah Baumbach's "Marriage Story." As she has swept multiple awards, including a Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild Award, and Critics Choice Award, a majority of the critics and polls knew Dern had Best Supporting Actress in the bag. Additionally, Joaquin Phoenix and Renée Zellweger took home the coveted awards for Best Actor and Best Actress for their respective performances in "Joker" and "Judy," both of which many critics predicted. Furthermore, "Hair Love," a personal project by former NFL player Matthew A. Cherry, won the Best Animated Short

Film Oscar. The film was all about promoting pride and love among young people of color for their hair. The seven minute film portrayed the struggles of an African American father attempting to style his young daughter's hair.

"Hair Love" writer, director, and producer Cherry said "'Hair Love' was done because we wanted to see more representation in animation. We wanted to normalize black hair."

Joy Johnson, a senior and thrower on track field is excited to see that there are finally being strides taken to bring diversity into animation. "I think it is amazing that animators are finally adding more diversity into animation. I believe that it is very important for young black girls to see themselves portrayed beautifully in the media," said Johnson.

Junior, Danise Herrington was also thankful to finally see some changes. "I am really happy to see that they are making changes but I feel like it's been overdue. It is about time that there starts to be equal representation," said Herrington.

Overall, there were many strides in representation and groundbreaking leaps forward at this year's Oscars. However, there is still much more room to grow when it comes to inclusion in all categories and students are ready to see it.

Valentine's Day Concert

Continued from pg. 1

Gardner said, "This concert lets us celebrate God's amazing love for us and the relationships and love we have with others. I've been so loved by Him and I'm excited to sing about the love He has for us."

This concert is unique because it introduces small group performances, including trios, duets and solos. Bawa will be performing one of these in collaboration with a couple of members from Donne di Canto. Additionally, many of these pieces will include choreography and costuming.

"It'll be a super fun concert," said Bawa, "and the small group and solo pieces will bring a lot of variety in a way that we haven't had before."

"This concert has a charm that feels fun and carefree," said Melissa Klemsz, junior, who has enjoyed attending past performances.

In keeping with the romantic theme, there will be long stemmed red roses for sale prior to the concert. Tickets are available now on the music department website. General admission is \$10, plus there is a limited amount of bistro seating for \$15. Students are able to attend the event for free. Don't miss this special day-after-Valentine's-Day event Saturday night; plan to attend with a group or as a (belated) Valentine's date!



Valentine's Day gone wrong

MIYLAN EUBANKS
STAFF WRITER

Today is Valentine's Day and it is a time to celebrate romance and love. However, sometimes grand gestures or (would be) great dates go south. Fellow Eagle staff and students share Valentine's Day stories that left lasting impressions for all the wrong reasons.

Call it Cupid's cautionary tale of a sweet overture with bad timing. For Jana Reiland, Concordia professor, her grand Valentine's Day gesture once arrived tardy for the party. Two years ago, her husband sent her a large bouquet of vibrant red roses. Aww -- how sweet. Except, "They did not arrive when they were supposed to. They arrived after I had left work," explained Reiland. Her roses waited for her on a stoop all night. By the time she found the roses, they had already begun to wilt. "I felt really bad. So I actually told him that they were beautiful, and I didn't take a picture of them to send it to him because I knew that he would feel bad about it," said Reiland.

Nina Johnson, junior, had a sit-down date at Olive

Garden with a suitor who unfortunately would have rather wanted to do anything else than to just be present and enjoy the bread sticks. The pair were exchanging laughs and enjoying conversation until things came to an abrupt stop. Johnson watched her date answer his phone. It was his ex.

Deborah Parks, cafeteria employee, had a date that sent her on a run for her money, literally. Parks was in college. Against her better judgement, she decided to give the guy a chance and go on a dinner date with him. The two went to a restaurant and had a fine dinner. Everything went smoothly except for one minor detail. "He totally forgot his wallet," said Parks. She did not have a credit card with her, so she was forced to go find an ATM alone in the dead of night. "The lady [waitress] made one of us stay, and I had to go out and find an ATM to pull cash out. I had to walk by myself in this weird town, come back, and pay for dinner," said Parks.

In attempts to make a fond memory with his girlfriend on such a special occasion, Jesus Rios, cafeteria employee,

managed to break everything but his own heart. On Feb. 14 of last year, Rios planned a fancy getaway at a hotel for him and his date. Everything was set. Everything was perfect. "Then, I got into a car accident and broke my pelvis. I broke my pelvis, fractured my ankle, and was in the hospital for two weeks."

The good news behind these Valentine's Day dates gone wrong? All great examples of what not to do when planning a special Valentine's Day. What are the odds the same thing will happen to you? So if this coming Valentine's Day, you spend your time alone singing "Thank U, Next" by Ariana Grande to the top of your lungs on your dorm room floor, cheer up. You have already taken two steps in the right direction. Besides, as saying goes, it is much better to spend time alone than in bad company. If you are still looking for activities to do for Valentine's Day, visit popsugar.com/smart-living/Things-Do-Alone-Valentine-Day-43041825.

And be careful out there in all matters of life and love, friends!

Eat to your heart's content



TAYLOR SAMEC
ARTS EDITOR

Today is Valentine's Day, which means many restaurants across Orange County have sweet deals and specials. So whether you are celebrating this holiday with a significant other or with a group of friends, students should take advantage of the Valentine specials happening around town!

The first restaurant that has a special today is Olive Garden. They are offering a bouquet of breadsticks for the ladies that would rather receive food than flowers. They also allow guests to order a box of their famous after-dinner mints. So ditch the typical flowers and chocolates for some breadsticks and mints from Olive Garden! The closest location to Concordia is 3755 Alton Parkway, Irvine.

The next restaurant celebrating Valentine's Day is Boston Market, which is also offering a food bouquet. However, their bouquet is called the "Bae-by Back Ribs Bouquet." It is priced at \$30, but if your significant other is a fan of ribs, this is the perfect gift. They also have Valentine's dinner where guests can get two half racks of ribs, two sides per person, and two pieces of cornbread for only \$20! The closest location to Concordia is 13125 Jamboree Road, Tustin.

Third, there is Burger King. This fast-food chain has an offer for those that may have just been dumped or are riding solo this Valentine's Day. Today only, customers can go to their

local Burger King and trade in a picture of their ex for a free Whopper. The burger also comes in a special 'break-up box.' So if you are feeling lonely today or have a lingering photo of your ex that you want to get rid of, head over to Burger King for a free burger! The closest location to Concordia is 8695 Irvine Center Drive.

Next, if you do not want a full meal this Valentine's Day but are craving a salty snack, Auntie Anne's is offering a buy one, get one free on heart-shaped pretzels. The closest location to Concordia is the Irvine Spectrum Center, so that could be a perfect date night for couples. Catch a movie and dinner, then head over to Auntie Anne's for a free pretzel!

Last, Chick-Fil-A is offering chicken nuggets, cookies, and mini sandwiches in a heart-shaped container. While they only provide this special in bulks of food, it could be a good deal for a group of friends that love Chick-Fil-A and want to spend the holiday eating yummy food and watching movies in the dorm. The special could also be a great gift if you have a significant other that loves Chick-Fil-A; it is a full Valentine's meal. The closest location to Concordia is at the University Town Center, which is only approximately a 10-minute drive from campus.

There are many more food places offering Valentine specials today, but these are some that could spice up your Valentine's Day dinner if interested. Enjoy the food and Happy Valentine's Day!

strawberries are an awesome addition to any last-minute Valentine's gift.

Making them is simple. First, melt some chocolate (either microwave or stovetop): white, milk or dark chocolate are all solid choices. Food coloring can be added for an even fancier look. After the chocolate is melted, simply dip the strawberry and place it on some parchment paper. Sprinkles and other toppings can also be added quickly after the strawberry has been dipped. Wait about 30 minutes for the chocolate to set, or place strawberries in the refrigerator to speed up the process. They can be packaged just about any way imaginable! Chocolate covered strawberries can be purchased readily made too if you wish to avoid the prep work or do

Top five Valentine's Day treats



HAILEY THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

Whether you find yourself single, in a relationship or caught in the 'it's complicated' phase this Valentine's Day, candy is one part of the holiday that everyone can enjoy. Store shelves are filled with abundant varieties of treats that can be purchased for that special someone, shamelessly splurged upon for one's own indulgence or served as a sweet last-minute addition to any Galentine's festivities. There's just one pressing question: what type of candy best suits the occasion? Here are the top five most-talked about Valentine's Day candies, reviewed by Concordia students.

Brach's Conversation Hearts
Average rating: 9/10



These small, heart-shaped candies are sold by the package and have distinct messages on each of the pieces. Some of the signature, timeless phrases printed on the candies include "Crazy 4 U" and "One & Only." Conversation Hearts come in multiple color-based flavors such as apple, banana, cherry, grape, orange, sweet mint and can be found at most major grocery retailers. "These are classics! While some of the sayings might not be the greatest, I feel like they are a simple treat for all

to enjoy, whether you are in a relationship or single. It's almost like they are part of the decorations for the day. Now if you are going to give them as a gift, it's probably best that they aren't the only thing you're giving, in my opinion," said junior Michael Smith.

Hershey's Kisses
Average rating: 9/10



Hershey's Kisses are a super well known candy, even outside of Valentine's Day. These teardrop-shaped milk chocolates are typically wrapped in silver, but make special appearances in red and pink for this love-centered holiday. They also make the perfect gluten-free treat and can be gifted to your valentine or best friends in several ways. "One of my favorite ways to gift Hershey's Kisses is by putting a few handfuls into a mason jar, wrapping the mouth of the jar with festive ribbon and then attaching a note for the person I'm giving it to," said junior Ashley Davis.

Heart-Shaped Boxes of Chocolate
Average rating: 8/10



A Valentine's Day staple, each box typically contains an assortment of chocolates with varying flavors and shapes. "As cliché as this sounds, I feel

like grabbing a heart-shaped box of chocolate and some roses before heading to your romantic Valentine's Day plans can be part of a fool-proof gift and doesn't typically disappoint the recipient. Even if you plan on spending the holiday with friends, I don't think there's anything wrong with sharing a box of chocolates while watching a good movie," said senior Alisa Pimentel.

Ring Pops
Average rating: 8.5/10



Hearing about Ring Pops almost indefinitely gives college students flashbacks to their elementary school Valentine's Day parties. Fortunately, these ring-shaped lollipops remain extremely prevalent and delicious after all those years. Valentine's Ring Pops are sold by the package and come in two iconic flavors: strawberry and cherry. "In my opinion, one of the best things about Ring Pops is that they can be handed out to friends as a small, individual gift or given as a part of a gift basket," said sophomore Emily Tiffany.

Homemade Chocolate Covered Strawberries
Average Rating: 8/10



Although these require a little more effort than all of the above mentioned sweet treats, homemade chocolate covered

