

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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Help grow the future of Concordia with CU Give Back Day

CU GIVE BACK

11
12
19



CUGIVEBACK.CUI.EDU

MICHAEL E. SMITH,
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 12, for 24 hours, Concordia University will be holding its fourth annual CU Give Back Day. Alumni, parents, staff, students, and friends can come together for one day to raise and donate towards various department projects and funds to help our campus grow towards a bright future. On top of the projects seeking donations, there are also several funding challenges throughout the day that when completed, will add to the donations being made. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved and support the school that we love so much.

Starting at 12 p.m. on the day of the challenge, people can go online and select projects to contribute to. Over the last three years, "this one-

day online giving event has raised over \$300,000 from nearly 1,200 donors," said Haley Marrujo, '14 and Alumni Relations Coordinator. These funds have gone to projects like the newly renovated SSG Matthew Thompson Veterans Resource Center or to the beautiful Heritage Garden.

One of the projects for this year's event is for an avocado orchard in Heritage Garden. The goal is to be able to plant 15 avocado trees to supply the cafeteria with a very popular request amongst students. This will provide a cheaper alternative to purchasing avocados, and will allow for more servings of guacamole (great with turkey burgers!) to be served in the cafeteria each year.

Challenges are a fun way to get more people to donate to specific projects in order to increase giving.

One of the challenges that has been made for this year's Give Back event comes from the Alumni Board of Directors. If 50 CUI alumni donate to the Alumni Scholarship Fund, the board will donate an additional \$1,500 dollars to that fund. This fund is used to support the Alumni Scholarship Program for current students enrolled at Concordia.

But not only can you give back to the school by donating to the various causes, you can also become an ambassador. Through the use of your social media accounts and contacts, you can reach out to friends and family and ask them to support Concordia. And, there is an extra incentive for getting the word out about this event. "The Ambassador who is linked with the highest number of donors will receive a two-night, weekend stay at the

Lawrence Welk Timeshare in Escondido. Also, the Student Ambassador who is linked to the highest number of donors will receive a \$250 Visa gift card," said Marrujo.

Be it as a donor, a challenge maker or an ambassador, the entire Eagles family can come together for this special day to support the future of Concordia University.

For more information about how to give or the various projects for this year's event, go to <https://cugiveback.cui.edu>. For information on creating a challenge for the event or any other questions for the event contact Haley Marrujo at haley.marrujo@cui.edu. Finally, If you want to become an Ambassador, fill out the form at bit.ly/

Dr. Michael A. Thomas named fifth CUI president

LIZZ MISHREKI,
DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Concordia University Irvine Board of Regents has selected Dr. Michael A. Thomas as the fifth president of Concordia University Irvine. Thomas will lead the private Lutheran university, now in its 44th year, effective January 1, 2020. He succeeds Kurt Krueger who served as President for 10 years before retiring.

"Dr. Thomas brings extensive higher education experience from Concordia University Portland," 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 passion for higher education, makes him the ideal person to lead Concordia Irvine into the future."

The nationwide search for a president was conducted by a search committee led by the Board of Regents. An inauguration is planned for February.

Prior to being named President, Dr. Michael Thomas served as the Executive Director of the Lutheran Institute for Theology and Culture and a Professor of Religion at Concordia University Portland. At the Institute, Thomas was responsible for the academic and

Big Blessings can come in small packages with the Operation Christmas Child Project

EMILY MULLINS,
STAFF WRITER

On Wed., Oct. 30, Concordia Cares teamed up with Operation Christmas Child Project by hosting a packing party. Concordia students worked together packing shoe boxes with toys, accessories and hygiene products to be sent to people in need who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease or famine.

Operation Christmas Child project is run by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian organization that focuses on international relief. It was founded and led in 1970 by Bob Pierce with the mission of sharing the Gospel. Pierce worked with other Christians that were dedicated to serving the poor and suffering and support their missions through different service projects such as the Operation Christmas Child.

This event took place in the new Borland-Manske Center and gave students a fun way to do service by showing the "Nightmare Before Christmas" while they packed up Christmas boxes for children in need. Jessica Washington, senior, and Concordia Cares coordinator, shared what she loved about the event. "My favorite part is being able to get to know other students who have the same passions of service," said Washington.

Another student, Oksana Sosnovsky, sophomore, attended the packing party and volunteered packing a box for Operation Christmas Child. "I chose to pack a box



for a girl from age 10 to 14. I decided to do this age group because I thought a lot of people would want to gift to little kids. I had a lot of fun and it meant a lot to be a part of putting a smile on a child in need's face for Christmas," said Sosnovsky.

The Concordia Cares team hosted their final packing party this past Wed., Nov. 6 in the Rho Programming Center. In celebration of the upcoming Christmas season, this event was gingerbread themed. Along with more boxes to pack, students were able to decorate gingerbread houses and gingerbread cookies to get into the festive mood. At the end of this evening, they totaled 103 boxes from all the packing parties this year. These will be dropped off at the organization's drop center to be processed before being delivered all over the world to the children in need.

If events like Operation Christmas Child interest you, then you will not want

to miss out on the other service projects organized by Concordia Cares this year.

"Concordia Cares is the service portion of LEAD; we provide service opportunities to students by planning volunteer events at least once a week," said Washington.

Also, if you missed out on Operation Christmas Child with Concordia there is still time to volunteer at the local packing centers or at local churches that are participating. To get involved in the community you can find information about where to volunteer at their website www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ.

To find out more information about other upcoming opportunities you can volunteer at or to sign up, go to the Center for Student Leadership and Development (CSLD)

located across from the gym.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY IRVINE

administrative oversight (Continued from pg.1)

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.

Under his leadership as President, Dr. Thomas plans to build upon one of Concordia's core values—to prepare students for lives of service, learning and leadership—while adapting and innovating to meet the needs of students and the community. "Faith-based institutions today play a

vital role in our nation as they train nurses, doctors, teachers and others who serve with conviction in the public sector," said Thomas. "That's why I'm thrilled to serve alongside such a dedicated group of faculty and staff who put students and their families at the very center of what we do."

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.

Welcome, Dr. Thomas!

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

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1530 Concordia West, Irvine CA, 92612
Delta Lounge
final.courier@gmail.com
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NCAA Diversity and Inclusion Social Media Campaign

SARAH KRETSCHMAR,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The week of Oct. 22-25 highlighted the 2019 NCAA Diversity and Inclusion Social Media Campaign. Last year, the first official NCAA Diversity and Inclusion week was launched and was a huge success. This year, the NCAA tackled diversity and inclusion from the specific perspective of social media. NCAA.org said, “The goal of this annual campaign is to engage social media to create a dialogue on diversity and inclusion and to communicate the benefit of inclusive environments to the student-athlete experience.”

Concordia senior and SAAC president, Kara Gilchrist said, “Concordia SAAC members and their teams are always encouraged to get involved and support as many activities as possible like instrumentals and other clubs on campus. As well as athletics, the athletes on campus strive to do their best in the classroom and develop relationships with their professors and classmates.”

Each day of the week, according to NCAA.org, starting on Tuesday highlighted a different aspect of diversity and inclusion.

Tue., Oct. 22 consisted of “This is Who We Are.”

This day explored student athletes’ core values and highlighted their multiple identities.

Wed., Oct. 23. was “Broadening Our Horizons.” This day focused on creating connections across campus and highlighting diverse friendships, mentors and role models.

Thurs., Oct. 24, highlighted “Better Together” and focused on showcasing the strengths and diversity of the campus or conference community.

On Fri., Oct. 25 the theme was “Taking Action” and aimed at outlining personal action steps for inclusive excellence.

Brittany Pereda,

Assistant Athletic Director of Operations and Development and SAAC overseer said, “NCAA Diversity and Inclusion week is a special week for CUI Athletics because it allows us to highlight the various backgrounds that each of our student-athletes come from. I think it is incredibly important for us to respect and celebrate the authenticity and heritage of our student-athletes as Athletics is one of the most diverse departments on campus.”

For highlights of the 2019 Diversity and Inclusion week check out @concordiasaac on Instagram and Twitter!

Concordia Courier
correction:

The first-gen scholarship program mentioned in the recent story about CUI reaching HSI designation was referred to incorrectly. The correct name being considered for this program that would be funded through the HSI grant is first-gen scholars program, not scholarship program. It's important to note that HSI grant funding is restricted and cannot be used to pay for student tuition, or scholarships.

ATW® update: Greece and Israel



PICTURED ABOVE: Greek Amphitheater. Photo courtesy of Nathan MacGregor.

SAVANNAH STAME AND
NATHAN MACGREGOR,
STAFF WRITERS

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The words that prologue each of Paul’s writings circle through my mind every moment in our time in Greece. We followed the path of a man blinded who was transformed into a leader in the early Christian Church. We traced the footsteps of this man. His name was Paul. Paul traveled from Athens to Corinth. We visited Olympia. We were true travelers in Greece.

We revelled in the sights of Greece as olive trees cast their lace-patterned shade over our calloused feet and weather beaten faces. In many of Pastor Middendorf’s lectures I heard the voices of my brothers and sisters in Christ the team read through

Acts. God says “I am with you in his words.” These are the same words He spoke to Paul in a vision to comfort him; those words also speak to the ATW team.

History is written in the broken pieces that rest on this soil, in the ruins in the shape of a cross, in the climbing vines of a Corinthian pillar or in the many engraved Greek words on the stones. As I sat looking on, the canvas of tans and ochres painted the landscape until my eyes fixed on the hazy blue horizon. This blue horizon was the sea that carried Paul on his missionary journeys.

The sea proved a constant guide as we seemed to follow the water to and through Israel. A sunset of rose met us at our kibbutz stay on the Sea of Galilee. The very sea Christ calmed with His words, the very sea He told His disciples to cast their nets into, and the very sea Christ

walked upon.

The team visited Nazareth, the town in which Jesus spent most of his life. Even olive trees in Nazareth proclaimed the glory of God. I was shown a shoot coming from the root of an olive tree. Immediately, I was reminded, “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.” These words written in Isaiah 11:1 became a beautiful and clear image. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is described like a branch. The branch represents hope, and bears life-giving fruit.

Scripture will always hold more clarity to me the more I spend time in Israel. Though I felt a special understanding by visiting the sites of Christ, I am comforted that God is always present. He is our home everywhere throughout the world.

Five new clubs emerge on campus

KATIE DEPOL,
ASCUI SECRETARY

So many new and exciting things are happening in ASCUI and Senate. Over the past two weeks, Senate has been hosting club proposals events for new clubs on campus to present their club idea in hopes of receiving approval. Through this, the five clubs that were proposed were approved! Here’s an overview of the new clubs starting on campus which are open to all students to join.

The Tabletop and Board Gaming Club is geared towards building the Concordia community through playing board games. Their goal is for students to form friendships over a gaming experience and develop social skills through a structured environment. The Tabletop and Board Gaming Club will host all member meetings once a month and host smaller meetings three times a week for members to join as their schedule allows.

The History Society Club desires to increase relations between the History students at Concordia. Members will participate in scholarly conversation to grow in their historical knowledge, build community and gain visibility among undergraduate students. In their club mission statement, the History Society said, “the History Society will serve their neighbor by engaging in conversation about policy informed by history and mobilizing efforts to apply their knowledge of history to bettering the world around us through Christ.”

CU Green is aiming to raise awareness of the current state of the environment on campus and educate the Concordia community on how to live

‘greener’ lives. This club will host campus clean up days and provide recycling bins to encourage those on campus to recycle. They will regularly empty the recycling bins and bring them to a recycling plant. CU Green meets Monday evenings at 7 p.m. and occasionally on the weekend for campus clean ups.

The Surf Club is open to all students who love and appreciate the ocean. The club will take its members to the beach and teach them how to surf while providing proper safety procedures for the ocean. Through this club, they hope their members learn how to respect the ocean, experience new beaches and waters and learn how to be free of worries while surfing. Surf boards are provided and no surfing experience is needed to join the club! The Surf Club meets once a month at 11 a.m. for a two-hour surf session.

The Silver Screen Club is open to all students who love film. Their goal is for members to share perspectives, produce innovative forms of expression and develop creative narratives. Members will learn the ins and outs of professional film production as well as crew and cast skills by hearing from guest speakers and collaborating on projects from fellow students and faculty. The Silver Screen Club will meet once every other week and conduct workshops on various areas of filmmaking.

These clubs are open to all undergraduate students of Concordia and are a great way to get involved in the Concordia community. If you have any questions or would like to start your own club, stop by the ASCUI office or email the Club Commissioner at ascui.clubcommissioner@cui.edu.

Eagles of the Week

11-4-19 Michael Oakson

TYLER LACOUR-BROWN,
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

After racking up five points and three assists over the course of men's soccer two home victories, the Mission Viejo native Michael Oakson is named our Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week.

On Thurs., Oct. 31, Oakson helped lead the green and gold to victory on the offensive end. This was the first of the two Concordia men's soccer team matches of the week. Against HPU, Oakson assisted Caley Powers on the game-winning goal in overtime in the 100th



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY MAKALENA

minute of action. He also scored in the 45th minute and finished the game with a goal and two assists.

The second match for the Eagles was Sat., Nov. 2 against the University of Hawai'i Hilo and Oakson added his

leadership and an assist in the Eagle's 3-0 win. Not only did Oakson earn an assist as a defender, he also helped the squad collect their first shutout of the season.

"You can build a team around guys like Michael,"

said head coach Chris Gould. "He is smart, talented and tough. He makes everyone better and knows how to win."

Oakson is a complete player for the Eagles and shows nothing but hard work,

integrity and leadership on and off of the field.

"The team had a great week with two huge wins," said Oakson. "Both games were critical for us in order to ensure that we keep ourselves in the race for the PacWest standings and for an opportunity to receive an invitation to the NCAA tournament. Going into both games I wanted to do everything in my power to help the team win. My teammates put me into really great positions to accomplish that."

The green and gold had their official Code Yellow game yesterday Thurs., Nov. 7 against Biola. Their "Senior Day" game is against Point Loma this Sat., Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m.

For the full schedule of the men's soccer team visit cuieagles.com.

10-28-19 Rosalba Cabrera



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY MAKALENA

BEN ROSEHART,
SPORTS INFORMATION
DIRECTOR

After she posted the highest finish for the Concordia women's cross country team at the PacWest Conference Championships, Rosalba Cabrera was named our Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week.

The senior crossed the line in eighth place on Sat., Oct. 26 after completing the 6K race at Ted Craig Regional Park in nearby Fullerton. Cabrera helped Concordia earn fourth place on the women's side which was the highest the green and gold have ever finished at the PacWest Conference Championships since the school completed its transition from NAIA to NCAA DII.

The Concordia men also finished fourth as a team, as both squads exceeded expectations after being picked to finish sixth in the league in the PacWest Preseason Poll.

"At times it's better to run with your heart and your legs and arms, and not your head," explained Cabrera. "It was a lot of fun."

Cabrera joined fellow classmates Bailey Wade and Anamauri Hernandez who finished in the top 21 and earned All-Conference honors. Cabrera and Wade, 11th place, were both Second Team All-Conference while Hernandez earned Third Team All-Conference after placing 17th overall.

"It was special to see three of our seniors in the

top 21," added head coach Keegan Bloomfield. "It was a really good day for us."

"I'm really proud of the seniors," said Cabrera. "I came in as a transfer and redshirted my first year, and just coming in and looking at [my teammates] and how they did their workouts, and seeing how they've flourished, it's exciting to see how they're completely different competitors."

Led by a strong crop of both seniors and freshmen, the Eagles are aligned well to compete at the top of the conference for years to come.

Next up for the cross country teams is a trip to the regional meet in Oregon this Sat., Nov. 9.

10-21-19 Nick Ellersick



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY MAKALENA

TYLER LACOUR-BROWN,
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Concordia senior Nick Ellersick was named our Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week for the week of Oct. 21.

Ellersick has been one of the team managers for the men's basketball team since his freshman year at Concordia. His hard work, effort, and attitude have not gone unnoticed from coaches and players.

"Nick has been the first and only manager that we actively recruited for the position," said head coach Ken Ammann. "We have loved having Nick in the program, and we are happy about what he brings to the team. His work ethic, attitude, and how much he has grown in the classroom will propel him to be successful throughout his journey in life."

Ellersick is an unsung hero that provides the team with the little things that add up to one significant role as a manager of the squad. Whether he is giving

out passes to the players for extra shots, sweeping the floor, providing water, lowering the hoops, team laundry, or simply cheering the team on, Ellersick is always there and prepared to do his job at the highest level.

Ellersick's hard work and dedication to the team is what all of the sports team managers exemplify for the green and gold day in and day out.

"I love being around the guys, and it is a great environment to be in," said Ellersick. "This has helped prepare me for my future. I want to work for the NBA in basketball operations or as an equipment manager, so working here has been a great experience."

The Eagles currently sit at a record of 2-1. They will play up at Cal State LA tonight and tomorrow against Cal State LA and Cal State San Marcos. The men will come back home next Friday at 7:30 p.m. against Western Washington.

For the full schedule of the men's basketball schedule, visit cuieagles.com.

Concordia joins Hispanic Chambers

GIOVANNI BRITO,
STAFF WRITER

On Wed. Oct., 23 Concordia officially became a member of the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as well as its Orange County Hispanic Youth Chamber of Commerce. Representatives of the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce presented a membership certificate to Lizz Mishreki, Director of Public Relations and FirstGen Student Success Program, along with two campus clubs.

Mishreki welcomed the OCHCC representatives on to campus with the help of club members from both Nuestra Voz and Step One. Mishreki shared her excitement about the partnership by stating,

"One of the benefits of Concordia being a Chamber member is that Concordia students--Hispanic and non-Hispanic--automatically get the benefits of the Youth Chamber at no cost. Students can attend Roundtables hosted by high-profile professionals, learn networking skills, and learn about legislative advocacy." Mishreki continued, "The Youth Chamber is just another way our students can gain help transitioning from college to career, like at CUI's career services center."

Rhean Riego De Dios, Step One Club President, shared her excitement saying, "I am really looking forward to the roundtables as it will provide students with useful and relevant



information." April Bello, Step One Vice-President, added, "This will be an amazing opportunity for students as it will be a gateway for students to border their social networks." Bello continued, "Hopefully they will gain experiences that will benefit them in the long run."

The mission of the Orange County Hispanic Youth Chamber of Commerce is "dedicated to linking culturally diverse college students

to the professional world through career development, community involvement and access to higher education. We are devoted to promoting leaders of tomorrow by extending our hands today." As members of the Orange County Hispanic Youth Chamber of Commerce Concordia students now have access to a variety of different resources.

On Sat., Nov. 16 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., the Orange County Hispanic

Youth Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Roundtable about Financial Literacy. All Concordia students are welcomed to attend the event free of charge. It will be held at 2855 Michaelson Drive, Irvine, CA 92606. For more information about the event visit ocyouthchamber.com.

Editor's note: Along with serving as a Staff Writer for Concordia Courier, Giovanni Brito is also the current President of Nuestra Voz. Brito said he is "very pleased to see Concordia reaching out to different Hispanic organizations in the Orange County community. It is exciting to see what new possible doors may open to our students as a result of this brand new partnership."

Men's basketball takes win over Vanguard in first home game of season

DAILYNN SANTORO,
STAFF WRITER

Sat., Oct., 26, the Concordia Eagles went up against the Vanguard Lions. In a close game, the Eagles started this year's "Halloweekend" with a victory with a score of 71-61. The Eagles played well together and had some tricks up their sleeve during their home debut. 6'6" redshirt junior, Austin Clarke said, "The game went really well for us. Everyone has worked really hard to get to know each others playing styles over the preseason, and to see it all gel together well, during our game against Vanguard, was great."

Clarke added, "Our team runs really deep, so it helps that we can rotate so many guys in and make it harder to defend us." This deep rotation helped the Eagles keep the energy going on the court and the sidelines.

6'8" redshirt junior, Darius Lee said, "We started out a little slow, but then after the first five minutes we took an early lead and shifted the momentum, I had two alley-oop dunks happen basically back to back," adding, "we continued to keep a safe lead over the other team around 10-15 points the whole game."



PICTURED ABOVE: Front Right: Darius Lee Front left: Cameron English, Austin Clarke, Mike Mellinger, Back right: Robert Tayler Photo courtesy of Amy Mellinger

6'3" senior, Robert Taylor, kept a lead on the Lions and was able to control the game. "Vanguard played very hard, but our defense was able to overcome, and our pressure was just impeccable, so in the long run, we did our job and shut the other team down," stated Taylor.

Clarke said, "something that was challenging was the fact that Vanguard head coach used to be an assistant at Concordia, so he knew our system really well and prepared for how we played. We were able to overcome this by playing together and staying consistent."

Lee explained, "Some challenges came early for us. We came out a little flat, but we were able to match their

energy and pull through with a win." Taylor added, "the momentum changes were challenging, but we pulled through by staying focused and locked in."

Looking ahead to the season, Clarke stated, "this should be a really exciting season, and I'm looking forward to seeing how far we can make it." Lee said, "I look forward to what we can accomplish by being so deep in talent."

The Eagles men's basketball team has upcoming tournaments that can be streamed at cuieagles.com. Their next home game is Fri., Nov. 15 in the CU Arena at 7:30 p.m. against Western Washington. Come out and support your Eagles!

Men and Women's Swimming: Pomona Pitzer meet recap



PICTURED ABOVE: Kobe Gall competing against Pomona Pitzer. Photo courtesy of Minh Dang.

EMMA MOCHARNUK,
SPORTS EDITOR

The men and women's swim team kicked off their first dual meet of the season against the Pomona Pitzer Sagehens on Fri., Oct. 25, in Pomona. This swim meet marks another competition in coach Bert Bergen's first season serving as head coach for the Eagles.

Adjusting to a new training program can be tricky; however, the Eagles have welcomed the new training program. "We are very pleased with the positive attitudes from everyone in adopting a program that is very different than what has been here prior," said Bergen.

The new training program seems to be working for the team who displayed a strong showing against the Sagehens with several event winners, including senior Madeline Dodge, who won the women's 200-yard individual medley for the Eagles.

"I am feeling very good about the season so far. Training has been very hard, but I think it will pay off for everyone when our conference meet comes. The coaches really care about us, and they are putting in a lot of hard work to get us where we need to be," said Dodge.

Another individual win for the Eagles came from sophomore Kyle

Benjamin, who swam to a victory in the men's 500-yard freestyle. "I felt pretty good about my swims. Leading up to the meet, practices in the pool and the weight room have been intense, but I think we are right where we need to be at this point in the season," said Benjamin.

Sophomore Faith Silzel also picked up a couple wins, touching first in the women's 1,000-yard freestyle and 200-yard backstroke. "I feel really great about my swims so far this season, the times aren't perfect right now, but I am feeling good heading into our winter invitational in December," said Silzel.

Despite a solid showing, the Eagles ultimately fell to the Sagehens in a close meet. While winning is always sweet, the meet provided the Eagles with valuable experience moving forward. "We got a chance to do a lot of racing against a fast team who pushed us. It was a great experience for the younger swimmers to see how a college dual meet functions," said Bergen, adding, "I am looking forward to seeing how hard the team members are working in the water and the weight room. We are very excited to see what we can do at the Pacific Collegiate swimming championships in February and nationals in March," added Bergen.

To keep updated on all things Eagles swimming and diving, visit cuieagles.com.

Musical “Anastasia” is brought to the Segerstrom stage

JASMINE WASHINGTON,
STAFF WRITER

Have you heard there is a rumor in St. Petersburg that the new Broadway musical “Anastasia” will be making its way to our neighboring Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa? 90’s babies who are familiar with the 20th Century Fox animated film will recognize many similarities between the storyline of the musical and the film. Playwright Terrence McNalley has truly outdone himself as he recreated the iconic mystery of the Romanov family on the theatrical stage.

“Anastasia” takes place during the fall of the Russian Empire under the Romanov family. Contrary to the real unfortunate fate of Anastasia Romanov, the musical plays into the initial mystery of the missing Grand Duchess during the Revolution in Russia. With the mixture of imagination and history,



McFalley brings forth a tale of a lost woman who wants to find her way back home and unravel the truth behind who she truly is. The beauty of “Anastasia” is how the premise of her story perfectly fits the meaning behind her name—that she will rise again.

Similar to the film, “Once Upon a December” Anastasia embarks on a journey to Paris in hopes of finding a family that could inform

her of her identity after she lost her memory as a child. With the help of the charming conman Dimitry and ex-aristocrat Vlad, Anastasia relearns her past and is reconnected with her grandmother. However, Anastasia faces danger. Instead of the film’s evil priest Rasputin and his bat sidekick Bartok, a relentless Soviet officer named Gleb chases her down to make

her pay for her family’s actions. In the end, Anastasia sparks hope as she shares with the audience her determination to find her family regardless of the obstacles attempting to hold her back; she pushes through as she sings of her dream to know herself once again.

Critics have showered the musical with praise. The Wall Street Journal expressed how “Anastasia is the real thing! Fantastical, intelligent, well-crafted, and exhilarating, Anastasia deserves a coronation!” While others, such as the Huffington Post, said, “Extraordinary! An iconic tale of empowerment on Broadway. ANASTASIA— with mettle, smarts, and a tiny music box—has been changing the world night by night. It is a triumphant celebration of courage, love, and reconciliation, a journey that unfolds with much wonder and joy. It imparts the hope that we can reconcile our personal

history with the present and stand center stage in our own lives.”

The Segerstrom Center For The Arts is located on 600 Town Center Drive in Costa Mesa. Showtimes vary on the day with the options ranging from an afternoon matinee to a 7:30 p.m. showing. The 2 p.m. matinee showing on Sat., Nov. 16, will also include audio description, open captioning, and sign-language interpretation as well as services for patrons with disabilities, including removable wheelchair locations binoculars, and assistive listening devices. Tickets begin at the low price of \$26 and can be found on the Segerstrom website: scfta.org, or you can contact Segerstrom’s Ticket Services at (714) 556-2787. So come take a journey to the past with the Broadway hit “Anastasia” as it hits the Segerstrom stage between now and Nov. 17, guaranteed that “Anastasia” will hold the key to your heart.

Concordia’s musical “Xanadu” opens tonight

ISABELLE UPCHURCH,
STAFF WRITER

Concordia’s musical theater program has been hard at work this semester rehearsing and preparing for their show, “Xanadu.” The musical is based on the 80s movie of the same name and is sure to entertain students and faculty of all ages with its satire, classic ‘80s pop hits, and outstanding student actors and actresses.

Professor Lori Siekmann, who is the Theatre Department chair and the director of this musical, is excited for students to see this show. “The show is about an artist named Sonny

who paints a mural on a wall in L.A. in 1980. He doubts his work and runs off. The mural contains the figures of nine Greek muses. After he leaves, they come to life and come out of the mural. Hilarity ensues from there. What happens next, you will have to come to see it find out,” said Siekmann.

“Xanadu is a satire/spoof of the 1980 film of the same name which stars Olivia Newton-John. The movie is terrible but got a sort of cult following later. The musical is hilarious, even if you have never seen the film, as long as you know that it is supposed to be a spoof. Olivia Newton-John

was from Australia and is the only one in the film which has an Australian accent, so that is why the lead in the musical also puts on an exaggerated accent.” With this satirical element, students and faculty can expect to get quite a laugh from this performance.

Junior Sam Hood is one of the main actresses in the musical. She said her character is, “Calliope who is the muse of epics and one of the villains in the show, paired with her sister Melpomene who is played by Julia Avila.” Hood said that she’s excited for students to see the show because of the “aspect of roller skating brought to our

theater. The actors have all been training hard to be able to dance on skates, and it is a cool aspect that I have never gotten to do in a musical before.”

Roller skates are sure to be a show-stopper for this exciting musical.

Both Siekmann and Hood feel strongly that students will love this show with Hood, saying, “The show we have put together is, not to be conceited, fantastic. All of our actors have been putting in 40 to 50 hour weeks during called rehearsal plus an extra ten on top for solo practice.” Siekmann added, “the cast is great - singing, dancing, and

acting - pulling off the comedy of the satire. The costumes themselves add humor, the set design features some fun tricks as well, and the lighting effects are fun and colorful. It has truly been a team effort.”

Students, faculty and staff can catch this humor-filled musical (for free!) on their opening night tonight, Fri., Nov. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre. If you cannot make this showing, they also have showings on Nov. 9, 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. and on Nov. 10 and 16 at 2:30 p.m. This is a show you will not want to miss.

Muzeo presents “Beauty Beneath the Rubble”

LEESA FREGIN,
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to combat negative views of Syria, a new children’s book and traveling exhibition has surfaced. Writer Nushin Alloo and illustrator Shadia Kassem introduced The Adventures of Laila and Ahmed in Syria to shed a positive light on conflict-stricken countries.

The Adventures of Laila and Ahmed in Syria takes readers on an eye-opening journey of two children, as they navigate the beautiful land of pre-war Syria. The historical aspects in the book can be of interest to both children and adults. The story is the first of a series that aims to preserve the beauty, culture, and history, despite the wreckage of war.

“We have created something tangible, that you can hold and look at, that shows beauty and culture,” said Alloo. She added that the book reminds her of a happier time, since almost all the places that the two children travel to in the book have been destroyed. The exhibition features paintings

by artist Kassem, which are based upon the original artwork in the book.

Nushin and Kassem’s interest in shifting perspectives on countries in conflict is in line with that of “Beauty Beneath the Rubble’s” purpose as a nonprofit educational platform. “Beauty Beneath the Rubble” invites the public to contribute by sharing their stories and experiences, to help change the narrative of countries facing conflict.

“Storytelling plays a HUGE role in our lives. Since the dawn of humans, we have been telling stories. That is how we share our experiences and create a sense of humanity,” said Della Rose, who is the director of Education and Exhibitions at Muzeo. Rose hopes the exhibition will encourage others to humanize refugees and give rise to a shift in negative attitudes. “It is important to show people what refugees have to offer, which is a lot in terms of culture, history and so much more,” shared Alloo.

During the opening reception for “Beauty Beneath the Rubble” at

Muzeo, Alloo shared that Kassam was unable to attend. She was unable to get a visa to travel, or an interview to receive one. Alloo wished Kassem could have joined in on the celebration of their work that day. “I am so happy to see our dreams of an exhibit like this materialize,” said Alloo. Inspired by their own heritage, the two women hope this exhibition helps reconsider the way we perceive countries that face conflict and how we teach children about them. The passion for making a positive impact is clear.

“Beauty Beneath the Rubble” is on display in Muzeo’s Historic Carnegie Building now through Sun., Jan. 5, 2020. Muzeo offers free admission to all exhibits held in its Historic Carnegie Building, which is one of the two structures featured in the museum, that is welcoming the community to discover by ensuring art and culture is available to all. For information on the current exhibition, visit muzeo.org. To learn more about the book or support the project, go to beneaththerubble.org.



Syrian Hand-Painted Plate
Whirling Dervishes with Camels

PICTURED ABOVE: Syrian hand painted plate as part of traveling exhibition. Photo courtesy of Leesa Fregin.

The Getty reopens after fire scare

ALEXIS RIOS,
LOCAL/GLOBAL
EDITOR

The Getty Center, located in the hills above West Los Angeles, is a world-renowned art museum home to great masterpieces. However, many people feared that the massive Getty Fire would compromise the Getty and its spectacular collection. At one point, The Getty Center was wholly engulfed in smoke from the Getty Fire and was forced to shut down. Nevertheless, the Getty Center reopened on Sat. Nov 2 and is back in full swing to students' delight.

Rich in history, the main Getty Center Complex has over 86 acres of landscaped gardens and terraces accompanied by a variety of museums and institutes filled with the works of legendary artists such as Vincent Van Gogh. Dion Chung, a junior with a passion for photography and Halimat Adeyemi, a senior and art lover, both decided to visit the Getty immediately following its reopening.

"I looked online to make sure the Getty would be open since I knew it had closed down due to the fires at one point, and I wasn't sure if it was back and running yet, but it was. Saturday was actually the first day it had reopened, and we could still smell the smoke, but it wasn't too bad," said Adeyemi.

Adeyemi had not been to the Getty since she was a child and had been wanting to revisit. She had some extra free time this weekend and decided to make the most of it. "It was kind of a spontaneous trip, but it was a lot of fun, I'm happy we went," said Adeyemi.

"I had never been to the Getty before, and I had no idea what to expect, but it was incredible," said Chung. "My favorite part was the architecture. Even the tram ride up to the Getty was cool, the sun was setting, and we had an amazing view of Los Angeles. Although architecturally, the Getty was off the charts, there was so much detail, and I loved taking photos of everything from the buildings to the landscape,"

Chung continued.

On the other hand, Adeyemi favored the sculptures. "I loved seeing all the sculptures, so my favorite exhibition was probably the East Pavilion because it had a portion that was dedicated solely to sculptures," said Adeyemi. "Overall I would recommend the Getty because there is something there for everybody, I'm really glad it wasn't damaged during the fires," said Adeyemi.

According to the vice president of communications for the J. Paul Getty Trust, Ron Hartwig, "The safest place for the artwork to be is right here in the Getty Center," as the Getty Center was built to be fire-resistant. The Getty Center, which opened in Los Angeles on Dec. 16, 1997, has faced multiple fire scares in the past but has remained undamaged. For more information on the Getty Fire and how the Getty is so fire-resistant check out updates at usatoday.com.

Holidays at Disneyland



TAYLOR SAMEC,
ARTS EDITOR

The holiday season is fast approaching, and the Happiest Place on Earth is getting ready by decorating and preparing festive snacks for park-goers to enjoy and get into the holiday spirit. Disneyland is the best place to go for the holidays and spread some holiday cheer!

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 begin today, Nov. 8, and run until Jan. 6.

Disneyland is a perfect Friday night activity or way to destress during the stressful second half of the semester for those students that have annual passes. Senior and annual pass holder, Rosemary Hernandez is excited for the holidays at Disney saying, "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."

It is a Festival of Holidays at Disney's California Adventure where Christmas is celebrated, but the main focus is on diverse cultural fun for all! They have Viva Navidad, which celebrates Latino culture with parades and performances. They also have different foods from various cultures all over the park. California Adventure will even transform their famous rides to be more festive. Mater's Junkyard Jamboree becomes Mater's Jingle Jamboree and Luigi's Rollickin' Roadsters turns to Luigi's Joy to the Whirl.

California Adventure also transforms its famous World of Color spectacular to a

Season of Light. It is 23 minutes of pure joy and holiday magic. Beloved Disney characters will be illuminated amongst the mist as Christmas magic is sprinkled in. There is also a 50 foot Christmas tree towering over Buena Vista Street near the entrance of the park. All in all, there are lots of festive fun to be had at California Adventure.

Over at Disneyland, there are festive parades, magical fireworks and beautiful decorations. The famous Small World ride lights up in an annual dazzling display on the outside as well as becoming merry on the inside with fun Christmas music and decorations. Also, park-goers will not want to miss the world-famous Haunted Mansion Holiday, where Jack Skellington from "Nightmare Before Christmas" has taken over.

Disneyland's Christmas firework show is 15 minutes long and lights up the night sky above Sleeping Beauty's Winter Castle. The show includes Christmas music, lights and snow falling onto Main Street as park-goers enjoy the fireworks spectacular. There is also a 60 foot Christmas tree towering over Main Street near the entrance of the park.

Senior and annual pass holder, Amy Thompson, is also excited about the holidays at Disney. "Disneyland is my second home and I cannot wait to eat all the yummy holiday treats both parks have to offer. I am especially excited for festive churros," stated Thompson.

Overall, Disneyland is a perfect way to get into the holiday spirit. Whether you go with roommates or a significant other, it will be guaranteed fun!

For more information and pricing, please visit disneyland.disney.go.com.

Travel tips for Thanksgiving break

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY,
STAFF WRITER

With the highly anticipated Thanksgiving break coming in two weeks, Concordia students may need some last-minute travel tips to make this break the best yet.

This year Thanksgiving break falls on Nov., 25-29. For many, the break marks the light at the end of the tunnel, as it is a little break from the crazy schedules that students often face leading up to Thanksgiving. If you are lucky enough to travel home for the break, here are a few tips to get you to your home-cooked meals a little easier.

Consider other means of travel like the Greyhound bus or Amtrak train. Concerned about the cost of travel? Greyhound offers travelers up to 30 percent off travel by booking online, booking seven days

in advance and traveling on either Tuesday or Wednesday (perfect to get home in time for turkey on Thursday). Students can also get 10 percent off travel with a student discount (it cannot be combined with other offers). Amtrak offers California students 15 percent off travel on the Pacific Surfliner, Capitol Corridor and San Joaquin lines. The closest Amtrak station is located on Barranca Parkway near the Spectrum in Irvine.

Save on gas by carpooling with friends. If you are traveling in the same general direction, split the cost of gas and travel with a friend. Grab some snacks, turn up the music and take a memorable road trip.

Take home unused items. Remember that panini maker you just HAD to have in your dorm before coming to college? Yeah, me neither. Declutter your

dorm by taking home unused or unwanted items. On the other hand, bring back items you realize you need for the future. With "chilly" Southern California winter coming, you may want to bring a few extra sweaters and jackets to campus.

Not headed home? Don't worry, there is still plenty for you to do. Ask a friend if you can join them for Thanksgiving dinner (just beware of family drama). Chances are, other students are not going home as well. Gather the squad and prepare your favorite dish for a perfectly instagramable Friendsgiving potluck to celebrate together.

Lastly and most importantly, whether you are staying local or traveling, take this Thanksgiving to remind all the ones you love that you are thankful for them.

“Joker” movie review

SIERRA VENEGAS,
STAFF WRITER

“Joker,” a stand-alone story for Batman’s psychotic arch-nemesis, was already one of the most reviled and most defended movies of 2019 weeks before its Oct. 4 release. Starring Joaquin Phoenix and directed by the “Hangover” trilogy’s Todd Phillips, “Joker” was deemed dangerous by critics.

From concerns over its depiction of violence to wildly divisive reviews, the new movie has generated an enormous amount of pre-release anxiety, conversation and controversy. In the film Joaquin Phoenix plays Arthur Fleck, who lives in Gotham City with his mother, barely holding down a job as a clown for hire. He dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian, looking up to talk-show host Murray Franklin, played by Robert De Niro. After suffering one humiliation and defeat after another, Arthur begins to lash out with violence,

inadvertently becoming an underground hero to a city being torn apart by social and economic unrest.

Joaquin Phoenix is nothing short of phenomenal in the role. Every expression, every ounce of pain Arthur experiences seeps from his pores and onto the screen. When he aches, you ache for him, and when he rages, you rage along with him.

Owen Gleiberman, film critic and Concordia student, said, “Phoenix is playing a geek with an unhinged mind, yet he’s so controlled that he’s mesmerizing. He stays true to the desperate logic of Arthur’s unhappiness.” Most critics agreed with this critique and Phoenix’s astonishing acting skills. He even lost 86 pounds for the role! Viewers seemed to have the same reactions to this movie.

Fellow classmate, Dailynn Santoro, junior said, “I loved the movie. I walked out feeling some type of way after it ended.” Alumni Siena Goggia agreed and



said, “The Joker was kinda scary and disturbing but I kept watching because it was just that good.”

There is a major controversy critics do bring up when reviewing this movie. In a review that prompted a flood of angry reactions from the movie’s defenders, TIME’s film critic Stephanie Zacharek wrote, “In America, there’s a mass shooting or attempted acts of violence by a guy like Arthur practically every other week. And yet we’re supposed to feel some sympathy for Arthur, the troubled lamb; he just hasn’t

had enough love.” This controversy arose by many viewers and critics as soon as the movie released. Some critics argued that they did not have pity for Phoenix’s character because people suffer from mental illnesses every day and it does not excuse the feeling of sympathy one is “supposed to feel” when watching this movie.

I personally watched the movie with a few friends and definitely cringed at some scenes and had to even cover my eyes. This was not because it was a gruesome movie but rather it was very dark. This movie is truly an intense character study of human morality and shows the tragic and cruelty of the world. The “Joker” will leave you feeling disturbed and unnerved.

I would highly suggest “Joker” to anyone who is looking for a movie that will keep them on their toes, but would caution that the content can be unsettling. I’ll settle for a one-time watch.

YouTube “Mahogany Sessions” warms the soul

PHILIP QUARTARARO,
STAFF WRITER

“Mahogany Sessions” is a new-era coffee house YouTube channel that allows aspiring artists as well as prominent artists to use a different platform to express themselves through music. Their pledge speaks straight from the heart with their promise being “Great music, as often as possible. That is our pledge to you, and since 2010 we have been striving to create the best online music discovery experience in the world. Whether it is our cinematic live sessions, our unique live concerts or our carefully curated blog - we are here to provide you with a constant stream of good music.”

As I have never exposed myself to their blog, I have dived into a huge accumulation of acoustic music and live shows. Finding new music and new artists is a hobby of mine and that is what led me to this channel. Sitting in a cold Santa Barbara apartment with a warm coffee; it was prime condition for finding music to listen to around a bonfire. “Mahogany Sessions” popped up in my queue. As I sat there listening to song after song and continuing to watch music videos until the sun set, I knew I had found my favorite new page for finding new music. This channel provides a platform for new artists such as Billie Eilish and Hozier to promote a different side of their music by showing a closer look to their lives and their musical beginnings.

A personal gem I found through this page was British vocalist Ady Suleiman. Suleiman brings his already explosive vocal range down to a coffee house level while performing with guitarists and bassists to produce perfectly harmonious movement in a music video. “Serious” and “Need Somebody to Love” are at the top of his newest Mahogany videos. The first live show I was introduced to was actually Suleiman’s first show debuting “Need Somebody to Love” and another hit, “Memories.”

While “Mahogany Sessions” opens audiences to all types of new artists and symphonies, it also has an “X” factor on how big artists portray a different side of themselves to artists, trying to reel them in with a more heart-to-heart type of approach to music. Some of the biggest artists to be featured on “Mahogany Sessions” are Bastille and Jack Johnson. Bastille brings their hit record “Bastille” to the channel while backing away from the loud instrumentals and focusing more on the soft vocals in the song to highlight every subtle tone. Jack Johnson on the other hand brings fans closer to the stage by doing an up close video of him singing the famous tune, “Good People.” Mahogany Sessions showcases a great lineup of new and mature artists that show a sensitive side to their songs while promoting a space for all artists to display their vocal abilities.

Check out “Mahogany Sessions” at youtube.com/user/themahogansessions.

Explore the unknown with “Invisibilia”: A Podcast Review

DANTE JOHNSON,
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever wondered what life would look like if fear didn’t exist? Have you ever pondered how two people can look at the exact same thing and foster two entirely polarizing ideals? If you answered yes to either of these questions or just found them interesting, then maybe “Invisibilia” is the podcast for you! Brought to you by Nation Public Radio, better known as NPR, “Invisibilia” which is Latin for “invisible things,” explores the forces that shape our lives, reinforce our values, beliefs, and attitudes all while remaining undetected to the naked eye.

The first episode was released in January of 2015 and tackled one of life’s most prevailing questions, “Are our thoughts related to our inner wishes and do they reveal who we really are?” The show is hosted by Lulu Miller, Alix Spiegel and Hanna Rosin. Together, through investigative story-telling and science based exploration, they explore these invisible forces that shape who we are and who we become.

Unlike many podcasts, you never know what you’re in for when you listen to “Invisibilia.” In the last episode of their first season titled “Our Computers, Ourselves,” the team explores how computers

and technology affect us in unseen ways. A portion of the episode is spent interviewing a man that has rigged himself to a portable computer that displays real time information directly to his eye. This man is considered a Cyborg and is now employed at Google and the creator of Google Glasses.

The episode is less about his inventions and more so about the exploration of the ethics and implications of wearable, real-time accessible information being available to human beings without having to take out their smart devices or speaking aloud to an artificial Intelligence; be it Siri, Alexa, etc.

The show guides you through these thought experiments and possible implications through some of the toughest philosophical questions that arise today such as: How consistent and predictable are people personalities? What happens when you discover a part of yourself that is in direct opposition to who you think you are? Do you panic, explore or ignore? How do emotions really work with all the twenty-first century knowledge?

For a show like this to stay on top of it’s A-Game they work through seasons, very similar to your favorite television show. New episodes are released weekly



during the season. This gives journalists a chance to spend some time exploring new and interesting topics to blow our minds. In one of “Invisibilia’s” most recent episode titled, “The Remote Control Brain,” the show brings to us the idea of having the ability to change our emotions like we can change channels on a remote. The implications of this could be tremendously positive and negative, as one could imagine.

Listening to “Invisibilia” can make any student feel like they’re back in freshman philosophy, pondering all the questions that you may or may not have already

thought of but in deeper depths than what could be plucked from one’s imagination. “Invisibilia” is a swan dive into the interesting unknown! Receiving ratings from over 16,000 listeners and holding a 4.5 out of 5 on the Apple App Store, it’s no wonder why “Invisibilia” has everyone’s head buzzing. Next time you hop in your car and music doesn’t seem to do the trick, traditional radio isn’t making the cut, consider an episode of “Invisibilia” and when you arrive at your destination, you may be a mild expert on a new topic that could really WOW someone into listening themselves.