

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

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# Moon Center Dedication honors Co-Founder of Concordia, Dr. Shang Ik Moon

CHARLOTTE WAITE  
 CAMPUS EDITOR

Only standing room was available for the Moon International Center dedication on Thurs., Jan. 9. The center honors Dr. Shang Ik Moon's journey from war-torn South Korea to America, his dedication to help co-found Concordia University Irvine, then known as Christ College Irvine and his dedication to loving and caring for Concordia's international students.

This center welcomes students from all countries as well as sends students out into the world. The Great Commission, therefore, is at the foundation of the new center. Newly appointed President Michael Thomas reminded the crowd of this mission, "Dr. Moon has dedicated his life to living the Great Commission. Therefore, it is fitting that we dedicate the Moon International Center in honor of his life and his mission."

The cutting of the ceremony bow and blessing of the center signified the official opening of the Moon International Center to everyone, whether they are international or not. This new center will follow in Dr. Moon's footsteps and be a home for those abroad inspiring any and all who come across its threshold. "I wish I could describe how I feel at this moment. I am honored at the same time I am extremely humble," Moon stated after cutting the ceremonial ribbon, "your presence here is a great honor I do not deserve. It is



PICTURED ABOVE: Dr. Shang Ik Moon and Sharon Moon cut the ceremonial ribbon and declare the center open for all. Photo Courtesy of CUI.

what we as servants of God must do anyway."

The Moon International Center has a newly built outdoor patio along with new pictures taken by Dr. Moon's children and even a hand-drawn map made by Dr. Moon adorning inside to make the center comfortable and welcoming to not just international students but to all students. Tab Johnson, Dr. Moon's son-in-law, stated "I hope it creates a story. I hope it provides something that will long-live in the university's history."

Dr. Moon's story is quite the inspiration. Born in South Korea, he suffered through the outbreak of the Korean War as a boy and found himself alone at the age of 14. He then fled to a U.S. military base and learned English from a chaplain. From this blossomed a relationship with Christ and Dr. Moon found himself in America attending Lutheran seminary

in Kansas. He met his wife-to-be in St. Louis and together they moved to Indiana where Dr. Moon spoke to churches about his journey. Until one day when Charles Manske discussed with Dr. Moon his vision of Christ College Irvine and asked Dr. Moon to help establish the institution.

From then on, he became a co-founder of Concordia University Irvine, an academic dean, a professor, and, now, a mentor to and supporter of the university's many international students. "My wife Sharon and I want newly-arriving international students to be met at the airport, given their first meal on campus with an international host, and shown great hospitality to demonstrate that Concordia is a caring community with a friendly environment, guided by Christian love. That's much the way I was cared for when I first arrived in the U.S.," Moon said.

The love Dr. Moon and his wife have for international students will live on through the Moon International Center. Through this center, lives will be touched and the mission upon which it was established on will be completed again and again.

If you are interested in studying abroad or want to become an International Student Ambassador, the Moon International Center is the place to go. Located inside the Administration building, this center is equipped with all the knowledge you will need. You can also find information about studying abroad at [cui.edu/admissions/undergraduate/academics/study-abroad](http://cui.edu/admissions/undergraduate/academics/study-abroad). Information on becoming an International Student Ambassador can be found at [cui.edu/studentlife/student-leadership/international-student-ambassadors-application](http://cui.edu/studentlife/student-leadership/international-student-ambassadors-application).



Dear Students,

I would hope by now that you know the names of your professors, when your courses meet, and who some of the new people in your residence hall are. If not, you're watching too much Netflix. But if you are going to stay in your room wrapped in a blanket, I highly recommend *The Mandalorian* and *The Witcher*... Just saying...

Thanks to those of you who have come up to me and introduced yourself. Keep doing that! And if you see me in the cafeteria wandering over to sit with the faculty, please don't be afraid to introduce yourself. Seriously, I am sure the faculty will enjoy the break.

As I am new to the area, and SoCal in general, I'm always looking for tips to get to know Irvine better. Do you have a favorite restaurant? Favorite book? Favorite on-campus event? Favorite scenic drive (I've never lived anywhere I could ride my motorcycle during the winter)? Tell me about it!

And while you're at it, try and make an effort to reach out to incoming students who are new to the area, so they can make the best of their Concordia experience as well.

Thanks for welcoming me to Concordia. I am thrilled to serve as President but am even more excited to get to know you, the students!

~Dr. Thomas

*The Courier is pleased to share this personal note to Concordia's student body from Dr. Michael Thomas. Welcome to campus, Dr. Thomas!*

# SPIRIT WEEK

KATIE DEPOL  
ASCUI SECRETARY

Homecoming is coming up soon which means Spirit Week is almost here! This year's theme is Greek Week and will take place on Jan. 27- 31! So, grab your toga and gladiator sandals and get pumped for an exciting week of fun activities.

## MONDAY IS THE GLADIATOR GAGA BALL TOURNAMENT.

Meet us on the Gym Lawn at 7 p.m. to participate or cheer on your team! Students will accumulate points for winning the games and the winners will receive a prize for being the ultimate gladiator. No sign-ups needed, just show up!

## THURSDAY,

the ASCUI team will be hosting a classic tailgate party! Come on down to the CU Center Patio from 7 to 9 p.m. for some good ol' fashioned hotdogs, a root beer keg, water pong and more!

## TUESDAY IS THE DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT OF THE CENTURY!

Sign-up your team on the SU Patio on Jan. 27 and 28 between 11 and 2 p.m. Teams must consist of 4-6 players and must have at least two people of the opposite gender. Get hyped and join us in the gym from 6-8 p.m. because it's going down!

## FRIDAY IS GREEK DAY!

Wear your favorite sheet toga, gladiator sandals and leaf crown then come test your strength on the SU Patio from 11-2 p.m. and see if you can hit the bell on the top of a 12-foot tower!

## WEDNESDAY IS THE LONG- STANDING DAY OF APPRECIATION FOR CONCORDIA!

I Heart CUI Day is full of delicious food in the caf, a fun photobooth, FREE I Heart CUI shirts for the first 100 students and more! Find us on the SU Patio wearing your favorite Concordia gear!



# Installation of faculty and staff

CHARLOTTE WAITE  
CAMPUS EDITOR

Rev. Quinton Anderson addressed the new staff employees being installed. "Some of these people may not feel new, but it is their first time being installed," he joked. Around 20 staff employees were installed on Tuesday.

On Tues., Jan. 7, CU Center was filled with students, staff and faculty honoring those being installed as staff and faculty during chapel. Among the faces of staff and faculty were Dr. Tammie Burkhart, Dr. Erin Nelson and Dr. Michael Thomas as they were installed as called members of faculty.

Rev. Dr. Michael Gibson District President for the Pacific Southwest District of the LCMS summarized what it means to be installed in a concise manner; "It's your job to power and support and to re-gift [the gift of Jesus] every day. Speak the message and the hope of Jesus into the lives of students and other faculty and staff and into the world beyond us," he said.

The three new faculty members were called to the stage for their installation. "It is important that this whole body can hear your commitments and promises," said Rev. Dr. Gibson. Dr. Burkard was the first to be installed as a called associate professor of business. Then, Dr. Nelson was as a called assistant professor of communications. Finally, Dr. Thomas was installed as a called President and professor of theology.

The sermon of the day was based on Jesus being the gift of Christmas. It can be argued that professors and staff are the gift that Concordia gives unto its students.



CUI Fire Appeal Australia  
@CUI-aus-fires



venmo

Dear Concordia Family,

As you may have heard about the unprecedented wildfires currently devastating Australia. These fires have killed at least 28 people and 500 million animals. Members of our Concordia community call this country home. We hope you will help us bring relief to those who have been affected by joining us in supporting the Australian Red Cross. Any donations big or small will help. Please spread this campaign to your friends and family and together we can do our part to help our global community.

Thank you,

Student Athletic Advisory Committee

All donations to the Venmo account go to the Red Cross.

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# Softball season opens up in two weeks

SARAH KRETSCHMAR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The softball season is right around the corner and the Eagles are looking to have an even better season than last year and push towards the first national championship win since 2013. The Eagles finished first in the PacWest for the second year in a row and advanced to the Super Regionals which is the farthest they have been since becoming NCAA division II eligible. They finished the season with an overall record of 47-8.

The Eagles had a brief stint where they were ranked first in the NFCA Coaches Poll but ultimately finished the 2019 season ranked twelfth overall. The Eagles also had five first team All-PacWest selections, three second team All-PacWest selections and three third team selections. Callie Nunes was named PacWest Pitcher of the Year, Sydney Sprinkle was named Freshman of the Year, Mackenzie Graham was named Defensive Player of the Year and head coach Crystal Rosenthal was named Coach of the Year.



PICTURED ABOVE: The softball team gets ready and excited to take the field. Photo courtesy of cuieagles.com.

Along with that, Rosenthal also earned career win 500 during the 2019 season.

Rosenthal's career win 500 was named to the PacWest top ten moments of the year for all sports as well as Lauren Lopez's game winning steal home paired with Callie Nunes' no-hitter.

Not only did the Eagles shine on the field, they also earned eight NFCA All-American Scholar Athlete selections as well as the PacWest softball Scholar Athlete of the Year in Sarah Kretschmar.

With ten returning seniors, the Eagles look to use their vast experience to propel them further than they have ever been.

Senior infielder from Mission Viejo Amanda Gjertsen, a Biology major, is excited to play one last season with this team. "Competing with my best friends for one last time is bittersweet but I know we are all going to give it our all to win a national championship," said Gjertsen.

Sydni Dix, junior from Portland, Oregon is an outfielder and History and

Political Thought major. She raves about the team's ability to adapt and overcome. "We always find a way to get it done. No matter the situation, we have a great chance to win every game and I am excited to see just how versatile we will be considering our returning experience," she continued.

The Eagles are known throughout the softball world for their unbelievable energy and animated dugout. "Nothing is better than going crazy in the dugout when we score, make an incredible play

or hit a dinger," said senior McKinsey Thorpe.

"The homerun hit during the playoffs last season were some of the most exciting moments of my softball career," said Lauren Lopez, junior outfielder.

For the first time ever, Concordia is hosting their very own tournament called the Concordia Kick Off Classic. In this tournament, the Eagles open up on Jan. 31 against Cal State San Marcos at the Great Park in Irvine at 3 p.m. followed by a game against Stanislaus State at 6 p.m. On Feb. 1, the Eagles will take on #21 Chico State at 12:30 p.m. at the same location.

"Our constant and never-failing fan support is what makes our program so successful. With it being my last year, I hope we have the biggest fan base we have ever had to help cheer us on as we work to win a natty!" said senior Stephanie Ruelas.

Until then, stop by the softball field on Jan. 25 for their annual Homerun Derby and Alumni Day celebrations. Check out all things Eagle softball at [cuieagles.com](http://cuieagles.com).

## Men's volleyball takes down Cal State Northridge

EMMA MOCHARNUK  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Concordia men's volleyball team kicked off the 2020 season earlier this month with a win against St. Katherine University on Mon. Jan., 6. However, shortly following their victory, the Eagles were handed a defeat by the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) on Thur. Jan. 9. After the loss to UCSB, the Eagles were left hungry to get back on top.

"The UCSB game kind of stunned us. We were really excited for the season to start but we got hit with a hump early. It made us go back to the drawing board and reflect where we lacked and who was going to do what to step up for future games. While we were shaken, having some experienced guys on the team helped

keep us calm going into our next game," said senior Raymond Barsemian.

The Eagles stepped up in a huge way, coming back the following week on Fri., Jan. 10 with a victory against the California State University Northridge Matadors. The Matadors took the first set with a score of 26 to the Eagles 24. Things started looking up in the second set as the Eagles edged out the Matadors with a score of 40-38. The matadors came back again in the third set taking it in a score of 25 to the Eagles 22. The battle continued in the fourth set; however, the Eagles came out on top winning that set with a score of 25 to the Matadors 22. After a hard-fought game, the Eagles took the final set to win the game with a final score of 15 to 13.

"This win was huge for us as a team. Last year we didn't win almost any games so to

start out early with a win is a huge confidence boost," said sophomore Noah Lassandro.

One of the biggest factors in any successful team is an understanding that winning and losing is a team effort. The Eagles have shown exceptional teamwork early in the season with great team chemistry that the team is only looking to further build

on going forward. "Everyone has been working really well together and playing for each other, supporting each other and having fun. We still have some work to do but we're for sure going in the right direction," added Lassandro.

The Eagles will take on Vanguard University on Wed., Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at

Vanguard. Live broadcasts, season schedules and locations can also be found on the Concordia men's volleyball page by visiting [cuieagles.com](http://cuieagles.com).

PICTURED BELOW: Raymond Barsemian serves during five set win over CSUN. Photo courtesy of cuieagles.com.



# Eagles baseball set to kick off Jan. 31

SARAH KRETSCHMAR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Baseball opens up their season on Jan. 31 with a three game series against Cal State Dominguez Hills. Coming off a 23-24 record, the Eagles hope to use their age and experience to propel toward a PacWest title. With 17 seniors, it is no secret that the Eagles possess incredible maturity.

The Eagles are returning 2019 PacWest Defensive Player of the Year Haloa Dudoit (.335 BA) and Cooper Moore (.340 BA) received first team All-Conference honors for the 2019 season. Moore also earned a spot on the D2CCA All-Region Second Team.

Along with Dudoit and

Moore, infielder Jair Donovan was named to the All-PacWest second team and Bailey Collins and Matt Lautz were honored with All-PacWest third team honors.

Dudoit, shortstop, looks forward to playing alongside the guys he started with. "I expect that we will play to our full potential and show what we can do as a team. I hope that when it is all said and done, we have put ourselves in a position to represent Concordia in the best way that we can," said Dudoit.

Donovan, Chino Hills native, is excited for his senior year as an Eagle. "We are all looking forward to the new season and are excited to play with the new additions to our baseball family," continued Donovan.

Senior, Chris Martin also looks forward to a great last season and said that "the relationships made on this team will last a lifetime."

One of these additions includes five year old Liam Katz. Liam comes to the Eagles through Team IMPACT and is excited to join the Eagle family. Team IMPACT pairs kids fighting illness with collegiate athletic teams and the Eagles were lucky enough to land Liam. Liam is the second player to join the team from Team IMPACT. The first was Alex Hayes who completed his two-year eligibility with the Eagles last year.

Sophomore pitcher Noah McBride, is a Lakeside native and Kinesiology major. McBride

hopes to make a deep run this season with a veteran team. "Our best nine guys can compete against any nine guys a team at the Division II level throws our

way," said McBride.

The Eagles will open up PacWest play on Feb. 28. For schedule information, visit [cuieagles.com](http://cuieagles.com).

PICTURED BELOW: Cooper Moore, All-Region player, in the box during the 2019 season. Photo courtesy of Troy Makalena.



## VanderKlugt shines on the court

SARAH KRETSCHMAR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Michaela VanderKlugt has racked up an incredible repertoire of accomplishments as an Eagle and member of the women's basketball team. Her most recent and extremely impressive is becoming a member of the 1,000 career points club. VanderKlugt joined this elite club on Jan. 2 against Notre Dame De Namur. She was also named the PacWest Defender of the Week on Jan. 6 for her incredible performance on the court.

"It feels great! I don't really like to look at all the awards because I know I can do much better and the one record I want to hold or be

apart of is being part of the first Concordia women's basketball team to win the conference at a division II level," said VanderKlugt.

Alongside this accomplishment, VanderKlugt also holds the program record for career defensive rebounding average, career rebounding average and is second all-time in defensive rebounds in a season. VanderKlugt was named PacWest Freshman of the Year for the 2017-18 season as well as earning third team All-PacWest honors.

VanderKlugt is a Biology major from Concord, California. VanderKlugt credits much of her success to her amazing team. "They are go-getters, great humans

to be around at any time and they care so much about each other and the school," she said.

"My hope for the rest of the season is to take each game one by one and not look over any team. We strive to get the wins we need to secure ourselves a great seeding for playoffs and then win and go to the national tournament," said VanderKlugt.

The Eagles played their Code Yellow game last night against Biola. They will travel down to San Diego tomorrow to play Point Loma and will then head to Hawaii to take on Hawaii Pacific, Hawaii Hilo and Chaminade. The Eagles return home on Sat. Feb. 1 at 5:30 p.m against Point Loma. Check out updates from their road stretch at [cuieagles.com](http://cuieagles.com).

PICTURED ABOVE: VanderKlugt focuses at the line to shoot a free throw during their game against Humboldt State. Photo courtesy of [cuieagles.com](http://cuieagles.com).



## NEWPORT RIB COMPANY EAGLE OF THE WEEK



Photo courtesy of Troy Makalena

TROY MAKALENA  
STAFF WRITER

After leading the Eagles offense to a 2-2 week against tough competition, including an upset win over then No. 13 CSUN, Concordia senior Raymond Barsemian has been named the Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week.

The La Crescenta native had the hot hand all week long, producing 60 points (4.28 per set), 54 kills (3.85 per set), which goes along with 20 digs. Against the Matadors, he had 20 kills and had eight digs. The next day, he produced even better numbers against No. 5 Long Beach State, where he set a career-high 25 kills, which ranks the most by any player in the MPSF this season. He also hit .373, had six digs, and was in on two blocks.

Barsemian received various accolades for his performance such as UCSB Asics Invitational All-Tournament Team and Off the Block National Outside Attacker of the Week.

Despite missing some time in 2019 due to injury, Barsemian has continued to make waves for the Eagles after having a stellar performance in 2018. Then as a sophomore, he earned All-MPSF Second Team honors and led the team to a fourth-place finish in their first year in the conference.

He is on track to produce top numbers for the program as this weekend he surpassed recent graduate Hunter Howell for a top three spot in career kills in the Concordia record books with 534 and needs two more to become second all-time. With two aces, he moved to sole position of fifth all-time with 45 and needs nine more to earn the overall top spot. Lastly, he needs just 151 more swings to lead the program in total attacks.

Barsemian and team took on USC yesterday in the conference opener. For the full men's volleyball schedule, visit [cuieagles.com](http://cuieagles.com)

# Concordia's Black Student Union membership triples over semester

DANTE JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

In the fall of 2017 Concordia's Black Student Union (BSU) started from the ground up with an all new cabinet and members. Their mission was clear: to build a community on campus that feels like family for those that may feel culturally disconnected during their time at Concordia. This past fall, BSU achieved that mission.

Senior and President of Concordia's BSU, Aaron Mason stated, "We're a large group of friends who hangout and are a part of something bigger than this club has ever been." That something bigger that Mason refers to is the unification of the Black community on Concordia's campus. According to CollegeFactual and CollegeData, both top sites for tracking college demographics, Black students make-up only 6% of undergraduate students at Concordia. Having a



PICTURED ABOVE: Members of the BSU meet for fellowship. Photo courtesy of Dante Johnson.

community of people that not only look like you but also share similar life experiences is critical to succeeding in college. Mason added, "Everyone in the club is quite inquisitive. They all have vast takes on life and we all learn something new from each other everyday. Those experiences of gaining new perspectives from others while in college are irreplaceable."

BSU membership has nearly tripled this semester alone and has had a lasting impact

on student's experiences at Concordia. First year member and Vice President, Tilford L. Clark commented, "Being a member has made me feel like I have an extended family on campus, I do not feel alone." It can be tough when one is the only black student in a room. This feeling is worse when topics touch sensitive issues but knowing there is a community of support helps to ease that feeling.

That support can come in a variety of forms so that

everyone has the opportunity to feel heard. Two times this semester BSU has hosted their traditional "Night Talks." This is when the club informally meets for a period of two hours or more in a roundtable fashion to vent, discourse, and/or simply put themselves at ease around a group of peers. In the wake of the mental health crisis for Black individuals BSU has adopted a tradition of nightly meditations to help do their part to attack this prevalent

issue in the Black community. The club has also hosted game nights this semester as a means to provide stress relief from the daily factors of being a college student.

It is important to note that BSU is not a Black only club, nor is it an attempt to segregate students of color from the larger Concordia demographic. The club is founded on the bases of diversity and inclusion and highly encourages non Black and African students to respectfully attend the formal meetings, night talks and other events hosted by the club to hear and share their experiences to find common ground.

BSU meets bi-weekly on Thursdays from 10:30-11:00 am in Grimm Hall. The first meeting of the semester was held yesterday. For more information, contact the club at CUI.BSU@gmail.com.

## First theatre show of the semester: The Christians

TAYLOR SAMEC  
ARTS EDITOR

The Theatre Department's first show of the new decade will be "The Christians," with the first performance opening tonight! The play is about the religion of Christianity and how a senior pastor has discovered a surprising new idea about Christianity. He finds that there is no hell! This play follows how this pastor and his church cope with the latest discovery of not having a hell.

Professor Tony Vezner is the director of this production and he guarantees the play will be extraordinary. "The Christians' puts our audience smack dab into a megachurch service on the day their mortgage is paid off. We have all the trimmings - a 50 person choir, media - all of it. In his sermon, the pastor announces that God has told him that neither Hell nor the Devil exists. He believes all people will be saved. From there, all Hell breaks loose," stated Vezner. It is a must-see show, and the cast has worked tremendously hard to put the production together, "This cast has worked so hard

together - giving up eight days of their Christmas break to rehearse for six to eight hours a day. There's a real bonding that happens when a group of students works together on a project for that long," said Venzner.

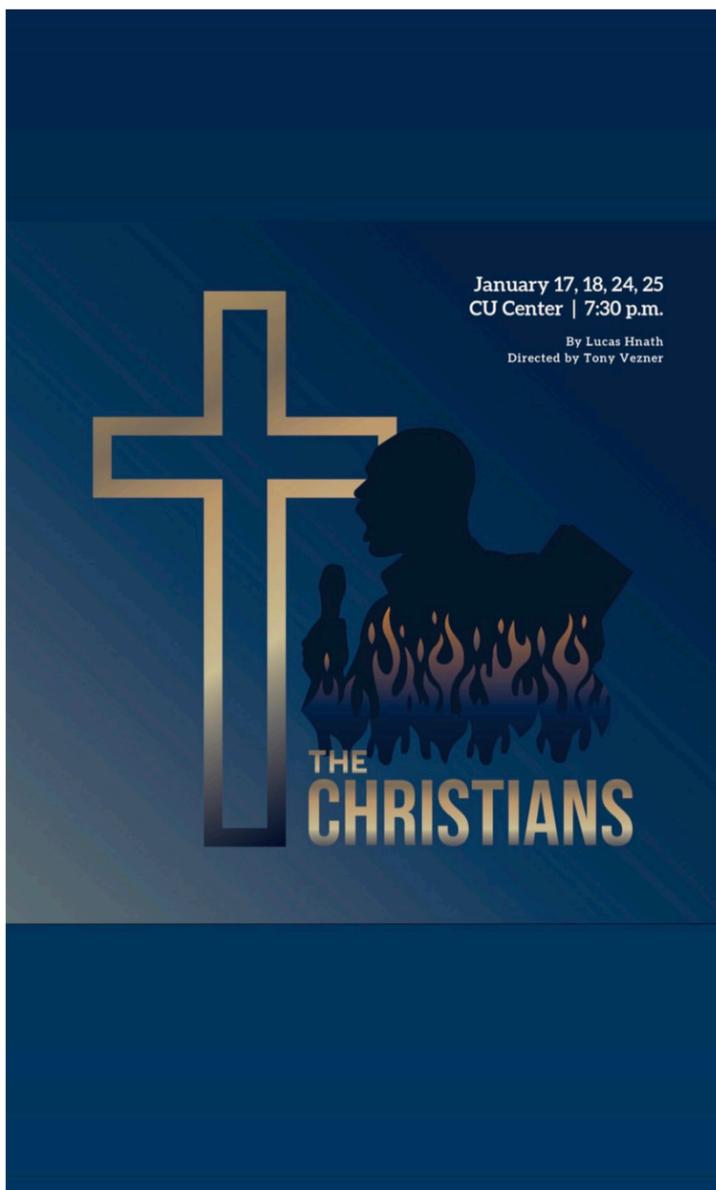
Senior Olivia Pettit is an actress in the show and is very excited to be a part of the production. She stated, "The Christians' is a really interesting show because it aims to get a conversation started about faith and hell and what it means to believe." Pettit also believes the audience will enjoy every second of the show, "I think audiences will enjoy the show because they will get a chance to see a thought-provoking play. They will also get to engage in the subject and hear a talkback from the cast and members from Christ College after the show," said Pettit. The show is for everyone and all ages, "even though the play is about these broad issues of Christianity, it is still based on real human stories that make it relatable to everyone who sees it," stated Pettit. All in all, Pettit suggests everyone sees this unique play.

Opening night is tonight, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m, in the CU Center. Students that miss opening night will have three more chances to see the fantastic show. The Theatre Department will also be performing on Jan. 18, 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m

Admission to the show is free! Students can enjoy an evening of theater and Christianity at no charge! So head on over to the CU Center tonight and start the new semester, year and decade with a dose of theater!

Since the show will be performed in the CU Center, it will give the show a different setting compared to the plays performed in the Concordia Theater. Also, since the CU Center is where chapel and SHOUT usually take place, it will add to the setting of the church and Christianity even more. Overall, supporting the Theatre Department and watching the show will be a fun way to spend an evening with friends.

For more information on this show, check out the Theatre Department at [cui.edu/en-us/arts/theatre/events/the-christians](http://cui.edu/en-us/arts/theatre/events/the-christians).



## A preview of this semester's upcoming events

ISABELLE UPCHURCH  
STAFF WRITER

Eagles, welcome back and to new students, welcome! This semester is filled with tons of great events and, as your Student Body President, I want to highlight a couple happening soon that I would love to see you at.

**What: Spirit Week**  
**When: Jan. 27- 31**

Why should you participate? This week is packed with fun activities and

events all centered around our Eagle pride. Events include dress-up days, I Heart CUI, and the week ends with our annual Homecoming Dance. I Heart CUI is an annual event where faculty and staff show their appreciation for students and serve lunch in the caf. Homecoming is sure to bring a crowd, with its theme, "A Night in Greece."

**What: CUI Day of Service**  
**When: Tues., Feb. 4**  
**Where: Several locations**

**around Irvine**

Why should you participate? Concordia is proud to be able to host our first ever campus wide day of service. With classes cancelled for the day, students, faculty and staff will be sent out to places like the OC Rescue Mission and the Village of Hope. Transportation will be provided – and you'll get a t-shirt, too. What a great way to give back to the community as a school.

**What: Inauguration Day**

**When: Fri., Feb. 7**

**Where: CU Arena**

Why should you participate? We will be officially inaugurating our new President, Dr. Michael Thomas. This monumental event serves as the foundation for Dr. Thomas' presidency and will have special performances by several musical groups from Concordia and the community.

**What: Suitcase Bingo**

**When: Fri., Feb. 21**

**Where: Student Union**

Why should you participate? This annual event is always a hit, with chances to win several hundred dollars in prizes, all while playing a game of bingo. Who knows, maybe you will be the lucky winner of the weekend getaway.

God's blessings on this semester, I hope to see you all at these events, you know I'll be there!

## Concordia hosts Hispanic Youth Chamber mixer



PHOTO ABOVE:: Students network at the annual Winter Mixer. Photo courtesy of Giovanni Brito.

GIOVANNI BRITO  
STAFF WRITER

On Fri., Jan., 10 Concordia hosted the Orange County Hispanic Youth Chamber of Commerce for their annual Winter Mixer. This event allows college students and high school students the opportunity to meet

with professionals from various fields to form a networking experience.

The Winter Mixer began with a welcoming speech from President, Dr. Michael A. Thomas. Thomas shared that he is a first generation college student and the impact that had on him during his undergraduate

career. He said, "education opened doors I never imagined." The message around Thomas' speech encouraged students to continue to strive for success and to look for opportunities of growth. Thomas continued, "walk through open doors... don't close them shut."

One of the Mixer's panel speakers was Maria Villegas Rodriguez. Rodriguez is an alumnus of the University of California-Irvine and the Co-founder of the Orange County Hispanic Youth Chamber of Commerce. Currently she is the Director of Human Resources for Reyes Cocoa Cola Bottling. Rodriguez shared her insight on what skills employers are looking for in recent college graduates. She shared, "emotional intelligence is a critical skill. Being able to understand your audience." Rodriguez continued, "curiosity of learning is almost important. Don't stop learning just because you checked off a box."

Amanda Harris, Director of Student Life & Leadership Development, also shared her views on why it is important for Concordia to host events like the Winter Mixer. "As a first generation student myself, I know that it was events like this that taught me the importance of networking and meeting others with similar interests or goals as myself." She continued, "Networking has extremely

helped my career before it even began. I learned early on that networking is key to moving up in your career and provides the opportunity to find mentors as well as external support."

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, all Concordia students now have access--free of charge--to a variety of different resources and events such as the Winter Mixer event.

On Fri., Feb. 7, the Orange County Hispanic Youth Chamber of Commerce will host a Roundtable about Journey in Stem. All Concordia students are welcomed to attend the event free of charge. For more information and to register for this free event, visit [ocyouthchamber.com](http://ocyouthchamber.com).

## Concordia names new Dean of the School of Business and Economics



George Wright, newly named Dean of the School of Business and Economics at Concordia University Irvine. Photo courtesy of Concordia University Irvine.

STAFF REPORT

Concordia has named George W. Wright of Brea as the Dean of its School of Business and Economics. Wright has been serving in various leadership roles, most recently as Administrative Dean, at the School since 2008.

In his new role, Dean George Wright will oversee academic policy and curriculum for graduate and undergraduate degree programs, as well as guide constituent relations. Wright's goal is to integrate best business practices with real-world experiences from an ethical and moral perspective so that students graduate with a solid foundation to serve as impactful global leaders.

"George Wright's breadth of experience from the boardroom to the classroom, combined with the respect of his peers, made him the obvious choice to lead the School of Business and Economics," said Concordia University Irvine Provost Peter Senkbeil.

Dean George Wright began his career at Concordia as the Assistant Dean of the School of

Business and Economics. The Certified Public Accountant (CPA) serves in a variety of senior leadership boards and committees at the University. Prior to entering higher education, Wright held leadership positions in strategic planning, accounting, and information technology in the global mining industry for more than 30 years with companies such as U.S. Borax Inc./Rio Tinto.

Wright earned his graduate degrees, a Master of Science in Accountancy, and an MBA in Finance from California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) after earning his Bachelor of Arts in Economics also from CSUF. Wright's work in costing, accounting information systems, and international accounting standards has also been published.

Recently, the School underwent a name change. Established as the School of Business in 2002, its new name—The School of Business and Economics—better describes the School's broad-based mission to integrate its theoretical and practical foundation with Liberal Arts education research, applied professional studies, and real-world experiential learning.

The School of Business and Economics is home to the largest undergraduate program at Concordia Irvine. Its Bachelor of Arts degree program in Business Administration, which offers emphases in accounting, business data analytics, business economics, finance, health management, international business, management, marketing, and

sport management, along with its Master of Business Administration (MBA) program which focuses on business practice with flexibility for working professionals are fully accredited by the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE). The online Business and Leadership (BAL) Bachelor of Arts degree program is designed to accelerate degree completion for adults. Faculty include academically qualified educators who are also entrepreneurs and executives in various industries. The School of Business and Economics is home to the Center for Faith and Business, the Faith & Business Forum, the Business Insights Series, the Teen Entrepreneurship Academy, and the Institute for Strategic Marketing.

## New year, new study spots

ALEXIS RIOS  
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

The start of a new decade calls for some switch up in routine. Students are eager to tackle the spring semester and ready to share some of their favorite local study spots. Finding a new study spot is no easy feat but may actually help improve the study session. Seasoned students who have looked far and wide to find the perfect places are ready to spill all their favorite local study spots.

In the article, "Forget What You Know About Good Study Habits," published on Sept. 6, 2010 in the New York Times, writer Benedict Carey argues that "simply alternating the room where a person studies improves retention."

Furthermore, in the article Robert A. Bjork, a psychologist at the University of California, Los Angeles says that, "when the outside

context is varied, the information is enriched, and this slows down forgetting." Therefore trying out a new place to study can help students in retaining the information.

Senior Savannah Neu, is a biology major and a member of Tri Beta Biological Honor Society; she has spent lots of time searching for the perfect study spot. "I like to go somewhere when I study. It makes me feel like I did something with my day. Coffee shops or libraries are my favorite. Coffee shops are nice because there is access to caffeine and it's not too quiet," said Neu.

Neu believes studying off campus is also a great way to explore Orange County. Over the past four years Neu has spent countless hours studying for exams and is all for "mixing up the location" as she believes it makes studying a lot more fun.

Neu's two favorite study places are the Lost Bean

Coffee Shop and the Newport Beach Public Library. "Where I go depends on how much I need to focus on what I am working on. If I am studying for the MCAT a quiet library is a must but if it's just school work I love coffee shops," said Neu.

Similarly, junior Alina Inozemtseva a marketing major, member of Global Citizens Club, and a member of Delta Sigma Pi fraternity believes that studying off campus "frees your mind." Whenever Inozemtseva feels unmotivated to study she goes off campus. "I love to change the location when studying. Going some place off campus where I see other people working really helps me because I just can't procrastinate there," said Inozemtseva.

Inozemtseva believes that good coffee and decor make for the perfect study spot. "My go-to study spots are Coffee Nature, Feen Coffee, Philz Coffee, and the New-

port Beach Public Library. I would recommend them to anybody looking to switch up their normal routine," said Inozemtseva.

Furthermore if Inozemtseva ever feels like she's stuck in a rut with her routine she looks to Instagram for inspiration. "I follow this account on Instagram called @occoffeeculture, they post about different coffee shops,

and give a wide range of local options to check out."

Switching up your study location might be the key to starting off the semester and new year on the right note. Check out some of these spots, instagram accounts, or ask your friends for suggestions of a new place. Happy studying!

## Census provides opportunities to be counted and perhaps score a temporary employment gig



Photo Courtesy of Amanda Harris.

## Near or far, winter break travels delivered time to chill

ALEXIS RIOS  
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

Over the semester break students went to a variety of places. Some went home to be with their friends and family while others spent their time traveling for a well-deserved vacation. Many students took advantage of the break to enjoy things that they do not often have time to do while in the school year.

Caitlyn Rowland, a junior, and hurdler on the track and field team started off her break by going home to San Andreas, California. While home, Rowland spent the majority of her time catching up with her friends from high school, enjoying time with her family, and relaxing after her workouts.

However Rowland did not stay put for long. "I was really only home for a little bit. My family had planned a holiday trip to Hawaii, so that's actually where I ended up spending the rest of break," said Rowland.

However Rowland's favorite part of break was

getting to ride a moped. "By far my favorite part of the entire break was getting to ride a moped for the first time in Hawaii. My parents and I rented them out and got to take them all around the island, it was so much fun!" said Rowland.

On the other hand, junior Nicholas Murphy stayed home all break but he had an absolute blast. "I don't live too far from Irvine, I'm from Torrance, which is about 40 miles away," said Murphy. However, "I have a lot of friends who go to school out of state that came back home over the break. Getting to see them and hang out was really special since I hadn't been able to in months," said Murphy.

Tamia Prince, a senior, and local from Carson, California favorite part about break was all the winter festivities. "Over break I really enjoyed all the Christmas spirit. As soon as finals finished I went to Naples Island, Long Beach and looked at Christmas lights with my friends," said Prince.

Prince also made a trip to

the Staples Center Holiday Ice Rink. "Going skating at the Staples Center was such a neat experience. It was definitely my favorite part of break, I loved it," said Prince.

Similarly, junior Malia Avila loved the winter activities. "I'm from West Covina which is about an hour away but I ended up traveling to Mountain High Resort to go skiing," said Avila.

Mountain High Resort is located in the San Gabriel Mountains in Los Angeles County and is filled with picture perfect mountains. "It was so much fun skiing over there! I got to go with all my family and we all loved it," said Avila.

Regardless of where they traveled students enjoyed being able to have some down time during break. Breaking up their usual routine and seeing family and friends they haven't seen in a while or trying something new was a highlight for many. Students came back refreshed and ready to tackle the new school year.

### STAFF REPORT

It's 10 questions in 10 minutes and it only happens every 10 years. It's the U.S. Census and that's why the U.S. Census attended Concordia's recent Involvement Fair for students.

Census representatives explained how, for the first time, the census will be digital--so you can answer the 10 questions on your phone. The census staff also recruited students for temporary census jobs. The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting to fill hundreds of thousands of temporary positions across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. They're looking for students to be census takers, or enumerators, between April

1 and May 31 anywhere in the country; pay is \$17-\$19 an hour.

To sign up to work, visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) and click "jobs" at the top. Or, sign up in person at the Census table at the student Job Fair on campus on January 30. Even if you go home after school is done in May--whether it's Bakersfield or Kansas--you can do your census job there. Everyone counts in the census! It's how your hometown and state receive funding for schools, roads, libraries, parks, hospitals, first responders and more. And, it's how equitable representation in congress is determined. Count in 2020!

# Everybody's watching "You"

TAYLOR SAMEC  
ARTS EDITOR

"You" is a suspenseful original Netflix series that was initially released on Dec. 26, 2018. The second season premiered on Dec. 26, 2019. The first season follows a young man named Joe Goldberg living in New York City as a bookstore manager, where he meets a young woman named Guinevere Beck. He becomes obsessed with her and uses social media and other things to track her every move. Season one is intense and gets the audience hooked onto what Joe is going to do next.

However, when season two was released over winter break, it was all over Twitter and other social media plat-



forms. It was even more crazy and popular than season one! Season two is still centered on Joe Goldberg, who later becomes Will Bettelheim. He moves to Los Angeles and begins working as a bookstore clerk, where he meets Love Quinn...

Season two has a similar plotline and premise to season one but there are many twists and surprises that the

audience might not have expected. There are also tons of new characters and a new setting. Many have said season two is better than the first season of the series, including some Concordia students.

Senior Hailey O'Neil is a fan of the Netflix series and stated, "I thought the second season of 'You' had more action in it and was more sus-

penseful than the first season. However, the entirety of the show is extraordinary. It had me on the edge of my seat during every episode."

Fellow senior, Rosemary Hernandez, is also a fan of the series and has yet to finish the second season, "I loved the first season of 'You,' but I have not found the time to watch the second season yet! I am excited to watch it, though, because I have read great reviews on Twitter and have heard a lot of great things from friends who have watched it already," said Hernandez.

"You" is one of the hottest series currently on Netflix, and each season only has ten episodes, so one can easily binge the two seasons during a weekend or throughout the week. The show's popularity

stems from how realistic the setting is and how ordinary Joe Goldberg seems to be on the outside.

It is creepy that one who comes off as so normal could turn out to be a psychotic stalker. It is also popular due to fans everywhere rooting for Penn Badgley's character, Joe, making them wonder if there is something wrong with them for rooting for the 'bad' guy.

"You" is similar to shows like "Dexter" or movies like "Gone Girl," which portrays the psychopath as charming and alluring, which convinces the audience to sympathize with the stalker or killer. Overall, "You" is a fantastic show that has received buzz all over social media and has viewers hooked. Check it out on Netflix now.

## Most Anticipated Movies of 2020



TAYLOR SAMEC  
ARTS EDITOR

It is a new year and a new decade, which means there are going to be a ton of new movies released throughout the 2020 year. Some of the most anticipated movies coming out this year include, "Dolittle," "Black Widow," "A Quiet Place Part II," "Birds of Prey" and "Soul." These are only a few of the great movies coming out in 2020 and some of the most talked-about in 2019.

"Dolittle" stars Robert Downey Jr. and is a remake of the popular franchise where a veterinarian can talk to animals. This movie comes out today, so fans of Robert Downey Jr. no longer have to wait to see this magical film. "Black Widow" comes out on May 1 and is going to be set after the events of "Captain America: Civil War." Produced by Marvel and Disney, it will star Scarlett Johansson as the lead actress.

"A Quiet Place Part II" will be in theaters on March 20 and is a sequel to the popular movie, "A Quiet Place," which came out

in 2018. "Birds of Prey" is a DC Comics superhero film which will be a spin-off of "Suicide Squad" and will once again star Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn, this movie will be out on Feb. 7.

Lastly, "Soul" is a Pixar film which will be similar to "Inside Out" but focus on the soul rather than emotion, it will be in theaters on June 19.

Some movies Concordia students are excited about include "Mulan" and "Ghostbusters: After Life." "Mulan" comes out on March 27 and is going to be a live-action film by Disney and will star Liu Yifei as the lead actress. "Ghostbusters: After Life" will be in theaters on July 10 and will be a continuation of the popular movie franchise.

Senior Noah Eschmann is excited for the film "Mulan" to come out this year. He stated, "I am stoked for the release of the new 'Mulan' movie. I loved watching the original Disney movie as a kid (and I still do), and I am excited to see how Disney transforms Mulan's story into a realistic setting." Eschmann and many others cannot wait to see how Disney will transform

Mulan into a live-action film as they have with several other Disney classics.

Senior Giovanni Brito is excited for the movie "Ghostbusters: After Life" to come out this year. He said, "I am a big fan of the original Ghostbusters movies, and I am excited to see what they do with this franchise. It looks like there will be lots of references to the original movie, and I am hoping we see some familiar faces such as Bill Murray as Dr. Venkman." Since Ghostbusters is such a popular franchise, many fans are excited to see how this new upcoming movie compares.

Overall, there are a ton of great movies to be excited about this year. Therefore, be prepared to overeat some popcorn at the theaters and enjoy all these great films!

For more information and a full list of movies coming out this year, visit [editorial.rottentomatoes.com/article/most-anticipated-movies-of-2020](http://editorial.rottentomatoes.com/article/most-anticipated-movies-of-2020)

## Netflix series review:

### "Spinning Out"

EMMA MOCHARNUK  
SPORTS EDITOR

The beginning of a new year is filled with new goals, new experiences, and most importantly, new Netflix shows to binge. Amid my attempt to find a new show to kick off my New Year's Netflix binge, I stumbled upon one of Netflix's newest additions, "Spinning Out." The series follows a young woman named Kat Baker on her journey to become a world-renowned figure skater.

If competitive figure skating weren't challenging enough, it is revealed that Kat has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. The show also explores the ups and downs of friendships in the world of competitive skating and the complicated family relationship surrounding Kat and her family.

The show provides something for everyone. Sports fans will enjoy the athleticism and the competitive journey that Kat embarks on to become a world renowned skater. While the figure skating shown throughout the series is breathtaking, the show also provides a large dose of romance and drama to keep fans of all genres hungry for more.

"I really enjoyed the show. I enjoyed not only getting to see the figure skating but also how there was a lot of different stories that can be seen through the different characters in the show. Though I did really enjoy it, some parts of it were a little heavy so it was helpful to watch with a group of my friends" said junior, Gemma Schiaffino.

Overall, I was very glad I decided to give the show a whirl. As someone who greatly appreciates a healthy dose of dramatic television, I enjoyed all the drama and romance that surrounded each of the characters and their relationships. The figure skating shown in the show was definitely a plus (not only due to the sparkly costumes) as it provided a glimpse into the hard work and artistry involved in competitive skating.

While I really enjoyed the series, it did touch on some pretty heavy topics surrounding relationships and mental health. Watching the show with a group of friends is a great way to start a discussion around many of the topics portrayed in the show and also gives you and your squad a fun way to spend time together.

The show can be streamed on Netflix.