

# THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

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Concordia University Irvine

Friday, March 19, 2021

## Springing ahead to make music



**PICTURED ABOVE:** Concordia Sinfonietta rehearsing under the tent on campus.  
Courtesy of David Ballew

DAVID BALLEW  
STAFF WRITER

With innovative strategies, the Concordia Sinfonietta moves forward with outdoor rehearsals to make music with a larger number of ensemble members during the spring semester.

Over the past year, the determination to provide musical experiences for students happened even with the ebb and flow of the pandemic. Along with the Concordia Sinfonietta, the Concordia Wind Orchestra, Concordia Brass and Percussion Ensemble have started in-person rehearsal that occurs under the big tent on campus for practice outdoors. “A larger group was made possible at the beginning of February,” said Dr. Jeff Held, Assistant Dean - School of Arts & Sciences, Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Activities.

It has been welcomed news for the students to rehearse together on Tuesdays and Thursdays

from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. “Meeting with winds is great,” said Chi Zhang, sophomore. “I really like having the full orchestra.” Zhang continued, “I like the whole orchestra better because that is the experience that teaches you the most.”

Through tumultuous times, these Eagles have taken flight to soar over the circumstances of COVID-19 in several ways. Whether the musicians rehearse together or the schedule is adjusted to protect strings and woodwinds, they make use of the tent and the Borland-Manske Center to achieve success. “Outside practice is mostly weather determined,” said Held, referring to one of the challenges the musicians overcome. “Cold weather is not a good situation for wooden instruments.”

There have been other opportunities for musical growth through the months, using strategies to manage the challenges of COVID-19. To



**PICTURED ABOVE:** Woodwinds, brass and percussion rehearsal under the tent on campus.  
Courtesy of David Ballew

the advantage of students, a new string ensemble, as well as health measures, created the path forward until the groups could meet together. The Developmental String Ensemble, led by Professor Elizabeth Johnson, was one way to share new musical experiences involving string instruments with students. “Developmental was liked so much and was useful,” said Held. “It was a good thing to do and there was interest to do it in the future.”

The health and safety measures supported by faculty and students of the Music Department include mask-wearing, physical distancing, PCR testing, hand washing, scanning QR codes to strengthen contact tracing in case of exposure to the disease, and the Campus Clear app. “All non-woodwinds wear masks, and we are all spaced at least six feet apart,” said Timothy

Maggs, freshman. “It’s a really safe environment to play in,” Maggs added. Musicians playing woodwinds have to wear masks when not playing. The protocols will continue to be used through the spring semester to maintain safety for music students and the entire campus.

Another protocol includes temperature checks. To complete temperature checks for their peers, student volunteers help in the process. Freshman Natalie Younger said, “It has been my pleasure to take the temperatures of the faculty and students before various rehearsals because it allows us to play together in person which is something not many have been able to do this past year.”

One of the focuses for the Sinfonietta this semester was recording the hymn “Amazing Grace” as part of their repertoire. “As for additional recording projects, we are going to be sending the recording out in a

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## I got vaccinated

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY  
CAMPUS EDITOR

As a school-district employee I was able to get the COVID-19 vaccine in Orange County. I work as a coach for the Irvine Unified School District and was eligible in group 1B to get the shot and I happily took it. I got vaccinated to help return to “normal” life and be able to live more freely moving forward without always having coronavirus on my mind.

I registered at Othena.com after a district-wide email was sent saying Orange County opened vaccines to group 1B. Concordia University Irvine student-workers are now also eligible to register for the vaccine. After waiting in the virtual queue for eight days, I got the notification I could schedule my appointment. Two days later I was on my way to the Anaheim Convention Center to get my first round of the Moderna vaccine. On March 10, the convention center was offering Moderna and the one-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

The process was painless - literally and figuratively. My appointment was at 8:30 a.m. and I thought there would be a huge crowd of people waiting to get in, so we left early. My mom (also an IUSD employee) and I left Irvine around 7:30 with proof of employment in hand. We had our school ID and a recent pay stub, but they did not check either of them. If you get the vaccine at the Anaheim Convention Center, the GPS will take you to the front entrance at Katella and Harbor, but the big lit signs will take you past Harbor and you will take you to a side entrance.

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# Why I Heart CUI!



**PICTURED ABOVE:** Academic Advisors, Brianna Garza-Farin and Jazlyn Ortuno, serving up some sweet soft serve for the Concordia community. Courtesy of Gabi Beckman

GABI BECKMAN  
ASCUI SECRETARY

Spring has sprung and Concordia is celebrating! On Wed., March 10, a handful of Concordia's faculty and staff came together to serve the student body for a campus-favorite event, I Heart CUI! Despite the rainy weather, students, staff and faculty were able to take part and show how they "heart" Concordia.

With DJ Cash keeping the vibes up as the rain came down, the ASCUI Executive Board gave out this year's edition of I Heart CUI shirts as students entered the cafeteria. Throughout lunch, faculty and staff from a variety of departments on campus dedicated their time to serving up smiles for the CUI community as a whole.

As for the lunch menu, Concordia was greeted with a fun and fresh selection of dishes brought to you by President Dr. Michael A. Thomas, Dean of Students Megan Bouslaugh and Athletic Director Crystal Rosenthal. From secret family recipes to Concordia's

famous soft-serve ice cream, lunch was met with nothing but glowing reviews from commuter students, busy professors and everyone in between!

In addition to live music and tasty treats, ASCUI hosted a raffle contest asking students to answer questions like "Why do you heart CUI?" and who their favorite faculty or staff member is. As dozens of submissions came in, it was clear

to see why both students and staff heart CUI: the community. In spite of all the changes that have taken place on campus over the past year, the community of Concordia University Irvine still stays strong and dedicated to remembering why we heart CUI.

Missed this rocking on-campus event? No worries! This Tues., March 23, Peer Health is bringing back one of Concordia's favorite guests: stress-relief dogs! Make sure to sign up with your dorm to snag some puppy love. And the fun doesn't stop there! On Wed., March 31, Student Activities is taking college students back to the good ole days with Kindergarten Day. Want to stay up to date on what events are taking place on campus? Follow ASCUI and LEAD at @ascui and @cuilead to never miss a moment!



**PICTURED ABOVE:** ASCUI President Tyler Haase, ASCUI Secretary Gabi Beckman, and President Michael Thomas posed with this year's I Heart CUI swag and the event's surprise guest. Courtesy of Gabi Beckman

# I got vaccinated

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It is easy to navigate when reading the displayed signs.

We got in the convention center and followed signs to go to the 8:30 appointments for the Moderna shot. Many masked workers were there helping the crowd navigate the lines. We were led in around 8:25 and led through identification checkpoints. I suggest keeping your ID out because you will have to show it to each person you pass by for them to confirm your identity and appointment. I kept having to reach in my pocket each and every time not realizing.

After the shot was administered we were led to the holding area where chairs were socially distanced. We were told of the potential immediate side effects and had to tell workers if we felt any of them. Neither mom nor I felt any immediate or long lasting side effects besides a sore arm at the injection site. If you have long lasting symptoms or think you have an allergic reaction, it is recommended you seek immediate medical care and call 911.

It is commonly reported the second round of Pfizer or Moderna carries more side effects. The CDC

recommends drinking plenty of fluids leading up to and after your vaccine and to apply a cold compress to the injection site. "In most cases, discomfort from pain or fever is a normal sign that your body is building protection," according to the CDC.

Even after I get my second shot I still plan on wearing my mask in public. I will still be precautious and safe around strangers, but I plan to give myself more leeway around friends and family and bring myself to start living a close to normal life again. I have done my part in stopping the spread and continue to do so by getting the vaccine.

If you live or work in Orange County, you can register for the vaccine or check your eligibility at Othena.com. For more information about the different options of vaccinations, visit CDC.gov or talk to your healthcare provider. To find a vaccination site, visit [https://www.blueshieldca.com/bzca/bsc/wcm/connect/sites/Sites\\_Content\\_EN/coronavirus/vaccine-locations](https://www.blueshieldca.com/bzca/bsc/wcm/connect/sites/Sites_Content_EN/coronavirus/vaccine-locations)

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1530 Concordia West, Irvine CA, 92612  
Delta Lounge  
final.courier@gmail.com  
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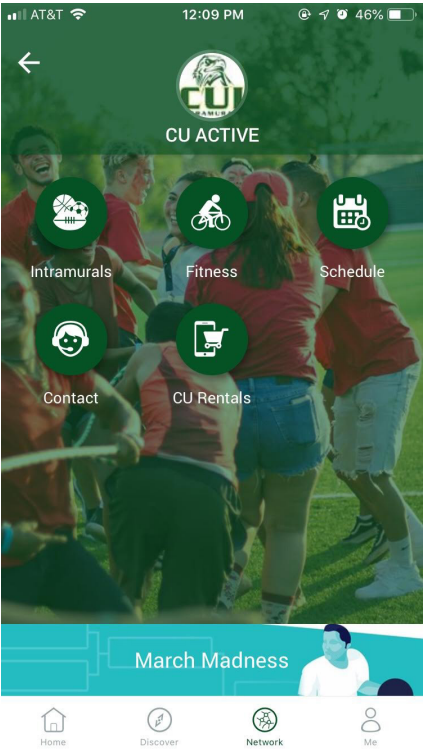
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# CU Active branches out to nature



PICTURED ABOVE: ACU Active App  
Courtesy of Cassandra Cate

CASSANDRA CATE  
STAFF WRITER

CU Active is now offering camping and outdoor equipment for rent to students seeking adventure. With the service continuing to increase in popularity, CU Active hopes to continue providing inspiration for physical activity and recreation.

Because of its prime location in Southern California, Concordia is situated near destinations for hiking, surfing, skiing and more. Through this new program, it is easier for students to add camping to the list. Students can now rent camping supplies such as camping

stoves, coolers, tents and sleeping bags, some of which were donated by Concordia staff. Nearby camping spots include Capistrano Beach, Irvine Regional Park, Silverado Canyon and Cleveland National Forest. Venturing farther out, there are the picturesque venues of Big Sur, Joshua Tree and Lake Arrowhead, among others.

Michael Ottenad, Director of CU Fitness and Outdoor Recreation, said, “By making gear more accessible to students, we hope that they will take the opportunity to elevate their college experience by embracing the world around us.”

Freshman Max Upchurch has seized this opportunity, deciding to take part in CU Active as an employee. “I like being able to be an outlet for people to get outside and explore the world around us. I love seeing people excited to be outside and explore new places,” said Upchruch.

Such outdoor fun is especially beneficial amidst the setting of COVID-19, which at times can be crowded with online meetings and cramped indoor spaces. If outdoor exercise isn’t possible, going

to the gym has its benefits as well. Sophomore Juliann Johnson, another CU Active employee, said, “I enjoy CU Active because it is a place you can go and get some energy out, which has been really nice with online classes.”

As for indoor activities, CU Active has taken steps to keep students safe. Those who want to exercise in the gym can reserve a 45-minute time slot on either side of the building, which is separated into two sections to accommodate social distancing. “Masks are required the entire time they are in the space, and in between each session our team cleans the entire space with disinfecting wipes and an ionized mist cleaner (lovingly referred to as the ‘ghostbuster’),” said Ottenad. Camping and outdoor gear receives a similar disinfectant treatment to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

To rent camping and outdoor equipment, visit the CU Active app, available on Apple and Android devices. To offer recommendations for rental gear, email [cuactive@cui.edu](mailto:cuactive@cui.edu).

Enriquez said, looking back, if she were to do anything differently, she would “probably have been better with managing my time and not have procrastinated as much as I did. It sounded easier at the moment to put off work that was due until the last minute,

# 2021 spring transition from online to dual mode classes



PICTURED ABOVE: “OWL” advanced technology used to record lectures for students learning remotely during the dual mode classes.  
Courtesy of Alexis Rios

EDWARD OLIVER  
STAFF WRITER

On Tues., March 9 Provost Rev. Dr. Scott Ashmon sent out an email regarding the status of students returning to in-person classes. In the email he stated that students can potentially attend dual-mode classes as soon as March 22 if COVID infections countywide continue to go down.

This week professors sent out surveys via email to get feedback of students’ preferences on classes. The surveys are to determine interest levels to make the switch to dual-mode teaching. Last semester, some professors and students experienced growing pains making the switch to dual mode. For example, some students who indicated they planned to physically attend class in person either came inconsistently or stayed online, which made it challenging for professors to accurately calculate the percentage of the class that would be present in the classroom versus online.

In order to make this switch effective, Ashmon encourages all students who apply to be in person to stay consistent and to stay true to their word, for this can make the jobs of professors easier when managing their classes. “If you choose to attend in person in spring 2021, stick with your decision for your own learning, for your professors’ taking extra steps to offer courses in dual mode, and for your fellow students,” said Ashmon in his email.

To address any confusion, classes that contain the mark OL (online) in their titles will remain online for the duration of the semester, no dual mode will be offered for these classes.

Many of CUI’s staff are excited for this switch to happen. Vice President for Student Affairs Megan Bouslaugh said, “I just moved to Concordia in July, during this pandemic, so I can tell you that I am thrilled to think that students will have the opportunity to be back in the classroom, maybe even by 50% of the room capacity in the near future.”

# Must know tips and tricks to help manage a challenging course schedule

CAITLYN ROWLAND  
STAFF WRITER

Whether you are a student-athlete, student worker or just a full-time student, tips and tricks for managing a challenging course schedule are a must.

Danise Herrington, a senior Psychology major who helps manage the track and field team at Concordia, said, “I try to do as much work as I can ahead of when it’s due. In my anatomy class, we have video lectures with quizzes due every week, and I try to get as much done as I can at one time, even if they aren’t due until later that week. It just makes it easier to finish other assignments.”

Megan Enriquez ’13, Concordia alumni, and now

a professor in the School of Psychology, said she had a challenging schedule while she attended Concordia due to adding a minor and being a part of the academic showcase, “I decided to stay the four full years and add my sociology minor. During this time, I was also a participant in the President’s Academic Showcase, taking part in a year-long research project while also maintaining a full course load.”

Enriquez shared the proactive steps she took while she had a demanding schedule, “As I am a very visual learner, it was extremely helpful for me to use a planner that I color-coded so I could see when the dates of all my assignments and exams were

due for each class.” Enriquez emphasized, “It is also important to have a positive mindset. Throughout my college career, I viewed the opportunity of being educated as one of the privileges that not everyone gets.” More than just a useful planner and a grateful attitude, Enriquez said, “Lastly, I sought help when I needed it. If I was struggling with an accounting class, I would access the tutor.”

Enriquez said, looking back, if she were to do anything differently, she would “probably have been better with managing my time and not have procrastinated as much as I did. It sounded easier at the moment to put off work that was due until the last minute,

but I always ended up paying the price for it.”

Enriquez offered advice to students as the semester winds to a close, “I believe each person has to find what works for them. Generally speaking, it is going to be helpful to be proactive rather than be in a place where you have to be reactive.” Enriquez continued, “At the end of the day, we make small choices every day that affect every aspect of our lives. If you are intentional about the small choices you are in control of, it can benefit the larger choices in the future. Ultimately, have fun!”

Interested in tutoring services? Sign up through

<https://www.cui.edu/studentlife/academic-coaching/make-an-appointment>.

The writing studio is also available, which can be found at <https://www.cui.edu/studentlife/index/id/20511>. Each website has a step by step process showing how to sign up. Both follow COVID-19 guidelines by having appointments online.

For a couple of extra tips to use to break up the monotonous zoom routine, go to <https://www.cui.edu/academicprograms/education/perfecting-the-practice/blog/post/distance-learning-tips-for-students-and-families>.



## New Borland-Manske Center recording studio put to good use



**PICTURED ABOVE:** Senior Julia Avila using the Borland-Manske Center recording studio for the production of “Bright Star”.  
Photo courtesy of: Julia Avila

CAITLIN FULTON  
ARTS AND  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Concordia’s Theatre Department is producing their newest musical “Bright Star,” a bluegrass, happy ending story where “love conquers all.” The musical has been directed by Professor Lori C. Siekmann. In place of normalcy, the Theatre Department works around COVID-19 to bring this production to life.

The latest advancement in the project has been the use of the new Borland-Manske Center’s recording studio on campus. Senior Liberal Studies Major Julia Avila has been using the facility in the past few weeks to work on “Bright Star.” As she’s studying

with a theatre emphasis, Avila has been very excited to participate in this year’s production in such a unique way.

Using the recording studio for the Theatre Department has not been done before at Concordia. “We’re recording in the studio to follow COVID-19 guidelines. We weren’t even sure what the musical would look like this year and are so incredibly blessed to have been able to use the studio on campus to make our recording,” said Avila.

Their use of the studio mainly consists of recording lines and music. “We are recording our songs and our

spoken lines,” said Avila. “We are staging the show and blocking in the theatre and we are lip-syncing to ourselves. It’s an awesome alternative!”

Avila shared how much she has appreciated this opportunity. “This is one of the coolest projects I’ve been a part of at Concordia. This is my first time in the space and it’s been a lot of fun!” She added, “I feel that this experience will help me in future recordings scenarios and I’ll know how to work various pieces of equipment, volume levels, etc.”

The Theatre Department has been taking COVID-19 seriously in their recording process. They continue to wear masks unless they are lip-syncing. “We’ve been following all guidelines given by the school and doing all we can to keep the show afloat,” said Avila. “It’s been a challenge, but we have managed to make it work.”

There is a full team that uses the recording studio for this project. “The studio process consists of all actors, our mixer, our director and our vocal director, as well as our stage manager. It takes a village,” said Avila.

To learn more about what the Theatre Department is all about, visit <https://www.cui.edu/arts/theatre>. If you are interested in getting involved in future production or receiving communication from the Theatre Department, including information about “Bright Star,” please email [lori.siekmann@cui.edu](mailto:lori.siekmann@cui.edu).

## Squash stress in five minutes or less

KATHERINE MOWERY,  
STAFF WRITER

In the world of Spotify, Amazon Music, YouTube, and, yes it’s still alive, iTunes, finding the best Podcast can be as easy as one, two, click. I was never a fan of podcasts until we dreadfully hit quarantine and I could only watch “The Office” so many times. I was looking for something to help me escape, especially when my head hit the pillow.

“Tracks to Relax” is a guided meditation podcast that offers a variety of stories, breathing exercises and more. Whether you need five minutes or an hour there is something for everyone. I personally enjoy this meditation podcast because it does not have ads and it helps me fall asleep within minutes.

According to “Tracks to Relax” website “Our guided sleep meditations use neuro-linguistic techniques to calm your mind and body, so you can fall asleep fast.” I appreciate the step by step relaxation tips and the way a very gentle voice will pause every once in a while. Pausing allows you to calm your mind and turn off all the chatter that often dwells on students especially with deadlines and the pandemic.

My favorite episode is “Zen beach” which you can find here:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4xSHN1cGrKSZXUufiqi0PE?si=K-tS7jdeRCmxyRHdAhkfg>

In this episode you are calmly guided down the beach and enjoy

the fresh air and sand in your toes. The excellent sound quality really makes you feel that you are there and given a chance to escape.

Yoga instructor and nutrition specialist Tracy Hill says “meditating and taking time for yourself is essential for your overall health. Using guided meditation is an excellent way to cleanse your mind and reset your brain.”

Now that we have entered 2021 finding a way to escape was #1 on my list. According to Forbes.com, “The continued growth of podcast listening is expected. In 2020, an estimated 100 million people listened to a podcast each month and it’s expected to reach 125 million in 2022.”

There are hundreds of mediation podcasts and sleep podcasts. If you aren’t into the guided meditation, one that I often listen to is called “Deep Sleep Sounds” which consists of tranquil, low-fi, and other various sleep music. I enjoy leaving the music on all night as I frequently wake up during the night and instead of instantly reaching for my phone I just listen to the music, and I am back asleep within minutes.

Podcasts are a great addition to your life whether it’s at night or on the go. These meditation podcasts are definitely not recommended listening while driving but highly recommended for listening to calm your nerves. So try a podcast today and definitely try “Tracks to Relax” and sleep better tonight.

## Netflix review: Hard to see the plot connections in “Behind Her Eyes”

CAITLYN ROWLAND,  
STAFF WRITER

Netflix’s must-watch show, “Behind Her Eyes” offers many situations where viewers are left in the dust. This psychological thriller had its debut last month and will likely leave audiences confused or in awe. Read at your own risk, spoilers ahead!

I love a good psychological thriller, being tossed one way and turned into the next. But when it comes to feeling confused, I can’t say I like that as much. The show starts with an eerie vibe and keeps that throughout the entirety. Eerie wife, eerie husband, eerie life.

Don’t get me wrong, I love a good eerie show that includes deep dark secrets wrapped in mystery upon mystery almost as much as I like a free sample at Costco, but too much of anything isn’t good.

The show starts with a single

mother, Louise, showing interest in a married man, David, on a girl’s night out. David ends up working at the same place which ultimately leads to a secret love affair. Not only is there this love affair that continues through almost the entirety of the show, but there is a mysterious past between husband Adam and wife Adele. These ideas captured my attention and made me want to watch more...but there was one more thing, dreams.

Weird dreams. A reoccurring door in the dream. A mysterious past. A love affair. “Ahhhh, somebody help me and please explain,” said my brain while watching. Too many things to follow in a limited series of only six episodes. The show was off to a good start before it added a supernatural factor, yes I said it, supernatural. There is another thing to add to the list.

I love supernatural movies

and psychological thrillers, I even like when the two are combined! I don’t want to be a total hater, many interesting scenes left me wanting to watch more. Oh, and if you are into cinematography, it gets an A-plus on that!

Nonetheless, I was left in utter confusion at the end. I felt as if it said, “You thought these were the only things we were dealing with in this show, well, sike! Let’s throw in a whole new concept in the last episode of the show!”

“Behind Her Eyes” did not take me on a journey, it left me behind as it plopped me from one idea to the next without any help along the way. Did it start well? Yes. Did it end well? Well, nope. But who knows, this is just one girl’s opinion, it must be in the top ten of Netflix’s must-watch for some reason...right?

## Springing ahead to make music

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number of different ways,” said Held. “I am hoping there will be an opening in late April for some outdoor performing.” For the Concordia Brass, there are plans in the works to record the national anthem for commencement. Students are encouraged to keep an eye out for these new performances. To learn

more about upcoming events and news on the Music Department visit <https://www.cui.edu/arts/music>.

For further information about campus community updates visit <https://www.cui.edu/covid-19/community-updates>.



# Softball slides into NFCA top 10

BROOKE JACKSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

Softball was ranked ninth by the 16 NCAA Division II head coaches on Sun., March 7 for the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. Each coach had the chance to vote out of the eligible teams competing this season.

This record has continued through this past week after softball split the first series with Biola. A complete game performance by senior pitcher Callie Nunes proved not enough as Concordia dropped game one 3-2. In game two of the doubleheader, CUI bounced back with a 8-2 win following an impressive outing by Cortney Koelmans.

Two days later, CUI

and Biola returned to the field to face off in another doubleheader. Sophomore and PacWest Pitcher of the Week Rae Flores threw a complete game shutout and junior Sydney Sprinkle went 2 for 2 with 3 RBIs in the 6-0 victory. Biola evened the series in an extra-inning affair. Concordia left 14 runners on base and was unable to steal the victory in the 3-2 loss.

Concordia is 6-3 overall and is preparing for its next games. The doubleheaders will be Fri., March 19 away and Sat., March 20, at home both against Azusa Pacific.

Flores, said, “As the season has been progressing, we have worked together as a team to get better every day. There is always something

new that the team is working on, and this has helped us to improve as a whole. I think that is what makes this team special, we don't settle.”

The team will be playing five more weeks of doubleheaders against Biola and Azusa Pacific and one doubleheader against Redlands until possibly heading to the National Championships at the end of May.

“I am excited to see our team compete as the season continues, and I feel like there is so much that we are going to be able to accomplish this year as a team,” said Flores.

For more information and to see the schedule go to, <https://cuieagles.com/sports/softball>.

# Sandy birds thrive on the road



**PICTURED ABOVE:** *Vanessa Bernzen (Sr) goes up for a swing against Cal Berkeley’s 1s pair. The high line shot secured a pair for the Eagles.*

*Photo courtesy of: Anthony Calderon*

MAAD ALKADHIM  
STAFF WRITER

The beach volleyball team is currently on a two game winning streak after beating Cal State Northridge and Master’s University on March 12.

The beach volleyball team beat Master’s University 4-1 on March 12 and later that same day beat Cal State Northridge 3-2. These wins come after they lost their first two games of the season on March 7. “The first two losses were definitely tough. Our competitions against #8 LMU and #9 Cal exposed some defensive errors and [they] capitalized on that,” said junior Shannon Evans.

After starting the season with a

bump on the road, the team had to go back and fix the costly defensive errors and tighten their strategies. Evans said, “There were defensive skills we needed to solidify in practice. Our coach Jenny worked with us on different defenses to prepare us for our next games.”

A main factor that contributed to the team rallying and winning their last two games was their comradery. Freshman Sara Ostojic said, “the main factor and difference between last week and this week is that we were confident and found trust in each other.”

The playing style of the team also changed during their wins. “Our second two games were successful as we won both. We worked hard in

Newport Rib  
Company Eagle of  
the Week: 3/19:  
Jordan Hoppe

BILLI DERLETH  
STAFF WRITER

This week our Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week is Jordan Hoppe from the men’s volleyball team. Hoppe got his bachelor’s degree in psychology and is currently getting his master’s in coaching and exercise sciences. He aspires to play professional volleyball when he is done at CUI and then would like to be a college coach.

When Hoppe was asked about his mindset for this season he responded thoughtfully. “My mindset for this season is to leave nothing up to question. I just want to look back years down the road and say that I did everything that I could control to put the team and myself in the best situation to succeed.”

Hoppe is an integral part of the Eagles team. He is the team captain and has played in 27 sets this season. From those sets he has racked up 59 kills, 43 digs and 11 blocks. He has had a high of six aces in

the home match against UCLA where the Eagles upset the No. 7 Bruins, 3-2.

“When we upset UCLA, I personally felt very proud of all of my teammates and coaches,” responded Hoppe. “It’s something that this program hasn’t ever done so to be able to mark that off the list, [it] felt great.”

Hoppe has marked several milestones accumulating 52 mentions in the Concordia men’s volleyball record book. Some achievements he earned are 2019 All-MPSF Honorable Mention, 2019 Volleyball Magazine All-American, and in 2020 he was Second Team All-MPSF.

“First, Jordan is our captain so he has more responsibility than just being a great volleyball player,” said head coach Shawn Patchell. “He holds the team accountable and that takes energy to think holistically rather than just specifically his game.”

When Hoppe isn’t playing volleyball he enjoys spending time with his friends, family and fiancé. He also enjoys coaching volleyball and is currently

coaching three different teams. He coaches two boy’s teams at Balboa Bay Volleyball Club as well as Sage Hill High School’s volleyball team.

“Jordan really epitomizes the four C’s of our Culture: Courage, Caring, Communication and Consistency,” said Patchell. “He brings it everyday and makes his teammates better while being a thoughtful mentor.”

On the court ,Hoppe wears number 17. When he was asked why he picked that number he responded, “The reason I choose number 17 stems back to my club volleyball days playing for the West Allis Lightning Volleyball Club in Wisconsin.” He continued, “I wore number 17 when I was 17 years old and liked the number ever since.”

Along with an upset over UCLA, the team earned two recent wins over USC. The Eagles play next on March 26 in the CU Arena where they will be taking on BYU. Visit <https://cuieagles.com/sports/mens-volleyball/schedule/2021> to view their schedule.

#CUITogether



**PICTURED ABOVE:** *Vanessa Bernzen (Sr) jump serves from the end line against #8 LMU. The duo end up getting the point in their fight against the first pair..*

*Photo courtesy of: Anthony Calderon*

“Our team’s goal is to create a culture of honor and to show that our program can compete with Division I schools.”

Evans’ goal for the season is very similar to Ostojic’s. “Our goal is to play freely knowing our identity is in Christ not how many wins or losses we get. Being able to play freely will help us achieve our highest level of playing and enjoying the game,”

said Evans.

On March 21, the beach volleyball team is going against Pepperdine who is ranked tenth in the nation. The Lady Eagles are determined to apply what they have been doing at practice and leave with a win. For more information regarding beach volleyball and their journey, check out their Instagram page [@concordiabeach](https://www.instagram.com/concordiabeach).



# COVID-19 relief bill signed, \$1,400 stimulus payments on their way

OWEN MILLIGAN  
STAFF WRITER

On March 11, Congress passed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill, with aid delivered to the economy and COVID-19 testing and vaccinations. Perhaps most important to many is the \$1,400 payments to many individuals to support consumers.

School of Business and Economics professor Dr. Russel Mangum said, "In the short term [the relief] is going to help... Markets seem to agree."

Following the announcement of the "American Rescue Plan," the stock market surged. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DIJA) closed at a record high 32,000 points. Market optimism indicates the relief bill will increase economic activity. President Joe Biden targets a complete recovery with additional money directed towards fighting the coronavirus's spread in the United States.

The bill includes \$63 billion in direct efforts to curtail

the COVID-19 pandemic, including vaccine distribution testing, contact tracing and personal protective equipment.

The bill's biggest consumer attraction is the \$1,400 payments to individuals making less than \$75,000 annually.

While controversial, many consider the overall relief provided through the bill a success. According to Forbes, 70% of Americans support the bill. However, the bill received no votes from any Republican in the House or Senate.

On economic recovery, History and Political Thought Chair Dr. Jeff Mallinson said, "The flood of money into the system can give some families extra ability to put that money back into small businesses." Mallinson added, "If a family is able to relieve their monthly debt costs, that has a long-term, stabilizing effect."

The controversy stems from the sheer size of the bill. Alexander Kitano, '22 said, "I do not like the amendments to

the bill other than stimulus checks, where other legislation is being passed." Additionally, School of Business and Economics Professor Michael Kinnen said, "I fear that most of what is being sent out in the bill is not money to those in need." While payments to individuals are attractive, some feel the federal government's funding to states was unnecessary.

However, many support the bill as a general aid to Americans, and the economy will lead to faster resolution of the recession. Mallinson said, "This is indeed a move in a progressive direction that goes against the flow of economic policy in America since Reagan." Maddie Sauerbreit, '22 said, "It is exciting, it is also needed...I wish that society was more aware of all of the other parts of the deal."

Many consumers remain unaware of the bill's additional spending,

including over \$165 billion to educational institutions and \$30 billion to public transit.

While the bill aims to stimulate the economy immediately, there could be long-term adverse effects of the three pandemic stimuli. Mangum said, "One thing that troubles me about the long term, [is] no one has talked about it. We have no idea how this will be paid off. We are passing on this huge burden to future generations, and no one really talks about it."

Kinnen said, "We are borrowing a lot of money. We are adding \$1,500 in tax liability, at least, onto every person in the country. Most of that [will] fall on [the younger generation's] shoulders." Mallinson said increased fiscal policy is likely to result in "significant changes to our tax code or overall economic system."

Many have received stimulus checks already. Kinnen recommended investing in it. "It is a good

time to get into the market. It is still recovering from the last year." Kitano plans to follow Kinnen's advice. "I will invest, spend some and save a little as well," he said. Such an approach creates financial certainty while stimulating the economy.

Sauerbreit differed. "I am planning on using my stimulus for rent." There is no 'right' way to spend the check. Kinnen also suggested, "One way to both bless God and invite Him to increase financial blessings in your life is to use it to help someone who is in need." Mangum added, "Overall, be honest about it. There is a lot of reported fraud...people should be thinking about the honorable thing to do."

Check out this link if you are unsure of your eligibility to receive the stimulus check: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/09/politics/third-stimulus-check-calculator/index.html>

## Disneyland set to spread their magic again

JENNA HOFFMAN  
STAFF WRITER

It has been announced that Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure is set to re-open April 30 in hopes to boost the economy and spread some much needed Disney magic. Before you enter the parks, both a reservation and valid admission are required for guests age three and up. At this time, reservations are only opened to California residents within current state guidelines.

It has been a year since Disneyland closed its gates to the public as a result of COVID-19. At first, Disney furloughed almost all of the park's employees but as the pandemic continued they were forced to lay off thousands of workers. As time went on they were able to open up Downtown Disney on July 9, and most recently Buena Vista Street in California Adventure. Now, as COVID cases are starting to decline in California and vaccinations are being distributed, it is Disney's goal to reopen the theme parks.

After Governor Newsom made an announcement on March 5 that allows theme parks in the state to open at a limited

capacity this might soon be possible as long as the counties they're in are in at least the red tier. With this news, Disneyland will be opening starting out at 15 percent guest capacity. They will be able to invite more guests into the park when the county moves to a lower tier allowing 25 percent capacity in the orange tier and 35 percent capacity in the yellow tier.

Freshman Katherine Gildea thinks that the park re-openings are equal parts positive and negative. "You see this as a positive thing as the parks have been closed for over a year now and have barely made any money to support their counties," Gildea said. "This can also be seen as a negative sign as we are seeing the COVID variants coming into play and not a lot of people have been vaccinated yet," she added. Gildea believes either path is likely but only time will tell.

One of the biggest concerns that comes with opening the park back up is being able to maintain a safe environment. In a letter published in The Orange County Register, addressing the past and future decisions of Disneyland, resort President Ken Potrock said, "Nothing is more important

than getting people back to work in an environment that promotes health and safety." He also acknowledged the important role that Disneyland plays in the economic success of the region and that it's a "responsibility we take seriously and embrace heartily."

Concordia senior and Disney blogger Caitlin Fulton believes that, "Disney will go above and beyond when it will come to upholding proper safety protocols." She explained the rigorous measures that Disney is taking to ensure there is a safe reopening and said, "Disney has been in the works to know how to operate under COVID for a while," and "there have been a number of cast members that have been training for the possible reopening to prepare for all new protocols that will be in place."

As of now there is no way to know whether the reopening will be successful or not. All there is left to do is to wait and see. To stay updated on Disney news check out The Orange County Register or <https://disneyland.disney.go.com>.



PICTURED ABOVE: Disney Castle  
Photo courtesy of: Caitie Fulton



# Johnson leaves it all on the track



PICTURED ABOVE: Johnson competing in the 60 meter hurdles  
Photo courtesy of: CUI Track and Field

SHANNON RHODES  
STAFF WRITER

. The Concordia track team is on fire this season with junior Paige Johnson breaking a school record on the 60m dash. Johnson has been named the DII Women’s West Region Indoor Track Athlete of the year by not only one event, but by five. This honor was awarded to her by the U.S Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA).

Johnson is the first CUI track and field student-athlete to earn this award.

Before becoming an Eagle, Johnson attended Concordia University - Portland. While in Portland, she was named GNAC champion, performance of the meet, with three conference titles in high jump, 60 meters and 60-meter hurdles. Along with that, she achieved three school records for indoor.

Now attending Concordia Irvine,

CUI head coach Keegan Bloomfield is proud of Johnson and all that she continues to accomplish. Bloomfield said, “Paige has adjusted to so many different circumstances in the past year... On top of it all, she came out and competed well this indoor season earning her this award.” Bloomfield described Johnson as energetic and fun. She “works hard and cares for others,” he said, adding, “I’m really thankful that she is a CUI Eagle, and we are all so proud of her for what she has done thus far.”

Johnson is constantly chasing after the best version of herself. She spends lots of time trying to perfect her skills in hurdles, sprints and jumps with the gracious help of head coach Bloomfield and coach DeAndrae Woods.

Johnson remains humble but excited as she won this award and said, “It is such a great feeling to be recognized in this manner,” then

added, “This award has inspired me to get ready to do my best and hopefully receive more awards this outdoor season.”

Motivated and determined describes Johnson best. She said, “I go into every race with the mindset of beating myself and improving my marks and times,” and that “I never try to worry about what place I will come in and just focus on improving daily.” She also added a tribute to her mom and said, “My mom is always my number one supporter and my best hype person that I could ask for.”

Johnson is inspired by her teammates that “cheer for one another on and off the track.” She loves being a part of such an inclusive group of teammates and said, “Everyone is hard working daily at practice,” which drives Johnson to “work hard every day as well.”

She continues to learn and improve an incredible amount by being on the CUI track team. Johnson has learned “every day is a chance for improvement,” and, “whether it be, bettering a hurdling technique to improve my relationships with my teammates, I always try to chase after the best me I can be.”

Follow @CUITFXC on Instagram and Twitter to keep up with Johnson and the CUI track team’s success. Their next competition is Team Ely, a home meet on March 27 at 12 p.m. The men compete in the Team for Titus outdoor home opener the day before on Fri., March 26.

# Concordia baseball set to start season in mid-March

PHIL QUARTARARO  
STAFF WRITER

.During a season of so much uncertainty and chaos, one thing is certain; Concordia baseball will be having a season very soon. Unlike some other schools in California, Concordia participated in an entire fall semester of practice; taking the proper safety precautions in order to keep players safe.

As the start of the 2021 season looms there’s a lot to be excited about. Assistant coach Matthew Fahey notes, “It’s been a full year since we’ve played an official game and with the new guys we’ve got on the team and the older guys that got an extra year, we’re excited to get between the lines as a team and compete

for a PacWest championship.” Concordia finished with a 17-7 record when the season was cut short by COVID-19. That record was enough to keep the Eagles in the first place slot when the season ended.

While other conferences such as the California Collegiate Athletic Association have cancelled their seasons, the PacWest has pushed forward with competition. When asked about why the conference decided to move forward with the season, Fahey answered, “The PacWest and Concordia had a high priority to put the athletes back on the field and took the necessary steps to make that happen.” Safety remains the top priority; the entire baseball team gets tested for COVID-19 every week.

The Concordia baseball team is excited to compete for a PacWest championship title. Graduate student first baseman Bailey Collins is at the forefront of that excitement. Collins said, “We were competitive last year and by adding some new players and keeping our same mindset about what the season throws at us, we’re ready to let our hard work payoff on the field and show everyone we mean business.” The Concordia baseball season kicks off with conference play at Point Loma Nazarene Fri., March 19, and is followed by a double header at home on Saturday.

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LINK: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CUILOUNGE](https://tinyurl.com/cuilounge)

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