

# THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

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## Concordia pivots to conquer COVID-19

FRANCESCA SANCHEZ,  
STAFF WRITER

As the semester progresses, Concordia continues to find its groove during this chaotic time in the world. Starting Mon., Sept. 28, students were given the option to attend some classes on-campus rather than online. Though the world is in no way normal, this “dual mode” option allows students to receive their education in person as though things were closer to business as usual.

Everyone on campus is doing their best to ensure that the students and faculty are in a safe environment. Professors are standing behind a plastic shield while lecturing, and students are socially distanced within the classroom. Along with enhanced cleaning performed by facilities campuswide, students also clean their area before and after the class they are attending.

Communications Professor David Schulz has

had to adjust quickly as his classes are split pretty evenly between in-person and online students. Schulz said, “It is not ideal but we are all trying to work through this together. These are first world problems we are experiencing.”

Oftentimes the success of a student depends on the connection with their educator. “So far I have been able to connect as the wifi holds up,” Schulz said, adding, that there are students who are “zooming in” from different time zones which is an extra challenge to address.

Since, generally, whole classes cannot attend in person, Schulz has five tips to those who are using Zoom.

1. Over-communicate with your professor In other words don't assume anything, we all know what that leads to.
2. Dress as though you WERE in class The mind follows the body and creates self-fulfilling prophecies.
3. Turn assignments in early.



PICTURED ABOVE: The Owl, an advanced piece of technology, capturing live in person class for online students to take part via Zoom  
Photo Courtesy of: Alexis Rios



PICTURED ABOVE: Senior Damon Lawson in Dr. Schulz's Rhetorical Criticism Class Photo Courtesy of Alexis Rios

4. Use all the 'tools' at your disposal such as spell checkers, grammar checkers, peer reviewers, etc.

5. Practice patience, punctuality and professionalism.

These times are unusual, creating pressure and challenges for everyone, from faculty to students, “Unusual times require unusual and innovative approaches. We are all being challenged differently, rise to the challenge, define the challenge(s) and do not let the challenges define you,” Schulz said. He encouraged Concordia to embrace these challenges and adapt positively.

Students who are able to attend class in-person are experiencing a new type of environment in their education. Communications major Philip Quartararo has been attending class in person. “It's definitely weird, there are only a couple other kids in class with me, and the rest are just up on the screen,” he said. When asked about how this

has affected his education so far, he said, “Since I have been in person, I have definitely felt more connected to the material I am learning. Being a Communications major, the majority of my classes have a lot of discussions and require feedback from peers, so with half of them not in class, it makes this aspect of connecting with my peers more difficult.”

Having to wipe down a desk before and after using it, is a requirement when attending class in person. “It is kind of annoying to have to keep on doing it for every class, but if it means we can be in person, it is worth doing,” said Quartararo.

Even though some are back in class, Concordia is far from the usual, but as long as everyone continues to do their part, on and off-campus, hopefully, things will be able to return to normal in the near future. For updates COVID information as well as an active count of cases on campus, visit <https://www.cui.edu/covid-19>.

## State of the University Address looks ahead with optimism

STAFF REPORT

“Dream with me just for a moment,” Concordia president Dr. Michael Thomas encouraged the audience, who watched live on campus and via YouTube, during his State of the University Address on Wed., Oct 7.

In a little less than one hour and in an engaging, candid presentation, Thomas outlined Concordia's recent accomplishments, challenges and plans for the future.

When it came to student activities and fun on campus, no small detail was overlooked -- like the addition of a new nine hole Frisbee golf course. Equally, long-term, large scale plans like launching new programs were also laid out.

Here are a few of the highlights from the presentation:

The Forward in Faith campaign continues with purpose and passion, and many fundraising goals exceeded. Thomas said, “We are looking forward to celebrating Forward in Faith as we head into the new year.”

When it comes to COVID-19 impact, Thomas said, “We have a lot to be thankful for,” referencing the greater campus community's low infection rate and necessary cost-cutting that will enable the campus to close out the year with limited deficits.

Overall, Concordia enrollment is up year-over-year, dorms are at 60% capacity, athletic teams are practicing, and

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# It's a bird. It's a plane. It's Theme Verse Week!



GABI BECKMAN  
ASCUI SECRETARY

As the semester is kicking into full gear with projects and midterms piling up, ASCUI has some awesome opportunities to unwind from the stress from school with Theme Verse Week! With multiple events happening all around campus after Reading Days, we want students to keep calm and carry on as we give away prizes while centering on our theme verse for the year.

Due to Reading Days taking place at the beginning of the week, Theme Verse Week will not be starting until Wed., Oct. 14, and concludes on Friday, Oct. 16. But do not fret, ASCUI has some wicked-fun events lined up jam-packed into the three-day week! Kicking the week off Price is Right style, swing by the Student Union Patio to play some Plinko and pose for our

**“...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”**

photo booth to ease your way back into the grind of classes and midterms.

For Thursday chapel, ASCUI and Abbey West have partnered up to lead a special chapel centered on this school year’s theme

verse, Matthew 6:33. As members of ASCUI will be sharing their own testimonies, make sure to log on at abbeywest.online. church to hear from some familiar faces and stop by the caf for Turkey Burger Day!

But wait, there’s more! Before ASCUI’s very own Treasurer Kya Bock speaks at SHOUT! on Thurs., Oct. 15, stop by the CU Center Patio for some games and grub. Alongside Gaga ball, Jumbo Jenga and pumpkin bowling, the ASCUI team

will be serving hot chocolate and ice cream at our brand new “Hot ‘n Cold” bar for those who want a little bit of both!

To wrap up the poppin’ week, ASCUI will be hosting a brand new event to Concordia’s campus: Pop the Prize! Happening during lunch on the Student Union Patio, students will have to face the challenge of not only grabbing helium balloons down but popping balloons to find what prizes may be inside too! Prizes will include gift cards to Amazon, Chick-fil-A and other surprises to come! If you forget any of the details above after all the time off, make sure to check the Eagle Insider and ASCUI Instagram (@\_ascui) to keep up to date on what’s poppin’ during Theme Verse Week!

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# Clubs! Get involved!

CAITIE FULTON  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

There is a club for everyone on campus! Whether you're looking for an academic, recreational, cultural or social-focused club, the range is broad and diverse. Although this year is socially distant, club relationships can still be formed and maintained virtually.

Groups are going virtual, posting more on social media, and getting involved in unique ways. Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, the regular Fall Involvement Fair went virtual. Each club on campus provided a short informational video to help students get to know their clubs, including information on the clubs or how to get involved. *The videos can be accessed at any time at [www.cui.edu/en-us/studentlife/student-leadership/clubs-and-organizations](http://www.cui.edu/en-us/studentlife/student-leadership/clubs-and-organizations).*

One example of a culture-based club is the Black Student Union. The "Black Student Union strives to promote cultural diversity and development through its celebration of all students at Concordia University Irvine. Through community service, academics and communication, BSU aims to enrich the lives of students, faculty, and the campus community at large," according to their mission statement.

In the past, BSU has visited the Taste of Soul Food Festival in Los Angeles. This school

year, they will be hosting the 2nd Annual Rising Voices Poetry Night on February 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the CUI Theater. To find out more about BSU, contact their president Mauriama Moore at [Mauriama.Moore@eagles.cui.edu](mailto:Mauriama.Moore@eagles.cui.edu) or visit [www.cui.edu/studentlife/Student-Leadership/clubs-and-organizations/black-student-union](http://www.cui.edu/studentlife/Student-Leadership/clubs-and-organizations/black-student-union).

COMM-Unity is an academic club home of Communication Studies. COMM-Unity's mission statement is to "connect peers, faculty and industry professionals to enhance communication skills through learning, service and leadership." They aim to provide Communication majors and minors a space to get to know industry professionals currently in the field, while also connecting with faculty on campus. Some of their events include alumni panels, industry guest speaker events, and even hosting the Concordia Forensics team in their Fall Speech Showcase. To learn more or be a part of the club, email the club president, Caitie Fulton, at [caitlin.fulton@eagles.cui.edu](mailto:caitlin.fulton@eagles.cui.edu).

One of the recreational clubs on campus is CU Green. According to their mission statement, "the Purpose of CU Green is to promote awareness of the current state of our environment and to educate our community on how to be 'greener' -- meaning the famous 3 R's, reduce, reuse,

recycle." For more information on CU Green, contact the club president Amanda Renfro at [amanda.renfro@eagles.cui.edu](mailto:amanda.renfro@eagles.cui.edu).

Another recreation club is the Ultimate Frisbee Club. This club "is an opportunity for friends and students to get together and play Frisbee, regardless of skill level. Our goal is to build friendships, promote good sportsmanship, build character, grow in athletic skill, and offer a means to get away from school and homework; relieve stress; hold a higher standard of Christian living during play (such as modesty and kindness of words and actions)," according to their mission statement. To get to know more about Ultimate Frisbee Club, email the club president Kessler Obrien at [kessler.obrien@eagles.cui.edu](mailto:kessler.obrien@eagles.cui.edu) or visit [www.cui.edu/studentlife/student-leadership/clubs-and-organizations/ultimate-frisbee-club](http://www.cui.edu/studentlife/student-leadership/clubs-and-organizations/ultimate-frisbee-club).

Overall, there are many ways that students can get involved in clubs on campus. Don't miss out on the many opportunities provided at Concordia! To see a list of all active clubs this year and who to contact for each club, visit [www.cui.edu/en-us/studentlife/student-leadership/clubs-and-organizations](http://www.cui.edu/en-us/studentlife/student-leadership/clubs-and-organizations). With any other questions, email the ASCUI Club Commissioner, Jonah Sielaff, at [ascui.clubcommissioner@cui.edu](mailto:ascui.clubcommissioner@cui.edu).

# Concordia writing Studio is virtually open to help students

STAFF REPORT

The Writing Studio is available to support Concordia students by providing free workshops to help all students, regardless of major, improve their writing skills. During the 2020-2021 academic year, all workshops will be held online.

The fall 2020 Writing Studio workshops include the following.

**Paragraphs that "Flow"**  
*Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5:30–6 p.m.*

Ever wonder how to make your writing "flow"? In this workshop, you will practice a few simple strategies for building strong, coherent paragraphs that guide readers through your ideas.

**Cookies & Quotes: How to Integrate Research into Your Writing**  
*Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5:30–6 p.m.*

What do cookies have to do with quotes, you ask? You'll find out in this workshop which will teach you how to

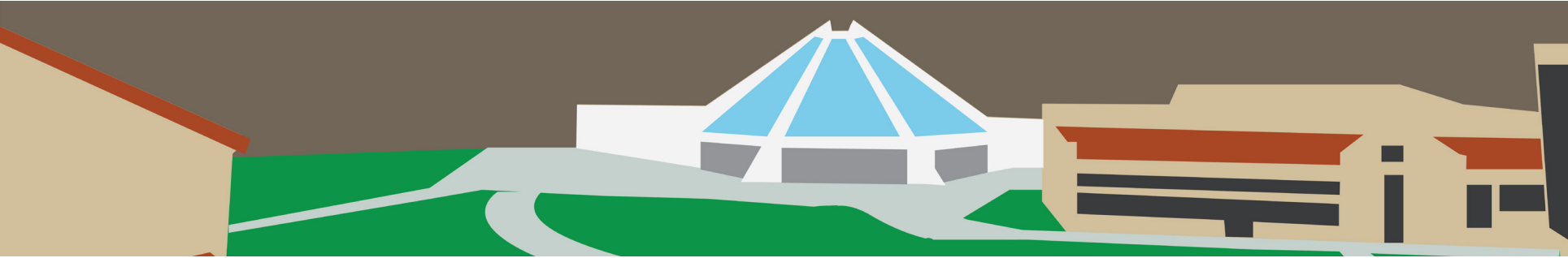
incorporate outside sources smoothly and effectively into your writing without losing your personal voice.

**APA Formatting Basics**  
*Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5:30–6 p.m.*

Got questions about APA formatting? This workshop covers basic citation and stylistic rules of APA style, which is the writing style used in nursing, business, psychology, communications, engineering and related fields.

These informational 30-minute workshops can help improve students' writing and grades. Register by going to <https://www.cui.edu/studentlife/writing-studio/workshops>.

Professor Kristen Schmidt is a member of the English department and is the Writing Studio director. She can be reached at [kristen.schmidt@cui.edu](mailto:kristen.schmidt@cui.edu). Johanna Lange, Assistant Director, can be reached at [johanna.lange@cui.edu](mailto:johanna.lange@cui.edu).



# Take 20- Virtual Grad Fair Prep

ALEXIS RIOS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Calling all students considering graduate school, this one's for you! In a typical year, navigating the lands of grad school applications and finances is stressful; this year, it's next level. Although, no need to fret because Career Services has got you covered by offering a Take 20-Virtual Grad Fair Prep course on Oct. 14 at 10:30 a.m. via Handshake.

The Take 20 workshops will be recurring throughout the year; however, this will be

the only one offering a Virtual Grad Fair Prep. Similar to an in-person Grad Fair Prep, the virtual one will occur this fall. Laura Courvoisier, the Associate Dean of Student Development, encourages "any students exploring grad school to come, but especially juniors and seniors."

Courvoisier continued, "This is an opportunity for students to meet with recruiters to ask questions, to learn about the school, programs, admission requirements, and to become more informed. Students can research currently registered schools on Handshake to help

in the preparation."

Senior, Angel Aguirre, is majoring in Psychology with a double minor in Sociology and Behavioral Sciences. Aguirre also hopes to attend graduate school next fall but has not quite worked out the logistics of it all. Aguirre is thankful for resources like the Virtual Grad Fair Prep, which can help break down a process that can be overwhelming. "I believe a course like this will be beneficial as it will give us much-needed insight on how to prepare for our future," said Aguirre.

Aguirre also believes the Take 20 course could help him

figure out how to stand out on applications. "Graduate school is very competitive. It is important to utilize all your resources and learn how to get an edge over other people who are also thinking of applying," said Aguirre.

Michael Smith is a senior majoring in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Mass Communication. Smith is concerned about how the grad school process will differ this year from the previous years. "During this time of so many unknowns, it is important to still focus on what the next steps will be. Being able to learn what the

interactions with grad schools will look like this year can help ensure that we are ready for what is to come," said Smith.

Consistent with the Take 20 theme, the Virtual Grad Prep workshop will only be 20 minutes. Anybody even considering grad school or curious about what it entails should check it out. Now more than ever, it is crucial to stay updated and prepared, especially if your undergraduate graduation is coming up. For more information on the event, check out: [https://cui.joinhandshake.com/events/569440/share\\_preview](https://cui.joinhandshake.com/events/569440/share_preview)



# Student athletes adapt during coronavirus



KAILYN CASE  
STAFF WRITER

COVID-19 has changed life as we know it for everyone this school year. However, it has significantly changed for athletes in how they can work out, practice or compete. The changes include the athletic training room, weight rooms, training routines, cleaning protocols and building team chemistry.

Gracie Rowland, a sophomore outside hitter on women’s volleyball, is getting used to training in the softball weight room. Not only are they changing their workouts, but they are also learning how to build teamwork differently. “The new girls aren’t working out with the returners because of the pods we are in, making it hard to get to know each of them and their tendencies, as well as how we can all work together,” said Rowland.

Superstition is a huge aspect of many athletes. Being able to have the

same routine and focus on specific aspects to win. This may be difficult during this time with a change in how practices are being organized. “We have worked so hard to get to this point, and now we have to backtrack to get to a point where we are comfortable in an uncomfortable environment,” said Jalyssa Sanchez, a transfer junior on women’s volleyball.

“I worked so hard to get here and grind to make sure I am competing to the best of my ability with the best competition, and with all the change, it’s hard to feel comfortable,” Sanchez added.

The cleaning protocol in itself is tedious. Cassidy Gelacio, a sophomore on women’s volleyball, said, “Our coach, Paula Weisoff, has spent countless hours choosing a practice plan that is within NCAA regulations and California COVID protocols. She puts in so much time to ensure we are doing the right

thing.”

Although these protocols are rigorous, they are a necessity. Student-athletes are very grateful for all the sacrifices made by everyone in the Athletics Department, which have allowed them to partake in their sport safely. Overall, it will just take some time to adjust for both student-athletes and coaches. The changes in sports this year exemplify how athletics applies to life. The adaptability and resilience exhibited by all the student-athletes this year will prepare them for life after school.

PICTURED ABOVE:

Softball team having a social distanced lifting session.  
Photo Courtesy of: Mari Kawano, Softball Graduate Assistant

## Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week: Avery Keathley Beach Volleyball



PICTURED ABOVE: Avery Keathley getting ready to bump the ball to her teammates.  
Photo courtesy of: CUI Athletics/ Troy Makalena, graphic design by Bill Derlet

BILLI DERLETH  
ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT  
GRAD ASSISTANT

This week’s Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week is beach volleyball’s Avery Keathley.

From August to September, there have been eight other players of the week. Players include David Brito, Cienah Reed, Addison Enriques, Jack Fisher, Joanna Rivers, Brianna Latigue, Austin Clarke and Calvin Schonebaum.

This is Keathley’s fifth year as an Eagle. She earned her bachelor’s in exercise and sport science and is currently working on her master’s in counseling. “I always loved learning about how intricate the human body is and how it connects to our minds! My dream job is to work as a sports psychologist so I can further learn and teach how the mind (and) body connection impacts the world of sport,” Keathley explained

Over the past few months,

Keathley has stayed busy by chopping it up in the kitchen and challenging herself with new recipes. She is looking forward to this upcoming season and is excited to challenge herself on the court as well. “My mindset for this upcoming season is just to really appreciate each practice and game,” said Keathley. “I am thankful to have this year back to compete and I know what it feels like for it to be taken away when you least expect it so I want to play every day like that could

happen. I would rather use the feelings from last year as a motivator instead of letting it define my collegiate career.” Keathley confirmed that she does get superstitious on game days. Keathley said that she has to “keep the same routine for every game day so she can get mentally focused for the match.”

Her favorite match while competing at Concordia was from last season when she and Hailee Ryan beat Long Beach State. Keathley and

Ryan teamed up with the other CUI pairs to post a 10-1 overall record through 11 games. That was the best start for the CUI beach volleyball program in the past decade.

As an experienced Eagle, Keathley shared this piece of advice for freshmen student athletes, “to enjoy each moment, four years go by fast!”



# October baseball in full swing

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY  
CAMPUS EDITOR

A year like no other has no exceptions in Major League Baseball. After a season delay due to COVID-19, shortened 60-game season and new playoff format this year will be one to remember.

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred announced an expanded 16-team playoff format featuring a three-game wildcard series. This gave no byes nor real advantages to winning a division outright to the Tampa Bay Rays (A.L East), Minnesota Twins (A.L Central), Oakland Athletics (A.L West), Atlanta Braves (N.L East), Chicago Cubs (N.L Central) and Los Angeles Dodgers (N.L West).

Due to no team having a home-field advantage, National League teams are playing their playoff series in American League parks and vice versa. Southern California favorite teams San Diego Padres and Dodgers are facing off in the National League Division Series at the Texas Rangers' field in Arlington. All the Division Series matchups are teams within the same division.

The Dodgers have clinched their division for eight years in a row. Each year they have been bested with World Series appearances in 2017 and 2018. The Padres have had less luck with their last World Series appearance coming in 1998.

After picking up veteran Mookie Betts (12-year, \$365 million) from the Boston Red Sox the Dodgers proved they were a top contender for the commissioner's trophy. Betts led the Dodgers in runs scored(47), homeruns (16) and stolen bases (10) while posting a third-best .292 batting average.

The Padres are led by young superstars Fernando Tatis Jr. and Manny Machado bombing 17 and 16 home runs in the regular season, respectively.

With a late season pick up in RHP Mike Clevinger, the Padres looked to be in good shape going into the playoffs. Clev exited the first game of the NLDS with elbow pain. His postseason seems to have been cut short and left a hole in the Padres' rotation.

The Dodgers have jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the Division series against the Padres. In Game 2 centerfielder Cody

Bellinger came up with a clutch homerun and a game-saving home run-robbing against in the top of the seventh inning. Betts has kept his season going with a .333 average on the series. With shortstop Corey Seager leading the way posting a .429 average vs the Padres.

At time of printing the Game 3 matchup on Thursday is slated to be RHP Dustin May vs. who posted a 3.46 ERA and .865 WHIP versus San Diego this season. The Padres look to LHP Adrian Morejon to keep their season alive in a win-or-go-home Game 3 in Arlington. Morjon threw 19.3 innings with a 4.66 ERA the season.

With a win on Thursday, the Dodgers could move on to the National League Championship Series against the winner of the Braves and Marlins. As of Thursday, the Braves lead the series 2-0.

As a fan it has been frustrating not to see Clayton Kershaw or Roberts be able to celebrate with the commissioner's trophy in hand, but this year seems different. The Dodgers are locked in and well on their way to be the top team this year.

## State of the University Address looks ahead with optimism

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those on campus are enjoying facility improvements.

In fall 2021, Concordia will welcome students in the new BS in Engineering program, which "fits in well to our Lutheran liberal arts college with professional offerings," Thomas explained.

The Music Department will be broadcasting a Christmas concert locally on PBS, making full use of the new Borland-Manske Center to "share the gospel of the birth of our Savior" through music to millions throughout Southern California.

Concordia has established a partnership with Orbis Education which will help the university expand without "extending our own capital investments," Thomas said. Thomas also noted a generous anonymous grant to support Concordia's Townsend Institute for Leadership & Counseling.

Thomas also spoke about the campus budgeting process, which he aims to make more collaborative including administration, staff and faculty. The new process will help build fiscal awareness and "unleash an entrepreneurial spirit" across the campus.

Thomas closed his remarks by asking the audience to imagine traveling to a point on the horizon. That point, said Thomas, is "our preferred future, our strategic plan." In that future, Concordia stands as a premiere Lutheran university of the west and serves as an "essential ministry" in our region.

"We have something very special at CUI. Very special," Thomas concluded, adding, in this time when people are searching for hope and inspiration, "We will continue to share the hope that is within us."

# COVID athletics safety and training packs

BROOKE JACKSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

Eagles Athletics are back in action with the introduction of the new COVID-19 safety and training packs. Thanks to the work of the Athletics Department, student-athletes have been provided with an assortment of items that "are intended to mitigate contamination and reduce as much contact between student-athletes as possible," said Brittany Pereda, Assistant Athletics Director of Operations and Development.

Following CDC guidelines, "We tried to identify items that student-athletes use regularly that are required for training," Pereda said. This included items like yoga mats, resistance bands, water bottles, and of course, face masks. Megan Johnson, freshman on the softball team, said, "I was excited to

get new stuff and grateful that CUI is taking extra precautions while allowing us to still practice. Overall I enjoy what we received and they have really helped so far."gne

Head Athletic Trainer, Glory Fung, helped choose these items for encouraging as much sports-related practice as possible. "We are moving into phase two for sports, introducing contact activity with the proper face masks and more sport specific activities, and having to also refine the surveillance testing procedures and designing policies for having games coming up in the spring," said Fung.

Putting these items together took work from multiple departments. Concordia has put in place several task forces to respond to coronavirus related matters. "Athletics

has been fortunate enough to not only be involved with these plans but also have the support from (university president) Dr. Thomas and the rest of our administration to get procedures in place so we can safely bring students back to campus and return to modified activity," said Pereda.

Multiple organizations have been in constant communication with the school including the CDC, NCAA, State of California and the Orange County Health Department. With their support, Pereda said, "Our hope is to reduce risk as much as possible."

Pereda added, "We are so excited to be back on campus and confident in the protocols prepared to keep our student-athletes safe and healthy through these times. We are fortunate and thankful for the support

CUI has shown athletics in making this happen. We can't wait to watch each of you compete! Go Eagles!"

**PICTURED BELOW:** Cross country athlete, Anthony Ruiz, with some training pack items he used during practice.

*Photo courtesy of: Alexis Rios*





# First person: Breast cancer impacted my family

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY  
CAMPUS EDITOR

On the second day of 2006, my dad said to an 8-year-old me, "We won't need to visit Nanny in the hospital anymore." My naive mind thought this was good news, and his way of saying my grandma had made a full recovery. I was wrong.

My grandma, who we called Nanny, always looked her best. Her to-do list included weekly trips to the nail salon for her French tipped fingers and ruby-red toenails. You couldn't even tell the hair on her head was a wig.

Initially diagnosed in 1991, my grandma's breast cancer was aggressive, but she fought. She entered remission after years of chemotherapy treatments. According to Susan G. Komen, the largest breast cancer organization in the U.S, one-in-eight women develop some form of breast cancer in their lifetime. That is 12 percent of women in the United States.

In 2020 alone, there will

likely be over 276,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer and over 42,000 breast cancer deaths in women in the U.S., according to Susan G. Komen. Women are not alone in the fight. Komen also states there could be over 2,600 new

cases of invasive breast cancer and over 500 breast cancer deaths among men nationally.

Warning signs of breast cancer include pain, swelling, or lumps, and any unusual discharge should be taken seriously and checked



PICTURED ABOVE: Chaulsett-Utley's glove at a softball tournament in October. She drew a pink ribbon on it and colored the glove pink while also sporting a pink bracelet in hopes to raise awareness of breast cancer. Photo courtesy of: Carlie Chaulsett-Utley

by a doctor. Breastcancer.org recommends annual mammograms and physicals at 40 years old or if you are at high risk of breast cancer.

My grandma tried to schedule a mammogram every six months to check if her cancer had returned. She was in excellent health in the summer of 2001, but scheduling conflicts made getting her scans impossible. During remission, she always had regular mammograms, per doctor's orders. Unfortunately, her cancer came back after a missed appointment.

Doctors thought they caught it early enough, but they didn't expect this round to be as aggressive as it was. Breast cancer can metastasize, meaning cancer can spread to other parts of the body. My grandma's cancer had metastasized and spread to her bones and brain. Her case was similar to nearly 30 percent of all breast cancer patients, according to breastcancer.org. By the

time cancer had spread through most of her body, it was too late.

Although death rates have been slowly declining by nearly one percent each year since 2011, breast cancer is still the second leading cause of death in women each year.

While my family celebrates my grandma's birthday every year in October, we also wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Women, men and families affected by and fighting breast cancer should be in the front of our minds. Donate to a cause, wear a pink ribbon, or help raise awareness. Your contributions can help past, present, and future fighters of this terrible disease.

# Keeping the spirit of Halloween undead



PICTURED ABOVE: Hergert's home Halloween decorations in celebration of spooky season Photo courtesy of: Madison Hergert

DOMENICK STEVENS  
STAFF WRITER

Is the spooky season feeling a little sad this year? This Halloween was supposed to be a beacon of hope for some possibility of normalcy during COVID-19. Sadly, COVID-19 has become the new normal, but that doesn't mean Spooky season has to fade away in the background like those sad backyard fireworks displays.

**What can people do to avoid the Halloween blues?**

Senior Madison Hergert said the best way to get into the Spooky spirit at home is by getting "decorations for the house like Halloween candle holders, fake spiders and spiderwebs, many skeletons as well as a bowl of candy for the house." Hergert continued that since most trick-or-treating is canceled in most

counties she and her roommates were thinking of "dressing up and having a movie night just for the fun of it." Hergert said her main trick for keeping the spirit undead is "invest in Halloween candles or Halloween type baking goods like cookies or pumpkin bread!" The spooky scents will raise the spirits.

Although there are many fun things to do at home, students like senior Christian Anderson, are "tired of being inside" and sadly "haven't heard much of anything going on outside." Anderson asked if "there [was] anywhere to go or anything to do" this Halloween?

Well, this year the OC Fair and Event Center decided to put together an amazingly scary, "never been done before" Halloween Haunt from Oct. 1 till Nov. 1. Mark Entner, the promoter handling media productions for the event, said "we wanted to have a DIFFERENT experience for Halloween in SoCal" because "the other events and attractions haven't been running this year."

Entner's team created the spooky Urban Legends Haunt, a compilation of native Californian urban legends where guests can enjoy a fully immersive experience from the safety of their vehicle. The Haunt website describes their experience as four different interactive shows, where guests will be entertained by

live performances with cohesive "lights, sound, special effects" making monsters "come alive. All while following the mandated COVID-19 safety social distancing restrictions."

For more information on the Urban Legends Haunt at the OC Fair, visit [urbanlegendshaunt.com](http://urbanlegendshaunt.com) where guests can purchase tickets, get answers to commonly asked questions and get on the road to Halloween Town.

For more information regarding Halloween at-home activities, visit [alwaysatreat.com/candy-moments/halloween-central/](http://alwaysatreat.com/candy-moments/halloween-central/) for tricks and treats on how to keep the spirit of Halloween alive.



PICTURED LEFT: Halloween decorations at the cafeteria featuring Becca at the check in Photo courtesy of: Alexis Rios



# Latino leaders inspire during Hispanic Heritage Month

OMAR ABUL BURGHUL  
STAFF WRITER

National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the work and influence of Hispanic people and their achievements. The month is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Concordia is proud to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month as the university is a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Being a HSI means that at least 25% of the undergraduate student body identifies as Hispanic, or Latinx. Throughout the month, noteworthy and groundbreaking Hispanic people are highlighted providing inspiration to future generations.

Dr. Franklin Ramon Chang Diaz is one of the noteworthy men in this month's celebration. Chang Diaz is the first Hispanic astronaut to join NASA, a scientist, and an entrepreneur. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1973 and a doctorate in applied plasma physics in 1977. After retiring from NASA in 2005, he opened his business, an American rocket propulsion company called the Ad Astra Rocket Company,

which is three miles away from NASA's Johnson Space Center in Texas.

Chang Diaz has inspired a lot of Hispanic Americans, including students at Concordia. Alberto Cortes, a junior in Business studies described how learning about Chang Diaz's accomplishments made him feel like he could do anything. "It boosts my confidence because it shows that no matter what ethnicity, anything is possible."

Monica Martinez, a graduate student in Business Administration agreed with Cortes. "If anything, it pushes me to pursue a high level of education because I want to be someone like Chang Díaz.



PICTURED ABOVE: Photo Courtesy of: <https://gksmoblog.org/2014/09/happy-hispanic-heritage-month/>

Claiming a title like 'First Hispanic woman to' paves the way for future generations and would be something I very much strive to do," Martinez said.

Brenda Galicia, a senior in Psychology and the president of Nuestra Voz, illustrates how Chang Diaz's accomplishments changed her world perspective. "It is empowering to know that even though minority students will go through multiple obstacles like racism and lack of support, we always have an idol like Chang Diaz to look up to. He truly demonstrates that hard work pays off," she said.

Martinez does not let stereotypes -- good or bad -- phase her. "Hispanic people are often seen as hard workers. On my dad's side of our family, nearly all of them are farmworkers. They work from sunup to sundown seven days a week. They can be seen in the fields picking fruit and vegetables rain or shine, no matter how hot it is, and basically no matter what the circumstances are because they feel the need to provide for their family," said Martinez. It takes willpower and strength to work a job so strenuous and

Martinez is proud to come from a family who exhibits these great ideals.

However, not all stereotypes are kind or fitting. In regard to legal status, Martinez talked about how Hispanic people are often questioned about their origin and citizenship. This type of behavior is unethical and unfair, and can hurt Hispanics chances of success in the workplace. Cortes added, "I feel that our (Hispanic) culture is often underappreciated and is not valued enough." However, Cortes believes that people like Chang Diaz have the potential to shift the stereotypes.

"By having more successful people in different fields, other cultures will soon value the Hispanic culture," said Cortes. Martinez agreed, adding, "People don't go digging to see what fields of work minorities occupy. The only way they hear about it is if you are well known enough for them to find out without them having to go and look. It can bring more respect for a culture that typically has negative connotations to their name."

There are many Hispanics that have paved the way for the younger generations. Chang Diaz is a good example in the sciences, but there are others in fields including music and entertainment. Cortes mentioned how "J-Lo, Pitbull, Shakira, Gloria Estefan, and many more have been very powerful Hispanic figures in popular culture."

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio comes to mind for Martinez. "I think he was the first Hispanic person that I realized was a very influential and powerful person. I was at an age where I could realistically dream of becoming someone as well-known as him."

Whereas Galicia admires civil rights activist "Dolores Huerta because she has always supported our community and educates youth to vote and focus on education."

Overall, it is clear that the Hispanic and Latinx community have a large impact here at Concordia and around the world. Keep your eye out for the next set of trailblazers and Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

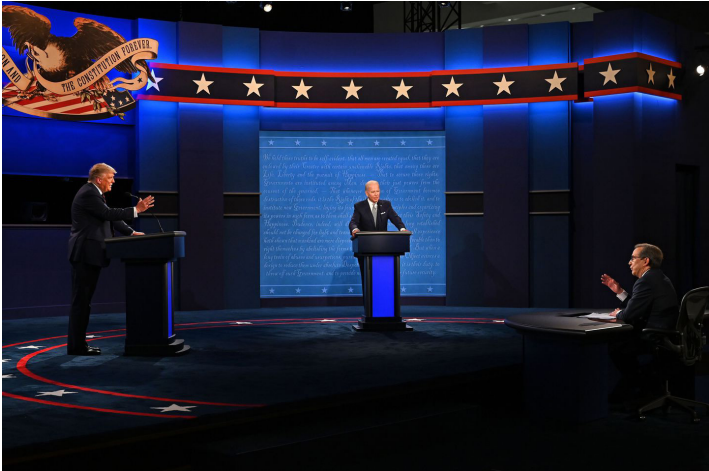
# First Presidential Debate of 2020 — This Year in a Nutshell

CARALIN NUNES  
STAFF WRITER

Tues., Sept. 29 marked the first presidential debate between President Donald Trump and former Vice President (VP) Joe Biden. Typically, a handshake between the two candidates would declare the beginning of the debate, however, due to COVID-19 restrictions the two men began their dialogue at 6:30 p.m. with simple introductions from the moderator, Chris Wallace.

Americans all across our nation are experiencing some level of confusion, fear and uncertainty, so the topics chosen to be covered during the first debate were fitting: COVID-19, the condition of our economy, the Supreme Court nomination, the racial and violence issues in cities and suburbs, President Trump's tax records, as well as the integrity of the election.

Regardless of party affiliation, all viewers agreed on one thing: this debate did not live up to expectations.



PICTURED ABOVE: President Trump and former Vice President Biden on stage with moderator, Chris Wallace. Photo Courtesy of: Boston Globe

With these topics presented for the American people, everyone tuned in was hoping to hear each candidate's opinions and ideas to move forward. Unfortunately, people were disappointed. Neither man gave much insight on policy, but instead, put on a display of disapproval and friction. Both President Trump and former Vice President Biden interrupted one another at almost every turn, although Trump cut off Biden more frequently — Even Chris Wallace had trouble remaining

uninterrupted, constantly reminding both candidates to let each other speak fully.

If you did not tune into the debate, do not worry, here are some the highlights: When asked about the Supreme Court's empty seat, Trump stated that because he is the President, his administration is allowed to nominate someone, while Biden argued that the filling of the seat should be done after the election.

Biden also argued that Trump did not take COVID-19 seriously until the disease affected the stock market and that he has no plan moving forward, to which Trump responded that if the country followed Biden's plan, America would have been left wide open for a longer period of time, resulting in many more American lives.

In regard to the economy, President Trump declared that if former VP Biden takes office, he will lose many of the companies that came back to the United States because of Trump's tax cuts. Biden's rebuttal was that the Obama administration handed Trump a booming economy and Trump ruined it.

The integrity of the election was a topic only quickly noted. Trump urged voters to vote in person, whereas Biden urged voters to vote via mail, or however they desired, but simply to vote.

Both men's children were brought into the debate -- the subject of children is typically verboten -- leaving the audience feeling disgruntled and as though they just witnessed a hallway

catfight between two high school students.

According to Scott Jenkins, a contributor for CNN, and a former special assistant to President George W. Bush, "Trump made a classic incumbent president mistake by reciting first-term accomplishments but never really articulating an agenda for the next four years," and "The former vice president couldn't do much of anything... Never really found a rhythm on any topic." Sarah Isgur, a CNN political analyst who has worked on three separate Republican presidential campaigns, had the same idea as Jenkins; "For voters wanting even the most basic understanding about what either Donald Trump or Joe Biden would do as president over the next four years, that was far too ambitious a goal for this debate."

The second debate will take place on Oct. 15, at 6:30 pm PT. Tune in to any news station to watch. Good luck.



# Theatre Department introducing film

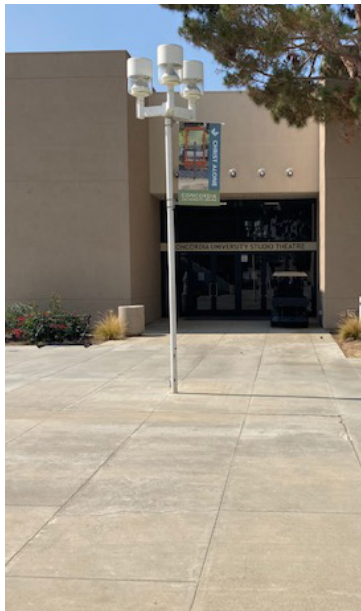
GRIFFIN BOOK  
STAFF WRITER

Live performances with the Theatre Department have been on hold since Spring 2020. Now, they have a new event coming up titled “The New Works Festival.” This event will hold a variety of new shorts and works presented by talented students. The shorts will be presented in a way that is new to Concordia, through digital film. Professor Lori Siekmann, Chair of the Theatre Department, said, “We were planning on the new works festival to be our first play within the fall, thinking that by then everything will be back to normal. We are still planning to go through with this idea but in a different media, film.”

The introduction to this new media platform has been very interesting and novel for

the students. “The difference is mainly on retaking the scenes. It is relaxing for the creation of the videos, but if you mess up on a line you have to start over entirely which is pretty time-consuming,” said Mel

*PICTURED BELOW:* The Concordia Theatre Building  
*Photo Courtesy of: Griffin Book*



Villalobos, a junior in the Theatre Department.

The festival will include 10 short plays performed by the students and directed by various members of the department. There will also be a devised piece. “It’s an improvised play to a certain point but, you are honing in on a central idea or theme, this is contrasted to improve in the sense that it is evolving and has a lasting message rather than moving on to the next bit. It’s like creating a play instead of writing one,” said Siekmann.

The Department recently had day one of their rehearsal that was both in-person and through Zoom. “Day one was a little nerve-racking and kinda quick. The transition has been very different, in the theater you project and show a lot more of your body language but with film, we are

focusing on facial expressions, it takes time to figure out how to tackle the scene,” explained Villalobos. “I’m nervous because I won’t see the finished product before everyone else, in theater I can see what I want to change in real-time and I am able to fix it in real-time as opposed to the filming, I can only see it to a certain extent before it is sent out to the public but, I can use this experience to grow and reflect upon,” added Villalobos.

The Zoom meetings allow students who are far away from campus to still be able to participate in their respective projects. “Some of the kids who are a part of the devised play live very far away, it’s a new perspective on how we can have theater remotely,” said Siekmann.

Theater is traditionally a face-to-face endeavor but the “New Works Festival” shows a different approach to how we can show and act in theater remotely. “We have been taking precautions and safety very seriously, By the end of next week, we plan to have all the clips together, then the editing process and after that, the evening will be made with the film and there will be a link to watch the works of art,” explained Siekmann.

Distance and media may play a big role in how many people see the work, but it’s the content within that truly defines the piece. To learn more about the Theatre Department, visit [www.cui.edu/arts/theatre](http://www.cui.edu/arts/theatre).

## The Baroque Ensemble

CAITIE FULTON  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

The Concordia Sinfonietta has extended its repertoire to go beyond regular rehearsal requirements. Dr. Jeff Held, the conductor of Sinfonietta, has created a “for-credit experience” that goes toward commitment and class credit to be in Sinfonietta. The new group, the Baroque Ensemble, has made a positive impact in Concordia’s Music Department for students this semester.

Held shared background detail on what Baroque style is and why the group is diving into the music. “Baroque music, composed between 1650 and 1750 in Europe, is an important style in classical music, and much of it is church music (including German Lutheran composers like Bach and Pachelbel). This aligns well with our university identity, and it is a style that musicians will be expected to play as professionals,” said Held. “Baroque music incorporates a great amount of freedom - it is up to the musicians and their understanding of performance practice to vary the articulation and dynamics. They also are expected to improvise melodic ornamentation (trills, passing notes, etc.).”

Last week, the ensemble recorded Bach’s “Brandenburg Concerto #3,” which Held called “A virtuosic piece for nine string soloists and harpsichord.” In the coming weeks, they will record Corelli’s “Op.6 No.7” for strings, organ

and harpsichord. As well, they are working on Locatelli’s piece entitled “Pastorale.”

The Baroque Ensemble has allowed students to have a unique learning experience that plays into their musicianship techniques. Abigail Smith, sophomore, said, “This ensemble gives me the opportunity to grow and learn in Baroque music, which is my first time focusing on Baroque music and technique.”

The ensemble has been a challenge for Smith, as the new group is different from Sinfonietta. “Baroque ensemble is the first time I have played in a small ensemble, with one person on a part. It has challenged me to be confident with my part because if I am not, nobody will be able to hear my part and how it fits into the piece,” said Smith. “In Sinfonietta, a whole section is learning the same part and are uniform in sound. I have more responsibility in the Baroque ensemble to learn my part on my own and to practice.”

To adhere to COVID-19 safety guidelines, the ensemble spaces everyone out six feet apart, while also requiring everyone to wear a mask. Along with these regulations, rehearsals are only 50 minutes long to give the physical room some time to exchange air between ensembles. Held said, “We monitor CO2 levels in real-time. Sadly, regulations currently prohibit wind players from participating, so we are not able to utilize some of

the great Baroque music that uses flutes, oboes, horns and trumpets.”

There are some drawbacks to the new regulations surrounding COVID-19 safety. There is difficulty in being positioned six feet apart, where musicians may have to endure ear strain to hear properly across the ensemble. “Spacing the musicians prevents optimal hearing across the ensemble and forces strings to use one stand per player, causing lots of page-turning,” said Held, adding, “but these are small problems and we are thankful to be playing.”

The safety regulations have, surprisingly, yielded some upsides too. “They have made me be more independent on my part because I no longer have a stand partner sitting right next to me playing,” said Smith. “Other than that, there have been no other challenges by wearing a mask.” Held added, “The CO2 monitoring is showing exemplary-low levels thanks to the excellent HVAC in the Borland-Manske Center. These levels indicate that fresh air is not too far from an outdoor standard.”

Held described Baroque as “exuding buoyant life. A lot of it is sacred, providing that joyful spirit to Christian devotion.” We could all use some extra buoyancy and joy these days. Put some musical spring in your step and visit [www.cui.edu/arts/music](http://www.cui.edu/arts/music) to learn more about the Music Department and their performances.

# the Aerie

Concordia's Art and Literary Publication

## SUBMIT YOUR CREATIVE WORK TO THE AERIE

Students, alumni, faculty and staff are invited to submit poems, short fiction, nonfiction, photography and art for the next edition of The Aerie, Concordia's Literary and Art publication.



The submission deadline is extended to *October 15th.*

Go to [www.cui.edu/aerie](http://www.cui.edu/aerie) for submission guidelines and contact information.

*Be inspired. Write. Create.*

*Your voice is important.*