

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

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Concordia's Nursing Program exhibits grace and resilience

ALEXIS RIOS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a year marked by COVID-19, healthcare heroes have been on the frontlines going above and beyond the call of duty. Teaching the next generation of nurses is a vocation Concordia has always held to the highest regard. Coronavirus has touched every aspect of life at Concordia, including the Nursing Program, impacting academic milestones like graduation dates and clinicals. Nursing students and faculty felt the direct impact of COVID-19. However, the pandemic only affirmed their field choice, and they applied innovative solutions to maneuver through the year while still maintaining a high standard of safety and education.

MaryElle Hoover
will be graduating from the

Nursing Program this spring and has persevered through the thick and the thin. As a student, Hoover has found an even greater appreciation and respect for nurses, especially those who teach her. "Many of my professors at Concordia are also nurses who work in the field on the days that they do not teach us. I feel honored to have the opportunity to learn from these selfless professionals who can put the lives and needs of others in front of their own each day in the workplace," said Hoover.

The Assistant Dean and Director of Nursing, Dr. Cheryl Smythe-Padgham, has been reassured by her students' drive throughout the pandemic. "When something like this happens we, as the frontline workforce, are running into the fire instead of running away from it. So I was concerned if some students would be too afraid and maybe decide not to be



PICTURED ABOVE: Professor King, Dr. Padgham, Professor Rae together for a brief moment.
Photos courtesy of: Timothy Maggs

nurses. I haven't seen one," said Dr. Padgham.

Dr. Padgham continued, "They've been more resolved that this is what they want to do. They want to be a nurse; they want to help save lives. They were frustrated that they couldn't do more at the time. And that's exactly what I needed to see. It affirmed to me that they're all going into the right profession."

Timothy Courtney, the May '21 class representative, exemplifies Dr. Padgham's sentiments. "Honestly, the pandemic has only strengthened my feelings about becoming a nurse," Courtney said. "First off, it reinforced that I get to provide life-saving care to people who need it most. Secondly, it firmly established that nursing is [a] truly necessary profession. There is admittedly a great deal of reassurance in knowing that even when the world falls apart, your skills and your knowledge will still be needed."

Lynda King and Caroline Rae are Assistant Professors of Nursing who are continuously working to innovate and adjust their classes as they are updated on regulations. However, as no one expected everything to switch this rapidly; the duo is always ready to adapt. "In the world of healthcare, things change rapidly. The only thing constant in nursing is change," said King.

From testing students with virtual clinical scenarios to having them perform IVs on bananas in the early stages of the pandemic, the professors have been avidly working to figure out how to best pivot through the challenges of the coronavirus.

Even though students have now entered a dual-mode where they are allowed back on campus, it's not the same as before. Safety is the top priority, which has caused the number of people allowed in the simulation/skills labs to be halved. King and Rae recognized the challenge and

Get a jump on CUI giving

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY
CAMPUS EDITOR

Tues., Nov. 10 is Concordia's fifth-annual CU Give Back Day. This is a 24-hour online campaign to raise donations and funds to help programs across campus. Alumni, parents, and friends of Concordia are encouraged to donate a gift of any dollar amount. When donating, donors can select a specific program or department for their funds to go to directly.

Annual Giving Coordinator Cat Molina '18 said that the event gives opportunities to "departments, clubs and other groups on campus. [They] are able to submit projects and fundraise for various things they may need."

Incentives, or "challenges," have been created to help raise donor awareness. The first challenge is set for social media users to use the #CUGiveBack hashtag and tag @concordiairvine on social media platforms. For this challenge, the last entry must be posted by 10 p.m. on November 9. Two winners will be selected and the cause or program of the winners' choice will receive \$500 each.

Once there are 300 donors on CU Give Back Day, the Keithly Family will donate \$5,000 for student scholarships. Similarly, when Concordia passes 40 donors, the Alumni Board of Directors will donate \$500 to the Alumni Fund Scholarship. Many programs and departments at Concordia will host their own challenges as well.

To increase participation, there will be hourly challenges on the day of the event. Chal-



PICTURED TOP: Innovative simulation/skills lab in a regular classroom

PICTURED BOTTOM: Students wrote out what nursing means to them and taped it on the wall. Photos courtesy of: Timothy Magg

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Unity in our University: Unity Week with Ms. Mo

GABI BECKMAN
ASCUI SECRETARY

October 14 - 16, students had the awesome opportunity to celebrate Unity Week and meet Concordia’s new part-time Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coach, Monique Nunes (AKA Ms. Mo)! Throughout the week, various Student Affairs departments on campus got to celebrate unity with a variety of events that had something for everyone to enjoy!

Kicking off the week with some Halloween spirit, Student Affairs hosted a Pumpkin Decorating Contest for each RES hall to show off their most talented residents. With free swag, prizes and music by DJ Cash. The contest brought students living on campus together and truly celebrated the theme of unity.

Throughout the rest of the week, Ms. Mo collaborated with groups such as Diversity Awareness and worked with Bella Amore’s Faculty in Residence Dr. Kristen Koenig to foster healthy conversations over voting differences and how to navigate and encourage unity through social media. As multiple students attended the events both in person and via Zoom, Ms. Mo helped create an environment for students to understand each other and embody Concordia’s mission as the election draws near.

Finally, campus was buzzing on Friday as two of Concordia’s cultural clubs, Black Student Union and Nuestra Vos, showcased what each of their clubs are all about as Unity Week came to a close. Giving away free stickers and playing their favorite music representing their cultures, BSU and Nuestra Vos perfectly embodied the purpose of Unity Week while introducing new students to what their clubs are all about! Even though Unity Week has come to a close, you can still contact Ms. Mo at Monique.nunes@cui.edu!

UNITY



PICTURED ABOVE: ASCUI members (L to R Kya Bock, Gabi Beckman, Jonah Sielaff, Emily Mullins, and Madolyn Sauerbreit) paused for a photo during UNITY week. Throughout the week, CUI students celebrated diversity, equity and inclusion during events hosted by ASCUI. Many events and campus clubs were featured to truly embody the theme of unity. A unity through social media conversation was held to understand how to navigate voter differences in the upcoming election.



PICTURED RIGHT: Freshman Joana Shaw poses with her painted pumpkin. Many students participated in UNITY week events that celebrated diversity, inclusion and equity. Students participated in a Pumpkin Decorating Contest in resident halls on Wednesday of UNITY week. Students were welcomed with music by DJ Cash at the event

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Researchers at the ready! 2021 President’s Academic Showcase sign-up window is open

STAFF REPORT

As a part of Concordia’s commitment to academic excellence, the university holds an annual President’s Academic Showcase of Undergraduate Research. The competition is a chance for students to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor on an undergraduate research project on a topic that the student chooses. Winners are awarded over \$5,000 in prizes.

The competition draws entries from across schools and departments -- from biology to business and communication studies to chemistry. Any academic discipline is eligible.

“Working closely with a faculty member throughout the research process is invaluable,” said Professor Megan Enriquez (Psychology and Sociology), who is partnering with Dr.

Erin Nelson (Communication Studies) on the 2021 showcase. “It allows you to build a relationship on a deeper level with a faculty member. Even with COVID restrictions in place, it is an easy transition to work on this project with tools such as Zoom and Google Docs. Additionally, you can earn class credit for this project and win financial prizes.”

The spring 2020 showcase proved that it is possible to participate in the showcase and do so effectively, even in an online or dual-learning environment. “The showcase was forced to transition to an online format in the spring of 2020 which has allowed the process to adapt to our current learning environment,” Enriquez explained. In other words, like everything for 2020, the campus community is adapting and making the

showcase work.

There are two levels of competition. Tier one for upperclassmen and tier two for freshmen and sophomores. Prizes for winners range from \$200 to \$1500, with over \$5000 in prizes awarded.

For students interested in graduate studies, participating in the Academic Showcase is one of the best ways to enhance a resume with real hands-on research experience.

Interested in learning more about the President’s Academic Showcase? Importantly, the sign-up window is from October 6 through January 22 only. Get started by talking to a faculty member or email showcase@cui.edu. Students can also find more information at <http://www.cui.edu/showcase>

Happy Haunting



PICTURED ABOVE: Kailyn Case and her sister Mckenna at Tanaka Farms circa Fall 2019. Photo Courtesy of: Kailyn Case

KAILYN CASE
STAFF WRITER

October 31 is always a day to look forward to. Jack-o-lanterns carved and lit, costumes and candy at every turn, and kids running around aimlessly, everyone is typically in great spirits. With COVID-19 unfortunately still in full effect and another peak on the horizon, A fun Halloween seems about as real as a poltergeist haunting a dorm room. However, there are many activities around us to allow a festive Halloween season.

For those in the Buena Park area (where Knott’s Berry Farm is) with a soft spot for a variety of foods, this event may be for you. Garrett Smith, a junior military veteran took his girlfriend to Knott’s Berry Farm’s taste of Fall-O-Ween and both tried interesting foods; “Some of the food we got just to try because it looked like fun,” said Smith. The incredible variety of food presented is enough for everyone to try and enjoy, even if you are a picky eater. It is the perfect spot to go if you are looking to have a fun time and enjoy some good food while participating in the Halloween festivities. Not only are you helping Knott’s Berry Farm in a hard time due to COVID-19, you are also able to try some fun treats. <https://www.knotts.com/>

If you dare to adventure into the spooky spots of Orange County, Fullerton has an opportunity for a walk through in the spookiest part of town

that is not for the faint of heart. Registration does fill up very fast, so it is recommended that you register online quickly to hold your spot. If you are courageous enough to walk through these horrific haunted house maze experience, you will be able to meet some of the “Fullertonians” who like to visit every now and again as well as some pots and pans that fly around after hours. Jaclyn Brown, an Orange County native as well as a senior at Concordia said, “I really felt my skin crawl when I was walking through it.” Coming from someone who was born on Halloween herself, Brown knows spooky when she sees it. <https://the17thdoor.com/>

The closest Halloween activity for you and your “BOO” to participate in is Tanaka Farms, down the street from Concordia. This is a great place for those cute Instagram photos as well as a place to enjoy the fall festivities. From pumpkin patches to tractor rides, this large lot full of pumpkins, sunflowers and more offers many opportunities for a spooky, yet fun spot to let loose and enjoy the presence of one another. <https://www.tanakafarms.com/>

If you are interested in more festivities for Halloween, look into https://www.orangecounty.net/html/Weekend_halloween.html for more information in Orange County. Those extreme ghost hunters should take a look into Downtown Los Angeles for even more fun such as a Stranger Things drive through haunted

Concordia is golf-tastic!



PICTURED ABOVE:. Golf ball drop Photos courtesy of: CUI Athletics/ Jon Beck

FRANCESCA SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

On Mon., Oct. 12, Concordia’s Athletic Department hosted its 32nd annual Eagle Golf Classic. Strawberry Fields Golf Club graciously hosted this event for Concordia. The fundraiser was actually sold out over a month before the 12th, foreshadowing the success to come. “We sold golf balls to be dropped from a helicopter into the hole and also had an auction at the end of the tournament,” said Megan Johnson, freshman on the softball team.

Each of the holes were run by volunteers including staff from the athletics department



PICTURED ABOVE: Megan Massa, Rae Flores and Brooke Jackson at their dice rolling game at hole 5. Photos courtesy of: CUI Athletics/Jon Beck

and student athletes. Johnson said, “The softball team ran hole five and sold the players a chance to tee off closer to the hole by rolling giant blow up dice.”

On that beautiful day, many enjoyed the game of golf, food catered by Strawberry Farms, and even won some prizes. With amazing sponsorships by Task Force Heroes, Alfatech, Select Harvest, Stacker & Associates, Calvin & Yvette Arnold, Jeff & Lori McHugh, Crown Castle, Orange Lutheran, Tovey/Schultz, Pathway Inc., James & Deborah Klein Family Foundation, AAA Paving Company, Mike & Caryn Borland '85, Jeff Fini, Bob & Shawna Nunes and numerous other donations, Concordia was able to raise over \$130,000 for student-athletes.

If you missed out on this year’s Golf Classic, don’t worry, next year’s event date is already set for September 13, 2021. Due to the fact that this year

was such a success, Concordia has booked next year’s event at a larger venue, Coto de Caza Golf & Racquet Club. So look forward to next year’s 33rd Annual Golf Classic, it will be bigger and better than ever!

Donations are still being accepted at www.cui.edu/en-us/giving/events/eagle-golf-classic

Get a jump on CUI giving

lenges are donation and social media based. “There will be so many ways to participate in CU Give Back through social media, which can also win additional funds for the project of your choice,” Molina said.

Last year, Concordia raised \$47,548 from 288 donors, according to Molina. Each year the event hopes to surpass pre-

vious years. This year’s goal is to raise \$50,000 with 300 donors.

For more information and to donate on the Nov. 10, go to <https://cugiveback.cui.edu> -lenges are donation and social media based. “There will be so many ways to participate in CU Give Back through social media, which can also win ad-

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Las Vegas Raider Trent Brown placed on COVID-19 reserve list



PICTURED ABOVE: Raiders Trent Brown in the offensive line against the Denver Broncos in Oakland last year. *Photo Courtesy: Washington Post*

BROOKE JACKSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Las Vegas Raiders’ Trent Brown was put on the COVID-19 reserve list. Due to contact tracing, all five of the offensive linemen will be sent home as well. These linemen include Brandon Parker, John Simpson, Andre Simpson, Patrick Omameh and Sam Young. Brown had to miss the game against Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Senior Myka Hughes said, “This game ended in defeat and this could have been all because of

Brown and the other lineman not being able to compete.” Because of this unexpected turn of events, the Raiders have been put under review. Previously during the season, coach Jon Gruden had been fined for not wearing his mask. The team as a whole was also fined for having an unauthorized employee in the locker room, violating the new COVID precautionary mandates, according to NBC Sports. The investigation is to ensure the mandatory precautions had been taken to find out how this positive

test result came to be. These include the wearing of a mandatory tracking device for better contact tracing. For the other players who were also put on quarantine, they were thought to be around Brown without the use of facial coverings, according to Tom Polinario of the NFL Network.

Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week: 10/14: Mac Hutchins



PICTURED ABOVE: Mac Hutchins saving the shot on goal. *Photo Courtesy: Troy Makalena*

BEN ROSEHART
SPORTS INFORMATION
DIRECTOR
ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

As a soccer goalie, you often have to toe that line between staying disciplined and knowing when to take a chance. Those attributes can also describe a good leader. Concordia University Irvine senior Mac Hutchins happens to fit both of those descriptions. As a starting goalie for the Eagles, he has been in that situation on the pitch many times between the posts. The way he has evolved over the past few years and grown into a leadership role on the CUI men's soccer team is also part of the reason why he is our Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week. "Mac has been a huge blessing to this program," said CUI head coach and director of soccer Chris Gould. "He is a quiet leader who is immensely talented. I am proud of Mac for taking on big challenges from day one. He may come across as unassuming but his character is remarkable." "Mac has earned the respect of his teammates and that has opened up leadership opportunities within the team,"

continued Gould. "He connects well with others and brings the best out of everyone on a daily basis. He has also been our SAAC rep off the field and a leader on the field." "I have experienced a lot of personal growth during my time at Concordia," said Hutchins, who is a graduate of nearby El Toro High School. "I have found a passion for learning and improving myself each day and have been able to develop a strict structure to my life that I think is very valuable and can be applied to after I graduate as well." That maturity and structure applies both on and off the soccer field. The finance major is also working on a minor in accounting here at Concordia. He has always liked the idea of becoming an entrepreneur someday or being able to work for a large company and work his way up the ladder where he can one day make an impact as a chief financial officer. You can see how that career path fits him well. His ability to communicate with his teammates on defense helped give CUI a boost down the stretch last fall, when the Eagles won four of their final five regular season matches. Hutchins was in goal for all four of those wins, which were all shutouts against PacWest Conference foes.

Good leaders also know when to be humble and when to share the spotlight. "As a goalkeeper, there is nothing better than a shutout," said Hutchins, who was named PacWest Conference Defender of the Week during that hot streak. "Whether you win or tie, you know that you did your part and left it all on the field. In those five games, my own personal performance does not stand out but rather the fact that my defense and I were able to come together and play as a unit." They also know how to take responsibility when they do make mistakes. "The thing people don't realize about goalkeeping is the amount of mental strength it takes," said Hutchins, who is also a two-time Academic All-PacWest selection. "As the last line of defense, you have no room for an error, a simple turnover in the midfield may be fine, but that same turnover in my position is a goal. Goalkeepers have to remain mentally strong for the entire game, which can be very draining." Hutchins and his teammates have had to adapt, like many college student-athletes across the country, to new health and safety protocols this year to help minimize the

spread and chance of exposure to COVID-19. The past seven months have helped Hutchins gain a deeper appreciation for the unique experiences he and his teammates have already enjoyed the past few seasons. "One of my favorite memories so far was our trip to Hawaii in my sophomore year," explained the Lake Forest native. "The trip had some ups and downs, but looking back at it now, I realize that our time there really brought the team closer together and helped develop us into a family rather than just a soccer team." "Coach Chris takes a much different approach than other coaches," continued Hutchins. "Our coaching staff cares about winning, but the main focus every year is to develop our players into men. Coach Chris and the rest of our staff spend time developing our team on and off the field, which is something I really appreciate." Hutchins has also recently developed a fondness for another sport, which he was able to dabble in over the summer. "Over the past six months, I have picked up golfing and have been playing a course nearly

every week," said Hutchins. "It is a very challenging but rewarding sport." On the pitch, the Eagles are preparing to play a shortened season in the spring of 2021 after the fall season was delayed due to COVID-19 health and safety precautions. Earlier this month, the PacWest Conference announced it is targeting a return to competition in January 2021. As of mid-October, no official soccer schedules have been released at this time. But when given the green light, Hutchins and his CUI teammates will be ready. "We are very hungry and ready for whatever is to come this season," said Hutchins. "We are very fortunate to be training and are enjoying the opportunity. If we are able to play some games this season, we will be ready to go and looking to dominate."



Newport Rib Company

Eagle of the Week:

10/21:

Lauren Lopez



EAGLE OF THE WEEK **LAUREN LOPEZ**

SOFTBALL

BILLI DERLETH
ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

This week's feature for our Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week is Lauren Lopez. This year, Lopez is a senior for the Concordia softball team. She is currently studying business administration with an emphasis in accounting. She has excelled in the classroom, earning Academic All-PacWest three years in a row. Her dream job is to be an accountant manager for the MLB or NBA.

Lopez plays outfield and wears number 24 for the Eagles. When she was asked why she chose the number 24, she had a unique response. She

said, "I chose number 24 as my jersey number because my birthday is on the 24th of May."

If Lopez could give a piece of advice to an incoming freshman she would tell them, "to be present every day at practice and take advantage of all the opportunities you get on the field." She would also tell them "to have fun with it because you will never know how much you love something until it's gone."

In her time at CUI, Lopez has shined on the field, including the team's walk off win against Hawaii-Hilo at home in 2019. In this game Lopez stole home, and secured the win for the green and gold.

PICTURED ABOVE: Lauren Lopez bunting the ball in a game last year.
Graphic Design: Tyler Lacour/Sports Information Graduate Assistant
Photo Courtesy: Will MacNeil/CUI Athletics

Second Team.

Over the past four years Lopez has grown and developed into the player she is today, a lot of which she attributes to practices spent under head coach Crystal Rosenthal and associate head coach Rose Imbriano.

"Being a member of CUI softball has meant so much to me. I love having the opportunity to come to the field and play the sport I love with such a talented group of girls. I am also so grateful to have a place that I use as my outlet from reality even if it's for a few hours of the day.

This program is more than just your average collegiate softball team. I have learned so much from Crystal and Rose softball-wise, but they have also taught me how to be a better person, student and teammate. I cannot thank this program enough for shaping me into the person I am today and for allowing me to build strong friendships with people that I will cherish forever," Lopez said.



Blue Heaven on Earth

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY
CAMPUS EDITOR

On Thursday, the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Tampa Bay Rays to win the 115th World Series championship, seventh for the Dodgers franchise, ending a 33-year drought. Their 43 wins in the shortened-regular season are the fewest amount by a World Series champion.

NLDS and World Series MVP Corey Seager led the boys in blue in the batter's box. Seager posted a .400 batting average, two home runs, five RBIs, and 1.256 OPS in the World Series, while Max Muncy hit a team-best six RBIs.

Starter Tony Gonsolin made it through five outs of Game 6, and six relievers were able to hold the Rays offense to a minimum. Julio Urias retired the final seven batters of the night to earn the save. Urias held Tampa Bay to a .167 batting average while on the mound.

With previous postseason woes, three-time Cy Young award winner Clayton Kershaw proved why he deserves to hold up the commissioner's trophy. He posted a 2.93 ERA with a 4-1 record throughout the postseason. He allowed three runs on seven hits and struck out 14 in his two World Series wins. Kershaw set the record for punchouts, passing ace Justin Verlander with



PICTURED ABOVE: Dodgers celebrate after winning their first World Series championship in 32 years.
Photo Courtesy: Tannen Maury/ EPA

his 207th career postseason strikeout.

Speedster Mookie Betts had four stolen bases in the series and gave America free tacos sponsored by Taco Bell on Oct. 28. The former American League MVP hit a .577 slugging percentage with an insurance home run in the eighth inning to secure the Dodger victory.

Walker Beuhler was set to start the, if necessary, Game 7. He continued his postseason dominance on the mound in Game 3 after striking out 10 in six innings.

Rays starter Blake Snell went 6.1 innings, only giving up two hits and no walks while striking out nine in the decisive Game 6. Snell threw ten innings with 18 strikeouts in two dominant World Series starts. He was the first start-

ing pitcher to strike out nine through four innings.

Rays manager Kevin Cash pulled Snell after an Austin Barnes single. Cash's reasoning was he did not want his ace to face the Dodger lineup a third time. The top of the Dodger was coming up after going 0-6 with six strikeouts from Snell's hand. Fans criticized Cash for pulling Snell after dealing through 73 pitches. "Everything that we try to do is try to put our team in the best position to win," Cash said during the post-game presser on FOX. "Blake could not have been better tonight."

Reliever Nick Anderson gave up a double down the left-field line to Mookie Betts and threw a wild pitch to score Barnes. Corey Seager hit a fielder's choice to score Betts, all within five pitches, to give

the Dodgers the lead. That is all the Dodgers needed to turn into champions.

"I think it was Blake's game he was dominating. I don't care what the numbers say," Kevin Kiermeier said during the post-game conference. Snell has gone 21 straight starts without making it out of the sixth inning.

The toughest out in the lineup was outfielder Randy Arozarena. The 25-year-old rookie hit a historic Major League-best 10 home runs in the postseason with 14 RBIs. Arozarena hit a blast over the fence in the first inning to score the Ray's only run of the night.

Dodgers fans have complained that manager Dave Roberts overmanages and pulls pitchers at wrong times to give opponents momentum in games. In Game 4, Roberts kept pitcher Pedro Baez in after giving up four runs off two home runs giving the Rays the lead. Innings later, the crucial bottom-of-the-ninth mistakes led to a loss.

Looking to the future, the Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner enters free agency. Turner has been a staple in the lineup since 2014. Turner became the first player to hit a first-inning home run in back-to-back World Series games. After Game 6's con-

clusion, it was revealed Turner tested positive for COVID-19 after he was removed from the game in the eighth inning.

A surprisingly hot postseason bat was that of Joc Pederson. The outfielder posted a .382 batting average coming off the bench. In the offseason, the Dodgers attempted a deal to send Pederson south to the Angels, which fell through because Angels' owner Arte Moreno grew impatient. Luckily for the Dodgers, Pederson proved to be a rally-starter in the postseason lineup. As for the future, Pederson and Turner may have just played their last games as Dodgers, with the Chicago Cubs or San Francisco Giants as likely fits.

After a Los Angeles Laker NBA championship title earlier in the month, two titles are back in Tinseltown. Coming off eight straight National League West titles, it feels refreshing to be holding up real hardware FINALLY. Kershaw is padding his resume to become a Hall of Fame pitcher. No matter what circumstances were surrounding this season, the Los Angeles Dodgers are

WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS.

Silverado fire impacts Irvine universities and community

GRIFFIN BOOK
STAFF WRITER

At 6:47 a.m. on Monday, the Silverado fire was at 10 acres. At approximately 4:30 p.m. on the same day, the fire had spread to 11,000 acres of damage across Orange County with 5 percent containment. The fire originated out of Silverado Canyon early on Monday morning, and soon the air quality started to diminish. The smell of smoke was very prevalent throughout the entirety of campus and dry Santa Ana winds only added to this effect.

The fire started on Santiago Canyon Road and Silverado Canyon Road. Experts suspect it was a loose wire that caused the fire to start, but as of press time officials have not made a direct statement on the causes yet. Approximately 500 firefighters worked on the scene throughout the week,

Two injuries have struck the firefighters, and they are in the hospital for second and third-degree burns. The chief firefighter in command, Brian Fennessy, in a press conference said, “We are doing all we can, and again we ask that everyone keep them in their thoughts and prayers.”

The fire is being spread all across the county due to fast winds kicking up the brush and the dry air. On Monday and Tuesday, the firefighters were fighting against 20 to 30 mph winds that can get up to 60 to 70 mph.

The schools in Irvine announced closures, or partial

closures, on Monday, including Irvine Valley College, Concordia and University California, Irvine. There was a mandatory evacuation for the houses north of Irvine Blvd. between Bake and Jamboree. Police Sgt. Karie Davies said in an update to the press, “The new evacuation area is from

Irvine Blvd. south to Trabuco Road, and from Jeffrey Road east to Portola High School.” Portola High School, along with many other schools in the area, are being postponed for the interference due to the blazing fire.

The evacuation went very smoothly, according to Irvine City Councilwoman Melissa Fox, who addressed the media. “What’s really remarkable is that we evacuated 60,000 people in such a short amount of time,” she said.

The poor air quality has made Irvine Mayor Christina Shea advise all residents in the area to close their windows. There is a high volume of particulates within the air right now. This is reminiscent of the Northern California wildfires that have plagued the state this fall. The air quality index for Monday, October 26 in Orange County, showed 129, which was dangerous for sensitive groups.

Concordia junior Wilson McLean immediately noticed something was wrong when he woke up Monday morning. He lives off campus but drove over to campus early that morning for his mailroom job. “The drive was very strange. Once I pulled up to the

gate I could really start to tell that something was not right. The sun was bright orange and when I stepped out of my car it reeked of a burning campfire and the ash that was falling made it seem as if there was a slight snowfall,” said McLean.

McLean continued “I knew instantly there was a fire. I just didn’t know where or how close it was. When I got to the mailroom the building even had a decent amount of smoke in it to some degree. It was a very eerie feeling and was just hoping that the worst wasn’t imminent.”

However things are looking clearer near Concordia’s main campus. As the days continue to pass the air quality continues to improve.

Sophomore and cross country runner Alana Hurley is grateful that administration has put safety as a top priority throughout the week. “It’s honestly been really weird not having practice and the crazy smoke there was on Monday was scary but I’m grateful that Concordia is making sure to put people’s safety first,” said Hurley.



PICTURED ABOVE: View from second story lowers dorm window the morning of Oct. 26
Photo Courtesy of: Ryann Beveridge

Forensics Takes First in Crossman Invitational

JOHN SYMANK
STAFF WRITER

From October 16 to 18, Concordia’s Forensics team, led by Director of Forensics Amanda Ozaki-Laughon, competed at the Crossman Invitational Tournament, a forensics tournament that is nationally competitive. After a challenging competition, Concordia’s communicative and speaking skills were proven by beating out 34 other schools, and being awarded a four-year sweepstakes award, marking Concordia as the top four-year university in attendance.

The event, while typically hosted in person, was forced to move into an online format due to COVID-19. However, this did not dissuade the team on their path to success. A full team was sent to the tournament, and of that eight-person team, six individuals broke into the finals in nine events.

Damon Mitchell placed first in the communication analysis event, alongside Rachel Tillmann, who placed second. Mitchell also placed second in

poetry, and second in prose. Andrea Aldana placed fourth in prose.

“Breaking into eliminations rounds like semi-finals or finals can be a series of mixed emotions,” said Mitchell. “First, speech is exhausting. By

the time finals come around towards the end of the day, so many competitors are so beat down. Second, when finals are being posted there’s a moment of anxiety when you’re looking at the page, or screen, or the list that kind of builds as you read

through who has made it to finals. If one does make it into finals, many people experience a form of joy and excitement that feels like a whole spike of energy. That’s usually how I feel when I break into finals, very excited and rejuvenated.”

Rebekah Mehrley, a newcomer to the college circuit, placed fourth in extemporaneous speaking and fifth in impromptu speaking, and Tanner Devore and Isabella Johnson also placed second and third in novice prose, respectively.

“Extemporaneous speaking is basically analyzing news topics with only half an hour prep,” said Mehrley, “Impromptu speaking is analyzing and interpreting a quotation with only a couple minutes to get ready. It’s my favorite event because it has taught me to think on my feet and I love finding weird examples and ways to prove my thesis. It’s also one of the most popular events, so it’s nice to have a coach who specializes in it and a lot of teammates to work with!”

This was also the first college speech tournament this season for three of the competitors: Johnson, Devore and Aldana.

“Doing what we do often times requires a lot of what Communication Studies identifies as ‘emotion work.’” Mitchell said of his experience. “Over the course of the day we are emotionally exerting ourselves on a repeated basis. So that’s kind of where it starts for me often times. I usually spend the hour before finals are posted to try and decompress and prepare myself, just in case I do make it into finals and have to perform again.”

Select members of the team will be attending the Norton Tournament on November 7 and 8, and with the current team’s record, they are hoping for a repeat performance. Be sure to wish them luck around campus.



PICTURED ABOVE TOP LEFT TO RIGHT, BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT: Team captains : Damian Mltchell, Kaitlyn Gleeson, Owen Milligan, Sean Nowlan

Journalism is More Important than Ever — Protect Our Journalists

CARALIN NUNES
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

The beginning of November brings many important dates and events to both the American people and the rest of the world. Nov. 3 is the United States' Election Day (go vote!) — important for obvious reasons — but held just one day before the election (Nov. 2) is the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists.

Nearly 1,200 journalists have been brutally murdered in the past 14 years alone for merely doing their job — researching the facts and then reporting on their findings — and the vast majority (about 90%) of these murderers are

not penalized. Unfortunately, this number includes only the journalists killed, not the many who have been tortured, sexually harassed, kidnapped, etc.

Many believe that this impunity (being exempt from punishment) will only lead to more, and for good reason. Not only does the impunity of these criminals transmit a signal to all other offenders that they can continue this behavior and get away with it, but impunity also results in the American people's morale in their judiciary and executive branches to decrease significantly. There is most clearly an issue when journalists seeking to uncover the dark truth of corruption,

abuse of inalienable rights, crime, etc. are taken, tortured, and killed, and the criminals are never faced with justice.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is holding The World Press Freedom Conference 2020 on December 9 and 10, to celebrate International

Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. According to the United Nations website, "The session on Dec. 10, 2020, entitled "Strengthening investigations and prosecutions to end impunity for crimes against journalists" will include the presentation of guidelines for prosecutors on investigating and prosecuting crimes and

attacks against journalists, developed in partnership with the International Association of Prosecutors."

For more information on this event, please visit <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-impunity-crimes-against-journalists>.



PICTURED LEFT: UNESCO promoting the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists
Courtesy of: UNESCO

Concordia's Nursing Program exhibits grace and resilience



PICTURED ABOVE: Students using a makeshift table for a bed in their simulation/skills lab. *Photos courtesy of: Timothy Maggs*

decided to create another simulation/skills lab in a classroom. The learning has continued by any means necessary, even if that means using a table as a substitute for a bed.

"Regularly, nursing students are always ready to adapt and be flexible. However, this group is special as they've already experienced real-world adaptation. The circumstances of it were unfortunate, but it gave them a unique preparation, and

I believe they will be very ready to enter the field when the time comes," said Dr. Padgham.

Fatima Wague will be graduating in May '21 and is coming out of this year with a much different nursing perspective. Wague has seen first-hand the sacrifices healthcare workers have had to make, and their selflessness has touched her. "Nurses' dedication to delivering the utmost care to their patients regardless of the situation has left me eager to get into the field and attempt to achieve a thousandth of what they have," said Wague.

Wague has always wanted to be a nurse, and much like her peers, COVID-19 only solidified her decision. "I know that through my career, I can make a difference in the world. When you've dreamed

about something for so long, the lengths you'll go to achieve that is ineffable. Although it's scary, my drive and commitment to contribute overpowers any reservations," said Wague.

Typically, when one thinks of superheroes, their minds might go to a movie character, but that's not the case this year. This year, the

heroes surround us and are being created at Concordia's Park Place campus.

Nursing school is regularly known for its rigor, but students and faculty have conquered much more than they anticipated. They've gracefully navigated through stressful times and come out of it with a more solidified purpose knowing they can

help change the world for the better.

Concordia offers an undergraduate Pre-Nursing minor, an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and a Master of Science in Nursing. For more information on Concordia's Nursing Program check out: <https://www.cui.edu/en-us/academicprograms/nursing>



PICTURED TOP TO BOTTOM

(Picture #1) Online clinical group. (Picture #2) Online group practicing IV starts on bananas. *Photos courtesy of: Dr. Padgham*



PICTURED LEFT: The Owl used for dual-mode learning.
Photos courtesy of: Timothy Maggs.

Revisiting Commercial Music at Campus JAX

CASH CASTEEL
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's Commercial Music Ensemble gave students the chance to relive the band's performance at Campus JAX in late 2019 through a Facebook livestream.

The entertainment industry as a whole has been hit hard by the ongoing pandemic. Music, as a subset of that industry, is not an exception. The music industry generates over \$10 billion annually, and live shows generally provide about 50 percent of that total revenue. With concerts barely returning, artists had to rely on music sales all year, falling 11 percent in physical sales but rising in streaming service subscriptions by 70 percent, according to the World Economic Forum.

In order to combat their loss of money during the pandemic, performers, ranging from DJs to live bands, have resorted to livestreaming themselves on different platforms. Superstars have also allowed for live viewings of older shows. Concordia's Music Department decided to take a



PICTURED ABOVE :The Commercial Music band, in order from left to right: Nico Co, JP Aquino, Mary Desmond, Matt Murphy, Molly Sirvatka, Marshall Murphy, Lauren Kruse, Landon Mills, Zack Edenhofer.

cue from the industry by recently posting a Commercial Music concert from 2019 on YouTube.

Marshall Murphy, senior and drummer, was one of the students who participated in the 2019 event. "Before getting up on the stage, there was a general sense of excitement, a kind of electric feeling that was both energizing and petrifying," said Murphy. "Everything seemed to blur as we all sat at the table waiting to go up, until the moment we sat down and started playing. Then, it was magic."

Murphy said that the director of Commercial Music, Professor Steve Young, purposefully chose a

few different styles to incorporate into the set, "to challenge us as players, but to also show off the players' ability to execute different styles well," Murphy said. "We had songs like 'The Chain' by Fleetwood Mac, 'My Stupid Mouth' by John Mayer and 'King of Pain' by The Police. It really was a fun and diverse set to mix things up."

Though affected by the inconvenience that is the year 2020, the Music Department is not letting the pandemic stop them. Young has a lot in store for the program and has clear goals for band performances when they can perform. "We were unable

to perform at Campus JAX last spring due to the pandemic. It was disappointing for all of us as our concerts were really beginning to pick up steam as a CUI event," said Young. "Our last Campus JAX concert was in November of 2019. Our set list reflects everything we worked on that semester during our weekly rehearsals. While we won't be able to perform this semester, we still have a date reserved at Campus JAX in Spring 2021 in case restrictions are lifted."

In the meantime, students and teachers have shifted their focus, like all artists in the scene, to the most important part of their craft — making music. "Because we can't perform live in the traditional sense, we are instead focusing on creating recorded music in our studio," said Young, referring to the world-class facilities inside the new Borland-Manske Center, which includes over 50 rooms designed specifically for music-making and teaching. "This allows our students to continue to work on their playing, singing, songwriting and even their production skills. It's actually been an unexpected blessing as these are all important skills for today's musicians to possess," he

added.

More on exciting news and blessings in disguise, the Commercial Music students have a fantastic project on their hands. "One really exciting development is that CUI is creating a Christmas special," said Young. "It's a way that our entire Music Department can pivot due to the pandemic in a way that can still bring joy and light to people through music. Our recording studio allows us to record our bands, but also our orchestra, choir and handbells at a very high level of quality. Everyone is very excited!"

Even with the challenges of 2020, Young is optimistic for the future of Commercial Music at Concordia. "We've been fortunate to grow dramatically over the past four years. I'd like to see CUI's Commercial Music program emerge as a premiere choice for next-generation musicians who will make a positive impact in their communities and the music business."

To view the entire set, visit the Campus JAX Facebook page - www.facebook.com/CampusJAX/videos/833977433705430/. The set can also be viewed on Concordia's YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ri_iHFx6bU

Percussion Ensemble crashing into the scene

CAITIE FULTON
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

This fall 2020 semester, the Music Department developed a Percussion Ensemble that meets twice a week to be used as a substitute during this time while the Concordia Wind Orchestra cannot rehearse. Due to COVID-19 state and local health regulations that ban wind instruments from being able to rehearse and perform together, the Percussion Ensemble at Concordia allows for students to work and rehearse while waiting for the Wind Orchestra meetings to get back to normal.

The Percussion Ensemble is rehearsing a variety of music for eight to 14 percussionists, ranging from the use of mallets, auxiliary percussion and more. One of these pieces is "Antiphon" by F. Michael Combs, which is drum-based. There is variety in each piece that is being worked

on, which is really important. "It is a great opportunity for the percussionists at Concordia to grow and improve and start to play higher level and more difficult and challenging repertoire," said junior Daniel Ujifusa.

In order to meet as a group within COVID-19 safety regulations, there are new practices set in place during rehearsals. For one, masks are worn at all times and physical distancing is maintained between instrumentalists. As well, sanitizers are used on the instruments, mallets and drumsticks as the players switch between playing each piece. There is always a state of importance around the topic of safety. Sophomore Brisa Andrade said, "The way we conduct ourselves always serves as a reminder about the seriousness and significance of the precautions we need to take to prevent anything happening."

There is happiness while being able to rehearse, despite the regulations. Senior Khoi Vu said, "Of course, I cannot wait for the day when we rehearse as a full orchestra, but at least we get to practice in this unique setting, and I am grateful for that."

Many of the musicians are enjoying their time in the group because it focuses on their love for percussion. Ujifusa said, "I think percussionists often feel like they are hiding in the back during performance but with this ensemble it gives us all an opportunity to be more up front and play more melodic lines and noticeable parts." Sophia Flores, senior, added, "Despite not being able to make music the same way we did prior to COVID-19, I see this experience as a blessing in disguise because it has given musicians the opportunity to be accountable for their independent practicing, and the opportunity to learn new instruments and get to know new people as well."

Some of the instrumentalists are new to playing percussion so it has been helpful to be a part of the group. Flores said, "As somebody in Music Education, I appreciate the opportunity to familiarize myself with another family of instruments. It is really engaging to learn new instruments because it's very easy to forget what it is like to learn an instrument." The ensemble provides for both musician technique as well as for

applicable skills in their major. "I believe this will be very helpful when I start teaching music," said Flores.

Musicians have been able to focus on different playing techniques in percussion. This has allowed for many in the group to find a deeper connection with their skills. "Percussion instruments are often written as supporting material, which is certainly important, but in an ensemble such as this, many parts are written differently which gives a fresh take on playing" said Ujifusa. Andrade added, "I've already gained a lot more insight regarding how we should react and perform in a percussion ensemble. We receive one-on-one advice and critiques, which will only enhance our overall musicianship and abilities."

It also helps that they have a variety of instruments to work on for their skills. Vu said, "This ensemble contains a variety of instrument types from purely

percussive snare drums to melodic keyboard instruments such as the marimba, xylophone, vibraphone and bells."

The group is thankful to have Dr. Jeff Held to lead them in rehearsal. Vu said, "Dr. Held is a great conductor and director. I would like to thank him for all of his hard work especially during this challenging time, and for letting us practice and rehearse our music in the BMC." The group is also thankful to have this time each week and hope it continues. Ujifusa said, "This is an awesome ensemble that will hopefully continue after coronavirus."

For more information about the Music Department, visit www.cui.edu/arts/music or contact Dr. Jeff Held, the Assistant Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, at jeff.held@cui.edu.

PICTURED ABOVE: Senior Khoi Vu holding his mallets in front of the vibraphone in Percussion Ensemble rehearsal. Photo Courtesy of: Daniel Ujifusa and Sophia Flores



PICTURED ABOVE: Percussion Ensemble rehearsing in Zhang Hall in the Borland-Manske Center. Photo Courtesy of: Daniel Ujifusa and Sophia Flores

