

# THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

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Concordia University Irvine

Friday, January 22, 2021

## Concordia honors freshman Ryder Wade



PICTURED ABOVE: Ryder Wade.  
Photo courtesy of Anna Bloomfield

ALEXIS RIOS AND  
BROOKE JACKSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Concordia family mourns the passing of freshman Garrett "Ryder" Wade. On Fri., Jan. 15, the student-athlete was in a motorcycle accident after leaving water polo practice that morning. Wade graduated last year from El Modena High School and entered his freshman year at Concordia majoring in Psychology.

Concordia President Michael Thomas said, "On behalf of the University, we extend our deepest sympathy to Ryder's parents, family, and his sister Bailey who is also a student at Concordia."

There was a gathering held on Jan. 15 at 11 a.m. in the chapel and a vigil in the amphitheatre that evening at 7 p.m in which both Ryder's mother, Martha Wade, and sister, Bailey Wade, talked about Ryder and his love for

life. A family of immense faith, Martha prayed at the vigil that Ryder's life -- and his strong love for Jesus -- would help others to begin their faith journey.

At the vigil, Martha also prayed for students, the doctors and nurses who worked with Ryder, and the family riding in the car which collided with Ryder. She prayed that we may all find peace and Jesus as our cornerstone in life.

Additionally, at the vigil students were given candles to light and hold, pen and paper to write notes to Ryder, and the opportunity to sign a book for the Wade family. Lead Pastor Quinton Anderson spoke and worship music was sung. It was an emotional night filled with unity and compassion as students grieved the loss of one of their own.

Both those who knew Ryder personally and those who did not grieved the immense loss.

Pastor Anderson explained how one life can impact so many. "Our lives are most often lived in the constant daily 'regular' interactions with others more so than through

major or mighty singular events. But each interaction leaves an imprint.

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PICTURED ABOVE: Ryder and his dog Banzai  
Photos courtesy of Anna Bloomfield

## SHOUT! if you're ready for unity

ALEXIS RIOS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Are you interested in being involved with a faith-based community? Look no longer! SHOUT!, a student-led worship initiative, is still going strong -- with socially distant and mask modifications, of course. Located in the amphitheater, students gather every Thursday from 8 to 9 p.m. Although adaptations have been made, SHOUT!'s impact has not changed as students rave about the connections and uplifting atmosphere the community provides.

Senior Morgan Schepker finds comfort in the unity of SHOUT!. "I think being surrounded by a faith-based community is comforting in the sense of growing in my relationship with Jesus alongside others. The prayer/reflection time at SHOUT! allows us to get together and talk about the devotion given, and conversations can get really deep," said Schepker.

Lead Pastor Quinton Anderson believes SHOUT! is an excellent place for students to reconnect in a way that allows them to "rest in our God and His Grace." Pastor Anderson said, "We were not made to be in isolation. We were created to be in relationship with the Creator. In addition, we were made to be connected in community with one another for mutual support, encouragement and shared life."

Junior Kessler O'Brien, majoring in Theology to be a DCE, also involved in Abbey West, has attended SHOUT! since his freshman year. "I first started attending SHOUT! my first week as a freshman as I heard one of my upperclassman friends was speaking at it and have missed very few since then," said O'Brien.

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# Student Leadership – Apply and Thrive!

GABI BECKMAN  
ASCUI SECRETARY

Looking for ways to get involved on campus and get paid? Well look no further! Second semester is back and better than ever with even more opportunities for students to get plugged into campus life. Throughout the month of January, applications are open for all the student leadership groups here on campus and each group is hosting info nights who want to learn more about what it means and looks like to be in student leadership.

For those interested in building community on campus, look into our Residential Education and Services by serving as an RA! Whether you want to build connections with freshmen or in an LLC, being an RA means providing a living community for learning and fellowship, while maintaining safety throughout the community. Want to learn

more? Check out the website <https://www.cui.edu/studentlife/student-leadership/index/id/20102>.

If you are still interested in working with freshmen, consider the First-Year Experience (FYE) Program to be a Peer Advising Leader (PAL)! Helping freshmen with orientation and adjusting to life in college, PALs are crucial for making the transition onto Concordia as smooth as possible. Interested in being a PAL? Check out the FYE Instagram ([concordiairvinefye](https://www.instagram.com/concordiairvinefye)) to hear more about the application process!

Are you more interested in the social aspect of campus? Then the LEAD Program might be the one for you! Recognizing the value of student involvement on campus and its impact on a student's overall college experience, the Leadership, Education, and Development (LEAD) Program focuses on providing opportunities for

students to participate in both on-campus and throughout Orange County. Want to learn more about what goes into planning events for students? Log onto the Virtual LEAD Info Night on Wed., Jan. 27 at 4:30 p.m. to hear about the variety of positions LEAD has to offer.

Still looking for the right position for you? Consider ASCUI! As the Associated Students of Concordia University Irvine, the ASCUI Executive Board is all about expressing student voices to administration and making Concordia as great as it can be. With a variety of positions, ASCUI has taught me a lot about what it means to be a leader, as well as being an Eagle. Still have questions, log onto the ASCUI Info Night at 5 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 26!



PICTURED ABOVE: Recruiting people for the RA Soiree Photo courtesy of Gabi Beckman

# Today is the deadline to register for Academic Showcase

STAFF REPORT

Fri., Jan. 22 is the final deadline for students to sign-up to participate in this year's President's Academic Showcase of Undergraduate Research.

Students can apply work done this spring semester or leverage another paper/project they have completed or proposed in a previous class as a way to get started with the showcase.

Along with being excellent practice for graduate school or future careers -- along with a confidence booster -- students working on a new project can earn three units of course credit for new projects, two units for projects already started, or one unit for projects that simply need analysis and discussion.

Past participants list the ability to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor as their top benefit from participating in the showcase. And many

participants, including recent winners, have used their projects as a vehicle to get accepted at top graduate programs around the world.

There are two levels of competition -- one for freshmen/sophomores, and one for juniors/seniors. Along with earning class credit, participants compete for cash prizes and may also apply for the President's Academic Showcase Scholarship. The scholarship application is open for participants that need funds to conduct or present their research at a conference. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is the same as the sign-up deadline: January 22.

On the fence about participating? It doesn't hurt to ask and learn more! Email [showcase@cui.edu](mailto:showcase@cui.edu) with any questions and to get the details.

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We want to hear from you.  
Write a "Letter to the Editor."  
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# Concordia honors freshman Ryder Wade

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We often don't consider the impact until the end of life when a community of people are able to collectively give expression to it. It should probably serve as a reminder to not spend so much of our time looking past the moments and opportunities and people right in front of us," Anderson said.

A loss such as this one will not be easy but many students plan to keep Ryder's spirit alive through their actions going forward. As Pastor Anderson said, "We can honor people who have made a positive impact on our lives by showing grace, compassion, forgiveness, patience and other

expressions of love to those around us."

Need to talk? The Wellness Center is offering counseling services by calling 949-214-3102. Campus Pastor Quinton Anderson is also available at 949-214-3111 or by email at [quinton.anderson@cui.edu](mailto:quinton.anderson@cui.edu).

**PICTURED BELOW:***The Wade family*  
Photo courtesy of Anna Bloomfield



**PICTURED ABOVE:** *Ryder and his dog Banzai*  
Photo courtesy of Bella Garritano

Dailynn Santoro, Senior on Water Polo  
"Ryder was free-spirited...I'm dedicating my last water polo season at CUI to Ryder in hopes to honor his legacy."

Chase Murphy, Junior on Track and Field  
"Ryder lived life WILD and nothing less! Ryder rode the biggest waves, jumped off the highest cliffs possible into the ocean, bombed the biggest hills on his skateboard he could find."



**PICTURED ABOVE:** *Memorial for Ryder*  
Photo courtesy of Bella Garritano

Patrik Zsiros, Senior on Waterpolo  
"Ryder was always smiling and so joyful no matter the circumstances, he never had one negative word to say. It was easier to go to Water Polo conditioning or morning practice with him because of his positive vibe. He was a big source of happiness and made us all more motivated. He was also going to be an asset for the team. He was fearless in the water and a strong player."

Hunter Osgood, Freshman on Water Polo:  
"Ryder had a huge heart that you couldn't find in anyone else. He spread so much love whether it be to his friends and family or just some random stranger in the streets. You will never meet someone quite like him, he was special in his own kind of way."



**PICTURED ABOVE:** *Students honoring Ryder at his vigil*  
Photo courtesy of @cuieagles

*An excerpt from Ryder's paper titled Junkie, which discusses the different psychological sides of self.*

*"Jesus left perfect heaven to live a human life with all of its challenges, yet without sin. The lyrics also speak of who Jesus is to me. He is my Light, my Strength, my Solid Ground. No matter what darkness surrounds me, I can look to Him to Brighten my soul and my path. Whenever I am feeling weak or incapable, He gives me the strength I lack. 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13. He is always there for me no matter how many problems I have or how shaky life is. His foundations never gives way. We can stand on Him and not be swayed."*

Ryder Wade  
2002-2021

*An excerpt from Ryder's paper titled Junkie, which discusses the different psychological sides of self.*

*"The normally unrecognized social side of me is a humanitarian junkie. I find great pleasure in helping other people in need, especially people with special needs. In high school, I had the opportunity to take my pet ducks, Z and Mohawk Mike, to the special education classroom. The point of affirmation for this act of kindness was when CiCi, a blind girl with developmental delays, smiled from ear to ear while holding Z's beak, "Pato. Pato." The teacher and aides were astonished, "We've never seen her smile!" As humans, we do want to be noticed and appreciated. Doing acts of kindness please others, but have a tendency to give pleasure back to us. I love having a positive impact on people's lives."*

El Modena Athletic Director Ed Drzanek:  
"Ryder was more than an outstanding water polo athlete for El Modena. He was gifted with the ability to make people smile when they were sad, encourage them when they had doubt, lead when no one would step up. His energy, laughter and love for life has left a void in our community."

Keegan Bloomfield, Head Track and Field Coach:  
"In everything Ryder did he was so genuine, loving and present. His impact on those around him is so apparent today. Ryder technically wasn't a track and field student athlete but most of our team knew him. He was always there to support Bailey and I know how much he loved his sister... enough to spend all day watching her run!"



**PICTURED ABOVE:** *The Wade family celebrating Bailey's great race.*  
Photo courtesy of Anna Bloomfield

Natalie Hakala, Track and Field Alumnus:  
"I want to live life and love the way Ryder did. He was all in all the time. His outlook on life was one of a kind and I wish for everyone to try and love the way Ryder did, with an awe inspiring love towards everyone and everything. When he would talk to you he made you feel as if you were the most important person. I don't even know if he realized how welcoming he was."



**PICTURED ABOVE:** *Ryder skateboarding*  
Photo courtesy of Anna Bloomfield

Bella Garritano, Freshman on Swimming and Diving  
"Ryder was someone I admired constantly for his ability to be anything but ordinary. He cared not about the tangible things but the experiences and friends by his side. To honor Ryder I will live life the way he tried to show me how to live: take risks, be more adventurous, meet and get to know people in person rather than over the phone."

Alex Newberg, Freshman on Water Polo:  
"Ryder was one of the most selfless people ever, he had the biggest heart and cared so much about people that he didn't even know. He would go into stores and buy food and give it to the homeless. Ryder had a heart for everyone, no matter who you were or what your past was."



# Eagles welcome Coach DeAndra'e Woods



**PICTURED ABOVE:** Coach Woods  
*Photo courtesy of: Larry Newman Photography*

**BILLI DERLITH**  
ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

The Concordia track and field/cross country programs are ringing in the new year with not only a brand new track, but also a new assistant coach.

DeAndra'e Woods will be the new sprints/hurdles/relays coach and is coming to the Eagles from Chapman University, but he is not new to Concordia. In 2015, he was a graduate assistant with the Eagles, and since then has been the head coach for the Chapman Panthers.

Woods has extensive experience in track and field. Woods ran at Division I Cal State Fullerton as a sprinter from 2008-12 and was a team captain from 2010-12. After he finished competing at Cal State Fullerton, he volunteered and then interned for the Titans strength and conditioning coaches. Next, he became one of Concordia's track and field graduate assistants where he had athletes break records in the 60-meter dash (indoor), 4x400m relay (indoor), 4x100m relay (outdoor), and the 4x400m relay (outdoor). He also helped coach the 4x100m relay team to the PacWest championship in 2016.

While coaching for the Panthers, he transformed the track programs. In the 2019 track and field season, both teams had their highest championship point totals in the SCIAAC and the men's 4x400m relay became the first Chapman relay team to end with a second place finish. Under his lead, Chapman University also had their first female runner qualify for the 2018-19 Division III Cross Country National Championships. Wood's teams also consistently succeeded academically maintaining a team GPA above 3.0 with dozens of student-athletes achieving individual recognition.

Woods hold several certifications. He is certified from

the US Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association as a Sprint/Hurdles/Relay specialist and as a jumps specialist. He is also certified as a USA Track & Field Level 1 Coach, USA Weightlifting Sports Performance Coach with knowledge in Olympic lifts, and USTFCCCA Certified Strength & Conditioning Coach.

Concordia head coach Keegan Bloomfield is beyond thrilled for Woods' return to Concordia. "The CUI track and field/cross country program is blessed to have DeAndra'e coming home after 3.5 years," said Bloomfield. "When we started the search to fill this position, DeAndra'e was the first coach to come to mind. I'm thankful to God for bringing him back. I'm also thankful to Athletic Director Crystal Rosenthal and Vice President Tim Odle for allowing us to conduct such a quick and efficient hiring process."

Woods will bring a great deal to the program including "an energy and focus to the team that will elevate us all," said Bloomfield, "His love for life, the Lord, and to see his student-athletes succeed is contagious. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to a group of student-athletes who are primed to take the next steps under his leadership."

Woods replaces former assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Benjamin Hinckfoot, who recently accepted a similar role at his alma mater at Concordia Nebraska.

**WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING...**

*Kevin Reid, Head Coach, University of La Verne*

"You have a good one in DeAndra'e. While I am disappointed to see DeAndra'e leave our conference, I am excited to see him chasing his dreams and moving forward. What you have is a quality coach that will recruit

and coach at a high level. More importantly, you have a quality man that will guide, mentor and coach CU athletes to be the best they can be - on and off the track."

*Todd Lane, Assistant Coach, Louisiana State University*

"He's very caring and committed to athlete development on the track, but also as people and students in the world and classroom. Those skills are always invaluable as a person who works with student athletes."

*Meredith Basil, Associate Athletics Director, California State University, Fullerton*

"Coach Woods is an intelligent, passionate, authentic and motivated leader. He brings fresh perspectives and a wealth of experience. CUI is fortunate to have him as a member of the Track and Field/Cross Country program and the campus community."

*Maija Girardi, Student-Athlete, Chapman University*

"Coach Woods is one of the most dedicated coaches I have ever competed for. We will miss his coaching and guidance through track and life and I wish him well in his next chapter."

*Nick Buto, Student-Athlete, Chapman University*

"I really appreciate everything Coach Woods has done for me as an athlete, student, and person, as well as for this team, school, and community. I am so grateful for the experiences and memories Coach Woods has helped me make and for the family that he has built. I am so proud and excited to see the places he goes and the things he does."

# Soccer tops PacWest postseason rankings

**STAFF REPORT**

The Concordia University men's soccer team has been voted No. 1 in the PacWest Preseason Rankings. After a 10-7 (8-3 conference) finish in the 2019 season, the Eagles look to continue their dominance in the 2021 season.

"It is great to be recognized for the hard work this program has put in," head coach Chris Gould said in a press release. "Our guys are focused on getting back on the field and playing hard for one another. We are all excited to get started!"

Midfielders Nick Aquino, Michael Oakson and Willy Ospina along with forward Luke Ryan were named to the pacWest Preseason All-PacWest Team. Aquino played 1,059 minutes on the season with three assists to drive the Eagles' successful season.

Oakson started all 17 games in green and gold. The senior

tallied every minute on the field last season. He recorded two goals and four assists. He earned First-Team All-PacWest honors as a top defender in the conference.

Redshirt-senior Ospina has earned Second-Team All-PacWest the last two seasons. He appeared in all 17 games for the Eagles in 2019.

Ryan scored six goals and 13 points last season. He has 21 shots on goals with two clutch game-winning goals.

After 15 months away from competition, the Eagles look to live up to this preseason ranking. The men kick off season at home against Vanguard on Wed., Feb.3. At this time, fans are not able to attend sporting events, but live stats can be found at <https://portal.stretchinternet.com/cui/>

After taking advantage of the extra year of eligibility, Barsemian and Hoppe came back to Concordia to continue to compete. "They are both captains and love the program and university. They add depth to our team and a calming influence with their experience," Patchell said.

Barsemian and libero Addison Enriques were named All-American Honorable Mentions by the AVCA. Enriques led the MPSF with 192 digs and had the fourth-best average in all DI and DII men's volleyball.

Hoppe and Enriques were named All-MPSF Second-Team in 2020.

Graduate student from the Netherlands, Jesper Schut, looks to help with Eagle defense as a strong middle blocker. Schut, along with key transfers and true freshmen round out a strong recruiting class for the green and gold to make a push for the postseason.

The Eagles open play at Pepperdine on Monday at 7 p.m. The men return for their home opener on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Fans are not permitted at either game. The home game will have live stats and can be found at <https://portal.stretchinternet.com/cui/>

# Men's volleyball set 12th in poll

**CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY**  
CAMPUS EDITOR

The Concordia men's volleyball team ranked No. 12 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) preseason poll for the second time in three years.

The Eagles went 11-10 in the shortened season due to COVID-19. Six starters including two seniors returned to take advantage of an extra year of eligibility.

Before the season abruptly came to a close, Concordia defeated No. 7 cross-town rival UC Irvine and swept the USC Trojans series.

Over the extended offseason, the team took advantage of outdoor workouts that catered to small group work. "It has really been a growing experience and a chance to work in small groups like we did decades ago," head coach Shawn Patchell said of quarantine workouts.

Raymon Barsemian and Jordan Hoppe look to continue to be a powerhouse duo in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) Conference. Barsemian led the MPSF with 277 kills last season before it was shut down. He became the first Eagle to be voted First Team All-MPSF.



# Keeping music relevant

CAITIE FULTON  
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

Due to the pandemic, Concordia’s Music Department has had to think of different ways to involve music students during the lull of music-making. Professor Steve Young, the Director of Worship Arts Leadership Institute, helped to put together a program titled “The One Thing Challenge,” which involves professional musicians sharing “One Thing” that makes an impact as a musician, or something that musicians should work on. From June to September, videos were posted on social media of musicians speaking on that “One Thing.”

The project aims to help music students at Concordia stay engaged with music during this time. The challenge has helped students stay connected with each other, the Concordia community and other musicians.

The challenge features some familiar faces, as well as some

more well-known names. One participant in the challenge was Scott Williamson, a studio musician from Nashville, Tennessee. He shared his “One Thing” while on tour with Lady Antebellum, Blake Shelton, Casting Crowns, and Michael W. Smith. “Don’t play your instrument, play the song,” said Williamson. “When you serve the song, you serve the listener and there’s hardly any point in a song if it’s not gonna reach out and grab the listener.”

Another well-known name in “The One Thing Challenge” was Marc Martel, singer and songwriter also from Nashville. He was the voice of Freddie Mercury in the film “Bohemian Rhapsody” (2018). Martel shared that it is important to invest in things that we normally would not do before the pandemic. “I want to encourage you guys to think about one thing today... to think about one thing you’ve wished you were better at that you didn’t have much time to work on back in the old days,” said Martel. This advice can apply to anyone,

beyond just musicians.

Shari Short, singer, songwriter, producer and CEO from Los Angeles was also a part of “The One Thing Challenge.” Short has been a songwriter for Ariana Grande, Miley Cyrus and Sofia Reyes. She shared that now is one of the best times to learn new skills. “There are so many tools out there to really stay productive and motivated,” said Short. This pandemic has given us more time to be able to invest in new abilities.

“The One Thing Challenge” has allowed professional musicians to give some insight into how we can best use our time. It can also be helpful to any student at Concordia. The pandemic has provided the time to help us find who we are and to grow as individuals.

To watch all videos from “The One Thing Challenge,” visit [cui.edu/arts/music/one-thing-videos](http://cui.edu/arts/music/one-thing-videos). To learn more about the Music Department, visit [cui.edu/arts/music](http://cui.edu/arts/music).

## Networking opportunity: First-gen students invited to February Cafecito Zoom



PICTURED ABOVE: Cody Mendoza  
Photo courtesy of: Cody Mendoza

STAFF REPORT

First-generation Concordia students—in other words, neither of the student’s parents earned a bachelor’s degree in the United States— are invited and encouraged to attend a Cafecito event on Wed. Feb., 10 from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.

The special guest speaker is first-gen college grad Cody Mendoza, who serves as a District Representative for the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native of Orange County, Mendoza started his college journey at a community college, then

later transferred to CSU Fullerton to earn a B.A. in English. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the Fowler School of Law at Chapman University where his interest in legislative history led him to a career in public service and his current job as a District Representative for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Though the term “Cafecito” has Spanish roots, first-gen students of all backgrounds are welcomed. Navigating college can sometimes be overwhelming—at school, at home and with family. The Cafecito events, which are championed

by Lizz Mishreki, Director of Public Relations & Hispanic FirstGen Student Initiative at Concordia, aim to cut the confusion and create networking experiences for first-gen students.

“We have students whose dads were engineers back in their birth country, Argentina, Mexico or Iran for example, but the U.S. college system is entirely different to navigate making that student the first one to attend college in their family in the U.S.” Mishreki explained, adding, “The official definition of first-generation that CUI-- and

## Curling up with a good book is worth the time

KIRSTIE SKOGERBOE  
STAFF WRITER

Philip Sidney, heartthrob poet of the mid 1500s, wrote a piece around 1581 entitled “The Defence of Poesy.” Its lesser-known title, per Dr. Kerri Tom’s Major English Writers class, is, “Why Everyone Should Read Fiction.”

What Sidney calls “poesy” is essentially what we today call fiction. The novel hadn’t been invented yet, so poetry was the main form of storytelling. Apparently, people in Sidney’s day had some harsh criticisms of poetry: some called it a form of lying, others thought it perverted people’s sensibilities about right and wrong. Responding to these and other criticisms, Sidney sets out a compelling argument for reading fiction.

Fiction makes knowledge appealing.

Sidney doesn’t fault people who don’t like learning. The reason they don’t is that they haven’t experienced learning in a way that makes it beautiful. He says, “[U]ntil they find a pleasure in the exercises of the mind, great promises of much knowledge will little persuade them that know not the fruits of knowledge” (lines 100-103). Fictional stories bait the unsuspecting reader or listener into a love of knowledge. Stories are a match to the mind’s candle – they show you more than what you could see before, and remind you that there’s always more worth seeing.

Anybody can learn from fiction.

Most people who take a philosophy class have already been studying for a while – they’re probably in high school or college. But my three-year-old niece, who doesn’t know a whit of philosophy,

will demolish her shelf of storybooks as she thrusts one after another into my hands to read out loud. This illustrates the difference between stories and other educational disciplines: you don’t have to be learned to learn from fiction. Sidney writes, “[The philosopher] teacheth them that are already taught; but the poet is the food for the tenderest stomachs, the poet is indeed the right popular philosopher...” (lines 464-467). If you encounter people who think education is hoity-toity, hand them Harry Potter or The Princess and the Goblin. Good stories are often as down-to-earth as they are deep.

Fiction cultivates virtue.

This is one of Sidney’s most emphatic points. Fictional stories are extraordinarily capable of teaching their reader or listener what is good and true and beautiful – and also what’s evil and wrong. Learning, he says, has “the end of well-doing and not of well-knowing only” (lines 317-318). Kids who grow up on Harry Potter know what it means to be a brave, faithful friend. In The Princess and the Goblin, Irene has to trust what’s true, even when no one believes her. Stories don’t just make people smarter; they make people better.

Fictional stories mold the heart and mind to love things worth loving. They reach down to reveal the beauty of learning. And they make readers bastions of virtue in a weary world of wrong.

So thanks, Sidney, for reaching down to show us.

other universities -- go by is this: A first- generation college student is one whose neither parent earned a bachelor's degree in the United States."

RSVP for the Cafecito Zoom to Mishreki by email at [Lizz.Mishreki@cui.edu](mailto:Lizz.Mishreki@cui.edu) to receive the Zoom link and reserve your spot at the event. Space is limited – so sign up today, grab a coffee and prepare to “virtually” network!

# Firsts in American inauguration history

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY  
CAMPUS EDITOR

As our 46th president Joe Biden and 49th vice president Kamala Harris were sworn into office Wednesday, history was made. Former California senator Harris was sworn in as the first woman and woman of color to the office of Vice President of the United States. Harris hails from an Indian mother and Jamaican father.

Others before 2020 have made history during their 35-word oath of office. A look back

on the ceremony can give historical firsts in American history.

The date January 20 was not always the day the commander in chief took office. After John Adams (2) took office of March 4, 1797, the date was used until the ratification of the 20th amendment in 1933. The amendment established the terms of the president and vice president would end at noon on January 20. Franklin D. Roosevelt (32) was inaugurated for his second term on Jan. 20, 1941.

In 1977, 39th president, Jimmy Carter, started the informal custom of walking down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House after the swearing in ceremony. “Once somebody does something innovative, it becomes a tradition,” Doris Kearns Goodwin, a presidential historian, said during a telephone interview to the New York Times. This year, it was replaced with a “virtual parade” in an attempt to maintain social distance and discourage

crowds due to COVID-19.

As our first president, George Washington was not the first to take his oath outside the Capitol in Washington D.C. Washington; he was sworn in at Federal Hall in New York City, then gave a speech outside the Senate chambers. His successor, John Adams was inaugurated in the Chamber of Congress Hall in Philadelphia. Our third president, Thomas Jefferson, was the first president to be inaugurated at the Capitol.

***“I do solemnly swear  
(or affirm) that I will  
faithfully execute the  
Office of President of the  
United States, and will  
to the best of my ability,  
preserve, protect and  
defend the Constitution  
of the United States.”***

After John F. Kennedy (35) was assassinated in 1963, Lyndon B. Johnson was the first and only president to take his oath of office in an airplane. He was sworn in on Air Force One with JFK’s widow, Jackie Kennedy, by his side before leaving Dallas.

Warren G. Harding was the first commander in chief to ride to the inauguration in an automobile. Bulletproof and closed lim-

ousines made their appearance with Johnson after JFK’s assassination.

James Polk’s (11) address reached more Americans after being delivered via telegraph. William McKinley’s (25) ceremony was the first to be captured by a motion picture camera, and Calvin Coolidge (30) was the first president to be transmitted on radio. Bill Clinton (42) was the first president to be streamed on TV.

Two-time impeached former President Donald Trump (45) did not attend Biden’s ceremony breaking tradition. He announced on Twitter “To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20th.” Previously, John Adams refused to attend Thomas Jefferson’s ceremony, Adams’ son, John Quincy Adams (6) also did not participate in the festivities for Jackson. Forty years later, impeached President Andrew Johnson (17) did not attend the swearing in of Ulysses S. Grant (18); he instead stayed at the White House to finish legislation, according to the Associated Press.

Other notable points from President Biden’s ceremony on Wednesday included the late addition of a heavy security presence, and Vice President Harris being sworn in by the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Biden was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts.

## SHOUT! if you’re ready for unity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

O’Brien loves the sense of community and relaxation SHOUT! provides and recommends everyone come check it out. O’Brien said, “I would absolutely recommend SHOUT to anyone that hasn’t come yet! Even though it’s a little different than usual, it is still up and running and has a great community.”

SHOUT! leader Marshall Murphy said the most significant change this year has been the absence of music in worship. Although, through the change Murphy believes a larger spiritual reflection has been able to occur. “SHOUT! is about being fed spiritually, and music has been a big part of that in previous years. This year, I still wanted SHOUT to be a place where people can still come to be fed spiritually, even if we can’t worship together as we did in the past. We’ve been focusing on spiritual reflection and personal prayer, even more, this year, which has borne some incredible fruit in this unprecedented time,” said Murphy.

Schepker recommends coming to SHOUT! for the student-led devotionals. “My favorite part of SHOUT! is listening to the student-led devotionals. It is very cool to hear about God from the perspective of other people my age going through some of the same things I am. The spiritual wisdom of my peers amazes me every week. I especially love when they give part of their testimony, how God has worked personally in their lives



PICTURED ABOVE: A student-led devotional at SHOUT! Photo courtesy of: Adyson Casteel

and individual struggles,” said Schepker.

Pastor Anderson recommends anyone new to SHOUT! come with an open mind. “If you haven’t been to SHOUT!, there may be many student traditions that have developed over the years that will be new to you regardless of your faith experiences. It is good to go with a mindset to feel comfortable to ask questions even while observing and learning to participate yourself.”

In a world where everything takes place virtually, opportunities to safely build real life connections can be scarce. SHOUT! is an excellent opportunity to get involved with the community, lift broken spirits, or simply deepen your faith. For more information on SHOUT! checkout <https://www.cui.edu/studentlife/campus-ministry/chapel>.

## Opinion: Big tech is overstepping

CARALIN NUNES  
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

Freedom of speech is a right and a privilege that we have as Americans. And in the age of big technology and social media, it’s relatively easy to amplify our messages. The question I have is this: In an effort to keep us safe as a society and democracy, are social media giants flexing too much muscle and stripping the American people of their right to be heard?

From social media platforms to large corporations, people across the

political spectrum are losing their ability to speak their opinions and share their thoughts. Twitter has banned American actress Mindy Robinson, an Australian comedy group calling themselves The Chaser, Former President Donald J. Trump and more. Facebook has also permanently banned several people and groups, including Trump. However, while censorship is occurring for both the red and the blue, it seems that the majority of these restrictions have been geared to-

ward conservatives.

Regulating communications (freedom of speech) is a tricky business, particularly when corporations, private individuals and government entities are mixed together in the social media melting pot. But that doesn’t mean we should take big tech’s decisions at face value. Consider this Wall Street Journal 2021 opinion piece which stated, “Google, Facebook and Twitter should be treated as state actors under existing legal doctrines. Us-

ing a combination of statutory inducements and regulatory threats, Congress has co-opted Silicon Valley to do through the back door what [the] government cannot directly accomplish under the Constitution.”

Social posts aren’t the only content open to censorship. In an effort to curtail COVID-19 misinformation, YouTube has a policy set in place to delete “anything that would go against World Health Organization

recommendations.” Is that providing safety or censoring alternative views? My opinion is that this has gone further than simply fact checking.

Tech giants are removing more and more content from the American people in the name of safety and well-being. But are good intentions destroying the free flow of conversation that these very same technology platforms helped create?