

THE Concordia Courier

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Concordia University Irvine

Friday, March 14, 2014

Night of Hope funds IJM

KAYLA LARDNER
STAFF WRITER

The 5th annual Night of Hope, which brings awareness to human trafficking both abroad and locally, will be held tomorrow, March 15. A local vendors' expo begins at 5 p.m., followed by musical performances beginning at 6 p.m.

Night of Hope began as a way to raise funds and awareness for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti five years ago. Since then, the event has focused its attention on multiple other causes, such as this year's sponsored organization, International Justice Mission (IJM).

According to their website, "[IJM] is a human rights agency that brings rescue to victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression. IJM [staff] work with local officials to secure immediate victim rescue and aftercare, to prosecute perpetrators and to ensure that public justice systems effectively protect the poor."

IJM was chosen by Night of Hope organizers because "IJM hits [human trafficking] at the starting point so that it doesn't come here," said Jordan Mayo, senior Night of Hope Coordinator. Mayo also pointed out that human trafficking is here in our country and in our communities. "A lot of people think that it's more of a global issue, but it's in

our hometowns," Mayo said.

Also at Night of Hope, representatives from the Locust Effect will have petitions that will be sent to the UN. In 2000, the UN formed Millennium Development Goals (MDGS), and in 2015, they will create new goals that, for the first time, could include security and justice measures targeting violence. The petitions at Night of Hope will ask the UN to support MDGS that "eliminate all forms of violence against children, ensure that justice institutions are accessible, independent, well-resourced and respect due-process rights, [and] enhance the capacity, professionalism and accountability of the security forces, police and judiciary."

IJM is working with the Locust Effect because their goals are IJM's goals, and they hope that by alerting people to the situation and having them sign the petitions, they will make those



goals ours and the UN's as well.

There are many other ways to get involved both with Night of Hope and with a number of other organizations at the event. Run 2 Rescue, a local Christian organization that wants to "reach, rescue and restore victims of human trafficking," and FIKISHA, which began at Concordia and has been Night of Hope's sponsored organization multiple times over the past few years, are just a couple of the organizations that will be seeking support.

The coordinators of Night of Hope want to get people excited about helping, which is why Night of Hope is a fun event for all involved. Before the show begins, there will be an expo featuring local vendors and one of the best local food trucks. The expo will also feature live art done by Concordia students. A portion of the proceeds from the vendors will also go to support IJM, so simply by attending the expo students can already begin to donate funds to the organization.

Those who contribute \$10 for a ticket will be

wowed with a stellar performance featuring Concordia students alongside the Show Ponies and PawnShop Kings, favorites from last year's event. Both bands have a grass-roots vibe, and that's what the theme for the night has also become, according to the head of the visual arts committee, Alex Lange, senior.

Lange, who worked to set up last year's Night of Hope, wanted "to create a beautiful event that showcases Concordia's student body's ability to pull something amazing together from nothing," Lange said. Lange loves Night of Hope because "Concordia doesn't really have anything that's student organized. [This is the] most organic student-led event that we have."

He has been working tirelessly on everything, from the backdrop for the stage to the lighting to the t-shirts to the advertising, as he, and everyone else involved, prove their passion for the cause through their exhausting work.

The event still needs many volunteers for the day of. For more information on how to help with Night of Hope, contact Cassidie Read at cassidie.read@eagles.cui.edu. For more information on IJM, visit their website <http://www.ijm.org/>.



Eagle Run set to make splash of color

RYAN MCDONALD
STAFF WRITER

At 9 a.m. on Sat., March 22, fellow Eagles, faculty and supporters from the community will be covered head-to-toe in paint for this year's 6th annual 5k Eagle Run. This will be the first "color run" that ASCUI has sponsored. All of the revenues fundraised from this event will go to support the Around-the-World program.

"This run is community-based, so we are trying to engage the entire student body, as well as alumni and current faculty members," said Jamie Rivera, senior ASCUI President. "By adding the element of color, we can attract those who are not runners to come out and help raise money for the Around-the-World program."

The runners will be briefed prior to the race about course details, and will also be provided with a white T-shirt at the pre-race expo with an eagle logo that is half complete. The reason for this is to encourage fellow participants to connect the dots of the eagle to show a sense of

unity. Instructions to keep the paint and marker permanent on the shirt will be given as well. "I had a really great time last year when participating in the Eagle Run. I have never done a color run, so I am even more excited this year," said Heidi Anderson, senior.

The 3.1 mile adventure consists of four stations runners will pass through as they are squirted with various colors such as blue, yellow, green and pink. This year's course will be slightly different from Eagle Runs in the past – the expo, starting line and finish will be held at the Good Shepherd Chapel parking lot. The first half of the race will be a moderate decline; from then on, it will be an uphill battle to put the runners to the test.

Although participants of all fitness levels are encouraged to join, some preparation may be helpful. "Start off conservative at the beginning. Gradually increase your pace until you find a pace that you can maintain until the end without completely exhausting yourself," said Joshua Gomez, senior Cross Country NAIA All-Amer-

ican and 2013 GSAC champion. Gomez plans on assisting the upcoming race by running with students that might have never run a 5k before to help with technique and motivation.

After the runners complete the race, they will be given a "swag pack" that contains post-race items. The top three runners will receive a prize, which has yet to be determined, as well as a special prize that will be awarded to the individual who has the best outfit. "We are really encouraging people to dress up, be creative and have some fun. Their effort will definitely be rewarded," said Scott Esswein, sophomore ASCUI Treasurer and President-Elect. The goal of this fundraiser is to simply have a good time and support the students involved with the Around-the-World program, so they can continue their journey spreading the Word of Christ.

The ASCUI members are expecting the greatest turnout yet, and hope to raise at least \$2,000. Registration is available on the Eagles website, as well as at 8 a.m. on race day. The cost to participate is \$10 for students and \$20

for non-students. The course will provide water and first aid stations to assist the runners. So come out, bring a friend and enjoy a memorable morning filled with color.



Jock Talk with Zachary Pio

The start of the 2014 Outdoor Track & Field season is here and the Concordia Eagles are itching to feel the rush of the starting gun, the big throw and the ever-so-elusive first place. Make no mistake, there are many athletes on this team that seek nothing but the best. This attitude is to be expected from not only our returners of the previous season, but from our new teammates as well. With the Indoor season now completed, the team welcomes Arielly Conde, Joshua Gomez and Robert Blackwell to the All-American family here at Concordia. This title not only says that they have earned their spot among the best of the best, but that they are in fact ranked top eight in the nation!

The bar could not be set any higher for our student-athletes this season. With 11 National Qualifiers and five All-Americans already on the roster, we are expecting great things this season. Some athletes to keep a close eye on in the Men's roster are Brett Hayes, Tyler Nichols, Bryce Nilsson, Brent Constantine, Jon-Thomas (JT) Royston, Jared Artega, Adan Martinez, John Macwillie, Thomas Dombrowski and Stirley Jones. For the Women's Roster, look for Ashley Bell, Octavia Duncan, Maya Dickerson, Mikaila Davis and Leah Jaeger to have a stellar season this year. Among the first to punch their ticket to Outdoor Nationals this season is Cassandra Lew and Melissa Cortes in the marathon. This team has high expectations and with the level of talent we have, we look to be very competi-

tive this year.

Track & Field is not only a sport decided by the clock, it is also measured by distance. Our newest additions to the Throws Squad are Moises Ramos, Clair Polin and Lauren Timm, who have already left a strong impression within the program in the Shot Put and Weight Throw, setting new school records in both. A lot is to be expected from the new and upcoming throwers who have big roles to fill throughout the season. Caleb McCurry, a National Qualifier and an All-American, is now back in action after suffering an injury and has big plans to make a strong appearance in conference as well as the national rankings. I am also looking to make my way back to Nationals this year and hopefully win first after placing third last season.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the 2014 Track & Field team this season. The stage is set and the athletes are ready to fly into high gear as we tackle every obstacle in our path towards Conference and Outdoor Nationals. Our season starts this weekend with the Ben Brown Track Meet at Cal State Fullerton. Led by Head Coach Mark Sellers, Coach Popp (Throws), Coach White (Sprints), Coach Flowers (Jumps), and Coach Jabaz (Distance) the sky is the limit as this talented team looks to shatter expectations and prove to the GSAC conference that Concordia University Irvine is the best Track & Field team this year!



Going green in more ways than one

KALEIGH WILDAUER
STAFF WRITER

The Orange County Marketplace in Costa Mesa will host their 8th annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Green Festival this Sunday, March 16. The celebration will have a unique atmosphere, mixing the luck of the Irish with a bit of green that promotes eco-friendly living. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saint Patrick, one of the most revered saints of the Catholic Church, is believed to have brought Christianity to Ireland. He died on March 17 in the year 461 AD. This heritage has left us a day that will forever be celebrated by many cultures across the world. The first St. Patrick's Day took place in Boston in 1737. There are approximately 34.5 million Americans who are of at least partial Irish decent, leaving all the more reason to celebrate this lucky day.

There is no need to worry about finding a babysitter this coming weekend; the St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Green Festival offers entertainment for all ages. There will be a specific area for kids offering free art activities and face painting.

It would not be a true St. Patrick's Day Celebration without Irish dance. Many different world class dance schools specializing in Irish Dance will take to the main stage all day long to show off their skills.

"I think St. Patrick's Day is a fun holiday for all people no matter the age, and it is a

great reason for people to come together as a community to celebrate," said Colleen Santamaria, junior.

There will be numerous food trucks offering unique Irish menus and green food specialties, along with their regular food menus. Ice cream will be for sale all day long to keep cool while enjoying the sights and spectacles of the festival. All proceeds for the ice cream will be used to support the Earth Resource Foundation. Be sure to print off a coupon on the OC Marketplace website for a free green mint ice cream cone.

One of the most popular events is the Haute Trash Fashion Show. This show provides couture fashions that are made from only trash. This show starts at 1 p.m. and will be held on the main stage.

"The celebration is interesting because it focuses not only on St. Patrick's Day, but also on being more aware about the earth and how we can improve the community around us," said Monica Alcalá, junior.

Other entertainment includes things like worm composting, an Eco Parade, a Scavenger Hunt, a look at recycled and up-cycled projects and even a special display of smart cars provided by smart center of Laguna Niguel.

For more information regarding the festival, visit www.ocmarketplace.com. There will be free admission to those who donate an old pair of eyeglasses to the Lions Club. Otherwise, the cost is \$2 for adults and free for children 12 and under.



Irish dancers from last year's St. Patrick's Day festival in Costa Mesa.

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Swim scores at nationals

CHRIS REAMES
STAFF WRITER

The Men's and Women's Swim Team finished up their season with the 2014 National Championships last weekend in Oklahoma City. Both the men and women finished strong, with the men in fourth place and the women in fifth.

Patrick Sonsteng, senior captain of the men's team, had been leading the team and preparing them for this final meet. "Last year we got second. We are way faster this year, but so was ev-

"Performances at Nationals were for each other, our family, our coaches and our school."

everyone else. The meet was unexpectedly fast this year," Sonsteng said. The highlights included a second-place finish by the women's 200 freestyle relay team, and a fourth place finish by the men's 200 freestyle relay team. Mackenzie Bailie, junior, finished fourth place in the 100 butterfly, Lawrence Oxborough, junior, finished fourth

place in the 200 freestyle, and Lucas Spencer, senior, finished fourth place in the 100 breaststroke.

Both the men and women were proud of what they accomplished at nationals. Carly Colin, senior captain of the women's team, seemed to be very pleased with how the Eagles ended their season. "Coach Jeff Boss does a great job with us. Our performances at Nationals were for each other, our families, our coaches and our school. We are proud to be Eagles," Colin said.

"Overall, as a team we did really well. We had a little bit of a slow start, although after the first day we really began to come together as a team," said John Dowd, junior. Both team captains were named champions of character. "This was a great honor for Patrick and me," Colin said. This was not only a great honor for the two captains but also a great honor for Concordia's swim program.

For the current seniors, this is the last meet that they will compete in for Concordia. "My most memorable moments were anytime I spent with my team, from 6 a.m. practice every morning to team activities on the weekends," Sonsteng said. Colin also commented that "This team is so close and fun! I will miss them the most; they are family." To conclude the Eagles' season, seven swimmers were recognized as NAIA scholar athletes. The awardees include senior Gabe McDermott, juniors Devin Grimalda, Oxborough, Kristina Bergerson, Tara Blether, and Ale Gomez and graduate student Jordyn Gosney.

Although their season has ended, the men and women are already looking forward to next year's competition and breaking new records.

Baseball staying focused through season

JENNIFER SCHULTZ
STAFF WRITER

Concordia Baseball is well underway in their season with an overall record of 19-8. This past weekend they had a tough battle against Vanguard University. The men dropped two of three games to their GSAC opponent. But they rallied back to close out the weekend with a 4-1 win against La Sierra University.

The baseball team works hard; they train off-season to help prepare for game time. "We start baseball-related activities as early as September every season and this year was no different. Actual in-season games did not start until February so we had a good five months to fully prepare," said Trever Benjamin, senior. "Now we are just trying to focus on the task at hand each day."

The team has many strategies and has been preparing to continue their winning season. The team does not believe in comparing themselves to other teams, players or past seasons. They treat each game as an individual and strive to better that one thing. "We don't like to compare teams or past seasons, but we do have a good core group of returners from last year that experiences that pain of losing in the playoffs," Benjamin said. The team hopes to turn this pain into positive energy to work hard and improve.

It is important for the team to have goals, but not to look too far into the future. Each coach, teammate, practice and game is a step toward what is next. "As a team we like to stick to the process and compete in the game without looking towards the future," said Daniel Shine, junior.

"I can speak for the entire team and say that the ultimate goal with each of our guys is to win every single game, inning and pitch. The likelihood of this happening is slim, but in order for us to be the type of people we want to be, we have to have our goals set very high," Benjamin said. "We just take each day at a time and try to enjoy getting better at baseball every moment

we can. We trust that if we strive to get better each day that we will get the opportunity to play on the last day of the season."

The team, however, is working towards an ultimate goal. "Every year, we hope to make it to Lewiston, Idaho, where the NAIA College World Series is hosted. Before that, we need to play well and land a playoff spot. In beginning our second round of league play, we are playing to win the GSAC," said John Bornhop, sophomore.

Although planning beforehand is important, the players have to spend the greatest amount of preparation right before the game because everyone needs to be in the right mindset throughout the game. "Our biggest preparation as a team, as well as my own, comes right before the National Anthem starts. We all have to tell ourselves that now is the time to be mentally ready," Benjamin said. "There are roughly 400 pitches thrown in each game and staying mentally present for each one is a grind. Getting our mentality right as a team just before the game enables us to lock in for such a long time."

Pitcher Keegan Yuhl has had great success in his first year as an Eagle with a no-hitter early in the season and a recent game with a career-high 10 strikeouts. He agrees that to succeed it is important to prepare right before the game. "We prepare mentally with visualizations," Yuhl said.

Although the men play for the love of the game, the baseball team has found something unique and special about the Concordia Baseball team: second to playing the game the team cherishes the friendships they have with one another. "The brotherhood that goes along with such a time-consuming sport is extremely rewarding. I have been not only playing, but also hanging out with, practicing, studying, and living with many of these guys for three years now and have lifetime friendships because of it," said Benjamin.

The men have a series starting today at home against Arizona Christian. The first pitch is set for 2 p.m., along with a double-header on Saturday starting at 11 a.m..

For tennis, love means nothing

TAYLOR DENNISON
STAFF WRITER

The 11th ranked Men's Tennis team is nine games deep in their season with a 4-5 overall record. The men strive to finish the remaining half of their season in the GSAC strong with confidence and a winning record.

Playing NCAA Division II teams, such as the University of San Diego and Point Loma Nazarene University, has given the team a chance to see the different levels of competition. "I think our team has the potential, and playing these teams that are not in our conference exposes our players to what we need to work on to get better at," said Kaimalu Cope, junior. Westmont and Vanguard seem to be the top competition for the Eagles. Although they lost to both schools in their first matches against them, the men are eager for a rematch.

Junior team captain Christian Wickenhauser has a different view on his position as a team leader. "For me, I don't think it matters what year a player is," he said. "We are all teammates, we respect each other, and there is no one who feels that they are better than the others." Wickenhauser holds the number one position on his team. By holding himself accountable and aiming to win matches, he hopes that his energy will motivate the rest of the players on his team.

Wickenhauser has had the chance to play under Head Coach Jonathan Sanchez for the past two years. "Our coaches tell us right away what they think was the cause of a loss," Wickenhauser said. "Sometimes, these are tactical things, sometimes, these are mental things, and sometimes it is a little bit of everything. But the coaching staff really brings a lot to this team."

Some basic areas for improvement lie between the team's mental toughness and seriousness during practice and in preparation for matches. One thing the group does exhibit well is chemistry. The team has new players who have integrated themselves very well. Freshman

Hayden Hensley said, "Everyone gets along well. We are all good friends on the court and off the court, which has improved from previous years."

While tennis is in fact an individual sport, they do have to stay positive and energized for each other. "Our coach wants us to cheer for one another, especially in the matches we are not winning," said Jan Guler, senior. "I think doing so will help unite us down the road."

Within the matches, there are also doubles match-ups. Severin Diemand, freshman, said, "We excel in doubles; our team's pairs are skilled and competitive, making us hard to beat in that area."

Unfortunately, the team cannot rely just on doubles. Losing three close matches that they could have won left the Eagles with a fire for revenge. "I hope we can beat some teams ranked

ahead of us and win a couple rounds," Wickenhauser said. "The ultimate goal is to do as well as possible during the conference tournament and nationals. We've had some great wins, and we are improving each week."

Catch the Men's Tennis team in action today, when they compete at the University of Redlands at 2 p.m. The Eagles next home match will be March 17 at noon.



The camaraderie of the men's tennis team is one of their greatest strengths.

On-campus yoga classes stretch students

SHEA FRATES
STAFF WRITER

Concordia is now offering free yoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays in Sigma Square, taught by Cathryn Kruger, junior.

Kruger used to be a dance major at Columbia College in Chicago, but injured herself and had to stop dancing. She was, however, still able to practice yoga. "Yoga became my outlet for movement," Kruger said. "I simply fell in love with it."

Last July, Kruger received her yoga certification from Core Power Yoga with the sole purpose of helping people. "I have always wanted to help people through movement," Kruger said. "For a long time I was looking into dance movement therapy, but it is not as accessible to people as yoga is, so I just decided to do [yoga.]" Kruger has over 200 hours of teaching experience and is nationally certified through the Yoga Alliance, a nonprofit association representing yoga teachers, schools and studios in the U.S.

Kruger is participating in this year's academic showcase, presenting on *Christianity and Yoga*. "[I was asked] if I could do a presentation on yoga. From that, I had a lot of students ask me if I teach on campus," said Kruger. "When CU Active opened, it seemed like the perfect opportunity for me to bring it to campus."

Kayla Barzan, senior, attended Kruger's class for the first time last week. "It was my first yoga class with an instructor and I really enjoyed it," Barzan said. "The instructor was very good with making sure everyone had a variation that they were comfortable with, while still reaping the maximum amount of benefits."

Bridgett Plowman, junior, has been taking Kruger's classes for some time and really enjoys them. "I met Cathryn in Intro to Theater and got to know her as a lovely relaxed person," Plowman said. "When she was certified and started teaching, I was super stoked to start taking classes with her."

Over the course of the past couple months, Plowman has achieved some great results. "I've definitely noticed a change in my posture and my ability to just relax," Plowman said. "I also get a great ab workout - but that's just an added bonus to everything else."

After just one class, Barzan also noticed positive results. "After taking the class I felt relaxed

and energized," Barzan said. "I went back to my room and was able to focus on my work."

Kruger has some advice for those who are interested in trying yoga. "Just come," Kruger said. "I find people get self-conscious about it and they worry that they aren't flexible enough, like there is some stigma about it. Everyone can do it, like everyone can dance. It is a form of

self-expression and you're not going to regret it."

Kruger's hour-long classes are located in Sigma Square on Mondays at 4 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., as well as Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.



Kruger (left) instructs a fellow student on the finer points of a stretch in Sigma Square.

Dr. Ashmon presents annual Trembath Lecture

JAKE HUNTER HAM
STAFF WRITER

The Harry and Caroline Trembath Lecture took place in the DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall this past Tuesday. This annual lecture was presented by Rev. Dr. Scott A. Ashmon, Associate Professor of Old Testament and director of the Core Curriculum.

The lecture discussed university education through a Lutheran approach. The main question addressed was, "What is the primary purpose, or highest level, of a university education?"

Ashmon discussed the approaches of various philosophers, including Aristotle, Mark William Roche and John Henry Cardinal Newman. The philosophers' liberal approach says education is for contemplating the truth. This contemplation allows for the pursuit of truth, the development of virtues and the formation of intellectual habits. Ashmon used the philosophers' arguments to provide support for his point.

Ashmon took particular time to discuss his favorite quote from Aristotle, "The object also which a man sets before him makes a great difference; if he does or learns anything for his own sake for the sake of his, or with a view to excellence, the action will not appear illiberal, but if done for the sake of others, the very same action will be thought menial and servile." This quote served as a prominent feature of Ashmon's lecture.

Dr. James V. Bachman, Professor of Philosophy and Ethics and a two time Trembath lecturer was in attendance. "I thought it was very interesting, and Dr. Ashmon did a great job of making it so understandable," Bachman said. "This wasn't easy, especially because it is such a contentious topic." Dr. David Loy, Professor of Philosophy, agrees. "I thought it was great; all the points he made were spot on," Loy said.

"I was honored to be given the chance to give the lecture this year and am excited to share what I have learned in my studies," Ashmon

said.

Next year's Trembath Lecture will be held in early March next year, presented by Dr. Michael Middendorf, Professor of Theology. It will be Middendorf's second time presenting. "I have already done one lecture, and it was a lot of work, so I'm looking forward to having a better grasp of what needs to be done in order to make it a success," Middendorf said.



Ashmon covering philosophies at his Trembath lecture last week.

Starving to make a difference

NICOLE DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

Concordia Cares hosted their first ever Hunger Banquet on Thurs., March 13. A handful of volunteers and guest speakers came together to promote ending world hunger.

Upon entering the event, each student received a ticket assigning them to an upper, middle, or lower class and a corresponding country. They dined as if they were a citizen of that country and social class. This gave students the chance to see what it is like to live as another person, even if just for an hour.

"The goal of this event was to educate students about hunger and how it affects the Orange County community and the world," said Emily Hindenes, freshman. "We wanted as many people to come and learn more about hunger as possible."

The guest speaker for this event was Andre Gaithe from the Community Action Partnership of Orange County. He works with an organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in Orange County by eliminating and preventing the causes and effects of poverty by

mobilizing and directing resources to programs that assist, educate and promote self-sufficiency. "We were very lucky to have him as a speaker at this event," Hindenes said.

"We had a great time, met a bunch of people and the speaker was great," said Valerie Barrios, junior.

Concordia Cares aims to educate students and faculty while giving them the opportunity to get involved and make a positive difference. They offer a variety of volunteer opportunities to encourage the Concordia community to reach out and make connections in the community of Orange County. "We hope to achieve this through the Hunger Banquet," Hindenes said. "[We want] students to walk away with an awareness that hunger is faced throughout the community, and hopefully gain a passion to do something about it."

"I have been to hunger banquets before but I want to start volunteering for these events," said Chelsea Villegas, junior.

To participate in future Concordia Cares events, visit <http://www.cui.edu/studentlife/concordia-cares>.

Interested in the Courier?
Join as a writer or apply for a job next semester!

For information or an application contact faculty advisor Ashlie Seifkes at ashlie.seifkes@cui.edu.

Faith & Business Forum: worth going nuts over

LIANNA JORDAN
COPY EDITOR

Concordia hosted the 11th annual Faith and Business Forum Luncheon, presented by Phil Liberatore, IRS Problem Solvers, Inc., at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa last Tues., March 4. Mark Jansen, President and CEO of Blue Diamond Growers, was the keynote speaker at the forum, which supports Christian leaders of excellence and integrity.

The theme verse of the event was Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for man." After welcoming the attendees, President Kurt Krueger presented the Faithfulness & Excellence award to recipient Doy Henley, a man noted for exhibiting the values in this Bible verse and the two qualities of faithfulness and excellence in his business success, which President Krueger said are "two core values at Concordia." Henley is a co-owner of Cox Hobbies, Inc., and operates Henley Properties, Inc. He and his wife, Dee, have set up an endowment fund at Concordia that supports future church workers.

President Krueger then introduced Jansen to discuss how he has successfully integrated faith and business in the management of his multi-billion dollar company. Blue Diamond Growers, a company owned by over 3,000 almond growers in California, is the world's largest provider of almonds, serving all 50 states and over 90 countries worldwide. For Jansen, becoming CEO of such a successful company was "far from a birthright." He previously held positions with General Mills, Pillsbury and Schwann's.

After these jobs, Jansen said that he felt "a calling from God" to change the course of his career. He wrote down a list of specific characteristics he felt his new company of employment would demonstrate, including one with a CEO reporting to a board, one not publically traded, one with healthy food products, and, he lightheartedly added, one in a sunny location near mountains. Each of these was exemplified in the highly-successful Blue Diamond Growers.

Jansen's calling was not always so clear to him. Coming from a family of church work-

ers, Jansen felt left out of the call to ministry. "What about me?" he asked himself. "How am I to know I am being called by God?" He meditated and prayed upon God's Word, where he learned that "God calls the imperfect to do his will," whether in church work or secular fields. Jansen now strives to live according to God's will, even in a secular business setting, and uses a quote from Martin Luther as an example, "The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes."

The event was not only geared toward those already in the business world, but it also provided insights that college students can apply to their lives right now. Rick Hardy, Associate Vice President for Marketing at Concordia, believes Jansen's application of Jesus' Parable of the Talents found in Matthew to the business realm is also applicable to college students. In the parable, each servant was entrusted with talents, a denomination of currency. Those who used their talents wisely received favor. Likewise, those of us who use our talents (in the modern sense of the word) also receive favor. Hardy encourages college students to "use our talents to invest in ourselves for our future." At Concordia, we are filled with opportunities which should not be taken lightly. Hardy related this to the passage found in Luke 12:48, "everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required," Hardy said.

Danielle Maclain, sophomore business major, worked the event with the Foundation Department and heard Jansen speak. She said that she "learned that the business world is constantly changing and does not stay constant, but we can rely on God and put our faith in Him." Jansen's speech reminded Maclain that incorporating faith into every aspect of our lives, not just the business world, will "lead us down career paths that will enable us to grow and share our faith with others." At the event, Maclain was able "to connect with business professionals and ask them for their advice."

The Faith and Business Forum is an annual event dedicated to encouraging Christ-centered leadership.

Orange County company goes public, intern along for the ride

JAMES ALLEY
STAFF WRITER

Senior Ryan Austin, an Accounting major, took an internship with The New Home Company (NHC) several days before they started trading in the stock market. NHC is an Orange County-based construction company that was founded in 2009. They went public on Jan. 31, 2014 at an initial price of \$11 a share. Austin will be working with the company as they grow and begin operating as a publicly-traded company.

This represents a monumental shift in NHC's way of doing business. The company has gone from having a single guiding force that makes the majority of the decisions to having stockholders and a board of directors who have a major say in the direction the company takes. When a company goes public, there is an influx of cash as investors buy up stocks. NHC plans to use this cash to finance new projects and expand their current operations. Chief Operating Officer Tom Redwitz was quoted in the Orange County Register "Today gives us new capital. It will be for land acquisition, home building activities



Austin will gain great insight into the world of business as an intern at NHC.

and, generally speaking, growing our business." As of March 11, 2014 The New Home Company, which appears as (NWHM) in the stock market, is currently trading at \$14.71. This price, even though it regularly fluctuates, represents an increase in the value of the company.

With all of the changes happening at NHC, it is an exciting time to be an intern working with the company hand-in-hand. "Everyone in the company was very excited and enthusiastic. It was awesome listening to the partners explaining the process of going public as well as future plans for the company. It inspired everyone in the company to continue working their hardest and at their best," Austin said. There is no better way to learn the inner workings of a large corporation than by working in conjunction with its employees and leaders.

Austin is working with Dr. Mark Fawaz, Professor of Business Administration, to complete his internship. Internship programs at Concordia are constantly striving to place students with innovative and competitive companies. The experience that Austin will gain during his time at NHC will equip him to move into other positions that will draw on the skills he is developing now. "This internship has taught me that there are so many elements that go into running a successful business. I have been exposed to different departments which make up a homebuilding company. The biggest impact I've received from this internship is the desire to continue my education in studying to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)," Austin said.

Internships are often the most important stepping-stone between college education and entering the workforce. For information on potential internship opportunities visit the Career Center or approach your professors to see if they may have a connection in an industry or field you are interested in. Contact Victoria Jaffe via email/phone or at the Career Center by stopping in anytime. The Office of Career Development Services is located on campus in the Student Success Center, across from the gym. See you in the workforce!

MCAA writes for the OC Register

KALE SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

Recently, the OC Register collaborated with Concordia's Master's in Coaching and Athletic Administration (MCAA) program to have articles written in every Saturday's OC Varsity section, which helps establish Concordia as a home for leading experts in the community.

These articles cover an array of topics such as bullying, locker room etiquette and even sideline participation. While giving many useful tips for all those involved--coaches, fans and athletes--the articles' main purpose is to show the positive and practical approach that the MCAA instills in their faculty and students. "Our program is practical, based upon real world needs. We emphasize service to our students and attention to detail from the very outset," said Tom White, MCAA founder and director. "We also emphasize the educational and character development aspects of athletic participation. If you develop quality character traits and teach life skills and values, you are a winner." With their sensible and ethical approach to quality education in coaching and administration, it is evident why Concordia's program is being featured in the Register.

The MCAA, which serves students from all 50 states and even foreign countries, strives to enhance Christian leadership skills of coaches and students, according to Dr. Kent Schlichtemeier, MCAA's Director of Curriculum and Instruction. While tending to the physical aspects of athletics, the program also serves the spiritual parts, as stated in the OC Register. One of the articles, entitled "There's More to Sports Than Winning," focuses on these very Christian values which we have received through Christ.

"We have a model in the Lord himself. He was a model for humility and grace," said Jim Kunau, MCAA Assistant Professor. "We understand humility is a good quality, where arrogance is repellent. Most coaches understand you have a choice in life: you can be humble or be humbled." While remaining centered in Christ, the mission and values of Concordia can easily be fulfilled in all aspects of athletic participation.

According to the OC Register, a successful team includes a coach who calls the shots effectively. While this is unquestionably true, through our Christian foundation we all understand that "God is the head guy," said Walt Herd, MCAA Technology Director. Through continued commitment and dedication from coaches and students alike, personal and professional goals can be met by applying the practical

methods of the MCAA.

The core values and morals of Concordia are accurately portrayed through the articles in the OC Register and help to establish the credibility of the MCAA as a leader in the practical approach to ethical coaching and performing. If you would like more information about these articles contact Jon O'Neill at jon.oneill@cui.edu or access the articles at www.ocvarsity.com.



ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE SIDELINES

BY SHALEEK BLACKBURN

Whether sitting in the stands or standing on the sidelines, parents and fans should always bring a positive and encouraging attitude when gathering to support their athletic team, especially at the interscholastic level.

"When we're talking about interscholastic

Since the core goal of interscholastic sports is to build a young person's character, says Dr. Forkum, it's essential that supporters, especially parents, be keenly aware of how to react to their child's sports participation. Parents should take the position of being supportive, understanding and clearly defining - for themselves and their

It's a good thing for kids to see their parents and fans willing to express appreciation of the sport itself.

— Dr. James Forkum, Professor and Information Specialist for the Master's of Coaching and Athletic Administration program at Concordia University Irvine



Concordia University Irvine prepares students for their vocations—their various callings in life. CUI offers undergraduate, graduate, and adult degree programs in a beautiful Southern California location, with online and regional cohort options. Concordia's undergraduate program is distinctive among universities in California because of its nationally recognized Core Curriculum, and its Lutheran heritage that provides a thoughtful and caring Christian community that lives out the theology of "Grace Alone. Faith Alone."

Concordia is a U.S. News Top Tier Regional University and has been named by The Chronicle of Higher Education as one of the fastest growing private nonprofit master's institutions. CUI enrolls over 4,000 students.



TAKING ATHLETICS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

A sample of the MCAA's contributions to the OC Register. You can access these online via www.ocvarsity.com.

Concordia Choir croons on campus

AUSTIN DERRYBERRY
STAFF WRITER

This evening, Concordia Choir will present their home concert at 7:30 p.m. in the CU Center. As the one and only performance at Concordia on their spring tour, the choir will be performing a diverse portfolio of sacred music, Latin Renaissance music, spirituals and more. This home concert will showcase the music the choir has been performing on tour this year and preview some of the music they will be performing in Italy this May. The concert is free for students, \$10 for general admission and \$8 for seniors.

Some of the pieces being performed are not only American classics but foreign masterpieces as well. Concordia Choir has performed a vast array of music throughout the years. This concert in particular highlights the choir's ability to play a wide range of songs. "You can expect diversity in the music we will be singing," said Ryan Fink, sophomore. "We have songs from different time periods, in different languages and with very different sounds." Fink is excited to showcase the work they've put in this year and to share with the Concordia community not only his love of music, but also his love of Christ evident in the music.

Whitney Leehey, senior, asserts that her favorite piece to perform is "Thou Shalt Know Him," a song the choir ends every performance with. "It's a cool tradition. We circle the audience when we sing it, and alumni can join in. I just always enjoy it," Leehey said. Leehey was also quick to convey her excitement for some of the Italian pieces they will not only be performing at home in Irvine, but on tour in Italy as well. She expressed excitement for one piece in particular: "Riveder le Stella" written by Randall Stroope, an adaptation from the Italian literary classic "Dante's Inferno."

Whether it's for spiritual nourishment, an appreciation for classical arrangements or just a love of music, the home choir concert has something enjoyable for everyone to listen to. Concordia Choir has already been to multiple churches around the Orange County area, traveling as far as San Diego to perform their music. Sharing their music and the Gospel along the way, our choir does a great job of ministry for the school. Concordia Choir's tour will be heading to Bakersfield shortly after this concert, so this concert is a great opportunity to hear their musical talent before they leave.

Although we may not have the chance to go to Italy like the choir, perhaps attending their concert will transport us through the music.

Winter Ring in the Midwest

KRISTINA DEUSCH
STAFF WRITER

The Concert Handbells and Spirit Bells of Concordia recently returned from their "Winter Ring in the Midwest Tour" after a week of traveling in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. This was the first-ever winter tour that Concordia's handbell groups have undertaken. From Feb. 22 until March 1, students braved sub-zero weather while performing ten times for various churches and schools. Dr. Herbert Geisler, a graduate of Concordia Chicago, directs Concert Handbells, while Spirit Bells is directed by Nancy Jessup.

"The students worked together from beginning to end, retaining a positive, constructive attitude about their work, free time with each other and performance," Geisler said. He was particularly impressed with the students' performances on this tour. "They performed consistently and unusually well; I believe they discovered that the more enthusiastically they played, the more enthusiastically the audiences responded," Geisler said.

Spirit Bells and Concert Handbells played for a total of 1,700 people during their tour, traveling in areas with much local handbell activity. Some of the places where these groups performed included St. Luke Lutheran Church in Itasca, Illinois, Immanuel Lutheran Church

and School in Dundee, Illinois, as well as St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Grafton, Wisconsin. In their week of touring, Concert Handbells and Spirit Bells played five school and church performances, as well as five full concerts, along with a workshop for small ensemble and solo ringing.

"We were also blessed with remarkable effort and warm hospitality at all of our sites, as well as smooth travel from start to finish, in spite of the chilly temperatures," Geisler said. Geisler had formed many prior relationships that helped establish performance sites for the tour, thanks to his participation as the handbell clinician for Chicago-area Lutheran Schools Fine Arts Festival in Roselle, Illinois last April. These local-area contacts included Dr. and Mrs. Michael Young, formerly of CUI and now at Concordia Wisconsin.

During their time in the Midwest, the CUI ringers visited two sister Concordias: Concordia Chicago and Concordia Wisconsin. They also bundled up for the frigid conditions while sightseeing in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. Wisconsin became the 34th North American state or province in which Concordia handbell ensembles have performed. A complete itinerary and other handbell information is available at www.cui.edu/handbells.



The touring handbell choirs pose in front of the Chicago skyline during a tourism break in the Windy City.

Wagner in the wind

ALEX TUKEY
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Wind Orchestra (CWO) will be performing their spring concert on Sunday, March 23 at 5 p.m. in the CU Center. It will include a wind-specific piece written by Richard Wagner, as well as one of Wagner's most recognizable songs, "Ride of the Valkyries." The conductor for this spring concert, Dr. Jeff Held, Chairman of the Performing and Visual Arts Division, has been a faculty member of Concordia since 2005.

The CWO consists of a wide variety of Concordia students. In fact, almost 70 percent are not music majors. The group practices twice a week and puts on approximately 15 concerts per year. Additionally, unlike most college wind bands, the CWO performs for worship services and puts on sacred-themed concerts.

A significant amount of preparation goes into each concert, this one in particular. "It's the hardest music that we will play all year, so it demands individual preparation by all the musicians, close listening to recordings and use of their private lessons for preparing for this difficult music," Held said.

However, the students are not the only ones putting significant time into preparing for this

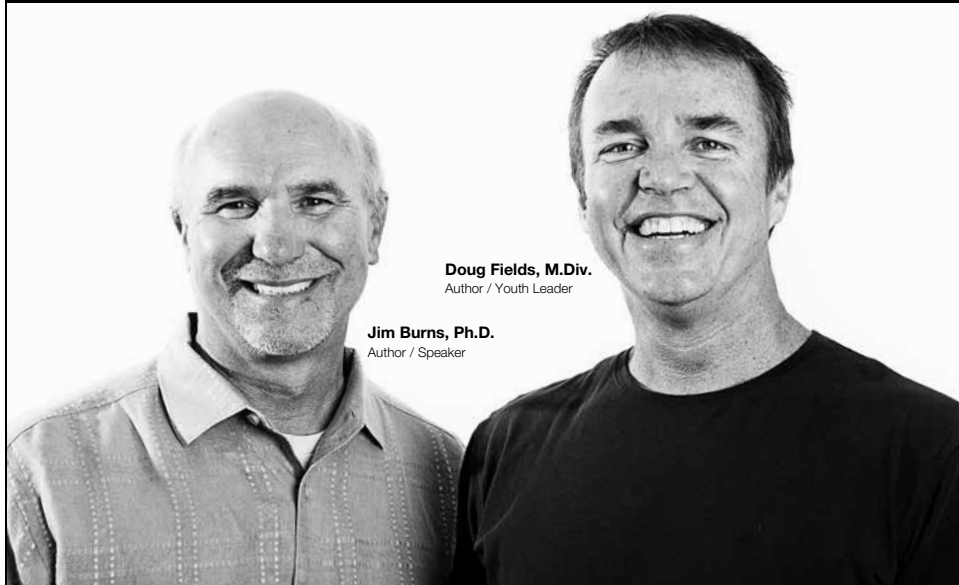
concert. Held has several different components he must study and prepare for as well. Alterations to the piece, such as excluding saxophones from Wagner's original score, provide a different sound that Held believes "is more true to the original, yet practical for the musician resources I have." Held noted that he also has to "study the scores very carefully. The Reed symphony is very complex and I need to know what each instrument is doing at any given moment so that I can adequately prepare the group."

Even considering all the commotion before him, Held has strategically prepared a concert with a meaningful structure and flow. "All three pieces go together. I wanted to open with the only piece Wagner wrote for wind band: 'Trauermusik.'" From there, Held intends to roll into the main centerpiece of the performance. This section consists of the reed symphony and focuses on a love song written by Wagner to his wife. Held noted that he is aware most of the audience may not be familiar with this piece. "I usually give the audience something they know as a closer, and 'Ride of the Valkyries' will fit that bill," Held said.

Admission to the concert is free for Concordia students, \$8 for seniors and \$10 for general admittance. For more information about the CWO and the upcoming performance, visit www.cui.edu/cwo.

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Alumnus *Contradict* pop culture's religion

JOSHUA SUH
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 10, Andy Wrasman, '05, released his first publication, *Contradict: They Can't All Be True*. Wrasman graduated from Concordia with a degree in Theological Studies and has always had a passion for evangelism. Wrasman then pursued his master's degree in International Studies and spent three years in China for missionary work. He is currently teaching upper-division theology courses at Crean Lutheran High School. After two years of writing, Wrasman released his first book, *Contradict*.

Contradict: Not Everything Can Be True chronicles Wrasman's experience evangelizing at secular universities where he would engage in faith-based conversations with adherents of

various religions. The book specifically takes a stand against religious pluralism. "Originally, my friend Adam Stenson and I would hold up this big poster that said 'Contradict' on it, the poster would be composed of different religious symbols, similar to the popular Coexist stickers," Wrasman said. "This eventually enticed the students and gave us the opportunity to share the Gospel with them."

Contradict equips the reader with Wrasman's different approaches and methods to sharing the Gospel with other religious followers. Wrasman informs the reader of various beliefs and how they are practiced throughout different cultures. "[Wrasman's] book acts as a gap between world religions and Christian apologetics. He takes an unbiased perspective and asks himself, 'Can any spiritual validity be found in other religions?'" said George Allen III, Concordia website designer and *Contradict* enthusiast. Allen believes *Contradict* exposes the pervasive pluralistic worldview that often tries to argue that all religions lead to the same God and points out this is not true.

Adam Stenson, '11, thinks *Contradict* offers great insight for all readers. "Wrasman did a wonderful job with the book. The book is very informational about all religions," Stenson said. "I would encourage Christians, especially those who are unsure why they believe what they believe, to read *Contradict*." Stenson also believes that *Contradict* can give the church a new perspective on how to evangelize to non-Christian communities in today's postmodern culture. Wrasman believes *Contradict* provides Christians with the needed knowledge of the world's major religions to have an informed conversation that shows people how Jesus Christ is the only sufficient savior.

Since publication, Wrasman has been able to evangelize to a broader audience through differ-

ent forms of media such as the Lutheran Church radio. In April, Wrasman will have the opportunity to speak at a Comparative Religions Lecture at UCLA. Wrasman hopes that others will use his *Contradict* logo and evangelize at universities. He also hopes to produce more *Contradict* stickers and eventually would like to see more *Contradict* logos around than Coexist. "I hope and pray that more opportunities to proclaim the Gospel of Christ arise, as that truly is my

passion," Wrasman said. "To share the Lord with anyone who has questions about him."

Jessica Wrasman, Professor of English, thought the book was very well-written and was glad to support her husband during his time of writing. She hopes and encourages everybody to read *Contradict*.

For more information about *Contradict*, please visit www.contradictmovement.org.



LACMA encourages artistic adventure

BRANDON LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER
&
MARGARET LANGDON
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

If you are looking for a great adventure, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is a great place to visit. Many associate art museums with boring pictures of abstract art and prohibitively costly admission prices, but that is nothing like this museum at all. For only \$10 you can spend the entire day to enjoy the museum. In addition to its nine exhibition halls, the museum has great gift shops, cafes, lounges and even a sit-down restaurant.

LACMA was established in 1961 as the art-focused offshoot of the original Los Angeles Museum of History, Science and Art in Exposition Park. It later moved to its current location on Wilshire Blvd. where it has experienced a lot of exciting transformation over the years.

The mission of the museum is to serve the people through the collection, display and interpretation of art from a variety of historical periods and cultures. The layout is very professional and inspires an impressive architectural feel. Each of the nine different buildings you can explore focuses on different forms of art. Exhibits include Japanese art, special exhibitions, Latin American art, modern art, contemporary art and many others that will leave you wanting

more. In particular, LACMA is proud to hold one of the most significant collections of Islamic art in the world.

LACMA also offers opportunities to enjoy various music concerts in addition to their art exhibits. Free chamber music concerts are held every Sunday at 6 p.m., many Fridays host popular California jazz artists, and Saturday afternoons between Memorial Day and Labor Day welcome exciting Latin artists.

Overall, this is a great place to adventure to and seek out many historic and modern pieces. Children and adults alike are sure to be enchanted by the variety of exciting things here. This place is a great place to take a ton of pictures (and, sure, the occasional "selfie") due to

the fact that this museum is beautiful and is an impressive sight to the eyes. One cannot truly experience this terrific display of art until you are there in person; this is a place you definitely want to go visit!

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd., only a five-minute walk from the popular La Brea Tar Pits. It is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The museum is always closed on Wednesdays.

For more information on current exhibitions and concerts, visit LACMA's website at <http://www.lacma.org/>.



President's Academic Showcase Schedule of Events

Thurs., March 27
Poster Session
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Outside the CU Center

Wed., April 2
Finalists' Presentations
10:30 a.m. to noon
DeNault Auditorium

Fri., April 4
Announcement of Winners
Immediately following chapel

Embrace the pi

JOSE ALATORRE
STAFF WRITER

Today is Pi day. Yes, you heard right, *Pi* day. Not pie, the edible pastry; that would be ridiculous. A day solely focused on baked delights? No, the pi we celebrate is the 3.14 mathematical constant.

Through the years, Pi day has proved to be a delicious and educational day, where pi-riffic treats and information about this seemingly infinite constant (pi has been calculated to over one trillion digits beyond its decimal point) are provided. This year, the Pi Day activities will be hosted by Math Fraternity and Honor Society, Pi Mu Epsilon, as well as Concordia's Math Club.

The activities will take place in front of the Student Union from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In past years, Pi Day has been celebrated with pi-rate tattoos, Apple pi, and pi fortune cookies. This year, Kelsey Swerdfeger, junior president of Pi Mu Epsilon, is upping the ante with the events planned. "Naturally, our festivities will be focused around pi with a scavenger hunt where the number of items that are to be found correspond to a digit of pi, a paper chain where the color of each link corresponds to a digit of pi and pi-ku (pi-related haiku) writing," Swerdfeger said.

"I don't know much about pi, besides the

use of it in math to find the ratio of circumference, which isn't too exciting. I'll be going to the event and partaking in the events they have planned... Having fun with math - who would have thought?" said Heidi Guadarrama, senior.

Dr. Melinda Schulteis, Faculty Adviser to Pi Mu Epsilon and the Math Club, has been overseeing the Pi Day event for over a decade. With that much experience hosting Pi Day events, this year is sure to be even better than previous Pi Days. Schulteis and the rest of the mathematicians hosting the events are putting on this event to encourage appreciation of mathematics as a whole through the media of activities.

"Pi Day is my favorite day of the year. It's a day of observation for us math geeks. I waited so I could get married on Pi Day...today!" said former Pi Mu Epsilon President, Jordan Pare '12. "How many people can say they got married on Pi Day...me!" Congratulations to Pare and Jesse Fitzpatrick on getting married today!

Mariel Garcia, senior, said, "Last year I got a cool pi tattoo; I felt really rebellious. I love Pi Day and look forward to it yearly. It's the only math-related thing I actually understand."

Come out today and indulge in some math-activities, like a giant Sudoku puzzle, in front of the Student Union from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pi Day + You = 3.1415 times the fun!



Women's Tennis hopeful for the rest of the season

HOLLY GAMESTER
STAFF WRITER

The Women's Tennis team wrapped up another match with a loss of 0-9 at Point Loma Nazarene University on March 7. The conclusion of this match brought their GSAC record to 2-2, with 12 guaranteed games left in the season.

Although their season is not heavy with wins, the women are proving strong and holding up with positive attitudes. Hayden Hensley, freshman Men's Tennis player, said, "I think the women have dealt with the losses fine. They continue to train hard and give their best. They seem to have a positive spirit about things and have not let all the losses get them down."

Continuing to work hard at practice and keeping a good attitude is all one can do when faced with adversity, and the girls have decided they are not going down without a fight. Mona Piller, sophomore, said, "Right after the matches, frustration was visible. When we analyzed what happened, we realized that we are actually really close to a win. Only small changes have to be done to improve our game."

As any athlete knows, there can be a number of reasons that contribute to both winning and losing records. "A big reason for the losses is the fact that there are only six girls on the team. It is hard when there are no subs and every girl has to play every match. I think the addition of two to three good players could make a big difference," Hensley said. Maybe it is sheer numbers, or lack thereof, that is holding them back or maybe it is a combination of things.

"We often are not patient enough and make too many mistakes from the baseline. We also

need to get more confident and determined when we finish off a point," Piller said. "I believe we can improve these aspects by hitting more and more balls in practice and by playing a lot of rallies."

Although there are factors negatively affecting the outcomes of matches, the team recognizes them and is taking steps to better ensure success. "I think as we continue to work in practice on new strategies and style of play we will get more confident bringing it into matches and it will be begin to show against other teams," said Ellie Johnson, junior. "The more matches we play and the more experience we get as we are developing our game, the more matches we will pull through. In addition to developing our physical strengths we are also developing our mental game which will help a lot in winning matches."

With the team not even halfway done with scheduled matches, there is more than enough time for a turn around. With their hard work and driven attitudes, anything is possible. "I have no doubt that as we continue to push ourselves and strive to be better we will begin to get the results along with the improvements," Johnson said. With everyone believing in them, it bodes the question: why not? Their current GSAC record indicates that a rebound might be on the horizon. "I definitely believe in a turn around," Piller said. "We are really close to winning the tight matches we lost. Even though the end results were shocking at times, it was always closer than the result said."

The next match for the Women's Tennis team is against Amherst College at 11 a.m. at home on March 19.



Kristin Lampe, sophomore, remains focused in a match.

Suitcase Bingo awards surprise vacation

JASMINE BARRON
STAFF WRITER

The annual Suitcase Bingo was co-hosted by LEAD and Fusion last Friday in the Student Union. Many students arrived early, and 15 minutes before the event started, the line extended beyond the cafeteria to the gym.

The event was organized in part by Jessica Marquart, junior LEAD Student Activities Coordinator. "This year for Suitcase Bingo, LEAD and Fusion wanted to make this event fun for students to come and enjoy time with their friends and win some cool prizes," Marquardt said.

Part of Marquardt's job was putting together a variety of prize baskets, each with their own theme. For example, there were baskets containing an annual pass to Disneyland or Knott's Berry Farm, various sporting event tickets, a Catalina trip for four, a variety of entertainment prizes, a basket with Concordia gear and coffee basket with a Keruig. However, the one basket everyone waited for was the grand prize mystery getaway.

The doors opened at 7 p.m., and nearly 300 students participated. In addition to bingo, students enjoyed the trail mix bar and other vari-

ous snacks.

Last year, the Mystery Getaway was a trip to Coronado, San Diego won by Alyssa Vossler, junior. "On the trip, I had the opportunity to stay at a really nice hotel with my friend. One of the activities that we did was paddle boarding," Vossler said. "Then we ended the day with a 5-star dinner." High expectations from last year's mystery getaway brought extra excitement to the event as participants waited in anticipation for the final round of bingo.

This year, the Mystery Getaway was won by Matt Siebert, freshman. A shocked Siebert walked over to claimed his prize: an overnight stay at Beverly Garland Hotel, an annual pass to Universal Studios and a dinner at the Hard Rock Café with his friend. Siebert considered the night to be an "awesome event and with awesome prizes."

LEAD and Fusion considered the Suitcase Bingo to be a success. "It was a way to bring the students together and just come to enjoy themselves," said Stephanie Yzaguirre, sophomore LEAD Students Activities Coordinator. "I thought it was a good turnout by far. Everyone seemed to enjoy the prizes that we put together and even the trail mix bar."

The next LEAD event will be *GLO* on April 10.