

Showcase swept up by History

LIANNA JORDAN
COPY EDITOR

Winners of the 2014 President's Academic Showcase of Undergraduate Research were announced last Friday, April 4, in chapel. The 11th annual interdisciplinary competition is an opportunity for students to work with a faculty advisor on a research project of the students' choosing.

The showcase is divided into two levels: Tier One for upperclassmen and Tier Two for freshmen and sophomores. The History Department took home a "sweep" this year as the top three Tier One finalists, seniors Chase Harrington, Shannon Prier and Rebecca Lott were each from that department.

Harrington won the showcase, and along with it, \$1,500 in cash, with his project titled, "From Brubeck to Brezhnev: How American Jazz Diplomacy Shaped the Cold War." His faculty advisor was Dr. Daniel van Voorhis, Chair, History and Political Thought Department. Harrington's research, which he had been working on for a little over a year, "makes the case that jazz diplomacy contributed to the dénouement of the Cold War. Jazz is distinctly American, a musical form of individualism, and was often precursor to political rupture in the Eastern Bloc." Upon learning he was the winner of the showcase, Harrington "was humbled."

Prier came in second place, with a \$1,000 award, with her project titled, "The Hidden Imam in Iran: Apocalyptic Islam and Iranian Nuclear Policy." Her faculty advisor was Dr. Adam Francisco, Professor of History and Political Thought.

Lott came in third place, with a \$700 award, with her project titled, "The Modern Welfare State: From 16th Century Ypres to the World." Her faculty advisor was also van Voorhis.

Two Honorable Mention awards were given with a \$400 cash prize for each project. Kyle Weeks, junior, completed a project titled, "The Improbability of an Insensate Creator." His faculty advisor was Dr. David Loy, Professor of Theology and Philosophy. Seniors Cassie Hollman and Rafael Ramos completed a project titled, "Determining the Position Angle and Separation of the Double Star STF 2448 Utilizing an Astrometric Eyepiece and Video Capture." Their faculty advisor was Dr. John Ken-

ney, Chair, Chemistry Department.

As soon as the fourth and fifth place winners were announced during chapel, van Voorhis knew, "the History Department had made it. I was so proud of what they had done." Although the History Department was successful in this year's showcase and they had fun with the "sweep," van Voorhis added that, "every department has 'their time in the sun.' It's important for me to tell students to not judge themselves on how they placed. Rather, they should focus on their own growth and level of research for their future."

Van Voorhis, who has been a faculty advisor to about 15 showcase projects over the years, worked with four students this year. His job was to meet with the students weekly, beginning in the fall semester. "It is the students' job to bring information and research to me. I then get them thinking by asking questions. *'How would you substantiate that? What further evidence do you need?'*" van Voorhis said. "The students I worked with this year were the strongest I have ever worked with."

In Tier Two, sophomores Thomas Moreno

and Cy Perkins came in first place, with a \$400 award, with their project titled, "Insights into the role of interactions between VDAC1, Bcl-2, and mutant Sod1 in familial Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly called Lou Gehrig's disease." Their faculty advisor was Dr. Lindsay Kane-Barnese, Professor of Chemistry. Kendall Davis, sophomore, came in second place, with a \$200 cash award, with his project titled, "My Kingdom is Not of This World": Pre-Nicene Christians and the Roman Military." His faculty advisor was Dr. CJ Armstrong, Professor of History and Theology. Phoebe Weaver, freshman, came in third place, with a \$100 cash award, with her project titled, "The Quenching Effects of Singlet Oxygen." Her faculty advisor was Kenney.

Best Poster award, along with a \$200 cash prize, was given to seniors Kevin Guck and Faith McAllister for their project titled, "Optical Wavelength Analysis of Ruby and Gas Discharge Tubes with a Diode Laser and Helium Neon Laser through the Implementation of a Fiber Optic Cable." Their faculty advisor was Kenney.

Dr. Melinda Schulteis, Coordinator of The President's Academic Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Professor of Mathematics, was thrilled with the amount of participants and projects entered into the competition this year. 32 participants and 28 projects entered, tying the year 2007 for most projects entered. This year's showcase saw a greater variety of academic disciplines represented, including Health Care Management, Education and Psychology. For Schulteis, "the fun part is seeing different academic disciplines and excellence showcased all at once."

The President's Academic Showcase of Undergraduate Research takes place every spring and sign-ups begin in the fall. The competition is comprised of three phases. The first is an academic paper, the second, an on-campus poster session, and for eligible finalists, the third phase is an oral presentation of their work. Students interested in entering a project into the showcase are encouraged to "start now," Schulteis said. "Why not do something like that at least once in your undergraduate career?"



(From left to right) Dr. Schulteis, Ramos, Hollman, Prier, Lott, Harrington, Weeks, and President Krueger posing after chapel.

Concordia wows WASC team

KAYLA LARDNER
STAFF WRITER

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visited our campus March 26-28 for the first time in over eight years. The result was positive. WASC is the accrediting commission that ensures your degree means something. Dr. Peter Senkbeil, Associate Provost and Accreditation Liaison, credits WASC. "Accreditation is what makes our degree count. [WASC] guarantees that you're getting a legitimate degree." But, he stresses that they do more than that. "WASC is aimed at helping its institutions improve and maintain a standard of quality. They make us pay attention, make sure we haven't missed anything," Senkbeil said.

To prepare both the students and the faculty for the visit, Veronica Steele, Social Media Coordinator and head of the #ASKWASC campaign, was charged with informing, exciting and en-

gaging the entire campus. "We wanted to educate the campus about our purpose, promote engagement, develop and foster a community by promoting the mission and the identity, and show how can you have fun with WASC," Steele said. Her approach was two-fold: the student-centered #ASKWASC and the faculty-fueled WASC games. "Like 'The Hunger Games,' but with no killing," Steele said.

#ASKWASC was directed primarily to students. "That side was geared for students to engage, to let them know what's happening," Steele said. The social media campaign involved multiple websites and gained a large response from the student body. #ASKWASC asked students multiple questions such as, *'What are your plans after you graduate?'* and encouraged them to ask their own questions of Concordia. Steele said, "The response was excellent. We were re-

Cont. on p. 2

15th launch of *The Aerie*

SARINA GRANT
ON & OFF CAMPUS EDITOR

The launch party for *The Aerie* will be held on Tue., April 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Grimm Conference Center on the third floor of Grimm Hall. *The Aerie* is Concordia's literary and arts journal.

This evening of poetry and prose reading by students will celebrate the fifteenth edition of the magazine. Free copies of *The Aerie* will be passed out to all attendees of the launch party. Light refreshments and snacks will also be served.

A selection of authors published in this year's *Aerie* will read their works, followed by an open mic night. Attendees can bring a submission written themselves or from an admired author to read.

The magazine is composed of literary submissions of fiction writing, creative non-fiction

and poetry, in addition to art submissions of fine arts pieces, graphic design images and photography.

The production of the journal is done completely by students. Literary editors Margaret Langdon and Katherine Dubke, seniors, and Graphic Arts editor Sabrina Martinez, senior, comprised the production staff. Kristen Schmidt, Professor of English and Rachel Soo, Professor of Graphic Design, served as advisors.

All Concordia students, alumni, faculty and staff were welcome to submit an entry. This volume of *The Aerie* was composed of only student work, although, "we do have editions from previous years that feature faculty or staff writing or artwork," Schmidt said.

"The Aerie is entirely student-produced. It's a way for students themselves to be published, to see and appreciate each other's work and for the community at large to know and appreciate

Cont. on p. 2

WASC from p. 1

ally excited about the positive response. But, we were surprised, because more responded than we thought would.”

During the WASC visit, there were two opportunities for undergraduate students to attend forums with the WASC team members to share their opinions. Most of the things students had to say were extremely positive, though a few did voice concerns. Many of the praises were in favor of our Core Curriculum that Concordia prides itself on. One student said, “The Core, even though it doesn’t transfer, has been the most rewarding and satisfying part of my education at this university.” Another added that it “challenges you like nothing else [one] could really find outside of this college.” Others bragged about their teacher-student interactions, saying, “I love the one-on-one with teachers. You can go to their office hours, walk in and have a conversation.”

Some students, with their compliments to the school, also had concerns. Though the overall reaction to the Core was positive, the positivity was tinged with annoyance at the fact that the Core doesn’t transfer to other schools and that none of their credits from other schools or AP transferred for the Core either. Some still felt like they hadn’t learned any applicable skills in their degree programs and that the soft skills, like effective communication, were overemphasized.

Now that the WASC visit is over, a wave of

relief has washed over the campus. Senkbeil said that his favorite part of the visit was “getting to the tail end. The analogy I keep using is planning a wedding; I feel like the father of the bride.” But, the accreditation process is still not over. On the last day of their visit, WASC left us with a number of commendations and a few recommendations for the future.

The university was praised for greatly improving their financial wellbeing after the nation’s and the university’s financial crisis in 2008, developing our Core Curriculum, improving the assessment process and providing co-curricular services to support students. But, they told us to make sure that we will have enough room for incoming students as we hit capacity, and that we both have more money in the bank, while still spending money on assets for the university. Neither of these recommendations come as a surprise, and they are both things the university is working on.

All in all, “The whole thing unfolded relatively smoothly, nothing we couldn’t handle. I most appreciate that the visit is over and knowing that we did a good job,” Senkbeil said. Though we got a positive response during the WASC visit, we won’t have an official response and a date for a next visit until June. But, you can rest well knowing that your tuition dollars are going to a university with extremely positive responses from both its students and a renowned accrediting agency.

Aerie from p. 1

what students at Concordia are capable of when it comes to writing and art,” Schmidt said.

The final product is a collaboration between the Art and English departments. Each has a different process of selecting what pieces get published.

The Art department puts together its own panel of judges. Some years it consists entirely of faculty, and some years it is a combination of faculty and students who look at pieces that art students have produced and make decisions about what they would like to publish in *The Aerie*.

For the creative writing side, the literary editors pull together a panel, consisting of students along with Schmidt and Thea Gavin, Professor of English, to do a blind review of the submissions. The panel then decides which pieces they would like to publish. “That is the hard part. We also work with a budget, so sometimes there are pieces that we would like to see in the journal but we just don’t have the space to publish everything,” Schmidt said. This year, the literary submissions numbered around 100, with only one quarter of them making it into the journal.

After the pieces have been selected, composing the journal is up to collaboration between the editors. From a graphic design standpoint, “You start with very basic things, like deciding on the text and the font family you’re going to use, and work up that way. The ending process is more so creating the cover image and selecting that,” Martinez said.

“The final product looks very differ-

ent from the original. Everyone has input in terms of the design,” Schmidt said. “It’s so exciting to have the launch and see the journal come into being. It’s a creation in itself.”

The magazine gives students from all disciplines the chance to practice their skills. “I think that having *The Aerie* is useful to Concordia’s campus because it encourages a lot of writing students to pursue writing in a way which they wouldn’t necessarily pursue in the classroom,” said Mariya Artis, senior *Aerie* ’11 and ’13 contributor. “I’ve had people read my *Aerie* publications and positively comment on them. It really encouraged me, as it would other young writers, to keep doing what they were doing”

“It acts as a way for both the literary department as well as the art students to showcase their works in a way that isn’t as restrictive as a classroom. It’s a great creative outlook,” Martinez said.

“I attended the launch last year to support one of my friends who was published in *The Aerie*,” said Jerry Speielli, junior at San Diego State University (SDSU). “It was an amazing event. There’s nothing like this at SDSU. I really enjoyed that some of the authors were there to read what they had written. Hearing their voices and tone made it much better than just reading it off the page myself.”

Previous issues of *The Aerie* are available on Concordia’s website. To get your free copy of *The Aerie*, attend the launch party, or be on the lookout for a table set up in front of the Student Union in the coming days.

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Hope for ladies’ hoops

HOLLY GAMESTER
STAFF WRITER

The Women’s Basketball Team wrapped up their season on March 5 with a loss in the first round of playoffs to Westmont College. The team finished with an overall record of 12-15. This comes as a huge improvement from last season, where the women had an overall record of 8-21. This jump in record for the women’s team has a lot of contributing factors.

One big change, not only just for the team, but also for the entire program, was the addition of the brand new coaching staff. Trisha Stafford-Odom became the women’s new Head Coach and brought along with her Assistant Coach Chelsey Pinkstaff. These two women both came with outstanding personal achievements both as athletes and as coaches. “A new coach with a new program isn’t the easiest thing to adjust to at first usually, but with Coach Trish and Pinkstaff and the personalities of the team, it came naturally and worked out great,” said Katie Ogdon, junior.

In addition to their strong knowledge of the game, Stafford-Odom and Pinkstaff helped the team create a new atmosphere. Ashley Engeln, senior, said, “I think the coaches had a big part to do with our record this year. They recruited some good players for the season and they never gave up on us, so we stayed positive throughout the season because they were positive.” Although the addition of two new coaches was a crucial aspect to the vast improvement of the team, they were not the only things that changed from last year.

The women on the team have a much stronger bond and really pulled together in order to all work toward one goal. “There wasn’t one person who didn’t get along with another. That was really nice and I think that’s why we did a lot better than last year,” Engeln said. This bond did not just happen on accident; the returners knew what it was like to play on a team not as in-tune with each other and did not want that to happen again. They did specific activities in order to bond and really took the time to get to know one another. “We had a good mix of re-

turners as well as new players, and also a mix of under- and upperclassmen. One of our biggest contributors to that was the team retreat that we took in the beginning of the year,” said Nicole Kraus, junior. “Our team went on a getaway to do some fun activities as well as take some time to learn about each other.”

Once they knew each other well enough, it made the entire season run smoothly. Practices, travel days, games and off-court activities were all spent with people who are not just teammates, but are now friends. The women had more fun this year and that is another factor in this more successful season. “The attitudes of all the girls just changed so much from last year to this year, which made it a lot more fun,” said Engeln. “Even though we didn’t win as many games as we should have we had fun playing together and stuck together as a team.”

Even when the team fell to their competition and lost a game, they never lost their spirit. They were determined to be successful this season and that sometimes meant putting their heads down and pushing forward. “Every loss was taken as a learning experience. We would be down after the game, but the next day at practice we would take that loss and use it as positive energy for the next opponent. We always stayed hungry after a loss,” Ogdon said. The desire to be better and their striving to learn from their mistakes always outweighed their emotions about a loss. “Ultimately I think when we came to practice the next day, whether it was said or not, everyone knew it was important to take the lessons learned from the last game but to concentrate on the game ahead,” Kraus said.

Although Engeln is graduating and leaving the program this year, she hopes that her experiences here have left a positive impact on the team and given them motivation for the years to come. “I know that I had an amazing time this year on and off the court with the team, so I just hope they know that I love all of them and hope they do amazing next year. I will be out in the stands cheering them on,” Engeln said.

You can catch the women driving hard towards an even better record next season.

Men’s Basketball fueled for future seasons

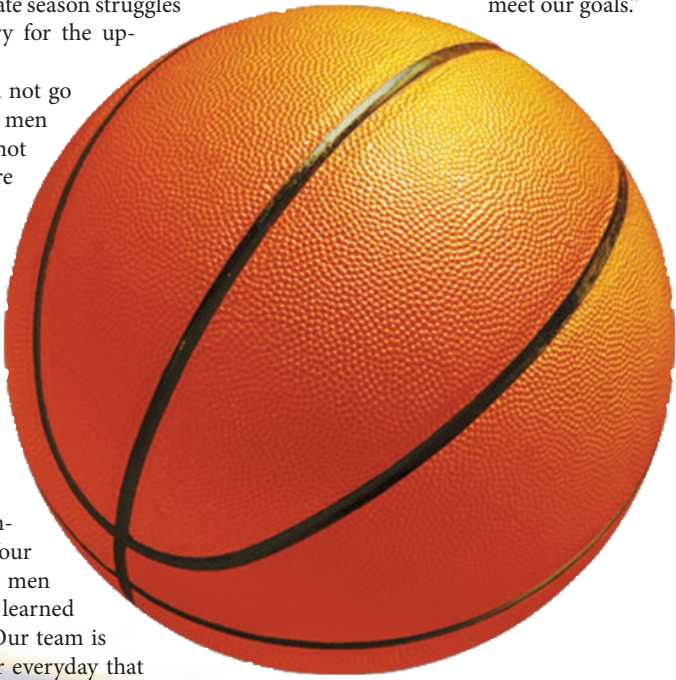
JENNIFER SCHULTZ
STAFF WRITER

For the first time since the 2005-2006 season, the Men’s Basketball Team will not be heading to the NAIA National Tournament. The team recorded several key highlights throughout the season, however a couple one-point losses at home eventually slowed their momentum.

After the tough losses, the team lost five consecutive games. The team finished 19-12 but keep high hopes for next season. “We had a lot of great moments and some bad ones. It didn’t finish the way we wanted it to, but it was a great group of guys who are excited to go for next year,” said Stephen Ferry, junior. Case Bruton, freshman, added, “Our late season struggles makes us even more hungry for the upcoming season.”

Although this season did not go according to plan for the men and the coaches, they are not discouraged. In fact, they are just the opposite of that. The team plans to use this season to better prepare for next. “This off-season we have been working hard in the weight room and in the gym to prepare for a successful upcoming season,” Bruton said. “We have been getting stronger and mentally tougher as a unit.”

The basketball team is considered a young team with four freshmen. This season, the men got to know each other and learned how to mature as a team. “Our team is growing closer and hungrier everyday that we are together,” said Justin Davis, freshman. It



Lacrosse looks for glory

SHEA FRATES & RYAN MCDONALD
STAFF WRITERS

The Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse Teams hosted their final home games this past Saturday, April 5, with tough competition from Cal State Fullerton.

The men’s team started out strong, but by halftime, the game was slowly falling out of the men’s grasp. “We had a good first half and we executed really well. We had a couple things that didn’t quite go the way we were hoping like being tired at halftime,” said Ryan Brent, Men’s Interim Head Coach. “It got away from us in the second half. We just kind of ran out of time.”

During the middle of the game, Matthew Mantovan-Hudgen, junior, received a hit to the ribs, which sent him to the hospital, taking him out of the game. “He had a lung contusion,” Brent said. “Losing him was hard for us. We have low numbers. When you lose a guy who is the second leading scorer, it obviously affects what we do.”

Later that afternoon, the women dealt with a previous injury, as freshman Kayla Fansler has been out due to an ankle injury. The team had to compete a player down through the entire match against Cal State Fullerton, which resulted in a final score of 9-10. “They were a good team. We played a man down, so I thought we did well,” said senior captain Nicole West.

The men’s season started off facing tough competition against Division II opponents, such as UCLA and University of Arizona, but they quickly turned around in March when the Eagles had a four game winning streak. This put Concordia in an excellent position for post-season success. “Despite the lopsided win-lose record, we still have a chance to win league and actually make it to Nationals,” Brent said. “By no means is this year over. We are excited to close out strong.” The men are undefeated in their conference and have high hopes for a chance at Nationals.

“Most of the guys are returning next year; they want to be successful. They want to work hard, do the right things and represent the university well – that makes a coach proud,” Brent said. “We are excited for next season where we will get our numbers (players) back to full

is not always easy to admit one’s flaws, but the men plan to improve their weaknesses and capitalize their strengths. The basketball team has a great defensive and will be working on their offense. Next season the team has high hopes to win the GSAC and possibly a National Championship.

Second to playing the game, the team cherishes the friendships they have with one another and the atmosphere that we, the Concordia community, have provided for them. “My favorite thing about Concordia’s basketball team is the people that I am around,” Bruton said. “The players, coaches and everyone surrounding the program is very supportive and it is a good environment to succeed and meet our goals.”

Tennis teams play tough

JOSE ALATORRE & JAKE HAM
STAFF WRITERS

The Men’s Tennis Team is ranked #11 and the Women #13 heading into the final stretch of their 2014 season. Both Men’s and Women’s Tennis ended the 2013 season ranked among the top 15 in the nation. Building off prior seasons’ strong foundations, 2014 has the makings to be another record-setting year. “The goal for this year was to be ranked among the top 10 teams in the nation, improving on last year’s performance,” said Jan Guler, senior.

The practices in the sun are a grueling and draining way to train for tough matches. The men and women try to prepare the best way they can. “It’s always going to be a grind; everyone is trying to get the ‘W,’” said Head Coach Jonathan Sanchez.

As the teams are nearing the end of the season, players must be ready for anything. The veterans know that a small slip-up could cost them the post-season. “It’s not going to be easy, but we know what needs to be done in order to be successful,” said Ellie Johnson, junior.

Both the teams have level heads about post-season; they are focusing on one match at a time. “Why worry about teams we haven’t played yet when we have a vital match in front of us?” said Sanchez.

Even after a full season of matches, the players are not done

yet. “We have done well this season but it’s not over; we still have three more matches, then conference tournament and Nationals... We’ll be fine, we are hungry for a championship,” said Kristin Lampe, returning sophomore. The Men’s Tennis Team has a respectable record of 6-3 in GSAC play. The Women’s Tennis team holds a 5-4 record in GSAC play. Both teams have built confidence with victories against opponents such as Lewis-Clark College, Hope University, Biola University and Arizona Christian.

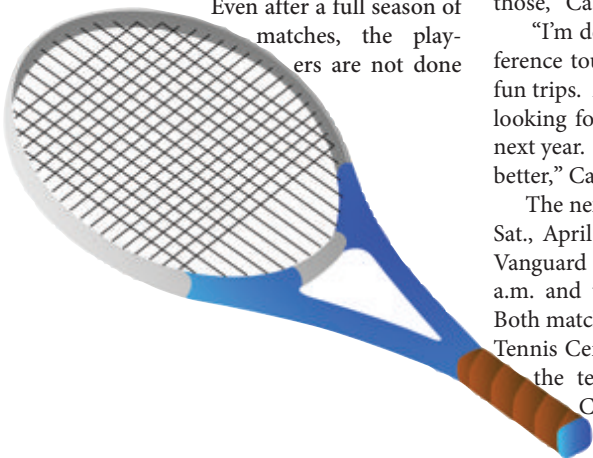
The Eagles have a tough road ahead, but they are unrelenting, recognizing mistakes and taking each loss as a learning experience, “We came close to beating Westmont; it was 5-4 the first time. They were ranked #5 and we were ranked #11, so it was tough,” said Hayden Hensley, freshman. “We will play them at conference and the outcome will be different.”

The teams have already accomplished some of their goals by beating some top Division III schools such as Redlands and Amherst. “It’s the first time since Coach Sanchez has been here that we beat Amherst,” said Farren Casad, senior.

The teams have also been able to clinch some close games. “In the beginning of season we lost a lot of close 5-4 matches and that’s rough, but recently we’ve also won a few of those,” Casad said.

“I’m definitely looking forward to the conference tournament and Nationals. Those are fun trips. Also, after I become an alumnus, I’m looking forward to seeing how the team does next year. I expect the program to keep getting better,” Casad said.

The next matches will take place tomorrow, Sat., April 12. The teams will play #4 ranked Vanguard University. The men will play at 11 a.m. and the women will play at 12:30 p.m. Both matches will be played at The Costa Mesa Tennis Center. This will also be senior day for the tennis athletes graduating this year. Come out to support the team.



New book club is “Beyond Words”

JAMES ALLEY
STAFF WRITER

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” This opening line of Charles Dickens’ “A Tale of Two Cities,” a staple of most high school reading lists, serves to demonstrate the iconic recognition that great literature generates in our lives.

Maybe Charles Dickens isn’t quite your speed, but a new club on campus caters to those students who do love to read. Beyond Words, a book club that was inspired by a couple of friends talking about their favorite reads from Christmas break, started earlier this year and is looking forward to further growth next year.

The club was approved by the ASCUI Senate in February with the mission to tap into the culture of students who enjoy reading books. The club picks books that they feel will be engaging and entertaining for members. At meetings they discuss various aspects of the novel and parts that were loved and hated.

Sophomore Catie Beck, whose favorite book is “It’s Kind of a Funny Story” by Ned Vizzini, is the club president and co-founder. For Beck, the book club is a place on campus where stu-

dents can come together to read and discuss great books. She created the club because she loves to read with friends and share in the experience of books together.

“I have always loved to read, and I loved reading a book with my friend so that we can talk about the book after reading it,” Beck said. “I think that recreational reading is so important in a person’s life to just be able to unwind from academic reading and enjoy it!”

The club provides a space where students can come together to share in their love of reading in an environment of like-minded thinkers. Several of the books on the club’s current reading list include blockbuster-adapted “Silver Linings Playbook,” “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” and “The Help.” They are also planning to read other popular fiction such as “The House on Mango Street” and “Looking for Alaska.”

It may be “the best of times” to join Beyond Words. Keep your eyes open for posters around campus highlighting the next upcoming event at the end of April. They will be showing the movie based on the book they are currently reading, “Silver Linings Playbook.”



Throwdown at the Fusion Hoedown

JASMINE BARRON
STAFF WRITER

Fusion will host a Hoedown today at 5:30 p.m. outside the Student Union. The Fusioners have prepared many activities, including a petting zoo (with an alpaca) and horse rides. Students will also have the opportunity to win various prizes. Keeping up with the country theme, there will be BBQ-style food for attendees to enjoy.

In previous years, the Hoedown was hosted by Residential Education & Services (RES). This year, Fusion is taking over. Fusion is a group of incoming freshman and transfer students who are interested in campus leadership. As their first year hosting, they want to make an impactful experience for the students.

“RES usually does the petting zoo and country cookout every year, but aren’t doing it this year,” said Amanda Harris, junior Fusion coordinator. “Fusion decided to take it over and make it a larger event.” Members of Fusion cannot wait to present the Hoedown event to the Concordia community. They expect it to be a fun opportunity for everyone to hang out with fellow students.

The Fusioners strived to make the event as close to the country theme as possible. “I think there’s a country culture happening around in California. We all are wannabe cowgirls and cowboys,” said Makaya Predney, freshman Fusioner. “Country is taking over, and it’s a fun

environment.”

As a way for students to get a feel of the country theme, they will have the opportunity to participate in line dancing. If line dancing is too hard, they can enjoy some of the other activities.

“Food is always a plus [for this event]. The country BBQ is going to be great,” said Katie Sebbo, freshman. The Fusioners believe that food is what always draws the students in for any event.

In the past, Fusion has put together events like “Stress Less Fest.” They collaborated with a group of students from the Organizational Communication class to help reduce finals week stress by playing with puppies. “Overall, campus-wide, [the event] serves to build community and to [give students the chance to] just have a good time. It is an opportunity to de-stress before finals,” said Danielle Maclain, sophomore Fusion Coordinator. The event aims to create an environment that allows the students to take their minds off school.

The Fusioners feel that this event and other organized activities are needed for the student body. These kinds of events are great ways to get students to come out and take a break from their busy schedules.

The students will be able to take a break from school or work and enjoy the atmosphere. Stop by the CSLD or be on the lookout for posters around campus for other Fusion events.



Google scholar actually for scholars

KALEIGH WILDAUER
STAFF WRITER

The library hosted a workshop on how to operate the web search engine Google Scholar on Wed., April 2 in the Library Curriculum Room. Google Scholar is a web search engine originally founded in 2004 that provides a full text of scholarly literature across many academic disciplines.

Google Scholar provides two main services for libraries: library links and a library search. According to the Google Scholar website, “Library links are article-level links to subscription full text for patrons affiliated with a library.” The website also states, “The library search offers links to book catalogs where the patron can check local availability of a book, or request a library loan.”

Google Scholar ranks the documents similarly to other online research databases. The tool investigates the research by doing specific things such as weighing the full text of each document, evaluating the author of the text, where it was published and the number of times the document has been cited in other scholarly literature.

“Google Scholar can be used as a good addition to research databases like EBSCO, and the information is as accurate as it can be,” said Ramez Mikhail, Information Services Librarian.

Some students have already embraced the addition to the library’s resources. “Google Scholar is something that can be extremely useful for students when writing research papers. I think the information is accurate and it is easily accessible, which comes in handy when working with deadlines,” said Chloe Sandoval, junior. “I

like to utilize many different types of resources when doing a research paper, and Google Scholar is a great place to start.”

Other students are more unfamiliar with the tool. “Prior to this semester I had never heard of Google Scholar, so I was a little apprehensive about using it. Once I started using it, it was really helpful to find articles that related to my research. I’ve used it for two of my classes this semester and it’s greatly improved the research process since it gives you a wide range of articles,” said Sam Root, junior.

In addition to Google Scholar, there are other research databases that Concordia provides students access to. They have the ability to go to the school’s website and access academic e-books, as well as many research databases, including Academic Search Premier and LexisNexis. These databases have a multitude of information including scholarly peer reviewed journals from a range of publications including books, newspapers and online journals.

“I think Google Scholar consists primarily of reliable information as well as sources. It can be very helpful because it provides citations with the content that is given,” said Monica Alcala, junior.

Library workshops take place every Wednesday in the Library Curriculum Room and are hosted by Mikhail and Jeffrey Sabol, Outreach and Instruction Librarian. All of the workshops can be attended at no cost. In addition to the Google Scholar workshop, the library will host two workshops on April 23 and April 30 for those who are in need of last-minute research assistance. If you wish to access Concordia’s library catalog, or to find out more information regarding all the research tools available, go to www.cui.edu/library.



Spring sprouting new garden greens

Heritage Garden features native plants and healthy foods

KALE SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

The Heritage Garden Club, with the help of students and faculty, has been working diligently to reach their goal of creating a sustainable environment on campus for various forms of plants and animals in our area.

Heritage Garden is located near the top left-hand side of the Egypt parking lot, and is quickly progressing as members of the club and community help with its cultivation. The Heritage Garden Club was approved by ASCUI in February and is currently open to any student who is interested in joining. With the help of tool donations from the community and a shed for storage donated by Concordia's partner company, Aramark, the garden is ready to provide nourishment for plants of all sorts.

Heritage Garden, which used to be home to invasive plants and was scattered with trash, is now a ground suitable for both plants and animals. Although the club is currently working on a limited amount of space, the garden is still in an experimental form, according to Thea Gavin, Professor of English and Heritage Garden Club Advisor. "We're planting to see what grows well and [to determine] if we need to change our method. Students have planted spinach and

squash, and also lettuce and tomato," Gavin said. In order to better serve the community, the club hopes to one day be able to produce enough food to donate to our local food banks.

Along with the delicious veggies, a number of native plants have been introduced to the garden as well. Planted in the center of the garden, these native plants provide nectar for a number of pollinators and insects. In addition to helping the vegetables grow healthier, this allows for a pesticide free environment due to the natural bug control. In order to become more educated about these plants, the club has been working with the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, a lo-

cal Native American tribe, to gain their knowledge as well as their environmental skills of our land. Not only does the club seek to produce plants and food, but it also hopes to encourage a deeper relationship with our surrounding neighbors.

While a garden usually functions as an aid in the vegetation process, this garden serves a few other purposes. "Our goal is to 'cultivate communities' and we do this in a variety of ways. We cultivate the communities between students and staff here at Concordia University, through garden work and fellowship out in the garden," said Piper Walker, sophomore Heritage Garden Club

President. "We will also be cultivating community with the local neighborhood that surrounds the Concordia campus by encouraging and inviting the local neighbors to come plant in the garden." Along with the community of plants, insects, and animals that will be developed, the Heritage Garden Club hopes to promote service as well as fellowship through gardening.

With the addition of a bird bath and paths to help navigate your way through this luscious garden, it is already a place where communities of all sorts can come together to serve and grow. For updates and pictures of the garden visit heritagegarden.blogs.cui.edu



Genocide awareness event on campus

JOSHUA SUH
STAFF WRITER

On Wed., April 2, Dr. Jeff Mallinson, Associate Professor of Theology and non-profit organization Living Ubuntu, helped spread awareness of a long-forgotten 20th century atrocity through a movie screening at the CU Center.

The PBS documentary featured is *Armenian Genocide*, a film that goes into detail about the genocide that took place in 1915. This tragedy, also referred to as the Armenian Massacre, took place around the time of World War I in present-day Turkey. During this time, the Ottoman government strategically planned an extermination of its Armenian subjects, including countless Christians, Assyrians and Greeks. By 1915, an estimated total of 1.5 million people had been killed.

The documentary portrays the night of April 24, 1915, otherwise known as Red Sunday. Red Sunday was the night when Interior Minister Talaat Pasha ordered all Armenian leaders of the Ottoman Capital to be put to death. The documentary shows the brutality of Pasha's work and his administering of orders to his soldiers for public executions. Ottoman soldiers would often burn villages of people to the ground, drown children in the Black Sea and perform deadly medical experiments on the Armenian people.

Living Ubuntu was created to help all people who are affected by local and global trauma, including those families that have been exposed to tragedies like genocide. Living Ubuntu is a partner of Amnesty International, an organization that advocates for human rights. The non-profit organization believes in helping those who have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of war, natural disaster, sexual assault or life-threatening situations.

"Living Ubuntu recognizes global trauma and tries to find holistic ways to help," said Barbara English, Founder of Living Ubuntu. "Trauma is trans-generational; it can be passed down from parents to kids and so forth."

Living Ubuntu understands that most people cannot receive psychotherapy even within the United States. The non-profit organization ad-

dresses trauma from a physiological approach, essentially teaching different therapeutic forms of yoga that help post-traumatic symptoms.

Mallinson was acquainted with the organization through the Global Village Living Learning Community. He had the opportunity to meet professional mixed martial artist fighter Justin Wren, who is also a Christian missionary who introduced the non-profit organization to Mallinson and Global Village.

Mallinson creates awareness for the organization through a theological and psychological

perspective. "The idea of memory trauma and forgiveness: What is the religious response? What does it mean to forgive and forget?" Mallinson said. Mallinson hopes to raise awareness of the organization's ethos ("Remembering the Past towards healing our Future") from a theological perspective.

Currently, Living Ubuntu is fostering a teaching environment for genocide refugees in San Diego. Living Ubuntu equips the refugees with knowledge and skill about English's therapeutic exercises, which can eventually be

implemented in their home countries to help other trauma victims. Julie Nelson, secretary of the event, has been working with the non-profit organization for two years and has been excited to witness the fruitfulness of the organization. "This holistic approach to trauma is great because it serves as a more affordable solution," Nelson said. "I love how this organization embodies the idea of helping others globally and within the states."

For more information about Living Ubuntu, please visit www.livingubuntu.org.



Really jazzed about this place

KAYLA LARDNER
STAFF WRITER

Atomic Ballroom is a tucked-away dance paradise for dancers of all levels of expertise. Culture is alive and well in Irvine, and Atomic Ballroom is proof of that. For those who are able to master the maze of the commercial lot that Atomic calls home, an enchanting experience awaits. Every night, the floors of the ballroom are packed with music, people and fun.

When I first walked through the doors Monday night for ballroom dancing, I was not sure what to expect. I have very little experience with ballroom, other than a few classes here or there in random dance styles, but I am a swing dancer. Apparently, having that experience gave me just enough know-how to stumble through foxtrot, waltz and even rumba. Luckily, the fun of the night was not based on the complexity of the dances, but instead on the friendliness of the dancers and the atmosphere.

There were plenty of people, professionals and amateurs alike who were willing, not only to dance with me, but also to teach me the basics of whatever dance style was playing through the speakers. In one night I learned how to foxtrot, two step and merengue simply due to the patience of the people around me. They were just as happy to teach as they were to dance.

As soon as I sat down, I had newbies, regulars and even instructors coming up to me, eager to teach a newcomer the tricks of the trade. I found that with my minimal knowledge of dance and my so-so skills at following a leader, I was able to pick up the basics of multiple dances.

At one point during the night, just as an exciting Latin song began blasting, the lead instructor began shouting, "Merengue! Merengue! Anyone can Merengue! It's the easiest dance in the world!" I have to admit that I didn't believe her at all, but once I started, I

realized that it was simple enough that anyone coming in off the street could excel at it. The basic step is just continually stepping. There isn't any complex choreography or intense moves to master; it's just stepping. The simplicity of the dance allows for anyone, even a beginner, to forget the complexities of dancing. It meant that instead of getting bogged down by dance steps, you could focus just on having fun and moving around the floor. It meant that you could just dance! By the end

of the night, merengue became my favorite.

The more I talked to people, the more I came to realize that dancing is more than just flashy moves and an intense workout. Dancing is about getting back to the etiquette of days gone by, and remembering times when men were courteous to women. The woman sitting next to me reminded me that dancing is about connecting with people and ourselves. Dance is a great way to get in touch with our bodies, but it's also a beautiful way

to get in touch with others around you. "The kind of connections you get in dance are a real rarity in our culture," she said, adding that she thought that dance should be a required course at all schools. By the end of the night, I found that I agreed with her.

Atomic Ballroom is located at 17961 Sky Park Circle in Irvine. To find out more information on classes and their nightly dances, go to <http://atomicballroom.com/>.



Student-written plays performed

TAYLOR DENNISON
STAFF WRITER

The spring semester is coming to an end and the Theatre Department is ready to finish with a bang. Two staged readings, "Beloved" and "Operation Procrastination," will wrap up the month with some tears and laughs.

"Beloved" is a staged reading written and directed by Trenton Semple, senior. "My play is based a lot on experiences I have had in my life, regarding my father and his battle with cancer in 2009," Semple said. "So it is a lot about searching for love and hope and where those things spring from."

"Beloved" is a play that Semple has wanted to do for about five years now, but it took him a while to figure out how he wanted it to be delivered. "I realized I didn't want it to be

a novel, musical or film; I wanted it to be a play," Semple said. "It's definitely exciting to have it up on its feet." Semple described his staged reading as a modern family drama. The story parallels Semple's experiences with his family, but remains a fictional story.

Semple has already chosen his cast and believes they are going to be astonishing. "Casting the show was one of the most difficult things I've ever had to do," Semple said. "One, just because the text is so dear in my heart, and two, I had such an overwhelming response and many people came to audition." Semple was looking for specifics and although casting took a while, he is very proud of the cast he has chosen.

"I cannot wait to see the audience engagement. I hope they delve into the story and enjoy the development of the characters as the performance goes on," said Nick Bedell, freshman. "I hope they will not only be entertained by the comedic values of each of the characters, but also moved by the touching and compelling story the performance holds."

Wesley Barnes, junior, has the opportunity to be a part of both plays. "I'm excited to see how the audience responds to 'Beloved' as well as how [Semple's] family responds to it," Barnes said. Barnes has been very close and active with the Theatre Department and is eager to take on two different roles.

Barnes will be playing a lead role and he plans to do his best at making the character come to life so the audience really understands what the family is going through. "The thing that I love about 'Beloved' is the family dynamic that the show is built on, as well as the relationships built. It really hits close to home," Barnes said.

Semple's message makes the audience think about life and death, love and others, and how we deal with these conflicts. "It would be an honor if people would come watch the staged reading," Semple said. "It is a great opportunity to see some new theatre and some talented people as well as taking a look into the human condition a little bit."

Jumping into a completely different genre, "Operation Procrastination" is a screenplay directed by Nick Scutti, senior. This screenplay follows along the lines of raw and vulgar humor. "It's something that Concordia students wouldn't expect to be performed here," Scutti said. "I've been working on this since I was a freshman, so it will be exciting to share my work with everyone."

The story of the play involves three college roommates who try to steal test answers for a final exam, but end up accidentally kidnapping their professor instead. Although Scutti's play involves absurdity, there is a message being displayed. "It's how to be a good friend, how to not take yourself so seriously and how to have fun," Scutti said. "We get caught up with ourselves and worry so much about the future, so I'm hoping that this play will help people take a step back."

Although it is being performed as a play, it is meant to be a film. Scutti hopes to sell it as a screenplay and see if any studio would be interested in producing it.

"Operation Procrastination" is simply ridiculous," Barnes said. "Nick has come up with a hilarious situation that really keeps you on your toes." Barnes believes that the students will respond well to the screenplay because it is as outrageous as it is relatable.

"My job in 'Operation Procrastination'

is to read the role of the protagonist of the screenplay," Barnes said. "I am the main character who initiates the plan that is the plot of the show." Playing two completely different roles will be a challenge, but Barnes is grateful for the opportunity. "It is truly amazing to see these two showcase their talents in fields that they are so passionate about," Barnes said. "They have grown so much because of this experience and have truly developed great pieces."

Scutti is very excited to share his work and to make other people laugh, because that is his ultimate goal in life. "If you are looking for a fun time and a lot of humor, this is the play for you," Scutti said.

"Beloved" will premiere Sun., April 13 in the Studio Theater at 8 p.m. "Operation Procrastination" will debut Sun., April 27 at noon in LA 141. There is no charge for tickets and seating is first come, first serve for both plays.



Trenton Semple



Nick Scutti

Passionate MasterWorks concert

KRISTINA DEUSCH
STAFF WRITER

Various music ensembles at Concordia University will be joining together with local professional musicians to perform the St. Matthew Passion, an oratorio composed by J. S. Bach, on April 12 and 13. The concerts will be held at 3 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, Palm Sunday weekend, and are part of the MasterWorks Concert Series.

The Concordia Choir, Concordia Master Chorale and the Donne di Canto are all participating in the performances. These groups will be joined by six professional soloists as well as two local professional orchestras, of

which some members are Concordia's own music faculty. Dr. Busch, professor at Concordia and director of The Concordia Choir, will be directing the St. Matthew Passion.

One of participating soloists is Dr. Christopher Cock, Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Valparaiso, who will be spending the week as an Artist in Residence. "In addition to singing, he will also be leading a clinic for the Concordia Choir on Wednesday and teaching a Vocal Master Class with a number of our music majors on Thursday," Busch said. Cock will be singing the role of the Evangelist in Bach's work. "Dr. Cock has performed the role of the tenor Evangelist for leading conductors around the world, most notably with

Helmuth Rilling at the Oregon Bach Festival. He was recently featured as a soloist with the Los Angeles Master Chorale in their performances of the Bach Passions," Busch said. The other soloists have interesting resumes as well, some voices having been part of several recent movie releases.

Bach wrote his St. Matthew Passion in 1727 for the Good Friday services at his church in Leipzig, Germany, and it is often considered his most monumental musical achievement. The story is based on Christ's passion and death in chapters 26 and 27 of the Gospel of Matthew, but the actual verses that Bach set to music came from contemporary poets from his time. The work, divided into

two parts, will be sung entirely in German, and lasts approximately three hours.

The Concordia Choir began preparations last fall, and has been working even harder on the score this spring semester. "This is the largest musical project our university has ever undertaken," Busch said. "I am already proud of how much our students have accomplished in mastering this monumental work. This weekend's performances will be a memorable and meaningful way to begin our Holy Week meditations on Christ's Passion."

Tickets can be bought online through Concordia's Box Office.



Writing students attend Literary Orange

MIKALA NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Last Sat., April 5, OC Public Libraries hosted the 8th annual Literary Orange Convention at the Marriott Hotel here in Irvine. This day-long convention was an opportunity for writers and anyone with a love of literature and the arts to come together and celebrate the art of writing.

Five Advanced Creative Writing students from Concordia attended the conference—with Kristen Schmidt, Professor of English: seniors Katherine Dubke, Elizabeth Dobbin and Michael Butler, and juniors Taylor Bundy and Abigail Sparn.

The convention hosted a vast array of different writers who spoke on multiple panels ranging in topics from mystery writing to magical realism. These panels were designed to give aspiring authors tips and encouragement for their futures in the literary world.

Although many authors attended, there was something for everyone to love at the conference. Best-selling authors and this year's keynote speakers were Marlo Thomas, author of "The Right Words at the Right Time," and Ann Hood, author of "Some-

where off the Coast." They delivered inspiring speeches, shared their stories and inspired other writers with the motto, "Life isn't over and you can always follow your dreams."

Hood walked on stage to deliver her speech wearing every color of the rainbow and large, fun glasses. Hood held the audience captivated with her moving story of the death of her young daughter and how she persevered through the pain with writing.

"Life goes on and starts throwing stuff in your path—you could pick up a book and forget about it. But if you wanted to make sense of it, you could write about it," Hood said during her speech. "[Writing provides] that dual source of comfort where I could read to get away from it and I could write to understand it."

"Hood's presentation was by far my favorite part of the convention. She talked about distractions and moving past struggles in life to figure out that it can get better," Butler said. Butler also enjoyed that the convention was a place where the art of literature was promoted in a positive way.

The Literary Orange Convention is held every year.

Upcoming Arts Events

Fri., April 11: Dance Ensemble Spring Concert & "Beloved"

Sat., April 12: Dance Ensemble Spring Concert
MasterWorks Concert Series

Sun., April 13: MasterWorks Concert Series

Sat., April 26: Spring Choral Concert

Sun., April 27: Sinfonietta Spring Concert & "Operation Procrastination"



John 18

Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered, “We have no King but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified...

After this Jesus, knowing that all was finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), “I thirst.” A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished”: and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Come to a special worship service in honor of the Passion of Christ at the CU center Tues., April 15 at 7 p.m.

Runners awarded All-American

AUSTIN BURKHART
STAFF WRITER

This season, five members of the Indoor Track and Field team, seniors Arielly Conde and Joshua Gomez, along with sophomores Ashley Bell, Robert Blackwell and Tyler Nichols, represented Concordia at the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Nationals at Spire Institute in Geneva, Ohio.

Three members who attended, Blackwell, Conde and Gomez, earned the title of All-American.

Conde described the process of what it takes to be an All-American athlete. In Track and Field, an athlete is recognized as an All-American if he or she places in the top eight spots at the NAIA finals. Placing fourth in the 1000-meter race, Conde stated that her event consisted of preliminary races, or prelims, which are heats often done multiple times to determine who moves on to the finals. For her event, there were two prelims to determine which runners moved on.

For Blackwell, this season he ran the 1000-meter race for the Indoor Nationals but he primarily focuses on the 800-meter during the Outdoor season. There was only one prelim for him to compete in prior to showing up in the Finals. There were three heats, each heat consisting of eight competitors. According to Blackwell, just qualifying for the final race is a guaranteed All-American award. Blackwell conquered the prelim races and achieved the honor. “It felt really good after prelims knowing I had my All-American award,” Blackwell said.

Ranking eighth of the eight award winners, Blackwell was somewhat disappointed but thrilled nonetheless as this is a prestigious accomplishment to have as a sophomore. Still having two seasons ahead of him, he has time to create a new personal best.

Gomez, who ran the 5k at Nationals and ranked fifth, is walking away from Concordia having won two All-American awards during his four-year college running career.

“It feels good to get my second All-American

“It felt really good after prelims knowing I had my All-American award.”

Award during my last year at Concordia,” said Gomez, who also shared advice for the younger runners who aspire to achieve the award.

“To the younger runners: put in the work, have positive thoughts, trust your coach, never skip practice, enjoy college athletics and keep up the motivation,” Gomez said.

Conde and Gomez are set to graduate in May and to win the honor of All-American at their final Nationals of Indoor Track and Field was truly something special for them. “For me to win this award in my senior year is the most perfect way I could have asked to end my college running career,” said Conde. “Before, this award was not an obtainable goal for me, but with hard work, it paid off in the long run and I do not regret the journey that it took to get there.”

Nichols ran the 600-meter and was the only sprinter representing Concordia in the Finals. This was his first collegiate indoor season and according to Nichols, “it went by really fast.”

Nichols had only one chance to make it into the Finals and took full advantage by seizing the opportunity to make good time right away. Nichols stated that Nationals was a great experience; however it is only a “stepping stone” as the team proceeds into the Outdoor season. He described the tournament as “intense and fast, since the competition was the best 600 runners in the nation, yet a great experience nonetheless.”

Health Corner: Self-Defense



MEGAN HARBERT
HEALTH PROMOTION SPECIALIST

The Wellness Center sponsored a Self-Defense Class this past Wednesday, April 2 in Sigma Square as part of their Sexual Assault Awareness programming. A total of eight students attend the event, which focused on awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, while progressing to the basics of hands-on self-defense training. Instructor Patrick Lee, who holds a 3rd

Degree Black Belt in Chinese Kempo Karate, considers self-defense his personal ministry. “I lived in South Los Angeles as a youth. It was a daily struggle for survival in an area that was controlled by gangs. I learned a great deal about avoiding danger and staying safe in the face of many bad situations.”

Lee and three of his Kempo students began the class with a brief safety discussion, followed by a demonstration of potential attack situations. Students were then broken up into groups and able to put into practice the ma-

neueurs they had learned, including how to break wrist and arm grabs, escape a rear and front choke as well as mule kicks and elbow strikes.

Lee, whose stepdaughter attends Concordia, reiterated to the class that “True self-defense starts with our life choices and everyday decisions. The focus has always been to avoid physical confrontation and stay safe no matter what environment you find yourself in.”