

THE Concordia Courier

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Concordia University Irvine

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New year to bring changes to LLCs

ALICIA HARGER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Living Learning Communities (LLCs) will be getting a makeover for the 2014-2015 school year. The LLCs will see the additions of Wittenberg Hall and Bella Amoré hall. However, the CUI Bono Hall will no longer be a living option. The Global Village will remain a living option and the freshmen halls, Holos House and the Wings Hall, will also continue unchanged. As they have been, the goal of LLCs are to promote community amongst like-minded people and provide opportunities for fellowship, learning and service.

Wittenberg Hall is designed to be a faith-based community. The hall motto is "Learning, faith, and life together." The goal of the hall is to examine the intersection of faith and all aspects of life. "We want to explore the integration of faith and learning and

life," said Scott Keith, Director of Education and Services. Campus Pastor Quinton Anderson '00 will serve as the faculty in residence for the hall. Some potential experiences in this LLC include a book club and an evening prayer service that would serve as community events. Besides student interest in a hall that promotes religious life, there were other reasons to explore this kind of LLC. "A lot of universities start [programs like the LLCs] with a faith community," Keith said. "Making your faith your own is something a lot of people figure out in college and having a hall that supports that is great."

Bella Amoré is planned to be an all-female LLC with the motto, "Calling women to true leadership in Christ." This hall was born entirely from student initiative. Karen Gurske, sophomore, came up with the idea on an Outdoor Rec Trip. "A group of girls decided to take a little beach hike. After having the time of our lives, I realized that the female community aspect was missing from Concordia and that I wanted to start something positive for university culture," Gurske said. "I got in contact with Scott Keith, grabbed a few girlfriends, and have been working on making the idea a reality since." The hall is meant to encourage women to build interpersonal relationships and invest in their community. "We seek to foster personal development and growth, especially concerning the perceptions and pressures women oftentimes feel," Gurske said. As of now, RES is working out the final details of having a resident faculty or staff living in Bella Amoré. Keith is confident that

a residential mentor would be found for the start of the new year.

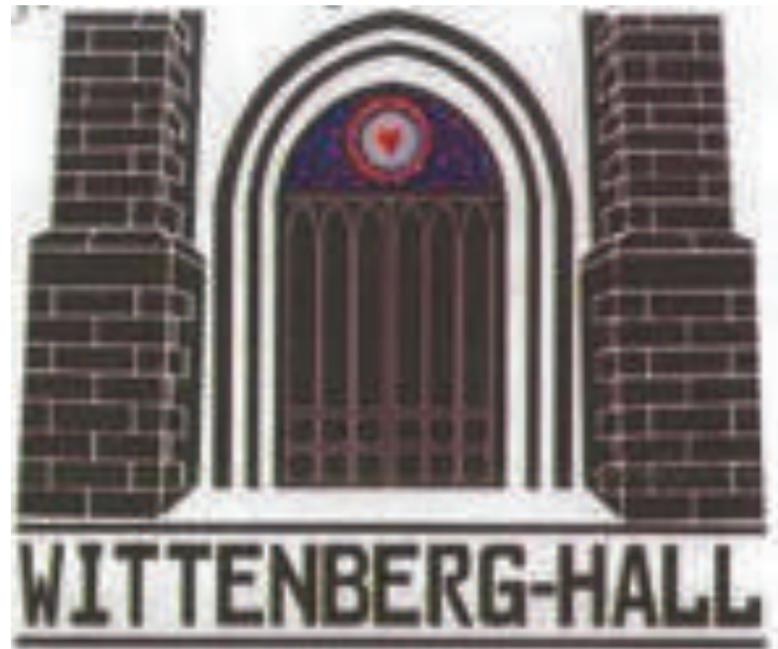
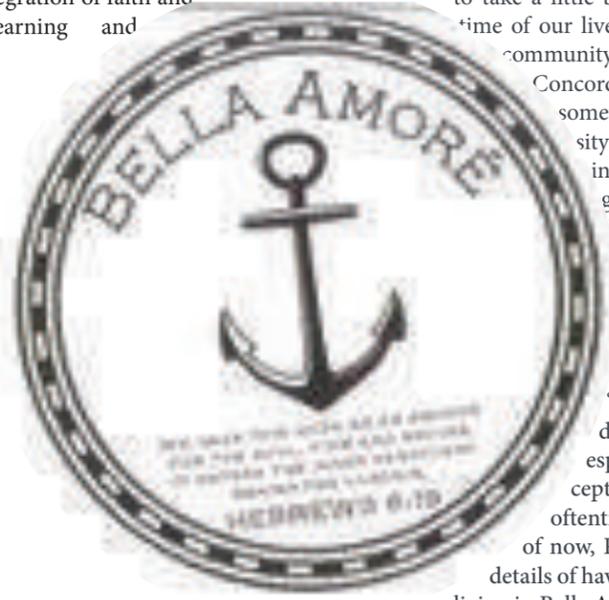
While some are mourning the loss of CUI Bono Hall, the loss of a hall does not indicate the end of CUI Bono. "CUI Bono has had a strong identity over the past years," Keith said. "There was a lot of confusion on integrating that identity with a LLC." There will still be CUI Bono-sponsored speakers and retreats in the coming school years. Dr. Daniel van Voorhis, faculty advisor to CUI Bono, said, "My main concern is the student experience." CUI Bono Hall was an experiment in expanding the reach of CUI Bono. "The hall ended up closing—or giving the perception that CUI Bono was a closed club," van Voorhis said. "The best way forward is to go back to the model that has worked for years."

Of course, Global Village is still an LLC

option for returning students. The motto for the hall is, "One community, a world of culture." The Global Village will maintain its emphasis on multi-cultural education and diversity awareness. Dr. Jeffrey Mallinson, Professor of Theology, plans to stay on as the faculty in residence there.

Wittenberg Hall is not meant to directly replace the CUI Bono Hall. However, "[Wittenberg Hall] was one of the two halls we considered offering last year," Keith said. "We tried CUI Bono. Now we're giving this a shot."

Signups for the various LLCs are going well as is all housing registration. Returning students may apply for LLC housing in Bella Amoré, Wittenberg Hall or Global Village at housing.cui.edu. For more information you can contact Davis Garton at davis.garton@cui.edu.



Forensics finished competitive season

RYAN MCDONALD
STAFF WRITER

The Speech side of the Forensics team finished their 2013-2014 season strong at the National Forensics Association (NFA) competition earlier this week at Eastern Michigan University with five students qualifying for various main events. Four of the five speakers traveled to Michigan taking 14 of the qualified 18 events.

The team was very satisfied with their results after having every member of the team qualify for the tournament among hundreds of students from schools around the country. "This season has been life changing for all of us. I have grown in every facet of my life this year, and I have faith that next year will be even better," said Carrie Gendle, junior.

One of the speech events was a persuasive speech that focused on current domestic and international events. Angelica Grigsby, senior, discussed the "crack-baby" epidemic in the 1980s, and how the government prioritized much of their funding on the War on Drugs, rather than the poverty in the American communities.

Fellow Eagle, Anabel Solano, senior, per-

formed her persuasive speech on the portrayal of Sexism in video games--objectifying women characters as being provocative and "too sexy." Her point was to show that similar themed games with opposite genders as the lead character have sexist attributes. Evidence also shows the game designers provide the males with elaborate armor and intimidating features. The female characters, however, are equipped with skimpy clothes and a seductive essence.

Grigsby also participated in the After Dinner Speech event, a comedic performance roughly ten minutes in length. She spoke about her personal decision in regards to not having children, and explaining that it is taboo in American society for women to choose not to reproduce.

Senior, Laura Tabah, a Cameroon native that qualified for four interpretive events: Prose, Poetry, Dramatic Interpretation and Program Oral Interpretation (POI), moved the audience with her passion and powerful wit. Her POI was about the cross-cultural generalizations of Africans and African-American culture in the United States.

Gendle also participated in this event with her interpretation about the evil of the

Westboro Baptist Church. Her speech was a critique of hate; she performed as Fred Phelps standing before God being criticized for saying that God despises homosexuals. Competitors in this category, interspersed, speak while holding a "black book," which contains a word, picture, or phrase relevant to the topic being analyzed. At the end of Gendle's interp, she held up her black book and it read, "God hates no one."

Controversial topics like these give competitors the edge that is necessary to have an emotional impact on the judges and audience.

Another event, Impromptu, is performed differently at NFA than other competitions. Instead of requiring competitors to perform speeches based on quotations, NFA participants were prompted with pictures, cartoons, proverbs and rhetorical situations. The cartoon panel gave competitors a picture to depict, such as the famous evolution sequence from ape to man – the progress of the Homo-Erectus. In the middle of this picture is the Pope with a thought-bubble over his head reading, "I always get in the wrong line."

The competitors had 1.5 minutes to analyze this picture, and do their best to explain

the underlying meaning of the image. Concordia's competitor, Grigsby, interpreted the picture into a contradiction between creationism and evolution, and that the two cannot exist together. She explained that society is very black-and-white when it comes to religion and science. Her main point showed that there can be a binary connection between the two beliefs, a connection also made in Concordia's Core Curriculum.

"It was a great season to end my career on. I have loved being a part of the forensics community," Grigsby said. "I am proud of the team and their efforts; the potential of the team is promising." The Forensics team has worked hard this past year to not only represent Concordia well, but raise awareness on current issues that affect people of all demographics.

"I am pleased with the work and progress this year's speech team has made. Next year, we plan to do even better with the recruiting that is being done," said Konrad Hack, Director of Forensics. Hack encourages anyone interested in Speech & Debate to contact him for more information.

Goodbye from our graduating staff

Catch You on the Flip Side

SARINA GRANT
ON & OFF CAMPUS EDITOR

As a first semester sophomore, I walked into the COM 222 class thinking that it would be just another requirement for my Communication Studies major. To be completely honest, I had no idea that I would even be writing for *The Courier*. (It's safe to say I didn't bother reading the course description.)

But three years, three volumes and 38 articles later, I can say with complete confidence that COM 222 was not just another requirement. I discovered a passion for journalistic writing that stayed with me through the rest of my undergraduate collegiate career.

It did begin as just a class. Each distribution week, I would excitedly await for topic selection, ready to take on a new challenge and a new story. After I submitted my article, I would anxiously await the announcement of the "sexy writer," hoping what I wrote was up to par. (To clarify, writers were instructed to "make it sexy," or make an article intriguing and exciting to read, and impossible to put down. The students who did this the best were the "sexy writers" of the week.)

After completing the course, I decided I wanted to continue writing, and registered

as a one-unit writer for a semester, followed by two years of being the On & Off Campus Editor.

Reflecting on my portfolio, I feel like I have created a small snapshot of my time at Concordia with each article. Over the years, I've written articles on sensitive topics or topics I had no prior knowledge of; I've interviewed faculty, staff, students and others affiliated with the Concordia community.

Without a doubt, my favorite part of writing for *The Courier* was doing interviews. I was able to meet and get to know so many people that I ordinarily wouldn't have had any contact with. Part of the challenge of writing articles is trying to condense a 30 minute interview into just a few sentences for a quote.

This year, I felt a much closer bond with the other editors and staff writers.

Reflecting back on my senior year, I've made countless memories in Delta Lounge editing with Alicia, Daetona, Jessica, Lianna, Margaret, Taylor, Prof. Siefkes (and of course Patrick.) The relationship I was able to form with these women (and Patrick) is something that I will always cherish.

As I prepare for graduation, it is with much sadness, as well as joy, that I leave *The Courier* in the capable hands of next year's staff. Their dedication is already evident, and I'm excited to see the future of the newspaper.

Education Rocket

MARGARET LANGDON
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

"Did you see when Rocket Number Nine took to the open skies last night? They say it flew beyond the atmosphere and took pictures of the brilliant Northern Lights." It's an obscure song from an even more obscure band ("Goodnight, Moon" by "HeyHiHello!"), but it represents what high-school me, clutching her acceptance letter, thought life at Concordia would be like. I even taped these lyrics to the wall of my freshman dorm, hoping that I'd become like this Rocket Number Nine, able to fully drink in the most beautiful parts of a new environment. I didn't realize then how far this quest would take me, how God would use and expand this tiny desire to see His beauty around me. I can't thank Him enough for the people and experiences He put in my life here – for all of the nebulas and star systems this Rocket has recorded over these four years.

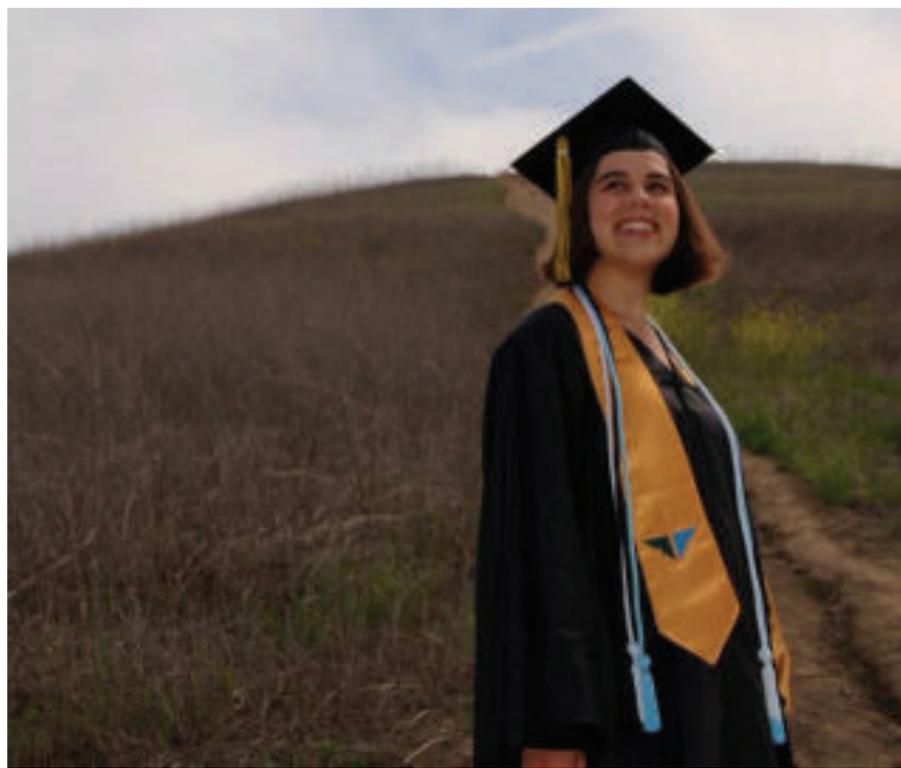
First, and most obviously, to *The Concordia Courier*. In my naive freshman freelance photography days, I didn't think I could have the guts to jump in as a reporter, much less as a section editor... four years later, the fact that I can call myself "Arts & Reviews Editor" shows me how much God has helped me grow. Thank you for building my confidence and for showing me that the pursuit of information, the pursuit of sight, can be a means

of godly service.

To Dr. Marin Jacobson and Donne di Canto: We've always been the "Women of Song," even before we had a fancy Italian name for it. I'm not a music major, but getting to sing in this ensemble almost every year I've been here has been one of the primary blessings of my life at Concordia. Thank you for teaching me that seeing God's beauty is about more than just eyes – it's about internalizing it, letting it affect the innermost parts of you and letting it become you. Thank you for teaching me what being "Beautiful" really looks like.

To my fellow "Rounders" and "Roundlings" of the Around-the-World Semester: It is an honor to be considered one of you. I had no idea that when I said, "God, I want to see your beauty wherever I can," that God would say, "Okay... how about I show you what it looks like around the world?" Thank you all for showing me how the pursuit of God's beauty translates into daily sacrificial love, regardless of where you are.

Every group I have been a part of, every friend I have made, every class I have taken here at Concordia has served to show more and more facets of what God's beauty is like. I could continue in this similar vein for pages more. But all of it together would end with the same truth: God has directed every aspect of my education and, thus, not a single moment has been wasted. As the Rocket concludes its four-year mission, I rest in that knowledge – thankful that the future promises to be just as expansive a journey as the past has been.



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Yuhl and Eagles refuse to throw in towel

NICOLE DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

Senior pitcher Keegan Yuhl earned his second GSAC Pitcher of the Week title. He and the rest of the Concordia Baseball team are working hard to keep their playoff hopes alive with a record of 33-15 overall.

The team fell to San Diego Christian last week but came back stronger than ever and won the next two games. With their last GSAC games coming up, the team will face Vanguard University this weekend. They are preparing for a tough matchup since losing two out of the three games against them in their last series.

"Our strengths are that we prepare harder than any other team in the fall, conditioning-wise, to be tougher mentally than any other team," said Matt Horton, senior. "We have a lot of heart as a team along with trust in one another to do what needs to be done." He also pointed out that a weakness would be that over the course of the year, with the fall conditioning and spring season, their bodies take a lot of strenuous activity and sometimes they let it affect the way they play their games.

"Our game plan is to play fast and it's tough

to do when your bodies are hurting and aren't responding the right way that you want them to. It's beyond frustrating and definitely gets to you," Horton said.

But since the men have had a lot of practice, they know how to push through the pain. "One of our many strengths is to really grind through the injuries and put all our opponents under pressure and give them the best game that we've got to give. That's all we can truly do," said Mitchell Esser, junior.

"We have battled through some injuries this year and guys have done a great job stepping up in those situations," Horton said. The men have three more games in conference and then it's GSAC Tournament time. "If we win the GSAC Tournament, we secure a bid for playoffs and that couldn't be any more motivation for me to win," Esser said.

"We feel that we dropped a few games to teams that we should beat every time, but that's the great part about baseball: anyone can beat anyone on any given day," Horton said.

The baseball team isn't focused on next year just yet, with business left unfinished this season. You can catch the next game at Vanguard University today at 3 p.m.

Men's Volleyball second in NAIA

ALEX TUKEY
STAFF WRITER

The #1 ranked Concordia Men's Volleyball Team took second in the NAIA Men's Volleyball National Invitational Tournament Championship at Johnson and Wales University in Denver on the weekend of April 12. The tournament started with Concordia battling against Park University for a close 3-2 loss, followed by two wins against Johnson and Wales University and Grand View University, and ending in a 0-3 loss to Park University in the Championship match.

After the first loss to Park, Head Coach Shawn Patchell said, "If we had taken care of business in set two, I think we would win that game handily." The Eagles proceeded to storm through Johnson and Wales University with a 3-0 victory. With their second game and first victory in the tournament, senior Mark Metrakos attributed the win to teamwork as opposed to being individuals on the court. Metrakos said, "We got some good reps in for the starters and everybody got some good looks in. We were ready to play Concordia volleyball."

Later on, the Eagles demonstrated just what "Concordia Volleyball" looked like with a 3-1 victory against Grand View. After getting off to a slow start and having the first set taken from them, senior Parker Del Re said, "It lit the fire. I came out slow the first set, but we are a team and respond well to having to make adjustments." Del Re definitely adjusted, ending the match with 17 kills and

showed a true sense of excitement to play Park one last time.

The Eagles' final match was tense, as it was not their first time facing Park. In 2013, the Eagles defeated Park 3-0 to win the NAIA National Championship in Denver, so this game had previous built-up tension. With the taste of defeat still in their mouths, Park battled against the Eagles, ultimately ending their year long reign as #1.

The Eagles will say goodbye to seniors Bryan Campbell, Harrison Carroll, Parker Del Re, Joshua Duarte, Kevin Fiske, Mark Metrakos, Christopher Reames, Vincent Rodriguez and Naseri Tumanuvao.

Despite a tough loss in the championship game, several highlights came out of the tournament as Del Re and Fiske were selected to the 2014 All-Tournament Team. For Fiske, his focus during the tournament was keeping this simple and focusing on the fundamentals of the game. "Once the passing was there, the offense flowed easily to me. I just gave it to the guys and they put it away," Fiske said. Even with a loss, Fiske still came out of the final match against Park with 35 assists. After being placed on the 2014 All-Tournament Team, Fiske was still hurting for his team. "It is definitely bittersweet. I am really happy to be chosen for the team, but at the same time it was the end of my and my teammates' season."

The Eagles go into next year hoping to regain their #1 spot and win another championship title.

Eagles softball continues to fly high

JAKE HUNTER HAM
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Softball team consistently ranks amongst the top teams in the NAIA, claiming the #1 spot in 16 straight Coaches' Top 25 Polls. Adding to the accolades is this week's announcement of senior Jenna Jorgenson as GSAC Player of the Year and Crystal Rosenthal as GSAC Coach of the Year for her third consecutive season.

The team's continued success has given them the opportunity to host the GSAC Tournament, as well as the NAIA opening round. Concordia has not hosted this tournament since 1990. The softball team earned the host position for the NAIA opening round last year, which proved to be beneficial as the Eagles went on to win the National Championship. "It's a definite honor to be chosen to host again," Rosenthal said. "It shows a sign of consistency, and the maintenance of our great facility."

The returning players have the mindset that is needed going into these crucial games. Annette Merjano, senior, is in her second year with the Eagles and has enjoyed a successful season. Merjano has earned a GSAC

Player of the Week honor and was named the first NAIA Player of the Week of this season. It is easy to get caught up in the statistics and awards, but Merjano knows that there is much more at stake. "Being here last year and going through playoffs really helped me; I feel more relaxed," Merjano said. "I know as a team we have to stay as focused as possible, and just do our best to grind it out."

Stevie Goldstein, junior pitcher, has enjoyed much success this year. Goldstein is in her first season with the Eagles and attributes much of her success to the Eagles that fight with her. "We are a team, we fight together, and we all trust in one another," Goldstein said. Goldstein has been awarded with a GSAC Pitcher of the Week twice. Both times, she talked about how her achievement would not have been possible without the rest of the Eagles fighting with her.

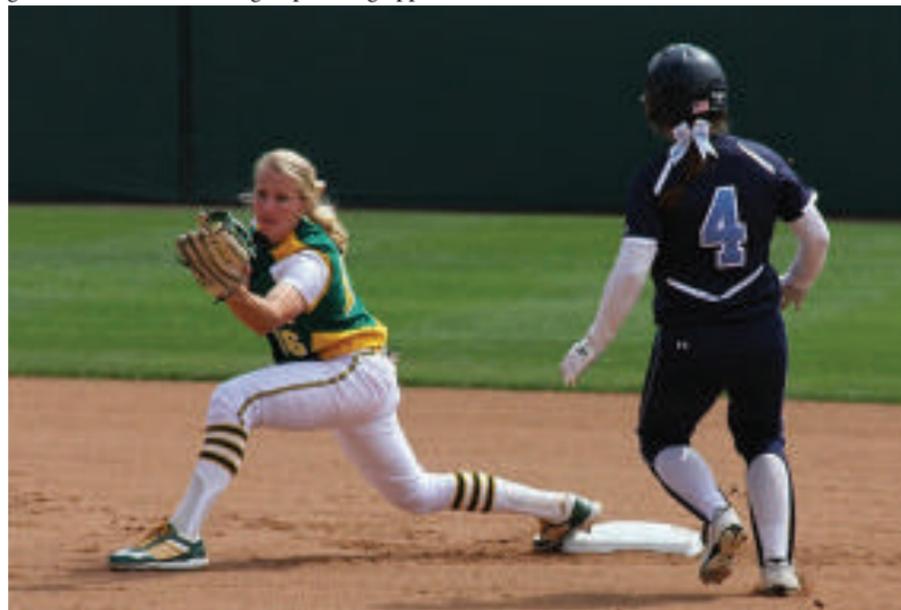
The Eagles have great team chemistry, which can go a long way in a season. Ashley Miller, junior, is with the squad for the first time this season. "We had a great group of girls return from last season, and they have done a solid job of leading us," Miller said.

It is a huge week for Concordia Softball.

The players talked about how the coaches have done a great job in keeping them focused and humble. "You know were just going game by game; you cannot think about games next week or a tough upcoming oppo-

nent," Johnson said.

The team is currently hosting the GSAC tournament. The outcome of GSAC will determine future playoff hopes.



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Concordia feeds the sole

JOSHUA SUH
STAFF WRITER

The Sports Medicine Club is hosting a shoe drive for the Soles4Souls non-profit organization throughout the month of April. Rachel Stephanik, senior president of the club, thought the large athletic community on campus would help contribute to the mission of the organization.

Soles4Souls, founded in 2006, has partnered with Road Runner Sports, an athletic apparel shop, to help fight poverty on a global and local scale. The organization tries to clothe those in lower-income areas by collecting lightly-worn shoes and clothes from individuals, schools or even faith-based institutions. Soles4Souls is also privileged to be in good relations with some of the world's top apparel brands and has the opportunity to give new clothes to the less fortunate. The new clothing apparel given to the organization are in perfect condition, but are the companies' non-marketable overstocks, returns and discontinued models. The non-profit organization then distributes the clothes and shoes to those who need them.

Recently, Soles4Souls has targeted their distribution to disaster relief areas and orphanages. The organization prides itself in holding a shoe inventory ready for those who are affected by natural disaster. Soles4Souls has helped clothe those in disaster relief from the wild fires in Southern California to those who were affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2007.

The non-profit organization also had the chance to help clothe children around the world. They have distributed clothes as far as places like Haiti, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Tanzania and Africa. "In many countries, a pair of shoes is part of the required school uniform in order to attend school and receive a necessary education," according to the organization's website. "Education is the basis for escaping the grasp of poverty. It is es-

timated that 1 billion children live in poverty without access to basic necessities like shoes."

Stephanik has made it a goal to contribute to the Soles4Souls ethos in clothing others by starting a shoe drive through the Sports Medicine Club. "I think Concordia is very active physically and socially in the community," Stephanik said. "We have a large athletic community, and typically runners or even sometimes non-athletic people will get new shoes every six months." Stephanik encourages people that have slightly worn shoes, athletic or not, to contribute to their distri-

bution.

Stephanik was introduced to the non-profit organization through student athlete Arielly Conde, senior club member. Conde has been a catalyst for the shoe drive throughout campus and hopes to see it grow. "I have been working with Road Runner Sports for a little bit over a year," Conde said. "Our store collects and donates shoes throughout all seasons." Conde hopes to collect more shoes as the Concordia body becomes more aware of the non-profit organization.

Fortunately, Joshua Gomez, Vice Presi-

dent of the Sports Medicine Club, had the opportunity to donate four pairs of shoes. "I was actually able to track where my shoes went," Gomez said. "They came from Orange County and went all the way up north to Tahoe. It is awesome they got so far!" Gomez also said that Road Runner Sports has been a great help in collecting the club's donations and delivering the shoes to the organization.

Shoes can be donated in various locations around campus, including the gym and the caf. For more information, please visit soles4souls.org or contact the CSLD.



Common Grounds brews cultural awareness

JASMINE BARRON
STAFF WRITER

Common Grounds is a weekly event sponsored by Diversity Awareness, Global Programs and the Global Citizens Program. The event takes place every Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the Global Village Lounge, located in Lambda in Upper Quads. The event is aimed at allowing international and domestic students to have open conversations about cultures and to eliminate any stereotypes.

As Concordia continues to increase in size and student diversity, it is important for students to have a chance to mix and mingle and get to know students from cultures other than their own. Global Village was created for both international and domestic students, so that they may share a "common ground" to live among each other and share their different backgrounds. The Common Grounds event further attempts to foster this development.

The event extends the invitation to all students. "It is a platform for international students to mingle with domestic students and tackle issues and to create awareness to create relationships," said Nokukhanya Shabalala, sophomore President of Global Citizens Program.

Each week, the event focuses around different issues or topics. Previous events have included movie nights and various other types of activities. "In the past, it's been cool to talk with international students and learn their culture," said Erika Santoro-Harvey, sophomore. Santoro-Harvey lives in Global Village and enjoys the atmosphere that it brings to the living environment. With the help of the Common Grounds event, Santoro-Harvey enjoys the environment that the event creates

for cross-cultural relations to occur.

Sarah Taylor, sophomore Coordinator of Diversity Awareness, initiated the Common Grounds event. "It was created to celebrate different cultures for international, study abroad and domestic students. [We hoped they would find] a place to talk about our identity and different things regarding where we come from," Taylor said.

The event carries an influential effect among the students. "I talked to Lonnie Lee (Director of Undergraduate International Student Enrollment) about what can we do differently in helping out the international students and coming abroad," Taylor said. "As the semester is coming to an end and finals are around the corner, the event is to have the students inspire to come out and enjoy the hang-out setting. Students will have the opportunity to have discussion topics about identity."

On campus, Diversity Awareness, Global Programs and Global Citizens Program want to create a strong unity among the students. Common Grounds' purpose is to influence students to be open and share the culture that they have. The ability to create relationships among international and domestic students will unite the student body as one.

As the semester comes to a close, Global Village welcomes all students to come participate in one last event in Global Village Lounge tonight at 6:30 p.m. For more information about Common Grounds, stop by the Global Programs office. If you are interested in living in the Global Village Living Learning Community or want more information about Global Village, contact the Residential Education & Services located in Sigma Square.

Gala twinkles again this May

HOLLY GAMESTER
STAFF WRITER

The 12th annual "Gala of Stars" will be held on Sat., May 10 at 5 p.m. on campus. This evening of dining and entertainment is hosted by The Friends of Concordia to raise funds for campus programs and to provide scholarship support for students. The Gala is a black-tie event and begins in the Grimm Student Union with the reception and a silent auction bidding. The proceedings then move to the CU Arena for dinner, awards, a live auction and a musical performance by students.

Tickets for the Gala range from \$150 to \$500. In addition to the purchase of a ticket, there is also an option to become a sponsor for the school. Those that are looking to donate can do so at amounts ranging from \$500 to \$25,000. Depending on the amount, the donor will receive various benefits and VIP treatment. Mercedes Vaughn, Concordia parent, said, "This is an experience that I think is vital for the school and for the students. It is encouraging to see such a proactive search for funds and much-needed scholarships."

This year's auctioneer will be Bill Menish, who is known mainly for his morning anchoring on NBC San Diego. He has received many awards in numerous fields, and has even become a graduate from World Wide College of Auctioning. Last year, attendees could place bids on things such as power tools and autographed professional jerseys from Jordan Farmar of the Los Angeles Lakers and Eric

Gagne of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Each year, there is a special recipient of the Servant Leadership Award, given to an individual who has exemplified a long-standing commitment to not only their faith in God, but also to their work and to the Orange County community. The recipient is also someone who leads by serving and benefits others by their works: someone who demonstrates the same commitment to Christ's Great Commission. Ruth Denault was unanimously voted to receive this year's award.

Elizabeth Abt, sophomore, said, "Of course I had heard of [the name] Denault before, but I never knew who this person was until now. It is a wonderful thing that there are people out there that really want to help students at this school and see us succeed." Denault has served on the Concordia University Foundation as a trustee since 1985 and has dedicated much of her life to serving students on their pursuits of an education. "It is people like this who truly make a difference in the lives of the students. There need to be more like her, like Ruth," Vaughn said.

During Denault's leadership of the Friends of Concordia University, the organization raised over \$1 million for student scholarships. "I am humbled by her work. She had to have helped so many students," Abt said.

The "Gala of Stars" is one of Concordia's largest fundraising events. More information, including ticket purchasing and sponsorships, can be found online at www.cui.edu/giving/gala.

Grads share political insight at CPP event

MIKALA NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Concordia welcomed back two successful alumni on Fri., April 11 to chat with interested students about their involvement in politics and how they got started with their current careers: working for elected officials. Tony Capitelli, '07 and Scott Carpenter, '05 entertained a small crowd of enthralled students and faculty, telling stories and sharing helpful advice of their journey to becoming successful men in the political field. Both graduates said that after leaving Con-

cordia, the skills they learned while on campus carried on to help them in their current careers.

Capitelli, current field representative for Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, and Carpenter, current policy advisor for Supervisor Shawn Nelson, both talked about their climb up the political ladder from graduating Concordia to working for elected officials. Capitelli and Carpenter were both involved in student government during their time at Concordia and said the skills they learned during that time stuck with them long after graduation.

Student government had helped the men to see what it was like to work with other people, to create something out of nothing. Problem-solving skills and resourcefulness were two other skills mentioned that they felt were strongly emphasized during their time at Concordia, and they were grateful for that during their journey in politics. Being in student government, working with administration and being in classes working with other students helped them gain the knowledge to identify what needs to be

done and doing it even if it means making relationships with complete strangers.

The panel was led by Center Director Keith Curry, Newport Beach Councilman and current State Assembly candidate. Curry, previously mayor of Newport Beach, is now Director of the Concordia University Irvine Center for Public Policy (CPP). The Center focuses on critical issues within the county, such as fiscal sustainability, pension reform, workforce development, government efficiency, social services, public safety, environmental policy and economic development. The CPP works with elected officials, business groups and local residents to find solutions to problems and encourage discussion and dialogue.

Curry, Capitelli and Carpenter all stressed the importance of building great relationships with the people you meet and networking. Due to the nature of working for an elected official, no job is concrete. Any public official's term can end, and therefore leaving anyone working for them without a job. However, with the

interaction one gets with lobbyists and other people in the political field while working for an elected official, it is easy to stay connected. "Save every phone number!" Carpenter stressed.

The hour-long panel with Curry, Capitelli and Carpenter shared insight to anyone interested in the political field on what working for an elected official is like, how to identify opportunities and what it takes to be successful. For more information, visit the Concordia University Irvine Center for Public Policy page through MyCUI.



Tony Capitelli, '07



Scott Carpenter, '05

Mad men marketing team takes second place

CAROLYN SHIERY
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

A Concordia team earned second place in the third annual Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) National Student Marketing Competition on April 4 in St. Louis, Mo.

Members of the team were: junior Katelyna DaCosta and seniors William McElvaine, Tyler Fewins, Ashley Matsunami, Emma Shockey and Sarah Whitehair. They were led by faculty advisor Carolyn Shier, Professor of Business.

Teams from Concordia have competed all three years that the competition has been held, and have been one of the top two teams each year.

With a campaign built on the theme "SEEK the Truth. LEARN the Truth. SHARE the Truth," this year's challenge was to create a marketing plan with the dual outcome of increasing enrollment in Lutheran schools and increasing awareness of LCEF as a ministry partner.

The Concordia team worked every week all semester, interviewing, creating strategies and taglines, and crunching budget numbers. "I thought it would be cool to be a part of something bigger than me – something that can actually make a difference, that might actually be implemented and have an impact," Matsunami said. "It was more than a school project."

Concordia used state-of-the-art technology and gave a stunning presentation that showcased a working website and semi-professional video commercial highlighting the value of Lutheran schools.

"The team gave LCEF a solid marketing plan and model to address this problem," Shier said. "In fact, their presentation was

so well-received by our local Pacific Southwest District, that their ideas will be implemented in the fall as part of a marketing conference for the district's schools."

Each team gave a 20-minute presentation before a panel of judges, including marketing professionals and church and business leaders, along with a tough Q&A

session. The judges rated the campaigns on the presentation as well the written campaign plans.

"It was the best experience academically as well as socially," said Whitehair. "You learn so much in a short amount of time and gain strong relationships with the other team members."

The team competed against seven other Concordia University System schools, working throughout the spring semester to research and develop a cooperative marketing plan for a partnership between LCEF and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) elementary and secondary schools.



Hymnal verses portray faith through song

KALE SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

Katherine Dubke's senior project, "Melding Music and Words: Hymnody for the 21st Century," will be performed on Wed., April 30 at 5:30 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Chapel. Dubke's project is an integration of both writing and music into hymnal tunes.

Dubke is a Humanities major with an emphasis in creative writing. She is also involved in the Concordia Choir and the Concordia Wind Orchestra. Through her passion for writing and music, she has created two new hymns and adapted Martin Luther's "Morning Prayer" into a hymnal song. While most people enjoy the sound of music accompanied with some rhythmic vocals, not everyone appreciates the writing that it takes to create the music. Dubke, however, was inspired at a young age.

"I grew up with hymns and have always loved singing them. Maybe part of that has to do with growing up in a pastor's family and hearing my dad humming the tunes that he was going to pick for Sunday's service," Dubke said. "I was inspired to write hymns because I have found my own life influenced by the words of a hymn text."

A hymn resembles a poem, but is manifested in such a manner to be sung by a large group of people. In general, declaring your faith in words is a complicated assignment, but with the help of imagery, it becomes easier to express and understand, as it presents itself in a personal and relatable context. "Hymn texts are crafted for a congregation so that people can sing and understand their faith better," Dubke said. "In this way, hymn text needs to be simple and use common language so that people can relate and agree with the words. Hymn texts also need to be grounded in imagery because sometimes a simile or a metaphor can explain a theological concept better than just telling. When I began, I thought it would be easy to write hymn texts, but I was mistaken. It's the hardest type of creative writing that I have ever attempted."

Hymns incorporated with imagery allow our minds to illustrate symbols we can connect with that represent our belief in Christ.

Dubke uses the gift of nature, bestowed upon us by God, to properly characterize our faith. "One of my hymns entitled, 'As Sunflowers Face the Light of Dawn,' explores joy in all aspects. What does it mean to have joy? What is true joy? And in what situations do we need joy the most?" Dubke said. "I am also writing a hymn inspired by the verse in Genesis 1 that says, 'and He also made the stars.' This hymn will incorporate the imagery of stars and light throughout the Bible to outline Christ's work on our behalf. And Luther's Morning Prayer... is what it is." The combination of

words, music and images in these hymns provides an easy way for all believers to understand and pronounce their faith.

Along with the support of family and motivation through listening to hymns, Dubke has also received some help from members of the Concordia community. Thea Gavin, Professor of English, has had the opportunity to watch this project flourish. "I've enjoyed watching her project develop over the course of the semester. It's been a pleasure to examine this art form with Katherine and witness her growth as she worked diligently all se-

mester to produce meaningful and aesthetically-pleasing pieces within the constraints of the genre," Gavin said. Using her God-given talents as a musician and writer, Dubke has turned an idea into a specific and beautiful union of words and music.

These hymns will be brought to life by Concordia's own musicians, featuring the collaborative efforts of composer and musician, Christian Guebert, as well as the talents of Gretchen Sheetz, Michael Miller, Karissa Lys-trup, Ben Hunter, Matthew Laub and Hannah Chung.



Final choral concert of the year

TAYLOR DENNISON
STAFF WRITER

The Men's Chorus and Donne Di Canto are preparing for the Spring Choral Concert, one of the final performances of the semester. Dr. Marin Jacobson, Associate Director of Choral Activities and conductor for both choirs, and Dr. Rachel Schrag, Staff Accompanist, are very excited to watch their students perform an unforgettable and unique set of music.

Throughout the concert, the sets of songs will alternate between the Men's Chorus and Donne Di Canto. A few harp solos by Gretchen Sheetz, senior, with a piano accompaniment, will be mixed into the lineup. Towards the end of the program, both choirs will sing a song together to close the performance.

Jacobson herself wrote this closing piece. "It's a benediction, and it will be great for them to come together and sing a blessing on everybody there," Jacobson said. "It is a piece that really binds us together and I think that the students like performing a piece that their director wrote for them because they want to excel."

The Men's Chorus and Donne Di Canto have really grown over the course of the year, so this concert is really a culmination of all their hard work. "They've become a unified group and I think this concert will be a great way to end the year," Schrag said. "When they all sing together, this beautiful music is made and it is just amazing."

"It's a really neat program and it flows

really well," Jacobson said. "There's always something different around the corner for people to listen to." The rehearsal process started in January and the music had already been selected and ordered. Jacobson selected all of the music and created the order and flow of the program. "I work pretty far ahead, just to make sure I have a plan A and plan B if anything were to happen," Jacobson said.

There indeed promises to be a wide variety of music in this program. "The Men's Chorus will be doing pieces for Lent, and there will be some pieces in German," Schrag said. "The women's chorus will be doing four pieces with a harp and two horns accompanying them."

Emma Curtis, sophomore president of Donne Di Canto, is excited to perform the German pieces. "It took us forever to learn German, so I am stoked to share that with people and say 'look, we've been doing all this stuff!'" Curtis said.

"I think the meaning of the Spring Concert is to bring all the pieces that we've done together as one message, and that is that we are sharing our music," Curtis said. "God has given us this gift to share with everyone, and I think that us doing the pieces in different languages portrays that well."

Sheetz will be playing the harp for this concert and she is really excited to see the collaboration of the singing with the instruments. "I think that the harp lends a specific type of articulation and it adds that lightness, while the horns provide the richness and the tone that's necessary to support the choir," Sheetz said. "The harmonies are really intri-

cate, and unusual sometimes, but they add a lot of depth to the meaning of the pieces."

Although Sheetz is melancholy about graduating from the program, she is thrilled to see what this concert will deliver to the audience. "It is a really special and simple arrangement that encompasses the community that the music department embodies," Sheetz

said. "We all come together and sing and play as one in order to glorify God, so I think it totally sums up our mission statement here."

The Spring Choral Concert will take place in the CU Center tomorrow, Apr. 26, at 7:30 p.m. It is \$10 for general admission, \$8 for senior admission, and student admission is free.



Shakespeare, students and summer

Looseleaf Theatre Company returns to Concordia performing "Comedy of Errors"

KAYLA LARDNER
STAFF WRITER

May term is just around the corner, and that means it's time for Looseleaf Theatre Company to perform again. Starting in May, Concordia students and faculty, along with professional actors, will begin rehearsing Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors," the third show produced by Looseleaf since its start in 2012.

Looseleaf productions are zany and creative in a way that many audience members won't expect. The shows are interactive and highly encourage audience participation. Past years have featured Peter Senkbeil, Professor of Theatre and Associate Provost, in full traditional hippie garb wowing the crowd with his rendition of "Age of Aquarius." Their first production, "Twelfth Night," included an audience sing-a-long. Last year's "As You Like It" invited an alumnus to break the fourth wall by causing antics in the audience itself. The audience can even tweet questions to the cast backstage as the play is performed. Nevertheless, those involved are all intensely professional, and they work hard to ensure that the students involved will walk away with real-world theater experience.

Looseleaf was formed to give theater students the chance to have a professional internship opportunity. Tony Vezner, Associate Professor of Theatre and Producer/Director of this summer's show, said, "We had some students who were having trouble understanding how to bridge over into the professional world. We started working on internship opportunities, places to audition, and some possibilities seemed okay, but we didn't know the companies." This posed a challenge for both students and faculty as they scratched their heads trying to find something that fit both the students' needs as future professional actors and also the professors' desires to make sure that it was the

best experience possible.

The answer to this problem was Looseleaf. "The goal was to make an experience for them that we could monitor and that could be overseen. An internship on some level is kind of grunt work, but we wanted to make sure that there was a good educational experience. We care about our students. We're wanting to protect them," Vezner said.

Looseleaf productions are similar to shows performed at Concordia through the Theatre Department, but there are a lot of differences. The most obvious is the level of professionalism expected of all of those involved, including our still-learning theater students. "I think we try to have professional expectation in the shows [at Concordia], but here it's even more explicit that expectations are on a professional level. They are competing for roles with working actors. It raises the threshold of what they need to do," Vezner said.

Simply being cast takes a great deal of skill when auditioning with professional actors, but the best students have gotten a few moderate sized roles. Bre Piantanida, junior, spoke on the difficulties of auditioning for a Shake-

speare show. "[Shakespeare] really does feel like a foreign language! I had to be familiar enough with the script ahead of time so, come audition time, I could deliver the lines in a way that would be authentic and make sense within the context of the scene," Piantanida said.

This year's cast includes Christian Rowe, freshman, who was praised for his role in "Falling" earlier this year, Trenton Semple, senior, whose play, "Beloved," was just performed as a staged reading, and Piantanida.

Semple was part of Looseleaf's first production of "Twelfth Night" in 2012. "Nothing, though, can fully prepare you for the crazy antics and laughs that come while working with such a great company," he said. "The best part of this company is the people. You are working with people who are talented, want to be there and want to work hard. Theater is collaborative, so it is nice to collaborate with people you like. Once you become part of the Looseleaf family, you remain so."

Rowe said that one of his main reasons for wanting to be a part of the show was its director. "I learned that Prof. Tony Vezner was

directing the production and I love how he teaches and molds his creative thoughts into life," Rowe said. Semple added, "The audition experience with Tony Vezner is always fun. He likes to keep things light, but practical. In other words we have fun and feel comfortable, but he gets things done quickly and efficiently."

"What I've seen from the professional actors is that rather than having an attitude of doing us a favor, they seem to have a lot of respect. That says that our students can compete in this field; it's not just because we're small a pond that they seem special, they are legitimately good at it," Vezner said.

Vezner added, "The main thing we are hoping it will give them is a stronger perspective. It's easy to get in an isolated world. It's important for them to run into professionals, and to understand what the career demands are. It gives them a clearer real-life perspective on what the industry is like. They know that this is what it takes."

"Comedy of Errors" will be performed in Concordia's amphitheater May 24 through June 1.



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Health Corner: Clothesline Project



MEGAN HARBERT
HEALTH PROMOTION SPECIALIST

The Clothesline Project returned to Concordia this year, in observation of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Decorated shirts bearing personal stories from survivors of sexual assault lined the breezeway, tennis courts, amphithe-

ater and Student Union Plaza on Tues., April 15. The event was sponsored by CUI's Peer Health Educators, The Wellness Center and Community Service Programs Inc. It was intended to raise awareness about relationship violence and assault. Volunteers from the CSLD, Campus Safety, the Center for Student Success, Live2Free and the Asian Pacific Student Association all came together to assist in

hanging shirts for the event.

A table with markers, paint and blank shirts were provided for survivors of sexual assault and their supporters as a creative form of therapy to aid their healing process. A total of nine CUI students created t-shirts for The Clothesline Project display, which will continue to tour college campuses across Orange County.

Additionally, students that viewed the display were challenged to take a stand against violence with a pledge developed by The Peer Health Educators. In total, 60 students contributed to the "These hands will never hurt another" pledge which was later displayed in the cafeteria.