

## Inside...

Campus	Veterans Affairs Coordinator	pg. 4
Sports	Jock Talk: Patrick Sonsteng	pg. 3
Arts	"Falling" for new play	pg. 6
Off Campus	The Counter Review	pg. 7
Everything Eagles	Kickin' it with Anaya	pg. 8

## Likens delivers personal speech on autism

BRITTNEY GARNER  
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 29, author Aaron Likens, Life Skills' Autism Ambassador, gave an inspirational



speech in the CU Center to spread awareness for the Autism Spectrum Disorder. Likens is an accomplished public speaker who was diagnosed with Asperger's, a high-functioning form of autism, at age 20. Likens is also an avid blogger and recipient of the prestigious Mental Health Champion award given by the Missouri Department of Mental Health. He is in the process of visiting all Concordia Universities to educate and advocate for early intervention services and to teach ways to better interact with those with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Dr. David Loy, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Theology and Chairman of the Convocation Committee, was excited to welcome Likens to our campus. "A lot of people are not aware of the different aspects of autism. They tend to put similar disorders under the same umbrella," Loy said. Loy's son was diagnosed with Asperger's a few years ago, so this event has special significance. "I hope the speeches given will help people recognize the differences within the autism spectrum and realize the intelligence, and sometimes above average intel-

ligence, they can possess," Loy said.

Likens' speech was full of emotion, humor, and for some, life changing information. His main focus of these speeches is to push for early intervention services. "The sooner someone is diagnosed, the sooner they can begin to better understand themselves and the world around them," Likens said. As he spoke and made references to certain characteristics of a person with Asperger's, some audience members nodded with understanding or even cried. Likens also gave tips on how to better understand or approach people with Asperger's. "There is hope for anyone at any age with Asperger's to live an amazing life," Likens said.

Various community members attended the event alongside students, faculty and staff. Kathy Meyer, third grade teacher at Turtle Rock Elementary School, attended the lecture after being informed by Concordia professors. "I wanted to come to learn more information on how to better understand some of my students with Asperger's. I am very glad I went," Meyer said.

Concordia's diverse student body includes those who may be living with different levels of autism. The Disability Learning Resource Center (DLRC) serves as a resource to the campus community and supports students with many different learning disabilities. "The goal of diversity awareness is to educate people so that they know and care about themselves and others, regardless of background, language, and ability and act with cultural dignity and integrity," said Terilyn Colacino, Director of Disability and Learning Services. The DLRC wants to help provide an environment where students can have the same opportunity and understanding as anyone, despite their disabilities. "We want students to maximize their educational potential and freely and actively participate in all facets of university life," Colacino said.

If you would like to learn more on Likens and his mission to spread awareness, visit [www.lifskills-mo.org](http://www.lifskills-mo.org). For information on purchasing Likens' book, visit [www.FindingKansas.com](http://www.FindingKansas.com).

## Eagle Lounge Grand Opening



SARINA GRANT

The newly renovated Eagle Rock has found new wings as the Eagle Lounge. At its grand opening on Wednesday students, staff and faculty crowded into the lounge and enjoyed a first peek at what the construction had achieved. Amenities of the Eagle Lounge include: lockers, chairs, tables, microwave and refrigerator.

# The Bear Necessities

## with Bear and Zocks:

### Who exactly are we affirming here?

#### Affirmative Action: Slightly Off Target

DAVID SAULET  
POLITICAL COLUMNIST

Affirmative Action refers to the practice of including race, color, religion, sex and/or national origin in admissions calculations in order to increase under-represented populations in higher education. While serving a noble goal, Affirmative Action policies have largely missed the target as far as delivering upward mobility to those it seeks to serve. Race, color, religion, sex and national origin all fail to accurately champion the demographic that needs help the most: the economically disadvantaged.

It is true that current and previous Affirmative Action policies have increased the number of minorities in higher education. There is no doubting this. However, these policies have also

helped to reinstate and maintain the same class divides that have plagued America since the Post-Industrial Reagan-era. Simply advocating for the end of Affirmative Action would be both naïve and intellectually irresponsible. According to a June 2013 *Propublica* article by Nikole Hannah-Jones, "Studies show that African-American and Latino enrollment at the nation's top 200 colleges would plummet by two-thirds if colleges stopped considering race when deciding whom to accept."

Affirmative Action should be replaced with the "Economic Integration Movement," which seeks to replace the aforementioned criterion with a class-based focus.

The historical origin of Affirmative Action policies stem from the need to counteract Jim Crow era policies.

Yes, racism is bad in and of itself and diversity probably never hurts. However, the main reason why Jim Crow laws were problematic is that they created a cultural conscience that prevented minority populations from achieving the

socioeconomic progress enjoyed by their white counterparts. In this way, it can be argued that Affirmative Action has always had the goal of helping to bridge the gap between those most (economically) affected by structural racism and systemic inequity.

John McWhorter elaborates on this in a *New York Magazine* article, "Why Affirmative Action Should Be Based on Class, Not Race." McWhorter states, "...much of what keeps black and Latino students' grades and test scores down is poor schooling. And the sad fact is that it is only when racial preferences are threatened or discontinued that states and universities start the real work of helping less-fortunate students of color qualify for selective universities, as happened in California after preferences were banned in 1996."

Interestingly enough, perhaps we have allowed images of Little Rock Nine and the like to prevent us from reconceptualizing the ways that race and class intersect within our educational framework.

#### The Price of Freedom

AMANDA OZAKI  
POLITICAL COLUMNIST

*"One of the most disheartening experiences for those who grew up in the years when Martin Luther King and Thurgood Marshall were alive is to visit public schools today that bear their names...and to find how many of these schools are bastions of contemporary segregation."*

-Jonathan Kozol, *Shame of the Nation*, (2005)

Almost 60 years ago, Jim Crow laws were still widely enforced. *Brown vs. Board of Education* was just decided by the Supreme Court, which desegregated public schools across the country. My mom still remembers the desegregation pickets and riots that took place in Inglewood. It's easy to write off Affirmative Action and say that race shouldn't factor into any decision making, and in a perfect world, I would agree.

However, we live less than a lifetime away from lawful segregation. A lot of the same intellectuals that were chairpersons during segregation are now deans of colleges and universities across the country. Until a new generation takes their places, our nation depends on Affirmative Action to equalize an already unequal playing field.

I included the quote by Jonathan Kozol because I think it's important to remember the context of the Affirmative Action debate. A little less than 60 years ago, schools filtered white students into schools with ample funding, new textbooks and clean, safe infrastructure. Minority students were shuffled into leaky buildings, some that exposed children to raw sewage that caused them to develop open sores in their mouths. Sadly, these same symptoms were reported by Kozol in twelve different states in the United States that are still in violation of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Think about that. Twelve states are unable to fulfill the bare minimum of protecting children from a discriminatory form of education. That discovery shifted my entire perception of Affirmative Action. If children aren't able to get access to bathrooms without exposing themselves to deadly bacteria, how on earth are they supposed to access SAT prep books to get into college?

Our education system should cause outrage. According to a study done by the *Akron Law Review*, higher education works with a framework of favoritism that shuts out people in poverty. Common standards of merit rely on personal connections within the school, references, familial legacies, family contracts and standardized tests. In this environment of standards of merit that favor richer students over socioeco-

nomic disadvantaged ones, Affirmative Action ends up carrying all the weight of promoting integration and diversity.

So, what would a world without Affirmative Action look like? According to a study done by Princeton University, without Affirmative Action the acceptance rate for African-American candidates likely would fall nearly two-thirds from 33.7 percent to 12.2 percent, while the acceptance rate for Hispanic applicants likely would be cut in half, from 26.8 percent to 12.9 percent. When a similar law passed in California in 1998, black and hispanic enrollment in the UC system dropped by a quarter.

In Berkeley and LA, enrollment by minority students was cut in half. Syracuse University banned Affirmative Action in 2006 and have since seen a 4.6 percent decrease in minority student applicants. Poverty keeps thousands of children from getting into college every year in the United States, and our education system keeps them from escaping. Like it or not, Affirmative Action gives students a way out of atrocious living conditions that would most likely kill them otherwise.

Perhaps someday the United States will be ready to transition to a race-blind policy that focuses on socioeconomic alone, but until segregation in public schools is eradicated, that will remain a dream.

## Editorial: Women, Islam, oppression and choice

ALICIA HARGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Current events have shone a particularly bright light on the interplay of women and Islam within the past few weeks. First, Malala, the Pakistani teen and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, gained even more attention after her interview on the *Daily Show* went viral. Malala's education advocacy campaign and story of personal struggle are striking. Secondly, the Saudi women who protested by defying national laws and driving cars on their own have garnered international attention for the gender apartheid taking place in Saudi Arabia.

The plight of women who are confined and restricted legally and socially in Islamic countries cannot and should not be overlooked. The Saudi Arabian legal system is based heavily in sharia law and is essentially adherent to the Quran. Only a month ago, a law was passed in Saudi Arabia to legalize domestic violence. Until this law was passed it was legal for a man to abuse his wife. And even though this law is now in effect, the enforcement of and prosecution under the statute are in doubt.

I do not want to sound too critical of Islam. I am not saying that one cannot be a good person and a Muslim. What I am trying to address is that any institution that allows and encourages systemic violence against a group of people is morally reprehensible. Institutionalized discrimination is wrong. There is no excusing any system that allows one group to be marginalized and abused.

This is not to say that any cultural expression is inherently wrong. I'm not denying a woman the option to wear a burka. I'm not trying to force women out of their homes. What I'm advocating for is choice. If a woman feels respected and safe in an arranged marriage and burka with constant male chaperonage then she should be free to pursue her choices. A woman should also be free to attend college, generate her own income and be granted the same legal and social rights as a man.

These conflicts over very basic freedoms for women seem almost shockingly out of place in 2013. I mean, what a time for equality and women's rights? Right? Western culture has so much respect for the autonomy, individuality and humanity of women. Right? Maybe not.

In America, women have achieved equality to men under the law. This is a huge part of gender equality and should not be overlooked, but pervasive gender roles and the patriarchal orientation of society have prevented women from attaining true equality.

As much as forcing a woman to wear a burka is oppression, forcing a woman to conform to unrealistic standards of sexualization is oppression. Oppression occurs whenever the right or open environment to choose to express oneself is denied. Women, and actually all people, should feel able to express themselves however they choose. It is not a matter of what is being chosen, but the act of choosing that constitutes freedom.

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# Jock Talk with Patrick Sonsteng

Being a part of the swim team at Concordia is one of the most rewarding experiences I have encountered in my college career. The team encompasses a broad spectrum of people coming together to achieve the same goal, all while fatigued, tired and hungry. The swim team, unlike most sports, trains co-ed even though the men and women compete separately. This creates large practices which make it easy to match training styles for different events. Simply being in a pool twice a day with the same people cre-

ates a connection and team bond that is indescribable, especially since we are all only partially clothed.

As a transfer student, I found it really easy to become part of the fishy family at Concordia. The team is very close with a competitive mindset and a shared talent and drive. As a team captain this year, I wish to maintain this closeness and drive so the season and seasons to come are enjoyable for the new Eagles. It is obvious that we have the physical capability and training op-

portunities for a successful season. But, swimming requires mental strength and toughness, which is easily fueled by a supportive team.

In my fourth and final year of swimming, I am filled with excitement and I find myself training harder and faster than ever, which has shown excellent results so far. Sure, the practices can get long, boring and emotionally and physically draining. But, there is one reason we all endure this pain, and that's the thrill of RACING! Nothing excites me more than the thrill

of a race and the drop dead silence before a start. The words "take your mark" give us all a new level of intensity because they are the last we hear before immediately racing through the chilled water. The rush we get from racing is unexplainable, and the best part is, when we are not racing, we get to watch each other experience the same feeling.

Southern California is a poster child for fast swimmers and Concordia happens to be right in the midst of it, attracting fast swimmers from all over. Although we don't have a pool on campus, the team is fortunate enough to train in an Olympic facility where records have been broken by athletes such as Michael Phelps and Jason Lezak. Among others, it is little things like this that help motivate this year's team to succeed.

It is exciting to see the competitiveness on the team this year as my teammates compete for one of the 18 spots on each National team. We know that there is only room to go up after the men's second place and women's fifth place finishes at last year's nationals. But, in the end, it all comes down to who can get their hand on the wall first because that's when the clock stops and that's what scores points.

So, as my final season continues and the practices grow longer, the temperature grows colder and the competition gets faster, I am able to reflect on the reasons why I love this sport. I get to see the sunrise every morning, to consume as many breakfast burritos as I want in the cafeteria, to pretend I am a mermaid every single day and to have the best support team to swim alongside me. Plus, I finally have a solid four year Speedo tan that's never going away.



## Give-and-go with Daniels

DAVID GARCIA  
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia women's soccer team is on a long winning streak as the only undefeated team in the GSAC. This year, Megan Daniels, junior, is helping the team continue on their path towards the NAIA championship with her hard work and positive vibes.

The five foot four forward from Lake Forest has been one of the best soccer players Concordia has ever had. Her high performance on the field and energy she has invested into the women on the team have both contributed to her success.

For the second year in a row, Daniels has been chosen as captain of the team. She earned the spot by exhibiting leadership and passion for the team. She has played all 15 games this season scoring a total of seven goals, which makes her the school's top scorer. She has also been selected as the offensive player of the week on two occasions this season.

A sense of radiance and strength is evident in Daniels' life as both player and student. "She is all around a great leader in every area of her life. Her ability to change the game is really what has carried our team this season," said Elizabeth Abt, sophomore teammate. Daniels has earned the respect and trust of her friends and teammates. "Megan has grown so much. She has become such a great leader, and I know if any of us gets in trouble she would help us out," said Sammy Fillion, junior teammate.

Daniels' big heart is rooted in the importance of her relationships with family and friends. "Family is a big one. They are the reason why I moved from Seattle to Concordia," Daniels said. From a young age, Daniels has fought against adversity on and off the field. The perfect amount of love and discipline has built her into the player she is now. "My dad was also an athlete and he could have played professionally, and I think that is the reason why he is so hard on me," Daniels said. She understands that the best rewards are hidden

in challenges. Her dad has been an example of strength and the ability to overcome. "I love him to death because I wouldn't be here without him," Daniels said.

Daniels handles the responsibilities of being team captain well, setting a good example for her teammates. "When I think about a captain, I think about someone I can trust and look up to," said Breana Ellis, junior teammate. "I look up to her in so many ways and am so happy to call her one of my closest friends."

Regardless of Daniels' continued success, she remains grounded and humble. "I don't

consider myself better than anyone. I am just like everyone else. All I want is people around me to be the best they can be in life and sports," Daniels said.

Daniels has established an atmosphere of respect and leadership for her teammates. "She is a selfless person," Fillion said. "She is one person in this world that is so honest and blunt with me that I know she will tell me the truth when I need it," Abt said. "She is just a great friend."

The Eagles' next game will be on tomorrow at 1 p.m. in Arizona. Follow their stats on <http://www.cuieagles.com/stats>.



Daniels (number two jersey) poses with her friends and teammates.

## Perseverance in the pool

BROOKE SPRINGER  
STAFF WRITER

With a record of 18-0-8, the men's water polo team is currently ranked 10th in the nation. The Eagles want to show other teams and spectators that they continue to compete with strength and they are determined to come out with a victory in each match.

"Being a part of the team this year was a great privilege," said Wyatt Woodward, junior. "The players and the coaches have a complete knowledge of the game and our team plays solid defense."

This year's team has 20 field players and seven redshirts. "It is a great feeling being associated with the team, especially one that is doing so well," said Rhett Turvey, junior redshirt. Even though Turvey is not competing this year, he feels welcomed by his teammates, some of whom he calls his brothers. "I can see a lot of these guys being lifelong friends down the road," Turvey said.

The members of the team are very passionate about being successful in their water polo endeavors. "What inspires me to keep playing and doing the best I can is my love for the sport," Turvey said. "I haven't been around [water polo] long but it is something I have been really passionate about since the beginning."

To prepare for challenging games that are coming soon, the team practices for two hours every afternoon and has three morning practices a week where the men swim and shoot. The team also has two weekly weight sessions to gain muscle and ensure that they can accomplish their goals at game time.

Many factors contribute to the team's continued success this season. "We have multiple talented offensive players," Woodward said. "We will not back down from any team. We want to be the best we can be." With each passing game and practice, the team becomes closer as a cohesive family to keep fighting and scoring goals. The Eagles are determined to prove that it does not matter what school other teams come from, Concordia comes out with full force to dominate the game.

The men's water polo team will be competing today in their next match at UCLA at 7 p.m.

# Foamy Halloween event thrills students

KATHY ABERG  
STAFF WRITER

On Fri. Oct. 25, LEAD Student Activities hosted 'Halloween Foamtastic!' on the Student Union Patio. Last January was the premiere of Foamtastic, but this year it came back with a whole new look.

Some students even dressed for the event by wearing their Halloween costumes. The LEAD directors Jessica Marquardt, junior, Stephanie Yzaguirre, sophomore, and Peter Boye, senior, worked together to put on this fun Halloween-themed event.

Marquardt, Yzaguirre and Boye started the event planning process a few months ahead of time. "It wasn't too complicated be-

cause we just had to set up the displays and food stations while the company Foamalicious set up the foam pit," Marquardt said.

Although last year's Foamtastic was successful, LEAD decided it would be best to make some small changes. "We always listen to the student's suggestions and advice, and we cater our events towards them because ultimately, it's about them," Marquardt said.

There were many activities for the students to participate in. The main attraction was the foam dance party, but there were also pumpkin spiced lattes, candy, fire pits, a photo booth and pumpkins to paint.

"Halloween is one of my favorite holidays of the year, so I was very happy that CUI had an event for this. It was also fun to see people

dressed in their costumes," said Aaron Metzner, sophomore.

Foamtastic had a great turn out with over 200 people in attendance. "This is one of my favorite LEAD events. I give it a 10 because there was a variety of things to do," said Megan Illsley, junior.

LEAD is hoping to make Foamtastic a Concordia tradition, especially with the vast theme possibilities. "I feel like introducing Foamtastic into Week of Welcome to kick off the school year would be a fun idea for this event in the future," said Haley Holmes, senior.

Be on the look out for LEAD events, like Kindergarten Day in the Student Union next month and the Homecoming dance in the spring of 2014.



KATHY ABERG

## Speaking of debating...

### Concordia's Forensics team focuses on big goals

ISABEL RAMOS  
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Forensics team has taken a new approach to their overall goals and structure since their sweepstakes win at the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) last year. "Our focus this year has moved away from how many times we can win tournaments and how many sweepstakes trophies we can accumulate throughout the year to trying to win a couple of major regional tournaments and how well we do at national tournaments," said Konrad Hack, Assistant Professor of Communication and Director of Forensics.

The Forensics team goes to approximately 12-18 tournaments a year and many hours of hard work and preparation are needed for each of them. Each week, the speech and debate team practice anywhere from 4-8 hours a week so they can be prepared when they are competing. Although that can seem time consuming, it is beneficial because the students are often eligible for speech and debate scholarships and it is rewarding when the team can bring home trophies and awards.

The diversity of each activity allows students to get to know a different side of themselves that they did not know before. "I love it because it allows me to think critically in debate rounds and at the same time, I can express my creative side like I do at the speech events," said Laura Tabba, junior.

There are nine partnerships on the team this year that compete at varying tournaments. The students are dedicated and often devote their weekends to the team to compete. With the amount of time devoted to practice and the help of highly experienced coaches Concordia has won many medals and trophies. The Forensics team is currently in the top 10 for speech nationals.

The Speech and Debate team both compete against Christian colleges, amongst other schools in California. The team also competes against colleges and universities from other states, including University of Texas at El Paso and Grand Canyon University.

At age 47, Peter Doesburg is a junior in school, but the most senior member of the team. "I like being on the team because it gives me the opportunity to truly understand the viewpoints of today's youth. No activity better prepares stu-

dents, of any age, better than debate," Doesburg said. "You not only have to understand the issues but you also need to understand how your opponent thinks. What we learn in debate is immeasurable for preparing for our subsequent work life."

The debate team will travel to the University of the Pacific for their next tournament on Nov. 1-3. The speech team will compete in their final tournament of the year the following weekend at Grossmont College.



Members of the speech team between rounds in San Francisco. Back (left to right): Jannese Davidson (coach), Carrie Gendle, Shea Frates, Anabel Solan. Front: Laura Tabba.

## New Veterans Affairs Coordinator on campus

### Air Force veteran, Dawayne Denmark, reaches out to ex-military for students

GARRISON DE VINE  
STAFF WRITER

Dawayne Denmark accepted the newly created position of Veterans Affairs Coordinator. The telos of this position is to encourage higher rates of veteran enrollment and to provide assistance and guidance to veterans attending Concordia.

For the veteran students at Concordia, Denmark's main job is to assist them with their education benefits. This means he makes sure they have all the proper paperwork filled out and helps them deal with the Veterans Association.

"My primary duty is to help veterans with their benefits, to see if they have benefits, and give them guidance and help them use their benefits," Denmark said.

Denmark acts as the main troubleshooter and first contact for veterans with any problems they may have. "If [veterans] have any questions or concerns about their benefits, I'm the main point of contact. Come to me and if I can't answer it, I'll go out and do research and try to guide you in the right direction," Denmark said.

The new Veterans Affairs Coordinator can also help veterans with things like class schedules and jobs. "I'm getting a lot of different emails from veteran job boards, alerting me to job fairs and potential employers for veterans," Denmark said.

Denmark is well suited to help out veteran students because he is a veteran himself, having served six years active duty enlisted in the Air Force with two deployments in his career. One deployment was to Pakistan and the other deployment was to Iraq/Afghanistan.

After the Air Force, Denmark earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Chapman University and is now in his last year of an MBA program at Cal State San Marcos. Having used the G.I. Bill himself, Denmark knows the hurdles that stand in the way of getting your benefits.

One way that Concordia plans to make the school more veteran friendly is by creating a veteran's website sometime mid to late summer 2014. The website will be for veterans at Concordia and potential veteran students. "The website will be a one-stop-shop that they can download the forms they need to get certified every semester, they will be able to submit the forms on line directly to me," Denmark said. This will make it easier for veterans to receive their benefits every semester.

With bases in San Diego, Miramar and Pendleton, there is a large veteran population in the surrounding area; however, there are not many veterans at Concordia. Denmark estimates only about 50 students at Concordia are Veterans.

Concordia cares about their veterans and not just about the money the school gets from their G.I. bill. "A lot of schools say they are military friendly but they just want to get the money. They know the government is always handing out money and they just want to get as many veteran students as they can and once they get them they just let them fall by the wayside," Denmark said. "Here it's not that way, we actually care about the students and take care of them, and want to let them know that whatever they need to just come to us."

To contact Denmark, email him at dawayne.denmark@cui.edu.

# Questing for the perfect pumpkin

KENDRA SITTON  
STAFF WRITER

The largest “you pick” pumpkin patch in Orange County is located just down the road from Concordia. Tanaka Farms is a popular destination for students here. Splattered through the halls at this time of year are the orange squash representative of the fall season. Some students took knives to their pumpkins in attempts to create scary faces while others attached papers to decorate the misshapen blobs before placing the finished art piece outside their doors for the student body to admire. One pale pink Breast Cancer Awareness pumpkin in Rho is even decorated like Cinderella’s carriage.

On Monday, I joined a group of students who went there on a quest to brighten the halls with fall decorations. Before heading to the pumpkin patch though, my roommate and our friend Quinn decided to go through the corn maze. It was actually tall and thick enough for the end to be a surprise until we got there. The circular maze ended at the flag of champions. There were also some painted boards of squash and vegetables we posed by in reminiscence of our childhood. When we had finished frolicking through the corn, we headed to the fields. There, seemingly endless rows of pumpkins stretched into the horizon.

It would have been simple to pick a pumpkin quickly and leave, but that would not do for us. In order to find “the one” we looked at each pumpkin. The small, warty ones were endearing, but I wondered if other people would find them as cute as I did. The perfectly smooth, round pumpkins were picked over and I gave up on finding a flawless one right away. My roommate eventually found one that had surprisingly few markings and could sit straight. I kept looking as we finished the first two fields and headed to the third. I was intrigued there by a type of pumpkin I’d never seen before. They were wide and flat, almost like a doughnut. The dappled colors contained darker hues of red and burgundy than most pumpkins. Although their shells were far from smooth, I liked their uniqueness. Many of this species of pumpkin lacked stems, an important part of every pumpkin. I

finally found a medium-sized one with stem intact. It was not as dark as some, but still contained the red streaks I enjoyed so much. Not entirely sold on it yet though, we trekked through the final fields with both of us comparing the squash we clutched in our arms to the ones still on the ground. Finally, we realized that the pumpkins we clutched in our arms were the pumpkins for us.

Tanaka Farms also offers a tour led by tractor and a petting zoo, each of which cost a small fee. It draws people of all ages. Children

scampered through the pumpkins while an old couple held hands while carefully picking theirs. We had plenty of fun in the free corn maze, taking cute fall pictures and picking out the pumpkins. When we went to pay for the pumpkins, I was tempted by the tiny white pumpkins, the pink ones that support Susan G. Komen, fun little gourds and all the homemade bread they also sold. Wanting to keep the adventure cheap though, I stuck to my one pumpkin. The medium-sized pumpkin I chose cost \$6. There were plenty of

smaller pumpkins that would only cost \$3 for people who would not want to invest that much in decorations.

My roommate’s perfect pumpkin is decorated with a hibiscus flower and a skirt of leaves for her Hawaiian themed side. My red and orange squash just rests on a pile of leaves I discovered that actually changed colors. It has no other decoration, but I think its imperfections create its own beauty. Fun fall days at the farm await those who make the journey down the road to the pumpkin patch.



Sitton and sophomore Kayla Lardner salute to the corn and pumpkins at Tanaka Farms.

## Women’s brunch scholarship fundraiser

MICHELLE MARTIR  
STAFF WRITER

The Women’s Faith & Friendship Connection is hosting their annual Brunch and Boutique on Nov. 9. The boutique begins at 9 a.m. and the brunch begins at 11 a.m. The event is being held in a ballroom at the Hilton in Costa Mesa.

All proceeds collected at this event go towards the Concordia Student Scholarship Fund.

Following the boutique and brunch, the event features a guest speaker and a jazz band. Both men and women are invited, although the majority of the attendees are women. Thousands of invitations are sent out to students, parents, faculty, staff, churches and community members. “It’s an opportunity to pamper and enjoy yourself with friends,” said Grace Saldana, Director of Special Events.

Tickets must be purchased in order to attend the event. Guests also have the option of hosting a table by providing decor and accessories for the attendees. This helps make the ballroom a uniquely beautiful place, full of decorations and themed tables.

Each year, the committee that organizes the event carefully chooses a speaker that is both inspirational and spiritual. “[We look for] women that make you feel good about being a woman,” Saldana said. This year the motivational speaker is Lisa Whelchel, best known for her work acting in “The Facts of Life” TV series.

Emily Beckman, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions, has attended the event a couple times and has had great experiences attending the Brunch and Boutique. “I love that it’s a mixture of women of all ages. The event is about celebrating women. It is so much fun,” Beckman said.

Given that the event has been an annual occurrence for many years, the committee has established a beautiful logo that includes a verse from Thessalonians 1:3, “My dear friends, we always have a good reason to thank God for you because your faith in God and your love for each other keeps growing all the time.” The quote reflects the message of Women’s Faith & Friendship Connection.

The last day to purchase a ticket is Nov. 4. For more information, contact Grace Saldana at [grace.saldana@cui.edu](mailto:grace.saldana@cui.edu).

## Concordia Cares goes Trunk or Treating

BRYCE KELLEY  
STAFF WRITER

Concordia Cares volunteered at Trunk or Treat, hosted by the Illumination Foundation on Oct. 30 in the city of Stanton. This event was a way for Concordia students to become involved in the community in a servant capacity.

“Concordia students dressed up in costumes and passed out candy to the kids that attended,” said Brianna Springer, LEAD Program Coordinator.

According to the Illumination Foundation website, “Our mission is to provide targeted, interdisciplinary services for the most vulnerable homeless clients to break or prevent the cycle of homelessness.”

Trunk or Treat was hosted to provide a safe place for families to celebrate instead of walking from house to house in neighborhoods.

“Being able to serve in this way is a joy for everyone involved. We volunteer at this event because we try to provide a wide range of service opportunities for Concordia students, opportunities to serve different people

from different backgrounds,” said Ryan Fink, sophomore Concordia Cares Coordinator. “This Trunk or Treat event in particular gives Concordia Cares a chance to serve children, which is a great thing!”

Several other nonprofit organizations and churches also host events on or around Halloween. The Great Park hosted the “Great Park Pumpkin Harvest” on Oct. 26. For eight years, Compass Bible Church has hosted a “Fall Fest” on Halloween for the community. Saddleback Church also puts on “Blocktober” at various locations throughout Orange County.

The Illumination Foundation provides many other opportunities to serve throughout Orange County, including passing out food to families in need, or volunteering at their child development center and health clinics.

In November, Concordia Cares is participating in four different volunteer events. To find out more on these, and other volunteer opportunities, visit [cui.edu/studentlife/concordia-cares](http://cui.edu/studentlife/concordia-cares). To learn more about the Illumination Foundation visit [ifhomeless.org](http://ifhomeless.org).

## Laughs on the fly

LIANNA JORDAN  
STAFF WRITER

Improv-ceivable, the campus improv club, put on a show last Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Concordia Studio Theater. The 11-member improv group is in its third year of entertaining audience members through hilarious improvised scenes based on audience suggestions.

Kendall Davis, sophomore improv member, loves the opportunity to “work together as a team” with fellow members, but says it is also about the audience. Audience support means everything for the improv team. “It means one thing to be in practice and think we’re funny. It’s another thing to have other people respond as positively as they do,” Davis said.

The audience reaction was positive at the team’s last performance. Emma Curtis, sophomore, attended an improv show for the first time Friday, and was surprised at her reaction. “I didn’t think I was going to laugh as hard as I did. I will definitely plan on coming again,” Curtis said.

The show included both long-form and short-form improv. The Armando is one type of long-form which was included in Friday’s show. In this form, a monologist tells a story based on audience suggestions and the performers improvise scenes based on the ideas from the monologist’s story. In reaction to these scenes, the monologist tells another story, the performers improvise another scene based on it, and so on.

Short-form improv was also performed. This type of improv is commonly seen on shows such as “Whose Line is it Anyway?” These include two to three minute game scenes, like guessing games, games where performers are not allowed to use certain words or certain parts of their body, and others.

Following the show there was an improv jam. This gives fans and audience members the chance to practice, play and hang around after the show.

In 2011, Haley Brown, senior, was part of a senior showcase performance which was a one-act improv performance. The following school year, those in the act decided to form their very own campus improv group. Four students teamed the formation of the group. Brown and Nicholas Scutti, senior, are the two remaining original founders and have been “co-artistic directors ever since,” according to Brown.

Tony Vezner, Assistant Professor of Theatre, is the faculty advisor of Improv-ceivable, but “[the group] pretty much run themselves,” Vezner said. Because the team is mainly student-run, there is a strong family atmosphere among the members. “I love the family aspect of it. We get together twice a week to play games together,” Brown said. The team’s hard work and practice were evidenced during last Friday’s show.

For more information about Improv-ceivable and upcoming events, check out their Facebook page at [facebook.com/Improvceivablecui](http://facebook.com/Improvceivablecui).

## Artist Spotlight: Erin Murphy



I am Erin Murphy, a freshman from Eugene, OR. I am a music major, with an emphasis in education. I play the cello and this is my tenth year playing. When I was three years old my mother made me play piano. She never gave me a choice; she was raised singing and playing piano, and she felt that my brother, sister and I should all have that same opportunity.

In the fourth grade, when the strings program at my elementary school started up, my mom gave me the option of quitting piano and choosing a stringed instrument. My sister played violin, and I was not about to play the same instrument as her. So I chose cello, an instrument a little less known but still better than piano.

When I first began with cello, I loved it. My mom could not pull me away from it. I would play for hours, until my fingers literally bled. Then, the summer between my fifth and sixth grade, I moved from Kentucky to Oregon. When I got to Oregon, I quit practicing as often and I was not enjoying it as much as I had been. I told my mother I was going to quit, but she would not let me. My eighth grade year, my orchestra teacher and I bonded a lot. She really influenced me and encouraged

me to continue playing. Around this time, I also became involved with community or-

chestras, a trio at the University of Oregon, and several other gigs throughout my community.

I also began realizing that music was more than just entertainment or background music. Playing the cello, for me, became a release for the stress build up in my life, and it became my alone time that I needed every once in a while. I also began to understand music as more than just a series of notes put together. Music is the story and the musician is the storyteller. My sophomore year of high school, I decided that the only thing I could or would ever do is play my cello. So here I am, at Concordia University, away from the rain in Oregon, playing the cello.

My hope is that I will be able to teach orchestra to students in elementary school. I want to give every child the same opportunity that I was given, to understand music and enjoy music the way that I have.

## For a good time ryhme

TAYLOR HANE  
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, the Sound of Mind Poetry Club hosted their first Open Mic Night, or Poetry Party of the semester. It took place in Sigma Square and went from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Open Mic Nights are open to everyone; encouraging them to read famous poems, share poems they have written, listen to others’ poetry and hang out with a fun group of people.

The Poetry Club is working on organizing more Open Mic Nights and putting together more events in the future. They were impressed with the amount of people who shared their poetry this time. “There was Erik Der who brought his accordion and played a ‘polka poem’ about Arnold Schwarzenegger which he and his friend Matthew Martin had written. Sarah Taylor and Abigail Lozano performed a completely impromptu poem which they wrote sentence-by-sentence in front of everyone,” said Olivia Micco, sophomore Poetry Club Vice President.

The Poetry Party also incorporated a cos-

tume contest to celebrate Halloween. “We had a *Despicable Me* minion and a Vulcan who tied for first. Vice President Micco and I are writing a special poem for those two as a reward, to be performed at the next Open Mic,” said Margaret Langdon, senior Poetry Club President.

“Though we strive as the Poetry Club to break down ‘stuffy’ stereotypes associated with poetry, we do still keep the snapping. When someone is performing a poem, we don’t want to interrupt their flow by clapping when we hear a cool phrase or idea. So we snap instead, to signal our appreciation,” Langdon said.

The club, which was only started last year, has been making advancements and has been most pleased with the increasing turnout at their events. The club is expanding their ideas and creativity with poetry and are open to any ideas that other people want to bring to the table. They welcome anyone who is interested.

Keep your eye out for future Poetry Club events and Open Mics to happen. For more information, contact Margaret Langdon at [margaret.langdon@eagles.cui.edu](mailto:margaret.langdon@eagles.cui.edu).



MARGARET LANGDON

Eric Der and Matthew Martin get a little silly at the Poetry Party



Murphy’s love for the cello cannot be contained.

# Custom burgers bring business to Irvine

WILLIAM DEMURI  
STAFF WRITER

The hamburger is undoubtedly the most prominent culinary icon in the United States. It is the food that is most easily able to be stripped down or fancied up. One restaurant that emphasizes fancying up that hamburger is The Counter.

Overall, I would recommend visiting The Counter. However, it is a bit pricey with burgers and added options often approaching \$15 a piece. The restaurant itself is an inviting atmosphere and everyone is certain to find some kind of combination on the menu that suits their particular taste.

The Counter was founded in 2003 in Santa Monica and since then has exploded into a franchise of 37 restaurants around the country. They were listed in the *Forbes* February 2013 issue as one of "America's Most Promising Non-Tech Companies."

When I visited The Counter for the first time, I was pleasantly surprised. The location I visited was in the upscale Park Place shopping center at the corner of Jamboree and Michelson in Irvine. Nestled in among some swanky eateries such as Houston's and Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, The Counter has been able to successfully attract a steady stream of customers as they specialize in made-to-order custom hamburgers. Their website boasts that they are able to offer over 312,000 possible combinations.

I ate there on a Monday night and enjoyed the mellow atmosphere. The dining room and bar were not overwhelmingly crowded but still maintained a decent number of patrons to keep the serving staff busy. The waitresses were very kind and conveyed exceptional service. The place was well decorated and I especially enjoyed being able to watch both Monday Night Football and The World Series simultaneously on their two flat screen TVs above the bar.

My burger consisted of a regular beef patty with Gruyère cheese, applewood smoked bacon, marinated artichokes and their fresh lettuce blend. In addition, I was able to have mayonnaise, honey-mustard and au jus sauce for added flavor. The burger was exceptionally good and extremely filling. I got the side of sweet potato fries along with their house salad.

The one mistake I made was getting the sun dried tomato vinaigrette on my salad. It was not the best salad I've had. The dressing too closely

resembled chilled tomato soup being poured on my salad.

The next time I visit, I will be eager to try the

"Bison Burger" as another unique and extravagant alternative to the everyday hamburger.



## "Falling" for the new play

DAVID MAITHYA  
STAFF WRITER

"Falling" is an upcoming on-campus contemporary stage drama about a family and their severely autistic son directed by Dr. Peter Senkbeil, Associate Provost and Professor of Theatre. The play was written in 2011 by Deanna Jent, Artistic Director at Mustard Seed Theater and Theatre Department Faculty at Fontbonne University in Clayton, Missouri. Jent will be present for two of the six performances on campus.

Some questions the play poses include... 'How do you deal with someone who is hard to love?'

"The play is a work of fiction that focuses on real life situations. In this case, it's living with a loved one who has autism," Senkbeil said. Senkbeil also noted that perhaps the inspiration for the play came from Jent's experience as the mother of an autistic child.

"Producers saw the original production in St. Louis, took it to New York City and produced it off-broadway. It was nominated for three Drama Desk awards," Senkbeil added. "Currently, it is being produced professionally in Los Angeles by the company known as Rogue Machine."

The central theme of "Falling" refers to how a Christian family's faith is tried by their son's condition. As Christians, they wrestle with questions such as why God allowed them to deal with this.

"There are a lot of thought-provoking questions that are brought up in this play. 'Some questions that the play poses include, 'What happens when Josh (the autistic child) gets to the point in life when he cannot live independently?' 'How do you deal with someone who is hard to love?' 'What does it mean when your prayers are not answered the way you want them answered?'" Senkbeil said.

Senkbeil got his hands on the script through a former Concordia theatre student, Kelly Nava, who worked with Jent on it in Missouri. "This is the second of Jent's plays I have directed," Senkbeil said.

Senkbeil has directed plays at Concordia since 1992, ranging from three productions a year to one. Senkbeil said that it entails a lot of hard work and dedication to put everything together.

The play begins on Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and runs through Nov. 15. Its running time is less than an hour and a half and there will be post-performance discussion about the play. For more information on the play and the playwright, go to [www.mustardseedtheater.com](http://www.mustardseedtheater.com), and for more information on the play's scheduled performances on campus, go to [www.cui.edu](http://www.cui.edu) and click on the "Falling" link under "Featured Events."

## Dear Abby...

Like the famous "Dear Abby" advice column, *Courier* readers can submit anonymous letters to receive advice for all aspects of life. You can submit hard-copy letters at the *Courier* office in the Delta Lounge or digitally using the Survey Monkey link found on *The Courier's* Facebook page.

Dear Abby,

I'm getting tired of my friends sounding like incompetent second graders in their text message correspondence with me. Because seriously, how much longer does it take to type, "Thanks, you're the best, I'll see you soon," as opposed to, "thx, ur the best, c u soon." And don't even get me started on there/their/they're. We learned these things in elementary school! I would like to know, how do you feel about grammar, abbreviations and punctuation in text messaging?

Sincerely,  
Slightly Annoyed

Dear Annoyed,

As a functional human member of our society with a brain and a proper elementary school education, I completely understand. Friends, Concordians, countrymen, lend me your ears! Your grammar and punctuation in your texts send a strong message about your intelligence and worth as a human being. So, let's review the basics of texting like a dignified individual.

Your vs. You're: The word "your" shows possession, like "your shoes, your bad grammar, your awful spelling errors." These are all things that belong to someone. "You're" is a contraction meaning "you are," as in "you're really bad at spelling, you're losing friends by using bad grammar, and you're lucky you're learning

about this now?"

Their vs. There vs. They're: The word "their" shows possession again, like "their shoes, their bad grammar, and their awful spelling errors." The word "there" shows a location, like "please keep your spelling mistakes over there." On the other hand, "they're" is another contraction that means "they are," like "they're so glad you finally learned how to spell," or "they're also educated adults who have passed the fourth grade."

Abbreviations: No. If you want people to take you seriously, you should spell out all of your words and have some respect for what you are saying. If you can't even put the effort in to fully type out your message, your reader will assume that they can put in the same minimal amount of effort while reading it. If u tlk lyke dis in txt msgs, itz hardr 2 reed nd maks u snd lyke a dum prsn. Smh. Really though, friends. Your words and ideas are important, so treat them with the dignity and proper spelling they deserve.

Punctuation: Yes. After every sentence, question, or exclamation, there should be some form of punctuation to signify that you're done with your statement.

Emoticons: Use sparingly.

In conclusion, you're an educated individual that people want to talk to and your ideas are worth sharing. There are many ways to share your ideas, but if you choose text messages, you have to make sure they're correct or your friends will be shaking their heads at your incompetence. Dnt tri 2 use less lttrs 2 tlk 2 ppl, but type out your ideas wholly and thoughtfully. Make sure you use punctuation after every sentence! If you use all of these text messaging tips, your friends will be delighted, overjoyed and proud of your accomplishment. Good luck!

Love,  
Abby

# Ultimate Frisbee: more than just a game

AUSTIN BURKHART  
STAFF WRITER

If you were to ask me two years ago what Ultimate Frisbee was, I could not really give you a solid answer because I had never played the sport before. Obviously, I knew Ultimate Frisbee had something to do with Frisbees but I had no concept of the strategies or rules. I was indifferent on the topic. Now, two years later, Ultimate Frisbee is my passion and I try to play every chance I can get.

Since my sophomore year, I have been an active member of Concordia's Ultimate Frisbee Club and over the last two years, playing the sport has been a great means of exercise, relieving stress and getting a chance to meet new friends.

Each year, our club plays in preparation for the highlight of our school year—Huckfest. Once a year, the University of California, Irvine hosts the Huckfest Ultimate Frisbee Tournament in which Concordia has participated in over the last several years. The tournament took place this past weekend. Our group, consisting of 18 players including myself was determined to make a name for ourselves as we were an underdog to the many prestigious universities that participated. Some of our players had played in

Huckfest in years prior; however, for many others, including myself, it was the first time participating in the tournament.

Concordia finished eleventh of 21 teams total. We were one of five teams in our bracket. We played a total of six different schools: Arizona State University, USC, Cal Tech, and UCI on Saturday, followed by Cal. Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal. State Long Beach on Sunday.

We finished with a record of 2-4 and, although it is not the result we wanted, our roster contained many new players. Several players graduated last year and our focus was primarily rebuilding the team with new players. I am confident in our team in the years to come. There were several freshmen who played extremely well in the tournament. Our team played hard, displaying a godly attitude and a true sense of pride for our school as we rallied behind our famous chant: "No Mango."

If you are interested in coming out to play for fun, I encourage you to join us. No experience is necessary to play. It is a chance to put homework and stress aside while getting exercise and meeting other students. We meet on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in front of Upper Quads at 3:30 p.m., and head out to play at Turtle Rock Park.



Burkhart defends during Huckfest.

# Kickin' it with Neil Anaya

PATRICK SONSTENG  
STAFF WRITER

Neil Anaya, senior men's soccer player, has been an asset for the Eagles in the last four years as the team has risen to success.

Anaya has been a starter for the Eagles since his freshman year. Now as a senior, he is a leader for the rest of the team not only on the field, but off as well. His strong character is evident to almost everyone he encounters at Concordia. "He's a great athlete, I love treating him, he's entertaining to work with and always has something to talk about," said Jessica Gaye, student Athletic Trainer. "It's obvious the younger athletes look up to him."

Anaya states that the influence of his parents has been most important to him and has made him the hard working leader he is in his personal and athletic life. When not in season, Anaya also mentors a local freshman and sophomore high school team in Irvine. "I am usually playing some form of soccer. It's my favorite sport, I really can't get enough of it," Anaya said.

Anaya started playing soccer when he was four years old. "My mom would have to take the ball away from me because I would be dribbling and shooting all around the house," Anaya said. His experience is obvious when he steps onto the field. Last year was the most successful season in the Eagles' history. Anaya appeared in 23 games and started in 19 of them. "The guys

respect how he plays the game. He has a quiet personality but knows when to say the right things when playing," said Jessina Manio, Athletic Trainer.

When Anaya has free time, he manages to have a good time with teammates and friends. "I lived with Neil off-campus last semester and he is one of the funniest guys I know," said Haracio Abaroa, junior teammate. "Out of all my roommates, he was always down for 2 a.m. McDonald's runs."

Neil also has other hobbies that he works into his busy schedule. "A typical day would be to go to class and practice, then watch some ESPN or Netflix and get my homework done while joking around with teammates and roommates," Anaya said.

Anaya continues to help set the standards for high performing athletes at Concordia by triumphing on the playing field during his final season. Members of his own team, the women's team and the soccer supporters and fans are excited to see how he finishes out his season. In the future, the star player plans to pursue a future in professional soccer as well as the business world.

Anaya and the rest of the team begin playing for the GSAC conference title in the GSAC Tournament Quarterfinals on Nov. 6. The location of the game and the Eagles' opponent will be announced soon. For more information on upcoming games, visit [www.cuieagles.com](http://www.cuieagles.com).

# Fowl Living

ERIK DER



Well Eden, you could say that I'm just trying to branch out. Wow! I really hit the root of that pun.



**If you're an artist with a story to share, an athlete with a point of view, or just a mildly cool person, contact us!**

**There are opportunities to write about yourself or to have yourself and your organization written about!**

**Email: [final.courier@gmail.com](mailto:final.courier@gmail.com)**