

EdD: First doctoral degree

ALICIA HARGER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Concordia is pleased to offer their first ever doctoral degree. The offering is an EdD (Doctor of Education). The school of education hosted the students of the first cohort of candidates on campus this past weekend.

Offering a doctoral degree benefits the university as a whole. “It builds upon not just our reputation, but also demonstrates our commitment to providing an education of the highest quality,” said Dr. Dwight Doering, Executive Director of the Doctor of Education Program.

The doctoral program is designed to be an applied doctorate which means that it should be immediately applicable to the workforce. The candidates for this degree are those who would like to be leaders in K12 education, professors in schools of education, or admin-

istrative leaders at liberal arts colleges.
“One of the strengths of our school of edu-

“...demonstrates our committment to providing an education of the highest quality.”

cation has been applied active learning,” said Doering. The EdD program continues this

dedication to applicable lessons and focuses on lessons that will be immediately valuable rather than more pure research.

“A major strength of our program is the accommodative learning environment,” said Doering. “Everyone in our program is a full-time educator, so we take that into account and make adjustments for their scheduling.” The unique accommodating learning environment combines traditional online asynchronous learning with real time synchronous online learning and on-campus sessions.

The small cohort size, only fourteen students, allows the program to make design decisions and work on bettering the ways they serve the students.

About half of the doctoral candidates are graduates of Concordia’s MAED program. The other students have achieved masters from the Cal State university system or Pep-

perdine University. The EdD program builds upon the MAED, many of the professors teaching the program had previously taught in the MAED. The teachers for the EdD include professional educators, like principals and superintendents, and full-time faculty. The educators teach many of the content classes while the full-time faculty works with the candidates on the dissertation track.

Concordia’s EdD program is committed to helping candidates complete the program and has a streamlined dissertation track to achieve this goal. The students start dissertation seminars in their first semester. This is to help “build fundamental research skills and help students have a thesis proposal before they meet their dissertation committee,” said Doering.

Doering also sees the EdD program as a “trailblazer” for other doctoral programs in the school of education or in another school at Concordia.

Concordia continues to care

LIANNA JORDAN
COPY EDITOR

Concordia Cares, a LEAD organization dedicated to offering students, faculty and staff opportunities to serve the local community, had a successful fall semester and looks forward to new volunteer opportunities this semester.

Ryan Fink, sophomore Concordia Cares Coordinator, and Emily Hindenes, freshman Concordia Cares Coordinator, partner to plan the events and recruit students. Concordia Cares “provide[s] all types of service such as serving people with illness, lack of education and those who face homelessness,” Hindenes said.

Last fall, Concordia Cares volunteered to help many different organizations averaging about one project every week and a half. Once a month, a group of students went to the Orange County Ronald McDonald House. These houses are places where families of children undergoing long-term treatment at children’s hospitals are able to reside during treatment. The Concordia Cares group went to the house to prepare, cook,

serve and eat meals with families.

In addition, Concordia Cares worked with the Orange County Rescue Mission, which sent a chili van to the Santa Ana Civic Center to serve meals to the homeless. As well as serving food, some of the Concordia volunteers “would just walk around and talk to the homeless,” Fink said. “The conversation was just as important as the food. Sometimes homeless people just want someone to talk to.”

Not only are Concordia Cares’ projects a service to the community, they are often educational to the volunteers. Allie Akman, sophomore, had the opportunity to volunteer at an event called “Roots,” where volunteers planted indigenous plant species at the Newport Back Bay. She received the educational part of the community service by observing nature; they were able to “see the burrow owl just sitting outside of its hole. This owl was just discovered on the preserve, so we were getting a sneak peek at it,” Akman said.

Brianna Springer, Director of Multicultural Leadership & Service Learning and supervisor of Concordia Cares, said that last semester the

group not only served, but “had a lot of fun. We hope to only increase that as we increase our resources and awareness [this semester].”

Concordia Cares is already in motion for the spring semester. Yesterday, a Non-Profit Fair took place on the Student Union patio. Eight different non-profit organizations that Concordia Cares has worked with in the past were represented to recruit students to volunteer or work as interns to create relationships for the future. Organizations represented included Higher Ground, Habitat for Humanity, Orange County Rescue Mission and Lutheran Social Services of Southern California.

The next event planned is another Ronald McDonald House volunteer opportunity taking place on Jan. 22. Although enough volunteers have already signed up for this event, there will be another Ronald McDonald volunteer event each month for the remainder of the semester. On Jan. 25, there is an opportunity to volunteer for The Illumination Foundation event “New Year New You.” This combination health and job fair works to “support families and parents looking for work,” Springer said. Concordia

Cares volunteers will be working with children of these families and serving lunch to those attending.

Anyone interested in serving our local community is encouraged to participate in volunteer events. Since there are a variety of opportunities, “it’s easy to find a type of service that you’re passionate about through Concordia Cares,” Hindenes said. To learn more about Concordia Cares or to sign up for future volunteer events, drop by the CSLD, visit the Concordia Cares website at <http://www.cui.edu/studentlife/concordia-cares> or contact Springer at brianna.springer@cui.edu.



What really matters when debating climate change?

AMANDA OZAKI
POLITICAL COLUMNIST

While it is currently a balmy 81 degrees in Irvine, thousands of Americans across the country are trying to keep warm in arctic temperatures. Trapped by the “polar vortex,” icy temperatures have frozen over cars and caused water pipes to burst. Media sources are fighting and debating over global warming and whether it has a role to play in the cold snap, but not much resolve to come up with practical solutions has surfaced. We are allowing politics to dictate our response efforts to real tragedies that are plaguing our world, tragedies that are much bigger than the politics behind extreme weather change.

Unfortunately, an answer to whether global warming is the cause of major weather changes that satisfies all political backgrounds probably won’t be found anytime

soon. According to James Overland, Arctic researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, scientists are divided into camps of those who, “adhere very strongly to the scientific method,” demanding “years and years of data, while another set of scientists...will say that we can’t wait for ten years of data until we have all the scientific proof we need before acting.” The public, he said, is rightfully confused. While major weather events like Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami that hit Sri Lanka become more common, politicians debate over whether they were caused naturally or by global warming instead of addressing the real crisis of these catastrophes.

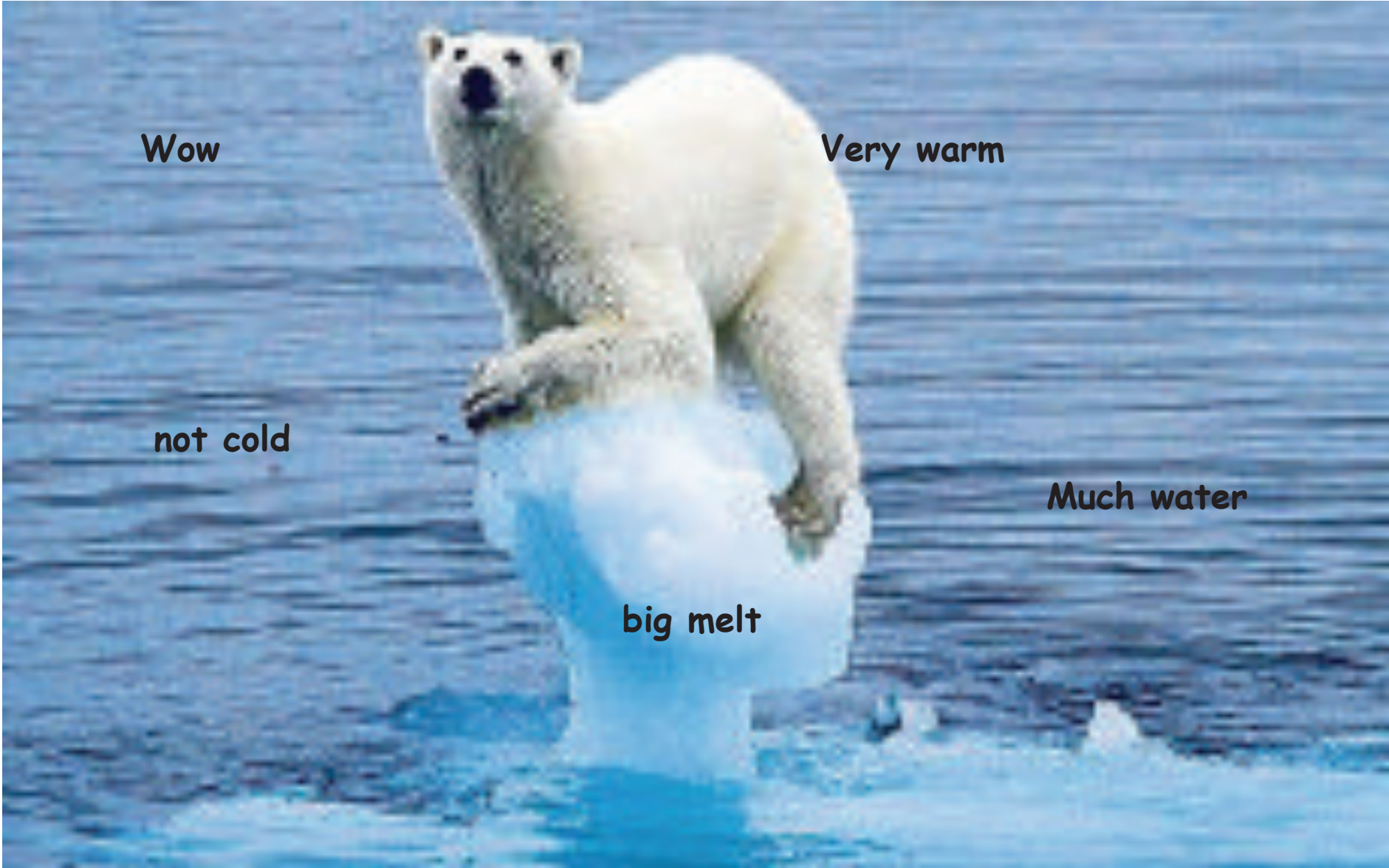
According to the World Policy Institute, 57% of plant species and 34% of animal species will lose half of their habitats by 2080 due to emissions from power plants, factories, and vehicles. It is not unreasonable to say that pollution plays a big part in

how nature adapts to human technology. In some instances, corporations and businesses do not know how to reciprocate and, in turn, adapt to nature. Biodiversity in sub-Saharan Africa, the Amazon and Central America has been projected to lose 60% of habitats if greenhouse gas emissions peak by 2016. That means that we have a deadline to change the way we respond to climate change, and it is quickly approaching.

Climate change has also forced countries to find places overseas to grow food. Saudi Arabia, China and South Korea have been “leasing” land in other countries to grow wheat and other crops that, due to changes in their environments, are impossible to sustain. One hundred forty million acres were “grabbed” as of 2012, the majority of them in secret. The World Bank released in 2011 that those land grabs by corporations and private investors were made in secret, even though they were already

being farmed by villages that had lived off of that land for centuries. In Ethiopia alone, one million people were forcibly relocated. Places already torn by conflict like Iran are projected to lose the majority of their irrigation water due to the retreat of glaciers in the mountains between Tehran and the Caspian Sea, according to the World Policy Institute.

These are all real impacts to climate change, whether you believe that change to be natural or unnatural. The phrase “climate change” has become so politically charged that the public is ignoring the fact that millions of people are affected by changes in temperature and weather. This article is not meant to prove global warming exists or doesn’t exist, but to urge readers to de-politicize the phrase “climate change.” Lives depend on a better understanding of the world around us; don’t allow party lines or bombastic political statements to render their suffering invisible.



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New season, same goals

AUSTIN BURKHART
STAFF WRITER

Last season, the #2 ranked Concordia Men’s Volleyball team claimed the NAIA National Championship in its inaugural season. As the players prepare for the new season, they look to continue last year’s success and bring another National Championship to Concordia.

“We have already started and are 4-2,” said Devin Ross, sophomore. “Aside from winning another national title, we would also like to defeat division one teams and compete with the top teams in the nation.”

As the season progresses, the team wants to show their true potential, not by performing well during games, but by putting extra time and effort in the gym.

“We are working really hard in the gym,” said Roman Seghezzi, sophomore volleyball player. “We are finding the time to get extra reps in the gym before or after practice hours.”

With Trevor Johnson no longer serving as Head Coach of the team, new Head Coach Shawn Patchell hopes to continue the success of the Men’s volleyball program alongside former Concordia volleyball player Assistant Head Coach Bradley Rostratter. Patchell has coached at Brigham Young University (BYU) in Utah and coached in Switzerland. He brings a different coaching style and strategy. However, many of the players have adjusted and are beginning to feel comfortable with the change.

“It’s definitely an adjustment from last year but overall we are learning and moving forward as a team,” said senior volleyball player Bryan Campbell. “We are very lucky to have such an experienced coach.”

The team graduated one senior this off-season, Assistant Coach Rostratter. The team has

gained new freshmen as well as players that were redshirts last year who are going to be a significant addition to the team.

The team attributes much of their early success to their bond not only on but off the court.

“I think our sense of brotherhood is one of our greatest off court strengths,” said Sean Carter, freshman.

“Our biggest strength is how close we are as a team,” said Seghezzi. “We all know that we have each other’s backs, and that each of us are confident in the guy next to us on the court, during games and during practice.”

A second strength Seghezzi mentioned was

the team’s depth. Practices are competitive because of the high caliber of all the players.

As the team prepares for the new season with new coaches and new incoming freshmen, the team may look different but the goals of the team stay the same—to win another national title.



Senior Kevin Fiske (7) sets the ball to junior middle blocker Brett Anema.

Jock Talk with Jade Reed

Having the opportunity to be on the Women’s Basketball Team is such a blessing. We have been through so much in the three years that I have been a part of the team, but this year I can say with all honesty that it has been the best year yet. Even though the season has just started, we are confident that we can go all the way to the national championship. Through hard work, determination, and becoming one unit, our goal of being national champions can very much be attained.

Coach Trisha Stafford-Odom and Coach Chelsey Pinkstaff have created a foundation that can help us become not only the team we want to be, but the team we actually are. We have had trouble in the past following the directions that the coaching staff had set forth, but that is no longer a problem. With the new coaching staff and new players, this team has transformed into something great.

Before every practice, Coach Trish begins with an quote that encourages us, inspires us and challenges us, to not only be better but do better in all aspects of our lives. Because of this, we have established a motto “Eagles Fly High,” which means to soar above all that is put in our way and conquer it with dignity and pride.

We have played in 14 games thus far, with some of those games being exhibition games and scrimmages. We have grown as a team and have become stronger. Each game is a learning experience on what we as a team need to do better, as well as what we need to continue to do in order to be successful. Our record as of now is 6-4, with a five game winning streak. As Coach P. would say, “#Keepthetreakalive,” and that is exactly what we are going to do.

As conference games are quickly approaching, we have been working countless hours on bettering our skills, individually as well as collectively, in order to become an unbeatable team. Coach Trish has incorporated 6 a.m. prac-

tices along with our regular afternoon practices so that we would not get comfortable in our ways and lose sight of why we are doing what we do.

Since the season is just beginning, there will be time to continue to grow as a team and continue to persevere through the obstacles that may arise. With a whole new dynamic that this

team brings, there is no way that the Women’s Basketball team will not be successful. Our next home game is Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m. against the Master’s College.



Reed (top left) poses on the backs of her teammates.

Pajama tailgating fun at SHOUT kick-off

LIANNA JORDAN
COPY EDITOR

Last Thursday, the first SHOUT service of the semester, sponsored by abbey west, was kicked off with a pajama themed tailgate outside of the CU Center. Students gathered together for a bonfire, snacks and games before the first Thursday night student-led worship service of the semester.

Courtney Thornton, sophomore RES Care Minister for abbey west, was involved with the planning of the SHOUT tailgate. Tailgates occur periodically throughout the semester, usually after a major break to bring people back to SHOUT. They are “a great way to bring community and fellowship to the students, whether they are commuters, transfers or residents,” Thornton said. Students gathered in a time of fellowship before worshipping together.

Corey Chang, junior SHOUT Coordinator, helps lead worship for the services. During the well-attended first SHOUT of the semester, he “loved seeing people sing praises to God. It’s truly amazing to see us all come together to sing to Him.”

Shannon Alavi-Moghaddam, junior RES Care Minister for abbey west, delivered the message at the first SHOUT of the new year. She discussed how our New Year’s resolutions rarely last and are often essentially futile. She reminded students

of “the new beginnings we have in Christ.” When we live as Christians, “we don’t have to wait for a new year to be made new. We have been made new creations once and for all through Christ’s sacrificial death, and He has new mercies for us every single day. Praise God, because He is faithful to forgive us every day – I know I sure need it!”

All students are encouraged to attend SHOUT. It is “an amazing opportunity for students to come together to worship our God for His sacrificial love through powerful worship songs and grace-filled, restorative messages,” Alavi-Moghaddam said. “It’s the perfect way to end a Thursday and personally one of my favorite times of the week.”

Courtney Hentz, sophomore, said that she loves SHOUT because “it’s a totally different type of service than I’ve been to before. The lights are all off, creating a time to connect just with God. The focus isn’t on us – it’s on God.”

“SHOUT is a great opportunity to connect with other students on campus and is a creative environment where they can learn from their peers about the grace of God,” Thornton said.

SHOUT worship services take place every Thursday at 9:30 p.m. in the CU Center. For more information about abbey west, visit the website at <http://www.abbeywest.org/>.

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 consider myself a good friend and a lot of people rely on me for advice and comfort, but recently I’ve been feeling overwhelmed. How do I balance my relationships with my friends with my personal needs?

Sincerely, You’ve Got a Friend in Me

Dear Friend,

Kudos to you for being so trustworthy that many people rely on you. It’s rare for anyone to have so many close friends. Kudos also, for caring enough about all these people to want to write in to me.

Not kudos for a lack of self care.

The problem you seem to be running into is a difficulty setting boundaries. Maybe you have trouble saying “no” when a friend asks you for a favor, or maybe you think it would be rude of you to ask someone to leave your room to give you time to study or sleep.

What you need to remember is that if

you don’t take care of yourself, you definitely won’t be able to help anybody else. It is not rude to ask for time and space. If you have trouble giving flat no’s or asking for your space in the moment, you might want to address this issue with your friends (especially repeat offenders) at a set up time.

For example, you might have a friend who likes to stay in your room til 1 a.m. every night. If you’d like to sleep earlier than this, you might tell her at lunch that you’re setting a 11 o’clock bedtime for yourself every day this week and don’t want anyone in your room after that. If she’s a good friend, when you remind her that night, she’ll respect your need for sleep and leave.

Another, maybe more drastic, solution might be to reassess the friendships that are draining you. Are these people really your friends? Are they taking advantage of your kindness and hospitality? Is your relationship with them mutual or one-sided? If you find that some of your “friendships” aren’t real, it might be time to trim down on the number of people you will spend your time with.

I’m sure that you’re a great friend who gives great advice, so take time to think about yourself once in a while.

Love,
Abby

January 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Track and Field Invitational | 18 Men's Volleyball vs. Grand Canyon University- 7:00 |
| 19 | 20 Softball at UC San Diego- 1:30 | 21 Women's Basketball vs. The Master's- 5:30 | 22 Baseball vs. Bethesda- 2:00 | 23 | 24 Drowsy Chaperone 7:30 | 25 Women's Basketball vs. San Diego Christian- 7:30 Drowsy Chaperone 7:30 |
| 26 Drowsy Chaperone 2:00 | 27 | 28 | 29 Men's Volleyball vs Princeton University- 7:00 | 30 Drowsy Chaperone 7:30 | 31 Drowsy Chaperone 7:30 | |
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Several changes in Sochi

JESSICA ISRAEL
SPORTS EDITOR

Starting on Feb. 6, 2014 thousands of athletes will be competing in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

There are going to be several new changes with the upcoming events. First off, the competition will start Feb. 6 even though the Opening Ceremonies are on Feb. 7. The three sports that will be competing on the 6 are figure skating, freestyle skiing, and snowboarding. Along with the early start, another change is that there are 12 new winter sport events added to the competition. These include: biathlon mixed relay, figure skating team event, luge team relay, women's ski jumping, and men's and women's ski half-pipe, ski slopestyle, snowboard slopestyle, and snowboard parallel slalom.

Ruby Cabrera, junior, said that "My favorite sport is snowboarding because I love seeing how high they jump on the halfpipe event and the fact that they are risking serious injury for their sport shows a lot of passion."

Not only is Sochi making new sports traditions, it is also creating historical moments with the Olympic Torch Relay. It was first lit on Sept. 29, 2013 in Ancient Olympia and then made a seven day journey through Greece to Russia. The Torch Relay began in Moscow and will have passed through 83 Russian cities before arriving in Sochi for the Opening Ceremony on Feb. 7, 2014. This makes it the longest torch relay in history covering over 40,000 miles. Also, it is the first time in Olympic history that the torch will be passed in open space by two Russian cosmonauts at the International Space Station.

Another record that Sochi is breaking is for the most costly Olympic games ever. It is estimated that Russia has spent \$51 billion in preparation for the Olympic events. The record

previously belonged to China for the 2008 Summer Olympics when they spent \$40 billion.

"With the high cost of these Olympics, I can only hope that the place will look spectacular and hopefully they will have amazing facilities for the treatment of the athletes," said Kaylin Kemper, junior. "Also, I hope their budget goes into making sure that they are well staffed and have strong security."

Part of the expense has gone to building the two "clusters" that will be hosting the 11 different event sites. There is the Sochi Olympics Park (the "Coastal Cluster"), which contains eight indoor venues, and the mountain area named Krasnaya Polyana (the "Mountain Cluster") that will have all the courses for the outdoor events.

The Winter Olympics will bring 87 nations together to compete for the gold. "I am looking

forward to all the countries coming together at the Opening Ceremonies because it is such an honor for all the athletes to be there," said Patrick Sonsteng, senior. "One of the things that I really like about the Winter Olympics is that I get to see sports that aren't as broadcasted as the Summer Olympic events."

Tune in to NBC to watch the Olympic games.



From Oxford to OC again

KRISTINA DEUCSH
STAFF WRITER

This past fall I spent the term at Oxford University, specifically New College, in Oxford, England. If you're wondering what this "new" in New College is, you should know that this particular college was founded in 1379. Yes, it's that old. And it's not even the oldest. There are "new" buildings on the streets of Oxford way older than my nationality. That's what a semester abroad does to you.

All right, let me explain. Sure, flying to a foreign country can make you realize how insignificantly small you are, or how easy it is to get lost, or remind you how much you don't know.

But it can also show you how much one person can explore, or how surprisingly easy it is to find things, or how much knowledge is just sitting there waiting to be turned into wisdom. (Yeah, I happened to find what I think is the greatest library in the world there). Seriously, just go for the libraries. Go for the history. Go for the new.

Before this devolves into pure philosophy, I'll get back to basics. Originally I had dismissed the rampant publicity, the showy fliers, and all those great comments about the study abroad programs: "Oh, you should do it!" "It's so worth it!" "I came back with a completely new perspective!" I hadn't really considered it to be a possibility, but then one day something struck me: "I'm an English major. If I can do it, I have

to go to Oxford." So I did. And I miss it. And I want to go back.

I grinned at all those friends who would ask, "You mean... that Oxford?" Yes, that one. The one known for its academic integrity, and its tutorial system, and its supposedly stuffy scholars. Its history, its colleges, its legends. It's the city mentioned offhandedly in that classic novel we read in high school. Oxford's this fairy-tale place for smart British people. No one in the real world actually lives there. No one actually... goes there? Right?

As one who's eaten "chips," and walked two miles to tutorials, and stopped by the neighborhood pub with friends, I can say it's real. It's very real, and you should go there. Studying abroad

may not be the easiest thing to do. It may not be the most clean, the most comforting, the most energetic. But it's probably the most incredible thing I've done in my life. Going abroad can stretch, and prod, and embarrass, and wow you in ways you never could think up on your own. And it can leave you with some pretty good, lasting memories. Even a few friends. Yes, studying abroad really does "change" you, and makes you a more "well-rounded" person, and all that jazz. But I loved it because it "grew" me. It fed me. It told me how old the world was, and how young I am, and how wonderful that is.

And all I've got to show for it is a sweatshirt. Oh, that and a new perspective.



Mr. Banks saves hope in cinema

MARGARET LANGDON
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

“Wind’s in the east. Mist coming in. Like something is brewing, about to begin.”

Walt Disney’s *Mary Poppins* is one of the most well-beloved movies of all time. Even after over 50 years, we’re still singing all of the songs, imitating Dick Van Dyke’s bad Cockney accent and wishing we could be as classy as Julie Andrews (or is that just me?). But not many realize how close the world came to not having this film at all.

Saving Mr. Banks tells the story of P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson), *Mary Poppins*’ original author, and her years-long struggle with giving Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) the rights to her beloved characters. It draws on our collective nostalgia of *Mary Poppins* while simultaneously deepening its themes.

Now, I am not normally a huge fan of “based-on-true-events” types of movies. Most of them seem just true enough to be tragic and just “Hollywood-ized” enough to be unimportant. Thankfully, *Saving Mr. Banks* is not an underdog story, pitting poor little Ms. Travers against the Great and Powerful Mouse Machine. Nor is it a whitewashed “magical tale” of how wonderful Walt Disney was and how Travers needed to be more like him to be happy. I really don’t have patience for these kinds of sappy “tearjerkers” or moralizing “inspirational films.” *Saving Mr. Banks* instead showed me what kind of potential its genre can really have. The screenwriter artfully interpreted the facts, masterfully treading the treacherous line between reality and Hollywood.

Both in the film and in real life, Ms. Travers appeared to be a rather uptight, disagreeable British lady—a positive terror to the casual, chipper Disney employees. But *Saving Mr. Banks* shows us how much more she is than this. Through the use of well-placed vignettes, the focus is drawn to Travers’ relationship with her father and how this relationship influenced the character of Mr. Banks, the father in *Mary Poppins*.

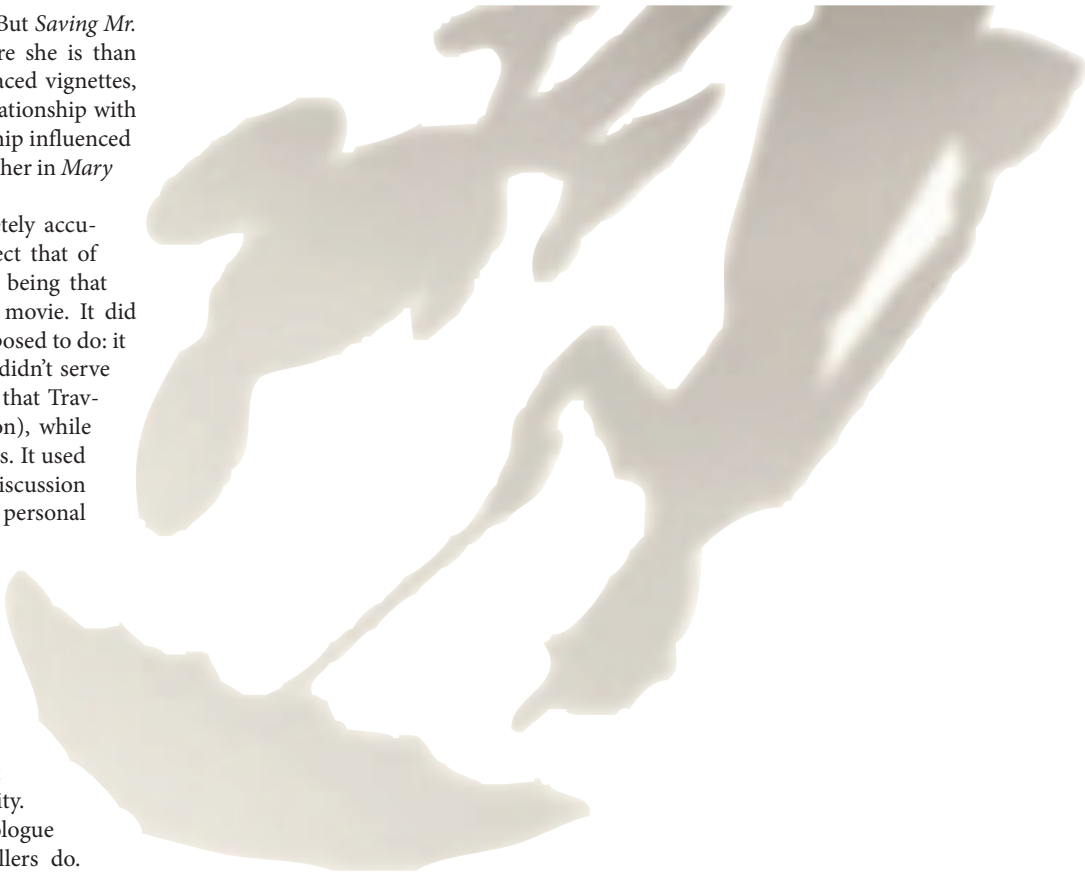
No, the film was not completely accurate in every detail. I don’t expect that of any movie—to a certain extent, being that accurate can be a burden on a movie. It did what “true story” movies are supposed to do: it edited reality, deleting facts that didn’t serve the theme (for example, the fact that Travers had an estranged adopted son), while highlighting more important facts. It used recordings made of Travers in discussion with the Disney screenwriters, personal testimonies from *Mary Poppins* film composer Richard Sherman and resources from Travers’ biographer Valerie Lawson to make those facts ring as true as possible.

But it did not merely borrow from reality to make a pre-determined point—it brought out a natural theme of the reality. As Disney’s moving final monologue has it: “That’s what we storytellers do. We restore order with imagination. We instill hope again and again.” And this is what I ultimately came away with: a sense of hope, both for the future of the movie industry and for humanity.

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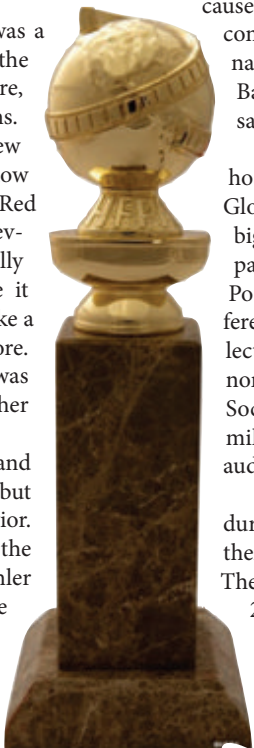
Glamour at the Golden Globes

JESSICA ISRAEL
SPORTS EDITOR

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler hosted the 71st Golden Globes this past Sunday in Hollywood. The two comedians were asked to host the show for a second year in a row. Fey’s response to being asked to host was jokingly, “because this is Hollywood, and if something kind of works, they’ll just keep doing it until everybody hates it.”

Before the show started, there was a Red Carpet Event which allowed the stars to show off their formal attire, take interviews and sign autographs. Many fashion guru’s noticed a new risqué trend for the women: very low cut dresses. “I love watching the Red Carpet before the show and seeing everyone’s outfits for the evening. I really liked Sofia Vergara’s dress because it was black and simple, yet very big like a ball gown,” said Emily Rea, sophomore. “I also loved Margot Robbie, who was in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, because her dress was very classic and fitted.”

The show was full of humor and teasing jokes to many of the stars, but also featured some scandalous behavior. Junior Melissa Owens highlighted the memorable kiss between Amy Poehler and Bono after Poeler recieved the Best Actress in a TV Series, Com-



edy for her role as Leslie Knope in “Parks and Recreation.”

Although *American Hustle* took home the most awards with 3, another notable moment was when “Brooklyn 9-9” won for Best TV Series and Andy Samberg went up to accept the award from his old “Saturday Night Live” colleague Seth Myers. But not all viewers were amused by the sentimental moment. “When ‘Brooklyn 9-9’ won, I was a very shocked because it is a brand new show that was competing against some really big TV names like ‘Modern Family,’ ‘The Big Bang Theory,’ and ‘Parks and Rec.,” said Jordan Smith, junior.

An impressive feat for the two hostesses was that this year’s Golden Globes drew 20.9 million viewers, its biggest audience in 10 years. Surpassing their ratings last year, Fey and Poehler both commented that the difference this year was the superior selection of movies and shows that were nominated. Also, according to Nielsen Social Guide, there were nearly 2.4 million tweets that reached a Twitter audience of 10.4 million people.

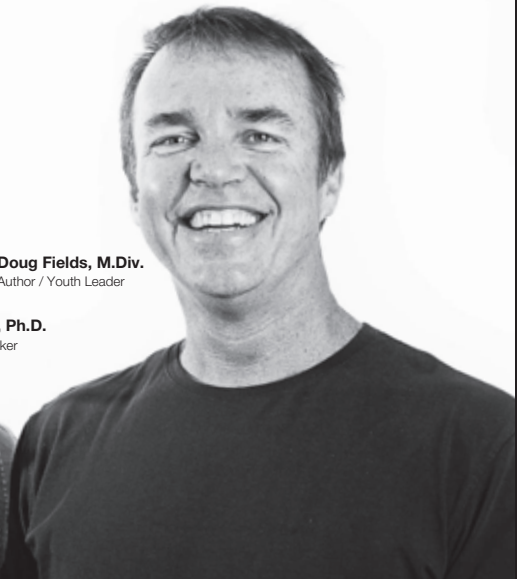
Catch more of your favorite stars during this awards season, you can see them all at upcoming award shows: The Grammy Awards on Sun., Jan. 26, 2014 and the Academy Awards on Sun., March 2.

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--Most Viral of 2013--

ALICIA HARGER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

2013 has come and gone and you might be sitting there wondering, “What sort of shared cultural experience did I see in this past year?” Or maybe you just like to talk about famous people. Either way read on to see the most viral hits of 2013.

People:
Jennifer Lawrence

This is the girl America can't seem to get enough of. From falling while receiving her Oscar to quite a few foot-in-mouth moments, every minor faux pas just makes the public fall more in love with her. After starting in box-office-record-breaking *Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and critically acclaimed *American Hustle*, it seems like the Jennifer Lawrence obsession will only grow in 2014.

Miley Cyrus

This is the girl America loves to hate. Her provocative music videos that accompanied her *Bangerz* album caused almost as much uproar as her giant teddy bear-filled VMA performance. Whether you hate her for leading the youth of America astray or hate her for cultural appropriation or like that she refuses to let criticism keep her from enjoying what she does, Miley was sure to be a topic of one of your conversations in 2013.

Beyonce

Beyonce's newest album rounded out 2013. The visual album, as Beyonce called

it, had no leaks and no promotion until the entire album was released to the joyous shock of every person in America. Proving that she's at the top of the pop diva food chain, Beyonce shows no signs of slowing down. Her song “Flawless” addresses her family and her position as leader of the free world.

Songs:
“What Does the Fox Say?”

Even though every person in America has heard this song at least one thousand times, I've yet to hear a satisfactory answer. What *does* the fox say?

“Blurred Lines”
Robin Thicke's dance anthem raised red flags

among women's rights activists and grew in infamy for promoting rape culture. The general discomfort with the song and efforts of certain groups to boycott the song had little effect; “Blurred Lines” remained #1 on the Billboard top 100 for 12 weeks in a row beginning in June. “Timber”

Over a course of 12 hours on a fine December day, I heard Ke\$ha's party song 12 times. And I loved it every time. Seriously though, this song took over the airwaves. I know it hit the tail end of 2013, but everyone's heard it- therefore, viral hit.

Movies:
Hunger Games: Catching Fire

This might seem like cheating, since I already mentioned this movie under the Jennifer Lawrence entry, but *Catching Fire* was the top grossing movie of 2013. Proving that movies with a young female lead have appeal to more than the teen girl demographic, the engaging plot lines and sympathetic characterizations of the *Hunger Games* series make it one of the most buzzed about movies of 2013.

Frozen:

Somewhat of a surprise entry on this list, the Disney animated film received little press attention prior to release. However, after a frankly unimpressive opening weekend, the film rose to fourth highest grossing film of 2013 and won

Best Animated Feature at the Golden Globes. In classic Disney style, the music from the movie is perhaps really the viral aspect; covers galore of “Let it Go” have suddenly appeared all over the internet. It would appear that this movie featuring a talking snowman and a talking reindeer was actually good.

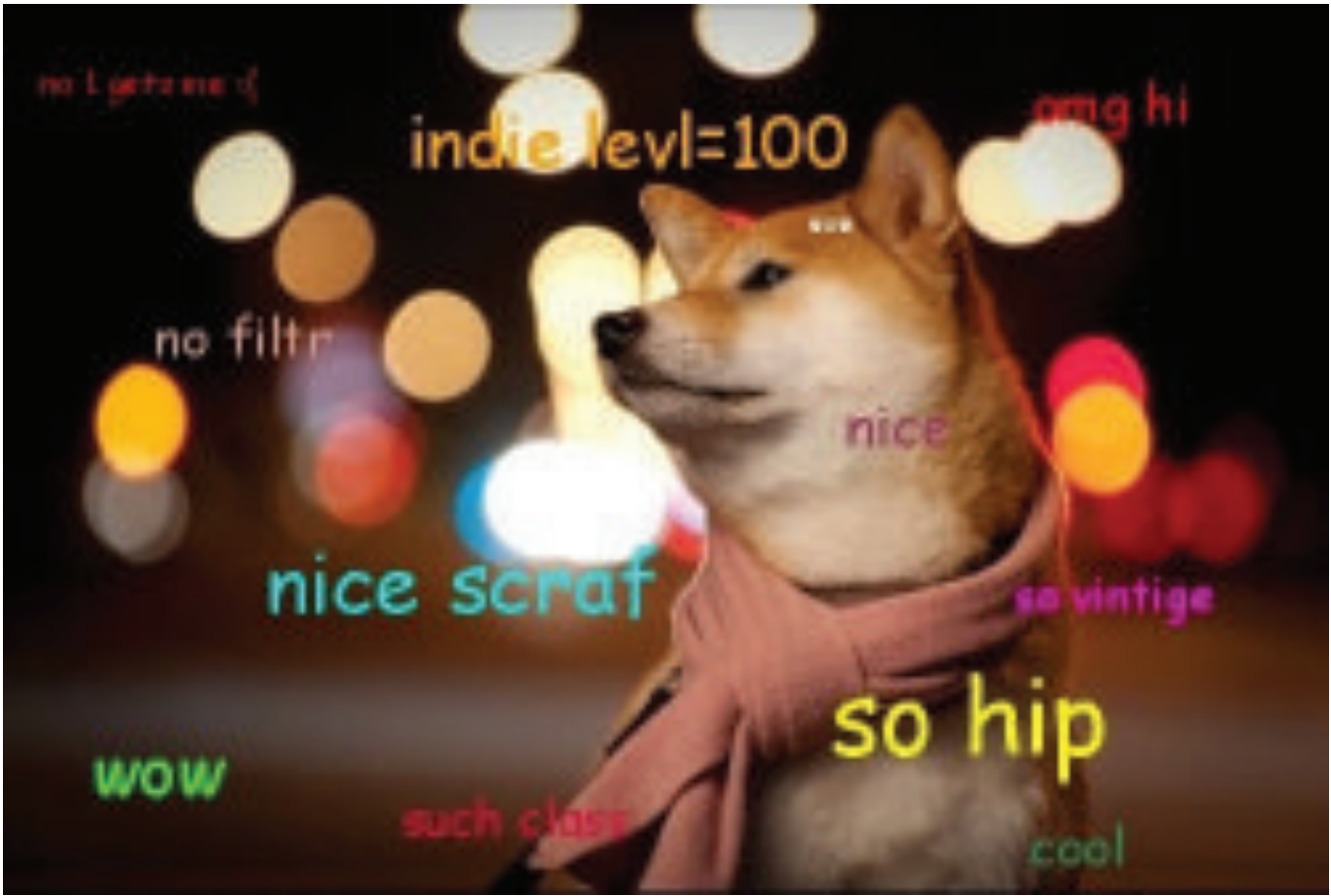
Sharknado

Sharks in a tornado. How could it not be a hit? The ridiculous premise of this movie only added to the enjoyment of, and fun of parodying, this movie.

Memes:

Doge

I wouldn't want to let this opportunity to talk about viral hits pass without mentioning the doge meme. You know it; it's the one featuring a fluffy puppy saying things like “Much viral. So hits. Very wow.” This meme took the internet by storm and is sometimes the best way to express your opinion.



Artist Spotlight: Nicholas Scutti

Anyone who knows me can tell you that my favorite thing to do is to make people laugh. What some don't realize, however, is that I take it very seriously.

I have always been into edgier comedy; it started with *The Simpsons* when I was a toddler, progressed to Mel Brooks and Monty Python in middle school, and then got more grotesque in high school with Dave Chapelle's take on race and Stephen Lynch singing beautiful songs about horrible, horrible things. But they're all what good comedy should be: full of the unexpected, with a hint of truth.

I was fortunate enough to take classes in improv and sketch writing with the Upright Citizens Brigade in Hollywood over the past three years. I learned their philosophy of how you can create comedic scenes on the spot as well as in writing: the game of the scene. The way it works is that something unusual happens at the beginning, and you think, “If this unusual moment that just happened is true, what else is true in this universe?” Then you think of what else is true, meaning you develop a pattern that's similar to the first unusual moment, and heighten the stakes.

I'll use an example from an SNL sketch, *The Lonely Island* video “Threw It On the Ground.” Andy Samberg's character throws an energy drink on the ground; it's the first unusual thing that happens in the video. So if that's true, what

else does he throw on the ground and why? Later he throws down a hot dog because he doesn't want a handout, a cell phone because his dad's not a phone, and so on. The absurdity heightens so much each time, and he ends up flipping over two actors' table who did him no harm (but as a twist, now they'll taser him because of it). An example on a larger scale is in *Arrested Development*. Gob has a chicken dance that sounds and looks nothing like a chicken. If that's true, then the other Bluth members have their own chicken dances as well.

I try to use the game every time I'm writing or performing something. During practices for Improvceivable, Concordia's improv troupe, the game is stressed when creating scenes on the fly. When rehearsing for *The Drowsy Chaperone* (opens next weekend!), I come up with a game for how my character reacts to what's going on in the scene. Even as I'm working on my screenplay for my senior showcase (staged reading on campus sometime in March!), the game helps me create unusual moments, which I can heighten as the film progresses.

I plan to learn more after I (hopefully) graduate this May, when I'll either go to Chicago or LA to pursue writing and performing comedy. I believe this is God's vocation for me, so I live by my favorite verse, Hebrews 13:2: “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”



Blogging to build bridges

ELIZABETH RHEA
ALUMNUS WRITER
RHEA IS A 2013 CONCORDIA GRADUATE, CURRENTLY PERSUING A MASTERS DEGREE AT CLAREMONT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY.

If I had an official job title in the Kingdom of God, it would either be Listener or Troublemaker. Turns out they have a lot in common. See, listening to perspectives that clash with our own can be terrifying and offensive. That's why for ages I thought it was most polite to leave people to spin in their own circles. More recently, though, I'd rather terrify and offend people in the most constructive way possible: I want to create listening spaces.

Enter *The Audacity!* (theaudacityblog.com), a new collaborative blog project that I've started in hopes of fostering "Uncommon Respect for Uncommon Perspectives." *The Audacity!* is written by a growing team of blog authors from every imaginable theological, political and philosophical stripe-- in fact, they really only have two things in common: they love Jesus, and they don't take culture (or anything) at face value.

The site's only about two months old, but there are already eight single-author articles, with titles from "Sickness in the System: A Second Look at Healthcare" to "The Myth that Doesn't Stick: A Second Look at Sexual Purity."

We're also beginning a double-feature *Face to Face* series of unlikely convergences. In "For the Women and the Children," two women who

could simplistically be called pro- and anti-abortion each celebrate the sanctity of human reproduction from their perspectives (featuring junior, Katie Young). In "Equitable Opportunity," two people speak from Capitalist and Socialist perspectives on the Sanctity of Economic Freedom (featuring junior, Stephanie Tiedt).

Sound chaotic? Well, it might be. (I did warn you I was a Humanities major, right?) But it's also been beautiful. A small but mighty band of readers have consistently enjoyed having their brains jogged on issues that touch many different aspects of their lives.

Still, my moment of victory as an editor came when one of my authors wrote me to tell me that she was backing out of an article commitment. Yes, you read that right. See, she wasn't able to complete her article because she'd started to research her stance on the issue, and what she found *changed her mind completely*.

That's the spirit of *The Audacity!*: allowing our assumptions to be questioned, stretched, and sometimes completely undermined is not comfortable. It's not safe. It's not convenient for writing deadlines, either. But it's at the heart of honest living.

So come, be unsettled. Re-examine. Dare to respect uncommon perspectives. The Audacious community needs more brave and compassionate thinkers-- whether you're a thoughtful reader, comment conversationalist, or article writer, there is room for you.

So, how about it? Are you feeling Audacious?

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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

Ask an Eagle: What is your New Year's Resolution?



Mariah Neilson, junior:
"My New Year's resolution is to disconnect from social media more so that I can engage and interact with the people who surround me."



Patrick Sonsteng, senior:
"My 2014 resolution is to do more kind things for others."



Addie Griede, junior:
"My resolution is to focus on my passions and spend more 'me time.'"



Ciara Andrews, senior:
"I'd like to get into a good graduate school."