

THE Concordia Courier

Envision. Explore. Exceed. Enjoy.

Inside...

No hitter thrown	pg 3
Marconi Museum	pg 5
<i>Drowsy Chaperone</i>	pg 6
Nebraska review	pg 8

Volume 8, Issue 9

Concordia University Irvine

Friday, February 7, 2014

Libretto to speak on Surinamese minorities

RYAN MCDONALD
STAFF WRITER

In honor of Black History Month, Concordia will host an international dignitary from Paramaribo, Suriname. R.M. Hermes Libretto, the former District Commissaris of Suriname and a respected land rights attorney, will be representing the African Maroon communities that

live in the heavy tropical forests of the interior of Suriname. Dr. Cheryl Williams, Vice President of International Relations, and Rev. Dr. David Loy, Professor of Philosophy and Theology and Chairman of the Convocation Committee, are excited for the intercultural value that Libretto's visit will have on the student body.

Williams and Libretto met in 1994 while she was visiting Suriname. "I was doing research for

protocol in Suriname, in regards to communication behavior in the jungle. I was determined to triangulate what I saw through the American eyes with cross-culture experiences, and in this spirit reached out to Mr. Libretto for advice," Williams said.

During this time, Libretto's responsibility was to ensure proper cultural etiquette amongst foreigners who are interested in learning about and interacting with the rural culture. Libretto guided her through the bilateral connection between Creole people and the Maroon tribes. The Surinamese Creole people are the mixed-race descendants of Europeans and West African slaves; the Maroons, or "Freedom Fighters," were runaway slaves who formed independent settlements together, and maintained their African culture and language.

The territory inhabited by the Maroon people that live in the interior of Suriname has become regarded by some as a state in its own right. Maroon people live near one another and have developed a social and political unity. Researchers tend to treat them as constituting a separate state based on the following criteria: self-government, population and right to land. However, the group remains subject to a national rule.

In 1986, a civil war commenced between the Maroons and the national Creole-run military, sending thousands of Maroons fleeing east into French Guiana. The Maroons struggled for freedom, much like their ancestors did against the Dutch when they were taken against their will and forced into slavery. Nearly ten thousand Okanisi tribe members (1 of the 6 Maroon ethnic groups), were barricaded into camps confined by tall fences with barbed wire. The war lasted until 1992, when the tribes were overwhelmed by the arsenal that the military brought upon them, including automatic weapons, helicopters and napalm.

"Mr. Libretto will share with us the centuries-long struggle of the African Maroon people in Suriname to gain independence and to protect their land," Loy said. "I think students will be inspired by the story of these people, who escaped slavery and eked out a living in the New World. I hope students also gain a new commitment to seeking justice."

Libretto's presentation will cover three main areas regarding the Surinamese Maroon peo-



Libretto speaks about African Maroon relations and the experience of this ethnic minority in South America.

Where in the world is Suriname?



"The history of the African is critical to everyone. Mr. Libretto connects history to the present. Stories lived. Stories told."

ple-- focusing on their past, present, and future, the potential mistakes that Westerners could make when encountering them, and the knowledge that Westerners must have to interact with them respectfully.

"The history of the African is critical to everyone. Mr. Libretto connects history to the present. Stories lived. Stories told," Williams said. Libretto will be arriving this Sunday, Feb. 9, and will be staying here until the following Wednesday. His presentation will be during the Core Convocation on Mon., Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the CU Center.

Homecoming and Family Weekend Schedule



The Homecoming dance, *A Night at Gatsby's*, is being held at the Springfield Mansion in Fullerton.

Today

Baseball vs. Master's College: 2 p.m.
Homecoming Dance: 7-11 p.m.

Tomorrow

Pops Concert: 11 a.m.
Carnival: 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Alumni Men's Soccer: 12 p.m.
Handbell Invitational: 4:30 p.m.
Women's Basketball: 5:30 p.m.
Men's Basketball: 7:30 p.m.

Sunday

Family Brunch: 10:30 a.m.

"You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid." Isaiah 40:9

Artist Spotlight: Michael Butler

My name is Michael Butler. I am a first semester senior here because I transferred from a college called Whitworth University in Washington state. I started with actual art in high school. I was always pretty decent but you can't really be *that* great in elementary and junior high. I would always find myself doing more drawing in class than in art class. Having two full periods of AP art was a bit tedious after a while so I would entertain myself to see how quickly I could paint something or how large of a drawing I could make. The art supplies were free so it was a giant sandbox for art that I wanted to make, like pop versions of the "God Save the Queen" Sex Pistols cover to 6' long pen drawings of a mysterious island. This all "culminated" in winning "Best in Show" with my pen drawing at our high school art show and winning "Artist of the Year."

This boosted my confidence knowing that the things I enjoyed and wanted to create were being recognized. I never liked putting myself out there or having others praise me for my art but then my sister nagged me to answer a craigslist ad she found: a listing for a graphic designer. The thing that was specified in the listing was to *only* send your artwork, no resume. I sent my artwork and had a response within the next week. I was one of ten people that actually read the instructions and he liked my art the most out of what he saw.

I was hired at Rolland Berry Inc., a high fashion company in L.A., and slowly through

just getting my work done and long days I became the head designer for the company. I luckily look older than I am because he thought I was 24 when I was 18; Rolland later said he wouldn't have hired an 18-year-old. Soon Rolland and me were the two in-house designers at the company. I was able to go to fashion shows, meet celebrities and rub shoulders with famous artists. I was not prepared for the world I was being let into.

An art dealer named LAZarides once invited me to an art show. He makes pop-up galleries in L.A. and features new artists. Rolland and I arrived with one of the other employees and soon realized the art was a little odd. I've never been a prude person, nor am I put off by strange things (art is strange), but this art show was something else. The portraits of celebrities were great, but when you went closer you realized that all the art was made of cut-up porno magazines. Walking around I met Christina Aguilera (who was wearing just a bra), Shepard Fairey (never meet your idols), and Gordan Ramsay—who is incredibly nice and calm. I received a lot of perks from the job: free Supras and Reeboks, free high-end \$1,000 jackets (but at that point aren't they just "free jackets?" not \$1,000 jackets?).

I will say the art world in L.A. is not for the faint of heart. You have to have thick skin; people will always comment on your designs and tell you how to change them. Ignore the FIDM girls in the fashion district; they want to look busy, let them look busy. Be able to change how you

work, because the place you go into will most likely have a different way of doing things. If the "Slaughterhouse Five" has taught me anything, stick by "so it goes;" it will help a lot when trying to understand the choices people make. Understand that everyone is a person; it is so easy to forget that your favorite celebrity is an actual person with friends and kids and a life, so treat

them that way, and they will most likely talk to you a lot longer and it will help with talking to them. Always see things as stepping stones but never treat them like stepping stones; do not act above where you work, no one will think you're cool for doing so, but be humble and do your job, have fun, be nice, and people will notice.



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NO HITTER



Congratulations to senior Keegan Yuhl (pictured with catcher Nolan Clark) on pitching the first no hitter in Concordia baseball history. Check out the full story on cuieagles.com.

Softball has rings to uphold

JASMINE BARRON
STAFF WRITER

The Women's Softball team has begun its preseason to defend their National Championship title. Last season, the team was undefeated in GSAC with a record of 16-0 and an overall record of 52-3. After losing six of their championship players to graduation, the preparation for this season has been grueling. Incoming freshmen and transfers are being put to the test to prove that they can be the next class to earn a National Championship ring.

The women are feeling confident but know they must work hard. "I'm really excited about the season. I think if we get our stuff together we can be pretty good," said Brittani McGue, sophomore pitcher. "The transition of everyone's skills and strengths is still on its way. We have stuff that we need to work on. Once we get it figured out, we'll be good."

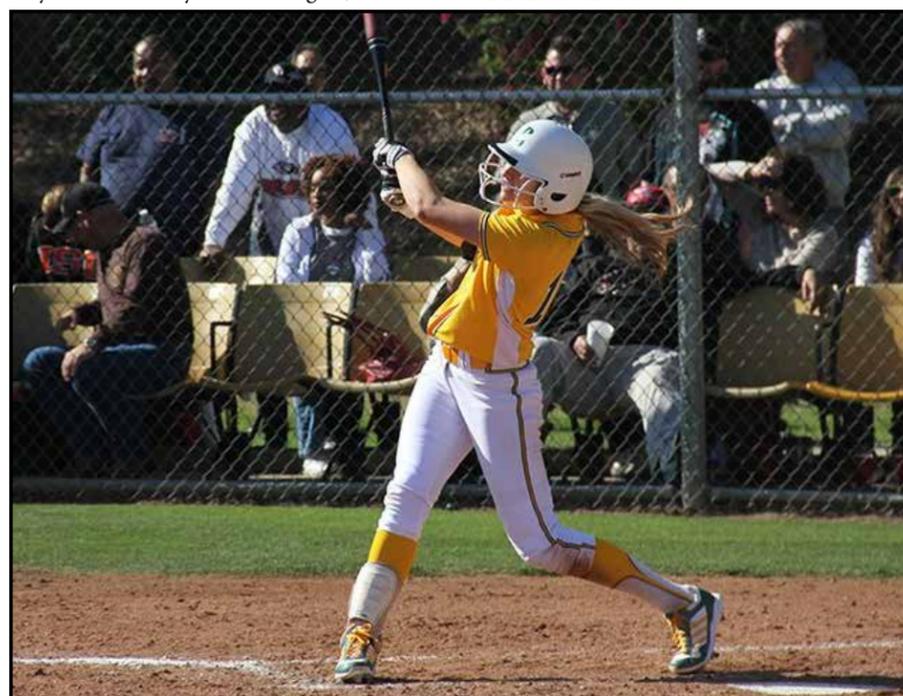
The seven new freshmen are still learning the ways of the team. "I have pretty high expectations for season. It's kind of a standard after they won from last year to do it again," said Cori

Fisher, freshman first baseman. "Last season was undefeated. It's more of a motivation to feel what they felt."

Head Coach Crystal Rosenthal has fostered camaraderie that allowing the team to work together as the competition grows stronger. Hard work and dedication motivate the women in each of their games. "Any team can come in and beat us at any given time, so it's all about being mentally and physically tough," said Jasmin Dresser, sophomore centerfielder.

With preseason already underway and GSAC games quickly approaching, the women's preseason preparation will contribute to their overall performance. "We have a lot of new potential players and I can't wait to see what we have. All we need to do is trust in each other and the program," said Jenna "JJ" Jorgenson, senior shortstop.

The team will carry on their motto, "show them up, Mission Impossible." As they stand united and ready to win a back to back championship. The team's next home games are a double header tomorrow starting at noon against Claremont-Mudd.



Women's Water Polo: power in the pool

MIKALA NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Women's Water Polo season is underway after competing in three major tournaments against several NCAA Division 1 schools. The weekend of Jan. 18, the team battled against the #3 team in the country, the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Bruins. The UCLA Invite Tournament took place at the Bruins' home pool. This kind of a match up is not uncommon because Concordia has the only NAIA women's water polo team in the country.

In their first three tournaments they have played Top 10 Division I universities including Cal Berkeley, UC San Diego and San Diego State University. Sarah Johnson, sophomore and captain of the team, is the only returner this season. "I'm super excited about the many skills that all of the new players have brought to the pool, but building trust within the team is harder when we all started playing together just this year," Johnson said.

One of the new teammates, Brooke Roy, junior, transferred from Golden West Community College. Along with her teammates, Roy faces adversity in the pool going up against tougher competition such as the large teams at the Division 1 level. "It's fun to compete at a higher level though; it brings us closer as a team," Roy said.

Head Coach John Wright is beginning his second year with a freshly recruited team. Some of the struggles Wright is facing are the lack of veteran leadership and experienced players on the team. Wright said that with having a younger team, the women have to rely more on the coach's commands, rather than on a stronger older influence in the pool. With only two months left in their season, the women are scheduled to continue to train at a high level and increase intensity even more over mid-semester break.

The women won their first game of the season at the 2014 UC Santa Barbara Invitational

on the weekend of Jan. 24 against CSU Monterey Bay. "I felt like Achilles from the Iliad, battling the Trojans and taking the Monterey Bay Otters down," Roy said. The women won the game with an 11-8 victory over the Otters. Tayla Walsh, freshman, put four balls in the net during the game. Walsh came to Concordia just this spring semester from her hometown of Manly, Australia. As the team's most prominent center,

Walsh is the highest scorer for the women, followed closely by Roy. Even after playing with the Eagles for only one month, she shows enormous potential in the pool.

For the rest of their season, the women are most looking forward to the Pomona Pitzer Tournament on Fri, March 7. The teams they will play against in the tournament are NCAA Division III schools, and are much more evenly

matched than their previous Division I competitors. In their future games, the women strive to improve on their counter attack and their team morale. As the year goes on the young team hopes to gain experience and familiarity with each other which, "will only improve our play," Johnson said.

The next home game is March 13 at the William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center here in Irvine.



CU Active available for student exercise



BRIAN TRAINOR

BRIAN TRAINOR
STAFF WRITER

Concordia opened its doors to two new fitness rooms called CU Active in Sigma Square on Jan. 21. The fitness rooms allow an escape for those who enjoy staying fit, but are not looking to make a sports team or prepare for a body building competition.

The two rooms are complete with brand new equipment. One room focuses on cardio with two treadmills and two elliptical machines, while the other offers numerous full body workout machines.

Jamie Rivera, senior ASCUI President, said, "CU Active will provide the student body with an option to find a place on campus to get physically fit and enjoy a new space with new machines."

With numerous sports teams on campus and only one gym, non-athletes felt pressured to reserve the old workout room for sports teams.

"I think students will appreciate a place where they can work out in somewhat of a private setting. After seeing the rooms myself, I will have to put them to use," said Josh Dax, senior. "The only problem with the new gyms is they lack free weights, or any sort of bench press machine."

CU Active is a welcome addition to campus resources. "Concordia has needed this," Lexi Verschoore, senior, said. "It will be nice to use the smaller rooms with all the things I personally need and not feel pressured to get off a machine. It seems like a more relaxed setting where students can go at their own pace."

The CU Active fitness rooms are open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and noon to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Parents keep up with E-agles

KALEIGH WILDAUER
STAFF WRITER

The electronic Parent E-agle Newsletter is sent out every Tuesday, updating parents on what is happening around campus. Last fall, Concordia the electronic newsletter received a graphic-friendly makeover, making it easier to keep track of campus events.

The newsletter updates parents on a wide variety of information. On-campus events and their turnout, and student's academic and athletic achievements are featured. Each month, faculty and staff also submit ideas for newsletter content. *The Concordia Courier* is also linked for additional insight to campus life.

Stacie Mallinson, Director of Alumni and Family Relations, is in charge of the newsletter. The newsletter was created in 2004, and is currently in its eleventh volume. There are 1245 subscribers to the parent newsletter, an increase over the past couple of years. "Recently, we've had a high percentage of subscribers physically open the newsletter. The month of January had around a 40 percent open rate," Mallinson said. A 40 to 50 percent open rate is pretty high compared to the average.

"I think that the newsletter is definitely something that can be helpful not only to parents, but to anyone who wants more information about things that are going on around Concordia and even the surrounding neighborhood," said Billy Velto, junior. "Sometimes we can't keep track of

things because we are so busy keeping up with our academics and extracurricular activities like sports, so this is definitely helpful."

The newsletter is not only a good way to read about past events around campus, but it is also a great opportunity for the parents to get involved and volunteer for something they are interested in.

"Although I don't read the newsletter every month, I do enjoy reading it every once in a while when I have time," said Erlinda Alcalá, parent. "The newsletter allows me to find out what all is taking place at my daughter's school and that is an important thing."

"The parent newsletter is something that can help strengthen the relationship between the parents and the school. I enjoy reading it and finding out about the things that my child has the opportunity to participate in," said Marie Bigirumwami, parent.

The newsletter is a way to show the parents of current students, and even prospective student parents, that what we do at Concordia matters. "Many parents are paying for their children to attend Concordia, so it is kind of a way to give back to the parents and show that we are doing great things as a student body," Velto said.

In addition to the parent newsletter, Concordia also produces an alumni newsletter. If you would like more information about the Parent E-agle newsletter, or you would like to subscribe, visit www.cui.edu/parents.

Resident communities benefit students

The formation and growth of LLCs have a positive effect

JAMES ALLEY
STAFF WRITER

The Living Learning Communities (LLCs) were new on campus for the fall 2012 semester, and have since been working to promote faithfulness, encourage student choice and design, and align students with the Concordia University Irvine mission and vision.

A LLC is defined by the Concordia website as "a small, defined group of students who come together with faculty and student affairs professionals to engage in a holistic and intellectually interactive learning experience." There are four LLCs represented on campus, CUI Bono, Global Village, Holos House, and WINGS.

Each of these four different communities are tailored to a different learning experience. CUI Bono focuses on students who are interested most in the academic side of school. Global Village is tailored to providing a cross-cultural experience. Holos House is designed to foster a healthy lifestyle. WINGS is designed specifically to provide support to those transitioning from

high school to college.

The program's master plan was created by Scott Keith, Associate Dean of Residential Education and Housing Services. "I originally got the ball rolling putting together an official LLC master plan," Keith said. He worked collaboratively with a wide range of faculty from the Student Affairs Division to get the comprehensive program started. The communities are now run on a day-to-day basis by Rachel Mendivel, Resident Director.

Each of these LLCs offer unique opportunities for their members. "The most beneficial part [of living in Global Village] is meeting people from all over the world. We all have travel in common and love discovering more about the world in which we live," said Megan Illsley, junior Global Village resident.

The LLCs' first year has not been without some hiccups. "Some LLCs have obviously done more than others and have managed to reach the students in a more diverse, developed and effective way," Keith said. One of the more difficult aspects of creating the new program has been the complexity of the interactions between the Faculty in Residence program and Residential Education and Services (RES) as they come together to make the LLCs possible.

"Being our first year, we are obviously working through some of the difficulties and adjusting the program here and there as we proceed," Keith said. "We continue to push forward, adjust and achieve wonderful things together in the RES halls for the students." Even with the challenges facing the program, the leaders responsible for its oversight remain confident in the program's future.

The future of the LLCs is a promising one. There are several plans for the introduction of new communities, such as an all-girls dorm.

For more information, or to make a suggestion about a LLCs, contact Keith at scott.keith@cui.edu.

MAIS celebrates Chinese New Year

KAYLA LARDNER
STAFF WRITER

The Year of the Horse, which began on Jan. 31, started off with a bang both on and off Concordia's campus. The celebration continued on Feb. 1 in Los Angeles' China Town with their Lunar New Year Parade. This year's was the 115th annual parade, and it included floats, bands, local leaders and government officials all coming together for an exciting day.

The fun continued into the night with the Lunar New Year Festival featuring cultural workshops, performances and food. Jacob Muller, freshman, attended the parade with some friends from Concordia, and enjoyed the event. "The streets were completely packed with

people and everyone was running around with little fireworks to celebrate," said Muller, but he also felt that the festival was more for the enjoyment of children than college students. "It was spectacular to see so much culture condensed into such a small space. There were fireworks and party poppers going off all over the place and the air was filled with confetti," said Steven McCarthy, freshman.

Jan. 31 featured a commuter lunch and the Chinese New Year Celebration in the cafeteria. Chinese food, exciting decorations, and eager students filled the cafeteria resulting in a shortage of forks and spoons. However, this ended up serving as an opportunity for the student body to improve its chopstick skills. "The cultural atmosphere was exciting, and I loved the beautiful

chopsticks they gave us to eat with," said Laura Spencer, freshman.

Across town, The Master of Arts in International Studies (MAIS) Program held a Chinese New Year event at our new Spectrum campus. The campus, located on Laguna Canyon Rd., is home to many of our advanced and adult degree programs, including MAIS. Their kitchen was set up with a long, beautiful table featuring all sorts of traditional Chinese snacks to help their visitors get into the mood. The spirit was so infectious that even President Kurt Krueger stopped by for a taste.

Yi Schuler, Director of Recruitment and Advertisement for MAIS and the lead organizer for the event, said that the purpose of the event was to combine Chinese New Year fun with public-

ity for MAIS, and that she hoped that it would spark interest in the program for the attendees.

MAIS is ideal for anyone interested in studying, working and living abroad in China, but what makes this program different, according to Schuler, is that they provide support for their students both at home and overseas. Students have access to professors online and over Skype back in America and plenty of local Chinese staff to help with logistical needs in whatever city they chose. Schuler reiterated that this is the only program like this, and that is mostly due to the immense support which manifests itself in supervision, guidance and leadership abroad and at home.

For more information about MAIS contact Schuler at yi.schuler@cui.edu.



KAYLA LARDNER

Marconi Museum has that Ferrari swag

PETER DOESBURG
STAFF WRITER

The Marconi Automotive Museum in Tustin was founded as the fruition of the dreams of Dick Marconi. It is a building full of hope for the future. There also happens to be a lot of nice cars there as well.

Most people dream that when they grow up they will ride in the lap of luxury, Mercedes Benz to Rolls Royce, Lamborghini to Ferrari. Most of us get a reality check in our late 20s that that was just a dream. Marconi tells children a different story. "I tell them five things: Stay in school. Stay off drugs. Watch what you drink. Have dreams-dreams don't come true unless you have one. And work your butt off—because the harder you work, the luckier you get."

Marconi founded the museum in 1994 with the sole intention of helping children everywhere. Marconi arrived in California in the late 50's with a wife, 18 month old son and \$500. He took his passion for health and fitness and started Global Health Sciences, Inc., which became the pre-eminent supplier to Herbalife. Marconi amassed his fortune and set out to live up to his mantra: "Learn. Earn. Return."

"I have a passion for helping kids. They're going to inherit the world – if we don't screw it up too badly – and I try to make them better prepared for the challenge," said Marconi in a 1999 interview with the Chicago Tribune, "We use the Marconi Foundation for Kids and museum to raise money and make kids' lives safer, healthier and maybe if we are lucky, happier." The Marconi Foundation raises over \$1 million annually for over 45 different charities: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Childhelp USA, Speech and Language Development Center, Juvenile Diabetes and Olive House, to name a few. The

beneficiaries of the Foundation's help are children so that they too can have an opportunity to "Learn, Earn, Return;" and maybe even own their own dream cars.

The museum makes its money via donations, private tours, hosting special events and live broadcasts of boxing events. Marconi was a Golden Gloves boxer in his youth, according to his biography, but left the sport after he realized that being blind in one eye and jeopardizing the

other for a \$12 trophy might not bode well for his future endeavors.

The collection of cars at the museum include; Mercedes Benz Gullwing, Ferrari FX, Cizetta Moroder V16T (the predecessor of the Lamborghini Diablo), motorcycles; including a Ducati Café Racer, Superlite and Senna Special, Race cars and American Muscle Cars. The collection is a clear representation of Marconi's dream cars and an exemplification of what you

can have if you follow his advice.

The donation helps children; the journey through the museum gives you the opportunity to see rare cars from a collector's point of view, and most importantly, shows what hard work can do, both for you and those around you.

Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$5 when you enter. More information can be found at www.marconimuseum.com



PETER DOESBURG

Who am I, who are you and why is this cake on fire?

The Drowsy Chaperone wowed crowds at Concordia's black box

TAYLOR DENNISON
STAFF WRITER

The *Drowsy Chaperone* cast performed to a sold-out audience every night from Running from Jan. 24-26 and Jan. 30 to Feb. 1. Lori Siekmann, Department Chair of Theatre, directed the fun and playful musical.

Trish Ollry, Professor of Communication Studies, has been going to most of the theater productions, especially the musicals, for many years. Ollry said, "This production was one of the strongest. The play was so funny and if you loved musical theater, it was a great show, and if you hated musical theater, it was still a great show." She was particularly impressed with the students that she had in her classes that were a part of the play, as well as the depth of the talent among the students.

The play kicks off in complete darkness; *Man in Chair*, played by Trenton Semple, appears with a record and asks the audience to listen along with him as he plays his favorite 1920's era musical. The show comes alive in his apartment and characters pour out of his refrigerator. Throughout the performance, he pauses the record and tells the audience everything about the play as it happens.

Siekmann believed the 1920's style made this

show unique over some of the other shows she has done in the past. The play goes on ranting and poking fun at other musicals, showing off the absurdity within the scenes. Siekmann said it was a crazy rehearsal process, but as the director, there is a higher stress level because the amount of moving parts. "The key to loving directing is you have to realize that it is a lot of delegating and letting people do their jobs," she said, "but I love getting to the finish line and saying 'look what we made!'"

Siekmann hit a rough spot when a recast became necessary. Fortunately, she was able to reconnect with Justin Jorgensen, '12, who successfully stepped in two days before tech week to play the role of Robert. "This group really banded together and went 'okay, we are going to make this happen' and we were able to make up ground pretty quickly," Siekmann said. "The fact that the cast was so up for the extra work and were behind it helped a lot."

Christian Rowe and Mitchell Piantanida, freshmen, played a pair of gangsters "disguised" as pastry chefs. Rowe said he really enjoyed working with the upperclassmen and Siekmann because it was a learning experience. "It is the 30 seconds right before the play that make me nervous, when the lights go down and they call 'places' and everyone gets quiet," Rowe said. "My part consisted of a lot of synchronized movements with the other gangster. So I really had to focus hard on being in sync and Siekmann was really good at giving us tips to stay focused."

Nicole Salimbeni, senior, played the *Drowsy Chaperone* herself. "This role was the most caricature type role I've played," said Salimbeni. "It is the first role that I've done where I have not disliked a single thing about it. I truly fell in love with it and felt at home with the role."

The next play will be in March, hopefully opening on the weekend of the 27th. The two

one-act plays are each directed by a student, one by Salimbini and one by Lauren Winnenberg, senior. The plays will be in the absurdist style of theater, meaning that some things in the plays may not make sense, but they promise to make

audiences think about the deeper questions of life.

Visit the Theatre Department's website at cui.edu/academicprograms/undergraduate/theatre for more information.



Ringling tradition continues loud and clear

JAKE HUNTER HAM
STAFF WRITER

The 22nd Concordia Handbell Invitational Concert Series is being held tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. in the CU Center. The Invitational has been performed semi-annually and has become a beloved Concordia tradition. It is being directed by Dr. Herbert Geisler, Director of Musical Activities, and Nancy Jessup, Associate Director of Handbells.

In addition to the students from Concordia's handbell ensembles, Chapel Bells, Spirit Bells, the Carillon Ringers and Concert Handbells, a variety of other ensembles, mainly from local high schools, will join in the concert. Mater Dei, Valley Christian, and Will C. Wood are the listed high schools that will be performing. The Master's College, which is located in Santa Clarita, and St. Mark's Methodist Church in San Diego will join in as well. This is not a competition between the ensembles. The ringers are coming together to perform some of the finest handbell repertoire with some of the top ensembles in Southern California's high schools, churches, and universities

Both the participants and the directors are excited for the invitational coming at the end of this week. Martha Chan, senior, is preparing for her fourth invitational. "Handbells is a lot of fun, I actually got into it right when I became a student at Concordia," Chan said.

"The invitational is always interesting, I love getting to see old friends," Geisler said. "[Its goal] is to inspire each other; we want to set an example of remarkable performances among other ensembles." Geisler went on to talk about the list of schools that attend the invitational. "I will watch and recruit from other schools," Geisler said.

Jessup is very hands-on. She takes her work very seriously and offers private handbell lessons for anyone that is interested.

Having such dedicated and focused directors is very beneficial to the concerts as well as to Concordia itself. The concerts have been taking place for 22 years, twice a year; something is being done right.

Geisler said he is always pleased with the turnouts the invitational gets. The Handbell Invitational Concert takes place tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. at the CU Center and is free of charge.

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Theatre Department visits competitive festival

SHEA FRATES
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia theatre department will participate in the annual American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) Feb. 12–15 at the Los Angeles Theatre Center.

Started in 1969 by Roger L. Stevens, the Kennedy Center's founding chairman, the Kennedy Center ACTF is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide. It has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States. Through state, regional and national festivals, KCACTF participants celebrate the creative process, see one another's work and share experiences and insights within the community of theater artists.

In order to participate in the festival, students must be nominated for their performance in a school production. "When we do a show at Concordia, a faculty member from another university's theatre department, also known as a respondent, comes to watch a performance here. The respondent then chooses up to three cast members from the play to be in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship as nominees," said Lori Siekmann, Department Chair of Theatre. "The respondent nominates those who stand out for their abilities to accomplish the task that the show requires."

All nominees perform a monologue and a scene which requires a partner. Auditions were held late last year in order to pair up all ACTF nominees with an eligible counterpart. Nominee Christian Rowe, freshman, will be

performing with Nicole Salimbeni, senior, in a comedic scene from *Scripted*. Rowe will also be bringing a dramatic monologue from *The Laramie Project* and a scene from *Falling* that helped nominate him in the first place.

Rowe was nominated for his role as Josh in *Falling*. "My partner and I have been rehearsing twice a week on two scenes and I have been rehearsing separately for a few hours a week on my monologue," Rowe said.

Other nominees include Haley Brown, '13, Marisa Smith and Trenton Semple, seniors, Wesley Barnes, Bre Piantiada and Katie Foggiano, juniors, and Steven Pepper, Kierney Loucas, Kendall Davis and Evy Moody, sophomores.

"The Irene Ryan Acting competition is only a part of the whole festival," said Siekmann. "There are workshops, master classes and keynote speakers from the industry. It is a very full experience." In the past few years, Concordia has had several scenes and complete productions invited to the festival. The plaques in the lobby commemorate the shows and scenes they have performed, such as the table scene from *Beau Jest* by James Sherman directed by Prof. Tony Vezner in 2013 or the production of *Medea* by Euripides directed by Mic Shackelford in 2004. In addition, two of our faculty members have received the "Excellence in Education" award from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival: Dr. Peter Senkbeil (2003) and Prof. Tony Vezner (2011).

For more information, please visit Concordia's theatre website or kcactf-8.com.



Pops concert mixes music from favorite British heroes

KALE SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

As part of this year's Homecoming and Family Weekend, the CU Center will hold the Family Pops Concert, "When Harry Met Mary," tomorrow at 11 a.m. The Concordia Wind Orchestra (CWO) will perform at the sixth annual concert, along with skits presented by the Theatre Department. Unlike the past years, this year's concert is based on the classical childhood stories of Harry Potter and Mary Poppins.

"We pick music that fits the theme. We usually play church music and concert repertoire, but this concert gives us a chance to play pops repertoire," said Dr. Jeff Held, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Activities. "It's a lot of work for a 40 minute concert, but it's a good way to connect younger children to classical music."

The concert will include many beloved characters such as Mary Poppins and Bert, Harry Potter and Ron Weasley, and even a tap dancing penguin. Although the target audience of the concert is undoubtedly the children that attend it, it will be an enjoyable, not to mention "laugh-out-loud," event for everyone. "I think it's great that the orchestra does something like this to get kids more interested in music. It also is a way the arts get to join together to do something good for the community," said Katelyn Fog-

giano, junior. "This script is hysterical for adults and kids. So no matter what your age, you will enjoy the show."

Since this year's concert is based around two popular stories, it will allow for a more in-depth plot with characters that the audience will know and can relate to. "The goal has always been to create a silly way for characters to make the audience laugh in between the music pieces, and to make the musicians still the center piece," said Nick Scutti, senior Script Writer and Acting Director of the concert.

With classical music truly at the heart of this show, the incorporation of parodies of the well-liked magical characters will keep the spectators enchanted. "The children know that they can laugh and root for the characters, as well as have the opportunity to watch a live performance of music, something that unfortunately isn't given a proper priority in school these days," Scutti said.

The combination of these two performing arts will indeed delight any witness who attends tomorrow's event, and the music played by the CWO will allow viewers to feel a sense of passion for classical sounds. For more information regarding this free event, visit the Concordia University website, and don't forget to stay afterwards for more free fun at the on-campus carnival.

Romantic concert held in CU Center

KAYLA FANSLER
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's women's choir, Donne di Canto, and Men's Chorus will be performing in the annual "A Night For Valentines" concert on Feb. 16 at the CU Center. This will be an event filled with romantic music in celebration of Valentine's Day.

Donne di Canto and Men's Chorus are excited to share heart-warming tunes in honor of the dreamy romantic mood of the holiday. "I am most looking forward to hearing all the talented singers of Concordia, and having lots of fun performing on stage," said Leah Drost, freshman member of Donne di Canto,

"Of course it wouldn't be a Valentine's concert without a night filled with love songs but with a twist," said Emma Curtis, President of Donne di Canto since 2013.

No simple love songs here. Instead, arrangements of the pieces range from jazz to classical to modern. The concert is going to be filled with different twists and turns during the production. "We have choreography involved in one of our songs," Drost said. "It should be a surprising twist."

The essence of the night will be captured in "contemporary love songs with duets and small group songs as well," said Simone Rubio, freshman choir member. Be prepared to hear "the hidden talent that we have in the men's and women's choir," said Curtis; some of these du-

ets and small group pieces will include "Love is an Open Door" from Disney's *Frozen*, "Dream a Little Dream of Me," and "I Got Rhythm."

Although Curtis looks forward to seeing all of the performances, one in particular, "Set Me as a Seal," is her favorite that they'll be performing because of the harmonies that come together at certain parts of the song.

This year's concert is sure to be a showstopper with the combination of Donne di Canto's and Men's Chorus's gifted singers. Though it is not a common occurrence for Donne di Canto and Men's Chorus to come together, "[t]his is one of the few times where the choirs

will combine and sing songs," said Mitchell Piantiada, President of the Men's Chorus.

A lot of hard work goes behind big concerts like "A Night For Valentines." In fact, Donne di Canto "practices regularly three hours a week," Drost said. "As well as extra practices on weekends or weekdays." The dedication and hard work put into the preparations "is all worth the positive feedback from our audiences," Drost said.

The Men's Chorus is assigned the music. Throughout normal rehearsal times, they learn it together through solos and small groups.

"A Night For Valentines" is sure to be a spectacular night. Students get in for free, general admission is \$10 and seniors (55+) are \$8. Come out and support Donne di Canto and Men's Chorus for a romantic night filled with love songs.

A Night for Valentines

February 16, 7:30 p.m.
CU Center
Donne di Canto & Men's
Chorus

Category V in a whole other category

ALEX TUKEY
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m., the Concordia Woodwind Quintet known as "Category V" will be performing at the Good Shepherd Chapel on campus. The woodwind quintet consists of five talented artists: Julie Long, David Kossof, Margaret Thornhill, Nathan Campbell, and John Campbell. Each musician specializes in a different woodwind instrument varying from the flute to the bassoon.

Several of the artists are responsible for multiple appearances in concerts throughout L.A. and have been a key component in multiple CD records. Long and Thornhill stand out in particular with high praise for their spectacular performances in several symphonies.

Julie Long is a prestigious freelance artist who received her bachelor's degree in music at the University of Southern California. She is part of several harmonic groups including the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Long Beach Symphony. She received the Outstanding Woodwind Chamber Music Student

Award at USC. As a member of the Resonance Flute Consort, Long recently contributed in recording their second CD specializing in movie music. She has performed for several motion pictures including *The Fantastic Four*.

Margaret Thornhill, Director of Concordia's Woodwind Ensemble, masters in playing the Clarinet and was formerly a professor of Clarinet at Concordia. She now gives private lessons to exceptional musicians, one of which referred to her as "a gift from the gods of music." She has played in concerts across the country and was praised by the lead music critic for the *New York Times*, who referred to her performance as "nicely planned and nicely played." She was responsible for the founding of several prestigious orchestras including the Matrix Chamber Ensemble as well as Category V, which will be playing at Concordia. Thornhill writes a regular column in THE CLARINET. Additionally, she is responsible for the creation of the Claremont Concordia Music Festival.

Category V's performance will begin at 7:30 in Good Shepherd Chapel and will be free for all Concordia students. No ticket will be required.

Nebraska filled with nostalgia

KRISTINA DEUSCH
STAFF WRITER

Filming a modern story in black and white at first might seem archaic, too artsy or just plain useless, but it creates a whole new context for the story told in *Nebraska*, a 2013 film directed by Alexander Payne. This surprisingly fresh film stars Bruce Dern and Will Forte as a father-son pair who set out on a road trip from Billings, Montana to Lincoln, Nebraska. Humoring his seemingly senile father, Woody (Dern), Dave (Forte) begins the unexpected trek in his paltry Kia to collect \$1 million.

Soon it was clear that the nostalgic feeling of this "old-timey" color scheme was matched perfectly with the quaint, dusty Midwestern landscape. The black and white perspective serves an ever-present reminder that the people and places like the town of Hawthorne have always remained the same. Old houses are still standing, family members still stare blankly at the TV, and the same seemingly inconsequential conversations pass between the same people, often ignorantly. Yet time has clearly visited these dreary places, like anywhere else.

It is this reminder that keeps the audience

visibly connected with the film; we are faced with visceral emotions played out in this old black and white style, yet still in a starkly modern setting. This lack of color gives the audience the ability to encapsulate scenes of Nebraska and remember these little snippets of time like snapshots. While the audience may miss the familiarity of a colored screen, the present-day setting strikes home.

The audience is forced to reconcile the fact that Nebraska holds a bit of our daily lives within it. These real towns in the Midwest are shown for the decaying places that they are. Wide-open spaces, faded paint, and leaning telephone poles are all included in the shots, and at the end of the film, the audience comes to a kind of new appreciation for this realism.

While some action lovers might be disappointed, the true driving forces behind *Nebraska's* plot are the familial relationships—the shrew-like comments of Dave's mother, the snarky shenanigans of his beer-bellied cousins, even the kindly-offered words of one of Woody's old suitors. Each offers a peek into this seemingly stagnant lifestyle of Midwesterners. At different points I found myself annoyed by everyone, loving everyone or smiling at every ac-

tor on screen.

The rewarding experiences embraced from this father-son bond in *Nebraska* are complimented by the adjoining family relationships, serving almost as a social commentary. It is the undertones within the seemingly inconsequential dialogue that reveal both this meaningful awareness and a sense of humor. It shows the audience how absurd some everyday things are, or how genuine people can be, or that it's okay to laugh at yourself and at life sometimes.

While sitting at a bar in Hawthorne, Woody challenges his youngest son to "Be Somebody." In truth, the audience, as they are cast into this graying world of worn-out everyday images, is also challenged with this. Every person wonders how to be someone in their own dumbed down, passive set of absent expectations. We have all faced some of the same questions.

Perhaps *Nebraska* isn't so much about change as it is about realizing that stagnant places and people are never quite what you thought they'd be. The performances are fitting, cinematography excellent, music fitting, and humor well-played, but *Nebraska* deserves recognition also for the human messages it contains. If you are from the Midwest, you should see this film, if nothing else for a bit of nostalgia.

Orange County trails calling

JOSHUA SUH
STAFF WRITER

Some of Southern California's most scenic landscapes exist beyond the famed beaches. Hiking trails that pepper Orange County provide students humbling sights and zones of relaxation during hard academic times. "The hiking trails here definitely have a life of their own. It's fun to travel on different terrains and experience the fruitfulness of nature; there is such versatility in all hikes," said Kaeffer Spencer, a local hiking enthusiast. Karen Gurske, sophomore leader of the Outdoor Recreational Club, finds the Laguna Bluffs to be a personal favorite.

Gurske enjoys hiking with Outdoor Rec, finding it to be a relaxing experience and a great way to get to know other students. Christie Clark, director of CUI LEAD, helps facilitate many hiking trips while giving the club as much autonomy as possible. Clark encourages all students to go on a hike when they have the time.

Peters Canyon in Tustin is currently one of the most talked-about hiking trails. It is one of the more visited and affordable trails near campus. "I personally love Peters Canyon. Parking is only \$3 for a couple hours. The hike is not too hard and the trail itself is not too far from campus," said Aaron Puls, junior leader of Outdoor Rec. "Peters Canyon is my go-to; it always proves to be a timeless trail."

Hiking can appear as a daunting task to anyone who has not gone before. The Orange County Hiking Club also organizes local outdoor adventures for anybody who is available. James Alley, junior and member of the OC Hiking Club, enjoys being part of the club because it offers him an experience to hike with like-minded people, who share the same enthusiasm for the conservation of the trails.

Orange County offers trails that can be completed within a few hours with little equipment or experience needed.

Outdoor Rec is facilitating a hiking/ski trip to Big Bear Feb. 24-26. For more information, email Christie Clark at Christie.clark@cui.edu or visit the CSLD.



Eagle alumnus joins pro soccer

AUSTIN DERRYBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Minnesota United FC has signed former Concordia Eagle forward, Christian Ramirez, to a professional contract. Ramirez, who had previously been under contract with the Charlotte Eagles of the USL Pro league in 2013, will debut for Minnesota in April. A Garden Grove native, Ramirez had a memorable career while at Concordia. The 6'2" forward was an All-GSAC player both of his seasons here at Concordia. In 2012, Ramirez was named the GSAC player of the year along with being named an NAIA 1st team All-American. His record breaking season—which included tallying 23 goals, an Eagle's all-time single season scoring record—propelled Ramirez into NAIA acclaim and garnered much-deserved attention from professional scouts.

Although Ramirez only spent two seasons in an Eagle's uniform, he certainly left a lasting impression among his former teammates. Ray Estrada, junior and current Eagle defender, had nothing but positive things to say about Ramirez. "He's great to be around, always laughing and makes everyone around him better; he's contagious," Estrada said. "His success helps Concordia soccer's recruiting—the fact that we developed a professional player helps bring in quality players." Ramirez's former teammates were also quick to admire his physical ability as a soccer player.

Ramirez made his professional debut with the Charlotte Eagles of USL Pro in 2013. In his club debut, Ramirez scored his first professional goal. He went on to appear in 26 matches for Charlotte, and scored 12 goals while playing there. It was a great start to his professional career, and has allowed Ramirez to move up a tier in the United States soccer league hierarchy to the NASL with Minnesota United FC. The North American Soccer League (NASL) is the second tier here in the US, one below the

Major League Soccer (MLS). Founded in 2009, the NASL currently has 10 teams with three expansion teams in the works.

Minnesota United FC head coach, Manny Lagos, expressed his excitement with the signing of Ramirez. "We are very excited to have Christian on board," Lagos said. "We feel he has a ton of potential and he is going to add a lot to the attack of our team. He is a young pro with a great future ahead and we can't wait to get him on the field this season." An enthusiastic Ramirez was quick to give thanks for the opportunity. "I would really like to thank Minnesota and the opportunity given to me this season," Ramirez said. "I'm really excited to get back to Minnesota and put on the uniform. I'm really thankful for the coaching staff for believing in me and bringing me on board and can't wait to see some of the guys I've met."

Ramirez's success

and hard work reflects positively on Concordia. Ramirez will debut for Minnesota in their next

match, April 12, against the San Antonio Scorpions.



Ramirez (center) poses with his professional teammates.