

The Concordia Courier

Investigate. Inform. Ignite. Involve.

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Concordia University Irvine

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Launching through Luke this Lenten season

ALEXANDER CARR
STAFF WRITER

On Wed., Feb. 18, abbey west ushered the campus into the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service led by Dr. Michael Eschelbach, Professor of Theology. Throughout the 40-day season of the church year, the Concordia community will be reading through the Gospel of Luke to explore the reflective message of the Lenten season.

Lent is a time to remember and focus on Jesus while contemplating the meaning behind His journey to the cross. Luke helps readers do just that. "He (Luke) wanted people to have a firm understanding and belief of who Jesus was," said Vicar Jonathan Ruehs, Residential Coordinator of Spiritual Life, '95. "He indeed was the Christ, the Son of God, and He came as the promised Messiah to deliver people from their sins. That's the thrust of any of the Gospels, and that's the thrust that we want people to get out of Luke."

Bible commentaries on the book of Luke are available outside of the CU Center after chapels and on the checkout desk in the library. These free commentaries not only aid in clarity, but in immersing readers in God's Word, which leads to deeper benefit. The commentaries include a suggested reading guide to lead readers through the book of Luke in the 40 days of Lent.

"When you just focus on one Gospel, you start to see some of the nuances that the particular author really wanted you to know or realize about Jesus," said Rev. Quinton Anderson, Campus Pastor, '00. "Luke was an educated man who gave a historical account." Reading this Gospel,

Anderson expressed, grounds the Bible in the real, historical world while revealing who Jesus was and what He did on earth.

The commentaries may help reveal the purpose of Lent, but they do not help in demonstrating how Lent should be observed—specifically in regards to giving things up. The reason this icon of the Lenten season is at times de-

bated primarily lies in the fact that Lent is not explicitly stated in Scripture, but is rather a traditional practice reminiscent of Scripture.

"Lent originally emerged as the final preparation for the people who were going to be baptized," said Dr. Steven Mueller, Dean of Christ College, '86. "It comes from the tradition of baptizing converts on Easter Eve, and the idea was:

as Christ is buried and rises again, so the newly baptized are buried with Christ and they rise with him on Easter." Mueller further explained that fasting and praying were parts of the convert's journey to a new life in Christ.

The practice today is sometimes argued to have lost its original spirit. "I think people misunderstand the practice of giving up something for Lent," Ruehs said. "The notion of fasting is a practice in which you understand your dependence on God, not because by doing it you somehow inch closer to him."

Ruehs, as well as Anderson, emphasized that the "why" must always be kept in mind and that the practice should be a reminder of Christ's death for man first. Any other benefits, like weight loss or time management skills, though wonderful if present, should always be second.

An alternative to keeping Christ in the center during Lent is taking things up instead. Family devotions, personal Bible studies, and getting more involved in local ministries are among the most common. Jesus took up his cross so that man could have a chance at life, so it stands to reason then that taking up a personal cross might be an appropriate way to observe Lent—the season of repentance, preparation and remembrance of Jesus.

"Lent begins with the cross on your forehead in ashes and really it ends at the foot of the cross at Calvary," Ruehs said. For those interested in understanding the trials of Jesus that Lent seeks to make clear, the Lent and Luke daily devotions can be found in students' Eagles Email, as well as abbey west's Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr pages.



Dr. Michael Eschelbach and Vicar Jonathan Ruehs impose ash crosses onto the foreheads of chapel attendees, marking the beginning of the Lenten season.

It's "A Bug's Life" in The Heritage Garden

CASEY TAHA
STAFF WRITER

The Heritage Garden Club held its first movie night last Friday at 7 p.m. in The Heritage Garden for students to connect with club members. The club displayed the Pixar film, "A Bug's Life" on a portable projector near the "Egypt" parking lot.

The officers of The Heritage Garden Club decided to switch things up from weekly workdays and have a night to enjoy The Heritage Garden with new and old faces and a few snacks while watching "A Bug's Life."

After many options were discussed, "A Bug's Life" was the movie of choice for the evening. "We tried to find a film that was garden-related so that it's meaningful," said Thea Gavin, Professor of English and advisor of The Heritage Garden Club.

President of The Heritage Garden Club Lacey Henry, senior, said, "We were trying to pick something that would go along with the garden theme."

The garden was alive with more than 20 people seeded throughout to watch the film with blankets and snacks in tow.

An attendee of movie night, Christian Woodfin, junior, said "It was awesome to be outside in nature secluded from the city around you," in regards to being in The Heritage Garden for movie night. "The film seemed to be a hit," Woodfin said. "It was a fun and awesome movie choice."

The club has continued to flourish since its beginning last March and the hope is that more students will continue to join. "We're doing great so far and I'm really happy with everyone's involvement," Henry said. "I hope that it keeps growing."

Steven McCarthy, Social Media Coordinator for the club, is happy to be back after participating in the Around-the-World semester. "Movie night was awesome. We had a great setup," McCarthy said. The possibility of future movie nights seems likely, and after this first night, students gave their input on what they wanted to see next time. "Students kept saying they want to see 'Jurassic Park' next, so that's a possibility," Gavin said.

"We are hoping to have one more movie night this semester," McCarthy said. "If not this semester, we will definitely have a movie night next semester."

The Heritage Garden Club has done other events on campus, including providing a table of freshly picked greens for students to eat in the Student Union, hosting poetry night with the Sound of Mind Poetry Club in the garden, gardening on Green Wednesdays when students can get together and work, as well as various other workdays. Now, movie night is a part of their toolshed.

The Heritage Garden Club has a Tumblr account with various photos and news on upcoming and current events, which is available for viewing at heritagegarden.blogs.cui.edu.

"Of Ebony Embers" performed to celebrate Black History Month

CHRISTOPHER M. CANTWELL
STAFF WRITER

On Mon., Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. in the CU center, a traveling performance group called the Core Ensemble performed the chamber music theater work, "Of Ebony Embers: Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance," sponsored by the Office of the Provost and Diversity Awareness.

This event celebrated the music and poetry of the Harlem Renaissance era in New York City. "Of Ebony Embers" examined the lives of three outstanding, yet very different African American poets. Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay were all seen through the eyes of the great painter and muralist Aaron Douglas. The Core Ensemble performed music by African American composers ranging from jazz greats Duke Ellington, Theolonious Monk and Charles Mingus to concert composers Jeffrey Mumford and George Walker. The CU Center was packed with a crowd to witness this performance which celebrated the beautiful and iconic art during the Harlem Renaissance.

"It was great seeing someone up there who looks like me talking about these enlightening issues. During Black History Month, having an actor of this caliber come here and put this show on for us is really a treat," said Jenelle Griffin, senior.

Actor Jamyl Dobson portrayed every single character in the performance, some who were sick, some who had Jamaican accents or some who were drunk. His performance highlighted

the diverse group that shaped the Harlem Renaissance while also showing their common experience. He is a very talented and accomplished actor with credits in Broadway and the Classical Theatre of Harlem.

"I didn't really know what to expect when I came to watch this performance. But I was very pleased with the quality and the information I learned throughout the performance," said Vahn Bozoian, junior.

"I originally came to this event because it was an extra credit assignment to [attend], but it was really cool to watch. I could tell that the actors and the people putting on this production knew what they were doing," said Zach Bannon, sophomore.

"I feel that a lot of people really enjoyed the production put on. Having this during Black History Month is really awesome in regards to giving African Americans a voice," Griffin said.

"I believe that it was worth having during Black History Month because it gives African Americans a real good look at what used to go on during these tough times," said Wesley Barnes, senior and Lead Diversity Awareness Coordinator.

The Core Ensemble has been doing these productions around the country for the past couple of years and has been growing in popularity. "I really enjoyed it; the music and production as a whole was really worth it," Bannon said.

Follow the Core Ensemble at www.coreensemble.com to see what performances are taking place around the country.

SCORR Conference: Concordia students open dialogue about race after SCORR Conference

KENDRA SITTON
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 20 and 21, a group of Concordia students attended the Student Congress on Racial Reconciliation (SCORR) Conference at Biola University. The keynote speaker was Efreem Smith, President and CEO of World Impact.

This year's theme was "His Beloved: The Bride of Christ." The number of Concordia students who attended doubled from last year. Brianna Springer, Director of Multicultural Leadership & Service Learning, and Ricky Lopez, Campus Recreation Intern, led the group with the help of LEAD Diversity Awareness Coordinators Wesley Barnes, senior, and Nikki Ancona, sophomore.

One of the themes of the conference was to look at discussion of race and culture in the Bible and apply it to modern times. "He (Efreem Smith) was a very influential and moving speaker who spoke about racism throughout biblical times and applied it to today's world," Ancona said.

Another emphasis of this event was celebrating the diversity of the body of Christ because He created those differences. "We serve a Savior who is multicultural and multi-ethnic," said Jen-

elle Griffin, senior. This realization can ensure that churches value the backgrounds of their congregants and celebrate a wide array of cultures. The goals of these churches is to create a Christ-centered, multiethnic church.

To show what this church might look like, they had multiple worship styles represented throughout the weekend. "Biola's band had a Mumford & Sons feel," said Rose Jones, sophomore. The conference also brought in a Native American man who led worship with his flute. Later, an Egyptian woman and her Pakistani husband sang in Arabic. On the closing night, there was worship in both English and Spanish.

On Saturday, the students also got to attend their pick of workshops. "You can choose what you want to learn about," Jones said. "The workshops were all over the spectrum."

A favorite amongst Concordia students was a workshop called, "Developing Self Esteem for Women of Color in Predominantly White Institutions," which was very applicable to some students' experience at Concordia.

"It was really cool because I looked around and there was no dominant race in that classroom," Jones said. "Every race was represented. It was really cool that we all respected each other and listened to what we had to say."

Another workshop was on cross-cultural friendships in the wake of the events in Ferguson, Mo. This was particularly meaningful because the events that took place last fall in Ferguson and New York were not talked about by the wider Concordia community.

After the sessions at meals, Springer facilitated conversations about what each student had learned. "We were all really eager to keep talking about it," Griffin said.

The experience of the SCORR Conference encouraged the Concordia students in attendance to be more proactive in their conversations about race, even if these conversations may be contentious.

"They no longer want race to be something that is ignored, but rather celebrated and respected in a safe environment," said Sarah Taylor, junior. "I'd like to be more intentional to ask questions."

After such a challenging and encouraging experience, the attendees wanted to urge Concordia students to come next year to the free event. "I believe that if students are informed of the way others are treated, they can possibly put a stop to the spread of racism," Ancona said.

Free CERT training offered

NATE SFREDDO
STAFF WRITER

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is coming to Concordia March 13 and 20 from 5 to 9 p.m. and March 14 and 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Student Union 201. The free CERT training event is organized by the Department of Campus Safety. The CERT will train attendees in emergency kit preparedness, basic first aid, and search and rescue details. This is the first time CERT training is being offered at Concordia.

The CERT training was developed in 1985 after the Mexico City earthquake led to multiple injuries to those who were trying to assist people in need. These individuals were not trained in basic search and rescue techniques. As a result, the LA City Fire Department developed CERT training so that in the event of similar dangerous situations, civilians could be prepared.

Todd De Voe, Concordia's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, is responsible for bringing this important program to Concordia. De Voe has coordinated CERT training throughout Orange County over the years, developing disaster and emergency awareness. He believes the program will ensure future campus safety. "We have 900 students living on campus, and if there (is ever) a disaster situation at school, we want our entire faculty, staff and students to be able to work through it as an organized team."

Some students are familiar with some type of first aid and emergency response. Julian Myers, junior, believes that every student should be required to attend a program that trains in skills to save the lives of others. Myers thinks it is important to brush up on important basic first aid practice.

Students who have no background or experience in this kind of practice are also encouraged to attend. "I have a few friends who are certified with all of this, and one of them is even an Emergency Medical Technician. I don't have much knowledge in the subject, so I think I could get a lot out of it. This training can really make a difference," said Kaila Ames, junior.

The CERT program has seven different sections included in the training: Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations, Search and Rescue Operations, CERT Organization, Disaster Psychology, and Terrorism. All of these are important components that make up this successful program. Knowledge in these areas could help keep you and your peers safe.

Visit www.cui.edu/safety to register for this free training.



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New year, new team: Men's Volleyball

CELINA STRATTON
STAFF WRITER

With the start of a new season, the Men's Volleyball team is looking to continue its success with a new team foundation. Starting the season at 7-4, including 4-0 at home, the Eagles are excited about the year ahead with a fresh group of players.

After graduating nine seniors last season, the team has been learning how to rebuild and reform the program with new players and returning underclassmen. With only three seniors, Head Coach Shawn Patchell is relying on the returners to help with the team's overall development. "I expect seniors to play like seniors and everyone else to play like upperclassmen," Patchell said.

Senior captain and middle blocker Brett Anema has already seen improvements within the team. Anema said that compared to last year, the team's strengths definitely lie in their defense. "Last year, we were an offensive team and this year we're more defensive. We are passing a lot better and digging more balls," Anema said.

To help rejuvenate the defense, Patchell designated five players as liberos (defensive specialists), including junior captain Griffin Ender. This is Ender's first season with the Eagles and in a short amount of time, he already has a dominating presence on the team. Just three weeks ago, Ender was named NAIA Libero of the Week after his stellar performance in the Eagles' victory over the Stanford Cardinals.

The win over the Division I school has helped the team's confidence grow even more. Patchell said, "We've proven we can beat the best and we're a dangerous team."

Creating their threatening presence has not come easily for the Eagles. They have had to cultivate numerous combinations of rotations with the new players and former bench players to make this magic happen. Patchell commented

on the team's great synergy on the court and that they are always looking for consistency to support their well-balanced team. "We mesh really well and have a strong bond," Ender said.

Makayla Predney, sophomore Screaming Eagles Fan Leader and avid volleyball fan, also has taken note of the team's new dynamics. "Young players are stepping up and being leaders on the court. There is a lot of talent on the court and on the bench," Predney said.

"We have more fire this year to claim back our title."

To maintain the chemistry between teammates, Anema shared that the team implemented a mentorship program last season to help players get to know each other on and off the court. The seniors are assigned younger players and they are responsible for mentoring them through not only volleyball, but school and their personal lives. "As a senior leader, I try to be there for everyone and not just one or two guys," Anema said.

With a revamped team full of fresh faces, the Men's Volleyball team has ultimately set a goal to repeat their former success from two years ago. "We have a realistic goal to play and win the National Championship again," Patchell said.

Anema added, "Last year was kind of a heartbreaker for the returners. We have more fire this year to claim back our title."

Catch the Eagles at home starting Fri., March 13, as they continue their season and host the 2015 Asics/Wyndham Hotel Tournament.

Not goodbye, but CU later: Men's and Women's Basketball Senior Night tomorrow

GARRETT ROLDAN
STAFF WRITER
AND
TAYLOR DENNISON
SPORTS EDITOR

Tomorrow night, both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams will honor graduating seniors during Senior Night in their home games against rival Vanguard University.

This will be both of the teams' last conference home games. Aside from the competition, this night is dedicated to the seniors on both teams and acknowledges them for their accomplishments over the past years.

This is a special night that many seniors felt came too quickly, but they are thankful that their journey at Concordia will be remembered.

Men's senior shooting guard DeLaun Frazier said that being recognized and appreciated in this kind of light makes the moment bittersweet, but also special and memorable. Men's Assistant Coach Patrick Johnson said, "Senior Night is special because it's the accumulation of so many years and memories for the players and families. Every senior has a different path they took and it's great to get a chance to honor that journey."

The men's team will honor four talented seniors: Frazier, Ty Armstrong, Tommy Stangle and Josiah Broadway.

Both the men's and the women's teams are experiencing successful seasons. The men currently hold a record of 23-6 and are fighting to lock up first place in the GSAC. The women currently hold a record of 21-4 and they have already been acknowledged

as GSAC Conference Champions. The last time they were Conference Champions was in 1997.

Women's senior guard Bashalei Almadova said, "Being a four-year player, this night is bittersweet and we have a lot of mixed emotions. We are excited to see what the future holds, but sad to leave the place we love." The Women's Basketball team will honor nine seniors: Almadova, Ashley Ellis, Jasmine Crawford, Tyjae Chenevert, Katie Ogdon, Carly Bishop, Janis Peterson, September Offutt and Stephanie Larson.

In the next few days, the women will have a chance to reflect back on their time spent growing and playing together. "My four years spent [at Concordia] have been the most influential years of my life. I have grown profoundly as a person and have a deep passion for my education," Ogdon said. "All the while, I've been blessed with the opportunity to play the sport I love. This experience is one that I am immensely grateful for."

Women's Assistant Coach Chelsey Pinkstaff said, "I have learned how relentless and determined this team is. Just when you think they have had enough or want to throw in the towel, they seem to find another level and pull together and surprise me again."

With an amazing season and both teams on a roll, Senior Night will be a great way to acknowledge not only the successful season thus far, but the graduating players as well.

The women's game will start tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m. with the men's game to follow at 7:30 p.m. Screaming Eagles will have giveaways during the game.

Cheer celebrates new milestone as they enter first-ever competition season

NATALIE CORONA
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Cheer Team is soaring to new heights as they enter their first-ever competition season kicking off March 1 at Long Beach State University. Last year, cheer was officially taken under the Athletics Department and began their search to build a competitive team. A year later, the team has built up and gone through extensive training. With early morning practices since July, they have anticipated the month of competitions ahead.

The transition from cheering only at basketball games to now competing against other universities has brought a culture change for the team. "It is important for the girls to train like athletes, be seen like athletes, and then take a competitive mind-set," said Head Coach Amy Haney. They've continuously improved and strengthened their team's mind-set and goals since they performed their show stopping routine at Midnight Madness.

From stunts and jumps to two-folds, the team has accomplished it all. It has been a long time coming, but Haney could not be more proud of her team and all the hard work and time they have put into the sport. "Putting together a competition routine that we are very proud of is by far our biggest accomplishment," Haney said.

Competitive cheerleading is a world of its own and it is much different than performing on the sidelines of sporting events. Cheerleaders face the overly passionate cheer moms on the sidelines, intimidating judges critiquing every back handspring, toe-touch, tumble and facial expression. However, despite all of these factors, they were still able to succeed. Senior co-captain Kendra Leach said, "[We] got a full bid to nationals in Daytona and our cheer team has never done that before."

In addition to the new audience, senior co-captain Jordynn Barnes is hopeful that it will give the team some respect on campus. "I am looking forward to hopefully winning a place somewhere and say competition season was a success," Barnes said.

Barnes stays optimistic while knowing that there will be challenges. Although it is their first

time competing, they want to build up a strong foundation and good reputation for future members of the cheer team.

Both captains are more than ready to get out there and wow the audience with high-energy routines to show classmates just how hard they have been working.

Come out and support Cheer on March 1

at Long Beach State, March 7 at the Ontario Convention Center, and March 22-23 for USA Nationals.

For those who are interested in joining next year, tryouts take place in April with a date still to be determined. For further information about tryouts, please contact Head Coach Haney at amy.haney@cui.edu.



The Concordia Cheer Team is excited to enter into competition season.

Concordia welcomes Dr. Tom Mueller, Professor of Church Music

KAYTLIN VISCA
STAFF WRITER

Whether it's the beat of the bass, the calmness of the cello, or the dramatic crescendo of a band playing in unison, there is something that connects us all: music. Dr. Tom Mueller, Assistant Professor of Church Music and the University Organist, is the newest addition to the Concordia family this semester.

Mueller came to Concordia from the East Coast with a wide range of knowledge and musical talent. "His educational and performance backgrounds in music have created great connections with his students and it will be exciting to see the fruit from the musical seeds he is planting here at Concordia," said Mike Zelazo, Director of Music Operations. Mueller has a passion for music that will strengthen Concordia's music programs. "Mueller's educational credentials in commercial and classical music genres bring to Concordia a wonderful diversity to share with our students."

Mueller comes from a musical family, which sparked his interest to teach music as his career. He started giving private music lessons when in high school, which has accumulated to a total of 13 years of teaching music. "This was a special opportunity that came at just the right time," Mueller said about being asked to come to Concordia. Mueller is the primary organist on campus, and he also plays organ for choral con-

certs, graduations and any other events where he is called upon. Additionally, Mueller played guitar for his family's bluegrass band, appropriately named, "The Muellers."

Mueller expressed his excitement for his first semester at Concordia as a professor. "[My favorite part] is the chance to interact with a lot of students in a small setting, on a personal level."

"He takes you beyond the music," said Kari Lystrup, senior. "He sets a high standard of professionalism." Lystrup is a Church Music and Organ major, and Mueller is her organ teacher this semester. Lystrup wants to go on to teach and work in a church. Mueller helped inspire a deeper love for music in her, and she is excited to finish her last year at Concordia with Mueller as a supporter.

Mueller is teaching a Music Fundamentals class again next semester, which he expressed is not just a class for music majors. He explained a bit about the class this semester, specifically about some of the fun music pieces they get to work on. This semester, the class chose "The Hunger Games" soundtrack and learned about music notation. "This class is music-driven, and I have students bring in their own music to work on," Mueller said. He also explained that they look into different types of music, so that the class will appeal to all students, no matter what their major may be.



Dr. Tom Mueller, Assistant Professor of Church Music and University Organist

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Women's Lacrosse: A double shot for the win

ALEX GERRAIN
STAFF WRITER

The Women's Lacrosse team will be playing two home games tomorrow. The first game will take place at 1 p.m. against Grand Canyon and the second game at 3 p.m. against University of California, San Diego. The team has been preparing all week for these two home games and all are encouraged to come out and support our Lady Eagles as they compete to get two victories on our home turf.

"These are two very important games in our conference, and I have every bit of confidence in my team that we can pull out two huge victories this weekend."

A little more than halfway into their season, the team has shown great success with an overall record of 6-2. As a fairly newer club integrated into the athletic program, Women's Lacrosse has made a presence as a competitive and determined team. The team is mostly comprised of freshmen and sophomores, but also has a few juniors and seniors who have been able to bring experience and dedication to help lead this team to success.

Daisy Villegas, freshman, is a new member to the team this semester and is enjoying her first year. Villegas is not completely new to the sport, as she played two years in high school, but with some time off the lacrosse field, she is happy to be back in the sport. "I feel with the help of our coaching staff, we are as prepared as we can be for this weekend," Villegas said. "These are two very important games in our conference, and I have every bit of confidence in my team that we can pull out two huge victories this weekend."

Women's Lacrosse Head Coach Ryan Brent has been a huge component in the team's six victories in the past eight games. Their family mentality and ability to elevate each other are huge strengths for the team and makes Brent all the more confident. He believes that their only weakness has been that the program is still very young and they don't have a lot of players. With the two home games tomorrow, he feels that his team has prepared efficiently and can have a successful weekend.

"We are focused on what we can control from our team, meaning that we must execute in all phases of our game. We feel confident that if we play up to our standard that we will be successful this weekend," Brent said.

The team has found great success this season by coming together and truly playing for each other. Tracy Bonaccorsi, senior, is highly confident in her team and feels that their communication on the field is extremely helpful. "Being an offensive player, I can always hear the defense talking to one another throughout the entire game," Bonaccorsi said. As the women have prepared all week for the two games tomorrow, Bonaccorsi feels that they have done all they can for tomorrow's games.

Darby Clements, freshman, is a fan of going to watch the women's team play because she wants to see some of her friends kill it out on the field. "I am definitely going to go out and cheer our girls on to victory in their two home games this weekend," Clements said.

For more information about their season, visit www.cuieagles.com.

Snow Monster: Macaron ice cream sandwiches



KRISTINA KRAUS
STAFF WRITER

With the macaron trend finally invading Orange County, you can now conveniently skip the overpriced Bottega Louie, Los Angeles Drive run and opt for the adorably delicious Snow Monster in Irvine. Located down the street from Concordia, at the University Town Center, Snow Monster offers its guests the perfect place to catch up while enjoying delicious made-to-order macaron ice cream sandwiches.

Their unique twist of serving macarons with ice cream instead of your basic cookie is not only tasty, but also much more chic.

Snow Monster's purpose is to create a happy place for our community to hang out, enjoy each other's company, and have delicious high-quality desserts.

To create a laid-back and inviting vibe, they offer guests plenty of room to make themselves comfortable, tempting them to stay a while and chat.

Known as a dessert lab, their bold and innovative flavors definitely push the envelope on your standard chocolate, vanilla and strawberry ice cream flavors.

Their options range from desserts such as the macaron ice cream sandwich, Belgian waffle sandwich or sundae, and their cookie sandwich or sundae. They also offer freshly brewed Thai tea, jasmine milk tea, and strawberry lemonade. All beverages served in-house are served in adorable Snow Monster logo-covered mason jars (making for an adorable photo op). Another popular menu option is their shaved snow, more commonly known as shaved ice. They recommend ordering their shaved snow with a scoop of ice cream on the bottom to enhance the flavor of your dessert. Thank goodness I did not give up desserts for this Lent season, because this would have made my dining experience very limited.

With so many dessert options to choose from, I decided to select a strawberry macaron sandwich complete with cookies and ice cream. I was able to sample a variety of ice

cream flavors and was slightly tempted by the very bold green tea option, but I remained with my cookies and cream choice. Next time, I will definitely have to try their shaved snow, to see how it holds up against my favorite Matsumoto Shaved Ice on the North Shore of Oahu.

Being able to enjoy my dessert in the quaint yet modern designed restaurant allowed me to observe several other very satisfied customers. My only disclaimer would be the wait. Because it is a new and popular spot, the line was lengthy. Also, since these craft desserts are made to order, they do take some time, so patience is appreciated. Trust me when I say these unique handcrafted drinks and treats definitely are worth the wait.

“Snow Monster creates a happy place for our community to hang out, enjoy each other’s company, and have delicious high-quality desserts.”

I learned during my visit that they are available for catering, and I am going to consider having a Snow Monster Lab at my graduation party this May.

They currently have three locations in Orange County: Huntington Beach, Westminster, and their most recently opened Irvine location, located at 4255 Campus Drive in Irvine.

Their hours of operation are Monday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to midnight.

For more information, contact Snow Monster at (714) 582-6023 or snowmonsteroc.com.

Study abroad snapshot: Anna Valazza, junior

Location:

Florence is one of the centers of Italian history and you can see that in the art, churches, clothing, architecture as well as in the food! I live in the center of the city so I get to experience that every day, which is amazing.

Surprises:

Something that surprised me the most is how beautiful Florence really is. Pictures are one thing, but seeing it in person is breathtaking and I will never take my 25-minute walk to school for granted. Another is how fast I am picking up the language, just by being around people speaking Italian.

Best Food:

Picking a favorite food is nearly impossible in Italy! But currently a favorite is the Caprese Salad (tomato, mozzarella, basil with balsamic vinegar on top). The pizza and pasta are also ridiculously good and I can't forget gelato!

Looking Forward to:

While traveling abroad I am most excited about being on my own and immersing myself in the Italian culture, as well as becoming closer with my home stay family as my Italian improves each day.



Prof. Lori Siekmann Awarded Gold Medallion of Excellence



WESLEY BARNES
STAFF WRITER

For 10 years, Lori Siekmann, Assistant Professor of Theatre, has been teaching at Concordia and touching the hearts of hundreds of students. Her role is vital, as she is a professor of Theatre Arts and Chair of the Theatre Department, teaching Experiences in Theatre, Acting, Creative Dramatics, and Reader's Theatre as well as directing main stage productions.

Before making her way here to Concordia Irvine, Siekmann taught and directed at Concordia Chicago for 11 years. Dr. Peter Senkbeil, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Provost and Professor of Theatre, had directed her in a show her sophomore year of undergrad while he was in his Ph.D. program. In an effort to keep in contact with Senkbeil, she pursued an opening on the CUI website and felt it was a "God thing."

Previously a professor of both Theatre and Communications at Concordia Chicago, Siekmann desired a place where she could focus on teaching theater. "I felt called to come here," Siekmann said.

Siekmann's directorial highlights include "A Year with Frog and Toad," "Footloose," "Godspell," "Cover of Life," and more.

In 2009, Siekmann took on a rather interesting task and decided to write and produce a whole new show of her own, called "The Foolish Proposal." In collaboration with her cast, Siekmann conceptualized a commedia dell'arte play to be produced during the school year. This process was a learning experience for everyone involved, as they worked countless hours in rehearsal developing what they had created. Siekmann was able to build a bond between the cast and herself as the director.

This show was a huge success and was later invited to be performed at the American College Theater Festival (ACTF). To be recognized by this organization for the work being pro-

duced for the quality of Concordia's shows was a testament to the work that Siekmann had put in to the Theatre Department. Since then, ACTF has continued to recognize other productions directed by Siekmann including "The Cover of Life" in 2012, and "The Drowsy Chaperone" this spring.

One month ago, Siekmann received an email informing her that she was being awarded the Gold Medallion of Excellence for her contributions in Theatre Arts and education by KC-CTE. This award is the highest honor in the field of theater education. This award came as a huge shock. "I saw this email in my inbox from the regional chair and opened it, and my first thought was that it was a mistake, that he had sent it to the wrong person," Siekmann said. "I kept looking at the attachment and it had my name several times so I finally realized it was for real."

This award did not come as a shock to anyone else. It has always been clear that Siekmann cares immensely about her work, but more importantly, the well-being of her students. "My goal as a professor/mentor is to help my students both in their academics and their development as individuals. I want to be an example of a woman of faith to inspire people to be excellent at theater and yet keep their faith/values," Siekmann said. If you ask around you'll see that she has done just that.

In the time that she has been at Concordia, she has been so much more than a teacher. She has been a friend, mother, role model and more. "Siekmann was my very first director," said Katie Foggiano, senior. "She always finds a way to find a positive in any situation and I really respect that. She is motherly and kind, but also extremely knowledgeable about theater."

Siekmann constantly attributes her success to her students. "I am very blessed and humbled to have a great team and students to work with. I am very proud of and thankful for our program here at Concordia," Siekmann said.

Fine Arts Preview Day

Artists in the making

MAILE WILSON
STAFF WRITER

With the fall 2015 semester just around the corner, prospective students visited Concordia this past Sat., Feb. 21 for the sixth annual Fine Arts Preview Day. With theater and music auditions available all throughout the day, high schoolers were free to attend with the hopes of obtaining a scholarship for the next academic school year.

"I walked up to the admissions building and was congratulated by a team of ambassadors with balloons and banners. I was overwhelmed with joy."

The day kicked off with registration and an opening devotion with both students and their families. Then, the prospective college students got to interact with Eagle Ambassadors, current students and counselors who aided them with any questions or concerns. Once the prospective students chose where they wanted to go, the Concordia Wind Orchestra & Concordia Sinfonietta put on a moving performance. More art, theater and music presentations followed, allowing the future students to get an idea of what Concordia offers in its arts program.

Eagle Ambassador Sean Carter, junior, interacted with the students and was able to experi-

ence some of the young, fresh talent that many of the prospects had to offer.

"There were a lot of amazing (high school) seniors who had impeccable talent. I was able to attend the handbell performance and view some of the art galleries too," Carter said. It is no doubt that nerves were running high, but the amount of positive energy and fun the high school students had was quite evident. "As an Eagle Ambassador, it is my responsibility to make sure their visit here at Concordia is a memorable one," Carter said. "I remember when I was looking at colleges; it was nerve-racking. By guiding the students on tours, I was able to make a positive impact on them, even if it was in the slightest way."

Even Professor Niclas Kruger, Head of the Art Department, noticed the eagerness from the prospective students. "Although we were only given twenty-five minutes to present ourselves to the students and their families, they were able to get a taste of the arts here. They were asking many questions which showed their interest," Kruger said. The Art Department showcased some of their work, which can be found outside the Admissions office.

Performances were going on all throughout the day, and senior Wesley Barnes was not only an Eagle Ambassador like Carter, but was able to showcase his talent during the small concert given by the choir too. In addition, Barnes also acted out scenes and sang from his own personal set. "It was fun to perform for the students and interact with them," Barnes said. "Fine Arts Preview Day was a huge hit."

For many, this day was a wonderful induction into their future school. Orange Lutheran senior Shayna Schwartz came to Concordia for the music and theater opportunities. Having recently auditioned two weeks earlier, she had high hopes for Preview Day. "I talked to an admissions counselor in the morning and I was told that I would find out if I got accepted at the end of the day," Schwartz said. "I walked up to the admissions building and was congratulated by a team of ambassadors with balloons and banners. I was overwhelmed with joy," Schwartz said. Schwartz is looking forward to attending Concordia with a scholarship for the arts.

Fine Arts Preview Day has been a major success for the past five years and continues to attract high school students from all over.

For more information, visit the Concordia Fine Arts website or admissions@cui.edu.

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The Oscars 2015: What more can you ask for?

JONATHAN SERRANO
STAFF WRITER

The Oscars 2015 was held this past Sun., Feb. 22, and it delivered phenomenally. Of course, knowing that Neil Patrick Harris was going to host boosted expectations, and those expectations were definitely met. Beyond NPH's hosting abilities, the award winners added power to the ceremony, using their platform to discuss real issues.

Comedy and classiness was expected when told that NPH would host the Oscars, and the opening number showed just that. In this performance, NPH paid homage to the old and the new of cinema. With the use of holograms, the stage became a wonderland of cinematic glory. The scenes touched upon everything from "Casablanca" to "Into the Woods." Then, "Into the Woods" star Anna Kendrick came out to sing, along with NPH, in her Cinderella costume. They did not get through much before Jack Black interrupted them with his own number. Altogether, the opening act was a beautifully-sung nostalgic piece that kept the laughs rolling.

All of the performances were amazing, ranging from the powerful to the funny. What could possibly top the first act for comedy? Maybe "Everything is Awesome" by The Lonely Island and friends. This was a reminder of how upsetting it was that "The Lego Movie" was not even nominated for best animated picture, but nevertheless, everything was awesome about this performance.

In paying respect to cinematic history, Lady Gaga performed a medley of several songs from "The Sound of Music." No, she was not wearing some sort of meat as an outfit again and no, there was no crazy set design. All the focus was on Lady Gaga's incredible voice. She hit every note to perfection and reminded us that she is a classically trained artist.

Common and John Legend performed their Best Original Song "Glory." The stage was complete with a replica of the Selma bridge and a troupe of singers to bring levels to the titular hook "Glory." Common's lyrics added relevance



and depth to the song. It was a well-deserved award winner.

Beyond just giving a stellar performance, Common and Legend also gave a very moving award speech. They commented on how the spirit of the bridge in Selma is a symbol for change, not only for racial inequality, but also inequality in gender, religion and social status. Legend said that "Selma is now," and that the fight still continues.

This speech was not the only case of winners using their platform to express important messages. Patricia Arquette, Graham Moore and J.K. Simmons used their time to talk about equal

rights for women, suicide and being yourself, and appreciating your parents, respectively.

The big winners may not have had the same call to action as these speakers, but they were all still very appreciative of their victories. Alejandro González Iñárritu took two of the big wins for Best Director and Best Picture for "Birdman." Julianne Moore took home Best Actress. Then, possibly my favorite award speech of the night, was Eddie Redmayne for Best Actor. The pure emotional overload and dedication to those suffering from ALS made his speech a fantastic and charged part of the night.

The ceremony had its awkward moments and some lackluster jokes that were not all too funny, but that is expected from a three-and-a-half-hour live show. Despite the lowest rating in the past six years, I still say that the Oscars 2015 was a success. It left the audience with plenty of memorable moments, and while the award winners can be argued, there was no major controversial win. I am, however, still annoyed that "The Lego Movie" was not even nominated. If you missed the Oscars, you can catch the highlights of the event on oscars.go.com. Now it is time to go watch all the winning movies that I missed out on before.

Student art on display in Grimm Hall

SPENCER NIELSEN
STAFF WRITER

The Student Fine Art Show opened Wed., Feb. 18 and will remain open through March 25 in the Grimm Hall gallery. The art show, called "Reflections, Expressions in Paint and Mixed Media," is a great demonstration of the work the students put into their masterpieces throughout the semester.

Although student art is constantly displayed in the Library Arts building, it is a special honor to be featured in the display in Grimm Hall. During the rest of the year, every few months, Concordia's Art Department puts on exhibits to display the work of students throughout the year. During each semester, students work with professors to create beautiful masterpieces that displays the students' creativity and skills as artists.

"[The show] allows students to express themselves in ways others cannot, and it is also good for students to show off their work throughout each of the exhibits."

During the shows throughout the year, guest speakers attend the exhibit to speak on the beauty of art and the influences art has on society. The speakers also touch on their journeys and what it takes to become a successful

and popular artist in today's world. Guest speakers also allow time for a question-and-answer session for aspiring artists to learn more.

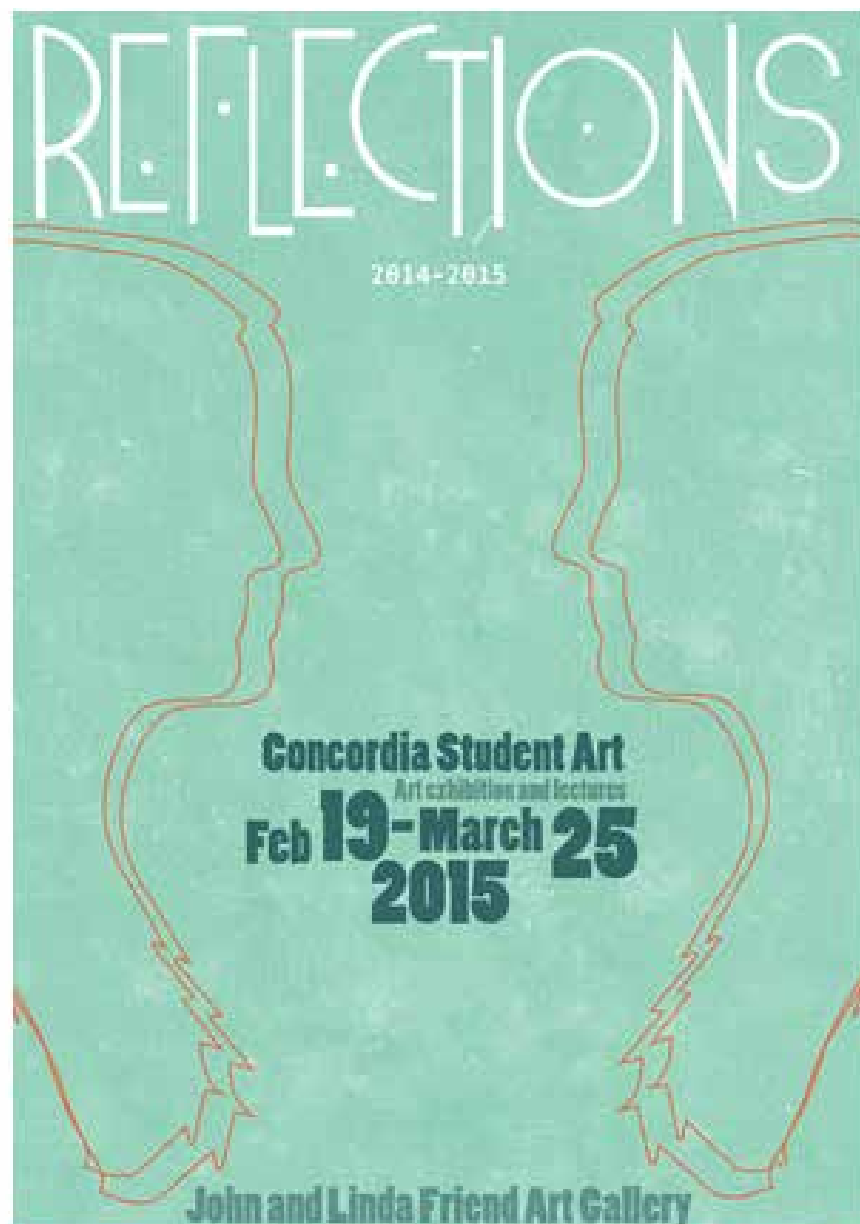
"Art has many influences and impacts on society. Art is simply one of the best ways to express one's emotions, feelings and imagination. Art causes people to look a little closer," said Luke Brown, junior art major. "The beauty of art allows for a closer look at the social issues, at other people, at the environment that surrounds them, and the everyday objects and life forms around them. It helps them see what is there but not easily perceived." Brown's inspiration for drawing comes from other artists and things he is most interested in.

"Art is very important since it gives individuals ways of expressing themselves outside of normal venues not accepted by society and media," said Professor Niclas Kruger, Head of the Art Department. These exhibits allow students to express their thoughts and opinions, while others get to enjoy their beauty.

Kruger also said that these exhibits give students exposure to successful and bright futures. These exhibits draw many people to see the artwork, which allows students the opportunity for success and makes their reputations credible as they show off their skills as artists.

"I really appreciate the artwork displayed in each exhibit throughout the year," said Robbie Ingram, senior art major. "It allows students to express themselves in ways others cannot, and it is also good for students to show off their work throughout each of the exhibits."

Student artwork is currently on display on the first floor in Grimm Hall North until March 25.



Intramural Basketball Championships

MARNIE SALVANI
STAFF WRITER

On Wed., Feb. 25, the top teams in the men's and women's intramural basketball leagues faced off for the championship title. Basketball fans flocked to the CU Arena to cheer for their friends and to see who would come out on top.

The season started with four women's teams and 12 men's teams until playoffs this week. The top teams were left to duke it out on Wednesday. At the men's game, "Super Swipes" beat "Put 'Em in a Coffin" 79-63. At the women's game, "Nastyzzzz" beat "Air Buds" 67-36.

"Put 'Em in a Coffin" went into the playoffs

undefeated. Senior team captain Keegan Maag said there were many good teams playing, but emphasizes it is all about having fun. His team has many of the same members who played together in volleyball and football last semester, which he explains is why his team was so successful. "We're also friends outside of basketball. It's that camaraderie," Maag said.

Other teams have not fared so well, but they have had fun playing together. "I am proud of every one of my fellow teammates and how much we have improved," said freshman Vinh Vu, a member of the men's team "Team Hydra."

"Intramurals were a lot of fun because I got to have fun with my friends playing a sport I

love," said freshman Monica Jordan, a member of the women's team "Hey Girl."

Overall, the basketball season was for everyone, including the LEAD coordinators and referees. "I am pleased to see the improvement in our referees as well as the consistent participation from the players," said Brendan McCabe, sophomore LEAD Coordinator. "It brings a smile to my face knowing that I can have a positive impact on those players each night."

With intramural basketball done for the semester, students look forward to participating in the co-ed intramural soccer season.

There will also be a spike ball tournament in March and a capture the flag game in April.

LEAD Intramurals urge students to play for a number of reasons. Senior Intramural referee Ashley Ellis encourages students to take part in the activity to get more familiar with the people around campus. This was her first time as a referee, and she took the opportunity because it is a great way to meet other students. "There are still people on the [basketball] team who I haven't met," Ellis said.

For more information about participating in intramurals, contact LEAD Coordinators McCabe and Celina Stratton, sophomore, or check out their page: <http://www.cui.edu/studentlife/student-leadership/index.aspx?id=19468>

Speech and Debate year at a glance

MEGHAN BELCHERE
STAFF WRITER

The Speech and Debate teams have had a great year, both competitively and socially. They finished the fall semester with the Debate team ranked as first for season sweepstakes, and both Speech and Debate have high hopes and expectations at Nationals this semester.

The Speech team competed at the PSCHA Spring Championships at Moorpark College this past week, Feb. 22-24, and has two tournaments this weekend held at CSU Northridge: Last Chance and Districts. Speech will then have two national tournaments held in April in Portland, Ore. and in Athens, Ohio. The Debate team will also attend two national tournaments, held in Kansas City and Liberty, Missouri.

The Speech and Debate teams have gone through many bonding experiences that have helped them to grow closer to each other.

"Most people are afraid of public speaking, but once you learn some of the strategies involved, it becomes fun because you are challenged to conquer your fear of speaking in front of people and become confident in yourself," said Marnie Salvani, junior. "If anyone would like to do that, they should probably join the Speech and Debate team, not only to improve their public speaking skills, but to meet a whole new group of people and to be part of a family."

To be a family, they eat dinner and spend quality time together outside of practice. This team has really bonded both inside and outside of school to develop lasting friendships.

"My favorite part about being on the Speech and Debate team would be meeting new people and building connections with the individuals whom I practice with every day," said Malcolm Gamble, junior.

Angelica Grigsby, Speech team coach, '14, said that her favorite part of coaching the team is watching them progress and get better. Seeing both the returning and new team members



The Speech and Debate teams look to perform well at Nationals.

improve is fun and rewarding for her. Grigsby said the highlight of their season was at Point Loma, which was their last all-squad tournament, where they took first in sweepstakes.

"We have amazing people on this team who are not only smart and articulate, but are the kind of people that if you have hours to just hang out, you would chose to do so with them," said Professor Konrad Hack, Director of Forensics. "I really feel lucky to work with our coaching staff. I love the students. I love watching them succeed, which gets measured by trophies. But

the giant trophies aren't what makes my heart go pitter-patter; it's what those trophies represent."

Speech and Debate prepares people for various parts of life, especially jobs. Hack said that they work in teams, speak, write and think critically. Lifelong skills are being developed in Speech and Debate that will be useful when facing future employers and will be incorporated in many aspects in life.

Hack has high hopes for the team. He said that the team is solid for both Speech and Debate and that they should have a good show-

ing at Nationals this year. Hack anticipates the Speech side to finish in the top 20 at Nationals and the Debate side to finish in the top three or possibly win Nationals.

For more information on the Speech and Debate Team, visit <http://www.cui.edu/academicprograms/undergraduate/forensics> and look for more information to come as we follow their journey to Nationals.

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