



THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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PawnShop kings bring down the house at CUI Kick-off Concert

TIFFANY THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This past Sat., Aug. 27, PawnShop kings performed at the CUI Kick-off Concert to welcome students to school and, "Gather us together as we get ready to take on the rest of the semester," said Campus Pastor Quinton Anderson ('00). PawnShop kings performed on campus before at Night of Hope a few years ago. They are comprised of two brothers, Joel and Scott Owen, whose albums would be found wedged in between Americana and Rock-n-Roll.

The concert started with the clamor of bodies rushing to get free popcorn, cotton candy and drinks. Students descended the stairs into the amphitheater with their snacks, massed together in the center for warmth, laid down their blankets and prepared for the treat in store.

The concert began with Concordia's own SHOUT and Worship Team members Chris Wichmann and Paige McCauley both sophomores, along with alums Chris Ellis and Chris Matthews. Their set included: "Home" by Philip Phillips, "Landslide," by Fleetwood Mac and an original song by Michael Verberg, a member of Wichmann and McCauley's band Sublimity Music, entitled "I'll Always Have You."

PawnShop kings arrived on stage with Tyler, their bassist and Mellotron expert, and Gooch on the drums. With their arrival came a change of energy, and the amphitheater emanated with



Photo Credit: Nicholas Vreeland

excited anticipation. Before the band began to play, the Owens brothers took a moment to appreciate the audience and to encourage them to appreciate the moment. "We recognize the fact that this is the only time that we are all going to be in this place at the same time. We could all be anywhere in the world, but we're here, and we think that's sacred. So we want to be aware of that moment and aware of all the people and all of us being aware of each other," said Joel.

Although Concordia is a Christian campus, the brothers don't consider themselves a "Christian Rock" band. "The easiest way to differentiate is that most Christian bands write songs for worship, and we don't write songs that are designed necessarily for cooperate worship," said Scott.

The band began their set with their original song, "Fall Apart," and from there it only got better.

The interactive performance, featuring multiple songs from their albums, contained elements of truth and advice to the students. When a student in the crowd asked them what their influences were, they said, "We literally find inspiration everywhere; musicians of the past that really stood for something, and when we hear truth, we resonate with it. We are inspired by artists that resonate with what they say and what they do," said Joel.

What's in a name? That which we call PawnShop kings by any other name wouldn't be as rad. The biggest question on everyone's minds before and during the performance was one of band name origin. Joel explained that their name is a derivative of their humble beginnings. "The short story is we had just dropped out of college, and we were starting this band with our bass player, and we were literally throwing around descriptors of how we were living. We wanted to find a band name that described how we were living," said Joel, "This was 16-17 years ago, and we came up with PawnShop kings cause we were shopping in thrift stores and pawnshops," said Scott.

Members of the audience asked the PawnShop kings, what advice would you give your 20-year-old selves? Scott said he'd tell his younger self to "Slow down, [and] look around. The world doesn't revolve around you. Be in the present and the now, because as we know, those things take care of themselves. The only time that we will interact with the Creator

is here in the present," said Scott.

After an amazing onstage performance, the band took to the crowd and had every student gather around while they acoustically sang, "Fare Thee Well," as fireflies glowed overhead and the entire amphitheater was silent. PawnShop kings had a clear and specific purpose for their performance. "In our songs we write about life, love, God, hope and pain. I think that the things we are singing about, they don't necessarily have a positive resolution to them but we are singing about hope and lifting each other up, and that's the spirit that we are singing into, and we hope that everyone experiences that," said Joel.

McCauley connected with Joel's response and feels that her voice and music create an open interpretation, "The cool thing about music is that it makes a

commonality between you and your listeners. I want them to take away whatever they want to take away," said McCauley.

Scott had advice to aspiring musicians on campus, "Play everyday. Everywhere. For free until someone starts paying you, and play, and play, and write, and write. Have no aspirations of success, because it's got to be because you love it," said Scott. PawnShop kings are working on a new album that will be released in two parts, "Give Love part 1" and "Give Love part 2". "We would like to have the second one out by Christmas so the first one soon before that," said Joel.

Sublimity Music is available on soundcloud.com/sublimity-musicgroup. To find tour dates, music and more information on PawnShop kings visit facebook.com/pawnshopkings.



Photo Credit: Nicholas Vreeland



Photo Credit: Nicholas Vreeland

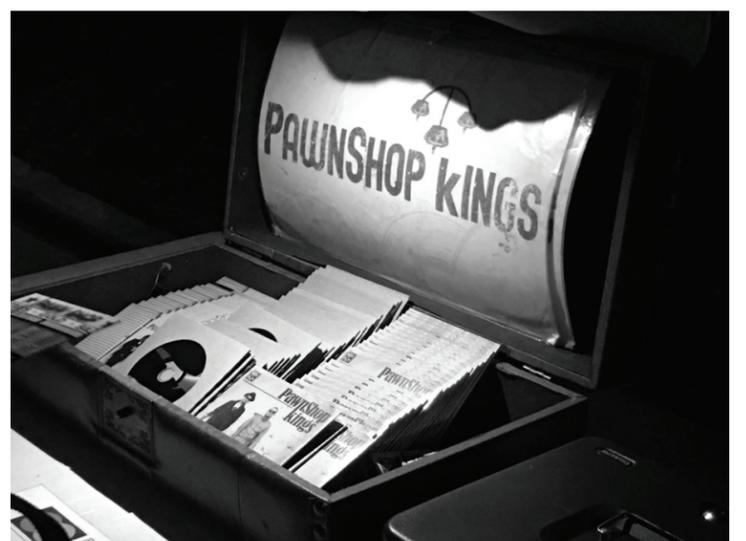


Photo Credit: Tiffany Thompson

ASCUI Corner:

Get to Know your Executive Board

JESSICA JAMES
ASCUI SECRETARY

The ASCUI Executive Board wishes to welcome you back for the 2016-2017 school year! We are excited to serve the student body this year as we find REFUGE in our Lord and in each other. With Christ as our focus, our team's main goal is to further develop communication between the student body and the executive board. Our office doors in the CSLD are always open and we look forward to getting to know each of you.

Senior Ariana Sadeghipour serves as the ASCUI President. She is an English major in the Christ College and Education program. Sadeghipour plans on pursuing a career within the Lutheran education system. She served as the ASCUI Secretary last year and was a Commuter Outreach Coordinator for LEAD in her sophomore year. She loves Kit Kats and getting involved on campus.

Vice President Catherine Foster, senior, is studying

"He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and an armor."

Psalm 91:4

business with an emphasis in marketing with a minor in graphic design. She is a returning member of the Executive Board and enjoys the Harry Potter saga. Vice President, Foster is the head of the ASCUI Senate. You can vote for your 2016-2017 Senators Sep. 8-9 outside of the Student Union during lunchtime.

Senior Hayden Kirkman initiates a new ASCUI position as the Club Commissioner. His favorite thing about campus is how friendly the professors are. Kirkman has served as a Peer Minister, a PAL and a Marketing Coor-

dinator for LEAD. He enjoys watching "Star Wars: Episode V- The Empire Strikes Back."

I, Jessica James, am serving as Secretary in my second collegiate year. I am a Business major with an emphasis in management and a minor in marketing. My favorite movie is "Titanic" and I enjoy Skittles. I work at Chick-fil-A and yes, it is "my pleasure." I love Concordia because we can all come together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Treasurer Lauren Youngsma, senior, is studying biology and minoring in business. You may have seen her



From Left to Right: Jessica James (Secretary, Junior), Ariana Sadeghipour (President, Senior), Lauren Youngsma (Treasurer, Senior), Hayden Kirkman (Club Commissioner, Senior), Catherine Foster (Vice President, Senior), Celina Stratton (Communications Director, Senior)

around working for Campus Safety or serving as a Peer Health Educator. Youngsma enjoys dark chocolate and her favorite movie is "The Notebook."

And last, but certainly not least, Celina Stratton, senior, is our Communications Director. She has worked as an Intramurals Coordinator and a campus Senator. She is majoring in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Mass Communication. She enjoys the cafeteria's turkey

burgers, Dove chocolate and "Toy Story." She has already instituted a new, almost fully online, marketing approval policy. Check out Concordia's website for more information on approving campus posters.

We hope that this year you can find REFUGE in our Lord and you continuously seek His faithfulness in all you do.

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Concordia's Forensics: No Bones, All Heart Last Year's Success & This Year's Growth

ALEXANDER CARR
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

On Tues. Aug., 23, Concordia's Forensics Department held its first full speech and debate team meeting, where all 41 students had a chance to introduce themselves and get ready for another year of competition. "I got here four years ago," said Richard Ewell(15'), Co-director of Debate. "And in that time the team as a whole has at least doubled in size."

"Forensics" is an umbrella term for speech and debate. "Everyone thinks about CSI when they hear the word forensics," said Yaw Kyeremateng, Director of Individual Events. "But forensics is actually about making inquiries, looking into a problem and then solving that problem."

For the speech team, that means performing traditional speeches and "Interps," described by Matthew Steck, senior, as "acting but with more rules." For the debate team, it means studying arguments and tackling contemporary issues ranging from foreign policy to economics, and domestic politics.

Forensics can also be defined as competitive speaking. Concordia's Forensic team attends two national tournaments annually—NFA and AFA for speech, NPDA and NPTE for debate—and enjoyed record-breaking success in last year's season.

"Last year was the best we've done since Concordia had a speech team," said Kyeremateng. "We had three people advance to final rounds at national tournaments. Malcolm Gamble and Laura Tabah advanced to quarterfinals, and Diego Perez advanced to semifinals. That brought us to the top 20 for the first time since Concordia's speech team started."

The debate side of the team also enjoyed new levels of success during last year's season. "Before I got here, this team was already finding success," said Ewell who competed on Concordia's team during his junior and senior years. "In 2012, we were first in team sweepstakes awards, in my senior year we were first and during last year we were second. But we've grown a lot more individually. Last year Manoah Martin and Judith Teruya got to semifinals which is the furthest any two individuals have ever gotten at a national tournament."

In the words of Kyeremateng, "Our program is blossoming," but this growth and competitive success apparently isn't the only thing attracting more students to Concordia's Forensic program. "I like the family environment," said Taylor Stickle, Junior. "That was one of the biggest deciding factors, that I could come here and know that I would have a family. I'd have people to come and talk to, and there'd be that give and take, ebb and flow, sort of environment."

Not every student expects to find a home at Concordia's Forensics team, but some find one regardless. "I think what people want to hear is that the program is extremely successful and that we have great coaches, and while both those things are true, I ended up at Concordia by circumstance," said Steck. "While that sounds kind of resolute, I'm actually extremely happy I came to Concordia. The team environment, though at times bizarre, grew on me and the coaches, Richard and Amanda, were phenomenal."

Public speaking is scary, but many on the team find the satisfaction is worth the extra effort. According to Steck, "It's a chance to develop ideas, to develop your own self-consciousness, and understand how social issues form." According to Stickle, "What we do throughout the United States and throughout North America is try to spread good will." Forensics has the potential to do a lot of good, but Steck is quick to remind those interested that ultimately, "Forensics gives you what you put into it."

For students interested in joining the Forensics, know this: "We all have speech anxiety," said Kyeremateng "You need to accept that you have speech anxiety, accept that fact and speak anyway."

For those interested in seeing the Forensics team, dates aren't available yet, but the speech team is planning to hold three showcases: one in the fall and two in the spring with one in February for black history month. Last year the debate team discussed human trafficking during human trafficking week, and Ewell hopes to involve the team in more public debates on campus throughout the year.



Eagles Talk Rio 2016

YVETTE MENDOZA
SPORTS EDITOR

This summer was the season of sports as the world tuned in to watch the top athletes from around the world compete in the Rio Olympics. From Phelps, to Biles, to Lochte, here is the Rio roundup.

One of the most anticipated events for this summer's Olympics was swimming. After stunning the world with 18 gold medals in

"Simone Biles was so much fun to watch..."

previous Olympic Games, it was incredible to see Michael Phelps increase that number at the Rio Olympics. The swimmer won 5 gold medals and one silver medal in what will most likely be his last Olympics. "The most memorable event was probably watching Michael Phelps win his 28th medal and happily retire," said Meghann Morales, senior.

Another highly anticipated segment of the Olympics was watching the Women's All-Around Gymnastics Team win gold. "I always love watching gymnastics," said senior Munirah Aljindan. "I think it is amazing

what they can do." Simone Biles became a breakout star after her performances on the floor and the balance beam. The nineteen-year-old athlete earned four gold medals and a bronze medal in Rio. "Simone Biles was so much fun to watch and I think she definitely deserved to be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony," added Aljindan.

For some, the Olympics gave them the opportunity to cheer on their friends as they competed. "I love watching the Olympics," said senior Greg Norman. "The most memorable [part] would be my friend Tom Shields competing in swimming and winning a gold medal." Shields, who is a long-time friend of Norman, won gold in the 4x100 medley relay. "He brought his gold medal by my house to celebrate with our friends when he got home. He's classic," added Norman.

The United States athletes brought home a total of 121 medals this Olympic year. "I think it's incredible that our country won the most medals in Rio," said Alex Avalos, senior. "It really gives me a sense of patriotism." The United States also brought home the greatest number of gold medals of any country, earning 46 total.

Although the United States came out triumphant in the Rio Olympics, not every event that



Simone Biles, USA Gymnast, winning another Gold Medal

occurred is something to be proud of. While many athletes returned from the Olympics with stories of triumph, Ryan Lochte found himself in the middle of an international scandal after false reports of a robbery. Instead video footage showed the swimmers vandalizing a gas station. "The Lochte situation is unfortunate," said Aljindan, "What he did was terrible and I don't think we should ignore it. But we shouldn't distract ourselves from the accomplishments of the other athletes."

Arguably, Rio 2016 was the event of the summer, leading people from all over the world to bond in athletic celebration.

Athletic facilities receive a colorful upgrade

YVETTE MENDOZA
SPORTS EDITOR

With a quick walk through the gym breezeway and the CU Arena, visitors, students, faculty and staff will see the many changes that the athletic center underwent this summer.

On the outside of the gym, photos of the various sports and student athletes associated with Concordia decorate the previously bare windows. In the past, the glass panes facing the breezeway have been a home for club posters and flyers, or simply empty window space. Now a collage of sports images, the arena has become a testament to CUI athletic achievement.

"It is getting everyone excited for this new school year," said

Melissa Jacobi, Assistant Athletic Director for External Operations and Development. "Everyone thinks it gives the building a lot of character and shows our school pride." From softball to baseball to volleyball, the action shots of each sport represent all of the athletic talent on campus.

Another eye-catching upgrade to the gym are the new bleachers. The previous bleachers were inconveniently stuck, unable to be pushed back in. Not only did they receive technical upgrades, but the transition from wooden bleachers to green seats aligns with the school's colors and brings together the interior design of the gym.

The last round of renovations was in 2007 with the expansion of

the locker rooms and the Athletic Headquarters on the mezzanine. As the school moves forward in the NCAA Division II membership process, Jacobi states that there are more upgrades to come. "There will also be construction on the second level of the gym; there will be a new Hall of Fame wall," said Jacobi.

Seeing the upgrades to the gym is an event in its own right, but the best chance to experience these renovations in action is to stop by and catch a game. The next athletic event to take place in the CU Arena will be Women's Volleyball hosting the Labor Day Classic. The competition begins Fri., Sept. 2, at 1:15 p.m.

Around-The-World Semester^(R) Travel Diary: Land of Graveyards

KENDRA SITTON
STAFF WRITER

Japan's nickname, the "graveyard of missionaries," refers to the fact that so many of the foreigners who come to evangelize quit in frustration and return home.

After a long day teaching at a large Lutheran school with less than 30 Christian students, a group of Rounders left the small city of Hanno, Japan for a rainforest hike. The map, which did not list the trails to the lake, we headed west in a backtracking, forwardtracking meander. The air thickened with bugs and humidity as we traveled deeper.

In one of our sidetracks, we stepped out of the shadowy canopy for a shocking blast of sun. The pebbled clearing we found led to a Buddhist cemetery. Family graves, *haka*, hid ashes below. The towers and slabs atop the small crypts clustered together in a landscape not unlike the spiking gray city of Los Angeles we had recently left.

Curious, we walked towards the graves. According to *Matcha: Japan Travel Magazine*, the fresh daisies and empty bowls we saw on each grave are filled with the deceased's favorite food, then cleaned up as visitors leave. Daisies are not uncommon at American cemeteries, but what stood out was a glass cup of water left in

case the dead become thirsty.

In a culture that leaves cups of water behind to remember the dead, would it be Living Water left at the graves of the missionaries that abandoned the country? According to Rei Noshiro, teacher at Seibo Lutheran School, there has never been a revival in Japan, yet it has been prayed for through generations. Some foreigners abandon the mission after seeing no results and struggling to adapt to a culture with thousands of years of history and accumulated cultural rules for a brief period of time.

In Japan, the Christian population has rested at one percent or less for many years. "No matter what Christians do, the number doesn't change," Noshiro said. Even the very first missionary to Japan, St. Francis Xavier who landed in Kyushu in 1549, grew disheartened within two years, according to the *Japan Times*.

Concordia graduate ('93) Michael Piescer said in his first four and a half years serving as chaplain at Seibo, he wanted to quit everyday. Now a chaplain for 16 years, he got through by focusing on the small things. "If after several years, someone gets baptized, that's great. But, so is a non-Christian teacher coming up and saying the prayer touched them," Piescer said.

The rockiness of the soil

in Japan has stopped many missions' organizations from sending people to Japan recently. Noshiro said, "they send people to Africa or other parts of Asia where people are more open and there are more results." Evangelism now depends primarily on local Christians.

According to Noshiro, the Japanese value of group-orientation has benefits and costs. It is good in that people are conscientious and concerned about those around them. The downside is the concern people have with what other people are thinking. Piescer relayed the Japanese proverb; a nail, which stands up, will be hammered down. Even after policies of persecution centuries ago ended, there is still peer pressure for Christians to keep their faith quiet and not stand out.

Noshiro still believes there is hope for Christians in Japan. The earthquake and subsequent tsunami five years ago gave Christians a greater urgency to share their faith. In addition, not all foreigners struggle with adapting to the culture the way previous failed missionaries or Piescer did. Missionary Michael Brinkman said he never struggled while learning Japanese and cultural customs when he began an English school for children. Now a professor in Saitama Wom-



Japanese Shout! on a bus
Photo Credit: Adam Lee

en's Junior College, he has resided in Japan for 20 years and he has no intention of ever leaving. "There's less problems here than in North America," Brinkman said. He said said his actual grave, not a metaphorical one as a missionary, will be in Japan.

During our two-week stint in Japan, we went to several festivals for the Oban Holiday, a time in which it is believed spirits return to their graves. While some people still hold those beliefs, for many it is a chance to pay their respects to ancestors whose influence reigns long after their life in Japan ends.

For some missionaries who left long ago, the spirit of their ministries still lives on. In the final day of our trip in Japan, a few Rounders and I took a train to neighboring city and visited Sayama Church of Christ. The pastor, upon our arrival, informed us that the church had a special love for Americans because an American couple in the 1950s started the church. The founders are long gone, but new mission-

aries have risen in their place. The pastor's wife came to Japan as a missionary from Canada and Brinkman finds his home at Sayama too.

"In order for Japanese to open their hearts and hear the gospel, it takes a lot of time," Noshiro said. Many churches ministering daily in Japan can be encouraged by short-term missions groups like ATW, but it is always the church's work, which has the most impact, however invigorating to the faith 30 American college students may be.

The graveyard of missionaries has sent many home in frustration. Whether these graves only harbor dry bones in crypts below or the spirits will return, only the cup of waiting water can know.

As we left the cemetery for another chance to get lost in the forest, we passed a man ladling water from a well onto his hands to purify himself before approaching the graves. Once there, tradition dictates he will clean the grave with the sacred water before leaving the remnants for a thirsty spirit.

Protect and Serve

KARINA DIEZ
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

Tension between police officers and civilians is a constant reality. Recently, this tension has been on the rise, following the deaths of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and unfortunately many others. Although the details of each case are unique, each one has added to the unease people may experience when interacting with law enforcement.

The role of police officers is to protect and

serve their communities, which many do on a daily basis with outstanding diligence and courage. However, there is always room for improvement to ensure that more police encounters end in de-escalation and fewer end in gun violence. The Police Department of Pasco, Washington released a statement pointing out the need for more effective training in mitigating volatile situations. "The science of bias has revealed that everyone has biases, regardless of the professionalism they

display outwardly," read the statement. "[It] is important to [have] fair and constitutional policing efforts."

Police academies train officers to shoot to stop a threat. They have the legal ability to do so under circumstances when they feel there is serious physical danger involved. "Proper training would be beneficial. Those that currently abuse their power should be trained to more closely follow protocol," said junior Kelli Faiiai. "But, I still feel that is important to follow police directions

when in the situation."

Senior Alexis Martinez expressed her agreement that it is extremely important to comply when interacting with police officers. "I think that situations where police violence escalated out of hand comes from an underlying problem in our system. However, it is a tricky situation because they are still the authority and enforcers of the law," said Martinez. "I think it's very important to follow the correct protocol to keep everyone safe."

Respecting the author-

ity of those who are put in place to guard civilians from harm is crucial to the success of the system and vice versa. To do so, one must be educated about their rights. Remember that you have the right to remain silent, but you must voice this if you wish to exercise it. You also have the right to refuse a search, to calmly leave if you are not under arrest, and to ask for a lawyer, if you are under arrest. For more information on Law Enforcement Policy and Procedures visit oag.ca.gov.

Concordia Storms Cambridge

Semester by semester, Concordia students study abroad at Westfield House as part of Concordia's Enduring Questions and Ideas (Q&I Core) Cambridge program. Under the instruction of CUI professors Dr. James and Dr. Susan Bachman, these students study English and History, attend Cambridge University lectures, and take part in other required and elective courses offered by Westfield House of Theological Studies. Each week, the students or professors share with Courier readers some of their favorite observations about life and study in England.

CARMEL MCGEE
JARED PETERSON

First things first: we survived customs. The Office of Global Studies prepared all of us for the culture shock we would experience in England. With that in mind, we came to England anticipating our encounter with British culture, vocabulary, academic rigor and the rain--a novelty in California. With all of our preparation, one thing that we weren't ready for was being frequently asked to share our knowledge of the United States. It's a paradox; we've come to England and we've ended up deepening our understanding of our own home.

England is incredibly interested in everything American. We didn't realize how interested the English were in American culture. They're just as curious about our election for president as we are about Brexit. Everyone from the taxi driver to the Quiz Runner at the Sir Isaac Newton Pub asked us questions about the states, ef-

Friendships are blooming, and each day there are opportunities to bond.

fectively putting us on the spot.

One example of the questions we've been asked came from quiz night at the pub. Sunday night, a group of us--five CUI students and five other international Westfield Students--went to the Sir Isaac Newton Pub down the street

from where we live. We walked in with the intent of dominating the quiz. For a few minutes we walked around the pub and looked for a place to sit down, and finally found seats in the corner. We jokingly split ourselves into "The Smart Team" and "The Fun Team." The Quiz Runner went around and gave us the paper and pen necessary to participate in the quiz. The first sheet we received

us are from Concordia and eight others are living with us from various places all over the world and have intensely bonded. Another difference is food access. On campus, there's a meal plan, but here at Cambridge, we shop almost every day. It seems that while we are being fed knowledge, we are learning to feed ourselves too.

Friendships are blooming, and each day there are oppor-



CONC is ReCONCering Britain in Luther Hall Lounge. (Top Row, Left to Right: Benjamin Lange, Sam St. John. Bottom: Madison Kreinheder, Aaron Borkovec.)

had a ton of flags from the South-Eastern American States. We were supposed to write their state name below them. Let me tell you, Concordia was conquered--we got six out of 20 right.

The differences between Concordia and Cambridge are vast. On the campus, over a thousand of us live in dorms and mix and mingle across campus as we go to class. But here in Cambridge, at Westfield House, we all live together under one roof. Nine of

tunities to bond. Before Chapel, we discuss what we learned in class the previous day. Shopping trips are now a time to spend with friends. Madison Kreinheder "Madi" and Benjamin Lange "Benji" have started a culinary contest. The duel has come to be known as the Benji/Madi Pasta Cook-Off. Jonah Laws and Sam St. John are both enrolled in a Hebrew class and their professor has taught them a song of the Hebrew alphabet for memoriza-



tion. Without shame, Jonah, upon seeing Sam, will sing the first few letters and on cue Sam will obligingly respond with several letters more. Soon the Hebrew alphabet is stuck in the minds of all those within earshot.

Aside from a few sniffles and coughs, Cambridge has been wonderful. The weather has been pleasant, as it really hasn't rained much. We could not have asked for a better chance to bond with other amazing people. We are helping each other in our transitions to life across the pond. Thankfully, the students here are all fast learners. Of course we have our disagreements; we still fight over the kitchens, we can be a bicker, but the strongest emotion we all report is enjoyment. To everyone stateside, we wish you a good semester. Stay tuned to learn more about Conc Abroad!

We could not have asked for a better chance to bond with other amazing people.



Still happy after being CONCered at quiz night. (Top Row, Left to Right: Nikolay Slavkov, Jesse Schlie, Steven Braun, Madison Kreinheder, Colter Knippa, Emma Stanton, Lauren Shon Bottom Row: Aaron Borkovec, Benjamin Lange, Carmel McGee)



Enjoying our first night at a pub. Left Row, Front to Back: Madison Kreinheder, Benjamin Lange, Lauren Shon, Natalie Bartels, Steven Braun, Jesse Schlie, Nikolay Slavkov, Right Row, Front to Back: Jared Peterson, Carmel McGee, Aaron Borkovec, Emma Stanton, Jonah Laws, Samuel St. John) Colter Knippa, Emma Stanton, Lauren Shon Bottom Row: Aaron Borkovec, Benjamin Lange, Carmel McGee)



Concordia's Theatre Department: A New Year and a New Show

ALEXANDER CARR
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

Last Thurs. on Aug. 25, the Theatre Department hosted their annual Welcome Back Kick-Off event to christen the new year. During and before this event, Lori Siekmann, Assistant Professor of Theatre, collected the names of incoming theatre majors, minors, scholarship recipients and anyone else interested in the program. "I usually have maybe 30 names of people who want to do theater," said Siekmann. "This year my list was 60. We've had a really good recruiting year."

A lot of moving parts are at play when it comes to recruiting new students, but Siekmann thought of two individuals deserving of the recognition. "Tony Vezner [Associate Professor of Theatre] and Katherine Dubke [Admissions Counselor and Liaison for Music, Theater, and Home School Students] did a lot of phone calling, emailing and making person-

al contact with students who are interested in theater," Siekmann said. "I think they really worked hard to get our name out there, and it reaped a benefit."

While the new crop of students acclimate to Concordia's campus, the theater veterans of last semester are working to finish their newest show "The Iliad, The Odyssey, and all of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes Or Less."

"It's really funny," said Siekmann. "Which is weird to say because so many of the Greek stories are tragedies. You wouldn't normally think, 'Oh the Iliad and the Odyssey? Hilarious!'"

Every past, present and future student of Concordia's Core Program should find something to enjoy in this playful parody. "When we say the Iliad, the Odyssey, and all of Greek mythology in 99 minutes or less, we're really doing all of it," said Philip Bartelt, senior, and performer in the show. "Everywhere there's just

clever little references. It's gonna be a lot of fun."

While past Core students enjoy the parody, present students get a chance to enjoy the literature they're studying in a different way. "It's kind of what you wish SparkNotes was," said Bartelt. Junior, Chloe Harrison, Stage Manger, does have a small warning for students hoping to watch the show instead of reading the books. "Definitely, I wouldn't say write a character analysis off of this show," said Harrison. Siekmann supported this claim saying, "[The show] tries to be true to the characters, but the show takes the characters and makes caricatures of them."

This is the kind of show that gets better when you know the source material—most parodies are. But if you haven't read the Iliad, and you don't know much about Greek myths, you won't be scratching your head the entire time. "Because [the actors]

did their research, they're able to present [the jokes] to an audience that's never seen the Iliad and still make it funny," said Harrison. Emily Porr, junior, and performer in the show, talked about this point as well. "We heighten all the characters to make it more hilarious. So I think it's a lot of fun regardless."

Every show has its interesting challenges that the crew and actors have to face. Sometimes it's the set, sometimes it's the lighting or the scene changes. This show's challenge is pretty obvious. Take 130 characters, have six actors share all the roles, put a clock on stage that is literally counting down each minute, and you have quite the challenge. "Between costumes and props we maybe have 200," said Harrison. Porr explained how "each character has a different costume piece," and as for the actors "each character has to be assigned a different quirk."

The show also has moments that rely on the actors going off script. "I honestly don't think that any show will be the same," said Bartelt. Of the six actors, half of them have experience doing improv work that they can apply to

these scenes. "All of the members of Improv-ceiveable right now are in the show."

Considering subject matter and performance, the show promises to be an interesting spectacle. At this point, the cast is most excited to open the doors and fill the seats. "I know my crew will do well, I know my actors will do well, I'm just excited to hear the laughter," said Harrison. The first show of the semester, "The Iliad, The Odyssey, and all of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes Or Less" will premiere on Friday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. Students can reserve tickets by visiting the box office, found in the CU Center, purchasing tickets online or showing their student ID at the door of the performance. Siekmann encourages students to reserve tickets ASAP because the house is filling fast.

For those interested in joining the Theatre program's sister department, Dance, on Sat., Sept. 10, Dance Company Auditions will be held in Gym 204 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Photo Credit: CUI Writing Studio Webpage

New Writing Studio Supports Student's Success

TIFFANY THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the fall semester begins, students will find that there are renovations to campus resources that will enhance the Concordia experience. One of the biggest changes is the transformation, name and location change of the Writing Center, that was previously located in Theta lounge. It can now be found in the Library

under its new name— The Writing Studio.

University Services began its ponderings last spring after they decided to create a Learning Living Community in Theta. Due to that change, the Theta lounge is no longer available and a plan was developed to relocate the center. "It was decided that moving to the main floor of the library would make the Writing Center more

accessible to a greater number of students—those living on-campus, commuters and graduate students—as well as faculty and staff. The location allows for developing the natural synergy we have with the library," said Kristen Schmidt, Writing Studio Director and Professor of English. This past Monday the Writing Center celebrated its 20th anniversary in its new location on the main floor of the library, where it revealed its official new name.

Junior Emily Porr, Writing Studio Consultant, feels that the new location is optimal for students. "The new location is especially great for new students and

commuters who might have had trouble finding Theta lounge. It is also great because since we are in the library, students who have just had consultations with us can get straight to work finding sources and such," said Porr.

The Writing Studio has much to offer students on campus and should be a vital resource in every student's academic tool belt to ensure success in courses and in life. It offers six services for all students, faculty and staff of the university: In-Person consultations, Online Video Consultations, Online Writing Lab Communications (OWL), Writing Workshops, Write Night and Grammarly access.

In-person consultations are 30 minutes and, "offer feedback to writers at any stage in the writing process—from brainstorming, to clarifying and organizing ideas, to polishing format and style," said Schmidt. "An exciting part of the Writing Studio are Write Nights where the studio is open late and allows a space for students to focus on their papers, We provide snacks and writing resources. Writing consultants are available to answer questions and offer

feedback," said Schmidt.

Schmidt believes that talking about writing is a huge benefit for students. "Everyone benefits by engaging in genuine dialogue about their writing. The process of writing is one of the most powerful tools we have for clarifying what it is we want to say. The Writing Studio staff works with writers wherever they are in the writing process, from brainstorming ideas to discussing a rough draft," said Schmidt.

In order to prepare for an appointment with the writing center, Schmidt recommends bringing the assignment and having a "clear sense of what they'd like to work on during their session. It's a great opportunity to discuss their writing and receive feedback from people that love to write and love to talk about writing, so coming with specific questions will help make the session most productive."

For more information on the new Writing Studio or to make an appointment visit www.cui.edu/studentlife/writing-studio.

What's new on Netflix?

A column that details the highs and lows of Netflix to assist Concordians in the ongoing struggle of picking something to watch.

ALEXANDER CARR
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

It's a new semester and the nagging responsibilities are upon us. Homework, extracurriculars, jobs—feeling overwhelmed yet? It turns out you're not alone. The new Netflix original, *The Little Prince*, is an animated adventure

directed by the same mind behind the first *Kung Fu Panda* movie. It tells the story of a nameless young girl (voiced by Mackenzie Foy) whose life is all work and no play. But that starts to change when she meets the Aviator (Jeff Bridges), an old man whose picture book (*The Little Prince*) sets the girl on a journey to rediscover child-

hood.

When we first meet Young No-Name, her mother (voiced by Rachel McAdams) is coaching her step-by-step in preparation for an interview for the prestigious Werth Academy. Stand up straight; she says, you must project confidence. Listen carefully; you must be present and ready for

anything. Don't blink too much; your eyes are the window to your soul, so you must stare and stare intently. You must pierce them with your stare. Shoot your stare into their hearts like a javelin; your soul will swim through the mark your eyes leave on their faces! Oh, and don't forget to smile.

I may have remembered that slightly differently, but you get the gist. This interview is no joke. Young No-Name is cheerful at first, but when the interview starts, she makes a mistake and faints. On stage. Mid-interview. So that didn't go as planned.

Luckily, Mother Work-Work has a backup plan, and this one is fool proof! Child proof too, because this plan funnels every minute, every hour, every day, week

The Aviator lives next door. He's got a long white beard and a plane in his backyard. He's also kind of crazy, but in a cute, might teach you some lessons about life kind of way. The Aviator eventually shares his story with Young No-Name (after apologizing about the plane propeller of course) and their relationship blossoms. With the groundwork laid, the film explores themes of love, imagination and what it means to grow up and be an adult.

A little on the long side, the film is almost three movies in one, telling the girl's story, the prince's story and third story that would be a spoiler to share here. So I can't tell you everything that happens, but I can tell you that everything is beautiful. The film is living poetry.

The busy adult world is rendered in sharp corners and algebraic neatness. Everything from the houses to the bushes to the traffic flows in such mechanical precision that some scenes look like the million moving parts of a ticking grandfather clock.

The pristine order of the adults' world gets juxtaposed against the old man's world of fantasy. A world full of glow-in-the-dark stars, crude drawings and hoarded trinkets. It isn't produced by Pixar, Disney or DreamWorks (the usual animation giants of America) but it rivals them easily, mixing the Pixar-like animation of Young No-Name's story with the claymation of the *Little Prince's*.

The stress of growing up can be a lot to deal with, but *The Little Prince* asks us to remember that childlike spark this semester, and see how it changes you. If you need a little help tapping into it, check out *The Little Prince*. If you love animation, this is a must, and if you don't, give it a shot anyway. It may give you a little surprise.

Everything is beautiful. The film is living poetry

and year of our hero's life into exercise, nutrition, study, sleep and every other productive activity you can imagine. Every activity, except for fun.

This all sounds pretty nightmarish, but the mother-daughter relationship is actually pretty adorable. You get the feel that Mother Work-Work cares a lot about Young No-Name and is only doing what she sincerely thinks will make her daughter happy. Young No-Name, in turn, is enthusiastic to make her mother proud and almost immediately gets to work on the life plan. If the neighbor's plane propeller didn't leave a human sized hole in the wall of their home, Young No-Name would have probably been pretty content with her life.

Should I explain that last part?



Goodbye Emendare, Hello Eagles' Landing



Photo Credit: Tiffany Thompson

TIFFANY THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For those mourning the loss of Emendare, fly on over to the newly constructed Eagles' Landing. The replacement for the Eagles' Lounge officially opened on the first day of the new fall semester. The idea for the change sprang from a group effort of multiple organizations on campus including: ASCUI, University Services and Bon Appétit. By

capitalizing on the bones of the previous Eagle Rock, the school's old café, they were able to build the new space efficiently, completing the project over the summer.

According to ASCUI President Ariana Sadeghipour, senior, there are a few major differences between Emendare and Eagles' Landing. "It offers a lot of items that Emendare did not. Some of these items include: a grill where you can have meals made to your re-

quest—burgers, sandwiches, etc., acai bowls and variations of snacks that are new—Kale chips, bare chips, and healthy gluten free snacks," said Sadeghipour.

"Eagles' Landing proudly serves Starbucks Coffee—with new cold brew options, a variety of express items, retail items and Coca-Cola products," said Leon Darley Jr., Bon Appétit's new Retail Supervisor.

Senior Laura Spencer likes Eagles' Landing's options better than Emendare, "I like the bar and grill, especially being a commuter, it's not always [very] comfortable to go into the Student Union to get food. So this is a lot more open," said Spencer. Her favorite thing to order is the London Fog. "My only complaint is that I really just miss the Eagles' Lounge because it was a good place to

nap and there's not really anywhere else to go, a private area just for sitting, but this is nice. I like how big it is now."

When asked about her favorite food Lauren Tylor, senior, said, "The chicken sandwich. It's really good!"

Darley and Sadeghipour both agree that there is more to Eagles' Landing than just the food, "It has awesome seating," said Darley. "It has much more outdoor seating, more TV's, and a larger space to hangout with friends between classes," said Sadeghipour.

Eagles' Landing is always looking to improve and would like student involvement to do so. "We are constantly looking to adapt our grill menu to things that the students are looking for. We would love suggestions [for] items that students would like to see us



Photo Credit: Tiffany Thompson

carry or do in Eagles' Landing," said Darley.

Sophomore Chloe Harrison, who used to work at Emendare, likes the atmosphere in Eagles' Landing. "They don't have as many employees yet, since they are still new and don't have as many snack items," said Harrison.

Eagles' Landing is open from 8 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the grill and acai bowls no longer available after 10:30 p.m. The space is also closed for chapel each day from 10:30 to 11 a.m. If you are interested in checking out the new seating and changes for yourself, visit Eagles' Landing, located adjacent to the Caf. As for Emendare, RIP.



Photo Credit: Tiffany Thompson

Theatre roots inspire lessons in leadership for new Provost

CAROLINE WONG
FACULTY ADVISOR

Dr. Peter Senkbeil, who previously served as Concordia's Associate Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, has assumed the new role of Provost and Executive Vice President effective this school year.

Senkbeil joined Concordia 24 years ago as a theatre professor. "Back then it was a one person (full time faculty) theatre department with 37 faculty on campus total, much smaller than today where we have 150 full time faculty, 300 adjuncts and approximately 4,500 students," Senkbeil said.

Senkbeil earned his B.A. in Communication and Theatre from Concordia University Chicago and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Theatre and Drama from Northwestern University.

"The first production I directed at Concordia was 'Anything Goes', which involved supervising students and maintaining the budget. I was also teaching most of the courses, staying up a lot of nights to one or two a.m., just trying to get it all done."

He fondly recalled those early days as fun, tiring and exciting. "Here's a fact that not everyone

knows, I actually lived on campus that first year, in Lambda. (Reverend) Mark Siegert lived there, too." Senkbeil added with a grin, "We were kicked out and had to move off campus when the dorms were needed for student housing. Mark and I shared a condominium in Irvine for a couple years after that."

In 2000, Senkbeil was tapped to serve as an academic division chair. His theatre production training proved useful in the transition. "Directing and producing plays is administrative work," Senkbeil explained. "Pulling meetings together, gaining consensus. When the curtain goes up, the show has to start. You learn what it takes to get a project to completion."

Prior to assuming his new role, Senkbeil most recently served along side Dr. Mary Scott, Concordia's former Provost who accepted a calling in Shanghai, China to serve as head of Concordia International School.

Together, Scott and Senkbeil accomplished many key initiatives, including launching the Master of Arts in International Studies (MAIS) program. During their tenure, Concordia's faculty grew considerably and there

was also significant growth in the graduate and adult degree programs, culminating with the Chronicle of Higher Education ranking Concordia as one of the fastest growing private nonprofit master's universities in the country in 2015-16.

"I miss Mary," Senkbeil said, "I would often seek her counsel. We operated as a team and worked together."

In theater, a director who demonstrates great empathy with his or her actors is called "an actor's director." Similarly, Senkbeil's passion for faculty development makes him "a teacher's administrator."

"What does it mean to be called to a vocation as a college professor? How do we live our vision, mission and vocation? Everything you do in life is a calling from God," Senkbeil explained, adding, "It's important to have this dialogue."

In his new role, Senkbeil will also serve as the university's chief academic officer, overseeing all aspects of curriculum and faculty and supervising the deans of Concordia's five schools. "The university is in a very strong position today; I look forward to working with our administration,



Dr. Peter Senkbeil, Provost and Executive Vice President

faculty and staff to build on our successes," said Senkbeil.

"Hiring faculty, supervising at a time when the university is growing, it's interesting. Having an opportunity to serve and work to give the students the best experience, this is very important."

Along with input from colleagues like Dr. Doug Grove, Dr. Scott Ashmon and Ms. Deborah Lee, Senkbeil says he welcomes feedback from all constituents within the university, and looks to fellow faculty and staff to move the university forward in a team-oriented, collaborative way.

When asked about his legacy, Senkbeil prefers to look to the future, rather than reminisce. "I just started my 25th year, I'm 54.

When I think of legacy, I think of finishing. I prefer to focus on all the work we have to do, the opportunities in front of us."

"We've been entrusted with the stewardship of the university," Senkbeil concluded, "It's like that old Boy Scout adage about leaving a place better than you found it. My goal is to leave Concordia on firm footing, with the resources needed to deliver an excellent, Christ centered education."

Senkbeil and his wife Kathryn live in Orange. They have two sons, Lucas and Evan. Lucas joins his dad at Concordia as a member of this year's freshman class.