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Global Village opens world-wide arms



MARGARET LANGDON

A group of international students gather at the entrance to the Global Village Hall following the opening ceremony to christen the Living Learning Community.

WINGS for fledgling freshmen

TAYLOR BUNDY
ARTS AND REVIEW EDITOR

Launching this semester is WINGS, the Living Learning Community (LLC) in Rho, designed for 46 freshmen who would like to be intentional about their success as a student.

WINGS' Week of Welcome started one week earlier than other freshmen. "It's an academic jumpstart," said Dian Vieselmeyer, Dean of Student Success. Being able to come early gave students an opportunity to get familiar with finding their way around campus, understanding Blackboard and MyRecords, and getting settled in their dorms before the majority of the campus came back. Parents and students were also invited to a dinner with the President, Provost, and Assistant Provost.

Jeanette Gonzalez, WINGS LLC Graduate Intern '13, describes WINGS as "an LLC designed to help students succeed both academically and socially their first year of college."

As a Graduate Intern living in Rho, Gonzalez will be working as a liaison between students and academic advising. Her role includes creating academic events for WINGS with RAs Kalen Kleinberg '13 and Cassidie Read, junior. In addition to her academic leadership for the students, Gonzalez said she is most excited to simply be a mentor and friend to the residents.

"One of my goals is to hear their story more," said Gonzalez, "and to help them find themselves, and who they are, and what they want to do after they graduate."

Allistair Galindo, junior, will be one of the tutors working with the WINGS students this year. Along with other Core tutors, Galindo came early to meet with the WINGS residents and help them kickstart the school year. "The

overwhelming majority of the students I worked with expressed the gratitude they felt at having the opportunity to attend Concordia, and had such willing spirits to work hard to fulfill their academic requirements," said Galindo.

One of the goals for WINGS is to help familiarize first generation students with college before feeling discouraged. "Being a first generation student myself, as some of the WINGS students are, I was so appreciative of this opportunity on their behalf," said Galindo.

Allison Taka was hired last May as the Director of Student Success to provide additional support for students who need an extra boost to enjoy their full success as a student at Concordia. "We brought the students in a week early to have them go through a writing class and hear presentations from Professor Daniel Deen, Dr. Bret Taylor, and Professor Ashlie Siefkes," said Taka. "We wanted them to get acclimated." The residents' introduction to the campus also included presentations from advisors, the health

and wellness center, and the library.

"It's great seeing the community built in the hall. I've never seen it this strong," said Gonzalez. She attributes this to their opportunity to move in early.

So far WINGS has been a great success. According to Taka, the number of new students who enrolled for the school year was more than Admissions expected. Regarding the goal for the end of the school year, Vieselmeyer said, "We want them ready to fly."



The freshmen in the WINGS program enjoy their group bonding time and the company of each other.

The Bear Necessities with Bear and Zocks

AMANDA OZAKI AND DAVID SAULET ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT TO YOU DIFFERING OPINIONS ON A CURRENT EVENT TOPIC. THIS ISSUE WE TACKLE THE SUBJECT OF UNMANNED DRONE USAGE.

Let's End the Drone about Drones

Drones are Here, Get Used to It

Since the presidency of George W. Bush, remote-controlled weapons (popularly known as "drones") have become a favorite anti-terrorism tool of the White House. President Obama has overseen more than 400 drone strikes, an increase from President Bush's estimated 50. Drones have been used overseas to carry out missions in terrorist strongholds that are unreachable from the ground, like in the mountainous regions of Pakistan and Yemen. Despite a growing media outcry, I believe that drone missions have proven to be effective while presenting minimal risk to civilians and U.S. forces.

The drone campaign often comes under fire from the media for civilian casualties. According to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, the estimated ratio of civilian to militant deaths is around 1 to 3. While this may seem like a high number, it is still less than the next-best military tactic: bombings by F-16s or Tomahawk cruise missile salvos made of explosives weighing up to 500 pounds. That ratio is also decreasing in places like Pakistan due to increased flying times to verify targets. The truth is, getting rid of drone warfare won't lead to the U.S. military holding hands with al Qaeda while singing John Lennon's "Imagine." It's better to have a video game-esque weapon that is precise than blindly dropping 500 pounds of explosives on a mountain.

Media sources love to slam the U.S. military for making more foreign enemies through drone missions. They claim it is hurting our "soft power" or diplomacy abroad. However, the U.S. drone campaign has actually been supported by former presidents in both Pakistan and Yemen. The whistleblower site WikiLeaks let loose a memo from Pakistan's army chief, asking for "continuous Predator coverage over anti-government militants." Drones have made it unsafe for terrorist cells to train new recruits and have kept them on the move, which means they can't establish new connections with supportive populations. They also can't use electronic devices or gather in groups bigger than 5. Drones have killed over 3,300 jihadist operatives, including over 50 top officials that haven't yet been replaced. In guerilla-type warfare, that's a success rate you simply can't pass up.

Since they began in 2004, it is estimated that over 3,000 people have died as a result of U.S. drone strikes. But statistics can only explain so much. To address whether said strikes are beneficial or not, it is important to examine the social context and ideological climate that drone warfare has fostered. It is my contention that drone strikes only serve to further turn complex geopolitical conflicts into the next "Call of Duty" while also ensuring more U.S. militaristic presence across the globe.

In a 2012 Fox News article highlighting the similarities between drone operation and video games, Mary Cummings-- associate professor of aeronautics and astronautics at MIT-- suggested making actual drone missions even more like video games. The logic is that if nothing is going on, operators will be "bored" and pay less attention than if there were content to stimulate them. One can only imagine how difficult it must be to operate drones for a living, but suggesting that we should make the bombing of Pakistani villages more exciting for our operators is utter absurdity. It is only from our positions of power and privilege that we may discuss drone strikes from an objective and detached stance. Sometimes reality can be dull and bleak--but when tasked with operating lethal weapons, being immersed in an overly-stimulating video game environment may not exactly be conducive to accuracy. On a more fundamental level, though, isn't it just wrong to turn bombing actual Pakistani villages into "Modern Warfare 3?"

Further, drones are seemingly indicative of unending global U.S. military presence. In an Aug. 1 interview regarding drone warfare and counter-terrorism, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf stated, "Clearly, the goal of counter-terrorism operations, broadly speaking, is to get to a place where we don't have to use them because the threat goes away. Now, we're all realistic about the fact that there is a threat that remains and that we have to keep up our fight in this and other places around the world." The problem is that in the post-9/11 security state, the threat always remains in some capacity. Unmanned aerial drones and the like just make it that much easier to maintain such an imperial presence.

At the end of the day, drones do less to make the world more secure and more to guarantee the unchallenged power of the American Eagle. After all, they make sure their drone operators experience the high quality gaming they deserve.

Editorial:

Lift up your voice, do not be afraid

Hello friends,

Starting this year as *The Courier's* Editor-in-Chief has already been terrifying, intimidating, and tiring. And I've only been doing this a week. However, every moment of the stress-filled chaos that is the production of this very issue gave me a sense of purpose and joy.

While searching for the new theme verse of *The Courier*, I came across Isaiah 40:9. "You who bring good news to Jerusalem lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid." I chose this verse for a two-fold reason.

Firstly, it is a great comfort to me. The end of the verse reminds the speaker of news to not be afraid. I already spoke about the nearly paralyzing terror that accompanied my acquisition of the paper. As I searched for a verse late in the night our articles needed to be finished, I found assurance that I had God on my side to help me through.

Secondly, I feel that this verse captures the purpose of *The Courier* and explains what the publication intends to be on campus. The goal of this paper is not to be the harbinger of doom and gloom to the student body, rather we wish to lift our voices to build a school-wide sense of community and awareness. In a very visible, shouted from the mountaintops way, *The Courier*

works to be a by the people, for the people publication.

The Courier as a news source will attempt to not be afraid. We will not shy away from the truth, even if the truth is hard to report. In the fearless pursuit of accurate and engaging news, it is possible our reporting will address controversial issues. If this is the case, we will try our best to report the truth in love, but we will not waver from our dedication to the truth.

This year specifically, we endeavor to be a publication that students look forward to picking up. We hope to increase our readership on campus through physical distribution and increased online presence. So like us on Facebook!

The Courier is open to suggestions and is always looking for interested, talented writers. You can submit letters to the editor, story ideas, or promote your club or organization through the newspaper. If you have feedback, good or bad, don't hesitate. You can email *The Courier* at drafts.courier@gmail.com or contact me personally at alicia.harger@eagles.cui.edu.

I look forward to reporting on you and with you this year.

Alicia Harger
Editor-in-Chief 2013-2014

Housing office moves students in smoothly

SARINA GRANT
ON AND OFF CAMPUS EDITOR

Despite rumors that there was a large population of incoming students without housing assignments on move in day, every student was placed and moved into a room by Fri., Aug. 16, the move in day for new students.

"The only reason why a student wouldn't be placed when they moved in is if they didn't have a housing application filled out," said David Garton, Director of Housing Services. This wasn't the case this year, as even those who did submit late housing applications were accommodated. Each year, a small handful of students, around 4 or 5, don't submit their housing applications within a reasonable time limit. "There were even a few students who decided to submit their housing application Thursday night," said Gilbert Fugitt, Dean of Students.

"We try and get them placed as soon as possible. It may take us a day or two after we receive the application, but we do try to make things quick," Garton said.

"There was a little bit of a question if the rooms we're going to be ready or not," Fugitt said. There were a lot of extra things that needed to be fixed, including the aftermath of a football camp that stayed in the dorms towards the end of the summer. One of the maintenance staff even put in 17 days straight with no day off in order to accommodate students moving in.

Adding to housing placement this year was the record number of students living on campus. "We have the largest group of on-campus students to date," Garton said. Around 935 students make the Concordia campus their home, the most ever in the school's history.

"Two years ago we were pretty tight as well, so we had had some experience with that in the past, although it does limit some of the possibilities for placement towards the end of the season around the check in time," said Garton. "It's something that we've planned for and that we can work with."

"The more people we have here, the more people will want to come to events, and the more people will want to participate," Fugitt said.

Like us on Facebook!

Like the Concordia Courier Facebook page and you will be blessed with many friends this year.

You'll be blessed with at least one friend. Me. Because I like everyone who likes the paper.

New coaches bounce into basketball

DAETONA LAURENCE
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's basketball team recently acquired Trisha Stafford-Odom as Head Coach for the upcoming season. Stafford-Odom comes to Concordia with a wealth of experience and knowledge having previously served as Assistant Coach at both University of North Carolina and Duke University.

"I know talent and I know how to make players play," said Stafford-Odom. "I am here with a purpose."

Along with Stafford-Odom, Jody Craig and Hameed Law, Assistant Coaches, have joined

the coaching staff. All three coaches hold the same position and attitude toward the team and the quickly approaching season. The staff is determined to establish an intimidating and confident team that reflects the hard work and dedication they will be contributing each day.

"We want to present a team with character that people will talk positively about," said Stafford-Odom.

Stafford-Odom has high expectations for the team and hopes to take the Eagles where they have never been, at least in recent years. One of Coach Stafford-Odom's main goals for the season is to change the culture of the team through the promotion of strong work ethic and the ne-

cessity for growth.

"I want to introduce an exciting and up-tempo offense and an in your throat defense," said Stafford-Odom.

Coach Stafford-Odom and her staff are determined to become a championship caliber team that meets high expectations and reflects the athletic ability of surrounding teams.

"We're here to bring Concordia championships," said Stafford-Odom. "We want to follow the lead of other teams like men and women's volleyball, baseball, and softball."

Stafford-Odom acknowledges that the team has supportive staff and administration that all want the same thing: a successful season.

"We have the resources, now we just need to produce."

The 8 returning players are excited for the change that Stafford-Odom and her assistant coaches are bringing to the program. After the roster is full, both the team and the coaching staff hope to be able to make a name for themselves and the program.

So far the team has held two open tryouts and has experienced positive turnouts at both of them. The team will be holding a final open tryout on Friday, Aug. 30, at 9 p.m. in the CU Arena. Anyone interested in joining the team is encouraged to attend.



From left to right, Head coach Stafford-Odom and Assistant Coaches Law and Craig intend to bring the women's basketball team to a top tier level.

Jock Talk with Madison Ekis

THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER, STUDENT ATHLETES PROVIDE INSIDE PERSPECTIVES ON THEIR TEAM, COACHES, AND PROGRESS THROUGH THE SEASON.

The Concordia women's volleyball team is best described as a family. In my past three years as a player, I have been blessed with the opportunity to form deep, caring relationships with over twenty-five dedicated athletes. Although it is often difficult to manage the stresses created by differing personalities on a team in the world of women's volleyball, Concordia is able to manage quite well.

Our team is composed of twenty-four girls who are dedicated to growing athletically, academically, and spiritually. Personally, I have witnessed changes in all three areas by many teammates, especially the returning players. Concordia women's volleyball works hard to win in all aspects of life, both on and off the court.

Our team has experienced some amazing highs in the last few years, but winning the National Championship was the ultimate reward for the work the girls have put in. In that moment of screams, tears, and cheers our team was grateful for the six-thirty a.m. weight lifting sessions, and weekend practices we pushed through earlier in the season.

This year's team is not afraid to be bent over in sweat when no one is watching because we all understand that the work put in now will pay off later. We are very privileged to have an amazing coaching staff to push us in and out of the gym so that we can strive for excellence in all aspects of the game.

This year, eight freshmen joined the volleyball family and are already growing accustomed to the work ethic and deep relationships formed amongst the team. This season, we are working to raise our level of play to the top, one day at a time. It is not always easy to look past the current drill and imagine how it

will help us when we step into the lights at the Tyson Center, but keeping that mindset is essential for success. Every girl on the team understands that how we train now is how we will play later. This determination and dedication makes

for some fast paced and competitive practices, and at the end of the day we are all one family working toward the same goal.

Simply put, our team is a family. We fight through pain, sweat, and tears for one another.

At the end of the day, nothing feels better than looking to your right or left and knowing that no matter what happens your teammate will play her hardest for you and you are happy to return the favor.



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Freshmen WOWed by first week events

SARINA GRANT
ON AND OFF CAMPUS EDITOR

The First Year Experience student leaders, including the Peer Advising Leaders (PALs) and Peer Advising Coordinators (PACs) organized and planned Week of Welcome (WOW) for all new incoming freshman and transfer students. The theme for this year was "Let the Journey Begin."

"A lot of people had fun with it, they got to meet new people and create new relationships. It's really scary to come in to a new school and not know anyone," said junior Jade Reed, Freshman PAL.

"WOW is super helpful because its the first time everyone has been on campus," said sophomore Courtney Hentz, Freshman PAL. "Everyone is on the same playing field because everyone is new to the campus except for the student leaders."

The 5 elected PACs; juniors David Diaz, Freshman PAC; Alex Edelman, Freshman PAC; Ashley Jones, Freshman PAC; Carissa Davis, Freshman PAC; and senior Chris Garcia, Transfer PAC, stayed the summer to prepare for and plan WOW. The PALs joined them to a week and a half before Week of Welcome began to aid in the final preparations and set up for the arrival of new students on Aug. 16.

"The PAL team is a group of individuals who share the same passion of wanting to help new students in having a smooth transition to Concordia," Edelman said. "We work together as a team so amazingly because we are all one big family and are there for each other through everything."

"I thought it was really well done. I was really impressed with our PALs, PACs, Kristy Fowler [Director of First-Year Experience Programs

& Initiatives] and all the faculty and staff that jumped in and participated," said Gilbert Fugitt, Dean of Students. "I was also really impressed with our new students. They seem to want to get involved. We have a good group."

During the week, new students have the opportunity to participate in various bonding events. "There was one event where students

put on a velcro suit, and then were able to run and jump and stick onto a velcro wall. There was one kid who was doing flips onto it," Hentz said. "He didn't talk much the entire week, but when he went on the velcro wall he was the star of the show."

"PAL is not just a team, it is a family. As a family we create a loving community," Davis

said.

"This year's PAL team is truly a blessing from God. They are helpful, creative, loving, humble, and have worked so hard to make Week of Welcome an unforgettable experience for incoming students," Garcia said. "They are greatly appreciated and we love them."



One of the WOW groups celebrates their team pride.

Rho Phinishes first Keith creates cleaner Concordia

ALICIA HARGER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Concordia's business fraternity, Rho Phi, a chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, won Most Outstanding Service Award, at regional, provincial, and national levels for community service. They beat over 200 other chapters to secure the most sought after award.

The fraternity completed 19 service projects over the course of the year. The various volunteer events included beach clean-ups, 5ks, walking dogs, organizing warehousing and wrapping presents for underprivileged children.

Rho Phi also earned Chapter of Excellence, meaning they completed above and beyond the national standards for fraternity operations. Twelve hosted professional events compounded with Rho Phi's excellent service record helped it achieve this ranking. Having just celebrated their first anniversary, the win is even more significant for the young chapter.

"It's a real accomplishment, just being that

we're so new and so small and basically showing people what we're made of right off the bat. We're setting standards not only for ourselves, but for chapters around us," said Vice President of Chapter Operations and junior, Sarah Whitehair.

Thirty-two committed members contributed their time and talents to Rho Phi's excellent record and win over chapters that are over a century old. The business fraternity only plans on growing from here.

"We're looking forward to surpassing our current achievements and going above and beyond what we've already accomplished," said Whitehair. The significant achievements of the first year of Rho Phi portend greatness for the fraternity chapter in the future.

This year, Rho Phi recruitment week activities will run from Aug. 26 through Sept. 6. Look for on-campus flyers and like the Rho Phi Chapter: Delta Sigma Pi Facebook page for more information or if you're looking to be involved.

we're so new and so small and basically showing people what we're made of right off the bat. We're setting standards not only for ourselves, but for chapters around us," said Vice President of Chapter Operations and junior, Sarah Whitehair.

ALICIA HARGER AND SARINA GRANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND CAMPUS EDITOR

This semester, all dorms on campus will be subjected to a weekly health and safety check. RA's (Resident Assistants) will conduct these checks for their entire hall on the same night at the same time each week. The main goal of these regular inspections is to prevent serious damage to the dorm rooms.

"One of my main goals for the year is to encourage purposeful RA interaction"
-Scott Keith

After checkout last year, two rooms were so destroyed that they required several weeks of repair work. Unclean conditions and water damage rendered one dorm completely uninhabitable for the entirety of Spring 2013 semester.

"I was honestly surprised by the infrequency of checks when I got here," said Scott Keith, Director of Education and Services. In the past,

health and safety checks were a regular event for Concordia, and practiced at other universities as well.

An additional effect of these checks will be increased RA and resident connection. "One of my main goals for the year is to encourage purposeful RA interaction in a way that is not a write up or 'Hey! Get off that skateboard,'" Keith said.

"It definitely helps the RAs get to know the residents more, because they can talk to them as they're doing the health and safety check and find out their hobbies and stuff," said Mariah Neilson, junior Delta RA. "It gives us an excuse to get to know our residents more."

By encouraging RA's to closely know their residents, the Residential Education and Service (RES) Department also hopes to discourage and eliminate anyone living in a room who is not specifically designated to live there.

"It will be helpful for everyone, not just those living in the room. If rooms are kept clean, there won't be as many mice, roaches, or roommate complaints," said Larry Rice, Assistant Director of Residential Education.

The checks aren't designed to take much time, only a few minutes per room. The end goal of this new policy is to see how it works. Keith is confident that the frequent health and safety checks will prove unnecessary in 99% of the rooms while preventing serious damage in the other 1% of rooms. The only possible constraint would be that a resident must be present in the room for each check, which could cause a small scheduling issue.

Keith also emphasized that this policy has nothing to do with alcohol enforcement. "I hope it's not that big a deal," said Keith. "I've got a very good feeling about this year."

"I think it's going to take some time to adjust to, but I think overall in the long term it'll be really beneficial," Neilson said.

Summer of Service

Both abroad and domestically, many Concordia students devoted part or all of their vacation in service to God and their fellow man. Here are a few of their stories.

Mirembe Cottage and FIKISHA, Uganda

ALEX BAGNARA
GUEST WRITER

As we drive up to the gate of Mirembe Cottage, we can already hear the joyous shrieks of the young girls. As the gate is opened by a few of the older girls, the younger ones continue making noise, but somehow it gets louder and more joyous. They open the van door and it feels like half of them jump in the van with us and into our arms.

We've known these girls for a sum total of 34 seconds.

When you step over the doorway into Mirembe, you can hear the laughter and the joy these girls have. You can see how much they love each other and how much love they have to share. A small group of us were blessed this summer to share in that love and see the wonderful things God is doing in Uganda through the Love Project.

Partnered with FIKISHA, our Love Project was to help fix up some classrooms and build a latrine for Siala-Kaila Primary School. The Love Projects are great because they emphasize creating relationships, not just physically doing the work for those at the school. My involvement with the program was to help in the classrooms laying down new cement.

Daniel Mugoda Awali started Mirembe Cottage. He grew up at an orphanage in Jinja called Good Shepherd's Fold, where he was introduced to Jesus Christ. Awali chose to use the money he had saved for college and opened this home for street girls to provide a home like the one they grew up in.

The mission is "to provide a safe home and nurturing Christ-centered environment for young girls who have been neglected, abused, and forced to live their lives begging on the streets of Uganda," according to the Mirembe Cottage website.

There are currently twenty girls living at Mirembe, coming from the slums of Jinja. Their ages range from 7 to fifteen. When Daniel and Amos find these girls, they take them into the home, pouring love all over them.

The Mirembe cottage helps girls like Elizabeth. On one of our last days in Uganda, Elizabeth grabbed my sandals, took my hand, brought me over to where the girls were washing their shoes, and started washing my shoes for me. I asked her where her shoes were, and then I started washing them for her. She got shy and embarrassed and then started to smile at me as we continued to wash each other's shoes.

Most of the children there are like Masai, who has lived on the streets since he was ten

years old. The slums of Nairobi are some of the largest and harshest in the world. Many of the young boys turn to sniffing glue so that they don't have to be kept awake by their empty stomachs.

We were blessed to be able to be a part of this project. We were blessed to physically be there with the workers and with the FIKISHA team. Some of those at Mirembe Cottage mentioned to us that they had been praying for a change. I believe that that prayer was answered for Masai.

To learn more about Mirembe Cottage, visit <http://www.sonriseministriesinc.com/mirembe.html>.



Bagnara at play with several children, proving smiles are a universal language.

City of Refuge Ministries, Ghana

JESSICA ABEL
GUEST WRITER

This past summer, I was blessed with the opportunity to travel to Ghana for a second time to work with City of Refuge Ministries.

Ghana is a beautiful country on the coast of West Africa that carries a heavy past of human trafficking involvement. While much of the slavery has ended in recent years, the problem of child trafficking remains, specifically in the fishing industry. Many children are forced into labor at Lake Volta, the largest man-made lake in the world.

City of Refuge Ministries (CORM) is a non-governmental organization that rescues child slaves and gives them the home, education, and love they deserve and so desperately need. On my first trip in 2012, we were able to meet some of the child slaves working out on the lake. They seemed desperate for an escape, and each one said they would rather be in school than spending all day on the lake.

CORM advocates for these children, and have been successful with 35 children who now live on campus at their Children's Village. Our team was able to witness the negotiations that the staff of CORM does. They talk with the masters of the slaves and the chiefs of the villages and plead for the children. They cannot compensate the masters, because that would feed into the industry, and they do not use any force or violence because that is sending the wrong message. All they can do is to explain to the masters that these beautiful children are children who need a childhood, an education, and a loving home with people who care for them.

This year I felt that God was calling me to work in Ghana again, but instead of going with a team of Concordia students and staff, I went

back with just one other student: Austin Jeffers, junior. We had the opportunity to work with the kids that had already been rescued. All of CORM's children attend their school, Faith Roots International Academy. The school is also opened up to any local children from the surrounding villages. There are just over 160 children in attendance at Faith Roots; however most of the children have never attended school previously. There is a large age range for any given class. For instance, there could be a ten year old girl coming to school for the first time and starting at a preschool level.

While tutoring at Faith Roots, we got to build relationships with the kids and staff. The biggest

goal at CORM is not only to provide an education, but to help in the process of healing from the abuse and neglect the kids have suffered. These kids have been through so much more than most will ever have to bear. It is a lifelong process to help them build the trust to be able to talk through their experiences and recover. It was a challenge to teach a group of 13 year old boys their vowels, yet at the same time it was a real wake-up call to me. We are so blessed by the opportunity for education, and we don't even realize it until we step out of our bubble.

To get more information on City of Refuge Ministries or learn what you can do to help, visit <http://www.cityofrefugeoutreach.com>.



Abel was touched by the joy that children living in such difficult conditions still managed.

National Youth Gathering, San Antonio

CAITLIN NEWTON
GUEST WRITER

This summer, I attended the National LCMS Youth Gathering in San Antonio. Although this was my third Gathering, it was my first going as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV). Since I had attended two Gatherings as a participant, I had a general idea of what to expect, but my expectations couldn't compare with the actual experience. I was told serving as a YAV would be amazing, and it was. I had a week filled with love, laughter, and God's grace. Those who attended the Gathering shared one goal: to grow as young adults. Many of us came out of the Gathering changed with faith reignited.

There were many reasons why I wanted to serve at this Gathering. Ultimately, I wanted to serve the Lord and use the gifts He has given me to serve others. I also wanted to meet other people my age to create strong relationships. Lastly, I wanted to grow in my faith as a Christian, as well as a young adult. Everything I wanted to achieve at this Gathering came true by the grace of God and His power.

The 600 YAVs were placed into different groups with different jobs and roles. I was put into Team "Y'all" with Wesley Gong, senior, as my captain. We called ourselves the "Hurry-Up-and-Wait-Team." Some days we would find ourselves waiting to have a job, while other days we would work for ten hours. We worked directly under the YAV coordinators as their personal assistants. We also filled in for other YAVs if someone needed a break, or worked with other teams when they needed extra people. Each day was a new and exciting experience for me and I could not have asked for a better team. We all got along beautifully and cared about each other immensely.

One of the amazing things about the Gathering was that no matter where a participant had come from, we all shared a common bond -- everyone was a Lutheran who loves the Lord. I met so many new people and created so many "fast friends." Even weeks later, I am still talking to many people on my team. We have a Facebook page where we can all communicate, asking for prayers and support.

Like most of the YAVs, my life was changed for the better because of this gathering. My confidence increased because I had to learn how to be assertive, especially when 25,000 high school students were stampeding to get the best seat. I was also forced to be interactive with complete strangers, which was new for me. But the most challenging aspect of the gathering for me was just finding the strength to get up and go back to work. By the middle of the week my feet were killing me and I was completely exhausted, but I still had to get up every morning for work. One day my team worked 10 hours straight on our feet, then woke up the next morning at 4 a.m. to work a 5K run. Even though I was exhausted, I still had the best time working that 5K.

These experiences encouraged me and all of the other YAVs to give everything our best. The amount we achieved truly surprised me. We were able to donate millions of dollars to the city of San Antonio from donors and the volunteers at the gathering. I learned that by hard work, perseverance, and faith, anything can be done.

I loved being a volunteer and I would recommend it to anyone. It is hard work, but after the pain subsides, it is all worth it. The rewards of knowing you affected someone's life and served the Lord become the only things that matter. For anyone who is thinking about serving as a volunteer, please pray about it. If you are open to allowing the Lord to work through you through acts of service, I promise you your life will be changed and God will use you in ways you never thought were possible.

Artist Spotlight: Blurred Lines

Corey Chang

Let me start by saying that God is good! I'm not the most talented of musicians nor am I perfectly knowledgeable about music, but I do my best to glorify God with what He has given me. It is an honor to even be considered as someone to write for the Artist Spotlight. My name is Corey Chang, I am a junior studying Christian Education Leadership, and I am this year's SHOUT coordinator.

I began playing piano when I was four years old and violin when I was six years old. My parents also put me into a choir when I was about seven years old and I stuck with that until I was about nine. I played piano on and off for several years before I stopped, but I stuck with playing violin until I was in high school. I am blessed to have parents that have invested so much of their time and money into me so that I could experience things that they could not. Both of my parents moved to the United States when they were about seven years old. As poor immigrant families, their families struggled to make a living, and so the luxuries of learning an instrument were denied to my parents. I had no idea of the circumstances that my parents had gone through when they were younger and so I did what any kid would: I didn't practice.

Regardless, I grew up with music in my life, and it wasn't until I was in middle school that I could see a glimpse of the plan that God had for my life. Music was part of what saved me; God gave me a talent and passion for music. So I put two and two together and discovered that God was calling me to use these gifts to serve Him and His people. I started learning guitar and bass when I was in seventh grade, and

it was a lot of fun because I was learning with some friends from church. It was cool to see how we could all suck so much, but our church let us play for them anyway. I went through a rough time in middle school and music was one of the only things that got me through it. This was when I started to discover and grow in my faith in Christ. I wondered how life could suck so much, and I started to wonder if life was even worth it. I didn't see the point of people living just so that they would die and there could be heaven, hell, or nothing at all. I learned that the reason we are here on Earth is to glorify God with everything we are—heart, mind, strength and soul. I discovered a purpose for my life, which was to serve and help people so that they could also get through the pain and suffering in their lives.

My passion for music has grown over time. I have continued to lead worship at my church and at various events. I was extremely blessed and humbled this summer because I had the chance to sing at this year's LCMS National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas in front of the thousands of people. I didn't feel like I was worthy, but God has a plan for my life that I will never be able to comprehend. He's a funny guy. My mother had a dream once when I was little that I was a music conductor, and although I laughed about it then, music is still one of the greatest driving forces in my life. I have a passion for reaching people that I just cannot do with words—it's a good thing that God has blessed my life with music!

SHOUT is every Thursday at 9:30 p.m. in the CU Center.

Blurred Lines

KRISTINA DEUSCH
GUEST WRITER

"What the worm was to the corpse, his sins would be to the painted image on the canvas. They would mar its beauty, and eat away its grace. They would defile it, and make it shameful. And yet the thing would still live on. It would be always alive."

-The Picture of Dorian Gray, Chapter 10

If we had a chance to separate corruption from consequences, art from beauty, our life from our death, even our soul from the torturous need for grace, should we take it? These are questions that Oscar Wilde asks, in his 1890 story *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, but maybe not in so many words. He presents his reader with a young gentleman in Victorian England who finds that a portrait of him has suddenly taken

Others might find themselves... gaping at the murderous bloody knife in their hands.

on a rather odd quality: it gets uglier. But unlike the emphasis of most of the novel, or the beliefs of most of its characters, including Dorian's mentor Lord Henry Wotton, what's physical isn't most important. It is the fact that ominous changes in the painting represent Dorian's most heinous acts in life, that makes this Gothic novel so interesting.

Wilde taunts his reader with certain patches of rapid dialogue, random spurts of action and romance, and dull lectures on philosophy

and ethics, but better yet, he includes the inner thoughts of his main character. Later in the novel, Dorian suddenly finds himself nearly two decades older, but without a scratch or a wrinkle upon him. He seems to have gotten away scot-free, until (warning: plot spoiler!) he dies at the end.

We all like to put the blame on somebody else, and mortals always tend to want what they can't have. So is it really so horrible to enjoy life a little? What was wrong with Dorian taking part in a few of life's little pleasures and sweeping it under the rug? After all, he was in his twenties and had his whole future ahead of him to be careful (not unlike us). All of us have felt the thrill of watching the earth swallow up horrors from inside of us, as our tiny little secrets get scattered away and forgotten. But what happens when there's a little reminder in your attic that refuses to disappear?

It's when the questions suddenly become trickier to answer that we find ourselves trapped. Was it really okay for Dorian to claim he was madly in love with Sibyl one minute, and abandon her the next? Is it right that Basil Hallward should be blamed and killed for the creation of the portrait, when he never really knew what was going on? Was it okay for Dorian to blackmail Dr. Campbell into cleaning up his own mess? Finally it becomes too much for Dorian, and he stabs his own portrait, finally taking upon himself his own consequences.

Some readers might say, "Eh, he had it coming to him," while others might find themselves right there with Dorian in his dusty attic, gaping at the murderous bloody knife in their hands, wondering how it had come this far.

Wilde blurs the lines between murder and suicide, between passive wishes and active betrayal, between an inconvenience and self-defense. Perhaps this is why so many people felt the need to censor certain passages in his rather "corrupting" book. Perhaps he asks the right questions in the wrong way. Regardless, Oscar Wilde's only novel deserves a closer look, even if you only had read it for that eighth grade book report you didn't really want to do.

And despite its rather abrupt end, inert ramblings, and absurd generalities, Wilde manages to create an intriguing idea that forces us all to ask that endless question every reader has to ask himself at the end of a good piece of literature: "What would you do in his place?"



Corey singing onstage at the National Youth Gathering this summer, in San Antonio.

Dear Abby...

Like the famous "Dear Abby" advice column, *Courier* readers can submit anonymous letters to receive advice for all aspects of life. You can submit your letters by paper at the *Courier* office in the Delta Lounge or digitally on the survey monkey link found on *The Courier's* facebook page.

Dear Abby,
I'm from Minnesota and I'm not sure how to adapt to the California lifestyle. Help!
From,
Confused in California

Dear Confused,
Welcome to the Golden State! There are just a few things you'll need to know about California to blend in like a native. First, a note about the weather: you may have already noticed that we have none. Embrace it, but be ready for the Californians to complain when it gets what you might call "a little warm" or "a bit chilly." Second, no one from California calls it "Cali." Just don't do it. Third, take advantage of all the exciting things that Southern California has to offer. Concordia is really close to amazing beaches (ever heard of the Pacific Ocean?), Disneyland, and most importantly, In-n-Out. Overall, California is a great state with great people, so good luck in your exploration of our state!
Love,
Abby

Dear Abby,
How do I do my laundry? I'm a freshman and no one taught me how to do it yet! Please and thank you!
Not-so-fresh Freshman

Dear Not So Fresh,
Hopefully you're reading this before you have to go commando due to lack of clean undies. In order to do laundry at Concordia, you'll need your ID card because it's also your laundry card. There are two machines available to load money on your card; one in Sigma between rooms 103 and 106, and one in the Epsilon lounge in Lower Quads. The machines can take credit cards for amounts of \$10 and up or cash, but they don't take \$1 bills. Once you have money on your card, you can head over to one of the laundry rooms (there are two on each floor in Rho and Sigma) and put your clothes in. There are directions on the machines for how to use your laundry card in the machines. From there, you just put your clothes and detergent in and press start! Good luck in your laundry adventure!

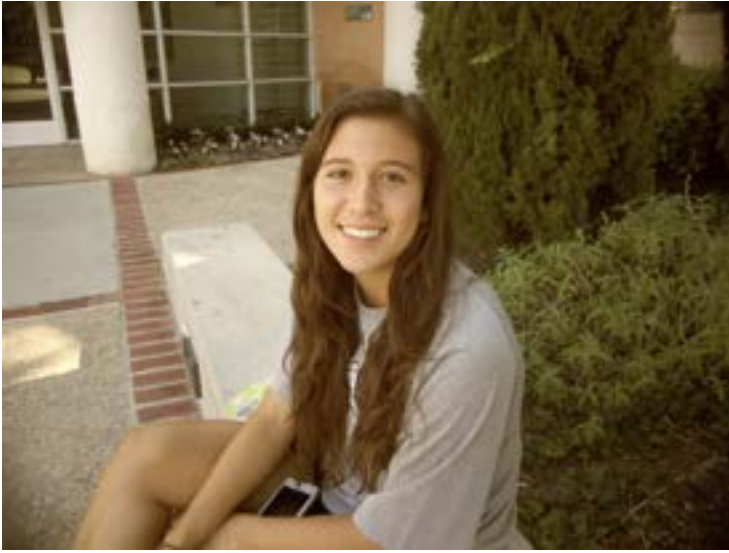
Love,
Abby
P.S.- If someone's clothes are done in the dryer and you need the machine, be a bro and put them on the counter for them. Do not throw other people's clothes on the floor: it's the Golden Rule.

Sports, Arts, and Activities September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day, no class	3	4 American Chemical Society meeting 6:00 pm	5 Stage Door 141 auditions 6:00 pm	6 ASCUI Senate Elections	7
8 Men's and Women's Soccer 8:00 am and 10:00 am	9	10	11	12 Men's Soccer 3:00 pm	13 Issue 2 of Concordia Courier	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 The Brothers Menaechmus 7:30 pm	21 The Brothers Menaechmus 7:30 pm
22 The Brothers Menaechmus 2:00 pm	23	24 Women's Volleyball 7:00 pm	25	26	27 Men's Water Polo 12pm and 6pm The Brothers Menaechmus 7:30 pm	28 The Brothers Menaechmus 7:30 pm
29 The Brothers Menaechmus 2:00 pm	30					

Ask an Eagle: What is the most exciting thing you did this summer?

Each issue, *The Courier* will poll a student just like you on a question about their daily lives.



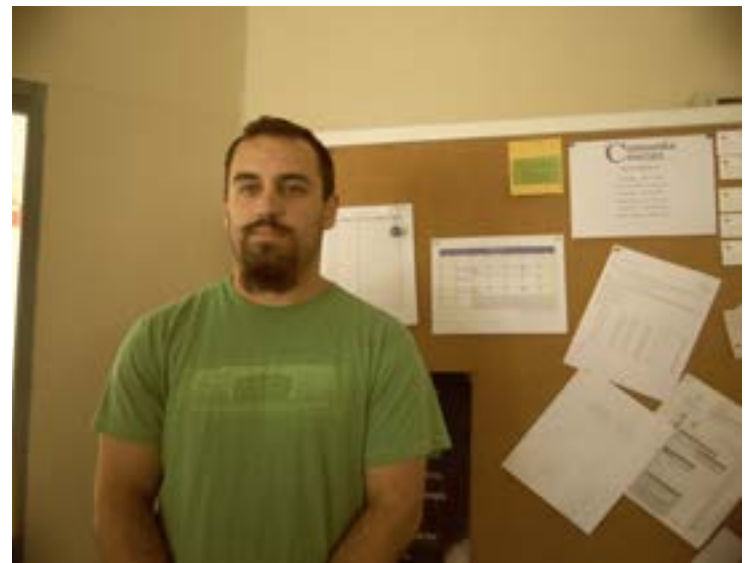
"I went to Greece for two weeks."
-Manuela Ramirez, freshman



"I hiked in the Sierra Nevada mountains to Lake Tahoe and jumped off the rocks into the lake."
-Gianna Kozel, sophomore



"I took a road trip to San Francisco and got to stand under the Golden Gate bridge in the rain."
-Samantha McCall, junior



"I drove across the country by myself in 38 hours."
-Andrew Krikelas, senior

Faculty without Borders sends profs abroad

Staff are equipped to lead service learning trip after their experience in China

KENDRA SITTON
STAFF WRITER

This summer, a team of faculty went to China as the culmination of the newly implemented Vocations Without Borders program at Concordia. The end goal of the program is to enable faculty to lead future international service learning events for students.

"This trip will help our students step out of their own cultural circle and learn about the world at large," said Patty O'Connor, Professor of Education and Vocations Without Borders member. "The faculty will be developing these programs to increase academic growth through international exposure."

To prepare for the program, the faculty learned how to lead the short-term international programs during their time abroad. Throughout the Spring semester, faculty going to China listened to guest speakers, read articles, and met regularly as a group.

Once in China, the team was able to do many interesting and meaningful things, including learning about the cultural and political climate, teaching at immigrant schools in Shanghai, and visiting a Miao village to research how the clean water project and health education were helping the people there.

"They [the villagers] are outsiders in China and always pushed to land that is not wanted by anyone else," said Dr. Michael Schulteis, Director of Undergraduate Teacher Education Programs. Schulteis was with the team when they surveyed each family in the village to see how having the water they need to survive affected them and their hygiene. "The information

[from the surveys] was used to plan for other water projects in the hundreds of villages outside Kunming," Schulteis said.

Many members of the team thought the best part was getting to worship with the Miao people. This was a rare opportunity, as state officials would have prevented something like this if they had been present. "It was amazing because you're getting out of the trip as much as you're giving," said Dan Waite, Executive Director of Global Programs and head of the Vocations Without Borders program.

"They ministered to us," said Schulteis. "I could see Christ at work there and it was really easy to see how the missions work of people before us and our presences affected the daily lives of those folks."

After learning about teaching styles in China and applying what they learned in Chinese classrooms, the faculty now have a better perspective on the challenges that Asian transfer and exchange students face, and can better direct current Concordia students preparing to go abroad.

"I believe it can only enhance academic performance because exposing students to abroad experiences assists in broadening their cultural awareness, expanding their understanding of themselves, increasing their realization of how abundant God's blessings are, and overall better motivates them toward higher purposes for their lives," said Lizette Mationg, Nursing Professor and Vocations Without Borders member.

"The faculty help guide the students as they broaden their perspective of the world," said Waite.

Through Vocations Without Borders, each faculty member is equipped to lead a service-learning trip for the students at Concordia. Schulteis dreams of Australia, while Mationg is planning medical missions. Through the work of all the faculty that went to China, Concordia students can look forward to many more opportunities to engage their international community in the coming years.

Fowl Living

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