



THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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Veterans Resource Center Renamed After Fallen Soldier Matthew Thompson



Irvine Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Schott, Steve Leader, Dr. Krueger, Lynda Thompson, Mark Thompson and CW2 Jake Marker at the ribbon cutting for the new office. Courtesy of the U.S. Staff Sgt. Matthew Thompson Veterans Resource Center

ASHLEY SANDS
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 10, 2017, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place to officially launch Concordia's renamed Veterans Resource Center (VRC). In honor of fallen alumnus Matthew Thompson, the VRC will now be known as the U.S. Staff Sgt. Matthew Thompson Veterans Resource Center.

"Concordia University is proud to serve our nation's veterans by providing excellent academic programs and the individual attention many veterans need as they work to complete their degrees and enter the workforce," President Kurt Krueger said. "Our new Resource Center, named in honor of Concordia alumnus Matthew Thompson, will provide even more helpful and convenient academic resources for our veterans and their children."

Staff Sgt. Matthew V. Thompson, 28, died Aug. 23, 2016 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, of injuries caused by an improvised explosive device that detonated near his patrol

while conducting dismounted operations. Thompson was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. A graduate of Concordia, Thompson received his B.A. in Theological Studies in December 2010.

"We believe Matthew Thompson is an American hero who gave his life in service to his country so that we may continue to enjoy the freedom so important to us all," said President Krueger.

Congresswoman Mimi Walters of the 45th Congressional District of California presented President Krueger with a certificate and addressed the audience of over 100, which included Thompson's family, friends, former professors and fellow soldiers.

Congresswoman Walters, a mother of four, acknowledged that the occasion was "bitter sweet" for the family, then, praising the veterans center, continued, "I know Matthew's memory will live on forever, and that is a wonderful thing."

Mark Thompson, Matthew's father, was on hand, along with

wife Lynda. Mark spoke on behalf of the family, memorializing Matthew's commitment to his faith and how he strove to live as both a good Christian and soldier. Mark remembered Matthew's positive outlook saying, "You can always find something positive to be thankful for."

Rev. Joel Beyer, Matthew's brother-in-law, read a heartfelt message from CUI alumna Rachel Thompson, Matthew's wife. Rachel was unable to attend due to an out-of-state commitment.

Also in attendance were state, county and city officials including: Scott Carpenter a Concordia alumnus, representing Senator John Moorlach of the 37th district, Chris Walsh, representing Assemblyman Matt Harper of the 74th district, County of Orange Field Deputy Al Tello representing Supervisor Todd Spitzer and the County Board of Supervisors and City of Irvine Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Schott.

The forty-minute ceremony included reflections from Thompson's Special Forces Group, Concordia student veteran Douglas Marquis, faculty

and staff. The event concluded with a ribbon-cutting inside the door leading to the U.S. Staff Sgt. Matthew Thompson Veterans Resource Center.

The ceremony, which was organized by Steve Leader, Director of Veterans Affairs on campus, included moments of laughter, tears and a sense of pride in both our school and country.

Thompson's awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal and Purple Heart Medal. And that's just naming a few.

Thompson is fondly remembered by his Concordia family and is honored to rename the VRC in Thompson's name.

To learn more about the VRC, or if you are a veteran or family member of a veteran, stop by the U.S. Staff Sgt. Matthew Thompson Veterans Resource Center in Admin #104.

Concordia is a Military Friendly School with many resources to assist those who have served.

Black Student Union Club Samples A Taste Of Soul

ASHLEY SANDS
STAFF WRITER

On Sat., Oct. 21, thousands of people came together to celebrate the 12th annual Taste of Soul event located on Crenshaw Boulevard in Los Angeles. Food vendors lined the streets, gospel music filled the air and the Southern California community united to celebrate all cultures.

Taste of Soul was more than a food and music festival. The Black Student Union (BSU) club chose this event to give students a unique off-campus experience. President, junior Dante Johnson, along with Vice President, junior Eva Reyes, came up with the idea and organized the field trip from start to finish.

"It was a great outing. We put together an off-campus event, indulged in a culture and got to experience it all as a group," said Johnson.

A school bus drove students to the event and back. "It was so great to see Concordia students enjoying a historical piece of Los Angeles with good food and good music," said Reyes.

According to Johnson, the club has undergone various changes within the past four years. He said it used to be a "fleeting, fading, nonexistent type thing." The club needed someone to make it big and he was passionate about it.

BSU's mission statement is "to foster a sense of community for all students. It will provide an opportunity for students to express their views concerning current events, academics, cultural arts and campus life."

"It's really important to create a safe space on campus to talk

Continued p. 7

INSIDE SCOOP: Concordia Christmas



CUI & You

Courtesy of ASCUI

MADDY HAASE
ASCUI SECRETARY

The holiday season is in full swing. Christmas decorations have been in stores for months and Christmas music can be heard being played in several dorms and buildings around campus. During the Christmas season, we remember Christ's birth and spend time with the people that mean the most to us. Here at Concordia, one way the campus gets into the holiday spirit is through Concordia Christmas.

Concordia Christmas is an annual event designed to get students, faculty, staff, alumni

and the surrounding community onto the CUC Patio for fun and laughter centered around the excitement of the Christmas season. This year the event is on Dec. 7 from 6-9 p.m. And like every year, it is free for all! "It's a fun time to hang out with friends while celebrating the Christmas Season. Plus, there is free food," said Rachel Holten, sophomore.

Every Concordia Christmas features a nativity scene put on by abbey west. As we kick off the event, the scene reminds us what the season is really celebrating. Along with the nativity scene, there are many different booths with fun activities, crafts, and

service projects. There are activities for all ages. "Concordia Christmas is a wonderful experience and it is a great place for making new friends," said Carmel McGee, junior.

Also, what is a Christmas event without pictures with Santa and horse drawn carriages? All of these things and more will be at the event.

The theme for this year is Elf, meaning Buddy, protagonist of the 2003 film of the same name, who will be joining us for a night full of games, food and fun. And if you have not seen the movie, it will be playing in the amphitheater throughout the

night.

But Concordia Christmas isn't just about fun activities and classic Christmas films, it's also about food! Our visiting food truck will be serving the first 450 people funnel cakes along with the available toppings of their choice. All you need to do is show your Concordia ID. And funnel cakes aren't the only treat to look forward to. Concordia Christmas offers an array of different snacks as well. Sophomore Isabelle Upchurch said, "I'm excited about all the free food and free activities that will be provided."

Just imagine it, you could be sitting in the amphitheater,

watching "Elf," eating a delicious funnel cake and sipping on hot drinks.

And if movies aren't your thing, there will also be three big events. First, the Candy Cane Forest. This event lets you challenge your friends and family to see who can escape the maze the fastest and help Buddy get to New York. Second and Third, there will be two jumping castles, each shaped like Christmas gifts.

Be sure to come out and enjoy the fun. With the CUC Patio transformed into the North Pole and Santa's Workshop, you'll want to experience this Concordia Christmas for yourself.

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

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Men's Basketball Kicks Off With Strong Tourney Play

ANDERSON CLARKE AND SARAH
KRETSCHMAR
STAFF WRITERS

The Men's Basketball team has tipped off the season with their first win coming from the Disney Tip-Off Classic. The Eagles are excited for their first official season as a member of the NCAA Division II. Head Coach Ken Ammann is in his 17th year as head coach of the Men's Basketball Team. Coming off a 17-11 season last year, the Eagles are soaring to new heights to battle for a PacWest championship.

On Fri., Nov. 10, the men kicked off at the California Collegiate Athletic Association (C C A A) / P a c W e s t Challenge tournament with a huge 82-78 victory

over 7th nationally ranked, Chico State Wildcats. The Eagles were led by Tad Dufelmeier Jr. who posted 25 points and 5 assists. Senior shooting guard, JT Roach shot the ball efficiently with almost 20 points.

This was a crucial victory for the Eagles to help decide their seeding for the western region playoffs at the end of the season. "Dufelmeier was phenomenal," Coach Ammann said. "I was very proud of how our guys fought through difficult stretches in the game when Chico had all the momentum. We settled down in the second half and played solid defense."

In the second game of the weekend for the Eagles, the team defeated Cal State San Marcos by

a final score of 103-86. Roach led the Eagles with 24 points including 19 in the first half on a perfect 7/7 shooting from the field.

Roach was supported by junior Tyler Lacour, who piled on 17 points for the Eagles. Coach Ammann said, "What an outstanding weekend for us playing two of the top CCAA teams. Those were great wins and a huge boost of confidence for us going into next week."

Junior Anderson Clarke notes the high expectations for the team. They all "expect to make a deep postseason run." The Eagles look to progress in every aspect of the game and Clarke highlights their strengths on offense and defense. "Offensively, our strength is pushing the ball in transition and moving

the ball to find open shooters," said Clarke. "Defensively, our strength is the pressure we put on other teams." The Eagles look to have patience on offense and take good shots every time down the court.

The Eagles open up PacWest play in Hawaii against Chaminade University on Nov. 30, Hawaii Pacific University on Dec. 2, and Hawaii Hilo on Dec. 4. Excited to battle for a PacWest title with familiar opponents, Clarke said, "Our biggest conference rival is Cal Baptist. We've had some close games with them the last two years and look forward to playing them again this season." The Eagles take on Cal Baptist on Jan. 20 and Feb. 1 in 2018.

Concordia will look to continue their recent success next weekend in Seattle when they participate in the Sodexo Tip-Off Classic. Their first game will be tonight vs Seattle Pacific at 7 p.m.

"Scoreboard:

Vs Chico State

82-78

Vs Cal State

San Marcos

103-86"

Cross Country Wraps Up Season

ASHLEY SANDS
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 4, the Cross Country Team competed in the NCAA Division II Regionals in Monmouth, Oregon. The men's team placed 20th out of 27 teams in the 10k race while the women finished 24th out of 30 in the 6k.

This event consisted of three different conferences including Great Northwest Athletic Conference, California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA), and PacWest, ranked one of the toughest regions in the country.

To move on to Regionals, the team had to run competitively in Conference. On Sat., Oct. 21, both the men and women's teams placed 8th at the 2017 PacWest Conference Championship in Belmont, CA. Though they met expectations by placing how they were ranked going into conference, the team wasn't satisfied. "They knew they had more to give," said Assistant Coach Keegan Bloomfield. Going into regionals, "Both teams were motivated to

finish more competitively."

On the women's team, six sophomores and one junior all finished within one minute of each other at Regionals. Three freshmen, three juniors, and one senior raced for the men and almost all set personal records for the 10k distance. "This cross country season was one filled with growth," Bloomfield said. "We have big dreams and goals in this program and we haven't reached them yet. However, we took steps this season to put us in position to accomplish them down the road."

Sophomore Anamauri Hernandez believes that the conference course was one of the most difficult races of the year. "It was more mental than physical," Her-

"We have big dreams and goals in this program."

nandez said. "In regionals, we picked up the slack from conference, ran for each other, and remembered why we run."

Head Coach Danny Bowman witnessed the team's growth throughout the season. "It was neat to see them develop into more mature runners from the time they stepped onto campus to the time they showed up in Oregon for Regionals," said Bowman.

Senior Will Best reflects on his time as a collegiate cross country runner. "It was a great motivation to train hard knowing it was my last season," Best said. "Yet it was very emotional to cross the finish line for the last time."

According to Bloomfield, all the races were geared towards Conference and Regionals. "I think we took our time developing throughout the season and waited to have our best race until the very end," Bloomfield said.

Cross country entails months of training, discipline and commitment. "Cross country is a team sport which requires individual effort," Best

"My teammates are brothers to me and I would do anything for them."

said. "The biggest lesson I learned was to run for my teammates and for the name across my chest."

Bowman said they switched up the training philosophy this season. "It was neat to see the athletes adapt and that they were able to perform well," Bowman said. Hernandez focused on exercises and treatment to keep previous injuries from resurfacing. "I learned how to take care of myself outside of running," Hernandez said.

The team practiced Mon-

day through Saturday at 6 a.m. "It's hard waking up early every day to go work-out, but knowing you'll be working alongside your teammates is incredible motivation," Best said. "You know that if you are hurting, they are hurting, which just motivates you to work harder to help them. My teammates are brothers to me and I would do anything for them."

This team will forever be remembered as being the first to compete in West Regionals. "It was historic because it was the first time ever," Bloomfield said. "It was exciting and encouraging to see this young team come together and perform, especially on the men's side, and lay the foundation for future success."

Although cross country season has ended, the team now prepares for the upcoming track season. On Dec. 2, the athletes will compete in the first track and field meet of the year on Concordia's home track. It will feature the current team and alumni. "We'd love to see everyone out supporting the team," Bloomfield said.

Holiday Happenings In Orange County

TAYLOR STICKLE
STAFF WRITER

Santa Claus is coming to town! While he sits up at the North Pole making his list and checking it twice, The Courier has decided to make a "Nice list" of our own. On this list you'll find the perfect places to go and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year! So put on your best ugly sweater, round up a group of friends and head out to enjoy some Christmas cheer!

Ice Skating at the Irvine Spectrum

Cost: \$18/person + \$2 ice skate rental

What better way to spend a night out than out on the ice? Every year the Irvine Spectrum installs an outdoor ice skating rink to help bring some wintery wonder to sunny Southern California. They even have "themed" nights every Thursday, including Crazy Christmas Hats, Christmas Jam-

mies, and Reindeer with red noses. And if you show up dressed to theme you get \$5 off tickets! You can also rent a locker for 75¢ to store your stuff while you enjoy strapping on some bladed boots and gliding across frozen water with some friends.

For information and a list of hours for Ice Skating at the Irvine Spectrum:

<https://www.shopirvinespectrumcenter.com/entertainment/ice-rink/>

When: Now through early January

San Juan Capistrano Tree Lighting Festival

Cost: Free

Located at Historic Town Center Park in San Juan Capistrano, it is the perfect place to celebrate Christmas. Local orchestras play holiday classics, Bailadores de Ballet Folklorico (traditional Mexican folk dancers) come and put on a show, and finally the giant tree in the park is ceremoniously

lit to welcome in the good tidings of the season! The entire street opens up to celebrate the holiday, and for \$6 you can enter the historic San Juan Mission which will be decorated for Christmas. The San Juan Tree Lighting is a beautiful celebration full of food, drinks, culture and music. If you have never been, it is definitely not a celebration to miss!

For more information on the festival:

<http://sanjuancapistrano-chamber.chambermaster.com/events/details/tree-lighting-ceremony-festivities-4656>

For more information on holiday happenings at the historic San Juan Mission:

<https://www.missionsjc.com/events-venue/signature-events/christmas-at-the-mission/>

When: Sat. Dec. 2 at 4:15 p.m.

109th Annual Newport Holiday Boat Parade

Cost: Free

A gorgeous display of lights

and sounds out on the Newport harbor is not a sight to be missed! For the 109th year running, boat and homeowners will be decking out the decks and halls to show off their illuminated works of art along a parade route. From dinghies to yachts to multimillion dollar homes, there will be a plethora of artfully crafted Christmas displays for your viewing pleasure. It is also the perfect way to celebrate having finished finals! So grab some friends, a peppermint hot chocolate and head on down to the 109th Annual Newport Holiday Boat Parade!

For more information and to view the parade route:

<https://www.christmasboatparade.com/>

When: Wed. Dec. 13-Sun. Dec. 17 at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Disneyland

Cost: Specialty 2-day, 1-park ticket \$99.50

The Happiest Place on Earth has officially become The Merriest

Place on Earth for a limited time. With parades, light and water shows, specialty treats and some of your favorite rides reimagined with a Christmassy twist! While this is the most expensive holiday stop on our list, if you can afford the ticket or already have an annual pass, the holidays at Disneyland are an unrivaled experience of joy and merriment. Every night through the holidays, Disneyland hosts their spectacular "Believe... In Holiday Magic" firework display! And if the ticket price is reasonably too steep, do not rule out a night in Downtown Disney, where you can still find an excellent view of the firework show and enjoy holiday treats!

For ticket prices:

<https://disneyland.disney.go.com/tickets/>

For park hours and show times:

<https://disneyland.disney.go.com/calendars/month/>

When: Now through January 7, 2018

Supermoons And Meteor Showers Lighting Up The Weekend Sky

NANCY PALMER
STAFF WRITER

Two astronomical events are happening soon for your viewing pleasure. Look toward the heavens and you will see a meteor show Fri., Nov. 17 and a supermoon on Sun., Dec. 3.

The full display of the 2017 Leonid Meteor Shower is scheduled to be visible Nov. 17 and 18. Just before midnight, the Leonid Meteor shower will start and last until 5 a.m. The shower occurs when the Earth passes through the debris left behind by the comet Tempel-Tuttle, named after the two astronomers that discovered the comet independently. In 1865, Wilhelm Tempel first noticed the shower. In 1866, Horace Parnell Tuttle observed the same occurrence. They discovered that the comet takes 33 years to orbit the sun once.

The best place to observe Leonid in all of its glory is lying down on the ground and looking up and slightly to the east. Approximately 20 meteors per hour fall when the shower reaches its peak. Leonid is one of the few meteor showers that can be observed in both hemispheres. Professor Morrie Barendbaum, Astronomy teacher at SCC, said, "Seeing this is a sight that you do not want to miss. More people need to stop looking down at their phones and look up towards the sky; what they may see may change their life forever."

On Sun., Dec 3, a supermoon will appear in our night sky. A supermoon happens when a full moon/new moon coincide with the Moon's closest approach to Earth. We have not had a supermoon like this since Jan., 26 1948!

The next supermoon is going to be visible Nov., 25, 2034, so be sure to catch this one while you're still young! The best time to enjoy the supermoon is after a moonrise, when the moon is just above the horizon. When the moon rises, it will look up to 12%-14% larger than normal.

"This year has been very exciting for astronomers. Back in August we had an eclipse and now a supermoon and a meteor shower," said Barendbaum. "Being able to observe these phenomena with the naked eye is a beautiful sight to behold."

In the next couple of years, Concordia's students will be able to observe and study the rings of Saturn and the craters of the moon with three small one-story observatories. With roll-off roofs, students are able to observe the night sky and the sun during the

day. The observatory building will be in clusters behind the present maintenance building, furthest from campus lights.

Back in 2015, Mike Hoffert, who teaches planetary and stellar astronomy, and Dr. John Kenney, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Physics, decided that it was time to ramp up the astronomy department. With the help of Dr. Barbara Morton, the funds needed to start this project were obtained, and together, they are going to bring the stars closer than ever. The observatories will

not only be available for CUI students, but will also be available for local and nationwide communities of students. The telescopes will be available for on-site visits and through the Internet.

If you want to take a break from the long study hours, take a moment tonight and go outside to take in the beauty of the skies. Don't forget to make your wish!

If you would like more information about the new observatories that are going to be here on campus, please visit: <https://www.cui.edu/giving/index/id/25433>



Director Of Excellence Helps Students Prepare For Life After Concordia

STAFF REPORT

The International Business Club invited global executive Drew Butler, Director of Operational Excellence at aerospace firm Curtiss-Wright to talk about the practical realities of a global career. The event was well-received by a standing-room-only group of students.

Butler gave students insights into how Curtiss-Wright uses a

U.S. initiated and Japanese perfected approach to production known as Kaizen (continuous improvement). With this approach, success is made through a “myriad” of small step-by-step improvements. Some of these steps are nuanced, yet others are as basic as changing the size of packaging to reduce product damage and wasted freight space in shipping.

Butler talked about his role

in integrating operational and management quality across markets and countries. He said this was both a fun and professional challenge, as Curtiss-Wright has made a host of recent acquisitions (57 since 2001). He works to promote an overall company vision, which he called “true north” or the Curtiss-Wright Way. Butler added that this aligns with legendary Green Bay Packer coach Lombardi’s wisdom that,



An excellent smile from the Director of Excellence, Drew Butler
Courtesy of International Business Club

“excellence is achieved by the mastery of the fundamentals.” Butler related this to both life and career.

Students especially enjoyed hearing how his professional work led to wonderful experiences in Japan, Switzerland, France and Germany – with the most fulfilling being the personal friendships developed around the world. He said this is the greatest reward for those preparing for a business career.

The International Business Club president, Matt Quirarte, said he was “truly grateful to the speaker for the talk on global business – especially for students who have not yet decided upon a career path.”

CURTISS - WRIGHT

Logo of Aerospace company Curtiss-Wright
Courtesy of International Business Club

Spring Break Trip To The Amazon Rainforest

ANNIE STUDDERT
STAFF WRITER

The Study Abroad Department is putting on a special trip to Suriname, South America over spring break 2018. The trip will be lead by both Dr. Cheryl Williams and Steven Rodriguez, a Concordia alumnus who made the trip with Williams as an undergraduate back in 2001.

During this trip, students will travel into the heart of the Amazon Rainforest for an authentic experience of living among the Saamakan Maroon culture that has been relatively untouched by western civilization and modern technology. The Saamakans are one of largest of the six Maroon tribes

located in Suriname and French Guiana. They are descendants of people who escaped from slavery in the 17th and 18th centuries. To escape colonist control, they set up independent communities deep in the rain forest.

Williams has been at Concordia since 2000. She began spending time with the tribe in 1993 while she was working on her doctoral dissertation, during which she “embedded” herself within the tribe. “I fell in love with the learning, curiosity and peacefulness [of the tribe],” said Williams, who lived amongst them for two years and returns to visit annually.

The trip will also include a city tour of Historical Paramaribo, where seven distinct cultures peacefully coexist, as well as a zip line tour, which are included in the cost. The trip is not limited to Concordia students, and may count as credit towards a degree.

The trip costs \$2500, with a down payment due in January. Prior to that, those interested need to submit an application by Fri., Dec. 8. For more information contact Study Abroad Director, Faith McKinney directly by email, faith.mckinney@cui.edu or phone, (949) 214-3471.



AMAZON EXPERIENCE

Spring Break 2018

Co-led: by Cheryl Williams, Phd. and Steven Rodriguez, M.A.

The 2018 Amazon Rainforest Experience Trip takes us to Suriname, South America. We will immerse ourselves in the context and experience of one of the largest Suriname Maroon tribes, the Saamakans. Their experience is a powerful reminder of the African diaspora, the role of slavery in the history of the Americas, and the continuing challenge to adapt to the influences of a globalizing economy. | Cost: \$2,500 plus incidentals. | Apply by Dec. 8th!

Information Session 2: Join us on Nov. 9th at 12:30 PM in Gym Eagle's Nest

For more information, please contact: Faith McKinney, Ed.M.

Admin. 120 • Faith.mckinney@cui.edu • (949) 214-3471



Amazon Experience: Courtesy of International Studies

“I fell in love with the learning, curiosity and peacefulness [of the tribe],”

Signal And Noise At The John & Linda Friend Gallery

KARINA DIEZ
MARKETING MANAGER

On Wed., Nov. 1st, the John & Linda Friend Art Gallery in Grimm Hall unveiled its latest exhibit, "Signal and Noise: An Exhibition of Printmaking." The exhibit will run until Mon., Nov. 27 with free admission. The artist behind the scenes of these masterpieces is Norihu Uriu. "Signal and Noise" uses printmaking and abstract concepts to explore the confines of the digital era in which we live.

Printmaking is an artform that uses ink as its primary channel to create an image on paper. This process gives the ability to make multiple prints at one time and has been around since the 2nd Century. "What attracts me to printmaking is that new and unexpected images are born out of exploring various printmaking methods, such as intaglio, relief and monotype," said Uriu in her Artist's Statement.

According to Pace Prints, a publisher of contemporary art

prints, intaglio printing is when the image is engraved into a metal plate of some sort. Relief printing occurs when the printing is done on a blank, raised surface. Lastly, monotype printing is done as an

imprint on a plate, piece of wood or other canvas, and is used as a stamp to make prints of the same image in an identical manner which is unique in printmaking.

"Every time I see Norihu's art,

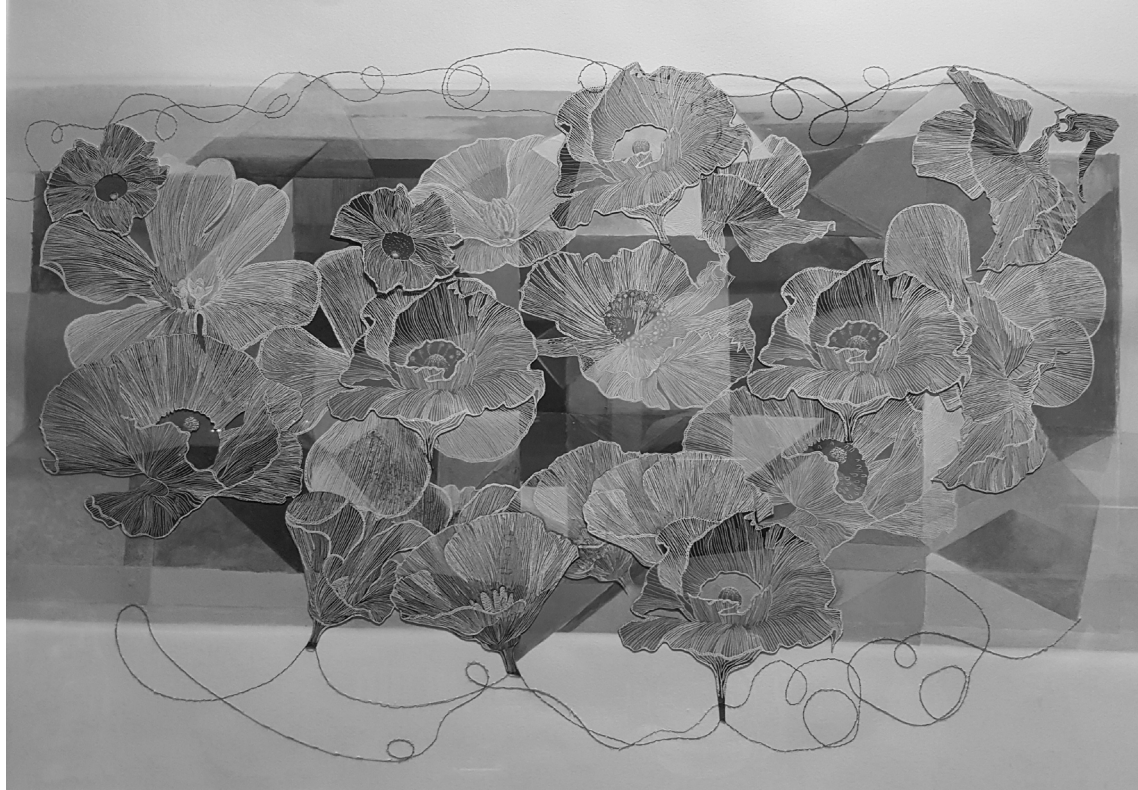
I am amazed at what she can do with printmaking techniques," said Niclas Kruger, Gallery Director of the John & Linda Friend Gallery. "[She] creates very intriguing work. Norihu has worked

extensively with her art for a long time and is well known among artists in Orange County."

"My art is an imprint of my observations, feelings, and thoughts from daily life," said Uriu. "Signal and Noise reflects how people today are wrapped up in a digital world characterized by information and sensory overload. We all need to search for what is meaningful to each of us out of the overwhelming swirl of information and data."

Uriu couldn't be more correct. According to Statista, the average American spends over 12 hours a day interacting with media. That is half a day being consumed by technology. Her goal is of the utmost importance, as she works to inspire her viewers to look beyond their cell phone and laptop screens into what life truly has to offer.

Uriu's work won't be in Grimm forever. So while it's here, slow down, log off and enjoy it while you can.



Transient Flowers #2
PC: Mariah Kohl

Disney Announces Cast For Live Action Lion King

SAM SCHUSTER
STAFF WRITER

Disney is doing it again.

Defying skepticism, the timeless story tellers are taking yet another classic, remodeling it and making something almost new. They did it with "Cinderella." They did it with "Beauty and the Beast." They did it with "The Jungle Book." And they're about to do it with what is arguably the Walt Disney Studio's staple motion picture, "The Lion King."

On Nov. 1, Walt Disney Studios announced the main cast for its upcoming reboot of the Disney classic, "The Lion King." Fans of Disney and pop-culture alike have been raving over this star-studded cast, featuring

Donald Glover, Beyoncé, James Earl Jones, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Billy Eichner, Seth Rogen, John Oliver, John Kani, Alfre Woodard, Eric Andre, Florence Kasumba and Keegan-Michael Key.

In curiosity-sparking Disney fashion, they announced the cast by tweeting a photo with the caption, "#TheLionKing 2019," followed by a lion emoji and crown emoji.

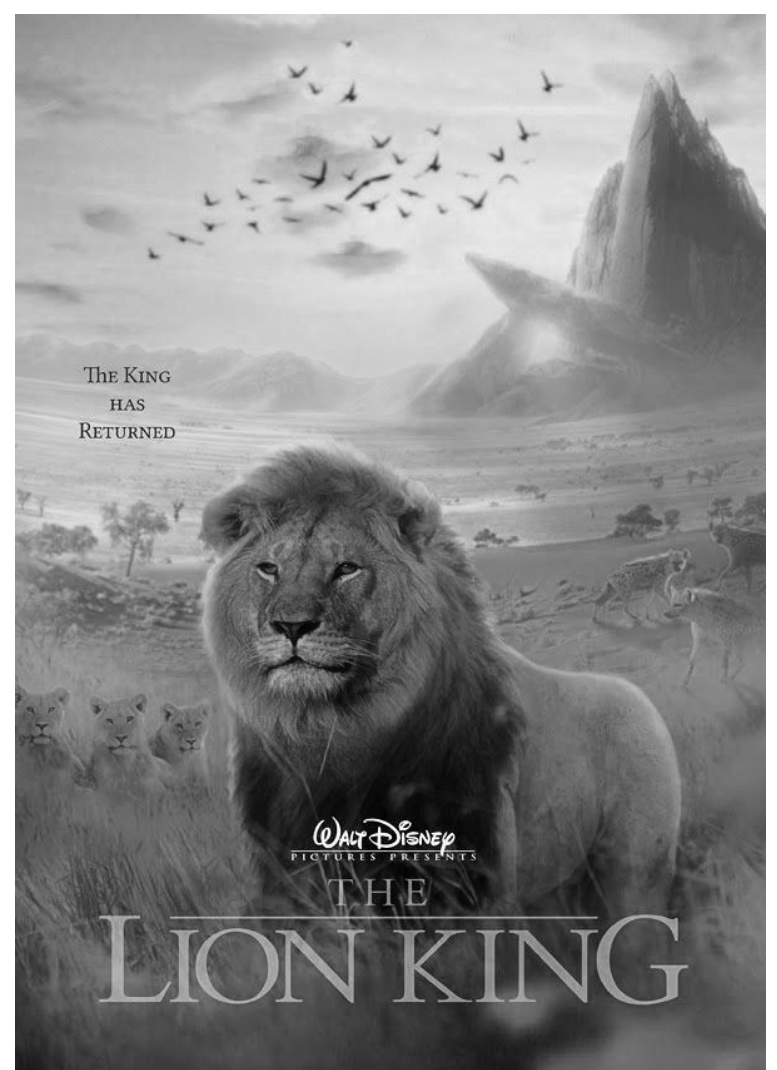
The film will be directed by Jon Favreau, the man behind "The Jungle Book" remake from early last year. This means fans can expect "The Lion King" production to use the same mixture of live-action and CG effects they saw in "The Jungle Book."

Junior Maddie Sturgis, is especially excited for the new film. "I remember as a kid I

used to go see The Lion King play," said Sturgis. "So I'm excited now that I'm older to see the new Lion King. I know Disney will do an awesome job capturing my favorite childhood movie."

This past July at the D23 Expo, which is an official fan club for The Walt Disney Company, Disney unveiled the "Circle of Life" sequence, and according to the Disney sponsored blog "Oh My Disney," it did not disappoint. The scene was almost a shot-for-shot imitation of the original animation, and the animals, though extremely realistic, were still recognizable as their characters.

The release date for "The Lion King" is set for Thurs., July 19, 2019. For more information on the upcoming film, head to Disney.com.



Courtesy of Google

Black Student Union Club Samples Taste Of Soul

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about issues that may otherwise not be brought up," said Johnson. "The main focus is to create a sense of family and bring awareness to our school."

Sharon Walker, Faculty Advisor for BSU, hopes to see continued expansion. "I want to see the various cultural clubs on campus come together."

As vice president, Reyes

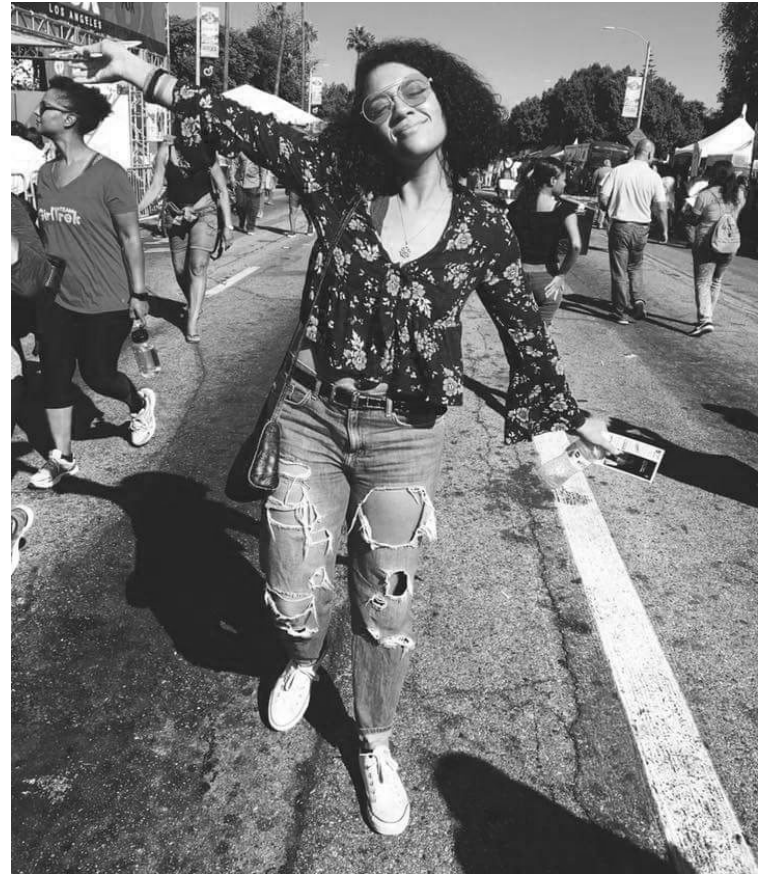
foresees weekly meetings, bi-weekly night talks and monthly dinners. "My main goal for BSU is to create a community of students who can work together to create events and talk about issues that are important to them," said Reyes.

The club welcomes all students, regardless of race. "We aren't a radical group and we aren't

trying to push agendas on anybody," said Johnson. "We have an open door that is available to anyone."

Reyes seconds the notion that all students are encouraged to join. "I think it's important for folks to know that BSU is for everyone," said Reyes. "We are here to support students in any way we can and I think that begins with addressing issues that are important to them."

For the students involved, BSU is more than a club. "I think BSU has bettered the Concordia community by creating a space where all students can feel welcome," said Reyes. "Members are free to voice their concerns and plans for the future with us. I think that's a beautiful thing."



Walking down Crenshaw Blvd in Los Angeles CA at the taste of soul festival
Courtesy of BSU

CU Giving Day



Concordia Cares laying out supplies for Operation Christmas Child
Courtesy of Kailey Vigil

JAMI DERBY
AND NIKKI SHIELDS
STAFF WRITERS

The third annual CU Give Back Day took place on Tuesday, Nov. 14 where the efforts of staff and students helped to raise a total of \$75,000. After the initial 24-hour window, it was decided to extend the Giving day an additional 12 hours. Numerous people made donations this year to help benefit various on campus amenities and students.

The online donation site will continue to stay open until "Giving Tuesday" on Nov. 28, 2017. Wendy Leivan, Director of Student Services said, "We need to give a special thank you to all of the ambassadors who helped to spread the word. Also, a shout out to Pastor Quinton Anderson who brought in 124 donors, the most by any ambassador this year!" Because of Pastor Quinton's dedicated efforts to bringing in the most donors, he has won a trip to Hawaii.

The donations will also help projects and groups on campus such as the Church Vocations Activity Fund, DCE Mexico Experience, the Heritage Garden, Student Amenities, the Writing Studio, Around-the-World Semester^(R), the Veterans Resource Center and more.

The day's efforts consisted mostly of online donations but also included on and off campus activities that went towards the fundraiser. On Tuesday the festivities included a dunk tank, a trivia contest, a photo

booth and a movie night. The "dunk a campus celeb" featured appearances by Pastor Quinton Anderson, Dr. Gilbert Fugitt and Professor Konrad Hack.

This year, Concordia was able to reach out to nearby restaurants asking their support in CU Give Back Day. On Nov. 8 El Pollo Loco participated in giving back 20% of food sales for CU Give Back customers. On Nov. 9 California Pizza Kitchen in the Alton Square, donated 20% from food orders of people who mentioned CU Give Back. On Nov. 10 Chick-fil-A in the University Town Center also donated 20% of food orders from people in support of CU Give Back.

When asked about the differences between this year's events and previous year's Leivan said, "The participation was amazing this year, from the athletic teams to ASCUI and all of our social media experts, they were the ones who helped to spread the word."

Concordia wants to thank all of its students, faculty and alumni for their help in fundraising and making CU Giving Day a success. Also, Concordia wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our donors and benefactors and well as the sponsors mentioned above for their continued support in the fundraising efforts. It is because of them that Concordia has been able to spread its message around the community and impact so many individual lives.

Concordia Cares Packs Up Boxes To Send To Operation Christmas Child

KAILEY VIGIL
STAFF WRITER

It's the most wonderful time of the year: Christmas season. Families gather together to celebrate Christ's birth with traditions, gifts and perhaps some hot chocolate. However, there are many children around the world that are not as fortunate. This is where Operation Christmas Child (OCC) comes in.

OCC, run by Samaritan's Purse, is an international organization that provides relief and aid, just like in Luke 10:30-37, the story of the good samaritan. OCC is one of the many efforts that is dedicated to helping the needy by sending gift-filled shoe boxes and the love of Jesus. OCC has packed and shipped approximately 135 million boxes to children across the globe that are in desperate need of holiday cheer. Individuals, families and churches pick up shoe boxes and fill them up with es-

entials and presents to send to children each year.

OCC is also focused on evangelism to these children that receive boxes. Each box is packed up with a note of encouragement and has the words "Jesus loves you" printed on the box. Children are encouraged to participate in "The Greatest Journey," a follow-up program that is centered on Christ. Over 7.4 million children have already participated in this program, and more are expected to join this Christmas season.

Concordia Cares is a group on campus that is dedicated to community service. The group has several service projects throughout the year to help students get involved, including trips to the Ronald McDonald House, helping at the Orange County Rescue Mission's chili-vans and sharing love with the elderly in convalescent homes.

Concordia Cares did their part this year by collecting and packing shoe boxes to send.

During the week of November 6-10, Concordia Cares hosted two packing events to encourage Concordia students to help pack boxes. The events included free hot chocolate, cookies and Christmas music. These packing parties resulted in about 400 boxes packed altogether.

Sophomore Jessica Washington said that her favorite part of packing OCC boxes was "Looking into the boxes and thinking about the reactions of the children and how excited they are going to be when they open it." Boxes are usually packed for children of a specific age range and can include anything from toiletries to fun little toys.

National collection week for Operation Christmas Child boxes was November 13-20. Although Concordia's packing events have come to an end for this Christmas season, if you would like to get involved in other service projects such as this, stop by the CSLD to get more information.

"Operation Christmas Child has packed and shipped approximately 135 million boxes to children across the globe that are in desperate need of holiday cheer."

Netflix Review: A Holiday Special

NANCY PALMER
STAFF WRITER

I was excited to write a holiday Netflix review. But turns out, there are no Thanksgiving themed movies actually on Netflix. I tried to find any movie that even resembled a Thanksgiving theme for at least an hour, but my options were very limited.

There was no "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" or any other classic Thanksgiving movies. But after all my searching, I did find one movie to fit the frame I was looking for. "Pocahontas." Do not get me wrong "Pocahontas" is one of my favorite Disney movies, but I thought it strange that the only movie I

could find was a children's movie.

It's weird. There are tons of Halloween and Christmas themed movies, with abundant genre representation for each. For instance, if you want something scary around Halloween, you can watch a horror film. But if horror isn't your style, and you can find a comedy centered around Halloween too. The same goes for Christmas movies. You can watch romance, musicals, comedies and the list goes on.

And while I could criticise Netflix's selection further, I still have to write a review. So I am going to review "Pocahontas," alongside two other holiday films. With stores around

campus already decorating the shelves with winter decor, it's never too early to get in the Christmas spirit. Movies will be ranked by number of nutcrackers they receive, with five out of five being the highest.

"Pocahontas" is a movie that many people know about. We grew up learning about Pocahontas and how her tribe helped the first settlers get through a harsh winter. In the Disney adaptation we see the love story between John Smith and Pocahontas. Her father, Chief Powhatan, disproves of the relationship and wants her to marry a native warrior. Meanwhile, Smith's fellow Englishmen want to rob the Native Americans of their gold. The story is

full of twists and turns and lessons about learning to listen to your heart. I give this movie five out of five nutcrackers.

The second movie is Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas." The movie starts with Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King, realizing how bored he's become of the same routine every year. He decides to switch things up a bit. So, Jack kidnaps Santa Claus and takes over his job. Jack discovers that even the best-laid plan of mice and skeleton men can go seriously awry. This musical adventure is beautifully made. The claymation and story line is a perfect balance between the childlike wonder of Christmas and the spooky side

of Halloween. My rating of this movie is five out of five nutcrackers.

The third movie is called "Dear Santa," a romantic comedy full of cheese and cliché, but the spirit of Christmas does shine through. In the movie a woman named Crystal finds a little girl's letter to Santa asking for a new mother, and she goes to win over the father and daughter before the holidays. Crystal helps at the local soup kitchen run and owned by the father of the little girl, and discovers that doing something for others is one of the greatest rewards. I give this movie four out of five. As adorable as it is, the clichés can be a bit much at times.

