

THE Concordia Courier

Inform. Inspire. Ignite. Involve.

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Volume 5, Issue 1

Concordia University Irvine

Tuesday, August 31, 2010

WOW Photo Recap pg. 3



PHOTO COURTESY CLEARLIGHT YEARBOOK

Student leaders eagerly greet freshmen and transfer students as they pull into Concordia on move-in day, August 22.

Concordia climbs the ranks

BY MICHAEL HARTLEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Concordia University has been announced as a "Top Tier University" in the Western Region of the United States by "US News & World Report." Concordia scored 37 on a composite scale which made it a four-way tie for 44th place with several other universities.

Ann Ashmon, Director of Communications, said "[This announcement] marks a return to solid standing." According to Ashmon, this is not the first time Concordia has ranked in the Top Tier (top 50), but it is the first time in several years.

Following Concordia's financial troubles of 2008, news like this is reassuring for students and parents alike. "We were not in danger of closing, but it sure felt like it. This can reassure students that we're on a strong footing," Ashmon said.

Dr. Korey Maas, Associate Professor of Theology and Church History said, "The magazine is probably the best known ranking system in the United States." Concordia was ranked with other Western Region Universities (schools that offer master's and bachelor's degree programs).

More than bragging rights for proud students, this information could be valuable for some of the more discriminating potential employers. "If an employer sees you have a degree, that's great. If they see you have a degree from an institution that is considered top tier, that is very good," Maas said.

Maas further explained that publicity like this is, all around, good news for a university. This ranking may catch the attention of more discerning students which would, in turn, raise our future ranking.

Making direct comparisons with other local universities can be difficult because of the differentiations between categories. Both Azusa Pacific and Biola universities were in the top tier of National Universities which offer doctorate programs and below. Vanguard University ranked ninth out of Western Colleges offering only bachelor's degrees with a score of 49. Sister universities, Concordia St. Paul and Chicago scored 35 and 36 respectively. Although they scored similarly to CUI, their rankings were both in the nineties of the Midwest Region.

The scores are based on a variety of indicators of school performance. Student retention and graduation rates as well as faculty education levels weigh the heaviest in scoring. Other factors include assessment by peer institutions, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

CUI's Core Curriculum underway

BY JOCELYN POST
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Fall 2010 marks the implementation of Concordia's new general education requirement—the Core Curriculum.

The idea to create a Core Curriculum, specific to the "Concordia experience," began in 2006 as a dialogue among professors. For the past four years, a team of faculty, headed by Dr. Scott Ashmon, Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, have been working diligently to create a Core of courses that foster natural interdisciplinary connections. The Core's goal aligns with CUI's vision to develop "wise, honorable and cultivated citizens."

Concordia's Core Curriculum is comprised of a series of four "linked pairs"—Foundations of Christian Theology & Integrated Biology, Introduction to Philosophy & the Nature of Mathemat-

ics, The West and the World & World Literature to the Renaissance and America and the World & World Literature from the Enlightenment.

Students will take one pair of courses a semester during their freshman and sophomore years at Concordia. The courses are scheduled to occur consecutively and will feature several joint lectures throughout the semester.

Focuses of the Core Curriculum include the development of critical thinking, speaking and writing skills through the examination of "great works" to "prepare students for life in a global society."

Dr. Mary Scott, Provost, expects the Core Curriculum will give Concordia the "leading edge" over other local Christian liberal arts universities. In addition, she believes the Core helps CUI "revert to its foundational principles."

Dr. James Bachman, Professor of Philosophy and Ethics, and Dr. Melinda Schulteis, Associate Professor of Mathematics, are excited to be working together to create the curriculum for Introduction to Philosophy & the Nature of Mathematics.

The Core classes will be similar to the Critical Thinking and Nature of Mathematics general education courses that CUI offered in previous years. However, the syllabi have been aligned to promote the "natural discussion points" between the two subjects. In addition, each course will feature new readings to help students understand the "great ideas" that form the basis of philosophy and mathematics.

Katie Duggan, freshman, is looking forward to participating in the launch of the Core. "[The Core Curriculum] will make it easier to comprehend and understand our education," Duggan said. Although she will not be taking Core courses, Jordan Pare, junior transfer studying mathematics, is also a supporter. "[The Core Curriculum] will provide students with a greater understanding of how things are related to one another which is especially useful outside of school in their everyday lives," Pare said.

Continued on pg. 2

Alumni come full circle — from students to faculty

BY TARA KING
SENIOR WRITER

From students to faculty, Professor Daniel Deen, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Dr. Adam Francisco, Associate Professor of History and Dr. Lindsay Kane-Barnese, Assistant Professor of Biology and Chemistry, return to Concordia once again but this time not as alumni but as Fall 2010 faculty members.

After having graduated from Concordia, the thought of working one day as a professor for the institution was always a thought in the back of Deen's mind. Things fell into place when he entered the job

market and discovered that Concordia coincidentally had an opening for a professor of philosophy. Being a native to Southern California, he "fell in love with the ocean." Deen said, that students and faculty may be able to spot him "on any given evening or weekend surfing at Salt Creek, Strand, or Trestles," or partaking in a bike ride with his wife, Alyssa (CUI alumna 2001), through Aliso Creek.

"My hope is that with the introduction of philosophy to the new Core Curriculum, I can impress a sense of the philosophical wonderment of life modeled by the great philosophers of the past," Deen said. "In addition, students will develop critical thinking skills that will provide lifelong dividends as they discover and pursue their vocations."

Francisco said, "I taught at Concordia College, New York, and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, for the last five years [and] I began to think about how I might eventually make my way back to Irvine." He is married to Concordia alumna, Rachel nee Newton, and has three children ages six, three and 11 months.

From 1993-1997, he served as a diver on-board submarines in the United States, and in 2007, he also published a monograph under the title, "Martin Luther and Islam: A Study in Sixteenth Century Polemics and Apologetics." Francisco earned his master's from CUI in Reformation Theology in 2001. He then ended up at the University of Oxford studying theology and

history at Wycliffe Hall and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies.

"After I thought, discussed and prayed, I decided that returning to CUI was something I wanted to do," Kane-Barnese said. When having fun, Kane-Barnese enjoys ringing with a church group after having participated in handbells at Concordia. She can also be seen running, sailing or hiking.

"I am excited to work with the students here at Concordia and help them develop the tools they will need to achieve their goals in life. I had a great experience here, and my hope is to make sure that my students leave with an experience as good as or better than I had," Kane-Barnese said.

Editorial

Of One Accord: A look into the real CUI

Con.cor.di.a [kon-kawr-dee-uh] *n.*—harmony
Cour.i.er [kur-ee-er] *n.*—a messenger
The Con.cor.di.a Cour.i.er
[kon-kawr-dee-uh kur-ee-er]
n.—a messenger of harmony

The mission of the Concordia Courier:
Inform. Inspire. Ignite. Involve.

Two thousand five hundred and sixty-four students. Two hundred and thirty-eight faculty. Male and female. Undergraduate and graduate. Artists & athletes. Chemists, nurses & theologians. Americans, Germans & South Africans.

Caucasians, African-Americans & Hispanics. Christians, Muslims & Buddhists.

The vision of the Concordia Courier:
Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Ephesians 4:15-16

Will you join us?

Faculty Letter: The Joy of Learning



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTLEY

Dear Concordia Students,

An educational cliché that needs debunking is that as students progress in their education, they necessarily become less and less enthusiastic about learning. That preschoolers and kindergartners love to learn, but, once students get to fourth grade or so, the joy of learning has been snuffed out of them by a bland curriculum and uninspiring teachers. Not so for me and for many of my faculty and staff colleagues here at Concordia, and it is my hope that your enthusiasm for learning remains strong and will be rekindled again this semester.

I need to say upfront that there are many very practical reasons to seek and complete a college education at Concordia. During your years here, you will certainly learn much about your field of study and also many things about yourself, your world and your Lord. As you complete your general education requirements and courses in your program and major, you will also be enhancing those critical thinking and communication skills that will serve you well in whatever career you enter after graduation. And if it's true that on average a college graduate of the 21st century will change careers four to seven times before retirement, then those critical thinking and communication skills developed here will be just as valuable to your success as the concepts you learned in your major and program courses.

You are certainly here to gain the knowledge and acquire the skills that will prepare you for your various vocations in life, but I also believe that learning for the sake of learning is desirable and can be thoroughly enjoyable.

I've anticipated many of my most enjoyable educational moments, but some have been entirely serendipitous. I love opening a new book and have come to anticipate the joy associated with the touch and smell of a new paper text (sorry, Kindle) with reading the author's dedication and the first few pages, which normally exhibit the author's very best writing. I also know that I will experience the joy of learning when I pick up a book by Hemingway, Faulkner, Fitzgerald or Cormac McCarthy, knowing that I'll be reading thoughtful, articulate, engaging prose from the first capital letter to the final punctuation mark.

I've also experienced some unexpected moments of joy in learning. I wasn't expecting to enjoy a music appreciation course I took years ago but became enthralled when introduced to the concept of tracing a musical theme throughout a piece of music and how that theme could be compressed, extended and inverted and otherwise played upon and colored by any number of instruments which produce a wide range of overtones (I'm probably not using exactly the right terminology here, but you get the idea).

I was also not expecting to enjoy a required geomorphology class (think tectonic plates, volcanoes and stratified rock structures) but was hooked when the professor opened the class by saying that the lecture hall was situated on a terminal moraine (check Webster or Wikipedia) and proceeded to talk about how the last sheet of ice to slide and scrape over the Upper Midwest gouged out the Great Lakes and created most of the not so great lakes and ponds that exist in much of the US today. Who knew?

My hope for all is that as you begin this year at Concordia, you look forward to encountering many anticipated and unanticipated moments of "learning joy" as you pursue your education inside and outside the classroom.

In His service,
Kurt Krueger
President, CUI

THE Concordia Courier

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[3 units]

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- Freelance

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Core Curriculum—

While the Core Curriculum has many advantages for the educational and extra-curricular advancement of CUI, there are still a few issues that need to be worked out. These include the inability to drop Core courses, the consequences of failing a Core course and the effect of the Core Curriculum as a whole on transfer students. A Transfer Core Curriculum, featuring a series of two linked pairs, will be introduced Fall 2012.

"[The Core Curriculum] will further the interaction between faith and academics," Ashmon said. The Core is simply another excellent representation of "who we are" as a university.

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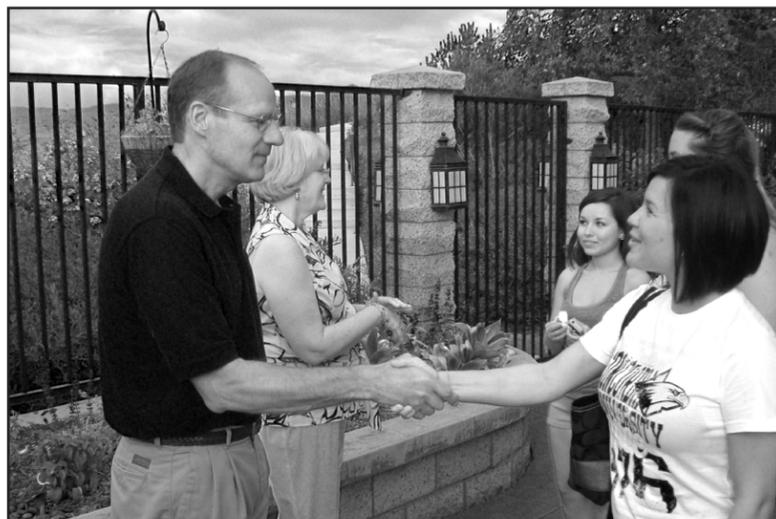
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Editorials reflect the views of the
majority of the editorial staff.

Week of Welcome 2010

WOW is an annual event put on by the Office of First Year Experiences to help new students connect to CUI and build relationships while having fun.



Student Leaders Speak

Nathan Carnahan
ASCUI President

Building Our Legacy

Concordia University Irvine is a place of greatness. From our excellent academics to the strong athletics programs, this school is something to be proud of. Sadly, not everyone takes part in this pride, represents it or even knows how amazing of a school we are. Let's work on that.

Some things are changing on campus this year. We have a new President, Dr. Kurt Krueger, who I've had the privilege of meeting. He is definitely a great man of God! A new Core Curriculum is being rolled out for incoming freshman which gives them an improved liberal arts general education. All the while, we hold true to some basic ideals.

Wise. Honorable. Cultivated. These are standards that every student should be able to stand by. Traditions that have been formed in the past years are being carried on by the new members of student leadership and the whole student body. Our legacy has already started taking shape.

However, it is up to us to continue building up that legacy and making it great! Our predecessors have left their mark and given us ideas and concepts. We can move forward with what they've already given us, build upon it or start new things. That is up to you, the student body. I believe we have excellent traditions at Concordia including events such as WOW, Midnight Madness, Concordia Christmas, 60-Hour Wiffleball and SHOUT. I want everyone to continue supporting these events and to be proud of our success at Concordia.

More than that, I encourage every student to experiment with the various opportunities here at Concordia so that you may find something that you are passionate about. When you find that passion, grab hold of it, and go with it 100%! Maybe you want to be an intramurals champion, join the lacrosse team, be a part of a Be(love)d or Battalion bible study group or showcase your art – this is how you can help to Build Our Legacy.

Concordia's legacy is immortal. It won't die out when this year's seniors graduate and move closer toward their futures. But in order for it to keep striving, it is up to the entire student body to contribute to what that legacy is and will continue to be. We have the building blocks for a university of excellence. It's up to us to live that out and share our greatness with the world. Be proud of who you are and the school you go to. Find a way to contribute and help in Building Our Legacy.

Top Left: New students compete in a tug-of-war competition during the Superhero Throwdown. **Top Right:** President Krueger greets students invited to his home for desserts.

Right: Student leaders join the festivities.

Below: Following the Water Showdown 2010, where groups competed throwing water balloons at student leaders, wild, wet chaos ensued.



PHOTOS COURTESY CONCORDIA CLEARLIGHT YEARBOOK

RES opens doors to new ADs

BY BETHANY LOESCH
ARTS/INT'L EDITOR

New staff members in residence life are excited to build relationships and have fun with students in the coming year.

The 2009-2010 school year was the last for former ADs Alicia Ochs, Mickey Becker and Kyle Smith. Michelle Reinkin, Janelle Fagg and Larry Rice were hired to fill the vacancies.

"Across the board at any school, hall directors are temporary positions. It's not something people usually stay at for more than 2-4 years," said Kimberly Chamberlin, Associate Dean of Students for Residence and Education Services. Ochs spent four years at Concordia while Becker and Smith were here for two.

Janelle Fagg took Ochs's position as Assistant Director of Residential Education for Sigma. A Riverside native, Fagg graduated from Cal Baptist in 2007 with a degree in Christian Behavioral Science. She went on to earn a master's degree in College Student Affairs from Azusa Pacific University and then did an internship in the

activities office at Cal Baptist.

Fagg is excited to be living in Irvine and looks forward to getting to know her residents. "I really want to build a community in Sigma. There are a lot of freshman and transfers in Sigma, and I want it to be fun."

Becker's position as Assistant Director of Residential Education for the quads was filled by Larry Rice. Rice grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania and did his undergraduate studies at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. He spent a year tutoring in a private high school before acquiring a master's in Student Affairs Higher Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Rice worked for four years as residence director at Messiah College in Pennsylvania and then six years at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he was involved in residence life as well as various global missions.

"I feel that the Lord led me out here," Rice said. "I'm looking forward to developing and building relationships, getting to know people and being a part of people's lives here. As well as the weather. That's always a plus."

The new position of Assistant Director for Residential Education and Services, Housing Services was created at the end of last year, and Michelle Reinkin was hired for the job. Reinkin completed her undergraduate studies from Messiah College in Pennsylvania with a degree in Bible and Psychology. She earned her first master's degree in Higher Education Student Affairs Administration and second master's in Counseling and Psychology. Reinkin acquired her Ph.D. in Education Leadership for Higher Education from Capella University in Minnesota. She has spent the last four years working in an adolescent psychiatric unit on the East Coast and has a two year-old daughter named Avery.

"I don't see judicial affairs as being a punitive process but as an avenue for spiritual and personal growth," Reinkin said. "I'm always available for questions or concerns. Please come see me." Reinkin is passionate about counseling and helping students out with difficult decisions.

Kimberly Chamberlin is currently serving as the AD in Rho and is in the process of interviewing others for the position.

\$1 Million Athletics budget cut

BY TYLER HOWARD
SPORTS EDITOR

Concordia's Athletic programs are doing their best to try and deal with their financial budget adjustment. This year approximately \$1 million was taken from the athletic department's funds, and the coaches, staff, players and even recruits were all affected by this decision.

According to Amir Law, Assistant Coach of Women's Basketball, the budget alteration was necessary for the overall financial health of Concordia. "The budget adjustment made it significantly easier for the university to reach their financial goals for the 2010-2011 fiscal year," Law said. "Personally, I see it as a matter of perspective, and even though it was a shock at first, we have to look at the bigger picture...Since we work at CUI, without a financially sound university, there is

no athletic department."

Some athletic teams were forced to take away money from their players' athletic scholarships, and with having a tight budget, it was also difficult for some coaches to recruit. "In regards to the recruiting process, it just means that we have to be a bit more creative," Law said. "Just about every coach in the department has an extensive network of Division 1, Division 2 and professional colleagues. So if we are able to sign a recruit through those channels instead of traveling to events, we do."

Many of the staff members and coaches agree that \$1 million is not too bad if you really think about it. According to Law, if this budget adjustment had occurred at other schools, then it would have severely affected the department.

"At Concordia, it just makes the staff work that much harder," said Law. "Each team does a sig-

nificant amount of fundraising that enables us to compete at such a high level, and this year, under the direction of Dave Bireline, we have a handful of projects that are slated to raise more money for the department." Law is unaware of the events that resulted in the significant decision.

"It seems harsh as a big number but when it all boils down, it helps the institution," said Curt Cattau, Faculty Athletic Representative and Associate Professor of Exercise and Sports Science. "A million dollars sounds like a lot of money, but we have to think about all of the athletes that we have on campus."

To ensure that the university is on a firm financial foundation, the hard and crucial decisions that leaders made were necessary. "From my understanding it was the majority of the financial aid," Cattau said. "It all boils down to improving the financial stability of the university."

SportsLine



Jay Hobbs
Director of Athletics
Communications

Moments That Matter

I love sports and here's why. Sports provide us with memorable moments like few other things in life can.

If you're a baseball fan, one of the most memorable moments of this summer came back on June 2 in Detroit, when a guy that nobody outside of the Motor City had ever heard of carried a perfect game into the final at-bat of the game.

Twenty-six up and twenty-six down, but as you remember, there are twenty-seven outs in a baseball game, and that last one can sometimes be the hardest to get.

So here's our hero, Armando Galarraga, standing on the hill to get that one last batter. Ground ball to first base, played cleanly and tossed to Galarraga covering first base. He steps on the bag a half-step ahead of the runner. Last out of the game, everyone breaks out in a euphoric celebration, right?

Wrong. Of course, wrong. Just as our hero throws his arms up in joyful exuberance, the verdict comes down from first-base umpire Jim Joyce: "Safe!"

Bad umpire, right? He should be tarred and feathered, right? We should institute instant replay to avoid such discrepancies, right? We should at least retroactively award the kid with his perfect game, right?

Wrong. Wrong on all accounts. Wrong because of this one simple fact: In baseball, as in life, not everything goes your way, and what matters in the end is how you act and react when it's all falling apart.

And the reaction in this case was pure beauty. It was pure Gospel forgiveness and reconciliation, and that's exactly why I love sports.

As soon as Jim Joyce saw his mistake, the man was broken. He went into the Tigers' clubhouse and apologized to Galarraga in tears—something that never happens—and starting with Galarraga and his manager, Jim Leyland, grace was extended.

In fact, the Tigers' clubhouse was so moved by Joyce's show of contrition that they sent out Galarraga to present Joyce with the team's lineup card the next day. Fans caught onto the concept of forgiveness and cheered Joyce into the stadium the next day.

Believe it or not, perfect games and GSAC championships are going to be forgotten sooner than we think. You're going to wake up one day and forget the starting lineup to this year's soccer and volleyball teams at Concordia, but what will you remember?

You'll remember the moments where champions are made. The NAIA calls it the "Champions of Character Initiative," but we can just call it Gospel.

Dear Concordia student-athlete, extend grace this year on and off the court. Be remembered for having a right perspective on the world.

Let's be people at Concordia who love and forgive others with the kind of love and forgiveness offered to us in the Gospel. Let's make that the legacy of the Eagles.

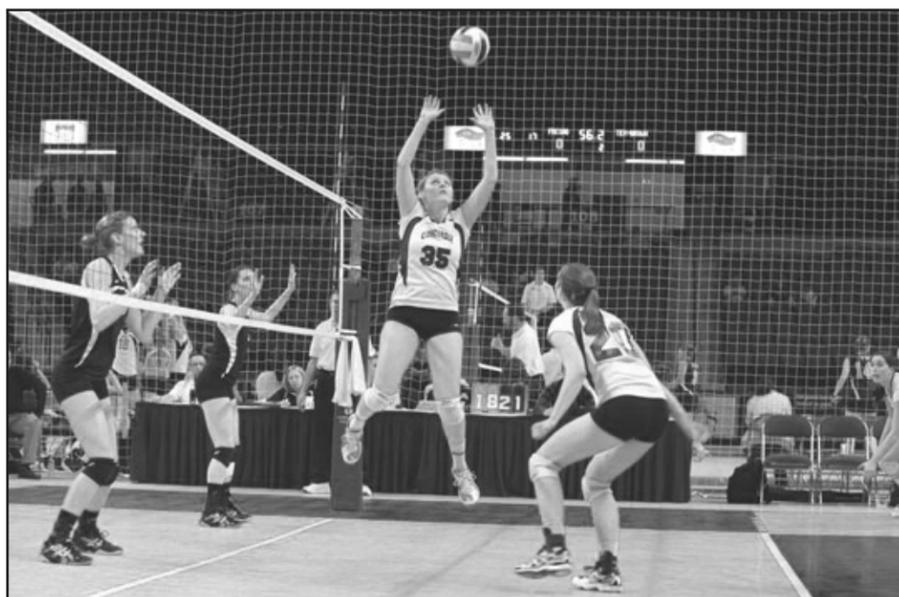
#2 Ranked volleyball looks to make Final Four

BY KEN BOGEL
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Women's Volleyball team is underway as they are preparing for what should be a mesmerizing season. With last year's result of making it all the way to the final four, losing a brutal five games to Fresno Pacific and ending their drive for a national championship, they are gearing up to go even further than this year.

The Lady Eagles come into this season ranked second in the country. With 12 freshmen being added to the roster, the team looks to gain from what they have to offer. "We have a very young team, but we are working hard, and there is great potential to be better than last year," said Kyle Kvasnicka, Champions of Character Representative and Head Coach of Volleyball. According to Kvasnicka, the freshmen have to step up, play a big role and grow up fast so that they can strive to do great things. With this being Kvasnicka's second season as head coach, he looks to take his team right back to the NAIA tournament where they look forward to outplaying all of their other opponents.

Even though the team may be young they have two seniors who are ready and willing to get back on the court. Amber Ridens is a returning All-American from last year and is probably one of the hardest hitters and servers in the country, according to Kvasnicka. "We also have returning senior, Renee Horton, who started at Loyola Marymount her first two years of college and is now finishing off her college career as an Eagle. Her experience as the starting setter over the years will play a huge



Renee Horton sets up Amy Van Buren during a NAIA National Championship game last season. PHOTO COURTESY DON VAN BUREN

role in this year's season," Kvasnicka said.

This team has more than just a national championship on their mind. They are hoping to set the table for one fantastic year. With the incredible season they had last year, it may be difficult to follow. "This year's group is completely different than last year," said Amy Van Buren, sophomore. "There are a lot of new faces, but everyone seems to be on the right track, and even with a very young team, this group is really close. We should be ready by the start of the season." The Eagles are planning

to approach each game with full intensity to win without a number in mind.

When the time comes for their rematch against Fresno Pacific, their goal is to not worry and freak out at game time and to just treat it as any other game. "There is always going to be bumps in the road, but we are just going to do our best to get where we want to be," Van Buren said.

Women's Volleyball will compete in the CU Center in the Asics/Crowne Plaza Labor Day Tournament on Sept. 3.

Men's Soccer:

Former bench takes the front line

BY TYLER HOWARD
SPORTS EDITOR

Concordia Men's Soccer is off to a great start with a current record of 3-0. Beginning their season with a win over Evergreen State (WA), the Eagles are hoping to make it back to the Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) playoffs and finish strong.

So far, the Eagles have defeated Evergreen State College with a score of 2-0, beat Concordia University Oregon 3-1 and pulled a victory over Warner Pacific College 3-2.

Last year the Eagles' season ended earlier than expected when they lost in the first round of the GSAC playoff tournament. "This year, the strength of the team is the team itself," said Chris Gould, Director of Soccer. "Everybody has bought into each other, and I think that the guys this year refuse to lose a game."

The team lost their back line and midfield line from last year due to players that had graduated and moved on so now the Eagles have different members on the team that will be filling these positions.

"The guys are very hungry, and they're going to compete for everything they get," Gould said. "This is a team that should win the close, ugly games. It's a special group, and they'll find

a way to win."

There will be 11 recruits joining the team this year and eight players returning. According to Gould, their 2010 starting line-up will be made up primarily of his 2009 bench. The goal of the team is to establish a new identity.

"Last year, we were senior-heavy and a lot of guys didn't get their chance because of the big names that were playing ahead of them," said Gould. "They saw what happened last year so this group as a whole is going to be hungry for success and going to be a different type of team, but I think overall they'll be better."

Armando Padilla, junior, will be helping anchor the defense this year after starting last season at Mt. San Antonio College. According to Gould, his defensive help will be complimented by the scoring punch anticipated from William Velasquez, a midfielder/forward standout transfer from Los Angeles Mission College.

"Armando Padilla and Willy Velasquez are two players that change this group," Gould said. "They are two very special players, and we're lucky to have them. They are both leaders on the field, not so much with what they say, but more with the exciting impact they're going to have."

The Eagles' next match will be against California State University—Dominguez Hills on Sept. 2 at 4:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY ANDY TEMPLETON



21st Annual Eagle Golf
Classic

\$25,000 Putting Contest,
Prizes & Gourmet
Banquet

Friday, Oct. 1

Tustin Ranch Golf Course
Registration 9:30 a.m.

Shotgun 12 p.m.

For more information or to register visit
www.cui.edu/golf



Artist Spotlight

Blaze McEntee

Blaze Threads

My name is Austin Blaze McEntee, but most people know me as Blaze. Besides playing baseball, I have a passion to design my own clothing. This desire started in high school when I would draw sketches all over my notes with "Blaze" encompassed in them. From cartoon creatures to just random designs, I would end up with more drawings than notes by the end of the class period.

What first gave me the idea of putting my artwork onto t-shirts was my dad who used to make "surf-style" pocket t-shirts with his bright cartoon drawings on them. The idea of making my own clothing really interested me so I began to plan out ideas.

I first started making shirts my freshmen year at San Diego Christian College out of custom made stencils and spray paint. Some of the stencils I made included Bob Marley, Ray Charles, Africa and other random pieces that I drew.

As much as I enjoyed spray-painting shirts, I soon realized that I couldn't make stencils for my more detailed drawings. I also noticed that although the spray-painted shirts were looking good, they weren't as professional looking as other clothing brands.

So my next step was to take them to a screen printing shop and get a mass quantity made. My hope was to raise enough money to make a trip to Africa from these shirts, but I soon became aware of how difficult it is to invest my time in selling shirts while going to school and playing baseball.

Ever since I started making these spray-painted shirts, I've been constantly trying to think of a unique, catchy and sort of funky brand name. I began by looking to brand names that I admire as far as style—Stüssy, Volcom, Vans, etc. Stüssy's style is a big inspiration for my clothing based on their ability to combine surf-style with the hip-hop culture.

After spending a long time trying to come up with a name, I finally made the decision to name my clothing line "Blaze Threads," since most of my drawings already had my name in some capacity. I went to get the name "Blaze Threads" registered, and I am now able to sell my clothing locally.

Over this past summer, I knew that I wanted to get my own professional equipment to make my clothing so I invested in a screen press along with other equipment. My dad helped me out by building a shed in my backyard in San Diego, and as a result I began to make the shirts hot off the press in my own backyard. After learning the long and messy process of inking my own designs on shirts, I've come to realize how much I love it.

My plan for the future is to get a website up and running and to make stickers to slap around town and on cars. I would love to and can see myself making shirts and other products with my designs on them for a living.

So whether I start up my clothing next summer or after I graduate, look out! "Blaze Threads" will come like a thief in the night to slap some style on your back.

Do you act, dance, draw, jam, model, sculpt, sing, write, etc.?

Be featured in the Courier's "Artist Spotlight!"

Tell us what you do at newspaper@cui.edu.

An intimate tragedy: CUI's "Hamlet"

BY BREANNA LAFFERMAN
ARTS/REVIEWS EDITOR

This September, Concordia's Theater Department will be presenting "Hamlet" as the first play of the academic school year. Although some find Shakespearean works outdated and difficult to relate to, Professor Tony Vezner, Assistant Professor of Theater and Director of "Hamlet," has made the setting and overall acting more intimate so that the audience can walk away having a deeper and more significant experience with literature they once presupposed.

Being the first tragedy in about three years, the Theater Department wanted to stylize the work of Shakespeare in order to make it more relatable

and personal for the viewers. This process began by choosing to limit the cast to nine actors consisting of Spencer Blair, senior, Matt Chong, senior, Shaylin Hoye, junior, Justin Joregensen, senior, Naomi Rogers, senior, Sarah Spenker, junior, Jeremy Schlitt, senior, and new talent on Concordia's campus, Aimee Burdette, junior, and Nick Scutti, freshman.

Each cast member is playing both a major and minor role in the play, causing actors to never leave the stage, forcing the audience to adapt to role changes right before their eyes. Therefore, all roles become far more significant and cannot be brushed aside due to irrelevance. Another adaptation was to limit the props and have actors wear modern clothes. This choice causes the audience to use their imaginations to paint the setting in

their heads, allowing them to be drawn into the dialogue with no distractions. In addition to all the adaptations, there is live music being played during parts of the show by Spenker when she is not onstage performing.

"By making this choice of being stylized, the actors become storytellers," said Vezner. "It creates an interesting angle, and the changing roles allows opportunity for the audience to feel more a part of what is going on within the context of the play."

The overall play has evolved into an equally significant group of individuals coming together as a community of actors in order to tell the tragic story of Prince Hamlet.

"Hamlet" premieres Friday, Sept. 17 and runs until Sunday, Sept. 26 in Concordia's Black Box theater.

Theatre and Worship Arts declare "We Believe!"

BY ALEX WILSON
STAFF WRITER

This summer, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's National Youth Gathering (NYG) in New Orleans, La., was spelled "C-U-I."

For five days in July, Concordia Irvine contributed significant amounts to the artistic, musical and dramatic aspects of the Gathering. There were 26,000 youth in attendance at the Gathering, and all of them were grouped in the New Orleans Superdome every night for the mass gathering event and worship.

The music for the event was led by Concordia's own Jon Jordening, Director of Contemporary Worship Arts. Jon was accompanied by familiar SHOUT and chapel worship leaders such as James Bogert, junior, Kyle Cahill, senior, Natalie Hovsepian '10, Matthew Preston '09 and Mai Vu, sophomore. These students led worship for mass events as well as smaller venues at the multiple hotels booked specifically for the Gathering. Rising to the occasion, the worship leaders never failed to excite and enthusiastically engage audiences of all sizes.

In addition to Worship Arts, Concordia also contributed to the dramatic side of the NYG. Every evening at the mass gathering in the Superdome, there was also a small drama that was performed to help further explain and emphasize the Gathering's theme, "We Believe."

Led under the direction of Lori Seikmann, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Director of Theatre Activities, senior Naomi Rogers and recent CUI alumni Jamie Buster '10 and Melissa Straus '10 acted and assisted in the production of "The Network." Alumni Ian Foreman '09 was also involved as well as the Concordia Theatre Department's new musical assistant, Alistar Murden.

The performance of "The Network" was broken up into a series of four days. Each day had a 15-20



PHOTO COURTESY NATHAN B. HARRMANN

Jon Jordening was part of the house band that led worship at the 2010 LCMS National Youth Gathering.

minute skit that furthered the story. The plot followed the pattern of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, the doubt that surrounded and still surrounds the event today and how believers and non-believers react and are potentially persecuted or treated poorly because of the faith they profess.

The story was mirrored with members of the "Network" (Christians) being persecuted and questioned for following their "Leader" (Jesus) and then subsequently being taken in for questioning with the police because of his resurrection. Portraying the struggles of Christianity in modern and relatable terms, youth were able to connect and see how their belief in Christ plays out in their own lives and the lives

of others around them.

In addition to the Superdome, the Gathering was also held in the New Orleans Convention Center. Here, participants were engaged in lectures through breakout sessions and had a chance to visit with vendors. As a part of one of the more active sessions, CUI alumni Drew Williams '10 helped create a smaller version of [PERSECUTED]. Acted out at Concordia every year, [PERSECUTED] helps students to understand what it might be like to be a Christian in an unbelieving or intolerant country. Packed with facts, suspense and emotional challenges, [PERSECUTED] brought an aspect of real life injustice and religious persecution to the Gathering's participants.

"Shack Up" with the Laguna Beach Art Museum

BY BREANNA LAFFERMAN
ARTS/REVIEWS EDITOR

The Laguna Beach Art Museum's current exhibition, "Art Shack," is a group work in which local artists have created various art pieces which encompass all meanings and interpretations of the word "shack."

"Art Shack," presented by Hurley, contains thirty different works and combines art and architecture to describe what "shack" means to each artist. This exhibition was guest curated by Greg Escalante who has worked with the museum's pop culture exhibitions in the past. The museum realized that in the last 10 years, many of the artists exhibited in the popular culture shows have made some type of "shack." Escalante brought forward the idea of gathering these art shacks together into a central exhibition that explicates the phenomenon. Abandoning the rules of the art market and pressure to

create sellable work, art shacks allow the artists to create an experiential environment, narrowing the distinction between art and function, object and environment.

Though few of us have any direct experience with living in shacks, they are at least present in our collective memory and various media outlets, such as films like "District 9." Also, the West Coast is quite familiar with surf shacks, date shacks and Tiki-inspired shacks—romantic, boutique-like bungalows for the leisure visitor.

However, architecturally, a shack is the lowest form of construction meant to serve the most basic or immediate needs. By definition, a shack is a place of disrepair made of the most humble scrap materials like plywood, corrugated metal and plastic. According to the United Nations, more than one billion people (one-sixth of the world's population) live in slums, which is a settlement made of shacks. In every sense of the word, a shack is tem-

poral. It even implies the more humorous, rebellious and misbehaved—to "shack up," or abandon social norms and "shack up in the mountains."

Ultimately, the artists in this exhibition aim to defy the norms of rules set against them, questioning the modes of mass production, social restrictions and perhaps global capitalism.

"Art Shack" will be at the Laguna Beach Art Museum until Oct. 3, along with their permanent collection containing significant examples from all periods of California art—from the early nineteenth century to the present day.

Student tickets are \$12, and after your first visit, the "Art Shack" exhibition is free by presenting your ticket and a form of ID. In addition to this deal, if you own an iPhone or iPod, you can download "Art Shacks" free app which contains artist bios, video interviews and more.

For more information about the Laguna Beach Art Museum, visit <http://www.lagunaartmuseum.org>.

Hungary to GO!

BY BEN HELGE
STAFF WRITER

Saying good-bye to the last two weeks of my life, I found myself with uncontrollable emotions as I walked away from three young men outside of a youth hostile in Győr, Hungary. Bence, Benji, and Gergő attended one of the Hungarian English camps I helped run this summer. Within only two weeks, I felt as though we become part of a brotherhood. I knew them better than people I have “known” for years.

Over the past ten years, Rev. Steven Borst has journeyed across the Atlantic, taking groups of students to run Christian-based English camps in Hungary. This past summer, a group of 14 individuals (high school students, college students, and adults) made this journey again, and I was blessed to be a part of this opportunity to build relationships. Even after 10 years, the same mission remains: to exude the love of Christ to all we meet. This year our theme was GO!, developed from Matthew 28:19-20.

These Hungarian English camps were established to share the Gospel message with those in a country recently ridden of Communism. Now, after numerous visits, beautiful relationships remain between friends. More importantly, they are relationships centered in Christ.

After leaving Hungary I was informed that Bence and Gergő, who are brothers, contemplated

not attending camp this year. Gergő participated the past two times and Bence was unsure of coming. However, God knew the reason for their coming to camp. I feel grateful and thankful that God used me as a Christian role model for each of these young men. We ate, talked, and interacted with each other, but we also prayed, discussed and read Scripture together.

My Bible currently resides in their home as a reminder of the hope that we have in Christ. In return, I received an unexpected wooden Luther rose with a note. The note contained the following words in their response to receiving my Bible: “It’s an eternal present which should be evaluated. It’s like you gave a piece of your heart to us and we will build it into ours to be a better man.” I also received a gift from Benji—his first kick boxing charter on which he expressed the closeness of our friendship. I look forward to seeing how God moves in each of these young men as they mature and as we continue to discuss the life of a Christian man.

As with these three young men, students came from across Hungary to participate in a week filled with activities, English learning, Bible studies, worship and Americans. Some realized the Christ-centeredness before arriving, while others experienced God for the first time in attending a camp.

So, may I remind you the same thing we told each Hungarian at the end of the week: God created you. God saved you. God loves you. Now... GO! And as we continue to grow, rooted in Christ,

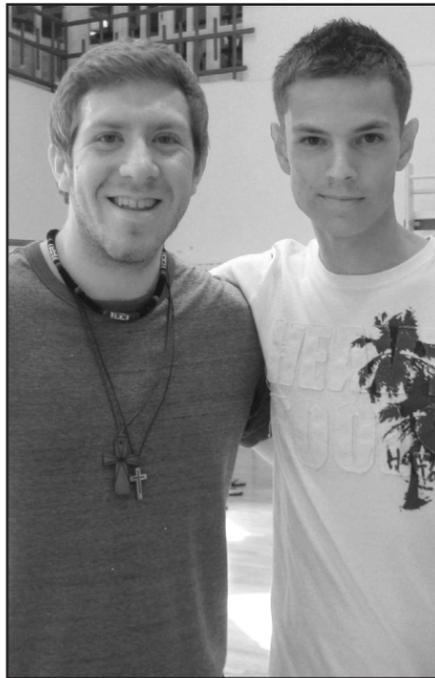


PHOTO COURTESY BEN HELGE

I write what I wrote many times to Bence, Benji, and Gergő: “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love” 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NIV).

Is there hope for Haiti?

BY VICKY CHIEM
STAFF WRITER

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16

My first time outside of the country. My first experience in leading Vacation Bible School. My first complete surrender to God’s calling—to live fully and love dangerously outside of circumstances so different from my own.

My walk with God was never anything that I have anticipated—from the moment He saved me in a huge family of nonbelievers to the moment He called me to Haiti. In every moment of my romance with Him, He always seems to remind me to “rejoice always,” “pray continually” and “give thanks.” But Haiti, in the simplest way I can describe, redefined that.

For this trip, God called a small group from Concordia: five students and two staff members (Monica Lum and David Burgdorf). We partnered with Pastor S.T. Williams Jr. from St. Paul Evangelical Church and a few of his congregation members. All together, we worked with President Kessa and his family from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, where we taught VBS to hundreds of children from the First Lutheran Church of Jacmel. We also helped in the construction of a church and ministered to the children in a large tent city. Most importantly, we built loving relationships with them and with each other.

You know, it is crazy to see God’s grace and how He works in the midst of devastation. With the recent earthquake in Haiti, one automatically assumes that the country is in a whole mess of devastation, struggling to survive. The earthquake broke much of the land into rubble and created huge cracks in the road that do not make it seem like much of a road at all.

Instead of homes, there are broken buildings that reduced many homes to tents—no, tent cities. Some that were made of plastics and others of worn-out blankets, clothing and tree branches. Hundreds, maybe thousands of people surviving without electricity, sufficient food, water, sanitation or protection. There are heaps of trash everywhere. These are some examples of physical brokenness that personally flattened me to tears.

There is still substantial earthquake damage, but what often goes unnoticed is just how much energy there is in the Haitians to progress from what already has been done. Far from what the media may portray (and to my surprise), I’ve found Haiti to be absolutely beautiful, with a spirit that is very much alive and striving to move forward from its brokenness.

There is an abundance of miracles of faith in Haiti—people who could have easily cursed God for their current circumstances instead praised and worshipped Him with all their hearts. People sought us to hear His word. People welcomed us into their country and their lives and the lives of

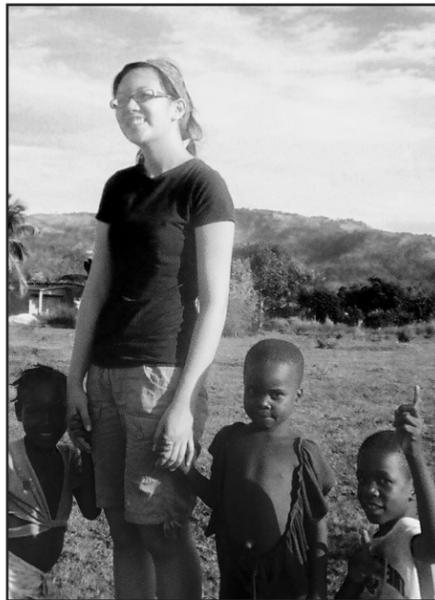


PHOTO COURTESY VICKY CHIEM

their children and loved us—no questions asked. It was a beautiful blessing to be a witness to that kind of faith. I’ve found something about freedom and joy that I’ve never found in any other way, and this experience has been nothing less than falling in love. Please, keep them in your prayers.

Sharing Christ in a Hindu nation

BY MARY ETTNER
STAFF WRITER

India is approximately 80% Hindu. Hinduism is a religion that believes in only one god, Brahma, but because Brahma is so holy and distant, they worship him through thousands of deities. Hinduism is a religion focused on orthopraxis (the way in which they practice their religion and live their life) more than orthodoxy (a specific set of beliefs). So most people in India are dedicated to meditations, shrine worship and even caste systems based around where you are at in your reincarnation status.

This summer a group of twelve from Concordia traveled to India for two months. We went to volunteer, help in any way we could and to preach the Gospel. It was a unique experience for all of us and we had the opportunity to learn about and experience much of the Hindu culture.



PHOTO COURTESY MARY ETTNER

When we were in places of lower castes such as the villages, it seemed that they were less devoted to their religion than those of higher castes and than those who were born in a holy place such as Varanasi. For them, there is hope in their religion because they are getting closer to reaching Nirvana. Nirvana is when the constant cycle of reincarnation comes to an end, and they go to something like a heaven. But for those in poverty, there is not a lot of hope offered to them.

We had the unique opportunity of visiting a village in Nepal called Harmi. This village was almost completely Hindu, and they had never seen a group of foreigners. They invited us into their village so that some of us could demonstrate English education models for the teachers while the rest of us took care of the kids. They did not care what we taught the kids as long as it was fun for them so we taught them about Jesus. There was a large lan-

guage gap, but we were persistent in our efforts to make sure these kids heard the Gospel story. And they did.

For me, the most amazing part of our time in the village came not from telling the kids the Gospel but from talking with the adults. I had a conversation with one man who called himself Hindu but seemed to be searching for something more. He asked me questions about a Christian song we were singing, and through his questions, I was able to share the Gospel with him. I did not expect to come into a completely Hindu village and have someone be so ready to listen to me talk about Jesus, but he was and so were many of the others we met. They wanted to hear about a God who offers hope and salvation. It was beautiful.

Everywhere we went, there were different levels of receptiveness. In Varanasi, the holiest city according to the Hindu religion, we witnessed a



Around the World Update

Amanda Bieniek

Argentinian Enlightenment

A team of 30 students and faculty set out on Concordia’s first Around-the-World Semester. The adventure began two weeks ago.

We will spend four months traveling to 10 countries not only learning culture but also experiencing it firsthand. We have already begun to experience, treasure and record every intense and awe-inspiring detail. My hope is to discover a deeper sense of self and others, and of my role in this giant world.

We will spend about two weeks each in Argentina, Russia, Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Kenya, India, Indonesia and China. During this 18-week program, in addition to our class work, we will take part in many service projects such as teaching English in China, volunteering for an Indian orphanage and serving in the slums of Kenya.

Our first stop is Argentina. We arrived in Buenos Aires on a foggy Tuesday afternoon. The capital city set the hurried pace for the rest of the week. Each weekday morning, we have group devotions and class. The bonding of our group has been expedited because we spend the whole day together studying, reading, praying, volunteering, attempting to order lunch in Spanish and exploring this beautiful city.

Every day is full of new experiences, such as brushing your teeth with Dr. John Norton, discussing literature and culture over a cup of Café con Leche and having our “university home-school.” Class discussions are littered with inside jokes about getting lost on the way to the subway, participating in a street drum-show and our black-wearing, *mate*-drinking, cat-loving hostel receptionist.

The second day we arrived, we started volunteering with L.I.F.E. Argentina, a non-government organization that helps support youth and kids from the slums. I started this service project without realizing the intense poverty that can exist so close to a city like Buenos Aires.

Within a ten-minute bus ride, we went from high-rise buildings, fancy clothing stores and cafés to brightly painted shack-like buildings. These *villas* form an underprivileged community of children trapped in poor circumstances.

Our group has been able to form relationships with the kids while serving them food, playing jump rope and soccer, coloring, reading and teaching English. Our limited Spanish has not hindered our new friends from trying to communicate with us, and their smiles transcend the language barrier.

Cultural differences become apparent every day. Our hearts and minds are being stretched to encompass a larger world.

Part of me misses the accessibility of California: the overabundance of a Starbucks iced coffee, unlimited texting and English speakers. That part of me is lessening with each day we spend away from home, away from normal life, friends and cable TV. That part of me is experiencing a new concept of freedom I had yet to learn.

The first two weeks of this trip have been the most accelerated learning experience I have ever participated in. My mind is open to learn more about life, individuals, language and God’s heart for His people.

Follow my adventures through my blog: LookAtTheNations.blogspot.com

lot of dedicated Hindus worshiping their gods on the banks of the Ganges River. We met people that talked about their religion with conviction, but we also met a Hindu priest at a leper colony who allowed us to sing Christian songs and tell a Bible story to the men and woman who lived there. It seemed that each time we shared the Gospel, it was received.

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV).

Campus Voice

What are you looking forward to at CUI this year?



"I look forward to having an exciting and memorable year and to continue making new friends."

Tim Crilly, sophomore



"I am looking forward to watching the volleyball and basketball games and having them beat everyone. I am also excited about meeting new people."

Gabrielle O'Garro, sophomore



"I am looking forward to not living at home, being around my friends again and making new ones."

Jessica Terena, junior



"I am looking forward to seeing the freshmen adapt to college life as they spread their wings."

Nick Kopinski, sophomore

PHOTOS BY TYLER HOWARD

Classifieds

Gateway Laptop (2007)
Looking to donate to worthy cause.
Imperfect condition but functioning.
emily.eltiste@eagles.cui.edu.

Conair Hair Dryer (Used)
Perfect condition.
\$7
bethany.loesch@eagles.cui.edu.

Textbook for sale!
Called to Be God's People: An Introduction to the Old Testament (Steinmann)
\$40
breanna.lafferman@eagles.cui.edu.

Got junk? Submit classified ads to
newspaper@cui.edu.

Career Tip

The Value of Internships

By Victoria Jaffe

Director of Career Development Services

Let the money do the talking. In terms of starting salary offers, there is a definite financial advantage for students who have internship experience, according to results of NACE's* 2010 Student Survey. Overall, students in the Class of 2010 who had internships received an average salary offer of \$41,580. Meanwhile, their classmates who didn't take internships received an average starting salary offer of \$34,601.

*National Association of Colleges and Employers (Spotlight Online for Career Services Professionals, August 18, 2010)

http://www.nacweb.org/so2010/0818/intern_salary/

Word of the Day

schlep | sh lep| (also *schlepp* or *shlep*) informal verb (*schlepped* , *schlepping*)
[trans.] haul or carry (something heavy or awkward) :
She schlepped her groceries home.
[intrans.] (of a person) go or move reluctantly or with effort :
I would have preferred not to schlep all the way over there to run an errand.

noun
1 a tedious or difficult journey.
2 another term for *schlepper*.

ORIGIN early 20th cent. (as a verb): from Yiddish *shlepn* 'drag,' from Middle High German *sleppen*.

Sudoku Puzzle *Difficulty: Easy*

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		7	5	9	1	2		
	2				9	3	1	7
7	5		2					9
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PUZZLE COURTESY PRINTFREESUDOKUPUZZLES.COM

For puzzle solution visit PrintFreeSudokuPuzzles.com

Puzzle Set #E3528

“Tattoo” makes a mark on box offices

BY BETHANY LOESCH
CAMPUS LIFE/INT’L EDITOR

“How are you guys doing?” I asked a couple who came through my line as I was checking out their groceries at Trader Joe’s.

“Oh, good. Just got out of the movies,” the man replied. TJ’s is next door to a theater that primarily shows independent films.

“What did you see?”

“*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. It was fantastic!” the woman said with such enthusiasm that had I not heard the same thing from three other customers earlier that week, I would have gone to see the film based on her recommendation alone. I had never, in my two and a half years of working next door to a movie theater, heard such consistently raving reviews about a single film. That night, I went to the 10 p.m. showing of “*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.”

The subtitled Swedish film directed by Niels Arden Oplev and based on the novel written by

Stieg Larsson, opens with scenes that detail the downfall of journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist) as he is wrongly accused of libel. The wealthy and powerful Henrik Vagner hires the off-beat, tatted and pierced computer hacker Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace) to investigate Blomkvist. Upon finding that he is clean, Vagner hires Blomkvist to investigate the murder of his niece, Harriet Vagner, who he has been obsessing and speculating over for the past forty years. Blomkvist and Salander eventually team up to solve the mystery of Harriet’s disappearance and find that the dark, disturbing secrets of the Vagner clan have much deeper roots than they had initially anticipated.

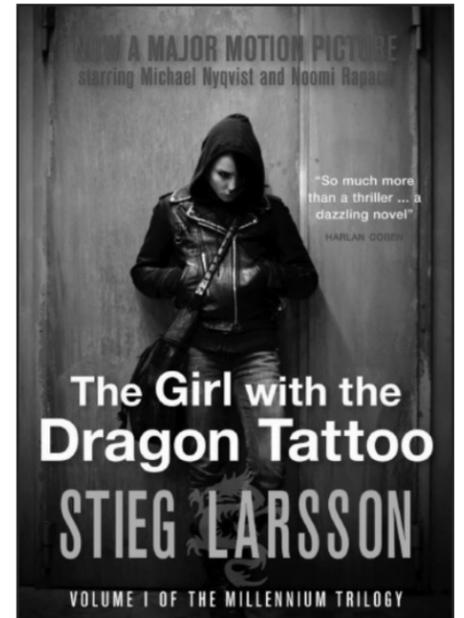
The disturbingly twisted and carefully constructed plot of “*TGWTD*” alone is enough to make this film worthy of seeing, but the real interest of it stems from the character of Lisbeth Salander. A damaged, closed-off and emotionally disturbed individual, Salander sparks enough interest in the viewer to leave one picturing her sadistically pretty face and her alarmingly large and intricate dragon tattoo (which is only shown once) for days after viewing the film. Rapace plays the part excellently

and acts out traumatic scenes of rape and violence in a chillingly raw and real fashion.

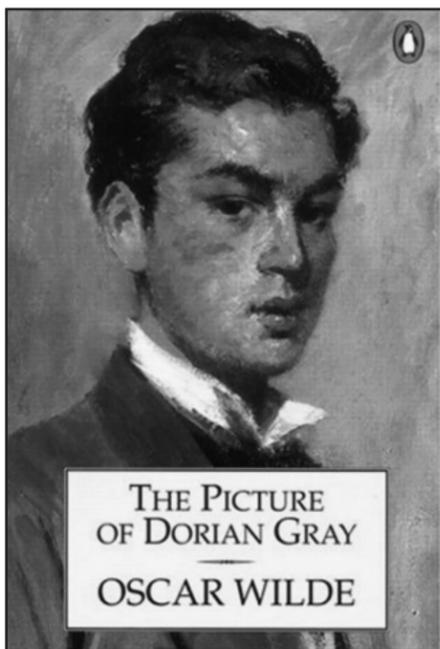
Although Nyqvist was obviously not cast for the role of Michael Blomkvist based on his looks (something I love about European films—the actors look real, making the film seem more authentic), he plays the character of Blomkvist well and evokes much likability within the viewer.

Those looking for fun, light-hearted entertainment should stay far away from “*TGWTD*.” This sexually explicit and sickly violent film left me stunned in many ways with certain images forever imprinted into my psyche. For me, the entertainment and interest value of the film outweighed its disturbing nature. It was not for nothing—the grotesqueness had a purpose though many scenes could be easily considered offensive.

“*TGWTD*” is the first movie based on Larsson’s best-selling Swedish trilogy. The second film adaptation, entitled “*The Girl who Played with Fire*,” is currently out in Swedish theaters. An American version of the film is already in the works and is expected to be released on Dec. 21, 2011.



Go Wilde for “The Picture of Dorian Gray”



BY ELYSSA SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITER

Many artists have brilliantly encapsulated the complexity of human nature and its inherent tendency towards evil. From plays to novels, television shows to posters, the intricacies of the established norms of human interaction have been illustrated through subtle hints or outrageous overstatements. One such novel that beautifully deals with the implications behind attempting to avoid the consequences of immoral behavior is “*The Picture of Dorian Gray*,” penned by Oscar Wilde.

When reading this book, some people tend to focus on the homosexual overtones, ignoring the actual themes of the superficial propensity of society and the ability of the attractive to get ahead simply because of their outward appearance.

The seemingly bisexual relationships in Dorian Gray’s life are obvious. Throughout the book, his friends subtly rumor he has multiple partners. At first, Wilde seems to glorify this type of lifestyle. However, although Wilde was thought to be homo-

sexual himself, later in the novel the consequences of such a lifestyle are not presented as positive. Rather, this lifestyle is presented as having grave consequences.

Although the topic of Gray’s sexuality is a factor in the plot, Wilde’s focus lies in the social inequalities of his time, commenting on the glorification of the seemingly benevolent. Basil Hallward (the artist behind the infamous portrait of Gray), says to Gray, “...sin is a thing that writes itself across a man’s face,” illustrating the belief that if people remain youthful in their appearance, they have remained honorable in their conduct.

It is obvious through the grotesque aging of the magical portrait of Gray that Wilde believes immoral character can be reflected through outward changes, but people should not be assumed to be respectable based entirely on their facade. Hallward also tells Gray that he could not believe a bad rumor about him solely based on his youthful face, saying that it would be physically obvious if Gray was as depraved as the community claimed.

This social commentary drags to center-stage the inconsistencies with Wilde’s society, which re-

main the same today. Not only does Wilde present the “gossipy” habits of wealthy society, he dare says that their entire social system and way of life are corrupted by false understandings (or presentations) of the human condition.

Another major theme is who is truly evil: the thinker behind the idea or the executioner of the idea? Dorian Gray is influenced into his life of depravity by his friend Lord Henry. Lord Henry is fascinated by the fact that anything he says, Gray immediately takes to heart. Lord Henry is the type of character that is in every conversation for the shock factor—he participates in conversations for the sole purpose of making people think. At one point, he admits to Gray that he does not believe almost anything he says. Contrastively, Gray takes Lord Henry’s ideas, the ideas of authors, and puts them into practice. He corrupts himself while continuously harming the people around him. Which is worse, the idea or the practice?

Needless to say, “*The Picture of Dorian Gray*” is a novel worth reading. Not only is Wilde’s writing style intriguing, the ideas he presents are controversial and worthy of discussion.

The uplifting Folk of Amos Lee

BY EMILY GOINS
STAFF WRITER

I thought I had heard it all before, but little did I know I would fall in love with a man named Amos. When it comes to music, my playlists consist mostly of folk, acoustic, indie and reggae tunes with the occasional trace of 90’s rap. Be-

cause of this diverse taste in music, I stumbled upon the song, “Keep it Loose, Keep it Tight” by Amos Lee on Sirius Radio channel 30, “*The Coffee House*.”

After listening to his music, Lee may just sound like your typical bohemian musician, wandering around the States playing his guitar for money. This is simply not the case. He attended the University of South Carolina where upon graduating, he taught elementary school. It was not until a later time that he began to pursue his passion for singing and song writing. He had the opportunity to open for Norah Jones and almost immediately after landing the job was able to release his first album “*On Blue Note*.”

Amos Lee’s music consists of guitar, piano and minimal percussion. His voice and style of song writing fits right in between Jack Johnson and James Taylor. My personal favorite album is “*Supply and Demand*,” released in October 2006. This particular album is filled with romance and expresses the need for harmony. He introduces the organ into this work very faintly, and yet, it adds a distinct quality that makes his work unique. Also, Lee incorporates a full

band, making the music aspect more significant than in previous albums. In addition, “*Supply and Demand*” includes more background vocals in which he is singing, changing the overall sound in comparison to his debut album “*On Blue Note*.”

Lee’s most recent album, “*Last Days at the Lodge*,” was released in 2008. In this album, it is clear that Lee was rushed to get the album released—many of the songs, including “*Won’t Let Me Go*” and “*Ease Back*” seem to be unfinished, and for a lack of better word, “filler tracks.” I would much rather listen to his more intentional lyrics and rhythmic dynamics heard on “*Supply and Demand*” and “*On Blue Note*.”

Most of us can agree that if acoustic music does not contain superior lyrics, solid musical skill and of course, an attractive face to the name, popularity may be in the lacking. I can thankfully assure you Amos Lee demonstrates each of these characteristics with great sophistication.

Lee currently has six full albums released on iTunes which is also equal to six full albums of “amazingsness.” “*Supply and Demand*” should easily be your next purchase if you are searching for a relaxing and uplifting melody to embody your day.

