

THE CONCORDIA

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Leadership from BSU and Nuestra Voz recap Unity Week

TERESA MCLAUGHLIN STAFF WRITER

Concordia celebrated its annual Unity Week from Sept. 16-20, with events like the Unity Week Kick-off, Cultural Club Showcase, Wings Wednesday and a special Unity Talk in Friday's chapel by Ms. Mo. This week helped to highlight the importance of unity on campus and beyond.

The Unity Week Kickoff, held at the Unity Center on the top floor of the Schroeder Library, was a great success with students and staff connecting with one another over free t-shirts, tacos from Taco Man and raffles. Desirea Melcher, President of the Nuestra Voz cultural club and junior studying English-secondary education, and Indyah Alex, President of the Black Student Union (BSU) and a senior studying Sports Business, both said this was their favorite event of the week. Alex particularly enjoyed "decorating the Unity Center for Hispanic Heritage Month."

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated every year from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, and means a lot to Melcher. "It's a month where I see not just my culture but all other Hispanic, Latino and Indigenous cultures represented and seen for what they are: beautiful and unique," she said. "I love seeing different cultures represented in multiple ways, in stores, decorations, and, of course, in delicious cultural foods."

Another Unity Week event, Wings Wednesday, was held in the Uppers

Lawn and Lambda Courtyard, and also had a big turnout of students. Attendees enjoyed chicken wings and learned how they are one piece of a big "Diversity Puzzle." Students learned this through an activity in which they drew pictures to portray how they were a part of the "Diversity Puzzle." This helped students to visually understand how different people and cultures can come together to complete one big united picture and emphasized the week's theme.

To different cultural clubs on campus, "unity" can mean a lot of different things. Alex said, "To BSU, unity means coming together to support and celebrate each other, no matter our differences. It's about being stronger when we stand as one, both as Black students and as part of the whole campus community. Unity means creating a space where everyone feels safe and heard. It's also about standing up for fairness and equality, making sure everyone feels like they belong and can succeed."

Alex said that the BSU club helps to encourage unity on campus by "creating spaces where students from different backgrounds can come together to learn from each other. We give students a chance to talk about culture, history and identity, which helps bring people closer. BSU also raises awareness about the challenges that Black students face and works to make everyone feel welcome. It's not just about celebrating our own culture but also encouraging others to understand and respect it, making the campus

more open and accepting."

Unity to Melcher and her club means "bringing students together and helping give them a voice. Nuestra Voz creates a community for all Hispanic students; it's a safe place for us to connect, share, bond and form relationships. We encourage everyone's voice to be shared and heard, along with encouraging the many Hispanic, Chicano, Latino and Indigenous cultures to be taught and learned."

A future event to look forward to from the Nuestra Voz club is El Carnival, Melcher's favorite event that they put on. Last year they "represented Salvadorian culture through pupusas, Guatemalan through sweet bread, Mexican through "build your own tacos" with carnitas, Cuban through pota-

to balls, and more sweet treats from Portos and more."

Nuestra Voz helps to unite Concordia because "we strive to be a club that is open to hearing everyone's voice. We welcome all, even non-Hispanic students. We believe it is important to showcase all Hispanic cultures and try our best to achieve that through our events," Melcher explained.

Unity Week ended with a special talk by Ms. Mo during Friday's chapel. Alex said, "She talked about what unity really means and how important it is for us to come together, despite our differences. Her message was powerful because it reminded us that unity isn't just about being the same; it's about respecting and supporting each other, no matter where we come from."



PICTURED ABOVE: Unity at Concordia Irvine Photo courtesy of: Indyah Alex



PICTURED ABOVE: Enjoying catered tacos at the Unity Week Kickoff Photo courtesy of: Indyah Alex



PICTURED ABOVE: Displaying the Unity Week T-shirts Photo courtesy of: Indyah Alex

Concordia University welcomes new ASCUI Senators

JESSELLE ANN MORALES
STAFF WRITER

With the new school year starting, Concordia does not only welcome new students but also thirteen new Associated Students of Concordia University (ASCUI) Senators.

These thirteen new senators include; four senators (Jai Viela, Ruby Hickie, Heidi Bishop, and Jesselle Ann Morales) for residents in Rho, four senators (MJ Gomez, Bradley Weaver, Isa White, and Jose Qutierrez) for residents in Sigma, two senators (Kyra Arnold and Andrew Held) for residents in Quads, and three senators (Brandon Lauford, Mel Ibanez, and Elijah Alexander) for commuters. These new senators take on the responsibility of being the student voice between the different departments within Concordia in addition to playing an important role in creating a community where all students can thrive and succeed within their time here.

Natalie Annunziato, President of the Associated Students of Concordia University, said, "The goal of Senate this year is to be intentional with our changes on campus and really focus on what students want to see improved. We want to cultivate good relationships with the student body so they feel comfortable sharing any concerns about their experience here." Annunziato feels this year's senators are eager students, ready

to help and be involved with any planned events as well as serve their peers with joy and enthusiasm.

Jai Viela, one of ASCUI's Rho Senators, hopes to focus on "helping students of Concordia find their community that will last a lifetime." Viela, a freshman, added that being heavily involved in student leadership roles has been something that he has done since the sixth grade. When the opportunity to become a senator and serve his peers once again came about, Viela took the opportunity eagerly to see the difference he can make at Concordia, similar to the many other Senators this year.

Students can expect to see more ASCUI Senate sponsored or collaborations with more student life organizations here on campus this school year. This is in hopes of creating interactive events for students to participate in. Carrie Hinrichs, ASCUI's Vice President, said, "We're looking to collaborate with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) in the future as well as abbeywest again." Hinrichs added that this year's senate group comes with creative ideas and a strong work ethic, making her feel thrilled to see what the future holds.. The ASCUI Senate has big plans for the student body of Concordia and members look forward to continuing to serve their peers and community.

Get to know your ASCUI president and her council's agendas

KIERSTYN BUSK
STAFF WRITER

The executive board of the Associated Students of Concordia University Irvine (ASCUI) seeks to serve campus through their leadership and communication. This year, with valuable input from students, they plan to launch several projects aimed at improving student life.

These initiatives, as outlined in the student leadership webpage, are designed to address the needs and concerns of the student population by "expressing the student voice to the administration in the realms of student affairs, policies and administrative decisions."

ASCUI president Natalie Annunzaito, a senior from Rancho Cucamonga, explained her role as president in the student council. "I communicate with upper administration to make sure that they hear the students' voices in decisions. I also oversee the Senate with the Vice President, Carrie Hinrichs. She and I work together to ensure our campus is constantly evolving to be the best it can be. We decide the direction that our senate team is going to go in so that we can have a focus for the year."

In order to serve the student body effectively, the council must first get to know what the students want to see for the upcoming year through outreach via focus groups. According to the ASCUI website the collective ideas, desires and change that students want to see is "relayed to the Vice President Carrie Heinrich in weekly meetings."

Some insight as to how the council's agendas will be achieved this semester were outlined by Annunzaito. She said, "This year,

we really hope to get feedback from the student body and make impactful changes to the campus. We want to cultivate a community that is welcoming and that students feel comfortable sharing concerns with."

With prior experience in the council, Annunzaito served as the Communications Director which will aid in her bid to engage with the student body. Annunzaito said, "We are planning on hosting focus groups with students to get their input on different areas on our campus and how we can improve it."

In regards to the concrete projects planned by the student council, lips are sealed. Annunzaito stated that the council is passionate about a few projects this year but "unfortunately we cannot share yet as we are working on things right now before spreading the word too much (sorry about that!)"

It seems that the student body will simply have to wait and see in regard to these highly anticipated projects planned by the student council. For more information or to get involved in the focus groups, please contact the communications director Julia Swan at ASCUI. comm@cui.edu.



PICTURED ABOVE: Annunzaito in her role as ASCUI president 2024
Photo courtesy of: ASCUI Executive Board

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Students go to the Getty Villa for a cultural Greek experience

BELLA SAGUM
STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 25, honors students and Professor Clinton Armstrong, Professor of History and Theology, took their annual trip to the Getty Villa in Los Angeles to watch “Memnon.”

The Getty trip was meant to engage students in ancient Greek culture, starting the night off at the Getty Villa. After being able to enjoy each other’s company and engage in fellowship on the hour long drive up north, students sat outside at the Getty’s open stage – similar to open air stadiums of ancient Greece – to watch the live theater performance of “Memnon.”

“Memnon,” written by Will Powers, is a modern adaptation of a conceptualized idea of what the ancient story of Memnon would have been if it wasn’t lost. Nicole Kramer, sophomore, feeling impacted by how special the nature of the writing and the performance was, said “I thought a lot about how deeply these Greek and Trojan characters have impacted people over the years in order for someone to try to reconstruct a lost play about said characters. They are iconic figures of plays and epic poetry that despite their age, are resoundingly relevant and human through the ages.”

The show itself and the Villa were closed off to just college students for the night to get an exclusive experience. After the play ended, the students were able to engage in a live talk-back, where the actors and author of the play were there to answer any questions that the students had. Camille Beeson, junior, said, “I was particularly interested by the use of violence onstage,” which was the author’s choice despite it being forbidden in ancient Greek theater, and was given the special opportunity to ask the author himself about

his writing choices.

After the play ended, the students got a personal tour from Armstrong, who has always had a love for the classical world, and even did his Ph.D. “specializing in the literary culture of the classical world of Greek and Rome.” Beeson said, “Vibrant discussions about Greek culture and history led to many new realizations for me.”

Students were able to ask Armstrong questions about art and artifacts that the Villa has to offer. Kramer felt the tour taught her a lot. “I was thinking about the intricacy of all the statues and jugs, and how the Greeks prized the beauty of certain everyday objects far above their usefulness, for all the time and skill they poured into making things far prettier than they needed to be,” she said.

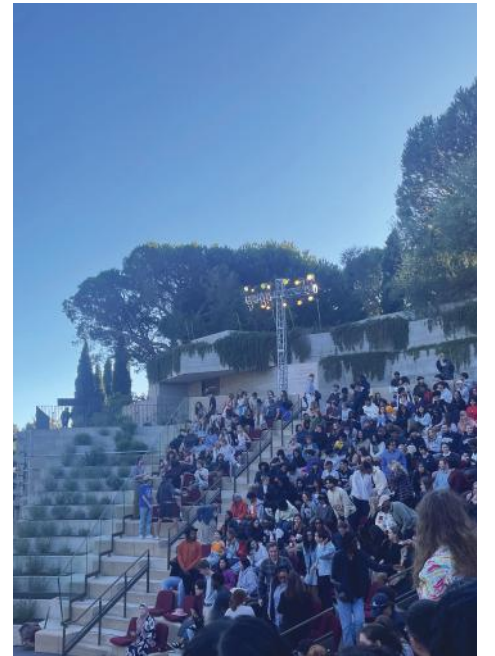
Once the Villa closed for the night, the students headed to Westwood to eat at a Greek restaurant called Nick the Greek. Not only did students get to hear and see Greek culture through engagement with theater and the Villa, they got to taste delicious Greek food to end the night. Getting food afterward has always been a tradition, but specifically going to Nick the Greek started post-Covid. Armstrong said, “I like their ambience, with lots of Greek words on their walls and vocabulary and etymology lessons while we are eating our gyros and baklava.”

Kramer described that the experience as a whole gave her new insight on Greek Culture. She said, “I was reminded about how deeply Greco-Roman culture has shaped the western tradition, and how these characters – Helen, Priam, Achilles, etc. – are people we still read about because they are both larger than life and innately flawed and human. They are

reflections of all we are and all we hope to be in many ways, and this show made that very clear to me.”

This annual experience is open to any students interested. Armstrong said, “I open up this trip every year to honors students first, but I also want to prioritize students who have a love for the ancient world, ancient history, theater, drama, art, and ultimately, anyone interested in learning things about the classics that they didn’t know before.”

Kramer encourages students to consider attending this trip in the future “because it gives you the opportunity to go back in time briefly and imagine how the Greeks would have thought about poetry and love and tragedy and art, and to get lost in the architectural beauty of the villa, and to have good conversations with people about the art you get to witness together.”



PICTURED ABOVE: College students watch Memnon at the Getty Villa
Photos courtesy of: Bella Sagum



PICTURED ABOVE: Students gather around a statue at the Getty Villa
Photos courtesy of: Clinton Armstrong

Lean On Me brings comfort to grieving students

KIARA AZUMA
STAFF WRITER

Lean On Me is a student-led grief support group partnered with the Wellness Center. They are entering their third year of bringing a safe space and support to grieving students on campus.

Every month, Lean On Me hosts a gathering for students dealing with grief and loss in the Center for Student Leadership and Development. The group was founded by Natalie Annunziato, a senior, and Kathleen Bennett, a Concordia alum ‘24.

“Many people feel that the support after losing someone goes away after a few weeks. We started this group because we wanted to keep the support going for each other, reminding one another that we are not alone in our grief process,” said Annunziato.

“When Natalie and I first met, we connected really quickly over the experience of losing our dads in our freshman year of college. Grief is not exactly something commonly discussed amongst college campuses, and we wanted to change that narrative,” said Bennett. “Grief and loss isn’t something to be tip-toed around or hidden; it can be such a huge part of life that a lot of people struggle to cope with.”

All students are welcome to gather in this comforting space, sharing their feelings and processing their grief with others who understand what they are going through. The group is open for anyone coping with the loss of a loved one, whether in the past or recent, or processing other types of grief.

“I think Lean On Me is a great group that is definitely needed on campus,” said Amanda Norris, Associate Dean for Student Life. She is also involved with Lean On Me. “I think there is something really powerful about peer support, and this group helps students know that they are not alone in their grief. Not only does this group help process grief, but it also helps students to remember their loved ones that passed and think of the good times too.”

Annunziato explained that every meet up includes a check-in, an activity and a snack. While the group currently meets monthly, she hopes that they can increase meetings as the year progresses. Past activities include making bracelets, keychains and ornaments. The group also provides worksheets with questions and activities that allow students to reflect on and process their grief, as well as learn different coping strategies.

They hosted their first meeting of the year on Sept. 24, where *Insomnia Cookies* and journals were provided. Everyone took turns introducing themselves and their story with grief. They took some time to answer questions regarding their grief and how they were feeling in their journals. Afterward, the group members took turns sharing some of the answers they felt comfortable talking about.

“By no means are we experts or have it all figured out! We are still working through our own grief and feelings, but the goal is to do it alongside each other. We want people to know they don’t have to be alone,” Bennett said.

“When you think of a grief group, you probably assume sad, emotional, and heavy talks with one another. While we hold space for those conversations, our groups are typically a lot less intimidating than people might think,” said Annunziato. “We make each other laugh, we catch up on other aspects of our lives, and we grieve together.”

Madison Park, Clinical Supervisor at the Wellness Center, provided insight on how important support groups can be for college students who feel isolated in their grief process, especially those who are away from home and family. “As a society, we’re not really taught how to grieve, and oftentimes, we don’t know the language to express grief. Along with that, the people around you who want to support the person in mourning don’t exactly know how, and grief is a topic that most people uncomfortably tip-toe around.”

“You may also start to find yourself retreating and needing space away from most people so as not to burden them or bring them down,” Park said. “Grief support groups become one of the only safe havens where you don’t need to worry about ‘bringing the mood down’ or having to explain how you’re doing or why you’re feeling a certain way.”

Annunziato encourages students to join Lean On Me. “This group has been such a big blessing in my life and so many others. We are grateful for the brave people who show up to our group month after month, and we can’t wait to see who else comes throughout the year. Be brave and come to our group! We want to meet you!”

For more information and updates regarding the next meeting, check out @cui.leanonme on Instagram.

Student group lent a helping hand at the HRC on CONCORDIAserves Day

KENT BEWLEY
STAFF WRITER

On CONCORDIAserves Day, a group of approximately 20 students and staff members volunteered at the Hub Resource Center in Orange, where they served homeless people in a variety of ways.

Students and faculty performed services including working at the front of the center, helping out arriving patrons with signing up for shower services and smartphones charging, cleaning areas such as the kitchen and a playroom for kids and playing board games with some of the patrons.

The HRC is not a homeless shelter; it is a place where homeless people passing through or staying in the city of Orange can come to find a place to sit down, eat and interact with each other on a regular basis. It is located on West Struck Avenue and is filled with bungalows where staff members organize supplies such as food and water along with other essential items.

Kaitlin Williams, Coordinator of Records for Commencement and Degree Conferral, was part of the group that went to the Hub, which was her second CONCORDIAserves Day experience. Williams likes the day of service because it “engages the whole campus community, whether it’s faculty, staff, or students. We all serve together alongside each other and benefit the community we all love.”

Williams decided to volunteer at the Hub Resource Center because, “This year, I wanted my serve event to be really hands-on and to really get to know the people that we were helping... and that was so awesome, just getting to know the people that we’re blessing and hearing their stories.”

By appearances, the homeless patrons at the Hub were mostly in the senior age group, with an even ratio of men and women. They had picnic tables to sit at to eat breakfast and interact with each other along with members of the volunteer group.

One of the students who volunteered at the Hub was Olivia Costello, a freshman

who has previous experience in volunteering at pantries and shelters in her hometown in New Jersey. Costello also runs a nonprofit back home that provides necessary food and hygiene items to students in her community who need that support and assistance every week.

Costello’s observations of the homeless population in her local community were a big reason why she signed up for the group that volunteered at the HRC, where she ended up working in the kitchen and helped the workers at the Hub “clean and organize their area as well as their outside shed area.”

Costello likes that Concordia “dedicates a day for students to be able to serve their community as a whole” and that she thinks that it is “really great that Concordia gives us the opportunity to give back.”

Elsewhere at the Hub, Williams worked at the shower check-in station and it allowed her and others to meet homeless patrons who walked onto the property during the mid-morning hours. Williams said that while the patrons were waiting to get their names on the shower check-in list, “there was some small talk about what they’ve been up to that day, how long they’ve been going there.”

Williams added that the HRC is “an amazing organization” and that she was so impressed with all the resources that the center offers along with how organized it was for the purpose of helping out homeless people.

“They knew every single person there by first name and they knew all about their lives and they really prioritize loving them before anything else and that was very prominent for sure,” Williams said.

Costello said that her impression of the Hub is that “it is a great resource and does amazing work with the people that come in, and I had a great time learning how they work and how we as volunteers helped them considering the work that they do for the community.”

The Hub Resource Center is open on weekdays from 7 a.m to 1 p.m and on Saturdays from 9 a.m to 1 p.m. To learn more about the services and volunteer opportunities that the HRC provides, please visit their website <https://thehuboc.org/hub-resource-center>.

California calling: International students choose Concordia

ANA GUERRERO RÓDENAS
STAFF WRITER

On Aug. 15, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) welcomed students from around the globe, all bound for Concordia University. These international students arrived at the Lower Quads, eager to embark on their new academic semester in California.

Moving so far from home was not a difficult decision for some. Aislinn McGahan, a junior psychology student who comes from London, said, "I have always loved America, but also California and the weather." Wanting to get out of their comfort zone and see new places can be one of the reasons why students decide to change their lives in this way for a few months. "I kind of wanted to live far from home, just to travel the world, and live the American dream," McGahan added.

But not all of these students speak English as their first language. Alberto Gatti, who is Italian, decided to finish his financial master's at Concordia. "I had a challenge, an opportunity so I went for it," Gatti said, "I wanted to come to the USA to improve my English, and I chose Concordia because it was in California, and I have always wanted to come here."

The same happened with Ema Sovo, an International Justice student from Croatia. She said, "I was excited about sports and community, which is much more common in American schools." They explain that the cultural barrier is real, but is just about adaptation. "I was excited to come to California, to explore... to see what opportunities will turn up here," Sovo continued.

When a student moves so far from home, a significant purpose is usually behind their decision. Concordia's choice location is likely a great attraction, as is its fame among athletes. Marcus Morgan, a junior studying Communications, and a volleyball player, who comes from Toronto, came to the university with the purpose of playing in a D1 school in California, "This school caught my attention

because I can get in both academically and set myself up for success on and off the court."

Malachi Ebanks, a junior student from London, who studies acting, found Concordia's relative proximity to Los Angeles appealing. "I like the idea of starting off in Hollywood," he said.

As a small liberal arts school with a wide variety of academic departments available at Concordia, students can develop close relationships between professors and leadership which can help international students feel included. Gatti said, "I love people here because they are really nice and I feel like they care about me, as they are always helping me to understand them and involve me in activities."

Furthermore, the organization and programs offered by Concordia seem to be interesting for international students, who note the differences in the American school system. "I love how it is organized in terms of hours of class and assignment... I think they organize the dynamics of the class very well," Gatti said.

Some of these differences in America have introduced challenges, and when you go to a new place you never really know what limitations it will bring with it. Sovo said that even though Irvine is such a "beautiful place to live... the only issue is transportation around this area, which, if you don't have a car, can be very challenging."

International students expressed confidence that their expectations would be met and exceeded. Morgan emphasized the personal growth and exposure that studying abroad would provide. "I feel like coming here is kind of exposure, like branding and being authentic to myself, that was one of the biggest reasons to come here... probably the reason why I decided to make this change. I am 100% sure that my expectations will be met."

Concordia offers a compelling combination of factors that make it an attractive destination for international students. The weather, proximity to Los Angeles, academic opportunities and supportive community contribute to a positive and enriching experience for those seeking to explore and continue their studies abroad.

Time to prepare for the grad school fair

MADISON ZUNIGA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you have ever considered pursuing a graduate degree after leaving Concordia, now is the time to have your concerns resolved and questions answered! On Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., students have the opportunity to browse a wide selection of grad school options from across the nation.

"Anyone who wishes to continue their education either for enrichment and for the love of learning, or if they have a goal to further their opportunities [should consider grad school]," said Janet Lee, Associate Director of Graduate & Adult Admissions. "Some industries require a Master's degree or higher and others see it as a benefit in order to climb the leadership ladder or see a bump in their pay scale."

"It's important to learn what programs are out there," said Lee. "Not all schools offer the same programs and some might be a better option for a specific major. Also, like how someone selects an undergraduate program/school, meeting the counselors at the grad fairs can be beneficial as they are the ones who will walk you through the admissions process."

Representatives from over 20 schools ranging from Seattle to Sacramento will be available to answer questions and offer materials to prospective students. A diverse amount of programs are offered by these schools, such as the Master of Business Administration, a J.D. degree in law, or a religious degree at a Divinity School.

"We do the heavy lifting of researching quality graduate programs and bring the schools to our students," said Mariah Lucas, Director of Career Development & Vocation. "If a student is on the fence about grad school, I would encourage them to attend the grad fair to learn more about the programs and career outcomes possible. I would also encourage them to explore their career field on onetonline.org to see if Graduate School is a requirement for their field."

Lee offered important recommendations to students from an admissions perspective. "It's very important that a grad candidate reviews all the necessary requirements prior to applying. Review the program's website and admissions pages—most programs offer very valuable information on how to apply and how to prepare. Don't be afraid to contact the school for questions, most admissions counselors are happy to help. Lastly, don't procrastinate! Some programs require a number of documents and some might take time to gather, so it's always good to start early and not wait until the deadline to start submitting items."

Lucas encouraged students to take advantage of their on-campus resources as they prepare to make decisions about grad school. "Students can prepare for the fair by doing research on their intended field to learn if graduate school is a requirement, recommendation or something to avoid. They can do this through a Career Exploration Meeting with the Career team or through onetonline.org by typing in the job they are interested in."

For more information about the Graduate School Fair, students can visit the event page on Handshake or contact Mariah Lucas at mariah.lucas@cu.edu.

Civil dialogue flourished at VP debate watch party

MADISON ZUNIGA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
& GISELLE PARRA
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday evening, Oct. 1, over fifty students gathered alongside faculty and staff in President Michael Thomas' backyard for a live watch party of the Vice Presidential debate between Ohio Senator J.D. Vance and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. As attendees snacked on chicken tenders, sliders and s'mores, they enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions and engage in respectful discussion in preparation for Election Day.

Faculty and staff prefaced the televised debate with speeches about unity, respect and civility. They also answered student questions about hot topics, discussing voter registration, party line divides and border control. Ms. Mo, Associate Dean for Student Engagement, encouraged students to uphold their neighbors in a loving way in the midst of a difficult political landscape.

Dr. Thomas reflected on the tension between the individual and the collective consciousness, and how across the course of American history, the pendulum has swung back and forth as priorities shifted to protect one or the other. He emphasized the importance of civil dialogue within the current political landscape and hoped that students would take advantage of Concordia's effort to promote critical thinking and questioning.

"It's really awesome to see this event," said Amanda Norris, Associate Dean for Student Life. "It's a huge stereotype that people of this age group and generation don't care about things like this, with voting and politics. In the beginning, we had everyone raise their hand if this was their first election, and it was the majority of the students. We had over fifty students here, and so it's really cool to see them taking initiative and educating themselves on this election so that they can vote if they want to."

"I really appreciate President Thomas for hosting this, because otherwise we would just end up watching this in our dorms, and now we get to connect with people doing it this way," said freshman Nolan Ledwith, who described the event as a "summertime barbecue." "I think President Thomas' speech at the beginning of the year really coincides with this event, showing that his actions speak louder than his words by hosting [us]."

"I think that this is an incredible event because not only does it bring some pretty important questions to mind when watching the debate, but it also gives us a community to talk with fellow students and get their thoughts, their opinions, in a good environment," said David Kruse, senior. "Like, this is a pretty comfortable and fun environment. So I'm just looking forward to it, looking forward to the ideas so that I can be a little more informed when I vote."

ASCUI, Concordia's student government, helped organize and advertise the event, and all six members of the ASCUI team were present. "I think it's a great idea that we're having this event because it gets people involved and informed," said ASCUI Treasurer Nikko Brovick. "Especially in today's political landscape, tensions are high and we don't have conversations about these things when we really should be. It's equipping us as the next generation. I think it's really important that we learn how to talk about these things and not treat it as a taboo subject."

"For me, this Vice Presidential debate was exemplary of civil dialogue," said Thomas. "I think they've had a very good conversation back and forth, I think they've fact-checked one another, but they've been respectful – largely – of one another. And they've actually several times said that they'd reach across the aisle to work with one another, and I think that's very hopeful."

"I think it's important that especially young people get civically engaged and politically involved because we know that our voices matter and that we are the next generation, and that we might find some of us in these positions in the future," said Jai Viela, a freshman senator in Rho. "I think that when being a senator, a politician, or a leader in general, you need to take into consideration who you represent, the concerns of the people you represent and stay open to all ideas."

Thomas offered a concluding message to Concordia's campus. "My primary exhortation to the students of Concordia is that they register to vote and participate in democracy. People for 250 years have given their lives for this right. People around the world are now dying for the right to be able to decide on and participate in democracy. We have that right here enshrined, we just have to use the franchise," he said.

To register to vote in your state for the upcoming national election and all other state and local elections, visit Vote.Gov.



PICTURED ABOVE: Students gather in President Thomas' backyard
Photo courtesy of: Giselle Parra and Madison Zuniga

Courier Career Tip of the Issue!

CHECK IN WITH YOUR CAREER PATH ONCE PER YEAR:

It is good practice to keep up to date with your career opportunities and salary. Create a career development plan and keep on eye on any industry trends.

New dance room and equipment benefits students' education and wellness

REBEKAH MICHEL
ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

Walking past the Student Union classrooms, previously one would see a room of desks, chairs, carpet and neutral-toned walls. Now, the space has been transformed into a large dance room with proper flooring and mirrors for Concordia's dance students.

Securing a legit dance room at Concordia had been a challenge as classes had previously been held in a small room in the back of the CU Center, and before then, the Performing Arts Annex.

Now, the new flooring and equipment in the Student Union is ready to enhance dance at Concordia for all students.

"Providing a new dance room, floor and equipment at Concordia, has enhanced the overall experience of dance classes immensely... Students heavily involved with dance will absolutely say how beneficial it is to have these upgrades and hopefully, the beginning of a dance minor program will lead to future enhancements as well," said sophomore Ashlyn Davis. Davis, a Psychology major and Musical Theater minor, has enjoyed many of the one-unit dance class offerings.

Taught by Professor Autumn Mortenson, Concordia's dance

classes range from the three-unit general elective Dance for Health class, to ballet and hip hop offered once a week alongside other special offerings such as modern, tap and jazz.

For senior Isabella Mangahis, dance classes were a new experience coming into college. "Before I came to Concordia, I had no dance experience, but this is my third year of taking classes... Dancing has been one of the best blessings for me as a student here. I have always found beauty in dance but never had the courage or the time to fit it in my schedule," said Mangahis.

As excitement for dance continues to grow at Concordia, the new dance room is a meaningful facility as creates a safe space for students to progress in their love of dance. For a member of the newly created dance club, Giselle Parra, investing in proper dance equipment is pivotal to a student's success and is necessary to prevent injuries. "It is important to ensure the safety of students as they use this outlet for creative expression... Doing things such as turns and tap dance require a proper floor, same as tennis and basketball needing proper space," said Parra.

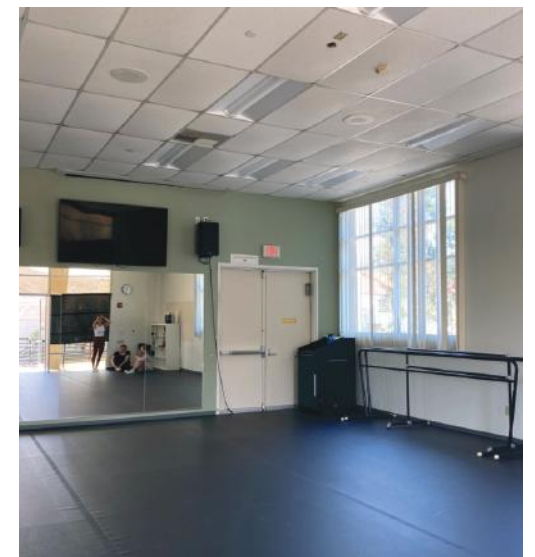
Concordia allows students to fulfill their passion for dance while still being able to pursue academic disciplines for students in dance classes and the dance club. "I wanted to dance professionally, but I made the choice for my proper education to come first. The thought that choosing academics would mean that I may have to stop dancing was heartbreaking. I am so thankful that Concordia provides me with opportunities to still dance," said Parra.

While the dance classes are listed under the Theatre and Film Department, they are open for students of any major or dance experience. By taking a dance class, students can gain the ability to express themselves creatively but also enjoy its benefits to one's physical, mental and spiritual well being.

"Feel free to reach out to Professor Autumn Mortenson, the dance teacher here at Concordia. She is an excellent and challenging teacher who wants to help you grow. Come take a class! They are a fun and great way to exercise and you never need to be self-conscious about whether you have experience or not. Dance has helped me develop in many aspects of my health and I hope it does for all interested students too," said Mangahis.



PICTURED ABOVE: Students in Concordia's ballet classes are thrilled to be equipped with proper mirrors and flooring in their new classroom. Photos courtesy of: Rebekah Michel



PICTURED ABOVE: Previously a Student Union classroom, the dance studio is fit to hold a larger amount of students and to further enhance Concordia's dance classes. Photos courtesy of: Rebekah Michel

"Turtles All the Way Down" is a powerful tale of wanting to be seen

HOPE YONEHARA
STAFF WRITER

On May 2, 2024, director Hannah Marks brought John Green's "Turtles All the Way Down" to the big screen. Starring Isabela Merced as Aza Holmes, the film is one for the whole family and can be watched on HBO Max, Amazon Prime or YouTube TV.

The plot follows Aza as she reconnects with her old friend, Davis (played by Felix Mallard). As their friendship turned into something more serious, Aza grappled with obsessive thoughts about germs and questioned her ability to maintain a meaningful relationship.

Instead of the predictable storyline where Aza is miraculously cured of OCD, Green focused on managing OCD with the help of supportive friends. Her best friend, Daisy, reminded her that life would be hard. Still, she would always love and be loved. Additionally, Davis remained patient and understanding with her, making Aza feel like a "girl worthy of having a crush on."

Another significant part of the plot was the relationship between Aza and her mom. Like many parents, Aza's mom wanted to protect her child in any way she could. She checked in on her during her breaks at school and told her it was best not to attend college due to her OCD. Aza felt hurt by her mom's desires and saw it as a sign that her mother didn't believe in her.

As the plot progressed, both Aza and her mom evolved. Aza grew thankful for her mom and all the ways she helped her manage her OCD. And Aza's mom recognized that Aza possessed more

capability than she had initially realized.

I found the relationship between these two characters very relatable. Many parents of teens with OCD and other challenges often want to protect their children. Conversely, many teens with mental or emotional challenges long to be seen as "normal." Any suggestion to the contrary, even if it stems from parental concern, can feel threatening.

Finding the balance between the two is what makes the relationship between parents and teens with OCD very complicated and very beautiful.

Beyond the plot, the acting shone brightly. Merced could have easily portrayed Aza's OCD as "quirky" or "just being weird." Instead, she played Aza with authenticity and relatability that left the audience wanting more. Furthermore, Cree Chicchinos' portrayal of Daisy was skillfully balanced between being the comic relief and being a kind and supportive friend for Aza.

The editing was also off the chain. The visual portrayal of germ and the voice-over intrusive thoughts allowed the audience to empathize with Aza. It also showed the realities of OCD: that it is not "cute" or just a fear of germs. It is hard and painful.

Ultimately, "Turtles All the Way Down" was a moving and honest exploration of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder that is a must-see for all. The film captured the pain and complexity of wanting to be "normal" in a world that is constantly telling you otherwise. More importantly, it celebrates the true joy of being seen for who we truly are.



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Music Department fetes Roger Williams with grand first concert of the year

REBEKAH MICHEL

ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

Celebrating a hundred years of renowned pianist Roger Williams, the Music Department produced a robust concert on Sept. 28 at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. Featuring adjunct professor of piano, Dr. Hyenjoo Choi, Concordia Symphony Orchestra, Donne Di Canto, Men's Chorus and soloists Bryan Pezzone and icon, Pat Boone, the Roger Williams Centennial Concert was an astounding accomplishment for the Music Department and an electric way to begin the year of performances.

Known as the "Pianist for the Presidents," Roger Williams is the greatest selling pianist of all time and his impact continues to be recognized. The grand repertoire of this concert featured some of Rogers' own arrangements combined with familiar tunes such as "Abide with Me," "The Impossible Dream," "The Star Spangled Banner," and "Rhapsody in Blue." For sophomore vocalist and clarinetist Raquel Nitz, "My personal favorite was the 'Impossible Dream' as we got to make history and sing with Pat Boone. Playing 'Rhapsody in Blue' was also really amazing... Dr. Choi, who played the piano, was incredible."

With preparing a concert that celebrates such an influential musician, there were some unique challenges for the students involved. "There are always challenges when preparing for a concert, but this one was unique because a lot of the arrangements were not as accurately written as we would have liked... but that's what made it fun. We always had to be cognizant of what was happening on the paper," said senior tuba player Vincent Rodriguez.

The concert was very well attended, as 500 people could be seated inside the East Room of the Nixon Library, which is a replica of the East Room at the White House. Additionally, the concert was followed by a panel for audience members and songs

by request on the Rogers William's Steinway piano. For sophomore cellist Ashley Aziz, this concert was a great commemoration of our country's history. "I hope that the audience members who walked away from this concert were touched and remembered the great men before us who listened to these very pieces of music," said Aziz.

While most of the concert's arrangements came directly from the Roger Williams estate, one of Concordia's own professors contributed an arrangement to this concert. Prof. Steve Young wrote a unique rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" that was meaningful for many of the students involved in the concert. "The arrangement of the 'Star Spangled Banner' was beautiful. It's a different take on a piece that we all know so well. It reminded me of its beauty and what talented and skilled faculty we have on this campus," said sophomore flutist Kai Duston.

As Concordia continues to provide its students with influential opportunities, the Roger Williams Centennial Concert was one of great significance for many students in the Music Department. "To know that our ensembles were able to touch audience members that got to live during Roger William's career made the concert much more special to me. It's great to be the next generation of musicians to get to play Roger Williams," said Rodriguez.

To find out more information about upcoming concerts and events for the Music Department please visit www.cui.edu/arts/music/events.



PICTURED ABOVE: Under the direction of Dr. Jeff Held, the Roger Williams Centennial concert featured arrangements of melodies such as "Abide with Me" and "The Impossible Dream" featuring Pat Boone.
Photo courtesy of: Music Department



PICTURED ABOVE: Celebrated as "the Pianist of the Presidents", Roger Williams' impact on music was celebrated and ever present at the Centennial concert.
Photo courtesy of: Music Department

NBA 2K25 the same ole game, better storylines

JADEN HENDERSON

STAFF WRITER

NBA 2K25 was released on Sept. 8. It is the newest game in the renowned basketball simulation series with improvements over previous installments while bringing in cutting-edge technologies that boost player interaction and gameplay.

You and your buddies eagerly await the release of the new 2K each year. In order to avoid feeling as though you wasted your money on the same 2K you had last year, you are hoping for a change in gameplay. You constantly convince yourself, "It's the same game, I'm not getting 2K this year." And because you don't want to feel excluded, you still always manage to get it.

There was a slight change from the last couple of games such as 2K23 and 2K24 but not a significant change. They have improved scoring by making it more skill-based and rewarding than it was in NBA 2K24, which made shooting feel less natural. This has also increased the competitive element of the game.

2K25 sets a new standard in terms of visuals thanks to its amazing graphics and realistic animations. Each year, graphics seem to improve but it's not a huge difference. The whole display, with its improved lighting and commentary, closer to a broadcast, draws gamers even more into a real-life basketball experience.

NBA 2K25's MyCareer mode is known for having a more detailed storyline. This is where you stay up all night with your friends trying

to make your own MyPlayer and start teaming up together. With more opportunities for character development and longer tales, players are now taking on a more captivating journey. New card tiers and modes are also introduced by MyTeam, which improves the competitive environment. The redesigned auction house and the addition of seasonal content are praised in online reviews since they prolong gaming and keep gamers interested.

2K25 offers a more balanced gameplay experience thanks to frequent updates and modifications based on player feedback, in contrast to certain previous versions. The attention to community concerns has been a big improvement over NBA 2K23, where many players felt that issues remained without resolution.

As the franchise's director of digital marketing, Ronnie 2K, whose real name is Ronnie Singh, is well-known in the NBA 2K community. Acknowledged for his captivating demeanor and strong social media presence, he serves as an intermediary between the creators and the players, offering perspectives on upcoming additions, game modifications, and community gatherings.

Ronnie is a well-liked character among fans because of his passion for basketball and video games. He frequently takes part in live streams and events to promote the newest games in the franchise. His impact has shaped the NBA 2K series' audience interactions and helped to create a thriving, devoted community.



PICTURED ABOVE: Concordia Symphony Orchestra, Donne Di Canto, and Men's Chorus, alongside several soloists, celebrated the 100th year of Roger Williams at Nixon Presidential Library.
Photo courtesy of: Music Department

Swim & Dive is making waves

EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

Swim & Dive started their season off on Sat., Sept. 28 as they jumped in head first, rewriting the Concordia record book with their performances at the Pacific Collegiate Swim Conference Relay Meet. To prep for the PCSC Relay Meet, Swim & Dive hosted their highly anticipated annual Green vs Gold Intrasquad meet on Sept. 20.

Green vs. Gold provides an opportunity for Swim & Dive to build up their Golden Eagle spirit, dress up, build team morale and participate in friendly competition against each other. Freshman Brinkley Hallgren said, "Green vs. Gold helps to kick off the season in a positive and exciting way. It allows the team to build connections and create good friendships with each other while still being competitive!"

It's clear that this annual competition helps bring the team together, because a week later the Golden Eagles marked some incredible finishes together. The women's side finished in second place, behind conference rivals, Azusa Pacific. The men's side came out of the pool on top after taking down the defending champs, TMU. In the women's 3x100 breaststroke, relay trio, Alex Leland, Brinkley Hallgren and Ellie Hardey turned on the jets and finished with nine seconds to spare, breaking the previous school record by four seconds. Hardey, a senior, is going into her fourth and final year as a Golden Eagle. "My mindset going into our season opener was to have fun and race. I never want to put too much pressure on myself, senior year is all about having fun for me," she said. "Since it was a relay meet, it provided another great opportunity to build camaraderie with my relay teams and cheer on my teammates."

More names entered the record book as Leland, Alice Stainer, Aubrie Carver

and Hannah Edwards raced in the 4x50 free relay with a time of 1:40.66, breaking the previous school record by 1.3 seconds. Stainer said, "The beginning of the season is always great because of the high energy and excitement. I think our team does a great job of bringing the energy and effort every time we compete."

In her collegiate debut, freshman Chloe Dobie made exponential marks for Concordia Dive in the 1m and 3m competitions. Dobie now ranks fourth in both events for Concordia history. Dobie said, "My mindset for my first collegiate diving debut was to have fun, not put so much pressure on myself, and to enjoy every moment of it because I won't ever get this time back."

The men's team won six total relay events, the 3x100 butterfly, 3x100 breaststroke, 500 step, 4x100 medley, 4x50 free and 4x100 free relays. Sophomore Mitchell Cullen was a standout athlete this weekend in the 500 step after he made a 1:47 split in his 200 free as he propelled through the water to make the astonishing comeback for the Golden Eagles and secure the win.

Cullen said, "Every time I dove in the water I just told myself to go for it and see what happened. The main goal was to beat Masters and have some fun while doing it! And we did just that."

Concordia Swim & Dive has always radiated a winning atmosphere and an authentic, familial support within the team. Stellar athlete, student and person, Ryan Burke graduated a year early last spring and during her time competing for Concordia Swim & Dive, became one of the best athletes to compete in program history.

A few weeks before we came back to school in August, Burke was involved in a tragic car accident that left her hospitalized for weeks, and rattled the lives of her family, friends and loved ones.

While Burke continues her road to full

recovery, the reality of this dire experience prompted the Swim & Dive team to honor the spirit and legacy Burke left at Concordia after graduating and support her in the recovery process. The Swim & Dive team made bag tags with a photo of Burke celebrating in the pool that reads the mantra, "Be Ryan Burke Tough."

Hardey said, "Ryan is one of my best friends...She has made a long-lasting impact on the team as a great leader and a determined hard worker. She constantly motivated others and made sure no one ever swam alone. One of my favorite things she did was whenever we were in the middle of a hard set, she would yell into the gutter to get everyone pumped up. I plan to follow in her footsteps and do my best to show up every day with a positive attitude, encouraging others and leading by example."

Swim & Dive will continue to show what it means to be "Ryan Burke Tough" as her teammates continue to honor her Concordia legacy and take her on their journey this season.



PICTURED ABOVE: Bag tag with a photo of Ryan Burke that reads, "Be Ryan Burke Tough." Photo courtesy of: @cuiswimdive on Instagram



PICTURED ABOVE: Jonathan Dose dives into the pool Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon

A change of leadership within women's volleyball

SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia women's volleyball team is currently 0-4 in conference play. Through maintaining connections as a team and with the coaching staff, they hope to finish their season as a strong unit.

"Despite the shifts within the program, our foundation remains strong and the future looks incredibly bright. There is genuine excitement surrounding the journey ahead for the team," said Cassie Prior, a junior outside hitter from Park City, Utah.

Head coach Eryn Leja-Martin stepped into the role in July 2024 and brings extensive experience after coaching all over Southern California. Delaney Risse, a junior libero from Huntington Beach said, "We feel that we have more of a relationship with our entire coaching staff and that has helped us build trust on and off the court."

It is no secret that a change of coaching staff makes a big impact within a sports program, but with the help of strong leadership, the team remains united and excited for the rest of conference.

"Leading by example and accountability is a big thing on our

team. Making sure as upperclassmen that we are on the same page and supporting each other so that we can lead by example has been key," said Risse.

Through such leadership, the team has had an easy coaching transition and continuously helps the freshmen class. Kennedy Farley, a senior outside hitter from Phoenix, Arizona said, "Culturally speaking, Coach Eryn has helped me connect with the girls in a vulnerable way which I have never done before. This new culture of connection helps me focus on building relationships with everyone which I value because I want everyone to feel like they are important."

The Golden Eagles look forward to facing Point Loma again for their third conference game.

"The team is focusing on having fun. There is a lot of stress with so many new things, but we have been trying to focus on playing loose and free these next few games while also bringing our competitive side," said Farley.

The Lady Eagles played at home last night versus Westmont and are back in the CU Arena on Oct. 16 versus Menlo College. Come out to support the Green & Gold!

Golden Eagles men's soccer beats No.12 ranked team

JOSE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Eagle men's soccer team went toe-to-toe with the No.12 nationally-ranked team in the country; the Golden Eagles defeated the Cal State San Bernardino Coyotes 3-0. Miguel Arroyo, Kevin Sanchez and Julian Svoboda all provided a goal. Ryan Smith, a junior from Chino Hills, was awarded PacWest Defender of the Week.

Smith said, "It felt really good. But that game wasn't just an individual effort but a team effort. The whole back line could have gotten that award. I'm just super thankful that I got recognized for all my hard work and training. But does it still come with pressure? I got called defender of the week, so now, every day and in the game, I have to perform and hold that quality/standard."

Miguel Arroyo, a junior from Long Beach, provided some intel about how huge the win was for his team. "It felt great to start the season with a big victory because it showed the work we have been putting in. Some key factors were the team's ability, work ethic, discipline and trusting each other," Arroyo said, adding, "This victory will allow us to play more confidently because we showed that our team's abilities can help us beat any team."

Arroyo shared his mental tactics before a match. "I like to stay focused and relaxed before a game; the ritual would be to pray before kick-off," Arroyo said. He explained that his favorite aspect of playing soccer is "developing a bond with my teammates and working together towards a shared goal." Arroyo added, "My personal goals for the season are to be the best teammate possible

for the team and score as many goals as possible."

Isaiah Gutierrez, a sophomore from Corona, said his mental preparation consists of making sure "that I got a lot of sleep the night before a game, so my body can feel good, and I also like to listen to a lot of music. Reggaeton is my favorite to listen to before a game." Gutierrez added, "The most essential quality for a successful soccer player is always having fun. Yes, the sport can get competitive, but it's important always to have fun playing and enjoying it."

To Gutierrez, being a good teammate leads to great team chemistry. "It's very important to be a good teammate because it allows the team to have lots of chemistry," he said, "A piece of advice I got from another teammate is to keep on going even though things are not going my way, just put your head down and work." Gutierrez said his goals for this season are "to win the PacWest and make it to the National championship playoffs."

The men play tomorrow at home versus Fresno Pacific.



PICTURED ABOVE: Julian Svoboda battles for the ball against two San Marcos athletes Photo courtesy of: Crash Kamon

Fashion Month: Spring/summer 2025 ready-to-wear trends previewed

AUDREY KAUFMAN
STAFF WRITER

After Fashion Month ended on Tues., Oct. 1, it is time to look back at the latest trends and developments within the world of designer fashion.

Fashion Month is a bi-annual worldwide event, and its purpose is for fashion designers to launch their latest collections and showcase next season's trends to fashion editors, product buyers and A-list celebrities. In March, fall/winter fashion is presented, and in September new styles are introduced for the upcoming spring/summer season.

Fashion Month combines four separate fashion weeks held in the world's top fashion capitals: New York City, London, Milan and Paris. Because of its international following, each fashion week sets trends not only for that particular city, but for the entire fashion world.

On Fri., Sept. 6, New York City officially kicked off Fashion Month with shows from Brandon Maxwell, Khaite, Tibi, and more. Precision tailoring and classic colors like black, white and beige played key roles in most collections, making corporate-chic a major trend. Tommy Hilfiger and Coach implemented Americana-inspired details; Hilfiger's collection used red, white and blue plaid and Coach's used "I Heart NY" shirts. New York Fashion Week brought new styles that can be worn to and from the office, perfect for summer-in-the-city dressing.

From Sept. 13 to 17, London

hosted the next Fashion Week. In London, a similar office theme was present; many collections included monochromatic power suits and sophisticated dresses. Because these looks are for the spring and summer season, darker colors were paired with pastel accents, heavy sweaters were paired with silky slip materials and complex tops were paired with short, simple bottoms. By combining timeless styles with refreshed features, designers such as 16Arlington, Emilia Wickstead and Standing Ground introduced a modern workwear dress code.

In Milan, the updated office attire trend continued. Bottega Veneta, Ferrari and Etro presented business-professional collections in rich, jewel-toned color palettes, while Fendi and Alberta Ferretti presented office looks with delicate materials and airy silhouettes. A new trend that emerged on Milan's runways was office-athleisure styles. Button-up shirts and tailored blazers were paired with matching biker shorts at Tod's. Trench coats and office totes were styled with ballet flats and leotards at Ferragamo. Nike even made a cameo at The Attico, pairing elegant overcoats with gym socks and running shoes.

Paris Fashion Week closed out Fashion Month on Tues., Oct. 1. With businesswear still heavily prevalent, Parisian designers utilized more black, white and neutral colors and opted for thinner materials and warm-weather outfits. Hermès, Loewe and Cecilie Bahnsen presented sheer dresses worn over simple base layers and featured



PICTURED ABOVE: A new trend that emerged on Milan's runways was office-athleisure styles, like trench coats and office totes styled with ballet flats and leotards. Photo courtesy of: Shutterstock

floral patterns and embellishments. Chanel and Gabriela Hearst offered loosely knit and crocheted textiles, furthering the modern, lightweight and effortless approach to business attire.

At Concordia, some students put considerable thought into creating well-planned outfits. "Putting together an outfit is a way to visually express how I'm feeling," freshman Mandie Lorang said. Lorang said she enjoys how fashion both expresses and influences emotions. "I always feel more myself and more confident when I've picked an outfit that I like," Lorang said.

Other students enjoy the act of picking out an outfit. "I grew up with an appreciation for clothing [... and] to me styling an outfit is an art," Daisy Mezak said. Mezak's favorite part of planning an outfit is accessorizing

with rings and shoes for a personal touch.

Fashion enthusiasts gather outfit inspiration from various sources, and keeping up-to-date on Fashion Month is a common way to brainstorm outfits. "A few of my favorite [designers] to see are Chanel, Gucci, Dior and Ralph Lauren," Mezak said.

Fashion Month can still spark creative styling even for those who aren't actively following the runway shows. "I'm not particularly interested in all the rules of high fashion, but I appreciate the creativity and their new innovations," Lorang said.

For more designers' latest innovations and runway highlights, visit vogue.com/fashion-shows for full Fashion Month photos and reviews.

Cliff-Hanger favorites according to Concordia students

KIERSTYN BUSK
STUDENT WRITER

As the 2024 fall semester begins, Concordia University students are streaming their favorite shows, finding both comfort and thrills in varying series that reflect their interests and personalities. Kaila Kupihea, a junior and Communications Marketing major, said

"I like to watch throwback shows like 'Vampire Diaries' or 'Pretty Little Liars.'" Kupihea added, "Cliffhangers? Love them. I love something that always keeps me guessing so that I keep watching."

"Vampire Diaries" followed the life of a teenage girl who falls in love with two vampires. The love triangle alone had the audience of the show hooked, not to mention the constant mystery of disappearing people. "Pretty Little Liars" follows a group of friends trying to figure out who is stalking them and who is murdering the people in their town. Both the shows are found on Netflix, which is the top ranked streaming service in 2024.

Kupihea said that her taste in shows comes from her mom, "When I was little we'd always watch shows or movies together." However, finding time to watch shows as a student can be difficult. With the impending due date over your head and the plethora of learning material to read and memorize there is little time to unwind and relax. Kupihea said, "I'd like to go straight to my show to relax, normally after 10 p.m."

Kalihan Reece, a junior majoring in

Communication Studies finds herself captivated by the popular show, "The Bachelor." Reece said, "I watched it at night, very late, too late." The Bachelor, streamed on Hulu, is known for its drama and cliffhangers which keeps their audience on the edge of their seats until the next episode comes out. At the end of each episode, audiences are kept in the dark as to who the Bachelor will pick and who he will eliminate out of the 20-30 women vying for his love. Reece added that, "I look for something that makes me keep watching, like they leave me on a little cliffhanger."

Haku Dudoit, a senior transfer from Maui majoring in Communication Studies said, "I watch shows during the day, when I am done with class and before baseball practice." Dudoit's favorite show is an action filled series found on Netflix called "Fire Country." Dudoit said, "When I look for shows, I find something that is interesting to me and I am more into action or outdoors type of shows." He added, "So, this show is about fighting fires but it's set in a camp for prisoners who fight fires so that they are allowed to reduce their sentence."

Dudoit attributes his taste in shows to his grandmother saying, "My grandma was always into shows growing up and she lived beneath our house and I would always go downstairs and watch shows with her."

The streaming habits of Concordia students reflect a pattern of popular genre among young adults. The series named by the students highlight that captivating storylines and dramatic cliffhangers offer students a necessary respite from their daily academic routine.

Marty the Golden Eagle In: COMETH BEFORE THE FALL



Photo courtesy of: Dylan Arant