

THE CONCORDIA

• COURIER •

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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Campus community preps for 6th annual Concordia Serves on Sept. 24

LEYA ALOM & HOPE YONEHARA
STAFF WRITERS

The Concordia community will come together for the 6th Annual CONCORDIA serves, formerly known as CU serves, on Sept. 24.

This annual giving event has evolved significantly over the years. What started out as a small activity has grown in scope and now involves people performing meaningful acts of service all across the community. As Bil Hood, Senior Director of External Relations, put it, "We understand the love that God has shown us, and that makes us want to share that love with other people."

There will be plenty of service opportunities for staff, students and alumni this year, both on campus and in the local Orange County community. Amy Bramson, Executive Assistant of University Advancement, detailed the extensive preparations for this year's event. She said, "We are coordinating with over 20 local nonprofit organizations this year. In some cases, prepare to get dirty (picking vegetables at the Second Harvest Food Bank Farm) or work with children (St. Paul's Orange) or even help pastors get

organized (Abiding Savior)."

For those who prefer to stay closer to campus or can't participate in person, there are many alternatives to serve remotely. Volunteers can make videos, write letters to residents at nursing homes or volunteer online for organizations like the American Red Cross.

Eliana Clerie, a sophomore Psychology major, made bookmarks and care baskets for people last year. She said, "It was great getting to meet people and serve the community... The most rewarding part was being able to personalize the bookmarks and filling more boxes than the organization needed."

As the event enters its sixth year, many members of the Concordia community have seen firsthand how the event has evolved and changed. Dr. Bret Taylor, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, has been involved with the event since its early days and offered his thoughts on its development. "We were still piecing together where we could go and what could be offered when we first started," he said. "Over the past six years, we've learned a lot, and the opportunities to serve have really broadened."

(Continues pg. 8)



PICTURED ABOVE: Students participating at Concordia Serves
Photo courtesy of: Concordia University Irvine Concordia Serves



PICTURED ABOVE: The Concordia Serves group t-shirts on display.
Photo courtesy of: Concordia University Irvine Concordia Serves

Get involved and prepared at the internship fair!

MADISON ZUNIGA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Are you looking to learn more about a potential career field? Needing to network in order to land a job? Wanting to replenish your resume experience? Look no further than the Internship Hiring Fair at 11 a.m. in the breezeway on Fri., Sept. 27, hosted by Concordia's Center for Career and Vocation in partnership with the School of Business.

"College is a great time to career shop, and internships help students figure out what careers they might want to pursue further or help them change direction before they graduate," said Kellie Playter, Associate Professor & Internship Director with the School of Business & Economics. "Research shows that students who complete internships are more likely to get better and higher paying jobs right out of college. This applies to most, if not all, majors."

"I think every student, regardless of major, should participate in an internship at some point in their time in college," said Mariah Lucas, Director of Career Development & Vocation. "It is a vital experience to test out a future career path with built in protections and guided learning. Not every internship is created equally though. A benefit of attending the Internship Hiring Expo, is that we have reviewed the employers coming and believe they can offer a quality learning experience."

"Every internship looks a little different. Some companies hire almost a year out for internship positions and some only take a few weeks," said Playter. "I always encourage students to build a really strong resume, get feedback on it, and submit a cover letter even if it is optional."

"An internship is not just a part-time job, it is an intentional learning opportunity where students get to take classroom knowledge and apply it in the real world," said Lucas. "Many of our employers are asking what internships students are doing in order to gauge how prepared our students are to enter into the workforce."

Playter recommends that students intending to take

advantage of the resources at the Internship Hiring Fair should dress professionally, bring several printed copies of their up-to-date resume, and be prepared to talk about their career goals. "Even if students are unsure of where they want to work after graduation, this is a great opportunity to start asking employers questions about what they are looking for, when they should be applying for internships and job opportunities, and just to build connections."

"Apply to multiple internships, and do not be afraid to follow up or reach out to people at the company directly," encouraged Playter. "Do not be afraid to ask your professors, teammates, friends and family if they know of any internship opportunities. Networking is still key!"

For further resources regarding resumes, professionalism or career goals, visit the Center for Career and Vocation in the top floor of the Schroeder Library. For questions about the internship hiring fair, contact Mariah Lucas at mariah.lucas@cui.edu or Kellie Playter at kellie.playter@cui.edu.

Let's go clubbing with Phi Epsilon Kappa

KIARA AZUMA
STAFF WRITER

Phi Epsilon Kappa, Concordia's kinesiology fraternity, invites all students who wish to gain more knowledge, growth and opportunities within the healthcare profession. All Concordia students, regardless of their major or career path, are welcome to join!

Phi Epsilon Kappa aims to help students grow in future healthcare disciplines by providing resources, networking and opportunities that allow Concordia students more training and exposure within the kinesiology field.

The club is the Eta Omega chapter of the national organization Phi Epsilon Kappa, founded in 1913. According to their website, the organization has over a hundred chapters located at different colleges and universities.

Reagan Wagner, a senior Kinesiology major, is a co-president of the club. "Students should join Phi Epsilon Kappa because it provides an incredible opportunity for mentorship, resources and connection that goes beyond the classroom setting to develop future healthcare professionals," she said.

Professor Michael Ryan, a kinesiology professor and the club's faculty advisor, highlights what students can gain from being in the fraternity. "With members pursuing careers in physical therapy, chiropractic care, athletic training, nursing, coaching, among others, the fraternity provides a platform for building connections and gaining insights across these professions. This involvement enhances professional knowledge and opens doors to future job opportunities and career growth."

The club hosts various events throughout the year, and the Phi Epsilon Kappa board is currently planning a campus-wide CPR initiative. Students will be able to

learn how to save someone's life and access CPR certification. The certification can be beneficial in job applications and resumes for students.

Previous events included opportunities where students could learn topics like athletic training and physical therapy. They bring in guest speakers to discuss topics and interact with the students. "I particularly appreciate our guest speaker events featuring professionals from local gyms and clinics, which are valuable for connecting students with future job opportunities in the Orange County area," said Ryan.

The club also has more casual events, such as their annual barbeque night at Uppers Lawn, allowing a chance for students to interact with other students and professors, participate in games and eat good food.

Wagner hopes students from all majors and disciplines will be able to benefit from what Phi Epsilon Kappa has to offer. "Clubs like Phi Epsilon Kappa highlight the incredible opportunities a small university provides in developing meaningful connections with professors and peers on campus that last beyond graduation," she said.

For those interested in joining, Phi Epsilon Kappa is hosting its Meet-and-Greet event on Tuesday, Sept. 24. It will be located at GYM 203 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to meet with kinesiology professors, eat catered food, and have a chance to win prizes with a fun game of Kahoot!

Fliers regarding the event, as well as a QR code to join their email list, have been posted around the school. Additional information and updates regarding the club can be found at @cui.phek on Instagram.



VIOLENT INTRUDER RESPONSE TRAINING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
4PM IN DENAULT AUDITORIUM ROOM 120

An optional exercise will follow the training. Join us in the exercise for an opportunity to win reserved prime parking for a month or free coffee for a week.

Become informed, aware and prepared by attending Violent Intruder Training

MADISON ZUNIGA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In partnership with the Irvine Police Department, Concordia's Campus Safety team will be offering an educational and interactive training experience at 4 p.m. on Tue., Sept. 24 in Denault Auditorium to raise awareness regarding potential violent intruder emergencies.

"Concordia students, faculty and staff believe in service to others. Violent Intruder Training (VIT) is a form of service as it can help to save not only themselves but others who are not trained and are facing a life threatening incident of any type," said Raul Morales, Director Of Campus Safety.

"VIT trains people to be aware of dangers and in doing so creates leaders who can help others in any type of emergency," said Morales. "It's all about situational awareness, and those who train for emergencies translate that training into a thought-out, calm plan for any dangerous situation."

The first part of the training offers an in-depth 45 minute review from the Irvine Police Department of a violent intruder's assault on an educational institution. By learning from this case study, Morales said that members of Concordia's campus "will become more aware of potential person's who might

be having life difficulties that are motivating a person to commit a Violent Intruder assault. This awareness can translate to early reporting of a distressed individual so intervention can be realized."

The second half of the VIT involves an interactive exercise where participants can implement the knowledge gained from the presentation and practice Run-Hide-Fight techniques during a simulated threat of danger. This activity allows participants to recognize when a violent assault is occurring. Morales finds value in training students, faculty and staff at Concordia so that they might "better protect themselves and others by reacting quickly and implementing protective procedures and tactics."

"The training brings a real world perspective on the tragedies and the aftermath of a mass casualty assault," said Morales. And while "violent intruder incidents are rare," Morales stresses the importance of being prepared.

For more information about the Violent Intruder Training or Campus Safety go to cui.edu/campus-safety/programs.

Editor's note: On behalf of the campus, The Courier extends gratitude to Concordia's Campus Safety team for the careful and considerate effort they put towards keeping our campus safe!

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

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CUI Bono event explores the ethics of life online

BELLA SAGUM
STAFF WRITER

In Good Shepherd Chapel on Sept. 11, Dr. Lucas Hatlen led a CUI Bono event discussing the internet, its history, and how it can be used for both good and evil.

For those who might not know or haven't attended a CUI Bono event before, CUI Bono is a gathering where Concordia students can connect with professors and talk about relevant topics that impact their daily lives. This fellowship often starts with dinner and community, and then leads into a talk led by a professor from departments across campus.

Geist McGehee, a sophomore who attended, said "CUI Bono covers philosophical/historical topics that I would never in a million years think about, and yet when I see the conversation theme, my interest is piqued. It gives me a chance to think about something ordinary in an unordinary way."

CUI Bono desires for any student, no matter what year or major, to attend. Jillian Endicott, a junior and attendee, said, "I attend CUI Bono simply because I love to learn! The opportunity to know more about a specific subject without any pressure of tests or homework is very appealing to me, especially when it is explored in the light of our Christian faith."

The talk started off by discussing

what the internet has done in regards to accessibility in general, and how that has led to both hope and dystopian fears. This branched off into conversation about online censorship and stewardship.

Hatlen, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, says that the idea of this talk started from a conversation he had with his colleagues. He said "I think that the way we engage with and utilize the internet is immensely important. It can be such a constant factor in our lives that it becomes invisible." Hatlen wants students to "walk away with a sense of how to responsibly engage with various online media forms."

One reason people should consider attending CUI Bono is because it will leave listeners impacted with something to reflect on and take away. The event's attendees were left wondering about their own digital footprints and future internet use after hearing Hatlen's words. McGehee said he was left wondering questions such as "What constitutes free speech?", "What level of censorship is acceptable?", and "What happens after you die?"

Trevor Leitz, junior and attendee, felt similarly and said he was left "thinking about our legacy and how long our social media profiles will be

there after we are gone." Leitz continued, "That was also the biggest takeaway, realizing that, through how I am representing myself on social media, I am essentially currently posting the legacy I will leave for my own children." Leitz said that this talk helped "to put everything more into perspective" and that "our digital footprint doesn't just matter here and now, but will continue to matter in the future long after we are gone."

Andrew Shiroma, senior and the CUI Bono Assistant, encourages students to attend a CUI Bono event, saying,

"Students should attend CUI Bono because attending CUI Bono develops the student into a more well-rounded person through discussion with professors and fellow students. Or as I like to think of it, you get to hang out with cool people, talk about their passions, and eat delicious free food. You come out as a person who knows a little more, who questions a little more, and is a little less hungry."

For more information about CUI Bono events, please reach out to Andrew Shiroma at andrew.shiroma@eagles.cui.edu or Dr. Daniel Deen at daniel.deen@cui.edu.



PICTURED ABOVE: Dr. Lucas Hatlen discussing the internet with CUI Bono. Photos courtesy of: Andrew Shiroma

CU Active prepares for highly-anticipated Basecamp at Mammoth Lakes

KENT BEWLEY
STAFF WRITER

This upcoming October, CU Active will be taking registered students on its annual Mid-Semester Basecamp trip to Mammoth Lakes. Located in the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains, the trip will occur from Oct. 10 to Oct. 13 and will feature plenty of nature-filled activities for the 20 students who are set to participate in this year's basecamp.

Kryssa Mattson, the new Associate Director of CU Active and Outdoor Recreation, began planning the trip to Mammoth when she was hired in July. Mattson chose Mammoth Lakes as an ideal location for the fall semester Basecamp due to her having plenty of familiarity with the small mountain town.

"I grew up going to Mammoth my whole life, winters and summers camping up there; skiing, snowboarding... not many (students) have been there, so I want them to experience the beauty of Mammoth, explore the lakes in the fall time. I think it's going to be beautiful with the trees," Mattson said.

Mattson said that the trip to Mammoth is "fully booked and has a waitlist," and added that she goes to Mammoth every year due to her parents having a cabin there.

She also added that students have

"heard really great things about Mammoth" and that she thinks "a lot of students are just wanting to get out and experience the outdoors."

The bus taking the basecamp group to Mammoth Lakes will leave on Thur, Oct. 10 at 8 a.m. from Uppers Lawn located in between the Quads, Rho and Sigma.

The basecamp group will be staying at the Old Shady Rest Campground, which is located right next to the Mammoth Lakes village. Mattson said that there were "a lot of limitations" on campgrounds that were available during October, but she thinks that Old Shady is a convenient choice because "it's a good central location and it's not located up in the mountains."

Daelynn Lopez senior and president of CU Nomads, will be going on the trip and will help lead some of the hikes that the basecamp group will do while in Mammoth. Lopez has been to Mammoth a couple of times before in her life and she has gone on every basecamp trip "since they started up my freshman year."

"It's a bittersweet moment for me as I reflect on all the trips. I've seen how my love for the outdoors developed through these trips, which is why I wanted to become president of Nomads. I want others to experience the outdoors like I have and enjoy it with other like-minded

people," said Lopez.

Lopez has seen wildlife on basecamp trips, such as squirrels and chipmunks, but her favorite wildlife encounter "was from one of the Hume Lake trips; we saw a bear and its cub on one of the hikes. They reminded me of Kenai and Koda from 'Brother Bear.'"

Relating to the weather, the Mammoth Lakes area could potentially have a chance to see some form of precipitation in the middle of October and Mattson said, "We'll be watching the weather, seeing if

there's going to be any rain or snow, but I've been in October to Mammoth and it's beautiful. Warm during the day, gets chillier at night, so we'll make sure that students are prepared for the colder nights."

While the Mammoth trip is fully booked and set to leave in October, students are recommended to keep an eye out for the announcement of the spring semester Basecamp adventure. Sign up early, and contact Kryssa Mattson at kryssa.mattson@cui.edu for any questions you might have.



PICTURED ABOVE: Basecamp picture from Spring 2024 trip. Photos courtesy of: Kryssa Mattson

Event Opportunities in the RES Halls

TABITHA JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

The energy of the residential halls has been renewed as students have returned to campus and settled in. New and exciting events from the Residential Housing Department are always happening throughout the week!

Junior returning RA Caden Merrill encourages all to join in on the Residential Department thrill. "If you go to your RA's event you could meet someone who literally lives right next-door to you," he said. "You get the opportunity to know them and form a relationship through an event."

Res events can be a night of fun or lead to friendships with new people. "Res events are absolutely incredible and I think if we didn't do them, Concordia wouldn't feel as welcoming and fun," said Merrill.

Each month the Residential Housing Department hosts an larger event in Rho, Sigma and Quads. Additionally, events are also held in each hall of the dorm buildings and each building of the Lower and Upper Quads. Roughly 27 events are held each month in the residence halls with all students welcome!

In Rho Waffle Wednesday is a monthly hit that offers fresh Waffles and has been a tradition for years in the freshman dorms. Each Waffle Wednesday is paired with a theme or activity such as the recent "Wonka" movie watch party. Details for future themes are TBD but residents can look forward to an upcoming spooky Waffle Wednesday in October!

Residents can enjoy the hall events of Rho. Merrill will be hosting a rage room inspired event in which residents can write on pumpkins and then smash their pumpkin worries away. Merrill said, "While college can be really fun there are moments and majors that are more intense and I wanted an event to just let people release stress." Join this Pumpkin Smash event at the Basketball Court 5 to 6:30

p.m. on Oct. 3.

On Oct.8 sophomore RA Grace Dejongh invites all to the Basketball Court "to learn line dances and eat yummy donuts!" The event will run from 5 to 7 p.m. and Dejongh said in collaboration with RA Sophia Meyer will be "teaching dances to 'Project' by Chase McDaniel and 'Shivers' by Ed Sheeran."

Sigma Sit Down took place as the kick off event of the semester for Sigma. Sophomore RA Geist McGehee said, "There was a beautiful French theme! The grilled cheese was delicious and I got to play residents in board games like 'What Do You Meme: Office Edition' and 'Chess.'" Residents can expect more events like this as 'Sigma Sit Down' is the new theme for Sigma's monthly building event for the 24-25 school year.

On Wed. Sept. 25 the RES department will be collaborating with student activities to host a line dancing event. This western style disco line dancing party will be in Sigma courtyard and have a variety of mixed drinks. All are invited Wed. 7 to 9 p.m.

Each month the Upper and Lower Quads collaborate for a Quad event. This year the running theme is Quads Cookout. In August the first Cookout was a success with fresh-grilled hamburgers and fellowship among Quads residents. Senior RA Jaela Thornburg said, "We ran out of food! So a lot of attendance, which was good. We're trying to go for even more this time!"

In September, the Quads Cookout will be a night of nostalgia with a kindergarten theme. Thornburg said, "we're doing a throwback because kindergarten day in the Caf is so popular but it's only one day." And so on Sept. 26, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., there will be chicken nuggets, mac n' cheese and familiar cartoons from the 2000s on Upper's Lawn for all to enjoy!

For more event information visit the myCUI app and follow Residential Life on Instagram @cui_reslife.

Fall Events 2024

Sept 27th @ 11am
Internship Hiring Fair
Gym Breezeway



Oct 16th @ 11am
Graduate School Fair
Gym Breezeway



Oct 22nd @ 5pm
Networking Nourishment:
Appetizers with BSU & Employers
in the Career Studio



Nov 6th @ 10:30am
Brewing Success with LinkedIn
Library Annex - LAT Downstairs



Nov 7th
Campus to Career:
Graphic Design & Art Professions
7:00 pm



Dec 5th @ 9am-2pm
Closet PopUp
LAT Upstairs - Career Studio





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Courier Career Tip of the Issue!

SHOW UP EARLY:

Employers appreciate timeliness.
Showing up early shows eagerness
and prioritization of your job.



PICTURED ABOVE: Students attend a RES hall event.
Photo courtesy of: Tabitha Johnson

“The Trojan Women” offers powerful perspective on war, God and faith

TERESA MCLAUGHLIN
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Theatre Department brought Euripides's play, “The Trojan Women” to life this semester. Written in 415 B.C., the play is set in the aftermath of the Trojan War and focuses on the fates of the women of Troy, particularly Queen Hecuba, played by Isabella Mangahis, her daughter Cassandra, played by Camille Beeson, and her daughter-in-law Andromache, played by Ashley Kosonen, as they are taken captive by the Greeks.

The play is a powerful commentary on the horrors of war, especially from the perspective of women who suffer as a result of violence and conflict.

Professor Lori Siekmann has been teaching and directing shows at Concordia for 20 years and specifically chose this play because she felt that its themes spoke to today. “When I picked it, I was thinking mostly of the war in Ukraine, but after I chose, the war broke out between Israel and Palestine... Whatever anyone's thoughts are about any of these issues politically, I just kept seeing the striking images of Ukrainian refugees fleeing their homes, or thought of the hostages being held, or the people in Gaza just suffering.”

The pain and suffering caused in war does not only affect the soldiers. Innocent lives get caught in the crossfire. Audience member, Eliana Clerie, sophomore majoring in Psychology, said that this play “really highlights the families and how they are affected by war” and reflects heavily on our society today because “there's a lot of political war going on ... and there's a lot more turmoil when it comes to that, which doesn't need to happen.”

Audience member, Sarah Howard, senior majoring in History and Political Thought said the play, “does a really good job at

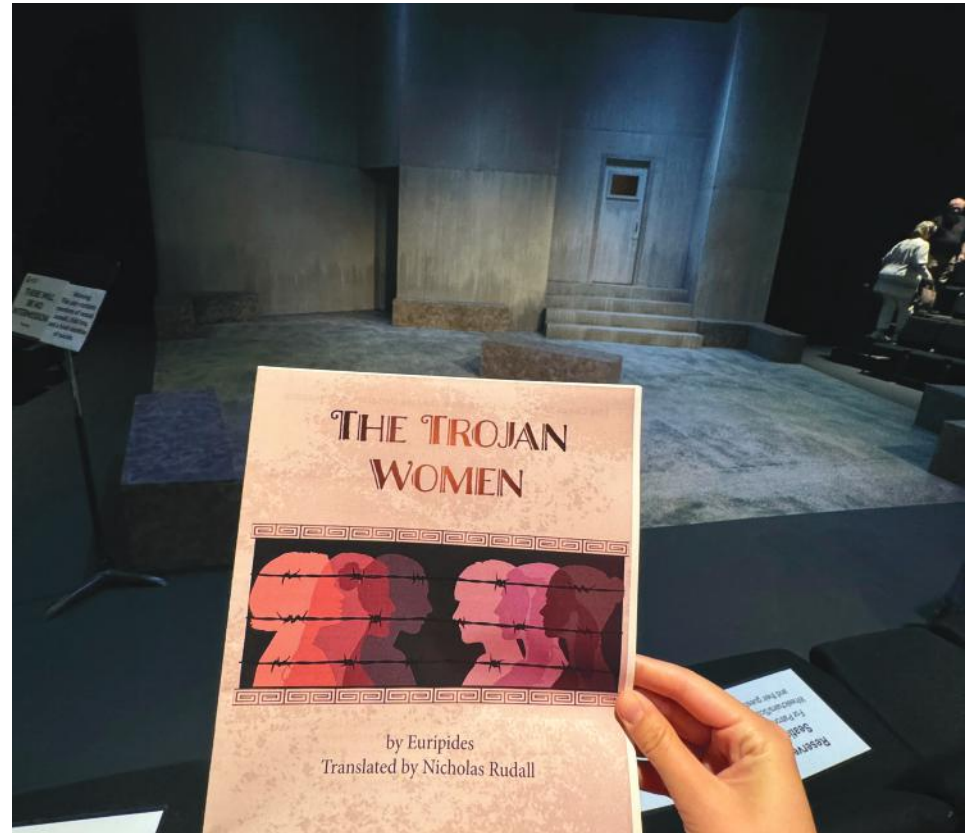
showing you what actually happens after the war is over. It's not like everything goes back to normal. There's actual consequences, actual problems that are caused and need to be thought about.”

Scenic Designer and Technical Director, Andrew Sierszyn, noted that it is important not to shy away from topics such as war and suffering. Especially in theater because “theater can bring it to life in a way that is in a safe and responsible environment.”

The play ends on a deeply tragic note. Siekmann said, “It's not a play that makes you feel good. It's a play that really kind of just churns up your insides and it makes you really think about things.” Siekmann hopes that people also talk, “about the role of the gods in the play, it's very nihilistic... Whereas, isn't it great to have a God who is real and who is all powerful... and who has solved our ultimate problem of salvation?”

Camille Beeson, a junior double major in Theater and English, brought to life the role of Cassandra. Beeson said the play is a great “reminder that if we put our faith in the things of this world, they will fail us.” For example, when the women in the play call out “Zeus!”, he does not answer. Beeson feels that it is “important to remember that the things of this world will always fail, but when we put our hope and things above like, God. God is the only thing that will not fail.”

“The Trojan Women” vividly depicts the horrors of war and serves as a reminder of the devastating consequences war has on innocent lives that are not directly involved in the conflicts. But it is important to explore these topics and theater is a wonderful avenue to do so. Sierszyn said, “Theater shows life. Life is sin and especially in a show like this where sin is shown full tilt with lore. It's just very prominent and leads to deep questions and hopefully deep answers.”



PICTURED ABOVE: Trojan Women Playbill.
Photos courtesy of: Teresa McLaughlin

Join Concordia musicians for a special concert at Nixon Library!

Join Concordia in celebrating the works of pianist Roger Williams at the Roger Williams Centennial Concert on Sept. 28 at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. With performances from Concordia Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Jeff Held, pianist Dr. Hyunjoo Choi and pianist Bryan Pezzone, this concert will feature great works such as “Rhapsody in Blue,” “Abide with Me” and “The Impossible Dream” alongside Men's Chorus, Donne di Canto and special guests. Featuring special arrangements shared exclusively by the Roger Williams Estate, this grand concert will honor the works of the “Pianist of the Presidents.” No ticket is required so please arrive early for the concert beginning at 10 a.m followed by a panel discussion at noon.

Sacred Music Recital brings together devotions and songs of praise

REBEKAH MICHEL
ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

As Concordia students and faculty observe their regular chapel time, the Music Department welcome everyone to their Fall Sacred Music Recital on Sept. 25. Taking place in the Borland-Manske Center, the Fall Sacred Music Recital will provide thoughtful devotions paired alongside music by the Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. HyeJung Shin.

Taking place during the regular 10:30 a.m chapel time, the Sacred Music Recital offers a unique experience of a musical concert that is combined scripture readings and student-led devotions. “With this concert being in the middle of the week and in the morning, I hope people are able to be encouraged and uplifted by the message of God's unfailing love to us, which He demonstrated in the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross,” said junior Liberal Studies major, Annelise Jackson.

With the Sacred Music Recital taking place once every semester, each recital chooses a specific theme to focus the repertoire and devotions around. This year the theme is “Unfailing Love,” with inspiration from Psalm 36:7. “This verse is a reminder that during this tumultuous time of the semester, we find true rest in Christ, our refuge,” said senior Flute Performance major, Ruth Pearson.

While it may not be a weekend concert for the department, the Sacred Music Recital is equally as impactful

on the students and faculty that it serves. “My favorite music is worship music, so the Sacred Music Recital is my favorite music event on campus. It has a blend of different worship music styles and is performed by talented students. I am so thankful for a campus that provides opportunities for students to share their faith and love for God through music,” said Pearson.

Jackson finds a great significance in the unique format for the Sacred Music Recital. “I think the pairing of the devotions with music makes it all the more impactful. That way, if we are tempted to fixate on the music, instead of God's glory, we can be redirected.” For Jackson, church music has played a principal role in her time at Concordia, as she has been involved on the worship teams for Sunday Source, Monday chapel band, Concordia Choir and SHOUT.

For Pearson, the opportunity to perform in church contexts is deeply meaningful. “Growing up, I used to play flute at my church almost every Sunday, so I have been very grateful to have the opportunity to continue serving through church music on campus, through the Sacred Music Recital, or playing at chapel services.”

The Fall Sacred Music Recital will take place in Zhang Hall, of the Borland-Manske Center, on Sept. 25 at 10:30 a.m. This performance does not require a ticket and has free admission. For more information, please visit cui.edu/arts/music/events.

Reviving the ghost: A look at Tim Burton's latest flick

ANA GUERRERO RÓDENAS
STAFF WRITER

Nostalgia likely moved most of the people who have gone to the movie theaters these last few days to see “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice,” the sequel to the classic Tim Burton film.

On Sept. 6, 36 years after the release of “Beetlejuice,” Burton decided it was time to present a sequel. Again, starring Winona Ryder playing Lydia Deetz and Michael Keaton, who once again gives life – or death – to the character of Beetlejuice.

This new movie continues the macabre and funny story we already know, adopting again the stereotype of the typical family drama, but in this case, it is the young actress Jenna Ortega, who plays Lydia's daughter, Astrid. She is a teenager who shows great rejection towards her mother and the eccentricities that characterize her.

Ryder's character, however, is now a famous host of a paranormal stories television show, and her new partner, Rory, is the producer, a character who will do everything possible to displease the audience.

The film is full of chaos, as Lydia loses her first husband, she is tormented by her inner world and gets engaged to a man who wants her for her money. Her daughter Astrid, is distressed by the world around her throughout the first half of the film, until she meets a boy, who seems to treat her differently, something we are used to seeing in teenage dramas.

Although in this case, this is the reason why the teenager enters the world of the dead, and has to be saved by her mother, thus reviving the relationship between the two. A happy ending, which is not unexpected.

Although told with humor, there are moments during the film that cause the audience to feel somewhat lost. Several

internal stories do not have a clear ending, or simply remain in the air: Astrid's father, who appears to save them in the world of the dead without much sense, the entourage of workers that Beetlejuice now has called Bob who escapes to the world of the living and stay there, but mainly Delores, played by Monica Bellucci.

The new character seems to appear to embellish the film, playing the deceased and dismembered wife of Beetlejuice who pursues the desire to find him throughout the film, apparently to absorb his soul. There were subplots in the film that were not fully understood or realized.

On the other hand, the film experience always feels more fun in the cinema, even if there are films in which the big screen is more worthwhile than others. In this case, “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” is worth it to pay to see it in a cinema rather than waiting for streaming platforms.

“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” has a good cast of actors and a renowned director in Burton. The fact that several of the main characters are played by the same artists as in the 1988 film, has been an important factor in encouraging people who enjoyed “Beetlejuice” at the time, to want to experience the funny story between Lydia and the eccentric ghost again. Ortega (also known for her role as Wednesday Addams) is a solid choice to play the role of the tormented teenager.

Even though we don't see anything new or extraordinary, it is a fun film in which the music, the colors, and, above all, the characteristics of the world created by the director more than three decades ago, create a pleasant time. The open ending leaves you wondering whether this series of films is now dead, or still has life ahead of it.

Golden Eagles and golden goals

KIERSTYN BUSK
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia women's soccer team achieved a dominant 3-0 victory over Cal State Dominguez Hills. The team's offensive and defensive strategies left CSUDH struggling to keep up while securing the CUI women's soccer team with a triumphant start to a season.

The hard-fought first half of the game consisted of both teams battling for possession of the ball. Offense often hugged the touchline which got them close to the opposing team's goal and the Green & Gold's defense would not let the other team get anywhere near their goal.

The first goal scored was a penalty kick made by senior midfielder, Olivia Ocampo. This was a result of CSUDH committing a foul in their own penalty area by tripping one of CUI's players. Maddie Lauro is a senior at Concordia and center midfielder from Carlsbad. Lauro, who pointed to a bloodied scratch on her upper leg, said that, "Sometimes games get ugly but, you know, we got a win."

As the game continued in the second half, there was a more aggressive shift in the defense of the Concordia soccer team. Lauro said, "The first half wasn't as good as we thought it was going to be but in the second half we came out and we executed."

In recognition of the challenging first half of the game, head coach Chris Gould said, "We went away from the fundamentals that we know we have to do and that caused us a lot of issues in the first half of the game." Gould continued, "Thankfully, we have a good group, they recognized it and fixed it."

The second half of the game was

full of tough clashes on the field. Several Golden Eagles were pushed down by the opponents. The competition saw numerous yellow cards due to misconduct. However, the Lady Eagles did not go down without a fight. They pushed back with two goals made within a three minute span by Hailey Havican, a junior forward with an assist from sophomore midfielder, Bella Barrett.

Commenting on the challenges of the game, Lauro said, "Even when things get tough, we need to pull out of it and come together as a team again. We keep this to our core and we really showed that with this gritty win that we pulled out."

Gould said after the game, "When looking at how the team is performing we are further ahead collectively compared to the past few years. We've had great student athletes the whole time and players that have really committed to giving the best part of themselves to the program."

Despite the physical challenges faced, the Golden Eagles dominated the playing field. They demonstrated their ability to recalibrate and adapt to their opponents defenses as well as, showcase their offensive tactile prowess. Their merited 3-0 victory has set high standards for the remainder of the season and fans are eagerly expecting to see many more golden goals from the Women's team.



PICTURED ABOVE: (Top) Eagles defending their goal. (Bottom) Ref Calling a yellow card. Photo courtesy of: Kierstyn Busk

Golden Eagle cross country starts the season off on a Golden foot

JOSE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Eagles cross country team started their season with a home meet on Sept. 6 at OC Great Park in Irvine, for The Irvine Invitational. The men's team finished fifth overall with 124 total points, while the women's team finished second overall with 71 points. After this Golden finish, the PacWest awarded the women's cross-country with Team of the Week.

Taylor Whitfield, a Highlands Ranch, Colorado senior, was named the PacWest Runner of the Week after competing in the 6k. Whitfield finished second overall with a time of 21:58. "I love the mental toughness side of the sport. I'm big into visualization, so I will practice visualizing the course about two weeks before the event. We usually get a course map, or I run the course before, and I will practice just going over in my mind repeatedly," said Whitfield.

Whitfield had a specific race strategy for the Irvine Invitational. For the first 2k section, Whitfield was very conservative, "hold the reigns back," as her coach likes to say. Approaching the second 2k section of the race, Whitfield said, "The goal was to start passing people, moving up." To close out the race, Whitfield said her mentality was to "finish hard and pass as many people as you can."

After being named PacWest Runner of the Week, Whitfield said, "The award was pretty exciting, just because any sort of individual or team award in this conference is a huge deal for this team, as it is just a testament to how hard we worked, how much the coaches have poured into us."

Sharing her vision for the season, Whitfield said, "We have some big goals for this season; our women's team is going to Nationals! You will see us in Sacramento on Nov 23; we

wanted to go last year but missed out by .01 and then lost the tiebreaker. The team is going out of region more to get more out of region points which will help to qualify for Nationals dream. Still, we plan to take care of businesses at regionals and make it to Nationals this year."

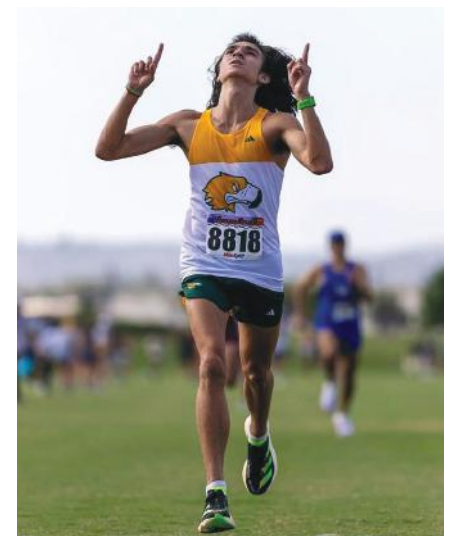
Another stellar athlete on the women's side is Elizabeth King, who finished ninth in the 6k with a final time of 22:22, the second Golden Eagle to cross the finish line. King said working on her mentality over the summer helped her a lot for this race. "Team building is huge for the women's team," said King "Our team does a talent show every year before the season. My group's talent replicated the movie 'White Chicks' dance."

King was asked what was the best advice she received from a teammate; King responded, "It's so simple, but don't settle in a race; always gotta be comfortable during a race." "Just have fun with it," she added. King's race strategy for the invitational was to "go out, not at a tempo pace but pretty close to it, not going out super hot, also working with our pace groups."

Fernando Aguire, a graduate student on the men's cross-country team finished 12th in the men's 8k, finishing 25:46 at the Irvine Invitational. Aguire said, "My goal [for the season] is to be in the top 15 at PacWest and to earn a medal for the 8k race, so I need to keep training and pushing myself by getting rest, eating right and stretching. I would like to run 24 minutes in the 8k this year at UCR and 30 minutes in the 10k at regionals and place high for that race."

Another stand-out finish at the Irvine meet was junior, Noah Plaza who finished fourth at 25:25.

Cross country will be racing in the UC Riverside Invitational in Riverside at 8 a.m. on Sat., Sept. 21. To keep up with Golden Eagle cross country, follow [cuigoldeneagles](https://www.instagram.com/cuigoldeneagles) on Instagram and visit [cuigoldeneagles.com](https://www.cuigoldeneagles.com) for more race statistics and their upcoming schedule.



PICTURED ABOVE: CUI Cross Country Photo courtesy of: PC: Concordia Athletics

Concordia STUNT attends USA Cheer & Stunt Combine

EVA PREWITT
SPORTS EDITOR

Concordia STUNT attended the annual USA Cheer & Stunt Combine on Sept. 14 at Vanguard University. At this combine, over 40 colleges and universities from around the country attend to watch and recruit high school cheerleaders and STUNT athletes as they showcase their skills in tumbling and stunting.

After the historic development of Concordia Cheer and STUNT officially being accepted into NCAA Division II alongside 40 other programs, this year's combine was extra special for the Concordia STUNT athletes.

"STUNT hasn't been taken as seriously as it should be," said freshman Kate Isbell. "With it now being an NCAA Division II sport, it shows everyone how competitive the sport really is and gives it the recognition it deserves."

Freshman Morgan Call said, "When we were considered into the NCAA it made the STUNT world feel more real. We were finally valued and at the same level as the other sports — since then, I have seen a lot of new love for it and opportunities for young athletes."

After seeing and being part of the growth of collegiate cheer & STUNT,

the combine helped the Concordia athletes connect with prospective athletes and reflect back on their own recruitment journey. Call said, "Young athletes like me did not think it would be possible to continue their passion at the next level. Being able to have the opportunity to do STUNT at the collegiate level has given a lot of young girls the courage in themselves and the passion to want to try even Harder."

While all the beaming young talent surrounds the Golden Eagles, sophomore Madyson Isbell said, "What makes recruits stand out at a combine is someone who is always working hard and constantly trying to improve."

Isbell added, "You can be very good at your position, but when you also have a positive, hard-working, and kind attitude, that really makes an athlete stand out and helps you know they can represent our athletics in a great way."

Concordia student-athletes take pride and honor in being Golden Eagles and representing Concordia Athletics and their respective

programs. Isbell said, "If I can show these young athletes that we are kid and also a very talented team, then many athletes will put Concordia on their list and potentially come here to continue growing our athletics."

"Concordia STUNT is a very well-known and recognized program; it is a dream team and school for a lot of STUNT athletes,"

said Call. Concordia Cheer & STUNT continues to work toward conference competition coming this spring.

Follow @cui_stunt on Instagram and visit cuigoldeneagles.com for schedule updates soon to come!



PICTURED ABOVE: Concordia STUNT ready to welcome prospective athletes
Photo courtesy of: Coach Karli Shutt

Concordia men's water polo team has what it takes to bounce back

SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia men's water polo team is currently 2-7 after playing four top-15 teams at the Triton Invitational. Although they had a tough start to the season, their leaders are looking forward to the rest of the season and conference play.

Oscar Garcia Blomback, a junior captain from Mallorca, Spain said, "Timing and how much quicker you have to react to what is going on in the water was a big thing. Apart from being outmatched in size, the main factor was timing. We were always three seconds behind and although we would make the right decisions it was slow." Garcia added, "Getting better at communicating and listening to our coach who knows what he is doing will be the best way to solve our issues."

"The biggest takeaway is how to compete. We played against the highest level of competition, it was great to get the chance to compete against the best," said Jacob Stuart, a senior captain from Yucaipa. Having a rough start to the season is not slowing these men down, they are keeping their heads up and looking forward to improvement in the rest of their season.

Stan De Mey, a senior captain from Alphen

aan den Rijn, Netherlands said, "We have to believe we have the team to win it all this year. We have the ability from the goalies to field players and coaches to do it." De Mey added, "We need to have the mindset that one goal is not enough, it needs to be five in a row. If we take that mindset and we get better at it, there should not be any team in our conference that can beat us."

As Head Coach, Justin Johnson leads the Golden Eagles through his second season, the men believe the previous season was the good foundation that will help them bring home the conference championship. Luke Addington, a junior center defender from Clovis, California said, "The main thing I think our team learned was that we are in a better position than we were last year in terms of being able to compete with some of the better teams in the nation."

Addington added, "We have a lot of experience within our unit, including some good veteran leadership. Through playing more teams, we gain more exposure to different styles of play and are able to adapt our play style in order to perfect the system we want to run." By trusting that the games played against top teams in the nation will prepare these players come conference time, there will be no team that can stop them.

De Mey added, "Last season was just a build-up for now. Last season we wanted to win it, but got second place in the conference tournament. Having our basics from last season will help us build into more tactics as the season goes on."

The way De Mey, Garcia, and Stuart have been keeping the team motivated is not only through experience within the game but by being a leader outside of the water as well. "The sport we play is very physically and mentally challenging, I focus on keeping us on track with our goals. Being a captain and senior, I

help encourage my teammates to step up for one another and leave it all in the pool," said Stuart.

"I have been told that I am very easy to talk to and I think that is what the coach wanted me to do," Garcia said. "Coach wanted me to step up and be somebody you can come talk to if you have any problems."

These Golden Eagles are keeping their heads high and are looking forward to the rest of the season along with the conference tournament which they will be hosting in November.



PICTURED ABOVE: Team huddle during Triton Invitational.
Photo courtesy of: CUI Men's Water Polo



PICTURED ABOVE: Jacob Stuart Action Shot.
Photo courtesy of: CUI Men's Water Polo



PICTURED ABOVE: Oscar Garcia Blomback Action Shot.
Photo courtesy of: CUI Men's Water Polo



PICTURED ABOVE: Stan De Mey Action Shot.
Photo courtesy of: CUI Men's Water Polo

Campus community preps for 6th annual Concordia Serves on Sept. 24

(continued from pg. 1)

A particularly memorable moment for Taylor came when he and a group of volunteers worked at a shelter in Orange. "We went there to clean up, and it was eye-opening to see people of all ages and backgrounds in need. It reminded me that help is needed across a wide spectrum," he said. Taylor is thrilled to be able to give back in a new way this year by donating blood, which is a personal milestone for him.

In addition to creating a long-lasting effect on the community, CONCORDIA serves provides many students an opportunity to strengthen their bonds with their teams and classmates. After participating in the event for two years in a row, juniors Jessica Borton of the women's lacrosse team and Audrey Barcnas of the cross country and track and field team regarded it as the highlight of their Concordia experiences. Barcnas sees the event not as a chore, but as a privilege: "You get to help others and build communities. That's something special."

Borton shared that her team has often worked with

the Jesse Rees Foundation to put together Joy Jars, which contain essentials and messages for children in hospitals. "Every time is a memorable experience," she said. Since then, she has worn a bracelet from her first event, symbolizing how it has become a part of her life.

Jebb Fox, senior English and Behavioral Science major said, "CONCORDIA serves goes beyond service. It is not just about helping out the community; it is about fellowship as well. We are not individuals helping others. We are a family of like-minded individuals working together."

Summing up the ethos of the event, Hood said, "We love others because He first loved us." This guiding principle encapsulates the essence of CONCORDIA serves, emphasizing that acts of kindness and service are rooted in a deeper, faith-driven motivation.

Both on and off campus, the event provides significant service opportunities. For more information visit: cui.edu/aboutcui/community/serving/concordia-serves.

Fires sparked in southern California last week—how can we plan?

JADEN HENDERSON
STUDENT WRITER
& RYN CASTEEL
ONLINE EDITOR

Diego Fire Rescue, provided valuable tips.

Flores said, "The best way to plan for a wildfire emergency concerning [one's] home and property is to first make sure you do the proper lawn maintenance, also known as brush abatement, along your property. If you live in an area that may be flagged as a potential fire hazard due to the topography surrounding your home, you will be cited accordingly by your city's fire prevention services department. Secondly, know if you live in a high fire hazard severity zone. Third, if you do live in such a zone, follow the checklist guide provided by CalFire to ensure a safe and planned evacuation."

For more specific aid and fire readiness, Flores said, "Please address your local fire department for concerns regarding wildfires in your area. The most common form of help is to contact the American Red Cross."

Similar advice was given by a Firefighter Paramedic located in the Inland Empire, who wished to remain anonymous. They said, "When it comes to planning, it is difficult, especially at a moment's notice, when things take a turn for the worse. I think everyone should have a travel bag consisting of a first aid kit, food, water, clothes and other necessities in case you must go. When it comes to resources, always check social media, as local departments put out postings regarding shelters, camps, and supplies you might need. Check with local churches as well, as they have been known to additionally donate resources."

The latest wildfires in Southern California serve as a sobering reminder of how vulnerable the area is to natural calamities. These fires show the wide-ranging impact of environmental issues, ranging from the direct threat to property and human safety to the more general consequences on air quality and daily life.

Residents in Southern California will need to be flexible and resilient as situations develop. As of press time the Bridge Fire was 37% contained, Line Fire 50% contained and Airport Fire was more than 31% contained. Stay safe out there!

The current increase in wildfires in Southern California has grown into a serious disaster that is affecting lives and communities and gaining national attention. The severe heat and dry conditions that started the flames, which quickly spread over the region, were made worse by seasonal winds. Last week, there were three main fires affecting Orange County: the Bridge Fire, Line Fire, and Airport Fire.

Local resident Alex Stein, who has personally experienced the effects of these fires, paints a picture of the situation. He was most affected by the Line Fire near Riverside towards Big Bear. "The fire got close to my house and caused our neighbors to evacuate because of the smoke and air quality," Stein recounts. "We had to go to the house and remove valuables in case the fire got any closer, but nothing has been damaged by the fires."

Stein and his family not only removed valuables but also took safety precautions to register their belongings. "We had to take videos of the whole house and everything in it for insurance just in case it burned down," he added.

Kaden Minter was not in danger from the flames directly, he has nevertheless been impacted by them indirectly. "Since the flames aren't too close to where I live, the effects they've had on me have been more indirect," Minter said. "You can still feel the difference in air quality and see the smoke coming from the burning mountainside."

Minter also highlighted the larger logistical difficulties brought on by the flames. "I've managed to reach my destinations, but I know there are others who have been limited by the fires in terms of where they can go and how long it takes to get there," he said.

So how can residents of Southern California turn towards being more prepared and equipped with the knowledge they need to ensure they stay safe this fire season? Eduardo Flores, a Firefighter EMT from the department of San

Marty the Golden Eagle in: A Good Book is Hard to Find

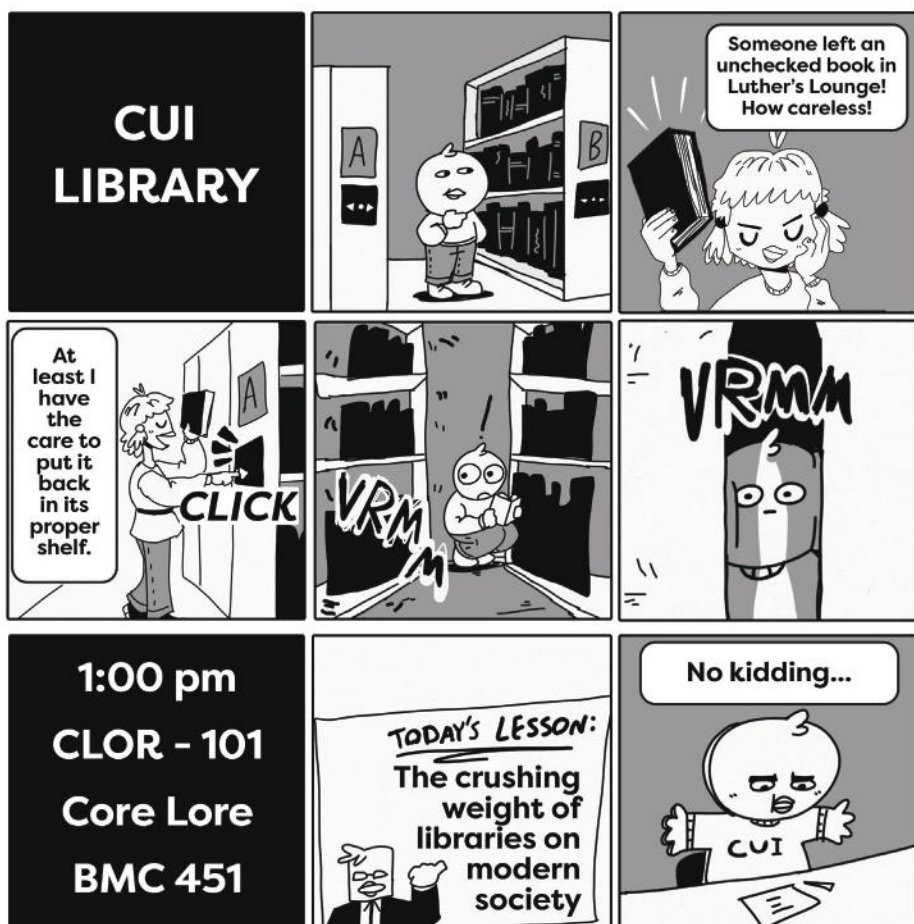


Photo courtesy of: Dylan Arant