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Volume 7, Issue 1

Concordia University Irvine

Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Double absence; student affairs shifts

SARINA GRANT
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR



Former Dean Vergara is no longer employed at Concordia.

Derek Vergara, former Dean of Student Affairs, unexpectedly resigned on Aug. 9, 2012. Over the summer, Vergara worked closely with Michelle Lee, '12 and former ASCUI Vice President, and Jeanette Gonzales, senior RA. "It was very unexpected; I had no idea," said Gonzales. "I was really looking forward to him being around and mentoring me this year. He knew so much about the field of Higher Education and really invested a lot of time mentoring us."

Vergara's final initiatives were focused on improving diversity, as well as preparing the school for title nine accreditation. "We researched other campuses, both public and private. Our goal was to find things to implement to make others feel welcome," said Gonzales.

In addition to Vergara's leave, Monica Lum, former Associate Dean of Students, left her position at Concordia in exchange for one at Brandman University to pursue a career in Academic Advising. "Both of them worked very hard. They had a lot of initiatives that improved the school," said Gilbert Fugitt, Dean of Students.

"Derek and Monica pushed people to their potential, which is something that the people who have worked under their leadership will certainly

miss," said Kristy Fowler, Director of First-Year Experience Programs and Initiatives, who worked closely with Lum. "Personally, working for Monica has been a privilege and something that I have grown a lot from. I'm very grateful for the opportunity that she has given me."

The resignation of both the Dean of Student Affairs and the Associate Dean of Students has left the Student Affairs department short of two staff members who significantly impacted the student body and campus community.

"Vergara had a heart for working with students and connected with many of them. That's what those who knew him well will miss," said Fugitt. Lum was also intentional about working with the student body. "There are so many stories of individuals' lives that have been impacted by Monica. So much of the reason that they've made it through their transitional difficulties and are still here is because of her," said Fowler.

"Within Student Affairs, we will continue to move forward. We are going to take up the diversity and retention initiatives and expand on them. We're excited to continue to build relationships with students and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ," said Fugitt. "We've brought in a lot of new

quality faculty and staff; that's what we need to celebrate here. Concordia is just going to keep growing."



Monica Lum left Concordia to pursue new career opportunities.

LCEF competition: CUI are the champions

MAGGIE DARBY
ARTS EDITOR

On April 20, 2012, a team of six marketing students placed first in the Church Extension Fund marketing and advertising competition in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) held the competition at the Lutheran Church Mis-

souri Synod headquarters, and they extended invitations to each of the eight Concordia Universities in the nation. Concordia University Irvine's invite was received before Christmas and accepted in January by Professor Carolyn Shiery, Assistant Professor of Marketing, who accompanied the group.

The competition was well organized with strict guidelines for the competing students to follow. "LCEF were excellent in their materials," said

Shiery. "They had a tight idea of what they wanted, and it was very hard to achieve. It was really similar to what an ad agency would face if they were competing for an account."

The students who comprised this team of Business Marketing majors were alumni Kevin Black, Danielle Daviscourt, Zack Freeno, Samatha Moser, and Johanna Sceresini, '12, and Melissa Merrill, senior. Guided by Shiery, they returned with top

honors. Concordia University St. Paul won second place, while third was taken by Concordia University Austin.

Handpicked by the marketing department, the team was selected because of their work done in previous classes. "These students are all excellent writers, had great ideas, and presented in class very well," said Shiery. Each student did well in their core classes, general education, and major classes, showing a consistently high caliber of work ethic. Of the ten original students accepted for the team, only six went to compete, the other four declining because of busy schedules.

Competing against teams from Concordia University Austin, Concordia University St. Paul, and Concordia Chicago, Irvine's team applied knowledge they learned in their school of business. The competition included knowledge from areas of market research, creative strategy, and financial budget, so each of the students brought different strengths to the team.

The competition was extremely professional, allowing the team to compete in a business setting. It was in a classic boardroom with high tech equipment and professional staging. "It gave the students a feel for what a real corporate setting would be and how to present at that level," Shiery said. "It was one of the most professional competitions I've ever been involved in, and I've been teaching for over thirty years."

The competition was composed of both oral and written sections. A written book with strict guidelines on page limits and content had to be submitted to the board before the oral presentation in St. Louis. The marketing team worked throughout the entire spring semester to present this ad campaign for the client.

"The key to the success of this team was that they worked as a team. They worked really hard, and it showed," Shiery said. "Another reason they took first place had a lot to do with their attitude and enthusiasm for the project."

The team applied information used from both their business courses and their general education classes. The use of public speaking, music, writing, research, and art were all used to create their high quality presentation.

Concordia University Irvine will continue to participate in this annual competition as long as they are invited. If you are a Marketing major interested in being a part of the competition for next year, send an email to carolyn.shiery@cui.edu.



Marketing students just after their win in the Church Extension Fund marketing and advertising competition.

Editorial: Sticking to our roots

EMILY GESKE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This summer taught me many things; one such discovery was that Africa has this mysterious feeling that it naturally resists outside influences. The people there are much more laid back, taking the time to enjoy life from the smallest of details to traditional celebrations. Even those with hardly enough to sustain their own lives show such generosity to visitors, especially extending sincere friendship to complete strangers. Generally, they don't require mansions and fancy wardrobes in order to be content; in fact, the people I met were happy with what little they had because they knew that it was all a blessing from God.

It might have become obvious that this society I have described is overall dissimilar to modern American culture. In a country where money determines how successful one is, a leisurely approach to everyday life is discouraged. Society abides by mores that insist time must be micro-managed through precise scheduling with the hope that not a minute will be wasted. As a people overall, Americans tend to be individualistic, not sharing personal information with neighbors, but instead confiding in a close group of friends while keeping everyone else at a safe distance.

The more I saw of East African culture, the more I came to recognize ways in which some of these Western ideals had started to infiltrate that society. Whether this was the fault of foreign travelers or natives with the misconception that they needed to change, I began noticing things I didn't expect: Western clothing, fast food joints, and American music to name a few.

It saddened me a little that some of these people felt like they needed to fit an American definition of success, because each of their countries was beautiful to me for the very reason that it was unlike my homeland.

I worry that the same type of assimilation is occurring at Concordia as of late. When I first came to this school three years ago, one of the aspects I enjoyed most about it was its uniqueness, especially in relation to other private Christian colleges in the area. Sure, Concordia had privacy hours, but in comparison they were generous. A set of governing rules was in place, but the pervading theme seemed to reinforce the fact that we have freedom in Christ. There existed a balance between right and left hand kingdoms, a marriage of Law and Gospel. Unlike other colleges, Concordia's regulations didn't seem like rules imposed for the purpose of forcing "correct" living. Good works flowed as a result of one's faith rather than as a means to prove

one's faith to everyone else.

Now, however, the atmosphere seems to have shifted somewhat. I know everyone has different opinions regarding this year's new alcohol policy, but I'm not just referring to that; I'm talking about the identity of the university as a whole. I fear that the focus has become too Law-centered. Concordia is changing its foundations to transform into something that I'm not quite sure I want it to be. Martin Luther brought up a valid point when he warned, "Do not suppose that abuses are eliminated by destroying the object which is abused. Men can go wrong with wine and women. Shall we then prohibit and abolish women?" Though this quote singles out alcohol, the same concept applies to any freedom that can be abused.

College is the time to establish an identity based upon the ideals you hold to be true. Musicians shouldn't force themselves to become athletes. Countries in Africa should not make themselves adopt American culture as their own. Concordia cannot allow itself to become a carbon copy of every other Christian university. We need to preserve our unique quality—knowledge in our freedom through Christ—to make it the best school possible. Once we figure out how to do that, we need to work unceasingly to make sure Concordia stays rooted in the right tradition.

Faculty Letter

Gilbert Fugitt welcomes you!



Dear Concordia Eagle,

Welcome to the 2012-13 academic year! I am honored and humbled to be the new Dean of Students and to have the privilege of working with you. We have some exciting initiatives happening at CUI this year, such as the Care Minister program with abbeywest. We are also committed to continue building the learning communities, such as CUI Bono, Holos House, and soon, the Global Village. God has greatly blessed CUI with wonderful students and a dedicated faculty and staff. I am confident this will be the best year in the history of Concordia University Irvine.

My role on campus will be to engage students and find out how to properly meet your needs while navigating your educational journey at CUI. I will be working with the Director of Student Conduct, discussing ways in which to educate and help our students make better decisions. I am eager to build relationships with various departments throughout campus and mentor students when appropriate.

Admittedly a Social Media novice, I intend to become more engaged in Twitter and e-mail newsletters when working with students and parents. I want to be relevant and transparent to the students, working with them through their journey at CUI. Focusing on the greatest part of my calling is the wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our student body, whether it is through chapel, Bible studies, devotions, one-on-one meetings, lunch, etc. I consider this to be paramount in my role, and I feel incredibly blessed to have this opportunity. With that, I want to say you are all in my prayers and I am excited to have each of you at CUI. Please let me know how I can be of service to you. My door is always open.

In Christ,
Gilbert Fugitt
Dean of Students

Paul Ryan—Romney's Choice

EDWARD HURLEY
STAFF WRITER

As the presidential race to November's election approaches, there are many presumptions about who will become our next president. I firmly believe that it will be the candidate with the plan best

tailored to what the American people want considering the tough economic times. Whoever our next President is will be looked to for guidance, trust, and answers about the future of America, including how it can improve from the last few years.

As the current president, Barack Obama, has set out his plan for reelection, Republican nominee

Mitt Romney has involved his newly announced running mate on his campaign. Romney selected Paul Ryan, the United States Representative for Wisconsin's first congressional district. Ryan is 42 years old and a native of Wisconsin. Earlier this year, he gained national fame with his plan called "Roadmap for America's Future". This proposal intended to cut the federal deficit and reform taxes to help ensure future generations do not have to pay back the nation's debt.

Hopefully for Ryan, his plan to get the nation out of debt will be successful. Of course, this means that he and Romney will have to win the race to the White House against the incumbent President Obama, which will not be an easy feat for the two.

Romney hopes to push forward with his running mate and become the 45th president. Their plans include reducing taxes and helping to regulate spending. By reducing federal taxes, the pair hopes to encourage more companies to invest, thereby creating jobs. As for individual taxes, they plan to lower the already high taxes to demonstrate confidence that the American people will once again open small businesses. This would create even more job opportunities for their communities. The team's plan is to cut the corporate tax rate from 35% down to 25% to become more competitive amongst industrial global competitors.

Romney and Ryan's plan focuses on helping get America out of its debt by creating jobs and better lives for the American people. I think Paul Ryan is a great addition to Romney's campaign and can only strengthen his chances in the race for the Presidential election in November.

I am not trying to gain popularity for Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan. I hope you all as a part of the Concordia Community will look for yourselves and choose whomever you decide fits best as our next president.



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Place a classified ad!

- Selling a book?
- Need a job?
- Have a cool idea?

Email newspaper@cui.edu to have an ad placed in the next issue.

A letter from our ASCUI president

ELYSSA SULLIVAN
ASCUI PRESIDENT

"So you're president... What does that mean?" As if hearing nails against a chalkboard, I cringe every time I am asked this question. There is no one reason eliciting this reaction. In part, my frustration is because of the apparent disconnect between the basic understanding of the purpose of a "presidential position" and how that translates to a collegiate student body president. Another part is because this speaks to how ASCUI has been functioning for, at least, the last three years. I must also admit though, there is a portion of my pride that is a bit shaken when students don't know that my team and I were elected to be their representatives to the faculty, staff, and administration. With all this frustration in mind, ASCUI Vice President, Brianna Lamanna, and myself worked long hours

this summer sorting through how to change the student understanding of ASCUI.

To answer the question that opened this article, being ASCUI President comes with a lot of responsibilities, the most frequent of which being attending a wide variety of meetings. I am to be in clear communication with the employees of this university to ensure the student voice is receiving consistent representation. However, the aspect of my position that I believe is the most important is to take advantage of my ability to ask all the questions that students have about anything they're passionate about. It's my job to know who should be asked what; if I don't already know that answer, it's my job to find out. As I am striving to speak truth in love, as Christ calls us to in Ephesians, it is my responsibility to, out of my love for this student body and university and guided by God's wisdom, search for the answers to your questions and de-

liver the answers back to you. The trick in this is that I cannot know what questions you have unless you communicate them to me.

There are a variety of ways that you can communicate with my team and me. If you want to email or call us, our ASCUI email addresses and phone number are found via the Student Life page of Concordia's website. If you would prefer to visit us during our office hours, we are located in the CSLD Mon.-Fri. Also, this year we will be hosting a series of informative student forums. At these forums, we will be presenting on a variety of topics ranging from the new alcohol policy to the Hertz cars on campus. We want these forums to be relevant to what you are interested in, so if you have any ideas for these forums, please send me an email at ASCUIPresident@cu.edu, and I'll do my best to answer your questions. The most overarching responsibility of my team, however, was to select the

theme and verse for this academic year.

I'm not sure if you've noticed or not, but this year's theme is Rooted, based on Colossians 2:6-7. Our aim for the year is to strive to be rooted together in Christ and celebrate how this is expressed in our service, spirit and tradition. For you returning students, you may remember my editorial published in March, which introduced the theme and verse for this year. I ended that article with a challenge to live this out. This is a challenge that is still alive in the heart of ASCUI all these months later. As students at Concordia, we are gifted with faculty and staff who challenge us to realize our potential and to begin to realize who God made us to be. My prayer is that, as you continue the adventure of being a student, whether you're in your last semester or first, you celebrate what it means to be rooted in this community, and run with the opportunity to discover who you are.

Get to know the new faces on campus

Name: Prof. Rachel Hayes



Teaching: Elements of Art, Drawing 1, Painting 1, Design

Hometown: Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, but now Orange is home

Favorite fruit: No favorite in particular

Favorite movies: Fight Club and The King's Speech...wow, those are totally different

Name: Dr. Russell Dawn



Teaching: Core History: America and the World and Early Modern England. In the future I plan also to develop classes on the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Favorite fruit: The peach

One song that always makes you happy: *Don't Change* by INXS has consistently provided me adrenalin boosts for nearly three decades.

Name: Dr. Jeff Mallinson



Teaching: Core Theology and Core Philosophy; those are two subjects I love and I look forward to imparting my love for the life of the mind to students.

Hometown: I was born in Boulder, Colorado, but my formative years were spent here in Orange County.

Favorite fruit: If we are only allowed a short answer, it is of course **blueberry**. Nothing beats that. But if you are looking for something more interesting... Coconut (technically a one-seeded drupe): it's loosely a fruit, a nut, *and* a seed, and a source of water. I'm not a huge fan of dried coconut but love coconut water, using coconut husk in the yard, and cooking with coconut oil. It's a versatile gift from the Creator.

Favorite memory of Concordia when you were here the first time: Studying for finals in a friend's Jacuzzi till midnight. We passed around study sheets that were sealed in large plastic bags and floated them around on the top of the water. We quizzed each other as we enjoyed T-bone steaks and icy refreshments.

Name: Prof. Jim Kunau



Teaching: Classes on Leadership, Ethics, and Sports in the MCAA program

Hometown: Bakersfield, CA

Favorite fruit: Grapefruit

If you could travel anywhere: Israel and South Africa

Name: Rev. Adam Hensley



Teaching: History and Literature of the Old Testament and Hebrew

Hometown: Melbourne in the state of Victoria, Australia

Favorite fruit: Probably raspberries, followed closely in second place by the humble banana

What other decade would you live in: Probably the 90s again when Australia were still world-beaters in Test Cricket, and I had time to watch a whole match every now and then (it takes five days).

Name: Prof. Sara Morgan



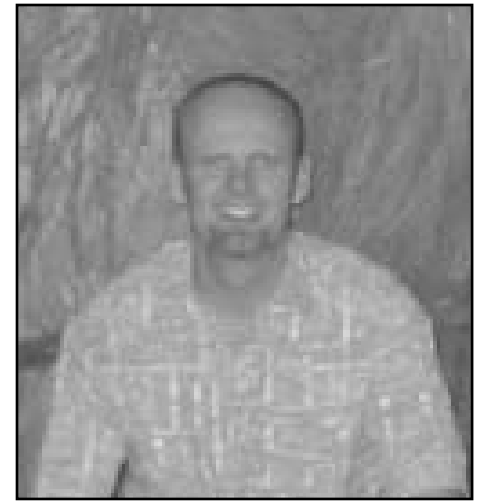
Teaching: Teacher credential classes that focus on special education

Hometown: Orange, CA

Favorite fruit: Home grown cherries from my backyard cherry tree

If you could be any animal: Kangaroo (because it would be cool to have a pouch to carry my babies)

Name: Rev. Glenn Fluegge



Teaching: Theology courses (i.e., Core Theology, Historical Theology, and courses in the CMC)

Hometown: Valley Center, CA

Favorite fruit: Probably mango, though I like many of them

Favorite character from the Bible: I would probably have to say Peter. He seems to stick his foot in his mouth so many times and doesn't really get it (until afterwards), and yet Jesus chooses him to be one of the main leaders of the church. Thank God He uses sinners and fools to save the world.

Name: Prof. Timothy Schumacher



Teaching: For the moment, I'm not teaching any courses. My primary task is to work on the development of a new "MA in Education: Educational Technology" program. When that's up and running next year, I'll be teaching courses within that program.

Hometown: That's not the easiest question for me to answer. I've moved many times within our Lutheran world from childhood on, most often claiming Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the family's "hometown". After just arriving in SoCal from four years teaching in a Western Australian Lutheran school (near Perth), I'm currently feeling like "home" is still Down Under and miss it very much.

Favorite fruit: Bananas

If you had to eat at one restaurant forever: Culver's Butter Burgers and Fresh Frozen Custard (Midwesterners would know the place)

Wright makes a splash as new water polo head coach

Laura Lundberg
Staff Writer

John Wright is the new head coach of the men's and women's water polo teams, beginning this fall.

Wright has a lot of experience, including his history as head coach and director of the Golden West Water Polo Club from 1983 to 2006, head coach of the water polo and swimming programs at Marina High School in Huntington Beach from 1991-96, head coach of the Women's USA National Junior Water Polo team from 2000-02, and head coach of the men's and women's swimming and water polo teams at Santa Ana College from 2005-10. This will be Wright's first coaching experience at a private Lutheran school.

Since 2010, Wright has served as a stay-at-home dad, caring and providing for his autistic son. "It was a tough choice to make professionally,

but the right one for my family," Wright said. Last spring, his son began showing significant improvement, giving Wright the opportunity to head back to work. "I heard about some job openings [at Concordia], I inquired about water polo, and now here I am," Wright said.

The new coach and student athletes anticipate their upcoming season with clear goals in mind. "I want to provide for my student athletes as much as possible," Wright said. "As far as performance, this team has been very successful, and I'd like to maintain that." Last season, the women's water polo team finished the year with a record of 21-11, while the men concluded their season with a record of 32-5. "The bar was set high last year, so our goal this year is to maintain a top 10 ranking throughout the whole season," said Michael Crowley, senior water polo player. "I personally would like to see our team with another NAIA National

Championship, a better record than last season, and with the highest overall GPA for a fall program at Concordia."

Steve Carrera served as head water polo coach since 2007 but left to pursue another career opportunity. "It was hard to see Coach leave, but I know he has a better opportunity for him and his family now," Crowley said. "This season I want a coach that I can trust and that can lead us to a successful season." Wright plans to do just that by setting groundwork for expectations, performance, program representation, and how the student athletes carry themselves.

The first game of the season for the men's team will be on Sept. 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the University of La Verne. For more information about the water polo team and Wright, visit the athletic page on the Concordia website.

"Work hard, stay humble"

Ethan Scherch
Staff Writer

The Men's soccer team began their season with a tough loss to Grand Canyon (AZ) this past Thursday. The Eagles have been ranked at #18 this season and are ready to once again prove that they have what it takes to make it to post season. Coached by Chris Gould for the third season, the team looks to use their strong transitions and deadly attacking squad to push for post season success.

The team is comprised of many returning members. There are a few new players, but most of the starters are familiar faces. Tactically, the team has a strong attacking mindset. The midfield is filled with players who can transition quickly from defense to offense, creating uneven matchups in Concordia's favor. Meanwhile, at the top of the formation, it's obvious the strikers have been keeping their moves sharp over the summer.

The men's team ended their previous campaign with two tough losses. These recent memories provide motivation for this coming season. The Eagles started preseason with two scrimmages against UCLA (NCAA Division I) and Cal State LA (NCAA Division II).

When the team travelled to UCLA, they played as if they had to prove themselves. UCLA had been ranked second in the division, but the Eagles came out and put on an excellent showing with a goal by Christian Ramirez, senior, assisted by William Prado, senior. "Our expectations are always to do what we practiced during the week. We did that and got a tie," said David Garcia, junior. During their time at Cal State LA, Gould was able to test the depth of his bench. "Many of the new members to the team were able to play in their first collegiate match," Gould said.

The regular season continued with the team's second game this past Saturday. Though the Eagles were unable to get a win in the opener due to a goal in the 87th minute by Grand Canyon, they came out looking for redemption in the next match. The Eagles managed to defeat Cal Poly Pomona by a score of 3-2 to earn their first regular season win.

The Eagles have both skill and leadership to guide them this season. "This is the strongest team on paper in school history," said Gould. The team is constantly motivated by Gould to "work hard and stay humble." The Men's home opener is Sept. 1 at noon versus Kansas Wesleyan University.

Women's volleyball enjoys perfect pre-season

Daetona Laurence
Sports Editor

The women's volleyball team has started the season strong with an 8-0 preseason record. The Eagles are currently ranked second in the nation after suffering a tough loss to University of Texas at Brownsville last season. However, the team is confident and looking forward to building off of last year's strong season.

With only one addition to last season's roster, the team has been able to grow closer and form a strong chemistry both on and off the court. "This year we have more juniors and seniors and no freshmen. We have more people who took leadership roles, and we really expect more from each other," said Brooke Marino, senior captain. "We were so close [last season], we tasted it. Now we have a little more fire."

Confidence and enthusiasm echoed through many of the team members. Playing the 2011-2012 season together allowed the Eagles to become more experienced together as a team so they could play as a single unit. "We're like a big family. Other

teams I've been on play for themselves as an individual. We truly play and win for each other," said Madison Ekis, junior.

The team will face many difficulties this season, such as a rematch against the #1 ranked Brownsville. However, two-time All American Marino emphasized her faith in the team. "We have a really strong bond. We make sacrifices and work hard every day. We love the coaching staff and have a strong support group to help us reach our goal."

The experienced Eagles are secure that they can overcome any obstacles this season brings. "This team has a purpose. We all work for a purpose," said Fei Gao, senior. "Coach pushes us, but every girl out there wants to play for Concordia. We play volleyball because we love volleyball. We know we lost last year, but we want to win this year and we push each other."

The Eagles' next games are on Aug. 31 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Asics/Wyndham Hotel Labor Day Classic in the Concordia Arena against Illinois Institute of Technology.



Olympic (Concordian) athletes shine

Alicia Harger
Layout Editor

The contestants were chosen. The contenders gathered. The competitors marched in. A woman with an accent and a funny pink hat opened the ceremony. "May the odds..." Oh, sorry. Wrong thing. The main television event of the summer wasn't a Hunger Games sequel but the games of the 30th Olympiad. In case you weren't glued to your TV for two weeks watching every event NBC would show you, this is here to catch you up.

Of course, every American has reason to brag: the United States brought home more medals than any other country. But Concordians have even more to be proud of: three-time Olympic gold medalist, Misty May Treanor, is participating in the Concordia Masters in Coaching and Athletic Administration (MCAA) program. This probably means that watching her and Kerri Walsh bump, set, and smash their way to victory is the same as watching Concordia teams play here. Just imagine the intramural team with Misty May on it.

There were plenty of other great wins for the United States. David Boudia, a 23-year-old diver, captured the first diving gold for the United States since 1988. Boudia only barely qualified for the quarterfinal competition, leaving the American audience with little hope. Somehow, he managed to turn it around, giving a beautiful performance. The win was a huge shock to Chinese world champion, Qiu Bo, who was a heavy favorite. The Chinese team won six out of eight gold medals in diving events, and the upset was astounding to see. Boudia also beat hometown hero Tom Daley, who earned bronze for England.

No discussion of the summer Olympics would be complete without mentioning gymnastics. The U.S. women's gymnastics team, nicknamed the Fierce Five, delivered everything they promised and more. In the team competition, there were few flaws, and the American team nabbed the gold. In the all-around competition, Gabby Douglas hit routine after routine, won the gold, and cemented her place in Olympic history. The biggest disap-

pointment for the women's team was McKayla Maroney's vault. Widely acknowledged to be the best female vaulter in the world, there was little doubt that Maroney would take the win. However, on her second vault, Maroney missed the landing and crashed to her backside. The fall wasn't too tragic, however; Maroney still grabbed the silver medal.

These great performances weren't the only memorable part of these games. This was the first Olympic games in which every competing country had both female and male athletes. Even countries typically known for gender inequality, such as Saudi Arabia, sent female athletes. Some rule exceptions were made so that the faithfully orthodox women could compete and still wear clothing they considered appropriate. South African runner, Oscar Pistorius, didn't win any medals, but he did make the history books, becoming the first double amputee to compete in the Olympics. Missing both legs below the knee, Pistorius competed wearing prosthetics. He plans to follow his appearance in the London games by competing in the Paralympics.

SportsLine

Kyle Borcharding
Staff Writer

What makes a team so dreamy?

The Olympics captivate the attention of sports fans around the world, and the United States is no different. They provide us with the exciting opportunity to watch a wide variety of sports, most of which are not as popular in the States. It is especially exciting to be able to see everyone rally behind their country.

For me, one of the most intriguing sports to follow this year was not an obscure one. Of course, I watched the women's water polo team take gold for the first time ever. I tuned in to see America's decathletes win gold and silver. And I certainly didn't miss Michael Phelps' extraordinary accomplishment of winning his 22nd Olympic medal (18 of them gold). However, despite these and many other compelling stories, I found myself continually drawn to the basketball court where the U.S. seemed completely un-touchable. The men's team, filled with NBA superstars, put on a show every time they took the court. During the tournament, the team shot a remarkably high 60% from the floor and an even more impressive 44% from the three point line; just watching them was a shooting clinic in itself.

With stats like these, the comparison is inevitable. If this 2012 team is so good, is it possible that they are better than the Dream Team? The 1992 U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team is likely the best group of basketball players ever to take the court at the same time. In the first year that professional players were allowed to enter the Olympic Basketball tournament, the Dream Team plowed through every team in Barcelona (where they were cheered on in every game as if they were the home team) en route to a gold medal. Though the U.S. had won only one gold in basketball during the previous three Olympic Games, the team's closest match, the gold medal game, was a 32-point landslide victory for America.

The Dream Team had everything a basketball team could ever want. Eleven of the 12 people on the roster are now in the Hall of Fame. Point guards Magic Johnson and John Stockton are among the best distributors ever. Larry Bird and Chris Mullin are two of the best shooters in history. Karl Malone, Charles Barkley, and Patrick Ewing owned the paint. And let's not neglect Michael Jordan, the best basketball player of all time. These players are all among the greatest basketball players in history, each excelling at different roles on the court. Here lies the difference between the 2012 team and the 1992 Dream Team. While the '12 team was built to play small, quick, transition basketball, the '92 squad was unparalleled because each player on the team was the best in the world at his position.

It's difficult to speculate the outcome of the careers for the players who are still in the NBA. Certainly, both LeBron James and Kobe Bryant are Hall of Fame bound, and many others on the roster will likely make it after their careers are over. However, this team does not have the depth found on the '92 team. Though it is full of shooters and quick, slashing players, the 2012 team could never keep pace with the Dream Team in defense or post play.

The video game NBA 2K13 would like to settle this debate by allowing players to pit the two teams against one another. I'll admit, I like this possibility, and I would love to see a time machine bring us an actual broadcast of this matchup. But until I see that matchup in reality, I remain convinced. No team has ever been as significant or as talented as USA's 1992 Men's National Basketball Team.

Artist Spotlight: Gretchen Sheetz *Called to harp*



Usually when I push my instrument around campus, I receive comments such as, "Wow, that looks like you're hauling around a refrigerator!" or "Don't you wish you played the flute?" Contrary to such popular beliefs, however, I do not wish I had picked up the piccolo eight years ago. A different instrument caught my eye, an instrument with a history stretching back to ancient Mesopotamia (yes, I DID get to do research on it for a CORE paper). With roots steeped in folk tradition and mythology, the harp is something incredibly unique, and I am privileged to play it.

At the age of ten, I attended a Christmas Eve service at my grandparents' Lutheran church. I noticed an intricately carved wooden instrument at the front of the sanctuary, and I whispered to my mom, "That's a harp, right?" The sounds emanating from the harp continued throughout the service, and I sat in the pew utterly mesmerized. I don't think I said anything in particular, but by the way my eyes were transfixed on the harp all evening, my mom gathered that I was interested. Afterwards, we talked with the harpist. She suggested that I continue taking piano lessons for two years before I started studying harp, seeing as piano provides essential theory background and a well-rounded musical knowledge. Two years later, my mom asked me if I still had a desire to learn harp. My answer was an emphatic yes.

Playing the harp opened up a wide range of musical opportunities. After just one year of study, I was already requested to play background music for a Christmas party. Soon, I began playing for weddings, and my sophomore year of high school presented me with my first taste of an orchestral experience. I loved it all. It seemed God had granted me with a gift to make people happy through music, and I felt so

blessed.

Coming to Concordia provided me with more harp experiences than I had ever dreamed possible. My mentor and teacher, Mindy Ball, has instilled in me the idea that the harp is more than just a pretty instrument: it has the ability to simulate power, strength, and true emotion. Plus, the harp is just plain intense to practice and perform on. I wanted to prove that the harp was every bit as versatile as the next instrument. CUT's music department challenged me right at the beginning of my freshman year when I accompanied the Women's Ensemble on harp. I soon discovered that choral accompaniment is a type of performing I relish. I have done solo performances, duets with a wonderful variety of instruments, and played in the Wind Orchestra and Sinfonietta. Sophomore year saw me involved in the chapel service Lifepoint, and I realized how glorious it is to praise God through the plucking of my harp strings. With some encouragement, I joined the jazz combo on campus and threw myself into learning how to play jazz on the harp. It completely threw me out of my comfort zone of classical music, but it was so much fun! The end of my second year culminated in the theatre department's production of *The Fantasticks*. I found it exhilarating to play for the musical and be a part of the drama while accompanying the singers and actors.

I am now a junior. I'm not sure where life will take me after graduation, but I know it will involve praising the Lord with music and playing my harp. Concordia has prepared me well for a wide variety of possible positions in the professional music world, and I'm excited (though a bit nervous) for what God has in store for me. Ultimately, I know that when I get to heaven, sitting on a cloud and playing a harp for eternity is exactly what I want to do.



Sabbaticals sweep music department

ALLISON BOWMAN
STAFF WRITER

This semester, Music Department Chairman, Dr. Herbert Geisler; Director of Choral Activities, Dr. Michael Busch; and Performing and Visual Arts Division Chair, Professor Jeff Held, will be on sabbatical. Every seven years, teachers are given the opportunity to go on sabbatical to work on larger projects, travel, or research. "It helps teach us about the strengths we have and to get better at things," said Held.

This is Held's eighth year teaching and first time going on sabbatical. He is taking his sabbatical in two parts: half this semester, and half during the spring semester. As a result, he is able to continue to conduct two orchestras. "The most challenging part is honoring my sabbatical because the orchestras are growing and changing," said Held. "It's not something to turn my shoulder to." He has already traveled to Austin to study at a conducting institute with a private coach, and he plans to return two more times. He is also a trumpet player and is building a consistent practice routine to prepare for a recital at a church concert in January. Finally, he will be changing the structure of the online *Experiences in Music* class from a 1.5-unit class to a three-unit class.

Despite three of the five professors in the Music

Department being gone this semester, no classes have been cut. The classes have been distributed out, and several of the adjunct professors have picked up additional classes. "I feel it would benefit them to open up their mind to other things," said Matt Abramsky, sophomore. The department has 23 adjunct professors who teach private lessons. Some of the adjunct professors are recent graduates; this will be their first opportunity to teach a class. "We have so many excellent and talented adjunct professors," said Held. "The department will grow because someone else gets to do it and find new or better ways to do things."

Dr. Marin Jacobson, Associate Director of Choral Activities, will lead four choirs this semester: The Concordia Choir, The Master Chorale, Men's Chorus, and Women's Ensemble. Dr. Busch will be returning in the spring semester to continue his choral direction with the Concordia Choir and the Master Chorale. Jacobson, however, will be conducting these during the fall in addition to teaching *Beginning Conducting*. "It is really fun because I get to work with students I don't normally see," said Jacobson. She will be in charge of preparing the music, scheduling performances, and planning the Christmas concert. "There are tons of details, but I'm enjoying preparing for it. The process is energizing."

Tuck's Tune: *Boys & Girls*

TUCKER THORSON
STAFF WRITER

This band's first full-length album is easily my favorite album so far in 2012. The sound they give off reminds me of the days of good old-fashioned southern rock. With a bluesy sound, great riffs, and fantastic choruses to sing along to, *Boys & Girls* really gives it all. Lead singer Brittany Howard brings a lot to the table with her deep, soulful voice, giving a not so normal sound to a band with a female singer. She presents herself with a rough sound, perfectly matching the feel of the beats and tone of the album. This 11-song album has a few stand-out tracks that I could listen to on repeat for days on end. "Hold On" and "You Ain't Alone" are my top two favorite tracks, perfect for relaxing, get-

ting pumped up, or really anything in between. "Hold On" has a fantastic chorus to sing along to, coupled with a beat that forces you to move to the sound. "You Ain't Alone", on the other hand, is what I would consider to be the most chill song of the album; it's definitely the slowest and most relaxing. It's one of those songs you would put on after a long day of school, where you just need to sit there, do nothing, and relax. Overall, this album is amazing, and I would recommend it to absolutely anyone. As I said before, this is my favorite album of the year so far, and by the way things are sounding these days, it'll most likely remain the best of 2012. If you are sick of hearing songs about swag and want to hear something good, check out *Boys & Girls* by The Alabama Shakes.

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Aurora Shooting

MAGGIE DARBY
ARTS EDITOR

On July 20, 2012, a mass shooting occurred at a Century 16 movie theater during the midnight screening of "The Dark Knight Rises" in Aurora, Colorado. While most heard about this huge incident that happened over the summer, not many are aware of what has happened since the tragedy.

James Eagan Holmes, the sole suspect of this massacre, is said to have entered the theater through an emergency exit he had propped open, released tear gas into the audience, and opened fire on the crowd with the multiple firearms in his possession. During this tragic event, 12 people were killed and another 58 were hospitalized. Ten of the victims died at the scene and two later in the hospitals. The victims who were killed ranged in age from 6 to 51 years old.

Many eyewitnesses of the event said that no one had thought anything was odd when he initially reentered the theater. He was dressed in bullet proof clothing and a helmet, but most believed he was dressing up for the midnight premier just as many had. Others thought that he was part of an elaborate stunt set up by the theater as a publicity act, but it wasn't until he began shooting the ceiling that the audience began to understand the severity of the situation.

Holmes was apprehended in the theater parking lot shortly after the shooting. He was arrested without resistance but claimed that he had booby-trapped his apartment with explosive devices.

Police evacuated the buildings around his complex and used a robot to disarm explosive devices in his doorway and apartment. A law enforcement official said that a Batman mask was found inside.

Since the tragedy, Holmes has appeared in court several times, the first being three days after the shooting. He showed up with bright orange-red hair, and two federal officials claimed that he called himself "the Joker". On July 30, Holmes was charged with 24 counts of first-degree murder and 116 counts of attempted murder. Two charges were filed for each victim.

Holmes' attorneys have since claimed that their client is mentally ill and unstable. Many of the reporters described him as being dazed and unaware

of his surroundings during the first proceeding on July 23. As the trial proceeds, the people who were involved in the incident are trying to rebuild their lives.

According to three of the victims, there were some real heroes who were present in the theater that night. Jon Blunk, Matt McQuinn, and Alex Teves all took bullets while shielding their girlfriends. All three girls made it out alive, one with a bullet in her leg, but all attribute their survival to their men.

Following the event, one of the injured, Corey Rottman, posted a status on Facebook saying, "Shot in the leg at Batman. Where is he when you need him?" Internet campaigns were created to have Christian Bale, the star of the Batman saga, visit the victims of the Aurora shooting at the hospitals. The posts spread like wildfire around Twitter, Facebook, and other social media sites. On July 24, Bale showed up at the Medical Center of Aurora unannounced and spent over two-and-a-half hours visiting with the victims there. During that weekend, Bale released a statement saying, "Words cannot express the horror that I feel. I cannot begin to truly understand the pain and grief of the victims and their loved ones, but my heart goes out to them."

The evening following the shooting, a candle-light vigil was held at the sight in Aurora. This was the deadliest shooting in Colorado since the Columbine High School massacre in April of 1999, and with 70+ victims, it is the largest mass shooting in the history of the United States.

While the court proceedings necessary to book Holmes for this mass murder are still in progress, the entertainment industry has been continuing to show its support to those affected by the tragedy. Warner Bros, the distributor of "The Dark Knight Rises", released a statement the next day revealing how deeply saddened they were about the shooting. Funeral costs not covered by the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund were taken care of by the Century 16 theater. Anne Hatheway, Christian Bale's co-star, was quoted as saying, "My heart aches and breaks for the victims." It has also been reported that Warner Bros will be making a substantial donation to Colorado's Community First Foundation to benefit the victims.

CA debt symposium promises solutions to financial problems

EMILY GESKE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A month ago on July 27, a group of politicians, journalists, and leaders in the community met at Irvine City Hall to discuss what has become a seemingly hopeless issue: California's debt crisis. The symposium was presented by Concordia's Center for Public Policy, which teamed up with USC's Center for Religion and Civic Culture to host the gathering.

California, due to an excess of bureaucratic red tape that gets in the way of progress, has become one of the worst places to do business despite its sizable market. Many businesses are moving their companies and investments elsewhere, which ultimately hurts the state's economy. It would be ideal to construct a symbiotic relationship between the business community, which knows how to balance and enforce a budget, and the local government officials, who represent the masses. These types of alliances could produce significant leaders during a time that CEO of the Orange County Business Council, Lucy Dunn, calls "the decade of leaderlessness."

Many factors have contributed to the states' debt problem, and some are the fault of the voters. A decreasing number of citizens are inclined to participate in their local governments, failing to hold officials accountable for their actions. Often times, the problem is that there seems to be a loophole for every scenario, and only those who know how to trick the system can get anything done. Politicians need to build back credibility, and one way in which they can do this is by challenging the

status quo when necessary and beneficial.

Making the districts smaller might make citizens more likely to feel like their voices are being heard, leading to an increase in voter turnout. If this trend of not participating continues, people will keep feeling like their best interests are not being represented. Robert Ming, Laguna Niguel Council Member, warned that people must remain concerned about their freedom because it is the force that motivates them to change policies they disagree with. "Every time they [government officials] save us from something," said Ming, "they take away some freedom." He suggested that instead, leaders should empower their constituents by giving them the information to make educated decisions.

Though the situation may seem bleak, new ideas for the future were offered up. As the state has gotten older, everything about it (demographics, economy, job market) has changed except the structure of the government. Assessment of the old ideas and implementation of new programs would improve the outlook. Several suggestions included getting rid of failed programs, reforming the pension system, and being more transparent in terms of informing the public about what goes on. Essential services should be provided as frugally as possible while still remaining effective. The first step towards implementing these plans is for voters to start worrying about their local elections, which in many ways impact them more significantly than the Presidential election. Electing deserving leaders is the best way for the common person to get the state back on track.

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Memorable mission moments

This summer, many Concordia students had the opportunity to participate in mission trips to several countries. Here are some of their most memorable moments.

Vietnam, Alicia Harger

Working to build a sport field for an elementary school in the rural Phu Tho province, I got a chance to play with some of the students. Using chalk, I would draw a picture and write an English word under it. Then a student would write the word in Vietnamese. I learned how to say flower: h'ua. Then one of the teachers joined in. He drew a water buffalo and wrote a one syllable word under it. The whole group laughed when I wrote the long English word. This work was incredibly inspiring to me. Because of this trip, I hope to become an English teacher in a foreign country after I graduate.

Hungary, Jordan Mayo

On the last day of high school camp in Hungary, all the campers huddled together as close as they could while the counselors surrounded them. The counselors held hands with outstretched arms and began to sing a blessing upon the campers. At this point, we all knew that camp was at its end, and as counselors, this was the last message that we could leave with the campers. The blessing we sang over the campers was the same blessing that is sung at the close to Shout every Thursday evening. This blessing means so much more to me now because I know the comfort that it brought to all the campers as we sang it over them. This moment is one of my favorites from the trip because, as I looked around at the campers, I could see on their faces and through the tears in their eyes that they didn't want this moment to end, and that these friendships that were formed in such a short amount of time would continue to grow long after we left. This mission trip was such an amazing experience

because it provided a unique opportunity to go to a country that did not believe they needed hope. This is why it was unbelievable to see how much these campers opened up their hearts and minds to the lessons we taught each day. When I asked one of my high school campers, Gini, why she continued coming to this camp every two years, she responded by saying, "Because this camp and all of you give me a reason to smile every day." This sincere statement from Gini made me realize that this camp not only gives these students the opportunity to learn and practice English, but it also gives them the opportunity to allow for God to work in their lives as well as mine.

East Africa, Caleb Cox

My favorite moments were spent in Jinja, Uganda, at a home for girls who lived on the streets until a Ugandan we called Uncle Dan found them and took them in. I will never forget the times we spent waiting for the girls to see us through their fence and scream their hellos. Each day after we paid the boda boda (motorcycle taxi) drivers for taking us to the girls' home, they would rush out to greet us with hugs and squeals after Uncle Dan opened the gate and let them loose. After he unlocked the fence, it was as if the floodgates were opened, and the girls crashed down on us in waves of hugs and laughter. When little Angelina, my favorite, would come running up to me, I'd pick her up and swing her into my arms for a hug, and I would tickle her until she laughed the laugh that I came to look forward to each day. This welcome happened every day that we went to the girls' home for the three weeks we were in Jinja, and it never got old.

Ghana, Jamie Rivera

It is extremely difficult to define my most memorable moment while serving in Ghana because the entire trip changed my life. I enjoyed

meeting the Ghanaian people and learning about their culture and customs through conversations I had with them. I had the opportunity to work with children and women whose stories and insight on life impacted my viewpoint. I am so blessed that I had the opportunity to serve in Ghana because I learned about how God works not only through my team and myself, but also through individuals throughout the world.

Costa Rica, Kayla Chaney

We had a prayer meeting one night with the people of the church we visited in Costa Rica, and it was the most powerful thing I've ever experienced in my life. The language barrier prevented me from understanding most of them, but their passion gave me chills. We went down there to serve and help them, and yet it was their faithfulness, humility, and pure joyfulness for God that inspired and touched my heart.

China, Stephen Puls

Tony Vezner, Professor of Theatre, led a group of eight graduates including myself on a service-learning trip to China in July. With the assistance of his two children, Ben and Olivia, our team successfully led over 100 students through an academic summer camp at Buena Vista Concordia International School (BCIS), the institution at which Ashley Turner, '11, is currently employed. BCIS, a Lutheran school under the Hong Kong synod, will be entering its second year of enrollment and is unprecedentedly the first international school in China to be authorized to allow Chinese citizens to attend its classes. Our staff enjoyed establishing many relationships with their staff, including Kevin Brockberg, School Headmaster. Dustin Noel and Jacob Canter, '12, have accepted teaching positions in China and will remain there for at least the next year as a result of this opportunity.

CAF creations

SHEA THORSON
STAFF WRITER

Is it just one of those days when your taste buds are not feeling the Chinese food being served in the cafeteria? Not craving anything from the Sandwich Bar? Trying to eat a little healthier and don't want to order fries and a burger? Maybe you're in the mood for something a little south of the border? Instead of settling for a quesadilla from the Grill, try mixing it up a bit by trying my Corn and Black Bean Salad! Here's what you will need from the Salad Bar: corn, black beans (if available), bell peppers (red, green, or both), tomato chunks, a splash or two of balsamic vinegar, a small splash of chili oil, a dash of salt, a few cracks of pepper and Voila! Fill your bowl up with as much of each ingredient as you want, mix it up, and enjoy the sweet and tangy flavors that have now transformed your boring experience in the caf into a delicious meal. The Corn and Black Bean Salad can also be added to a quesadilla, put into a tortilla with a piece of grilled chicken and rice (if the odds are in your favor and you can find it somewhere in the caf), or even enjoyed by itself.

Banter with Canter

Josh Canter, junior, asked ASCUI President Elyssa Sullivan, currently participating in nine school activities, to share facts about her personal life in order to give the student body a better understanding of their fearless leader.

Did you know:

- Lived in Las Vegas, NV, from ages 4-13, then moved to Bakersfield, CA
- Desert girl, but prefers the fall season over summer
- Likes it cold (but not as cold as winter)
- Grew accustomed to the smell of Bakersfield but despises Fresno's smell (and their bad drivers)
- Cow tipping is frowned upon in Bakersfield, so she would never be caught dead doing such a thing
- "God closed all other doors," forcing her to come to Concordia
- Would rather see a theatre production than an orchestral concert
- Her Instagram followers have reached triple digits!
- Walking in May but she will still stick around another year to finish her Teaching Credential
- Wants to live locally with a few friends but doesn't see herself living in SoCal (or back home) long term
- Picky about living where it's not humid, preferably in the Western United States
- Envisions herself dying at the ripe old age of 97 after a two year battle with an exotic disease she contracted in the Amazon...But don't pity her; she anticipates having dementia so she won't know she's dying

Question of the Year: If you could be any type of fruit, what would you be and why?

Sullivan would be a Pomegranate for five reasons:

1. Sweet but tangy
2. Can only handle a little bit at a time
3. Messy
4. Compartmentalizes things
5. Most of the time no one knows what to do with it

Super Sudoku

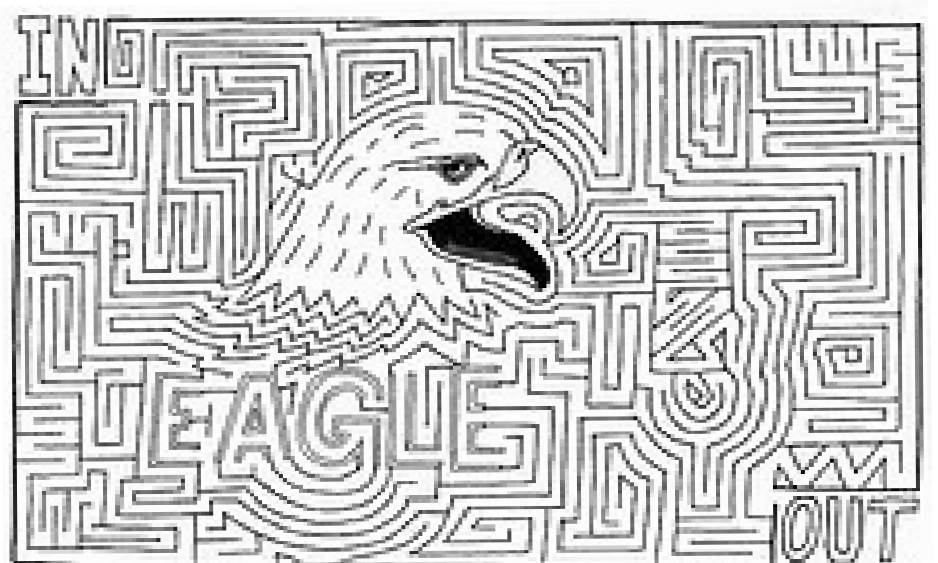
		8	3			4		2
			4			3		
2			6			5	9	1
6	1	9			4			
				9				
			2			9	1	5
1	4	3			7			9
			6		3			
9		2			5	8		

Decode This!

Try your hand at cracking this Biblical cipher:

KYVP NZCC JFRI FE NZEXJ CZBV
VRXCVJ; KYVP NZCC ILE REU EFK XIFN
NVRIP, KYVP NZCC NRCB REU EFK SV WRZEK.

Hint: Look for commonly occurring letters and words.



Bourne reborn with Renner

ALICIA HARGER
LAYOUT EDITOR

The Bourne Legacy well continued the Bourne franchise, featuring exciting chases, superhuman feats, and political drama. The plot tied in the previous movies, featuring returning characters and mentions of Jason Bourne himself. This however, may have been confusing for a viewer who had never seen the original Bourne trilogy. Jeremy Renner makes an excellent addition to the Bourne franchise. He's believable in his role, has great chemistry with his co-stars, and is a refreshing change to Matt Damon.

The movie follows Aaron Cross, a participant in the same government program to create super soldiers as Jason Bourne. Cross must flee for his life after officials issue an order to exterminate all participants. Because Cross relies on government manufactured pills for his superhuman abilities, he enlists the help of a top scientist, Dr. Marta Shearing (Rachel Weisz) to permanently enhance his abilities.

In order to change Cross permanently, the duo must travel to Manila, Philippines, where the drug is kept. The government is hot on their trail as Cross and Shearing make their way to the lab. Shearing successfully infects Cross with the drug to permanently boost his facilities. At the same time, another more advanced agent is assigned the mission to kill Cross. This leads to the climactic confrontation through the streets of Manila. The movie ends as Cross and Shearing escape on a boat and look forward to the future.

The pacing of this movie was a little off; it was a bit heavy on dialogue for an action movie but heavy on action for a drama. The introduction of new characters was a great addition to the franchise, opening up possibilities for future movies and breathing new life into a storyline that could have gone stale. Overall, it was a decent film that was worth seeing.

One of the most interesting aspects of the film was the part that wasn't fully explored. The premise of the movie is that the government has developed a way to create soldiers that are more than human. They can manipulate genes to make people faster, stronger, and smarter. This begs the question, what does it mean to be human? Are these super soldiers still on the same plane as the rest of us? The agent who is sent to kill Cross has been genetically manipulated to make himself have no

empathy. Could it possibly be right to change the basic psyche of another?

These are all ethical questions based around the creation of super soldiers. That ignores the question, why is this only available to the government? And why are they only using it to create soldiers and spies? Surely a technology like this could be

easily adapted to make smarter scientists, keener politicians, or stronger construction workers. It could be adapted to cure diseases like Alzheimer's. *The Bourne Legacy* never even touches on these themes. Admittedly, these questions would be a challenge to portray in an action movie, but the perceptive movie goer notices their absence.



Slater's 50/50: Burger Lover's Heaven

DAETONA LAURENCE
SPORTS EDITOR

Tucked into the corner of a small plaza off Imperial Highway stands one of Anaheim's hidden treasures, Slater's 50/50, Burgers by Design. With its wide variety of burger toppings and signature dishes, this burger joint will blow your mind. The

restaurant's fun and casual environment welcomes you to enjoy a meal that will most likely change the way you think about burgers, shakes, and desserts.

The employees of Slater's are happy and genuinely seem to want customers to enjoy their unique culinary experience. Initially, the meal will likely face a slight delay. Due to the restaurant's popularity, there will probably be a short wait before being

seated. (I recommend trying to snag a table in the bar area because of the open seating!)

The menu includes signature dishes such as the Peanut Butter and Jealousy Burger and the Thanksgiving Burger. It also contains many different sandwiches, salads, and other dishes including a Design it Burger with the choices of 12 cheeses, 30 toppings, 20 sauces, and many different kinds of fresh bread. You even get to decide what size you want your burger patty to be: a third pound, a half pound, or a full pound! However, these patties are not just ordinary hamburger patties. The menu contains eight different types of patties, including a veggie patty for our herbivorous friends and a Fire Beef patty for those who like it hot.

As you scan the menu, the combinations of pure deliciousness seem endless. Though everything on the menu sounds and looks mouthwatering, I cannot confirm the deliciousness of the entire selection. What I can confirm is that the signature 50/50 patty consisting of 50% ground beef and 50% ground bacon will satisfy both your hunger and your taste buds.

The prices are pretty reasonable—most of the burgers are around \$10. You know you're going to get the bang for your buck when you see how big the burgers are. When they're topped and completed with their many ingredients, they are so huge they need to be held together by a steak knife!

To top the meal off, the menu features a variety of unique desserts. Slater's offers an assortment of milkshakes, including the normal flavors like Chocolate, Vanilla, and Strawberry. However, they also have some awesome and somewhat intimidating flavors like Maple Bacon! But hey, if shakes do not tickle your fancy, you could always try 50/50's Famous BACON brownie. Yep, you read it correctly, a Bacon Brownie.

Slater's has two other locations; one is in San Diego and the other in Huntington Beach. If enjoying an original meal unlike any other is your thing, this place is sure to make all of your desires come true. So head on down and get your burger on!



ATW II: Shakespeare in Mongolia

CURRENTLY A GROUP OF CONCORDIA STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS ARE TRAVELING AS PART OF CUI'S SEMESTER AROUND THE WORLD. THESE ARE THEIR STORIES.

KRISTINE ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

Most of our students in Mongolia seemed to know Shakespeare, and they knew exactly one play: *Romeo and Juliet*. After a few days of being frustratingly non-committal, the students brightened at the mention of our star-crossed lovers. The show would take place in one week, and limited time remained to decide what our class would be performing. The first few suggestions by the students resulted in a blank whiteboard since ideas like "Twilight" and "The Fast and the Furious" held no sway. I tried to steer them away from a play production in which a man sparkled or had to build a street car.

I'll admit I brought up the idea of Shakespeare, hoping they would feel that same passion. I suggested *Hamlet*, *The Tempest*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, none of which seemed to register. Luckily, I happened to hear the soft utterance of a single name, "Juliet," from a girl in the front row. I smiled and jumped, probably alarming her, exclaiming, "Yes! Romeo and Juliet!" Miraculously, everyone nodded, perhaps even enthusiastically. Students in their mid-teens lighting up at the mention of a Shakespearean play is a rarity, even in America. This, however, was a summer school class of English as a Foreign Language, with kids barely entering high school... in Mongolia.

We soon cast a Romeo, one of two boys in the class, and a Juliet, one of eleven girls. The real task now was to find a way to take the two hour production and condense it to five minutes. Most of the students wanted a very limited amount of speaking time on stage. Luckily, that decision was not theirs to make.

It vaguely dawned on me that Shakespearean verse was well beyond the capabilities of the students. Our team brainstormed ideas for a few days, toying with creating a musical with a mash-up -- *Romeo and Juliet versus Lord Voldemort* -- where Harry counseled the lovers to brew a poison, feed it to the Dark Lord, and then end their own lives.

Obviously, this would not do. Professor Adam Lee would be in attendance, and I couldn't possibly demean myself by performing such base drama. In the five minutes that I had, I aimed to retain my dignity. Shakespeare would not be sullied by thirteen students and their three hapless teachers.

Comrade Alex Lange thankfully introduced the idea of Turbo Theater, approved by Katryna DaCosta. I reread the entire tragedy in about forty-five minutes and then picked two lines for Romeo and three lines for Juliet. Written down on two pieces of paper and handed to their respective speakers, the script hardly seemed up to the task of representing hundreds of years of poetic beauty.

So we began to practice. We rehearsed the play over and over again. Initially, we three would direct them constantly, always interrupting to give orders. The play dragged on and on, landing at twenty minutes. We decided not to interfere anymore, and we warned them that they would be on their own this time. And on their own, they took five minutes.

Delighted, we ran through it again. In the midst of their joking around, while Juliet was about to stab herself with the whiteboard marker over her prostrate lover's body, Romeo jumped up with a "Boo!" She shrieked and smacked him on the shoulder for his trick. The whole class, including the teachers, burst into raucous laughter.

It took only a moment of conference and a quick vote with the students, to decide that this was the way the production should end. The students were clearly more interested in this version, and *Romeo and Juliet* actually memorized their lines, something we did not require. So this is how *Romeo and Juliet* became a comedy in Mongolia.