

# THE Concordia Courier

Investigate. Inform. Ignite. Involve.

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Tuesday, January 15, 2013

## Scott Keith and family take residence in Gamma

SARINA GRANT  
CAMPUS EDITOR

On Dec. 21, Scott Keith, Director of Residential Education, moved on campus in order to serve the Concordia community after hours.

His wife, Joy, along with their children Caleb, 17, Joshua, 15, and Autumn, 13, also live in the Gamma apartment.

"I manage all of the Resident Directors, Resident Assistants, and all of the things that go on in the residence halls. At its core, that's the job," said Keith.

One of Keith's biggest projects was planning and establishing living-learning communities throughout Concordia's residence halls. Lambda will become a global village where students involved in international affairs as well as international transfer students can live. Gamma will become a CUI Bono community, serving as an extension of what CUI Bono already does as a group. Kappa will be transformed into Wittenberg Hall, which will focus on keeping a Lutheran identity. Rho will keep its current Holos hall, which focuses on healthy living, in addition to creating a Wings Nest hall, which puts its focus on helping freshmen transition from high school to college life.

In addition, various faculty members will be living in the residence halls to oversee operations. "All of the RAs will still do what RAs do, but the faculty and the residents will help determine what events are happening in the hall and assisting with making those events happen," Keith said.

Keith has many reasons for moving his family

to on-campus living. "The needs of the community don't stop at 5 p.m. It's become clear that more interaction with faculty and staff for the students is better than less, no matter who it is," said Keith. He believes that students appreciate seeing that someone who works here still cares about their wellbeing, even after the day is over.

"With the Keiths living on campus, Scott will have the opportunity to connect and reach out to the student body in a positive way rather than just from his office. He will be able to always be present in the lives of the students, so relationships can be created," said Courtney Ordaz, junior Holos hall RA.

"Last night was a blast! Nine boys, two girls, all gathered in my dining room... This is the best way to be in college! Social hour every night, no classes, unlimited friends, I get to cook and bake, play games, [and] am free to be Lutheran, pray, and worship with all these kids! My vocation IS this! Thanks Lord!" said Joy Keith on a recent Facebook status update.

"We love it. It's been great so far. Living on campus is playing out to what I thought it should be," said Keith. "I'm able to see the students that are in need, students that appreciate seeing you after hours."

"Scott Keith has truly been a blessing to the RES department," said Ordaz. "He has inspired the others around him to live and do their job to their full potential."

To meet Keith and his family, (and to grab one of his wife's cookies or a cup of hot chocolate), stop by Gamma 107 in lower quads.

## Special Education credential program

DANIELLE RAYMUS  
STAFF WRITER

The increasing demand for special education professionals prompted Concordia's decision to offer a special education credential program that began in Fall 2011. This program allows individuals to become a California Education Specialist with a Mild-Moderate Teaching Credential. The credential authorizes participants to work with students with special needs, such as learning disabilities, autism, and emotional disturbances.

"There is such a need for special education teachers," said Dr. Ann Mckellar, Associate Professor of Education. "The number of students with special needs has increased, especially autism." While the need for special education teachers has been rising, many people are unaware of how this credential can benefit them in their career endeavors. "I think it's a hidden gem. A lot of people don't know about it, and it's in high demand," said Heather Vezner, Assistant Professor of Education and Director of Student Teaching. "The goal right now is to get the word out about the program."

The special education program consists of 35 units of coursework as well as in-class, hands-on experience. "Concordia's approach to teacher education is different. If you were to go to another university, you would be doing much more research papers," said Mckellar. "We have research papers as well, but what we emphasize in our teacher program is more time in the classroom; every semester, you are in a classroom making sure this is what you love."

The program is designed so individuals who are already out in the workforce can comfortably fit the courses into their schedule. "The fact that our coursework is offered in the evening is very convenient for working professionals," said Deb Baumgartner, Admissions Counselor for Graduate Teacher Credential Programs.

"It's a good credential to have because it gives you an array of possibilities.... Teachers who already have a multiple subject degree want to come back and get a special education credential because it makes them more marketable," said Baumgartner.

Students whose parents work as special education teachers have unique insight on the benefits of this career. "They love their jobs; they're fulfilling and pay well. At the end of the day, when you work in that area, you feel like you did something good every day, which makes it worthwhile," said Chris Ramos, senior, whose parents are both special education teachers.

Mckellar prefers to call students with special needs "differently-abled" instead of disabled, because she believes that students with special needs have the ability to be successful as long as someone believes in them. "It's not just about students' weaknesses. You want emphasize student strengths, because if students don't realize what their strengths are, then they are more likely to give up because the obstacles seem too great," said Mckellar.

A combined program is being offered as well where participants can earn the Educational Specialist: Mild-Moderate Credential and a Master of Arts in Education degree. "If a student has a 3.0 GPA throughout their undergraduate coursework, then they can qualify for the combined credential and M.E.D.... It is only 15-16 units beyond the credential work," said Baumgartner.

"You're never unemployed as a special education teacher, but that's not the reason to become one. Teaching is more than a job - it's a call," said Mckellar.

To learn more about Concordia's special education credential program, attend the School of Education's information night on Feb. 5 from 6-8 p.m. in the 3rd floor Conference Room of Grimm Hall North.



The Keith's home is wonderfully decorated, like it could have come straight off of a Pinterest board.

## Alumni awards

DAVID SAULET  
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 9, Concordia will keep with its ten-year tradition of honoring and celebrating the achievements of its alumni during halftime of the men's basketball homecoming game. The ceremony is made possible by the Office of Alumni Relations, led by Director of Alumni and Family Relations, Stacie Mallison, as well as Executive Director of Constituent Relations, Mike Bergler. This practice was first instituted in 2003 when Concordia materialized their desire to set aside a time to observe various alumni who have gone on to achieve great things out in the world.

There are two major awards that are given out, with a third award recognizing athletic excellence. The first award is known as the "Outstanding Alumni of the Year" and is designated for an individual who proved to be an expert in his or her field of study or research. The second award, known as the "Distinguished Service Award," is meant to honor the alumnus who has made significant contributions through service to his or her community, church, school, and/or alma mater.

This year's recipients are Rachel Klitzing, Executive Director of School Ministries for the Pacific Southwest District of the LCMS, and Desirée Lesicko, who founded the non-profit Uzbekistan & Humanity in 2002, which works to find families and treatment for orphans and helps to improve orphanage conditions.

The award selection process starts months in advance of the actual ceremony. Nominations were due by early October, at which point the Alumni Association Board of Directors reviewed all of the nominations and collectively decided on the recip-

ients. This board is comprised of a number of Concordia alumni in addition to student and faculty representatives who are currently active members at Concordia.

"It's a really unique experience being the student representative on the board. It provides me with a better perspective on what I can do to give back to Concordia once I'm an alum myself," said Elyssa Sullivan, senior student alumni representative and ASCUI Student Body President.

"While we definitely want to see our alumni come back and reminisce on their times at Concordia, we would also like them to stay as current as possible with what is going on here on campus recently," said Mallison.

Part of the purpose for the event is to celebrate the great things that Concordia alumni have accomplished, yet part of the event is also about forming more solid relationships between current and past members of the Concordia community. Alumni are an integral part of the Concordia network, and they are a large reason why so many are attracted to attend. "Whether you graduated in 1980 or 2012, you share the Concordia experience. Our network may not be as visible as that of USC, but in certain circles, it is just as strong, if not stronger," said Bergler.

Though it is undergoing its tenth year, this event is still growing and changing in many ways. Despite previously being a very public and open affair, "a more intimate setting with close friends and family might be nice too," said Bergler.

In any case, the ceremony is sure to be uplifting and inspirational as usual, and members of the Concordia community are encouraged to attend to join in expressing school spirit and gratitude to our alumni.

# Faculty Letter: Dr. Susan Bachman

## 179 Swords and Tongues: Join the Games

This column celebrates some very capable Game-Players, the last 179 students I've taught, Fall 2011 to this term: all of them fencing partners whose swords I helped sharpen and who sharpened me in return. Like the Grecian columns carved with Olympian Names, some notable names are interwoven here.

Will, Cameron, Megan, Tiffany, Andy, Emily, Seth, Lawrence, Ethan, Abigail, Amanda, Jessica, Ben, Hillary, Bonnie, Rebecca, Melody, Jon, Julio, Michaela, Jacob, Julie, Caleb, Matt, Jonathan.

Such contenders participate in two concurrent games being played in college: **Fit In** and **Don't Fit In**. I'm not speaking of social skills. The College Game is necessarily a two-edged sword—Learn to Fit In and Learn Not to Fit In.

Craig, Matthew, Nathan, Kathryn, Emma, Chanele, Taylor, Emily, Corey, Valerie, Ellen, Jachin, Lara, Stephanie, Katelyn, Jason, Stephanie, John, Grace, Elliot, Trey, Nicole, McManus, Lauren, Mikaela, Elyssa.

On the one hand, in college learning you aim to *conform*: You are at Concordia to learn the lingo, get into the professions by conforming and submitting, learn what makes you appealing to teachers or investors, digest the dogmas, respect the rules, learn the heroes and heroines of your majors, and treasure the traditions you are growing to love.

Sarah, Aaron, Katryna, Lauren, Megan, Chloe, Katelyn/Katie, Megan, Mason, Scott, Amanda, Alexis, Stefani, Kelsey, Joel-T, Brittney, Brianna, Jenna, Nicole, Kaylee, David, Erik, Anna, Megan, Emily, Shea.

On the other hand, you aim to *reform*: You are at Concordia sharpening swords to fight sickly systems, carve new models, invent and invert, burn bridges, and upset rotting apple carts, making new waves you and others can ride, playing George Washington to ancient regimes.

All of us—professors, staff, students, administrators—need to be deft at both games. We need to find and fence with able opponents while forging bonds with past and present team members.

Matthew, Brittani, Kathy, Katherine, Kristina, Taylor, Samantha, Alli, Brett, Wes, Shannon, Sarah, Amanda, Alicia, Jacob, Jacqui, Sharon, Jonathan, Victoria, Patrick, Alex, Tristan, Alex, Jeremy, Jessica, Danny, Anna.

Artist Hope Honetschlager, freshman Graphic Arts major, has drawn a compelling sword-bearer who also hints at the strongest collegiate tool, the *tongue*. No, Konrad H, I'm not making a commercial for the Debate Team, though I could. Despite common proverbs, tongues aren't always wicked. They fight battles in disciplined argument, in class and beyond. G. K. Chesterton reminds us: **People generally quarrel because they don't know how to argue.** At our peril we fail to train our tongues (and pens) to fight well.

In these sad days of politics as theater unleashing rounds of sound bites into shallow debates, practicing our parries and thrusts and sharpening our swords and tongues is angels' work. With just the right words, we can fight evil and do good.

Paul, April, Cy, Sarah, Kierney, Piper, Karen, Michaela, Angelica, John, Lindsay, Danika, Erica,

Gianna, Jerika, plus, Kristina and Tim.

CUI professors have many names to name to frame our fellowship. Names are named in the biblical books of Matthew, Luke, Genesis and Chronicles—bigger more long-lasting works than any of us have written—not to mention sagas in every land. Lists of ancestors, clans, tribes, and nations pack our literary and religious works. Where we come from, who we relate to, and who we struggle with or against define our tasks.

Jordyn, Catherine, Laura, Jordan, Kristine, Carmen, Hasah, Melissa, Andrea, Joshua, Jonathan, Seth, Matthew, Cody, Elizabeth, Gemma, Vanessa, David, Holly, Peter, Mariela, Jayd, Nicolas, Rafael, Denise, Shelly, Patrick, Sara, Breslin, Eliot, Misker.

In this Epiphany season, remember that contenders who seem least significant can have tremendous impact. Jesus' female ancestors include a seducer, harlot, outcast foreigner, adulterer, and

simple peasant mother.

Melissa, Danielle, Mykaela, Tori, Edward, Marianna, Elli, Jason, Amanda, Cassidie, Katie, Cody, Abigail, Rachel, Kendall, Rikelle, Lianna, Bradley, Hayley, Scott, Sam, Alli, Sarah, Courtney, Jaclyn, Hope, Stephen.

Jesus' family tree doesn't include lazy do-nothings. God had plans of victory for these (forgiven) people who dared to join the game and sharpen swords for a better world. Abraham, Deborah, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah—all prepared, spoke, and contended.

Concordia offers advanced play with strong champions. Some of our best teachers and trainers lived and died long ago: Socrates, Plato, Shakespeare, Pythagoras, Emily Dickinson, Samuel Johnson, Martin Luther, Anne Sullivan Macy. Achievers of the past have a living spirit on our campus. Listen up; sharpen up: new semester; new games.



HOPE HONETSCHLAGER

# From British Eyes Only Colonial Education 101: Part 5, Politics

LAWRENCE OXBOROUGH  
STAFF WRITER

Good afternoon class, and welcome back after what I hope proved to be a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year (you shouldn't have forgotten my last class's main points just yet). Our first lecture of this year will be about politics, a topic many of you would rather brush under the carpet and pretend isn't there.

The first thing I noticed about your political system is the limited choice of parties that could have any real chance of gaining significant power. To the average Joe, you can choose from either the Democratic donkeys (who like the colour blue) or the Republican elephants (who like the colour red). Already, these serious political parties sound like rather talentless basketball teams.

Although both of these parties offer contrasting political ideologies, like all political parties (even English political parties), they have their strong and weak points. This is forgivable and indeed understandable, but what is disturbing is that what policies come into place very much seem to come down to personal preference and what works best for the individual who signs the voting ballot. What also seems silly to me is the fact that, although the United States of America seems to be in such a financial crisis, the general public gets the opportunity to completely reverse any financial plan the government that was in office has taken the last four years putting into action. However, it would be unfair for me to call out America as the sole perpetrator for this act of muppetry, as the same thing happens in England every five years, instead of four.

My time in America so far has shown me that politics seems to be fairly similar on both sides of the pond. The only difference is the different terminology used.

For example, the Democratic Party can be compared to the Labour Party, and the Republican Party has its similarities with the Conservative Party, which is in power at the moment.

I am not going to go too much into personal preference with these political parties, but I do think that for both British and American politics, the answer to solving the current issues the countries are facing is for the parties to stop ripping each other apart and give each other a little bit of slack.

I wonder how much of a party's priorities during the election campaign are to gain power for itself compared to focusing on doing what is best for the country it is supposed to represent. Now, don't get me wrong, democracy is a wonderful thing, and the ability to have the freedom to choose who speaks for you is essential to having a strong and fair political system within any given country. However, I think for any real change to take place and for a party to show any real strength, it needs to have the ability to take a step back and see the bigger picture. It needs to have the willingness to change its policies if needed, instead of being stubborn and blindly leading the country further into trouble just because it doesn't want to admit that it is wrong.

On that note, I also think it is important and a great responsibility for the voter to vote for who they think is the best candidate for the job of President or Prime Minister. Again, it comes back to having the ability to see the wood for the trees, not being selfish, and doing what is best for the good of the nation.

And that just about wraps us up for this very vague (and rather serious) lesson on what has turned out to be my own personal opinion on politics. Remember, when the time comes for you to decide who deserves to have the say in how the county, state or country is run, bear in mind what would be best for everyone, not just yourself.

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# ASCUI's big plans for Concordia

SARINA GRANT  
CAMPUS EDITOR

Associated Students of Concordia University Irvine (ASCUI) has big plans for the University over the Spring 2013 semester.

One major project that ASCUI has been working on is "The Annual 5K Eagle Run", an event put on each year benefiting various charitable organizations. Such organizations include the Paige Armstrong-Maltos Foundation and FIKISHA. "We're able to serve organizations around our community, as well as organizations that developed within our campus community," said Jamie Rivera, junior Communications Director. "It's a fun way to serve and to spend your Saturday."

In addition to events, ASCUI has new initiatives for the current semester. "As a team, we're looking into different ways that our community can recycle on campus," said Rivera. "Students have brought it to our attention that they'd like to see more recycling, so we're working with higher administration to introduce different recycling organizations to Concordia."

"Behind the scenes, ASCUI is working this semester on becoming more transparent, so that students can see and understand more clearly what we're doing," Rivera said. Hosting student forums are just one of the many ways that ASCUI is keeping the student population informed.

"Last semester, we had the 'cafersation' and

things like that, so that students know what's going on, what we want to work on, and some of the things that we see issues with," said Breanna Wengel, senior Secretary. Planned forums for the future include a financial forum, so that the campus community is more informed on what the budget is spent on. "It'll discuss issues like why tuition is being raised. We know that's a huge issue for students, and we want to give students the reasoning behind it," Wengel said.

In addition to planning things as a group, ASCUI members each have their own goals for the upcoming semester, like ensuring elections run smoothly for Wengel and smart spending for Nick Kopinski, senior Treasurer. "I want to make sure we're not spending too much and that we're using our money efficiently, purchasing the things that are beneficial," said Kopinski.

With the Spring semester comes the election of new officers. "This year, we want students to be more involved with knowing who their student representatives are and getting involved in the voting process as well," Wengel said. "Elections are going to be huge. I don't really want this year to end--it's so much fun--but we're excited to see what next year brings."

"We try to make sure that everything we do is rooted in Christ, is coming out of love, and serving what is best for the campus as a whole," said Rivera.



# FYE retreat develops leaders

ALICIA PATTON  
STAFF WRITER

The First-Year Experience Leadership Retreat will be held on Jan. 25. The retreat is open to all first year students, which includes new freshmen and transfers, and is intended to help students get plugged into leadership by defining what being a leader truly means.

"This trip helps students become more aware of how they work together as a team," said Kristy Fowler, Director of First-Year Experience Programs and Initiatives. The two day retreat offers students numerous opportunities to network with current student leaders and learn about leadership opportunities on and off campus.

"Students will be able to actively engage in leadership building exercises that help them learn about their leadership and communication styles," said Christie Clark, Director of Community Involvement and Leadership Development.

Past attendees have found this retreat to be very resourceful. "The retreat taught me that I didn't need to be the loudest person in the room to be a leader," said Meghan Lauer, sophomore RA. "I can be a leader just by setting an example for others."

"Leadership is not only needed in our world today but is a necessity for life. The First-Year Experience Leadership Retreat is an opportunity for

first year students, freshmen, and transfers to learn more about themselves and others and to continue on their journey of leadership development," said Clark.

For students who are interested in leadership, this is an opportunity to make contacts with current members of leadership and faculty members. "I use my contacts as well as the knowledge the retreat gave me about what is expected of a leader here on campus," said Melissa Wilson, junior PAL and ASCUI senator.

While students are still waiting for the retreat to finally arrive, they remain eager to develop new skills. "I want to get involved and experience leadership on campus to help my future career as a teacher," said retreat applicant Cassidie Read, freshman.

This year's retreat will feature a wide range of leadership building exercises, including leadership in the classroom, on campus, and in the community. "We'll be having a workshop on the Enneagram, which is a self-assessment tool that helps you understand leadership styles of others and your own," said Clark.

For more information on the leadership retreat or getting involved with leadership on campus, stop by the CSLD office, or contact Christie Clark at [christie.clark@cui.edu](mailto:christie.clark@cui.edu).

# IT department here for your computer needs

ALICIA HARGER  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Have you tried turning it off and back on again? Is it definitely plugged in? If you've answered yes to these questions, then it might be time to call IT. (But don't call before, they might get angry.) The Concordia IT department maintains the computer systems on campus. They are responsible for wireless Internet connection, blackboard, MyRecords, Eagles email, library databases, computer lab computers, classroom computers, and the phone system.

For those who don't know the difference between a reboot and a real boot, or for those who type google into the search bar to get to google.com, IT can be an invaluable resource. Even those with basic computer literacy can still need help sometimes. And we all want faster Internet speed.

"My dorm room was located in an area that wasn't receiving wifi at all, so they immediately installed a router in my dorm to resolve the issue. My roommate and I were very pleased with their

service," said Shannon Alavi, sophomore. The IT department tries to respond quickly and efficiently to every request.

The IT department offers training resources for most of the systems they provide. The training is immensely valuable for those who want to improve their computer skills. There is training available for everything from blackboard and MyRecords to Adobe products and printing.

Unknown and underutilized by many students, the IT department is made up of professionals and student workers who are here to help with your technology needs. "One time, I couldn't get on to my blackboard account. I called IT and they helped me out right away," said junior and technology idiot, Sarah Whitehair.

There are several ways to contact the IT crowd for technology help. You can call at (949) 214-3175, email them at [ITS@cui.edu](mailto:ITS@cui.edu), fill out an online request at [www.cui.edu/its](http://www.cui.edu/its), or visit them in their office, Admin 220. Their office hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.



If this happens to your computer, call 9-1-1 immediately. DO NOT contact IT.

## Intramural Basketball

Sign ups for the Intramural Basketball season are now open on [IMLeagues.com](http://IMLeagues.com).

The season is slated to kick off Tues., Jan. 22, the day after Martin Luther King Jr. day. We have both a girls and guys division this year, with both divisions playing on Mon.-Wed. nights from 9:30-12 in the gym. Games are played full court, with four players on each team. We play two running-clock 20 minute halves, with the clock only stopping in the last two minutes of the second half. The season will run up until the week of March 11, which will be the start of playoffs. We look forward to your participation and can't wait to get the season started! If you have any questions regarding basketball or Intramurals in general, feel free to contact Austin Derryberry or Corey Kelso at [austin.derryberry@eagles.cui.edu](mailto:austin.derryberry@eagles.cui.edu) or [corey.kelso@eagles.cui.edu](mailto:corey.kelso@eagles.cui.edu).





# Men's Volleyball serving aces

DAETONA LAURENCE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The first Men's Volleyball season in Concordia history is in full swing, and the team has earned a 2-1 record. Although the Eagles were unable to overcome defending NCAA champions UC Irvine in their debut game on Jan. 2, the team showed significant promise and potential in taking the Ant-eaters to a fifth set. The men were unable to snag the win in their first match but gave #1 UCI a run for their money.

Since their debut, the team has played against UC Santa Cruz on two occasions, coming out on top both times. In their opening home match of the season, Dillon Auxier, junior, dominated the net with 14 kills, and Kevin Fiske, junior, came out with 25 assists. The Banana Slugs made adjustments and came out as a stronger team on Jan. 5, but the Eagles were able to stick to their game and finish off with a 3-2 win.

The team will face a few challenges this season because the program is in its first year. The Eagles have something to prove not only to other teams but also to themselves. "We just started playing together this year, but we have made a lot of progress thus far," said Vincent Rodriguez, junior. "Being able to play together as a cohesive unit is so important in volleyball, and having so much depth will be even more important for each player to trust each other and put the team first."

Each player is motivated to earn his position and contribute to the team's overall success. The Eagles strive to make an impact on the game each time they get on the court. "There is a lot of competition within the team. Everyone is fighting hard to get into the starting lineup, which is only making us better and better," said Chad Barretta, fresh-

man. The team's competitive spirit contributes to their significance as a team and motivation to help one another on and off the court. "Our motto is, 'As iron sharpens iron, so does one man sharpen another.' My personal goal is to sharpen the skills of the other guys on the team in hopes to push us towards our team goal of a national title," Barretta continued.

The team plans on carrying their momentum into future matches maintaining their focus and energy. Their next game is tomorrow against California State University-Northridge at 7:00 p.m. The Eagles' next home matches will be on Jan. 19 against California Baptist University at 12:00 p.m. and Springfield College at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to go out and support the Eagles with Concordia spirit.



## Concordia Basketball Update

### Men

--Dakota Downs, senior forward, was selected as the first GSAC Player of the Week in 2013. He's fifth in the GSAC in scoring and third in rebounds.

--The Eagles barely lost to Arizona Christian on Jan. 8 in their first GSAC game with a score of 82-84. This was the first time the two schools ever faced off in the GSAC.

--In their most recent game on Jan. 12, the Eagles fell to Hope International University 91-101, bringing them to 11-5 for the season.

### Women

--Opposing William Jessup University on Jan. 4, the women earned a substantial win, burying the Warriors 72-62.

--They also won their second game of 2013 against Arizona Christian in a blowout, winning 83-68 on Jan. 8.

--The Eagles continued their winning streak against Hope International on Jan. 12 by a score of 66-58. The women currently have a record of 4-10.

## SportsLine



Kyle Borcharding

### Road to the Super Bowl

As 2013 begins, nearly all eyes are on the NFL, where the playoffs continue to weed out the weaker teams and only the best of the league remain in the fight for the title of NFL Champions. Although the MLB is my area of expertise, my baseball predictions from the fall were by no means stellar. Nonetheless, I'll go ahead and give pro football my best shot as I predict the outcome of Super Bowl XLVII. Here are my top four teams that I think should have the best chance to win the Super Bowl. [These predictions were made prior to the divisional playoff round this past weekend.]

4. **Green Bay Packers** (lost to the 49ers). The preseason favorite of countless sportswriters to win it all, the Packers have failed to consistently show the dominance expected of them throughout the season. In truth, this says more about the exorbitant expectations of the team heading into the season. Though his numbers are down from last year, Aaron Rodgers has proven himself to be an elite quarterback who could have taken the offense deep into the postseason. The greater concern is the Packers' defense. Their defensive numbers are middle-of-the-road in scoring, and their run defense has been abysmal until recently. They crack my top 4 by virtue of the way the defense shut down Adrian Peterson two weeks ago in the wildcard matchup. They were showing signs of life, but they needed greater consistency to make it through their last game, as they faced much stronger passers than Minnesota's Christian Ponder.

3. **San Francisco 49ers**. Interestingly, the Packers, who thrive on the pass and have questions on the defensive end, faced the 49ers this weekend, a team with the opposite strengths and weaknesses. San Francisco has maintained one of the NFL's best defenses throughout the season, with the 4th best run and pass defenses in terms of yardage. Aldon Smith is one of the league's best linebackers, having 19.5 sacks this season. With Frank Gore and LaMichael James, the Niners are able to run the ball effectively almost every week. San Francisco's big question mark lies with the quarterback. Although Alex Smith started at QB for half the season, the Niners have since switched to Colin Kaepernick, whose performance has been all over the map from week to week. His weakness is in completion percentage: just barely over 50% in the last three games. His inexperience is also a concern as he plays in clutch playoff situations. If Kaepernick brings his best game, San Francisco is a very dangerous team. If not, it'll be up to the defense to make the plays.

2. **Seattle Seahawks**. The Seahawks are currently riding a six game winning streak behind rookie quarterback Russell Wilson and the NFL's best scoring defense. Wilson is one of the leading candidates for the Rookie of the Year Award this season, as he has been very instrumental in turning around a struggling franchise. Seattle excelled at home (8-0), but as a wildcard team, the Seahawks will play all their playoff games on the road. If they can keep up their noteworthy pass rushing, teams like Atlanta will struggle to pass against them, clearing the path for a Super Bowl appearance. If they fall behind early, however, this young team may have challenges in comeback situations.

1. **Denver Broncos** (lost to the Ravens). Going after free agent QB Peyton Manning in the offseason was a move that caught many football fans off guard. After all, Tim Tebow had been more than adequate under center, and he had led the team to more wins than his many skeptics expected. Manning, however, coming back from a missed season for neck surgery, had become a legitimate MVP contender this season as he was able to lead Denver to the 5th best offense in football. Defensively, the team is not slouching either (2nd overall in yards allowed). Denver is well-rounded and has something many teams only dream about: an elite QB with Super Bowl experience. Manning is arguably the most perceptive QB of all time, reading defenses with precision. He could have taken Denver far into the postseason.

# Running the Race for Christ

TAYLOR WELLS  
STAFF WRITER

As the Track and Field team prepares for their upcoming season, which kicks off on Jan. 19, their work ethic and dedication to success continue to increase. However, their motivation does not come solely from their desire to win. Rather, the team practices and performs at maximum effort entirely for the glory of their Savior.

Distance runner Jessica Marquardt, sophomore LEAD Student Activities Coordinator, attributes this focus to the coaches' dedication to the development of "wise, honorable, and cultivated" student-athletes. It can be said that the Track and Field coaches have taken Hebrews 12:1-2 literally, which exhorts believers to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus." This season's coaching staff consists of Head Coach Jim Brewer, along with six assistant coaches and a student assistant, all serving their first or second season with the Eagles.

"Coach [Brewer] reads a devotion before prac-

tice and prays for our workouts, and this alone, I believe, has the most impact on making the team not only strong athletes but Christ centered individuals," said Marquardt. This focus has driven the team to exercise an unyielding level of commitment in preparing for the season. Even amongst difficult challenges such as the late arrival of vault poles, which temporarily stalled preparation time, the team has continued to remain steadfast in their goals.

"The main factor that has caused our team to be as good as it is would be Coach Brewer's laborious work over recruiting new team members, and the fact that our team is rooted in Jesus Christ," said Paul Bowker, freshman pole-vaulter. "Coach [Brewer] has done an incredible job recruiting and building the team," echoed Marquardt. "I think that the diversity of character and talent on the team also plays a huge role into making the team very strong and unique."

The 39 men and 31 women on the roster practice up to ten hours a week, including bitterly cold morning practices which occur twice weekly. "We

have a bigger team than we did last year," said Julia Townsend, sophomore racewalker, in reference to last season's total of 46 teammates. "I am looking forward to fun memories and getting to know [the team] better."

For Townsend, the best part of preparing for the season is "having a list of goals and a positive mind set." As an individual sport, many Track and Field athletes rely on these goals for motivation and achievement measurement, whether they strive to set personal records or master new events throughout the course of the season. Undoubtedly, though, with the support of the team and coaches, and with hearts focused on Christ, anything is possible for these athletes. "Everyone on the team has been working hard and looking great, and we are going to size up to be a very tough competitor," said Bowker.

Grab your blankets and hot cocoa and support your Eagles in the Leonard "Blu" Blutreich Invitational at home on Jan. 19.



# Music professors back from sabbaticals

TAYLOR BUNDY  
STAFF WRITER

The Music Department welcomes back Dr. Herbert Geisler, Department Chair of Music and Director of Music Activities, and Dr. Michael Busch, Director of Choral Activities, from their Fall 2012 semester sabbaticals. Dr. Jeff Held, Director of Instrumental Activities, will continue the second half of his sabbatical this spring while continuing to conduct Wind Orchestra and Sinfoinetta.

Busch took his sabbatical with the primary goal of gaining a perspective change. It had been almost 20 years since he had sung in a choir, and from September to December, he performed in the semi-professional choral group Pacific Chorale, conducted by revered Artistic Director John Alexander. Busch sang in a two concert series with the chorale, performing the oratorio "Elijah" by Felix Mendelssohn. Coincidentally, "Elijah" will also be performed for the Masterworks concert in April. During his sabbatical, Busch also took voice lessons from Jonathan Mack, who will be one of the featured soloists in the Masterworks concert.

"Having more time just to read and think and do means I have so much more energy as I'm coming back," said Busch. He enjoyed taking time to read Hemingway and Fitzgerald, and he attended several local choir groups to watch other directors' techniques. "Pursuing private lessons has me thinking a little bit differently about how to train the vocal instrument," said Busch. "I'm going to be bringing those new ideas into the rehearsal room, and I'm anxious to see how that will work out."

"What a blessing it is to have a Sabbath from our teaching, which is what the sabbatical is really all about," said Busch. "I remember having some teachers in high school that seemed like they were getting burned out, and as I remembered them, I realized that it's maybe those teachers who stopped learning along the way," he continued. "For us to

be effective teachers here at the university level, we really need to continue the joy of learning."

Dr. Held decided to split his sabbatical across two semesters in order to continue conducting. In September 2012, he finished his D.M.A. (Doctor of Musical Arts) from Boston University.

This semester, he plans to continue his work to expand the online course "Experiences in Music" from 1.5 credits to 3. It is expected that the 3 unit online class will be ready for enrollment this fall.

"Reducing my teaching load provides more large chunks of time to pursue projects," said Held about his half-sabbatical. "For example, as I design my new online class, I have been experimenting with platforms that provide content more accessibly to students, whether they use mobile devices or computers. It takes plenty of trial and error. Along the way, I am teaching myself how to work more efficiently and to share content faster, which allows me to focus on the important stuff—making meaning out of that content."

Held had also been preparing for Bach's Lunch Recital Series at Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan Beach, which took place Jan. 4. Held performed music for trumpet and organ. "It was very well-attended, and I was happy with the performances," said Held.

Held also completed work with a private coach at a conducting institute in Austin, Texas. He plans to attend another institute in June, but is still evaluating several options.

Dr. Geisler's sabbatical did not go quite as planned. "I ended up just barely catching up on normal planning, office management, and department affairs, so I really don't have much to report at this time," said Geisler. He looks forward to tackling more projects before this coming semester. "I hope to return to the planned projects next summer, so maybe next fall there will be something more interesting to share."



## Artist Spotlight: Chris Peterson *Perspectives*

My name is Chris Peterson. I am a senior at Concordia University earning a degree in music education. For as long as I can remember, music has been a part of my life in a very positive way. It was always lurking around every corner patiently waiting to suck me in. It became such a habit that I would spend hours at night furiously working at developing a new technique. I wanted to become something great and to do amazing things through my instrument, and I didn't care about the physical repercussions.

I once heard that "successful people do not sleep," and at first I thought that was a ridiculous observation! How am I supposed to give up sleep, 19 units deep into a semester, still pass my classes, and become excellent on my instrument? I thought back to my life as a kid growing up with the guitar; I didn't sleep then, so had I put in all the work already? You could ask my guitar instructor and he would tell you, "You got a long way to go kid!" My present paradigm was that it took so much more to be successful than one might fathom. So what hope would I have?

I am a part of several different ensembles both here at Concordia and apart from Concordia. Every one of those ensembles gives me a new perspective on music. It is almost as if the music is happening all around me and I am granted permission to open up my ears, clear my mind of all common thought, and just embrace the beauty that is being made.

My most celebrated group of musicians that I perform with is my band, *Hestyn*. We have way too much fun playing all the gigs around Orange County, LA, and San Diego. Currently, we are finishing up our first full-length album called "Derailed" and will be scheduling a release in the near future. This opportunity was made possible though all our supporters on a website called *Kickstarter*. Last summer, we raised about \$15,000 to make this dream come true, and we are hoping that all expectations will be exceeded upon release. Though we have been successful as a small business and as a band, it's still gonna be a long way to the top if you wanna Rock and Roll! This is a very intimidating

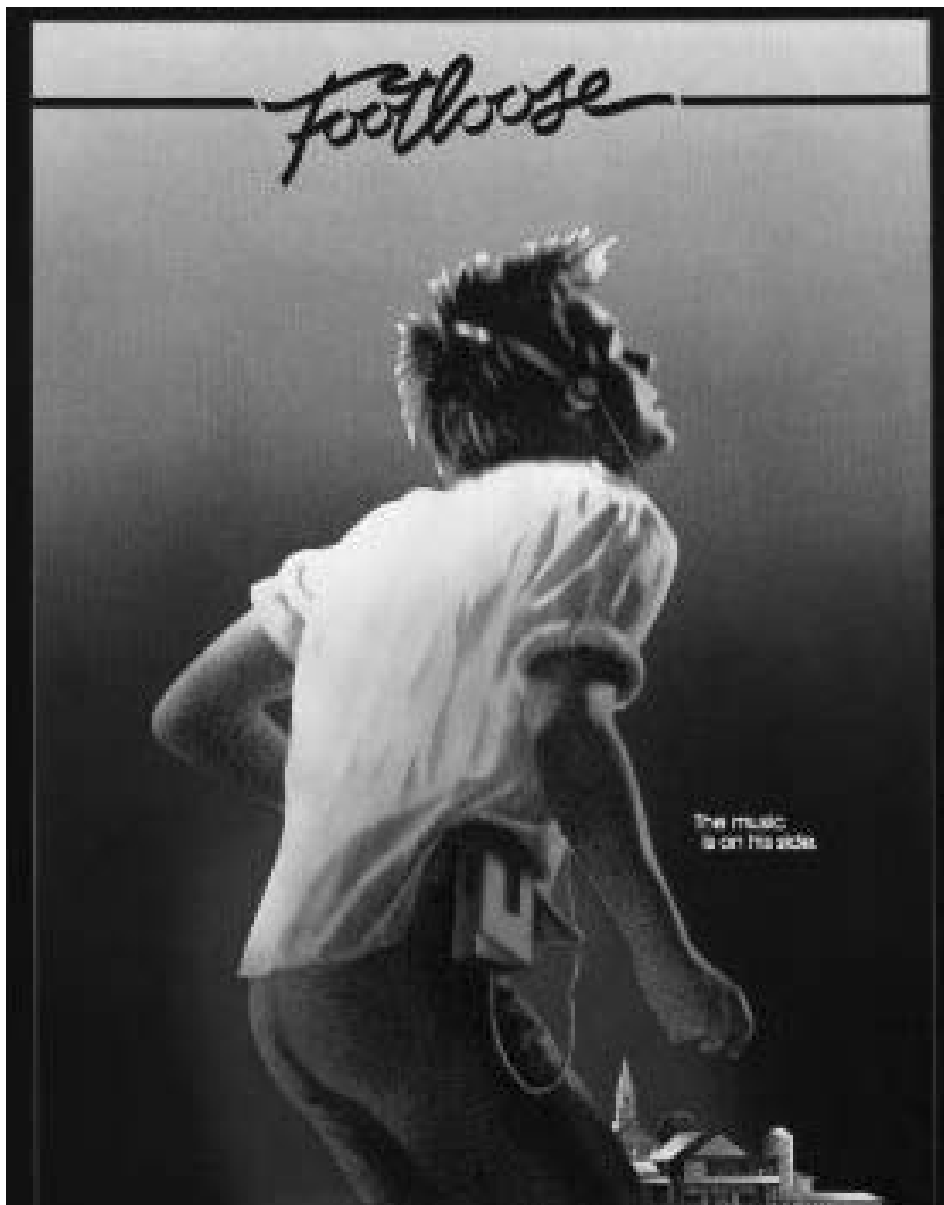
thought, which brings up another valuable point.

When and at what point does one consider oneself successful? This idea has been tainting my everyday thoughts, blemishing the clear mind like a sickness. I used to lay awake at night worried about the piercing disappointment that would surround my title if I were to become unsuccessful. But then I remembered that, to be successful according to that Man who walked the earth 2000 years ago preaching about love and a change that needed to happen in the church, all you had to do was to give up everything and follow Him, and He was undoubtedly successful. Look at His belongings and possessions. They were very few; in fact, He may not have owned any at all!

When that came to mind, I realized that my success was actually based on my measurement of success. Maybe when I get one million likes on Facebook then I will be successful? I can assure you this is not the case. We are all successful already because we walk in Christ. No degree or educational merit can trump the salvation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is the ultimate giver of Success.

Now I am not saying you need to drop out from school, but next time you start to worry about your future and your social class standing, don't, because we have already been the most successful people as a body of Christian believers to walk this earth. Everything after that is just color and flare—gifts given to us to make life even more vibrant and beautiful.

My love is in my instrument, and each one of yours is different. Your walk through life is an incredible experience, one that takes you to places you never thought you would arrive at. The decisions you make determine which fork in the road you take, and in turn give you a whole different perspective on life. All you have to do, as easy as it seems, is wrestle your challenges to the ground, growing and becoming wiser at every painful bump in the road from death to sickness to scandalous thievery. It's a good thing we walk in Christ, because trying to overcome Satan by ourselves would be the biggest challenge of them all.



### Hey there, theater nerds!

Get ready for the most exciting weekend at Concordia since the opening night of *Till We Have Faces!* Next weekend, Jan. 24-27, is when our talented theater department opens *Footloose* directed by Professor Lori Siekmann. It will be held on the stage at University High School. Matinee shows occur on each day at 2 p.m. and evening shows on Jan. 24-26 at 7:30 p.m. With that large of a cast and that intricate of a set, Concordia's black box theater didn't stand a chance. Tickets are free for students and can be reserved at the box office or online. Visit <https://www.cui.edu/AcademicPrograms/Undergraduate/Theatre/index.aspx?id=23017> for ticket reservation and more information.



Chris Peterson rocks out at one of *Hestyn's* performances

Are you an artist?  
Do you have a story to share?

Contact Arts Editor Maggie Darby at [margaret.darby@eagles.cui.edu](mailto:margaret.darby@eagles.cui.edu) for more information and your chance to write!

## Sydney spends time in Sydney

HOLLY GAMESTER  
STAFF WRITER

Sydney Parrish, junior, went to Australia early last July on the study abroad program offered here at Concordia. This whole experience got started when her high school Spanish teacher inspired her to study abroad. Since her family had lived in the city for which she was named, leaving her curious about Australia, she “jumped at the opportunity” when the chance presented itself.

Parrish traveled in a group where she was the only one from Concordia and one of two coming from California. Although she traveled alone, she made international and native friends along the way. She traveled around Australia beginning in the middle of July and finally headed home at the end of November.

Her experiences in Australia led her to many different places. During her stint in the study abroad program, she traveled to Perth (where she was studying) in the state of Western Australia, Exmouth, Kangaroo Island, Ayers Rock, Sydney,



Cairns, and the Great Barrier Reef. While at these various places, she enjoyed local activities. “The pub culture is very big here; so many nights were spent going out to the city or the tavern on campus with friends [Australian drinking age is 18]. We went to the gorgeous beach when the weather allowed,” said Parrish. “I lived in a suburb, so most activity was in the city, which is conveniently close.”

Out of all her adventures abroad, she did have one that stood out as her favorite. “I snorkeled in a beautiful bay in Exmouth with a current that carried me over the reef. The area was beautiful, and it was my first trip really on my own.” Her group got to experience so many things that were vastly different from what they had been accustomed to.

Although she had a lot of new and exciting experiences, she also had the opportunity to take classes and further her academic career while she was there. Intermixed in her fun adventures, Parrish had to handle her academic business and was registered in photography, indigenous Australian, Australian studies, and psychology classes. “The classes were split into two sections, which were only once a week. First there was a lecture, then a tutorial. The lecture was the entire class enrolled in the course, while the tutorial was a smaller section. The class was divided for more direct attention and a longer time,” said Parrish. “I felt that this system put more responsibility on me personally rather than the professors and was certainly needed for the large class size.”

Parrish was pleased with her decision to study abroad and encourages others to do the same. “The chance to experience a culture besides your own, and be immersed by living in it, was an amazing opportunity that I would advise to everyone,” said Parrish. The experience opened her eyes to see how others view her own country and to learn about a completely new one. “I have been inspired by living here to see more of the world and the benefits it holds,” said Parrish. “The lifestyle here is similar to my own, but there are significant differences that have made me consider my own path.”

For anyone interested in taking part in the study abroad program, contact Faith McKinney or Dan Waite in the Office of Global Programs.

## LCMS lends a paw

EMILY GESKE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Heroes have taken the form of calm golden retrievers in Newtown, Connecticut, throughout the past month. Lutheran Church Charities (LCC), a partner with the LCMS, has a group of about 60 “comfort dogs” who travel around to sites where tragedy has struck in order to act as furry should-ers for mourners to cry on.

The program was founded in 2008 in the wake of the Valentine’s Day shootings at Northern Illinois University. Since then, teams of comfort dogs have been sent to victims of Hurricane Sandy as well as those affected by the tornadoes that hit Missouri. The dogs also frequent senior citizen homes, hospitals, and visit those with special needs.

Originally, a team of 10 dogs was sent to Newtown in December following the horrific elementary school shooting that claimed the lives of 27 teachers and students. They were brought to funerals, malls, parks—anywhere they could be of service to the general population. The dogs are able to witness in a way that humans can’t. “Our dogs are confidential, and they don’t keep records, so they’re safe to witness to people,” said Tim Hetzner, President of LCC. This confidentiality encourages people to share their stories with the dogs or pray in front of them. “One girl was sharing with the dog,” said Hetzner. “She had a sibling who had died.”

The dogs are there to listen without judgment. They and their handlers act as missionaries with-

out trying to force their religion on the community. One handler, Jaci Knuth—who brought her golden, Moses, to Newtown—echoed this sentiment by stating, “Faith is everywhere instead of just in our homes or churches.” Witnessing God’s love does not have to be intimidatingly direct. “We don’t push Christianity on people. We are not necessarily offering to pray with people,” said Hetzner, “but if someone wants to pray, we will. Our presence says an awful lot.”

The dogs come from a variety of Midwestern states, primarily Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. Their names are even more diverse; some of the main comfort dogs are Chewie, Luther, Magic, Zeke, and Tillie. They all have Facebook pages managed and updated by the handlers that keep track of their journeys and even include pictures of the dogs in action.

At a time when religion has become such a controversial issue, it can be refreshing to witness an outreach program that doesn’t have an agenda it’s trying to push. “This story seemed to me one of the very good ‘voices’ of Lutheranism: service, low-key, behind-the-scenes, Lutheran people who help in big ways,” said Dr. Susan Bachman, Professor of Rhetoric and English. Judging by the public response and their popularity, the comfort dogs certainly are an enormous help.

For more information about the dogs—including their social media information—check out the LCC website at <http://lutheranchurchcharities.org/>.



Comfort puppy-in-training Isaiah learns the ropes from veteran Luther

## Indy exhibit will tear your heart out

DAETONA LAURENCE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Discovery Science Center is hosting an “Indiana Jones and the Adventure of Archaeology” exhibition from now until April 18. The exhibit features a collection of props, wardrobe, and set models from the film series along with real-world ancient artifacts. Items such as Harrison Ford’s original costume as Indiana Jones, including his notable fedora and bullwhip, as well as the crystal skull featured in the fourth movie of the series, are scattered along the path. The exhibit appeals to a variety of age groups including children, teenagers, and grandparents.

Before embarking on the journey through the exhibit, each person is given a handheld multimedia guide that allows you to interact with the various pieces that are featured in the exhibit. As you walk along Indiana Jones’ footsteps, there are various numbered podiums.

Scanning each podium with your multimedia device allows you to actively participate in the journey and gives you the opportunity to play multiple interactive games, discover various pieces of an artifact, and eventually put together your very own ancient relic. Each person gets to choose their own archaeologist name (mine was Indaetona Jones) and essentially journey alongside Indiana on his multiple quests.

One of the most interesting and fun aspects of the exhibit was the various movie clips that are attached to the artifacts and props. Each item

featured throughout the exhibit is labeled with a number. Typing each specific number into the multimedia guide connects you with a video clip, instructive video, or recording that explains the item’s significance and history in the film. “I liked that you could see all the behind-the-scenes work. It was amazing to see all of the original pieces from the movies,” said Marianne White, senior.

As your journey comes to an end, you come to a section of “Indy Interactives.” This section of the exhibit features various Indiana Jones related activities. These activities are generally geared toward children, such as the giant sand box where you can dig for treasure. However, adults can also participate and enjoy some of the games. One of the most interesting activities is the estimation game in which you attempt to guess the weight of a replica of the artifact featured in *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*™.

I highly recommend a trip to the Discovery Center for Indiana Jones enthusiasts and families with children. The exhibit is fun, interesting, and successfully interlaces technology into the overall experience. However, the price is a little steep for those of us who are not necessarily huge fans of the movie series. General admission, which is \$15, is required before you can purchase additional tickets for the Indiana Jones exhibit, which are an extra \$10. Although I can indulge in my child side, and I enjoyed the remainder of the museum outside the exhibit, others might not agree that having to pay general admission in addition to the exhibit price is worth the overall cost.



### “Do you have an unhealthy relationship with food / eating / body image?”

Overeaters Anonymous is a twelve-step program similar to Alcoholics Anonymous, which offers physical, emotional, and spiritual recovery for those who suffer from food addiction. Overeaters Anonymous is not a diet club or religious organization, and there are no dues, fees, or weigh-ins required for membership. Members represent a wide cross section of society and include those who have suffered from anorexia, bulimia, obesity, and many who have hidden their obsession while maintaining a normal weight. We gladly welcome anyone who thinks they may have a problem with their eating.

We have meetings at Concordia from 8-9 p.m. on Sunday nights in Grimm Hall, room 220. Please come. For further information, call Terry at (949) 400-3379.



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# ---Most Viral of 2012---

ALICIA HARGER  
LAYOUT EDITOR

2012 has come and gone. It has ended as all good things must; however, before we promptly forget that the year ever happened, I would like to give a nod to the common cultural heritage we shared this year. So, without further ado, I give you the most viral hits of 2012.

## Movies

### Avengers

I don't know a single person who hasn't seen this movie. Seriously. If you haven't, please contact me and tell me what cave you've been living in. Since its premiere last May, the internet has been in a love affair with this ode to superheroes. It's inspired a S.H.I.E.L.D. TV series, and Hawkeye has been commandeered by feminist comic fans protesting the unrealistic portrayal of women through the Hawkeye initiative.

### Les Misérables

Barely squeaking into 2012, the critically acclaimed musical reached a hugely wide audience through its cinematic adaptation. Traditional theater lovers and movie goers alike praised the vocal and emotional performances of the actors. The film scored eight Oscar nominations. Though it was strange to see Maximus chase Wolverine around France as he rescued Catwoman's daughter from Borat and Bellatrix Lestrange.

### Magic Mike

Possibly the least classy entry on this list, this movie isn't about to win any Oscars. The plot was ridiculous and barely present, and the acting was generally subpar. However, the shirtless men to minutes ratio was high enough to draw hordes of female fans.

## Music

### Call Me Maybe

Carly Rae Jepsen's inescapable summer hit is possibly the catchiest song ever written. I'm fairly certain I spent more time of 2012 with *Call Me Maybe* stuck in my head than without. "I threw a wish in the well. Don't ask me, I'll never tell..." Ahhh! It's started again!

### Gangnam Style

Speaking to the increasingly global nature of culture, this k-pop hit took over the airwaves this fall. Although nobody seems to know what the words mean, we can all enjoy dancing

like we're riding a horse.

### Mumford and Sons

This folksy English band seems to be the odd man out among chart toppers like One Direction and Taylor Swift, but their 2012 album, *Babel*, finished out as the fourth best-selling album of 2012. More impressively, their 2010 album, *Sigh No More*, was the sixth best selling.

## Memes

### Not Impressed

The Olympics seem ages past, but I promise they were part of 2012. Perhaps the most recognizable picture from the games is US gymnast McKayla Maroney, unimpressed with her own performance. Even President Obama got in on the meme action.

### Grumpy Cat

The internet's obsession with cats has

been long acknowledged. The internet also loves unwarranted hatred and negativity. Grumpy cat is the perfect image to sum up the modern internet experience.

### Overly attached girlfriend

Born from a parody fan video covering Justin Bieber's *Boyfriend*, this meme is every possessive relationship on steroids. Funny because it's almost true, the real defining feature of the overly obsessed girlfriend meme is the bug eyed stare of the featured girl.

## Movements

### Kony 2012

Back in the spring, it was impossible to open an internet tab without being bombarded by videos, pictures, and posts about Joseph Kony and Invisible Children. Seriously, it was everywhere. Just as suddenly as it came to be, the Kony 2012 movement ended. I'm not sure what the results

were... Did they ever get the guy? Did the government do anything? Does anyone know?

### Presidential Election

In any presidential election year, the media will be absolutely consumed by campaign coverage, but this year seemed especially overboard. The increasing presence of technology and media in our lives had a strong influence on the campaign, a la the 47% percent cell phone video that scandalized Romney.

### Mayan Apocalypse

The very fact that we've made it to 2013 makes the Mayan apocalypse fad seem foolish. Actually, it always seemed foolish, but waking up on December 21 was a bit of a relief. The widespread apocalypse obsession probably says something deep about our society's suicidal cravings, but maybe we've just watched too many zombie flicks.



## Pack your tissues for Les Mis

MAGGIE DARBY  
ARTS EDITOR

For the entire week after Christmas, my newsfeed on Facebook was blown up with tags, pictures, and personal commentary about the new adaptation of the musical movie, *Les Misérables*. Wanting to see what all the hype was about, I decided to review it for this issue of the *Courier*.

*Les Misérables* is a film adapted from a popular musical directed by Tom Hooper. Set in 19th century France, it follows the story of Jean Valjean, played by Hugh Jackman, a criminal on the run from law enforcer Javert, played by Russell Crowe, after breaking his parole.

After a life of poverty, loneliness, and starvation, he is shown mercy by a local priest who encourages him to turn his life around. Fast forward and enter Anne Hathaway who plays Fantine, a disgruntled employee at the factory that Jean Valjean now owns. Not to give away the ending or anything, but it just seemed like from here on out the movie consisted of crying, singing, crying while singing, and then everyone dies. Four stars.

Just kidding... kind of.

After finding himself responsible for the death of Fantine, Jean Valjean takes it upon himself to raise her daughter, Cosette. After growing up to be a beautiful young lady, Cosette finds herself in a "love-at-first-sight" situation that brings upon a slew of mushy duets. Her courter, Marius, is one of the teenage boys involved in an uprising against French authorities that marked the beginning of the French Revolution. The movie really portrayed the patriotism of the young men well. The actors were able to convey passion in their scenes as well as songs while getting ready to fight for their coun-

try. After a devastating battle scene and daring rescue, the movie has a semi-happy ending showing that love can win, and the love of a father may be the strongest of all.

I had mixed feelings about the whole thing. The women cast in this movie were strong vocalists. The voices of Hathaway (Fantine) and Amanda Seyfried (Cosette) were beautiful and full. Hathaway was able to put so much raw emotion into her song "I Dreamed a Dream" that audience members could not help but sob. Seyfried had a trilling vibrato that gave her voice such an innocent and sweet tenor.

Unlike the girls, the voices of the boys were a little lacking. Jackman (Jean Valjean) did not have the best operatic tenor I've heard, but his acting and passion made his songs believable. He was always on pitch, but it just seemed as if his voice was missing something. Crowe (Javert) however, was pretty terrible. Though he is an Oscar winning actor, I think Siri has less of a monotone voice than he had. It was as if he had never heard of dynamics. If nothing else, he cleaned up nicely in his police officer uniform.

If you have never seen the musical on stage before, you can see this movie without being confused. Be warned however; from my experience, other people in the theater memorized the soundtrack and decided to sing along with the actors. There is nothing more distracting than an angry teenage girl singing "On My Own" with tears streaming down her face four rows back.

Overall, it's a good movie and entertaining the entire way through. Be sure to pack a tissue or two, because people say it's very emotional. I, however, only cried five times.

## Ecco makes you want to come back again...and again

EMILY GESKE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Fresh...fresh...fresh... No that's not an echo you hear. It's the mantra of Costa Mesa's Ecco Pizzeria and Bar. Located in the painstakingly trendy strip known as The Camp, Ecco actually had a friendly albeit hip atmosphere. One of the most difficult parts of going to The Camp is finding a place to park, so be prepared to circle the lot a few times while keeping your eyes peeled for leaving patrons and brake lights.

If you want to secure your spot inside the restaurant, especially on typically busy nights, Ecco takes reservations. Not knowing this, I walked in on Friday night in the middle of the dinner rush. The hostess explained that they always have open seating at the bar or out on the patio. As the bar was packed, my dining companion, Ethan Scherch, and I headed out to the patio to secure the last available table. Luckily, it was positioned near one of the five or so heat lamps keeping outdoor seating bearable. The overall environment was classy, but not so much so that a couple of college students felt out of place.

The service was prompt and courteous. We were fortunate enough to have a nice and accommodating server named Pepe, who was able to explain a few items on the menu that were beyond our culinary vocabulary. We ended up ordering the house made meatballs with marinara sauce as an appetizer and the chicken pizza for our main dish. The meatballs slathered in sauce were moist and delicious, with a hint of spiciness in their after-

taste. They practically fell apart, which made them a tad difficult to eat but definitely worth it to my taste buds.

The chicken pizza was adorned with fresh mozzarella, tomatoes, artichokes, and my favorite topping, basil pesto. The combination produced an overall subtle but savory taste that complimented each ingredient individually. The pizzas are made in wood fired ovens, so the chefs must get the temperature just right in order to perfect their pies. Most of the ingredients, such as flour, oil, tomatoes, and mozzarella, are imported fresh from Italy in order to preserve the Napoli taste that is their aim. Ecco Pizza supports local, sustainable, organic practices whenever possible when they aren't importing ingredients from overseas.

Though the prices are a little on the steep side, the quality of the food is worth it. The meatballs—three giant ones in the dish—were six dollars, and the pizza, which can easily feed two, was 15 dollars. Both of us left the restaurant full and satisfied, but be prepared to shell out at least 20 bucks on the outing.

Overall, the experience was a surprisingly positive one. I enjoyed the food, atmosphere, and service. I would definitely recommend this restaurant if you're looking for a slightly fancier establishment. If you go while the weather is still, in my opinion, absolutely freezing, make sure to stop by the random fire pit outside a neighboring clothing store in order to warm your hands on the way back to your car. Then your stomach won't be the only thing that's leaving satisfied.