



ATW III: The journey begins

On Aug. 1, a team of Concordia students, professors and grad assistants set out on a journey that will take them around the world in five months. Read more on page two.

WASC accreditation renewed for ten years

LIANNA JORDAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Concordia University has been reaccredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for 10 years, the maximum accreditation time granted.

Concordia's Accreditation Liaison Officer Dr. Peter Senkbeil, Associate Provost and Professor of Theatre, said that following Concordia's last accreditation in 2006, this most recent accreditation process began in February of 2013. A 50-page institutional report, along with about 3500 pages of attachments, was submitted to WASC. In May of 2013, a video conference was held with five representatives from California Baptist University, The Master's College and Seminary, Point Loma Nazarene University, Pacific Union College, and University of Hawaii at Hilo, along with a WASC staff liaison. Representing Concordia were Senkbeil, Dr. Kurt Krueger, President of Concordia University, and the executive council. In this video conference, the panel presented preliminary findings from the institutional report and presented lines of inquiry. In January of 2014, Concordia submitted 500 additional pages of material, including updated reports and the most recent assessment reports.

In March of 2014, the five representatives and the WASC staff liaison conducted a site visit on Concordia's campus. While on site, the WASC team met with students, faculty, representatives of Concordia's residential Living Learning Communities (LLCs), committees and our Chief Financial Officer, among others. "[WASC's] visit was engaging, and, one might even say, intrusive," Senkbeil said. "But we don't mind; we have nothing to hide. We operate with integrity and quality."

In June of 2014, Senkbeil and President Krueger attended a panel in the Bay Area where they were asked further questions. Three weeks later, Concordia University received the news of official reaccreditation for 10 years.

Accreditation for an institution "signifies that our degrees count," Senkbeil said. Graduate programs look at transcripts, and if the institution is accredited, the degree is viewed as legitimate. "Students from non-accredited schools may face an unwelcome surprise when they realize they spent time and money on degrees that are not accepted for graduate credit," Senkbeil said. "All of our degrees are."

WASC requires "that we are in a continuous learning process; that we 'close the loop'" of the cycle of accreditation, according to Senkbeil. They require that we have answers to questions such as, "What are we

doing to get students to graduate, and graduate in four years?" "How are we going to prevent financial crises?" "How do we know this university will be here in five years? In 10? In 50?," Senkbeil said.

Concordia was one out of eight colleges in our region to be accredited in the first group of a pilot program for a new process of accrediting universities. Of this Pilot 1 group, Concordia was one of three universities to receive the maximum of 10 years of reaccreditation.

Concordia University has been accredited by WASC since its beginnings. Opened in 1976, Concordia received candidacy for accreditation in 1977. By 1981, we were fully accredited. Every seven to 10 years since then, we have reapplied and continuously received accreditation.

Following reaccreditation, Concordia isn't simply done with WASC. An annual review is due to WASC, along with a more extensive mid-cycle review in 2020. Contact with WASC is "not just a one-time thing every 10 years," Senkbeil said. "There is a process, as changes are made, to ensure that what we are doing has legitimacy." If Concordia plans to add new programs at the graduate level, those must be approved by WASC. In January, when Concordia added its first-ever doctorate program, there was an elaborate process, in which information regarding curriculum, assess-

ments, staff and budgets was submitted to WASC.

"Concordia is headed in the right direction; getting [the full 10 years] is nothing to view lightly," said junior Scott Esswein, ASCUI President. "The University as a whole is right where it wants to be." In the spring of 2014, Esswein, with ASCUI Executive Board and ASCUI Senate, was asked by the marketing department to create student involvement for a program launched, the #AskWASC Campaign. The #AskWASC campaign gave students the opportunity to share both positives they liked and negatives they hoped to see changed about Concordia, while being informed of what WASC accreditation means.

"I had a personal connection with #AskWASC when I complained about the lack of Sriracha bottles in the caf, and was surprised by six bottles at my table one time at lunch," Esswein said.

But more than that, "if it wasn't for WASC, a CUI degree would mean nothing."

"We put our energy into practice with integrity and success," Senkbeil said. "We are who we say we are."

For more information regarding Concordia's accreditation, visit <http://www.cui.edu/academicprograms/provost/institutional-research-assessment/index.aspx?id=24770>.

Meet the staff!



Editors Ryan McDonald, Alicia Harger, Lianna Jordan, Joshua Suh, Kayla Lardner. Not pictured: Taylor Dennison

My name is Lianna Jordan and I am the new Editor-in-Chief of *The Concordia Courier* for the 2014-2015 school year. I am a junior this year, studying Liberal Studies with the hope to one day be an elementary school teacher. I am originally from Chico, California. In addition to working for the Courier, you can find me working in the library – feel free to stop by and say hi! I feel honored to serve the Concordia community through my position with the school newspaper, which we hope, most of all, spreads the good news of the love of our Savior Jesus Christ.

I’m Alicia Harger and am working for my fourth year with *The Concordia Courier* as Layout Editor. I’m graduating this December so all of my thoughts seem to revolve around “When did I become a grown-up?” I’m a Behavioral Sciences major and love people-watching anywhere there are crowds. Besides school, I love camping and other outdoorsy activities.

My name is Joshua Suh and I am the Reviews Editor/Social Media Person of *The Concordia Courier*. I am a senior this year

and currently wrapping up my Communication degree. I am a native to Southern California, so naturally I love going to the beach or doing anything active. Currently, I am learning French so I’m pretty excited about that!

Greetings fellow Eagles! My name is Ryan McDonald and I will be serving as the Campus Editor for the 2014-2015 school year. First off, I would like to welcome all of the new students here at Concordia and welcoming back all of the returners. I am a senior Communication Studies major and a former water polo player here at Concordia. My goal this year is to interest and motivate more students to get involved in writing for the Courier. I wish everyone to have a fun and safe experience here at Concordia, and I look forward to meeting some of you throughout the semester! God Bless.

My name is Kayla Lardner and I am a second year junior and a first time Arts Editor for *The Concordia Courier*. I started last spring as a staff writer in the COM 222 class and I spent the summer as an intern for my local paper, the Auburn Journal. But my other passion is performing. I first

appeared on stage in the Sacramento Ballet’s Nutcracker at age 5, and since then have played multiple roles including Milky White in “Into the Woods.” I am excited to combine my love for journalism and for the arts this semester as your Arts Editor.

My name is Taylor Dennison and I am the new Sports Editor for *The Concordia Courier* for the 2014-2015 school year. I am currently a sophomore majoring in Communication with a concentration on Mass Communication. I am a girl from Huntington Beach and my mind is set to hopefully graduate in four years at CUI, go to grad school, and then pursue my dream of becoming a sports broadcaster on television. I play on the volleyball team and I am very excited to hear all about the success amongst the athletes in their upcoming seasons. Most of my time is dedicated to schoolwork and volleyball, but I love meeting new people, so please do not be shy and feel free to ask me any questions! It is a blessing that I not only get to pursue my love for writing in the sports field and share it across the campus, but I get to do it with an amazing staff. Go Eagles!

ATW III: *In God’s Hands*

CURRENTLY A GROUP OF CONCORDIA STUDENTS, PROFESSORS AND GRAD ASSISTANTS ARE TRAVELING FOR CUI’S SEMESTER AROUND THE WORLD. THESE ARE THEIRSTORIES.

JESSICA SCHRANK
STAFF WRITER

Oi! Tudo Bem? Hello! How are you Concordia friends? As I am writing this, the Around the World (ATW) team is waiting at Gate 4 in the airport in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to embark to Paraguay, our next stop of the semester. While we wait, we are reading our homework for our Service Learning class tomorrow, watching baby Sheffield Norton explore the terminal and purchasing last-minute Brazilian souvenirs.

After church this morning, we had to say tchau to our wonderful hosts here in Brazil. While we were here, we stayed at a camp called the ARCA. The verse for their ministry is Hebrews 10:23, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.” With that verse and vision at the forefront of their mission, it is so clear that The Lord has been faithfully serving the community of Beteias through the hands of the Abel family and their church. The Abels truly have established a close-knit community that we immediately felt very attached and connected to. Each morning at ARCA, we would wake up, have student-led devotions, be served delicious Brazilian coffee and Momma Abel (Becky) would give us our plan of action for the day. Our meals were all “made with love” as one of the cooks, Rocinia, stated. We were able to eat some amazing Brazilian food. Most of us will miss the rice and beans that accompanied almost every meal!

Our classes have started off strong and it seems that we always wind up learning in different locations depending on the weather or our whereabouts for that day. The team was blessed to have Professor Vezner, Associate Professor of Theatre, join us in Brazil. He enlightened us with a little bit of history on the art of theater here. However, on top of reading plays and understanding how theater impacted Brazil culturally and politically, we also had a chance to create some of our own scenes. He helped us get out of our comfort zones and unleash a little bit of creativity. In addition to theater, we have also been busy learning some common Portuguese phrases, been challenged by reading “Serving with Eyes Wide Open” by David Livermore, and have even begun to form our own travel stories.

In addition to learning in class, we have been able to learn by serving the community. Whether through speaking in an English class at the Language House in Campo Largo, or painting the walls of the new parsonage, we had the chance to do more than just lend a helping hand; we were able to communicate with the people in the community about our lives and families while learning about theirs. A few of our team members were able to share their testimonies with the church and we were asked to sing the blessing song from the end of Shout with some of the congregations here. Also, we were able to ask our new friends how God has been working in their lives and offer encouragement and prayer. For many of us, a highlight of the trip was being “adopted” by Brazilian families and getting a chance to experience Brazil in a new way. We were exposed to typical family dinners, favorite restaurants and celebrations.

A huge aspect of our time in Brazil was seeing how God is continually protecting us, strengthening us and guiding us. We are in awe of the way that God kept our team safe even through an unfortunate bus accident and ultimately how he used that situation to strengthen our team and draw us closer to him. None of the members that were on the bus were severely injured; only some soreness and muscle strains still remain.

Just three short weeks ago we were all crowded around the globe and sent off by the Concordia community. As we sang the Doxology together it was amazing to feel Christ’s presence surround us and support us. That same presence is with us as we travel and with all the students and faculty on campus as another school year begins!

The Concordia Courier

Investigate. Inform. Ignite. Involve.

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Publishing by Anchor Printing
anchorprintingoc.com

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Primary funding provided by
the Office of the Provost

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Comments? Suggestions?
We want to hear from you.
Write a “Letter to the Editor.”
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Softball looks to next season after strong finish

TAYLOR DENNISON
SPORTS EDITOR

The Women's Softball team finished with a strong record of 50 wins and seven losses during their spring season, as well as winning the GSAC tournament for the third straight year. Unfortunately, the team could not push to win a national title, but they are excited for the upcoming season.

One thing the women have on the team is chemistry. "The chemistry was great this season, we all love each other and consider each other sisters," said junior Megan Feuerstein. Feuerstein addressed the fact that losing five seniors who were great

players and leaders will be tough, but the leaving seniors have given the remaining members of the team great knowledge and leadership skills.

Jenna Jorgenson '13 has finished her senior season strong and will definitely miss the girls. Jorgenson plans to come back and watch as many games as possible because she will be on campus for nursing school. "The past four years have been an amazingly unforgettable experience," Jorgenson said. "The coaching staff is awesome and puts their whole heart into the game of softball." Jorgenson believes that the coaches have pushed her to points she never thought she would go, but it made her the

best athlete she could possibly be.

Jorgenson is a firm believer that the work you put into the program is what you are going to get out of it. "It just can't be a couple of people working hard nonstop," she said. "Every single person has to be fully committed to do whatever it takes."

Before going into the 2015 spring season, the team plans to capitalize on being more in games and practice. The women want to focus on working hard and taking each game one step at a time. "I really want to push everyone a little harder to be stronger mentally and physically this year," junior Jasmin Dresser said. "Winning doesn't happen because you want it to; it's some-

thing you have to work for."

The incoming freshmen have huge roles to fill, but the team expects them to fit in and work hard like everyone else. They are talented and are eager to start this journey with a very gifted group of girls. "I expect the freshmen to want to be here and love every moment," Dresser said. "We have some great talent this year and all we can do is get better."

The Women's Softball team will be training throughout the fall semester and into the spring season. For more information on your lady eagles, visit www.cuieagles.com.



Bowman bounds into track coaching position

TAYLOR DENNISON
SPORTS EDITOR

In July 2014, Concordia University hired Danny Bowman to coach the Cross Country and Track and Field programs.

Bowman comes from Olivet Nazarene University (ONU) in Bourbonnais, Illinois. There, he worked as the sprint, hurdle and relay coach as well as a professor. Prior to ONU, he worked for three years as the head coach of Idaho Falls High School in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Not only did he work as a coach but also as a youth pastor, sharing the love of God with youth.

Bowman has led athletes to 86 school records, as well as 24 athletes to individual NCCAA championships. He has coached 46 NCCAA All-Americans, 31 NAIA All-Americans and has achieved one NAIA National Championship. Hiring such a coach is a huge step forward for the program at Concordia University. The school is very excited to have Bowman as a coach for the Cross Country and Track and Field seasons.

Bowman is eager for this new season and is looking forward to getting to know the different people around campus. As for his athletes, Bowman wants them to succeed. "I want to provide the best supporting coaching staff I can find," Bowman said. "From there, we will be able to create an environment where student athletes can achieve their realistic goals."

The transition to California has been

very pleasant, but the transition to Concordia has been even better. Bowman has a strong relationship with God, and plans to incorporate his faith when training his athletes. He believes that God has done many great things for him, especially throughout this process.

Bowman wants to get to know his athletes on a personal level. "I want to understand who they are as a person, an athlete and a student," he said. "Everyone is different, so I will be able to adapt every workout to the athlete's needs when I get to know their strengths and weaknesses."

The coaching philosophy that Bowman has set up is pretty simple. "Have a heart of an eagle," he said. "I will train them, and train them correctly. Every practice has a purpose and everyday builds on the previous."

Bowman has been a member of the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association since 2012 when he received his Sprint, Hurdle, and Relay Event Specialist Certification.

Aside from the athletics, Bowman has been married for nine years. He and his wife, Bekah, have two children, Titus and Ely. Bekah, works as a children's pastor at Mariners church. The people in California have been very welcoming to them, so it has made the transition a lot easier.

To learn more about Bowman or the Cross Country and Track and Field programs, you can visit www.cuieagles.com.

Jock Talk with Kayvon Afsarifard and Ray Estrada

SENIORS KAYVON AFSARIFARD AND RAY ESTRADA ARE THE TEAM CAPTAINS OF THE CUI MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Now that the 2014 men's soccer season has begun, we have a large amount of newcomers adding to our soccer family, which is one of the toughest tasks to do on a college-level team. However, the guys that were recruited have made this transition extremely easy because of the amount of dedication and commitment that they have contributed. The chemistry and camaraderie throughout preseason has been very promising and there is a bright future, not only for this year's team, but for the soccer program as a whole. With a favorable result in the 2014 exhibition match this season with a 1-1 draw at Division II UC Riverside, this season looks to hold a bright future for the Eagles.

This year's squad has more than enough talent, making coaches' decision for a starting line up very difficult. All of the players have the capability to start and bring something special to the field. Returning seniors, such as Edgar Orozco, Ivan Bustos,

Alfred Brunnett, Tristen George and us, captains Kayvon Afsarifard and All-American Honorable Mention Ray Estrada. With such strong characters leading the Eagles last year, we look to build on the standards set and raise the bar even higher.

The stage is set for the last NAIA soccer season of Concordia University Irvine as the program aims for a very attainable national title. We hope everyone comes out to as many games as they can, and we will do our best to make it a great performance.



Heritage Garden restoration

KENDRA SITTON
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's Heritage Garden hosted a restoration day last Saturday, Aug. 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Members of the community, students and faculty were brought together for this event to help plant and care for the garden, located around the first parking lot on campus from the Ridgeline direction, often known as Egypt. Invasive, non-native species like Mustard Weed were taken out and replaced with plants native to Irvine. Even their seeds were made within Orange County. Professor Thea Gavin, Associate Professor of English, who has spearheaded the project, said "almost 60 people came." Dr. Michael Schulteis, Director of Undergraduate Education Programs, who has also worked extensively on the project, said that people from "the Native Plant Society, the Native American tribe that resided here, St. John's Lutheran Church, staff and students and people from the community came."

To usher in the day, members of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians gave a blessing in the Acjachemen language. They were the original residents on the land that is now home to Concordia University.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans partnered with the restoration day and provided breakfast to anyone who came out to help celebrate this important day. They also donated supplies, such as plants, for the Heritage Garden.

This event was put on by the student garden club, which began last year and is advised by Gavin. Lacey Henry, senior president of the garden club, said "I am excited about this event because it is the Heritage Garden's first event of the year, and it will allow the club and community members to reconnect after summer break and work on the garden together." She said her favorite part of the day was "working with everyone." Aaron Mietzner, junior vice president of the club, said about the event, "it's been real. It's been fun. It's been real fun."

Gavin, according to Henry, has the goal of the garden becoming a place where anyone can come to pick vegetables or fruit whenever they want. Gavin said that "our goal is to continue to 'cultivate community' as God leads us." The work the garden club is doing allows all Concordia students and faculty to have fresh tomatoes, pumpkins and other delicious vegetables right in their backyard. Last year this section of land was neglected and even ugly, but the garden has transformed since transformed the area. Danika Schmid, junior secretary of the club, said the first few work days were spent just picking up trash since the land had become a dumping ground for students. Her favorite part of the day was "seeing how much the garden has progressed since March."

Currently, squash, herbs, kale, watermelon, blackberries and many other vegetables are thriving in the garden with help from some of the volunteers that have

dedicated their time to endeavoring on this important project in the last year. "I get excited to see how excited others are about the project. We've had almost 400 hours donated by 50+ people since the garden was started this past spring," Gavin said.

Already, many people are excited about the Heritage Garden this year, which can help it grow into a sustainable part of CUI's campus life. "The Heritage Garden has the potential to be a wonderful academic resource for CUI as it can serve as a field laboratory and/or outdoor classroom space for a variety of academic disciplines," Gavin said. One of Gavin's goals is to make it into an entire ecosystem. On top of planting this Saturday, volunteers also made bird perches, lizard castles and worm tubes, according to Schmid.

The Heritage Garden has allowed many students, faculty and community members to come together for a common purpose. At each work day, a wide range in tasks has allowed anyone of any age to be a part of the festivities: from small children all the way to adults volunteering in their retirement. The garden also holds special meaning for many of the people that work there. "It's very peaceful. I ate lunch here a couple times over the summer," Schmid said.

This Saturday launched the Heritage Garden into an exciting year of growth. For more information about the garden, check their blog found at <http://heritagegarden.blogs.cui.edu/> or contact Gavin at thea.gavin@cui.edu.

Turn off that spout, we're in a drought!

Water saving tips for the environmentally savvy college student

1. Taking a 5-minute shower instead of a 10-minute shower saves 12.5 gallons. (Have a race with your roomie to see who can get clean quicker).
2. Turning the faucet off while brushing teeth or shaving saves about 10 gallons a day.
3. Soak dishes instead of letting the water run while scraping them clean.
4. Turn off water while sudsing your hands.
5. Make sure your laundry loads are full. (This one saves you money too!)

6. This tip is a little gross... but if it's yellow let it mellow!

7. Don't be afraid of a dirty car. A few bug splatters never hurt anyone.



Cultivate Community.

New eagles SOAR into 2014-2015 school year

RYAN MCDONALD
CAMPUS EDITOR

Concordia kicked off its annual back-to-school events filled with ice-breaking activities that helped new students become acquainted to the university as well as building new friendships with fellow freshmen and transfer students. The week-long event, Student Orientation, Activities and Registration (SOAR), formerly known as Week of Welcome (WOW), provided a warm welcome with exciting games, food and worship services.

"SOAR is the first weekend that our new students experience on campus. We put on various events for them in hopes that they feel connected and valued," said Megan Illsley, senior Peer Advising Leader (PAL).

Freshmen and transfer students and their parents arrived Fri., Aug. 15, anxious to meet their roommates and dorm neighbors. After the chaotic move-in, President Krueger and ASCUI president Scott Esswein, junior, both delivered speeches at the amphitheater that would help shake the nervousness of the new students.

"College is a scary thing to experience, and for most of you, it is the first time you have been on your own. The great thing about Concordia is that you aren't ever really on your own," Esswein said. "Your professors, your advisors, your RA and just about every other Concordia student wants you to succeed and enjoy your time here at Concordia."

After the speeches, the parents and students bonded while enjoying dinner and

root beer floats. Before they knew it, it was time to say their goodbyes. Later that evening, the Resident Assistants put on a "Snack Attack" where they hung out, played board games, and students were given the chance to be together and get to know their RA before the busy school year begins.

In the afternoon of Sat., Aug. 16, the "Throw-Down" event took place on the lacrosse field as the PALs split into groups of roughly 20 students consisting of either freshmen or transfer students. Stations were set up with a variety of festivities. An activity that was fun and practical for the students was the campus scavenger hunt. The teams had twenty questions that would have them wander around the university in search of something that will be useful during the school year, including the machine to pay for laundry and the Campus Safety office. The PALs advocated them but were highly selective on answering the questions that they might have had.

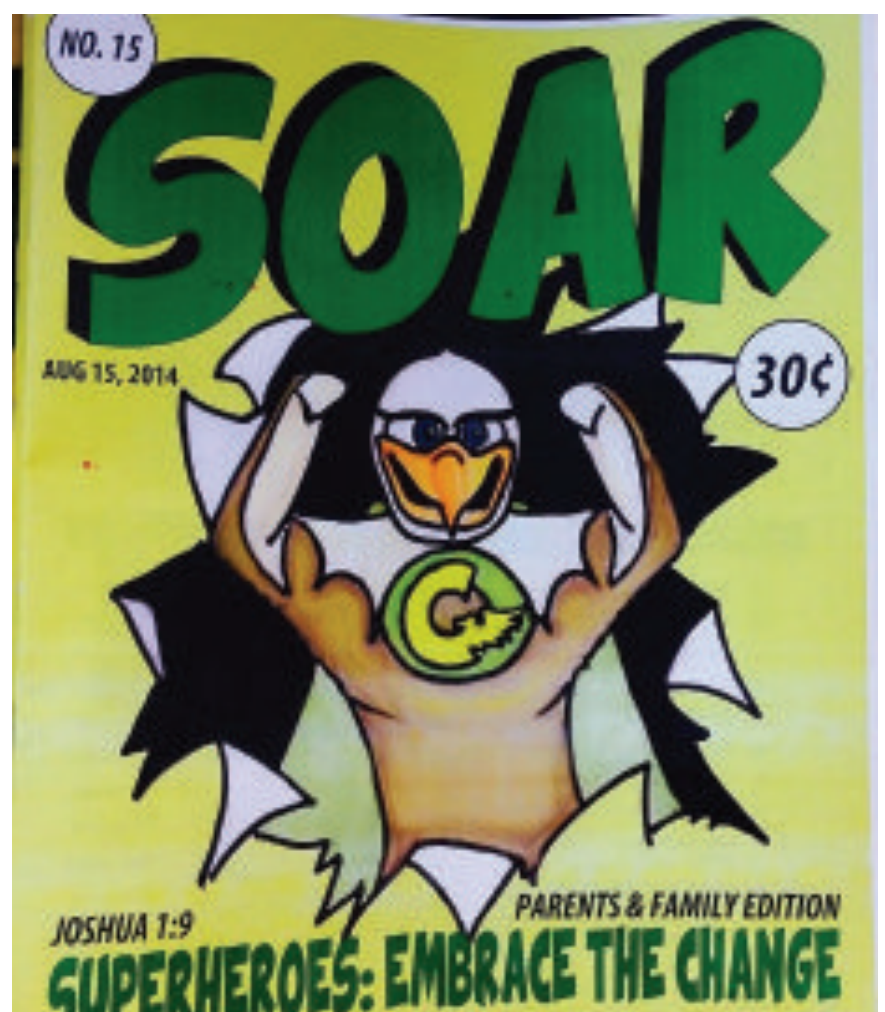
The theme for this year's PAL teams was superheroes. The teams would then compete against each other for points that would accumulate over the course of 10 games, with the winner being the Captain America group. The team members were all awarded with a gift card to Jamba Juice.

"I thought it was going to be really overwhelming but everyone was so nice and welcoming. I met so many cool people and all of the events were really fun," said Stephanie Wardlaw, freshman.

As the final day came, students and faculty had lunch and a Get-To-Know-Your-Major event where everyone can have the

opportunity to find out more information about their major of interest by meeting returning students that gave them first-hand advice on classes that they will be taking

in future semesters. The PALs were very pleased with the enthusiasm and camaraderie the students had with one another.





Psalm 121:8
The Lord will keep
your going out and
your coming in from
this time forth and
forevermore.

Campus makeover is in the works

TAYLOR WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Concordia University Irvine submitted a campus improvement master plan to the city of Irvine on July 30, 2014. This plan outlines an entire facelift of the university’s campus, complete with the relocation and enhancement of existing facilities, as well as the addition of interdisciplinary class and office buildings, dorm units, an aquatics center and other athletic arenas, an underground parking lot, and more. According to the university website, the campus master plan “seeks to improve the educational experience for Concordia University Irvine students, preserve the park-like campus environment and improve parking and circulation to benefit the campus and its neighbors.”

In her July 30 press release entitled “Concordia University Irvine Submits Campus Improvement Plan to City of Irvine,” Lindy Neubauer, Director of Communications, outlined the three key elements of the campus master plan: modern classrooms and labs, upgraded sports facilities and improved campus circulation.

The plan’s proposed addition, deletion and relocation of certain buildings and facilities throughout the campus are designed to create conveniently-zoned areas so as to improve traffic flow and convenience of location. Ronald Van Blarcom, General Counsel and Assistant Vice President of University Services, stated, “The plan organizes campus land uses in three defined areas: Academic Core, Athletic Fields and Residential Housing. This consolidation of similar activities will result in

more efficient uses of available land and... help people find their way.”

The campus update plan website’s FAQ page notes, “The first building in our phasing plan is a new interdisciplinary building to include music rehearsal space, classrooms and faculty offices. After this building is completed, we plan to build a Science, Nursing and Healthcare Center.” These facilities will replace Founders Hall, the Administration building, Chi Alpha, and Chi Beta. A rendering of these proposed structures is visible on the Campus Update Plan Website, as well as in person on the third floor of Grimm Hall North with large poster displays. “The plans for the science and worship buildings are gorgeous, especially when you see them so beautifully illustrated in Grimm Hall. The designs are phenomenal; it is going to be great for our

school,” said junior Scott Esswein, ASCUI President.

The campus additions, however, will “maintain the same number of full-time equivalent students, or 1,800 students, approved by the City of Irvine in 1993,” according to the press release. Van Blarcom explained further, “It is significant to note that a good percentage of the university’s growth is attributed to the increase in off-site and online classes for graduate and adult degree students.”

The approval process for the campus master plan is expected to take ten to twelve months, so there is currently no set date for the start of construction. “Concordia University Irvine is a forward-looking institution. We have prepared our campus update plan to bring us to a new level of excellence in serving locally and globally

with a Lutheran Christian university experience,” said Dr. Mary Scott, Provost and Executive Vice President in the announcement on July 30.

Celebrating her 29th academic year with CUI, Dian Vieselmeyer, Dean of Student Success, Director of Academic Advising, and Assistant Professor of Education, praised the campus master plan, and reflected on the days when the Administration building was the only Concordia Irvine building in existence. “The best part about the whole thing,” she said, “is that the people who have been at this school longer than I have are willing to part with the old buildings, because buildings are just buildings. It’s about the people inside of them and the memories we share.”

For more information on the plan, including a detailed map and FAQs, visit cui.edu/aboutcui/campus/update-plan.



A proposed design of a new building in Concordia's campus master plan

Theater season grows to four shows

The busy department plans to enlighten and entertain.

KAYLA LARDNER
ARTS EDITOR

This year's theater season is going to be a lively one. The department is departing from their standard three full-length shows and two student one-acts by adding a fourth show to their already jam-packed schedule.

The extra performance opportunities prove just how far the theater department has come, as do the enrollment numbers for this year.

"My first year, I directed a musical and there were three student-directed productions," said Dr. Peter Senkbeil, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Provost and one of the theater professors. "Now, we're at the point where we have five faculty-directed shows and the student one-acts and the dance concert. We had a really good recruiting year, so we're going to have more theatre students than ever."

With the number of freshmen theatre majors and minors reaching the upper 20s this year, the department knew they had to step it up.

"This is our largest group of incoming freshmen theatre majors and minors so it's going to open a lot of doors for new creativity and new talent," said Lori Siekmann, Director of Theatre Activities, and Assistant

Professor of Theatre.

"It's a very eclectic set of plays, very different in style and tone, but some really fascinating things," Senkbeil said. "We're pushing ourselves a little harder in terms of the number of shows, in terms of the quality of shows, in terms of what we want to do with the shows."

The first show of the season, "Proof," opens Aug. 29 and runs through Sept. 6.

"That's a small, four character drama about a young woman whose father was a brilliant mathematician who has passed away, and now she's trying to clear out his house but she's still talking to him," Senkbeil said. "There's this sense of he's still very present in her mind. It's about how we know what we know, both mathematically and in the largest sense. How do we know who's telling the truth, how do we know who we can trust, how do we know what's really important?"

"Proof," directed by Siekmann, was casted in April and has been rehearsing since early August.

"The cast came back Aug. 2 and so we've been doing theater camp," Siekmann said. "They've built the set. So pretty much before school even started, most of the technical work is done. The show is on its feet. Most of them are off-book."

There have been a few stumbling blocks including a recent recast.

"We did have our original Catharine; the person playing Catharine got injured," Siekmann said. "She's fine. It is the world of live theater. We had Jaclyn [Pennington], who was the assistant stage manager, and she had come back early and so was there throughout all of the process, all of the character discussions. This had happened before any of the other returning students had come back on campus. She was the perfect person, because she had been there and through osmosis she kind of knew

what to do."

"Proof has definitely had its struggles just because of the fact that we had an incident with our lead who is now not able to do the show because of her health issues," said Wesley Barnes, senior and Hal in "Proof." "Now it's just getting to use to what [Jaclyn] brings to the table rather than what we were used to. There was a stumbling block, but now we're back on track. We're ready to take on this week of rehearsal and also next week when we start tech week. I'm really excited. It's going to be a great show. It's the first show that the school has done in the round in four years probably."

The second show of the season will be Senkbeil's first musical at Concordia in nine years, "Songs for a New World."

"It's different than a lot of musicals," Senkbeil said. "There's no plot, so we have to make other things happen to keep the audience engaged. So it is about finding those themes, about making each of those 17 songs its own story, and finding ways to both tell that story in a self-contained piece, but also do it in a way that makes people go 'Oh! This reminds me of that other song earlier in the show,' or 'I see what they did there.'"

The cycle begins in 1492 and ends up in present day with present day dilemmas, according to Senkbeil.

"One of the first songs is called on the deck of a Spanish sailing ship, 1492. You have those kinds of historical songs about a new world, and then there are songs that are sort of thematically about a new world that happens for all of us when something in our life changes. When we have a realization or discovery or somebody does something that sets us on a different path."

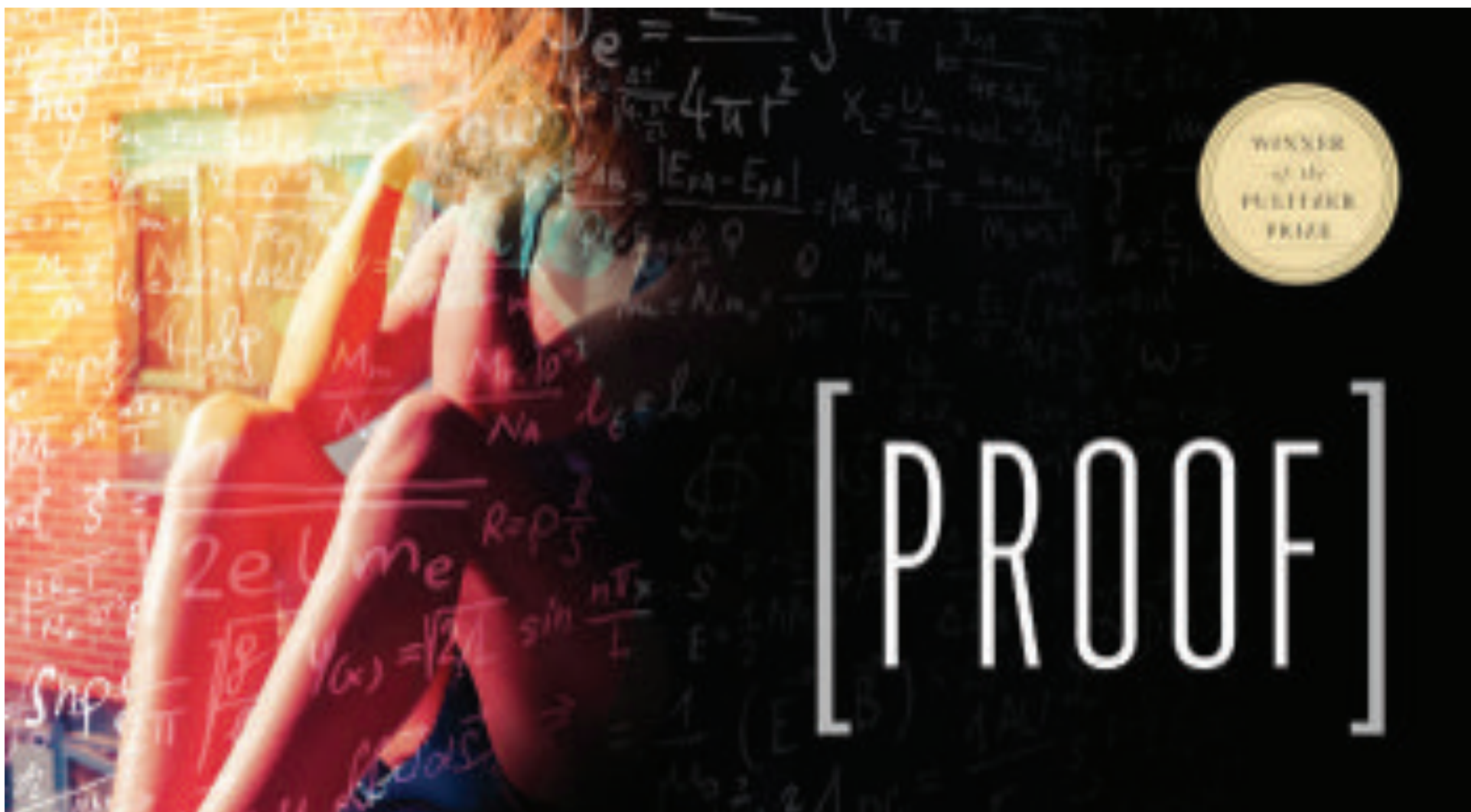
Opening just a few days after the start of the new semester, Jan. 9 thru 18, is the third show of the year "Reckless" directed by Professor Tony Vezner.

"It's one of those comedies where you laugh hysterically and then you realize what you've been laughing at," Senkbeil said. "It begins with the husband and wife, in bed on Christmas Eve night. The wife is talking about how happy she is, and the husband turns to her and says 'I took out a contract on your life. The hit man coming in 10 minutes, but I've changed my mind. I don't want you to die, leave now.' You hear the sound of breaking glass, and then you realize he's not making it up. So she goes out the window and her adventure begins."

The fourth faculty-directed production will be directed by a new face, Jeff Fazakerly, an adjunct professor in the theater department. The show is "The 39 Steps," based off the Alfred Hitchcock movie of the same name.

"The 39 Steps was originally WWI novel which was made into an Alfred Hitchcock film in the 1930s, and about 10 years ago was made into a comedy," Senkbeil said. "It's a little bit like a suspense thriller; a James Bond kind of a thing if James Bond were an every-man, but the interesting piece of this is it's been kind of reimagined as a comedy. In the same way that those movies from the 30s can be kind of overwrought and everybody's so intense all the time and you kind of laugh just because of that, it sort of takes that and runs with it."

The season will open with a bang as their first show, "Proof," opens Aug. 29 with 7:30 p.m. shows on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. shows on Sunday thru Sept. 7. To reserve a free Concordia student ticket or to purchase a ticket, go online at <http://www.cui.edu/AcademicPrograms/Undergraduate/Theatre> or visit the box office inside the music building. To find out more about any of these upcoming performances go online at <http://www.cui.edu/AcademicPrograms/Undergraduate/Theatre>.



Proof opens this weekend with performances at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and a 2:00 p.m. show on Sunday.

Global Christianity focus of summit

JOSHUA SUH
REVIEWS EDITOR

On June 2-3, church leaders from around the world met at the CU Center at 9 a.m. for the Great Commission Summit '14. Supporters of The Summit used the time to coalesce and brainstorm ideas on how to evolve evangelism to a cross-cultural community.

The Great Commission Summit (GCS) goes beyond Christian denominations and establishes its presence as an international ministry. The GCS is composed of all Christ followers, including pastors and theologians, who pride themselves in pursuing 1 Timothy 4:12, which states, "...set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." In doing so, the GCS aims to equip all Christians with the foreknowledge of different cultural customs before evangelizing.

The event was composed of three speakers who represented different demographics. One such speaker, Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez, Director of LCMS Center for Hispanic Studies, spoke about Latino history and the community he has witnessed over time. "We are living among people

who are not scared to express their faith," Sanchez said. Sanchez enlightened the congregation on how most Hispanics are raised within the Roman Catholic Church when they are young. "The global south (Latino community) is often religious and church going," Sanchez said. "But the worship is not always Gospel-centered."

While Sanchez spoke, attendants were

"To Christianize cannot be the same as to Westernize."

Vitalino Simalox

free to ask questions on how to better evangelize to the Hispanic community. Sanchez

said that the global south (Latino community) is growing in population, as well as becoming more secular. He wrestles with the notion of bringing the Gospel in a more strategic and approachable way to the community. Sanchez concluded his message with high hopes in sharing the gospel with future generations in this time of secularism.

The second speaker, Baolerhu Ligden, Executive Director for Asia Leadership Development, spoke about his experience in Shanghai, China. Baolerhu emphasized the importance of recognizing the changing landscape that is currently taking place in Shanghai. "China is not the China you know of. The atmosphere is changing to a more urban environment," Baolerhu said. "The information and the way we evangelize has to be relevant to the time the time we live in."

Baolerhu said that churches are starting to surface in China and no longer have to be confined to an underground state, due to the fact that China is currently going through social and economic transformations. He said that many urban churches in Shanghai are aiming to live out the Gospel

and serve the city they are in.

Other presenters included keynote speaker Philip Jenkins, Christian Mungai, Jay Sohng, Mike Gibson, and Murithi Wanjau.

GCS is in a constant state of brainstorming in how to better evangelize to different demographics as time progresses and social climate changes. Evangelizing is a daunting task, but their work has been proven fruitful through many years of serving. Events will continue to be held annually as new perspectives and ideas arise. Jay Sohng, Lead Pastor of All Nations Ministry Irvine Onnuri Church, enjoyed attending the event. "The event was great and very informative," Sohng said. "Different perspectives are always good. Sometimes here in Orange County our perspective on issues can become very narrow."

The GCS will continue to innovate new evangelism methods and prays that the opportunity will manifest itself to be put into practice.

For more information please visit www.cui.edu/gcs.

Redesigned health care management program stresses career

ALICIA HARGER
LAYOUT EDITOR

This fall marks the first semester that Concordia will be offering their Health Care Management (HCM) program to traditional undergraduate students. A cohort of about 10 students, who have mostly switched from other majors, are currently beginning the program. They will be led by two full-time professors and seven adjuncts who are active professionals in the health-care field.

The degree was previously available as an adult degree program. However, it was decided that the current model demanded too much time for an adult degree program and would be a better fit with the traditional student profile.

The semester of fall 2015 will also see the inception of an entire online Health Care Management program as an adult degree program, so that Concordia will be able to offer opportunity to students of all backgrounds.

Dr. Stephen Duarte, Academic Program Director-Healthcare Management Professor, said, "being in healthcare isn't just about yourself or the entry level salary. Concordia is fulfilling its mission

through this type of degree."

Duarte said that the HCM degree is "answering a huge need." Students undertaking the HCM program are prepared for careers in health insurance, hospitals, nursing homes and elsewhere with career pinnacles in administrative positions at large systems like Hoag or St. Joseph's. "There is a projected 22% growth in the field over the next five years," Duarte said. "The industry is concerned that there aren't going to be enough qualified employees."

The program is designed to groom students for successful careers and to provide valuable professional training. Besides classroom work, each student is required to participate in a 120-hour internship with a local health care organization. The internship can be completed at the organization of the student's choosing based on interest and ability. Some of these organizations students have interned at in the past include Ronald McDonald House, Long Beach Medical, Silverado and CHOC.

"Just having a degree isn't enough anymore," Duarte said. "We have to give students experience." The real-world experience philosophy was a driving factor

in the design of the HCM degree program.

Dr. Catherine Collins, Director of Internships, works with the program to help students find these internships and also develop them as professionals. A portion of her time with students is devoted to creating quality Linked-In profiles, a growing necessity in today's business world. "We want our students to be professional representatives of the university in the workplace," Collins said. Within HCM classes, students will be given a professionalism grade based upon factors like attendance, punctuality and participation.

The classes will be taught on a case-study model where students learn from real examples and apply theories to actual instances. Classes will also be supplemented with a competency assessment at the beginning, middle and end of the program, as issued by the nation governing board American College of Healthcare Executives. The capstone to the major will be a completed portfolio, culminating paper and presentation in front of healthcare professionals from the area.

"This program is not for the faint of heart," warned Duarte.

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Contact us at drafts.
courier@eagles.cui.edu or find us in Delta Lounge of Lowers.

Don't forget to "like" us

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Alumni Voices: Are you in transit?

SARINA GRANT '14
ALUMNI WRITER

Miss Transit is a blog for the twenty-somethings who are still figuring life out and finding their place in the world. According to the Miss Transit website, the blog “aims to share tools, tips, and advice to help ease the ‘twenties transition’ by voicing personal failures, successes, and experiences had by the Executive staff, regular contributors, and guest writers.”

The blog was founded by two CUI alumni: Ashley Curti '13, Founder in charge of Public Relations and Courtney McCracken '13, Founder in charge of Communication Operations.

Along with Jaymie Rodems '13, Marketing & Strategic Planner, Sidney Garza, Content Editor, and Erin Grace Johnson, in charge of Social Outreach and Graphic Designer, the blog officially launched on June 10. To learn more about the staff, check out their bios on the blog. The team updates every Tuesday and Thursday.

“As cliché as it sounds, this blog tells my story, along with a million other twenty-somethings who are all in their transition phase,” Curti said. “I think most of us are at a point in our life where we are fearful of the future, confident in some ways, confused in others and most importantly hopeful.”

“The content ranges from humorous posts about screw-ups to serious point-of-view pieces,” Rodems said. “It is a great way to see that I am not the only one who falls on my face trying to be an ‘adult.’”

In addition to inspiring readers, the blog has also had a powerful impact on the staff. “Miss Transit is a place where I can make fun of my mistakes, find comfort in the fact that I am not alone on this journey and lastly a place for other people to share their story and experiences,” Curti said. “I believe we learn the most from other people's stories.”

“Being almost 25 myself, it is amazing to be able to basically vent about all of life's issues in a fun way and being able to hear other perspectives and learn and grow from each other,” McCracken said. “I think it's amazing what someone can learn from another person.”

“I've never read the blog myself, but the concept sounds like something that would be really beneficial to a lot of college students and recent graduates,” said Sarah Barrick, senior. “It's a really difficult transition period, and it's cool that their readers can get advice and know that they're not the only ones going through a change.”

If you're interested in writing for the blog, the team also welcomes contributors. “We are always open to hear new stories, I believe writing is a great form of self-expression,” McCracken said. “I would encourage anybody who would want to get involved to please contact us.”

Follow @miss.transit to see what they're up to on Instagram. To read the blog for yourself, visit misstransit.com.

Student Leadership Column: Beloved and Battalion

KYLE WEEKS &
SHANNON
ALAVI-MOGHADDAM
STAFF WRITERS

New or returning students at Concordia University Irvine will not lack for things to do, as the campus boasts a plethora of clubs, organizations and activities all vying for student involvement. One of the unique aspects of CUI however, is the small group Bible studies for women and men, called Beloved and Battalion, respectively. Sponsored by abbey west, the campus ministry, the mission of Beloved and Battalion is to engage students with God's Word and the good news of Jesus Christ through small group Bible studies. By doing so, they seek to foster a Biblical worldview, vibrant fellowship and meaningful discipleship in Christ through large co-ed events and weekly small group studies of men and women.

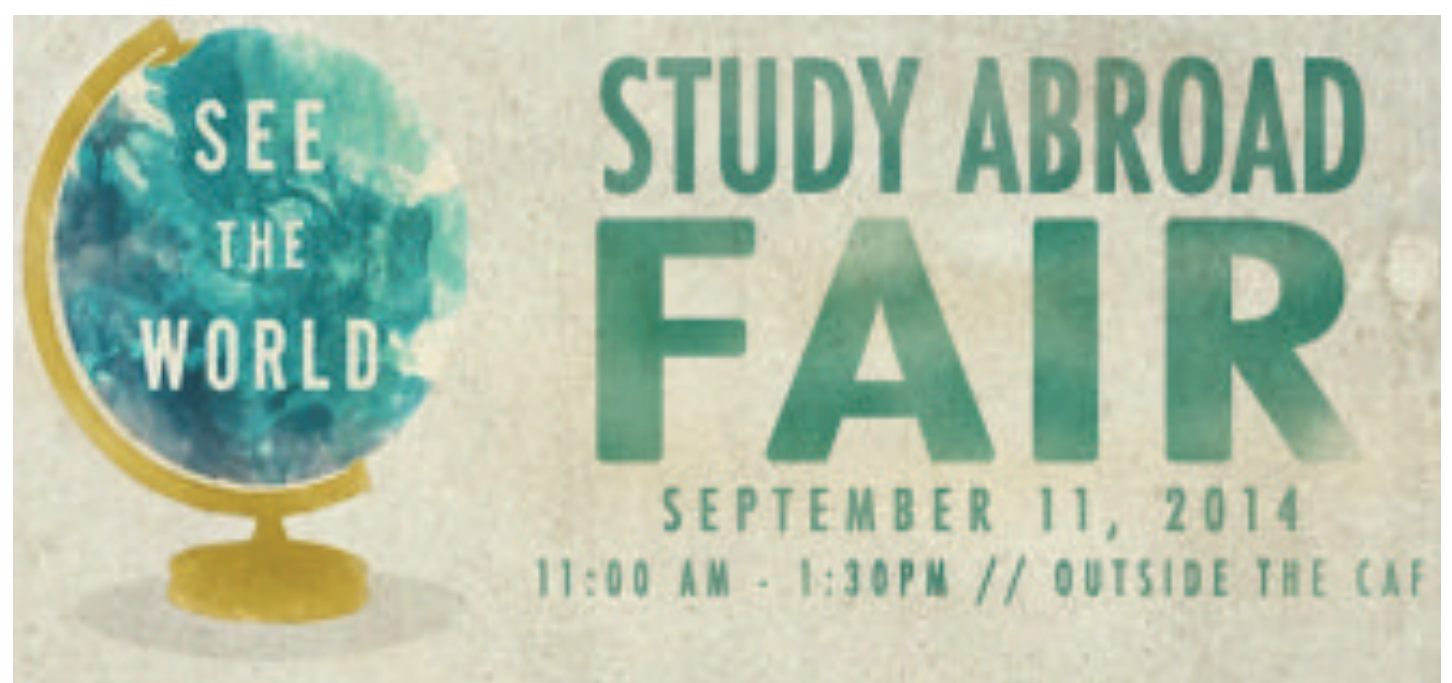
Beloved is a nurturing community of women who encourage each other to stand firm in their faith and build each other up as sisters in Christ through all of life's seasons. Battalion aspires to help forge a strong generation of men who will be able to exemplify true Biblical manhood and impact the world for Christ together. Whether they are lifelong Christians or are just beginning to explore their spirituality, all are welcome and are sure to appreciate the close-knit sense of community within abbey west.

To start off the year and allow participants to meet and build relationships with other students interested in Bible studies, Beloved and Battalion will host a four-week large group co-ed Bible study, which will delve into what it looks like to be a disciple of Christ. The study will occur on Tuesday nights from 8:00-9:00 p.m. in the Rho Programming Center (RPC), begin-

ning on Tues., Aug. 26. In addition, Beloved and Battalion are holding a campus-wide picnic on Sun., Sept. 7 on the Upper Quads Lawn from 3:30-5:00 p.m. with free food, games and fellowship. Throughout the year, Beloved and Battalion will meet in regular small group meetings led by Concordia students, who will also have the opportunity to participate in a number of other large group events, so be sure to visit

the abbey west website at www.abbeywest.org or interact with the ministries through social media to explore the many opportunities available.

Contact Battalion Coordinator Kyle Weeks at kyle.weeks@eagles.cui.edu or Beloved Coordinator Shannon Alavi-Moghaddam at shannon.alavimoghaddam@eagles.cui.edu if you would like to get involved or have any questions.



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K-12 and Higher Education involvement of persons from public, parochial, and private schools is desirable. Call to Participate at (714-335-7146) or email me at deeann.ragaisis@cui.edu and thank you for your interest.