

“A Rose in Winter” sold out Christmas concert

MEGAN M. ILLSLEY
STAFF WRITER

Beginning tomorrow evening at 7:30 p.m., join Concordia’s choirs, hand bell ensembles and orchestra as they kick off the Christmas season with the concert series “A Rose in Winter.”

Each year, during the fall semester, music lovers join to put on a winter wonder spectacle for the community. “Whether it is the Christmas Concerts, the Christmas Eve Service on campus or special music in my home church, there is

“It’ll be a special treat for listeners and performers alike.”

-Grace Chong

truly no other time of year when music plays such an important role in setting a sacred and festive tone for the season,” said senior Katelyn Carbiener, Concordia Choir member.

The title, “A Rose in Winter,” represents the all-encompassing theme throughout the performance. Inside the front cover of the program, the first stanza of the famous traditional hymn “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming,” will be shared. The stanza reminds each concert attendee of the real reason of Christmas. It speaks of Jesus being descended from the line of Jesse and David.

Dr. Marin Jacobson, Associate Director of Choral Activities, described Christ coming into a sinful world as a rose blooming in winter.

Roughly 180 students will participate in the five concerts during the month of December. Practices began over a month ago and will be in full gear until their performances. They are all eager to put on a phenomenal performance for all who attend.

“I really look forward to the concerts in general, because just about every group in the Music Department is involved,” said senior violist Grace Chong. “It’ll be a special treat for listeners and performers alike.”

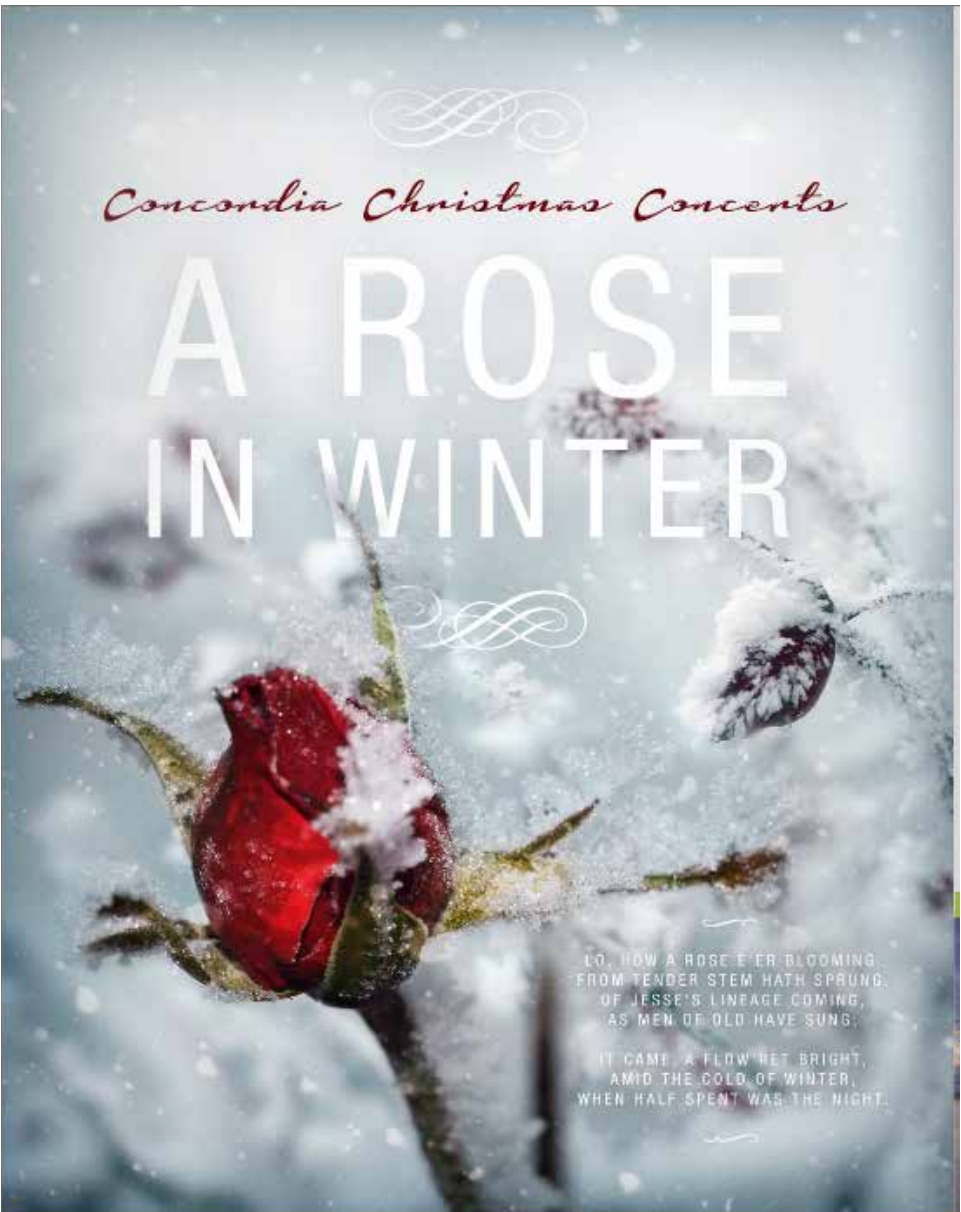
The concert will feature pieces such as “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming,” “Winter” and “Silent Night.”

“The rendition of Silent Night is beautifully arranged, and both the choir and sinfonietta complement each other very well,” said Joseph Holcomb, senior trumpet player. “It will be a beautiful ending to a wonderful concert.”

Faculty members responsible for putting on the series are extremely proud of the students. “Seeing the students grow as musicians, friends, and in confidence in their performance overall is always a fulfilling satisfying part of the process,” said Dr. Herbert Geisler, Director of Musical Activities.

There is a tremendous amount of effort that goes into the concert series in order to make it a success. The show could not go on without the joint efforts of the multiple university departments involved, including the maintenance team, Theatre Department and other various offices.

Although these very popular concerts are sold out, some tickets may be turned in at the last minute, so it does not hurt to show up on concert days in hopes of attending. Concerts will be held this weekend as well as next weekend, Dec. 12 and 13. In order to find out more information on this university event, please visit www.cui.edu/thearts.



Candlelight Christmas Eve service

CHRIS RAWJI
STAFF WRITER

Join abbeywest on Tues., Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. in the CU Center to worship and celebrate Christ’s birth in a special Concordia Candlelight service.

Faculty, staff, students, families of the Concordia community and alumni are invited to

attend. There will be Christmas carols, cookies and cider following the service, which will be a great opportunity to take a break from finals week and spend time in the presence of God.

This candlelight service will be a Christmas Eve celebration. Lisa Purcell, abbeywest Administrative Assistant, describes the event as a Christmas Eve celebration for the whole campus community to take part of.

Campus Pastor Quinton Anderson, ’00, will preach at the service. The service will conclude with everyone lighting a candle together from the Christ candle. This is a special moment to remember that Christ is our guiding light.

The reason for a candlelight service is to remember that Christ is the light of the world. There will be a general theme to the service that

Christ, who is the morning star, acts as a guiding light.

“At this time of the year, the nights get longer and the days get shorter. Scripture teaches that Christ is the light that comes into the world to shine in darkness,” Anderson said.

The choirs will lend their voices to the event by singing Christmas hymns with the crowd.

Dr. Marin Jacobson, Associate Director of Choral Activities, is in charge of the musical direction of the service and the songs that will be sung at the candlelight service. It will consist of Christmas favorites such as “O, Little Town of Bethlehem” and “Silent Night.”

The choirs will also be accompanied by the brass section of the orchestra, under the direction of Jeff Held, Director of the Concordia Wind Orchestra and the Concordia Sinfonietta. This is going to be a very special night on the Concordia campus that you don’t want to miss.

For more information on the Concordia Candlelight service, visit www.abbeywest.org or stop by the CSLD building on campus.



ATW III: *Caring in Cambodia*

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

RYAN FINK
CONTRIBUTOR

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and God's blessings from the ATW team in Cambodia! We have been here since Sat., Nov. 22. We flew into the capital city of Phnom Penh from Bangkok and spent the better part of two days there, catching up on classes, doing homework and exploring the city.

We spent one of the days in Phnom Penh learning more about the sad history of this country. We were able to visit a security prison in the city called S-21 from the regime of Pol Pot, who was behind the genocide that occurred from 1975 to 1979. Prisoners were forced to live in the worst of conditions, often tortured until they admitted to crimes they didn't commit, and usually killed. Pictures of the deceased were placed in various rooms in the museum. One of the final rooms even contained a glass case full of skulls and bones of those killed at the prison. To give an idea of the death that hovered over this place, it is widely reported that when the Vietnamese liberated this prison, only seven survivors were found.

After visiting S-21, we drove to the Killing Fields. Roughly 2 million people in total were killed during Pol Pot's rule, and many lost their lives in these fields. Men, women, children and the elderly were all brought to these fields, killed and buried there. Mass graves, essentially large ditches, were preserved, and apparently still had bones in them until the last

decade or so.

Perhaps the most visibly disturbing and moving exhibit of the museum was the glass case that holds clothing of the deceased, even small children's clothing.

Walking around both of these museums brought a sense of sadness, of course, for these victims and for the events that occurred that brought on these deaths. The way the facts are presented in these places is very in-your-face, evidenced by the skulls and leftover clothes. I wonder even if it is done intentionally, perhaps to bring guilt upon those who stood idly by, or to prevent something like the Khmer Rouge from happening again. Either way, the death that hangs over both places is palpable.

In a position like ours, a group of Christians visiting these places of sadness and learning about the horrors that occurred, the best thing I think we could've done was pray. So I did. I prayed for the victims of this genocide. I prayed for their families, some of whom are still alive. I prayed for redemption, a renewal of sorts that is still happening in a country still dealing with the effects of what occurred almost 40 years ago. I prayed, also, for me, for a sense of peace even amongst the horror and sadness of S-21 and the Killing Fields.

Since our visit to these places, we have moved on to a city called Battambang, and have engaged in service with several different churches. We have visited these churches and their youth, putting on a program of songs and Bible stories, and have really loved our time doing it.

The joy on the faces of these small Cambodian children, and on the faces of the Rounders, and the knowledge that the joy comes from songs and stories about God, also is redemptive for our time visiting the Killing Fields.



L to R: Jessica Schrank, Cami Rebollo, Abigail Lozano, Ryan Fink, Jacob Mueller, Professor Adam Lee

Letter to Concordia

ALICIA HARGER
LAYOUT EDITOR

Dear Concordia,

First off, I want to thank you for everything.

As the date of my graduation draws closer (only a week left!), I find myself reflecting on my college experience and looking forward to an uncertain future. I remember the good times with my friends, some spectacular classes, and plenty of last-minute Blackboard submissions. I also remember lots of days spent with *The Courier*. I've been working for this fine paper since my first freshman semester and the paper has been as integral a part of my college experience as any class or professor or roommate. All in all, these years have been pretty wonderful. I wouldn't trade my college experience for anything.

However, reflecting on the past we've had together isn't enough. I must make plans for my future. Graduating a semester early seemed like such a good idea when I was starting out, but now I don't want my time here to end. I plan on attending grad school next fall. However, I'm facing an interim semester and I don't know what to do with myself. I have no job lined up. I'll probably have to move back in with my parents. It's like my life trajectory has hit pause for the next six months. This is, frankly, terrifying.

Faced with the quandary of what to do with myself, I've come up with several options, but nothing concrete. In my uncertainty, I've turned to several certain truths. Firstly, Concordia, you have helped me develop a community I can lean on. I have made friends here that would let me sleep on their couches and I found mentors to offer advice. Secondly, (and I know it sounds trite) I am a more wise, honorable, and cultivated citizen than I was first coming to you. Maybe it was just the process of growing up or maybe a lesson or two from you sunk in, but I feel that I am more capable of being a positive member of society than before. Thirdly, and most importantly, I have my faith. God is the greatest certainty and I am grateful to you for fostering that faith in me.

So in answer to the question, "What are you doing with your life?" I have as of now only a simple reply: "Good." I want to do good. I want to live in service to my neighbor. I want to build relationships that move me toward a good life and move us toward a good society. I'm not sure where this will be or exactly how, but on the eve of my graduation I want to dedicate my adult life to building something better than we have now.

Your faithful (nearly) alumna,
Alicia



Alicia intends to undertake a Sociology master's program in the fall and looks forward to her time off.

Don't forget to "like" us

on the *Concordia Courier* Facebook page. You'll find links to PDFs of old issues and updates on our current work. Videos previewing the most recent issue will be posted as well.

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Pool play to playoffs: Women's Volleyball win or go home

AT PRESS TIME, THE LADIES WERE STILL BATTLING IT OUT IN THE NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT CONTAIN THE RESULTS OF THE DEC. 4 MATCH. FOR UPDATED SCORE INFORMATION, VISIT CUIEAGLES.COM

KEVIN FISKE
STAFF WRITER
AND
TAYLOR DENNISON
SPORTS EDITOR

The #3-ranked Concordia Women's Volleyball team is in their final stretch in the NAIA National Tournament in Sioux City, Iowa from Dec. 2 to 6.

Tuesday marked the first victory for the women after they won four sets to one against the College of Idaho.

"It wasn't pretty, but we hit .357 on the match, which is our best team hitting percentage all year. We looked a little nervous at times, which was expected," said second-year Head Coach Trevor Johnson.

Concordia enters the tournament with a 31 - 2 record and will be in the mix of chasing another National Championship along with 24 other teams. This is the tenth all-time appearance for the Women's Volleyball team in the tournament. In 2012, the women claimed the National Championship Title.

Last year was tough for everyone. The team finished third and fell just short of making the finals. Johnson looks to lead his team once again to the final stage and bring home a championship.

Alongside coach Johnson, second-year assistant coach Brett Gillen and senior Megan Brady play a huge role in their success by scouting other teams and providing game footage to study.

The Eagles will have to go through the College of Idaho, Georgetown and Midland first before entering playoffs. The top two teams from each pool will enter single-elimination on Dec. 5, and the Championship game will be held on Dec. 6.

This will be the first time that the NAIA National Championship game will be broadcast on ESPN 3.

Senior setter Jenee Henderson, who

received All-GSAC, leads the Lady Eagles by averaging 9.3 assists per game. "I'm super pumped this year because I feel like our team dynamic is the best it has been in a long time. We get along so well and work hard as a team," Henderson said. "We have a lot of competition this year at Nationals, but I know if we play our game, no one can stop us." Concordia has a target on their back being one of the top teams over the past several years.

Fellow teammate senior Jordan Smith has been outstanding at the libero position and will look to keep playing at a

high level. "I am most excited to have the opportunity to play against teams we haven't seen and fight for the gold," Smith said.

Both seniors playing in their final year gives Concordia a great chance to win with great leadership on and off the court. They have persevered through some great games and are becoming a better team at the perfect time.

Although the team lost 3-0 to Georgetown University on Wed., Dec. 3, the team plans to bounce back for their next match on Dec. 4 against Midland University. The women must win this game in order to have

a chance to advance to playoffs.

This season has the feeling of being a great one and there's a chance to end on a high note for all the seniors. They have beaten some of the best teams in the country already and just have to do it one more time.

To follow the National Tournament, go to Concordia's website or NAIANetwork.com. It has live video stream of all 46 matches and provides live stats. The finals can be seen on ESPN 3 or by purchasing a package deal for 20 dollars after registering on NAIANetwork.com.



Jessica Israel (6) and Reanna Schelhaas (7) go up for a block during a winning game against College of Idaho.

Track and Field getting a head start

JACK ROBISON
STAFF WRITER

As the fall semester comes to a close, the Concordia Track and Field team is looking to kick off their new season. The season will begin tomorrow, Sat., Dec. 6, for the team's first home meet. After a long semester of changes amongst the team and coaching staff, as well as a pumped-up training program, the athletes are ready to produce positive results.

The athletes and coaches are excited to kick things off with a bang and they seem more prepared than ever. The offseason in any sport is something that comes with adjustments and changes, and was no different for the Track and Field team.

The athletes embraced the new Head Coach Danny Bowman and believe that they are being set up for success. "Bowman is an excellent coach and knows a lot about the sport, and with his new coaching staff, they are setting the team up for a very good season," said senior Bryce Nilsson.

This season, the team members have high expectations for themselves, and rightfully so, considering the refreshed look of the team's training and coaching. This season, Nilsson will be competing in the 400-meter open, the 600-meter dash, and the 4x400-meter relay.

"This season I will be trying to qualify for both Indoor and Outdoor National Championships," Nilsson said.

While Nilsson will be locking down the shorter distance sprints, senior Jared Arteaga also has high expectations for longer distances. "I am beyond excited for this upcoming Indoor Season. It's my senior year and I am ready to bring the thunder and lead my relay teams to a national qualifying spot," Arteaga said. An excited and prepared group of athletes can only lead to positive results. This season, Arteaga will be focusing on the 1,000-meter event, with the hopes of earning an All-American spot.

Preparation and opportunity go hand in hand and the athletes that currently make up the Concordia Track and Field team have been given the opportunity to train harder than they have before. They are preparing for greatness.

Junior Jasmine Barron understands this opportunity to succeed in the season. "We have a lot of talent this year. It's a new year with new coaches and we are moving in a very good direction. We all can't wait to compete and do our best," Barron said.

Come out to the track tomorrow and cheer on the team as they look to start their season off in a positive way. For more information about the team and the upcoming season, you can visit www.cuieagles.com.

Women's Soccer falls in second round

VAHN BOZOIAN
STAFF WRITER
AND
TAYLOR DENNISON
SPORTS EDITOR

After receiving a late berth to the opening round of the NAIA National Tournament, the Women's Soccer team came out with a 4-0 win in the opening round against #17-ranked Bellevue University on Sat., Nov. 22. The Lady Eagles advanced to the second round of the tournament and headed to Orange Beach, Ala.

The positive attitude of the women seemed to be contagious and carried them as far as they could go, but unfortunately they fell short, 1-0, in a tough battle on Tues., Dec. 2, to #11-ranked Cumberland University.

This is the second time in school history and the second consecutive year that Women's Soccer has reached the NAIA National Championship Tournament. Although the Women's Soccer team has been eliminated from the competition, our Lady Eagles had a fantastic season. The group ended the season 5-4-1 in the GSAC and 12-8-1 overall.

The team was full of talented women who accomplished great things throughout their season.

Star athletes such as sophomores Jazmin Alvarez and Natalie Werner and seniors Lauren Nanez and Megan Daniels were selected All-GSAC. Junior Amanda Koman was selected NAIA Scholar Athlete. Junior Alexis Garcia-Irons was selected as GSAC Scholar Athlete.

You can visit www.cuieagles.com for more information and an overview of the women's season.



Miranda Canales (10) in tournament play.

Get your Frisbee game on against the faculty and staff

KEITH CORLEY
STAFF WRITER

Bragging rights are at stake today at the soccer field where the Concordia Ultimate Frisbee Club is holding its first-ever match against the faculty and staff. The game, starting at 5:30 p.m., pits the best of the Ultimate Frisbee Club against the most athletic faculty at the school.

This is one of the first big events in the Ultimate Frisbee Club's history. Having only been around for a couple of years, the relatively young club has had a difficult time gaining popularity, especially from the faculty on campus.

Courtney Thornton, junior President of the club, said "we haven't gotten many faculty/staff members (besides alumni). I thought it would be great to see more faculty/staff faces out on the field." The goal is to create a better relationship between the faculty and the students.

Another important goal of the event, for

both the bystanders and the players, is relieving stress. The game was scheduled for this Friday because of its proximity to finals week. "I thought this would be a fun stress reliever for both parties," Thornton said. "This event is right before finals and people are already starting to freak out."

This type of ultimate Frisbee will be played a little more informally in order for the newcomers to grasp the basics. Implementing every aspect of this complicated game might just scare some people away. "There are actually quite a few rules in Ultimate Frisbee, and they take more than a day to memorize," Thornton said.

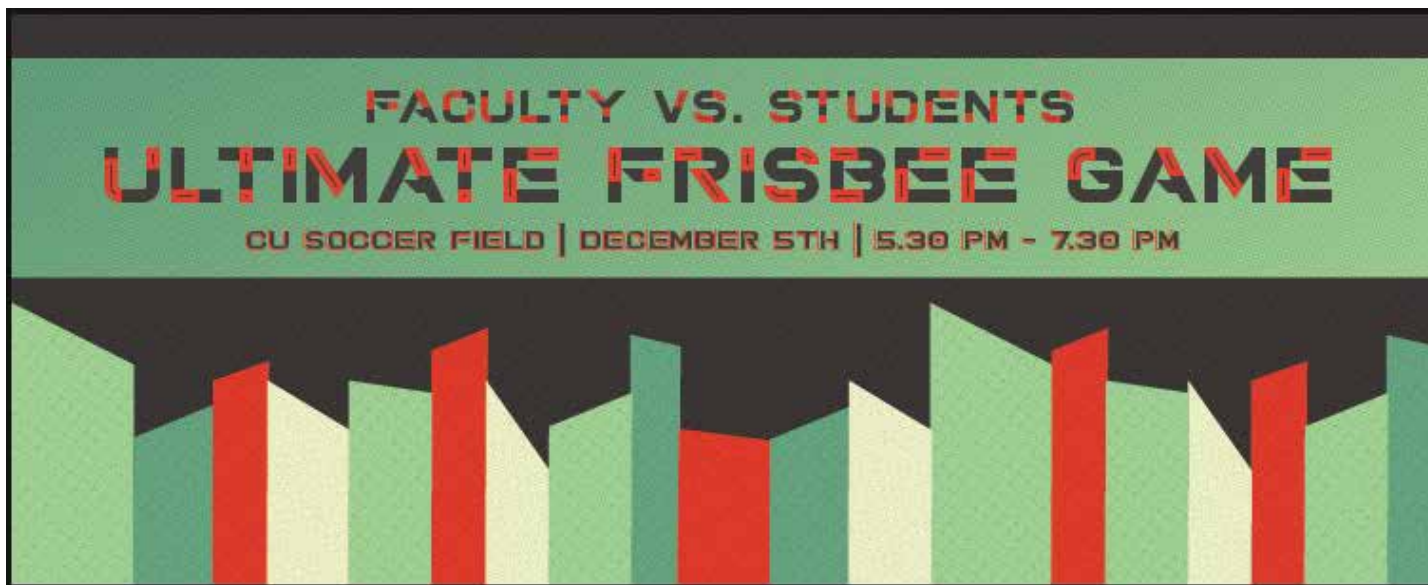
In addition to the stress relief, another priority is the continued spread of the activity throughout the school. The young club hopes that an event like this with such a large appeal will bring bystanders. "We've anticipated the attendance of 100 people," Thornton said. With such a big crowd predicted, the club and faculty look forward to trying to spread the game to more people.

"The benefits of doing this would be to show others the sport of Ultimate and how fun and easy it is to play," said Ken Bogle, one of the top faculty players. "Ultimate can hopefully be a way to bring more people together and create a community outside the classroom among students and faculty/staff."

No matter what the outcome of the game is, one thing is very clear: both sides hope this becomes a tradition. "I'm hoping this is the start of an ongoing tradition," Thornton said. "This was a good way to get more people involved."

Bogle hopes that this game can be the catalyst for the club moving forward. "If we can show interest to others, then maybe it can become a tradition that is played every year moving forward," Bogle said.

Remember to make time for the first of hopefully many Faculty vs. Students Ultimate Frisbee Game tonight on the soccer field at 5:30 p.m.



Anthropology class to display Native American artifacts on campus

RUBY MORALES
STAFF WRITER

All students currently attending Concordia are not the first to inhabit this campus; neither was the first class of Christ College in 1976. Long ago, before anyone even had the thought of building a college campus in Irvine, Native American tribes resided on these lands. The oldest discovered artifacts show that there was life on this soil approximately 3,000 years before the United States had a president.

Three different archaeological sites have been found on campus: CA-Ora 376, CA-Ora 377 and CA-Ora 378.

The current administration parking lot was previously a camp or village habitation site. This site has become known as CA-Ora 376.

Thousands of years ago, the parking lot known as "Egypt" was a work camp for specialized purposes. Native Americans occasionally visited this site, CA-Ora 377, to gather certain natural resources.

CA-Ora 378 is behind the entrance to the gatehouse on Ridgeline. This particu-

lar site is federally protected because it is the only one that has not been destroyed by construction. The site is thought to have belonged to a family of 50 to 100 Native American hunters and gatherers.

The Native Americans occupying the lands were the ancestors of the current tribes in Orange County: the Shoshonean, the Gabrielino and the Acjachemen.

Because not many people are aware of this information, some of the students in Anthropology 314, Native Peoples In America, taught by Dr. Jack Schultz, Professor of Anthropology, are working on putting together a small exhibit to display on campus.

The display will contain various artifacts focusing on the site CA-Ora 378, along with a brief description of the items and their uses. The five individuals responsible for presenting the display are seniors Isadora Sharon and Weston Paulson, along with juniors Cody Nuñez, Erica Lopez and Ruby Morales.

Sharon will cover the artifacts used for religious purposes and describe the rituals that could have occurred with those arti-

facts. Paulson is in charge of sharing the different dietary habits of the Native People. He will recount the conclusions made from radiocarbon dating on the remainders of teeth. Nuñez will report the patterns of trade that the people had, the different areas of trade and the artifacts traded. Morales will cover the different tools found in the grounds, and the various uses for which the tools existed.

The display will feature a glass case displaying certain artifacts, each with its own historical narrative giving some background information on the people who lived here and how each item fit into their society. The research will be completed during finals week, and the display will be up by next semester.

The hope is for the exhibit to be eye-catching so that students will stop to take a look at the artifacts, and learn some interesting facts about the previous inhabitants.

The main goal for this showcase is to inform the current students residing on campus that there were people on these lands thousands of years ago.

Concordia remembers former student Marvin Ordonez

DANIEL SHINE
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia community remembers Marvin Florian Ordonez, former student athlete, who passed away on Fri., Nov. 7. He was 23. Ordonez attended Concordia from 2010-2012 and was involved in sports and on-campus events. He was a member of the baseball team and was a part of the National Championship team in 2011. Ordonez was a cancer-fighter all his life, but it never held him back from achieving his goals. He was an avid drummer, absolutely loved being on the diamond playing ball and he held a true passion for discussing theological topics and spreading the Word of God.

Many of the players on the baseball team felt that Ordonez was a strong asset to their team's camaraderie and faith. His optimistic spirits were contagious around the field and the players will forever be grateful for that.

"As I got to know him more, I realized how much he depends on his faith to keep him going," said former teammate Sean Costella, '11. "When I felt like I wasn't getting opportunities to play, or when I got hurt or even went through tough times, the kid (Ordonez) made my issues seem nonexistent, and that in the bigger aspect of life, he found a way to re-motivate me and humble me."

Costella would also attend Ordonez's seminars on Wednesday nights and listen to him preach scriptures from the Bible. Ordonez was very honorable in the sense that he never held resentment toward his disease, and his faith in Christ kept him moving forward. "We saw pain, but he had eternal peace. We saw an oxygen tank and tubes; he saw something greater than materialism. It was energy that could be created but never be destroyed through God's promise to man," said former teammate Jake Hovis, '12.

Ordonez was a proud Eagle and a prime example of one. His kindness to others and his dedication to Christianity will be engraved in our memory. He took every day as an opportunity to seize, and definitely made an impact at Concordia.

"One thing that stands out to me most about Marv is how much strength he got every day from being out on the field," said Andrew Brooks, '13. "He didn't let his physical weakness stop him from being out there and his mental toughness inspired everyone else. It was best example of Eagles picking up Eagles I've ever seen."

He motivated people in so many ways and made an impact on many lives. "To me, someone who overcomes such an extreme obstacle and still manages to live life with such joy and purpose is what life's all about," said former teammate Tyler Derby, '11. "Marvin has made me want to be a better person and live life with that same joy and purpose. I remember Marvin lecturing me like a parent would a child: with love and passion. Passionate people are contagious and Marv was one of those."

Ordonez will forever be a national champion and a wonderful teammate to all.



Operation Christmas Child success at Concordia

ASHLEY MILLER
STAFF WRITER

The campus recently wrapped up the participation with Operation Christmas Child, donating nearly 300 boxes to children in need this holiday season. Facilitated by Concordia Cares, Operation Christmas Child was a campus-wide event that collected donations from all departments and programs starting at the beginning of the semester. In the end, shoeboxes filled with simple gifts such as toys, toothbrushes or socks, will be given to children in need in more than 100 countries around the world.

According to CUI Athletics website, "[The Athletic Department] collected 122 items, and the institution collected 282 [boxes] as a whole." On Nov. 12, Concordia Cares hosted a packaging party to pack items donated by students, faculty and staff.

Amy Haney, Athletic Business Manager and Assistant Compliance Officer, said that the Athletic Department advertised by having "the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) members go back to their respective teams and tell them about the project and get their teammates on board."

Concordia's Cheer Team led athletics with the 26 boxes donated, followed by the Men's Baseball team with 25 and Women's Softball in third with 21 boxes.

"This project was extremely inspiring to get our campus involved with helping people in need," said Megan Feurstein, junior SAAC representative of the softball team. "They may be desperate for a little encouragement or sense of hope this holiday season. Being involved in this project really allowed us to give back to our community and live up to our university's mission statement," Feurstein said.

Concordia's mission statement expresses the challenge of "empower[ing] students through the liberal arts and professional studies for lives of learning, service and leadership."

Haney said her favorite part about this project is "seeing faculty, staff and students from all different departments come together in a big way to support a great cause." Operation Christmas Child provides a chance for people to help spread joy during the Christmas season to someone less fortunate.

In an article published in Eagles News, Athletic Director Dave Bireline stated, "These gifts will reach areas in desperate need, and the goal to share God's love is at the core of our institution."

Brianna Springer, Director of Multicultural Leadership & Service Learning, said that the difficult part of this project is how few people start to think about Christmas in the months of September and October, which is when Concordia Cares started to ask for donations. "We're always happy to receive donations, and our goal for next year is to get people thinking about donating earlier so we can reach our donation goals," Springer said.

Operation Christmas Child, put on by Samaritan's Purse, is the largest Christmas proj-

ect in the world. The organization believes that these "small shoeboxes can teach a child about the love of God and lead him or her to faith in Christ..."

Samaritan's Purse is involved in multiple relief programs reaching many issues from Women's Programs supporting Animals, Agriculture & Livelihood, to Feeding Programs internationally. There are opportunities to volunteer, become an employee or help fund-raise for any of the great causes to which this organization offers relief.



Master plan fundraising campaign begins

ALLY WAGGONER
STAFF WRITER

A comprehensive campaign to raise funds for Concordia's master plan was recently launched, as well as other key components needed for the growth of the Concordia community. Concordia submitted a master plan to the City of Irvine on July 30 with goals to expand and advance the campus. Some of these improvements include a Worship and Performing Arts building, an aquatic center, and what most students are excited about: more parking.

"We are currently in the quiet phase of the comprehensive campaign," said Tim Jaeger, Executive Vice President of University Advancement. "It counts gifts that come into any area of the university, including unrestricted support, scholarship support, endowments, capital projects and academic programs." This campaign will continue to benefit all students as well as fund different aspects of the master plan.

Altogether, the master plan will take somewhere from 15 to 20 years to complete, with around a \$30-million budget for the first building. One of the first buildings expected on campus is the Worship and Performing Arts building. With the completion of this building, Concordia students will be encouraged to pursue their dreams and talents through larger musical programs as well as to grow in Christ. "Within the next two years, we can expect to see this first building break ground," said Scott Esswein, junior ASCUI President. "That is being built first because nothing else has to be knocked down behind

the music building and the library."

Dr. Mary Scott, Concordia Executive Vice President and Provost, is part of the Executive Council and is responsible for developing and implementing the plan. "It's exciting to think about the future of CUI," Scott said. "With God's blessings, it will become a reality in the next 15 to 20 years." Scott is excited for the plan to strengthen existing academic programs as well as building new ones.

Another part of the plan that is necessary for the growth of the school is the new aquatic center that has been proposed to go where the tennis courts are currently. Both the water polo and swim teams have been growing, and with the transition to NCAA Division II nearing, the teams will need a full-sized facility with easy accessibility.

Matthew Mundell, freshman water polo player, is thrilled to see the aquatic center in the plans because it will make going to practice much easier than having to drive 15 minutes to the Woollett Aquatics Center, which often led to being late to class after practice.

With all of these new innovations coming in the future, most students currently attending Concordia will not see the progress until after graduation. However, future students will greatly benefit from the master plan as Concordia continues to be one of the top Lutheran schools in the nation.

The master plan is in the works with the help of the comprehensive campaign and motivated teams of people making it happen. For more information on the master plan, visit the official page at <http://www.cui.edu/aboutcui/campus/update-plan>.

Pushing Petals one of many opportunities with Concordia Cares

STEVIE GOLDSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

This weekend, Concordia Cares will wrap up a successful semester of community service by participating as Rose Parade Petal Pushers and assisting at Home for the Holidays. Tomorrow, volunteers will travel to the Los Angeles area where they will assist on the *Lutheran Hour Ministries* float which will be featured in the Rose Parade on New Year's Day.

This year, the float's theme is "The Bible... God's story." The *Lutheran Hour Ministries* has been helping to send the Christian message through the means of the Rose Parade float for 64 years. Last year, Kellie Playter, Assistant Professor of Professional Studies, worked on the float alongside Concordia colleagues and members of her church. "It was so much fun getting a behind-the-scenes look at all the floats, and actually get to work on one," Playter said. "Watching the parade on TV last year was extra special knowing that I helped."

On Sunday, Concordia Cares will also volunteer with the Irvine Care Animal Shelter for their Christmas event, Home for the Holidays. There will be over 800 cats, dogs, rabbits and more. This is a great opportunity to give animals in need a happy home.

Starting in 2013, Concordia Cares has been a great program helping members of the Concordia community get involved with various causes.

Concordia Cares exists "to offer students, faculty, and staff opportunities to serve the local community," according to their website.

The group has built relationships with 11 programs in the community, including Habitat for Humanity Orange County, Higher Ground Youth and Family Services, OC Rescue Mission, Village of Hope and the Ronald McDonald House.

Concordia Cares works with animal shel-

ters, homelessness, various children's causes, and more. The program had 187 volunteers last spring, and is increasing in numbers each semester.

"Our hope is that, no matter what cause a student is interested in, they can find an organization to volunteer for with Concordia Cares," said Brianna Springer, Director of Multicultural Leadership & Service Learning. "All of our events are fun and rewarding in their own way. I can't choose one, but I can tell you that students who go on one trip with us usually come back to volunteer again," Springer said.

So far this semester, they have averaged four events a month. Even with students leaving for break this month, the program is holding three events. Yesterday, at the Concordia Christmas event, Concordia Cares hosted a booth where students could make fleece blankets for the homeless shelter. The event was a great success. Helping the local homeless shelters is a big portion of the work Concordia Cares participates in, including serving food to the homeless multiple times a year.

"Concordia Cares not only interacts with the community, but also shows students that poverty and homelessness lie right in their own backyards of Orange County," said Elisabeth Mullins, sophomore Concordia Cares Coordinator. Mullins believes that Concordia can be a helping hand to the community by proactively addressing local issues and implementing events.

Concordia Cares is a great program to get involved with and to help out the community around Concordia. There are many causes that need attention in the community and Concordia Cares brings them to students' attention.

For more information on Concordia Cares or to sign up to volunteer, visit the student life section of cui.edu

Thespians going to the American College Theatre Festival

ABIGAIL SPARN
STAFF WRITER

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) has again invited the Concordia University Irvine Theatre Department to be a part of the annual festival.

The main goal of this festival is to encourage and celebrate college theater programs across America. This also offers a wonderful opportunity for Concordia’s theater students and directors to improve upon their skills.

Directors and students learn about what other college theater programs are doing for productions and what new concepts can be put into practice.

Dixie State University, located in Saint George, Utah, will host the festival, which will take place Feb. 10-14.

Different universities take turns hosting this festival, so the Theatre Department is able to travel to new places each year. Last year’s festival was in Los Angeles.

“It will be fun to experience Utah with all my closest friends; this festival is always a good time,” said Wesley Barnes, senior.

Kierney Loucas, junior, is one of our students who will be in attendance at the festival. Loucas is an Irene Ryan Nominee for her work in one of last spring’s student-directed one-acts.

Loucas is being honored for her role of an opinionated maid who worked under an insane professor, performed by Trenton Semple, ’14.

“[The maid] was such an interesting character to perform; I had to really get into a different mind-set,” Loucas said. The professor invites his student to his house to help tutor her, but in the end, murders the student, played by Alexandra Dominguez, senior. Loucas’ character had to assist the professor before and after the murder.

The Irene Ryan foundation awards scholarships to outstanding performers at ACTF. The award’s namesake is best known for her role as Granny Clampett in the TV show “The Beverly Hillbillies.”

Dominguez is also excited to attend the festival. “I am so excited to go this year. This will be my last year as a Concordia student so I really want to enjoy it,” Dominguez said.

Two of our very own faculty members have received the Excellence in Education award from ACTF. Dr. Peter Senkbeil, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Provost and Professor of Theatre, won the Award of Excellence in 2003. Professor Tony Vezner, Associate Professor of Theatre, won the Award of Excellence in 2011.

This festival will be a great opportunity for students and faculty to practice, perform and learn in a truly creative, inspiring atmosphere.

Laugh it up with Improv-ceivable

ALEXANDRIA RIOS
STAFF WRITER

This year, the Concordia improv team, “Improv-ceivable,” with the help of some new members, has made the fall semester a success and is ready to take on spring semester. Improv-ceivable consists of students of all different experience levels. Every year, improv-ceivable welcomes new members, and this year a couple of freshmen helped to bring a new vibe to their performances.

“They bring a different sense of humor; they bring a different style of stories and different backgrounds,” said senior Jacob Schott. Schott joined improv-ceivable his sophomore year.

Also returning to this year’s team is junior Morgan Yachinich, who continued her improv experience after a small background in improv during her senior year of high school. “The new people on the team bring a whole new dynamic,” Yachinich said. “Individually, they have unique strengths and it is fun getting to see them grow.”

During the course of the spring semester, improv-ceivable will introduce new plans and new members.

Two members of the team, sophomore Nicholas Bedell and junior Gianna Kozel, are

currently taking part in the ATW III semester and will retun in January with fresh ideas and new experiences. “It will be fun and interesting to see what they bring to the party,” Schott said. “It is exciting to have a full nine people on our team again.”

Like Schott, Yachinich is excited to see what spring semester will bring to the team. “We are going to continue doing shows, but hopefully bring a new creativity to the shows that we haven’t really done in the past,” Yachinich said.

Not only is the team excited to see what the spring will bring, but the student body also cannot wait to see what the team will bring. Liz Aleman, sophomore, saw the team perform early in the school year at this year’s Rock the Amp. She liked the different aspects of comedy they brought to the night. “I like the fact that their jokes are made up on the spot,” Aleman said. “It shows how creative and talented they truly are.”

Next semester, catch improv-ceivable at one of their shows on campus and experience a night full of comedy from the Concordia improv team.

Fall Honors Recital this Monday

DEAN HALL
STAFF WRITER

CUI’s finest student soloists will be featured in the Fall Honors Recital on Dec. 8 in the CU Center, celebrating student achievements in the musical arts.

The soloists have showcased their talents by performing at recitals throughout the semester. These honors music students are selected based on their jury performance. These juries are required in every semester of applied music study and are essentially the final exam of the semester. These honor students are graded on their performed repertoire, with honor students exhibiting a mature sense of style and phrasing, exceeding the highest expectations for their level of study.

Adam Garcia, sophomore, is a part of the

Music Department and as a second tenor in the choir, Garcia understands the symphony and structure of music. “I love sitting in the audience and listening to my fellow music peers perform,” Garcia said. “I feel that I can appreciate the sound they’re producing that much more on a whole other level than a regular audience member might because of my background and knowledge in the art.”

The Fall Honors Recital accompanies Concordia’s other performances this month, with Concordia’s sold-out annual Christmas Concert and the Candlelight Service taking place this upcoming Tuesday. Admission to the recital is free and starts at 5 p.m. To find out more information regarding upcoming music performances, head to www.cui.edu and look under “Featured Events.”

Young the Giant wows with sophomore album

JOSHUA SUH
REVIEWS EDITOR

On Wed., Dec. 3, Young the Giant, formerly known as The Jakes, will tour behind their newest album, Mind Over Matter.

The five-piece ensemble digitally released their self-titled debut in 2010. Young the Giant made their illustrious entrance to the music world with their high-energy performance at the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards.

“We had some pretty crazy, disgusting, sweaty, nasty shows and also shows with only five people. It made us stronger (as an ensemble) I guess,” said Francois Comtois, drummer, in an MTV interview.

Popular songs such as “My Body and Cough Syrup,” are sung alluringly by lead vocalist Sameer Gadhia. The band’s earlier compositions often sang of a yearning to travel and see the world.

“Songs like ‘Camera’ will leave listeners paralyzed as they hear the band’s hungry ambition for more in life.”

After many years of touring and an unfortunate writer’s block, the young ensemble finally released its highly-anticipated second album on Jan. 21, Mind Over Matter.

Sonically, the album is very different than the previous self-titled debut. Young the Giant had the opportunity to partner with Beck’s talented multi-instrumentalist, Justin Meldal-Johnson, who not only helped engineer the new record, but also helped the band create a more mature album.

“Fly to east L.A in big jet planes,” sings Gadhia in their new single, “Mind Over Matter.” “You know you’re on my mind.”

The record is filled with an eclectic soundscape, ranging from subtle drumbeats to high-strung vocal melodies. Songs like “Camera” will leave listeners paralyzed as they hear the band’s

hungry ambition for more in life. Gadhia carries the band’s vocal presence with a silky high-note-hitting voice complemented with his deep inspired lyrics.

The album primarily sings of Young the Giant’s coming of age and maturation over the past three years of touring. Most of the ensemble members were only 18 when they first started touring and are now in their mid-twenties.

“I think this time around, in this batch of writing, all of it was pretty much derived from our experiences from being on the road, the challenges we had to overcome,” said Jacob Tilley, guitarist, in KROQ studio interview.

Touring can rid any band of having semblance of a regular life; being away from home, sleeping mostly in the day, and the environment can be taxing. Young the Giant has created a strong sophomore record that connects with many listeners.

Recently, Young the Giant had the opportunity to go on the Mechanical Bull Tour with the Kings of Leon for three months. Kings of Leon, who is a more seasoned band, is mostly recognized for its popular song “Sex on Fire.”

The tour acted as a platform for Young the Giant to start introducing their loyal fan base to the band’s new material. The band started their tour in Atlanta and finished in Irvine at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre. The tour was well-received with most shows sold out and the new album seemingly connecting with different demographics around North America.

“I actually went to (Northwood) High School with most of the guys in the band, here in Irvine. I think they were called The Jakes at the time. They were freshmen when I was a junior or senior in school,” said Andrew Witmer, a Young the Giant fan. “All of them got into really good schools. One went to UCI and another went to Stanford after high school, but they dropped out.”

Witmer thought it was admirable that his former high school acquaintances pursued what they loved (music) despite external pressure. The band is continuing to pursue their music career and getting ready to go on tour behind their new album, Mind Over Matter.

Mind Over Matter not only chronicles the band’s life experiences, but forces listeners to think about their own. Firelight’s calm acoustic setting enables listeners to get lost within their own introspection, even in the busiest of days. Each song truly lives within its own world.

For more information for the upcoming Mind Over Matter Tour, visit youngthegiant.com



Creamistry: a luscious dessert at the expense of your wallet

JOE PAGANO
STAFF WRITER

While walking into ice cream heaven, Creamistry, located in Irvine, a sense of excitement and adrenaline rose within me as I saw a thick fog billowing across the ice cream counter. At first, puzzled, the fog in the ice cream shop didn't all add up to me. However, I then glanced over to my right to see a colossal glass plaque with Creamistry's mission statement and testimony, "Serving ice cream the liquid nitrogen way is the right way! Creating creamy and rich frozen delights to satisfy both healthy options and indulgent ones." After reading that statement, nothing but shock flowed through me. I made it my mission to try some of this ice cream, the nitrogen way.

After looking through the menu and other signs of the how the process works, I quickly educated myself on the procedure of Creamistry. Creamistry aims for the freshest ice cream on the market, mainly because it's made right on the spot with liquid nitrogen. I kid you not; the liquid nitrogen creating the fog from the ice cream machines gives quite a chemistry lab-like look. The "Creamologists," or staff of Creamistry, take pride in using only the highest quality ingredients, giving customers the option of organic, premium or non-dairy style ice cream. They also have over 40 flavors, ranging from Cookie Butter to Cinnamon Toast Crunch. You can also choose from a variety of 50 mix-ins to add to your ice cream as well. Creamistry truly wants the customer to let their imaginations run wild and produce a creamy dessert creation.

One might be asking if mixing liquid nitrogen with your soon-to-be ice cream is safe, and the answer to your inquiry is absolutely. In

fact, not only is it safe, but is also the secret to the intricate process Creamistry conducts. Since the liquid nitrogen is so cold, -321 degrees Fahrenheit to be exact, the milk and cream particles stay extremely concentrated without turning icy. This explains the ultra smooth and creamy texture.

As I happily approached the cash register to purchase two small ice creams, I was blindsided by a blow of despair, and was completely appalled. The total pricing for two small ice creams was \$19 flat. Wow, that's more than dinner! At this point, I knew I had to go through with the purchase, but I still wasn't completely comfortable on how the pricing was so high for the

smallest portion of ice cream available. Nonetheless, I sat down with my friend and we both took our first bite. The creamy and rich sensation attacked my taste buds, and I fell in love. I quickly finished my small cup, and immediately wanted more.

It's safe to say that the statement "Ice cream can turn your whole day around," is definitely true. Creamistry will turn your whole week around. Creamistry takes desserts and ice cream to a whole new level, but don't forget about the expense of a hole in your wallet!

If you have any questions about Creamistry, contact them at info@creamistry.com



Chris Rock rocks in "Top Five"

JONATHAN SERRANO
STAFF WRITER

Chris Rock takes his satirical comedy to a new level with his film "Top Five," which is on limited release as of today with a full nationwide release on Dec. 12. The film is a satire, which satirizes itself about satirizing the entertainment industry, which this movie is a part of...try not to think too hard about it. The point is reflection and self-observance.

Rock's character, Andre Allen, is a comedian-turned-movie star who is desperately looking to be taken seriously. Maybe in a sequel, Allen will make a movie with his friends about the industry. The film is close enough to being an autobiography already.

The film follows Allen for his twenty-four-hour-long interview with *New York Times* profile writer Chelsea Brown (Rosario Dawson). Allen had just had his new, wanting-to-be-serious film about the Haitian revolution "Uprize!" beaten down by *The New York Times*, which prompted the interview.

Throughout the day, Allen and Brown are battling wits on hot buttons of pop culture, race and the entertainment world. In the midst of the interview and his new film being released, Allen is also dealing with preparations for his televised wedding to a reality TV star Erica Long (Gabrielle Union).

Much like Rock's own stand-up routines, this film adds humor to topics that are not inherently funny on their own. At the base of it, Allen is a washed-up comedian who does not know how to be funny anymore. Alcohol was the reason that Allen was able to be funny before. Now that he has quit drinking, the jokes do not come out the same. Somehow, by coincidence, Brown is a recovering alcoholic as well. Their bond continues to grow as the movie progresses and Allen continues to open up as he takes Brown around New York.

"Top Five" brings in the top names in comedy to add to the already-funny Chris Rock. Some of the comedians to look out for are Kevin Hart, Cedric the Entertainer, Whoopi Goldberg and Jerry Seinfeld.

A memorable scene in the film involves a room full of comedians arguing over who are the top five (understand the title now?) rappers of all time. But remember, you always need a sixth; everyone asks for a sixth.

Rock did an amazing job with this movie. I suggest it for anyone who is a fan of Rock's stand-up or any of his prior films. It is very reminiscent of past films that he has directed, "2 Days in New York" and "I Think I Love My Wife," which I enjoyed very much as well.

You will get to see what life is like on the other side of entertainment while laughing at the outrageous humor we come to expect from Rock. A twist in the third act will remind you that Rock himself would like to be taken seriously for what he does. "Top Five" will not be in your top five favorite movies of all time, but it should definitely be in your top five things to do this weekend.



Starfish restaurant shines

PETER DOESBURG
STAFF WRITER

Starfish Laguna Beach is a restaurant that is an experience in culinary artistry.

For date night, I chose to head to Starfish to see what all of the clamor on Yelp was about. Entering the restaurant, I was transported away from the hustle and bustle that Laguna can be to a calm, warm atmosphere, rich with deep wood tones, dark turquoise upholstery, mood-enhancing lighting and a décor that leaves you thinking you are in mystical Thailand.

The menu serves as a tour through Coastal Asia, fusing together different ingredients from faraway lands that transcends any norms.

I could not weigh which to complain about more: The fact that I couldn't physically eat everything they had to offer, or, that not eating everything they had to offer would torment my taste buds.

We finally settled on a Lobster Macadamia Roll as an appetizer. The flavorful dish settled any dispute that the restaurant's management, headed by partners Archie McConnell and Gretchen Andrews, lacked creativity, or that Executive Chef / Partner Marco Romero feared fusing together delicacies that make mouths water.

Our main course consisted of Chinese Black Bean Sea Bass and Thai Curry Chicken. To use words as a means of describing the taste would do a great injustice, but I will try. The bass was prepared with a host of seasonings that brought out the flavor of the fish, plated with steamed bok choy, fresno chiles, black beans and lemon grass rice. The result was a harmonious arrangement that beckons for more. The Thai Curry Chicken was equally delicious. Ordering anything with curry, you would anticipate that there would be an abundance of spice, but the curry's contribution served as an enhancement to the chicken, potatoes and spinach, and its defiance to not being savored was answered in a pleasant kick to the senses as it passed to the back of my mouth.

For dessert, we tried Banana Fillo Dough with cinnamon ice cream. I needn't say more.

The only drawback to the evening was the lack of a white flag to surrender the onslaught of mouthwatering flavors that serve as testament to the artisanship and creativity of our hosts.

"Thai Green Curry Chilean Sea Bass wrapped in banana leaf speaks to the fresh seafood and daily made sauces, and is definitely our signature dish," McConnell said.

The meal was priced in proportion to the food. I would encourage you to look at the menu before heading out so you aren't surprised. Din-

ner for two can be about \$60, excluding drinks. Starfish also offers Opium Hour 7 days per week from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. with food and drink specials, four small plates. Don't let the "small" fool you; it will set you back about \$30, not even including beverages.

It is well worth the money, and considering dinner and movies is \$70, it is a better choice.

Starfish Laguna is located at 30832 S. Pacific Coast Hwy, Laguna Beach. Call ahead at 949-715-9200 or visit www.starfishlaguna.com.



Concordia attracts homeschoolers Concordia Christmas fun

TAYLOR MORRISON
STAFF WRITER

As a small, intimate Christian university, Concordia is an ideal school for many students. Recently, many homeschooled students have noticed its reputation as well.

This year, professors have noticed an increase in homeschooled students in their classrooms. Professor Gavin, Associate Professor of English, was curious about this increase so in class she asked her students to raise their hands if any were homeschooled. Gavin discovered that 7 out of her 13 students were homeschooled before attending Concordia; a trait that seems more common each and every school year.

Freshman Caleb Speakman is just one of the many previously homeschooled students who is now part of the Concordia family. Speakman was homeschooled from preschool through high school and chose Concordia for its Christian affiliation, small class appeal and great reviews from his sister and friend who attended this university.

It seems that the small family-feel on campus is what students gravitate to and like best for their learning experience. With small classroom sizes, “there is more opportunity to get to know your professors and classmates and really get a hands-on feel in the classroom,” Speakman said.

Heather Hickey, a first year graduate student, was also homeschooled and says she too loves the small class sizes. “The professors really do tailor to your needs. They do not treat you as a number, which is what I expected,” Hickey said.

Concordia, like homeschooling, makes it easy for you to pick the classes you wish to take to complete your degree.

In addition to hearing about Concordia

by word of mouth, every year a Speech and Debate tournament is held on campus for homeschooled students, which brings a lot of awareness about the campus to potential students.

Professor Konrad Hack, Director of the Speech and Debate program, said “the tournament is the single biggest outreach for homeschooled students. It ranges from 500-550 homeschooled Speech and Debate students on campus.”

Because of this annual tournament, homeschooled students are more aware of the campus, which is great for Concordia as a whole and for attracting potential students who will help to strengthen and build the community and family. Another big plus about this tournament is it is a great way to find recruits for the Speech and Debate team.

Homeschooled students have a great academic background. Hack said these students are extremely bright, talented and well-behaved students, which are great assets to bring to the team. As of this year, 12 out of the 32 members of the Speech and Debate team were homeschooled students, which is over one-third of the team. Hack said he would love to see a continual flood of homeschooled students attending the university and adding to the Speech and Debate team.

Doug Wible, Admissions Director, is hoping to make the admissions process easier for homeschooled students to help bring in that continual flood. “The Admissions team is currently in the process of hiring an admissions counselor to help specifically for homeschooled students in hopes that the numbers will increase even more and continue to do so throughout the years,” Wible said.

MEGHANN MORALES
STAFF WRITER

Last night, the annual Concordia Christmas event was held. This Disney’s Frozen-themed event was a huge success. Students, faculty and visitors from the community participated in fun activities such as an ice-skating rink, riding in a horse-drawn carriage, taking pictures with Santa, a dessert food truck, a nativity scene, Christmas crafts and much more. This event was organized and sponsored by ASCUI and LEAD.

All campus leadership groups were in full-force at different sections for the event.

Resident Assistant Yesenia Marquez, sophomore, was especially looking forward to how the event would turn out and seeing the people come out and enjoy the event they worked so hard on.

Junior ASCUI President Scott Esswein was excited to present Concordia Christmas to students, professors and the local community. This was Esswein’s third Concordia Christmas. “My favorite part is seeing everything decorated,” Esswein said.

Sophomore ASCUI Vice President Braden Delannoy assisted with last year’s Concordia Christmas and enjoyed working on this year’s event. “What’s most special to me about this event was working with all leadership groups to put together an amazing event. I also loved seeing the Concordia students having a great time

with the Irvine community and the faculty and staff with their families,” Delannoy said.

Senior ASCUI Communication Director Ashley Jones said that it was the first time bringing in the dessert food truck, Chunk-n-Chip. This is a local ice cream food truck from Anaheim known for their homemade cookies and ice cream. They had cookie flavors ranging from red velvet to snickerdoodle.

A big change from last year was the addition of an ice rink. Jones said they were allowing about 30-40 people per session on the rink; although there was some slipping and sliding, everyone enjoyed themselves. Participants were also given a raffle ticket to wait for their number to be called for their turn.

Sophomore Simone Rubio was excited to hear that Concordia Christmas would be having an ice rink. “I’ve never been ice-skating before and I’m excited to try it out with my friends. Hopefully they’re prepared to catch me if I fall!” Rubio said.

ASCUI and LEAD enjoyed the fact that this event is open to the surrounding Irvine community for all to enjoy.

Overall, this event was a great way to bring Christmas cheer and spirit. It gave students a chance to relax and hang out with friends and celebrate Christmas cheer before the upcoming stressful week of studying for finals.

Latin Fiesta to end the semesta’!

VAHN BOZOIAN
STAFF WRITER

Tonight, Nuestra Voz will be holding a campus-wide Latin Fiesta to give all Concordia students the taste of a real Hispanic party in the Rho Programming Center (RPC).

“With Concordia located in the middle of Orange County, it seems that the Hispanic community is not as prominent,” said Alexandria Rios, Nuestra Voz Secretary. Latin Fiesta will be a great way to introduce and represent the exciting perspective and unique cultures of Hispanic students to fellow classmates. “This event will be a great opportunity for Nuestra Voz to reach a larger group of Hispanic students and educate other non-Hispanic students on their traditions,” said Yesenia Marquez, Nuestra Voz Vice President.

Michelle Martir, Nuestra Voz President, believes that Latin Fiesta is just the beginning of the growth to the club. “We will have a DJ playing all sorts of Spanish music, traditional Hispanic appetizers, chips, guacamole and bean dip. It will also include refreshment drinks, such as Horchata and Jamaica,” Martir said.

The fun does not stop there. Nuestra Voz is planning to have a demonstrator in attendance to verse the students on traditional Spanish dances. It will be a tremendous opportunity for students to break the ice and get to know each other in a fun and welcoming environment.

In order to turn the RPC into a festive and inviting dance floor, there will be traditional Hispanic decorations all throughout the building, giving students that added impression of a

Hispanic party. And to top this Fiesta off, there will be a prize given to the best-dressed attendee, in order to encourage students to show their support and awareness of the Hispanic heritage. The winner of the best-dressed competition will be awarded a gift card, which has yet to be unveiled.

After club membership has dwindled in the past, these current members have made it a priority for this club to keep its light shining.

With plans of expanding in the near future, Nuestra Voz wants to reach the 18.9% of Hispanic students on this campus and beyond, by sharing and celebrating the Latino, Hispanic and Chicano culture. One of the goals that Martir and other officers has is to expand this club beyond the campus.

With Latin Fiesta in place to bring awareness, Nuestra Voz has plans to fulfill the goal of getting involved with the community. Cas Cad Ita will be a campus-wide, pay-to-play soccer tournament next semester. The goal is to raise money for local orphanages to buy soccer equipment.

“These events are put in place to show that there is a community that can bring students of the Hispanic descent closer together and reach out to the community in a positive manner,” said Elisa Murillo, freshman member of Nuestra Voz.

With blasting music, flowing Horchata, great costumes and salsa dancing, come join the Nuestra Voz club at the Latin Fiesta for a night of fun and flavor in the RPC. Spice up the night and add a little kick to your arsenal of dance moves!

Alumna’s book beats the bullies

TAYLOR WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Concordia graduate Brittani Saint (formerly Nagy) ’14, self-published her first book, *Beat the Bully*, in September of 2014. Throughout its pages, Saint draws from her own traumatic experiences as a sixth grade bullying victim to empower others in similar situations to find the strength within themselves to overcome the situation. Saint reflects on her sixth grade misery, when she was verbally, emotionally, and physically abused by classmates. “I hadn’t developed confidence,” Saint said. “The next year, it made me stronger. I found a new sense of self.”

With this new book, Saint hopes to inspire and empower youth to stand up to bullies by realizing that it is not the bully who dictates the victim’s worth. “A lot of times in life, people are told they can’t do something and they believe it,” Saint said. “Have confidence in where you’re going, and have fun with it.”

In her book, Saint exposes why many students become bullies: “Because they had self-image issues—because they had a hole in their lives they were trying to fill by bullying.”

Her impenetrable defense against bullying is this: “Believe in yourself, and that you can do anything you put your mind to.”

But these aren’t just empty words of advice from Saint; she displayed this same relentless determination and perseverance in Concordia’s classrooms. Even after Saint’s departure from the university, her former professors and classmates are not quick to forget the impact of her diligent work ethic. Nate Miles, junior, said that, “[Saint] always seemed to be one of the most hardworking and engaged students in the classroom. It comes as no surprise to me she is already achieving such success in her career.” Professor Konrad Hack, Director of Forensics, offered similar praise. “During my time at Concordia, I cannot think of a person who was more concerned with her academic achievement than [Saint].”

Dr. Susan Bachman, Director of Honors Program, uses the word “indefatigable” to de-

scribe Saint. “It means ‘tireless,’” Bachman said. “[Saint] has high energy and perseveres...she’s very organized and very positive.” Though Saint never took a class with Bachman, the two shared a relationship through the Honors Program and frequent office hours.

Saint spent 18 months completing *Beat the Bully*; during the majority of this time she spent writing. Saint was a senior at Concordia. “Every page [of *Beat the Bully*] is different,” she said. “It’s designed to attract all readers...from parents reading it, to five-year-olds reading it with their parents.” Saint has presented motivational speeches in eight Orange County classrooms, and hopes to take the *Beat the Bully* message to Texas and Colorado in the near future.

As parting advice to all young people, Saint said, “Follow your dreams. I’ve always been told, ‘shoot for the moon because, if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.’”

Order *Beat the Bully* at brittanisaint.com/beat-the-bully.html, and keep up with the movement at facebook.com/beatthebully14, or on Instagram via username @beat_the_bully14 and hashtag #BTB.

