

Homecoming weekend brings Concordia community together

CELINA STRATTON
STAFF WRITER

Kick off Homecoming and Family Weekend and “Unmask the Night” at the homecoming dance tonight at Arroyo Trabuco Golf Course from 7 to 11 p.m. The masquerade-themed event, coordinated by LEAD Student Activities, is an elaborate celebration that is expected to gather over 300 members of the Concordia community this year. Junior Student Activities Coordinator Stephanie Yzaguirre said the dance “gives people a common experience” and

through that experience, people are able to connect with other students.

The anticipation of the dance comes from all different types of students. Lauren Stevens, senior Student Activities Coordinator, said that because sophomores, juniors and seniors speak so highly of the event, “it gets the freshmen super excited.”

Alexis Farrar, senior Student Activities Coordinator, said one of her favorite things about homecoming in her past four years at Concordia is seeing everyone dressed up and looking “fabulous.” Students are encouraged to dress

their best, because homecoming is “one of the only semi-formal dances Concordia has,” Farrar said.

Dancing is not the only activity available for students who attend. Tonight will include a buffet-style dinner, a horse-drawn carriage, casino tables, a photo booth and a live jazz band.

Today is also the start of Concordia’s annual Family Weekend. Families of students are invited to come on campus and share the college experience that Concordia students have every day. Family Weekend consists of a special alumni-led chapel service, music concerts, a sibling

sleepover and a family brunch.

Stacie Mallinson, Director of Alumni and Family Relations, said, “It’s an opportunity for family members to come and visit the students.” Visiting families are encouraged to go off campus to explore and “get to know the area off-campus, such as the beach or the Irvine Spectrum,” Mallinson said.

Alumni also make up a large part of the families that are returning to Concordia and they have these special days to reminisce about their time on campus. All day today, alumni and families alike are able to sit in on actual classes with current students and attend the same lectures.

“Alumni want to go back and visit a class or professor,” Mallinson said. “This is a true representation of the Concordia community.”

Tomorrow afternoon is also a special day for two particular alumni. Concordia Athletics is honoring two former athletes by inducting Zahira Montanez ’10, and Paul Castaneda ’08, into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

The Athletic Hall of Fame, in addition to other alumni recognition awards, will be presented at halftime of the Men’s Basketball game tomorrow night.

Current students may see some alumni on campus and get ideas about what their future will look like after graduation. Junior ASCUI President, Scott Esswein, has spoken openly about his “intense Eagle pride” and that he “adores” Concordia. “I cannot wait for years to come as I have the chance to help support this university.”

Tomorrow night, all students are encouraged to support Concordia’s Men’s and Women’s basketball teams. The teams will be playing in their homecoming games against rival Westmont College. The women’s game tips off at 5:30 p.m., followed by the men at 7:30 p.m. in the CU Arena.



Across-the-Continent semester now slated for spring 2016

KENDRA SITTON
ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

A new study abroad program, Across-the-Continent Africa (ATC), has been postponed from fall 2015 to spring 2016 by the Executive Council.

“There were several pieces of the plan that were missing at the time we had to make a decision,” said Dr. Mary Scott, Executive Vice President and Provost, while meeting with the group of students who originally planned on traveling to Africa in the fall. She felt that the information the Executive Council had about the professors and universities Concordia would be partnering with was not enough to allow the students to travel abroad in this new program. The purpose of the postponement is to use the extra semester to be sure of the academic integrity of the trip before sending students on ATC Africa.

The nine students who signed up for the trip met with Scott on Mon., Jan. 26, because many of them were upset about this change--a change that prevented the current juniors from attending. Prior to this meeting, students sent Scott a signed letter outlining the reasons why they wanted the trip to be reassigned to fall 2015.

“After the initial meeting where the itinerary was proposed and it was said no to, I felt like we couldn’t really take no for an answer without putting in our best effort,” said freshman Amanda Johnson. Another team member, freshman Claire Brainard said, “being at a small school really helped us make our case like we did.” Both Brainard and Johnson signed up for ATC in the initial planning stages in fall 2014.

Other than the itinerary not satisfying the

Executive Council, the other reason the trip was postponed was due to the low student interest. Only nine students signed up when, according to Dr. Tim Preuss, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the trip passed an initial approval in spring of 2014 for a group of 12-15 students.

Although only nine students signed up, those nine were very excited about going together in the fall. “The team was really special to me. The team was small, but they were really committed to the trip and to the ideals of the trip,” said sophomore Steven McCarthy.

“As we’d all come together to make the trip possible, I loved how we all bonded,” Johnson said. “We could really see what aspect we each brought to the team and that we meshed well together.”

Although delaying the trip gives students more time to sign up, there is no guarantee the group for spring of 2016 will be larger than the group currently interested. When this fear was voiced, Scott assured the team that “[God] will open doors for you and the university and other students.”

“To really get an understanding of another culture, you have to go and experience it,” Preuss said. “It (studying abroad) does two things: it immerses you in another realm, but it also takes you out of your own.” He described this experience that students will have on ATC as “paradigm-shifting.”

Students on the trip feared that moving it to spring 2016 would prevent the current leader, Assistant Professor of English Adam Lee, from going on the trip since he needs to prepare for Around-the-World Semester IV (ATW) that will take place in the fall of 2016. Scott told the

students that the trip is at an institutional level and that it could never be dependent upon one professor. Already, other professors are being vetted to lead the group.

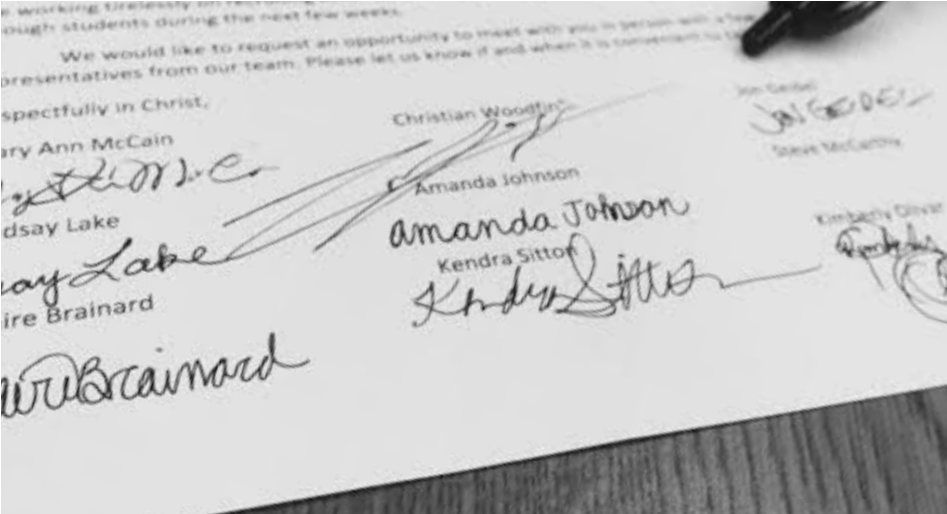
Lee, who helped develop the itinerary for ATC Africa to include the countries Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia, said that ATC was created to emulate the emphasis of travel, learning and service of ATW, but with longer time spent in each country. “With a month in each country, there’s more time to work on languages and build better relationships, especially with the campuses we’d be engaged in,” Lee said. The team was also designed to be smaller than ATW which “would provide more opportunities for how we travel, where we go and what opportunities we’d be in,” Lee said.

McCarthy, who just returned from ATW

III, signed up for ATC when they were looking for new recruits. McCarthy was excited “to learn about African culture and to get to learn more about God from the African Christians we would be working with.”

In her closing statement to the students protesting the change of ATC to the spring, Scott said, “we want to provide you the greatest undergrad experience.” Although the current juniors can no longer go on ATC or ATW, the other team members may still have the opportunity to be a part of ATC Africa in spring 2016 or wait for ATW IV in fall 2016.

Students interested in the ATC program for spring 2016, or other study abroad opportunities, are encouraged to contact Faith McKinney at faith.mckinney@cui.edu or visit the Office of Global Programs in the Admin. building.



Diversity Awareness sponsors trip to Museum of Tolerance

KRISTINA KRAUS
STAFF WRITER

On Sun., Jan. 25, Diversity Awareness sponsored a trip to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. This museum offers its guests a glimpse into what life was like during the Holocaust.

Upon arrival to the museum, visitors are greeted with a photo passport card of a child whose life was changed by the events of the Holocaust. "It was a really awesome exhibit of walking through the camps, and you get their story along the way. At the end, you find out if the child (on your passport card) survived, died or disappeared. My child disappeared, so they most likely died," said Devlynn Chambers, senior.

According to the Museum of Tolerance's webpage, the museum "is a human rights laboratory and educational center dedicated to challenging visitors to understand the Holocaust in both historic and contemporary contexts and confront all forms of prejudice and discrimination in our world today."

For those who attended, this somber experience produced overwhelming feelings of heart-

break.

"It was a really powerful experience; I cried during the shower portion of the exhibition," said Beverly Richart, freshman. While at the museum, Richart had the humbling opportunity to meet someone who was in a concentration camp during the Holocaust. This survivor shared with Richart how the Nazis could tell if prisoners were Jewish by the manner in which they cracked their eggs or washed their face.

"The overall experience was eye-opening; it is inspiring to see how far we have come as a society," said Charlene Yam, junior.

Former Holocaust survivor and author of the memoir, "The Murderers Among Us," Simon Wiesenthal, wanted to create an exhibit that would allow tragic events that took place during the Holocaust to be remembered.

Wiesenthal sought to create a museum that would evoke guests to face any preconceived notions and take accountability to produce a change in our world. He wanted to remind visitors of the past in order to prevent "hatred and genocide from occurring to any group now and in the future." The Museum of Tolerance debuted to the public in February of 1993 in Los Angeles.

Ellia Cornelius, freshman, was able to experience Wiesenthal's vision at another such exhibit, the Museum of Tolerance in Washington, D.C. "I never really understood the true impact of the Holocaust until I experienced the Museum of Tolerance, and was able to understand the number of lives lost, especially young children," Cornelius said.

On Sun., Feb. 1, the Museum of Tolerance will be hosting a special event, "From Hate to Hope," from 3 to 4 p.m. Every Tuesday in the month of February, the museum will host a Life Story Writing Class from 3 to 4 p.m., and every Friday the museum will host a presentation titled "From the Depths of Hate," from 2 to 3 p.m.

The Museum of Tolerance offers its visitors the opportunity to become a member, an intern or just a volunteer as a guide at the museum. For more information about these opportunities, visit the website www.museumoftolerance.com. The Museum of Tolerance is located at the Simon Wiesenthal Plaza, 9786 West Pico Blvd. in Los Angeles and is open for tours Monday through Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Fighting, not hiding

ALEX GERRAIN
STAFF WRITER

Concordia will be offering self-defense classes for female students on Feb. 7, 14 and 21 in the Rho Programming Center (RPC). Patrick Lee, a highly experienced martial arts and self-defense instructor, will be leading the classes in an effort to help women understand basic safety techniques and skills.

Female students, faculty and staff have been offered this class before in the past few years, and the class has established itself as a successful program here at Concordia. The Peer Health Educators have decided to offer the course again this semester.

The self-defense class is free of cost, but limited in space. They also offer free breakfast upon arrival in the morning as the class will begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon.

"This course offers many benefits, such as practical steps and tips to be safer," said Health Promotion Specialist Megan Harbert. "The program helps you think through some habits that may need to be changed for safety reasons, and it is an opportunity to meet and grow closer to fellow female students here on campus."

As the majority of the Concordia population is female, it is important that all females feel safe and capable of protecting themselves in the presence of harm. "This course is intended to empower young women and help them learn how to protect themselves in a time of potential harm, especially our incoming freshman students who are newly away from home," Harbert said.

Lee has been involved in this line of work for 30 years by studying and practicing the various disciplines. Lee said, "I have taught self defense to youth and adults for various organizations. The focus has always been to avoid physical confrontation and stay safe no matter what environment and situation you find yourself in."

Freshman Darby Scott feels that many young women can become potential easy targets. This class can provide the proper skill sets necessary for women to defend themselves against harmful individuals.

"I think it's very beneficial for women to take the self-defense class at Concordia, because you never know what situations you are going to get into throughout life," said Tamara Cucuk, junior. "It doesn't hurt to know what to do and how to defend ourselves in those circumstances."

Over Christmas break, a friend of Cucuk's was walking through the mall in Northridge, when a man approached her and tried to take her bag with her laptop inside. Though Cucuk's friend was fortunate enough to get away unharmed, not all people get away as easily.

Concordia and the Peer Health Educators would like to encourage all female students to take advantage of this opportunity to become trained in self-defense mechanisms and smart decision-making when it comes to women's safety. For more information on the self-defense classes, contact Harbert or any of our Peer Health Educators.



The Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles

The Concordia Courier

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Returning champions: The Women's Softball team

ABBY PASCUAL
STAFF WRITER

What was the Women's Softball team doing even before Concordia's school year began? They have been doing what they do best, working hard for another successful season to come. The lady Eagles have won the GSAC title each of the past three years and have returned to do just that again this season with Head Coach Crystal Rosenthal, Coach of the Year, alongside coaches Rose Imbriano, Ashley Evans, Brittany Pereda, Shainna Groom and Brian Gaul.

The women recently played and beat the University of California San Diego in a pre-season game on Jan. 19. "I was really excited to scrimmage before we got our season started," Evans said. "It gave our freshmen a chance to get the nerves out and play someone other than ourselves."

Marissa Gilbuena, a sophomore transfer, said, "I was pretty nervous because I haven't played in a while, but my nerves calmed down after the first inning."

A successful team always wants to get better. "There are always things we could improve on every day," said Megan Feuerstein, junior. "We could be better at hitting, pitching and fielding. There's always something we could work on." The Women's Softball team has been practicing six days a week during their preseason to get better every time they step on the field.

The players trust each other to do their part and put in their best effort at every

game. "There's a lot of talent on this team, so that's a huge positive when they're always helping you and pushing you," Feuerstein said.

Gilbuena also believes that there is always someone behind you pushing you and that is what makes competing on this team so much fun.

"I love the intense atmosphere that we show up with every day. Our coaches do a great job at making every practice exciting and engaging. The attitude of my team is hungry, and we all want that win. I haven't experienced that consistently on any other team," said Stevie Goldstein, senior.

The team has a great coaching staff that pushes the women to their best every day. "I was an alumni of the program and I'm very passionate about softball in general. I was very excited to see the direction that Rosenthal was going to take the team," Evans said.

Their dedication and hard work is what has led them to the top for three years in a row. "I love our athletes, and I love watching the girls grow. Plus, I get to work with a great staff," Rosenthal said.

After training for months, the talented CUI softball team will surely give a tough dynamic for opponents to prepare for. The women are opening this season strong and are here to win. Head out to the softball field at noon today for the first of a double-header celebrating homecoming weekend and the start of the softball season.

Swingin' into full gear

MAILE WILSON
STAFF WRITER

Last Fri., Jan. 23, the Men's Baseball team, ranked 18th in the NAIA, kicked off their spring season when they played The Masters College at home.

Going into this season with a "chip on their shoulder," according to Joey Ehlert, sophomore, the baseball team has some work to do this season. Although Ehlert was a red shirt last season, he stated that the team had a great record last year and is looking forward to playing this season.

The Eagles ended last season with a record of 34 wins and 17 losses, but unfortunately lost to Vanguard University. "If we would have won that game, then we would have made it to playoffs," Ehlert said. "It was probably one of the best games we played all year." With this chip on their shoulder, the Eagles strive to move up even higher in their ranking, never losing sight of their goal.

Head Coach Mike Grahovac is entering into his seventh season as the Eagles' Head Coach. Grahovac said that the team is very hard working and exciting to watch. Just like any head coach, Grahovac's goal this season is to make it to Nationals.

"I am looking forward to getting that National Championship, since it is our last year in the NAIA," said Joey Thompson, junior. With the switch to the NCAA right around the corner, the men are hungry for wins.

In 2011, the Eagles took the National Title, and so they are looking to do that again this spring. Juniors Tyler Mark and Spen-

cer Moran are new this season and should contribute to this goal with their excellent pitching skills.

This season will be full of strong competitors eager for that win. As with any sport, the players attempt to be injury-free so they are at their full potential to participate. Their season consists of 52 games, not including preseason games, so maintaining health will be very important for success.

"We're going to have a fun season... We have a lot of talent and it's something to look forward to."

It is apparent that the athletes' hard work continues after college. In 2014, the Houston Astros drafted alumnus Keegan Yuhl into the MLB. Yuhl was the 18th player in the history of Concordia to be signed by the MLB.

As the Eagles approach yet another season, it is safe to say that they have their work cut out for them. With the support of our school and the strong coaching staff, which consists of seven different coaches, their dream of capturing the National Championship is attainable. "We're going to have a fun season," Thompson said. "We have a lot of talent and it's something to look forward to."

Janis Peterson named GSAC Player of the Week again

NATALIE WERNER
STAFF WRITER

Janis Peterson, senior guard for the Women's Basketball team, currently leads the GSAC in scoring and is second in the nation with points per game.

She has been named GSAC Player of the Week twice in the past three weeks. Peterson has been on quite the rollercoaster and attributes much of her success to the help from her tight-knit team and positive coaching staff.

Peterson gave a lot of credit to her teammates for the honors that she has received so far. "My teammates have a lot to do with it," Peterson said.

This is her first year at Concordia and she has endured a tough journey to get to where she is now. "I believe in the quote 'hard work pays off,' because it explains a lot with me," Peterson said.

In 2009, Peterson lost her father, but she carries him with her every day. "My dad was the reason I started playing basketball in the first place," Peterson said. "Believe it or not, I used to be a dancer, but my dad saw I had some height on me, and put a basketball in my hands." Peterson picked up the sport quickly and has been a stud since. "All he ever wanted for me was to play college basketball. If it weren't for him, I don't know where I would be," Peterson said.

The Women's Basketball team has had a record-breaking start to their season. Peterson said one of the reasons why they've

had such a strong start is because they stay together as a team. Peterson said, "The team feeds off of our coaches, and as long as they stay together and stay positive, we do too."

Through teammates Brittany Stafford and September Offutt, juniors, it was clear the kind of player, teammate and friend Peterson is to many. "She's a hard worker, relentless and unstoppable. I haven't seen anyone who can guard her yet," Stafford said. Her teammates also said she is quite the goofball. "She's that selfless and bubbly friend that always has a smile on her face," Stafford said.

To be described as selfless and dedicated by teammates is something to take pride in. Women's Basketball Head Coach, Trish Stafford-Odom, said, "[Peterson] has amazing offensive talent; it is almost unreal sometimes."

Peterson has high expectations of others because of the high expectations she keeps for herself, and that is what makes her a team player. "She's very hard on herself," Stafford-Odom said. "People will remember her."

Peterson's scoring prowess and feisty demeanor on the court will be difficult to follow. She has raised the bar for future recruits and the kind of talent Concordia looks for in players. It is obvious through her teammates and coaching staff that Peterson has made a huge impact in her short amount of time here at Concordia, both on and off the court.

The Lady Eagles just beat rival Van-

guard University, which was a huge win for them on the road last week. The women look forward to continuing their success on the court and hopefully bringing home

a GSAC Conference Title.

Their next game will be tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. against Westmont University for the homecoming game.



Senior Janis Peterson is currently leading the GSAC in scoring and is second in the nation with points per game.

Beloved and Battalion: On-campus Bible study opportunities

MIRANDA LENTZ
STAFF WRITER

A chapter in Matthew says, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them,” Matthew 18:20, ESV. Beloved and Battalion Bible studies, which are ministries of abbey west, do just that.

“Beloved and Battalion are partner fellowship groups of women and men, respectively, that coordinate their small groups for the purpose of pursuing a dynamic life of discipleship together in Christ,” said Kyle Weeks, senior Battalion Coordinator.

Gianna Liberatore, sophomore Beloved group leader, said that the Bible studies provide opportunities for students to meet together and openly discuss what it means to be a follower of Christ. She said that Beloved and Battalion groups are “place(s) to share your thoughts and beliefs.”

This ministry has had a positive impact on many students. “[Beloved] is a community where I can feel safe and to grow in my faith with God,” said Megan Carbiener, freshman. Carbiener enjoys how the small group is a time of reflection. She also feels that Beloved has helped her find genuine friends whom she can trust and with whom she can form relationships.

As a large combined group, those involved with Beloved and Battalion are currently jour-

neying through a study series, Love, Sex, and Dating.

On Tuesday nights, the large group meets with a professor or visiting pastor who gives an insightful perspective on the topic for the evening and how it is viewed from a biblical perspective.

Beloved member Kylie May, freshman, said that as a group, they experience life together by bonding over topics and issues that women struggle with on a daily basis. “You bring every part of yourself to that group and you get to know each other on a deeper level,” May said. She enjoys that Beloved is a student-led Bible study. For May, this aspect makes it more personal and relatable.

At the start of this school year, Beloved and Battalion groups were revamped. “Unlike last year, where each group discussed something different, all the groups this year are on the same page,” Liberatore said. “There is a collaborative feeling between the different Beloved small groups. Sometime during the week, small groups meet to discuss what happened at the large panel.” Liberatore explained that this new format allows the young women to talk about the topic on a deep, personal level.

Beloved Coordinator Shannon Alavi-Moghaddam, senior, said that the goal and overarching purposing of Beloved, Battalion and abbey west ministries is “to make disciples

of a new generation.”

Besides the weekly sessions and events, the Beloved ministry fulfilled this commitment through a retreat earlier this month. “It is a fun and unforgettable weekend of studying the Bible and getting away with all the girls. You come back and you are a big family,” Alavi-Moghaddam said.

Weeks said the goal of Battalion and Beloved is to “engage college students and young adults with God’s Word and the good news of Jesus Christ.” Weeks said that within the small groups, the Battalion men are “determined to challenge all believers to grow through the study of God’s Word.”

With the start of the new semester, Battalion decided to restructure the ministry by having time as a large group with breakout time, rather than small groups. Weeks explained that every Wednesday and Thursday from 7 to 8:15 p.m., there are fire pit sessions on the Upper Quads lawn. “By switching to this easy new social format, the hope is that Battalion will be less intimidating to join, more visible and more cohesive as a community of men, thereby having a greater positive impact as a campus ministry,” Weeks said.

For more information and to join Beloved Bible Study, email beloved@abbeywest.org. For more information and to join Battalion Bible Study, email battalion@abbeywest.org.

Take care of your neighbors

*Concordia students
enjoy the successful
speaker series put on
by Concordia Cares*

RAYNAH TORENTO
STAFF WRITER

On Tues., Jan. 27, Concordia Cares hosted guest speaker Renee Stevenson, Director of Operations at South County Outreach, who helped educate students on how hunger is currently affecting our neighborhood.

“I think the most important message that students can take away is the awareness that Orange County is faced with serious issues, such as hunger,” said Emily Hindenes, sophomore Concordia Cares Coordinator. “Having the knowledge and spreading awareness is the first step in the process of making a change.”

Formerly known as Saddleback Community Outreach, South County Outreach was founded as a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that provides emergency assistance to the residents of Orange County. According to Stevenson, South County Outreach has been providing services in 17 cities for 26 years. These services include a food pantry, rental utility service, an off-site thrift store, transitional housing and computer services.

With thousands of volunteers each year, Stevenson discussed the importance of volunteers to the program. She mentioned how blessed South County Outreach is because of the dedicated, loyal volunteers who come in on a weekly basis. Stevenson even mentioned a very devoted volunteer who is 91 years old and has been providing and leading a team of volunteers for over eight years.

There are several ways that students are able to get involved. These include South County Outreach Saturdays. From 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on every third Saturday of the month, students can participate in cleaning and restocking the food pantry.

This year, a big goal for South County Outreach is to make sure that the food that goes into the pantry is healthy. Stevenson said that clients who come to the pantry are able to choose which foods they want, which provides dignity and allows clients to feel in control, rather than being handed foods that they may be allergic to or may not like. The food pantry is one of the largest in the area, and is composed of both perishable and nonperishable goods, which provides for more healthy choices and offers clients better foods.

Apart from volunteering at the food pantry, Stevenson mentioned that there are several non-profit internship program opportunities, which are perfect for Psychology majors who want to gain experience working with clients or even for those who are interested in eventually working with nonprofit organizations. Elisabeth Mullins, sophomore Concordia Cares Coordinator, said “The goal of events like this one is to show students that hunger is something that lies ‘in our own backyard.’ We should all be aware that we can help and contribute to bettering our society.” Stevenson especially stressed the importance that volunteers have on the program. Without volunteers, it would be a lot more difficult to maintain the organization.

There are many other opportunities to get involved with Concordia Cares. “It is our mission to be wise, honorable and cultivated, and I think a huge aspect of this showing service to our neighbors of Orange County,” Hindenes said. “It can be as simple as not taking the next meal you eat for granted, or it can be more involved, such as volunteering at a chili van or a food pantry.” Those interested in helping our neighbors can visit the South County Outreach website and schedule a day to volunteer.



Intramural basketball begins

GARRETT ROLDAN
STAFF WRITER

With the new semester in full swing, intramural basketball is now taking place with students who are excited to get back on the court and show their skills alongside their friends and classmates.

“I look forward to this year’s basketball intramurals and the new people who will come out and get the opportunity to have fun,” said Brendan McCabe, sophomore Intramural Coordinator. “I look forward to not only meeting these new people but getting the opportunity to work with them. I will encourage as many students as possible to come out and watch the games.”

With many of the students on campus participating in their first year of intramural basketball, there are a lot of ways to meet new people and get involved in campus activities. In addition to participating on a team, students can be

involved with intramurals in other areas. Carly Bishop, senior shooting guard on the Women’s Basketball team, is both in her own regular season and is helping intramurals by refereeing the games.

“The first week was a bit stressful trying to get the rules down and be able to execute them when refereeing or scorekeeping the games, but overall it was good first week and went pretty smoothly,” Bishop said.

Since there are leagues for both men and women, there are plenty of students who are finding ways to get involved.

Taylor Kelso, sophomore, explained that her expectations are to “have a good time out there.”

While many new faces are popping up around this year’s intramural season, there also remain faces from seasons past. Back-to-back intramural champion Steven Smith says he is always excited for intramural sports to come around because they get their group of friends together and bond while also being competitive.

“The team I play for was created my freshman year, and we have kept the same core of guys all these years. We add and subtract people, but the core four are still together,” Smith said. He and his team look to repeat this year’s championship, along with competing against new players and teams.

Another returner to intramural basketball, senior Bryan Rub, established his team in his freshman year. “As a senior, it is amazing to see how far we have come as individuals but also as competitors in the sport,” Rub said. “Establishing a team of guys who have fun playing together keeps morale up within each of our seasons.”

This week is the last week to register to a team if you haven’t already. All games are on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the CU Arena.

Contact McCabe or sophomore Intramural Coordinator Celina Stratton for more information about intramural basketball.

All aboard! Students and faculty prepare for train-themed travel course

NATALIE CORONA
STAFF WRITER

Just days after the spring semester ends, from May 4 to 24, Dr. John Kenney, Professor George Wright and nine students will travel to Europe as part of the Science and Business of Trains Travel course.

“Travel courses, like the Science and Business of Trains, are ways to enhance classes that already exist and to enrich... learning.”

Travel courses, previously known as May term courses, are offered at Concordia to enhance student learning. This year, Kenney,

Professor of Chemistry/Chemical Physics, and Wright, Assistant Dean of the School of Business & Professional Studies, will lead a trip across Europe to England, France and Spain. It is at these locations where they will see the state-of-the-art railroad systems and the impact these pieces of technology have on society from a Science and Business perspective.

Kenney and Wright will prepare their students for this trip during the semester by meeting a few times out of the month where they will have assignments, handouts and take various trips to railroad museums in California. Once they arrive in the country, most traveling will be done by trains.

Once the group lands in Europe, their itinerary will consist of visiting railroad museums in London, taking a trip to a theme park in Spain and hitching a ride on the Chunnel Train. For those who are not familiar with the Chunnel, it is one of the largest advancements in this industry because it travels from London to Paris underwater. Besides traveling underwater, they will also be learning how to operate a train.

At the beginning of each semester, the Office of Global Programs recruits students for the travel terms. Global Programs visits classrooms to briefly give students an overview of courses that will be offered, which countries students will be traveling to, expenses, instructors leading these excursions and much more. This is how Lila Musegades, freshman, was recruited to join Kenney and Wright's course.

Musegades is no stranger to traveling, and hopes that this trip will turn out to be one of her favorites. “I’m looking forward to making a lot

of memories and gain insight as to what across the world looks like, and a knowledge about trains,” Musegades said.

In addition to a newfound knowledge of trains, students are hoping to take something else out of this experience. “I am really looking forward to getting more cultured and experience how other people live,” said Taylor Sands, junior, as she expressed her excitement since it

will be her first time traveling abroad.

“Travel courses, like the Science and Business of Trains, are ways to enhance classes that already exist” as described by Faith McKinney, Director of Global Programs. “They enrich their learning because you can sit and read in a book about something, but when you actually go and see it, it makes the biggest difference.”



Study abroad snapshot: Danika Schmid, junior



Location:

The Bridge of Sighs - an Oxford landmark.

Surprises:

The cold!

Best Food:

Salmon & cod fish cakes

Looking Forward:

To getting to see more of England and traveling with new friends.

Occupying Oxford

Tenorpalooza Pops concert

MARNIE SALVANI
STAFF WRITER

Tonight, the Concordia vocalists kick off homecoming weekend with a night full of singing called Tenorpalooza. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Chapel and serves as a fund-raiser for the choir’s concert tours.

Diane Elias, Professor of Voice, is excited to direct Tenorpalooza after the success of last year’s event. Elias was inspired to create the event because there were a lot of tenors available last year. “Tenors, in the operatic world, where I come from, are all very competitive. However, a lot of times, when you’re up at the top, they’re all friends, too,” Elias said. This idea led to Tenorpalooza, where students get a chance to try to one up each other in light-hearted competition. But despite the name, every voice type has a chance to shine and is represented in the concert.

While many of the regular performances of the year are more serious, Tenorpalooza allows the students to sing something more cheerful, such as musical theater and operatic songs. A few songs the audience can expect to hear are “Moonlight Sonata,” “Somewhere” from “West Side Story,” and “Puttin’ On the Ritz.”

Tenorpalooza is a night “meant to be pure entertainment,” said Dr. Michael Busch, Professor of Music, who attended last year. His favorite part is watching the students perform

because an event like this makes them better and stronger individuals.

Elias and the students first began preparing for this event at the end of last semester. Tenorpalooza is described as a fun sing-off, but do not expect it to be like “Pitch Perfect.” There will be music, but the voices remain in the spotlight.

Senior baritone Jason O’Brien performed last year and will be appearing on stage again tonight. “My favorite part of performing is being able to see the audience react to my performance. No performance is ever the same when you do it live,” O’Brien said. He encourages other students to “come on out and see the show because it promises to be a fun and quirky night with some great performances!”

As part of homecoming weekend, Elias said the event is at the perfect time for students because it is after classes and before the dinner and homecoming dance, so students can relax and bring their families. Tenorpalooza allows people “to see good music, but make it accessible.” The concert is also a fund-raiser for the Concordia Choir “Aloha” Tour 2015. Students will be traveling and performing throughout Hawaii during spring break.

Refreshments will be provided and donations will be collected for the choir’s tours. The event is free of charge. Come out to Tenorpalooza in the Good Shepherd Chapel tonight at 5:30 p.m. to see a group of talented vocalists face off, or more accurately, sing off.

CASEY TAHA
STAFF WRITER

Orchestra meets video games in this year’s Family Pops Concert

As part of the Homecoming and Family Weekend, the Family Pops Concert will take place in the CU Center tomorrow at 11 a.m. The concert theme is “Bandcraft,” performed by the Concordia Wind Orchestra (CWO). The seventh annual concert will feature video game musical arrangements and fun-filled skits.

“This is the first year we’ve ever had video game music, so we’re going to be having fun with this and I think we’re pulling out all the stops on this one,” said Joseph R. Holcomb III, principal horn, senior. “It’s more for people to have fun, especially the kids.”

This year’s theme is using a variety of video game scores. “We have songs from Super Mario Brothers, Zelda and Halo, some of those main staple games,” Holcomb said. The CWO teamed up with the campus game club, Games Cubed. The club’s president Jason O’Brien, senior, said, “the concert is not only aimed towards the kids, but also those who grew up in the ’80s in the dawn of video games.”

“When you think about scores, people think about movies. People don’t think about video games as having these really great musical scores, but they really do,” O’Brien said. There are also skits that provide added fun for families to enjoy in the 40-minute concert.

“My favorite part of this year’s concert -- I don’t know if it’s a spoiler -- is that we are going

to have Mario and Donkey Kong fight it out in the middle of the concert, so that’s going to be cool,” O’Brien said.

Because this year’s theme revolves around video games, students and families can expect it to be enjoyable and very entertaining. “It’s always a lot of fun. This concert has more relevant music to most of the population, It’s easier to listen to and the skit that’s included in the concert makes it so much more fun,” said Jackie Hirzel, principal trombone, senior. “I am a gamer, so, I love video games. I’m just really happy that I get to play some of the music that I got to listen to throughout my life. This is (one of the highlights) of my music career.”

Tomorrow’s concert is sure to be great fun for families and students as the CWO brings to life the musical scores of the video games that many know and love.

“Every year the theme changes and it’s always something fun, but this is the best year for me,” Hirzel said.

“It’s always good for families to do stuff together, especially college students who don’t get to see their families as often,” said Sara Richardson, freshman. “It’s not the first thing anyone would think of, and it’s never really been done before. I think video game music done by an orchestra is kind of amazing.”

The concert is fun and free entertainment for the whole family. For more information regarding this event, visit the Concordia University website, and don’t forget to stay afterwards for more free fun at the on-campus carnival.

The Aerie produces its 16th volume

ALEXANDER CARR
STAFF WRITER

This weekend, Concordia’s writers and artists will be diving into every word and line of their work, striving for perfection, in the hopes of earning a place in Concordia’s literary and arts publication, *The Aerie*.

From prose and poetry, to drawings, paintings and much more, “[*The Aerie*] provides an outlet for our creative students who are writers as well as artists,” said Kristen Schmidt, Professor of English and Faculty Advisor of *The Aerie*. For those interested in any last minute entries, the deadline falls on Mon., Feb. 2, for all submissions.

After the deadline, the collaborative work begins. “The English and Art departments both have judging panels that review all submissions and select the works that will be included,” said Rachel Soo, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and second Faculty Advisor of *The Aerie*. “Then the student [literary] editor and graphic designer work together to match each artwork with a literary piece and create the layout for the matchings.”

The responsibility of much of the process falls on the student editors and graphic designers, while faculty advisors mostly do just that—advise. They organize timetables and send the finished product to the publisher, but primarily relinquish decisions to student discretion.

The Aerie, now in its 16th volume, is rather well known within the English and Art departments. The journal has even drawn some to the Concordia campus to hone their craft. Amanda Chen, freshman English major and Creative Writing minor, while reflecting on her first encounter with *The Aerie* said, “I realized they took writing more seriously than other colleges. I realized there was more that I could do here.”

The sentiment was echoed by Zoë Litzenberg, freshman Humanities major with emphasis in Creative Writing, as she also recalled being drawn to the campus by *The Aerie* during one of Concordia’s prospective student events. But for those who send in their work, in Litzenberg’s eyes, the journal can do more than just attract students to the campus. “I think the reason that I’d like to submit is it just solidifies my place in the art community here at Concordia,” Litzenberg said.

Beyond the feelings of community evoked

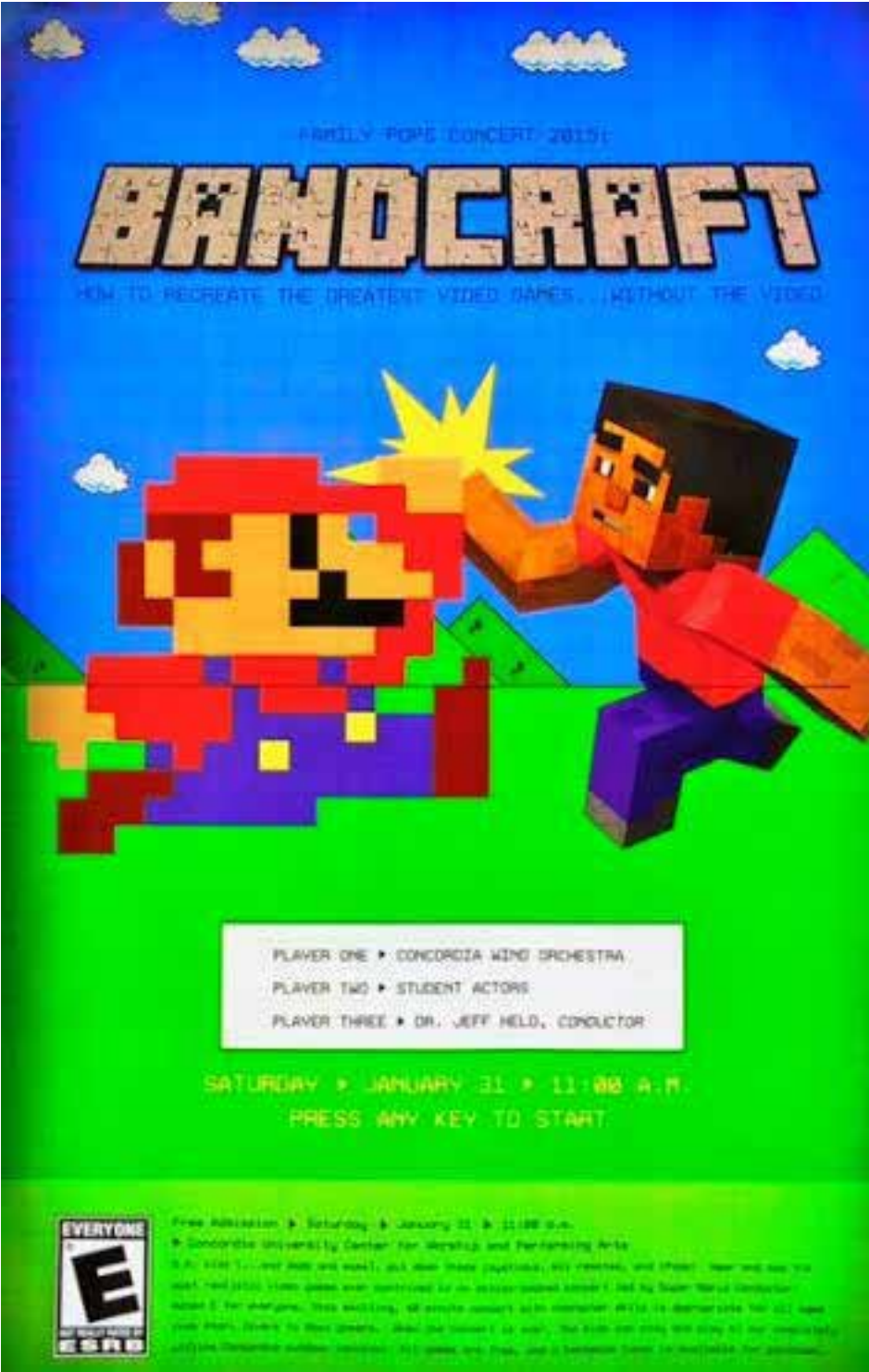
in some like Litzenberg, *The Aerie* also can provide more technical payoffs for those who work on the inside toward its production. “Students who work on the publication gain tremendous practical experience in what it’s like to publish a professional journal,” Schmidt said. Dishing out the scrutiny that literary and artistic pieces must endure can teach writers and artists firsthand how quality counts in an industry full of talent.

“People write because they have something to say and share with others. Submitting something to The Aerie is a way to get it out to a wider audience”

Peeling back the practical applications and evoked sense of community, Schmidt reveals what is arguably the driving force behind each entry. “People write because they have something to say and share with others. Submitting something to *The Aerie* is a way to get it out to a wider audience,” Shmidt said. For those whose voice is clearest in the ink-drawn lines of a poem, or the reds, yellows and blues of digital and studio drawings, *The Aerie* can be a megaphone that carries the artist voice to peers, faculty and family alike.

For those doing their final checks this weekend, remember the words of Gretchen Otte, senior and literary editor for *The Aerie*. “The sky’s the limit, use your imagination-- except we do have a limit on words,” Otte said. Unfortunately, not everything can make it into *The Aerie*, and craft, in the eyes of both Art and English professors, was voiced as the number one divider between what gets in and what gets left at the door. So fix all those dotted i’s and crossed t’s, stay within the word limits, add that last layer of polish, express yourself, and good luck.

The Aerie is scheduled to be available for students April 27, and in celebration, a launch party, likely full of food and artistic delight, will be held on campus. More details will be available closer to distribution date. Come join in the fun that marks the end of the long road toward publication and support your friends who gave their time to make it all happen.



Oscar prep: “American Sniper” review

JONATHAN SERRANO
STAFF WRITER

The Oscars are almost here, and it is time to get caught up on what movies you might have missed, starting with “American Sniper.” This film is up for six of the prestigious awards, including Best Actor for Bradley Cooper and Best Picture. These nominations are well-deserved.

“American Sniper” is not a war movie; it is a soldier movie. The emphasis does not lay on the morality of war as a whole, but rather on Chris Kyle (Bradley Cooper), a soldier. He grew up shooting rifles while hunting. Through that, he acquired a skill set suited for the military. With the Uncle Ben (from Spiderman) mentality in mind, “with great power comes great responsibility,” Kyle felt the need to put his skills to use in the Navy. This need came upon him after seeing news coverage of US Embassy bombings in 1998.

Kyle enlisted and was sent overseas to Iraq following the Sept. 11 attacks. This part hit especially close to home for me, since I am a native New Yorker. Kyle’s morals are forced to walk a thin line for his first of 160 kills in his military career. Cooper’s performance here sets the tone for the rest of the movie. He does an amazing job expressing an internal struggle that flows out to the audience as well. The movie begs the question, “At what point is he risking his life for his country, and at what point is he killing for his country?”

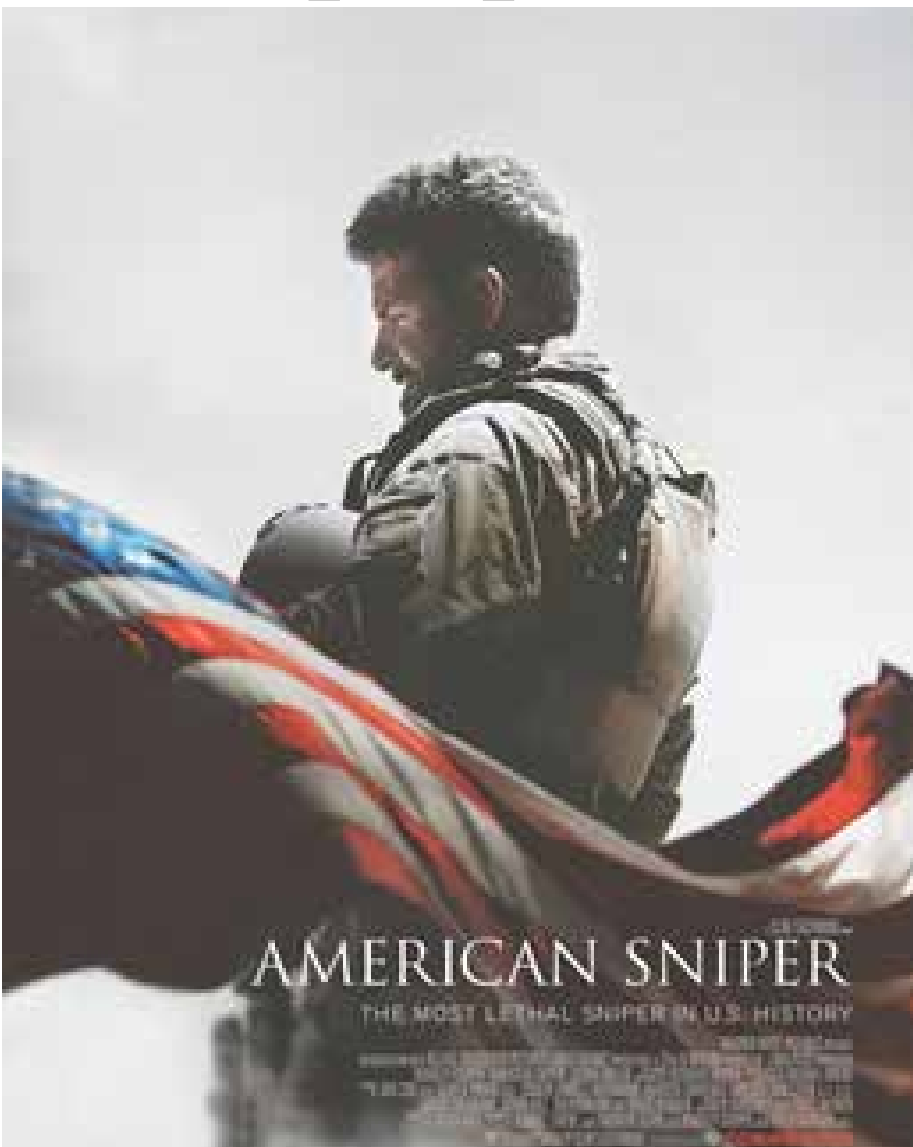
The film picks up intensity with an ongoing fight against “The Butcher,” friendliest of titles of course. If I had the writing skill to make you feel the intensity of the moments in these scenes, I would be out making my own movies by now. Director Clint Eastwood highlights

the incredible pace of the dogfights of war along with Cooper’s Oscar-worthy performance where we feel both the desire to run and the desire to fight.

After the situation with “The Butcher” is over, Kyle faces a new opponent for the rest of his tours, a sniper named Mustafa. The unfortunate aspect of being a sniper is that once you take your shot, the strings are cut and the firing begins. That is something we are shown in great detail here. Your heart is beating fast for Kyle when he is about to take the riskiest shot of his life and then your heart picks up the pace even more when the firefight begins. These are scenes to be seen for yourself. If you embrace the adrenaline rush, then this is certainly for you.

While this movie has the intensity of four tours overseas, there are heartfelt performances of Kyle when he is back home with his wife and children. We see the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder. Can you imagine the worst experience of your life repeated at any moment? Now compare your worst experience to that of a soldier’s. Kyle tries learning how to deal with this disorder and maintain a sense of normality with his family, but that does not always go well. This especially gives reason to why I say this is a soldier movie rather than a war movie. We follow the man, Chris Kyle, and what goes on for him as a soldier, a father and as a husband.

“American Sniper” is a well-deserving film for the amount of Oscar nominations it has received. I highly suggest it for anyone who enjoys high intensity films for both action and drama. Pair that with excellent performances and cinematography, and you have a must-see film. When this film receives Oscar after Oscar, you will be wishing you went out to see it. To see its competition, visit oscar.go.com/nominees.



Dance Company wows audiences

WESLEY BARNES
STAFF WRITER

Concordia’s Dance Company wowed audiences with a weekend of stellar dancing. This small but mighty dance ensemble performed for a full house at both of their shows last weekend. The dance company is led under the direction of staff advisor, Vanessa Johnson, and dance captain Jessica Abel, senior.

“As captain, my goal was just to create an environment that all of the girls could enjoy their passion for dance in,” Abel said. “Putting on a show can be stressful, so I really wanted to make sure all of them felt that their time was valued and to know that I really cared about them as individuals.”

The company is made up of 13 young women, consisting of six returners and seven new members, who all share a common passion for dance. The Dance Company is a place where students of all dance backgrounds can come together and share the art of dance. By being a part of this Dance Company, there are many ways for students to experience new forms of dance as well.

One thing that sets our Dance Company apart from others is “its ability to encompass so many different genres of dance in such a small group,” Abel said.

Senior Meghan Morales said, “I’ve been dancing since the age of three. I have been professionally trained in ballet in high school. I have also attended many intensive summer dance programs.” Though some of the members have extensive training in certain styles of dance such as hip hop, ballet and modern, they incorporate all dance styles into their show. In this show, they exhibited their work in jazz, ballet, modern, hip hop, contemporary and more.

The Dance Company is a place where dancers can go to grow not only as dancers, but choreographers as well. “It’s always such a collaboration of effort and talent, and student choreography is highly encouraged and incorporated into our performances,” Abel said. There were a total of 12 dances in this show, choreographed by both the teams coach and a couple of the dancers, as well such as sophomores Regina Taylor and

Camila Corovias. “It was a really cool experience. I had to really be aware of what my dancers were capable of, and I tried my best to exhibit their strengths. At the same time, there were moments where I wanted to challenge them because I knew that they had it in them to try movements they weren’t used to,” Corovias said. During this process, the members not only form a bond with each other, but with the pieces as well. “It really sets us apart because the routines are more dear to our hearts, because they were created by the team,” said junior Brandi Walshe.

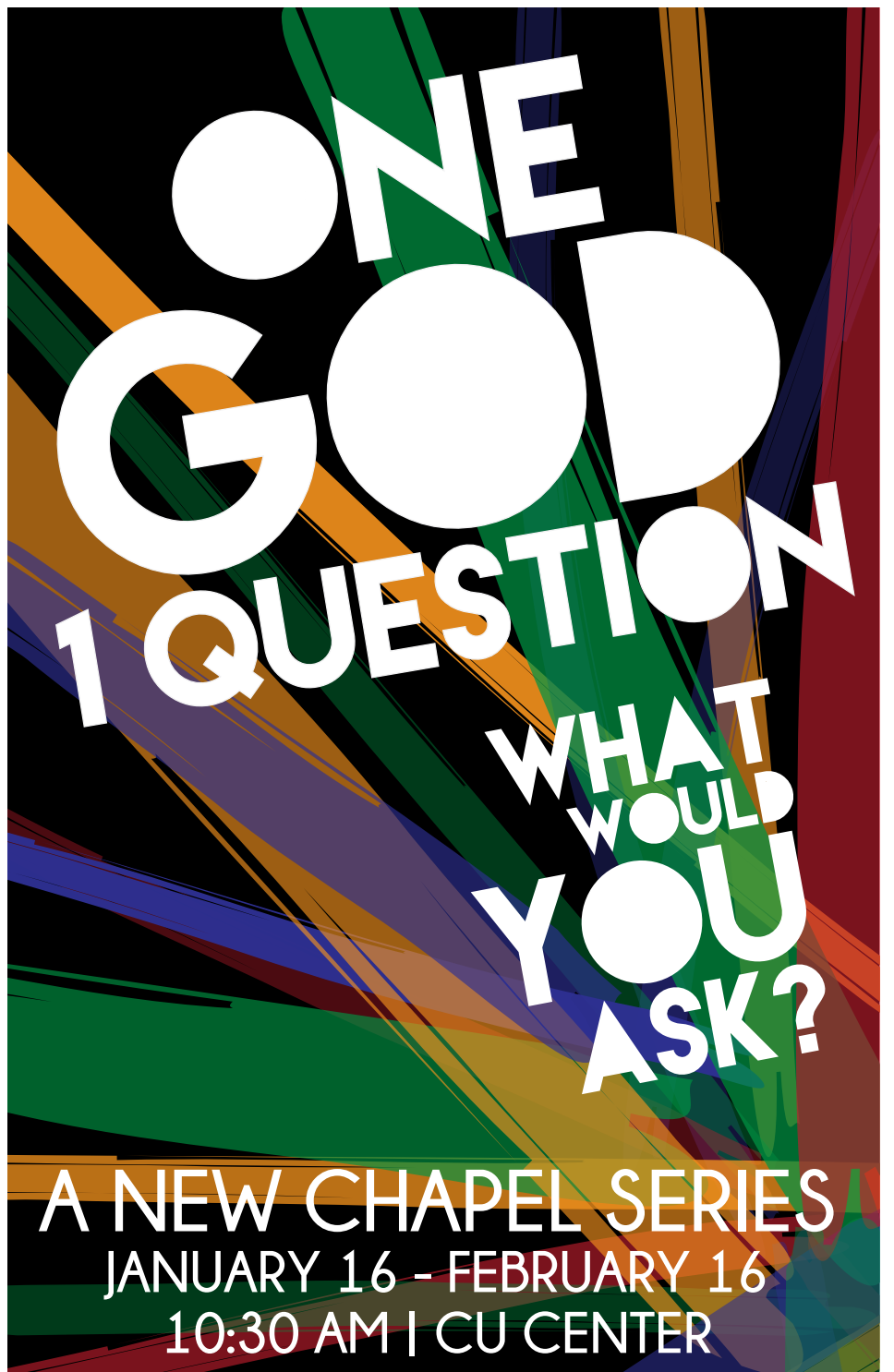
Audience members were very impressed with the choreography of the student pieces. At times, it was even difficult to differentiate which pieces were choreographed by students and which ones were not. These ladies danced with such elegance and grace which allowed for moments that were breathtaking to watch.

“It really sets us apart because the routines are more dear to our hearts, because they were created by the team.”

Alexandra Dominguez, senior, attended the show both nights. “The Dance Company did a really great job with their show this year. I’m always excited to see what they bring to the table each year. The level of execution and level of technique was also impressive as well,” Dominguez said. Each of the pieces was cleanly polished and executed as if it were simple.

“Our show was so much fun to perform and it was only possible because every dancer was 100 percent committed and gave it her all,” Abel said. “I have been so blessed by this team and will truly miss the Concordia Dance Company when I graduate.”

People who missed the Dance Company Concert still have a chance to watch them perform. The Company is performing at two upcoming basketball games and are also scheduled to dance at Culture Fest, which will be held on April 8.



Join abbey west as they further these conversations on their blog:
<http://blogs.abbeywest.org/>

Concordia Cares sponsored the first Chili Van event of 2015

LYNDI ROSDAIL
STAFF WRITER

Concordia Cares sponsored the Orange County Rescue Mission Chili Van event yesterday, Jan. 29. The event took place from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center in Santa Ana. The event served as an outreach to the homeless to provide food and community.

"The Chili Van is always a successful event," said sophomore Elisabeth Mullins, Concordia Cares Coordinator. "The students really enjoy going and serving the less fortunate." Mullins became involved with Concordia Cares during her freshman year and later became a LEAD coordinator along with sophomores Emily Hindenes and Danny Balogh. Mullins was involved with community service in high school and became interested in working with Concordia Cares because she "was looking for a good outlet in college to get involved and meet people with similar interests."

Freshman Kiana Mueller first heard about service opportunities through a friend and the next day signed up to get involved. She knew she wanted to get involved in volunteer work, but did not know how until her friend mentioned Concordia Cares.

The Chili Van is only one of the many events Concordia Cares sponsors. According to its student life page, Concordia Cares focuses on local community outreach and service and the "volunteers are members of the Concordia family that share a common passion – to serve their neighbors in need."

"I love how many opportunities we have to serve," Hindenes said. "It's just so rewarding being able to go and help people."

In the month of January, Concordia Cares sponsored five different events to serve the local community and has many more events planned for the future. "I love getting to work with my fellow coordinators, students, faculty, staff and the people we meet at each event," Mullins said.

Not only are the events helpful for those being served, but also for the volunteers. In many cases, volunteers have had specific eye-opening experiences with past Chili Van events. Amanda Johnson, freshman Fusioner, recalls giving a woman a compliment and talking for "ten minutes just from that one little gesture. At the end we got to pray with her and it was really nice just to see her love," Johnson said.

The Chili Van events at the Orange County Rescue Mission bring in people of different backgrounds. "The general idea of helping people appeals to me because I think it's something that we're called to do as believers," Mueller said.

Concordia Cares has big expectations for future Chili Van events, especially since these are the first events of the year. The Chili Van relies on volunteers who are willing to serve drinks and food and talk with people. "We always welcome more students to come and have this amazing opportunity," Mullins said.

For more information regarding volunteer opportunities with Concordia Cares and participating in future events, please visit the CSLD on campus.



Super Bowl Sunday in sight

NATE SFREDDO
STAFF WRITER

This Sunday, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots will take on Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks in Glendale, Arizona for the title of Super Bowl XLIX (49). The second most anticipated Sunday of the year, besides Easter, features two NFL powerhouse franchises.

Brady, in his 14th season as the starting quarterback for the Patriots, is looking for his fourth ring going into the game. The newly-crowned AFC champion Patriots delivered a dominating performance to reach this Sunday, deflating the Indianapolis Colts 45-7. On the other end, the returning Super Bowl champions look to repeat with a stacked roster and a wall-breaking defense.

sive line.

A house divided here at Concordia, sophomore Josh Mundell and his freshman brother, Matthew Mundell, are splitting hairs over the predicted champion.

"Tom Brady is a leader and I look to him with inspiration in athletics. I see a lot of myself in him. The Pats are taking this one easily," Josh said. However, Matthew disagrees, saying that the Seahawks' sheer aggressiveness and power of Cornerback Richard Sherman will bulldoze the Patriots to the ground.

"I would much rather be watching actual football (soccer) but I love American football, too. So I can't wait for this game," said Pedro Moraes, a junior from Brazil.

Even those who do not like football tune in only for the hilarity of commercials


that never disappoint time after time. Who could forget about the 2014 tearjerker Budweiser commercial "Best Buds?" This year, it costs a total of \$4 million to air a commercial for 30 seconds during the game-time breaks. This leaves big name brands such as Doritos, Ford and Pepsi to come up with new innovative ways to capture the interest of the broad audience.

For the select individuals who are not fans of football or the Super Bowl commercials, they might just like gathering together with family and friends to celebrate this awesome Sunday fun day. "My mom makes the best food and we have a huge party at my house every year, but the commercials are probably my favorite part besides the food," said senior David Jorth.

The past years have featured many high

profile halftime shows, most recently featuring a lights-out performance by Beyoncé in 2013 and Bruno Mars with the Red Hot Chili Peppers in 2014. This year will feature an energized Katy Perry along with Lenny Kravitz. Idina Menzel, a "Frozen" favorite, will sing the National Anthem to open the game.

This game will be a first-time meeting of these two teams in a Super Bowl. However, emotions will still be high as Coach Pete Carroll (Seahawks) will face off against his former team and replacement, coach Bill Belichick (Patriots). Recent polls have declared this game a tossup with no clear advantage on either side. It should be one for the books, so make sure to stay safe and tune in this Sunday at 3:30 p.m.



NAME: _____

CLASS YEAR: _____

FINAL SCORE PREDICTION

PATRIOTS

SEAHAWKS

* ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DELTA LOUNGE BY 11:59PM SATURDAY NIGHT

The student with the closest prediction will win a \$25 Buffalo Wild Wings gift card.