

In loving memory of Allie Walsh

LIANNA JORDAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Alexandra Walsh, 22-year-old senior, passed away in an automobile accident on Mon., Dec. 29 in Wrentham, Mass. The driver of the vehicle, Douglas Hayes, 23, escaped with major injuries while Walsh and the other passenger, Thomas Macphee, 24, were killed in the fiery collision.

Walsh, known by many as Allie, was a biology major studying to become a doctor. She was a member of Phi Delta Epsilon, Concordia’s medical fraternity.

The Concordia community held a memorial service for Walsh on Thurs., Jan. 8 in the CU Center during chapel time. The CU Center was filled, with only standing room remaining, with many who knew Walsh. Others attended to gather in support during a time of grief. Many of Walsh’s friends donned sunflower clothing or accessories to remember Walsh fondly. Sunflowers were her favorite type of flower.

“It’s good for us to gather to remember fond memories of Allie’s life, and to gather to comfort one another,” said Rev. Quinton Anderson, ’00, Campus Pastor. “Here we reflect and recall the promises we have in God’s Word. We turn to God’s Word in times of need for comfort and hope.”

Anderson began the service by directing attention to the baptismal font, where many were reminded of God’s promise delivered to Walsh in her baptism. Anderson read the comforting passage found in Romans 6, which says, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

Walsh was described as “outgoing, independent, determined, and strong-willed,” Anderson said. “She brought fun and laughter to everyone she came into contact with.”

When the tragedy struck, for many, it felt like

there was no longer hope. Anderson reminded those in attendance that “we do not grieve without hope.” We grieve, but we grieve with hope because “we have a Lord who has defeated sin and death,” Anderson said.

Given that she loved sunflowers, one of Walsh’s favorite sayings was, “I am a sunflower. I keep my face toward the sun, so that all of the shadows will fall behind me.” Anderson took a creative spin on this saying by replacing sun with Son. “We turn toward Jesus, who has saved us and who has saved Allie,” Anderson said.

“There are too many favorite memories of Allie,” said Walsh’s roommate at Concordia, Emily Sanchez, senior. “A lot of my favorite memories of Allie include a lot of our inside jokes... I guess that’s just how best friends are though.”

Sanchez said that Walsh was “probably the hardest working person I knew. With a major as hard as biology, she still found time to help me with my homework, help run her medical fraternity and, of course, still have fun.”

“My favorite memory with Allie would have to be just all the long weekend nights spent laughing at nothing and driving around town for fun,” said close friend Karen Gurske, junior. “She would join our group at dinner and suggest, ‘Let’s all go do something later’ randomly.”

Walsh “loved attending electronic music festivals and was a promoter at a local club,” Gurske said. “Music was her escape and her love.”

“Allie lived life without regrets. She truly lived each day to its full potential, never passing up an opportunity to have fun and create memories,” Gurske said. “She was the most spontaneous person I knew, and she always had a smile or a kind word for you.”

Walsh will always be remembered by the Concordia community. “[Anyone who] knew Allie already knows that she shines brighter than anyone. We call her a sunflower because she can brighten up the room with just one smile,” Sanchez said. “Allie lived more in her short 22 years of life than most people experience in a lifetime because she never let an opportunity slip by. She was spontaneous and a free spirit and that is why she enjoyed life so much.”



Concordia remembers Tyler Stewart

KENDRA SITTON
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

Concordia alumnus and Flagstaff, Ariz. police officer Tyler Stewart, ’12, died after responding to a domestic violence call on Dec. 27. He was 24.

In the face of this tragedy, many Concordia alumni and staff gathered to remember the funny, intelligent and athletic Stewart, or “Stewie,”

as many affectionately referred to him.

“You loved him for who he was and what he brought,” said Jen Rizzo, the Program Director of Athletic Training. During Stewart’s time at Concordia, Rizzo knew him all four years, was his instructor in six classes and served as his clinical mentor. Although he may have appeared quiet at first, Stewart quickly emerged as the class clown.

Tim Crilly, ’13, a fellow student and close

friend of Stewart, said that although Stewart often made the people around him laugh, “he would also be that guy that would be there to listen if you needed someone to talk to.”

Both Rizzo and Crilly commented that Stewart had a wide range of involvement on campus, including many friends. “He always brought a smile to everyone’s face and had a smile on his face,” Rizzo said. “He was able to make friends with everyone, no matter who you are, or where you’re from.”

“He was just always there for others. I think Romans 13:4 described Stewie best as a police officer and as a man.” The verse explains how God provides servants to do good as well as to punish wrongdoers in times of sin. “As a police officer, he served others; he served as a just police officer. He always had reasons for his actions, whether it was making an arrest or writing a ticket. But he was also a servant for his community, to help the citizens of the community in need.” Crilly said that the verse in Romans “helped to comfort me in the loss of a classmate, friend and police officer.”

Rev. Quinton Anderson, ’00, Campus Pastor, led a memorial service at the Good Shepherd Chapel for Stewart on Jan. 2. The memorial service gave the community a chance to mourn Stewart’s life. Anderson also reminded everyone of the happiness Stewart brought during his time as a student at Concordia.

“It was a very simple service in Good Shepherd Chapel,” Anderson said. According to Anderson, about 40 alumni and a few uniformed

Irvine police officers attended. After the service, people were able to share stories with each other along the pathway from the chapel. On that same day in Arizona, hundreds gathered in another service to mourn Stewart.

The Athletic Training Department also threw a no-tears party a few days later. “Our goal was to celebrate him and all that he brought to our lives,” Rizzo said. She added that “Stewie wouldn’t have wanted us to mourn. . . He’s happy. He’s in heaven. He’s being obnoxious up there!”

In a statement at the memorial service in Arizona, Police Chief Kevin Treadway said, “I just want to express to you what a kind and professional young man Officer Stewart was.” Treadway finished by saying, “I was very impressed with him, and I’m greatly saddened that he lost his life, especially in this horrid way. . . His family should feel proud that he was out doing such a good job.”

Stewart is the second officer to die in the line of duty in the history of the Flagstaff Police Department. The last officer died in 2000. For many in the community in Arizona and those from Concordia, his death came as a shock.

Crilly said that Stewart “didn’t take life too seriously” while Rizzo noted that “he loved life.” Stewart was a valued member of the Concordia community and will live on in the hearts of those who knew him.



Get to know *The Courier* staff

My name is Lianna Jordan and I am excited to start my second semester as Editor-in-Chief of *The Concordia Courier*! I am a junior Liberal Studies major, studying to be an elementary school teacher. I have been involved with *The Concordia Courier* since my first semester of sophomore year and I feel honored to continue to serve our Concordia community through this newspaper.

My name is Taylor Dennison and I am the Sports Editor for *The Concordia Courier* for the 2015 spring semester. I am currently a sophomore majoring in Communication with a concentration on Mass Communication. I am a girl from Huntington Beach and my mind is set to hopefully graduate in four years, go to grad school at USC, and then pursue my dream of becoming a Sports Broadcaster. I play on the volleyball team and I am very excited to hear all about the success amongst the athletes in their upcoming seasons. Most of my time is dedicated to schoolwork and volleyball, but I love to go on adventures and travel when I can. It is a blessing that I not only get to pursue my love for writing in the sports field and share it across the campus, but I get to do it with an amazing staff. Go Eagles!

Sitton, Kendra Sitton. It does not have the same ring as James Bond but my parents were not planning on raising an international spy when they named me. Instead, they wanted to raise an intelligent, brave, compassionate, pos-

sibly funny, woman. They succeeded. More specifically, they raised a girl who is majoring in Mass Communications and plans to travel the world. As the new Arts and Review Editor, I am excited to connect the Concordia community to many of the amazing music, art, food and theater options in the area.

Hey, all! My name is Ryan McDonald and I am the Campus Editor for *The Concordia Courier*. As a last-semester-senior, I would like to say what a privilege it is being an Eagle, and how God and this institution have changed my life for the better. Working for *The Courier* has been such a blessing because I had the opportunity to meet students and faculty members that I probably would have never gotten the chance to meet if I didn't have to hunt them down around campus. I wish the best of luck to all of you this semester, and look forward to meeting and working with you.

My name is Courtney Hentz and I am thrilled to be serving as the new Layout Editor this semester. This job is a particularly exciting position for me as I am also a junior Graphic Design major. Other than *The Courier*, I spend my time as abbey west's Marketing and Communications Coordinator (don't forget to like us on Facebook- shameless plug). My only food allergy is to mangos, so when you send *The Courier* staff a fruit basket for all our amazing work, please be sure to leave that delicious but lethal, tropical fruit out.



Ryan McDonald, Lianna Jordan, Kendra Sitton, Taylor Dennison. Not pictured: Courtney Hentz

Top upcoming fashion trends for spring 2015

KRISTINA KRAUS
STAFF WRITER

While the rest of the country is fighting single-digit temperatures, we here at Concordia have been blessed with the luxury of beach-friendly weather all year long. With warmer temperatures approaching, why not start your 2015 off with some new spring fashion trend ideas?

Fringe is in. This trend was seen in almost every runway show during New York Fashion Week, possibly due to the amount of attention that it draws in full swing. Some menswear options include fringe leather jackets, while ladies can choose from flapper-inspired dresses or skirts. This trend is really all about the motion.

Exercise Sports Science major Maya Dickerson commented that she would not personally pursue the fringe dress trend, but she would opt for another fringe-focused piece. "I like fringe. I have some stuff, but not a lot. I respect those girls who wear it. I'm more into the oldies (and) new style type of dresses," Dickerson said.

Denim on Denim. No, we are not talking about the Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake

tragic event that took place at the 2001 MTV Video Music Awards. This practical trend looks so sophisticated when worn in varying but similar shades. This trend can be effortlessly executed in a denim-clad chambray, a linen-finished gingham cloth sported by both men and women. Just pair your chambray with your favorite denim jeans for the perfect spring look.

"I'd definitely pursue it as long as it is two different shades of denim, like dark denim jeans and a lighter denim button down chambray," said Ryan Murphy, sophomore Men's Volleyball player.

All white. For this next trend, get ready to pull back out your favorite white pieces from your wardrobe. With the start of the New Year, the Memorial-Day-no-white rule can be tossed out the window. This head-to-toe white trend is worn best by mixing up the textures and fabrics of your pieces. Incorporating various shades of neutral earth tones and soft creams can really make this trend achievable for any skin tone.

Madeline Chandik, junior Business Marketing major, noted of the all-white ensemble that it is "amazing for those who are not too pale. If you have fair skin and try to wear all white, al-

though stylish, it may wash you out."

Whether you are planning on attending both Coachella weekends this spring season or just attending one of our many local beaches, the Bohemian chic trend is perfect for all Californians. The **Bohemian chic**, or boho for short, trend is really focused on comfort. This is why all of the boho-inspired looks come together in

such loose and adaptable materials. The boho trend is versatile and can be worn in a casual setting, such as any outdoor concert or wedding. Mixing patterns with infused bright bold colors, such as different hues of blue balanced with earth tones, gives an outfit the perfect Bohemian look. Accent this look with a pair of Ray-Ban aviators and the look is finished.

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The Concordia Courier

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Concordia transitioning to NCAA

TAYLOR DENNISON
SPORTS EDITOR

Concordia University has begun the move from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Program. This transition requires the participation of a variety of departments across campus to help streamline the new academic and athletic policies.

Although the NCAA will not begin to enforce rules until next year, our first official year of candidacy, many changes are already in effect. The faculty, staff, athletic trainers and coaches have been doing a tremendous job getting the school prepared for this transition.

The NCAA's primary purpose is to work with student athletes to improve their overall experience at the university level as well as following the NCAA's model, "Life in Balance." This concept sets out to make sure that each

student athlete is a student first and an athlete second. Student athletes have always been held responsible for their academic success. However, the NCAA takes being a student first very seriously, and will require specific standards be met for sports eligibility.

"The reputation and recognition of the NCAA is well-known and well-received by our larger community," said Dr. Bret Taylor, Mathematics Department Chair and the Faculty-Athletic NCAA Representative. "This will enable our school name to flourish so that the recruitment of all our students can bring forth positives of our tradition and academics, as well as the NCAA banner."

Taylor is responsible for part of the Institutional Control aspects with regards to rules compliance and he reports to Dr. Kurt Krueger, President, on the culture and changes related to academics and athletics. However, Taylor's main priority is to support all of the student athletes' academic success and ensure academic

priorities when needed. "Things will change slowly during the NCAA candidacy period of three years," Taylor said. "We have made policy and procedure changes to better suit the needs of our student athletes."

Although the NCAA does set out to help the student athlete, the campus as a whole will also be affected in positive ways. A lot of the amazing programs and departments on campus will grow and develop. The Athletic Training department has been actively preparing for the switch by attending seminars that address sports medicine and have been a part of the Rules and Regulations meetings that all the coaches had to attend.

Glory Fung, Head Athletic Trainer, said, "The model of coverage from the athletic trainers will not change and we've already begun implementing programs that fall under the Best Practice Standards in the NCAA."

Taylor said that coaches have really had the toughest job through this whole transition.

They have been working really hard because they will be held responsible for their program's compliance. "They have to document almost everything that transpires in their program from recruiting to practice schedules to the well-being of their student athletes," Taylor said. "The high majority of changes will come in their roles and their responsibilities as coaches."

Next year, our athletic program will compete in the Pac-West Conference. We will see a higher level of competition and many more opportunities for the student athletes.

Student athletes, and the Concordia community as a whole, should be excited for this change and the benefits that come with it. "We would have not suggested changes if we didn't believe that they are in the best interest of our student athletes in all aspects of their lives," Taylor said.

The school welcomes the NCAA program and expects great things for the future of the student athletes and the university as a whole.

Men's Basketball

Concordia vs. Hope International University
January 17, 2015 @ 7:30 PM- Irvine, CA

Concordia vs. Vanguard University
January 24, 2015 @ 7:30 PM- Costa Mesa, CA

Concordia vs. The Master's College
January 27, 2015 @ 7:30 PM- Santa Clarita, CA

Concordia vs. Westmont College
January 31, 2015 @ 7:30 PM- Irvine, CA

Concordia vs. San Diego Christian
February 12, 2015 @ 7:30 PM- Irvine, CA

Concordia vs. Arizona Christian
February 14, 2015 @ 7:30 PM- Irvine, CA

Concordia vs. Biola University
February 17, 2015 @ 7:30 PM- La Mirada, CA

Concordia vs. Hope International University
February 21, 2015 @ 7:30 PM- Fullerton, CA

Concordia vs. Vanguard University
February 28, 2015 @ 7:30 PM- Irvine, CA

Women's Basketball

Concordia vs. Hope International University
January 17, 2015 @ 5:30 PM- Irvine, CA

Concordia vs. Vanguard University
January 24, 2015 @ 5:30 PM- Costa Mesa, CA

Concordia vs. The Master's College
January 27, 2015 @ 5:30 PM- Santa Clarita, CA

Concordia vs. Westmont College
January 31, 2015 @ 5:30 PM- Irvine, CA

Concordia vs. San Diego Christian
February 12, 2015 @ 5:30 PM- Irvine, CA

Concordia vs. Arizona Christian
February 14, 2015 @ 5:30 PM- Irvine, CA

Concordia vs. Biola University
February 17, 2015 @ 5:30 PM- La Mirada, CA

Concordia vs. Hope International University
February 21, 2015 @ 5:30 PM- Fullerton, CA

Concordia vs. Vanguard University
February 28, 2015 @ 5:30 PM- Irvine, CA

SPEAKER SERIES

JANUARY 27, 2015
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
SIGMA SQUARE

COME LEARN HOW HUNGER AFFECTS OUR LOCAL ORANGE COUNTY NEIGHBORS. GUEST SPEAKER, RENEE STEVENSON, WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS VERY RELEVANT ISSUE AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO PREVENT IT! SNACKS AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED.

“Companimals” support residential living communities

KAYLA LARDNER
CONTRIBUTOR
AND
LIANNA JORDAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For nearly 40 years, Concordia has been home to thousands of college students. Now, in accordance with the updated Fair Housing Act, many furry, four-legged friends may too call it home.

“Companimals,” or support animals, are animals that are now allowed in college dorms to provide emotional support. Support animals are not to be confused with service animals. While there is a distinct difference between the two, each loving animal can brighten the lives of those with whom they come into contact.

According to CUI’s Animal Policy, “a ‘support animal’ is an animal that provides emotional or other support that ameliorates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s disability. Unlike service animals, support animals are not required to be trained to perform work or tasks.”

Under the Fair Housing Act, support animals need to be allowed in housing locations with appropriate documentation, and, in recent years, this has caused a stir in the housing departments in schools across the country.

“It’s almost all within a year that most of the support animal information has been brought up to us,” said Davis Garton, Director of Housing Services.

“It’s a new thing,” said Scott Keith, Director of Residential Education Services (RES). “Three years ago, this was the hot topic [at conferences], and housing departments across the country rallied to develop thoughtful and accommo-

dating policies. In the industry, it’s been hard to figure out, but for us it was a very thoughtful process.”

Over the summer, RES, Housing and the Disability and Learning Resource Center (DLRC) have been working diligently together to fully understand what the Fair Housing Act and support animals mean for Concordia and its student body, and how they can be brought on campus to provide friendly, lovable support.

“This isn’t for students who want their pet on campus,” Keith said. “This is for people who actually need a support animal and can reasonably demonstrate that to Terilyn (Jackson). We want to make sure that it’s communicated to the students that this is (only) for people who need it.”

For students who can show a need for a support animal, all accommodation requests for a fluffy friend begin at the DLRC.

In order for support animals to be approved as an accommodation in dorms, the student needs “to have a diagnosed disability by a licensed clinician,” Jackson said. “Then they provide a self-report to me as to the barriers they face in the environment. Then we go over their documentation and see if it is a reasonable and appropriate accommodation that can be provided, we go through the Animal Policy together to make sure that everything is understood in terms in responsibilities.”

If an accommodation can be provided, the student and the DLRC work together to “go through the Animal Policy together to make sure that everything is understood in terms of responsibilities,”

Jackson said. Once the accommodation is made by the DLRC, that accommodation goes to Housing and RES.

RES and the DLRC work together to provide the best outcome possible for students. “There hasn’t been a case when we weren’t able to figure it out,” Garton said.

Before “companimals” can call Concordia their home, other residents must be taken into consideration.

If there are roommates or suitemates with allergies or fears of animals, then it is important to honor that as well as the student with the support animal, according to Jackson.

If the accommodation is made before the start of the year, before roommates are chosen, Housing will work with the student to find roommates without fears or allergies who are comfortable living with an animal. If the accommodation is made during the year, Housing may need to find an alternate room for the student with the support animal. In either case, in the roommate contract, filled out by every resident at Concordia, an addendum will be made stipulating the specifics of living with the animal, including where the animal can and cannot go.

For more details regarding the Animal Policy or the Fair Housing Act, please visit <http://www.cui.edu/studentlife/disability-learning-resource-center> for the DLRC’s Non-Academic Accommodation Policy.

CUI student creates successful clothing line

KRISTINA KRAUS
STAFF WRITER
AND
LIANNA JORDAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ryan Reidera is a senior Business Administration major on the Men’s Volleyball team. When he is not busy studying or practicing with his teammates, he perfects his clothing line, Sunny Livin’ Co.

Sunny Livin’ Co. is making bigger strides to further promote and complement the spontaneous and adventurous side of life through apparel, film and photography.

“I started Sunny Livin’ Co. as a homework assignment in my marketing class spring semester of 2014,” Reidera said. “I was always interested in starting my own business but never knew that the clothing brand/retail business would be something I would want to pursue.”

As summer approached, Reidera took

“(It) is more than just a clothing brand; it’s a lifestyle.”

the opportunity to kick-start his company.

Currently, the company is slowly but surely growing. Sunny Livin’ Co. now has over 10k followers on Instagram, and Reidera plans to only continue growing his company. “I see [Sunny Livin’] being the next big brand in the extreme sport/beach community,” Reidera said. “Many opportunities have arisen for me along the lines of collaborating with other companies and the opportunity to travel to exotic places (to promote the brand).”

“Reidera is a good friend with amazing drive. I love the idea of the company and how it’s constantly expanding,” said Taylor Dennison, sophomore. “Sunny Livin’ has grown tremendously since Reidera first started out with the idea and I know it’ll take him far. If you ever get a chance to wear or purchase the gear, trust me; it’s worth it!”

“(It) is more than just a clothing brand; it’s a lifestyle,” Reidera said.

Achieve your Bohemian and beach inspired look with Sunny Livin’ Co.’s t-shirts and tanks available for both men and women. Follow them and shop their apparel through their Instagram account: @sunnylivinco, Twitter: @sunnylivinco and Facebook: www.facebook.com/SunnyLivinCO.



Spring orientation a success

RYAN MCDONALD
CAMPUS EDITOR

At the beginning of each semester, incoming students get the opportunity to become acquainted with Concordia in a warm, welcoming way. Entering a new school halfway through the academic year can be a turbulent transition. However, Concordia’s student leadership does a terrific job accommodating these students by guiding them in a direction that will accentuate their potential as a student.

On Sun., Jan. 4, the new Eagles met returning students, faculty members and Peer Advising Leaders (PALs). Together, they began to explore the valuable resources that Concordia has to offer, along with athletic and student leadership opportunities.

Junior Ryan Morgan, Peer Advising Coordinator, assists with new student transition and is always looking forward to meeting new students from local counties to international countries.

“My goal (as a Peer Advising Coordinator) is to make college an experience that they will want to remember in the future,” Morgan said. “A lot of students

wonder if they have made the right choice attending Concordia, and I want them to know that they did.”

A total of 68 new undergraduate students enrolled at Concordia for the 2015 spring semester. Most of these are transfer students. A large portion of these newcomers attended the orientation, and some with their parents. Within a few hours, the students obtained information and tips that will guide them in the right direction to be a successful student, such as the new tutoring system, Bible study groups, and intramural sports and activities.

“One thing that we do during the spring orientation for new students is PAL time, where incoming students can meet other incoming students and our PALs and play icebreaker games to help them get to know one another,” said junior Kelsey Hernandez, Peer Advising Coordinator.

Spring orientation is a condensed version of the beginning of the school year orientation, SOAR. Instead of three days, it is only on that Sunday before the first day of school. The PALs also participate in off-campus events with new students

to show them around Irvine and the surrounding communities.

“We genuinely want to get know the new students, their stories and their interests. We do our best to help these new students find a connection with like-minded people with similar interests, goals, and passions; we want them to find a home here at Concordia,” said Kristy Fowler, Director of First-Year Experience Programs & Initiatives.

Although the activities and games were not as abundant as the fall orientation, the new students still felt an open-armed welcome from the students and faculty. The students and their parents had the chance to dine in the cafeteria with current students and ask any questions that they might have.

Dr. Mary Scott, Executive Vice President and Provost, welcomed the new Eagles along with Dr. Daniel van Voorhis, Chair of the Department of History and Political Thought, at the CU Center during the Sunday service. The students then said their goodbyes to family and settled into their dorms to get ready to continue their academic career at Concordia.

Who's studying abroad this spring?



Photo credit: Bulletin board outside of Office of Global Programs

Study abroad snapshot: Piper Walker, junior

Strolling through Scotland

Location:

The heart of Edinburgh.
A city filled with history on every corner.
Beautiful and cold.

Surprises:

There is a "Subway" (the fast food chain)
right down the street from me-
I really didn't expect to see that in Scotland.

Best Food:

Gluten-free gnocchi
with roasted pumpkin and hazelnuts.

Looking Forward:

To seeing more of Scotland.
I think Scotland is one of Europe's hidden
gems. It may not be a popular destination
like London or Paris, but it should be! There
is so much to do and see here. It's incredible
and incredibly beautiful.

“Reckless” captivates audiences

KENDRA SITTON
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

This weekend, the Theatre Department will wrap up its production of “Reckless” with its final three shows.

Premiering on Jan. 9, this dark comedy follows the journey of Rachel, played by Brianna Silva, junior, as she runs from her husband who ordered a hit man to kill her on Christmas Eve to small towns, corrupt nonprofits, a stream of psychologists, a game show, the slums of Los Angeles and finally Alaska.

“I don’t think anyone can watch this show without loving Rachel. The story is about her and I think the way she is able to show all these different emotions is brilliant,” said Zoe Litzenburg, freshman light board operator.

The set allows Rachel to be center stage the entire time as the scenery changes around her. This allows the audience to seemingly share the same perspective of Rachel as events unfold around her.

In many ways, the audience enters her mind and views the same things she does, rather than just viewing this character as an “other.” The audience experiences her deteriorating sanity firsthand as each mistake leads to another mistake.

“The way the set is designed, there are two walls. There are different moving panels that slide in and out. Underneath, there are sleds that slide in and out. Even though it’s on stage, at any time, it can be a living room, a road, or many different things,” Litzenburg said. “These different moving parts allow many different stages to be created in one area.” One panel that might hold a family portrait in one scene will next contain the sign for a game show. The transitions between scenes were vastly shortened by beds, armchairs, desks and others being thrust in from lower panels at each break.

Dr. Mark Klopfenstein designed the bizarrely neon set that was such a promi-



The empty set before the play began

nent feature of the comedy. Previously, he worked as a Disney Imagineer.

According to a press release featured on the Concordia website, the color scheme was originally made by his 3-year-old granddaughter after she doodled on his computer rendering of the set. He liked the bright blues and fuschias she swirled over the picture and kept them in the final set.

“This is the most technically-complicated show that we’ve ever done. There’s so much going on, and the audience doesn’t even know. 90% of this show is like an iceberg; you can’t even see it,” Litzenburg said.

“[The play] was a lot of fun just because it was something completely different for me and from what I’ve ever done,” said Wesley Barnes, senior, about his role as game show host Tim Timko. “There was a lot of freedom in how I interacted with

the crowd. It was fun just being able to step outside the norm for myself.”

Philip Bartelt, sophomore, performed for his first time at Concordia in the three roles of Tom, Sr., the talk show shooter with a shocking identity, and Tom, Jr. “I judged my performance based on how many people I made cry,” Bartelt said. Although most of the theater was filled with raucous laughter throughout the play, in the final scene, the journey turns poignant and many audience members left teary-eyed.

The unique genre of the play set the stage for this mix of emotions. “This was actually the first dark comedy I’ve been in. I really enjoy dark comedy and I’ve always wanted to direct and I always have loved [them],” said Katie Foggiano, senior, who plays Pooty, a paraplegic, deaf (?) woman. “I think there’s a certain depth and heart to

this dark comedy as well,” Foggiano said.

“Reckless” was hilarious to those who like laughing at people dying and the darker sides of humanity. Tony Vezner, Professor of Theatre and the director, made the strong cast, story and set come to life in such a way that took each audience member on an emotional roller coaster.

Litzenburg concluded that “there’s so much that goes on behind the scenes that the audience doesn’t even know. Everything that happens culminates into this beautiful show and I think it’s awesome that all these moving parts come together into something the audience can see and enjoy.”

The final showings of “Reckless” are on tonight and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 18 at 2 p.m.

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Christmas release rewind

JONATHAN SERRANO
STAFF WRITER

Another holiday season has come and passed with great gifts, along with some unfortunate letdowns. The film industry looks to Christmas for its big fourth quarter releases and tries to squeeze in some works with Oscar season around the corner. Some big hits that were released for Christmases past were “To Kill a Mockingbird,” “Catch Me If You Can,” and “Django Unchained.” Needless to say, we held high expectations for the jolly holiday of 2014.

Let’s start on a high note with “Into the Woods.” This musical film stars a plethora of big name actors such as Anna Kendrick, Meryl Streep, Johnny Depp and Chris Pine. Warning: addicting, mind-numbing, catchy tunes will stay with you. If you are like me, the singing can get annoying. But if that is what you are into, you will love it.

“Into the Woods” gives a modern twist to classic fairy tales, intertwining their narratives through an original story centered on the baker and his wife. The movie takes you through the upside of fairy tales for the first half of the movie but then shows the harsh reality of the “happily ever after” in the second. There is an attempt at going dark with these fairy tales, but keep in mind, this is a PG-rated Disney film. If you want to embrace the dark side of this story some more, I suggest watching the play version, where there are fewer restraints. Overall, if you are a fan of musicals and Disney, then you will love this movie. If not, then stay far away.

The 2014 Christmas season brought a more

serious film with “Unbroken,” Angelina Jolie’s second attempt at directing. If you are looking for an inspiring and beautiful film, this is the one for you. The film follows the true events of the late Louis Zamperini, Olympian, WWI prisoner of war, and faithful Christian. There are constant javelins thrown at Zamperini in attempts to “break” him, but he, of course, remains “unbroken.” Jack O’Connell (Zamperini) plays the role excellently; you can always feel the resilience in his facial expressions. The one issue there is, however, is that rather than Zamperini having to overcome an internal struggle to break or not, he never shows signs of breakage. While there is the obvious conflict of Zamperini being trapped and wanting to get out, there are no signs that he is struggling with the punishments. He is just a tough guy that can persevere. Nevertheless, this is still a beautifully-shot film with an important message behind it: If Zamperini was able to make it through his struggles, you can make it through yours. I suggest this film for anyone looking for some extra motivation and who enjoys a well-shot movie.

The most controversial release of the holiday was the return of the comedy duo Seth Rogen and James Franco in “The Interview.” In case you missed the huge news coverage of this movie, from its being pulled from release, then being put back on release, then having an online release along with choice theaters that wanted to show the film, there have been some problems with this movie. Unfortunately, the controversy might be bigger than the film itself. Rogen and Franco play producer and talk show host, respectively, who gain popularity and draw the attention of Kim Jung Un (Randall Park). After



agreeing to conduct an interview with Kim Jung Un, the CIA approaches Rogen and Franco to assassinate the dictator. This drew the ire of the real Kim Jung Un and threats came from North Korea, along with the Sony hack. However, the movie still pressed forward. The film is very much a satire of modern pop journalism and of the conflict between the U.S and North Korea. If you are a fan of the Rogen/Franco comedy duo, then this is the movie for you. The third act brings some awesomeness in with stealthy action, but overall, this is a typical Rogen/Franco film. I could laugh at these two at times, but for me, the tasteless, over-the-top humor does not always cut it. This is an entertaining movie and with its cheap online streaming price of \$5.99,

I would suggest watching it with some friends. Again, only expect to enjoy this movie if you have always been a fan of Rogen and Franco.

The highly-anticipated holiday movie releases have all together made me feel kind of “meh.” The movies were good, but not much more than that. I still call it a success; the movies were entertaining and engaging, but there was not that “umph” behind them to make them great. Since it is awards season for the film industry, do not be surprised to see some of these names again on your newsfeeds. Go to oscar.go.com for the full list of nominations for this year’s Oscars, the most highly valued award ceremony in the film industry.

The Snooty Fox

SARINA GRANT
ALUMNI CONTRIBUTOR

I love breakfast, and with that love naturally comes the search for the perfect breakfast restaurant.

A low point in my search was when IHOP became my default. I lived in the dorms for four years, and when I slept through brunch in the caf, or just wanted a change for breakfast, I would be swayed by the undeniable convenience of walking down the hill to the International House of Pancakes.

But, every time I went, I was disappointed. I began subscribing to the idea that I never actually wanted to go to IHOP, but somehow always ended up there.

Never again will I end up at IHOP, because after four and a half years of living in Orange County, I think I have finally found my perfect breakfast restaurant. The Snooty Fox, located in Laguna Hills, is the cute, cozy breakfast place with amazing food that I had been on the hunt for.

The words on the front of the menu are excellently descriptive of the restaurant.

“Home style cooking, friendly service, generous portions and affordable prices.” All of that is totally true.

The menu has a ton of choices, so you will probably find at least one thing that suits your fancy. P.S.: The logo for the restaurant is a fox wearing a top hat. Super snooty, super fancy. But back to the menu, they have a great selection of eggs, omelettes, pancakes, French toast, break-

fast sandwiches and specialty breakfast items.

For me, one of the biggest factors that determines if an establishment is worthy of my patronage is the quality of the hash browns. I’m serious about hash browns, guys, and The Snooty Fox did not disappoint. You can get regular hash browns, or “those potatoes,” which are hash browns with onions and bell peppers. Both options are that perfect mix of crispy on the outside, yet soft in the middle, and all around the perfect breakfast side.

The good thing is, breakfast is served all day. So for those of you who are not morning people, do not fret. However, if the idea of eating an omelet at 1 p.m. seems a little odd to you, The Snooty Fox has a great selection of lunch items too. Although I have never tried any lunch options myself, I can extrapolate that the sandwiches (they have specialty, grilled, open face and croissant sandwiches), quiche (lorraine, spinach or chicken vegetable), burgers, salads and other specialties are probably just as good as the breakfast choices.

The Snooty Fox is the perfect breakfast restaurant that also has the bonus of a great lunch menu. If you do not want to take my word for it, you have two options. One is to check out the Yelp reviews. The restaurant has over 300 reviews, and most of the consensus is positive.

Your other option is to drive over and try it yourself. The Snooty Fox is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and located in Laguna Hills at 23028 Lake Forest Drive. It is just a quick drive down the 405 S, right off the Lake Forest exit.

Trust me, you will never want to go to IHOP again.



Senior Mariya Artis looks at the menu at The Snooty Fox.



Concordia climbs

RYAN McDONALD
CAMPUS EDITOR

One of the more common New Year's resolutions is to become more active and exercise regularly. So, what better way to kick off the new semester than with a bike ride and rock climbing? Last Friday, LEAD's Outdoor Recreation Coordinators and the Peer Health Educators sponsored the CLIMB event, which took place at UCI's Anteater Recreation Center.

Around 2 p.m., students gathered at Sigma Square to rent bikes from the CU Rides program. Some also brought their own bikes. The students caravanned their bikes nearly two miles to the neighboring university to take on the challenge ahead of them.

When the group arrived, the staff at the recreation center was very helpful and gave everyone tips and strategies to conquer the rock wall, according to junior ASCUI president Scott Esswein. The climbers were provided with chalk bags, shoes and a helmet. There were eight rock walls that ranged in difficulty, with the toughest obstacle being inverted with pegs so small that the climbers could barely get their toes planted.

"One of the best parts of this activity for

me was the new people I had a chance to meet and the workout I got," Esswein said. "Rock climbing really did bring a sense of togetherness through the motivation and cheering we all did for each other. It was really awesome to see that."

Sophomore Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Damiana Gumiran and freshman Fusioner Claire Brainard both attended the activity as well. "It was so satisfying to ring the bell at the top of the wall," Gumiran said. "We definitely got a good workout. After we rock climbed, we had to take an uphill (bike) trip back to campus."

"It's great to get out and being active with everyone and experience something that we do not have every day," Brainard said. Brainard, as a freshman Fusioner, helps create and coordinate outdoor activities.

Throughout the semester, LEAD and other leadership organizations at Concordia will be hosting events that focus on bringing the students closer, personally and spiritually. To find out dates for these activities, and more information on upcoming events, visit the Student Event Calendar on the Concordia website, www.cui.edu/studentlife.



ASCUI President Scott Esswein begins his climb
Photo Credit: Damiana Gumiran



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