

Core Cambridge wins The Great Debate

ALEXANDER CARR
STAFF WRITER

On Mon., Feb. 9, the Core Cambridge and Oxford Honors programs were scheduled to duke it out in a knock-down-drag-out scholastic battle to decide which program would reign supreme. Unfortunately, those in the Oxford corner were unable to attend, so Cambridge took home the gold by default.

Despite the lack of scholarly bloodshed, the night still achieved its original goals. The Core Cambridge Program offers students the chance to study abroad for a semester at Cambridge while fulfilling sophomore core credits, among others.

The information night primarily explored the opportunities—academic or otherwise—that will be available during the Core Cambridge program. From lectures taught by English tutors and Concordia professors, to streets sprinkled with history on nearly every corner,

Bachman expressed how Cambridge offers an all-encompassing English experience – an experience that allows students to see the world, while working through their GE requirements.

“No matter where you go, you will find something that interests you,” said Dr. Susan Bachman, Honors Director and Joint Co-Director of the Core Cambridge Program. .

After the general overview of the program, the room was freed up for student questions.

“I got a lot of information that wasn’t on the pamphlet,” said freshman Carolyn Waite. “There was no debate, but I still got the information I needed.” The questions ranged from curiosities about course selection, to financial concerns and general questions about life in



Cambridge.

Dr. James Bachman, Professor of Philosophy and Ethics, and supporting Joint Co-director of the Core Cambridge Program, informed stu-

dents that courses are not as set-in-stone as the pamphlet may suggest. Because each student is interviewed during the application process, room is left for students to tailor their experi-

ence to their specific goals.

Faith McKinney, Director of Global Programs, also informed students that scholarships follow them on their semester overseas. This, however, came with a caveat for performance scholarship holders who are required to speak with coaches and directors to ensure the same travel rules apply.

Past Cambridge Program participants, Kar-sin Gowdy and Caitlin Newton, seniors, also answered questions and shared experiences. Gowdy said one of the things she loved most about the program was the friends she made during her stay that are now friends with whom she still keeps in contact.

Though the night chiefly orbited around the Core Cambridge Program, Dr. James Bachman paused and said, “I hate to admit this, but Oxford has plenty to offer as well.”

Samantha Gross, sophomore and current participant in the Oxford program, supported this, saying, “The studying is rigorous, but the resources available, both through libraries and other students, is incredible.” Despite it being covered less than thoroughly during the event, Oxford still stands as a respected program for those wishing to travel and study abroad.

Dr. James Bachman touched on one of the many reasons students should consider travel. “While being in different cultures, you learn that they not only speak a different language, but they live a different life,” said Bachman. We may share our language with the English, but our way of life can be different.

For those interested in experiencing it firsthand, deadlines for applications have been extended to Feb. 16 for Cambridge and April 9 for Oxford. For more information, visit the Office of Global Programs in Admin 120.

Donor Appreciation Week

GARRETT ROLDAN
STAFF WRITER

This past Tues., Feb. 10, the first-ever CUI Donor Appreciation Week at Concordia kicked-off in front of the Student Union. The Donor Appreciation Week, which continued through Thursday, was dedicated to the generous and helpful donors who give Concordia students the opportunity to receive a great education.

“[Donor Appreciation Week] is a great way to show students on campus how much these donors really give to us to not only better our campus, but to give us the chance to better our education,” said Victoria Peleras, freshman.

Donor Appreciation week gave students the chance to thank the donors who help provide opportunities for student success. The week’s activities included a scavenger hunt, Thank-a-Donor day and a donor appreciation luncheon. “This week gives students a great opportunity to come out and give our thanks back,” said Jason O’Brien, junior.

The activity for the first day, the scavenger hunt, took place and included special posters that were hung around campus that were given to the school by the donors. Students were encouraged to take a scavenger hunt sheet and go around school to the landmarks on the map, take a picture and post it using the hashtag #CUIDonorAppreciation. Christina Hallock, Annual Giving Coordinator, explained that

there were about 20 donor stopping points on the scavenger hunt checklist. Students were given the opportunity to learn about donors, have fun and enter to win fantastic prizes.

The second day of the event was Thank-a-Donor day. This gave students the chance to come to a Donor Appreciation booth and either write a thank-you card or record a message of thankfulness at the video station, which would be sent out to all the wonderful donors. The gratitude from the students isn’t always shown, but this event was a great way to express to the donors how grateful the students are for their contributions. “I’m thankful and appreciative of what they do, and as a student, we are very thankful that these donors can help us out,” Peleras said.

On the final day of Donor Appreciation Week, some students were chosen to meet and have lunch with certain donors. “Lunch was a great way of getting the donors and students together and not just having the donors being a number on a check, but having the students connecting with them and showing their thankfulness was great,” said Nikki Ancona, sophomore. Donor Appreciation Week not only connected the donors and the students, but opened the eyes of many students to show them what someone else can give, so they can pursue their careers and dreams at Concordia.

Concordia remembers Diane Gaylor

RYAN McDONALD
CAMPUS EDITOR

A very special and respected woman, Diane Gaylor, passed away unexpectedly in her home in Rancho Cucamonga last month, on Jan. 9. She was 47. Gaylor, Christ College alumna, ’89, and former head Librarian at Concordia, was “cherished by all,” said Dr. Paul Massmann, Associate Dean. Massmann gave a eulogy at Gaylor’s funeral, showing his appreciation for Gaylor, just as she did for the students and colleagues at Concordia.

“Diane was a servant to everyone who came into the library. I remember her saying, ‘when I serve others, I serve Christ,’” Massmann said.

Gaylor graduated with a B.A. in English and then went on to receive her M.B.A in Library Science. She served as an editor for numerous Doctoral Dissertations, including Massmann’s. Whether it was a freshman looking for books, or a faculty member needing assistance, Gaylor was more than willing to provide help to anyone that asked - or did not ask.

Gaylor was a part of the Christ College and Concordia family for over 15 years. Her death was announced during a Friday chapel service, and the following week, Rev. Steven Mueller, Dean of Christ College, lead a campus memorial service in her honor. The CU Center was filled with professors and colleagues from all departments to pay their respects and appreciate what she had done for this institution. Her devotion to what she loved also helped her succeed as a librarian.

Gaylor was not just recognized here, on campus, but was identified across the country.

In 2005, she was hired by DeVry University as the national head Librarian for all the DeVry campuses across the United States.

“She was always smiling, and wanting to be around people,” said Dr. Kerri Tom, Chair of Humanities. “I remember I asked her and Mark Siegert (Theology Faculty) to go to Disneyland on an off-day. The three of us had a wonderful time pretending to be a very strange family and we took a picture with Mickey Mouse. I still have that picture, today.”

Gaylor was a very loving mother and wife. Her husband, Phil, and her daughter, Kyra were heartbroken over the sudden loss of Gaylor. She and her husband were best friends and firm followers of Christ. They enjoyed traveling California in search of high-end wineries.

Also, each year the two would host an annual soccer tournament in Diamond Bar as a charity fundraiser.

“There are so many people that felt a connection with her. She was just a complete and loving human being, with a fabulous sense of humor,” said Katharine Borst, Professor of English. Borst and Gaylor attended Christ College together and her personality remained gold ever since. “Even when we were students here, people still got that warm, welcoming presence from her. I will forever admire that about her,” Borst said.

Gaylor set a prime example of what a Concordia Eagle should strive to be: kind, trustworthy, and ambitious. Her name will not be forgotten here at Concordia, and the professors and colleagues who knew her will always respect her as a person and a dear friend.

Students and faculty to take a trip “Down Under”

MARNIE SALVANI
STAFF WRITER

Nine members of the Concordia family will go “down under” and visit Australia as part of a May Term Travel Course, May 7 to 24. Three faculty members and six students aim to learn more about the Australian education system, and compare it with the American way.

The three faculty members accompanying the students are Dr. Michael Schulteis, Director of Undergraduate Teacher Education Program, Professor Patty O'Connor, Resident Faculty in Education, and Tim Schumacher, Assistant Professor Education Technology.

The group will drive to six Lutheran schools and fly to a number of lesser-known places in the country where tourists do not normally visit. Melbourne, the Adelaide coast and Sydney

are only a few of the places they will visit. Before diving into a different culture for 17 days, the class has been preparing by meeting twice a week to learn more about the culture and history of Australia.

The group will also participate in a service learning program with the privilege of meeting the indigenous people of Australia. “For six days, we’ll be doing a service project with the Finke River Mission of the Lutheran Church of Australia and two Lutheran schools, in and around Alice Springs--the center of Australia,” Schumacher said.

Several students were attracted to the class because of the chance to participate in the service project with the aboriginals. “I love doing mission work. It’s a big passion of mine,” said Rebekah Amort, sophomore. “I’m excited to step into their culture and see how God is going to work through us as a team.”

While in China for a faculty trip in 2012, Schulteis and O'Connor decided to create a course comparing culture and educational systems, choosing the United States and Australia. Schulteis had a connection to Australia because he received his doctoral degree in Perth. O'Connor was passionate about working with the aboriginal people there. They also contacted Schumacher because of his experience teaching near Perth for four years.

Schulteis and Schumacher have used their experience to add some special insight to the classes as they prepare to enter a new culture. For both junior Jessica Mendoza and sophomore Elizabeth Burley, this will be their first international journey.

“I have never been out of the country, so I am a little nervous. But every time we talk more and more about the trip, I get more and more excited,” Burley said.

Schulteis said students will “come away with a broader understanding of what education is and our place in the global system.” The Australia trip is just one of the May Term Travel courses, which are part of an initiative on campus to create global citizens.

To prepare for the trip, the class has not only learned about the education system of Australia, but they have covered the government, food, music and more. While the students were not fans of Vegemite, an Australian food similar to Nutella, the students were curious to try new things. She also added, one of their goals for the trip is to “take a selfie with a kangaroo and a koala.” Even Schulteis said he “can’t wait to pet the kangaroos, again.”

To learn more information about the trip, visit <https://sites.google.com/a/cui.edu/australia-may-2015/home>.

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Starting fresh: Women’s Water Polo

MAILE WILSON
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in the Women’s Water Polo program, the program has hired the first full-time assistant coach for the 2015 spring season. Dreason Barry, whose extensive career will help the ladies this season, wants to instill positivity and accountability in his players.

“I want discipline and respect in these girls, and I want them to enjoy what they’re doing at the same time,” Barry said.

Coming off a rough season last year with a disappointing record of 4-25, and only seven players, senior captain Meg Dix said, “all the girls are on the same page and have completely turned the program around. It’s exciting and something to look forward to.”

Consisting of mainly freshmen and sophomores, with only two seniors, the water polo program is looking to build itself up again. Practices consist of early morning weight training workouts to help increase their endurance, followed by a two-hour workout in the pool. This is the team’s first year doing weights, and sophomore Emily Varisco notices the difference in her teammates. “We are in way better shape this year, and we are a lot stronger,” Varisco said. “Plus, having more players this year helps out, too; we’re more cohesive.”

The switch to NCAA Division II has also brought many changes for the program. With this switch, Barry and Head Coach John Wright

are trying to build a four-year program with the new women they have. Accompanying this transition, the women must also practice anywhere from 16 to 20 hours, both inside and outside the pool. “I think the required hours are positive because it pushes us to get the job done,” said Kelsey Stumm, junior.

It is without a doubt that the girls have a lot of work to do, but sophomore captain Tayla Walsh said, “the girls have a lot of enthusiasm, and with this attitude, we can conquer anything.”

Nevertheless, the women continue to be optimistic with the recent addition of a graduate assistant coach. “Coach Russell has helped a lot. Although he is primarily a goalie coach, he brings a lot of positivity and cares about what we do outside the pool too,” Dix said. With this new foundation, the team has high hopes for this season.

Two weeks ago, the ladies kicked off their season with a tournament at California Baptist University. They lost both games by close margins. “That was the first time I had fun playing a game,” Varisco stated. “We had such good effort, even with all the ejections we had in the game.”

All these improvements to the program have made the Eagles hopeful for a better season. With home games just around the corner beginning on March 8 at the William Woollet Jr. Aquatics Center in Irvine, the ladies hope to get the support of their friends and family to help them on this journey of improving not only themselves, but their program as well.

Men’s Tennis serves up the new season

CHRISTOPHER M. CANTWELL
STAFF WRITER

The #11-ranked Concordia Men’s Tennis team looks to have another shot at making a run toward a National Tournament title, after losing last year in the second round of the National Tournament.

The team has gotten off to a hot start opening up the new season, winning three of the first four matches. Some of the key returning players for the Eagles include seniors Kai Cope and captain Christian Wickenhauser. Along with many familiar faces to the team, there are also a few new additions, including two junior international transfer students, Till Guttenburger and Rafael Racy.

“We all push each other every day in practice to get better. Playing all of the talent that we have on our team every day is making us a dangerous team this year,” Cope said. Individually, the men’s team has beaten their opponents by 29 wins to only seven losses by the players in singles and doubles matches.

Conditioning was a big emphasis leading up to the season. The team had early morning conditioning, which included agility drills, runs up French Hill, and weight lifting along with afternoon practices in the same day. “I don’t think a lot of people know how physically demanding tennis is. Matches can last upwards of four or five hours at a time, and some of us play both singles and doubles matches in the same day,”

Wickenhauser said. “So conditioning our bodies in the offseason is a huge part of a team’s success.”

The Eagles also play very stiff competition in their conference, such as the Master’s College and Vanguard University. “Coming from Georgia Southern University, I wasn’t really sure what to expect as far as the competition from going from a D1 school to NAIA. But the high level of competition that we face in our conference is great,” Racy said.

The athletic ability is clearly visible amongst the men, but so is their chemistry. “What makes this team special is that we all genuinely get along with each other. A lot of the guys on the team are my good friends, and knowing that we all have each other’s best interests at heart really boosts team morale,” Guttenburger said.

The Eagles have a few upcoming matches that should be great to watch in the next few weeks with schools such as #24-ranked San Diego Christian College, #4-ranked Vanguard and #9-ranked Westmont.

“Our team is very deep with talent and that really plays to our advantage against these tough teams. We could put eight different guys out there who can give us a good chance to win,” Wickenhauser said.

The team’s next match is at Biola University on Tues., Feb. 17. Come support the Men’s Tennis team or check out the CUI Eagles app to follow along with results.

Tylisman Armstrong named GSAC Player of the Week

CASEY TAHA
STAFF WRITER

Last week, Tylisman Armstrong, senior forward on the Men’s Basketball team, received GSAC Player of the Week in his first season on the team as a transfer from East Carolina.

Armstrong has credited much of his success with the closeness of the team and coaching staff. He has had a slam dunk season, averaging an impressive 16 points per game.

“My teammates and coaching staff always have my back,” Armstrong said. “They give me the confidence to help my team win.”

“He is a great kid who works very hard and is really great to coach and be around.”

This is Armstrong’s first year and season with the team, and he feels very close to the players and coaches. “The team is a brotherhood, which is something I didn’t have at other schools,” Armstrong said. Armstrong also feels a sense of closeness with the campus community and enjoys the company of many other students and athletes on campus.

Armstrong loves his family and wants to

set an example for his three sisters. Armstrong also plays for God because He has given him this amazing athletic talent.

Martin Thomas, junior guard said, “[Armstrong] is a workhorse who is always in the gym.” Thomas credits Armstrong with motivating himself and teammates to succeed. “[Armstrong] is one of our biggest motivators on the team. He motivates us and himself every game,” Thomas said. “He continues to work hard offensively and defensively.”

Ken Ammann, Head Coach, said, “Armstrong is completely bought into the team; his work ethic is very high.” Armstrong, like other players on the team, shows improvement, which is what the coaching staff wants to see from the players throughout their season. “He is always in the gym and has a lot of pride in improving in all areas of his life,” Ammann said. “He has improved as a player and a person and is on the road God wants him to be on.”

Brett Lauer, Assistant Coach, MCAA ’14, said, “I’ve never seen guys as athletic and prepared as him not do great things.” Lauer is very impressed with Armstrong and how he works so hard and is such a great athlete and teammate. “He is a part of great team that loves having him and he loves being here,” Lauer said. “He is a great kid who works very hard and is really great to coach and be around.”

Armstrong’s athleticism, determination and motivation are key driving forces for both himself and the team as a unit. His drive to ensure that his teammates succeed and the team wins makes him a powerful player on and off the court. His love for God, his family and the community on campus make him strive to achieve his goals. The Men’s basketball team looks forward to finishing out the season strong and with the hopes of bringing home a GSAC Conference Title.

Their next game is against Arizona Christian University tomorrow in the gym at 7:30 p.m. For more information about the Men’s Basketball Team, visit the CUI Eagles app or visit www.cuieagles.com



Senior Ty Armstrong named GSAC Player of the Week

Caffeinated Conversations

ALEX GERRAIN
STAFF WRITER

To promote a more united student body, Diversity Awareness coordinators, Wesley Barnes, senior, and Nikki Ancona, sophomore, are now hosting a new program called Coffee Talks this semester. Coffee Talks are available for participation once a month on Wednesdays. Students are welcome to come and enjoy a free cup of coffee from 10:30 to 11 a.m. outside of the Eagle Lounge.

As Diversity Awareness coordinators, both Barnes and Ancona are in charge of creating programs that focus on the diversity of God's creation. These programs help promote a safe haven in which students can come and discuss their ethnic identity and help develop their sense of self.

Barnes and Ancona have tried different programs to create a space for students to come and discuss what is on their mind. "We started with a movie night where students could come

and just watch a movie, but we didn't have a big enough turnout," Ancona said. So, Barnes and Ancona decided they had to change something in order to promote this place of comfort and draw in more students. As a result, they came up with Coffee Talks.

This program is designed to discuss somewhat sensitive topics such as race, religion and ethnic identity. Such topics are sometimes hard and uncomfortable for students to talk about, so creating a program such as Coffee Talks has allowed students to feel comfortable doing so. "My favorite part about Coffee Talks is being able to have a forum to talk about things that I'm not sure are really represented on campus all that often," said Brendon Blake, senior, who attended the first Coffee Talk last month.

Ancona explains that each month there is a new topic at hand. Both Barnes and Ancona present the group with the topic of the day and begin the discussion. As students begin to engage more in the conversation, the discussion then has the freedom to continue in any direction it happens to take.

Amanda Alvarez, sophomore, has truly enjoyed participating in the Coffee Talks. "It allows everyone to tell their story and their beliefs among fellow students," Alvarez said. Coffee Talks is a place where opinions may be discussed and there is no judgment. "It is a 30-minute program that takes place in the middle of the day so that all students, including commuters, are here on campus. We designed this program to be staff-free so that students feel free to share opinions and generate open conversations," said Brianna Springer, '07, Director of Multicultural Leadership and Service Learning.

For any students who may be looking for a social group, a safe venting space or simply a place to have a healthy conversation, look to join in on the Coffee Talk next month on March 18. Students are encouraged to bring friends with them to come and join in on the discussion. For more information about Coffee Talks, visit their Instagram and/ or Facebook page or through the slips that are posted around campus. For any questions, concerns, or comments contact Barnes or Ancona.



The Heritage Garden Cultivating the Concordia community

NATALIE CORONA
STAFF WRITER

Every Wednesday, The Heritage Garden Club meets by the Egypt parking lot between 3:30 and 5 p.m. to plant and tend to the campus garden. The club is not just exclusive to students; it is open to community members, faculty and staff who may also be interested in this fruitful project.

Originating in the spring of 2014, the club is fairly new but is very active in inviting students into the garden. Throughout the year, the club hosts multiple events. Every second and fourth Saturday of the month, volunteers are invited to come help tend the garden between 9 a.m. and noon. The club hosts an Earth Day celebration in April and they currently are planning a movie night.

Along with hosting events on campus, the club ventures out into the community and volunteers at various community events. Heritage Garden Club President Lacey Henry, senior, has been involved since the club's beginning and has seen it flourish. One of the greatest accomplishments is seeing the interest students have put into it. That interest does not just end with students, as "faculty and the community bring a lot of support, which is really fulfilling," Henry said. In addition to the local support, the Heritage Garden, which is located on a Native American Cultural historical site, is often tended to by tribe members who come and work with the

volunteers alongside the others.

The Heritage Garden Club is centered on one motto – cultivate community – and Thea Gavin, Associate Professor of English and faculty advisor of the club, expressed just how the garden does so. "It is a way to get people—students, community members, faculty and staff – to get out to the garden and work together."

"It is a way to get people- students, community members, faculty and staff- to get out to the garden and work together."

Some of the activities that take place include raking, planting, harvesting, weeding and digging. Gavin continued to say that by students interacting with experienced gardeners, they also develop new life lessons, gardening skills and they learn to care for God's creation.

The Heritage Garden Club is open to all students. "So just stop on by, grab a butter knife and start planting," said Weston Paulson, senior, who stumbled upon Concordia's hidden gem (The Heritage Garden) and did just that. Paulson is currently working on planting native

tobacco seeds. After attending a few gardening sessions, Paulson is enjoying his time learning about where our food comes from and the process that goes along with it. "It is the world's hobby," Paulson said, in regard to the sense of the community gardening brings. People of all ages and expertise come together and bond on this common ground.

Senior Taylor Stice also took advantage of the warm welcome that The Heritage Garden Club extends to all potential gardeners. Stice is looking forward to developing this new skill that can be carried on for the rest of her life.

One of the biggest goals the club is working toward is being able to produce enough fruits and vegetables to donate to local shelters. Wesley Spottiswood, sophomore, is well on his way to helping the club reach this goal. Last semester, Spottiswood helped plant an abundance of leafy greens. On Feb. 3, some of that fresh produce harvested from the garden was served in the cafeteria to students and faculty. Spottiswood was in disbelief that his plants had actually survived. "It was cool and I was excited to try my lettuce," Spottiswood said.

Those interested in joining The Heritage Garden Club are encouraged to stop by for Green Wednesdays between 3:30 to 5 p.m. by the Egypt parking lot. Feel free to join in on the gardening day taking place tomorrow between 9 a.m. and noon. Those interested in learning about The Heritage Garden and its Native American roots, visit www.IRConservancy.org and www.BackToNative.org

Chinese New Year campus celebrations

KAYTLIN VISCA
STAFF WRITER

From fireworks to campfires, to red dresses and sequins, and everything in between, everyone celebrates the Chinese New Year differently. On campus this month, there will be events hosted by the Office of Global Programs and Bon Appétit to ring in the Chinese New Year.

The Office of Global Programs, located in Admin 120, invites students, faculty and staff to enjoy a Lunar New Year celebration to celebrate the year of the Ram on Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dr. Dan Waite, Professor of Intercultural Studies and the Executive Director of Global Programs, has his team putting together the open house, which will feature traditional food, decorations and music. "Part of why it matters to us is because we want to be recognized and show hospitality to students (on campus) from East Asia who celebrate the Lunar New Year," Waite said. He expressed the importance of this event, since most of the Asian international students don't have the typical days off from school to celebrate like they would in Asia.

Many members of the Office of Global Programs staff either come from parts of Asia or have lived in Asia for a significant amount of time. "We are going to have the staff each bring in their own favorite traditional food to the celebration," said Cheri Chan, Administrative Assistant in the Office of Global Programs. Chan expressed how happy she was that they are putting on this event, because this is her first year working at Concordia during the Lunar New Year celebration. "With the growing population of Asian, Chinese and (other) international students, this event is a great way to bring people together since we are here and not at (our original) homes," Chan said. Chan is originally from Hong Kong.

"Part of why it matters to us is because we want to be recognized and show hospitality to students (on campus) from East Asia who celebrate the Lunar New Year."

Waite stated how important it is to make the students feel welcome. "The more that the campus knows about this, the more that the (international) students will feel more welcome," Waite said. Waite encourages everyone to stop by to enjoy the food, meet new people and learn a little more about what the Office of Global Programs offers.

Another event that will take place on campus in the Student Union is a traditional food buffet featuring foods typical of Asian culture. Cecilia Wong, Assistant Manager of Bon Appétit, expressed her excitement for the upcoming event. The cafeteria will be serving traditional Asian cuisine such as egg rolls, fried rice and potstickers.

"Since there are also Korean, Japanese, Chinese and Filipino students (at Concordia), [the cuisine] appeals to all Asian students on campus," Wong said. Wong also said that there will be decorations put up around the Student Union during the Lunar New Year as well. She hopes to find Lucky Envelopes to give to students, which are traditional Chinese envelopes that are generally filled with candy or chocolate coins. These envelopes are handed out during the New Year for good luck and prosperity. This event will take place in the Student Union on Feb. 24 during the normal lunch hours of 11 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

Disneyland celebrates its 60th anniversary

CELINA STRATTON
STAFF WRITER

The world-renowned theme park, Disneyland, is winning the battle against measles. Even with the recent outbreak reportedly originating from the park, the resilient Disneyland is continuing with renovations and preparations for its 60th anniversary Diamond Celebration beginning May 22.

The home of the iconic Mickey Mouse originally opened on July 17, 1955. To celebrate 60 years of magic, Disneyland is kicking off its anniversary festivities in late May. Upon entering the park, it is clear that there are significant decor differences in celebrating this milestone.

Many of the attractions, in both Disneyland and its sister park, California Adventure, have been closed due to refurbishments. According to the popular Disney blog, MousePlanet, many parkgoers' favorites are under repair, such as the Matterhorn Bobsleds, Splash Mountain, Peter Pan's Flight, Soarin' Over California and Luigi's Flying Tires.

In addition to a handful of rides under renovation, some of the entertainment shows are also being transformed. Juniors Joshua De La Rosa and Kelsey Hernandez mentioned the debut of new evening shows such as a new parade, fireworks extravaganza and an updated version of the popular California Adventure show, World of Color.

According to Disneyland's official website, the new interactive parade, "Paint the Night," will include favorite characters such as "Frozen"'s Anna and Elsa, Peter Pan, Ariel and, of course, Mickey Mouse. Hernandez, who has been a cast member in California Adventure for over a year, said the new parade "will be a twist on the Electrical Parade." The nighttime spectacular will debut on Main Street, U.S.A., and the floats will be decorated with over 1.5 million LED lights.

The modernized fireworks show is also a heavily anticipated event. De La Rosa, a cast

member of the Tomorrowland attractions in Disneyland, described the new fireworks show, "Disneyland Forever," as a combination of original fireworks and visual projections.

Kayla Lardner, a sophomore currently enrolled in the Disney College Program, revealed there will be projections on multiple buildings such as Sleeping Beauty's Castle, the Matterhorn and It's a Small World. By adding projections on more than one building, "you can sit anywhere and see a different show from wherever you are," Lardner said.

De La Rosa recommended the fireworks and parade to anyone who plans to visit Disneyland after all of the refurbishments are complete. Junior Quinn Albright, a Premium-level annual passholder, is also excited about the fireworks show and to see what changes are made. "I love the happiness Disneyland provides," Albright said.

To top it all off, a special edition of World of Color, California Adventure's light and water show, is premiering as well. "The new show is aimed towards the history of Walt and when he created Disneyland," Hernandez said.

The new shows and restored attractions are all just the beginning of the Disney excitement. The castle is currently being bedazzled with diamonds to commemorate the "Diamond Celebration." According to sophomore and current cast member, Lily MacLennan, Disneyland plans on making more announcements along the way as May 22 quickly approaches. "They plan on making everything nice and pristine for the anniversary," MacLennan said.

Hernandez said this year matters a lot to show how far Disneyland has come. In regards to giving visitors the Disney experience, Lardner said, "I feel like I really am making magic." MacLennan added, "The best part is making people happy. Some people come every day and some only once a year. We get to give them an experience."

Discounted Disneyland tickets can be bought online through "My Records" under "Concordia Ticket Discounts" on myrecords.cui.edu.

Irvine war memorial honors soldiers fallen in the Middle East

ABBY PASCUAL
STAFF WRITER

The Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial is America's first memorial listing the names of fallen American service members during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was opened to the public in November of 2010. The memorial, next to the Northwood Community Park, was built upon a foundation to make it certain that our future generations will honor and be aware of those who have fought for our freedom.

A temporary memorial since 2003, which displayed names on wooden posts, was a part of the beginning of the memorial. These names are now permanently engraved in granite in the new memorial.

"My grandson actually had a classmate who died in the Operation Iraqi Freedom, who is listed here on one of the walls," said Sandra Sparks, a visitor at Northwood Community Park. Currently, the walls hold 6,786 names of American soldiers who died for their country from October 2001 through March 2014. New names will be added to these walls as long as American service members are giving their lives in these conflicts.

Many people from the Irvine community and visitors from across the country have been frequently coming to the Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial for years. "It is definitely important that we always remember what the soldiers put forth, as far as putting their lives at stake to better the lives of the common civilian," said Niki Knezovich, a staff member at the Northwood Park Center.

Joshua Buffham, a member of the National Guard who visited the park with his wife, said, "both of our dads were in the Vietnam Wars. It is nice to have [a memorial] in your neighborhood. It means a lot to those who are affected." There are about three to four formal ceremonies at the memorial every year, including those on Veterans Day and Memorial

Day. Past events have consisted of names being read aloud, lit candles and even a United States Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team visiting in memory of America's fallen heroes.

Another current staff member at the Park Center, Jessica Aguilar, said, "when my boyfriend, Angel Guerrero, got out of the military in 2011, he used his VA benefits for school. He served for six years." VA benefits, like the Post-9/11 GI Bill, are provided to veterans and service members who served after Sept. 10, 2001. They offer higher education and training, and may sometimes be used for their families. There are many opportunities for students at Concordia to use these VA benefits for financial support as well.

"The walls hold 6,786 names of American soldiers who died for their country from October 2001 through March 2014."

The Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial is located at 4531 Bryan Avenue in Irvine. The memorial is open 24 hours a day, year round. Free materials are provided at the Northwood Park Center for name rubbing. Donations are gratefully accepted to help the costs of engraving names and maintaining the memorial. A fitting quote found on its website, northwoodmemorial.com, is "To be killed in a war is not the worst that can happen. To be lost is not the worst. To be forgotten is the worst;" - Pierre Claeysens, 1909-2003.

Study abroad snapshot: Danielle MacLain, junior



Location:
This picture is taken in Westminster, near Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, and the Houses of Parliament.

Surprises:
I was surprised by how small Big Ben actually was in person. In all the pictures I had seen it looked like it would have been much bigger than it actually was.

Best Food:
My favorite food here would have to be their pancakes, which are more like crepes in America.

Looking Forward:
To exploring and learning all about the history of London. We have a lot of weekend trips planned to explore the UK and even outside the UK.

Concordia Theatre takes Utah

LYNDI ROSDAIL
STAFF WRITER

Theatre students left for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival on Tues., Feb. 10. The five-day competitive event is held at Dixie State College in St. George, Utah. The event includes workshops, seminars, competitions and shows for the students.

The focus of the event is geared toward giving students “an opportunity to go and see the work of other schools, to connect with students from other departments and to go to workshops,” and for the students to “grow as theatre artists,” said Professor Lori Siekmann, Theatre Department Chair.

Students will be performing their production of “The Drowsy Chaperone” for the regional festival. Selected students will also be participating in the Irene Ryan Scholarship Audition competition, One-Act performances and other competitions throughout the festival. While some students will stay for the whole festival depending on their nominations for completions, others will stay just for the performance of “The Drowsy Chaperone.”

“It’s going to be wonderful... stressful, crazy and absolutely insane. It’s what we do and it’s what we love,” said Kierney Loucas, junior.

Since the festival nominates plays based on the calendar year, “The Drowsy Chaperone,” which debuted at the beginning of 2014, qualified. Since it has been a year since this play was first performed, some new students had to learn parts for the first time to fill in for recently graduated theatre students. Theatre students have been working rehearsing the show and making it better each rehearsal. “I think it will get a really great response from the festival itself and I think all of our work will show through,” Loucas said.

Respondents from theatre departments of other schools came to watch nominated shows prior to the festival. After the show, respondents critiqued the cast on their performance, and they chose two or three people to compete in the Irene Ryan competition. Once selected, additional auditions are held to select partners for the students who were nominated. “The nominee and their partner prepare two scenes and then the nominee prepares a monologue. There can be anywhere from 200 to 300 pairs competing in the first round,” Siekmann said. Concordia will be one of the many schools involved and represented in the festival. After the preliminary round, 64 out of 100 continue on to the semifinals. Then from the semifinal round, 16 pairs continue on to the final round.

“The last two years, the festival was hosted in Los Angeles, but it can be hosted anywhere within the region,” Siekmann said. The Concordia Theatre Department has been going to this festival every year and has been to Dixie State one other time in the past.

Freshman Kailey Vigil auditioned and was chosen to be a partner. “I wasn’t really sure what it was about,” Vigil said, “I just knew I wanted to go to Utah and perform with all of my friends. I’m looking forward to seeing all of the talent and what Concordia brings.” One of Vigil’s favorite aspects of being involved in theater is that when she is rehearsing days on end together with other students, they become a family. It is not just the closeness shared within the theatre family, but “it’s the fact that we can voice our opinions about each other’s work in a safe environment. The love that we have for what we’re doing and for each other always comes out on top,” Loucas said.

A Night for Valentines: Concordia’s Donne de Canto and Men’s Chorus take the stage

KENDRA SITTON
ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

A Night for Valentines, a concert featuring Concordia’s Donne di Canto and Men’s Chorus, will take place Sun., Feb. 15 in the CU Center at 7:30 p.m.

“This concert is unique in the year because it’s the only one where we have multiple small groups and solos,” said Dr. Marin Jacobson, Director of the Donne di Canto and Men’s Chorus.

“It’s a really fun night,” said junior April Hall, a member of Donne di Canto, referencing the concert’s reputation as a lighthearted performance. Last year, Hall performed, “Love is an Open Door” at the Valentines concert with sophomore Noah Menke.

The songs of the Valentines concert are centered around the holiday’s romantic nature. Both Jacobson and Hall mentioned excitement about the Donne di Canto’s rendition of “I Feel Pretty” from West Side Story. Even with this common theme, the songs featured are an eclectic mix of pop, musical, classic and jazz hits. One of the more unusual songs to be featured is from Estonia.

“I love seeing the students in small groups because it’s fun for them to be the star for the moment,” Jacobson said. Unlike other concerts that only feature the full choirs, for this one, students can audition to perform pieces of their choice with their friends or a small group.

“I’m excited to hear the new repertoire from the Donne di Canto and Men’s Chorus,” said freshman Nate Darlington. “I’ve heard they’re doing some pretty cool pieces.”

Jacobson said that all are welcome at the Valentines concert, but that last year students filled up most of the seats in support of their friends. Darlington said, “It’s important for people to be

encouraging of their fellow students.” This is especially true as the music program continues to expand into one of Concordia’s strongest programs.

Jacobson described the evening as fun and romantic, perfect for couples to come to as a celebration of Valentine’s Day. “It’s songs about being in love and loving other people,” Hall said.

Students are looking forward to the whimsical event. “Just going and having that lovey-dovey celebration will be fun,” said Elise Logan, freshman. Together, Darlington and Logan will be commemorating the holiday devoted to St. Valentine while supporting many of their friends in the music program.

Sophomore Steven Todd is performing “Agony” from the Broadway play and feature-length film “Into the Woods.”

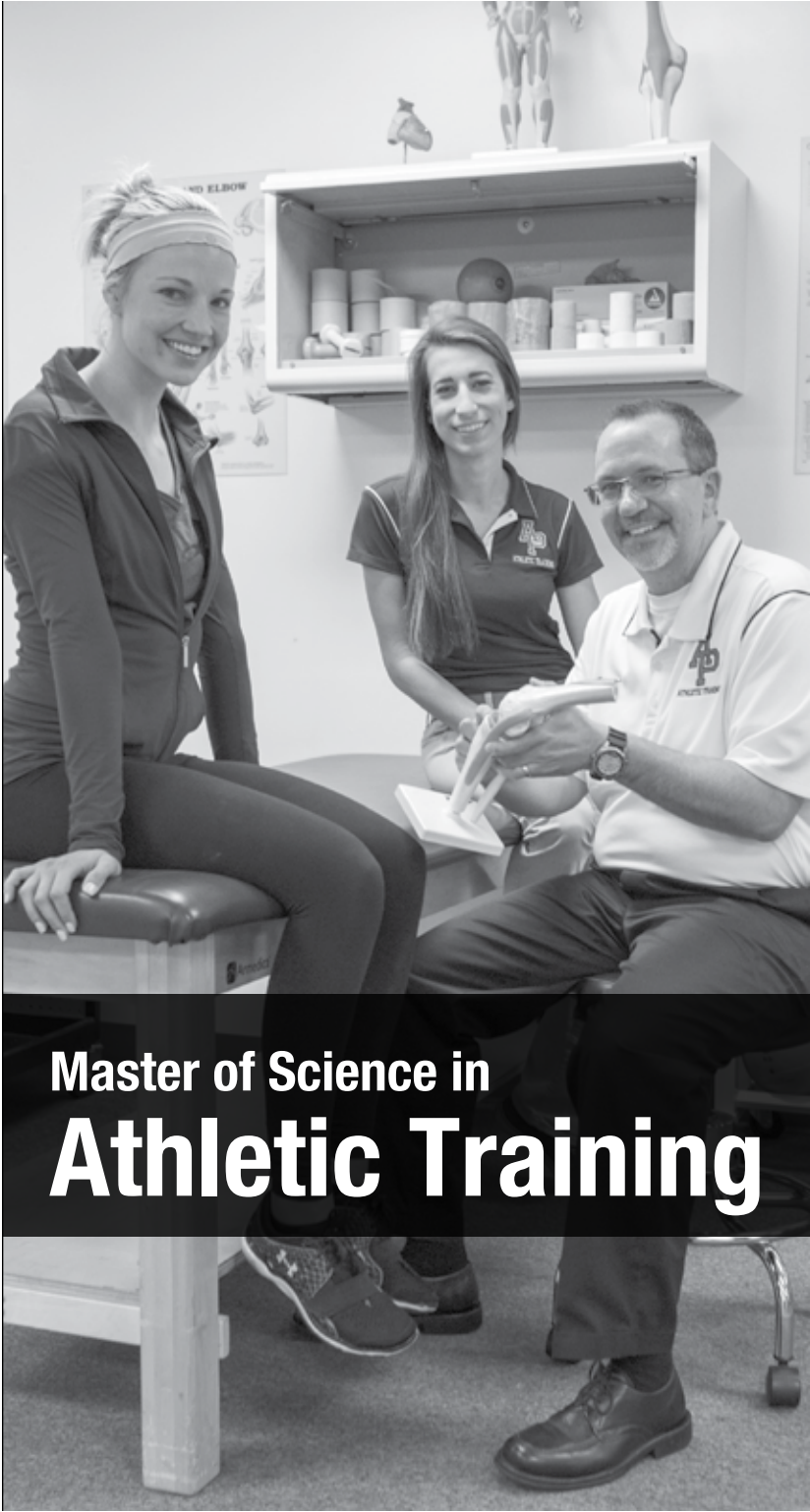
“I’m excited to put all my hard work up on the stage and show my friends and family what I can do musically,” Todd said.

Senior Erik Der said, “I’m looking forward to titillating the crowd with my accordion this Sunday.”

“It’ll make you laugh; it’ll make you want to cry,” Jacobson said, “It will be a beautiful evening.”

Throughout most of the performance, the men’s and women’s choirs will have separate pieces until they unite at the end for a finale. The first time the choirs practice this piece together will be at Friday night’s dress rehearsal. Hall is excited for the way the two growing groups will sound once they are working together.

Tickets for A Night for Valentines are on sale online or at the door for \$20 reserved seating, \$10 general admission, \$8 for seniors and free for students. The Donne di Canto and Men’s Chorus will deliver a fantastic night of musical entertainment centered around the theme of love.



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The LA Fit Expo:

Fit is no longer just a fad

JONATHAN SERRANO
STAFF WRITER

Last weekend, the Fit Expo came to Los Angeles. The Fit Expo is the leading fitness convention where all the top bodybuilders, powerlifters and any other fitness sport athletes gather together, along with the top brands in the industry, to interact with fans. The Expo also holds various workshops, competitions and showcases. This is the Comic-Con for fitness nerds.

Upon entering the LA Convention Center at 9:30 a.m., the crowd was already enormous. Doors opened at 10 a.m. and arriving a half hour early was not early enough. It was a 15-minute walk to reach the end of the line from the door. As I walked to the end of the line, I saw so many fit people. All different types of fit, from the super buff, can't-fit-through-the-door bodies to the super lean, 4% body fat and still-bigger-than-you bodies. It was definitely an eye-opening reminder of all those late night In-N-Out adventures that I probably should have skipped.

Once on the main floor, there were over 600 booths that went as far as the eye can see. Even for those that went without knowing any specific thing to see, the sheer breadth of the industry was put on display, each aspect calling you over with free goodies. Supplement brands took the largest percentage of booths, giving away multiple samples of proteins, fat burners, pre-workouts and any other supplements you can think of. The second largest group represented was the clothing brands, many giving away free shirts, bags or hats. The most impressive freebie for me was the free t-shirt from Gym Shark. These high quality shirts usually go for about \$30, so it was a very pleasant surprise for me. The rest of the booths advertised so many different, unique companies. Some were relevant, such as Slingshot (a band used for joint support during lifts), but others did not fit in. For example, T-Mobile and the LA Times had booths. The most surprising booth I found was one of our very own Concordias! Concordia University Chicago booked a booth for the event. Do not ask me why, but they did.

It was a wreck trying to walk around at the

Expo. There were lines intersecting lines, all to meet some fitness athlete or to get something for free. I was fortunate enough to meet a few of my own fitness inspirations. I met Jeremy Buendia, 2014 Mr. Olympia Physique Champion, and watched UFC Welterweight Champion Robbie Lawler warming up on the mats. If there was a big name athlete you wanted to meet, you had to prepare ahead of time and be willing to wait in one of the treacherous lines.

The continuing growth of the Fit Expo shows how this trend of fitness in social media is positively impacting real people. Concordia is known for encouraging its students toward

healthy living. I know current students and alumni remember their ESS classes, and the Fit Expo supports the same idea. The Fit Expo definitely motivated me to do more, and I suggest it to you as well, no matter who you are. Seeing the fittest people in the world gathered together in one place, each one as friendly as can be, makes you realize that you can do better in pursuit of your own fitness goals. The Fit Expo will be back in SoCal the weekend of Aug. 22 and 23 in Anaheim. If you would like to find out more about the Fit Expo, the exhibitors, or would like to purchase your ticket for future expos, go to thefitexpo.com.



In a pinch? Valentine's Day ideas

on a college budget

NATALIE WERNER
STAFF WRITER

Tomorrow is Valentine's Day! It is the much-anticipated day of love that so many look forward to spending with their sweetheart. For others, it is just another reminder as to how single they really are. Sometimes, it can be tough finding fun things to do on a college-kid budget. Here are a few ideas and advice from fellow Concordia students to help you make the night with the one you love most a little extra special or spend time with dear friends on this special day.

When thinking about Valentine's Day, it is easy to think about expensive restaurants, reservations and deep romance. For Carly Mottram, sophomore, she sees things differently. "Honestly, I would rather just have him (long-time boyfriend) cook dinner for me with candlelighting," Mottram said. Mottram is excited to celebrate the holiday with her boyfriend and do something together they do not necessarily do every day. For those who will be spending the evening with friends, there are also fun options. "Some of my favorite Valentine's Days have been spent with my best girlfriends on the couch with tons of junk food and whatever Nicholas Sparks movie is out at the time," Mottram said.

For the guys, it's not much different. "It's just going to be the same as any other day for me," said Vahn Bozoian, junior. "(Which means) an over consumption of candy and whatever other junk food I can find." Bozoian's advice to swoon

the lady of your dreams is, "if you can make a girl laugh, you've got yourself a Valentine." Ladies, Bozoian is currently looking for a Valentine to take to the Rusty Pelican restaurant, his go-to place for a romantic and special Valentine's Day dinner.

One of the top restaurants chosen for Valentine's Day dinner is right here in our own backyard, The Cheesecake Factory at the Irvine Spectrum. It is known for its wide variety of food

"It is the much-anticipated day of love that so many look forward to in order to spend with their sweetheart. For others, it is just another reminder as to how single they really are."

on the menu and the huge portions they serve for a reasonable price. "People know us for our great food and amazing dessert menu. You really can't go wrong," said Chris Branch, Manager of The Cheesecake Factory at Irvine Spectrum. "My advice would be to come in before 6 p.m., that is when we really start to get busy." Between

the amazing food, endless dessert options and superb service, The Cheesecake Factory seems to be a no-brainer to win your lady's approval tomorrow night without breaking the bank. They also do not take reservations, so guys, if you've dropped the ball and forgot to make reservations somewhere, The Cheesecake Factory definitely sounds like your best bet.

If you are looking for more than just dinner, there are several things you can do with your Valentine. Just down the road, the Laguna Beach Music Festival is going on. A musical night spent with your Valentine will surely be one to remember.

In Newport Beach and Dana Point, there are dolphin and whale-watching tours available. Take your date on a boat to see some of God's most beautiful creations! It will also be chilly, so it will give you an excuse to bundle up and cuddle up with your sweetie. It will be an experience neither of you will forget. These tours are also very inexpensive, so you don't have to worry about spending your entire paycheck on one date!

Luckily for us, we live in a place where the options are endless. Even a simple picnic outside to enjoy this beautiful weather is something to consider. Let your girl know you appreciate her and give hope to her single friends that they too will have a Valentine someday. And girls, remember, if you don't have a Valentine this year, get together with your girlfriends for something fun because they just might be some of the best Valentines you will ever have! Happy Valentine's Day, Eagles!

Anchors and Oceans

Restaurant review

KRISTINA KRAUS
STAFF WRITER

This past spring, the Balboa Bay Resort and Yacht Club went through an intense remodel of its entire property. One of their newest additions is the highly popular waterfront A&O Kitchen & Bar, overlooking the club's grandest yachts. The rustic interior, complete with live edge wood communal dining tables and bar tops, distressed wood floors, and reclaimed barn siding wall accents gives off a casual and inviting vibe.

The color scheme further embodies their nautical atmosphere as the restaurant is filled with hues of white, red and shades of blue. They also have a horseshoe-shaped bar that overlooks the Newport harbor, complete with several flat screen televisions fulfilling all of their guests' needs.

My favorite detail throughout the entire restaurant has to be the custom gold sailing rope light fixtures, which are looped over amber glass hanging from the ceiling. These light fixtures complete the nautical ambience and provide a beautiful glow throughout the restaurant.

We opted to dine outside by their glass firepits, overlooking my favorite yacht "The Bellissima," which translates to "most beautiful" in English. The gastropub-inspired menu is very generous with their portions; even sharing a meal could satisfy two.

After reviewing the intensive cocktail list, I opted for a glass of cabernet sauvignon, on tap. Yes, they serve wine on tap, distributed by OneHope winemakers. This wine is not only on tap, but it also serves as a philanthropic purpose as proceeds from the sales are donated to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County.

After receiving my delicious wine on tap, my friend and I decided to share their grilled Roman Caesar salad and their steak frites. Their unique twist on the classic Caesar salad incorporated cheese balls on top of the salad, which proved to be very delicious, and the perfect entrée to split.

The steak frites, which were served with blue cheese and onion relish, were also very flavorful, although a bit too decadent. We selected the Nutella pot de crème for dessert, and we were not disappointed.

Anchors and Oceans' relaxed beach vibe definitely works for them. They also conveniently offer delivery options to guests staying on the yachts in front of the restaurant. Live entertainment and dancing are offered on Friday and Saturday evenings from 8 to 11 p.m. Every day, they have a "Beat the Clock" happy hour that takes place from 4 to 7 p.m.

For more information about the Anchors and Oceans' menus and pricing, or to just make a reservation, contact them at (949) 630-4285. Anchors and Oceans is located inside the Balboa Bay Club at 1221 West Coast Highway, Newport Beach.

Concordia students attend the World Mandate West Missions Conference

MEGHAN BELCHERE
STAFF WRITER

Last weekend, from Feb. 6 to 8, Concordia students traveled for the first time to the annual World Mandate West Missions Conference in San Diego.

Steven McCarthy, sophomore, explained that the conference educated students about the places where missionaries are needed with the goal of inspiring people to pursue their calling in life.

Rebekah Amort, sophomore, said that she attended this event because “it is a great opportunity to grow in my faith and see how God is working in other peoples’ lives.” The journey that they experienced together bonded the group and strengthened their relationship with God as well.

The weekend at World Mandate West was a memorable experience for all. “I really enjoyed the conference. I feel like I grew in faith and learned a lot about what it means to be a daughter of God,” said Sarah Taylor, junior.

The students and faculty members had the opportunity to pray for different countries that missionaries at the conference were from. They prayed in small groups in the large auditorium before the entire group prayed as one. After the audience members in small groups concluded praying for those countries, mission representatives from those countries prayed in the native tongues of the country. “The Conference was an amazing, encouraging experience,” said

Nokukhanya Shabalala, junior. “When we all gathered around in groups praying, it made me realize that unity is the strength of the church. Christians should come together and pray for countries with Christians under persecution.”

This event integrated Christians from all different denominations together since they are all working for the same ultimate goal. The church that hosts it, All People’s Church, is a non-denominational church started from the Antioch movement. “It showed us a new perspective on our faith by interacting with people who are from different denominations, realizing that we have the common purpose of spreading the Gospel and helping people in need,” McCarthy said. “I liked hearing all the stories from different missionaries and seeing how God had taken these ordinary people and sent them out for incredible purposes in countries all over the world.” This event was refreshing and brought confidence to the students by showing them that God can work through us all and use us, no matter what our story is.

Not only can God use people to spread his word to different countries, but as Shabalala pointed out, God can use people right where they are already at in their own neighborhoods and communities. “I started thinking that we need missionaries at Concordia and my prayer is that students will arise and not be ashamed to be vocal about their faith -- students who will lay down their lives for others so that salvation may abound,” Shabalala said. Shabalala learned

that people do not have to travel to be a missionary, but everyone can be a witness for Christ right where He has planted you.

A highlight of the conference for Adam Lee, Professor of English, was that there was a missionary from Lebanon talking about the effect that the Syrian Civil War and the Isis Caliphate are having on missions. The missionary said that there are more doors open for evangelism and church planting in the last few years than there have been in all of the years since Muhammad until now. It was Lee’s first chance since the Around-the-World semester to be with a group of students off-campus for the weekend and to travel with them. Lee enjoyed the bonfire and debriefing time they had on Saturday night, where they talked about what they had learned. They enjoyed conversing with one another until 1 a.m. and McCarthy led them in some awesome music as well.

Lee said that he is grateful for all the work that Abbey West and Kendra Sitton, sophomore Abbey West Missions Coordinator, did to put this together.

Anyone can attend this event in the future if they are interested in missionary work, if they want to grow closer in their personal relationship with God, or even if they are just curious to see what the trip entails. This event positively impacts the lives of the students and teachers who go, both globally and in their own communities. For more information, visit, <http://worldmandatewest.com/>.

CUI celebrates Black History Month

MIRANDA LENTZ
STAFF WRITER

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is a month dedicated to the celebration of influential African Americans. Each U.S. president since 1976 has chosen February to be Black History Month.

Wesley Barnes, senior, and Nikki Ancona, sophomore, LEAD Diversity Awareness Coordinators, are bringing Black History Month awareness to Concordia this February. Throughout this month, these coordinators have arranged events to raise awareness of Black History Month.

One of the major events that will take place on campus is “Of Ebony Embers” in the CU Center on Feb. 23 at 5:30 p.m. During this event, a group will present some of the great poets, musicians and artistic figures of the Harlem Renaissance, such as Langston Hughes. The goal of the month is to “educate everybody about not just one culture, but many cultures,” Barnes said. Barnes enjoys conversations with people about what culture means and how it affects society.

Another way Barnes and Ancona are spreading awareness and understanding is through the Student Congress on Racial Reconciliation (SCORR) Conference and Coffee Talks.

Ancona, said that the SCORR Conference is a national 2-day conference held at Biola University where students, faculty and staff from different Christian colleges and universities come together to learn and commemorate the “diversity within the body of Christ,” as stated on Biola’s Studentlife page. Attendees get to experience workshops and discuss diversity topics. “It is a great learning experience,” Ancona said.

At the Coffee Talks, Ancona said students can come and “talk about topics that they may not be comfortable talking about with other students.”

For Ancona, diversity is a large part of her life. She comes from a multi-cultured family, who hold their race and heritages in high regard. Through being the LEAD Diversity Coordinator, she is thrilled not only to present the opportunity to raise awareness for others, but also to learn more about African American culture as well.

Each week in February posters featuring significant members of the Black American community will be posted around campus in honor and remembrance of their ongoing societal influence. In addition to photos, these posters will also feature different facts about Black History Month.

“Black History Month is a great time to think about influential people of all races who have changed our world in beneficial ways,” said Caitlin Graeber, sophomore. “It gives us a chance to remember men and women who helped us to be more tolerant and understanding of and about our brothers and sisters in Christ.” Black History Month is truly a time to give honor to those who have had an influential role in history.

The importance of Black History Month can be seen all over campus. To get to the heart of diversity and culture on campus, a trip to the Global Village, a Living Learning Community residence hall, is a necessity. It is one of the best places to find culture and diversity on campus. Megan Illsley, ’14, lived in Global Village. Because of awareness initiatives like Black History Month, Illsley said, “I am so thankful that our school is not afraid to talk about sensitive issues and is able to rally together to help make a positive impact.” She said that it is because of these awareness initiatives that she has gained appreciation and passion for awareness.

The SCORR Conference will take place Feb. 20 to 21. See the CSLD for more information. “Of Ebony Embers” will take place Feb. 23 at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information about diversity awareness on campus, contact Ancona at dominique.ancona@eagles.cui.edu and Barnes at wesley.barnes@eagles.cui.edu.



Concordia students attended the World Mandate West Missions Conference in San Diego

Valentine’s SHOUT tailgate

BEN FUEGER
STAFF WRITER

Last night, the student led worship service, SHOUT, hosted their Valentine’s Day themed tailgate in front of the CU Center to kick off the festive holiday that takes place tomorrow.

Many students came together to enjoy fellowship and good company, chomping down on delicious cupcakes and puppy chow, while making personal Valentines for that special someone. SHOUT peer minister, junior Latira Anderson, who planned the event, saw the tailgate as a way to love our neighbor and show how much God loves us. Anderson, sees “SHOUT as a way to grow in those relationship with friends, while connecting with the same God.” For Anderson “it is a lot of fun seeing the deep connections made while singing and listening to upbeat songs, praising the Lord.”

With SHOUT being completely student-led, many of the logistics fall on SHOUT senior Worship Coordinator, Corey Chang, and his team.

Chang and his team have the privilege of coordinating the speakers, choosing the songs, setting up the Powerpoints and doing sound check rehearsals to ensure everything is ready to go.

So Chang knows all too well the impact SHOUT and the tailgates can have on others. Chang “sees [SHOUT] as a place for all students to gather together and worship freely as it brings forth a different perspective.” Chang knows that SHOUT being student-led is important because students better understand culture and their surroundings.

While all are welcome to attend the Thursday night worship service, senior Billy Velto did not think much of SHOUT until he attended. “The first time I heard about SHOUT was during my freshman year orientation pal group about three and a half years ago,” Velto said. At the time, he did not have a relationship with God and did not give much thought to going. This changed though when he attended two weeks ago. He really enjoyed the student led worship and felt the message that was given was really well put together and was spoken through

God.

For sophomore transfer student Matt Jaeger, SHOUT is neat because “it is completely student led, and for some people it is more personable or relatable.” Jaeger said, “it’s a time of the week to take a break from all of the stress of school and reflect.” Coming from another Christian University, Jaeger, sees the changes between the two services, “it’s refreshing to have prayer circles, coming together with your fellow classmates and simply praying for what is going on in life,” Jaeger said.

“SHOUT is a time and place where it brings students together to worship the Lord who might otherwise not associate with each other, and for that I will continue to attend,” Velto said. “SHOUT is a great time for students to come and worship while joining in a community of believers,” Velto said.

SHOUT takes place Thursday nights at 9:30 p.m. in the CU Center. For more information about the event or any of the Chapel services, visit <http://www.abbeywest.org>.