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CUI's stunt team takes on Texas for Nationals



PICTURED ABOVE: Stunt takes a group photo at the national championships
Photo courtesy of: CUI Athletics

SPORTS EDITOR
SHANNON RHODES

The stunt team attended the College Stunt National Championships the weekend of April 22 in San Antonio, Texas.

The Eagles took home their first win in Texas beating Dallas Baptist 17-2. The Eagles gave us insight on how they prepared for this big event and explained what set their team apart from others.

Sophomore Faith Cummings who is a base, back spot, and shoulder-stand said, "[What] I'm most excited about nationals is being able to travel and bond with my team as we compete with some of the best stunt teams in the nation and really see all our hard work really showing."

Cummings admires her team's atmosphere and accomplishments. She said, "I think one of my team's greatest accomplishments this season is just making it to nationals in a regular season because last year we made it to nationals on a

wild card but this year we really earned our spot with being ranked fifth in the nation." Cummings added, "In this last week before nationals we really made sure that we did every routine and perfected every last detail from making sure spacing is perfect to head looks and pointed toes."

Cummings said her favorite memory on the stunt team was, "when we won our first game against Vanguard by one point after putting our Level 8 partner stunt on the floor it was so awesome because it was the second win of the day and we all wanted it so bad that the sideline just went crazy I think I will never forget that moment."

Junior flyer and tumbler Destiny Dekker was most excited to spend time with her teammates while being in Texas. She said, "We are preparing for nationals by going through all of our routines and perfecting the little things."

"I'm most excited to take the mat at nationals for a second time with my

new friends and team," said junior flyer and tumbler, Harmony Alarcon. She added, "We won our first two games of the season at our home opener here at Concordia! We were able to get all three Level 7 quarter routines for the first time in Concordia Stunt history! The greatest accomplishment of the season would definitely have to be having the opportunity to go to Nationals."

Alarcon said that her favorite memory on the team was the second game of the season. She said, "because not only did we win, but we hit Level 8

partner stunt for the first time ever. The energy was just insane because of all the cheering from the sideline, coaches and the audience. I will never forget how proud I felt to be an Eagle because of the amount of unity that our team had."

The Eagles have worked hard all season and have achieved many accomplishments, large and small. The season might be over but their hard work and dedication never stops. Stay tuned for next season as they meet new goals and form new memories.



PICTURED ABOVE: Stunt team celebrating their victories
Photo courtesy of: CUI Athletics

A letter from CUI President



DR. MICHAEL THOMAS

Dear Students,

It's been quite an amazing year! New events have been embraced wholeheartedly. The Hunt for the Golden Eagle has created friendly competition and renewed an esprit de corps as the Flight Club cheered on our CUI Eagles! There have been many rounds of disc golf, outdoor adventures such as Basecamp, hanging out in Rho Commons, Sigma General, or getting in a workout in the expanded CU Active.

Events with a long CUI history have been renewed, including Midnight Madness, Concordia Christmas, Homecoming, Source, Shout!, watching BB or VB in the CU Arena, or catching a DII game outside. Theatre, art and music put on stellar shows this year, including the annual Christmas Concert at Segerstrom Concert Hall. This has been an amazing year punctuated by its normality!

As this spring semester is quickly coming to a close, there are a lot of requirements you need to finish up... put final touches on those essays (some of you should really get started!), wrap up an internship or research project, and prepare diligently for those dreaded final exams. But make sure you take time to hang out with your friends before leaving campus.

Most importantly, we want to celebrate those students who will be graduating next week. CONGRATULATIONS to each and every graduate! Make sure you savor these last moments on campus. But please also take the time to say, "Thank you!" to the faculty and staff who have taught and mentored you. We, in turn, are eager to applaud you as you receive your diploma and your new title: Concordia Alumni.

The faculty and staff are extremely proud of you! Our prayer for each of you is that you will take a few minutes to reflect on the blessings in your life. Thanks be to God that he led each of you to this very special community at Concordia. We are a better place because you are here!

May the Lord bless and keep you and yours!

For His Students,

Dr. Michael Thomas

2022-2023 ASCUI Team

ALEXIS WOOD
ASCUI SECRETARY

As this academic year comes to a close we are looking forward to many new things. Summer trips, internships, new jobs, and for many of us, the next school year! Looking into the next school year, I would like to introduce the next ASCUI team and share all the things they are looking forward to this coming year.

ASCUI President: Alexis Wood “I am from Raleigh, North Carolina and I will be a senior majoring in Theological Studies with an emphasis in Director of Christian Education and minoring in Psychology. Outside of school, I love to take pictures, paint, go to the beach and spend time with my friends! I am most excited about connecting with faculty and upper administration and sharing the voices of the students to continue improving our campus life. I also look forward to being a part of an amazing team and building relationships!”

ASCUI Vice President: Megan Auringer “I am from St. Louis, Missouri #MidwestistheBEST. I’m going to be a senior next year with a Graphic Design major and a Marketing minor. My favorite thing to do outside of school is spending time with my beloved homies!! What I am most looking forward to is creating an encouraging team atmosphere within ASCUI so that we can serve Concordia the best we can. I am also looking forward to working with the Senate to implement changes students want to see in order to maximize the CUI college experience!!”

ASCUI Secretary: Lily Frerichs “I’m from Portland, Oregon. I have a double major in Behavioral Sciences, emphasis in Psychology and Business Administration, emphasis in Marketing. My favorite things to do outside of school are hike, camp, go to the beach and explore new places with friends. I also love to read and play piano! I’m really looking forward to bonding with and supporting the ASCUI team to make the voices of the student body heard to upper administration. I’m also super excited to plan and put on some (hopefully) uniquely themed events where

community can be built.”

ASCUI Club Commissioner: Daelynn Lopez Dae is from Orange, California. She will be a sophomore majoring in Behavioral Sciences with an emphasis in Psychology. “I love exploring the city! Looking for new coffee shops, hole-in-the-wall restaurants, and little pockets of hidden beauty with friends. As Club Commissioner, I’m excited to work with amazing leaders to put on events for the student body to enjoy. Coming out of the pandemic, I can’t wait to see what more we will be able to provide our students! Whether it be planning Concordia Christmas or meeting with students one on one, I can’t wait to see how the student body will grow more connected!”

ASCUI Communications Director: Natalie Annunziato Natalie is from Rancho Cucamonga, California. She will be a sophomore majoring in Graphic Design with a minor in Marketing. “I love spontaneous trips with friends, whether to grab some food or go to the beach! I am so looking forward to tapping into my creative side and using it to get the student body hyped for events! I’m also excited to build a community within ASCUI because I love everyone on the board so much!”

ASCUI Treasurer: Daniel Woodfin Daniel is from Michigan. He will be a senior majoring in Biology. Daniel shared, “I am most looking forward to serving the students at Concordia and to help them have the best experience they can possibly have. While my main priorities will be with the numbers and financial aspect of ASCUI, I will also assist the other departments and be a friendly face to all. I can’t wait for next year!”

Everyone on the team is very excited to serve the Concordia community and help make CUI the best it can be for both the students and faculty. Until then, I pray that everyone has a blessed finals week and a happy summer!

2022 Academic Showcase winners announced

STAFF REPORT

Winners of the 2022 President's Academic Showcase were announced during chapel on Fri., April 8. Students competed in the Academic Showcase for cash prizes and to enhance their research, writing and presentation skills. Each student, or team of students, was paired with a faculty advisor.

Competitors were divided into two tiers; Tier 1 for upperclassmen and Tier 2 for freshmen and sophomores. Tier 1 awarded \$1,500 to the first place winner, \$1,000 to second, \$700 to third, and the best Tier 1 poster garnered a \$200 prize. Tier 2 awarded \$400, \$300 and \$200 to the top three winners respectively, along with \$200 for the Tier 2 poster.

The 2022 winners are:

Tier 2: 1st Place

Student Oliver Di Martino, Faculty advisor Dr. Brian Ballard

Tier 2: 2nd Place

Student Andrew Shiroma, Faculty advisor Prof. Joshua Tallman

Tier 2: 3rd Place

Students Adebayo Akinwale, Kailee Dickerson, Andy Kapoor & Khoi Vu, Faculty advisor Dr. Lindsay Kane-Barnese

Tier 2: Poster Winner

Student Madison Zuniga, Faculty advisor Dr. Scott Stiegemeier

Tier 1: 1st Place

Student Sean Nowlan, Faculty advisor Dr. Caleb Karges

Tier 1: 2nd Place

Student Parker Hicks, Faculty advisor Dr. Sarah Karam

Tier 1: 3rd Place

Students Emily Castro, Alyssa Kawata & Britney Lam, Faculty advisor Dr. Nathan Meier

Tier 1: Honorable Mentions

Student Tyler Heggenes, Faculty advisor Dr. John Kenney

Student Timothy Stueve, Faculty advisor Dr. Bryan Santin

Tier 1: Poster Winner

Student Audrey Plechas, Faculty advisor Dr. Melinda Schulteis

Professor Joshua Tallman, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, who served on the showcase committee said, on behalf of the committee, “Congratulations to all of the students on their great work. These projects demonstrated the high quality research and writing that we hope for them. Thank you to the judges and others who made the showcase a success.”



PICTURED ABOVE: The winners of the 2022 President’s Academic Showcase at chapel in the CU Center on Fri., April 8. PC: Concordia Marketing.

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Q&A with Sam Unke, Air Force Pararescue

JOHN SYMANK, LOCAL/
GLOBAL EDITOR

Several weeks ago, The Courier had the privilege of interviewing Sam Unke, a 2014 Concordia Graduate and current Combat Rescue Pilot with the United States Air Force. While at Concordia, Unke studied Physical Rehabilitation, and after graduation, decided that God was calling him in a different direction than he had originally thought.

Q: When did you enlist with the Air Force, and why?

A: I enlisted in the Air Force March 10, 2015, about a year after I graduated from Concordia. I had graduated and couldn't find a job in my career field, because, at the time, the job market in that specific career-field was very saturated. I looked deep into myself and prayed for a way forward and I remember a specific TV series from the past. During my last year at Concordia, I watched a series called "Inside Combat Rescue" and was in awe of what Pararescuemen (Combat Medics) did. I remembered that I was very impressed that a person would risk their lives to go into a battle zone and provide combat medical aid to military personnel that got injured in a firefight, an IED explosion, etc. This piqued my interest and I had to follow up on it and get more information on the specific career.

Q: What are some of your duties or roles as a Combat Rescue Pilot?

A: "These Things We Do, That Others May Live," this is the motto of the United States Air Force Rescue Community. As a Combat Rescue Pilot

I am trained to operate the HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter in contested and clandestine environments and to be ready in the case of a U.S. or NATO service member injured or trapped behind enemy lines. If a fighter pilot has to eject in enemy territory or troops are fighting enemy forces and are injured, we need to be able to pick them up and expeditiously get them to a hospital or medical treatment center. Bottom line is that if any of our guys is in trouble we are ready to go get them anywhere, anytime. Home station in the U.S. we can help with civil search and rescue and help with any natural disaster relief, as well.

Q: What prompted you to follow that career path, rather than your original study of physical rehabilitation?

A: Well in addition to the show that got me hooked, I've always had a sort of patriotic streak. As painful as it can be for a mother to offer her child up for military service, my mother came into the house one day and said to me, "You know, Sam, I was thinking today. You love your country and you want to help people. What do you think about being some type of medic in the military?" She really backed up and cemented my thoughts that I had for my future and really was the first external support for this new dream.

Q: Do you think there are applications for your major in your current career or do you feel otherwise?

A: Apart from the friendly passing tips I can give people for some injuries, mobility and stuff like that, no there really isn't much application for it.

I can say, however, that the whole Concordia experience really prepared me for my path to becoming a military aviator. Wise, Honorable, Cultivated. These values align very closely to military values and really have been a guide for my life as I navigate through all of these new changes and experiences.

Q: Do you feel as though you'll be continuing with this career path in the coming years?

A: Absolutely. No questions about it. I feel like this is my calling from God. Rescue has been my number one goal entering into the military, and I'm finally here. Plus the retirement in about 13 years isn't so bad either. Just to get to this spot I've had three times where my fate has been left to a selection board. The decisions of these committees really decided where my career would go. The first was where I found out that I would commission and become a pilot. The second was getting selected to follow the helicopter training after graduating initial flight training. Finally, the third was when I was selected to fly the HH-60G and go to the rescue community after graduating from the initial helicopter training. I firmly believe God has had my back the entire time and I strive to give my best where He has planted me.

Unke's faith in God's plan for him is an impressive show of faith, and a strong advocate for Concordia as a whole. We here at The Courier wish Sam the best in both his current and future endeavors, and thank him for representing our school, our community and our nation in such a valuable way.



PICTURED ABOVE: Local Vendor sets up shop and shares brand with Concordia campus
Photo courtesy of: Dante Catalino

Student entrepreneurs set up Down to Earth Market on Earth Day

DANTE CATALINO
STAFF WRITER

Concordia entrepreneurs and other local vendors showcased their brands and products for sale at this semester's Down to Earth Market. The event took place on Fri., April 22, better known as Earth Day, on the Commons Lawn from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This market introduced the campus to new brands and local businesses, and overall, was a very successful day.

Kellyn Hernandez, a senior majoring in Communications with a minor in Marketing, ran her own booth at the Down to Earth Market. Hernandez owns KellsXBoutique, a boutique that specializes in women's fashion. KellsXBoutique provides affordable tops, sets, dresses and jeans to help bring out "confident fashion queens."

Hernandez maintains a balance between her business, academics and sports; she is also an attacker on Concordia's lacrosse team. "It's difficult to focus on just one thing, but I find a balance in both being a student and entrepreneur. As a marketing minor I am able to gain knowledge from my classes and get help from my professors who have worked in the marketing industry to help me grow my business," she said.

Hernandez continued, "If you have a dream make it happen stop making excuses it's upon yourself to put in the effort. Be passionate in your craft and own it."

Among the crowd at the

market was student and athlete Jeremiah De La Trinidad, who plays on Concordia's baseball team. When De La Trinidad was asked how he found out about the event he said, "I was walking around campus and saw all the stands set up. I was curious so I decided to go and take a look. It was cool to see something like that being set up and held on our school's campus." He added, "The amount of commitment it takes to attend school and do things like run a business or start a brand is a difficult task to handle. Everyone involved in this market should be proud of their accomplishments and I wish them the best of luck."

De La Trinidad was able to spend some time in the market and walk around in between classes with its convenient location right in the middle of campus.

Local vendors and small businesses were found alongside the student entrepreneurs. The market was a very encouraging sight to see; the local community being integrated into student life to help bring awareness to up-and-coming brands and businesses.

Overall, the Down to Earth Market was a memorable day for all students and local business owners involved. It was an excellent way for entrepreneurs to showcase their products and supply Concordia with a glimpse of what they have to offer, and the campus looks forward to seeing more events like it in the future!



PICTURED ABOVE: Sam Unke
Photo courtesy of: Sam Unke



PICTURED ABOVE: Sam Unke is photographed mid-flight
Photo courtesy of: Sam Unke



PICTURED ABOVE: An external view of a Unke coming in to land
Photo courtesy of: Sam Unke

The man, the myth, the Mallinson: Honoring adored History & Political Thought professor's legacy



PICTURED ABOVE: Jeffery Mallinson
Photo courtesy of: Jeffery Mallinson

LEONARD MEMON

STAFF WRITER

Jeffrey Mallinson, chair of the History & Political Thought department, is departing from Concordia after a decade of teaching.

Mallinson's favorite part of teaching at CUI was "the opportunity to have conversations that extend beyond the narrow subject matter."

He added, "We've been able to address the interconnectedness of disciplines, and the ways in which the big questions we ask together relate to real life. I've enjoyed getting to know students and cheer them on as they apply their studies to their vocations."

Sean Nowlan, a senior, said, "Mallinson is a fantastic professor that forces students to think introspectively about not only matters related to history, but also theology. I especially like how Mallinson gets legitimately excited when students come up to him and are passionate about a topic."

Caleb Karges, a History and Political Thought Professor, said, "You can just feel the love that he gives to everyone. If there is anyone who loves his fellow human beings, it's Mallinson."

Clinton J. Armstrong, also on the History and Political Thought faculty, said "Mallinson comes by educating honestly.

It is not just a job for him. It is in his bones as philosopher, theologian, humanist, scholar and someone who cares about education."

Mallinson expressed his gratitude to the Concordia family for their support during a tough year. He said, "I want to start by thanking the students for their patience with me this year. The stresses related to the loss of my son, which came shortly after my decision to leave Christian higher education have been significant. In this context, students have been accommodating and supportive. I am ever grateful to the administration for allowing me to finish the semester at a distance. It has been healing and helpful for my family."

Mallinson specifically wanted to thank "Paul Hartley and Kristen Koenig for serving as our proxy in many ways, C.J. Armstrong for picking up so many of the loose ends I dropped and for taking on the

on-campus memorial for Auggie, two anonymous colleagues who helped us pay for a place at our moment of deepest grief, and for the Cui Bono Cast colleagues who came alongside me at the moment of my greatest burden."

Even though Mallinson will no longer be a professor at Concordia in the upcoming academic year, students can still listen to what he has to say by tuning in to his podcast. Mallinson said, "Though I've been podcasting for nearly a decade in some form or other, my wife Stacie and I launched Protect Your Noggin a few years back, during my sabbatical." He added that "This season, we are moving toward a more positive focus and exploring ways to find happiness and freedom." The show is on all the regular platforms and notes can be found at protectournoggin.org.

Mallinson's legacy will have a positive impact on Concordia's campus and mission statement long after his departure. Karges

said, "[Mallinson] has done so much to embody and drive the spirit of the university" forward. Karges added that Mallinson's positive impact extends to "the trail of students left in his wake including the current students and alumni" in many aspects of their lives from their academic callings to their spiritual callings.

Armstrong said, "I value him as a colleague. Not that I valued him as a colleague, but that I still value him as a colleague. He is a gentleman and a scholar, and when I think about gentlemen and scholars, I think about Jeff Mallinson."

Mallinson wished to leave students with a final thought. He said, "Think what you think you should think, do what you know you should do, feel what you feel, honor your perceptions, and always let your conscience be your guide."

Ka Pu'uhonua Hosts Concordia's 1st Annual Lū'au!



PICTURED ABOVE: Guests conversing near Chantilly Cake
Photo courtesy of: Leonard Memon

LEONARD MEMON

STAFF WRITER

Ka Pu'uhonua, CUI's Hawaiian culture club, hosted a lū'au that took place from noon to 4 p.m. on Sun. April 10 on the commons lawn to share Hawaii's rich culture with the campus.

Huali McCollough, the president of Ka Pu'uhonua, said, "The lū'au is the perfect example of our goals as a club. We had everything an authentic lū'au in Hawai'i might have." McCollough added, "By bringing our culture more up-front to the students at CUI, we are both making the students from Hawai'i feel at home and teaching other students new facts and experiences."

The lū'au had tasty food and fun events. Sheri Ann Tengan, the vice president of Ka Pu'uhonua, said, "There was rice, macaroni salad, green salad, chicken katsu, char-grilled salmon and kalua pig." The dessert was a Hawaiian chantilly cake.

Of all the food at the lū'au,

the chicken katsu was the resounding favorite. Andrew Shiroma, a freshman, said, "My favorite food at the lū'au was chicken katsu because it reminded me of my family's chicken katsu." Sammy Pierce, a junior, said, "My favorite food at the lū'au was the chicken katsu and rice because it was very yummy." Alison Duong, a junior, said that the chicken katsu was even "good with and without the sauce."

Tengan added that "for games, there were a few local Hawai'i games such as Gimme Gimme where people had the chance to win prize baskets. Entertainment was provided by a local band that sang Hawaiian and Polynesian songs during the first half of the lū'au as well as student hula performances that were rehearsed in the months leading up to the event. Lastly, in the beginning half of the lū'au, there were activity tables with a game and/or arts and crafts in which people partook in."

Gimmie Gimmie is a game where an item that is requested must be found and brought to the game show hosts. Some examples of things that were asked for were keychains with the most keys on them as well as unusually small shoes. Pierce said, "My favorite game at the lū'au was Gimme Gimme because it was very funny to see."

There were three Hawaiian-style dances in total with the final dance being a duet between McCollough and Tengan. Duong found that she "really loved the dances." She added, "It was fun to be exposed to a different cultural dance that you do not see every day." Shiroma said people "who participated [in the dance] did an excellent job and it was cool to see the efforts of their practice."

McCollough was amazed at the way that CUI faculty and students came to the lū'au to support Hawaiian culture. She said, "It really spoke to the type of care you get from professors and staff at a school as small and connected as Concordia. Additionally, the energy levels

when we played our games, Hawaii quiz and Gimme Gimme, and when the dancers came on really warmed my heart. To have everyone interested in the culture we know so well was so humbling and inspiring."

Tengan said, "My favorite part of lū'au was seeing everyone enjoying themselves and having fun. It may sound cheesy, but it really was just the joy and aloha that my board members and I could bring on campus. The weekend and day-

of was really chaotic for all of us and seeing that really made it all worth it."

After the lū'au ended, McCollough said, "I couldn't believe that it was over and I was moved to tears, mostly in appreciation of everything. I am still so honored to have participated in the event and to have served as the president this year, but I am even more honored to have created a legacy that can be passed onto the next president, Sheri, and the rest of the board."



PICTURED ABOVE: The officers of Ka Pu'uhonua posing in front of the Aloha photo area.
Photo courtesy of: Sheri Ann Tengan

The end of an era for men’s volleyball

MAAD ALKADHIM
STAFF WRITER

Five seniors on the men’s volleyball team completed their college volleyball career on April 20 in the quarterfinals of the conference tournament against USC.

The team finished the season 10-16 with seven wins and seven losses at home; away games proved to be a challenge for the Eagles. Senior Jonathan Carlson said, “I think some of the challenges this year mainly focused on getting consistency against good teams, everyone was bought in on the fact that playing well we could beat anyone, but we had to get there first.”

For most of these seniors leaving volleyball is like leaving a part of themselves. Senior Erik Boisvert said, “I definitely feel weird about my senior season ending because I’ve been playing since I was like 12. So this is the first time where it is not on my horizon, just done and it happened fast. And the whole year you think about the end, the end, the end and then when it happens you are like oh my god this is the end. That is kind of where I am at, a bit bitter sweet. I am happy about how some things went; overall it was a great experience for sure and I don’t

regret doing it.” Boisvert was not the only senior for whom volleyball was a huge part of their youth. “I’m sad that this year has ended and that my volleyball career is officially over. Volleyball has been almost my identity for the last 13+ years. But I’m very excited for what I have next concerning my life. As much as I love volleyball and enjoyed this team, I’m ready to move on and begin ‘real life,’” said senior Logan Glave.

These seniors are not only leaving a program they considered home, but they are also leaving a program where they made history and memories together. “My favorite memories are just hanging out with the guys outside of volleyball, but volleyball-centric memories of beating UCLA (first time in history) at home last year was incredible. Sweeping Grand Canyon this year was something that I will never forget. And even my freshman year we beat Stanford on senior night and that is something I look back on a lot as well,” said Boisvert.

“Some of my favorite moments from this program have been the personal memories with friends and teammates. The most



PICTURED ABOVE: Senior night ceremony
Photo courtesy of: cuieagles.com

memorable times have been messing around with and training with my teammates. I think I will remember senior night forever, being able to play my last game with some of my best friends and some of the best coaches I’ve had in my life,” said Glave.

As this group of seniors ended an era in the program’s history, they gave good advice to the underclassmen. “If I had to give advice to my [younger] self, I would say have as much fun as possible. Say ‘yes’ to everything and do as many

things as you can, meet people and go outside. Everyday is an adventure if you want it to be. But obviously there is a balance,” said Boisvert.

The seniors are leaving with a tremendous amount of support and love from the remaining players. “It’s always tough to see guys leave, especially guys you’ve spent pretty much all of your time with over the past year. It was a lot of fun getting to know these guys and creating lifelong friendships. It was an honor playing with them and

they will definitely be missed next year,” said freshman Makai Lipson.

As these seniors leave, they will miss being at Concordia and being on the volleyball team. “I am going to miss Concordia and volleyball more than I ever thought,” said Boisvert.

Best wishes to the men’s volleyball program departing seniors: Lipson, Glave, Boisvert, Mason Mullins, Owen Chun and Keegan Carey.

Women’s water polo team heads to conference

CAMRYN LAVINE
STAFF WRITER

Concordia University women’s water polo team has a 9-14 record this season so far which has led them to conference. Senior Josie Miller, and sophomore Emily Tucker gave a broad view on this season, and what the conference is going to look like for the team.

Miller, and the team’s, goal is to finish top five in conference. “A water polo conference is where we have eight teams to play over the season,” Miller explained. “We will have our conference playoffs at the end of season where you have to win the first day in order to play on Sunday. If you do not win on Friday the highest place you can get is 7th.”

Miller and the team will be competing in a NCAA DI conference. When

asked about the teams that might be a challenge to win against, Miller said, “The team that’s going to give us the biggest challenge is Fresno State. They are ranked 8th in the NCAA DI conference, and they will most likely be fighting for the NCAA trophy at the end of the year. But in reality every team will be a battle in order for us to finish top five.”

Tucker explained her goal for conference and for the season is to be the best player she can be, and, as a team, to “push one another.” She wants to be able to help everyone on the team be the best they can be at the conference.

“The goal for the rest of the season is to push one another to be the best players we can be, both on and off the pool deck. The goal I have for myself, for the rest of the season, is to leave

nothing left in the pool, and give the game and my teammates my all no matter what the scoreboard says,” said Tucker.

Tucker also discussed the most important aspect of their team. “Every player is a key player in water polo from the bench players to the starters,” she said, “To me, a key player is someone who contributed positively towards the team whether in or out of the water.”

“The water polo world is similar to other sports in which we have our own cliques and drama. However, it brings together people from different backgrounds and places around the world that share one thing in common: wanting to dominate both in and out of the water,” said Tucker.

Now that you have a little bit of insight as to how water polo works, stop by to watch

your fellow Eagles compete at a conference. For more information on the women’s water polo team, visit cuieagles.com or check out

@cuieagles on Twitter for more updates. Let’s support the women’s water polo team in conference. Let’s go Eagles!

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Sudoku puzzles are provided by www.sudokuoftheday.com

CUI Theatre Department Takes Two!: New Works Festival II

MIYLAN EUBANKS

ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

It's that time of year, folks! Concordia's almost at the end of the year! But before you grab the tissues as we wrap finals and say goodbye to our beloved seniors, Concordia Theatre still has one surprise left in store.

The New Works Festival, directed by Professor Lori Siekmann, will be taking place on April 28, 29, 30 at 7:30 p.m. and April 30 at 2 p.m.

The New Works Festival II will feature a student written play by CUI's own, Tanner Devore, senior. The play is called "Toybox." Devore described it as "a coming-of-age story through the lens of our childhood toys. Four toys relive the past lives they had with their owners growing up, and even find themselves changing along the way."

"We see what's happening through the eyes of the toys. It's kind of like 'Toy Story' meets coming-of-age drama but it's serious," said Siekmann.

Devore added, "'Toybox' for me was a project of love and letting go. Letting go of the past but remembering it is the same past that makes us who we are today. I started working on this piece in 2019, but since then have poured so much more life into it. This piece was an outlet of healing more than anything. I'm so proud to share it with this incredible cast and crew. Their hearts are really showing on stage."

"Then, there's a series of three 10-minute plays that are funny. Those are written by a professional playwright. Two of them have never been presented before. Each one is different. But, there is a

combination of seriousness and comedy throughout the night," added Siekmann.

It's no secret that CUI Theatre department's cast, crew and directors give nothing short of their blood, sweat and tears. "Toybox" will be no exception as it takes Concordia's performance range to new heights.

"The [cast] are representing those in the audience who may feel like they don't have a voice, or aren't quite ready to be heard. This show allows so many people to be 'seeing themselves' on stage – the representation is huge for me and Concordia Theatre as a whole," said Devore.

"Toybox" really takes students out of their comfort zone. Matt Cristobal, junior, who plays a prominent character in "Toybox," said, "I have loved the process of discovering new aspects of my character with each day."

Cristobal also said, "I am most excited to give people a character to relate to in happiness and in sorrow...I have learned so much through this entire year and am ecstatic to share our work with everyone."

"Professor Siekmann...has allowed for this process to be equally productive and playful. I have grown so much as a playwright working arm and arm with her. As creatives, finding our little 'Avengers' crew of people who just love art and creating is always so special," Devore concluded.

There you have it! Be sure to pop your head into Concordia Theater Department's featured play "Toybox," before it's all over.

For more information, visit <https://www.cui.edu/arts/theatre/events>.



PICTURED ABOVE: The female commercial music students smile outside the venue pre-concert
Photo courtesy of: Abby Schwichtenberg

Commercial music students rocked-out at off-campus performance

ADYSON CASTEEL

CAMPUS EDITOR

On April 19, Commercial Music students showcased their talents at the Commercial Music Concert. This bi-annual tradition was held at Campus Jax, a dining and live entertainment venue located in Newport Beach.

The concert has always been a highlight at the end of the year, and this year was no different. Students performed many types of popular songs and music genres, including Sting, Guns and Roses, Maren Morris, Halsey, and more! The event was free of charge to attend, and Concordia President Dr. Michael Thomas made an appearance to show his support.

Performing students look forward to the event each semester, to finally share what they have been working on every Monday night in the recording studio. Nathan Ramos, a commercial music student and performer from the concert, was thrilled to be a part of the concert.

Ramos said, "This concert was a

really cool opportunity to play a lot of styles of music I wouldn't normally get to play at a very high level of excellence and at a real venue (that's not on campus!) that people actually go to for live music. It's as close to a 'real gig' as you can get in a college music program."

Fellow performer and commercial music major Abby Schwichtenberg found the concert memorable as well. Schwichtenberg said, "...performing was really fun. I was nervous leading up to it but once I got on stage, I was like this is great! It felt amazing to enjoy the moment and enjoy the music we had been working on so hard during the semester."

The commercial music program has impacted its students by creating a life-long love of musical performance, production and collaboration. Ramos stated, "My favorite part of the commercial music program is the community and the friends I've made. I've learned a lot about music...but I think I've learned even more from getting to know

people and through the conversations I've had with my teachers outside of class."

He continued, "It certainly doesn't hurt that we get to work and learn in such an amazing facility. I've played with so many different people and held many different roles, from playing bass or guitar, leading worship, or even running sound, I don't think I could've gotten that much experience that quickly anywhere else."

Schwichtenberg concluded that she looks forward to the new sets the program will create for future concerts.

For more information, news, or projects from the commercial music program, visit <https://www.cui.edu/arts/music/performance-groups/commercial-music-ensemble>. Concordia's Borland-Manske Center boasts state-of-the-art music, performance and recording facilities.

CUI speech coach Claire Crossman inspires forensics

LEONARD MEMON

STAFF WRITER

Claire Crossman, the speech director for the CUI forensics team, was born into the forensics world. She has not only thrived there herself, but has been a sherpa to many who have also earned success throughout their careers.

From a young age, Crossman was around forensics. Her parents were both speech coaches. She said, "I was encouraged to compete in it in middle school, and by encouraged I mean required to by my dad." She added that her father "helped found (her) middle school's first speech and debate team."

All of a sudden, Crossman was "one of the founding [team] members at the ripe age of eleven." She recalled how her team "started as a ten person team, but by (her) senior year when (she) was the president of the team, (they) had sixty to seventy people on the team with a budget of \$60,000."

Crossman attended Lewis & Clark College on a forensics scholarship. In her first year, she was both a full-time speech competitor as well as a full-time debate competitor. She said, "I was exhausted. My director of forensics sat me down and said I should pick one, and that he thought I was better at speech. I picked speech, and that's where I've been since."

Throughout her time at Lewis & Clark, Crossman picked up many accolades while also growing fond of coaching. She said, "At Lewis Clark, I was president of their team. I was a national representative, all-american scholar, and started to enjoy coaching."

Crossman continued her education with graduate school at Cal State L.A. where she took on a few administrative roles. "Right after I graduated from Cal State L.A., I really wanted to work at Concordia," said Crossman. She added, "When I was at Lewis and Clark, we would always see Concordia. They always

looked so put together and Konrad [Hack], the director of forensics, still talks to this day about how cool that team was."

Crossman started off as the assistant coach for CUI's speech team and quickly made her way up to director. It is currently her second year as the director of forensics at CUI.

Throughout her years, Crossman has learned valuable lessons in her role as a speech coach. She said, "When I was competing, it was the coach's way or the highway. You can see this through what the students are wearing. Before girls were forced to wear heels, but now they can wear flats as much as they want. As a post-grad coach, I have adjusted to be kinder."

Today, Crossman is widely recognized as a top tier coach and role model throughout the forensics community. Professor Konrad Hack, the director of CUI's forensics team, said, "One of the great blessings that we have is somebody

who understands her craft as well as Claire Crossman does. She is about the students. She works hard for them, cares about them, and is an invaluable member of our coaching staff."

Crossman believes that the most important part of forensics is finding something that one is passionate about. She said,

"Whether it's the family atmosphere, having a speech that you really care about or a topic in debate that you love arguing, that is what keeps people rooted in the activity."

If you are interested in finding out more about the speech team, please contact Crossman at claire.crossman@cui.edu.



PICTURED ABOVE: Headshot of speech coach, Claire Crossman.
Photo courtesy of: CUI Forensics Website

Forensics Showcase Review: Opinion Edition



PICTURED ABOVE: Showcase participants in front of Denault auditorium after the conclusion of showcase
Photo courtesy of: CUI Forensics Website

LEONARD MEMON
STAFF WRITER

The forensics showcase, which took place in Denault auditorium on Mon. April 25 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., was worth the price of admission. By price of admission, I mean the price of tuition.

The showcase, well... showcased peak speech and debate performances in front of

a crowd of around 50. If I had to describe the showcase, I'd say that it was super awesome, inspired and genius like the people who participated in it.

Rebekah Mehrley, the captain of the speech team, gave an impromptu and dramatic interpretation speech. For the impromptu, she brought a receptacle that contained quotes for the audience to choose from. She then came up with and

delivered an eloquent speech on the spot!

Mehrley's dramatic interpretation speech was outstanding. Not only was her analysis of her topic exceptional, but her acting out of scenes was extraordinary. I am officially nominating her for an Oscar!

Audrey Plechas, a competitor on the speech team, delivered an insightful communication

analysis. The heavy academic content of the speech was made for Einstein on black-market nootropics. However, Plechas had no issues simplifying her speech to portray such complex concepts to a lay audience. Simplification is the ultimate sophistication, and Plechas did that exceedingly well.

The debate topic was whether the United States government should increase its investment in nuclear energy. At first, I was trying to grasp what relevance this topic had to me. Benjamin Wagner, a debater at the showcase, told a joke about how he would cry at the high gas prices when he would fill up his tank. At that moment, I saw how the debate on nuclear energy clearly had real-world impacts that affected my everyday life. Just kidding, I drive a plug-in. However, I, along with many in the audience, got a good laugh out of his joke.

The debate was performed to perfection with precise argument clash between sides.

The negation team, made up of Sean Nowlan and Greta Jones, effectively pointed out the issues with the affirmation's case. Nowlan said that the affirmation was trying to use fear-mongering tactics to sway the audience's vote and that the audience should not fall for it. Immediately after that speech, Jones, who was Nowlan's teammate...yes the one who

said fear-mongering was bad, proceeded to spend a fair amount of time going over how the jaws of everyone in the audience would slowly melt off in a most painful manner due to nuclear waste if they did not vote for the negation. It worked!

The winner of the debate was decided by a cheer-off wherein audience members would cheer for the side they thought won the debate. Whoever had the most noise made in their favor would be crowned the winner of the debate. The loudness of the respective cheers were measured by a decibel meter. The negation team of Nowlan and Jones won the debate with a decibel reading of 118.5 over the affirmation team's decibel reading of 115.8.

Riley Maszk, a seasoned, fried and battered debater whom I had the pleasure of sitting next to throughout the debate told me that he would have voted for the affirmation but decided not to cheer since he didn't want to influence the lay audience's vote. His vote could have made a difference and potentially have validated the affirmation team's strategy of being more technical.

If one wants to come enjoy inspirational and entertaining speeches alongside a fun and interactive debate, I can't recommend coming to the next forensics showcase enough!

“The Aerie” open mic event

JENNA HOFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

On Wed., April 20 “The Aerie” hosted a publication party and open mic night outside on the DeNault Patio to give students an opportunity to share their submissions and creative process.

Professor Kristen Schmidt, a faculty advisor for “The Aerie,” said, “‘The Aerie’ is Concordia's literary and arts journal and is published annually to showcase work being done in creative writing and art by Concordia students, alumni, faculty and staff.” The production of the journal begins in the fall with the selection of student designers and editors. Schmidt said that come January, “submissions are evaluated by selection committees made up of Concordia University students and faculty who read, discuss and select the entries.”

At the event, “The Aerie” committee projected a slideshow of the new edition's pages up on the outside of the Grimm Hall building. Students and faculty then got up behind a microphone and read or explained their submissions

and the meaning behind them. It was an intimate gathering where everyone was able to share jokes and celebrate the work.

Carter Annema, who was “The Aerie's” cover artist this year, told an intricate story about how he was able to capture the photo of the birds flying across the setting sky. It involved selling all of his belongings, traveling to Greece and finding a vintage camera. When he was finished he confessed that he made the whole story up, but the audience enjoyed the tale nonetheless.

Schmidt said that she enjoys everything about the process of publishing an edition of “The Aerie.” From “advertising for submissions through seeing the final product” she said that “celebrating the artists and writers at the publication party is a joy.”

Timothy Stueve, co-editor of “The Aerie” along with fellow co-editor Seth Skogerboe, also harbors the same appreciation and joy for the journal. Stueve said that “Part of the joy of working on ‘The Aerie’ is that it's like getting a little peek into what students or faculty are thinking about.”

Stueve said that if the school didn't produce the journal that he “would have no idea [his] friend Eva could write so eloquently about watching wildlife in a river, or that Dr. Bryan Santin could write a sci-fi short story about robot moms.”

Senior Ryann Beveridge, who was the student graphic designer for this issue of “The Aerie,” liked learning about the publishing process. She

said that it's “definitely a team effort to make a book or magazine.” However, she enjoyed “getting one-on-one instruction from Professor Soo,” who served as “The Aerie's” other faculty advisor. “She is so knowledgeable about graphic design,” said Beveridge, who also works as Layout Editor for The Courier.

Stueve invites and encourages everyone to pick up your free copy of the new edition either in front

of the cafeteria or inside the library. He said that it is a special and unique book that “will let you tap into the artistic community on campus no matter how involved or uninvolved you are with it.”

If you have any art, photography, poems or short stories you would like to share, consider submitting your work to “The Aerie” next semester for a chance to see your work in a published journal.



PICTURED ABOVE: CUI students and faculty sit outside Grimm for the Event
Photo courtesy of: Jenna Hoffman

Elon Musk buys Twitter

Owen Milligan
Editor-in-Chief

In the biggest deal to take a company private in over twenty years, Elon Musk, Tesla and SpaceX's CEO, bought Twitter for \$44 billion. The transaction ends two weeks of hostile takeover attempts, negotiations and poison pills.

The agreement was solidified at \$54.20 per share, representing a 38% premium over the stock price when Musk initially announced plans to begin a hostile takeover. Twitter shares closed at \$51.70 per share on April 25, a 5.7% increase in value for the day.

Musk initially began the takeover after acquiring the largest share of Twitter stocks, beginning on Jan. 31, having over a 5% stake in the company by March 5, eventually growing to over 9% by the end of the process. Musk initially offered to buy the company for \$43 billion.

Musk has been critical of Twitter's practices, including his believed lack of free speech on the platform.

After acquiring a large stake in the company, Musk was invited to join Twitter's

board but rejected the invitation, opting for the buy-out. Despite efforts to fend off Musk's takeover, including poison pills (diluted stock value to thwart a takeover), Musk completed the acquisition.

Speculation continues following the acquisition. Musk has been outspoken about his belief social media should be more transparent in their practices. Musk has discussed allowing the code to algorithms inside the application to be public, allowing users to see how their feed is curated to personal preferences.

Musk also continues to affirm his belief in free speech. Many have speculated that the company, now private, could reinstate former U.S. president Donald Trump to the platform, following an indefinite ban after comments believed to spur the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection over the presidential elections.

The following weeks will determine the direction of Twitter policies. Twitter currently has over 200 million users, but it will be interesting to see whether the company grows from privatization, or whether users are turned off to changes in management and procedures.

Follow further updates on Bloomberg.com.

Could California stop sales of gas powered cars by 2035

WILSON MCLEAN
STAFF WRITER

California has just recently released future plans to stop the sale of all gas powered cars by the year 2035. With such an ambitious plan, what could this hold for the future, the environment, new car markets that could form? How will the economy react in a state and world that so heavily relies on gas as its main fuel source?

California regulators have put into motion a proposal that would still allow the driving and operation of gas powered vehicles, as well as the sale of used gas powered vehicles, but would instead put an immediate halt on the manufacturing of these types of vehicles.

This resembles a plan that we have seen in the past when presidential candidate Andrew Yang back in 2020 wanted to enact similar plans with electronic, and fully automated freight trucks.

One of the most common jobs in the world and therefore one of the most common vehicles on the road are truck drivers and freight trucks respectively. With similar ideas about wanting cleaner air and a better environment, California's Governor Gavin Newsom, who proposed the idea, is looking to bring this to reality in the near future.

Junior Amanda Renfro who has been a part of the CU Green community, when asked about the potential positive impact this legislation could have on the environment said, "I do think this would be a positive change for the environment, especially if people used renewable energy such as solar to charge the cars." With 15 more states looking to follow California's policies, this could mean big improvements down the line for producing less emissions into the Earth's atmosphere.

Not only will this proposition have environmental impacts but

could also lead to changes in the car industry, especially when it comes to economic and marketing impacts. Companies would then have to shift their focus now and put electric cars into the spotlight, and react to what the consumers would want in the new wave of vehicles that would follow after the stoppage. Marketing Professor Carolyn Shiery said the economic change could be "positive when economies of scale happen, as well as recycling, and if done in countries that have stringent laws concerning environmental safety."

While 2035 may seem like a long time into the future, it can, in a way, seem good for the time being as the charging stations to fit this new wave of vehicles are currently numbered far too little. Without the need for conventional gas stations, we could see a replacement with charging stations at these locations to help compensate for the proposed switch.

California energy grid achieves record renewable levels

OWEN MILLIGAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The California energy grid set back-to-back records on April 3, 2022, with 97.6% renewable electricity on the grid, according to the California Independent System Operation (CAISO). This follows a 96.5% renewable grid on March 27, 2022.

"This new record is testament to the hard work and collaboration of many people, from policymakers to system operators," said ISO President and CEO Elliot Mainzer. He added, "While these all-time highs are for a brief time, they solidly demonstrate the advances being made to reliably achieve California's clean energy goals."

California continues to maintain ambitious carbon-free goals, pushing sustainability through legislation. The state aims to have 100% carbon-free energy in the next 25 years. The state had come a long way from just 2020 when only one-third of the grid was renewable. The state

now only trails Texas in the creation of renewable energy.

Solar and wind comprise a majority of the renewable energy provided to the California grid, especially in the springtime as weather conditions remain mild. Geothermal and hydroelectric resources also power the California grid.

The transition to 100% renewable energy remains difficult due to the limited hours of operation a solar farm provides. Recent shifts to Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) provide the opportunity to store energy generated by the sun to be discharged in hours where solar energy can no longer be generated. The BESS also provides arbitrage opportunities in the energy market, as relatively cheap energy is created in "peak" solar hours and discharged in the hours in which electricity is sparse. Such an opportunity continues to incentivize the creation of solar and battery farms.

With oil prices increasing due to the Russia Ukraine crisis, many other countries will look to push towards a green future on a quicker time hori-

zon. European nations who remain reliant on Russian oil look to wean themselves off the product rapidly.

Increased regulation and oversight of California energy markets, however, have led to the formation of new policies, governmental entities and long-term resources. According to the CAISO, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) authorized "25,500 MW of new supply side renewables and 15,000 MW of new storage and demand response resources by 2032, enough clean energy to power approximately 11.5 million homes." In the second quarter of 2022 alone, over 600 MW of solar and 200 MW of wind are projected to be added to the grid, according to Solar Power World.

The market remains ripe for investment into critical energy infrastructure while developing a sustainable future. To track the progress of the clean energy initiatives in California and see real-time electricity generation statistics, visit the CAISO website, www.caiso.com.

Mask mandates removed in airports

JOHN SYMANK
LOCAL/GLOAL EDITOR

For the past two years, if you had to ride a plane, train, or (rideshare) automobile, you could expect to put a mask on, even in areas where masks had elsewhere been long gone. But as of April 18, mask mandates have been lifted in all public transportation hubs.

The move was an abrupt one, coming at an unexpected and unprecedented time. U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle announced a 59 page court order which stated that the CDC failed to properly justify its mask order and did not follow proper federal procedures in implementing it. The mandate had been set to expire on April 18, but the CDC had moved to extend it to May 3. The order canceled the extension, ending the mandate at its original expiration date.

White House Spokeswoman Jen Psaki called the decision disappointing, and told reporters that "the CDC continues recommending wearing a mask in public

transit." However, after the mandate was removed, there was no movement to appeal the decision from the White House, and the removal therefore went unchallenged.

Many people took to social media to spread the news of the lifted mandate, some with praise for the ruling, others taking a position of disdain. David Neeleman, founder of JetBlue, expressed relief over the removal of the mandates.

"If the government can decide they can have the State of the Union address without masks, then we certainly should be able to let people have that choice on an airplane," Neeleman said in an interview with The New York Times.

Some, however, felt as though it was too early to remove mandates, as case counts have fluctuated over the past few weeks. Saskia Popescu, an infectious disease epidemiologist and assistant professor at George Mason

University, called the move "very concerning." "We're definitely starting to see a trend up in cases," she said. "My concern is that we may see what happened in the U.K., where they drastically pulled back restrictions and saw a significant surge, and this will contribute to rising numbers."

On a personal note, I was at the airport when I heard from a friend that the mask mandate had been lifted, and when I boarded my flight, the flight attendant stood at the front of the plane and announced the news. Many masks were immediately removed, and there were more than a few smiling faces. Being on a flight that didn't require masks was an unusual experience, but one that I certainly wasn't opposed to.

While there is still concern surrounding COVID, the relaxation of mandates seems to suggest a slowing of cases, and perhaps an ending to the virus that has had such a massive impact on every aspect of our lives. Here's hoping!