

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

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Concordia Softball ranked first in NCAA DII



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

SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR
BEN ROSEHART &
SPORTS EDITOR
SHANNON RHODES

All good things must come to an end. For the number one team in all of NCAA DII, the nation's longest winning streak came to an end on Fri, April 1.

The softball team had won 36 consecutive games before last Friday, which was the longest winning streak to start a season in both CUI softball program history and the PacWest conference as well. "The softball team is still the only team in all of NCAA DII to hold a record of 36-2 entering the weekend," said Ben Rosehart, Sports Information Director.

Senior pitcher and utility player Erika Morris said, "Crystal and the coaching staff make sure that we play every game like we are 0-0 so I can't really describe the feeling. I mean from the outside perspective you would think it is an amazing run, but for us we don't focus on it at all." Morris added, "Our minds are more focused on who our upcoming competition is and if there is any way we can get better in between a series."

Morris highlighted some of her teammates throughout the

season and said, "A couple clutch moments that I can think of is a walk off home run from our leadoff batter Megan Massa in the bottom of the ninth inning against Chaminade and also back-to-back home runs from Missy Nemeth and Rylie Rohr helped us win the game over Hilo this past week." She added, "There comes a point where perfection is not asked for, but our pitching staff knows how to deliver it and for the third week in a row we have the best-earned run average across all of the NCAA and could not achieve this kind of greatness without amazing catchers who put in tireless hours of work in the bullpen."

Morris is prepared to continue to work hard and said, "I'm extremely proud of every pitcher on our staff and how hard we have and will continue to work this season. Concordia softball is an awesome environment, and this team is really something special."

Junior first base Nemeth said, "It feels good to have that record. We worked so hard in the fall and in the beginning of this year so it's really cool to see all our hard work pay off."

Nemeth praised their team chemistry and said, "We are all

working together towards the same goal, and you can feel that in the dugout and on the field. We all support each other and push one another to do better."

Senior catcher and third and first baseman Sydney Sprinkle emphasized one of her achievements and said, "One game that was really exciting was when we went to 10 innings with APU for our first conference game with them, and I came up and hit an RBI double to take the lead." Sprinkle added, "Playing third is something new for me this season, so being able to go out on the field and do well for the team and the pitching staff is really awesome."

Sprinkle also focused on the strengths of her team. She said, "We have a very in-depth team, meaning we have a lot of girls with different strengths that work well

together. Each of our pitchers have their own specialties, which makes it hard for people to hit off our staff. We also have a lot of people who can do different things on offense which is why we've been so successful thus far." She added, "We have people who can hit for power, hit the gaps, bunt for a hit, or just consistently get on base to keep the momentum going on offense. This team is something special this year."

It is evident that the softball team will finish out this season strong. A minor setback for an even greater comeback! Their next game is at home against Cal State San Marcos on April 9 at noon. Come by and cheer on your fellow Eagles. If you can't make it, no worries! Follow them on Instagram and Twitter @cuisoftball for updates and news.



The Hunt's Gotcha Competition has students in a frenzy

WILSON MCLEAN
STAFF WRITER

There's been a cold chill in the air all around campus, as friends have turned on each other and a wide array of students have been looking over their shoulder on their way to and from classes.

Odds are you may have seen random students sprinting away from each other as they are chased with plastic water guns. Or maybe you've seen a classmate seamlessly coming out of the bushes to get to classes. The reason for all of the commotion and wariness across campus is the Hunt's new campus wide game, Gotcha.

For this game, participants were given a toy water gun and instructions to eliminate their fellow students in hopes of winning a prize fund of over \$700. With simple rules to follow, students received targets that they had to eliminate, some being fellow teammates in sports, friends from class or maybe even your own roommate. The only stipulation: No plays can take place in campus buildings besides RES halls. With 138 students participating in the game, in just over a week's time there remained only nine students with over 129 students eliminated from the competition.

With the proof of eliminations needing to be documented on video, the Hunt's Instagram (@cui_thehunt) has taken the opportunity to post eulogies to all the fallen players making for some funny clips of people desperately trying to stay in the game and in the running for the big prize pool. The winner of the first annual Gotcha game was senior Kessler O'Brien.

O'Brien recognized early on that skewing his schedule would help him survive, but that was a challenge. "Adapting my schedule around the game has been difficult as I am a person who likes routine but routine is what can easily get you eliminated in this game," he said. A member of the track team as well, O'Brien tried to stay unpredictable in all of his movements not wanting to garner any unwanted attention and making sure to double take any time

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Home Stretch

ALEXIS WOOD
ASCUI SECRETARY

The 2021-2022 academic school year is quickly coming to a close. This part of the semester is a busy season for many students with lots of homework, projects and finals popping up. However, it is also an exciting season as summer approaches, the beginning of a new chapter for many begins, and there are even lots of events still happening on campus!

The first event coming up is Rock the Amp! This event is TONIGHT, Fri. April 8 in the Amphitheatre from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Students have auditioned and are ready to perform so come support your friends and see all the talent that Concordia has to offer.

Up next, The Hunt is partnering with Phi Epsilon Kappa to host the first ever CUI Olympics! Tomorrow, Sat. April 9 from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., there will be many events including lifting, table tennis, badminton, disc golf (doubles and singles), 3x3 basketball, 3x3 volleyball, corn hole, spikeball, penalty kicks and more! The events will be spread out throughout the day so come for the whole time or just some of the events to play

some games and have some fun. Don't forget one of the biggest events of the semester is also this weekend! Ka Pu'huhonua Club is hosting the 1st annual CUI Lu'au! This Sun. April 10 from noon to 4 p.m. on the Commons Lawn. There will be entertainment, food, games and raffle prizes! CUI student tickets are \$30, adult tickets are \$35, children (3-17) are \$15 and kids under 2 are free! Bring your friends or your family and come enjoy all the Lu'au has to offer!

Last up on events for the next few weeks is Culture Fest! Culture Fest will be out on Commons Lawn from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wed. April 13. Black Student Union is hosting the event and there will be tables representing Hawaii, New Zealand, Croatia, Mexican/Jewish, Greece, Ireland, China, Brazil, Argentina and others. Come try different foods, win giveaways and more! Celebrate the students, staff and faculty who are giving you a taste of their culture and country.

Good luck to everyone in the last few weeks of the semester and enjoy all the events CUI has to offer before the year is over!

Let's go clubbing!

With Jenna Hoffman

Join CU Judo

JENNA HOFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

On March 24, the CU Judo club held one of their many training sessions in the Performing Arts Annex where the students learned and performed different martial arts techniques.

The club meets on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays where they focus on martial arts, physical training and character development. Samuel Lee, junior and club president, says that the mission of CU Judo is to "provide a place for participants of any level to refine existing skills and learn new ones whilst developing discipline and self-confidence."

The training session started with a high-intensity warm-up consisting of jogging, side steps, squats and push-ups. Club members warmed up using different martial arts techniques, like figure skates, over the shoulder rolls and scissors sweeps, to prepare for later sparring.

The focus of students when sparring was keeping their opponent in front of them, and utilizing their own weight and their opponent's weight for their advantage. Students could do this by using their opponent's uniform to shift their weight, and were also taught how to efficiently use an armbar to take down their opponent. Students then broke up into pairs, where the instructor gave directions and tips to help them improve their form and movements.

Freshman Ruth Pearson said that CU Judo and martial arts have given her "tools for self-defense that are proven to work and a confidence to protect [her]self and others." Pearson added that it has also helped her "be more aware of [her] surroundings" and given her "the ability to diffuse a conflict that could lead to a physical altercation" because she knows she

would be able to step in and handle it. Pearson said, "Judo club creates a community that encourages each other to progress." Lee also commented that his favorite thing about CU Judo is "waking up at 6 a.m. to train" and "developing comradery with new members."

The club's advisor and primary instructor, Dr. Nathan Meier (Kinesiology), has a long history of Judo and martial arts training that have made him an excellent teacher. During sessions, Meier likes to focus on physical training, character development and competition possibilities. "Traditional martial arts promotes courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control, and indomitable spirit," he said.

"Training is intended to improve health, develop confidence, transfer physical discipline to moral and spiritual discipline, and build community," said Meier, as he hopes that he is able "to train students sufficiently to allow them to compete in local and national competition."

If you are interested in learning more about Judo or self-defense, CU Judo is hosting a women's self-defense seminar on April 11 from 6-7:30 p.m., taught by Pearson and all are welcome! If you are interested in joining CU Judo or have any questions, email Samuel Lee at samuel.lee@eagles.cui.edu.

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The Hunt's Gotcha Competition has students in a frenzy



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before stepping into an inbounds zone.

Senior Chase Murphy, who was unfortunately one of the players who had been eliminated, was sad to leave the game and experienced firsthand just how ruthless competition had gotten. In one instance, his target had been stalking him as he played his usual game of disc golf around campus. When a mysterious figure appeared in the fairway approaching with malicious intent, Murphy im-

mediately took action. Dropping his bag of discs he ran all throughout Grimm's parking lot and towards Good Shepherd Chapel to avoid elimination.

Before being eliminated, Murphy racked up two targets, including eliminating his close friend, Senior Reese Rountree. When Rountree unknowingly approached Murphy with intent to have a casual conversation, Murphy saw his opportunity and struck. He pulled out his plastic water gun and before dealing the fatal blow, his only words were "I'm sorry."

The conclusion of the first Gotcha game created much hype for another round in the near future. Stay posted with @cui_thehunt on Instagram to more fun updates as the semester comes to a close.

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Members of ODK lead each day



PICTURED ABOVE: Natalie Bergler, the chapter president of ODK
Photo courtesy of: Natalie Bergler

LEONARD MEMON
STAFF WRITER

Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) is a national leadership honor society that recognizes collegiate and community leaders for their superior leadership and exemplary character.

Jamie Bouldin, the Director of Membership Services at ODK, said,

“An invitation to join Omicron Delta Kappa is a meaningful recognition of a student’s leadership and academic achievements, and it comes with numerous member benefits at the national level. Members can apply for scholarships to support graduate and professional school expenses, take advantage of internships and experiences with one of our

partner organizations, participate in leadership programming, and utilize discounts on travel and insurance.”

ODK has many circles within it, including the CUI circle. Bouldin said, “Every year, ODK circles are asked to select one member as their Circle Leader of the Year. This leader best represents the ideals and aspirations of Omicron Delta Kappa on that campus, and receives a certificate and letter from Tara Singer, the society’s president and chief executive officer. The student is also eligible to apply for ODK’s Gen. Russell E. Dougherty National Leader of the Year.”

This year’s Circle Leader at Concordia is chapter president Natalie Bergler. “I am honored that my peers nominated me as chapter president,” she said, “As president, I have learned a lot about balancing my priorities, delegation, and how to meet the needs of those around me. It has been such a blessing to serve alongside the rest of my cabinet. I am extremely moved that Concordia faculty and staff would select me as the leader of the year. I am grateful for all the ways I have been able to serve at Concordia and honored to receive the recognition.”

Michael Bergler, faculty advisor for ODK’s Concordia circle, said, “I have been a member of Omicron Delta Kappa for nearly 30 years. I helped start the chapter at my alma mater and have moved with the organization to other schools that I have worked at, ultimately bringing ODK to Concordia in 2006.” He added, “As a member of The National Leadership Honor Society, I have had the chance to network with other students and professionals who value leadership. Today’s society needs good leaders, so I am glad to be a small part of how Concordia engages its student leaders. I enjoy watching our members grow into the leader God wants them to be.”

Boudlin said, “As a student, the Society afforded me the opportunity to connect with leaders from all across my campus in a meaningful and impactful way. Later, my involvement with ODK as a professional gave me the opportunity to travel, present, learn, and ultimately join the organization as a staff member last year.”

Natalie Bergler said, “My favorite part of Omicron Delta Kappa is connecting with leaders from a variety of campus activities

that I would not otherwise be around.”

“Omicron Delta Kappa recognizes leaders, but I want students to know they don’t need a title to be considered a leader,” Michael Bergler encouraged. “On campus, we have leaders in the classroom, on the athletic field, backstage, and in ministry to name just a few spots. It is easy to find leaders. There is no magic formula for the application because Omicron Delta Kappa brings a diverse set of leaders together to promote leadership across campus. Even on a small campus, some students don’t know students outside of their major, club or team. Our chapter looks for leaders willing to break down those barriers and to be open to engaging other students, staff and faculty in the journey of leadership!”

“Leadership does not mean you have to be hyper focused in one area,” Michael Bergler added, “We want leaders who diversify their experience across campus too. If you are trying to make the most out of your Concordia Experience, you are most likely a leader in some area, so if/when you get nominated, fill out the application.”

Angels in the career field



PICTURED ABOVE: Acasio in Los Angeles Angels’ dugout
Photo courtesy of: Lillea Acasio

LILLEA ACASIO
CONCORDIA ‘17

If you told me a few years ago that I’d be working from the front office above the Angels baseball field, and even sometimes from the field on game day, I would never have believed you. First, I never played sports or even watched any growing up, with the exception of a few professional and collegiate games. Second, I thought I would start my career working as a financial advisor.

I have always had a passion for helping others. As a financial advisor, I felt empowered to help people understand their finances and reach their financial goals so they could not only live comfortably, but live the life they envisioned. For this reason, I majored in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and a minor in Economics. Senior year at Concordia, I was fortunate enough to intern with LPL Financial where I was able to experience first-hand the day-to-day responsibilities of a financial advisor. It was a wonderful experience, but it made me realize that this was NOT the profession for me.

I spent four years preparing for

this career and suddenly I was back to square one. What was I going to do once I graduated? More importantly, what was I going to do for the rest of my life? As graduation approached, it was easy to compare myself to those who had their next steps figured out and feel disheartened. However, I reflected on the words from Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Little did I know, God had some major league plans in store for me, I just needed to be patient.

After graduation, I applied to any finance job that sounded interesting. Since I already felt detached from the goal of being in the field of finance, the process was daunting and at times discouraging. Thankfully, I stumbled upon Angels baseball’s job openings at the right time and saw a post for a full-time finance internship. I applied, and several interviews later, I had the opportunity to meet the front office executives. The team saw an opportunity to use my interpersonal and hard skills in a different way, and therefore, created a new internship position just for me.

In January 2018, I started working as the only Angels Baseball Foundation Intern and by the end of the year, I was offered a new position, also made specifically for me; Scholarship Programs and Marketing Coordinator.

This job is everything I wanted in a career and more. It combines my passion for finance, education, and the desire to help others. Through various community initiatives, I’m able to administer

scholarships to students in underserved communities.

I hope that stories like mine will help any students who may be facing uncertainty about their career and serve as a reminder that you do not need to have everything figured out by the time you graduate. Having an open mind, being confident in the skills that you can offer, taking advantage of different opportunities and most importantly trusting God will lead you on the right path. Some would say your dream job might just come out of left field.

Lillea Acasio graduated from Concordia in May 2017. She is the Scholarship Programs & Marketing Coordinator for the Los Angeles Angels.

This editorial is part of an ongoing series published in partnership with the Office of Career Development and Vocation. Ready to start writing your own professional journey? Contact Director of Career Development and Vocation Mariah Lucas at mariah.lucas@cui.edu.



PICTURED ABOVE: Lillea Acasio
Photo courtesy of: Lillea Acasio

Town halls to take place on campus as California elections approach

ADYSON CASTEEL
CAMPUS EDITOR

In the fast-approaching California election cycle, two Concordia-exclusive Town Hall meetings will take place with Representative Michelle Steel (R) on Tues., April 12 at 3 p.m. and Representative Katie Porter (D) on Wed., April 20 at 4 p.m. Both events will take place in Grimm Hall North, the third floor of the conference center, hosted by CUI’s Center for Civics Education.

These two events educate the CUI family on multiple political views, encourage the importance of voting, and connect the campus to its surrounding community in California. The Director of CUI’s Center for Civics Education, Dr. Jo Ellen Chatham, emphasized the importance of having events such as these on campus. “It is not only our responsibility to vote, but to be informed voters,” she said, “Our CUI family has the opportunity to hear from two different points of view and ask questions of those we have chosen to represent us.”

Along with informing the audience, the event is beneficial for the representatives as well. Chatham said, “The Town Hall meetings provide both the representatives an opportunity to learn about Concordia, and we are delighted they have accepted our invitation.”

CUI’s Center for Civics Education “addresses the twin problems of the declining levels of civic literacy and civility in our country by providing a wide range of events and activities on and off campus. Much of our attention is on our founding documents,

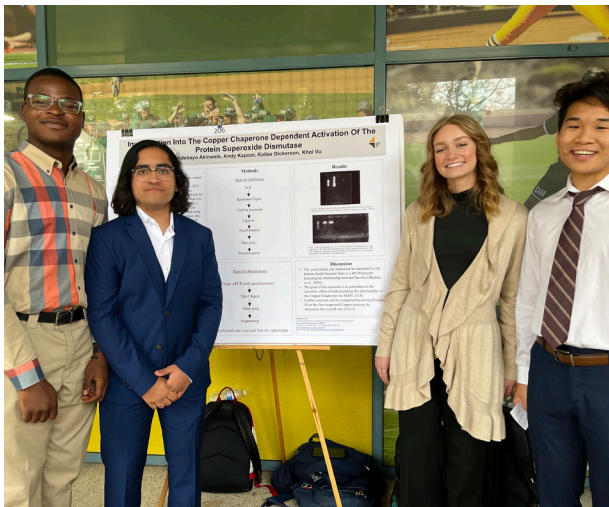
especially the Constitution and the Bill of Rights,” Chatham said, “They are not only our heritage: they constitute the “rule book” under which our government operates. It is up to us, the citizens, to understand it, act on it, hold our elected representatives accountable. and even consider running for office ourselves.”

Steel represents California’s 48th Congressional District, which includes Costa Mesa, Aliso Viejo, Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Newport Beach, Westminster and parts of Garden Grove, Anaheim and Santa Ana. Formerly, she was a member of the O.C. County Board of Supervisors and the State Board of Equalization, and currently sits on the Education and Labor Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

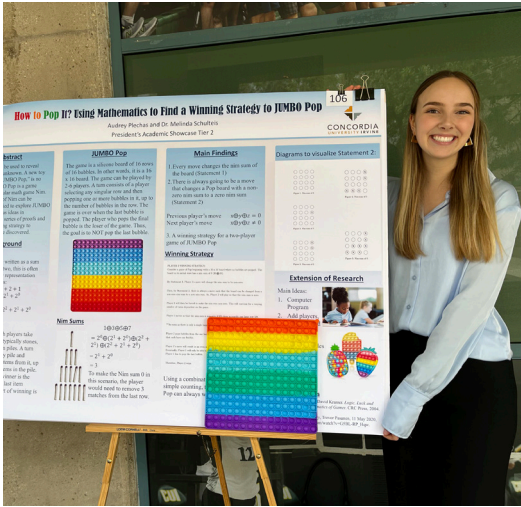
Porter represents California’s 45th Congressional district, including Irvine, Tustin, Villa Park, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Orange and parts of Anaheim. Before her position in congress, Porter spent nearly two decades as a consumer advocate in Washington, D. C., and she currently sits on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Oversight and Reform Committee.

Students, faculty and staff can join the campus Town Halls on April 12 and April 20 and all are encouraged to attend! These events are also a good reminder to register to vote by May 23 for the 2022 California elections by visiting <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>.

Sciences shine at Academic Showcase poster session



PICTURED ABOVE: Adebayo Akinwale, Andy Kapoor, Kailee Dickerson and Khoi Vu pose in front of their poster.



PICTURED ABOVE: Audrey Plechas' research explored using math to find a winning strategy for Jumbo Pop.

STAFF REPORT

Students donned their business attire and braved a chilly afternoon in the Breezeway on Thurs., Mar. 31 to present their posters for the 2022 President's Academic Showcase.

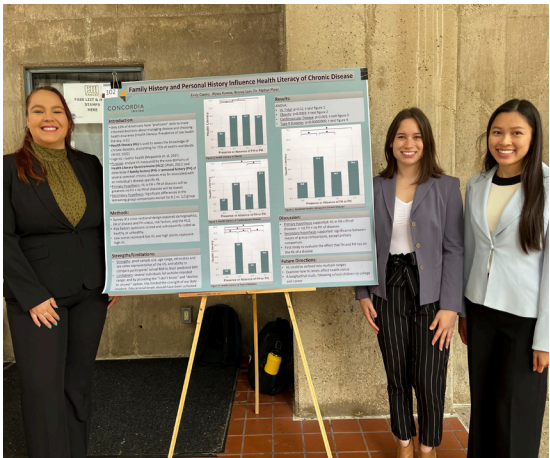
Students presented research and findings on a variety of topics; they worked solo or in teams of two, three or four. The poster session enabled students to deliver short recaps of their research followed by Q&As with their audiences. Many students attended the session along with faculty and staff members.

While the topics spanned spiritual, literature, business and

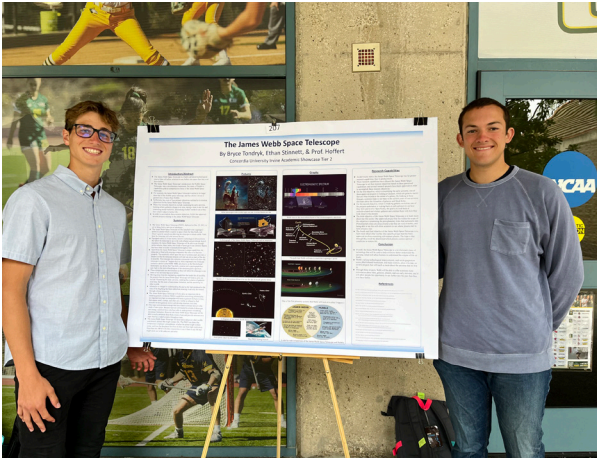
more, students in the sciences truly shined as the showcase gave Concordia's undergraduate researchers the opportunity to present their scientific experiments and primary research.

Adebayo Akinwale, Andy Kapoor, Kailee Dickerson and Khoi Vu worked in a team of four. While coordinating schedules was tough, Kapoor noted that the team approach enabled them to "run the experiment, the process, multiple times."

Math major Bryce Tondryk and English major Ethan Stinnett focused their research on the James



PICTURED ABOVE: Emily Castro, Alyssa Kawata and Britney Lam's research centered on health literacy and chronic disease.



PICTURED ABOVE: Bryce Tondryk and Ethan Stinnett explored the James Webb Space Telescope.

and seniors) and the winner of Tier 2 (freshmen and sophomore) gave a presentation on their research in Grimm Hall on Wed. April 6. The winners were announced during chapel on Fri. April 8 and will be featured in The Courier on April 29.

The students competing in the Academic Showcase vied for cash prizes. Tier 1 awarded \$1500 to the first place winner, \$1000 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 next Tier 2 poster.

Journalist Gustavo Arellano explains how to search for truth by interrogating everything

MADISON ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

Columnist and reporter Gustavo Arellano spoke at the recent Core Convocation, discussing How to Truth in this (Fake?) News Age. This is the second time that Arellano has been a guest at Concordia, and was welcomed by faculty and students alike.

"Gustavo Arellano is one of the most exciting personalities in Orange County, because he comes with a wealth of history, a wealth of experience, and a great attitude. I love having conversations with Gustavo," said Dr. C.J. Armstrong, associate professor of History and Theology, and Honors Program Director.

In his presentation, Arellano utilized his broader background as a writer and journalist to give an enlightening speech on truth, which he said he's been obsessed with his entire life. "More than anything I view myself as a reporter, and what a reporter does, what I'm talking about today, is always searching for truth," he said. Truth is essential to Arellano, whether he is talking about tacos, the media or politics. "I think that over my career as a writer, I've gained a reputation among the people who follow me as someone who is going to be honest. If I don't like it, I'm not going to be stuck in an idea of what truth is. I'll always be interrogating those ideas," he said.

Arellano gave an account of the history of truth in the news and the media, applying past ideas to the

modern state of affairs. He said, "Now more than ever, we are at a better spot, we are better equipped, to find what truth is." Arellano's breadth of knowledge was impressive, and his style of speech engaging. He comfortably challenged viewpoints and considered different perspectives, warning of the dangers of concentrated journalism and questioning the idea of objectivity.

"I thought this was a great speech because it made me think about [historical perspective]. It caused me to think more and probably interrogate my own beliefs about media and what should be in the media by considering the history of what has been and applying it to now," said Andrew Shiroma, freshman.

Arellano spoke specifically to college students when he said, "I view the academic experience when, at its best, as a place where you do get challenged. But if you are a good, smart and inquisitive college student, or human being, you will take something that will change you, in one way or another, even from the people you see you like the least."

Much of Arellano's talk highlighted the importance of listening to other viewpoints. "I do not believe in echo chambers. You're always going to show up to a speaker that you like, but I challenge people to listen to what you don't like. You don't have to agree with it, but consider the possibility that maybe they're right. And if you live your life like that, I think you're going to

be that much more prepared for the reality of life."

Elizabeth Pineda, freshman, said, "I'm very grateful that he's a Mexican, because I'm a Mexican, and it's nice to see a Mexican as a journalist. Overall it was a really interesting conversation," she added, "I liked that he spoke about how you should read multiple sources to know the truth, and I'm glad he mentioned that the truth does exist, but we'll never be able to fully have it. I agree with that. It was an eye-opening experience."

Arellano's message is especially significant today, when the subject of truth is contentious. "I get in trouble sometimes, because I believe in truth with a capital T, and you're not supposed to believe that. You haven't been able to believe that for a long time now," he said, "I don't care, I think frankly if you believe that, knowing that you're never going to access it, it keeps life interesting, but also keeps you on your toes. It pushes you to always be that best person, to always be grasping for what you know and knowing that along the way, it's going to slowly make you a better person, or at least a stronger person."

Arellano can be found writing for the Los Angeles Times, at gustavoarellano.org, or on the podcast he hosts, The Times: Daily news from the L.A. Times. For more information on the Q&I Core Convocations, contact Dr. Kerri Tom at kerri.tom@cui.edu.

Campus Safety hosts self-defense classes

OWEN MILLIGAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CUI Campus Safety is hosting self-defense classes in the yoga room of CU Active on Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Hosted by Raul Morales, Director of Campus Safety, the event is open to students, faculty and staff.

Morales teaches the basic techniques of Kung Fu San Soo. Morales said, "I love teaching this art that I have practiced for over 40 years. It is a great way to learn how to protect oneself, and it is great exercise and a whole lot of fun. The basics of this art, if practiced, are all one needs to protect themselves if suddenly attacked. The great Kung Fu Master Bruce Lee said, "I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times."

According to Morales, "The students are taught on day one how to counter aggression." Hannah Walker, a student joining Morales in classes Thursday, stated, "After even one class, I felt more confident about my skills. So far, I have basic punches, kicks and blocks, as well as several combination moves for different situations." Morales praised Walker for her improvement in the sport. Walker added, "Morales is highly skilled and a great teacher! I feel safe and confident with what I accomplish in class."

The outcome of the program is to equip students (as well as faculty and staff) to feel comfortable enough to defend themselves. Morales added, "I am training students to be aware that a time might come when someone will attack them. Be prepared for that time by training and always practicing the basics of self-defense so that the reaction is automatic and effective. This surprises the attacker to stop the aggression enough to at least flee to a safe place."

Irvine is renowned as one of the safest cities in the United States. The violent crime rating is 0.6, compared to the national median of 4.4, according to

Neighborhood Scout. However, training is always recommended to prepare oneself for unforeseen circumstances.

Campus Safety is also implementing other programs to keep students safe. Morales stated, "Our Department Motto of 'SAFETY IN SERVICE' says it all. The most important way Campus Safety partners with students on safety is by everyday interactions between students and Campus Safety Personnel. We accomplish this through proactive patrols, friendly greetings, welcoming service, security at games and events, I think our dedication to service is key to our success."

"The Department of Campus Safety promotes personal safety through a yearly Violent Intruder Response Training; presentations are provided to any requesting club or organization on safety and situational awareness." Morales said, adding, "The Department of Campus Safety also publishes the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASFSR), located in the Campus Safety Website. The ASFSR contains information on the Department of Campus Safety Services, Crime Reporting Procedures on campus, Emergency Evacuation Plans, Situational Awareness, Drug and Alcohol Abuse information, Resources Phone Numbers, Crime Statistics for the campus and much more, I encourage everyone to look the ASFSR over and use it as an all informational resource.

After taking classes with Morales, Walker concluded, "I seek comfort in knowing that I have knowledge just in case something were to happen, and I will keep reinforcing the muscle memory so that I will be ready if/when something happens."

Visit the yoga studio of CU Active next Thursday at 7 p.m. to learn from Morales, and visit the Campus Safety Website (www.cui.edu/campus-safety) for more information on safety programs and how to respond to a threat.

Awe-inspiring performance places CUI Forensics second in the nation



PICTURED ABOVE: Debate team in front of the Washington Monument
Photo courtesy of: Meghan Gleeson

LEONARD MEMON
STAFF WRITER

CUI’s forensics team placed second at the National Christian College Forensics Invitational that took place from Fri. March 18 through Sun. March 20 in Virginia on Liberty University’s campus.

When Meghan Gleeson, CUI’s assistant debate coach, was asked to describe CUI’s performance at the tournament in one word, she said that it was “awe-inspiring.”

Benjamin Lange, CUI’s debate coach, said, “I feel that the team performed exceptionally well this year, but we are intent on coming back even stronger. Our primary focus for next national season is to improve judge-adaptation, which means adapting the arguments that we read in round to better appeal to judges that we have not been familiar with in the past.”

Audrey Plechas, a sophomore on CUI’s speech team, said, “I believe my strongest speech skills that contributed to my

success at the tournament are actually my nonverbal communication skills. Facial expressions, body language and poise are all crucial to delivering successful speeches and I think these skills set me apart from my competitors. The judges listen to people talk all day, so if you can do something visually that sets yourself apart it really gives you a competitive edge.”

Rebekah Mehrley, captain of the speech team, said, “I have over two hours of coaching every week with our coaches. When you factor in meetings, private practice times, and prep work, it can easily add up to between five and ten hours a week. And that’s still not counting tournaments! It was so rewarding to see all of those hours pay off at nationals.”

Despite all of the success CUI had at the national tournament, it was ultimately the way that the team supported each other throughout that success that was the ultimate prize. Mehrley said, “What was most rewarding to me was seeing the fruit of the time I poured into my team. The

extra time helping them with book work, example finding, and even just getting suits tailored really paid off!”

Claire Crossman, CUI’s speech coach, said, “I am most proud to see the commitment level from the speech team. They really rarely need to be reminded to practice, and frequently take the initiative to make our team stronger and bring us closer together. Especially because our team is mostly novices this year, maintaining that team culture is super important, and they do it so well.”

Lange added, “We have a very young team this year, and many of our national competitors are still in their first year of college debate. Despite this, the collective work ethic and supportive culture of our team has been remarkable. That’s probably the thing that I’m most proud of the debate team for this year.”

Tabitha Johnson is a sophomore on the speech team. “My favorite thing about speech is the unique environment I’ve been gifted to observe. I was never in speech in high school and haven’t been around the forensic world,” Johnson said. “Through attending tournaments,



PICTURED ABOVE: Forensics team in the blue room after the awards ceremony.
Photo courtesy of: Meghan Gleeson

I’ve not only been able to travel, but I’ve been able to meet lots of talented people with unique backgrounds. As I continually improve my public speaking skills, I’m also obtaining new connections and experience which makes me so grateful for forensics!”

Nathan Estrick, a junior on the debate team, said, “(Debate has) made me a better public speaker, better critical thinker, and a better essay writer.” Greta Jones, freshman on the debate team, also feels that debate has sharpened her critical thinking skills. “Also, the speed at which debates are conducted has given me the ability to watch lectures and write papers at twice the speed while also being able to understand

and comprehend every bit of it.” Jones said.

“Forensics is a once in a lifetime opportunity,” Mehrley encouraged, “You will get to advocate for the things that matter most to you, travel across the country, and become a more resilient, devoted, and courageous individual because of it.”

Sean Nowlan, captain of the debate team, summed up the experience, “The forensics team is a wonderful program filled with some of the brightest and smartest students in all of CUI that will help you in all aspects of life and allows you to meet some awesome people, and travel to cool places around the country.”

AWARDS

REBEKAH MEHRLEY	AFTER DINNER SPEAKING (2ND PLACE) IMPROMPTU (1ST PLACE)
AUDREY PLECHAS	COMMUNICATION ANALYSIS (1ST PLACE)
TABITHA JOHNSON	PERSUASIVE SPEAKING (1ST PLACE)
GRETA JONES	NFA-LD (1ST PLACE)
NATHAN ESTRICK	NFA-LD (2ST PLACE)
BRODY REZEN	NFA-LD (3ST PLACE)
BENJAMIN WAGNER	FELLOWSHIP AWARD (1ST PLACE)

Concordia presents annual MasterWorks Concert

OWEN MILLIGAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Concordia Master Chorale, Concordia Choir and the MasterWorks Orchestra are presenting Concordia MasterWorks Concerts 2022: Felix Mendelssohn’s “Elijah.” The concert will take place on Sat. April 9 at 7 p.m. and Sun. April 10 for a 4 p.m. matinee.

Dr. Michael Busch, professor and Director of Choral and Vocal Activities, will conduct the performance, with a bass-baritone feature from Patrick Blackwell. According to Busch, “The Concordia MasterWorks Concert Series is presented annually, an event where the Concordia Choir and Concordia Master Chorale join forces with professional soloists and orchestra to perform great choral-orchestral masterworks. This tradition stretches back 25 years, when I instituted the annual series in 1997.”

“This year’s performance is rather special, since it has been three years since we performed these concerts before a live audience,” Busch said. “Our intent was to perform Felix Mendelssohn’s “Elijah” in 2020, the year of the pandemic shutdown. Choirs were already well underway in preparing the work and we were a month away from performance. We post-

poned the concert until 2021, but were unable to gather again. It looks like the third time will be the charm!”

Mendelssohn has been recognized and praised for his work for decades. Since the inception of “Elijah,” the oratorio has been performed regularly by choral groups for over 150 years.

Busch added, “‘Elijah’ is considered one of the greatest oratorios ever written, alongside that of Handel’s ‘Messiah,’” Busch said. “The work is a dramatic portrayal of Elijah’s life as told in the Old Testament. Perhaps the most memorable moment is when Elijah faces the 400 prophets of Baal in a contest to determine the true God. In the performance, a lone baritone soloist stands against an entire chorus of singers as that dramatic scene is played out. Another powerful musical moment occurs when Elijah is whisked away to heaven in a fiery chariot.”

After many long hours of preparation for the feature, the Music Department is excited to share their collaborative work. Busch stated, “The concert features over 100 voices comprised of the Concordia Choir and Concordia Master Chorale.”

“The Concordia Choir is our

university’s premiere choral ensemble and the Concordia Master Chorale is a chorus that includes talented alumni and singers from the community. A 45-piece orchestra of professional musicians also takes part,” added Busch.

Vocal soloists include baritone Patrick Blackwell in the role of “Elijah,” soprano Tiffany Townsend in the role of the Widow, mezzo-soprano Gabriella Flores in the role of Queen Jezebel, and tenor Arnold Geis in the role of King Ahab. “They all have outstanding performing careers that take them to concert halls around the country and most are members of LA Opera,” Busch said, adding, “Making his debut during this concert series is boy soprano, Bennett Strom.”

After much delay and great anticipation, the event is sure to be an outstanding showcase of many talented individuals and a reflection of the hard work poured into these programs. Join the Concordia family in celebrating the annual tradition this weekend. Tickets start at \$15 for general admission, and will take place in the Center for Worship and Performing Arts (CU Center). Students and faculty are eligible for complimentary tickets to this special event.

Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert! Will you be there?

MYLAN EUBANKS
ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

It’s that time of year again! The Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert has officially arrived. The concert will be taking place on April 11 at 7 p.m in the Borland-Manske Center Charlie and Ling Zhang Orchestra Hall (Zhang Hall).

The concert will be starring the Concordia jazz orchestra and ensemble directed by the stylings of Dr. Tom Mueller, Music Department Chair and Director of Keyboard Activities and Jazz, and special guest conductor Len Montgomery.

Mueller had to say that he’s incredibly excited for the upcoming concert, and so should you! Here’s why: The Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert has key elements that will be different from many other previous Concordia concerts.

“My favorite part is always just being in front of a live audience and having the chance to present all of this music that we’ve been working on in rehearsals over the course of the semester especially with Jazz where there’s a lot of improvisation involved...There’s often aspects that can be unpredictable or aren’t really fully determined until you actually get to the performance,” said Mueller.

Mueller loves the energy of Concordia’s Jazz concerts. “For musicians you can really feed off that sort of energy. It’s very different from what you might expect if you compare it to a classical concert,” he said.

This concert is a checkpoint for the culmination of all the hard work and growth

that Concordia music students and faculty have put into the craft and the amazing show performances they have delivered so far. “We like to present a variety of different Jazz repertoire. So we’ll typically include some standards that can come from the 1920s all the way to the present day, but we also use these ensembles to give students and faculty as well a chance to arrange and compose,” said Mueller.

This concert is all about taking a turn on spontaneity, putting the magic wand in students’ hands and allowing them to shine in their creative abilities and unique differences. In this upcoming concert, look out for two students, Nathon Ramos and Mark Siegert, both seniors.

“Nathon Ramos, who plays bass in the group, arranged ‘A Dream is a Wish,” said Mueller, “And Mark Siegert, who plays trumpet in that group, arranged the ‘Nintendo Song’ from one of the Mario games.

Each song and performance weaves together like a beautiful handcrafted work of art. “It’s like the song sort of evolves in front of your eyes. A lot of the interest in listening to jazz is listening to that improvisation and just following along,” Mueller concluded.

Jazz stirs different emotions. Audience members might feel joy, excitement, passion and intrigue all in one. It’s like watching a Bob Ross painting. You don’t know what’s going to happen, but it’s beautiful and you get to enjoy the step-by-step process.

For more information, visit www.cui.edu/arts/music/events

Basketball player Michaela VanderKlugt living out her collegiate dreams



PICTURED ABOVE: VanderKlugt in action
Photo courtesy of: Michaela VanderKlugt

SHANNON RHODES
SPORTS EDITOR

Graduate student and basketball player Michaela VanderKlugt has been named first team all-American and DII CAA west regional player of the year. That’s not all, though. VanderKlugt is also the all-time leading rebounder in school history, and in the PacWest she is conference player of the year, and she has scored over 2000 points in her collegiate career. The list goes on for VanderKlugt.

When asked what her biggest

motivation is, VanderKlugt said, “I feel like my biggest motivation is just to be better than last season’s version of myself. I never want to be predictable or repetitive in my movements. Due to this, I am always adding new things to my game and pushing myself to be better than the old version of myself.”

VanderKlugt has grown and matured in many ways over her collegiate career but believes she has grown the most in her communication. She said, “Over the years, I have had to learn how

to communicate with teammates, coaches, and any other staff about difficult topics and smooth ones as well.” She added, “When I was younger, I used to be quite emotional, whereas, the older me can take certain emotions and turn them into energy or drive for the next play.”

As a leader and high achiever, VanderKlugt has many strengths. She said, “I think some of my strengths as a teammate is that I am very solution oriented. I will help you out find a solution to your problem or if I do not have the answers, I will direct you in the direction of someone who might. I think another strength I have as a teammate is, I am always ready to compete.” VanderKlugt added, “Every time I stepped onto the court, I was ready to compete and leave my heart out there.”

VanderKlugt hopes to continue her career on the court by playing professional basketball overseas. She added, “I am currently in the process of looking for an agent and then from there hopefully will get picked up by a team and leave in September.”

When asked about the honors she’s received, VanderKlugt said, “It’s been hard to put into words just how I feel. I feel grateful, excited, worthy, humbled and happy to just name a few. All the extra hours of training I

have put in when I did not have to were all finally paying off.”

Head coach Christine Collins-Kiernan spoke highly of VanderKlugt. She said, “Michaela’s consistency and resilience has been something I have marveled at over the last five years. She has not missed one practice, one game.” Collins-Kiernan added, “Every day she showed up and competed like it mattered more to her than anyone and fostered that same environment to her teammates, she raised the level of competition every day.”

Collins-Kiernan continued, “Very few athletes work like she works. She takes every bit of her development and that of our

programs seriously. Michaela does the extra reps, treats every drill like it will be the game winner, and schedules basketball development into her day.”

“My first thought was, “Wow what a great story this will be... the kid who had so few offers, so few who saw her magic, and how she so greatly manifested a career on sheer work ethic and incredibly strong will,” Collins-Kiernan said, concluding, “She found her place, found the people who believed in her and got to work building and being a part of something bigger than herself, and in the end, she got more than she even thought possible.”



PICTURED ABOVE: VanderKlugt as a little girl
Photo courtesy of: Michaela VanderKlugt

Cheer and stunt team achievements



PICTURED ABOVE: Concordia Cheer and Stunt team practice
Photo courtesy of: @CUI_Stunt on instagram

KELLYN HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Concordia’s cheer and stunt team has been working hard throughout this 2021-2022 season to support the basketball team and bring excitement to the student body or the audience. When cheering, the ladies’ chants make others feel welcomed and deliver school spirit for the university.

These ladies work hard at practice every day to give an outstanding performance at games or stunt competitions against other teams. It takes strength and discipline to do what they do consistently. The team is passionate about their performance and entertains during half time to represent CUI’s culture. The culture at this school is kind-hearted, cheerful,

and all about making others feel welcomed in the environment.

Senior Devan Doyle is majoring in Kinesiology with a double minor in Psychology and Coaching. Doyle is the current captain of the cheer and stunt team and her position on the team is the main base. Doyle explained how wins work in competition. “Two teams performing a series of routines that involve partner stunts, pyramids, jumps and tumbling,” said Doyle. When competing, the two teams pull out a mat and perform the same routine; whoever does a better job gets the point. At the end of the competition, the team with the most points is the winner.

Doyle said, “One of our biggest goals for the team was to make it to nationals that will take place in

San Antonio, Texas this year.” The team is waiting to hear whether they are qualified to perform and are praying for the best results.

Doyle wants to shout out to all the underclassmen on the team for making her senior year unforgettable both on and off the mat. She also thanks her coaches for pushing the team to continue to fight for their goals until the very end, all while having fun.

Senior Jordyn Ludeman’s major is Liberal Studies Elementary Education. Her position on the team is a flyer and tumbler. Ludeman’s favorite memory is that she participated in at least one level of all three levels when competing from freshman year to senior year. Ludeman said “team encouragement to have no mental mistakes” at nationals is key. “We can do it. We have the skills; all we need is the confidence,” she said.

Andrea Valencia is a sophomore majoring in Liberal Studies with dual studies and special education credentials. Her position on the team is a flyer and a tumbler. Valencia said, “The highlight of my season will be if we get chosen to go to nationals.” The team has been putting in work and performing wonderfully so they can experience this opportunity.

Freshman Miranda Moses is majoring in Kinesiology with an emphasis on lifespan and allied health. Her position on the team

is a flyer and a tumbler, along with Valencia and Ludeman. Moses said, “The highlight of my season was beating our rival team Vanguard for the first game.” She also talked about how there are four quarters when competing next to the opponent and teams can earn up to twenty-one points. The team with minor mistakes and with the cleanest routines is the winner. Moses said, “I want to shout out everybody on the team, it’s crucial to come together at games to cheer each other on, and every time I step out onto the mat,

I feel so loved and encouraged.”

“To build a human pyramid with a group of girls standing on each other’s backs and shoulders takes not only strong, sturdy muscles but trust, loyalty and a strong family bond,” said CUI cheer alumni, MacKenzie Feeken, in a past CUI article. Over the past few years, the CUI cheer and stunt team has created a legacy where the ladies who join the team value each other and the talent they perform.



PICTURED ABOVE: Concordia Cheer and Stunt team practice
Photo courtesy of: @CUI_Stunt on instagram

Big wins for men’s CUI lacrosse team



PICTURED ABOVE: Men’s lacrosse team celebrates a win during their successful season
Photo courtesy of: @cuilax



PICTURED ABOVE: Cade Poe carries the ball down the field
Photo courtesy of: @cuilax

CAMRYN LAVINE
STAFF WRITER

The men’s lacrosse team is having a great season this year with an outstanding winning record of 10-1 so far this spring.

Athletes Braden Schneider and Jackson McKenney spoke about the team’s success so far this season as well as their own goals.

Schneider, a sophomore, said, “I would say that our team stays composed. We faced the adversity that was against us. We fought till the

end, and came out on top. I feel like I executed the game against ASU well. I had lots of penalties, the refs weren’t really a big fan of me.”

During the game against Grand Canyon University, Schneider made his presence known on the field. “And [I] won my matchup as well,” Schneider added.

Schneider also talked about what stood out to him during these games, and said, “Our whole offense stood out to me. They definitely covered for the defense and fired on all cylinders putting up 14 goals.

The goal for the season is to give 100% all 60 minutes, and win out the rest of the season.”

Senior McKenney talked about some of his recent games and said, “Before the win at the USC game, we put a major emphasis on playing as a team rather than individuals. We knew we needed to trust each other and be more selfless. That mindset definitely showed up on the field and on the scoreboard at USC. Walking away from the games before the USC match we knew our offense was capable of so much more. We

needed to be more selfless, and we saw that last weekend when eight different scorers tallied a total of 20 goals at USC.” USC were ranked number 10, and now the Eagles are number two in the conference with an outstanding record.

McKenney has been nursing a recent shoulder injury and said, “Personally, I have been out with a shoulder injury prior to the GCU game. It felt great to get back out on the field and help my team come away with a win.”

“As a team, we have a goal of winning not only our conference,

but a national championship,” McKenney said, “We’re on the right track, but still have lots of work to do. We’re confident we’ll be bringing the trophy back to Concordia in May.”

The men’s lacrosse team has been killing it out on the field. Make sure to watch their next home game on April 13, which is also senior night. Also be sure to follow their instagram page @cuilax to check out their latest scores and their players. The CUI spring sports this year are no joke. Make sure to not miss any of the action going on this season.

Eagles are ready to end the season with a bang

MAAD ALKADHIM
STAFF WRITER

The tennis team plans to end their regular season with a bang in their last home game by defeating Fresno Pacific on senior day.

The Eagles have gone through ups and downs throughout the season. They not only had to face the challenges of strong opponents such as APU and Hawaii Hilo, but they also had to face challenges from within the team.

Graduate student James Caddies said, “I think the team has competed very well under difficult circumstances. We had two or three players drop out towards the end of the fall semester which we did not expect, then [I lost eligibility] for a few weeks.” He added, “So under pretty difficult circumstances I have seen the team rise to the

occasion and get some important wins.”

Although the process of losing players did affect the Eagles initially, it strengthened them later on. “I think the entire season for coach and for us has been tough. Losing players and getting players... James getting injured and then James was ineligible. So it is tough on everyone, not only mentality but also physically. One of the good things this year is that we were supposed to have an amazing team and we had a lot less players and so many players got the opportunity to go out there and try their best without any pressure,” said senior Mike Jansen.

With seven players on the roster, the Eagles found themselves in an environment where they were able to shine.

Jansen said, “Younes for example, he got in and the way he has been playing in the last couple of weeks and in matches especially, he is someone we can rely on and a lot of players started getting into the groove and started playing better tennis compared to the beginning of the year. I think everyone showed that they are strong enough to compete.”

Assistant Coach Gertjan de Wilder added, “The team is definitely stronger than it was last month because last month we had six players which is definitely not a big team. So having a player extra is definitely better and [James] is one of our line up players so it is good to have him back.”

With the regular season coming to an end, the team’s chemistry has been better than ever. “The one most important thing that helped our team overcome the challenges is our team chemistry. When you have a smaller team and you have such a good group like we have, it makes for a really exciting atmosphere every match because we all want to fight as hard as we can for each other. Everyone on the team is best friends so it makes for a great team chemistry, a great team atmosphere and that is what is helping us stay successful,” said Caddies

With the conference tournament and regionals coming up, the Eagles feel good about their chances. “Everyone in the conference can beat everyone. All teams are as strong as each other.



PICTURED ABOVE: CUI Men’s tennis team poses for team photo
Photo courtesy of: @cuitennis



PICTURED ABOVE: Senior Jan Simon smashing the ball for the win.
Photo courtesy of: cuieagles.com

I think we can beat everyone, but we can also lose to these teams. We beat Biola once and they beat us once. We should have won against Hawaii Hilo, but they won a close one. The match against APU was also doable. So we will just go out there and battle and whatever happens happens,” said de Wilder.

On Sat., April 9 the tennis team will play their final match at home this season. This match will be special because it is the final home game in the career of captain and senior Jan Simon.

“It is sad and exciting at the same time. It is a bittersweet.

I had a great time here and I grew as a person and as a leader. Concordia gave me a great time and we grew as a team and so I am excited to finish the season strong. As a team in general we grew up so much and we have a great atmosphere playing and that is what makes me sad about leaving,” said Simon.

Come support Simon on senior day in the last home game of his college career against Fresno Pacific. To keep up with the Eagles journey to the Conference and Regionals tournaments follow them on their Instagram page @cuitennis.

Ukraine Updates: News on the ongoing invasion of Ukraine

JOHN SYMANK
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

After over a month of continued fighting, Ukraine has continued to hold out in the face of Vladimir Putin’s invasion. The capital city of Kyiv has yet to fall, and in spite of great difficulty and tragedy, and in the face of horrible atrocities, the Ukrainian people continue to stand their ground against the aggressors. Here are some of the biggest developments.

Civilian casualties in Bucha: Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy has visited the site of a Russian attack on the city of Bucha, where the Ukrainian military alleged that the Russian soldiers attacked, massacring civilians, as they were retreating from the town.

“They shot and killed women outside their houses when they just tried to call someone,” said Zelenskyy in a meeting with the United Nations Security Council. “They killed entire families, adults and children, and tried to burn the bodies.”

Zelenskyy also reprimanded the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for their inaction, likening Russia’s actions to a terrorist organization, with the only difference being their permanent membership on the UNSC.

U.S. places additional restrictions on Russia: President Joe Biden has announced that his administration will be placing fur-

ther restrictions and sanctions on Russia in light of the invasion. The sanction package, which was released on Wednesday, includes sanctions against Russian financial institutions and state owned enterprises, as well as sanctioning specific Russian government officials and their families. Among them are the two acknowledged daughters of President Vladimir Putin.

War Crime trial proposed: President Biden also announced his intention to pursue a war crimes trial against Putin in the wake of the invasion, with images from Bucha being at the forefront of reasoning behind the intention.

Biden announced in a press conference that the images and film were enough evidence to potentially bring charges against Putin, saying, “We have to gather the information. We have to continue to provide Ukraine with the weapons they need to continue the fight and we have to get all the details so [we can] have a war crime trial.”

In a press briefing, White House national security advisor Jake Sullivan said that there has yet to be evidence of systematic killings that would suggest that the Ukraine invasion is a genocide.

“We have seen atrocities. We have seen war crimes,” said Sullivan. “We have not seen a level of systemic deprivation of life of the Ukrainian people to rise to the level of genocide.”

Judge Ketanji Brown-Jackson confirmed as U.S Supreme Court justice in narrow vote

MIYLAN EUBANKS
ARTS AND RE-VIEWS EDITOR

Judge Ketanji Brown-Jackson has studied at Harvard Law, served as a Supreme Court clerk, and a federal appeals judge, on the report of The Washington Post, and has achieved accomplishments that some could only dream of. Now, Jackson has been nominated by President Biden to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court as the 116th Associate Justice of the United State Supreme Court, on Feb. 25, 2022. She was confirmed as Supreme Court Justice, according to CNN, after a bipartisan procedural vote favoring Jackson 53-47. Three Republicans swayed the vote in a 50-50 Senate seating.

Jackson has every ingredient to fulfill the recipe that would make a phenomenal Associate Justice of the U.S Supreme Court. The White House said in a statement that, “President Biden sought a

candidate with exceptional credentials, unimpeachable character, and unwavering dedication to the rule of law. And the President sought an individual who is committed to equal justice under the law and who understands the profound impact that the Supreme Court’s decisions have on the lives of the American people.”

Here are some fast facts that make Judge Jackson stand apart on the Supreme Court:

- Judge Jackson is the first Black woman to sit on the Supreme Court

- “She [is] the first justice who had served as a public defender,” according to Politico

- She comes from a family of legal professions beginning with her father, and her interest in the judicial system began at a very young age. In an interview with Politico, Jackson said this about her father, “He had all of his law books stacked up, and I had all of my coloring books

stacked up,”

- She attended Miami Palmetto Senior High. She was elected student body president, and excelled on the speech and debate team, said Politico.

Jackson made a strong case for her nomination, and is a fierce competitor in her field. Regardless of opinions, one thing is for sure: As it pertains to Judge Jackson, she broke barriers in the African American community Thursday, and this moment will go down in history as a win for women everywhere.

Jackson once said, “There are also women I have never met but who are recorded in the pages of history and whose lives and struggles inspire me and thousands of other working women to keep putting one foot in front of another every day,” according to Shethepeople.

For more information about Judge Ketanji Brown-Jackson, visit Ketanji Brown Jackson: 55 Things You Need to Know - POLITICO

Halo TV Show: A spoiler-free review

JOHN SYMANK
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

As a longtime Halo fan, I found myself very excited upon hearing about Paramount’s new adaptation of the longstanding game series. Live action Halo adaptations have been proposed since as early as 2005, when Peter Jackson, of “The Lord of the Rings” fame, first announced that he would be helming a movie that would ultimately be canceled in 2006.

While there have been some smaller adaptations that focused less on the primary protagonist, The Master Chief, none have come close to the size and scope of the newest project. Estimates have stated that each episode cost approximately \$10 million dollars to produce.

For every reason that there has been to be excited for the show, there has been another that has seemed to make longtime fans of the series skeptical, such as the showrunner, Steven Kane, noting in an interview with Variety that the games themselves were almost completely ignored when creating the show.

“We didn’t look at the game,” said Kane. “We didn’t talk about

the game. We talked about the characters and the world, so I never felt limited by it being a game.”

Along with this came the announcement that the show would take place in a sort of “alternate reality” from the games. This, too, led to concern.

The question, however, remains. Does the show live up to the hype?

Honestly? Eh.

The show’s “alternate reality” approach has done little to change the fact that it is, thus far, somewhat underwhelming. The effects and CG are excessive and inconsistent. There is a point early in the first episode where we can see a shot of Master Chief casting his rifle into the dirt that was, for one reason or another, animated.

It also seems as though the showrunners put little care into the background props and effects. In the original trailer, it was pointed out that, not unlike Game of Thrones’ infamous Starbucks cup, a Chevy Tahoe could be seen in the background of a setting that takes place 600 years from now.

I’m honestly not sure how \$10 million could be sunk into this show, let alone into each episode.

Maybe the explosions? Because if you love Michael Bay movies exclusively for giant fighting metal creatures and pyrotechnics, you’ll love this show.

I hesitate to comment on the plot at this point. It’s important to note that we’re only two episodes in, and most of these comments are remarking on what we’ve seen thus far. I will say that, so far, while I don’t dislike the plot, I feel like there’s a lot to be desired.

Don’t mistake me, the Halo games weren’t perfect either. It was a lot of ‘run around, shoot the gun at the aliens, try not to get murdered by the ancient zombie virus that wiped out the previous dominant species in the galaxy millions of years ago and that you’ve accidentally just unleashed again.’

Actually, that sounds pretty sick.

Anyways, while I have enjoyed the show thus far, I feel there’s a lot to be desired from such a well-loved franchise. There are high expectations in place, and I feel as though it’s falling a bit short. If you want to make that assessment for yourself, you can watch new episodes of Halo every Thursday on Paramount Plus.

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