New positions reflect student focus at Concordia

by Eric Cannedy

While most Concordia students were relaxing over the summer break, important changes occurred that affect the university in many ways, designed to help Concordia pursue its priorities of increasing student enrollment and retention by offering a truly student-centered campus.

To facilitate the changes needed for CSP in 2005, the Office for Congregational and Community Relations was created to focus on connecting with Lutheran congregations, which we believe will have a positive impact on enrollment. "Concordia in 2005 is a very different place than the Concordia of 1985 that many people remember," said president Bob Holst. "They often don't realize how significantly the scope of our programs has broadened or how comprehensive we are across the spectrum of student academic needs. The Office for Congregational and Community Relations will take that message to congregations, which we believe will have a positive impact on enrollment." As a result of that newly formed department, two additional departments have been restructured to better suit the needs of current students. Dr. Miriam Luebke is the new Vice President for Student Services. Previously the associate dean for Academic Affairs, Luebke now spearheads the university's effort to focus on services oriented to student success inside and outside the classroom. Such services include the BEAR Center, Student Senate, the Campus Health Center and the Student Support Services already headed by Luebke, including Counseling Services, Disability Services, Learning Services and others. In addition, Academic Advising and the Office of Service-Learning will fall under Luebke's leadership. Cohort support staff in the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies also will migrate to the BEAR Center.

Fine Dining: Facilities improved for students, employees

By Lindsay Hartleben

Another step has been added to the dining hall's already-improved routine of grabbing a tray, waiting in lines, getting a drink, and checking out the desserts. Patrons now can proceed to the remodeled dining room to sit in padded chairs and converse at round tables, thanks to a project that began in early August to address safety concerns and update the area.

"I am always excited when we can improve areas that are highly visible and have an important impact on student life," said Jason Rahn, Associate Vice President for Student Life and Conference Services. Rahn and the Sodexho Campus Services Team provided input to the project team led by Jim Orchard, Purchase & Project Management Associate.

Replacing a dangerous ceiling was the first item of business, as the suspended ceiling was sagging due to falling debris from two ceilings above it. Dr. Eric LaMott, Vice President for Information Technology & Operations, made the decision to allocate money from the capital project budget to upgrade the ceiling and remove the safety hazard it caused.

"The round tables will provide more flexibility for space arrangement and are user-friendly when trying to conduct conversation with larger groups," Rahn said. "The padded chairs will provide comfort to the user as well as adding some additional color to the space." Bob Wright, Sodexho-Chef Manager, said the changes are positive for students as well as food service employees.

"It shows that the school is trying to make it a better place for students. They know students spend a lot of time there," Wright said. "And it shows the school is brightening with an updated paint job featuring the same paint colors used in the Library Technology Center.

Construction workers remove and replace a hazardous, sagging ceiling in the dining hall.

Photo by Lindsay Hartleben

Photo by Eric Cannedy
Meet Prof. Matt Mauch
By Jeanne Renschak
As various Concordians hit campus following long (or short) summer breaks, new faces begin to appear among familiar faces: incoming freshmen, transfers, students, and additions to staff. One new face is Matt Mauch, whose primary position will be the new adviser for The Sword.
Born the eldest of three siblings in Oslo, Minn., Mauch moved two times prior to high school to Worthington, Minn. and Stiley, Iowa. After graduating from school, he attended to college at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, where he majored in English and double minored in philosophy and writing/linguistics.
After graduation, Mauch began his working career in Sioux Falls, S.Dakota, by starting his own weekly newspaper, called Tempest.
"We modeled it after the various arts and culture weeklies around the country. At the time, the Twin Cities had both City Pages and the Minneapolis Star, and I think we were among the models we used to create Tempest," Mauch said.
He worked with the Sioux Falls newspaper for ten years, shifting positions as either an editor, staffer, or freelance writer, before leaving for a career in journalism. Mauch then became a teacher, working as an adjunct professor and adviser for the student newspaper in Austin, Minn., at Riverland Community College. He also had a job in Nebraska College of Technical Education as an English teacher and, again, student newspaper adviser.
His very last formal class was a non-traditional poetry class at the University of Iowa's Writing Workshop with Pulitzer prize winner Jesmyn Ward.
"The best class I ever took was that class, and I have tried since then to impress people the way Jesmyn Ward inspired me," Mauch said. "Mauch is very excited to be living in the Twin Cities again, for many reasons beyond his local connections. "Of all the places I have been, and there are quite a few, it is the place I love the most."
Twin Cities is home to several colleges that remind me of my undergraduate institution, Briar Cliff. My experiences there changed my life — it made me a better, more well-rounded person — Mauch is open to suggestions to do what I do — teaching in an English department and advising students in what I know — at a place like Briar Cliff, and I am happy to say that I think I have found that at Concordia," Mauch said.
As for his position with The Sword, Mauch is looking forward to helping the paper grow and develop into something that the Concordia community can sink its teeth into. He takes his journalism seriously, and has learned much from working in the field for so long.
"Journalism is broader than most people think; it could mean much more than the who, what, where, when, and why of the daily events. A journalist pays to be a jack of all trades, to be inquisitive, to ask questions, to be out in the world, to anticipate the needs of his or her audience — that is, his or her fellow human beings," Mauch said.
Mauch also mentioned staying informed from anyone for the newspaper and stressing the importance of getting involved.
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New positions mark changes at CSP
Continued from page 1

To provide more unified service for students, the university has added two new positions that can focus specifically on student services. Additionally, the department is brainwashing ways to expand support services to students in cohort and on-line delivered programs.

"Having a vice president-level position that focuses specifically on student services will give these services higher priority and attention," Luebke said. "The focus of service provision will go beyond students in the traditional colleges, to reach all the students at the university, including those in cohort and on-line delivered programs."

Student Services has already expanded the number of staff hours committed to tutoring services, personal counseling services, disability services, and career services. Additionally, the department is brainwashing ways to expand support services to students in cohort and on-line delivered programs, and they are working to make visiting the Concordia, as well as its traditions, lives on through its students.

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Girl cruises St. Paul at eight miles per hour

By Lindsay Harrilebea

I'll admit it wasn't purely by choice that I primarily rode a bike this summer. Steadily climbing gas prices pushed me into it, but fact is that I was not among the car-owning population was what ultimately led me to keep my wheels rolling rather than four. It took just three short months of riding a bike — to work, restaurants, shops, friends’ houses, and the campus and places in between — to learn how rewarding it could be to take to the streets on a old yellow cruiser.

It seems that many people don't quite know how to function without modern conveniences. If only the people on the road in large vehicles weren't distracted with their phones, stereos and without modem conveniences, I wouldn't have felt quite so vulnerable. I observed that so many people think changing stations or dialing the phone is more important than checking for bicyclists or pedestrians in crosswalks. Making my trip to work alone with my thoughts was a great way to simplify and take a break from the things that have a tendency to dominate our lives.

When we’re in cars, it seems our chief concern is the quality of the road and how smoothly and quickly it can get us to our destinations. There are so many things people fail to see when they are preoccupied, rushed and pulled off from the outside world. I found that when you're cruising the streets at eight miles per hour, it's much easier to recognize and appreciate the little things that often go unnoticed. Local businesses, families exercising, friendly exchanges between people on bike or foot and even the smells of summer cookouts and fresh-cut grass are details largely overlooked by hurried individuals.

Planning became a necessity once I learned the limits of my legs. Speeding up to make up for lost time wasn't an option, so I had to greatly improve my leaving-on-time skills. Despite having to leave early, a major benefit was my parking situation. Any tree, pole or fence was fair game and I never once circled campus in a struggle to find a spot.

My adaptability significantly improved this summer, as there were often obstacles in my path. Variables such as inattentive drivers, thick sticks and large potholes could greatly affect my ride and I soon learned to have the foresight to prevent these pitfalls or quickly react to avoid disaster. Luckily, my agility helped me avoid road kill during my journey.

The ride wasn't always pleasant; the rain, wind and stifling heat could get to be a bit much. At times I was tempted to either beg strangers for rides, buy the cheapest junker I could find, or just throw in the towel and stay at home. But I'm happy to say I saved more than a few dollars, saw many unique sights, fit in numerous extra work-outs, and my perspective is now broader than that of the average commuter.

The journey begins

By President Bob Hohl

Welcome to Concordia or welcome back! The campus comes alive as you students arrive. You new students bring new ideas and novel experiences to share, as well as the excitement of making new friends. Embrace the academic opportunities with enthusiasm, but I hope that you have some time to relax, too.

I remember my first day as a student at Concordia. Hope and fear walked with me like two lions: one guarding me and the other chewing on my ego. If hope and fear walk with you, remember one of the year's most hopeful days, "Hope for our Journey," May it serve as a map for your journey here. Begin with hope that offers more than hope for the journey comes with my trust in God's goodness and the life and teaching of Jesus.

View your education here as a journey. Every year I send five days in the Minnesota Boundary Water Canoe Area. We enjoy the start and are happy to return home, but the scenery and companionship make the journey memorable and worthwhile. In university life, beginnings can create stress and so can final tests. Face the stress but also enjoy the scenery and the companionship throughout the journey.

Again, welcome or welcome back. May God's blessings give you "Hope for Our Journey."

Student digs into her faith

By Erin Thompson

When I arrived in Israel on July 1, I had a lot of thoughts running through my mind. I had boarded a plane a about 10 hours prior with Dr. Mark Schuler, professor of theology and director of my three of my classmates, Kat Schaefer, Andrea Chandler, and Paul James, and a few others on the archeology team that I had just met. Traveling to Israel to take part in an archeology excavation project sponsored by the Zimmer Institute of Archaeology at the University of Hifa in Israel. Located two kilometers east and 350 meters above the Sea of Galilee, Hippos is likely the "city on a hill that cannot be hidden" as described by Jesus in Matthew 5:14. Hippos was a city of the Decapolis, most likely from the sixth century and a center of Greek culture during the Roman times. Currently seven churches have been identified in the city, one of which is the Northeast Church, the excavation site for the Concordia team. This is the tenth year that a Concordia University team, led by Schuler, traveled to Israel to participate in this historic archeology project. When the 2005 team arrived at the site, we were greeted by the remains of a 1500-year-old structure that had been completely covered with dirt, stones and rocks until just a few years ago. This was the Northeast church: our workplace for the next four weeks where we would pour out our sweat, move a few thousand buckets of dirt, and discover some amazing artifacts — the place where people lived, died and were buried.

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Schuler's plan for the summer included digging in the area to the right of the church in what was believed to be one of the side rooms, finishing work in the left side room of the church, and exploring the back of the church, looking specifically for the steeple.

I was assigned to the right side room. My team included CSP alumna Kaetsu Schuler ('05, Theology), sophomore math major Paul James, and a Canadian, Kaetsu, a senior social studies/political science major at the University of Hilo in Hawaii. Starting with a huge pile of dirt, rocks, stones and a short portion of wall, we began to dig.

Photo by Lindsay Harrilebea

A sign advises cooperation on Summit Avenue.

Photo by Lindsay Harrilebea

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Again, welcome or welcome back. May God's blessings give you "Hope for Our Journey."

Three weeks later, we completed this massive room. A citizen's bench, pedestals, walls, plaster floors, pottery shards, glass, bones, nails and four pieces of gold were unearthed.

In addition to that room, the team learned a great deal about the Northeast Church this season. According to Schuler, the team found that the Northeast Church is part of a larger complex. Additionally, Schuler said, "I believe that the Northwest Church is part of a larger complex. Additionally, Schuler said, "I believe that the Northwest Church is part of a larger complex. Additionally, Schuler said, "I believe that the Northwest Church is part of a larger complex."

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Photo courtesy Erin Thompson

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From Danny Zuko to Jean-Paul Sartre: CSP's theatre season

By Michael Marvosh

The Concordia University Theatre Department has grown by leaps and bounds ever since it moved into the Pearson Theatre in 1993. This year should be no exception. The theatre department is putting on three time-tested shows: two in the fall and one in the spring. Along with these, several small Shakespeare performances will be shown in the outdoor amphitheatre and a student-directed competition in the fall will result in a student-directed play in the spring. All students are welcome and encouraged to try out for Concordia theatre productions.

This semester, "Grease," by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, hits the Pearson stage and "No Exit," by Jean-Paul Sartre, will be performed in the Westlund (Black Box) Theatre. "Grease," Broadway's long-running musical about Danny Zuko's high school escapades, should be received very well by audiences who are undoubtedly quite familiar with the much-loved musical number. It is playing Nov. 10-12 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

"No Exit," an existential play from the only author ever to decline a Nobel Prize, examines the relationships of three characters, each of whom die and arrive in hell. Sartre's dark portrayal of human relationships is harsh and brutal. It will undoubtedly be one of the most thought-provoking plays ever seen at Concordia. It is playing Oct. 6-8 at 7:30 p.m., and Oct. 9 at 2 p.m.

In addition to the two main shows, Shakespeare Under the Stars, a collection of monologues selected from among Shakespeare's plays and poetry, will be shown in the outdoor amphitheatre and a student-directed competition also takes place during the fall semester. The winner of this competition will be given the opportunity to direct a full-length play in the spring. Try out for these plays is simple. Within the first couple weeks of school, information about tryouts will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of the theatre building. Also present will be sign-up sheets for the different tryout dates. Tryouts are very low pressure and many people that try out receive roles, even if they are not theatre majors or minors.

The theatre department at Concordia invites all students to be involved this fall, whether as actors, stage managers, scenic designers or backstage assistants. All manner of help is needed and appreciated.

To order tickets for any Concordia theatre event, call TicketWorks at 651-299-6689, or go to www.ticketworks.com. Only "Grease" and "No Exit" charge admission fees.

Diggin' it

Continued from page 3

amazing. The excitement of the dig combined with a delightful team of volunteers, all set within the backdrop of Israel, made for a truly memorable time," he said.

According to Schuler, 2005 was a success and even more is in store for next summer. "It has been a memorable year. Thanks to all, especially God in his grace, who made it all possible. Next year will see expanded work with the Concordia team. As we finish major excavation on the Northeast Church, we will start work on the Domestic Quarter Church, hoping to learn about the rituals and beliefs of the residents of Hippos."

As it was true every day at the work site this summer and will be any day that archeology takes place, each day held new excitement and anticipation of what is left to be discovered, pieced together and understood about our ancestors.

Visit www.virtualdig.org for more information on the dig.
What is there to see in St. Paul?

by Eric Cannedy

So, what is there to do in this city we call home? Plenty! The best way to know is to get out there and see what's available. There are some great opportunities for exploration in the city, and you don't have to spend all the money you saved this summer to have a good time.

Take the St. Paul Cathedral, for example. Only a fifteen-minute bike ride away, the cathedral offers a free and breathtaking glimpse into the history of St. Paul. Construction of the Classicial Renaissance style Cathedral began in 1906, with the first services held there in 1915. It was designed by French architect Emmanuel Masqueray, chief designer of the 1904 World's Fair. The cathedral offers six chapels dedicated to the patron saints of the first six ethnic groups that settled in the area. Just walking by the cathedral can be an experience worth taking, and if you want more, take the free tour.

Keep your eyes peeled for some great opportunities to explore St. Paul's history on a low budget. The St. Paul Cathedral is just minutes away from Concordia, and offers a great experience worth taking, and if you want more, take the free tour.

Fall Arts Calendar

MUSIC

"Age's Past, Hope for Years to Come"
Oct. 8
A gala organ recital at Homecoming in honor of Paul and Ruth Mons
7:30 p.m.
Buetow Music Center Auditorium
Featured organists: Dr. David Cherwung, Dr. John Eggert, Dr. John Ferguson
Contact TicketWorks at 651-209-6689 or www.ticketworks.com for tickets.

Gospel Choir Festival
Oct. 21
7 p.m.
Buetow Music Center Auditorium
Concordia and guest choirs

Concert Band Fall Concert
Oct. 28
7:30 p.m.
Buetow Music Center Auditorium

Jazz Ensemble Concert
Nov. 16
7:30 p.m.
Buetow Music Center Auditorium

"Hope Renewed"
The 2005 Fine & Performing Arts Christmas Concert
Dec. 2 - 4
Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Buetow Music Center Auditorium
Contact TicketWorks at 651-209-6689 or www.ticketworks.com for tickets.

Christmas Vespers Service
Dec. 12
7:30 p.m.
Graber Memorial Chapel

THEATRE

Shakespeare Under the Stars
Sept. 29, 10 p.m.
Free and open to the public
Freewoman Amphitheatre

"No Exit"
A stimulating and thought-provoking work, Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialist play proposes the philosophy that, "Hell is other people."
Directed by Randy Winkler
Oct. 6 - 8, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 9, 2 p.m.
Westlund Theatre

"Grease"
One of the most popular musicals of its time, this story of Danny, Spooner, Sandy, and the whole gang at Rydell High for this high-octane rock 'n' roll party.
Directed by Michael J. Charron
Nov. 10 - 12, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 13, 2 p.m.

One-Act Play Festival
Dec. 10 - 11, 7 p.m.
Free and open to the public
Westlund Theatre

Individual Tickets: Unless otherwise noted, ticket prices are $10 adults, $6 students/seniors, $4 CSP students/employees. Available through TicketWorks: 651-209-6689, or www.ticketworks.com.


ART

Hmong Garden Books
Sept. 26 - Nov. 4
Buetow Gallery

Alumni Exhibition
October 6 - 21, 2005
Reception and Gallery Crawl Oct. 5, 6 - 9 p.m.
Concordia Gallery

Jeff Korte: Pinhole Camera Images
Leo Tushaus: Layers and Light
Oct. 6 - Nov. 4
Opening Reception, "Artists' Talk, Gallery Crawl Oct. 8, 6 - 9 p.m.
Concordia Gallery

Kelly Vitz Senior Exhibition
Oct. 24 - Nov. 4
Opening Reception Oct. 25, 6 p.m.
H. Williams Teaching Gallery

Community College Showcase
Nov. 10 - 22
Opened Reception Nov. 10, 4:30 - 7 p.m.
H. Williams Teaching Gallery

Print Biennial 3: Minnesota Printmakers
Oct. 6 - Dec. 9
Printmaking Educators
Noon Nov. 10, 4:30 - 7 p.m.
Concordia Gallery

Ben Stephens Senior Exhibition
Nov. 28 - Dec. 13
H. Williams Teaching Gallery

FACULTY RECITAL SERIES

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"Hope Renewed"
The 2005 Fine & Performing Arts Christmas Concert
Dec. 2 - 4
Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Buetow Music Center Auditorium
Contact TicketWorks at 651-209-6689 or www.ticketworks.com for tickets.

Christmas Vespers Service
Dec. 12
7:30 p.m.
Graber Memorial Chapel

THEATRE

Shakespeare Under the Stars
Sept. 29, 10 p.m.
Free and open to the public
Freewoman Amphitheatre

"No Exit"
A stimulating and thought-provoking work, Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialist play proposes the philosophy that, "Hell is other people."
Directed by Randy Winkler
Oct. 6 - 8, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 9, 2 p.m.
Westlund Theatre

"Grease"
One of the most popular musicals of its time, this story of Danny, Spooner, Sandy, and the whole gang at Rydell High for this high-octane rock 'n' roll party.
Directed by Michael J. Charron
Nov. 10 - 12, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 13, 2 p.m.

One-Act Play Festival
Dec. 10 - 11, 7 p.m.
Free and open to the public
Westlund Theatre

Individual Tickets: Unless otherwise noted, ticket prices are $10 adults, $6 students/seniors, $4 CSP students/employees. Available through TicketWorks: 651-209-6689, or www.ticketworks.com.


ART

Hmong Garden Books
Sept. 26 - Nov. 4
Buetow Gallery

Alumni Exhibition
October 6 - 21, 2005
Reception and Gallery Crawl Oct. 5, 6 - 9 p.m.
Concordia Gallery

Jeff Korte: Pinhole Camera Images
Leo Tushaus: Layers and Light
Oct. 6 - Nov. 4
Opening Reception, "Artists' Talk, Gallery Crawl Oct. 8, 6 - 9 p.m.
Concordia Gallery

Kelly Vitz Senior Exhibition
Oct. 24 - Nov. 4
Opening Reception Oct. 25, 6 p.m.
H. Williams Teaching Gallery

Community College Showcase
Nov. 10 - 22
Opened Reception Nov. 10, 4:30 - 7 p.m.
H. Williams Teaching Gallery

Print Biennial 3: Minnesota Printmakers
Oct. 6 - Dec. 9
Printmaking Educators
Noon Nov. 10, 4:30 - 7 p.m.
Concordia Gallery

Ben Stephens Senior Exhibition
Nov. 28 - Dec. 13
H. Williams Teaching Gallery

FACULTY RECITAL SERIES

FACULTY RECITAL SERIES

Fall Arts Calendar

MUSIC

"Age"
A boy says goodbye to his dog

By Eric Cannedy

Two weeks after my visit home to Atlanta this summer, my mom called to give me some news. It seemed our dog of nine-and-a-half years, Forest, was sick, and going downhill fast. He lost 10 pounds in a week. He stopped eating. He stopped pooping. Mom and Dad took him to the veterinarian to see what was wrong.

To make a long story short, Forest had developed a growth in his abdomen that was causing problems with his digestive system. After a few weeks on antibiotics, he seemed to be doing better. I'm not sure if it was my own over-the-phone optimism or my parents trying to sound extra positive, but things were not as good as they seemed. The vet said that my parents had 21 days to make a decision—surgery or euthanasia.

Eric Cannedy is a senior Communication Studies major.

I think my family has always had a pretty healthy relationship with our pets—we love them, but we also remember that they are animals. Mom and Dad had a philosophy about Forest's health that included considering their motivations in his care. They did not want to do anything to prolong a painful life. In the end, they made the sad-but-right decision to put Forest down.

After I moved away from Atlanta three years ago, I knew that someday I would probably have to deal with Forest's death from a distance. As I talked to my grieving family, my emotions were hard to describe. With a pet, you don't get the closure of a funeral or memorial service. In a lot of ways, Forest will not be gone for me until December, which is the next time I can make it down south.

As the days passed after Forest's death, I'll admit that I thought about it a lot, my eyes misting up every time. It was hard enough to think about Forest, but talking about it with people was even harder. You can tell when you are talking to someone who has experienced the death of a pet versus someone who has not.

My family was especially hard to talk to, as we all felt similar—but-different emotions. As my family moves on, I wonder how my next trip home will go. Forest will not be there to greet me, and the new puppy will not know who I am. Strange as it may seem to people who have never known what it is like to love a dog, I do not think it will all be real for me for a while now. It's not like I talked to Forest on the phone—our friendship was one of being glad to see one another every six months or so. In some ways that makes it all easier; in some harder.

Only time will tell how the transition goes, but I'll never stop missing Forest.
CSP men hit the links

By Ben Johnson

With many athletic teams poised to continue their traditions of excellence in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, another team is ready to plunge into competition for the first time. After much talk and deliberation, Concordia has added Men's Golf to its list of NCAA Division II teams.

On top of being Telecommunications Coordinator and the Women's golf coach, Matt Higgins will also lead the Men's golf team.

"I am very excited for what this season has to offer. I think we will be very competitive not only with the three recruits I have, but also with the students that were already here," Higgins said.

The first recruit to sign was Kevin Strandberg, who managed to hold a 74.6 per round average his senior year while he played at Griffin Stadium located at the corner of Concordia and Lexington.

Football
Sat., Aug. 27 vs. Augustana, 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 17 vs. MSU-Mankato, 1:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
Fri., Sept. 16 vs. SW Minnesota State, 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 17 vs. Wayne State, 4 p.m.
Tue., Sept. 20 vs. St. Cloud State, 7 p.m.

Women's Soccer
Sun., Sept. 4 vs. Northern Michigan, 1 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 10 vs. Bemidji State, 1 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 11 vs. UM Crookston, 1 p.m.

The American Volleyball Coaches Association has released their 2005 CSTV/AVCA Division II Coaches Top 25 Poll. CSP is ranked sixth in the poll with 673 total points. The Golden Bears are coming off of a 2004 season in which they finished 12-3 overall and ended the season ranked seventh in the final national poll after reaching the NCAA North Central Regional Championship match.

Nebraska-Kearney received the number one ranking with 15 first place votes and 845 points. Only two other teams from the region are ranked in the poll, with Minot State ranked fourth with 746 points and Augustana tied for 21st with 149 points. CU is the only Northern Sun school to earn a ranking, although MSU Moorhead received 30 points and Southwest Minnesota State received six points.

Concordia will face MSUM one against No. 21 Augustana. In addition to their six matches within the top 25, CU will take on some of the top vote getters who just missed the poll. Abilene Christian had the most points of any unranked team with 39, MSU Moorhead was close behind with 30, Nebraska-Omaha had 29 and SW Minn. State came in with six. Concordia will face MSUM and SMESU twice in NSIC play.

The Golden Bears are 64-7 under head coach Brady Starkey's first two seasons, and have advanced to the regional championship in both seasons, including a second place finish in the NCAA Elite Eight in 2003. They face a challenging schedule as they look to continue their success in the 2005 campaign.
New soccer coach to guide Bears

By Ben Johnson

As the Concordia women's soccer team rides through a new season, there is a new man at the reins. The new face in town is that of Bob Usselman, who was named the new Women's Head Soccer Coach in April. He is joined by assistant coaches Joe Alaimo and Liz Narten.

Usselman comes to CSP from North Park University in Chicago. There he led the team to their highest conference finish since 2000 and an overall record of 6-10-3. Before his stint in Chicago, he gained experience as an assistant women's coach at the University of South Dakota.

Usselman holds many degrees and licenses that demonstrate his coaching qualifications. The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) granted him a National “B” license. He has gained his National and Advanced National diplomas from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), and he also holds Level I and Level II Goalkeeping diplomas from the NSCAA's Goalkeeping Institute.

Not only are his professional qualifications appropriate for the new role, the position was a good fit for Usselman on a personal level.

"My wife, Leah, and I had

Bicyclists abound for autumn event in St. Paul

By Jesse Stremcha

The St. Paul Classic Bike Tour is the largest bicycle event in Minnesota and one of the five largest in the nation, with more than 7,500 participants last year. Best of all, with very little athletic ability or training, you can be part of the greater.

The St. Paul Classic Bike Tour isn't just a bike ride. The entire ride takes place in St. Paul on blocked-off streets and paved trails within the city. As the brochure says, you can enjoy "miles of traffic-free cycling on some of the most scenic streets in the Upper Midwest." It's not a race, so you're free to go at whatever pace you like, as long as riders are off the course by 11:15 p.m.

The ride takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 11. Registration starts at 7 a.m. at the University of St. Thomas, which is a nice warming-up distance from CSP, with riders needing to be by the course by 9:15 a.m. Participants then head out on either the 15- or 30-mile course. It's $30 to register and registration ends Sept. 2. For more information or to register, visit www.sppac.org/bike_classic.

The St. Paul Classic Bike Tour is put on by the Neighborhood Energy Corporation. It is a St. Paul-based non-profit that focuses on educating the community on the importance of energy efficiency. Most importantly, they educate people about bicycles as a mode of transportation. That's where the bike tour comes in. It gives people a chance to see how fun and easy it can be to ride a bike in St. Paul.

Although most of the money pays for the expenses from the ride, any proceeds benefit NEC’s “HOURCAR”, the Twin Cities first car-sharing program.

It was two years ago that I decided to give the Bike Tour a try. I'm not much of a bike rider and had to borrow a bike to ride in the Classic (thanks to my dad). I was a little reluctant to sign up for the long course (30 miles seemed like an awfully long way). After consulting with a couple of friends and being adequately assured that I was a reasonably healthy young person, I could make it, I signed up for 30 miles.

I was glad I did. Including a couple reasonable rest stops, I finished the course in about two and a half hours, despite the fact that I had not ridden a bike in five years. The course took me to places in St. Paul I didn’t even know existed, even though I’d been working in the city for three years and living here for two.

The ride gave me a chance to chat with my wife and friends, go on a car-sharing program.

In addition, great nourishment is available along the way: free fruit from the Mississippi Market co-op, baked goods from Great Harvest and Breadsmith, Peace Coffee, and being adequately assured that there's always plenty of water and lemonade.

So what are you waiting for? Get out and see St. Paul. Ride a bike. You just might get hooked. If not, you've got a new experience to tuck under your belt and remember fondly when riding the indoor bike this winter.