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Meet the 2008-2009 Student Senate Executive Board

By Evan Palenschat, contributing writer

The new leaders include the following:

Student Body President: Colby Reinking

The student body president-elect is Colby Reinking. Reinking is a senior double-majoring in communication studies and theatre (along with a photography minor).

Originally from Grundy Center, Iowa, Reinking grew up on a farm. At Concordia, he is involved in Christus Chorus, Vox 9 vocal jazz ensemble, FISH, theatre productions and working as visual editor for “The Sword.” Working as vice president of senators last year, Reinking is looking to make an impact in the highest office next fall. He provided four areas he wants to focus on as president.

The first element was campus unity. He likes the idea that Concordia is a close-knit community and cites "walk down the hall and know almost everyone's name." He thinks this must be cherished and praised.

The second goal of Reinking's work will be on participation in Concordia's events. He feels that students do not sufficiently support the talent possessed by Concordia whether it be sports related, artistic works, musical endeavors, or theater productions. Colby stated that he wants more attention and recognition for these areas.

The new president also commented on Concordia's food service. He said, "The 'service' is just fine, it's the quality of food that needs improving. We have a staff that is very likable and friendly toward students; however, I think the problem comes with what little these people have to work with."

Finally, Reinking ends by speaking about Christian Living on campus: "Above all else, Concordia should be a place where Christian living is not only allowed but encouraged." Reinking said he wants students being prepared for "thoughtful and informed living" and wants to do this using the context of the Christian Gospel.

VP of Finance and Organizations: Joy Sewing

Joy Sewing will be heading up the vice president (VP) office of Finance and Organizations. As a junior at Concordia, Sewing is studying English, education, and confessional Lutheranism. Having served on the senate since she was a freshman, Sewing has a lot of experience in student affairs and campus life. She said, "I love organization, so I think the job of VP of Finance and Organizations will be a perfect fit for me."

Also born on a farm, Sewing grew up in Joliet, Ill. Her family decided to move to Missouri when her father took a pastoral job. Her family now resides in Denison, Iowa. In high school she was involved in volleyball, National Honor Society and FFA.

She discovered Concordia through her mother, an alumna. Sewing says that Concordia was the right choice for her.

VP of Student Relations: Carl Wendorff

Sophomore Carl Wendorff quickly became part of Concordia's political environment as a freshman when he became a part of the student senate. He said that he had never been involved in his high school senate at Minnesota Valley Lutheran, but he had always wanted to. Wendorff felt he made some positive headway last year in Concordia's political arena, so he ran for executive board and received vice president of student relations as his new duty, which makes him responsible for the committees of Student Senate.

Wendorff also grew up on a farm located near Hutchinson, Minn. He said, "Growing up on a farm with loving and caring parents has shaped me into the person I am today. Learning the value of work and discipline has been something that I don't take for granted."

In high school, Wendorff excelled in cross country, speech, track and an organization called Teens Encounter Christ.

Wendorff said he feels that he has learned a lot about himself through his political endeavors on campus.

He said, "Throughout my experience at Concordia one of the most important things that I have learned is that everyone at Concordia has a right to contribute to our community with the unique gifts that have been given to each of us."

VP of Public Affairs: Annie Pitschka

The new VP of Public Affairs is Junior Annie Pitschka. She takes minutes, sends weekly senate updates, makes posters, manages the web site, and transfers all documents to the senate Google documents account.

Born in Minneapolis, Pitschka attended Heritage Christian Academy, a small private school. She graduated with only 19 people in her class. While in high school, Pitschka was captain of the volleyball team, the cheer team, was the yearbook editor, participated in student government, was in two musicals and received a Leadership Award in her junior and senior year.

Pitschka said, "I came to Concordia because I felt like I would fit right into Concordia life here. It seemed like a friendly campus with a lot of opportunities right at your finger tips. Plus I love the Cities!"

Pitschka is majoring in graphic design.

VP of Student Senators: Katie Benke

Last, but not least, Katie Benke will serve as the VP of Student Senators. She will preside over weekly senate meetings, present all proposals to the senate and assign constituents to senators.

As a junior communications major, Benke has been involved in a lot of extra-curricular activities including Tri Pi, Tetra Delta, theatre and the Junior High Youth Gathering. She is also a manager for the football team, works athletics for basketball games, served one year on the Concordia Activities Board, and one year on the Student Senate. Additionally, Benke finds the time to sing in the choir and participate in the honors program.

Growing up in the suburbs of Chicago, Benke moved to St. Paul eight years ago and attended Concordia Academy in Roseville, Minn. There, she was also involved in many activities.

Benke said, "I actually announced that I was going to Truman State University in Missouri, but one day I was singing a piece and I felt God was leading me to a Christian University where I could sing in a Christian choir where the songs would mean more." This is why Benke eventually enrolled at Concordia.
Meet the DCE/DCO Interns for 2008-2009
Compiled by Tim Sailer, news editor

ANDY AUDETTE
Grace Lutheran Church Coopersville, Michigan

Why CSP? I felt a strong calling to pursue youth ministry and many recommended CSP to me. I also have many friends who attend the university here as well.

What you have done this year to prepare for internship? Throughout this year I have worked 5-7 hours a week at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Plymouth doing fieldwork. This has given me a chance to observe and participate in many different areas of leadership within the congregation. Leading things such as high school youth bible studies, children’s messages, interviewing and observing staff, and many different ministry meetings have given me some contextual experience to fall back on next year.

What kinds of things will you do/think you will do on internship? I will spend a lot of time with the junior and senior high youth ministry at Grace Lutheran. When I first arrive I will be doing a lot of visiting within the homes of the youth. Meeting the youth and their families will be huge as I will need the support of parents and adults to make this year successful.

Best advice you've received from a professor: “Ministry is like eating an elephant. You just have to do it one bite at a time.”

Looking forward to what? The chance to build relationships with people.

What will you miss? It will be hard to leave my family, who has supported me heavily in so many ways...I will especially miss my girlfriend Katy.

KATY DAVIS
Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition North Texas [Dallas/Ft. Worth area]

Why CSP? I was in a quandary about where to go, but didn’t have a clue at the same time. There were some people from my home church that had come to CSP and were encouraging me to come up here as well.

What you have done this year to prepare for internship? All of the reflecting that we had to do for our Parish Education class has offered a lot of learning. The readings that we have done and discussions that we have had regarding Christian Education have been beneficial. Also, our pre-intern class has addressed a lot of the (school) work that we will be doing and how to do it which has been a helpful start.

What kinds of things will you do/think you will do on internship? I will be working with a church plant that is reaching out to youth and their families in a community in East Dallas called New Hope and also a summer camp/VBS. I will also be arranging to have different youth groups come and use their week in service to the kids in the city. We are looking to bridge an outreach opportunity with juvenile probation students and officers too. New Hope has partnered with a non-profit called Big Thought whose goal is to instill the arts in low income communities.

Looking forward to what? Only being three to four hours away from my family. I will be near my two nieces who call me all the time and ask if I can come over and they just don’t understand that Minnesota is on the other side of the country from Texas.

What will you miss? I will miss all of my friendships here and how close I have gotten especially with the fellow interns. I will also miss the returning interns and not ever being able to be in school with them again. Most of all though, I will miss Andy who is going to be in Michigan for the year. He

Blessings on your internships next year!

SHELLY SCHWALM
Risen Savior Lutheran Church Chandler, Arizona

Why CSP? After spending a year on the road with Youth Encounter (YE), I realized that I really liked youth ministry stuff. I think it was God’s way of showing me my joy, passion and gifts. My pastor repeatedly mentioned to me that I should study to be a DCE. Without an official visit, I enrolled [at CSP].

What was your reaction? No snow!! I was immediately excited because Joy Wilson is currently the intern. Then I received a text message from Pastor David welcoming me about ten minutes after I found out my site.

What you have done this year to prepare for internship? The pre-intern spiritual life retreat. I have done field work at Woodbury Lutheran, practicum teaching in schools, taking lots of classes with our beloved Kevin [Hall], made contacts with many area DCEs, and reflected upon every single experience we’ve had and book we’ve read this year.

What kinds of things will you do/think you will do on internship? I will be planning and leading a contemporary worship service, which I am very excited about! It’s a unique opportunity that couldn’t fit my joys and passions any better. Pastor David wants to be sure that I am exposed to all of the ministry opportunities of the church, so I’ll be getting involved in lots of different things.

Looking forward to what? Winter time where I can wear flip flops. I am really looking forward to leading worship and continuing to use my passion and gifts in that way. It’s exciting to think that we’ll be doing what we’ve been studying for, for the past few years. It’s time to jump in.

What will you miss? People. I’m most nervous about being in a far away place without my support system. Many of my friends are graduating and will be before I return. But as a good friend reminded me, “we’re only a phone call away.” I know that there are people here that I will call friends for the rest of my life.
KRISTEN ONSGARD
Community Lutheran Church
Escondito, California

Why CSP? I started out in the DCE program at Concordia, Irvine, but wanted more of an outreach focus. I came to St. Paul because I came across the DCO program while surfing the internet. What was your reaction? I was so excited to find out about Escondido. To have the opportunity to go back to California is a huge blessing. I'll be within three hours of family and an hour of old classmates in Irvine. Joel and I are getting married in August, so we're glad to be able to keep the wedding date and location. What you have done this year to prepare for internship? I've been taking classes to prepare me for what internship will be like, and I've also observed and volunteered at Jehovah Lutheran Church. What kinds of things will you do/think you will do on internship? I will be reaching out to the families of the preschool and to young adults. Best advice you've received from a professor? Phil Johnson told our class to be ready for paradigm shifts and that it is okay to have a dream church. What will you miss? I'll miss having food prepared for me everyday. Cooking isn't my best gift.

Kris photo courtesy of Colby Reinking

ALICIA ULRING
St. John's Lutheran Church
Cadott, Wisconsin
& St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Boyd, Wisconsin
[a dual parish]

What you have done this year to prepare for internship? I have been working at Cross View Lutheran Church in Edina this year working largely with the children's ministry there. We've talked a lot in pre-internship classes about what we can do to prevent burnout, the importance of continuing a personal devotional life beyond preparing for Bible studies, and how to set goals in an achievable way. I have been working on building a set of online resources, developing a wish list of print resources, and building relationships with other DCEs and DCE students who can support me. What kinds of things will you do/think you will do on internship? It sounds like I will be working to add a spiritual element to the youth group in Cadott, doing some continuing education for the teachers and educational leadership in the congregation, and starting a bible study for youth and adults on Sunday mornings. Best advice you've received from a professor? Faith is formed through personal, trusting relationships. Looking forward to what? Serving God by helping others, growing and getting to try out the skills I have learned. What will you miss? All my friends who will graduate next year and be gone when I return.

Alicia photo courtesy of Alicia Ulring

TOM WASHWORTH
St. Mark Lutheran Church
Kaneohe, Oahu, Hawaii

Why CSP? I knew I wanted to be a DCE, so I applied to Concordias in Irvine, California, Portland, Oregon, and here, as well as Valparaiso and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. At first, I thought I was headed to California, [but when] Concordia's Admissions Counselors, Rosie Braun, and the Music Department here kept calling, I realized that this is where I was and am supposed to be. What you have done this year to prepare for internship? I've had the chance to work a lot at Woodbury Lutheran with their Junior High Program, as well as teaching religion at Trinity First Lutheran, Minneapolis [Kindergarten] and E. St. Paul Lutheran, St. Paul [5/6th grade]. My work as the head of Prisms ministry has also allowed me to lead youth events all over the state, and I was a counselor for the Junior High Youth Gathering here. I'll also be working at a Summer Camp in Washington before I go out on internship. What kinds of things will you do/think you will do on internship? I will be working primarily with the Junior and Senior High at St. Mark's and be working to create connections between the church and the large military population. St. Mark's has a very effective temporary housing program for the homeless, which has a 100% success rate in placing families back in homes and jobs. I am hoping to be involved in that as well, and certainly wouldn't mind coaching at their Lutheran school in addition to these other things. Best advice you've received from a professor? I've heard this from multiple professors, but it's a powerful statement to me every time. 'God works through us, with us, and sometimes [especially] in spite of us.' It reminds me that even if I don't do things perfectly, God's plan will still happen. Looking forward to what? I'm really looking forwards to being able to put all of my energy into working at the church. What will you miss? The people! The community here is something that I've always appreciated, even with its ups and downs. It's going to take me a while to miss class, but I know I will miss the people here and the relationships I've been able to develop. If anyone wants to come and visit, feel free!

Tim photo courtesy of Tim Washworth
CSP student alcohol consumption compares with national average

By Ryan Fixell and Kelsey Walt, guest writers

Amidst text messages, AIM conversations, emails, and even Facebook, one common question is: "Where's the party at?" Often "party" contains alcohol. The following report explores alcohol consumption amongst Concordia University students.

A survey was distributed to the students in the fall of 2007. 200 surveys were returned for analysis. 58% of the response was from males. Student athletes accounted for 58% of the response as well.

A total of 59% of students were under the age of 21, leaving 41% of the survey being taken by students at the legal drinking age. The results from these categories have all been analyzed, along with a comparison to national statistics that we have found.

The first area of concentration was to compare the male versus female drinking on campus. According to the "Journal of Studies on Alcohol," the percent of binge drinkers, which constitutes consuming an average of 10 or more drinks per week, was 26.4% of male college students and 9.6% for female college students. The data collected happened to be over-populated with athletes; an adjustment factor was used to find the true average of the campus. 27.3% of males are binge drinkers, along with 13.4% of females.

This data shows that even though Concordia's males and females do have a higher percent, at a 95% confidence level these numbers are not significantly higher than the National Average. This shows that at Concordia, males and females are right around the average in terms of the percent of binge drinkers in the country.

Our next area of concentration was drinking among various age groups. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the age group that binge drinks the most is from 18-20 years old, at a rate of 52.1%. According to the survey, Concordia students who fell into this age group, there were only 38% that were binge drinkers. At a 95% confidence level, this shows a significant difference from the national average. This suggests Concordia students under the age of 21 do not binge drink as much as an average college student in that age group.

Some factors contributing to this may be Concordia is small and a dry campus. Another reason could be that there are no frats or sororities on campus, which can reduce the possibilities of on-campus drinking.

The survey results showed that students between the ages of 18 and 20 drink an average of 8 drinks a week. Students of legal drinking age (21 to 23) consume a weekly average of 11.7 drinks. One reason for this could be that many upperclassmen live off campus, where drinking is tolerated. Therefore, those that fall under this category could possibly be inclined to increase alcohol consumption because of the more acceptable setting.

The survey results also showed that one-fourth of the students had been in trouble as a result of drinking. Among these students, the most common infractions were minors in possession, DUI's, busted parties, and dorm room-related incidents.

The locations where students drink was another area the survey explored. The options were at bars or clubs, house parties, small groups in apartments, residence halls or alone. The results showed that the most popular place to drink was at a house party (45%), closely followed by bars or clubs (37%). Small groups in apartments came in the middle (33%). The least likely place to find people drinking would be alone (5%), but dorms came close to being the least likely place (7%).

The Wild Onion on Grand Ave was the most popular bars/clubs of choice, followed by Sneaky Pete's and Brothers Bar & Grill.

The final area of concentration was to compare drinking among the athletes and the non-athletes on campus.

According to the alcohol101plus.org fact sheet, student athletes are the heaviest drinkers among a student population. Athletes at Concordia, on average, consume 13.8 drinks per week, while non-athletes consume an average of 4 drinks per week. However, when we compared the number of days that each group went out, the averages came out to be 1.3 days per week for athletes and 0.8 days per week for non-athletes. The numbers could be attributed to the fact that athletes are so devoted to their sport every week up until their competitions; then they celebrate afterwards. That would account for the higher average of drinks while still only going out about once a week.

After analyzing the results, it appears that students at Concordia drink about the same amount as other college students. In the gender differences, males drink more than females, but are not statistically different than the national average. The national average showed the greatest amount of binge drinkers was among underage students, and students at Concordia showed a significant difference from the national trend. Students showed a variety of interests for where to go for drinking, while it would seem that they keep their activity away from campus.

If you have any questions concerning this research, please contact Ryan Fixell at fixellr@csp.edu or Kelsey Walt at waltk@csp.edu.

Annual Awards Convocation

On April 23, 2008, the Academic Honors Convocation was presented in the Buetow Auditorium to honor the students from each major, department and college that had received all-university and departmental scholarships. Those students who received honors within their department were recognized by their corresponding dean and a round of app
Concordia Speaks: 2008 Graduation Edition

Compiled by Sword staff editors

Evan Palenschat
Communications & History
Hometown St. Paul, MN

Future plans? I plan on attending law school after graduation and hopefully getting my MBA (Masters of Business Administration) at the same time during a five year program.

Advice to future Concordians? Study what is available for them in the majors that they want to get and make sure it is something that they want to do. I would say that they should find something that they really want to do and base their study around it.

Mee Vang
Communication Studies
Hometown Minneapolis, MN

Future plans? Get a job and then maybe go back to school after a year or two.

Advice to future Concordians? Get involved! College is more than just studying and papers. There are a lot of opportunities at Concordia for everyone. There are also many service-learning projects that you can get involved with too, and they can be rewarding to your college experience. At then the end of your years here at Concordia, you get your degree, but it’s the experiences that matters most after that.

Nicole Miller
History
Hometown Hutchinson Minnesota

Future plans? Living in Hutchinson and working in research and writing.

Advice to future Concordians? The friendly atmosphere and all of the opportunities the school offers. I will miss all of the great people I have met and the constants I have come to appreciate. I have enjoyed all the people here, the friends I have made, and the fantastic education I have received.

Whitney Pitra
Studio Art major, Design minor
Hometown Burnsville, MN

Future plans? Find a job I am happy with, it may not be my first job, but I will find it ;)

Advice to future Concordians?

- Go to class
- Do your reading
- Focus on the ‘big picture’
- Ignorance is not bliss
- Bring a joke to class; it helps everyone relive a little stress

Sam Godfrey
Secondary education: Communications Arts & Literature
Hometown Newport, MN

Future plans? Work overnight dispatch at security over the summer and interview for teaching positions and hopefully get a job near my home.

Advice to future Concordians? I will most miss the excellent professors and staff at Concordia. I have encountered so many helpful professors that are willing to sit down with you and take the time to help you master tasks. Without the professors and staff that care Concordia wouldn’t have made such a big impact on me.

Joy Wilson
Director of Christian Education
Hometown Spring, Texas

Future plans? Coming back from internship in the fall to complete my degree (Joy will have super-senior status)

Advice to future Concordians? We have countless opportunities for spiritual growth. Between FISH, chapels, small groups, and the Christian Education at CSP, we are there are lots of ways to learn about the amazing Grace of our heavenly father!

Jennifer Stollenwerk
Kinesiology

Future plans? Continue volunteering for the Special Olympics in Wisconsin. I started there as an intern and now will be continuing on in two volunteer positions. My long term goal is to eventually work for the Special Olympics in Madison, WI when a position that fits me becomes available. I will continue to work for the nursing home I am currently employed in as the Activity Director Assistant.

Advice to future Concordians? Get all of the general education requirements out of the way early on! I learned this the hard way. Also keep a very open line of communication with your advisor. Check in often with them. Do not be afraid to talk to them about anything you are thinking about or going through, they are there to help.

Best wishes and congratulations,

Jake Mills
Marketing
Hometown Brookings, South Dakota

Future plans? Moving to South Dakota and starting a new company. Eventually, I would like to go to law school or get an MBA from Harvard or somewhere along those lines.

Advice to future Concordians?

Enjoy life in college, [but] you will not understand its true worth until you are done. It will go faster than you think. Pay attention in your classes...turn off your laptops. Remember, you are paying to be here...demand the most from your professors. Introduce yourself to President Holte, he is probably one of the coolest persons you will ever meet. Smell the cafeteria milk before you drink it.
Completely Uncalled For...

By Jake Mills
I was completely appalled by the theatre students' choice to use the Academic Honors Convocation as an impromptu platform to voice their opinion about Randy Winkler's absence.

For those of you who did not attend, during the beginning of the ceremony students performed a small excerpt from the spring play. Following the scene a member of the theatre group announced to the audience that Randy Winkler had left in the middle of their production this semester for "personal reasons."

This person also stated the belief that Randy was asked to leave because of his sexual preference. Finally, this person announced that the theatre students had planned a walk-out during the remaining ceremony, but had decided to stay and instead make this "public service announcement."

Many of you know that this is not the first of the theater students' announcements. Several weeks ago after chapel, flyers were distributed outlining the controversy. The flyer included a closing statement, "If Concordia suddenly doesn't approve of Randy, do they approve of you?"

The flyer also included the e-mail addresses of President Robert Holst, Dr. Amy Gort, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Cheryl Chatman, Dean of Diversity. However, oddly enough the author(s) omitted any reference to their own name after outing these three respected leaders of our university.

I have two serious problems with the way this group has been protesting. First of all, if I were going to write and hand out a flyer with loaded statements portraying one side of an issue, I would have the guts to write my name below what I felt so compelled to write (see below).

Secondly, no matter how passionate you are about an issue there is always an appropriate and respectful way or place to voice your opinions. Inappropriate and disrespectful displays, like the one during the Honors Convocation, only turn people away from your cause.

I understand that many of the theatre students feel very strongly about this topic and that many of them are very close to Randy, but their tactics have forced me to completely disregard their opinion in the matter.

On a final note, I would like to thank President Holst for his incredible response to the theatre announcement during the convocation. It was the perfect blend of integrity and insight that he so readily provides at a moment's notice. There is not a person at this school that I respect and admire more than President Holst and I am thankful for his ongoing commitment to Concordia.

Contributed by Joshua Huber & Mary Lynn Mennicke
Many people have expressed grief and disapproval with the actions taken by theater students in responding to the forced resignation of Dr. Winkler (sorry I mean "Dr. Winkler left for personal reasons"). For those of you who have not been involved with the actions that were taken prior to the Honors Convocation here is the progression of events that proceeded (you might notice that it follows closely to Matt hebrew:18:15-20), here's what happened:

Step one (ongoing) Over the course of several weeks, several affected students met 1-on-1 and in small groups with Administrators directly: DeWert, LaMott, Gort, and the President himself.

What happened We respectfully asked for honesty and ownership of this decision by the administration, and for answers in what their actions meant to their mission at large. They responded with hesitation, silence, and (we felt) patronization. Often administrators asked us to live and work hopefully, and talked about their decision as if it were a natural disaster that they had no control over. No responsibility was claimed.

Step two Wrote a petition that faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends of the University signed, asking the administration to encourage Randy Winkler to return to the faculty of CSP.

What happened No response from the administration.

Step three Wrote a letter to President Holst and the Board of Regents elaborating how this action directly goes against the Vision Statement of Concordia University, St. Paul.

What happened No response from the administration.

Step four Distributed a flyer on campus that described the situation honestly, although boldly.

What happened More students/faculty found out.

Step five Attended a public forum (the Poehler Lecture) to address the relevant issue of how we incorporate faith in our education at Concordia. Asked how we could begin a discussion on difficult or controversial topics, and asked how to incorporate non-Christians in this liberal arts Christian school.

What happened Speaker hesitated to answer any questions, especially those about the conflict of the LCMS with controversial non-LCMS topics.

Step six Used 45 seconds to address the issues at the Honors Convocation.

What happened President Holst talked around the issues again (yet supported the notion of a silent protest) and a new audience was reached. People have responded with gratitude and relief that something was said and are very supportive of our right to stand up for our belief. Others were angered and offended by the action taken seeing it as inappropriate and dishonoring of the students.

I believe that Randy was forced to leave because he is gay and I think that this action is wrong. It has been my prerogative to let President Holst and other Administrators that I think the reason for his departure is wrong. After knowing the course of action that has been taken by the students and the response (or lack there of) from the administration, I hope that you can understand our frustrations and respect our 1st Amendment Right that guarantees the Freedom of Speech. We tried to be polite and private, but the administration has forced public action.

This semester has been hell for us theatre students, and the administration has not helped. ALL of the theatre Majors and Minors, were honored at this year's Honors Convocation. Contrary to what many think, what was said at the Honors Convocation was said not to attack the administration, nor to provoke any reaction from the audience. We said what we said because we owe our honor and achievements to Dr. Randy Winkler. It would not be right for me to carry on without publicly announcing my gratitude to Dr. Winkler for all that he has done for us theatre students. To cover up what the administration did to him is also not within me.

We think that a 45 second dedication and statement of truth from a theatre student who already had the stage at the Honor's Convocation did not ruin the entire hour-long ceremony. We are coming from my biased perspective, but as a student who has been directly hurt by the administration, we have been desperately seeking support instead of having people kick us when we're down. Any honoring received as a theatre student is the honoring and gratitude that the administration should have given to Dr. Winkler. They're not going to do that, so we personally owe that to Randy.

Dr. Randy Winkler
Christianity & Republicans

By Nathan Leckband, contributing writer

Two of the best friends I made at while at Camp Omega are political opposites. Also, they both glued cotton balls to their faces and ate broccoli out of a bowl together. One goes by the name of Patrick Hair and one goes by the name of Criep. One thinks the government should help people out and one things the government should stay the heck out of his business. I'm not sure what I believe.

In elementary school and high school I lived in Nebraska, the reddest state in the Union. Nebraskans don't want the political and intellectual elite in Washington telling us how to run our state. We don't want the morally liberal entertainment industry telling our children that they can do whatever they want without consequences. We're not stupid in Nebraska—a little sheltered perhaps, but not stupid. We work hard. We grow corn. We don't like the idea of doctors deciding that the best way for women who are dealing with a difficult pregnancy is to terminate the pregnancy.

For years I thought Republicans were the Christian Party because they were against abortion. Now, I'm not in any political party. I don't like abortion; however, I don't think that women who have an abortion are bad people. I don't think they're murderers. I don't understand their choice. In the 1980s they were told that the baby inside them was not a life. It was just something growing that would become a baby when it left their womb.

Science has dispelled this myth. Babies develop independent genetic traits—different from their fathers and mothers—before they leave the womb. When Clinton decided to veto the partial birth abortion ban passed by the Republican congress in April of 1996 and then again in October of 1997, Nebraskans were angry. We don't like the government telling us that doctors can decide to deliver babies first—leaving nothing but their heads inside their mothers—and then clip the children's spinal cords at the base of their skulls. The thought of a doctor deciding to do this makes me sick.

But you know what? God's not a Republican. I'm not sure, but I don't think he's thrilled with G.W.'s stay-the-course mentality. He probably doesn't like Bush's pro-corporate policies that ship jobs overseas and encourage corporations like Target to pay workers $7.50 an hour. I don't want to speak for the Higher Power, but I do know that he doesn't like seeing his creation destroyed in war. I'm sure God's not thrilled with Bush cherry-picking intelligence that supported an invasion of Iraq.

War is certainly bad, but unfortunately it's also inevitable. My Uncle John Hill—a Bible-believing Lutheran Republican—has been to Iraq, Kosovo, and several other combat areas. He's proud of what he does and I'm proud of what he does as well. We can yell, "Bush lied, soldiers died," and, "Support our troops," across the aisles from one another all day long. Who cares. You've never made a mistake? You've never lied? Of course, when the president lies people die—but he's human. When God is our president things will be perfect, but as long as we have a human president he or she is going to lie and they going to make mistakes.

Sorry. Should Bush apologize for his mistakes? Yes. Should we pull out of Iraq and end conflict wherever we can? I have no idea.

So let me give you my opinion. God is not a Republican. He's not a Democrat. He's not a Green, a Libertarian, or anything else. He's God. I don't understand him—and neither do you. He wants you to pay taxes. He wants you to serve. He wants you to love your neighbor as yourself. He wants you to extend the hand of forgiveness to those that need forgiving. As Christians we know we have a loving, caring, compassionate God. A God who humiliated himself on the cross. A God who, in the person of Jesus, tells us we don't have to have all the answers. Christ has already done the work for us. Our salvation has been won through his death and his resurrection, not through who wins in the polls this coming November.

Reflections on the End

By Kaitlin Hartnett, editor in chief

You can do it. You're nearly there. This is the last week of school. Not the last week of class, but the last week of school. Over. Done. At least for some. Some are only done for the summer.

If you are a senior ready to graduate, and you are not jumping up and down in your chairs, (in a figurative sense, of course) there might be something wrong with you.

Some of you are moving on to jobs, or grad school. But there is one thing that we all cannot forget, and that is the good memories and the good times we had at CU. I know that people might shake their heads at this, saying that I am simply saying this because it is what I'm supposed to say.

I disagree. Sure, we've all had our tough times dealing with the bureaucracy that can be an institution. We've seen some of our best professors come and go, and seem to not really have the power to stop it. But even the professors we love sometimes pile homework on top of us, create work for us to do even if it is for our own benefit. It can be difficult to see that. I know I have trouble seeing that homework is the best way for me to learn and get an education when there is so much of it and all I want to do is light my textbooks on fire.

At least how that's how I felt this last semester.

But as you move on, remember those who taught you. Thank them. Tell them that you learned something or they had an impact on your life. Not if you don't mean it. But if you do, you should let those who helped you know how much they affected you or your life.

To all of my professors, I am sorry that senioritis got the better of me. Sometimes it got the better of me even before I was a senior. Thank you for your almost never-ending patience, understanding, and the willingness to accept my papers late. Thank you for your dedication to this university and your students. This school would not exist if it were not for you.

We, as students, are told that you do a large amount of work for a little amount of pay because we are a small school. I admire your passion for your work and your students.

To my coaches, thank you for being there. Thank you for pushing me. Thank you for your time and energy and instruction, even though when I was first starting as a freshman I didn't think that I would ever survive college athletics.

To my teammates, thank you for picking me back up when I almost gave up (several times). Thank you for cheering for me and sharing my joy when running was going well. Thank you for all the laughs, inside jokes and long bus rides. You truly made my experience as an athlete of the better experiences that I've had at CU.

To everyone who has worked on the Sword, past, present and future. Especially the present. Although I didn't know what I was doing when I started, you all have helped me grow and change in ways I would not have imagined. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but through your help and patience, we were able to pull it together to be one of the best versions of the student newspaper this school has ever seen.

To the maintenance crew, thanks for always unlocking closets, getting supplies, and joking around with me. Many people wouldn't see maintenance work as something to be enjoyed, yourselves included, but you made it enjoyable for me.

Now, as I and my fellow classmates move on, I want to leave this for those who will remain: "You have four years to be irresponsible here. Relax. Work is for people with jobs. You'll never remember class time, but you'll remember time you wasted hanging out with your friends. So, stay out late. Go out on a Tuesday with your friends when you have a paper due Wednesday. Spend money you don't have. Drink 'til sunrise. The work never ends, but college does." — Tom Petty
Choices, choices, choices

By Sydnee Bickett, arts/variety editor

College is an individual experience. Not that one must journey through all four years alone and not engage in relationships with others. But college is what YOU decide it will be.

For some, it is a time to grow intellectually, to delve into novels and charts and textbooks. To gather facts and figures that will make you the ultimate champion at trivia games and questions.

For others, it is a time to discover what has been hidden inside oneself all along. To experiment and dabble in unknown worlds, whether that is an alternative lifestyle with dreadlocks and tattoos and piercings, or just to attend a church with a denomination different than the one you grew up in. To discover what life means to YOU, not clinging to the beliefs your parents or grandparents or teachers had, but making them your own.

For most of us, college becomes all of these possibilities at some point or another. We dabble, we engage, we read more than the average human being does in a single week. We decide. We pick and choose courses not only required but also those which interest us. We hold the power to make our experience what we want it to be. And most often, we change our minds.

One year, we are attending a radical congregation and the next, we might not attend one at all.

One year, we eat fast food and order pizza late at night while cramming for midterms only to find that "freshmen fifteen" has turned into far more than fifteen. So the next year, we are buying only organic, locally grown produce and getting a full eight hours worth of slumber and exercising like mad to get back to a shape we might never be again.

One year, we decide our way to change the world is to educate future generations and the next, we decide we want to make laws or works of art. So we change our majors again and decide we want to become artists or broadcasters or musicians or lawyers or doctors.

And all of this is okay. It is accepted. It is right—all because we did it ourselves, all because we have made this experience our own.

When our parents dropped us and everything we owned in an unknown dorm room, in an unknown city or state, we were scared. We were excited. Maybe we weren't ready. But maybe we had been waiting our entire lives for this day. And now we are here, at the end of it all.

We are sitting in these robes and donning hats for the second time in our lives only to emerge from this place with a degree, with a couple of letters behind our names, with a head start above all those who chose not to engage in this experience.

When we leave this place to enter the work force, we will (we hope) be earning higher salaries because of this experience. We will also need those high salaries to pay back every cent we have piled up in student loans.

But the experience we have had, the friendships we have made, the professors we have learned from, all of this is priceless. We will be paying for it, and remembering it, for the rest of our lives.

It has made us, shaped and molded us, into the people we are today—into the grown-ups we have become and into grownups.

We can take every statistic and literary technique and scientific term and anatomic label we have learned and put it to use. We can take every lesson we learned and every mistake we made and know when to use them. We can take every belief we have developed and continue to believe it in them or not to.

But the fact remains: it was and still is our choice. Some of us believe in God, some in Allah, some in the power of God. I'd like to believe that someone bigger than me has laid out this path before me and I have gone through the mountaintops and the valleys alongside Him. He will continue to be by my side along the rest of my journey and He will allow me to make this life what I want it to be.

We have been making choices at every juncture in our lives. We can choose to have positive mindsets or to have negative ones. We have chosen to do the work necessary to be given a diploma and we will choose how we want to use it.

Choose wisely.

I'm tired.
I'm sure you are too.
But I think the exhaustion has been worth-while.

We've made it. Some of you are graduating (congratulations). Some of you are ready to dive into more (but not after a relaxing summer). Some of you are ready to crash.

No matter where you are headed or what you will do next year, you cannot deny it has been a whirlwind of a year. We've been bombarded with classes, extra curriculars, jobs, a nasty winter and plenty changes and transitions.

As Woodrow Wilson Fellow Bill Glauber said in his convocation speech this past March, "Change is around us."

That change arrives in a slew of shades: black, white, and the entire spectrum of gray. How Concordia University will operate under change has been and will continue to be fascinating.

I'm committed to documenting it all and providing a place where students can dive into the tiny, but bustling world of Concordia University, St. Paul. We are a remarkable, dynamic campus that has an energetic staff, selfless faculty, and passionate students.

We're in the middle of history. Are you aware of that? How will you react to it? I fear our many of our generation is going to sit and watch the progression on YouTube. What will you do? Will you embrace or fight apathy?

My aim for "The Sword" is to provide a voice of the students with in-depth reporting and solid writing from as many areas as possible. This campus will continue to be bombarded with an array of possibilities, choices, and challenges. "The Sword" will be right next to all of them. The
"Put Me In Coach" a hit once again

By Lance Meyer, sports editor

The semester is quickly coming to a close, which means it is time for banquets and recognition ceremonies in honor of the year's outstanding achievements. The academic honors convocation was the first such ceremony, held on Wednesday, April 23. Just recently, it was the athletic department's turn.

To honor its outstanding performers both on and off the playing surface, the fourth annual "Put Me In Coach" banquet was held on Saturday, April 26 in the BJC. "In addition to raising much-needed funds for athletic scholarships, the event honors the top four student-athletes at Concordia as nominated by coaches, staff, and faculty," explained Assistant Athletic Director for Development Brian Jamros.

"Put Me In Coach!" IV to Support the Golden Bears

Michael Brooks, senior cross-country runner Shane Wallin, and junior pitcher Kirk Ingram. "Being named one of the "Top 4" is truly an honor," said LaViolette. This year the banquet committee changed the structure of the event from a sit-down dinner to more of a laidback tailgate setting in which the sports fans in attendance could feel more at home. "The target attendance for the event is parents, former parents, alumni, and of course the avid Golden Bear athletics fan," explained Jamros as to why the change was so successful.

Along with honoring the "Top 4," the event included a silent auction, raffle, appetizers provided by various sponsors of Golden Bear Athletics, and a live auction that all combined to help raise money for the Concordia Athletics Department.

"Of course an event like this takes a lot of time and planning and for that the committee for this year's event did another great job," said Jamros. "This event is a great annual event and hopefully will continue to grow each year."

"Top Four" athletes recognized

"I never thought I would receive an award like this because Concordia has so many amazing student-athletes to choose from for this type of an award. So many Concordia student-athletes get involved on campus and try to make a difference in the community which was truly an honor," said LaViolette.

As a past Cross Country and Track athlete, athletics were a huge part of my life at Concordia. I ran with some of the most amazing teammates and was blessed with a respectful and supportive coaching staff. The "Top 4" award, for me, reflects on the hundreds of miles run, my team, and my academics throughout my years at CU." — Shae Wallin

Photos Courtesy of CU Sports Information Dept.

"I was extremely happy and at the same time surprised to be chosen as an honoree for the "Put Me In Coach" banquet. Receiving acknowledgement for the extra curricular activities I am involved in means a lot to me. I do volunteer work at different organizations that work with youth in the twin cities area. I believe the youth are the key to improving our society and producing a brighter future for us all. Therefore, we must invest time in their education and social development, in order to ensure that they are well prepared for the obstacles they will encounter in life. It feels good to get an award for activities I do not for self gain but out of passion for youth." — Michael Brooks

"Being nominated as one of the 'Top Four' athletes has been and continues to be a great honor. I am blessed to be in a position where I can participate in both athletics and maintain high standards in academia. I am very grateful to many people who have contributed to my success at Concordia, such as my parents, Coach Mckenzie, and Dr. Krueger. It is wonderful to be recognized for the continued effort that I put into both my school work and baseball, and I hope to be a role model for other student athletes." — Kirk Ingram

Softball team looks to

By Stephen Batch

The softball team has had a good spring. The Golden Bears won three out four games before traveling to Fort Myers, Florida, where they continued their winning ways, taking seven out of ten games on the spring trip.

"The team fared well, but we lost some very winnable games," said Head Coach Bob Bartel. The Bears then went on a losing skid before conference play got underway at Wayne State University, and they were able to get in a groove. The Bears played really well, winning all five games in the warm weather of Nebraska but were forced to return to Minnesota where even playing games has been tough this spring.

The Bears had nine games postponed because of weather during the early weeks of the season before finally playing their home opener against the University of Minnesota-Duluth on April 15th. It wasn't an enjoyable homecoming, however, as the Bears got swept by Duluth as well as Minnesota State Mankato the following day.

After getting their first home victory against Upper Iowa University on April 17, the Bears traveled to Bismarck, ND for another NSIC crossover where they got back on track and won four out of five games.

Individually for the Bears, Abby Brundidge is crushing the ball and hitting .425. Anna Bjorlin is hitting .350 with 5 triples, and as people expected, Natalie Mast is leading the team and is among the nation's best with 41 stolen bases. As far as pitching, freshman Stephanie Schmikla has grown up fast and leads the Bears with a 10-9 record and a 2.09 ERA.

The up and down season has taken its toll on the Bears, however, as they dropped four of their last five games going into the NSIC tournament. A spot in the regional tournament is likely out of their grasp, but the Bears nonetheless will try to bounce back and add to their already amassed twenty wins knowing that a run at the conference tournament championship is never out of question.
The records keep on falling

By Matt Eicheldinger, contributing writer

Despite the strange April weather, the Concordia Track and Field squad has not only been able to find opportunities to compete, but they have continued this season's tradition of breaking records as well. Over the course of the past month, seven university records have been surpassed, and one can only assume that more will follow.

The outdoor season started off with a bang as three individuals broke records at the Hamline Invitational on April 5th. On the women's side, sophomore Katie Johnson continued her success from the NSIC Indoor Championships by breaking the 400m record by almost a second. Johnson, who is relatively new to the 400m event, was pleased with her performance but still feels that more could be done.

When asked how it felt to break an other school record, Johnson replied, "It feels awesome. I've never really focused my attention on a middle distance spring race...I do see myself competing in this event more because there is still room for improvement."

Not to be outdone however, freshman Kaysee Nesmoe shattered Jenny Carbone's 2002 discuss record of 112-11 by more than three feet, marking her one of Concordia's best throwers.

The Hamline Invitational also brought sophomore Adam LeMay to new heights as he cleared 15-1 in the pole vault to equal his indoor school record, but the successes did not end there. A week later, sophomore John Pimental continued the momentum by jumping 23-0 3/4 in the long jump at the Cobber Twilight to knock James McNear's jump of 22-2 1/2 out of the record book.

The weekend of April 19th also presented an array of outstanding performances as Tre Salyes, Katie Johnson, and Kawasaki Bacon attended the prestigious Mt. SAC Relays and Beach Invitational in California. Salyes cleared a height of 6-8 in the high jump which tied Lee Griffin's 1995 record, while Johnson broke her own triple jump record with a mark of 37-5.

That same weekend, the rest of the Concordia Track and Field squad competed at the Carleton Relays in Northfield, MN. Despite some harsh conditions, Kaysee Nesmoe edged out Katy Tierks's 2004 shot put record by throwing 39 8 3/4 and LeMay broke his own school record by vaulting 15-5, missing a NCAA provisional qualifying mark by only a few inches.

"It is a good feeling knowing how far I've come, but I know there's still a lot more left in me," stated LeMay, reflecting on his recent success. "I'm pleased with it, but not satisfied."

With only a few weeks left before the NSIC Championships hosted by Wayne State University in Wayne, NE, the Concordia Track team will look to put the finishing touches on their performances by competing in the Howard Wood Relays and the Tommie Twilight. Strong showings over the weekend will give the Golden Bears the confidence they need to compete with the tough competition that awaits the NSIC.

Several individuals are primed to close out the year with strong performances in the conference based on their showings so far, but it will take an overall team effort for the Golden Bears to place high as a team on both the men's and women's sides.

Baseball squad peaking at the right time

By Stephen Batcher, contributing writer

The Concordia baseball team got off to a fairly good start this season, going 5-4 in their spring trip to Fort Myers, Florida. When they returned home, however, cold and miserable weather made playing games difficult, and the Bears were unable to find any consistency.

They were even forced into the Metrodome for several games, managing to come out of their first 16 games a few series and games above .500.

That weekend, the Bears' bats finally got in a groove in their second home series of the season on April 22-23. They not only swept the Bulldogs of Minnesota-Duluth but were able to come back and pound the NSIC cellar dweller Minnesota-Crookston the following day as well. The Bears hit seven home runs in the two game sweep and outscored the Golden Eagles of Crookston 27-4. In four games against Minnesota-Crookston this season, the Bears have outscored the Eagles 60-15.

The Golden Bears, currently ranked seventh in the regional rankings, had a huge home series two weeks ago when they played host to Wayne State University, who is ranked 18th in the nation. After the first day's games were canceled, the Bears came away with a split on day two, moving them ahead of St. Cloud State in the regional poll. Only the top six in each region make the NCAA Regional tournament, however, so the Bears have to play well through the last few games of the season.

The Bears have improved as the season has gone on and have had solid pitching and defense that has kept them in most games. Individually for the Bears, pitcher Jake Schmidt is 5-0 with a 3.43 ERA along with a save. Leading the team with 60 strikeouts, Schmidt has been named pitcher of the week twice already this season. The Bears have some good hitters as well. Brenton Furrrow is hitting .451 and Joe Abellera is hitting .417 with 10 homers to lead the way.

The Bears can hit the ball well, but the success of their season will ultimately come down to the performances of their starting pitchers who have looked good lately. With only a few regular season contests left, the team's ultimate success this season will depend on their play in the NSIC tournament.

2007-2008 Top Athletic Performers

Women's Soccer - Senior Hillary Johnson (NSIC 1st Team All-Conference, Team Leader in goals (8) and points (27))

Football - Senior Riley Goodchild (NSIC All-Conference Honorable Mention, Set CU records for passing yards, completions, and attempts in a season and single-game records for completions, yards, touchdown passes and interceptions)

Volleyball - The Entire Team (National Champions)

Cross-Country - Senior Shae Wallin and Junior Emily Stanzak (Both NSIC All-Conference)

Men's Golf - Freshman Kyle Lewis (NCAA North Central Regional Qualifier)

Women's Golf - Junior Jacqueline Hauser (NSIC 1st Team All-Conference, NCAA North Central Regional Qualifier)

Men's Basketball - Sophomore Craig Heiman (NSIC 1st Team All-Conference)

Women's Basketball - Seniors Katie LaViolette & Amanda Behnke (Both named NSIC 1st Team All-Conference and 1st Team All-Region, and each received All-American Honors)

Indoor Track - Junior Kawaski Bacon (NSIC All-Conference in the 55m and 200m dashes, Qualified provisionally for nationals)

Baseball - Junior Jake Schmidt (Named NSIC Pitcher of the Week three times)

Softball - Sophomore Abby Brundige (Named NSIC Pitcher of the Week)

Outdoor Track - Sophomore Katie Johnson (Broke school records in the 200m dash and triple jump)