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Solitary Tree February by sunsdstorm courtesy of stock.xchng

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
A new decade! A new year! A new semester! And day by day, new challenges and opportunities!

I have always been fascinated by Janus, the Roman god from whom we get the name of our month January. The statues of Janus have two faces— one looks forward and one looks back. January gives us meaningful opportunity to do that. Looking forward and looking back at the same time can be a healthy practice as we begin a new decade, a new year, a new semester and new days. Looking back, we can learn from and build on experiences both good and bad. We can't change what has happened in the past but the experiences can make us wiser. It is fun to recall good memories. Yet even a disaster as terrible as the earthquake in Haiti must be accepted as historical fact. Sometimes it takes courage and commitment to accept the past but also to look to the future eager for new experiences and opportunities. Looking forward, invites responsible thinking and action or, as the Concordia University, St. Paul Mission Statement says, “thoughtful and informed living.” As a person who loves academic endeavors, I encourage you to look both backward and forward in your accumulation of experiences and knowledge leading to meaningful vocation and skills. As a Christian, I review the past celebrating the good but also forgiving myself and others for what has gone wrong. I look to the future celebrating the great opportunities here at Concordia and seeking to work for the benefit of others. May a new decade, a new year and a new semester give you daily opportunity both to look back and yet to move forward in thoughtful and caring ways.

President Holst
Black History Month

By Gonkama Johnson

Black History Month was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Scholar from New Canton Virginia. Dr. Woodson is the second African American to earn a Ph. D from Harvard University in 1913; W.E.B. Du Bois was the first. In 1915, Dr. Woodson co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The name of this organization has been changed, and presently it is, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH). Dr. Woodson, as early as 1920, began advising civic organizations to begin disseminating the information that researchers were uncovering about the achievements of Africans and beings of African Descent. Omega Psi Phi, a Fraternity based in Howard University where Dr. Carter was The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, created Negro History and Literature Week. Then, in 1926, Dr. Carter and his organization ASALH sent out a press release which announced the conception of Negro History Week within the month of February. Africans in some southern States, such as Louisiana and Texas, did not find out about the Emancipation Proclamation Ordered by Abraham Lincoln on January 1st, 1863, until June 19th, 1865. This is where the celebration of Juneteenth is derived from. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration honoring the ending of slavery. Dr. Woodson selected the second week of February in recognition of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas, two people well embedded in the histories of the African American (their birthdays fall within these two weeks). Around 1940, Blacks began celebrating the whole month of February as opposed to a week's worth of celebration. Fifty years later in 1976, ASALH instituted the expansion of Negro History Week to a month, and also changed the words to “Black History Month.” Presidents of the United States have issued public statements supporting this annual theme since the mid 70’s, and recently the Congress of the United States passed legislation which established Dr. Woodson’s home as a National Historic Site. How is Concordia University, Saint Paul contributing to the legacy of Black History?

On January 18th, 2010, Concordia University was the host for an Annual Martin Luther King celebration. The celebration began with a rally at Saint Paul Central High School’s Auditorium, which included young-adult speakers and dance performances. A march was made from Central High School to Concordia’s Gangelhoff Center where the main program dubbed “The Fierce Urgency of Now-Make That Change,” featured an important address by Nekima Levy-Pounds, a historical power point exhibit, musicals, dances, spoken word, and poetry pieces. For the month of February, Concordia began the Celebrations with “Open Mic at the Apollo,” on February 2nd. This event was an opportunity to advance and showcase the talents of Concordia Students, as well as others in the community who wished to perform. On Tuesday February 9th from 6-8pm in the Beunger Educational System, Concordia hosted a “Legacy Diversity Alumni Community Forum,” which included alumni addressing issues facing the Black Community. Some people on the panel included former students Michael Brooks and Dana Abrahams. Two days later, on the 11th of February in room 215 of the Library Technology Center, UMOJA held an event titled “Can We Talk: About Relationships.” Topics included cultural relations, gender relations, and male female relations among others. On Wednesday February 17th at noon, a convocation was held in the Beunger Educational Center with special guest Jearlyn Steele, a current student at Concordia. Ms. Steele will be honoring African American contributions. Look for the neon green flyers across Concordia’s campus, as well as the blue and yellow posters for more information on Black History Month Events at Concordia this February of 2010. In the spirit of Black History Month, I would like to leave the reader with a quote from the founder of African American historical Literature, “The differentness of races, moreover, is no evidence of inferiority of superiority. This merely indicates that each race has certain gifts which the others do not possess. It is by the development of these gifts that every race must justify its right to exist.” Doctor Carter G. Woodson.
Haiti Earthquake Relief: Fundraiser Events

By Anne Ajaluwa

A tragedy occurred that has reached the hearts of many throughout the United States, and across the world. The dreadful earthquake has been feared to kill 100,000 people. Many countries are pitching in to help this small country. There are many schools, especially colleges and universities that are doing what they can to help Haiti in their time of need.

Concordia is doing their part as well. Concordia hosted Haiti Earthquake Relief Fundraiser on Thursday, Jan. 21, at the Hopkins Center. Tickets were $20 online and $25 at the door. All the money went to the earthquake efforts of the Haiti mission project, Heartline Ministries, and Haiti Lutheran Mission Society. At this event, people enjoyed music by Joel Hanson, Elizabeth Hunnicutt and 100 White Flags. At the event, there was a wine tasting and a silent auction; food was provided for the event by Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse.

Another event sponsored by Concordia was the retreat that started on Friday the twenty-ninth of January at 7-9 p.m., and on Saturday the thirtieth from 9 a.m. -2 p.m., in the Buetow Auditorium. The cost was $35 for registration and lunch.

C-SLAT

By Chris Siver

Have you ever read an article or watched a video that made you want to do something about it? My fellow classmates Alexander Bednar, Calvin Bella, Katie Benke, Gabrielle DeMarre, Israel Lopez and myself, Chris Siver, have. In a new course called the Minnesota Legislature, taught by Professor Jayne Jones, we watched a WCCO video about Kyle Herman, a young special needs student, who was physically and verbally abused by his teacher. His parents could tell something was wrong. Their carefree and loving child was gone. It was not until two years later did they find out why.

After discussing what happened, and what should have happened, we decided if no one else was going to help Kyle Herman, we would. Thus, the Concordia Student Legislative Action Team (C-SLAT) was born. C-SLAT is a group of informed students who follow the legislative session closely through attending legislative hearings, reading news clips and intern at the Capitol. Our goal is to successfully pass legislation to ensure the safety of all of Minnesota’s children.

At this point, we believe legislation in Minnesota is needed to: 1) Require parental notification in instances of child abuse in the classroom; 2) Require anger management for offending teachers; 3) Prohibit teachers from being able to work with special needs children if they are deemed ineligible to teach due to abuse; 4) Revocation of teaching license for a minimum of 5 years while giving commissioner authority of discretion, and 5) Permanently revoke the license of repeat offenders.

This legislation will once again establish Minnesota as a role model state. Questions, comments, want to help or show your support, email Chris Siver at siverc@csp.edu.

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Cancer Awareness Month

By Helena Woodruff

February is officially cancer awareness month. Every person, male or female, should make sure they are getting routine check for this disease that can hit anyone at anytime. Cancer is something that remains mysterious to some extent, because you may not even know that the disease has come into your body. There are a lot of stories that show exactly how this can be a terrible surprise.

Bald and beautiful: A journey with breast cancer

By Debra Neutkens

Staff Writer

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HUGO — June Rogalla has the look of a breast cancer survivor: ruff thin with what she describes as “brillo pad hair.” But she has the heart of a warrior, embracing the disease she calls “a blessing.”

Rogalla’s cancer journey started last January when she was diagnosed with invasive ductal carcinoma, a common type that accounts for about 80 percent of all breast cancer cases. “It was 12:15 p.m. I know the time because my whole life shifted,” she said.

The Hugo woman said positive thinking and a strong faith carried her through an ordeal that receives special awareness during the month of October. In fact, this year National Breast Cancer Awareness Month celebrates 25 years of awareness and education.

A self-deprecating humor too has helped her heal. “A sense of humor is important,” said Rogalla, who moved here from California in 2008 with husband Lyle to care for his mother Delores. They live with her on a 40-acre former horse farm on 165th Street. “I’m originally from Kentucky, so I have a computer chip in my brain to tell jokes,” she laughed. Rogalla threw out a few comic lines like having to stand in the same place twice to cast a shadow, or when it rains, she’s so thin she doesn’t get wet.

Keeping her weight up is a struggle for those with the disease. She never wore it before. “Pink was not my color. I think it was God saying this color is going to mean something to you,” said Rogalla.

When she received the devastating news, the Hugo woman did two things: She called Lyle at work and wrote on her pink cap. “I’m a survivor, hear me roar.”

“That first day, I sat on a hay wagon out in the field and had a long, tearful conversation with God. We had a meeting of minds. It was snowing and I wrote ‘I will survive by my God’ in the snow. Then I walked home and decided ‘Where do we go from here?’

Two weeks after the diagnosis, Rogalla had a lumpectomy and started chemotherapy at Healtheast Cancer Care Center next to St. John’s hospital. Fourteen days later her hair started to fall out. She had already cut it short after years of wearing her thick locks long, and it was tough. “So I put pink dye in it too, after the surgery.”

Instead of letting the toxin take its course regarding her hair, Rogalla decided to shave her head. “I asked Lyle to do it. So we bought a clippers and on the way home, stopped for a bottle of champagne to celebrate my baldness. There was only one chilled bottle in the store and it was pink.”

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The morning after she shaved her head, Rogalla showed her mother-in-law, whom she loves, “Mom”. “Del looked at me, her eyes got bright with a big smile and she called me ‘Captain Picard’. That made me feel like, I can be bald and be okay with it.”

Six sessions of chemo treatments were followed by 33 cycles of radiation. The phone call from her surgeon announcing a clean scan is on the pink cap, too: June 29, 2009, 10:20 a.m.

Radiation treatments are part of the protocol, Rogalla said, whenever cancer spreads into the lymph system. “When I laid on the table, I was always in prayer,” she recalled. “I would visualize that God had his hand on my breast and radiation was going through his fingers into my body. I used a lot of visualization.

“I never once said, ‘why God, me?’ I tell people it’s been a blessing. I embraced my cancer instead of fighting it. It has made me who I am today. And life looks a lot different. I don’t get gravated as much; I’m more patient. I let things go.”

Rogalla and Lyle married in 2007. They met online in California and immediately clicked. She refers to him as her “soul mate.” Lyle works for an engineering firm in Prior Lake and June stays home with his mother. The two women bowl once a week and June pursues her passion for ga
debut and beading. She’s starting to paint again.

The Hugo woman also wants to share her experiences with other victims of breast cancer so she is writing a book, “Been There, Done That”. Rogalla hopes to have it published in a year.

“My goal is to bring the positive aspect to having breast cancer, to show women they do not need to lose themselves to the disease,” she said. “The more positive you are, the more strength you have, increases your chance of healing phenomenally.”

She is also helping plan the April Conference of Hope next year at St. John’s Hospital and conspiring with neighbor Katie Riopel to build a breast cancer awareness float for next year’s Good Neighbor Days parade.

The positive outlook that Rogalla firmly believes helped her survive breast cancer is summarized in a favorite quote she attaches to e-mail messages. It is by author and motivational speaker Wayne D. Dyer: “Change the way you look at things and the things you look at will change.”
Bobby Lowery in Nicaragua

By William Lange

Over winter break, about a dozen Concordia students went on a service learning trip to Nicaragua. Among those students was Bobby Lowery who said, going to "Nicaragua was a trip of a lifetime." The group traveled to the city of Chichigulpa, there, they were given the opportunity to work for the people of Chichigulpa. These jobs included: building a house, working in a clinic, harvesting their crops, and cleaning up their land, all while making relationships with the kids.

“As soon as we stepped foot on the land, the kids stuck to us like glue!” said Bobby. The group brought with them a volleyball, a soccer ball, and a couple of Frisbees to have some physical activities to do with the kids. The group of Concordia students spent an entire day playing with the kids but when that day was over, they got into working.

The group was split between people working in the clinic, and the others working on the house. Although the students didn’t have a background in construction, it only took them moment to catch on to how things were done. When the group left the house, it was almost complete the tomatoes for the people of Chichigulpa.

After the harvest, the next service project was cleaning up the land, and teaching the kids how important it was to not liter on their land, and how they needed to respect the land. The Concordia students made a game out of cleaning to help the kids enjoy what they were doing, "We all paired up with a kid, and had a race to see who could pick up the most trash on the land! Then a couple of us burned all the trash in the fields. So our main goal of this project, which was to service the people, was met!” said Bobby.

After a couple days of hard work and service, the group had a few days off to enjoy.

On their time off, the group traveled to the city of Leon, and went to the biggest Cathedral in Central America. From there, most of the group took on the challenge of hiking up a volcano. After getting stuck on the four hour journey, the group made it to the top of the volcano and got to see the lava flowing. The next day, they hiked up a different, less challenging volcano but this time during the day. Once at the top of the volcano, the group got to surf down the volcanic rock and spent the rest of the night at the ocean.

“We took a lot of things away from this trip. A few of the big things were, all the relationships we created, and how a little thing like us hanging out with the kids and playing games with them has a huge impact on them. Also learned how to not take things for granted, after seeing how they live and looking at what we have we are very spoiled.” Bobby said reflecting on the trip of a lifetime to Nicaragua.
Women's Basketball on Top of NSIC

By Samantha Jensen

The women's basketball team continues to put together a strong season. The team has played outstanding the entire year going 10-3 since the beginning of January.

On Friday February 5th, the Golden Bears won again to Bemidji State 80-62. In this game, Maurika Hickman, and Jamie Jones combined for 12 of the 16 field goals and 13 of 13 from the free throw line in the win.

On February 6th, the Bears defeated the University of Duluth Minnesota 83-72. It was a well-played game for the Golden Bears. Senior center Gillian Bjerke said, "Booker on the Minnesota Duluth team was one of the three that we were trying to stop.

Jamie Jones led the team against the Mavericks with 24 points, six rebounds, and four assists. As a team, Concordia shot 41.7% hitting 10-24 from behind the arch. The outstanding shooting was led by Zorra Quoie who had 18 points and was 3-5 in three-point land.

The Bears dominated Southwest State hogging the lead the entire game. Kali Olstad had 30 points with 18 of them coming from her 6-10 three point shooting Gillian also had her way in the paint with 18 points on the night.

The women's team is leading in the NSIC standings. The women's team is now ranked 22nd in the nation! With an overall record of 20-4, the smooth shooting Golden Bears are looking forward to their upcoming opponents.
Men's Basketball Playing Tough

By Kevin Jose

The Concordia men's basketball team is starting to come on strong as of late. The team went on an impressive four-game win streak from late January into early February. The streak was fueled by last minute heroics.

Coach Boe said the team was having trouble winning close games in the start of the year. As the season has progressed, the team has been a tough opponent to finish off playing great late in games.

Their win streak was snapped at home against fourth ranked Minnesota State as Concordia fell 79-93 on February 12th at the Gangelhoff Center. Even though the Mavericks won, Concordia played extremely well and gave themselves a chance to win.

Senior forward Craig Heiman seemed to have an answer for every Maverick rally as he drained 6 of 10 three-point field goals. Heiman had 20 points on the night. Senior guard Sammy Ricks also scored 10 points including three straight baskets to propel the Bears back in the game in the second half.

Heiman also led the Bears to a triple overtime win against SMSU scoring a career high 36 points. Concordia had six players in double figures on the night including Michael Cunningham, Isaiah Thomas, and Thomas Basset. The win over the Mustang puts Concordia in fifth place in the NSIC.

Veteran play has been essential to their success. "The seniors are showing great leadership down the stretch. The team chemistry also looks good considering some new additions to the team, which can cause some problems for some teams trying to come together in a short time," said Boe.

A few additions to last year's team have given the Bears a new spark. Forwards Brent Barz and Dan Vandervieren have been supplying help up front, as well as guard Courtney Tyler who has been giving solid minutes in key situations.

Coach Boe said that the team is currently in 5th place in the conference and is looking at a playoff spot (top 8 teams qualify for playoffs). "We are making a good push for a home playoff game considering the top 4 teams in the conference host a playoff game." The team has a record of 11-11 this season.

The Neti Pot: Better Your Breathing

By Stephen Lybeck

The harsh cold Minnesota climate gives many people stuffy heads and runny noses. Sudafed and tissues tend to be used only when symptoms of nasal congestion have already surfaced. A very old practice called nasal saline irrigation treats nasal congestion and sinus problems and can prevent them from occurring.

The most popular method of treatment is with the Neti pot; this product is proven to be effective and has helped millions of Americans breathe easier. The Neti pot looks like a miniaturized genie lamp and is sold in porcelain and plastic.

When in use, the pot is filled with room temperature water with a small amount of non-iodized salt mixed in. Tilting the head sideways, the pot is poured into the nostril and drained through the other. When used correctly, it thins mucus and helps the body flush the nasal passages.

According to WebMD, the Neti pot is recommend by many ear, nose, and throat surgeons who have had patients that have had sinus surgery. Research has shown that it can reduce the need for antibiotics and nasal sprays.

The irrigation can also be used to help with bacterial infections and allergies as well. Research has proven it to be safe as well with only 10% of users experiencing stinging or nosebleeds. These side-effects are also usually caused by overuse or an incorrect mixture of salt or water temperature.

The Neti pot has been marketed in the United States since 1972. However, it has been in medicine for thousands of years. The product is marketed towards people who meditate or do yoga where controlled clear breathing is essential. It is retailed between $10-20 and can be found at many drug and department stores. For many college students who are short on money, this product offers a cheap and long term method of fighting of sniffles.
Softball Team Sets Goals

By Israel Lopez

The women's softball team is looking strong heading into their season opener in Denver, Colorado on February 19th. They have eight returning starters from last season's team and have added four strong freshmen “who all bring a different dynamic to the team” according to Head Coach Bob Bartel.

Two of the four newbie's, Ashley Kluever and Katie Peuerbach, to the team are pitchers who will add great depth to the pitching rotation. The freshman—including the pitchers—bring versatility to the team with the ability to play multiple positions and “will have the ability to make an immediate impact on the field” said Bartel.

Brennan said second base is winning every home game at their new Carlander Field. The new field is located right next to the baseball field behind the Gangelhoff Center. The team is extremely excited to have their own field in a more convenient location.

Senior infielder Anna Bjorlin said, “It's just really nice to have our own place that belongs to us. Honestly, the place rocks and there's no bad hops!” Bad hops are something Bjorlin dealt with regularly and was given their first Super Bowl victory. With a final score of 31-17 the city of New Orleans was given their first Super Bowl victory.

Coach Bartel said third base of their goals is to finish top three in the NSIC. Though the pre-season polls have them ranked 7th in a very tough NSIC, the girls know that the conference cannot rank effort, but if they did, they'd be number one!

Senior catcher Nikki Scherr says, “It's going to be a battle all season long, especially when we play defending College World Series participants Winona State, but there's no other group of girls that I'd go to battle with and the NSIC should keep a close eye on us this year.”

To finish off their cycle around the bases, the team plans on taking a trip to the NCAA championship tournament this spring. “That's our ultimate goal, and we're very capable of doing it,” said Brennan.

The team has the right mold to get it done; they are held together by great senior leadership from second baseman Anna Bjorlin, catcher Nikki Scherr, infielder Tiffani Rodd, and infielder Abby Brundidge.

“The girls have worked harder than ever this off-season and having [Sea Foam Stadium] to workout in has given us a head start on many of the other teams in the NSIC,” said assistant coach Kristen Schmidt. As a former Concordia All-American pitcher, Schmidt knows what it takes to win. Ultimately, the Concordia softball team has the right mind set to have an exciting and successful season.

Super Bowl Rundown

By William Lange

In their first trip to the Super Bowl in franchise history, the New Orleans Saints, led by quarterback, and Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees defeated the Indianapolis Colts by a final score of 31-17. In the first quarter, the Saints drove down the field and accumulated two scoring drives on the Saints’ defense making the game look like it would get out of hand.

In the second quarter, the Saints answered back, scoring two field goals and shutting down the Colt’s offense setting the tone for the rest of the game. At halftime, the Saints still trailed 6-10.

After The Who rocked the half time show, the Saints came out and caught the Colts off guard with an onside kick. The Saints got the ball and their high powered offense kicked into gear and scored on the opening drive of the second half putting them up 13-10.

The Colts answered back immediately with a touchdown of their own, but they could not stop the Saints from kicking another field goal before the quarter expired putting the Colts only up 17-16.

In the fourth quarter, the Colts had their no-huddle offense going, but they could not get the ball close enough for their kicker, Matt Stover, who missed a 51 yard field goal wide left. With good field position, the Saints went marching in the end zone and converted the two-point conversion on the catch of the game made by Lance Moore putting the Saints up 24-17.

On the ensuing drive, Peyton Manning threw an interception that was ran into the end zone by Saints defensive back Tracy Porter putting away the victory. With a final score of 31-17 the city of New Orleans was given their first Super Bowl victory!
Concordia Theatre Graduates Start Theatre, Premier First Show

By Rachel Kuhnle

The month of February saw Concordia theatre alumni Kate Wulf, Rebekah Hendrickson, and MaryLynn Mennicke, founding members of Prospero Theatre Company, premier their inaugural show Eurydice by Sarah Ruhl at the Twin Cities Friends Meetinghouse in Saint Paul—legitimizing them as a Twin City theatre company.

There certainly isn't a shortage of theatre in the Twin Cities, so what inspired these three friends to start their own company?

"For myself, I had plans at the end of college to start my own theatre company in the near future," said Mennicke, who performed the part of Eurydice. "As a theatre artist, many times your art is under the direction of others—like whether you're cast or not. I wanted to be able to produce my own work and have more control over my art."

Wulf, who upon graduating had spent a year touring with the Vee Corp production of My Little Pony Live, had similar ambitions. "I knew that my interest didn't lie with the kind of shows where actors, directors, and designers make money. Otherwise, I'd still be touring. [I] figured, why not just do it my own way? We knew that within our sphere of friends, we had the talent to pull it off."

To start a theatre company in the Twin Cities is quite the undertaking. The area is so ripe with talent and quality companies, it becomes about competing for an audience. All the same, Prospero Theatre sold out their opening night performance.

"I don't think any of us could've or would've done it without each other," said Mennicke. "It's definitely been a team effort—inspiring each other and being responsible to each other."

Each of the three friends served as producers for the show as well as performed secondary roles—Mennicke and Hendrickson acted in the show and Wulf directed. Hendrickson also designed costumes for the show.

The cast and crew consisted entirely of both Concordia alum and current students.

"We've had so many people volunteer their time, talents, and even their money to support this endeavor," said Mennicke. "Good friends have stepped forward to work with us and to be audience members, and every theatre colleague I have mentioned Prospero to has immediately been excited and volunteered their talents."

Said friends included current CSP students Jo Gimbel, who performed the role of Little Stone, and Alex Heetland, who composed and performed original music for the show.

Prospero Theatre isn't at all shy about expressing their gratitude to those who have inspired them. Their name itself is a tribute to former Concordia theatre professor and friend Dr. Randy Winkler.

The next show for Prospero Theatre will be the Christopher Durang comedy The Baby with the Bathwater directed by Mennicke and is slated to premier in May.

CSP Theatre to Work with History Theatre for Black History Month, 2011

By Rachel Kuhnle

Earlier this month, the CSP theatre department held their first public meeting with Ron Peluso, Brian Grandison and James Williams of the History Theatre of Saint Paul about their upcoming joint project with Concordia, a production of the play Adrift on the Mississippi.

The play, written by Grandison, tells the story of five African Americans, led by Rev. Hickman, who fled the slave state of Missouri by floating a raft up the Mississippi River to the newly founded free state of Minnesota. Upon reaching Saint Paul, they founded the Pilgrim Baptist Church of Saint Paul, which still holds worship to this day. The production will be in anticipation of the church's 150th anniversary.

Among the things discussed at the meeting was the connection between the play and the mission of Concordia.

"To step on that raft and get out on that river, it's like stepping out on faith," said Williams, who will direct the production. "Without knowing where you're going or where you're headed or what's gonna happen but you know that what you're going to is better than where you are in. If they can take the step of faith onto the raft to go onto the journey, then so can I."

The show will play in the Pearson theatre in honor of Black History Month, February 2011. Along with professional theatre artists, the History Theatre hopes to involve Concordia students in many different performance and technical aspects of the show. Concordia theatre faculty will also be heavily involved.

"The thing about the collaboration that I'm really excited about," said Williams, "is the opportunity to not just tell a story that the neighborhood knows, but to tell the story that the neighborhood knows with young people who will walk away and be able to continue to pass it on so the story doesn't die out."

Auditions will likely be held sometime this coming fall.
Thumbs Up / Thumbs Down - Top 7 Grossing Movies of 2009

By Emily Bertram

Avatar - Thumbs up

My favorite movie of the entire year, though it's probably nerdy of me to say so. James Cameron is one of my favorite directors, and Avatar was everything I expected it to be. Beautiful picture, amazing technology, decent dialogue... I loved every minute of it.

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen - Thumbs down

Too much fighting by too much machinery. The plotline fell by the wayside when this movie was made, and all that was left was big machines destroying each other.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince - Thumbs up

Though I'm losing the appeal of a Harry Potter movie as I am now in college, I still find them entertaining. This one was pretty dark, a little scarier than the other ones, which was appealing to me. As the years press on this franchise seems to grow up along with its original viewers.

New Moon - Thumbs down

Twilight however, I've lost interest in. Unlike Harry Potter, this series doesn't seem to grow up along with its viewers. Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson don't interest me enough to continue to like this series.

Up - Thumbs up

Cutest sad movie I've ever seen. This was the year of 3D and this movie was fantastic in 3D. Great for all ages; stupid humor for kids, an interesting plot and more adult humor for adults. It had a little bit of everything.

The Hangover - Thumbs up

Yes, I originally said that I didn't like this movie, but upon second watch I can see the appeal aka Bradley Cooper. It was more humorous the second time around, and I enjoyed it a lot more.

Star Trek - Thumbs up

Second favorite movie of the year, which pushes me further into the nerd category. I loved this movie, and I love that they are making another one. This movie was perfectly done for both fans of the original show and for people who have never seen the original.
A Weekend of Voice Recitals Not to be Missed

By Jo Gimbel

On Saturday, February 27 at 4 PM, a fantastic event will take place in the Buetow auditorium. This event, a performance by two experienced vocal performers, will be a fabulous display of their vocal education at Concordia University. Students Jo Gimbel and Sarah Jensen will be singing various songs as solos, plus duets which showcase their lovely blending tones.

One of the duets is the "Letter Duet" from The Marriage of Figaro, which is one of the most beautiful and best-known female duets in the opera world. The song is about catching the Countess's husband in the throes of a love affair, with the Countess (played by Jensen) feeling smug and her maid Susanna (played by Gimbel) feeling uncomfortable, as they decide to write him a letter (hence the title, "The Letter Duet"). The song is originally sung in Italian, but the two women will be performing it in English.

The sopranos will be performing various English, Italian, Spanish, French, and German pieces, but translations will be included in the program. "When Phyllis Takes Her Vocal Lesson" is a favorite of Gimbel, partially because of its delicate past. The song, with lyrics and music by Louise Ayres Garnett, is fairly unique in that it has been out of print for over fifty years. Taking literally twenty years to track down an original copy, "It is incredibly charming, about a girl trying to sing like a diva, and it's a really nice chance for me to incorporate my acting skills into my singing."

The recital will end with an incredible bonus song, sure to make audiences laugh and cry in their seats.

Jo Gimble and Sarah Jensen will preform February 27 at 4PM in the Buetow

The recital will end with an incredible bonus song, sure to make audiences laugh and cry in their seats.

Alex Heetland will perform his senior recital Sunday, February 28, at 3:30 pm—an event marking the culmination of Heetland's vocal work at Concordia.

Heetland has a fantastic array of song variations, including a few songs accompanied by harpsichord (a piano-like instrument which sounds more like a harp), some accompanied by organ, and another set with a chorus of singers pulled from the Christus Choir. This difference in accompaniment makes the singing different—one must change their vocal production quality in order to accommodate.

Heetland's interests lie in early music, thus, he has chosen a few pieces pulled from the 17th century, including an Italian cantata produced in an early Baroque style. This contrasts with a late 17th century bel canto (which directly translated is "beautiful singing.")., also of Italian origin, which comes in the form of a mini-opera with alternating arias and recitatives.

Concordia Writing Scene “Growing”

By Chloe Weinberg

Walking through the Pearson Commons, you may feel as though each group of young adults is defined by their obvious affiliations at Concordia—theater, athletics, or music. If you take the time to dig further into the lives of students from such seemingly different backgrounds, you may find a profound interest in writing. The first ever "writing major", which is individually designed based on the marriage between a writing minor and the English major, was declared in the winter of 2009, with a handful of students quick to follow. I think it is safe to say that Concordia is harvesting a large number of eager writers who can now choose from a wide range of courses as well as student led events which center around the art of writing.

English professor, Matt Ryan describes the writing community at Concordia as “growing”, and I think that if you ask any English or writing major around campus the same question, their answer will be similar. With a handful of undergraduate students having been recently published and many more waiting for responses from literary magazines and websites, “growing” is a fitting description. Organizations such as the Writing Club are quickly gaining popularity around campus, where students are able to get together and showcase their work in a comfortable and relaxed environment.

Professor Ryan refers to the recent success and recognition of his students as “a pleasant surprise” having not expected such a high quality of creative work from so many students.

Not only does the student demographic of the students involved in writing vary greatly, but their personal intention fluctuates as well. Sophomore Sam Campbell who is also a standout on the football field and an English major explains his motivation when writing: “To put down the man. I like offending people by expressing myself with views people don’t agree with.” While recent Pre-Seminary Concordia graduate, Tim Schaekel says, “I like to create a story that serves a purpose or has an underlying theme or message. I like being able to make a world that I have complete control over.” Both of these students are among the many that have had one or more writing pieces published.

"I write as a way to get away from the real world. It’s like a release, my drug," says senior Israel Lopez, a football player in the pre-law program. For seniors and any other student anticipating graduation, the question of whether or not they will continue writing beyond college assignments is answered by Junior Will Lange, "I do hope I can continue writing after I graduate, any style I can get paid for. I write because I enjoy it. It is relaxing in a way."

The diversity of the student's backgrounds within the English department spreads beyond their extracurricular activities and into the form of writing that interests them. Professor Ryan says he is excited about the versatility in the different forms of writing, that there is talent in slam poetry, fiction, journalism, poetry, non-fiction and many more. With such a wide range of attraction and so many directions within the course of study to choose from, the writing community at Concordia only has room to grow.
Recent Concordia Alumni: What are they doing now?
By Victoria Vasterling

In the struggling economy, students are all worried what is going to happen once they are thrust into the real world after graduation. Those who are working hard to earn a degree want to know that there is hope for their futures. Upon catching up with some recent alumni from Concordia, that glimmer of hope that Concordia students are searching for can be found.

Kirk Ingram graduated in the spring of 2009. His major was mathematics and his minor was in general business through Concordia. During his time here at Concordia he was also involved in things such as the Baseball team, Peer Advising, Student Athlete Advising Council, Business Club, Athlete Mentoring, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and he was also the President of Tri-pi and a TA for Astronomy. After graduation Kirk was suppose to start a job at Target in June, but unfortunately that got put on hold. He got married, worked as a mentor for Science Research Institute helping with math, which was a program that Concordia and Northwestern hosts for high school students, and he also ended up working “a bunch of random jobs.”

Don’t lose hope, though, because Kirk is now anticipating starting his job at Target in a leadership position in the Information Technology department, where he will use his analytical thinking and computing figures (both skills stemming from his Math major and Business minor). When asked about the process of finding a job in today’s economy, Kirk says that it is a process he will never forget. His advice for upcoming graduates is this: “What I have told people about the whole situation is that you have to remain [patient], optimistic, and disciplined. There are a lot of people applying for jobs right now […] and you have to be [patient] with your job search and remain positive even though the economy has not done that well […] and that you [will] find a job eventually. For most people this process is going to be longer than normal, so you have to be disciplined and continue to apply for jobs and searching, even though you want to stop.”—Kirk Ingram

Jacob Thorson graduated in the spring of 2008, with a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. He was involved in many academic things outside of the classroom as well, things such as: Dr. Chapman’s diversity panels, SEA-SA, UMOJA, AEX, Tetra Delta, Tri Pi, Student’s of Color Mentor Program, and Spanish club, to name a few. His after graduation experience started with a two week trip to Ghana with the Christus Choir Tour.

He comments that if he had to do post-graduation over again, he would still take a trip and that it was a great experience, but that it may have affected his job search in a negative way because he did not begin his search right away. He then began a job in Litchfield, MN as a Quality Assurance Lab Technician at a material processing plant. Long story short he ended up quitting because of problems with the management there, and he left the company in February 2009. He ended up moving back in with his parents and being a custodian for a church from March 2009 - August 2009.

Jake says “I would visit job sites once a week at least, and would apply to as many as 20 jobs a day.” He ended up coming back to Concordia and working as an Administrative Assistant in the ORSCO department, which was a job that opened up to him because of a friends temporary leave from the job. While having any type of job was better than no job, Jake says that because he believed he would have a position at Concordia that was “semi-permanent,” he stopped his job search for a job in his field of study. Three months later he ended up jobless again. After more searching and applying and ended up having two job offers and taking a job in Chaska, MN, testing regulated materials. He says that he is finally working at a job he likes. He gives Concordia students hope, because while he struggled through a couple of rough years he finally ended up at a job doing what he wants to be doing, and something that he can make into a career.

Kirk says that graduates need to have patience and discipline when it comes to applying for jobs, which is something that Jake has lived out over the past two years while he has been applying for many different jobs with many different companies. Both graduates have had to work other jobs while they searched for the job that they truly wanted. Something to take away from both situations, especially for upcoming gradu-
Flex Dollars vs. Meal Plans
Do you really get what you pay for?

By Ashley Marzolf

At Concordia University, all students who live on campus are required to purchase a meal plan. However, students now have the option to convert their meal plan into flex dollars. Flex dollars can be used in places other than the Dining Hall. For instance they can be spent in the Union or in the Commons. However, there have been complaints around campus that one does not get the same amount of money in flex dollars that they paid towards their meal plan.

Amber Ziehm, a Senior at Concordia, has expressed similar concerns. She said that her meal plan cost around six-hundred and seventy-five dollars, but when she converted her meals into flex dollars she only received around four hundred dollars. "The conversion rate is unfair to students," Ziehm said. However, not all of her comments on the matter were entirely negative. "I like that we have the option finally to convert to flex dollars," she admits, "because I do not enjoy eating in the Dining Hall. I would much rather spend my money on smoothies." When asked why she did not enjoy eating in the Dining Hall she noted that their hours of operation were inconvenient.

On a different note, Alaine Scoles, the Administrative Assistant in Concordia’s Dining Hall maintains that the conversion rate is accurate. She also noted that only about fifteen percent of Concordia students actually change their meals into flex dollars.

Some things to consider, how many people does this actually impact? The student opinion is that the flex option is good, but it should just be closer to the cost of a meal plan. That sounds reasonable. The other opinion comes from a paid employee, which means her statement could be slightly biased.

2009 Review
A year where pigs fly, and hypocrisy reigns supreme

By Ashley Marzolf

One of the most talked about pieces of news in 2009 was the pig flu. I mean swine flu. Wait, no, I’ve got it H1N1. I can’t get it from eating pork can I? No, in all seriousness this was/is a horrible illness that killed many people. Thankfully our wonderful scientists managed to whip up a vaccine just in time. Oh, and don’t think like my boyfriend people, the vaccine will not turn you into a zombie. At least it hasn’t yet. I am walking proof of that.

Another, widely talked about topic of ’09 was the death of pop star Michael Jackson. I find this particularly interesting, because before he died the general consensus was the he was a child molester with an addiction to plastic surgery...I mean “skin condition”...yeah that was totally it. Now that he’s dead, however, even people who served on his jury and swore he was guilty on tape are singing his praises while dancing to Thriller. Just because he overdosed...I mean, was MURDERED BY HOLLYWOOD...he has a 3D tribute movie! You can put the DVD next to your copy of Scary Movie 3 where a couple of years ago he was the butt of every joke in Hollywood.

Meanwhile, in the media another icon “died”. Well, not literally. Oprah Winfrey (is there another Oprah?) announced that she is canceling her show. Think of all of the poor house wives, what on earth will they have to look forward too during the day? Not to mention that ruins all hope I had of being an audience member and winning a new car! Plus, now how will the United States know what to read? This is a major crisis people!

Finally, we come to President Obama’s Nobel Prize. He received this honor for...what was it again exactly? Well, I’m sure he was the most qualified candidate anyways.

So that’s last year. Don’t worry - in a few years it’ll feel like it was just a really trippy dream.
Extreme Makeover: Home Edition
An Effortless Attempt at Gratitude
By Helena Woodruff

On Friday October 13th of 2009 a family by the name of the Morris' spent their first night in their new home that was given to them on the popular television show: Extreme Makeover Home Edition. Along with the new house and daycare center that was built for them; the two children in the family, Mychal and Catricia, each received a full ride scholarship to Concordia University, St. Paul.

The episode aired in January of 2010, and as the students, faculty and staff at Concordia awaited the airing of the show there was some excitement. But to our surprise when the show aired there was nothing said about the scholarships that were given to the children. $200,000 in scholarships and there was no mention of it. But then again, they did have a little sentence flash at the end of the credits establishing what Concordia had done for these two children.

Also they said something on an online clip of the show that Concordia had donated the money. But if you ask anyone that is affiliated with the university it is a very big disappointment to know that it was not even a part of the show.

It really makes me wonder what the world is coming to when someone can give out that amount of money to people that need it, air it on national television, and then give no mention of the situation. It was a very generous and selfless thing that Concordia did for this family and the fact that the network could not even establish that to the public is simply horrid. This is the kind of thing that makes establishments, such as Concordia, less motivated to give to charity. If there was some sort of recognition, then maybe it would be less of a bother for people to help one another when it is possible.

Mimi's Musings: “Learning to Touch the Lepers”

By Miriam Alanen

Settle in and take a second to think about your schedule. But don’t think about the things you have to do; don’t think about the assignments, classes, work, meetings, or deadlines that occupy your life. Instead, think about the people you see while you’re bustling through your all-important daily task list. Can you think of one person you see every day? That quiet girl who sits behind you in class. The guy with the glasses who sits alone at dinner. The man on the street who asks you for spare change for the bus. The co-worker who won’t stop talking about her relationship issues. The parent who calls just to hear your voice. Are these the typical people that occupy your day? This is pretty typical of my schedule. When was the last time we took time out of our carefully mapped-out days to really get to know these people? Have you ever asked a beggar their name? Do you learned to tune out your co-workers complaints?

In Matthew 8, the apostle recounts an event in which Jesus took time out of His day to change a life forever. Take out your Bible (or go to www.Biblegateway.com) and read verses 1-4 right now. What do you notice about this passage? Are you repulsed by the leper? You should be. Leprosy is a disease in which the body decays bit by bit. In his book Just Like Jesus, the author Max Lucado describes it like this: “The condition rendered the body a mass of ulcers and decay. Fingers would curl and gnarl. Blotches of skin would discolor and stink. In Scripture, the leper is symbolic of the ultimate outcast.” Rejected by the whole of society; even forced to wear a bell to announce their approach and sufficient to banish those around to retreat and cry, “UNCLEAN!” Banished to a colony of others with the disease, they were never approached, never spoken to by those without the disease and never EVER touched.

Now, you may never encounter a leper. You may never banish anyone to a life of isolation. But a person doesn’t need to have a disease to feel rejected or banished. We do this all the time. The handicapped, unemployed, uneducated and less attractive know the feeling of being quarantined. We keep our distance from the ill, the depressed, and the lonely elderly shut-ins. I shun unmarried moms and criminals. The nursing home is definitely not the first place I think to visit when looking for a friend.

We must understand that we cannot accomplish salvation in someone. We cannot banish the loneliness or the fear, the depression or the guilt that infects the lives of those around us. But we can show them the way to the One who can. Jesus TOUCHED the leper.

He reached out His hand and said, “I am willing. Be healed.” Immediately after those words were spoken, the man was healed. The words and power of Christ were what accomplished the healing, not the touch. Jesus didn’t need to touch the man to heal him. He could have done it with a thought, but He chose to TOUCH the leper.

Are we willing to be the touch of Christ in the lives of those around us? A compassionate heart is one that seeks to touch the untouchables with the love of Christ.
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Every Monday at 6pm in the Senate Office - All are welcome

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