Greetings students, faculty, and staff of Concordia University, St. Paul,

I hope everyone has been enjoying the semester so far. I know I have, but still, I’m having problems accepting that we are still technically in the “spring semester.” Honestly, it seems somewhat of an inappropriate title. I enjoy the winter. I like snow. I just prefer it in areas where I don’t have to walk or drive. Even though the snow remains a constant, this new semester has introduced plenty of change on campus.

Soon, the president of Concordia for 2011-12 will be announced. Also, many offices, for staff and faculty, have been shuffled around. In fact, we were one of them. Originally, the Sword office was located in the tunnel next to the Writing Center and across the hall from the CALL Center. Now, our newspaper office is located in what used to be the Admission Center. We are sharing the space with Student Senate and Student Life—I couldn’t be happier.

This location has put us in the center of daily life on campus. With our new location, I want to formally welcome all of campus to stop by. We have our mailbox right outside our office where I want people to put suggestions, compliments and event complaints. I want to know what the campus wants to know.

Also, we are in the middle stages of developing our internet page so we can publish articles weekly along with printing a monthly issue. Keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook page for more updates! In the meantime, try not to get frustrated with the weather—Spring Break is almost here!

Speaking on behalf of the entire Sword staff,

Stephen Lybeck
Editor-in-Chief, The Sword
And Then There Were Three

The Search for Concordia's Next President is Down to Three Candidates

By C. Cody Wilcoxson

The process of finding the successor to Rev. Dr. Robert Holst is nearing the end. After the Board of Regents and the Presidential Search Committee, led by Dr. Carl Schoenbeck, completed a series of phone interviews with five presidential candidates, the list has been narrowed to three.

The final three candidates have been invited for an on-campus interview to be conducted during the month of March. After the completion of these interviews, the Board of Regents will convene and elect the candidate best suited to become the next president. Finally, on April 15th the ninth president of Concordia University, St. Paul will be introduced to the campus.

Let's meet the candidates for our next president:

Dr. Donald Christian

Dr. Christian currently serves as the Dean of the College of Business at Concordia University Texas in Austin, Tex. He was a 1981 graduate of Concordia University Chicago, where he received his Bachelor of Music Education. He has done extensive work in the Lutheran educational community, including a brief three year stint as a band director at a Lutheran high school in Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Dr. David Kluth

Rev. Dr. Kluth is a colleague of Dr. Christian's at Concordia University Texas. Rev. Dr. Kluth currently is the Vice President of University Services at Concordia University Texas. Rev. Dr. Kluth has many ties to Minnesota including attending the Concordia University, St. Paul pre-seminary program from 1969-1971. He also did graduate work in Clinical/Behavioral Psychology at Minnesota State Mankato and a masters in Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota. He spent time as an Associate Pastor and eventually Senior Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Prior Lake, Minn.

Rev. Thomas Ries

Rev. Ries started his profession life as the Assistant to the President and Vice President for College Relations in 1982 at Concordia University, St. Paul (then Concordia College, St. Paul). Rev. Ries completed his Master of Business Administration at the University of Minnesota, and is expected to complete his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Minnesota in 2011. He currently serves as the President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in St. Louis, Mo.
Student Senate President Speaks
Austin Ertelt expresses his plans for the new semester
By Shon Haastrup

A new semester is here, and an energy-brimming Student Senate is ready for the Spring Semester. Their goal is simple; to make a better Concordia. However, they are specifically communicating with faculty and staff to make positive changes on campus.

The energetic Austin Ertelt, Concordia's student-body President, spoke about current plans for renovation on campus. "We look around and see small ways we can help out. Like one thing we're working on is getting some fans in the RLC workout room because it kind of gets warm in there—just a few of the small ideas," he said. Austin also spoke on creating a student section at Seafoam Stadium and the Gangelhoff Center. "When students go to the football games, the soccer games or the volleyball games, we have the one unified area where the football players and volleyball players know that's where Concordia is at," said Ertelt.

Austin also talked about events as well. He put an emphasis on the Day at the Capital coming up in February. "It's kind of where student's of Concordia get together and go to the capital and lobby for the Minnesota state grant program...it's kind of a big thing people don't know about," said Ertelt.

In his last thoughts, Austin extended invitations for students to drop by senate meetings or his office to talk. "If you got something to say, send me an email, come to meetings and voice me your opinions. Student senate is for the student body," said Ertelt. The senate office is now located in the old admission office.

Twelve students change their own lives while helping others
Concordia Students Travel to Nicaragua to Volunteer Within a Village.
By Kristi Loobeek

The trip was managed by New Song Mission Nicaragua, a relatively new organization founded by Tom and Linda Gable. The mission of organization is posted on their website as "to develop pastors through Bible training and facilitate their participation with the Holy Spirit in community transformation. To establish life giving relationships with local disciples and walk with them as we use our gifts to build the Kingdom of God."

The New Song Mission Nicaragua describes the area in need as a "poverty stricken country plagued by a history of war, corruption and natural disasters." That area especially includes northwest Nicaragua, which was hit by Hurricane Mitch in 1998, leaving one million homeless refugees.

As a way to stay connected with family and friends back home, a blog was set up for the travelers that documented most of their stay. Within the blog is a rundown of some of the common activities performed while visiting: "helping to build a house, picking tomatoes, playing with children, working in the clinic, and forming relationships with the community."

Along with performing daily tasks the group of Concordia students also decided to hold a field day for the community. On Jan 7 the blog reads: "the kids started coming to play around two in the afternoon, and we played a ton of different games with them in groups. Sack races were very popular, especially with the younger kids. Other kids liked basketball, volleyball, soccer, three-legged race, and just running around."

While volunteering and helping out around the community the students got to experience some of the native food, such as coconut popsicles, toasted pig skin and sugar cane. Grebing describes tasting the sugar cane as "grainy, pulpy, unrefined, earthy taste...basically eating sweet wood that looks like bamboo."

With the trip drawing to a close on the 14 the blog reflected on their experiences: "one thing that most everyone on our trip has commented on is the joy that these people have...Everything that they are given is a blessing, and they know and understand this. They are thankful for all that they receive, and nothing they get comes easy. These people are some of the happiest people I have seen in my life, despite the fact that they need to work hard for everything and have little to begin with."
Garrison Keillor comes to Concordia
Renowned Minnesotan Delivers Laughs and Lessons

By T.G. Schoenberg

Author, radio personality, and storyteller Garrison Keillor visited Concordia on February 15th to give a speech, on comedy writing, to the Concordia community. The Buetow Auditorium was so full that late-comers had to watch the show from a separate room on a projection screen.

Introduced onstage by the Concordia Handbell Ensemble, Keillor was immediately impressed, and he even asked after the show if they could follow him to his next gig. At first, the audience thought he was kidding, but it turned out he was serious. The ensemble is scheduled to play in March at the State Theater for a Prairie Home Companion.

Keillor regaled the audience for almost an hour with stories that ranged from his childhood to the current times, and held a captive audience throughout. The theme for his speech was futility, and how almost everything we do is futile. Obviously, he was joking, but there was an air of seriousness on some of his topics. For instance, he started off by speaking about how raising children is futile. In his eyes, parents are hit or miss; their children can either grow up to be a heroin addict or a pediatrician.

He went on to talk about his childhood, and how different things were back then. Kids were allowed to run around without fearing for their safety and cars had no seatbelts in them, and so on. He kept things light throughout, and the audience enjoyed all of his one-liners, like "a man who has been married as often as I have has to believe in love." There were times when people laughed at the inappropriate times, but Keillor was a good sport about it. His delivery was calm, and he even poked fun at himself at times. His veteran stage presence was clearly demonstrated.

After nearly an hour, Keillor finished his speech by coming full circle with his futility theme and ending with "as we say in Minnesota, it could be worse." Afterwards, there was a short question and answer session where Keillor showed that he can crank out the one-liners even on the fly. Refreshments were served when the auditorium cleared out, and several of Keillor's published works were on sale. Overall, Keillor delivered a night of funny stories and light-hearted lessons that a jam-packed Buetow audience enjoyed.

BEAR center move

This semester the BEAR Center has changed its location and its name. It is now called Financial Services and has been moved to the LMC with Admissions. Jeanie Peck, who works in Financial Services, said the change was made, "in an attempt to better serve the students here at Concordia."

Originally the BEAR Center was the single location students could go to get any services they might need and not have to go to multiple offices. BEAR was an acronym for Business Office, Enrollment, Advising, and Registrar. Student financial aid was included.

Having one place handle all of these student services did not work out smoothly. According to Peck, students ended up having to deal with financial aid advisors for enrollment questions. "This ended up being a problem because financial aid advisors are not trained to handle questions about enrollment," said Peck. Students would end up wasting their time and not getting needed answers.

In order to alleviate this aggravation, Concordia decided to break up the BEAR Center into different offices—restructuring the financial aid here at Concordia.

Everyone is now given their own personal financial aid counselor in order to personalize the experience. Peck said that it was decided that Financial Services, "needed more physical space" than the old BEAR Center for the financial aid counselors. Therefore, Financial Services was moved to a more spacious location. A location that is right next to Admissions which according to Jeanie, "has common overlap with Financial Services."

The BEAR Center is not the only office that has been shuffled over Winter break—Tutoring Services, Advising Center, SWORD, and many others have migrated as well. Under the new setup, there are zones and segments for different services of like-groups. This should make students have a better sense of where to go for different needs.

In regards to why these choices were made—Vice President of Administration—Eric LaMott claims that the Admissions Committee made the final decisions. The committee consulted with numerous groups that were all very satisfied with the way things worked out and were very optimistic about the how the restructuring is going to affect the university in the long term.
“Pastels From the Past” tells a deeper story

PaoKong Thao’s Senior Art Exhibit Continues to Move Observers from the Music Building Gallery.

By Tia Vang

PaoKong Thao’s “Pastels from the Past” show was located in H. Williams Teaching Gallery, at Concordia University, from January 27, 2011 to February 6, 2011. After February 6th, her show was moved into the Music Building Gallery. Thao has worked with the Art Department and the Hmong Languages and Culture Program at Concordia to share her artworks with the community.

“Pastels from the Past” was influenced by the stories Thao’s mother told her every night before bed. During the interview with Thao she explained, “I created most pieces from memory. I wanted to inform and educate the community in Hmong folklores through painting.” It was more than just drawing, she had to balance the color to make her art come to life. She had to choose the most significant part of the folklore to illustrate.

Her pastels are very colorful. In many of the pastels, the characters of the story were easy to identify. Viewers could tell that there was a story to each pastel. Her art works were compared to African arts due to its color and shapes. The characters had full lips and wore colorful clothing that could be compared to African clothing.

As you walked into the gallery, all the pastels are hung up along the wall in a U-shape. The pastel hung by the entrance tells a story like all the others pastels; however, there is something significant about this one. At the first glance at this pastel labeled “Inspiration Two: Kevtxhawb Siab Zaum Ob”, it was an ordinary pastels of flowers. As you looked deeper and read the description from the artist, the characters jump out. This pastel tells the story of Gao Naw, Shee Na, and their son. The family was separated due to a curse from Gao Naw’s stepmother. In order for the family to be together again, each member had to transform into something else. They can no longer be together as humans. Shee Na transformed into a tree. Gao Naw transformed into the flowers on the tree and produced honey for their son, who was changed into a hummingbird.

The art works are for sale. Please don’t be discouraged to call her if you are worried about the price of the pastels. Thao said she would rather have her art hang up somewhere and be appreciated then to store them. Prices are negotiable. If interested, please contact Pao-Kong Thao via phone 651-295-0049 or via email at thaop2@csp.edu.

Praise stacked high for Float Series

Senior Art Show Impresses Crowds

By Arielle Stimpson

Laura Stack's senior art show is being held at the Concordia Gallery January 27 through February 23. Her show, entitled “The Float Series” is beautiful artwork displaying the synthetic versus the natural world.

The synthetic objects contrasted the natural with their color and shape. Through her different pieces she used ink, gouache and graphite to display the natural forms. In some pieces the natural structures blend and connect with the synthetic ones to make the viewer think about the line between biology and technology.

Some of the pieces are left with pencil markings because she believes the artist shouldn’t be ashamed of the process. Stack believes that the process is what makes art so beautiful and shows how she came to the final product. One of her pieces also displays a pipe structure connected to plant which brings out the humor in that specific piece.

If you follow Stack’s art, there is a surprise inside joke in one of her pieces from a following collection. All her paintings were a beautiful display of mixed media organic abstractions. There are still a few days to view her art before the show comes to an end and I recommend stopping by to appreciate the art work she has contributed to Concordia’s Art program.
Funk City music review: Langhorne Slim
A Small Town Alter-ego is Starting to see the Big City Lights
By Sam Campbell

Sean Scolnik has never met Langhorne Slim. That is because Sean Scolnik is Langhorne Slim. Scolnik was born in the small town of Langhorne, Pennsylvania and ever since he has started playing gigs, he has been known as Langhorne Slim.

A singer-songwriter who started by playing plenty of open mic gigs, Langhorne Slim picked up popularity fast. After leaving his small hometown and graduating from State University of New York at Purchase, Langhorne began his trek to stardom by making appearances with the Trachtenberg Family Slideshow Players. In 2005, Malachi DeLorenzo and Paul DeFiglia joined Langhorne to create Langhorne Slim and the War Eagles. DeLorenzo's lightly brushed drums and DeFiglia's upright bass smoothly combined with Langhorne's poetic lyrics and acoustic guitar to bring out every last bit of folk music in their instruments. And with Langhorne's usual outfit featuring a fedora and suspenders, it was a perfect fit.

The group released their first album When the Sun's Gone Down, featuring the song "Electric Love Letter", in 2005 on the indie label Narnack Records. 2008 and 2009 saw Langhorne Slim and the War Eagles release an album each year. This time Langhorne Slim and Be Set Free were recorded with Kemando Records.

Philosophies on life, love, and lust rest inside of every Langhorne Slim song. His harsh, yet sweet voice put a bold emphasis on the traditional folk music genre, as well as an upbeat hybrid.

The small town kid has seen growing success and has been on tour with The Avett Brothers, Murder by Death, and Cake to name a few. And as his days roll on, Sean Scolnik can be very proud of the creation of himself.
I Am Number Four movie review A Superhuman Story of Teenage Angst
By C. Cody Wilcoxson

In the upcoming teen science fiction film I Am Number Four, Alex Pettyfer stars as a teenage alien hiding amongst the youth of the Earth. D.J. Caruso directed this DreamWorks picture based off the science fiction novel of the same name by Pittacus Lore.

The story is based around John Smith, one of nine alien children from the planet Lorien that fled to Earth to escape genocide. Each child was given a guardian, Henri played by Justified star Timothy Olyphant serves as John’s, and they are also protected by a charm that makes it only possible for them to be killed in order of their assigned numbers.

John is assigned the number four, hence the title of the film. The first three have been killed, meaning John is next. This is where the movie begins, and the plot revolves around this overlying theme.

The movie does provide some star power, starting with Olyphant known for his role as Raylan Givens in the FX series Justified as well as his roles in feature films including Gone in 60 Seconds. The movie also included Glee star Dianna Agron as John’s primary high school love interest, Sarah. Not to mention the movies producers Steven Spielberg and Michael Bay.

Upon moving to Paradise, Ohio to flee the Mogadorians, the opposing species intent on killing the nine remaining Loriens, John enrolls in the local high school. It is at this time where John goes through the typical teenage angst: dealing with bullying football players, befriending science nerds, and of course, finding a teenage love interest. Smith comes to age as his superhumanly ‘legacies’ start to develop. He finds love in a local Midwestern girl named Sarah. They connect through photography. Ironically, photography is one thing that can get Smith in trouble as he tries to hide and blend in among high school teenagers.

The film mixes both the emotional aspects of coming of age as a teenager with the superhuman ideas of developing special powers and fighting an intergalactic battle to stay alive. It is a unique balance that the film had to maintain, but Caruso directed the film in such a way that viewers were able to connect with the characters.

As with any good science fiction film you can expect some intense combat scenes. The film employs some futuristic weaponry, as well as your typical super power filled battle with the enemy. When super human forces clash, it makes for epic scenes in this intergalactic battle in a small Ohio town.

The tone of the movie was set by a fantastic musical score done by veteran musician Trevor Rabin, who also did score’s for such box office hits as National Treasure, The Guardian, and Bad Boys II. The music choices were timely and helped set the mood of each particular scene. The music definitely added to the overall effect of the movie.

While I am not usually a large fan of the science fiction film genre, I did thoroughly enjoy I Am Number Four. I would suggest it for both the science fiction film buffs and for your average movie going college student. While the plot revolves around high school students (played by actors in their 20’s) many of the earthly conflicts are relatable. It also foster’s the dreams that every young person has of waking up one morning with super powers.

I would definitely suggest going to see I Am Number Four. For Concordia students I suggest AMC Rosedale 14 in Roseville, Minn., where tickets are $5.00 before 6:00pm Monday through Thursday.

Free theatre tickets for CSP students with an ID Two Spring Semester Plays Will Now Offer Free Student Tickets
By Victoria Vasterling

Concordia’s Department of Theatre and Dance has three remaining productions to be performed during Spring Semester 2011. These plays include Adrift on the Mississippi, Up, and Once Upon A Mattress. Normal admission rates for Concordia’s plays are $10 for Faculty/Staff and $5 for students with an ID.

This will continue to be the case for the show Adrift on the Mississippi, but for the two other remaining productions the department is changing their policy and offering FREE admission to students who have their student ID with them. Two of the plays, Adrift on the Mississippi and Once Upon A Mattress will be held in the E.M. Pearson Theatre, and the production of Up will be held in the Westlund Theatre. Here’s the inside scoop on each of these plays, and why Concordia students might be interested in attending.

Adrift on the Mississippi, written by Brian A. Grandison, is about the true story of Reverend Robert Hickman. He led a group of slaves out of Missouri and brought them up river on a raft in search of the freedom that Minnesota offered. The group then founded Pilgrim Baptist Church, which was the first Black church in Minnesota and is still standing today. It is a student directed play put on by students of Concordia’s Department of Theatre and Dance alongside various other organizations.

The play is a World Premiere production of the History Theatre of St. Paul, which is an organization that has been producing brave, entertaining explorations of all the histories that make up our diverse community for thirty years. In describing the organization on their website, they said: “Since 1978 History Theatre has produced over 100 world premieres, engaging more than 80 playwrights and composers.” For more information on the History Theatre, you can visit their website www.historytheatre.com or call them at 651-292-432.

Production Show times for Adrift on the Mississippi are as follows:
February 10-27, 2011
Thursdays and Fridays at 10:00 AM and 7:30 PM
Saturdays at 7:30 PM, Sundays at 2:00 PM
Up is also based on a true story. The department describes this story as being about “a man whose greatest moment was decades earlier when he created a flying lawn chair propelled by weather balloons, and whose return to inventing in order to escape the demands of daily life impacts his family’s pragmatism and [his] own dreams.” This play is written by Bridgit Capenter, and it is to be directed by Rebecca Erickson. Rebecca Erickson was the winner of the Student Directing Competition.

Production Show times for Up are as follows:
March 25, 26, 2011, at 7:30 PM, March 27 at 2:00 PM
Lastly, Once Upon a Mattress is a musical that tells the story of King Sextimus and his wife Queen Aggravaine, who creates a seemingly impossible sensitivity test for any princess wishing to marry her son, Prince Dauntless. The fractured fairy tale is based on Hans Christian Anderson’s fairy tale The Princess and The Pea. The book Once Upon a Mattress was written by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller, and Marshall Barer.

Production show times for Once Upon a Mattress are as follows:
May 5, 6, 7, 2011, at 7:30 PM, May 8 at 2:00 PM

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THE SWORD

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TWO SPRING SEMESTER PLAYS WILL NOW OFFER FREE STUDENT TICKETS.
Got sun? Studying Abroad is a Great Option for Concordia Students

Heather Huckstad (pictured above) sight-seeing in Costa Rica.

By Chloe Weinberg

It was almost one year ago that I casually googled “study abroad+writing programs” while watching Keeping up with the Kardashians. Now I am two weeks away from my departure to Paros, Greece– a small island in the Greek Cyclades– where I will be enrolled in the Hellenic Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts (HISA) program for the spring semester. I have completed all of the necessary paperwork, figured things out with the BEAR Center, and made sure my passport will be valid for the duration of the trip, now all that’s left is to do is board the plane.

I am one of three Concordia students embarking on the study abroad experience this semester. Heather Huckstad and Hlee Yang have already begun their semester in Costa Rica. Huckstad, who is a Junior double-majoring in Sociology and Spanish, works in the C.A.L.L. center on campus so she was able to find the perfect program for herself, in which almost all of the credits she is earning abroad apply to her major. She says that the program in Costa Rica is perfect for her because all of her Concordia scholarships still apply, Spanish classes are available, and there is a service-learning component.

Huckstad explained that the best part of studying abroad so far is the weekend traveling, “My favorite trip so far has been to Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica. There’s a national park there with really beautiful beaches, places to hike, and tons of nature.”

While I’m sure there are hundreds of positive aspects to pick out of this experience, Heather says the other wonderful thing about being abroad is the fact that she gets to practice her second language on a daily basis. “Another thing that’s exciting to me but nerdy for most people is that I can speak Spanish all the time. I really like to talk with my host family and I think I’m improving my Spanish just by talking to them so much.”

When asked what advice she would give to study abroad prospects, Heather suggested that, along with living with a host family opposed to in-student housing, that anyone who is able to study abroad, should.

As for me, I will be living in a student apartment building with my own bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette, and balcony overlooking the ocean. While I am nervous about the unknown, I can’t wait to be a part of the Greek culture, from hummus and gyros to the easy going lifestyle that comes with living on an island. Most of all, I am excited to give myself a new meaning to the word “classroom” as I hope to find lessons in every aspect of my experience abroad.

Waking Up on Time: A Beginner’s Guide

By Chloe Taipale

I think way too highly of myself. Because I haven’t unintentionally burned down the house after falling asleep while making Pizza Rolls, led the police on a winding low-speed chase in my mom’s SUV, or melted crayons all over the radiator (recently), I believe that I am a force to be reckoned with. I am responsible, I whisper to myself, cradling a juice box as my Raffi cassette comes to a warbling end. I am an adult.

This is why I’m registered for a 9:00 a.m. class this semester. I, at the time, wholeheartedly believed that I could handle it. Like a boss, I silently declared as I submitted my tentative schedule. I could already feel the thick mane of chestnut fuzz growing from my rippling pec tors as I dreamt of my new identity. Maybe I’ll buy a briefcase, I thought. Maybe I’ll invest in a pair of sock garters. I’d look good with a goatee. Wait, why am i a man?

Had I simply been realistic with myself during sign-up week, I would’ve kept my schedule clear before 5:00 a.m. I would’ve remembered how cranky I get when I’m sleepy. Let’s face it: Had I really been realistic with myself, I would’ve called off this college thing entirely and become a truck driver instead. “9:00 a.m.” has some weird ancient-curse sound to it that makes me feel like I just walked through a cobweb. It makes me feel like wearing socks that are too small. It makes me feel like hugs from strangers. Who would actually wake up that early? 9:00 a.m. What is that?

I was suddenly expected to fall asleep at a reasonable hour, so the night before classes started, I did what any young American does when confronted with catastrophe: I Googled it. After a few minutes of gently riffling through the 7 million results, I discovered that the secret to satisfying, appropriately-timed rest is good “sleep hygiene,” a puzzling term for effective sleep habits. Improve your sleep hygiene, and your 9:00 a.m. class will quiver at your feet. Since I typically struggle with matters of hygiene, I figured I’d better take some notes.

First, Dr. Internet recommended that I both “prepare for sleep all day” as well as avoid strenuous physical activity three hours before bed. Not a problem. I was off to a good start.

Next, I was to “create a safe and comfortable sleeping environment” by turning off all my lights and making my room as quiet as possible, while making sure my smoke detector was functioning properly and that I had access to a telephone in case of emergencies such as heart attack or bedwetting. Now, I usually go out of my way to make sure that my room is neither dark nor silent, because I can only sit in solitude for so long before staring myself into thinking that the most commonplace of house y noises are actually the sounds of ghosts coming to steal my soul or hide my keys or whatever it is that ghosts do. Still, I was willing to try.

I unplugged my Christmas lights and turned down my blaring Pitbull CD. My smoke detector ran out of batteries months ago, and in lieu of, I don’t know, replacing them, I disassembled the whole thing and subsequently lost it. If an errant electrical spark started a roaring brush fire in my room, I was screwed. Things were getting more difficult.

Despite my increasing anxiety, it was time to sleep. I closed my laptop, circled three times, tucked my nose beneath my tail, and waited for the magic to happen. The Senior Living website from which I’d gathered most of my advice said that, were you still awake 20 minutes later, you should get out of bed and do something else until you’re actually sleepy. When “trying to fall blissfully asleep” inevitably turned into “watch the clock and wait for 20 minutes to go by so I can do something else,” I untangled myself from the covers and decided to watch TV instead. I was going to do jumping jacks or build a fort or practice my scissor kicks, but, remember, no strenuous physical activity.

Four hours, a home manicure, and a Teen Mom marathon later, I was finally tired, both mentally and physically. It was 4:00 a.m., much nearer to my pre-chest hair bedtime than I would’ve liked, but I figured that it was good enough. I had prepared vigilantly for baby-by-bye success, and I was going to be triumphant. Responsibility. Briefcase. Drink it in.

You can imagine the milk-curdling, eyebrow-singeing, face-splitting rage that burst forth from me when I awoke at 10:23 the next morning. Where did I go wrong? I was heartbroken. I was disappointed. Most importantly, after tearfully revisiting my sleep notes, I was irate. Nowhere did Senior Living specify that your alarm should be set for 8:00 a.m., not p.m. Dang.
Welcome to the Bellis era

By C. Cody Wilcoxson

On Friday, February 4, 2011 Concordia University, St. Paul athletic director Tom Rubbelke announced the official hiring of new women’s soccer head coach Steve Bellis. Bellis takes the reins at Concordia after spending the last four years at nearby St. Catherine’s University.

Bellis has an extensive coaching background with over 15 years of experience in the professional and college ranks. The Manchester, England native even spent time working with the world’s most famous soccer team, the Manchester United Football Club. Bellis knows about both winning and the logistics of coaching in the twin cities area. He helped coach Macalester College to the division III national championship in 1998, as an assistant coach. Bellis also served as Technical Director for Minnesota Thunder Academy. He has been a Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) Olympic Development Staff Soccer Coach since 2000 and also a Staff Soccer Coach for Coerver Coaching.

The search committee to find a new head coach for the women’s soccer team included: assistant athletic director Val Olson, four-time national champion volleyball coach Brady Starkey, faculty athletic representative Dr. Angie Nippert, admission’s counselor Gaosheng Yang, and soccer student-athletes Megan Kurtz and Arielle Stimson.

The list of candidates was narrowed down by the search committee. Three candidates were interviewed on campus and also met with the team. After all the information was collected, a decision was made in collaboration by Val Olson, Tom Rubbelke, Vice President Eric LeMott, and President Robert Hoist.

In an interview with committee head Val Olson, she stated that the criteria for a new coach included, “someone that could push the team to the next level, including bringing them to the playoffs, and eventually competing at the regional and national level. It was also important to find someone that would develop these girls as people, not just as athletes.”

As for how Bellis fits this mold, Olson said, “Steve Bellis is a great candidate who professionally and personally has established himself within the soccer world and the Minnesota community. He is respected within the Minnesota soccer community, and combining that with great coaching philosophies should boost recruiting great student-athletes to Concordia University. He truly cares about his players both on and off the field. It is my belief that he will not only develop these young women to succeed for the next four years, but for the rest of their lives.”

Tom Rubbelke also spoke of Bellis’ qualifications in a press release on www.cugoldenbears.com saying, “We are very fortunate to land a coach with his experience, enthusiasm and background in the sport of soccer. I know he’s eager to get started and we are all looking forward to his service to Concordia.”

The players themselves are excited to get the Bellis era of Concordia soccer underway. Senior Savannah Nolen said via email, “I am excited to start working with Steve. I think he will help us start winning games and hopefully bring us to a playoff championship.”

Junior Kristi Loobeek spoke on behalf of her teammates when she said, “We, as a team, are very excited about having Steve as our new head coach. Although there were multiple well-qualified candidates for the position, I believe that we got the best and look forward to having a record breaking season this coming fall.”

The Golden Bears soccer team will continue their off-season workouts in the Concordia Dome at Sea Foam Stadium. With the new addition of Steve Bellis as head coach, there should be exciting things going on at Sea Foam Stadium next fall.

Track team is breaking records and achieving personal bests

By Kristi Loobeek

With four school records broken so far this season the track team is looking to finish their season just as strong as they started it. The four records were as follows: men’s shot put (Mike Cullen), men’s weight throw (Nate Thienes) and women’s shot put and weight throw (Kaysee Nesmoe).

Before any records could be broken the team had to prepare physically and mentally. Senior captain Kaysee Nesmoe said “fall training is very important because that is when we hit it really hard in the weight room and on the track to prepare for the upcoming season, all the while training to keep everyone as healthy and injury-free as possible.”

Having two broken records under her belt (this season), Nesmoe continued by saying “the current season has been progressing really well with many individuals achieving their personal bests already. With our conference meet coming up in a few weeks, we are trying to make sure everyone is healthy so we are all able to peak at conference when it matters most.” On Feb 13 and 14 the team will be competing in the NSIC multi-event conference meet and hope to make a big impact. All athletes will be approaching this meet with a serious face and determination to improve times, distance, or heights.

After having their winter break cut short the team is trying to stay injury free during this long season. “There are always injuries and issues that arise during the season, but we have been working well together as a team this year to get through everything that has been thrown at us,” said Nesmoe.

Continuing with this team cohesiveness, when asked who the team looks to for leadership and support Nesmoe answered that “we definitely look to the seniors and captains to support and lead the team, but the neat thing about our team is that we are very tight-knit and we are all supportive to one another. We don’t have key people, it is a joint effort.”

The next upcoming meet for the team will be at the University of Minnesota Field House Feb 18 for men and Feb 19 for women. The team is looking for as many fans as possible so go out and support your fellow Golden Bears!
Golden Bear women’s basketball season update

After Slow Start, Golden Bears are on a Roll

By Sam Campbell

The 2010-2011 Concordia Women’s basketball team came into the season with high expectations. A year after losing in the regional finals to the 6th ranked team in the nation, the Golden Bears were excited for the future. But after winning only three of their first 11 games, the team was looking for a momentum swing to bring the excitement back to this season.

The Bears have since won ten straight basketball games. This includes a 91-57 trouncing of the 6th ranked Wayne State Wildcats—a team who beat them earlier in the year 83-64. Senior guard Jinee Williams recorded her third double-double of the year as she scored 22 points from the floor and grabbed 12 rebounds. Williams also added four steals and a blocked shot to her five assists to assert herself as one of the premier players in the NSIC. Freshmen forward Jodi Batzel added 15 points and six rebounds and freshmen Rachel Hansen recorded seven rebounds to her 12 points in the upset.

As the regular season winds down, the Bears are gearing up for another great post season run. The Bears are ranked sixth in the NCAA Central Region and with five games remaining on the schedule, expectations are high in St. Paul. “We started out very shaky and playing way under our potential. For us to be where we are right now is a blessing and playing the way we are playing we can do some amazing things come post season,” senior guard Maurika Hickman said. Hickman has averaged 15 points and 30 minutes this season.

Ending the season with three straight home games will be extremely beneficial to the team. But what could help them even more is having the NSIC tournament hosted at the Gangelhoff Center. The quarter finals will be hosted by the higher seeded team in the matchup, and the semifinals and championship game will be in St. Paul. Let’s hope the championship game on March 6th will feature our Golden Bears as they get ready for a challenge NCAA tournament run.

Men’s basketball update

Post Season Hopes Dwindle as Schedule Winds Down

By Sam Campbell

The 2010 Concordia Men’s basketball season has certainly been an interesting one. The Golden Bears have been traveling in the wake of the conference’s top tier teams all year long. The sixth place Bears have an impressive 13-8 overall record (10-7 NSIC); yet, five other Northern Sun teams stand between them and the top of the division.

But what can excite Golden Bear fans is the fact that the team has beaten three of the five teams ahead of them in the division, including the second place, 17-4 Mary Marauders. These victories over strong opponents will be important come tournament time.

The Golden Bears are not ranked in the NCAA Central Region. Because of this, the only way the Bears can make the NCAA tournament is to win the NSIC conference tournament. But there are plenty of reasons not to count them out.

Junior guard, Peter Olafeso has been one of the team’s most consistent players. Leading all scorers with an average of 16.2 points per game, Olafeso has had nine games in which he has scored over fifteen points. This includes a season high 27 against MSU-

Moorehead. Averaging 6.6 rebounds a game, Olafeso also has 20 steals in the 2010 season.

Peter Olafeso is joined by, brother, Kenny in the domination of opponents. Kenny Olafeso has averaged 12.5 points per game while adding 7.5 rebounds an outing. Junior Brent Barz has helped solidify the Golden Bears defense in the paint this year. Along with his 12.9 points per game, Barz has a team high 24 blocked shots this season.

After losing the home opener to Division III St. Thomas, Concordia has since toughened up. Their marquee win of the season was an 81-79 victory over rival Winona State. Peter Olafeso’s jump shot with 0.4 second left in the game sealed the win for the Golden Bears. Winona, who is just a game ahead of Concordia in the NSIC, could not fend off the Bears attack—despite playing in front of 3,798 fans at home.

The tough road win has shown the growth Concordia has experienced over the course of this season. With five games remaining on the schedule, the Golden Bears are looking to ride this momentum into the conference tournament.

Mineral Water Bowl Heartbreaker

Second Half Surge Pushes Pitt State past CU 13-9 By C. Cody Wilcoxson

The Concordia University Golden Bears football team fell victim to a second half resurgence by the Pittsburg State (Kan.) rushing game. After opening up a 9-0 lead in the first half, the Golden Bear’s couldn’t find any more magic as the Gorillas chipped away at the lead. 13 unanswered points gave the Gorilla’s the advantage they needed as the downed Concordia 13-9.

The Golden Bears jumped out early. After the teams exchanged punts to start the game, junior quarterback Spencer Ohm led the offense on a 10 play 46 yard drive that ended in a Mineral Water Bowl record 51 yard field goal by senior Steven King. King’s effort put the Golden Bears up 3-0. After forcing another Pitt State punt, the Golden Bears again drove 46 yards, this time with junior Charles Gilbert on the receiving end of a trick halfback pass from junior Sam Campbell. The extra point failed, but the Golden Bears took a 3-0 lead into halftime after dominating much of the first half.

The Golden Bear defense bottled up Gorilla running backs Terrance Isaac and Brecon Wilson in the first half, holding the powerful Pitt State running game at bay. Wilson, who would be named the games offensive MVP, broke loose in the second half rushing for 50 yards in the fourth quarter alone. Wilson would finish with 95 yards on the ground, pairing that with quarterback Zac Dickey’s 90 yards for a total offensive attack of 285 yards. Wilson and Dickey powered the Gorilla’s back, with Wilson’s plunge from three yards out with 0:56 remaining in the third quarter to get the momentum on their side. Pitt State’s running game would takeover in the fourth quarter, they controlled the ball for 11:01 of the final period and a pair of Jake Craig field goals proved to be the final difference.

Concordia had looked to extend their lead, but a Calvin Simon drop on another trick play, this time a double pass from Ohm-to Hayden Vavda-to Simon. Vavda fired a spiral to an open Simon in the end zone, but he could not hang on and that thwarted another CU scoring opportunity. Ohm finished the bowl game 13-for-25 for 73 yards. He could not connect on with one of his receivers on a touchdown, finishing the year with 22 touchdowns, tying Mike Allen (2001) for the school’s single season record. Gilbert’s 27 yard receiving score in the second quarter tied him with three others for the school single season record of receiving touchdowns with 11. Sam Campbell stayed steady in the backfield for Concordia rushing for 61 yards on the day. Campbell finished the year with 939 yards, the highest season total since 2005. Campbell was close to breaking a couple of big runs, but was stifled by the play of Pitt State linebackers Johnny Row and Nate Drieling. Row, a senior, was named the games defensive MVP finished with 12 tackles, including three for a loss.

On the other side of the ball Golden Bear linebackers Al Quaye and Trevor Glomske were each credited with 14 tackles. Glomske’s performance capped a great career for the senior captain from Wabasha, Minn. This was Concordia’s third trip to the Mineral Water Bowl in Excelsior Springs, Mo. Although they could not hold off Pitt State for the victory, they still finished an incredible turnaround season. The Golden Bears completed the year with an 8-4 record.

Excitedly, next year the Golden Bears will return record tying quarterback Ohm, leading rusher Campbell, top pass catcher Gilbert, and Quaye who was one of the top forces on the defense along with a slew of other major contributors that will suit up for the Golden Bears in 2011.
SECRETLY Draw my Dream home.

During class...

I kissed my Best Friend’s Boyfriend.

I smell my Underwear before I put them on!

I miss my Dog More than my mom!

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