Snow Daze
The In-and-Outs of Snow Emergencies at Concordio

By Ashley Kuehl
Living in Minnesota, months of snow come with the territory. With snow also comes snow emergencies, which can cause car owners to be ticketed or towed if they are unaware of a snow emergency being issued. As the snow continues to pile up, so do the questions about where to park, what time a car must be moved, and which streets are affected during snow emergencies.

It is a yearly scene depicted in news stories of car owners waiting in lines at impound lots to claim their car. Many are unaware that a snow emergency was issued and are confused about the rules regarding snow emergencies in their city, while others seem to ignore the news of an emergency altogether. Students living on campus share this dilemma and headache. Senior Megan Martin, who lives on campus, found herself in this predicament last semester after a major snow fall. She said, "I was aware that there was a snow emergency. I get texts sent to my phone, saying when the night plowing and morning plowing will begin." The alert though did not prove to be very helpful as her car was towed during the early morning hours. "When I woke up that morning and didn't see my car where it was parked, I began to panic. I thought for a second that it was stolen, but then I called my dad and he said that they probably towed it." As a result, Martin now takes extra precautions whenever a snow emergency is issued, "So now whenever there is a snow emergency, I'm sure to park my car on a side street parallel to the street that is being plowed that night, and by 8 A.M. the next day I move it to the street that has already been plowed."

There are ways for students to avoid the lines and the cost that comes along with snow emergencies. Stephen Faunillan, who works at Concordia's Security Department, recommends various ways in which students can be notified when a snow emergency is issued for Saint Paul. "Students can visit the city of Saint Paul's website to receive information and sign up to receive notification of a snow emergency via email, text, Twitter, or Facebook. Students can follow us on Twitter at @CSPSecDept." Faunillan also mentioned places in which students may park when a snow emergency is in effect for the city of Saint Paul. "Students can use lots C, D, E, F, G, and H if needed during a snow emergency. We prefer if students fill up lots E and H first."

There are a variety of options available to keep car owners informed about when snow emergencies are declared and the guidelines that surround it. Save yourself the headache, time, and money by signing up for either a text or an email before another big snowfall occurs again. Most importantly, remain optimistic: spring is just around the corner.
Dear Concordia students, faculty, staff, and community members,

I'm sick of snow. After graduating high school in Wisconsin, I could have chosen anywhere else in the United States to attend college. Instead of choosing a warm southern state, I chose to simply move slightly west, stuck in the same frigid climate that I grew up in.

I don't think that winter would be so bad if we could predict exactly how long it would last, but my five winters at Concordia have all been so varied that there is no way of knowing just how long this winter will last. Take, for example, the winter of 2012; St. Paul received its last snowfall on March 8 of that year, and just two days later the temperature reached a high of 66 degrees. The high temperature didn't dip below 45 until the winter months began again. If you lived in the upper-Midwest, look at your Facebook pictures of that time and marvel at the fact that we were wearing shorts at the beginning of March.

In stark contrast to that early heat wave was our last winter. St. Paul finally received its last major snow fall on March 8, with three major snow storms in April. On April 28, the temperature reached 81 degrees; just four days later, the high was back down to 38. It was probably the most miserable winter I've ever lived through, and spring was a welcome respite.

These anecdotes don't prove anything about Minnesota except for how unpredictable winters can be. Though it might seem far away, spring is just around the corner. And think how sweet it will finally be.

Cheers,

Jay Weiler
Editor-in-Chief
CBOL Graduate Program
Is the Master's Degree for You in this College?

By Charles Hines

You have finished your undergraduate degree and are wondering what to do next. Should you pursue a graduate degree, and if so, which? This article will look at the College of Business and Organizational Leadership (CBOL) and what it could mean for your future.

The CBOL offers six graduate degrees: Master of Business Administration; Master of Business Administration - Health Care Management; Master of Business Administration - Information Technology Management; Master of Business Administration - Marketing Analytics; Master of Arts - Human Resource Management; and Master of Art - Leadership and Management. All of these programs can be completed in approximately 24 months and are offered in accelerated seven week courses. They can be taken online or in blended format which offers greater flexibility to the students.

"Each prospective student is unique in their ability to learn," offered Craig Lien, Associate Dean of CBOL and Chair of MBA program, "but everyone entering a CBOL graduate degree program should be intentional in using that degree in their current or future plans." There are many job opportunities that become available with any of these degrees on your resume, but many pursue this area because it can enhance career opportunities in their current jobs. These courses also prepare individuals for higher level opportunities and big picture thinking.

The question: Why should you choose the CBOL for your graduate degree? The answer: responsive, relevant, and real. Responsive to you as learners with faculty and staff committed to helping you succeed in the program and your career. Relevant to your future with a program that realizes the importance of new skills, precision competencies, and inspired leadership. Real with a tangible Return-on-Investment (ROI), and increased opportunities. CBOL also focuses on applied learning and uses practitioner based adjunct instructors.

"Education just for education's sake is okay, but it is not a reason to pursue a graduate degree from the CBOL," stated Lien. "You should have a passion for what you want to do and incorporate or tailor your graduate degree to that passion. Be intentional in choosing a graduate degree and make sure it matches your goals." The CBOL may be the college for you if you wish to pursue a graduate degree, and these words of wisdom may help in your choice. The opportunities are endless, and Concordia University is always willing to help you find your way.

Professor Spotlight
Dr. Suzanne Hequet

By Lehleih Garyu

Dr. Suzanne Hequet teaches in Theology and Religion here at Concordia University. She has been teaching as an adjunct for four years, and recently became a full time teacher in August. Previously, Dr. Hequet taught at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and at St. John’s University School of Theology in Collegeville, MN. Although it may seem Dr. Hequet has studied theology and religion all her life, she has not. Dr. Hequet received her Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in three different subjects: mathematics, German, and education. During her undergraduate years, she played varsity tennis, got married, and worked 20-30 hours a week. Even with everything during her undergrad, she still managed to graduate in four years. Because of her past experience she understands why students say, "I don’t have enough time."

While it may be strange that she studied three different majors, Dr. Hequet affirmed that all three of these majors have helped her blossom into a great theology and religion teacher. Some of her favorite teaching experiences include teaching mathematics. She also enjoyed empowering her female students in the classroom and preparing them for careers outside the classroom. After some time, Dr. Hequet decided to explore and went into actuary work. As an actuary she really enjoyed her job, but the long hours became difficult for her.

Her life changed after one particular occurring event; while taking a short walk one afternoon, she slipped on ice and broke her ankle. During her healing process at home she had a lot of time to think about her future career. A friend called her at that time and suggested that she consider teaching religion. Since Dr. Hequet already was involved at her church and loved church history, she decided to go for it. She then went on to pursue her master’s degree in American Lutheranism, at Luther Seminary, followed by her Ph.D. in Church History. Although this is a career for her, Dr. Hequet is a Christian who enjoys spreading the word of God and is happily enjoying living through her faith.

Dr. Hequet says that majority of her classes are with students who have no desire to learn about Christianity. However, she enjoys the diversity at Concordia which allows room for many discussions. She enjoys enlightening her students with her knowledge on Christianity. Dr. Hequet believes that it is important for everybody to know something about Christianity, and have an accurate perception of it. She also believes that once you allow yourself to receive an accurate perception of Christianity, the Holy Spirit will come in and do what God wills. This is one of the beautiful aspects of Christianity Dr. Hequet embraces.

Some of Dr. Hequet’s favorite relaxation past times include swimming, reading, writing, and taking walks. In 2009, Dr. Hequet published the book The 1541 Colloquy at Regensburg: In Pursuit of Church Unity. She has traveled around the world, including to Israel, Europe, Denmark, and London. Dr. Hequet currently lives in St. Paul, is married to her college sweetheart, and has one son. She is very content with where she is in her career and enjoys taking life one day at a time. Dr. Hequet encourages all her students to "work to their strengths and keep in mind of all your hopes and dreams."
Student Senate
An Update

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a fantastic and relaxing winter break. Student Senate is getting back into motion and kicking off with the committees and some proposals. There are also many new projects coming into fruition in Student Senate recently. The new constitution for the student body and the new club communication system, Comet's Calendar, are the most recent projects to be completed recently. Both of these projects should be in full swing by the beginning of February or soon thereafter. In the not-so-distant future, another event from Senate to look out for is Day at the Capitol, which is coming up on April 3rd. It's a great opportunity to spend the day exploring the Capitol and meeting some local representatives. Along with Senate, C.A.B. has also been in full swing with their successful first event of the semester, the Winter Formal. Expect more great events from C.A.B. in the coming semester and send in any proposals you want done to Senate so we can make Concordia the best place for students.

It's a Slam Dunk - Don’t Drive Drunk
Concordia Athletes Star in Award-Winning Video Against Drunk Driving

By Seth Wehrs

Drunk driving is a huge problem in the United States, with over one million people getting arrested every year. In Minnesota alone, there were 28,418 people arrested on the charge of drunk driving in 2012. These arrests, along with the 3,837 alcohol related motor vehicle accidents, have cost Minnesota tax payers roughly $627 million. According to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving website, the number of drunk drivers in the US is so high that one out of every three people will be involved in a motor vehicle accident involving a drunk driver during their lifetime. A majority of drunk drivers are between the ages of 21 and 25, with men being almost twice as likely to drive drunk as women. The state of Minnesota is working to reduce these numbers through various techniques such as requiring ignition locks for repeat offenders and first-time offenders with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of over .16, increasing the penalties for driving while intoxicated with a child in the vehicle, and utilizing Administrative License Revocation (meaning that the arresting officer can immediately confiscate the offender's drivers license), but there is still much that can be done. This is why the NCAA and NSIC host a video contest each year to promote their safe driving and the utilization of designated drivers campaign. After the death of Drake Bigler, the five-year old son of Southwest Minnesota State's men's head basketball coach, in a drunk driving accident, the NSIC decided to get more involved. This campaign, which goes by the title "It's a Slam Dunk, Don't Drive Drunk", encourages students to make good choices and avoid driving while intoxicated. Each year, various colleges make 30 to 60 second videos to underscore the theme. After they are submitted, the videos are judged on Overall Impact, Creativity, Memorable Content, and Delivery and Clear Message, and a winner is selected. This year, the video created by the CSP Student-athlete Advisory Committee won first place and will be featured during the NSIC/Sanford Health Basketball quarterfinals, semifinals, and championship, which will take place from March 1st to the 4th in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The winning video was announced on January 14th, via the NSIC Twitter page. Concordia's winning video, which can be found on the athletic website and Facebook page, featured many recognizable student-athletes and was a huge success. "It was effective and to the point," said Bryan Elyea-Wheeler, a sophomore and pole-vaulter for the Concordia track team, "It was a funny way to state a simple message. You wouldn't tee a shot or dribble a football, so why drive drunk?" The video contest is not the only way that the NSIC is stepping up to combat drunk driving. During the month of February, each NSIC Student-athlete Advisory Committee will host a booth at their arena where they will encourage those in attendance to sign a pledge card not to drive drunk. All those willing to make the pledge will receive a keychain with the words "It's a Slam Dunk - Don't Drive Drunk", as well Bigler's name, inscribed on them. Choosing whether or not to drive drunk is a matter of common sense. There is never any reason to get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle if you have been consuming alcohol. Make the choice, stay alive, and don't run the risk of injuring or killing anyone else.
Leaping for Success
Elyea-Wheeler's Pole Vaulting Takes Track Team to New Heights

By Jake Loftus

When most people think of track and field, they often think of athletes running on oval-shaped tracks and jumping over hurdles, when in reality there is much more to track and field. From the high jumps, to shot put, to javelin throwing, and sprints, there are many areas in this program. One of the exciting fields of this sport is the pole vault, and one of Concordia’s high jumping vaulters is sophomore Bryan Elyea-Wheeler. “My job is to get as high over the pole as possible,” says Elyea-Wheeler on his duties and responsibilities it takes to be a member of the pole vault team. “The skills that are needed are to be fast, be strong, and be a little crazy. The right amount of crazy is needed with a good mindset in order to fly in the air over the crossbar. Technique is very important as well; there are several details and little things that can go right and wrong with technique, but I am very blessed to have great coaches to help with that.”

There are many different events at track meets for the respective areas the athletes compete in. As Elyea-Wheeler pointed out, his area is quite unique to the others, and he explained the role of many positions. “Pole vaulters are definitely a different breed. Sprinters have the mindset of going all out, hurdlers have the mindset of getting over hurdles as fast as they can, distance is about pacing and having the right kick, etc. For pole vaulters, the focus at the meet is to just get your butt in gear with a clear mindset be under control and jump as high as possible. Many little things could go wrong in pole vault so it is hard not to worry about your grip, your mid, your take off, the pole, the standards, and your run length. So the pole vault mindset takes a certain type of person in order to do it and do it well.” Elyea-Wheeler went on to say that if possible, pole vaulters can participate in sprints, but they tend to strictly specialize in pole vaulting.

While Elyea-Wheeler takes pride in his abilities in pole vaulting, as well as his improvements in his field, he was quick to praise his track teammates, including his fellow pole vaulter Brent Gustafson. “He’s a beast; we both should be going to nationals this year. He knows how to tear it up.” He also points out other teammates who specialize in other fields. “Alyssa Christianson has probably beaten every single women’s sprint record we have and seems to break a record each meet. Nic Rudolph is a beast long distance runner; he is very fun to watch because of his late kicks at the end of his races.” He goes on to praise some of the new members of the team. “Erica Young is doing well in her first year as a multi-athlete; she has a lot of potential to great things. We have several new members on the team that have a lot of potential and we are just getting started. I look forward to the end of the indoor season and seeing how many points we score at conference. Coach [Sam] Johnson has done a great job expanding this team and preparing us for success.” Without a doubt, this is a fun team to watch.

Dirt, Sod, and Clay, Oh My.
Baseball Preview

By Tony Kohanek

It’s about that time a year again where baseball players all over this country are dusting off their ball caps, replacing cleats, breaking in their new or old gloves, and getting ready to play baseball. It might be a while before any actual baseball is played in snowy Minnesota, but that never seems to put a damper on all the hype leading up to America’s pastime. The Concordia University Golden Bears baseball team is ready for the coming season to start.

Coming off a 20–16 season last year and losing nine seniors after the end of the season leaves open roster spots and a good margin to improve in the record area. The team has recruited 11 new freshmen for the upcoming season and a handful of transfers including Brooks Beline, a Division-I catcher from Western Michigan University who comes to play his senior season with the Golden Bears and hopefully have a positive impact on the team this season with his experience behind the plate.

Mark “Lunch” McKenzie is going into this 15th year as the head coach for the Golden Bears baseball team. He has the second longest tenured head coach at CU right behind head cross-country coach Jonathan Breitbarth, who is in his 16th year as head coach. In 2003 and 2008 Coach Mackenzie won the NSIC conference tournament, and in 2008 made an NCAA tournament appearance. In 2005 he was named the NSIC coach of the year with a record of 29–12 overall and 17–5 in conference play. In 2009 their team held the school win record with 35 wins and 18 losses.

The season’s schedule has the Golden Bears travelling to Arizona at the beginning of March for a baseball tournament. After seven days of home games, they head out on the road for six double–header days. The schedule should allow for less traveling so often and minimize jet leg and provide for better performance out of the players.
Male Athlete of the Month

Cordell Smith

By: Charles Hines

"You are not athletic enough to play High School football or basketball." These words were said to a young Cordell Smith while growing up in Mequon, WI. They motivated him to become a starter for both of those teams he was told he would not be playing on. "You do not have to skill set to play at the collegiate level in either sport." Different words but with the same meaning and all the motivation Smith needed to be a starting wide receiver (#23) for the football team and starting guard (#12) for the basketball team. He is currently in his fourth year at Concordia and is on track to finish his degree in sports management.

"No answers are completely right or wrong when dealing with opinion type questions; it is all about your values and judgments" offered Smith. "You have to use your brain because the answer is not given to you." This is something that was learned on the academic side, but there is also the athletic side of the equation. "You must work hard off the field. Put the time in the video room and weight room. You have to master your craft if you want to succeed." This is what Smith has done and learned while being a student-athlete at Concordia.

As a senior and someone who has been doubted by a few people in his life, Smith has these words of wisdom: "Never let anyone tell you what you can or cannot do. Believe in yourself and follow your dreams. Put the work in and you can accomplish anything. Have confidence in yourself."

"Off the field, I like my Xbox One and reading," stated Smith, "and I love hanging out with my two nephews in California whenever I get the chance." The boys are two and ten months old and he sees them whenever he can, but they have visited their Uncle Cordell at Concordia. Not being close to family can be hard but Smith has learned a lot during his four years at the university.

Smith has a few goals for the future and the immediate goal is to play professional sports after college. His long term goals are to be able to provide for his family and to be an athletic director or coach at the collegiate level. People have told him he has no chance of achieving his immediate goal of being a professional athlete, but he has the drive to shake off those familiar words.

Men's Basketball

Building Team Chemistry to Finish the Season Strong

By: Charles Hines

The men's basketball season is coming to a close with only a few games left until the start of the conference tournament. The team got off to a hot start with a 2-1 record, but then the losses started piling up. No one can pinpoint the reasons for the losses, but some of the main contributors are lack of team chemistry in the beginning and loss of confidence due to close losses in the early part of the season. "Our defense was strong but the offense struggled at the start," stated senior guard Cordell Smith. "Now our offense is strong and the defense is struggling." These are trials and tribulations of a team trying to find their identity and play consistently at all times.

The roster is filled with talented players at all positions and the coach uses an eight to nine man rotation. The team keeps most of the games close but streaky shooting lets the other teams go on scoring runs that put score out of reach. The starting line-up has changed continuously to provide the best possible matchups for the team and it is starting to work out well.

All the teams in the conference participate in the end of season tournament and the winners get an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. One of the goals of the team is to make the NCAA tournament and the easiest way to do that is win the conference tournament. "We are trying to get on the winning side of play and be strong at the end of the year to make a run at the conference title," said Smith. This happened last year and there is nothing to say it cannot happen again this year.

There are only a few games left and with the team playing well, the opportunities are limitless. The level of play has improved and the confidence is high on the squad. Let's hope this leads the team to great finish to the year.
Female Athlete of the Month

Rachel Hansen

By: Lauren Erath

“I want to stay in the athletic-type field.” said Rachel Hansen, senior and guard for CSP’s women’s basketball team. “What I’m planning to do with my degree is go into physical therapy and hopefully work with athletes.” Hansen majors in Kinesiology and Exercise Science.

Hansen has played basketball since age six. “Both my parents played,” she explained. “I just kind of developed a love for it growing up.” Basketball continued contributing to Hansen’s life through traveling leagues and her high school team, teaching her useful skills and lessons. “It brings out different characteristics and strengthens different parts of who I am,” she said. “I had an injury in high school that sidelined me for six months,” she recalled. The injury taught her to persevere through tough times, and “keep up the determination and the hard work when nobody’s watching.”

Recently, Hansen scored her 1000th point for her college basketball career. However, she does not focus on her own achievements. “I want the team to be successful and win,” she said. “The individual things will come.” Hansen focuses on helping her team through leading by example. “I’m not the most vocal person,” she admitted. “I’m kind of the quiet leader,” Hansen added that she will speak up when necessary.

As point guard, Hansen enjoys making decisions for her team. “I like handling the ball and helping my teammates find open shots,” she expressed. “Winning a championship would be the ultimate goal,” Hansen said concerning her team. “Being my last year I’m trying to make the most of it.” With this comes plenty of stress. “There is a lot of expectations, especially being a senior,” Hansen explained, “but I like it.” Hansen plans to graduate this spring and prepare for graduate school. As an athlete and student, Hansen relies on time management for success. “It takes a lot of time management,” she stated, “and making sure I’m staying on top of my classes and know what’s due when.” She also emphasized knowing when she’d have to make up assignments after traveling to games and the need to communicate with her professors.

Despite pressure from basketball and classes, Hansen finds ways to have fun with friends and teammates—sometimes through pranks. “I pull pranks a lot,” she confided. “I have this fake bug that I sometimes get people with. It’s a cockroach.” “I usually have a lot of energy,” she said. “My teammates are sometimes like, ‘Calm down a little bit,’ but I just like to have a good time and work hard and enjoy what I’m doing and enjoy it with the people that I’m with.”

Thinking over her college career in basketball, Hansen said, “It’s been a long journey but it’s been a lot of fun. It’s crazy to think that it’s kind of winding down, me being a senior. All the hard work and the effort and the long hours and the practices—it’s definitely been worth it.”

Women’s Basketball

Fighting for First in the Conference

By: Charles Hines

The women’s basketball season is coming to a close with only a few games left until the start of the conference tournament. The team got off to a slow start due to multiple injuries, but has since been playing well. The coach has an eight or nine women rotation that plays most of the game and they employ a matchup type of defensive strategy. With a team comprised mostly of juniors—all but six players—Coach Paul Fessler has to approach the games in a certain way. “Defense is what keeps our team in most games,” stated Coach Fessler, “and offensively we are mostly ground and pound.” The team is guard heavy, but the coach leans mostly on the shoulders of two players. Senior guard Rachel Hansen (#11) and junior forward Anika Whiting (#40) are the go-to players on the roster.

There is the possibility of getting an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, which is always the goal of every season. There are currently six teams vying for three slots from the conference to make the tournament, but the conference winner gets an automatic bid. The team would like to do major damage during the playoffs and get the automatic NCAA bid. The goal is to peak at tournament time and have the momentum going into tournament. The focus of the team is getting better at the right time, and team chemistry is at its best at the moment.

The overall goal of every season is to have a better team at the end of the year than you had at the beginning of the year, and this team is reaching those goals. “The players are working hard and taking instructions very well,” confirmed Coach Fessler. “All the coaches are pleased by the progress being made.” Regardless of how the last few games turn out, the objective is to go into the conference tournament feeling confident and coming out with an automatic berth into the NCAA tournament.
Art Student Spotlight

Derek Bressler

By Anna Paulson

Senior Derek Bressler has been an artist ever since someone handed him his first coloring book. His love for art springs from “two things: the freedom of creativity, and the personal feeling that I get from expressing myself. There’s a release that comes with that, and you feel better accomplishing something you’ve had in your head for a while.” Passionate, adventurous, and inquisitive, Bressler desires to combine his Graphic Design major with his interest in business and open his own design firm someday, “where more people can get a benefit from it than just me.” For now, Bressler stays active in the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) club, participates in as many art-related classes as possible, and works hard on his design portfolio.

Bressler draws inspiration from friends and “my family, definitely, especially my mom. If I mention I want to try something, she’ll surprise me with tools to try it. It’s great to have that support.” As for other artists, Bressler admires Ed Templeton. “He does photography, fine arts, paintings, and he also runs a skateboard company—between being a professional artist and business owner and all self-taught, I find a lot of inspiration in that.” As a former student at the College of Visual Arts that unfortunately closed, Bressler “followed John [DuFresne] here because I wanted some consistency in the chaos of everything, and I’m really glad I did because it’s a very comfortable environment here. Everyone’s nice.”

Besides art, Bressler enjoys anything mechanical. “I just picked up a motorcycle that I need to fix up. I recently acquired a sailboat, so I need to learn how to sail!” To other undergraduate students, Bressler advises with a laugh to “work harder than I did and pay attention. Appreciate the small things.”

Cate Vermeland

An Artist’s Quest to Find Voice in a Technological World

By Samantha Huet

“As a typical day of distractions, preoccupations, absent-mindedness, and multi-tasking unfolds, I do, on occasion, experience moments of clarity. These moments of awareness punctuate the ‘everydayness’ of life as I see the world around me with new eyes.”

“My photographs are observations of this heightened awareness. They describe the way light and shadow converges on and animates a subject. What may have gone unnoticed yesterday makes itself known today. My work seeks to call attention to these transient, impermanent aspects of life. My work is not so much about the thing I photograph but rather how it appears at this moment in time, with this slant of light or from this perspective.” Cate Vermeland, Artist Statement.

My first encounter with Cate Vermeland was only a few weeks ago, when she asked me the stifling question that is still floating around my mind; “What runs through your blood?” This was after she explained to our class that photography runs through her, from the obscure turned tasteful scent of darkroom chemicals to the many adaptations she has made to keep up with the changing world of photography since her passion began at the age of 12. Photography running through Vermeland’s blood is a metaphor, but it’s a question that we as human beings must truly ask ourselves to stay grounded in the fast-paced world we live in.

Vermeland received her MFA from the University of Minnesota in 1993 with an emphasis in photography. She has been teaching art at Concordia for the past 10 years. Much has changed in the realm of photography considering that at the time Vermeland entered the professional world photography was not at a reasonably economical reach for most people. Today we can all relate to the world of digital technology, because cameras are accessible at our fingertips constantly through our cell phones.

Despite that finding your niche in a world full of photographers can seem like an impossible task, Vermeland has been consistently discovering her voice through learning and keeping up with the digital route photography has taken as well as the skills and qualities her students bring to her classroom. A desire to capture unseen moments of beauty in everyday life while keeping up with the fresh subset cell phones bring to photography is why she presents to us the Spring a Mobile Upload series. The series consists of photographs she has taken on her cell phone over the past four years of day-to-day living.

The Mobile Upload series is a part of the faculty art showcase, which had its debut on Jan. 23 and will be showcased in the Concordia Gallery until Feb. 19. Vermeland also has another exhibit nearing which will showcase what she calls her Workers Series. The show will open in the H. Williams Teaching Gallery on February 27 and will last until March 7. Her work will continue to be exhibited in the Buetow Music Gallery from March until April. This collection of photographs is Vermeland’s way of expressing to us that there are always workers around us; some are doing work for an audience while some are simply just “doing work” despite not having an audience. The Workers Series exhibition has been funded by the Faculty Development Award, which was a grant honored to Vermeland by Concordia University.

“Many of us are told to ‘follow our bliss.’ If you are lucky, you will love what you do for a living. If you are like many, you will have some good days and some bad days, some sick days and some holidays. The ‘work’ in this exhibition puts our attention on the work of our lives that so often goes un-noticed.” Cate Vermeland, Artist Statement.

Despite the sometimes difficulty of finding your voice, the journey can be both inspiring and rewarding. Vermeland showcases not only what runs through her blood through her photographs, but also what goes unseen on a day-to-day basis by thousands of people around us. Keeping up with the digital route technology has taken has allowed Vermeland to capture moments efficiently that may have otherwise gone unnoticed.
Food Review

Mancini's Char House: Traditional Italian Dining with an Old School Twist

By Micha Niebuhr

I come from Texas, so I love steak. When I say that Mancini's Char House is the single best steak I have ever had in my entire life, I am not joking. The steak almost melts in your mouth, it's that good. I had the New York Strip which is a 12-ounce piece of magic. Seriously, the steak was above and beyond any steak that I have eaten in my life. They serve multiple cuts of steak as well as some select seafood options.

Mancini's has an atmosphere like I have never felt before. From the moment that you enter, to the moment that you leave, you feel like you have entered a 1950's dinner club and it's huge. Manicini's has multiple dining rooms so there is always a place to sit. It seems like this place spans an entire block. There is a feeling of being fully immersed in the past, almost as if you have left 2014 and gone back in time. It's something that you almost have to experience for yourself.

Mancini's offers a unique approach to the high end dining world. The two owners walk around the restaurant and interact with the customers like they've known them for years. You get this very homey, welcoming experience. It's more like you went to grandma's house for a family dinner rather than going out to a restaurant. The family atmosphere is a welcoming touch to the dining experience that I find absolutely refreshing.

The only drawback is the price. Mancini's is a bit expensive. The price ranges from the low twenties to the low fifties, but the quality and portioning far outweigh the price, making Mancini's the perfect place to impress your date with an unmatched dinner experience.

With Valentine's Day coming up, this is the perfect place to bring that special someone out on a date they won't soon forget. Otherwise, just come out and enjoy live music Wednesday through Saturday.

Mancini's is modeled after the style of the 1950's Italian speakeasy, so you are getting authentic Italian steak and seafood, the best music from the time period, and an unmatched atmosphere that makes you feel like you truly are a part of the Mancini family.

Do you like to Write? Are you in Photography or Design?

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THE SWORD

Meeting are every Wednesday from 5:30-6:00 in Luther 119. For more information, contact Jay Weiler at weilerj@csp.edu.
The Best Things in Life are Free
Teresa Schier's Voice Recital

By Hayley Bahnemann

Free is always good, especially when you are poor college student. Well, what if Concordia offered recitals, concerts, and other activities for free? Well, they already do that, and many of these activities are unknown to the average student. Some of these free activities are student recitals; they take place multiple times a semester and there are both vocal and instrumental versions of it. This month Teresa (Resa) Schier is hosting her voice recital on Friday, February 28 at 7 P.M. in the Buetow auditorium.

Schier has been taking voice lessons since she was in high school, but has been singing in choirs and other groups since she was young. Outside of Concordia, she said, “I am the section leader in the choir at St. Paul-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church. I just started there in September and it’s a really nice break from all the serious work I do here at Concordia. Other than that, I’m definitely a car and shower singer.” This performance is definitely not a performance for the car.

Through “a collaboration with [her] voice teacher, Monica Murray, over the last six months” she was able to select her strongest work to perform. “I will be singing a variety of different pieces in different languages by composers such as Debussy, Britten, Mahler, and Barber,” said. Schier. If you cannot attend this event, don’t worry because there will be “my Senior Theater Capstone in April. It’s going to be the polar opposite of this event, so if you can make both you will be able to see all the crazy stuff I’ve been doing the last four years at Concordia. Both will be really great events and both will be free.”

Recitals are a great way to come out and support fellow students as well as experience new parts of the school that you may not have known existed. Schier’s recital will not disappoint and, if you need another motivator to attend let Schier tell you herself: “You should come to my recital because it’s my last here at Concordia! It is also going to have a great variety of music, and there will be really good desserts at the reception.” What could be better than free food and good music?

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Sudoku
**I, Frankenstein Movie Review**

By Lauren Erath

Frankenstein (Aaron Eckhart), after 200 years, still struggles with his identity—particularly his name. Though he is offered several suggestions (against his will), “Adam” and “It” do not satisfy his special identity crisis. However, regaining the scientific journal of his creator, Victor Frankenstein, might explain his existence. Then again, aligning with gargoyle guardians to defeat a legion of demons might be more helpful—if the gargoyles can decide whether to kill him or not.

For cinematic quality, *I, Frankenstein* wins a full Sword. The trail­­ers seem deceptively fake but the movie is well filmed and uses convincing animation. It also has an artistic style depicting the battle of good and evil with powerful color contrasts. Although beams of light for good souls and falling ball of fire for evil souls when they depart seems clichéd, *I, Frankenstein* manages to express them in a unique way that gives them a positive impact on the audience. This is because the ascending souls of gargoyles show a desire to remain alive. Their deaths become tragic rather than upsettingly happy. Meanwhile, the spiraling fireballs express the demon’s pain and forced surrender as they are cast into hell.

In the engagement category, the film earns another full Sword. The characters and plot were interesting and the movie kept a good pace. Its combination of action and unique perspective proved impressive. *I, Frankenstein* collects half a Sword for acting. Aaron Eckhart did well as the lonely, intelligent monster. This, however, is not enough to earn a full Sword. Bill Nighy, evil as ever, made an exceptionally eerie demon prince, yet did not outdo any of his other villainous roles. Miranda Otto also did not impress beyond expectation, although she made a very archaic gargoyle. Had two of these actors expanded the limits of their talent, the movie would have easily earned a whole Sword.

For plot, this peculiar picture gains a full Sword. This may seem surprising at first, since Frankenstein is an exhausted topic, but the movie expresses it from such a unique and well-thought angle that it brings new life to the story. Just as the monster’s combined parts, though not originally his, became something new, so does this remake of the popular tale. In overall performance, the film receives half a Sword. It is wonderfully unique, well made, and entertaining.

With 4 ¼ Swords, *I, Frankenstein* is a surprisingly original creation thanks to its rather shocking (how could anyone avoid that pun in a situation like this?) perspective and storyline.

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**Valentine’s Crossword**

By Lauren Erath

**ACROSS**

1. A sweet gift usually wrapped in shiny paper  
4. Romantic attraction  
8. That special girl  
10. Mostly naked baby with bow and arrow  
12. The main Valentine’s Day color  
13. Not in a relationship

**DOWN**

1. There in the heart-shaped box  
2. Delicate white card decorations  
3. That special guy  
5. Beating body part  
6. Classic, cuddly Valentine’s Day present  
7. Will you be my ___?  
9. Red flowers — please remove the thorns  
11. A common Valentine’s Day color
Valentine’s Word Search

By Rebecca McDermeit

Valentine  Movie  Amor
Candy  Romance  Cards
DinnerLove  Kiss  Date
Lace  Cupid  Couple
Sweet  Gift  Red
Heart  Flowers  Rose
Chocolate  Pink

What are we looking at?

He took Valentine's to literally. He tried to give his heart away.

By Anyia Bender