By Kathryn Renolds

A highly anticipated event at Concordia, St. Paul, the Poehler Faith and Learning Lecture Series is intended to demonstrate how students and instructors in the various colleges have incorporated their Christian faith into their academics and designated field of study. The lecture series was named after Willy August Poehler who served as President of the University from 1946 to 1970. Based on the maturity of their Christian faith, as well as excellence achieved within their scholarly area, staff members are selected to speak at this honorable event each spring.

As a professor of music at Concordia University since 1989, as well as a distinguished leader in the field of choral music, Dr. David Mennicke, delivered the 13th annual Poehler Lecture on March 20th. The event, held in the Graebner Memorial Chapel, was well attended by students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The high number of individuals in attendance was a true testament to the influence of Dr. Mennicke’s musical ability, inspiring Christian faith, and high level of respect he has earned here on campus.

The lecture titled “When in Our Music God is Glorified: Trinitarian Reflections on Music, Faith and Learning” reflected the power of threes in music. For example, a chord composed of three individual notes joins together to create a beautiful sound. This idea of three also represents the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Dr. Mennicke stressed the importance of music in bringing praise to God, as it offers power and intimate connection. He went on to address various famous musical pieces to demonstrate how different tonalities and composing styles can interpret different messages as to how we comprehend God. This portion of the lecture also covered influential theologians such as Martin Luther and their belief on the importance of music in worship.
Dear Concordia faculty, staff, students, and community members,

The last big project of my undergraduate career is finished, and I have to admit, it is a huge relief. This past Saturday, fellow senior Chris Anderson and I had our joint senior recital, and it went better than either of us could have imagined. It truly was the culmination of our combined nine years of post-secondary musical education, and I’m still riding the high that came from putting on such a successful performance.

Maybe I shouldn’t be surprised that it went so well. After all, I’ve been practicing the same six pieces since November (Chris has had some of his pieces for a few years). The amount of time that we spent in the practice rooms over the past six months—and especially the past two weeks—is obscene. We truly were prepared to perform to the highest of our abilities. My surprise and elation comes from a different place. We all go through moments in our life that we build up and work towards, yet too often those moments seem to fall short of our own expectations, even if everything went according to plan. Call it business as usual. I’m sure there are a handful of graduating seniors feeling this way: graduating college is certainly a big moment, but at some point it can seem merely like a stepping point to a higher goal. It’s easy to forget that certain milestones truly are achievements.

In a similar fashion, I’ve had multiple musical performances that I expected to be seminal moments in my life that ended up being just another show. It was a strange feeling to finish “Song of ’Almah”—our last piece of the evening—and immediately feel a sense of achievement and significance that has not faded over the past few days. Maybe it was the large amount of family and friends in attendance. Maybe it was the musical repertoire we selected that pushed the boundaries of our limits. Or maybe I have finally learned that “business as usual” isn’t always.

Cheers,

Jay Weiler
Editor-in-Chief
The Gorgeous Unknown
Two Students' Study Abroad Experiences and Why You Should Go Too

By Anna Paulson

For sophomores Megan Nelson and Josh Smith, study abroad began with an interest in culture. "I've always been interested in Spanish culture," explained Nelson. "I just like their liveliness; everything is so colorful." Smith wanted to learn more about his Irish roots. After meeting with advisors in the C.A.L.L. Center, Nelson and Smith tackled one of the hardest parts of the process: deciding exactly where to go. Finally, Smith picked Galway, Ireland, while Nelson chose Barcelona, Spain, after Google-imaging different places. "I've always really loved extravagant things, and Barcelona was nothing but that," Nelson said with a smile. Nelson's interest in the Spanish language also prompted her to choose a place where she could practice and develop her linguistic skills.

Besides providing an exciting opportunity to engage a different culture, study abroad sets students apart by increasing their responsibility, confidence, and awareness. "It makes you stand out," said C.A.L.L. Center advisor Kate Larson. With a program to guide them, Nelson and Smith thrived in their new environments. Smith recalled that the scariest part was flying to a country where he did not know anyone, but he quickly made friends. His program supervisor led several excursions to popular sites in Ireland, like the beautiful Cliffs of Moher and was always available for help. "You have someone to go to for anything that you need," said Smith. Nelson said she had best friends within the first week. She pointed out, "I don't think it has to do with a person's personality. Everyone's so excited to be there; you make friends instantly, even quiet people." Every weekend, Nelson and her group of friends traveled together, taking advantage of cheap plane tickets to cities like Rome, Paris, and Venice.

Smith and Nelson highly recommend study abroad to students. "Definitely, 110%," said Smith. "I want to go again." Nelson advised, "If it even crosses your mind, you should. I couldn't ever underestimate how much I learned about myself and how much better of a person I am. I can say with confidence that any person can benefit from it." Interested students should schedule an appointment with an advisor in the C.A.L.L. Center. Larson recommends that students stop by as early as possible, preferably a year before they want to study abroad. If finances are a concern, Larson encourages students to stop by. "Don't let finances be the reason you can't study abroad," said Larson. "At least come to the office and find out what your options are, because there are options. We have very affordable programs." After all, Larson asked, "When else are you going to be able to do this? Life gets busy, so this is the time to do it."
Professor of the Month

Kim Flottemesch

By Charles Hines

Dr. Kim Flottemesch started her teaching career in the special education area because her brother had a learning disability, and she felt really drawn to this area. She received a teaching minor in communication studies and really started to like that aspect of studies. This was when Flottemesch decided to pursue her master’s degree in communication studies from North Dakota State, and later, she received her doctorate degree from the University of Idaho.

Flottemesch first joined Concordia in 2010 as adjunct faculty and later became a full time faculty member in 2012. She has 20 years of combined teaching experience at the junior high, high school, and post-secondary level. Previously, she was an associate professor of communication at Lewis Clark State College in Idaho (where she was voted “Best Faculty Member” by the student body for her teaching) and the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Her research interests include distance education, inter-ability communication, and educational pedagogy. Flottemesch has published articles in refereed academic journals such as Education Technology, Journal of Academic Leadership, and Northwest Passages and has co-authored two book chapters in the published book Strengthening Service and Learning in Teacher Education. Most recently, Flottemesch received an award for outstanding research by Allied Academies for her work “Learning Through Narratives: The Impact of Digital Storytelling on Intergenerational Relationships.”

When Flottemesch was asked about her favorite part of teaching, she replied, “My involvement with the students. I get as much from teaching as the students get from learning and it feels like communication is extremely relevant to people’s personal and professional lives. I teach the way that I would like to learn: straightforward learning in a way that you can understand. I like hands-on instructions, enforcing what you have learned through activities.”

This perspective leads Flottemesch to have a unique and agreeable style of teaching. “I’ve had four or more classes with Kim, and I really like her linear teaching style,” stated Alana Mosely, a graduating communications major. “She is able to break down complex theories in an understandable way. Plus, she’s very relatable and easy to get along with.”

One of her students had similar words of praise for his professor. “When it comes to Ms. Kim she elevates communication to another level,” said Demetrius Beaver, also a graduating communications major, “a level in which when you’re in her class you feel engaged with the lesson and theories.”

In her closing remarks, Flottemesch said, “I am passionate about communication studies because of its applied nature. When used well, it can really enhance someone’s life in either a professional or personal way.”

Student Senate Update

By Josh Eckstein

Hello everyone, it has been a while since the last Student Senate update, and we are still going strong as the semester goes on. CAB had a wonderful turnout at the Blood Drive from earlier in February, and thanks to all of you that donated. Be sure to look out for the upcoming CAB event, CSP’s Got Talent, which is coming up on April 2nd, and the winner will get to perform at Knollapalooza in May. In light of the recent decision that CSP will no longer provide laptops for every student, Student Senate came up with some questions to ask the university in order to get a clearer understanding on how it will affect students. If you want to voice your opinion on this decision (or any other topic on campus), feel free to contact a student senator and we will make sure your voice is heard.

Since the last Senate Update, we have approved the budget for the future Art Club mural project that will eventually be up in the tunnel connecting Luther Hall to the Art Building. Student Senate has also completed updating and revising the Constitution of the Student Association (which you are a part of). It is currently being re-read by all the senators and will be approved soon so that you can eventually vote on it in the near future. Another event that is coming up quickly is the Day at the Capitol on April 3rd. It will start in the BEC with a light breakfast and then move on to the Capitol to meet the representatives in this area. Any student who attends will be excused from classes from the day, and lunch will be provided as well. Be on the lookout for any information regarding signing up if you are interested.

Also, the process for elections of next year’s Student Senate Executive Board is currently underway! Be sure to be aware of who is running for what position, and make sure to vote when the time comes.

We hope you are enjoying the arrival of spring!
Swing and It's Gone!
Concordia Softball Looks for Return Trip to NSIC Tournament

By Tony Kohanek

The Concordia University Softball team's season is finally starting, and the women will have their first opportunity to play at Concordia at Carlander Field on April 9 against Winona State, assuming the weather holds up.

As of March 24, the girls softball team has played in three different tournaments, one in St. Cloud, one in Florida, and one in Missouri. The Golden Bears lost all of their games in the St. Cloud tournament. In Florida, they won two out of nine and had two of the games canceled. After this, the team was off to Missouri, where they picked up their fourth and fifth wins of the season.

By Lauren Eroth

Forget the quiet claps, CSP's golf season will be too exciting for that—according to junior-year golfer Andrea Dwyer. "I can't stress enough on how this season is going to be good," Dwyer said. She also added that golf matches are more intense and lively than people expect. "They say on TV it's like watching paint dry," Dwyer said. "But in reality, when you watch in person it flies by." Dwyer also revealed that fans are free to cheer on their teams. "You don't have to be quiet when you watch. A true-hearted golfer won't let voices or birds or cars interrupt them."

Although snow still coats CSP's campus, the boys and girls golf teams have already participated in a tournament. It took place in Missouri during Spring Break, during which sophomore Rachel Gray finished in 4th place with a score of 80. However, the tournament was not an official Division II event so it will not count for or against the Golden Bear's record. Even so, Dwyer said it was a good experience that helped the teams learn what they need to improve and practice before upcoming matches. "We got that tournament out of the way so now we have nothing but to kill," Dwyer said.

The Golden Bear golfers have plenty of chances to "kill" in their upcoming invites including ones in Omaha Nebraska (April 6-7), Sioux Falls South Dakota (April 12-13), and Waterloo Iowa (April 26-27). Although the locations make it difficult for fans to attend the events, they have an opportunity to cheer for the Golden Bear teams during the Central Region Championship which CSP will be hosting at Tartan Park in Lake Elmo, Minnesota (May 3-6). Students can use this chance to test their golf-course cry. "If we hit a shot and it is really good and you clap and scream, power to you," Dwyer said. "That does not only boost my confidence but it gives you your freedom as well." This does not mean the teams lack confidence. Regarding the girls' team, Dwyer said, "Students should be expecting to hear a lot about us. We have a big chance of making it past regions to nationals."

One source of the teams' confidence comes from powerful bonds between the athletes. "We call ourselves the Big Golf Family or the CU Bear Family," Dwyer explained. "I consider the guys my older brothers and I consider my girls my sisters." Although the teams already have a "Big" family, they encourage fans to join them on the course. "Not many people have really watched a match and I think it would be really interesting if people actually came out and watched," Dwyer said. "I'd love it."

If students cannot make it to the teams' matches, but still want to support their Golden Bear golfers, they can keep track of the teams' progress on their blog site at http://cugolf.blogspot.com, where the golfers and coaches write about their season experiences and post pictures and videos. For those preferring Twitter, they can follow at CU Golf @GoldenBearGolf. The teams also have a fan page on Facebook which students can access at www.facebook.com/cugoldenbearGolfTeam.
Female Athlete of the Month

By Tony Kohanek

For the month of March, the female athlete of the month goes to senior softball utility player, Bekah Roth. Roth, originally from Shoreview, MN and a graduate of Mounds View High School, started playing softball 17 years ago. She learned to love the game from her family; her dad was in a police officers’ softball league, and her older sister played for the University of North Dakota. Roth saw great success during her high school career. During her final season with the Mustangs, she held a career batting average of .583 which was the second highest in the state of Minnesota. She also won academic honors every year she played as well as being named to the all-section and all-conference teams. 

During her freshman season at Concordia, Roth started in 24 games at second base. She had a batting average of .389, led the team with nine doubles, and went two-for-three in stolen bases before an injury cut her season short.

Roth’s sophomore season went a lot better as she started all 56 games at second base. During her second season, she had a batting average of .222 and would hit four home runs, good for fourth on the team. 

In her junior season, she started all 45 games for the Golden Bears at the second base. She was fifth on the team with a .315 batting average and a .362 on-base percentage, and she led the team with seven home runs and tied the team with 34 RBIs (runs batted in). 

This year, Roth is currently hitting a .323 batting average with one homerun and 19 RBI’s. According to Roth, the team is looking good this year. Team chemistry is great as all the players know each other and are friends on and off the field. It is a young squad, so we will just have to see how the year pans out.

Male Athlete of the Month

By Ren Souvannasoth

Back-to-back Athlete of the Week awards was enough to earn Mike Cullen our athlete of the Month spotlight. Cullen, a thrower on the track team set school records in both the shot put and the weight throw on February 22. The junior’s marks were 15.93m and 15.74m, respectively. After falling short of the results he had been hoping for earlier in the season this success meant a lot to him. “Being able to have a huge performance at this meet gave me confidence going into conference,” said Cullen. “It was also a huge plus that it just so happened to be two school records in one day.”

At the NSIC Indoor championships on March 1st, Cullen was able to qualify provisionally for nationals in the shot put. He was pleased with his showing. “Even though it was under my PR, for the second time I qualified provisionally for nationals,” he said. “It felt nice to consistently hit over that mark and score points for the team at conference.” With a mark of 15.3 in the shot put Cullen was able to contribute four points to the team’s 9th place effort. 

Cullen’s collegiate career has not always gone this smoothly. His first love was football, and he was recruited by Concordia to be a defensive lineman on the football team. However, he had to deal with injury problems in his freshman year on the football team. After two surgeries and a broken ankle, he thought his athletic career was over. With football no longer an option, Cullen was able to focus all his attention on track and field. He has a very positive view of everything that happened. Cullen said of his experiences, “Looking back on it, I believe it was a blessing in disguise. Through all the hardship that I have gone through in my life I now have a firm belief that God only gives you as much as you can handle, and that is the motto that I live my life by.”

Throwing has always been a part of Cullen’s athletic experience and he credits others for much of his achievements. “The success that I have earned so far is due to hard work and perseverance, but the majority of my accomplishments have happened because of the dedicated throwing coaches I have had since 6th grade through high school and now in college, and I also would not be where I am without the support of my family and close friends.”

Looking forward, Cullen and the rest of the track and field team are working toward their outdoor conference meet on May 9th. Cullen’s individual goals are to “hit the provisional mark in the shot put for the outdoor season, as well as place high in the conference meet for shot and try and work my way onto the podium for discus and hammer.”

Cullen is grateful for the opportunity to remain in a team environment and talks about taking a leadership role: “As a captain I will do anything to help the team in a positive manner.” Whether it is football, track, or the next challenge he faces, Cullen has proven that no matter the arena, he will work hard to succeed.
The Most Wonderful Time of the Year
CSP Baseball Heats Up

By Kathryn Reynolds

Spring is rapidly approaching, and with spring, comes baseball. The Concordia Golden Bears Baseball team spent their spring break participating in the 2014 Tucson Invitational. They hit the field to play their first regular season game of the season in Tucson, Arizona on March 9th. Because of the demolition of the Metrodome in February, the Golden Bears were unable to start their preseason games as early in the season as they have in the past. Taking full advantage of the luxurious facility and warm climate, the Golden Bears were given the opportunity to play against local rival conference teams such as Southwest Minnesota State University and Bemidji State University, as well as teams from other conferences such as California State University - San Bernardino, Missouri Valley College, Northern State University (S.D.) and Malone University in Ohio.

By the end of the week, Concordia had started their season off with an exciting 8-2 record, as well as breaking two Concordia University Baseball records as a team. Continuing their hot streak during their first game against Dordt College on Wednesday, the Golden Bears took home a win with a notable score of 18-6. In addition to the high scoring win, the boys drew an impressive new record of 19 walks. Elliot Powell led with five walks, the most known walks in the program's history to be obtained in a single game by one player. Hitting fifth in the order, Powell went 1-1 with two runs and an RBI. In the first five games he had a .609 on base percentage with no strikeouts, and had drawn ten walks. The team continued on their strong spring break trip to set another new record of hits per game, racking up 26 hits, including five for extra bases in their game against Bemidji State on Saturday morning. Junior Kyle Dalton continued his hitting streak to 16 games, going 3-5 along with five RBI and a walk. They went on to defeat Bemidji 20-3, finishing in seven innings due to the point margin. The trip was not all work, no play, however. The guys were able to enjoy their location and participate in some scenic sight-seeing and team bonding after practice by climbing Mt. Lemmon, located in the Coronado National Forest just north of Tucson.

After such a successful week in Tucson, the Golden Bears look forward to the start of what looks like to be a promising 2014 season.

April Sudoku

5 3 1 2 8 9
4
8 4 3 6

2 9 8 7
2
6 8 1 7
9
4

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By Elisabeth Coats

There has been a growing excitement within Concordia’s Christus Chorus as they prepare for their national tour to Texas. The choir has been embarking on Holy Week tours since 1995. Dr. David Mennicke, the current director of Christus Chorus, recalls that in 2009 the choir set out on tour over spring break “because of the way the calendar fell.” Mennicke said, “Students vastly preferred the Holy Week tour. It was more meaningful for them.” Mennicke selects musical works that are appropriate for Holy Week. Embarking on a tour over Easter break aligns very well with the choir’s name, which translates to ‘chorus of Christ’.

The Holy Week tours have greatly impacted CSP’s music department. “It gives us a strong focus on the promise statement ‘Christ is honored,’” declared Mennicke. The repertoire that Christus sings is primarily Christian with a few secular pieces added as well. Having the choir prepare all year long for a Holy Week tour helps bring more of a spiritual definition to the work that not only Christus Chorus has done, but everyone involved in the music department.

In Mennicke’s twenty-five years of work and devotion to Concordia, he has developed a rotation in deciding where the choir goes from year to year. “We alternate years between a flying and driving tour. Every four years is an international tour and a short tour helps bring more of a spiritual definition to the work that not only Christus Chorus has done, but everyone involved in the music department.”

The week after Easter Break, the choir has a chance to settle into the home show and complete the experience of the tour. Dr. Mennicke calls this show "dessert... everything is really learned and solid, and it is very fun to do [the concert] for your family and friends." This year’s homecoming show will be Friday, April 25th at 7:30 P.M. in the Graebner Memorial Chapel. This event is free for all and is one not to be missed. Dr. Mennicke and the Christus Chorus will surely be excited to share their gifts of music after a successful Holy Week tour.

By Meredith Wagner

Over the first few days of Spring Break, Concordia’s Concert Band went on its first out-of-state tour in over 20 years. The trip consisted of stops in Albert Lea, MN; Kansas City, MO; Omaha, NE; and Sioux Falls, SD Monday evening. The group arrived back in St. Paul on Tuesday morning. They played in a different LCMS church in every city, and three times at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Kansas City (one evening concert, two church services the following morning). Oboe player Karina Schlect accurately touched on few different aspects of the trip as she said, “I loved how much we grew as a band throughout the tour. Our music improved tremendously, and a lot of friendships were formed and strengthened. As far as free time goes, I loved the beautiful weather we had in Kansas City and Omaha. Playing ultimate frisbee (without coats or shoes!) was definitely a highlight for me.”

The trip was a great community-building opportunity for the entire group of musicians. During the average school week, the band has two one-hour practice times on Monday and Wednesday which are spent practicing music, leaving little time for much social interactions or relationship building. Fortunately, there is nothing like spending approximately 12 hours on a bus together over a period of 4 days to start building some relationships and give a feeling of community. There were many learning opportunities throughout the trip, as well as a few teaching opportunities. Throughout the trip, the band improved exponentially in their playing abilities, and was able to make the music they played more dynamic as time went on. The teaching opportunity was in Omaha on Monday morning, when the band met up with Concordia Lutheran High School. The group of high school and college musicians had a chance to play through a couple of the high school’s music pieces under the guidance of the Concordia University Concert Band conductor, Professor Aaron Isakson. "I was surprised at the level of difficulty that the [high school] band was playing at, but it was really neat to be able to play along with them; it made the hour we played together go by really fast," remarked Andrea Timm, an alto saxophone player.

A break from traveling and playing was provided with free time on Saturday and Monday afternoon in Kansas City and Omaha, respectively. In Kansas City, students were dropped at Zona Rosa, an outdoor mall and restaurant center. It consisted of a lot of shops that can be found in Minnesota, but nonetheless, it was nice to have leisure time to stroll around and take in the scenery. In Omaha, students had the choice of going to the Henry Doorly Zoo or the Omaha Old Market District. Both places were said to be great fun, and part of that had to do with the weather, which was a beautiful 65 degrees and sunny. The Old Market is an area of cobblestone streets lined with unique shops and restaurants. The host families said it has a great night-life scene, which unfortunately the band did not get to participate in. The zoo was also a hit, with a great indoor tropical rainforest, huge aquarium, and an impressive glass dome that housed their desert plants and animals exhibit.

Overall, the tour was a great success. As always, there were things that worked well, and other things that could use some improvement. However, it was a wonderful opportunity to build social relationships within the band and make the students better musicians as a whole.
By Hayley Bahnemann

"The overall theme of concealed abundance emerged from the process of changing the identity of the recycled materials to create nature inspired forms." This is the background for Latent Profusion, the senior show of Samantha Huntley, which ran from March 20 to March 30 in the H. Williams Teaching Gallery in the art building.

When Huntley was a young girl, she was not sure what exactly she wanted to be. "I knew I wanted to be in a field where I could be creative," she said. "At one point when I was young I said I wanted to be an artist, but I'm not sure I knew exactly what that looked like." This thought never went away. Even though she has switched majors a few times, all of her ideas revolved around art as an option. She started as a community art major, switched to an art education major, and then realized she wanted to be in the studio more often and switched to studio art major.

"I still feel the same way about becoming an artist today," said Huntley. "I don't have an exact idea of what sort of setting I want to work in, but I know that studying art has pushed me to be open to anything. I was initially hesitant to pursue art because of the broad career field that an art degree could apply to but I couldn't stop myself from taking classes, and I don't want to be limited to a specific career path because of my degree."

Growing up, Huntley was a daydreamer and art was always a part of her wardrobe, drawings, singing, acting, or storytelling. She took various art classes throughout her community and eventually became very involved in performing arts through choir and musicals. Once in college, the love for visual arts resurfaced and she rekindled her love for sculpture and creating large physical objects. Huntley spends most of her time on campus in the studio, rarely venturing out but when off campus she volunteers at the Cedar Cultural Center and grooves to new types of music. She also likes to be outside and she has a job at a camp in Hudson, WI where she works with children and teaches outdoor education and team building.

Huntley said, "If you are a student in the Twin Cities you should go to art openings, because it is a great way to get off campus and expand your sense of community. Looking at and experiencing art is a big part of what inspires my work, and I think if more people found the time to look at and experience art they would find it enhances their life and passions." The overall theme for Huntley's senior show Latent Profusion "emerged from the process of changing the identity of the recycled materials to create nature inspired forms. My work for the show explores organic forms through the use of recycled materials in multiplicity." Huntley also said, "It is really cool to be able to have a whole gallery as a senior to exhibit my work. There aren't many schools that do that. I think, like many universities in the United States, the art department is underrated and underfunded compared to other departments. It is a shame that art is not value in our country the way it should be. Luckily Concordia is starting to make some changes in the art department that are really boosting the program closer to where it should be."

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Divergent: From Book to Screen

By Hayley Bahnemann

Picking a major is probably the most stressful part of a college student's experience, but what would happen if a decision of that magnitude was made at sixteen? In Veronica Roth's thrilling series, Divergent, sixteen year olds take an aptitude test that should tell them where they "fit" in society.

Rather than choosing a career, Beatrice Prior and her brother Caleb are forced to choose which of the five factions they want to live in--Abnegation, the selfless; Amity, the peaceful; Candor, the honest; Dauntless, the brave; or Erudite, the intelligent—and this decision could ultimately mean they could leave their family, and the only life they have known, behind.

"I'm not even sixteen, I'm nineteen and obviously I don't know where I should go for the rest of my life, let alone a sixteen year old wouldn't know," said Ansel Elgort, the actor playing Caleb. "That's why it's a super flawed system."

In the first book of the series, Beatrice switches factions after finding out that she is divergent—she doesn't fit into one specific faction, she could belong in several. Upon hearing this, Beatrice learns that she can never tell anyone she is divergent, for fear of being killed. As the story goes on, Beatrice (nicknamed Tris) faces many different obstacles and is forced to make decisions that no sixteen-year-old should have to make.

On March 5, 2014 author Veronica Roth and Elgort, made an appearance at the Mall of America; they took "selfies" with fans, signed books and posters, and answered a few questions on the red carpet. After this, they let some lucky fans and a few reporters watch an advanced screening of the movie. For fans of the series, this was probably the most anticipated part of the evening.

The following day, Roth and Elgort participated in a round table discussion with a select group of reporters. Roth is only twenty-five-years-old and came up with the idea for this series while a freshman in college, although it was not written down until four years later. Elgort, while promoting his new film The Fault in Our Stars (based on the book by John Green) coming out in early June, will begin filming Insurgent, the sequel to Divergent, in May or June. This movie premiered on March 21 and has been doing rather well because viewers can relate to Tris's struggle to fit in and the aptitude tests she and the other characters have to take. A person of any age range from an 8th grade boy struggling to get good grades to a college senior figuring out how to survive on her own can enjoy this book and relate to the themes and the struggles on their own level.
By Meredith Wagner

"No, I didn’t spell it wrong," sassily claimed Elisabeth Coats, a sophomore theatre and dance student, as she talks about the spelling of her name. Even though she is a political science major with two minors in psychology and dance, Coats still manages to put in quite a bit of time in theatre department activities. At Concordia alone, she has performed in six on-stage productions, including The Robber Bridegroom (fall 2012), Spring into Dance (spring 2013) and The Drowsy Chaperone (fall 2013), as well as multiple Open Stage nights.

"I did my first musical in 5th grade at a church/community theatre production, and I loved it. I love being on stage, and I have wanted to continue in my performance endeavors ever since then," remarked Coats.

The recent production of Taming of the Shrew was a huge hit for the 20-year-old actress, as Shakespeare is her favorite playwright. "I really enjoy Shakespeare, because the language (and at times, the ambiguity of said language) lends itself to so many creative liberties; it can be pushed and pulled in so many ways and it has certainly stood the test of time, because we are still fascinated with the robust characters and twisting plotlines he created," she said.

Coats' favorite show of all time has been Rent, which was a school-edition of Rent she participated in during her freshman year of high school. "It was a really heavy play for high-schoolers to take on, but I went to a performing arts high school, which was willing to try and produce more daring plays with its students," she said. "I was very intimidated at first. Throughout the performance, I learned a lot about myself as a performer, how to interact with others in a theatre setting, and overall, it made a large impact on me to be in a show with that has such meaning.

Coats also started doing more in her dance career in the beginning of high school. "I started officially dancing my freshman year of high school and it all kind of took off from there," she said with her trademark shrug. She first started with musical theatre dance, and progressed through various genres until she landed on modern dance. "That's when I really fell in love," she exclaimed. "There is always something new to learn in modern dance style. I feel that I learn the most by watching and participating in other choreographers dances, everyone has their own signature moves."

Recently, she has been working on choreography for the second annual "Spring into Dance" concert, in which this will be her second year choreographing and dancing in and for the show. "This year’s dance will be the largest number of people I have ever choreographed a dance for," Coats said. The piece she choreographed, titled "War Again," has eighteen total dancers and is a mix of traditional African and modern dance set to a driven, catchy, and high energy beat.

"I love choreographing," she said as she reflected on last year’s experience with "Spring into Dance." "I have not felt anything that excited in any other craft or activity that I do."

Needless to say, Coats is certainly someone worth watching as she works towards her goals and displays them on stage. She has a bright future ahead of her in the Concordia Theatre and Dance productions, and also in the professional world of performing arts.

By Kathryn Reynolds

Making the trip to Annie’s is almost a rite of passage for any college student in the Twin Cities. After a few years of listening to the hype regarding this dining experience, I finally decided to stop in and try it out for myself. A staple burger joint in the heart of Dinkytown, Annie’s Parlour has tailored directly to college students for years, particularly to students from the University of Minnesota. While street parking may not be completely ideal, I assure you that the trip to Annie’s will be worth your while.

Upon your arrival, climb up the stairs to the large room with big windows, be seated by friendly staff, and place your order. Annie’s does take reservations as well, which may not be a bad idea for late Friday or Saturday evening dining, especially if you plan to dine with a large group. For those of you too busy to dine in, take-out is also an option. The retro themed ambiance is made complete with red and white checkered tablecloths, patio seating featuring river and city views, and casual dimmed lighting. The atmosphere at Annie’s is perfect for any occasion, perhaps a date night or just hanging out with a group of friends. The environment is informal and low key, yet intimate, and a great place to relax and talk.

The menu offers tasty burgers, large orders of homemade seasoned fries ideal for sharing, and their famous malts, which I must say do not disappoint. For health conscious consumers who prefer something a bit lighter, the menu also provides options such as sandwiches, soup, or salad. Pricing is all within a very reasonable range of ten dollars or less, making this venue even more desirable to students and young adults. Don’t let the pricing and atmosphere fool you, however, as this restaurant is appropriate and can be enjoyed by all ages.

Pleasantly, Annie’s proved to be everything I have heard it to be, offering a college friendly location, and quality food for the price paid. As I said before, you need to go if for no other reason than to say that you have had fries and malt at Annie’s Parlour. You will feel better; it’s truly a unique place. It is your duty as a college student in St. Paul to take advantage of all the fun opportunities the cities have to offer. Enjoy.
In this slaughter-filled sequel to 300, Themistocles (Sullivan Stapleton) strives to unite Greece against the Persians and form a Greek democracy. Outnumbered against Xerxes' naval fleet, headed by the Greek-detesting Artemisia (Eva Green), Themistocles relies on ingenious battle tactics to diminish Artemisia's ships and warriors. However, he can succeed only if Sparta joins him. As Sparta mourns the loss of their 300 soldiers, Themistocles and his men are forced to stain the ocean red and are running out of "dye". This may have something to do with the unbelievable cascades of blood that burst from every wound.

300: Rise of an Empire earns (if not exceeds—but that is not possible) a full Sword for cinematic quality. The color contrasts were fantastic—quite literally. Bright reds against white, overcast skies and crisp visuals clearer than possible united to create a world with entrancing glamor and gore. This contrast between sparkling wealth and the filthy battlegrounds kept the eyes engaged throughout the film. Every scene was picturesque, regardless of the terribly dark or gruesome situations it depicted. Plus it utilized plenty of red—who does not like red? And there is an abundance of fire, because everyone is a pyromaniac.

The film also gains a full Sword for engagement. Themes like freedom versus dominion, unity against selfishness, and the conflict between courage and compromised safety immersed viewers in an emotional whirlpool while ships sank in bloody and fire-coated water. The movie did well in switching between action-based and character-based scenes, which kept the audience entertained by the contrasting paces and plot focuses. Granted, it is difficult for people not to watch a movie with so many ways to kill people, most of them creatively unlikely.

For acting, 300: Rise of an Empire receives half a Sword. The acting supported the movie's plot and visual wonder, but did not equal it. However the acting did produce interesting and intense characters that increased the audiences' engagement, especially concerning Artemisia. Viewers cannot help but sympathize for her yet cannot wait to watch her die. Eva Green played Artemisia with impressive talent, especially regarding the tension between Artemisia and Themistocles. This climaxed (literally—spoiler ahead) with a powerfully symbolic sex scene representing their desire for each other versus their need for victory.

Concerning plot, the movie reaps half a Sword because it altered the results of historical facts and relied heavily on violence (although it was relevant to the storyline). Let creative-freedom pout in the corner in this case, because historical accuracy has a more substantial effect on the audience regarding war stories.

Finally, for overall performance, this motion picture wins a full Sword. The combination of artistic visuals, creative characters, and clever battle scenes creates an entertaining and thought-provoking experience that proves sequels can be successful. With an added fantastical tone, the impossible becomes fact in the audiences' imagination.

With 4 out of 5 Swords 300: Rise of an Empire is surprisingly successful, blatantly bloody, and pleasantly picturesque. So see it, unless you have strong movie-morals. Then it may scar your soul.
College Recipes

Hard Boiled Egg Bunnies

By Annya Bender

Easter is around the corner, and that means Easter eggs are going to be prevalent. Now, biology tells us that bunnies do not come from eggs, but that does not mean that you cannot make eggs into bunnies. Here is a very simple way to make your festive Easter eggs into festive bunnies.

First, you will need a sharp knife and something to cut on. You will also need the egg to be hard boiled. The dining hall as well as the commons often sells de-shelled hard boiled eggs for $1.50 if you are without the means to make them yourself. If desired, you can also use cloves for detailing.

If you need to boil your eggs yourself, simply fill a pot with enough water that the eggs float. Bring the water to a rolling boil with the eggs already in the water. Let it boil for 12 minutes then let them cool.

If the egg is not pre-pealed, then remove the shell and rinse it to remove any fragments left behind. Next you will need to cut off a chunk of the side of the egg, about an eighth of an inch. After you do that, cut the smaller piece in half, length-wise. These will serve as the ears of your bunny. Place the larger portion of the egg so that the cut side is on the plate and cut a notch in the top about three a third of the way down and insert the “ears”. Just like that your bunny is complete. You may need to alter the notch for the ears a bit to get them to lay right, and if you want, you can use whole cloves to make a face for your Easter bunny.

Book Review

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

By Meredith Wagner

"I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975." With this beginning sentence, Khaled Hosseini pulls you into his first book, The Kite Runner, a novel about the life of a growing boy, Amir. The characters Hosseini creates give the real story of Afghanistan. Through the protagonist's gradually maturing eyes, the reader is introduced to a life changing story that will stay with them forever, even when The Kite Runner is finished and put back on the shelf.

From the beginning, this story is told from the view of Amir, a young boy growing up in the war-torn country of Afghanistan. The first part of the book is about Amir's childhood: his privileged, funny, and sometimes heart breaking up-bringing. As Amir is just becoming a man, calamity strikes, both in Amir's personal life and in the Afghanistan government. Because of these circumstances, he and his father are forced to abandon their home and move to America. They end up settling in San Francisco, where life in a miniscule apartment in a bad part of town is a stark change from the wealthy existence they enjoyed in Afghanistan. As the years pass, Amir begins to live the American dream and life is good to him. The beginning of the end comes when he goes back to his homeland and his life is drastically changed once again.

This book affected me in many ways. It was a somewhat bitter-sweet wake-up but also an incredible story of what had happened in the Middle East and to what is still happening today. For me, and I expect many other readers as well, the book was hard to read because of the very nature of the story and the somewhat terrifying situations the author described throughout the book. The Kite Runner was also an amazing book because of the characters Hosseini created. Some favorites were Hassan, Amir's best friend, and Rahim Kahn, the business partner of Amir's father, but also a more compassionate father-figure for him. Both play significant roles in Amir's life, and influence him in ways that no other characters can. From them and the rest of the characters in the book I learned that you can never forget the past, and eventually you learn to embrace it, because it is essential to what you have and will become.

I would recommend this book to mature readers looking for a mind-snarling and at times heart-wrenching book. It was an amazing novel, because everyone who has read the book has a different perspective of the significance of Amir's story. The Kite Runner is the kind of book that can be reread many times and never becomes old.
Spring into Dance 2014
Concordia to host 2nd annual dance show

By Meredith Wagner

The Concordia Theatre and Dance department will soon host their second annual “Spring into Dance” production. It will consist of several different dance pieces, showcasing both student and faculty choreography. Professor of Dance Jan Puffer is the main organizer and creator of the Spring into Dance show. “I initially got the inspiration for Spring into Dance four years ago with the installment of a dance minor option into the department’s curriculum,” said Puffer. “My choreographer classes were so wonderful, so I wanted to give them a chance to really showcase their dances.”

Thus, the production of the Spring into Dance show starts with student choreographers auditioning their pieces to Puffer, who then decides who will be able to have actual dancers audition in their piece. “I make the decision after I have watched the choreographer dance through a short example of their dance and listened to the music they have chosen,” she said. However, choreographers are not only chosen because of their dance moves. “I also ask them about their plans for teaching the piece, the mood or theme they want for the piece, and dancing experience. The choreography class is not required, but it is always helpful to have taken it.”

Once the choreographers are chosen, they hold their own open auditions to find dancers. The dancers are put through an eight count section of the dance they are auditioning, first following along with the choreographer in front of them, and then once or twice by themselves. Post auditions, all of the choreographers gather in the dance studio and hash out who wants whom in which piece. It is always a struggle to schedule rehearsal times that have to incorporate many different busy schedules. “This is definitely the most trying part of the entire show, even the rehearsals,” lamented Puffer. “All of the students are so busy.”

This year, the dance show choreographers include Elisabeth Coats, Quang Nguyen, Christina Miller, Jordyn Joens, Corey Ledin, Kristina Van Duesen, and of course, Jan Puffer. “The choreographers are wonderful. They are great at what they do, and are so dedicated and happy to see their hard work and planning come to life,” said Puffer. Each piece is an original creation, and a wide range of dance genres will be showcased throughout the production: jazz, modern, hip-hop, ballet, tap, and musical theater-esque will all be given a go. “I am really proud of how diverse our production is going to be. It makes it more enjoyable for the choreographers, dancers, and audience alike,” said Puffer.

The show will be put on May 1-4, with 7:30 P.M. shows on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and 2:00 P.M. on Sunday. “The amount of commitment and self-expression the dancers and choreographers have put into the show is wonderful and satisfying for me to see,” concluded Puffer.
Easter Crossword

By Lauren Erath

ACROSS
1. If your room is a mess you might want to try some spring ___ mini eggs (they are made of chocolate)
2. A little yellow bird that tweets
4. Sugar-coated marshmallows in the shape of birds
5. These black and yellow bugs prey on pollen
7. This creature gives you painted eggs and candy, but no one knows why
8. flowers bring
10. Bring may flowers (2 words)
12. Before the flowers and grass appear, your shoes will get coated with this
16. This green plant is a much-needed ground replacement for snow
18. A light purple flower growing from tall bushes

DOWN
1. Most people expect this big brown piece of candy in their Easter Baskets (2 words)
3. Spring is great, unless this keeps you sneezing
6. Contrary to this Thanksgiving reference, May Flowers do not bring ___
9. If you fall for a trick on April 1st you are called a ___
11. April 1st is full of them
14. Where you keep your Easter eggs
15. Instead of snow, the ground will be full of this collection of H2O
17. This green plant is a much-needed ground replacement for snow

April Word Search

By Tara Rupiper

c a g e d k s c r s j c t s a l o g t g
p n g r m l m e p u l e i s s e r s t a
g n p e e e l u r u t h s j l j m l l
s r l e u c l s r s a n u l o g i u l
l o r o r i k t l o g s u n s k g d n b
b p i s r n l r i t o i e s r e w o l f
e o d p a c a i c n t f o h e s y f s e
e f a r e i u a g u g l r i d l a f e f
o u p u n p b e e h b b m n o g d a e o
s a m b h g l o m g r e s e e g s d s s
s t o b a p l r r g g p a g p t l u u s
s w o e r b h s e e d s b i e o o c w p
s e i r r e b w a r t s s r i n o k s s
b l s b m e l r d e b u t t e r f l y u
s p r o l s i r t i u t e t u l p s
i r d o r c p b a s g a r d e n i n g i
r u g t n a u l u a o g c b k i r g s n
n p n s g n i a e l c g n r p s r s
l r a i n d r o p s e s i p j a a n n o
j d s y a y e f y t h p n s w u a i r e

Easter
Melting
Eggs
Splash
Easter Bunny
Sunshine
Green
Tulips
Rainbows
Ducklings
Seeds
Pink
Gardening
Purple
Daffodils
Candy
Roses
April
Easter Egg Hunt

Jokes
Jesus
Butterfly
Raindrops
Bees
Umbrella
Rubber Boots
Flowers
Sun
Picnic
Spring Cleaning
Puddles
Blossoms
Storms
April Fools Day
Strawberries
Pranks
By Anyia Bender

We need to hide the eggs better this year.
Those darn humans keep finding them.