Keeping Concordia Looking Good
CSP Grounds

By Seth Wehrs

6:30 AM, Monday, December 10th.

Two students in Hoist Hall wake up, bundle up, and are out the door twenty minutes later. They walk across campus in the dark, noticing only the snow on the ground and the overflowing garbage cans. Who are these students? They are the first shift of the CSP Grounds crew. Monday through Friday from 7:00 in the morning to 3:00 in the afternoon, the grounds crew can be seen outside making sure that our campus looks the best it possibly can.

In addition to student workers, there are also two full-time employees, Mark Lambert and Nick Vikstrom. Mark has been a full-time employee with Grounds for seven years. As a full-time employee, he "supervises student workers, keeps the operations manager up to date on ongoing projects, makes purchases and keeps expense reports, and designs landscapes and plans annual flower beds." All while also working as a full-time student in the Concordia post-grad program to earn his Masters in Business Administration.

Grounds crew is a year-round job, which employs students both during the school year and throughout the summer months. During the summer months, Grounds is responsible for the care and upkeep of everything outside. This includes picking up litter, mowing grass, weed whipping, changing garbages, fixing the irrigation systems, and most noticeably, landscaping. Over the course of last summer, Grounds landscaped between the music and theater buildings, between Luther and the art building, the middle of parking lot B, and all around the new Thompson Hall. "The work we did over the summer was the toil of people who care." Said sophomore Micah Niebuhr "People who want the places we walk, the places we talk with friends, and the places that we travel everyday to look the best that they could for you, the students of Concordia."

During the winter, the main focus of the Grounds crew is keeping ice and snow off of sidewalks and out of parking lots. According to second-year grounds crew worker and Concordia Sophomore David Marshall "We spend a lot of time during the winter shoveling and putting down salt to get rid of ice. This is especially important right away in the morning, because we do everything we can to have the sidewalks clear before students start going to class." Even when it is below zero and classes are canceled, the Grounds crew does not get the day off. Last year, even on the days when the windchill was around negative 60 degrees, these dedicated student workers could be seen outside clearing ice and snow. "Winter 2013 was a rough one," said another second year Grounds crew worker. "With any luck it won't get nearly as cold this year. It seemed that no matter how many layers I wore I could never stay warm. Heck, I'd even take more snow over that crazy level of cold. It was just ridiculous. This year has been better so far, but it's early in the winter yet."

Grounds crew is one of the more difficult student jobs on campus, and it requires much hard work and dedication. So if you see students outside with shovels and salt, take the time to thank them. Believe me, they appreciate it.
Dear Concordia faculty, staff, students, and community members,

This is the final issue of The Sword for 2014. It is also finals time and lots of studying for most of the students. I will now give you two life lessons about finals that have always been true for me. If you are just now starting to study for your finals, then you are way behind the power curve. Do not overvalue or get so wrapped up into studying that you forget about life. You really need balance to be at your best. These are not absolutes but I have heard from many that this is what worked best for them. It also worked best for me when I was doing my finals and making A’s in every subject (please do not try to confirm this with anyone)!

During this semester, we have covered many events and campus concerns in our articles. We try our best to always cover what concerns the audience the most, but we would also like to hear from you if you have any ideas that you think would be newspaper worthy. My editors and staff would gladly consider any idea for an article and work diligently to present the article in the best way possible.

Finally, many of you are going home to be with family and friends during this holiday season. Try not to leave everything behind after you finish that last exam and rush to hit the highway. Be safe and make sure you are well rested before you drive. If you are not driving, still be safe because we would like all of you back for spring semester in great spirit and health. Study hard and enjoy traveling grace.

Enjoy the Holidays,
Charles Hines
Editor-in-Chief
ARTS-Us: Concordia’s Community Partnership

By Karina Schlect

The Buener Education Center is used for many events that students are not a part of or even aware of, one example being a Gala and Fundraiser for ARTS-Us that took place in September. Dr. Cheryl Chatman serves on the board for ARTS-Us, a community-based organization that works to develop youth leaders in and through the arts, and she saw a need for volunteers to help serve food so that the program did not have to pay for the service, thereby helping them keep more of the money they raised at the Gala. Seven Concordia students stepped up to help out, and according to Dr. Chatman, “we went above and beyond the call of duty” by not just serving food, but busing tables, staying for the event, listening to and participating in the program, and helping with clean up at the end of the night.

These students, pictured here, are (left to right): Jacquelyn Smith (Sodexo staff), Yeeleeng Thao, Bert Lee, Mohamed Malim, Dr. Cheryl Chatman (ARTS-Us board member and Concordia faculty), Chue Yang, Asha Thao, and not pictured is Morgan Perkins. Asha Thao said of the experience, “Volunteering at the ARTS-Us dinner was so fun! It was great to see such accomplished, hard-working professionals who were so passionate about the arts and the future successes of youth.”

While the ARTS-Us program may be unfamiliar to many on campus, Concordia has been partnered with them since their founding in 1992, when a visual artist was brought in for their first event in our very own Bueener Auditorium and schools and community members were all invited to attend. Since then, Concordia has been essential in providing space for events like the Gala as well as for their entire summer program, “Camp Teranga: An EnviroArt Summer Experience.” The math department at Concordia has also been involved in recent years in sending interns over to work with them on the business end of things.

Rob Krueger, the chair of the Department of Mathematics, works with the director at ARTS-Us to make sure the needs of the site are being met through the internship, as well as the needs and goals of the student interns. “We built this relationship with them to provide interns to help them with their computer programs, balancing their finances, and other ideas,” Krueger explains, “I tell math majors that you need to be able to add to your repertoire of skills.” The internship at ARTS-Us allows students to build their resume — for example, if a student has strong accounting skills, they may design projects to help build up their computer skills. This is different than other internships in that there is not a set amount of work; instead, it is very open-ended and challenges students to come up with things that will be helpful for ARTS-Us as a program.

Another way Concordia has been involved in this program is through Professor Kristin Bransford’s Child and Adolescent Psychology course. Though she has not sent students over to ARTS-Us for service learning in the last couple years, for many years she assigned her students to partner up and spend a total of five hours together volunteering at the Dunning House, where the after school program is now held, creating activities for students and interacting with them. Professor Bransford worked closely with the director to come up with a planning form for students to use when creating their lessons to help build communication between the students and the program as well to help students reflect on their experience after the fact.

Concordia’s long history with the ARTS-Us program has continued to evolve over the years. While the psychology class isn’t going over anymore, a brand new connection was made this year through the community garden. The current director, Kristin Fisher, explained that their five-week summer program for about 80 neighborhood children includes gardening and nutrition classes in the Dunning Garden, but “by September the summer program is over and the garden produces without attention.” She expressed her gratitude to the group from Concordia that noticed the dilemma and “turned our jungle into a manageable garden!” The Community Arts class taught by Cate Vermeland initiated this project.

Toni Carter founded the program in 1992 and was serving as a member and chair of the Saint Paul Board of Education at the time as well, though she has since been elected to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. Around the time of this program’s inception, Carter had three children in the Saint Paul Public School system, and she wanted to do something with her life that connected with her children in a way that would “help them build their futures and the other young people in the community around them.” The arts, particularly performing arts, were a passion of hers and an interest of those in the community, and she connected this to her objective of helping kids who were not yet reaching their full potentials.

One of the first big events put on by ARTS-Us was a storytelling event — at Concordia, Saint Paul. Professor Bransford recalled that Concordia students participated in and helped with the event: “It was really exciting that our students learned about the power of storytelling through the ARTS-Us director, and helped with the storytelling process but also really learned a lot about that process. It was very powerful.” And this is just another example of just how community-oriented education-focused the program is. Dr. Chatman mentioned in kind support provided for ARTS-Us youth and family programs by Ramsey County’s Sheriff and Workforce Solutions, City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department and the Saint Paul Public Schools. 

“This is a true model for community between agencies,” and the partnership between ARTS-Us and Concordia is valued by all involved.
Concordia Promise

By Katrina Bell

Everyone is welcome at Concordia and there is a place for everyone, no matter their race, gender or age. Embracing the diversity of Concordia, along with those who inhabit these halls, comes with leaving the preconceived notions of where someone fits, and knowing that here at Concordia, everyone is welcome everywhere.

“Education will lead to encouragement; encouragement will lead to participation.” So says Lee Pao, the Director of the Center for Hmong Studies. Being the only campus to have a center for Hmong Studies, Concordia provides a place for hundreds of scholars to join together every other year in an international conference on Hmong Studies. Not only does the center allow a gathering of about 500 people, it is also open to the public who are able to view the exhibits, textiles, weapons, tools, and photos that describe life “in the homeland, as well as the U.S:” Currently, the CHUSA club frequents the center, but many students use it as a quiet place to eat lunch or study. Lee Pao would like everyone to know that the Center for Hmong Studies is open to anyone to visit, relax, hang out, or learn something new.

CSP ministry is in charge of the University Ministry Center (UMC), the lounge space next to the game room. Don’t let the name put you off; the UMC is open to anyone, no matter their religious affiliation. Shelly Schwalm, Director of Church Relations/CSP Ministry Associate spoke about the UMC. Although it is used for group meetings and face time for Pastor Tom and Shelly: “It is very much open to anyone. It embraces the diversity of Concordia, because Christ welcomes everyone. I think more students will feel more comfortable using the space as they learn that it’s there for them to use and that they are welcome.”

The International Student Services room is where the 132 international students on campus have access to the ITC, the International Tutoring Center, and answers to any questions they might have about their student visas and being here at Concordia. Also available is the specified prayer room, which is popular among students and open to anyone. Alongside a dedicated team of people that help these students, is Tiffanie Schneider, the International Student Advisor. “I think the students are really enjoying Concordia. The fact that it is such a diverse campus makes them [international students] feel welcome. This is a really exciting time for Concordia, to be working here with all the growth that is going on is great.”

Faculty Spotlight: Matt Ryan

By Cassie Shaw

The English Department at Concordia University, St. Paul is represented with a great amount of diversity in each professor’s educational background. One of those representatives is the known and loved Matt Ryan. Matthew Ryan was born on Jan 1st, 1968, in Marion, Indiana. He is the youngest of five children; three older sisters and one older brother. He graduated from Marion High in 1986, and then went on to Indiana University, where he majored in African American Studies with an emphasis in Literature. For his MFA (Master of Fine Arts), Matt went to Spalding University studying Fiction, and then received his JD (Juris Doctor), from Thomas Cooley School of Law. During his time in school, Matt met his wife, Mandy, and has now been married for 21 years. Mandy works in the interior design field at Pottery Barn. They have a daughter named Gretel that is 16 years old, and a son named Silas, who is 18 years old. Matt Ryan practiced law, in the Criminal Defense division for 6 years. “I did the best I could for my clients, but couldn’t always give them the decision they wanted.” Matt remembered. He soon discovered that he could not take the pain of losing judicial cases and seeing his clients face futures that they did not deserve. Eventually, it became too much to bear, and he left that chapter in his life and began a new journey.

Matt Ryan has been at Concordia for eleven years now, and loves every part of it. He teaches the Gen Eds, Creative Writing, as well as Persuasive Writing. “I love writing. It is a huge part of my life, and thus I enjoy teaching it,” said Matt. Continued on next page...
Thankful Past Thanksgiving

By Karina Schlect

Why, you may ask, am I wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving a month after the holiday has passed? Christmas is upon us in its usual tidal wave of tinsel and toy soldiers, drowning us in a flood of broken candy canes and tangled lights. We've been listening to Christmas music since the first of November and have finally put the pumpkin lattes to rest. It's a good thing we finally got Thanksgiving out of the way so we can move on to Christmas stuff.

Small interjection: I understand that not everyone celebrates Christmas. But our culture is saturated with the Christmas holiday and all the stuff that comes with it, and that stuff is what I am referring to in this article. Thinking about Christmas stuff, the first thing that often comes to mind is that all the “stuff” is bad. Many people expect a lecture at this point about “the reason for the season.” While I personally believe that the focus of Christmas should be on the birth of Jesus, I don't necessarily think the material aspect of Christmas is bad, and I am definitely not going to lecture you until you feel guilty for buying presents this year.

Giving gifts is a blessing to both the giver and the receiver. I love giving gifts; seeing the joy of the person opening the present that I so carefully picked out and wrapped just for them is a wonderful feeling. I cannot deny that I also enjoy getting presents, and really, could anybody deny that fact? Christmas is a perfect opportunity to get things for those close to you that they may not be able to afford themselves, or that is part of an inside joke that you both will think is end-of-the-world hilarious when it's opened, or any other of the multitude of reasons to give someone a gift.

No, the stuff isn’t what bothers me. What really troubles me about the passing of Thanksgiving into Christmas is that the thankful attitudes seem to be left behind along with the discarded turkey carcasses and empty cans of corn and cranberries. It’s so easy to get caught up in the Christmas tidal wave, but it is so important to use an attitude of gratitude to keep the craze of season in perspective.

So this Christmas, don’t forget to express your gratitude to the people in your life who have made an impact on you, who care for you, who are there for you, and who love you. Show that you are thankful for what you have by being generous with what you have. Keep that Thanksgiving attitude of gratitude through the Christmas season, and maybe even consider making it a New Year’s Resolution to focus on keeping a thankful heart into next semester. Happy thanks-giving, Concordia.

The Truth Behind the Wi-Fi

By Celene Paez

The Internet, something that we have all grown to depend on over the years, the moment when we can’t access what we want from it, be it for personal reasons or academic, the world around us seems to collapse. For a majority of the first semester at Concordia, this exact problem kept happening. The Wi-Fi was achingly slow, some students had no access at all. To help everyone understand what was happening, the IT Help Desk provided tier one support for repetitive problem reports to come in and provide tier one support for repetitive questions. For example, providing guidance with resetting a password, diagnosing issues or spyware, and helping install programs. When the Wi-Fi system shuts down there is only so much that the IT Help Desk can do to help solve the problem. The biggest help that the IT Help Desk provides when technology issues such as Wi-Fi issues occur is the ability to both gather information for technicians and to provide reassurance to the user that it is not an isolated incident to a single user, but more of a known campus issue, Breitbarth says.

Even with all this work put into the technology upgrade, there was still the possibility that something would go wrong. For several reasons Concordia’s Wi-Fi became unstable at the beginning of the year. The IT staff worked hard with the technicians from the vendors and manufacturers to get things right again. “An enterprise network is much more complex than a home wireless system. There are literally thousands of variables and possible causes. It simply takes time to narrow it down,” Breitbarth says. “When multiple variables enter the equation, it makes troubleshooting even more difficult.” In the end multiple small issues with the system were recovered and fixed along with some necessary upgrades. All this was achieved in a variety of ways including having the engineers on site and on day long phone calls. “[I] think Concordia’s longest phone call with an engineer was 12 hours,” said Breitbarth.

The IT Help Desk’s main job is to serve as a single place for problem reports to come in and provide tier one support for repetitive questions. For example, providing guidance with resetting a password, diagnosing issues or spyware, and helping install programs. When the Wi-Fi system shuts down there is only so much that the IT Help Desk can do to help solve the problem. “The biggest help that the IT Help Desk provides when technology issues such as Wi-Fi issues occur is the ability to both gather information for technicians and to provide reassurance to the user that it is not an isolated incident to a single user, but more of a known campus issue,” Breitbarth says.

At the end of the day, the technology changes to Concordia University will be in place for the next four years. As a result of taking the time to fix any issues that appear in the system now there will be less issues to fix later. As a final statement Breitbarth says, “Concordia University has officially ended all open work orders with manufacturers from the issues of this fall. We have had a stable network for several weeks. If users are experiencing issues, they need to report them to the Help Desk as they will be considered new cases.”

Through it all Matt has found a career that he truly loves and he has meaningful connections with his students. In his free time he actually enjoys his alone time, hard to believe though it is. When he is with his family he enjoys cooking. He likes that he can eat from every country and culture out of his kitchen. He is an amazing professor to have and will teach you all you need to know when it comes to writing.

...continued from page 4

Writing has always been a passion for Matt that he is able to share as a professor at Concordia University. His switch in career fields made a difference in his income, and many would ask why. He stated that, “Money wasn’t a huge motivator to me, as long as I have enough money for beer, pizza, and a book, I’m good. I don’t need a Jaguar.”
Female Athlete of the Month
Alexandra Duxbury

By Celene Paez

The season for fall sports has come and gone, leaving winter sports to fill the empty space. What better way to end this year’s fall season than with the honoring of a fall sport player? The female athlete of the month for the December issue is the volleyball team’s freshmen defensive specialist, Alexandra Duxbury.

There are many roles to play on a volleyball court, each one as equally important as the next. As a defensive specialist Duxbury’s job was to dig up the balls and receive incoming passes. This meant that if the opposing team spiked the ball her job was to “dig” the ball and get it into play. Likewise, if the opposing team had a particularly good server the team would potentially look to Duxbury to receive the ball and get it into play. Her motivation when playing comes down to a quote by Mia Hamm, “Somewhere behind the athlete you’ve become and the hours of practice and the coaches who have pushed you is a little girl who fell in love with the game and never looked back... play for her.”

Duxbury first started playing volleyball in the first grade. She often went to the gym with her mother, who had been the head coach for a varsity volleyball team. This led Duxbury to fall in love volleyball. She soon came to admire the members of her mother’s varsity team and wanted to grow up to be just like them.

She began to play the game of volleyball because she purely loved the sport and nothing made her happier than playing volleyball. It didn’t matter if it was practice or a game, Duxbury just wanted to play. Duxbury is 19 years old and has been attending Concordia University since the second semester of last year. She did not attend as a PSEO student, however, but as a full-time student. This happened simply because she worked hard and graduated High School early. Duxbury is currently majoring in kinesiology and strives to become a nutritionist and a volleyball coach. For her, it was the feeling of being at home that Concordia’s professors and students gave Duxbury which led her to choose to attend school here at Concordia. Another big factor was Concordia’s fantastic volleyball program. “[I knew] I wanted to play for a winning program,” says Duxbury, “I wanted to be coached by the best and you cannot find better coaches than Brady and George.”

When Duxbury isn’t studying for school or playing volleyball her favorite pastime is spending time with her family and friends. Her advice to her fellow students at Concordia is, “... stay focused and always believe in yourself no matter what other people think about you. The only way you will be successful is if you stay confident and take care of your job on the court.”

Snow, Cold, Ice, and Basketball?
Men’s basketball is heating up under new coach

By Tony Kohanek

The snow has come at last and while the temperature continues to drop in the cold state of Minnesota, things are heating up in the Gangelhoff Center as the men’s basketball team and new coach Joey James kick off their season. Joey James is in his second year as head coach and first year here at Concordia University St. Paul after spending last year as interim head coach at South Dakota after Dave Boots retired.

The team started the regular season in the 2014 Las Vegas Tip off Tournament on November 14th with a loss against Emporia state 52-61. The team would come back the next day with a 62-59 win over Lindenwood to finish the tipoff tournament with a 1-1 record. Team was happy with the win; however, they felt like the loss to Emporia was given to them based on the team’s 22 turnovers, which makes the average for the two games 18 turnovers a game. However, according to Coach James, defensively the team is doing well, keeping opponents to fewer than 40 shots on goal per game. Coach James goes on to talk about the win how the team felt very good about that because the team’s point guard is injured and the team really stepped up to score points even though one of the team’s high-scorers didn’t score as many as usually does.

Junior Mike Yahniko is a player to watch so far this season just for how consistent he has been on offense. He is averaging 20.3 points a game for the season and 17.6 for his career. He also is carrying a 46.3 percent shooting with shooting 61.7 percent from the free throw line for his career. The team recruited two freshmen this year Matt Ambriz, who is red shirting this year, and Jon Sobaski who played the first game against Emporia before getting injured. He had 6 points in his 35 minutes of play.

Coach James feels good about this season and he is excited to see how his team grows and how individual players step up to the challenge in future games. From his perspective DI and DII are totally different. Athletes are faster, stronger and bigger. “Still,” he says, “we have a great bunch of guys and great fans and I’m excited for the season!”
Male Athlete of the Month

Keith Crockett

By Karina Schlecht

Snow is here, winter is here, and that means basketball season has finally arrived. Senior Keith Crockett and the men’s basketball team have been hard at work under their new coach, Joey James, and Crockett believes there to be “no question” as to whether or not they will find success under this new leadership. Crockett started playing football at a young age and boxed from age eight until he was fourteen, but he started playing basketball when he was eight and eventually decided to stick with it because he felt like he was better at it than anything else and had more fun with it. Crockett is a point guard and shooting guard for the Golden Bears, and he enjoys his position because he likes having the ball all the time and making decisions on the court.

Crockett came to Concordia because of the smaller family-type feel – he liked the individual attention he could get here that he knew he would not be able to find at a bigger university. He says this is a “good place to focus, cut everything else out.” This focus remains both on and off the court as he is majoring in communications and looking to go into sports journalism. He is hoping to either get an internship with the Minnesota Twins or be a graduate assistant here at Concordia next year to write for our men’s basketball team. Eventually he also wants to go overseas to play ball just like his brother did, who is currently playing in Israel, and of course, as any college player dreams, he wants to go on to play for the National Basketball Association (NBA). Dreams don’t come without hard work, however, and Crockett is willing to put in the time and effort these dreams will take. He says he never takes any days off – “When it’s not one thing, it’s the other. When I’m not in the gym or working out, it’s making sure I got all my homework done.” On the court, he has been working hard in the off-season and has seen a lot of improvement in his shot. And thanks to Coach James, he is already “in way better shape than last year.” He says he never takes any days off – “When it’s not one thing, it’s the other. When I’m not in the gym or working out, it’s making sure I got all my homework done.” On the court, he has been working hard in the off-season and has seen a lot of improvement in his shot. And thanks to Coach James, he is already “in way better shape than last year.”

While at Concordia, Crockett has improved more than just his shot – coming from a predominantly African American community in Washington, D.C., he found Concordia to be very diverse. “It’s a big thing for me,” he says, “I’ve got a way better understanding of different types of people on and off the court...I’ve been learning how to interact with different types of people and communicate with them.” He also notes that though a lot of people think he comes off as mean, he believes himself to be nice and charismatic, and he usually just has something on his mind that he wants to get accomplished. While Crockett continues to work hard, he keeps his focus on the bigger picture: “I try to just really focus on life after this. That’s a really big thing.”

The End of an Era

Race for an Eighth Title Ends

By Tony Kohanek

The campaign for an eighth consecutive championship has ended. The team ended the regular season with a conference record of 18–2 and an overall season record of 25-4. This gave the women’s volleyball team a two seed in the NSIC/US Bank volleyball tournament which was hosted by the number one seed University of Minnesota–Duluth (UMD) Bulldogs up in Duluth.

The team was feeling very excited to get started with this tournament and make a run at another championship. “This year was just like the rest of them,” says Coach Starkey. “[We] can’t be thinking about how many championships, [we] just have to focus on this year.”

The first round of the conference tournament started with round one being played at the highest seed of each game’s home. So in this case, Southwest Minnesota State University, University of Minnesota–Duluth, Concordia University St. Paul, and Wayne State all were home. In each game the home team advanced to the next round, which had Southwest going up against UMD and Concordia against Wayne State. For the second and final round of the tournament UMD played host since it was the top seed in the conference. UMD won its game against Southwest; however Concordia was upset by Wayne State. The final match was set and after all was said and done, UMD beat Wayne State to win its second consecutive NSIC tournament.

While at Concordia, Crockett has improved more than just his shot – coming from a predominantly African American community in Washington, D.C., he found Concordia to be very diverse. “It’s a big thing for me,” he says, “I’ve got a way better understanding of different types of people on and off the court...I’ve been learning how to interact with different types of people and communicate with them.” He also notes that though a lot of people think he comes off as mean, he believes himself to be nice and charismatic, and he usually just has something on his mind that he wants to get accomplished. While Crockett continues to work hard, he keeps his focus on the bigger picture: “I try to just really focus on life after this. That’s a really big thing.”

The hard work has been paying off as Crockett played and started all 27 games last season, averaging 6.8 points and 4.1 rebounds with team-highs of 32 steals and 83 assists. He is also ranked fifth in the NSIC in assist-turnover ratio.

After the conference tournament the championship tournament seeding was picked and the regional tournament host was UMD, the top seed in the region, with Concordia St. Paul in second, with Southwest Minnesota State, Central Missouri, Wayne State, Nebraska Kearney, Washburn and Arkansas Tech being the third through eighth seeds respectively. Concordia would be matched up Washburn and would go on to win this game to play Southwest Minnesota. However, Concordia would eventually go on to lose this match, three sets to one, ending their run for another championship. Southwest went on to beat UMD in the regional final.

The end of an era like this is always hard to watch happen. However, Coach Starkey has prepared this team that they will surely take it in great strides and be ready for the next season.
The Girls are out to Play
CU Women's Basketball gets off to a Fast Start

By Tony Kohanek

The women's basketball team has started their season off very well. The season kicked off with the Radisson Hotel Roseville Classic Basketball Tournament. Four teams competed in this tournament: Concordia University, Fort Hayes (Kansas), Bemidji State, and Pittsburg State (Kansas). Concordia faced Pittsburg State in the first game and dropped that one 59-66. The next day Concordia took on Fort Hayes and won 70-68 to bring the record up to .500.

After how last year ended with the team winning the regional tournament and advancing to the elite eight, coach Fessler is excited about this year. "Last year was exciting and a good team to enjoy," said Fessler. "There were a lot of things to build off of this year, everybody will be in different roles this year and have different jobs." "It won’t be easy," the coach went on, "to return to the elite eight. No team in the conference has returned to the elite eight after getting there." Even though the team and Fessler are excited for this year the Radisson tournament wasn’t the best they could have done. However it’s over and they just want to learn from it and move on. Really not much time to worry about it at the moment.

After the senior class from last year graduated, the team has some spots to fill and some depth to maintain. Sophomore transfer Caitlin Russel will help and be a good player coming off the bench. Coach Fessler said "[Caitlin] is looking really good and I am fortunate enough to have her around for three years." The new freshmen are getting accustomed to the style of play and the physicality of the higher level. They all have great attitudes, good work ethics according to Fessler. Biggest thing for them is confidence in their own ability.

As for returners go, Fessler says sophomore Mishayla Jones is the one to keep an eye on this year. How well she plays will have an impact on how the season goes for the team. Aside from the change in players, Fessler is trying to have a faster paced offense, more up-tempo with a lot of ball movement. This could create less double-teaming.

This team loves to play in front of their peers and in front of the student body population. Coach Fessler would like to see more support for extra circulars, not just sports but all extra circulars.

CU Football Season Follow-Up
Dome Up, Season Over

By Tony Kohanek

Concordia University’s football season has come to an end. This season was Ryan Williams’ fourth season as head coach and his 10th overall season with the program, having served as the team’s offensive coordinator for six seasons prior to being named head coach in 2010.

The season started off slow with the team going 1-6 in their first 7 games winning only to Minnesota Crookston at Concordia’s homecoming game 44-3. This win would make the record at the time 1-3. The team would go on to lose the next three games to Sioux Falls, Wayne State, and Minnesota State. However, the team would catch its second wind beginning with an overtime win against Upper Iowa. From then on the team really took off and would go on to win its final four games to finish the season with a final record of 6-5, making it Coach Williams’ second winning season as Head Coach.

The coaching staff was very pleased with the way the season ended. Even though the start was a little slow, all were pleased with the four game winning streak. Coach Williams said that even though the goals for the season were higher and wanted to improve on previous year’s record of 5-6. The way the team ended the season and over came the adversity and hurdles made this year’s team better than last year. Williams says the leadership of the coaching staff, the confidence and trust to go execute the plays and the team’s willingness to play together is what contributed to such a good end of the season.

This was Todd Stropp’s second year as the team’s defensive coordinator. He felt this season (and the way it ended) was a great way to send off the seniors of the team. Stropp went on to say, “[It was] Also, a very good way to kick off the off-season.” Coach Stropp’s defense really stepped up this year, placing fourth in the conference.

“Four seniors stepped up and had the best year of their career,” according to coach Stropp. Like Coach Williams, Stropp said that from the beginning of the season the team would have liked to have done better but with the way the team finished the season is a good place to be. “A way to finish the season on a high note,” says Stropp.

The offseason is a good time to rest up for a bit before hitting it hard in preparation for the next year. This team is more than excited to have some rest, get some work done in the classroom and once January comes around, they will be ready to rock and roll!
The Voice of the Golden Bears

Dan Flanagan Calls the Games Like He Sees

By Jake Loftus

When Golden Bear fans go online to live-stream a Concordia game or check out highlights from recent games on YouTube, the first thing fans would notice would be the distinctive voice calling the plays and reviewing the highlights. That voice belongs to Dan Flanagan, the voice of Concordia Golden Bears Sports. Flanagan has been the play-by-play guy for CU for the last six years, after looking around for an announcer gig. “I came back to the Twin Cities after school and decided that I would just contact all the schools in the area and see if they needed an announcer,” said Flanagan. “I got a few jobs that way. Concordia didn’t need anyone right away, but eventually they contacted me and it’s worked out since.”

Flanagan had wanted to be a sports announcer ever since he was a kid. “I loved watching sports growing up.” Flanagan went on to say, “Unfortunately I also spent a lot of time watching from the bench when I was on a team as a kid so I knew from a pretty young age that playing them wasn’t going to be my thing.” However, Flanagan realized that he didn’t have to be an athlete to be involved in sports, as he eventually gained the desire to become an announcer. “I used to sit up in my room with the sound down on the TV and pretend I was calling the game. I probably did that from about the time I was nine.”

So naturally, once the time came for Flanagan to go to college he would go to learn broadcasting from the broadcast capitol of the world, New York, and ended up at Fordham graduating with a communications degree as well as working with their sports radio program. Eventually, as mentioned earlier, Flanagan would eventually come to Concordia and be the play-by-play voice for Concordia sporting events, including volleyball, football, basketball, and soccer. Like most people in their dream career, Flanagan approaches his work with as much preparation as possible. Flanagan makes sure that he gets as much info on a team, player, or coach, so he can be prepared to know how a play is supposed to work and also know what certain players can bring to a game. “It’s important to do the prep work beforehand. Get to know the roster, find relevant stats etc.” He continues, “You also need to be able to adapt quickly once the game has started. I’ve found it is best not to over-prepare since you never know what will happen during a live event. You also need to be patient because it’s a very competitive field and the job search can be frustrating at times. You have to be comfortable with hearing no from people.”

Flanagan has been with Concordia for six years, and has seen nearly every home game from up close-and-personal for almost every sport team. Flanagan says that his favorite moments here were calling two of the volleyball national championship matches, including their record seventh title. For the upcoming basketball seasons, you will find him in the booth right next to the Concordia sideline, working alongside Zach Schuster and the student film crew at Stream Powered Productions. To close, Flanagan says that he loves calling games that have a large crowd and plenty of energy, so he encourages fans to come down and watch the games.
Music Spotlight

Daniel Petrich

By Karina Schlect

For some people, getting involved on campus means trying different clubs or going to many events and programs, but for senior Daniel Petrich, it means participating in almost every music ensemble offered on campus. One of his newest roles is being the president of Pep Band, which has helped him find friends and community.

When he was in tenth grade, Petrich realized that music was what he wanted to pursue. He was selected to rehearse his symphonic band on one piece to be performed at the concert. He says, "Just after the last rehearsal before the performance ... I took a step back and realized this is what I want to do for the rest of my life. I want to work with groups and ensembles, I want to rehearse with them and expand their knowledge and their skill level in music."

Petrich has always loved music, but it wasn't until high school that he began to see "the importance of, not the music so much as the words, and how the music portrayed those words — how the music increases the power behind the words and Biblical teachings." When he listened to the Christus CD from the "A Light Shines in the Darkness" tour and heard that every piece had a purpose, he realized Concordia would be a great fit for him. He wanted to be part of a program where the Word is the focus.

Petrich is majoring in K-12 Instrumental and Literature Education with a Lutheran Classroom Teacher minor. He hopes to teach in a small Lutheran high school where he can direct both the band and the choir, and one day, he may return to school to get his Master's and Doctorate so that he can teach at a university level.

He feels like Concordia has been preparing him to teach on an academic scale. In the Choral Conducting class he took with Dr. Mennicke last semester, they talked about everything from discipline and music selection to rehearsal techniques. Petrich says, "I feel like I'm prepared to teach choir in a school setting."

As an author, Dr. Jeffrey Burkart has written 15 books, such as The Hidden Prince (a children's book) and Fifteen Cautionary Fables, and about 150 published magazine articles, plays, and musicals, like Sure Can Use a Little Good News (play) and Don't Get Burned (musical). Dr. Burkart has just finished a play about Martin Rinckhart, who was a poet and pastor. Rinckhart wrote a hymn, "Now We Thank We Thank All Our God," in a time of plague and war. The play is set as a futuristic version of a talk show.

Dr. Burkart loves to write and compose. He became an author because, he says, "I have the insatiable desire to share things and a lot of the things I do are very practical. You get into situations where people ask you to do something and you do them." He feels that everything he does will, at some point, serve a purpose. Someone will contact him with a need for a project, and he will give them his work. The great thing about Dr. Burkart is that if you ask him to write a hymn or a music composition, he can create a piece in no time.

As for the reason he writes plays, he says, "I write these plays for several reasons: One, because it fun; two, because I never know where the writing will lead me (I learn a lot of stuff when I write); three, it's become an important part of my devotional life (even when I write things that aren't used they help me focus on what God has done for me in Jesus); four, they give children the opportunity to participate in leadership roles in worship (something we could use much more of, in my opinion); and five, they may be useful in proclaiming the Good News."

It is clear that Dr. Burkart, even though he is retired, has a passion for creating works of art. It was no surprise that he was selected as an honored speaker at the 12th Annual Poehler Lecture. Dr. Burkart continues to work on writing and composing music for anyone who asks him and works as an organist at churches. His newest book, Fifteen Cautionary Fables, is available in the bookstore.
Talking with Horrible Bosses 2

By Katrina Bell

Jason Bateman, Charlie Day, and Jason Sudeikis: The three leading actors of the upcoming movie *Horrible Bosses 2*. Some may have seen the first movie, where these three actors, according to Fandango, play "three frustrated employees who hatch a plan to kill their micromanaging bosses, only to find their murderous plot snowballing into disaster." Concordia was fortunate enough to be able to participate in a conference call interview with these actors about the new movie. *Horrible Bosses 2* features the three actors returning as, Fandango says, "business owners who, after a shady investor steals their new company, conspire to kidnap the man's adult son and ransom him to regain control."

The conference call consisted of a representative from ten different college newspapers from around the U.S. and Canada, including a man from Boston's Harvard University; a man from Northridge, Calif.; a woman from Toronto; and many more. Each representative had the chance to ask the actors a question, and to receive the actors' responses.

The question representing Concordia: "*Horrible Bosses 2* has been made primarily due to the financial success of the film around the U.S. Do you believe that this fact is reason enough for a sequel?"

Jason Bateman answered, "Well yes, you get asked to do sequels when it makes enough money to warrant it. And it did really well overseas which is not terribly common for a comedy. So Warner Brothers wanted to do another one, and we were certainly open to it because we had such a good time doing the first one."

Charlie Day added, "Yes, there's the financial side of it, right? Where if the movie studio doesn't make enough money on the first one well they're not going to spend money to make a second one because it's a business, and then that's their business. That's not ours. Then there's the creative side of it where — you're right does it make sense to do a second story? And Jason, Jason and myself had a lot of lengthy conversations about what the second story could be and we weren't going to do a movie if we couldn't find a story that, for us, made sense. So, the business side of course, that's part of it. And then creatively I think we got it to a place where it made sense for us to want to do it."

J.B.: "I don't really think that there was any pranks or anything. There was a lot of goofing off, though. We were actually trying to simmer things down and be serious to get some work done sometimes."

J.S.: "Yes. Not a lot of whoopee cushions on that set you know what I mean. We want to make sure everyone gets home to their kids but you know we had fun making it."

"So you changed directors for the second movie and I was wondering what Sean Anders brought to the project what like stylistic choices he made that changed it up, if any? How was working with him?"

C.D.: "Yes, he walks a really good line of not completely reinventing it, so that you don't know what movie you're wanting. And yet when it makes sense with the film to get a little more stylized, he put a little more style into the second one and it fits the story. So I think he did a really good job that way."

"Was there anything that was really crazy or different from the first movie that you got to do in this one?"

J. B.: "For this movie, we had to use green screen effects. That was neat to have that be part of the process."

C. D.: "Chris Pine was a new addition to this movie. He was sort of our fourth musketeer, and he brought a lot to the movie."

"With the extended cast, Chris Pine, Christoph Waltz, Key-In Spacey, Jonathan Banks, Keegan-Michael Key, what's it like to be working with all of these actors?"

J. B.: "With all of these people, it's sort of like having a cocktail. Everyone wants a cocktail, right? I think ours was pretty well balanced."

C. D.: "Especially for a sequel where sometimes they'd lack — a sequel can lack the "prestige" of the first movie and, you know, to get actors of that caliber, and actresses joining the movie is great."

J. S.: "It's really flattering when you — to make the first one and have it exist and then when you're making the second one to have people say, "Oh yes, I want to be a part of that.""

"It's been three years since the first movie came out, what was it like to revisit the characters and to be working together again?"

J. B.: "Well it was new material, so it wasn't exactly like the first one, but it was great to work with everyone again. I really hope that when people see the movie, they will like it as much as I do. It's very funny."

C. D. "It was terrible for the characters, because they get into so much trouble, but it was really fun for us to work together again."

J. S.: "There was a lot of pressure to make this one better, but it was great to work with Jason and Charlie again, and I think everyone will enjoy the movie."

With a release date of November 26th, 2014, *Horrible Bosses 2* has received mixed reviews already, but is highly anticipated by the public.
**Food Review**

**Mavericks Pizza**

By Adam Svien

Pizza to college students is the equivalent of a Powerpoint to a professor. But finding a good pizza place can be difficult if you don’t know the area. Luckily, Mavericks Pizza is located on Randolph Avenue only two miles from campus, and they make some very good pizza.

What makes Mavericks so good? They are family owned and operated by Mitchell, a buddy of mine, and his wife, Debra. Because Mavericks is a local “mom and pop shop,” they care about their customers. As for the pizzas, they are in a traditional New York style, made with the freshest ingredients. Mavericks offers a multitude of different toppings and specialty pizzas. Not in the mood for pizza? Mavericks still has something for you. They also offer hoagies, salads, ribs, chicken wings, desserts and appetizers.

The ice cream is incredible. They make malts and shakes, root beer floats, and even butterscotch root beer floats. As another bonus, they deliver any of the above items to the Concordia campus. Don’t just take my word for it! Out of 56 Facebook reviews, 49 gave Mavericks a full 5-star rating.

If you want to see a menu, visit maverickspizza.com. To place an order with the friendly staff, call 651-698-3439. Tell them I sent you and get $3 off any order that is $20 or more. Search Facebook for Mavericks Pizza, and give them a ‘like’ to get their news and deals. Help support this small business and enjoy some of the best pizza in St. Paul.

**Movie Review**

**Nightcrawler**

By Trenton Burns

Americans are in bed with tragedy and violence. As media consumers, this is our private shame, but that doesn’t keep us from our morbid curiosities. The behemoth that is the 24-hour news cycle sells us a steady stream of the darker parts of our nature at all hours of the day; tales driven by death and carnage, chaos and corruption. There is, perhaps, a small pang of guilt inside each of us that still remains — a tiny twinge that grows the more intimate the breaking news might be.

To feel that guilt, it would need to break through the adrenaline and dopamine rushing through our bloodstream as we watch humanity come undone on our TVs, computers, and smartphones. This dark world is where the American media lives and thrives. This is the world that Jake Gyllenhaal and Rene Russo inhabit in Dan Gilroy’s latest film, Nightcrawler.

Gyllenhaal plays the part of Lou Bloom, a gung-ho autodidact looking to go places in the world. He has the smarts and the drive to hustle his way through life, but his aspirations reach much higher than stealing and selling chain-link fences and manhole covers to a Los Angeles scrap yard. Lou wants steady and legitimate work — the kind of job where a man can climb the ladder and garner prestige. It is through luck or fate that he happens upon the world of the nightcrawlers, freelance video jockeys that prowl the streets looking to record house fires, head-on collisions, and crime scenes, to later sell that footage to whichever local news affiliate is willing to pay the most money. Lou comes across a car wreck on the freeway, the still bleeding driver being pulled from the burning vehicle by two police officers. It is then that Joe Loder, played by Bill Paxton, rolls up in his van with his video team to record the action. Lou and Joe exchange words, and Lou is hooked. Lou steals an expensive racing bike off of Venice Beach and pawns it for a video camera. He is a quick learner, never shaken by his missteps, slowly building his credibility and ability to capture the best grisly footage, doing whatever it takes. He builds a rapport with a local news producer, Nina, played by Russo. She is desperate to stay afloat in a competitive media market, and has to have the footage that sells.

“The bloodier the better,” she says. The relationship between them radiates tension and an imbalance of power — with Lou’s sheer will to succeed, his intimidating intelligence, and his sick-sweet sociopathy slowly revealing itself throughout the course of the film. Gyllenhaal performs this latter trait to a terrifying effect in perhaps the greatest performance of his career. He plays Lou like some energized ghoul. His skinny frame and sunken, unblinking eyes never take their gaze off the prize, just as the audience can’t take their eyes off of him.

Nightcrawler is an exceptional film. It is edited with the same frenetic pace of the profession it portrays. Capturing the film digitally adds a hot and humid electricity to the L.A. of the Night, the darkness buzzing like belligerent bugs. Nightcrawler will leave a residue on your skin, both from Gyllenhaal’s icy stare and the film’s greater implications about what it takes to entertain a bored and cynical America.

Rated R for violence including graphic images, and for language.

**Correction from November’s issue: Trenton reviewed November’s review of Fury**
Short Story

"Tears In Rain"

By Trenton Burns

An android of the distant future will achieve its humanity when it reflects on the seemingly trivial meaning of its life, “All those moments...will be lost in time, like...tears...in...rain.” A profound and poetic truth, felt by a machine. In that moment it transcends its wiring, its gears and circuits. It finds its soul, only to die within the same breath that carried forth the words.

She stood under the shower head, the scalding fountain of water searing screaming skin and pillaging away gentle, yet heavy, tears. She only cried when she was alone, her own quiet sadness a burden only she could carry. Heavy were her shoulders, a life’s burdens, a wife’s burdens.

The steam filled the bathroom like aromatic smoke in a bedouin’s tent, another concealment that she could disappear in. In this shower, in this bathroom, behind a locked door and the thin veneer of a shower curtain, she could be honest with herself. No one to see the pain, no emotionally frail husband to see her falter. She had to be strong, the Atlas that held up the earth, because if she let go, if she kneaded for only a moment and set down that great orb to breathe, she feared she would lose him. He would fall off the earth and into some awful oblivion.

He slugged back his 2nd pill with a heavy shot glass of tap water. Somewhere inside him, within once dry and dying canyons, a sustaining stream of life is released, just enough to keep his legs sturdy to walk the earth another day. He rests his hands on the kitchen counter, leaning his head against the cabinet. Is it a bowing of the head in prayer? A solemn moment of reflection? Both, or neither, or just a weary spirit trying to stay upright, he doesn’t know.

He walks down the hallway past the bathroom, the light glowing through the crack under the door, the steam licking its way out. He can hear her music mixed with the rushing of water. Someone is singing to a good and loving God, but underneath that trained and calculated voice is a softer and more desperate one, one filled with raw earnestness, a plea that the words are true. He is too dull of mind, too bound to his own needs, that he doesn’t stand outside that door and linger. Had he, would he, he’d hear the woman that has been carrying his whole world, crying, hoping, praying, that her moments wouldn’t be lost like tears in rain.

Theater Spotlight

Adam Svien

By Katrina Bell

After spending four years in the army in which he had been based in Korea; El Paso, Texas; and Nicaragua, Sophomore Adam Svien took some time off to work and clear his head before choosing to attend Concordia. Since coming to Concordia, Svien has changed his major twice before recognizing his passion for performing and eventually deciding on a theater major, “To help me with what I want to do in the future.”

But Svien was not always interested in theater. As a high school student, he had been a sporty “nice guy jock,” and class clown. Then, to help with his social anxiety, he discovered that he was good at improvisation. He had the power to command the attention of a room, diverting his nerves into something he could control. Svien discovered that he enjoyed being the center of attention, being seen and heard, and making people smile.

Now, he is interested in pursuing a career in stand-up comedy. “There is nothing like being able to command a whole room and make them forget about all of their problems. Doing stand-up comedy is hard to do, but it’s worth it if you can do it,” he says. Despite stand-up comedy being his primary goal, Svien is also working with, and thinking about, other artistic endeavors, including creative writing, photography, acting, and playwriting.

So far, Svien has been in two productions during his time at Concordia, The Drowsy Chaperone, where he was personally written in by the director, as well as Disturbed by the Wind, a play about the discovery of powered flight and the personal struggles of the Wright Brothers. Svien played Otto Lilienthal, the Wright brother’s predecessor. As for the future, Svien hopes to be involved in many more productions. He even plans to audition for the spring production of Skyscape: The Plebian Scrolls, written by Jon Ferguson and Mark Rosenwinkel. In the meantime, don’t be surprised if he cracks a joke or two!
The theater production of "The White Snake" was reviewed by Belinda Yang.

The White Snake is based on the classic Chinese tale. The production was written and directed by Mary Zimmerman, who has received a Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, and many others. In 2002 at the Outer Critics Circle Awards, Zimmerman was awarded for Outstanding Director of a play Metamorphoses, one of her best-known and most successful works. The White Snake was shown at Guthrie Theater from September 9 through October 19 this year. It brought the Chinese tale to life through the acting, staging, and plot.

The actors had experience from other productions, clear from their chemistry with one another. For example, Amy Kim Waschke, who played White Snake was separated by force from her husband. In the scene, Waschke cried with real tears and a trembling voice. The majority of the cast members had to act as more than two characters. This is an example of how hard the cast had to work and their dedication to the production.

In the beginning, the main actors were speaking in a comical style. The audience laughed and clapped at the lines. But at the climax of the play, the main characters changed their tone of voice. The crowd became quiet, and their eyes focused on the actors instead of the props. The actors made the audience feel nervous about what was going to happen next.

The effects also added to the production. The stage at the Guthrie Theater was smaller than I expected, and the design was very simple. In the back of the stage, a large screen showed scenery for the background which changed throughout the play. The production team was also creative with props. For example, they used multiple long, thin, sky blue curtains to create the rain. The curtains came down from the ceiling, and there was music to match the sound of rain. Even more fascinating was the White Snake and Green Snake actors. They had snake puppets as their props. The actors held sticks that were connected to the puppet. In another scene, the Green Snake actor moved the puppet around the stage. The actors demonstrated controlling and acting with the snake puppet.

The plot was focused more on the development of the conflict, but the climax of the story was too long and could have been cut shorter. After Xu Xian, White Snake’s husband, found out the truth of White Snake’s identity, Fa Hai, the monk, took White Snake into prison — a place where demons are trapped forever. Then, the production rushed the ending. The narrator said what happened to White Snake and Xu Xian, and the stage lights turned off. There was no dialect between White Snake and Xu Xian. It was too quick. At the end, I sat there thinking that there has to be more, but the lights turned back on, and the actors came out to bow. I had high hopes for the ending because I enjoyed the play overall. Zimmerman did an excellent job sticking to the Chinese tale. The acting, effects, and the story was well done. The plot explained why White Snake and Xu Xian couldn’t be together. However, the production could have done a much better job on the ending, even if White Snake and Xu Xian couldn’t live happily ever after.
December Crossword

By Tara Rupiper

ACROSS:
4) You might wear these if it gets cold outside
5) Pulls Santa's Sleigh
7) The man supposedly responsible for making winter full of snow and cold weather
9) Gives homework, assigns grades, and creates exams
11) End of the year assessments that usually stresses students out
12) The month that celebrates the birth of Jesus
13) A big man in a red suit and bushy beard, who comes down the chimney and gives presents
14) Usually gets this way in December
15) Used to move snow in a more convenient locations

DOWN:
1) Usually a cold, snowy season
2) White flakes that fall from the sky
3) When Santa comes to town
6) The people you are related to and love
8) When you stand up in front of a class to show your work
9) Placed in homes as a decoration; usually has Christmas lights and ornaments on it
10) A break from everyday life

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Stress-Free Finals

By Amanda Och

Finals can be an overwhelming and down-right terrifying experience. But with hard work and the right preparation, finals no longer need to be so stressful. Here are a few tips to help you get ready and handle next week's final week:

1) Start early and begin preparing and studying as soon as possible. The first thing to figure out is what type of final your professor will give: comprehensive or non-comprehensive, big ideas or specific details.
2) Focus on what you dislike or don't understand first because chances are that you will already do well in the classes you enjoy.
3) Also focus on the notes from class and use the textbook as a support tool because your professor has already narrowed down what they think is important for you to know.
4) Take advantage of office hours and ask questions or review with the professor.
5) Maintain healthy habits of eating, sleeping, and exercising. It may sound cliché, but it is told time and time again because it really does affect how well you do on a test.
6) Stay calm and breathe. A lot of the stress of a final comes from panicking and from constantly looking at the clock.
7) Stay the full time and make sure to develop answers fully.
Winter Wordsearch

By Tara Rupiper

The three wise men use a GPS to find Jesus, and end up in midway St. Paul.

We should have turned around when the sand disappeared!