

## Lunar Eclipse Looms Ahead

By Evan Palenschat, contributing writer

A treat for Amateur astronomers and any one else who may be interested will present itself on Wednesday, Feb. 20. All will be able to witness the third lunar eclipse in the past 11 months. To learn more about this event I visited with Concordia's own Dr. Dale Trapp, professor of Astronomy, Physics and Sciences.

Upon entering Dr. Trapp's office in the Science Building, the amount of scientific literature on the walls is arresting. Held up by sturdy shelving, the titles read "Space," "Astronomy" and "Advanced Physics." Dr. Trapp sits behind his desk stacked high with papers and other odds and ends.

He proceeds by leading me through the basics. What is a lunar eclipse?

He explained that a lunar eclipse occurs when the earth's shadow blocks the light reflected by the sun. This can only occur when the earth is between the sun and a full moon. A solar eclipse, on the other hand, is rarer and occurs when the moon

is between the sun and the earth and blocks the sun's rays.

Dr. Trapp relates that a solar eclipse is much rarer because it can only be seen in a certain strip that crosses half the planet which can only be witnessed for a matter of minutes if you find the correct area. On the other

es which are labeled 1st-4th contact.

First contact will start at 6:39 p.m. This is when the moon will under the penumbra which is a lighter part of earth's shadow.

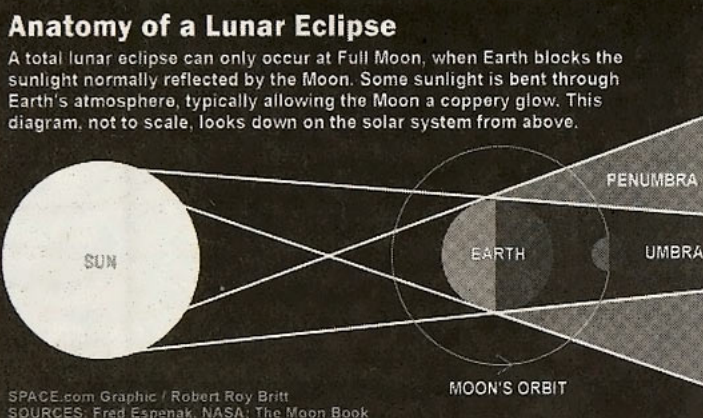
Second contact will occur when the moon reaches the umbra. This is the darkest part of the shadow when the sun's light is completely blocked by the earth. This will begin 8:40 p.m. and go until 9:39 that evening.

This will be third contact when the moon is leaving the umbra.

The fourth contact occurs when the moon reaches the end of the penumbra and the eclipse ends. Starry Night Enthusiast showed the end of the eclipse to be at 12:15 a.m.. Total time for the eclipse will be five hours

and 36 minutes.

To view the eclipse you will need to look 16 degrees above the eastern horizon at 6:39 p.m. If you don't have time to catch the entire eclipse, try to view the umbra (darkest part of the shadow) starting at 8:40 p.m.. The moon will be about 30 degrees slightly south of the eastern horizon



hand, a lunar eclipse can be seen for a number of hours by people on one side of the planet.

Looking online, Dr. Trapp and I discovered that the eclipse will begin after 6 pm. However, using a program called Starry Night Enthusiast, Dr. Trapp was able to pinpoint the stages of the eclipse. There will be four stag-

## Public Comment Welcome for HLC Accreditation Eval

by Jill Johnson, director of marketing and university communications

Concordia University, St. Paul will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit April 6-9, 2008, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Concordia has been accredited by the Commission since 1967. Its accreditation includes Baccalaureate and Master's degree levels and includes degree sites at various other locations within the state.

The Higher Learning Commission is one of six accrediting agencies in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Institutional accreditation evaluates an entire institution and accredits it as a whole. Accreditation is voluntary. The Commission is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

For the past year and a half, Concordia University, St. Paul has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's requirements and criteria for accreditation. The evaluation team will visit Concordia to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and ac-

curate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the University; following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the University:

**Public Comment on Concordia University, St. Paul**  
**The Higher Learning Commission**  
**30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400**  
**Chicago, IL 60602**

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of Concordia or its academic guarantee that comments received after the due date will be considered. Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments. Comments will not be treated as confidential.

Note: Individuals with specific dispute or grievance with Concordia should request the separate Policy on Complaints document from the Commission office. The Higher Learning Commission cannot settle disputes between institutions and individuals. Complaints will not be considered third party comments.

## Senior Sendoff Provides Way to Give Back

By Brianna Traquair, contributing writer

Concordia University, St. Paul's seniors have lived in the dorms, played on teams and volunteered with clubs and organizations. They've written a countless amount of papers, taken hundreds of quizzes and, depending on their eating habits, eaten over a thousand chicken nuggets.

After years of hard work, it's time for them to graduate from Concordia. But before they leave, thanks are in order for everything they've contributed to the campus.

In past years, seniors attended a free, formal on-campus dinner with a inspirational speakers. This year, however, the Student Alumni Council has put a fresh spin on the idea.

Dinner will still be served, but this time it's hosted at O'Gara's Bar and Grill—just down the road from the campus on Snelling Avenue (alcoholic beverages, not included in the cover charge, will be available to purchase).

Seniors, faculty and alumni are also invited to the send off, to give seniors an opportunity to know their professors outside of a campus setting.

The date has been set for Thursday, May 1, and will probably begin around 7:30 p.m. (the final details are still being tweaked).

There's a cover charge of \$20, but close to 75% of that is going straight back to Concordia.

"Every year, the seniors give a gift, and in the past it's been maybe 200, 300 dollars," said senior Josh Huber, a member of the Student Alumni Council, "but this year, if we get even half the senior class to go, that's 2000 dollars right there. It would be great to shatter that old record."

Huber said he'd like to see the end-of-the-year dinner emphasize giving back to Concordia—not only financially. He hopes the future alumni would also give back by recruiting future students and faculty as well as setting up internships through Concordia.

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## UPCOMING CONVOCATION

Wednesday,  
March 5, 2008

12:00 p.m.

BEC

**BILL GLAUBER:**  
**2008 Woodrow**  
**Wilson Visiting Fellow**

A journalist for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Glauber has covered four wars and eight Olympics and reported stories in Europe, Asia and the Middle East

**Don't miss this event!**