

Halos, Spanish, and Origami Build Unity

By Erin Jolie Thompson

In the hustle and bustle of the approaching fall and winter months, one may find oneself thinking, "You know...I wish that I could hang out with other students while folding origami, playing the video game Halo, and speaking Spanish." The newly-formed clubs at Concordia University might just be the right answer.

Over the past three weeks, three new clubs have been

given the "official club" stamp by Student Senate. Origami Club, Club Halo and Spanish Club have all been approved and have flown into full swing for the upcoming school year and, hopefully, many years to come.

Origami Club, founded by Michael Miller, will be using gifts, talents, work, and lives of its members to serve God; more specifically, the club's intentional activities include service to others, learning more about origami, teaching others about origami (including the history and how and why to fold), and building relationships. Miller expresses his enthusiasm about Origami Club: "I know it sounds strange, but I am very passionate about origami and the effects it has on people. I love the look in a person's eyes when I hand over a finished object or when someone learns how to

[make] a crane, monkey or flower for themselves for the first time. I hope through this club that we not only build paper sculptures but also relationships throughout our lives."

To those students who are not video game buffs, Club Halo may sound like an angelic club. While it may be angelic in its own way,

Club Halo is not just about angels. (Well, not really at all!) Bringing students together from all walks of life to partake

in playing the X-Box game Halo and finding a common ground and interest is a huge aspect of this club. Sam Seefeld, founder, reminisces: "Last year it was a turning point in my semester when members of the football team, who I never thought I would be friends with, came into my room and played Halo with me. I met so many people last year from playing; people who I had never talked to before and I never thought would be friends with. That was the start of this, knowing that we can bring people together and close the gap of the divisions here on campus. This is a really cool way to do that." So, this is not just a bunch of men sitting around playing video games... men and women are involved and the focus is not so much the game as the relationships and bonds that are formed.

Espanol, anyone? For some, Spanish may be a hobby, pastime, dreaded subject in school or fluent language. Whatever the skill or interest, Spanish club has something to offer everyone. Spanish club, formed by Kendall Bruhl, was created in order to promote knowledge and awareness of the Spanish languages and cultures through

activities for all levels. Some of their goals include watching Spanish movies, tasting those delicious delicacies of Spanish countries, speaking Spanish, attending cultural activities and Spanish church services in the area, and forming relationships. Bruhl says, "I am looking forward to this year and the possibilities it holds because we are a new

club. Knowledge of the Spanish language is so important, and we plan on having a lot of fun with it, too."

So, the final question of the day: what do origami, Spanish, and Halo have in common? They all have new clubs here at Concordia. Feel free to check them out.

"I know it sounds strange, but I am very passionate about origami and the effects it has on people."

- Mike Miller

Journey to General Education Credit

By Michelle Wegner

"Our lives are a journey... we are looking forward for something specific but it seems so far away," said senior Angela Birr when asked about Homer's popular epic, "The Odyssey." In the epic, Odysseus journeys through Ithaca to make his way home and faces many challenges on the way. The Human Odyssey, a unique course offered this coming spring at Concordia University, explores Odysseus' journey and relates it to everyone's journey in the twenty-first century.

The Human Odyssey is a general education course that fulfills the fine arts requirements for all undergraduates. This four credit course will be offered next spring in the 1:10-2:20 time slot Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Doctors Allan Mahnke and Kathryn Schenk will be teaching

the course.

"This is hands down our favorite course. The class links all the arts together and brings them into the lives of every human being," Mahnke said. The course focuses on a collection of themes from the book: home, hospitality, reputation, identity, and the nature of arts. Throughout the course, students explore the relations between art, history, religion, and culture.

"The class links all the arts together and brings them into the lives of every human being."

- Allan Manke

The Human Odyssey is a unique addition to Concordia's fine arts program. The class was first offered spring of 2003 in an effort to bring all forms of art together in one class. Mahnke and Schenk also wanted to provide a class that gave students multiple ways to learn.

"We wanted to find ways other than writing to help students learn the material. This is not a writing intensive course like Music and

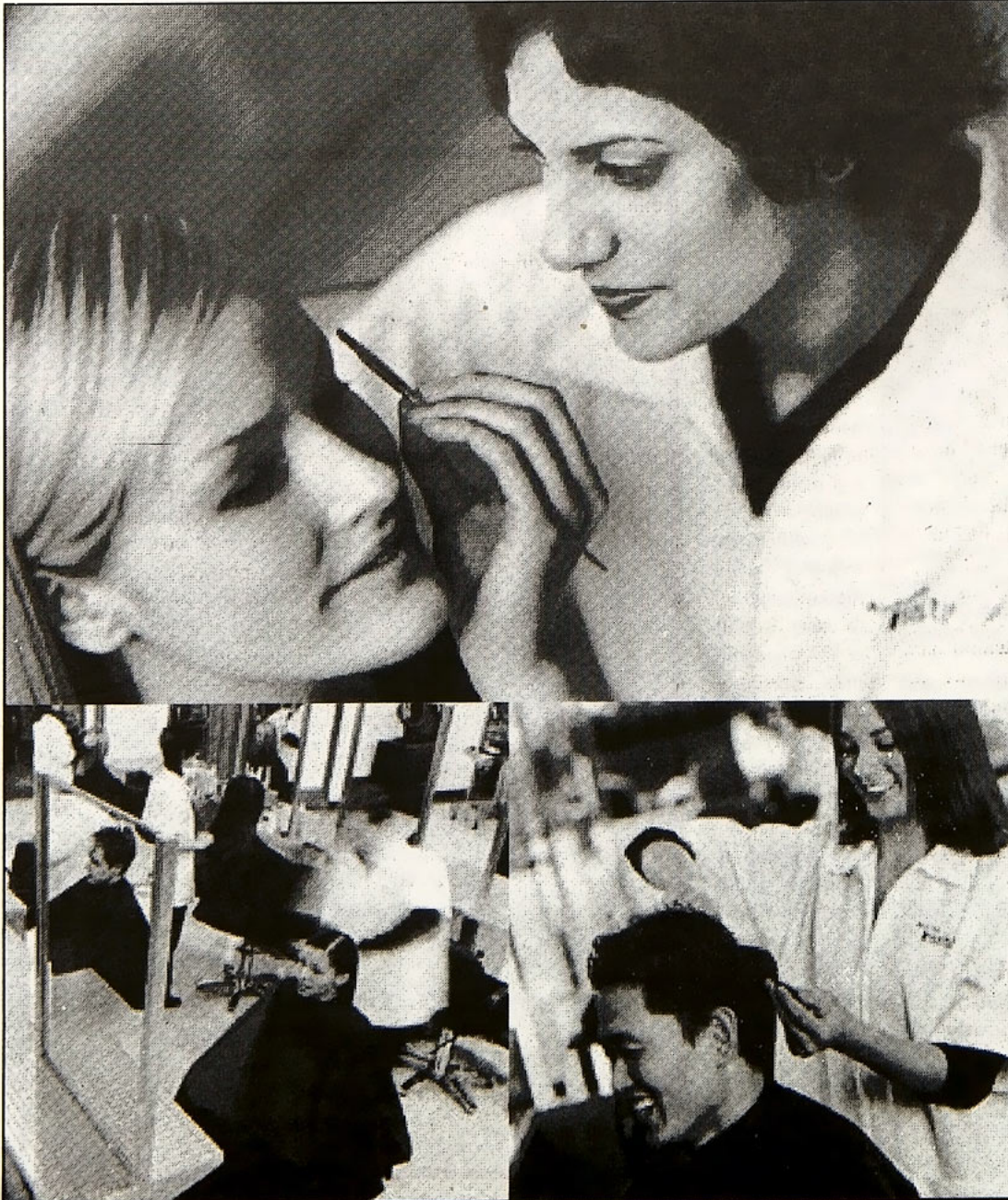
the Human Experience [another general education course]," Mahnke said.

Birr agreed, "It made you think rather than having to do a lot of assignments or writing."

Mahnke also stressed the sense of community within the class. When the class was first offered, students collectively made a quilt; next semester's students will write a book which will be entered into Concordia's Library Technology Center. Students will also participate in the "Concordian Games" and present to the class a story about their own personal journey.

"All the students did presentations about some part of their family, themselves, or their culture. We got to eat a lot of different type of foods from different cultures. We always had something to eat," Birr said.

Students can register for The Human Odyssey on Bear Path through the Concordia local page. Space is limited and it may not be offered again until 2007.



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