

# Blue Plus Gold Does Not Equal Green

## Concordia campus struggles with recycling

By Kristi Loobeek

Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP) faces the 2011-12 school year struggling to overcome the lack of backing from student organizations and faculty to become an adequate recycling-oriented campus.

Currently, the CSP campus uses Allied Waste Services for recycling purposes. Sara Mulso, CSP Custodial/Risk Manager, describes the recycling as "single-sort recycling" or "mixed waste." The idea behind "mixed waste" is that all types of recyclables (paper, plastic, tin, and glass) will be collected in one bin. As of 2011, the campus hosts three Allied Waste Services dumpsters. Paired with these dumpsters are blue recycling bins that can be spotted sporadically around campus. However, the effectiveness of these bins is compromised by a prominent problem—food placed in the bins. When recycling bins show any visible signs of food contamination the bins' contents will be treated as trash.

Furthermore, Concordia has yet to implement a widespread and effective recycling program. Although student-run organizations' participation is vital for the survival of a successful recycling program, no one organization has stood the test of time. In 2005, the campus Tetra Delta club began work on a school-wide program aimed at a co-mingling recycling program. The club then supplied a small quantity of recycling bins and placed them around campus (the same ones used now). Tetra Delta, at the time, was in charge of "collecting the contents of the bins and sorting out the materials: glass, plastic, and paper," stated the student-run newspaper, *The Sword*, in its Sept. 2006 issue. Tetra Delta has long since cut ties and left the project to dissolve on its own. Current Tetra Delta President, Ted Thuening, confirms stating, "I came here in the fall of 2008 and [Tetra Delta] was not doing [the recycling program] at that time."

Five years after the first failed attempt, a new organization attempted to take control of the recycling situation. On April 26, 2010, the Concordia Student Senate discussed and approved a motion of funding fifteen recycling bins on campus. The 15 gallon bins would run approximately \$60 each and have no yearly fee. However, an end product was never produced from this meeting and the campus is still without an adequate recycling program.

President of the Concordia Student Senate, Austin Ertelt, ex-

plained that during the time of the proposed recycling bins (2010), Student Senate was struggling with budget constraints. The initial idea was for Student Senate to buy the bins, and then to have different clubs and organizations take control of the project. Currently, Student Senate does not have any plans to restart the recycling program. However, Ertelt insists Student Senate is looking for ways to "increase sustainability on campus." As for recycling on campus, he agrees that it "could be better, but needs better monetary backing." Ertelt encourages students to write a proposal to their Student Senators if they feel recycling is an important issue.

Mulso also agrees with Ertelt, stating that "if we wish to increase the recycling on campus, we need to increase the funds." Along with increased funding—and a possible recycling dumpster behind the Gangelhoff Center—Mulso encourages other ways to better Concordia's recycling track record. "This year the Residence Life Center [Holst Hall] encouraged students to take recycling into their own hands and begin sorting recyclable items from within their rooms." Mulso also suggested that the campus focus on faculty involvement in the recycling movement. Although the student body is perpetually changing, the faculty remains, for the most part, consistent. If faculty members set an example, "perhaps by having a cardboard box by their desks for recyclable papers," the campus could have a more united front against wastefulness.

Next door neighbors to the Concordia campus, the University of Minnesota, Hamline University, and Augsburg University have all implemented recycling programs to cut the waste of their schools. All three universities have set a high bar for Concordia to strive for. Predominately, the University of Minnesota began the "Recycling Program," in which co-mingled recycling is offered in all residence halls and classrooms, in 1992. The university boasts on their website (facm.umn.edu) of the program's success, "A nationally recognized pioneer in institutional recycling, the U of M Recycling Program processes nearly 3,000 tons of recyclable material annually, or 32% of the University's municipal solid waste stream." The university is also in the midst of running an "It All Adds Up" conservation campaign, aiming to recover an additional five percent of recyclables by 2012.

## What Does the Disability Services Office Do?

### Disability Services helps students in need

By Joel Klein

Fall is a busy time of year for any school. New students are arriving and trying to get comfortable but, there's one department that helps specific students get comfortable: Disability Services. Disability Services is busy accommodating students with special needs every year and it can get a bit challenging.

Every year Disability Services has to follow certain regulations and protocol issued by the government. Disability Services has to ensure that proper accommodations are provided for people with disabilities—such as having the correct height for tables or making sure there are enough ramps in place. Disability Services also has to determine who's eligible for disability services. When there's so much to do with helping disabilities, Melissa Fletcher, the Disability Service Specialist, and Josie Hurka the Accommodations Specialist, work collaboratively on their tasks in Disability Services.

Fletcher and Hurka work with a wide variety of disabilities, from mental illnesses like autism to physical illnesses like blindness, and help students affected by these disabilities by offering alternative testing and note taking. Disability Services also helps with temporary illnesses like anxiety, depression and general sickness. While students may have a short leave of absence, Disabilities Services works with the student's pro-

fessors and coaches concerning the student's schedules. For example, if a student becomes ill for a long period of time, Disability Services will rework the student's schedule.

There has been some change to what the department has to do concerning diagnostics and eligibility. When a person goes in and says, "I'm sick," the department now has to further analyze the problem and determine if it's just a sickness or a disability. The process to qualify for disability services has also become more lenient.

Not only can it be challenging for the specialists but it can also be difficult for the students. In high school, students with disabilities often had special classes, supervision, and accommodations set for them. In college, students don't always get the help they previously received in high school. It can be especially hard for the students who aren't used to being away from home. That's why Fletcher and Hurka are working in the Disability Services Office—they help students find reasonable accommodations, provided by Concordia, based on the need of the student.

If you think you might require their services or if you would like to volunteer, stop by Disability Services located in the tunnel, or e-mail [disabilityservices@csp.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@csp.edu)