

The Spectator

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Concordia University Chicago's Student-Run Newspaper

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Simone Wilson Continues to Break School Records

Written by Savannah Singletary

Simone Wilson is a force to be reckoned with. As a two time All-American, a returning national championship contender, Wilson was locked and loaded in her starting block her freshman year. Now in her second heat of her college career, she has pulled away from her competition.

Named a Division III All-American in both the 400-meter hurdles and the 4x400-meter relay as a freshman, she continuously smashed records left and right in her rookie season beginning with her first meet.

"During my freshman year, I broke the school records for the 400m hurdles, 100m hurdles, 60m hurdles, and I was apart of the 4x400m relay and 4x100m relay that broke the school record." Wilson stated, "I broke my own record in the 60m hurdles and I hope to continue this streak for outdoor season."

Surpassing Concordia University Chicago's hurdle record, multiple times, her current record was set at the nationals, where she finished fourth with a time of 1:00.76. The 4x400 relay team fin-



Simone Wilson shown in the front leads a group of hurdlers to the finish line. (Photo credit goes to Concordia University Chicago Athletics)

ished sixth with a collective time of 3:46.29; both of these marks were also conference records.

She was running track since her freshman year of high school. She stated that the only reason why she joined the team was because all of her friends were doing it and I didn't want to be left out. Her cousin gave her the final push to take the sport more seriously by offering to pay for all of her fees, training shoes, and spikes.

"There are so many people who helped me to get to where I am at, but I especially want to cred-

it my coaches and my teammates. Without them pushing me and believing in me, I would not have been able to reach my goals."

After having a successful freshman season, it was not unusual that Wilson was a little nervous about coming back for her sophomore season. Living up to the expectation of repeating what she did last season was stressful; a few people told her that usually after you do well during your freshman year, you have a terrible sophomore season.

"This made me even more

nervous, but I realized that they were just saying this so I wouldn't slack off. This has motivated me to work harder so that it won't happen to me."

Hopefully by the time she graduates, she wants to be a national champion in the 400 meter hurdles. As of last year, she is ranked 4th overall in the country, so this goal is realistic. Using this season to tweak the minor things to create greater outcome, such as switching her trail legs and getting out of the blocks more aggressively.

When asked who she tries to mirror on the track and about her role model, her answer showed exactly her character and why there is no stopping her anytime soon.

"My athletic role model is someone who is not famous. Most people would expect me to say an Olympic hurdler or sprinter but I don't keep up with Olympian's. The one person who I look up to is my grandfather. He ran for Drake University during the 1950s and was one of the few black people on his team," said Wilson. "Despite the racism that he experienced, he still set records and because of this, he inspires me. He is the main reason why I don't like to complain because you know things could be worse. He is who I run for."

Dance Marathon Celebrates Three Years On Campus

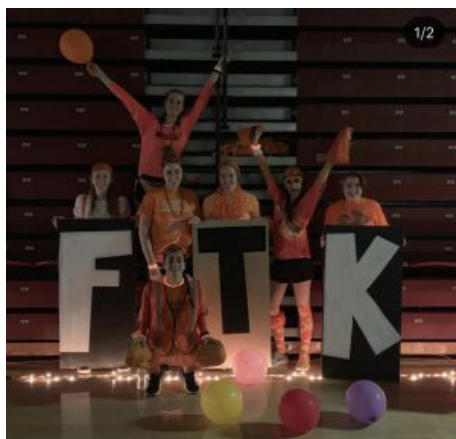
Written by Savannah Singletary

Concordia University Chicago Dance Marathon (CUDM) just celebrated its three yearlong movement that support and benefit Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals, more specifically, Lurie Children's Hospital in downtown Chicago. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals are nonprofit organizations that raise funds and awareness for over 170 pediatric hospitals across the nation. This organization is the only children's charity committed to having 100 percent of all the proceeds stay local to support local kids. Since the beginning, dance marathons for this specific cause has raised more than \$250 million.

These hospitals help kids across the nation fight battles some of us could never dream of. Every

day, CMN Hospitals treat 16,200 kids with trauma, 935 kids with diabetes, 2,128 kids with cancer, 2,329 kids for surgeries and 925 babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

There are more kids entering a CMN hospital than there are seconds in a minute. Thirty-two



Participants pose with the "For The Kids" sign at the 2019 Concordia University Dance Marathon event. (Photo Credit Samantha Sharland)

million patients visits are provided for 10 million kids every year. One in ten kids in North America are treated by a CMN Hospital each year.

We, at Concordia, are lucky enough to know at least one kid. Matthew Erickson.

Two weeks before he was born, Matthew's parents, Sue and Ben Erickson found out during an ultrasound session that Matthew had excess fluid on the brain basically saying that the baby will have mental, or physical disabilities. It was a few days after he was born that his diagnosis came; Matthew had developed brain cancer while in the womb.

Doctors told the family they had one of two options, enjoy what time you have left with him or to fight it with a low chance of survival.

"There was no other option for us," Sue Erickson stated. "We're going to fight."

Multiple rounds of chemotherapy happened, along with countless number of blood samples

drawn and brain surgeries.

Matthew reached his first birthday and then his second. At the age of four he graduated to the survivors program at Lurie's Hospital for kids with brain cancer. Now he just celebrated his seventh birthday in December.

"We have a lot of friends who would give anything, for one more sleepless night. . ." Sue Erickson said thinking of other families they've befriended over the years of treatment, some of those kids did not survive. "We have tons of friends who give up give anything to have their kid around around the house, listen to one more dad joke, spilling a cup of water on the floor accidentally."

Students pledge to raise funds and awareness for patient families at local children's hospitals over a span of a year with an 6+ hour event (the Dance Marathon), where the students get to meet patient families, participate in games and dancing and reveal the fundraising total at the very end.

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Recently Passed Minimum Wage Bill Raises Concerns

Written by Maci Killman

Illinois Democratic Governor J.B. Pritzker was able to get one of his first bills passed overwhelmingly earlier this year. The plan is to increase the Illinois minimum wage to \$15 an hour but not until the year 2025. The current Illinois minimum wage is at \$8.25 an hour, where it has not been touched since 2010.

Over the course of six-years, the minimum wage will steadily increase to \$15 an hour to allow businesses to adjust to the change. The first change in the minimum wage will be to increase to \$9.25 in January of 2020. After that, a .75-cent increase will take effect in the same year during July. That will be a \$1.75 increase in a short time period, and a fast adjustment for business owners. Once the wage reaches \$10, it will add one dollar to the wage each year until 2025, where it will eventually be \$15 an hour minimum wage.

Even though Illinois is increasing the wage across the state, the city of Chicago has a separate minimum wage currently at \$12 an hour. In July of 2019, Chicago will have to increase it to \$13 an hour. This has been part of

an ordinance that was passed in 2014 by the Chicago City Council. Once the wage reaches \$13 in 2019, the following years it increases depending on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is data gathered by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI shows the increase or decrease in consumers buying goods and/or services.

An Increase In Concerns

Meanwhile, restaurant workers voiced concerns about wage theft through their tip credit. Tip credit is when the remainder of a restaurant workers wage is made up with tips received from customers.

The bill passed for increasing the Illinois minimum wage showed different perspectives for the restaurant industry from various people and organizations. The Illinois Restaurant Association were not keen on increasing the wage but managed to agree to increase the wage to \$4.95 an hour, which pleased most lawmakers for the time being.

The Illinois Restaurant Association believes tip credit covers the wage necessary and elicits good customer service. Earning tips such as \$5 based on customer service is supposed to balance out and add up with the \$4.95 wage and create what would hopes to be a minimum wage similar to a regular hourly worker.

“Those who took part in the Illinois minimum wage increase negotiations said keeping the tip credit was part of a compromise to get the Illinois Restaurant Association on board with an increase,” said Daisy Contreras, on March 21st, telecast on NPR Illinois.

The city of Chicago, the minimum wage for tipped workers is \$6.25 an hour plus tips, effective since July 01, 2018. Cook County’s overall tipped wage is \$5.10 an hour plus tips, effective the same date.

Restaurant Owners Speak Out

The Irish pub, D’Arcy’s Pint, has appeared on many popular forms of media, from the Food Network to an episode from Travel Channel’s television series, Man v Food in 2009. There is no doubt that D’Arcy’s Pint is a well known restaurant in Springfield, Illinois. Unfortunately, owner Hallie



J.B. Pritzker passed a new minimum wage bill at the beginning of 2019 for the state of Illinois. A first solution from his many as the new Illinois governor. (Photo Credit Daisy Contreras/NPR Illinois)

Pierceall faces the effects of the recently passed minimum wage bill from earlier this year.

“We don’t really pay anyone minimum wage,” said Pierceall.

“Everyone here makes over minimum to get started. So I’m already looking at an issue that these people will want more than what the minimum is. Having it go up. There is a lot of concern with that. When it ultimately gets to \$10-15 an hour, it’s going to be harder for me to hire part-time people or young kids, and justify paying them \$15 an hour.”

Chef and owner, Paul Sletten, of the restaurant Abreo, in Rockford, Illinois also feels the challenge of the increase in the minimum wage. Being in the food industry for almost 20 years, Sletten understands what it takes to employ a traditional restaurant staff.

“The \$15 an hour people are going to have to get raised to \$18 [an hour]; \$17 dollar people are going to \$20 [an hour]. So the scale will go up, and we just hope that people are willing to pay that same progression in the food costs, because the food is going to go the same path,” added owner of the restaurant Abreo, Paul Sletten.

Meeting the government’s new rules and running a business can be a bit of a juggle. The effects of the minimum wage bill not only affect those working at these business like D’Arcy’s Pint but the customers that pay for the food and service. As the minimum wage increases so will menu prices to

help costs in other sectors of the business. “That money has to come from somewhere,” added Pierceall.

Sletten said it’s more than what’s just on the menu.

“People still have this perception of how much food can cost and they don’t realize it’s not about the food, it’s about how much it costs to pay people, run electricity, and other things.”

Both restaurant owners anticipate costs other than labor to increase. Pierceall mentioned having to cut costs in advertising. Sletten talked about “. . . just jumping ahead,” and increasing their wage and beating the curve to reduce the time and “growing pains.”

As restaurants endure the rising costs and prices within their restaurants, D’Arcy’s Pint talked about how servers are concerned of tip amounts decreasing. The servers are getting paid more but not enough that tips come up short, described Pierceall.

The new minimum wage bill passed by lawmakers has created new obstacles not only for restaurant owners such as Pierceall and Sletten, but the servers, staff, and possibly customers. With little to no word in this bill, the owners said they will have to make adjustments in their restaurants to continue to operate and serve others.

“It’s not that it doesn’t need to happen, it’s just unfortunate that it didn’t start a long time ago, so that it could be a more scalable transition,” said Sletten.

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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO - THE CHAPEL OF OUR LORD

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As aforementioned, the first weekend in March, Concordia celebrated its third year participating in the dance marathon. Former student Allison "Allie" Back started this vision of Concordia joining in on this national phenom five years ago when she was a freshman.

In its first year, 36 people helped Back make her dream true. They raised \$5,000. In the 2017 event year, 90 people participated to fund a total of \$4,000 for the hospital.

Come March 2nd, 160 people filled inside the North Gymnasium decorated in their respective team colors: green, purple, blue, orange, pink, and yellow.

Starting promptly at 6 p.m., we began the night for the kids (FTK), hearing Matthew's story from his Mother and older sister. They spoke on the outpouring of love they felt from students like us doing fundraising for charities such as this one.

Every hour after six, there was a new theme. The second hour was Disney, while playing a live-action version of Hungry Hungry Hippos. The third hour was filled with Country music, and a larger than life musical chairs. The fourth hour, was throwback hour; you had the opportunity to throw your friends in jail for an hour, or raise money for their bail. The fifth hour was all about Movie and TV trivia. One Direction, Troy Bolton, and Justin Bieber made an appearance during the lip sync battle.

Continuously throughout the night, all the attendees kept fundraising money. Every \$25 raised meant someone provided everyday needs for patients: diapers, child-size hospital gowns, and pressure cuffs. If fifty-dollars were raised, charity care would be provided for patients and families.

One-hundred-dollars raised allows children to understand and process their treatment plans, child life specialists use mock ORs to help kids understand upcoming

treatment with play therapy, performing it together on a stuffed animal. Two-hundred-and-fifty dollars given means that specialized services like pet therapy can happen. Five-hundred dollars raised contributes to vein illuminator assist with IV insertion making kids' veins easier to find. Doubling that \$500 into \$1,000 means that you can help patients get to the hospital; ambulance incubators allow even the tiniest of patients to

be transported safely with the right life-saving equipment.

CUDM fundraised \$20,058.05 total this year. Over five times as what was raised last year.

This year long process to fundraise, gather sponsors and excite others to join the movement is long and hard, but worth it in the end. Smiles like Matthew's make it all worthwhile.

So will we CU at DM next year?



Participants display the final amount of money raised for the 2019 Concordia University Dance Marathon event. (Photo Credit Samantha Sharland)

Cougar Baseball Working Towards Another Title

Written by Savannah Singletary

Concordia University Chicago (CUC) Men's Baseball team looks to make a third straight appearance and winning the NCAA Division III championship after trips in 2017 and 2018 respectively. This year's team first step in conquering their supreme goal is to obtain their seventh (and consecutive) Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) title. The future's looking bright, from coaches, sports information and fans alike, the CUC Cougars are here to make a roar.

Prior to season, the NACC released their yearly preseason poll on February 8th. Keeping the Cougars in a favorable position once again as the preseason favorite.

The poll results showed that Aurora University and Benedictine University are mostly likely to threaten CUC's chronological chain

of conference titles. The Cougars (#10 in D3Baseball.com preseason poll) were picked first with 285 points and 21 of a possible 24 first-place votes. Aurora University was second, with 255 points and two first-place votes, while Benedictine University scored 232 points. Rounding out the top six were Milwaukee School of Engineering (196), Concordia Wisconsin (191) and Marian (185).

As of March 26th, Aurora University has a 11-3 record, losing their most recent game to Monmouth College, a 12-5 score. Benedictine has a 7-6 overall record, losing at Ramapo college during their spring break trip 3-0.

While Benedictine lost to Ramapo, our Cougars did not. The baseball team spent their spring break trip in Florida with a perfect 6-0 record.

The season being just a quarter of the way done, the

team stands with a record of 11-1, losing only their season opener. The American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA), released their weekly poll, on March 26th, showcasing the Cougars clinching the first spot out of 25 teams nationally, this is the first time ever for CUC. The 2018 Cougars peaked at the number four spot twice with the baseball polling, once after week seven (midway through the season) and then again in the final poll of the season after finishing 40-15 at the Division III World Series.

Then 2019 Cougars climbed even higher, in lesser time. On March 26, the NACC had Concordia University Chicago in first place standings, Marian second, and Aurora in third. Followed by Wisconsin Lutheran College, Benedictine University, Dominican University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Rockford University, Concordia University Wisconsin, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Edgewood College, and Lakeland University. Conference play does not start until March 30th, with the first opponent of CUC being Edgewood College. The top six teams of the conference move on to the conference tournament.

While the conference tournament does not take place until May 8th and end on May 11th, up until those dates, the Cougars will be playing mostly conference games. The Cougars will be playing at home, at "The Thunderdome" as the team calls it, often within the month of April. All in all, the Cougars have 40 regular season games, over half of them (22) are conference games. Cougars are 73-7 at home since the 2013 season



Concordia University Chicago's Baseball NACC Tournament Champion trophy for 2017 is pictured above. (Photo credit goes to CUCougars.com)

and 138-28 against conference opponents.

Key dates to watch out for are April 13th, with the Cougars hosting rival, Concordia University Wisconsin. Following up with a game, April 27th, against Aurora University, and May 4th closing out conference play against Benedictine.



Cougar baseball player, Jose Mercado (left), puts his hand out for a high five for player number two, Cooper Hynes. (Photo credit goes to CUCougars.com)



Concordia University Chicago

UPCOMING BASEBALL GAMES

(WED) May 1 at 1:00/4:00 PM
vs Webster University
River Forest, IL



(SAT) May 4 at 12:00/3:00 PM
vs Benedictine University,
Lisle, IL



Late World War II Veteran Led A Historical Life

Written by Savannah Singletary

It is never too late to find your passion. Vater Fite found hers at age 65. ‘Gran’ as her family called her, found her talents late in life but that didn’t stop her from having a fulfilled career. She lived to be 104 anyway.

Born on September 28, 1914 in Carthage, Texas to Selma “Big Momma,” and Marvin “Big Daddy” Conners. Fite, a granddaughter of a slave, grew up in East Texas until she moved to California in 1939. While in California, she trained to become a welder. Working on the battleships in a Naval Shipyard, she helped turn World War II around.

“I wear that badge with honor,” Fite beams. “Not only am I a woman, but a black woman at that. Who’d a thunk a woman could do anything a man could? And probably even better. Women weren’t really allowed to be welders back then. So that was already a strike against me. And me being black? That’s strike two...I was almost out of the game,” said Fite.

During her second marriage is when she packed her bags to move from California to Maywood, IL and stayed there until she retired in 1979. For a short time she moved to Texas to take care of her ailing

mother. Fite finally moved back to Oak Park, IL to be close with her personal family which consisted of her son, his children and great grands.

Being retired meant nothing to Vater. At age 65, Fite began taking lessons at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She stretched out her own canvases and personally did her own framing. She also had a knack for sculpting too. Her artwork is displayed throughout Chicago and Oak Park, such as the library, village hall, and parks.

“The beautiful signs and sights and sounds of nature never cease to amaze me and I love to paint the places and things I’ve seen. My world is one of color and sights that give me hope...All life is art to me,” said Fite,

When she turned 97, Fite got her first passport to become a world traveler. Going on family vacations,



Vater Fite pictured second from the left at her son’s wedding in 1957. Photo provided to the Chicago-Sun Times.



Vater Fite pictured above celebrating her 104th birthday. Photo provided to the Chicago-Sun Times.

she jumped from country to country: the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Turks and Caicos. Along with being a painter, she also was a photographer, kept her Canon strapped to her chest at all times. Capturing all that the eye could see, she used those photos to persevere memories for herself and then turn them into painting so others can gain a small taste of the scenery and wildlife Fite experienced first hand.

But she didn’t stop there. Why just stick to two talents? At 84, Fite taught herself how to play the violin. Playing “Oh, Susanna” and spirituals to anyone that would listen.

Vater Fite. A woman who knew no boundaries.

On January 27, 2019, Fite passed away. This extraordinary

woman took advantage of every year she was put on this earth. For 104 years people were going to know exactly who Vater Fite was.

“Baby, you don’t get to where I am without the love of those surrounding you. And spread your love too. Give as much love as you can, so when one you are gone all you can do is smile,” said Fite.



Vater Fite enjoying a Cubs baseball game. Photo provided to the Chicago-Sun Times.

How Does Seasonal Delay Affect You Living In The Midwest?

Written by AJ Schlott

Midwest winters are renowned for their bitter colds and heavy snows, but any Midwesterner can tell you, these things do not happen until late December and early January. Although this is usually the case, most of these same people would not be able to tell you WHY the weather works this way. Is it because of the location? Perhaps it is caused by human beings? The answer is, however, that it is a totally natural thing called seasonal delay.

Seasonal delay is the

phenomenon where the temperature of an area is delayed, as the name suggests, due to the fact that the planet heats itself through longwave radiation. This longwave radiation simply means that when the sun shines on the Earth, a percentage of it is absorbed into the ground, instead of being quickly reflected. This absorbed energy then takes time to convert from light into heat, causing a delay. As the sun continues to beat down on the planet, more and more energy is converted into heat. The Earth always gives off heat, regardless of time of day or sunlight. Thus, at night, when all the heat is

being given off and nothing is absorbed, the temperature cools as there is less to convert. This happens on a daily scale, and is most noticeable in the summer time. The morning may

seem cool and nice, but by the midafternoon, the heat is scalding and sweating is imminent. The constant daily sunlight is direct, and allows for a large quantity of solar energy to be absorbed into the ground, equaling and even surpassing the amount of heat that is discharged. This longwave radiation occurs in the long run as well, and thus, summer and winter occur.

Winter time is often portrayed as drab and gloomy, with the sun choosing to hide behind clouds all day. This is a large factor in longwave radiation and seasonal delay. Just as the Earth cools at night due to a lack of sunlight, the same thing occurs all winter long. On top of that, there is usually snow in the winter, and this snow causes two things to happen. The first is that snow has a high libido, or ability to reflect light. This deters the little sunlight that gets through, and sends it back upward as light instead of heat, and is one of the reasons it always seems so blinding outside in the winter. The other thing that happens due to snow, is that it covers the ground, preventing the

sunlight from reaching the ground and being absorbed. With little to no absorption, along with the constant outpouring of heat, the areas of the planet in winter get gradually colder and colder. This gradual cooling takes place over the later fall months, such as October and November, and carries on all throughout the winter.

Concordia University Chicago Senior Tim Moses, was surprised by this information, as he thought it was just a regular occurrence. “I never really put much thought into why it was colder in January, I just always prepared for it. Growing up in the Midwest, you just know that December is basically a fool’s winter.”

Seasonal delay is something that the entire planet goes through, and thus it is something to pay attention to. Although there is not much one can do to change it, there is plenty one can do to prepare themselves for the bitter cold months. Thus, when that delay finally hits, they will be better off and ready to take on whatever Jack Frost throws their way.

The Spectator is Concordia University Chicago’s campus newspaper and conveys the voice of students. First published in 1925, The Spectator has been providing information to the campus for decades.

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TODD.HAUSER@CUCHICAGO.EDU