

spring 2019
Concordia

UNIVERSITY TEXAS MAGAZINE

With
GOD
we shall do
VALIANTLY

PSALM 108



A NEW MISSION?

Not Really...



Jeremy Sanchez de Alcala '13, '15

Jeremy knew he needed a positive change in his life, and he was looking for a sign to give him guidance. He received that sign, literally, when he saw a Concordia billboard. He dropped everything and went to the admissions office to inquire about enrollment. Now, Jeremy holds two CTX degrees, started his own business and his life is forever changed.

BE A TORNADO

Take the world by *storm*

Since 1926, Concordia University Texas has been committed to being the premier university where the adventure of faith, learning and life-changing experiences leads to meaningful work. CTX alumni receive a scholarship when they choose to continue their education by pursuing a Concordia MBA. Find out more or sign up for an info session at concordia.edu/MBA.



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ON THE COVER
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This Bible on the cover was donated to Concordia by Rev. Eugene Heckmann's ('53) widow, Joyce Heckmann ('57), who was one of the first women graduates of Concordia. The Bible has been in the Heckmann family for generations.

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News



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Concordia University Texas Magazine *spring* 2019

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ABOUT CONCORDIA

Concordia University Texas is a private, coeducational institution of liberal arts and sciences offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. Concordia provides adult and online degree programs for part-time and returning adult students. CTX is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is affiliated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

The magazine is published twice a year by the university's Marketing & Communications office. It is provided free of charge. Please send comments, letters to the editor or story ideas to lisa.kessler@concordia.edu.



“What’s new?”

I hear this question from people all the time who hope to hear about Concordia and the events that are happening at the institution. My typical response is, “There are so many exciting things going on — I could not begin to list them all.” Well, for this edition of the Concordia magazine, I am proud to announce that there is something new that is exciting, that is big and that is transformational for the University. A new mission statement only happens occasionally, and it rarely happens during one’s presidency. An institution’s mission is a guiding principle for what it does, sitting alongside its vision (what it will become), its values (how it will behave) and its purpose (why it exists). I am excited that this edition of the magazine will focus on Concordia’s new mission statement. And I am excited that, over the course of the next year, student learning outcomes and new programs and processes will begin to reflect the mission.

As I look into the future, I am beginning to get excited about Concordia’s 100th Anniversary Celebration on June 27, 2026 (mark your calendars now)! Over the next seven years, there will be new buildings, new athletic facilities, new programs and new partnerships that will launch our institution into its second century. When I am asked what’s new between now and then, there will be plenty to talk about. I hope that many of you will plan to participate not only at the celebration in 2026 but also throughout the next seven years as we seek volunteers, donors and partners to help us accomplish our goals.

As you look through the pages of this magazine, you will become familiar with Concordia and its mission; with Concordia and its people; with Concordia and its programs; with Concordia and its past; and with Concordia and its future. My question for you and so many others is, what’s next? This magazine will also make you familiar with Concordia and how YOU can become engaged with this place today, tomorrow and into your school’s second century. Let us know how you want to get involved. We honor your participation in making Concordia’s mission come alive.

God’s peace be with all of you...
you are loved by Him and by us!

Dr. Donald Christian
PRESIDENT AND CEO



BY ALEX WALKER

On March 26, 2019, 20 CTX students and staff members visited with nine legislators to share how the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) has impacted their college experience. The TEG provides essential funding to Texas students who choose to attend private, nonprofit colleges and universities in the state. The program is designed to assist students whose financial circumstances limit their college opportunities and to strengthen independent institutions, such as Concordia University Texas.

During meetings with legislators, students shared their stories and expressed gratitude to the Texas Legislature for supporting the TEG, with the hope of increasing funding towards the grant. Through critical thought, compassionate action and courageous leadership, these Tornos proved they can empower students of all backgrounds. Thank you to Senators Kirk Watson, Jose Menendez, Eddie Lucio and Representatives Donna Howard, Chris Turner, Richard Raymond, Terry Wilson, Armando Walle, Mary Gonzalez and their staff for listening to our students! **#CTXsocial**



▲ CTX taking the capital by storm!

 **TWITTER BUZZ**



José Menéndez
@Menendez4texas

Enjoyed meeting with @concordiatx students. Pleasure hearing them discuss the Texas Equalization Grant. Love having motivated students come advocate for their priorities! #Menendez4TX #txlege #higherered #CTX



ICUT
@ICUTedu

We appreciate @RepRaymondTX taking the time to meet with this great group of students! #txlege #TEG2019



Jennielle Strother
@EMjennielle

The @concordiatx team met with 9 legislators to advocate for #TEG2019. You learn a lot in those mtgs & our mtg w #CTX alum @YiselLo29935477, @TexasSHRC Luna Scholar, was the best. She attentively listened to ea student, wrote notes, & asked Qs. @SenatorLucio, thank you! #txlege

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Connect with CTX via our many social media platforms, where we document the daily goings-on of campus on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and more.

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 **TWITTER**
@concordiatx

 **INSTAGRAM**
@concordiatx

 **SNAPCHAT**
@concordiatx



▲ 1952 Kilian Hall

The History of CONCORDIA'S MISSION STATEMENTS

BY DR. KRISTI KIRK
PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT

I recently had the privilege of attending the national conference of NetVUE (Network of Vocation in Undergraduate Education), a nationwide network of colleges and universities formed to enrich the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students. This gathering of more than 700 professionals in higher education led to many opportunities for reflection and learning around issues related to helping students think about concepts related to how God is calling each of them to serve their neighbor.

In the Lutheran tradition, conversations around the issue of vocation for individuals are rich and deep, steeped in our history, theology and practice. Yet, a question we wrestle with less often is, what is the vocation of the university itself? What is the vocation, not of the individuals who serve or are educated at Concordia but of Concordia University Texas itself?

Considering the vocation of the institution, much like considering our own personal vocation, forces us to ask questions like: Where have we come from? Who/where are we now? Who do we want to be? What does the world need us to be? These are powerful questions at the individual level and institutional level. What is God calling Concordia to be? How is He calling this institution to glorify Him and serve its neighbor?

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Where have we come from? Who/where are we now? Who do we want to be? What does the world need us to be?

VOCATION AND MISSION

While an institution's vocational calling is not synonymous with its mission, an understanding of Concordia's mission is integral to this conversation.

At Concordia's inception, the "foremost aim and purpose," according to the 1927-1928 Catalog, was to "prepare young men for the Holy Ministry, and as teachers in the Christian day school." A secondary purpose, however, was also mentioned, stating that "students, who have not the above purpose in view are welcome to attend, and will find good opportunities at Lutheran Concordia College for their preparatory work."

By 1936, the catalog described the second purpose in even stronger terms: "The Board of Control has further authorized the faculty to offer a regular four year High School (Classical) Course... the institution welcomes all students who desire to pursue their pre-professional studies under distinctly Christian influences."

While the words have changed, these early first purpose statements of the institution have framed the way we have thought about Concordia's mission and purpose since the very beginning. We are an institution that trains church workers AND we are an institution that educates all students, regardless of their career plans, to prepare for their lives and careers. This was true of Concordia in 1926 as a high school enrolling 26 young men, and it is true today as a university educating more than 2500 students at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels.



◀ Concordia Chapel, 1959

CONCORDIA'S MISSION

over the years

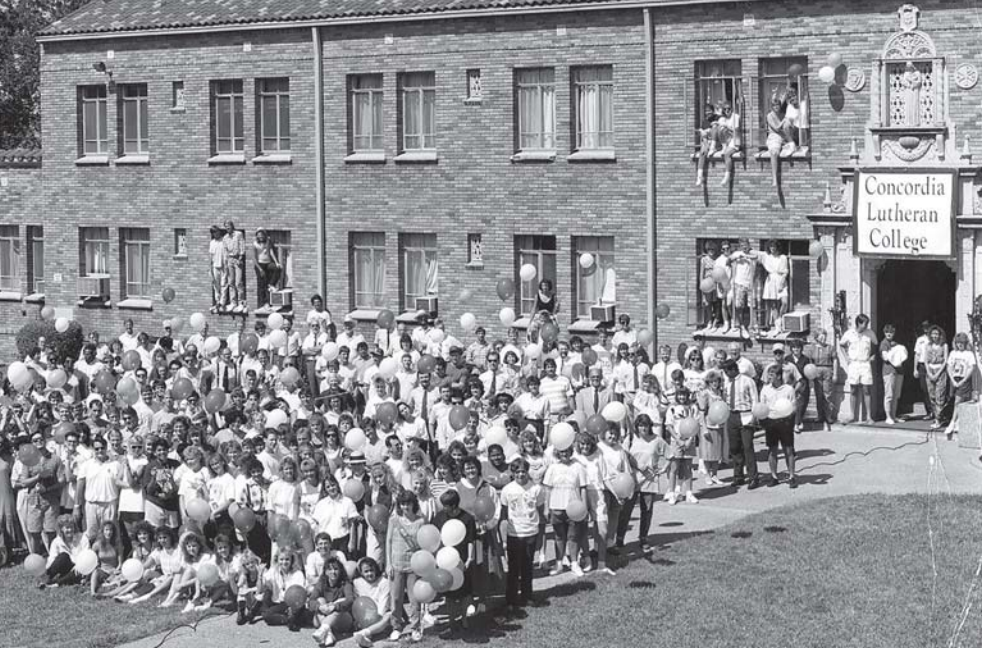
50s

In the 1950-51 school year, Concordia added a two-year junior college curriculum to its four-year high school program. With that change, a subtle shift occurred in the way the institution described itself. While the general purposes were still there, the emphasis was different. The 1950-51 Catalog states Concordia's original purpose of training young men for the Lutheran ministry and for the teaching profession, but it goes on to elaborate that, "Concordia's facilities are open to other young men of good character who desire a general education under Christian auspices. The school offers a course of study which will equip them for college or university work. Concordia has made significant contributions to the Lutheran Church, not only in the preparation of ministers and teachers, but also in the training of lay leaders for the Church."

By the 1957-58 school year, Concordia began to be more specific about its educational purpose and curriculum, noting that "special attention" was "paid to the teaching of appropriate foreign languages, to the development of skills in communication, both oral and written, and to provision of the necessary lower-division courses in education." The shift towards liberal arts preparation, a logical change for a college-level program, was clear. Again, Concordia highlighted the non-church worker, stating that "every effort is made to lay broad foundations in the areas of the humanities and the natural and social sciences which, with further education assumed, will equip the individual with the requisites for professional life in modern society."

60s

A decade later, the high school was closed and only the two-year program remained. The 1967-68 catalog provided a different emphasis once again, this time highlighting the classical nature of a collegiate liberal arts education and the Christian principles that underlie that type of education. "Concordia Lutheran College [CLC] offers to men and women an understanding of themselves and their purpose in this world in the light of God's word ... [and] an educational experience in which the unifying principle in each discipline is faith in God as He has revealed himself in Jesus Christ." An interesting description of the liberal arts was also included, stressing that CLC "seeks to form Christians to think, judge, and to act in harmony with God." Specific theological principles were also described, stating that "human beings are by their very nature separated from God", but "Jesus Christ has removed the guilt and broken the power of this sinful nature," and "God, by his Holy Spirit, wants to create a new nature in people so they will trust Him, as the Lord of their lives and gladly do His will." This amplified theological language indicated a deliberate distancing from the strictly church-work mindset (although most students at this point were still planning to enter the ministry) and more of a need to define the institution in terms of Lutheran and/or Christian principles. When the institution was entirely Lutheran and church work preparatory, these kinds of theological principles didn't need to be articulated, but there was now a need to be much more explicit. In spite of these changes, the catalog's definition of "educational



▲ Concordia Lutheran College students, 1989

objectives” remained similar. “The purpose of the school is to provide the first two years of a liberal arts course of study for future professional church workers (pastors, teachers, deaconesses, youth leaders, social workers) and for other qualified students who want to attend a small Christian junior college for their first two college years.”

70s

In the 1970s, there was an attempt to further elaborate on the theological understanding of why the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) offered a system of higher education. The 1971-72 catalog stated it this way: “Organized in the liberal arts tradition, Concordia Lutheran College of Austin assumes that from within the body of teachings and practices of the LCMS there emerges a system of human values that serves to justify a program of higher education for young people who may or may not desire a church vocation.” The 1973-74 catalog again rephrased things: “Concordia believes that within the Scriptures and the Lutheran confessions there exists a set of human values which justifies its program of higher education. Therefore, the programs are designed to challenge and guide students in their quest for knowledge, to motivate them towards self-realization, to improve their skills and to enable them to develop a life of highest values and service.”

80s

After the creation of the baccalaureate program in 1980, Concordia used the phrase “mission statement” for the first time rather than purpose or objectives. The 1987-88 Catalog stated: “Owned and operated by the LCMS and undergirded by a Christian Theology, Concordia Lutheran College offers a variety of educational programs. These programs equip students for ministry in the church and for service in a broad range of careers in society. The programs also encourage students to develop caring, sharing and serving attitudes toward others.” The description of the theological basis for why Concordia participates in higher education was also altered: “Concordia believes that the basis for its mission is found in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, which teach that man is in need of salvation; that salvation has come through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that, in response to God’s love man is motivated to service in the Christian community and the world.” Finally, the 1987-88 catalog included a statement about the purpose of the curriculum: “Because of this Scriptural emphasis, Concordia has designed its curriculum to challenge and guide students in their quest for knowledge about God and about the world, to motivate them toward self-realization, to improve their skills and to enable them to develop a lifestyle consistent with God’s will.”

90s

By the mid-1990s, the mission statement changed to the recent concept of Developing Christian Leaders, albeit in a slightly different form. The 1996-97 Catalog stated: “Concordia’s mission is education with Christian values to provide leaders in a changing world.” This mission statement set the tone for the most recent mission statement, “Developing Christian Leaders.” The 2012-13 Catalog stated that “the mission of Concordia University Texas is to develop Christian leaders” and then listed six specific learning outcomes that reflect what Christian leadership is.



A NEW *(and not so new)* MISSION STATEMENT

This review of Concordia's purpose statements reveals a continuity of thought and purpose of this institution in its past 93 years, despite significant growth and changes. While the specific expression of our mission has altered with the context of the educational setting, Concordia remains an institution that trains church workers and also educates all people in a liberal arts tradition to be leaders in the church and in society.

At the NetVUE conference, I heard leadership defined as "stability in motion." This brought to mind for me the evolution of our mission. Concordia's mission statement over the years is one that reflects both stability (echoing the purpose of this institution that has been true since its founding) and motion (revising and clarifying the mission as is relevant for today's society).

So this year, we have a brand-new mission statement that is current but remains deeply connected to the purposes of the past. Concordia continues to think through what its vocation is, asking questions about how God is calling us as an institution to serve our neighbors. While we wrestle with these questions, we look to both our past and future, knowing that we will continue to be, as described in our first purpose statement, an institution that prepares people for ministry in the LCMS ... AND we will continue to be one that, because of our rootedness in the Lutheran tradition and our commitment to the liberal arts, develops leaders of all backgrounds for lives of service.

WHO
we are

Concordia University Texas empowers students of all backgrounds to lead lives of critical thought, compassionate action, and courageous leadership. As **a liberal arts university rooted in the Lutheran tradition and affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**, Concordia develops the mind, heart, soul, and body, preparing leaders for lives of service.



A NEW MISSION?

Not Really...

DR. DONALD CHRISTIAN
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Concordia's new mission statement is just that — a new statement that articulates the mission of the University in a more comprehensive manner. For many years, Concordia used the three words to describe its mission. Today, Concordia is using fifty-one words to describe its mission, a mission which has for the past 93 years been about educating and developing leaders in the Lutheran tradition. How we have done that has changed over the years; the words we have used to describe it have changed over the years; and the people leading that mission have changed over the years. What has not changed is the mission of the University.

What follows is an abbreviated FAQ from the President's perspective of how the new mission statement came about.

WHY A NEW MISSION STATEMENT?

When organizations begin a strategic planning process, the first thing they look at and review is their mission statement. As we began the planning process in 2015, we knew that "Developing Christian Leaders" was a part of Concordia's fabric and to change it so soon after assuming the role of president would not be fair to our constituency or to the process. We knew that we could move forward with the current mission statement while crafting a strategic plan and then look at the specific wording in the future.

WHAT
we do

Concordia University Texas **empowers students**
of all backgrounds to lead lives of critical thought,
compassionate action, and courageous leadership.

As a liberal arts university rooted in the Lutheran tradition and affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Concordia **develops the mind, heart, soul, and body,** preparing leaders for lives of service.



As we prepared for our Reaffirmation of Accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, one of the standards of accreditation focuses on a regular review of the mission. The Board of Regents, who have primary responsibility for the University's mission, asked that an official review of the mission take place. The review was launched in the fall of 2017, which led to the new mission statement.

WHY CHANGE FROM "DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN LEADERS"?

In the opinion of the mission review team, the phrase "Developing Christian Leaders" was not comprehensive enough to articulate the three aspects of a mission statement — the who, the what and the why. After doing their homework on the purpose behind mission statements, the review team began crafting something which would lend more direction to Concordia's core function of education. They quickly determined that "Developing Christian Leaders" could not capture the essence of who Concordia was as an institution, what was included in the education of students, and why this type of education was important.

The first time the idea of changing the mission statement was brought to the Board of Regents, there was a little bit of angst especially among those who had been associated with Concordia for many years. As they began to understand that a mission statement can be more than just a few words, they settled on the idea that a new mission statement could be beneficial to the institution. The same discussion was had with faculty, staff and alumni, many of whom needed to understand the reason behind a mission statement.

SO HOW DID THE PROCESS WORK?

The president chose ten people to serve on the review team that consisted of six full-time faculty, two academic administrators and two full-time staff. They met regularly from September to December in 2017, working to find the right words to describe the who, what and why of the University.

Following the first draft, the Board of Regents gave its initial approval to keep moving forward, at which time the draft was shared with full-time faculty for their input. Slight changes were made along the way as the second and third drafts were shared with other constituencies across the institution. In April 2018, the Board of Regents adopted the new mission statement with the understanding that it would be introduced and slowly rolled out over the next academic year.



WHY

Concordia University Texas empowers students of all backgrounds to lead lives of critical thought, compassionate action, and courageous leadership. As a liberal arts university rooted in the Lutheran tradition and affiliated with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Concordia develops the mind, heart, soul, and body, **preparing leaders for lives of service.**

WHY DOES THE BOARD HAVE OWNERSHIP OF THE MISSION?

The Board of Regents of Concordia University Texas are the official “owners” of the school, representing the church, the alumni, the community and other constituencies that are invested in CTX.

They are the ones who determine the very nature of the school policy, specifically through determining the mission and choosing the president. Realizing that the mission is lived out in the day-to-day functions of the University, they delegated the drafting of the mission to the president prior to their approval.

HOW MIGHT THE NEW MISSION STATEMENT CHANGE THE WORK OF CONCORDIA?

The new statement impacts the University in many different ways, most of which will not be overtly evident over time. The specificity of who we are — liberal arts, rooted in the Lutheran tradition, and affiliated with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod — all speak to how we think about education and life together.

Articulating these statements shapes how we think about our values, what we teach in our classrooms, and how we interact with various constituencies. Describing the type of graduate we prepare shapes our curriculum, its outcomes and assessment practices. Finally, the school commits itself to specific ways of delivering and living out our promises by being explicit with certain phrases (such as “students of all backgrounds”).



WHAT ABOUT THE MISSION STATEMENT IS MOST EXCITING FOR THE UNIVERSITY?

Being explicit in the way Concordia lives out its calling brings new life to those who work at this place.

As a faculty member prepares their syllabus, they will think about ways in which to empower students to lead lives of critical thought, compassionate action, and courageous leadership.

As individuals and teams put together budgets, they will need to test those decisions against how resources are being deployed to most effectively develop the mind, heart, soul, and body of students.

As new programs and curriculum are proposed, their effectiveness will be assessed as supporting an institution that is a liberal arts university rooted in the Lutheran tradition and affiliated with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

As students engage with Concordia, they will be confronted with the promises and aspirations to which this mission statement speaks — and they should expect to see it come alive in all of its various forms.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE NEW MISSION STATEMENT?

The mission statement is only one part of the strategic framework of Concordia University Texas. To fully understand who we are and how we operate, the mission must be taken into account with the vision, values and purpose of the school, namely:

MISSION: Concordia University Texas empowers students of all backgrounds to lead lives of critical thought, compassionate action, and courageous leadership. As a liberal arts university rooted in the Lutheran tradition and affiliated with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Concordia develops the heart, mind, soul, and body, preparing leaders for lives of service.

VISION: By 2026, Concordia University Texas will be the premier university where the adventure of faith, learning, and life-changing experiences leads to meaningful work.

VALUES: Christ-Centered, Caring for People, Vocation, Life-Long Learning, Courage, and Trust.

PURPOSE: To cultivate goodness, truth, and beauty.

LEAVE A LEGACY TO INSPIRE THE FUTURE

The Legacy Is In Your Hands.



“*Everywhere I looked on Concordia’s campus there were positive, spiritual messages expressing Christian values and encouragement.*”

Reina G. Wiatt, CMA, CPA, began a search over 15 years ago for a university to which she could leave a bequest. But all of the schools, including her alma mater, fell short on their goals and mission statements. Then about five years ago, Ms. Wiatt was invited to attend an event at Concordia.

“When I stepped foot on Concordia’s campus,” Ms. Wiatt said, “I felt enveloped by a feeling of peace and spiritual comfort - something I had not experienced at any other school... everywhere I looked on Concordia’s campus there were positive, spiritual messages expressing Christian values and encouragement.”

Ms. Wiatt continued to attend CTX events and met with Dr. Christian, Dr. Gillis, other staff members and students. “It became clear as to why this school affected me so profoundly: it’s because Concordia University has a soul.”

Over the past five years, Ms. Wiatt created an endowment and has continued to make other contributions to Concordia. “I continue to enjoy my association with the school and the staff,” she said, “and I hope that my story inspires both students and potential donors alike to support Concordia and its mission. They are helping students build a better world, one step at a time.”

To leave a legacy at Concordia University Texas through a will bequest, we suggest including the following language in your Will:

“I give, devise, and bequeath the (sum of \$____) or (____ percentage of my residuary estate) to Concordia University Texas, EIN 74-1161941, with principal offices located in Austin, Texas to be utilized for the benefit of Concordia University Texas.”

For more information on how you can include Concordia University Texas in your estate plans, contact the **Office of Philanthropy** at **512.313.4108**.



A note from a **Tornado**

Although I will not be a student while this new mission statement is in place, I know full well that CTX will live out this mission. Concordia is and always will be a university that is welcome to all who seek an education and a place they can call home.

With this new mission statement, students will be able to live out a life of service and meaningful work through their college years and beyond. Concordia offers many opportunities to serve those in their community, and I encourage those who attend CTX to volunteer.

I am thankful for the education I have received, the professors who encouraged me when I felt lost, and the communities I had the honor of serving throughout my time at Concordia.

CTX will always be home, and my hope is that students feel and know this when entering a life of meaningful work after college.

DANIELLE CLARK, '19
BEHAVIORAL
SCIENCES
MAJOR





Concordia's DECA Competition Team Wins Big

BY ADRIANA THOMPSON

The Concordia University Texas Collegiate DECA team competed in their second Collegiate DECA Career & Development Conference February 8-9, 2019. Concordia hosted the conference, providing a change of venue from the frequent host, the University of Texas at Austin.

Ten students competed in events such as Business Ethics, Corporate Finance, Entrepreneurship Operations, Event Planning, International Marketing and Marketing Communications

The conference was a big win for Concordia in many ways. Along with winning 16 awards, all ten CTX students have advanced to the international competition in Orlando, Florida this April. Additionally, Shawn Matthijetz, a double major in political science and international business, was elected by Texas Collegiate DECA voting delegates as state president. This is the first time Concordia has held a state position in Texas Collegiate DECA and the first time a Concordia student will be representing a large population of students at state level.

Matthijetz isn't new to DECA; he's been involved with the organization since his freshman year of high school. When he began attending Concordia, Matthijetz decided to start Concordia University Texas Collegiate DECA. He and his team have achieved impressive results in the program's two years, growing the first-year membership by 280 percent to a total of 100 students.



▲ left, DECA Winners, above Shawn D. Matthijetz and Caleb Iversen

Sophomore Caleb Iversen, a criminal justice major, has been selected to serve as president of Concordia University Texas Collegiate DECA beginning in April. As the president, Iversen will oversee the five vice presidents of the organization, providing him with valuable leadership experience.

THE CTX DECA WINNERS INCLUDE:

- Shawn D. Matthijetz - *CICDC Finalist in Entrepreneurship Operations*
- Caleb Iversen - *CICDC Finalist, First Place in Business Ethics*
- Destiny Garza - *CICDC Finalist, First Place in Business Ethics*
- Devon Stewart - *CICDC Finalist in Marketing Communications*
- Madeline Silvestro - *CICDC Finalist in Marketing Communications*
- Elizabeth Sehn - *CICDC Finalist in Event Planning*
- Kasandra Romero - *CICDC Finalist in Event Planning*
- Briahna DeAnda - *CICDC Finalist in Corporate Finance*
- Vicente Lizcano, MBA - *CICDC Finalist, Second Place in International Marketing*
- Carolina Corrales, MBA - *CICDC Finalist, Second Place in International Marketing*

CICDC - Collegiate International Career & Development Conference



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW BROOKS

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CROSSING**
2020

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MARCH 6-8, 2020

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- ▶ Avoid taxes on transfers up to \$100,000 from your IRA to CTX
- ▶ Satisfy your required minimum distribution for the year
- ▶ Reduce your taxable income, even if you don't itemize deductions
- ▶ Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts
- ▶ Help further the mission of Concordia University Texas

This law no longer has an expiration date so you are free to make annual gifts to our organization this year and well into the future.



"God gave me something that I don't deserve - He gave me the gift of faith... I'm graciously gifted to give, so I give back."

- PASTOR HARRY FLEISCHHAUER ('56, '58)



For more information, contact the **Office of Philanthropy** at **512.313.4108**.

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Mr. Don Graf





“We are a place, where Christ is honored and **ALL ARE WELCOME.**”

◀ Dr. Elizabeth Medina,
Chief Diversity Officer

Fast 5 with Dr. Medina

Dr. Elizabeth Medina, associate vice president of student life, was appointed in January as the chief diversity officer of Concordia. Although her title is new, she has been working on laying the foundations for this position over the past three years.

We sat down with Dr. Medina to ask her five quick questions about her new role.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT CONCORDIA?

Medina's favorite thing about Concordia is the way we do life together. “For me,” Medina said, “that equates to the way we support and care for our entire campus.” The campus includes students, faculty, staff and everyone else involved with Concordia. Her love of the beautiful preserve is a close second.

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL AS CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER?

As chief diversity officer, Medina works to develop programs, services, resources, training and education initiatives to promote diversity, inclusion and equity on campus.

Her goal is to successfully lead all diversity, inclusion and equity initiatives for the university. “Sometimes it means doing them,” Medina explained, “and sometimes it means supporting others who are doing them.”

WHAT IS A NEW DIVERSITY INITIATIVE YOU'VE RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED AT CONCORDIA?

Medina recently established the Campus Climate Response Team (CCRT) to serve as a resource team that responds to incidents related to diversity, inclusion and equity that impact the campus community.

The CCRT provides students and others on campus with a way to formally report things of a discriminatory nature. The team members,



composed of both faculty and staff, serve to respond to incidents, provide support, educate and build awareness.

"We're doing it proactively," Medina said about establishing a response team. "Sometimes teams arise out of necessity [as the result of a diversity, inclusion or equity incident], but we've done it in preparation for the unfortunate likelihood of such an event, and we're communicating that there's a resource should something of this nature ever occur."

HOW CAN STUDENTS BECOME INVOLVED?

There are many ways students can become involved. They can join a campus organization that sits under the umbrella of diversity, inclusion and equity. They can also attend programs and activities centered on diversity, inclusion and equity, along with participating in training and educational initiatives.

"I absolutely encourage students to have a conversation with me. That's what I'm here for, to be someone to advocate for those interests and needs and to provide ways for students to get involved."

HOW DOES YOUR ROLE SUPPORT CONCORDIA'S NEW MISSION STATEMENT?

The role of chief diversity officer is directly related to the new mission statement. "The piece that jumps out to me," Medina said, "is 'empower students of all backgrounds.'"

The new mission supports her favorite thing about Concordia. "It's how we do life together - in recognition and appreciation of differences, embracing that as a Lutheran university.

"We are a place," Medina emphasized, "where Christ is honored and all are welcome."



▲ Concordia University
Esports logo concept

CTX Forms First Esports League in Austin

Concordia is launching the first varsity esports program of its kind in Austin. Esports goes above and beyond the average video game, requiring players to use comprehensive strategy and effective teamwork.

Launching in Fall 2019, players will enjoy a new esports arena with top-of-the-line PCs and peripherals. Concordia esports is a member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports and will compete nationally through different leagues including Collegiate Starleague, Riot and TESPA.

Marc Valdoria, a double CTX alumnus, will coordinate and lead the first esports teams. "Allowing gaming opportunities for top-notch players offers another opportunity for Concordia to stand apart," Valdoria said, "and I'm confident we can build a team that will be competitive."

Students don't have to be players to get involved; they can be analysts/scouts, assistant coaches or content managers. For qualified new student applicants, Concordia will offer a combination of merit-based and esports scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$18,000.



◀ Dr. Lynette Gillis
Associate Provost

New Teamwork Book Co-authored by Dr. Gillis Releases in May

Associate Provost Dr. Lynette Gillis has a new book releasing this May. She co-authored *Powerhouse: 13 Teamwork Tactics that Build Excellence and Unrivaled Success* with her husband, Dr. John Gillis, and former United States Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT) star Kristine Lilly.

Lilly rose to fame through her leadership of the USWNT and is well-known for always putting the team above her own interests. She is the most decorated women's soccer player of all-time and has the most international appearances (caps) in the history of soccer for men or women. Lilly played for 23 years on the USWNT, which has performed as a winning organization longer than any other U.S. sports team in history.

We interviewed Dr. Gillis for a behind-the-scenes look at the new book.

HOW DID THIS ALL BEGIN?

Gillis and Lilly became good friends when their own daughters became friends in kindergarten. Both of them kept hearing concerns about the self-interested attitudes plaguing soccer and business teams.

Knowing the success of Lilly's leadership of the USWNT, Gillis convinced Lilly to co-author a book about the importance of teamwork. Dr. John Gillis also joined as a co-author, bringing extensive experience in leadership consulting and corporate training. The three authors became a team of their own to produce *Powerhouse*.

WHAT'S THE BOOK ABOUT?

The book shares research-backed principles that helped Lilly and her team on

the soccer field and explains how these same principles will help you in business and in life. It offers comprehensive tactics for every part of the team-building process.

There are four themed sections in the book, each with three chapters. In every chapter, Lilly shares a soccer story that showcases teamwork, Gillis translates the story into an evidence-based teamwork tactic, and Dr. John Gillis demonstrates the practical and applicable principles that support the tactic.

The chapters also feature one-on-one interviews with David Heavey (Lilly's husband), USWNT soccer players, business leaders and others. Lilly concludes the book in chapter 13 (a tribute to her jersey number) with the topics of doing the right thing and making hard decisions.

WHAT WAS THE WRITING PROCESS?

The co-authors decided to release the book right before the 20th anniversary of the USWNT 1999 World Cup win that catapulted the team into fame. In order to meet the deadline, they had to write the book in just one year.

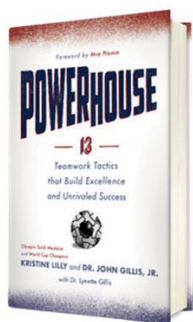
They went through multiple rounds of edits, and choosing the title became the most tedious decision to make. Lilly didn't like *Powerhouse* initially because she believed it sounded like hubris, a concept contrary to the book's focus of putting others first. However, she got on board once they dug into the meaning of powerhouse, which Gillis defined as "a team having great energy, strength and potential for success."

As a team, they faced challenges such as combining three different writing styles and tracking down photographers to secure the rights to the pictures used in the book.

Work didn't stop when they finished writing. The co-authors are also responsible for getting endorsements and making appearances to promote the book. Lilly's notoriety has helped open the door to many endorsements and promotional opportunities.

WHO IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE?

While the book will definitely appeal to soccer enthusiasts, the primary audience is "anyone who is on a team in a business, community or other entity, which is all of us," Gillis said. *Powerhouse* equips both leaders and team players with tactics that promote



▲ *Powerhouse: 13 Teamwork Tactics that Build Excellence and Unrivaled Success* available for purchase in May 2019

ALL ARTICLES BY ADRIANA THOMPSON

the overall success of the team.

Gillis has already applied lessons from the book in her role as associate provost. One of her responsibilities is to identify high-performing people for leadership roles who will help their teams succeed. Gillis searches for high-performing and high-potential individuals she can help develop into leaders. She also implements the tactic of balancing each team with new and veteran employees who have complementary skills.

WHAT IS AN IMPACTFUL LESSON YOU LEARNED?

Throughout the writing process, Gillis learned many lessons from Lilly's experiences on the USWNT. "What really stood out to me is that a strong team isn't just a consistent set of team members," she stated. "People would come and go, but the team was something broader than the sum of the parts."

A successful team builds a strong ethos and culture.

HOW DOES YOUR BOOK RELATE TO CONCORDIA'S NEW MISSION STATEMENT?

Concordia's new mission statement emphasizes critical thought, compassionate action and courageous leadership. These three factors fit into the concepts in *Powerhouse*.

Team members use critical thought to determine how to accomplish a common goal. Each team member personifies compassionate action when they work for the greater good of the team. And team members display courageous leadership every time they choose to do what's right.

"Together, those three things make you both a great team member and team leader," Gillis explained. "This book isn't about individual self-interest; it's about making the team better."

WHAT IS ONE TAKEAWAY YOU HOPE READERS WILL GLEAN?

"I would hope that people can develop an appreciation for others," Gillis said, "and an ability to model what a high-quality team member is so that the team itself becomes that greater thing. You see yourself in service to the team, not in a self-interested way."

Concordia Unveils New MBA 4+1 Program

Concordia now offers the MBA 4+1 program, which enables students to complete both their bachelor's degree and an MBA in just five years instead of six. The program is open to all business majors across all modalities and those pursuing a BAAS.

Students can register for up to 12 MBA credits their junior and senior years. After earning their bachelor's degree, students complete their final year of the program as full-time MBA students. This program awards participants with contingent direct admission into the Concordia MBA program, eliminating the need to submit a separate application.

There are specific requirements students must meet to maintain 4+1 status, including event attendance, class visits and work experience through paid, volunteer and student leadership roles.

Concordia's MBA 4+1 program saves students time and thousands of dollars in tuition. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to network and learn from people within their cohort, most of whom are working professionals with industry experience.

MBA
4+1

SAVE TIME



MONEY!



Get your
MBA in just



additional
year



Traditional
students can
save up to
\$9,120
on their MBA

Empowering others
to take the world by

storm

MEET DE'MARIAN

De'Marian W. '19 is a communications major who has career aspirations in visual communications and graphic design. She comes from a single-parent household, so scholarships were essential for her to be able to attend college. She decided to come to Concordia University Texas because she knew that she found a place that she could call home for the next four years. De'Marian is actively involved on campus, serving as president of the Communications Club as public relations officer for student government, and as a member of the Black Student Union.

In her freshman year, she had a once-in-a-lifetime experience when she attended the 909 (now The Refuge) on her birthday. The student ministry had partnered with Carry the Love on this particular night, and De'Marian remembered feeling an experience of togetherness with God like she never had before. She was so excited to celebrate her first birthday away from home surrounded by the love of Christ. That memory is something that she will always cherish, and it never would have been possible without her being able to attend Concordia.



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66

*Your gifts, no matter
the amount, are truly
altruistic because
you shine a light
through our students
as they become who
they are meant to be.*

Thank you!"

—DE'MARIAN W.



For more information, contact the **Office of Philanthropy** at **512.313.4108**.

Retirements

BY ADRIANA THOMPSON



Sandra Gaskin

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING

Assistant Professor Sandra Gaskin, MSN, RN, began as a faculty member in the College of Nursing in 2011. She became the director of the Accelerated BSN track in May 2017, assisting in the launch of this new option for CTX nursing students.

Gaskin's favorite thing about working at Concordia is the fact that it is Christ-centered. "I have always worked in a secular environment, and when I came here it was so freeing to be able to pray with students, with their patients and to open meetings. I love that I can openly live out my faith and share it. I also love the faculty with whom I work on a daily basis. Everyone is supportive, and they all work so hard to ensure the success of our students."



Joyce Kulhanek

LABORATORY MANAGER

Joyce Kulhanek joined Concordia in August 2013 and has served both as lab instructor and lab manager for the College of Science.

Kulhanek's favorite thing about working at Concordia is getting to know the students, faculty and staff. "Coming from a very small community," she explained, "it has been very fulfilling to meet and interact with all the different cultures that are represented here at the University."



Dr. Kathy Lauchner

DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Dr. Kathy Lauchner has been a nurse for 50 years – almost 51 and has taught for 47 of those years. Her area of practice was critical care, usually in the emergency room. She has served as the director of the School of Nursing and most recently, as the dean of the College of Nursing.

Lauchner's favorite thing about working at Concordia is the faculty. "Concordia has a fantastic faculty," she said. "They pride themselves on being able to help students."



Dr. Jim McConnell

DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jim McConnell began working at Concordia in January 2000. He founded the Director of Christian Education (DCE) major, now called the Religious Education major. McConnell worked to get approval from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and he wrote and taught all the courses in the major. In 2008, McConnell became the dean of the College of Education and served in that role until he retired in the summer of 2013. He was asked to return in 2017, where he has continued to serve as dean of the College of Education.

McConnell's favorite thing about serving at Concordia is the support

he received from administration and faculty. "Starting a program is not easy," McConnell said, "but the entire faculty and administration were supportive of my serving here, and that continued when I returned in 2017." He also enjoys getting to know his students and "being a small part of their Christian education experience."



Dr. Claudia Teinert

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Dr. Claudia Teinert taught her first Concordia classes in 1989. As an English professor, Teinert has a special interest in and high regard for Greek tragedy. Many of the courses she has taught explore the ideas of the ancient Greeks and Romans.

"I have been blessed a hundredfold," Teinert said, "to have heard the best of young adult thinking and seen the best of young adult conduct in my classrooms."



New Dean of Students **Martha Compton**

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE CONCORDIA?

One of the reasons I have been so excited about this opportunity at Concordia is that it checked a lot of boxes for me. I have been working towards moving into the role of dean of students for some time, and I am thrilled to be at CTX during this particular time with our recent HSI designation, implementation of our new mission statement, and plans to grow both our residence life program and our enrollment. Additionally, having previously lived in Austin, I have been so happy to return to the city I love and reconnect with friends and family here.

66

Acting compassionately and leading courageously on crucial issues are so important, and Concordia is uniquely situated to prepare students to do so.

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL AS THE NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS?

Right now, I'm focused on the short-term goal of getting to know our students, campus culture and community partners. I have loved learning about Tornado traditions and have enjoyed experiencing several "firsts" recently, including the Senior Soiree, Concordia Crossing and Coffeehouse!

My overall goal is to continue to foster spaces and opportunities for students to connect and engage, both during their time here at Concordia and beyond. We know that life happens, and I want students to know that we will do everything we can to support them in their time here and help them get to commencement.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO INCORPORATE THE NEW MISSION STATEMENT INTO YOUR ROLE?

In higher education, we focus a lot on developing students into critical thinkers. One of the things I love so much about the new mission statement is that it recognizes that it's not enough to just think critically about something — you have to then act on it.

Acting compassionately and leading courageously on crucial issues are so important, and Concordia is uniquely situated to prepare students to do so. While we plan to infuse the new mission through all of our offerings and programming, I'm particularly excited to incorporate this mission into our work with our student leaders, who already have such a heart for service.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT CTX STUDENTS?

I absolutely love the diversity of the student body in every imaginable aspect. One of my favorite questions to ask students is, "So, how did you decide to come to Concordia?", I love hearing their stories.

On any given day, I can be talking with a traditional first-year student who lives on campus, another student who is balancing their family needs while completing a degree they started years ago, or a student returning for additional graduate work. I really admire how passionate students are about their experiences here at Concordia and how dedicated they are to completing their degrees.

IS THERE ANY ADVICE YOU WOULD LIKE TO OFFER CTX STUDENTS?

I think the biggest piece of advice I can offer students is to vocalize their needs. There is so much support here for students, no matter what challenges they may be facing. We all want them to succeed and will do whatever we can to help them — but we don't always know what that is.

If something is going on personally or academically and you need assistance, reach out and let someone know. We will get you connected and make sure that you are equipped with as many options as possible to address the situation. And if you don't know where to start, you can always start with me!

Faculty Updates

SCHAFER CHAIR IN LITERATURE APPOINTED



English instructor Jo McIntosh has been appointed as the Otto W. and Norma L. Schafer Endowed

Chair in Literature. As chair, McIntosh is awarded three load credit hours for the fall and spring semesters that she will use for further study, scholarship and professional engagement related to the English discipline. She will also serve as host to ongoing speaker engagements affiliated with Concordia, bringing in at least one speaker during each of the four semesters of her appointment.

The vision McIntosh has for the chair is to bring a speaker who will attract scholars from across the country and establish CTX as a meeting place for early modern scholars.

“I believe that this vision fully realizes what can be accomplished with the chair,” McIntosh explained. “With the help of the Otto W. and Norma L. Schafer Endowed Chair, Concordia University Texas has the opportunity to become the future meeting place of internationally renowned scholars in early modern literature, promoting a love for literature among our students, faculty and community.”

During one of the speaking engagements, McIntosh will present her research on Mary Wroth, the first known woman to publish prose fiction in English. “I am grateful and privileged to work at a university that understands the value of literature,” she said, “evidenced in being entrusted with the Schafer endowment.”

FACULTY ADVANCEMENTS



Assistant Professor Jeffrey Utzinger of the English department has advanced to associate

professor. He has also been appointed to serve as Concordia’s first dean of teaching and learning, beginning July 2019. In this supervisory role, Utzinger will provide leadership, mentoring and coaching to full-time faculty to ensure they have the needed tools to be successful and are continually improving their quality of teaching.

Utzinger began teaching at Concordia in the late 1990s and after serving both as a corporate trainer and business owner, he returned to CTX in 2012. As dean, he joins the Academic Cabinet and will continue to teach in the English department.



Assistant Professor Dr. Allen Brown of the education department has advanced to

associate professor. Brown led the effort to write and have approved the first doctoral-level program (EdD) at Concordia.

After serving as superintendent to multiple school districts, Brown joined Concordia in 2005. He has served in various roles including dean of the College of Education, AVP of undergraduate studies and, currently, assistant provost for special projects.

AND THE WINNER IS...



Dr. Joanne Antrim. We are proud to announce that this year’s Neeb Teaching Excellence Award

recipient is Dr. Joanne Antrim. Dr. Antrim has been teaching at Concordia since 2008. It is no surprise that she has been chosen for this honor by the 2019 graduates, her love of teaching and students is evident.

“I have always known that being a teacher is God’s plan for me. I have been thankful for each day I have spent with my students.”

The senior class votes on the recipients of this award. The criteria for the award includes excellence in classroom instruction, preparation, educational innovation, student rapport, guidance and advisement of students, involvement and sponsoring of extracurricular activities and professional growth. Throughout the years, each recipient has been a beloved professor of students and their fellow faculty members. Concordia University Texas is honored to have this long lasting tradition and proud of their faculty members who continue to exemplify ministry and educational passion just like Dr. Neeb.



TORNADO

SPRING 2019 SPORTS RECAP

BY JOE FISHER
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The spring season is in full swing for Concordia University Texas as baseball, softball, men's and women's golf, and men's and women's tennis prepare for the final month of the regular season.





PHOTOS BY JOE FISHER

BASEBALL

The baseball team has had their best start to a season in program history winning 15 of their first 16 games. Breaking into the top 25 for the first time since the 2015 season, the team reached a ranking of No. 11 in the nation after their 2-0 win over No. 2 Rowan on March 17. The Tornados currently sit with a 17-6 (3-3 ASC) record heading into their three-game set with UT Dallas.

A pair of juniors have led the way for CTX this season. At the plate, Bret Leiferman, who is coming off a medical redshirt in 2018, is batting a team-high .390 and leads the team in RBIs (19), hits (32) and home runs (2). He also earned American Southwest Conference Hitter of the Week honors on Feb. 12. On the mound, the Tornados have relied on ace Matthew Williams. The Austin, Texas native has a 5-1 record through six starts, three of which he has gone the distance, tossing three complete-game shutouts on the season with a 27.1 scoreless innings streak at one point. For the year, he has a 2.16 ERA in 41.2 innings of work with 38 strikeouts to only eight walks.

SOFTBALL

Meanwhile, the softball team had a busy schedule to kick off their season, playing 15 games in the span of 24 days. The Tornados finished the month strong, winning four of their last five games and a series over LeTourneau. The team currently sits at 10-12 (5-7 ASC) on the season as they begin a three-game series with Mary Hardin-Baylor on March 29.

Concordia Texas has seven hitters hitting above .300, led by senior Haley Dennett who has a .382 mark. She leads the team in hits (26) and doubles (8), and she is second on the team in runs scored (11) and walks (7). In the circle, Heather Casiano has been superb. The Killeen, Texas native is 5-1 in 12 appearances with a team-best 2.14 ERA and 17 strikeouts in 39.1 innings. On March 15, Casiano tossed the first complete-game shutout of her career, blanking McMurry 4-0.



GOLF

The men's golf team has played three tournaments in the spring, recording top-three finishes in all of them. The Tornados earned a third-place finish in their home tournament, the Linda Lowery Invitational, on Feb. 26. The Tornados have been led by their lone senior Seger Howell, who won his ninth career individual title at the Texas Cup after shooting a one-under 71 round. For his performance, Howell earned ASC Golfer of the Week honors for the fourth time this season and for the 13th time of his prestigious career, which breaks the conference's record for most ASC Player of the Week accolades earned by a single student-athlete in the 20-year history of the conference. PJ Schmitz has also played well for CTX. The freshman from Cedar Park, Texas placed in a tie for third at the Linda Lowery Invitational after shooting a three-round score of 222.

The women's golf team won their second-ever stroke play tournament in program history after coming back from an 11-shot deficit to blow past Southwestern and win their home tournament, the Linda Lowery Invitational. The Tornados shot 346 in the final round to win the tournament by five strokes and placed three golfers in the top five of the individual leaderboard.

Madysen Milliorn led the team,

carding an 84-83-167 to finish in third, while Loren Nevers and Makaela Lauritsen came in fourth and fifth, respectively. Most recently, the team recorded their seventh top-three finish of the season, placing as the runner-up at the Texas Cup where Miliorn placed in a tie for third and earned her fourth top-five finish of the season. Concordia Texas will go for their first-ever conference championship at the ASC Championships on April 12-14 in Glen Rose, Texas.

TENNIS

Men's tennis has had a spectacular start to the season, winning six of their first eight matches, including a streak of five wins in a row, before falling to No. 17 Trinity in a non-conference contest on March 23. The Tornados have been led by freshmen Joshua Bode and Esteban Arredondo.

Bode and Arredondo, who play at line one doubles together, have a 4-1 record, including wins over East Texas Baptist and LeTourneau. Bode, the ITA Southwest Regional winner and All-American, has done well at line one singles for CTX, winning four of his five matches. Arredondo has performed well between line two and three singles with three wins, including a straight-set win against Schreiner to open the



season. The Tornados will now head into conference play with six of their final seven matches against ASC foes.

Women's Tennis is .500 on the year through their first eight matches, picking up wins over Texas Wesleyan and squeaking out a 5-4 win over LeTourneau on March 22. The Tornados have looked to senior leadership in Alexis Popovich and Genna Ellinwood.

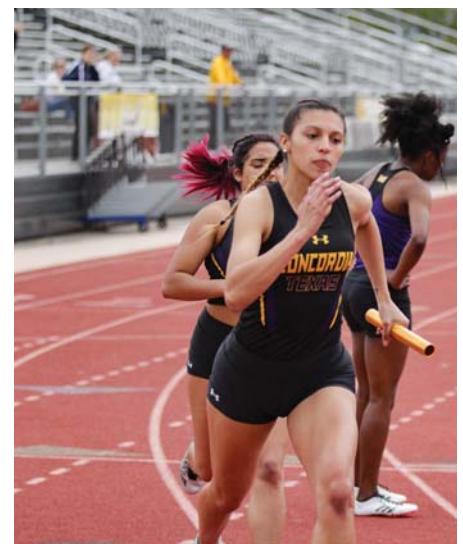
Popovich, an Austin, Texas native, has represented CTX at line one singles, winning three matches. Ellinwood has been productive in her singles matches, winning five of her seven matches, including a string of four in a row. With partner Camille Kempf, the duo has totaled three wins in doubles at line three. The team will now turn their attention to conference play, seeking to make their third trip in a row to the ASC Tournament.

TRACK & FIELD

The Track and Field team is off and running in their spring season, having competed in four meets so far. At the Trinity Open on March 2, the Tornados had a strong performance led by Raul Villalpando and Gabriel Spivey. Villalpando won the 110m hurdles with a time of 15.80, while Spivey took the long jump crown after jumping a distance of 7.18m, which, as of March

29, ranks best in the nation in Division III. Villalpando would top his time in the 110m hurdles at the TLU D3 Challenge on March 23, running a season-best time of 15.21 to finish as the runner-up. His time currently ranks as the 16th-best time in the nation.

On the women's side, Sadie Ingram and Alexis Amaro have performed well for the Tornados. Ingram set personal records in the triple jump at the HSU Relays with a distance of 9.84m, but she would best that mark a month later at the TLU D3 Challenge with a distance of 10.50m for a third-place finish. Amaro has three top-three finishes in the 400m dash, including winning the event at the HSU Relays on Feb. 23. Her best time of the season came at the TLU D3 Challenge, where she ran a time of 1:01.28 to place third. The track and field team has three more meets before heading to the ASC Championships, which will be held in Abilene, Texas on April 19-20. Raul Villalpando will look to repeat as the 110m hurdles conference champion.





▲ Carl Doering served in the U.S. Army during WWII

CARL DOERING '41

Taking the World by Storm at 95

Carl Doering is Concordia's oldest living alumni at 95 years old. He graduated from Concordia in 1941 when it was Lutheran Concordia College of Texas, a four-year high school that prepared young men for careers in ministry and teaching.

In 1941, Concordia's mission statement was, "to offer courses of instruction which prepare the [young male] students to receive the specialized training of the Concordia Theological Seminary." It also stated, in reference to the regular high school courses offered, that "the institution welcomes all students who desire to pursue their pre-professional studies under distinctly Christian influences."

While Doering began Concordia with the intention of becoming a pastor, a professor advised him not to pursue the ministry because of his struggle to memorize. Even though his career path changed, the Christian influences he had at Concordia have characterized his life ever since.

After serving in the U.S. Army during WWII in the platoon that accepted the surrender of the Japanese in the Philippines, Doering returned to his native Georgetown, married Dolores (his wife of 72 years), and became a father to three sons and one daughter.

Entering the agricultural industry, Doering owned and operated a cotton gin, grain storage and a Massey Ferguson dealership simultaneously for over 30 years. Then, after designing golf courses for six years, Doering worked in the banking industry for 12 years.

Throughout his life, Doering has loyally served the city of Georgetown and its residents for decades. Along with starting Georgetown's Little League in 1948, Doering has served as:

- ▶ Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Parks and Recreation Board
- ▶ Trustee and Chairman of Georgetown ISD
- ▶ Commissioner and Vice Chairman of the Georgetown Housing Authority
- ▶ Georgetown City Council Member
- ▶ Chairman of the Building Committee for Christ Lutheran Church
- ▶ Mayor of Georgetown ('84-'86)

In 2000, Doering was honored with the Georgetown Citizen of the Year Award for his faithful service to the city. The Doerings continue to reside in Georgetown.

When sharing his life's story, Doering repeatedly says, "The Lord works in mysterious ways." Doering's remarkable community service is a result of his faith in God, which was supported by the strong Christian influences he had at Concordia. Carl Doering is a wonderful example of how mission impacts our community.



Taking Data Security by Storm

HOPZERO, one of the first member companies of IncubatorCTX, is an Austin-based internet security company that was co-founded by Concordia MBA graduate Ben Haley ('12). On March 28, 2019, HOPZERO announced the release of its flagship product, HopSphere Radius Security.

The new cloud-based product addresses the seemingly unstoppable data breach pandemic by limiting how far data can travel. HopSphere Radius Security uses the organization's existing security and network infrastructure to establish "spheres of trust" that limit data accessibility.

"Our product acts as a virtual leash, preventing critical data from



◀ left to right:
Kristin Spindler,
Ben Haley, Jim
Rounsville and Bill
Alderson

going too far," Haley explained. "While firewalls work to keep people out, our technology keeps that valuable data in."

This security solution is the first of its kind, approaching data security from a completely new perspective. "Unlike anything available today,

this method represents a whole new way of implementing security to safeguard valuable assets," HOPZERO founder and CEO Bill Alderson said.

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Where Are They Now?

SEND US YOUR NEWS

We want to feature your incredible stories and celebrate all that our alumni are doing. Share your accomplishments and your vocation with friends and fellow classmates. Submit your alumni note at alumni@concordia.edu, and see it in the next issue of the magazine!



▲ Standing (left to right): Bob Besalski, James Rockey, J. Brown Seated (left to right): Ed Trinklein, Richard Pieplow, Cyndy Pieplow, Bob Reinhardt, Jonathan Rockey

These Concordia University Texas alumni attended the Veterans of the Cross Conference in Fruitland Park, Florida. Veterans of the Cross cares for the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of retired servants of the LCMS church.

1960s

Dr. Alan Abel ('64) was awarded the Rev. Dr. George Beto Service Award at Celebrate Concordia on campus in early March. Alan and his wife, Audrey, live in Big Spring, TX.

Rev. Tom Handrick ('67, AA '69) delivered the message "The Changeless Christ Gave Us the Best Change of All" as part of the worship service at Concordia Crossing on campus in early March. He and his wife, **Sally ('68)**, enjoyed coming home to Texas and reconnecting with their classmates from 1969.

1990s

Mario Martinez ('96, MBA '17) and his wife, Melonie, welcomed their first grandchild, a boy, Miguel III in late March. The proud grandparents plan to make many trips to the Dallas area to visit Miguel and his parents in the near future.

2000s

Kristin Wollman ('00) became engaged to Brandon McMinn in early 2019. The happy couple plans to wed in Austin this August.

Jennifer Fretwell Miller ('08) gave birth to a little girl, Adelin Ann, in February. Adelin joins her big brother, Reed, and dad, Zach, in the Miller family.

2010s

Kacie Krause Innes ('12) achieved a Master of Education in educational psychology from Texas A&M University in December 2018. Kacie teaches at Prince of Peace Christian School in Carrollton, TX. She and her husband, Will, reside in Plano, TX.

Jason Wallingsford ('12) and his wife, Andrea, welcomed a little girl, Kathryn, into their family in December. Kathryn joins her older brother, Connor, in their growing home. The Wallingsfords live in Austin where Jason serves as DCE at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

Ashley Alaniz-Moyer (MBA '14) was honored with the Emerging Leader Award as part of Concordia Crossing on campus in early March. Ashley and her husband, Billy, reside in Austin.



◀ left to right:
 Jeff Frosch ('96),
 Brad Leftwich ('83),
 Farhad Madani ('93)
 and Haidar Kattan ('83)

Sai Pathi ('14, MBA '17) officially returned to our alma mater as Controller in March 2019. Sai looks forward to putting the skills he learned in the classroom to work here at CTX.

Katherine McGovern Athey ('15) lives in Maplewood, NJ and works as a school-based mental health therapist. She earned a Master of Arts in mental health counseling from New York University in 2017 and relates "This is the career that I always dreamed of having, but never thought it was possible. I believe that my time at CTX allowed me to gain the confidence to pursue my dreams."

Jessi Sternat ('18) has found meaningful work with the state of Texas as a Child Protective Services worker. Jessi credits a mission trip to Cambodia she participated in as a CTX student with helping to prepare her for the challenging circumstances she often witnesses. According to Jessi, "Concordia shaped me to take the world by storm, and I am able to face every storm that comes my way each day."

Leslie Swanson Anaya (MEd '19) has been named Ambassador for the Foremost Foundation, which was created to assist young people pursuing higher education and support health care initiatives and cultural exchange. Leslie lives in Cisco and teaches at Breckenridge High School.

In Memoriam

Rev. Dr. William F. (Bill) Meyer went to heaven on February 1, 2019. A highly educated scholar and lifetime servant of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Bill graduated from Concordia Senior College in Ft. Wayne, IN in 1962; earned a Master of Divinity degree in Old Testament interpretation from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO in 1966; and earned a master's degree (1968) and PhD (1974) in Hebrew and Semitic studies from the University of Wisconsin. He served as Assistant Professor at Concordia Seminary in Springfield, IL; Dean of Administration and Associate Professor at Concordia Lutheran College in Austin, TX; Vice President of Editorial for Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis, MO; Assistant Treasurer for the LCMS and Executive Vice President for the LCMS Foundation; and the CEO of the Board for Higher Education, overseeing ten colleges and two seminaries, which he led to form one Concordia University System. He continued to influence and raise funds for the LCMS Foundation and university system long after retirement.

We offer condolences to Bill's wife, Sharon, as well as to his children, Michelle, Monica and Melinda, and their families. Other surviving members of Bill's family include his sisters Louise, Laura, Linda and Laverne and his brothers Wayne and Werner. We thank the Meyer family for this history.

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