

Connections

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY AT AUSTIN

SPRING 2007



A Bold Vision &
A Blessed Journey

Engaging the World:
Student Leaders in Action

Remember When...
Homecoming 2007

Connections

Spring 2007 Issue

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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY AT AUSTIN

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From the President



Dear friends of Concordia,
It's official! We're moving to a new campus!

After a long and tedious process, we completed the sale of our current campus and the purchase of the new campus on Friday, March 30. It feels great to have finished this part of the process. It is also exciting to look ahead to the opportunities open to us at our new home. We have spent a lot of time preparing for relocation and developing a plan for the new campus, and we are delighted to be able to share some

of those plans with you. In the weeks and months ahead, we will begin construction and renovation with the intention of moving next summer.

Even while so much attention has been focused on the relocation effort, we have remained dedicated to our mission of developing Christian leaders. We continue to add new faculty and staff to meet the demands of our growing student body. I am very excited to announce that this spring semester we achieved the largest enrollment in the history of the University. We currently have 1,374 students! And as we go through the process of reaccreditation, we are looking at all of our programs by evaluating ways to improve them and possibly expand our offerings.

With all of these things going on, it is a very exciting time to be a part of Concordia University. We have truly been blessed with incredible opportunities and with friends like you. There is still a lot of work to be done, so I ask that you remember the relocation process as well as the faculty, staff and students of the University in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Thomas E. Cedel, Ph.D.
President

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On the cover: Amanda Ramiz tutors Wooten Elementary School student Fidel Aguilar in reading. **Left:** Chelsea Holloway and Michelle Heckmann prepare care packages for the homeless. **Below:** Adam Benthall tutors Jorge Huerta at Wooten Elementary School. For stories about these and other student leaders see the story "Engaging the World" on page 17.



From the Editor

The six years I spent working in Concordia's Admissions Office gave me the chance to get to know a lot of our students. Over the years, there have been quite a few who have impressed me with their desire to learn and grow academically, spiritually, and as leaders.

While working on the feature story "Engaging the World: Student Leaders in Action," I had the opportunity to interact with a number of students who I had never met. After talking with these students and getting a glimpse of their passion, drive and ambition, I find myself not just impressed, but also in awe.

And it's not just the students who are impressive. Behind each of the individuals and groups profiled in the story are faculty and staff members who serve as mentors and guides. The dedication and determination of the Concordia faculty and staff to see students grow and succeed is truly awe-inspiring.

I am very excited to be able to share some of these stories with you, to brag about the people at Concordia and all the great things that are happening here. Having the opportunity to tell the Concordia story and to share it with members of our community is one of the things I enjoy most

about my job. And having so many things to share certainly makes it easy to do my job. The challenge is finding room for all of them!

Remember that your comments and suggestions are welcome! Thank you to everyone who sent such positive and encouraging responses to the Winter 2006 issue. I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I enjoyed creating it. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sherrah Holobaugh '00
 Director of University
 Communications
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Tim Tingle Storytelling

On January 23, 2007, the College of Education together with the Center for the Professional Development of Teachers hosted professional author and storyteller Tim Tingle. This popular storyteller shared his experiences growing up as a member of the Choctaw nation while also telling the stories of other Native American cultures and discussing his work in the engagement of Texas students, helping them to realize that they have a story, too. His stories were accompanied with authentic Native American musical instruments. The students in attendance were excited about this opportunity to meet the person whose cassette tapes they had listened to as children. This event also provided Concordia education students with the opportunity to interact with teachers in the community.

Walter Hooper Lecture

On Monday, March 26, 2007, Walter Hooper, literary executor of the C.S. Lewis estate, spoke at Concordia University. Throughout the evening, Hooper shared stories of how he left his home in North Carolina to spend some time with the famous author, eventually becoming Lewis' personal assistant. He presented the audience with a very personal view of C.S. Lewis, showing an unassuming man who only talked about his writing when other people brought up the topic.

At the end of the evening, Hooper was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University in recognition of the contributions he has made to Lewis scholarship. He is the author, co-author, or editor of 30 works on C.S. Lewis, including his magnum opus, *C.S. Lewis: A Companion and Guide*, as well as *Collected Letters, Volumes I, II, and III*.



Right: Shelia Kidd, Off-Site Center Director for Concordia's Adult Degree Program, speaks with Walter Hooper at a reception held in his honor.

Fine Arts Festival

The first Concordia Fine Arts Festival was held February 23-24, 2007. Sponsored by the English, Music and Fine Arts Departments, the festival was a cross-disciplinary celebration of music, literature and art. Nationally acclaimed poet Mark Jarman was the special guest and keynote speaker for the festival, which featured his book of poetry titled *Unholy Sonnets*.

Artists Sylvia Betts, Eric Gibbons and Amanda Stahl were commissioned to create a works of art in response to Jarman's sonnets. These paintings were featured in a workshop on Saturday morning.

In addition to the workshop, the festival featured a number of events, including a special multimedia performance entitled "Word, Note, Paint" followed by a panel discussion and reception on Friday evening. The festival concluded Saturday evening with a dinner and a special performance of jazz improvisations created by musician Marc Witmer in response to Jarman's poetry, followed by a reading by Jarman of his poetry.



Above: Throughout the day on Friday, February 23, students read poems to their classmates at the fountain for "Poetry at the Water".

DCE Internship Placements

Internship placements for 13 Director of Christian Education graduates were announced in a chapel service on Friday, March 30, 2007. Dr. Jim McConnell, DCE Program Director, and Prof. Serena Pace, DCE Program Associate Director, made the announcements.

Serving congregations in Texas are Amanda Bell, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Amarillo, TX; Krista Elliott, Austin City Church, Austin, TX; Joshua Jackson, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Thorndale, TX; Jessica Ranostaj, First Lutheran Church, Texarkana, TX; Karl Winkler, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX and Eric Naumann, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Kingwood, TX.

Placements outside of Texas include Kelly Sevin, Hope Lutheran Church, Bonita Springs, FL; Jessica Lynn, Zion Lutheran Church-Avilla, Alexander, AR; Nathan Johnson, First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN; Jared Juszczak, Grace Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL; Andrew (A.J.) Mastic, Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR; Luz Soto, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Tulsa, OK; and Jonathan (Robby) Stahmer, Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Tampa, FL.

Congregations interested in applying for an intern or in seeking more information about the internship program should contact Dr. McConnell at jim.mcconnell@concordia.edu or (512) 486-1244.

By Dr. Jim McConnell, DCE Program Director & Professor of Education



Above: Front Row: A.J. Mastic, Luz Soto, Amanda Bell, Jessica Lynn, Kelly Sevin and Professor Serena Pace. Middle Row: Dr. Jim McConnell, Jared Juszczak, Eric Naumann, Jessica Ranostaj and Robby Stahmer. Back Row: Karl Winkler, Nathan Johnson, Josh Jackson, and Krista Elliot.

In August, the Drama at Stratford class will take its sixteenth trip to the Stratford Festival in Ontario, Canada. This three-hour, upper-level English course allows students to complete one of the core requirements for English in a week's time period. During that week, the group will attend 10 plays at three different theaters in Stratford. The following plays are scheduled for this year: *An Ideal Husband*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Comedy of Errors*, *My One and Only*, *Oklahoma!*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *A Delicate Balance*. The production quality of these plays and the professional acting combine to make this a theater experience you won't forget! Contact Dr. Riemer at milton.riemer@concordia.edu for more details.

Guild Service Award

Records of the Concordia University Guild show that in 1993 Helen and Monroe Karcher organized a dedicated plan to sell fruit cakes in order to raise money for student scholarships. The Karchers made arrangements with Gladys' Bakery in Weimar, Texas, advertised, collected orders, and then delivered the cakes for the Christmas holiday season. The net profit during that first year was \$361.60. The following year it was \$428.77. The third year \$500 in matching funds from AAL were secured and the total profit was \$1,211.21. Soon afterwards, candied pecans were also offered for sale and the name "fruit cakes" was changed to "Holiday Cakes." Each succeeding year the proceeds increased, until finally this year, the Guild treasurer's report showed a profit of \$4,166.32, all of which will be given to student scholarships.

On February 10, 2007, the Karchers were presented with the Guild Service Award to recognize their 14 years of diligent work and untiring efforts. The Karchers credit much of the success of this project to the support of contact persons in surrounding Austin congregations, as well as in Georgetown, San Antonio, Houston, and other cities. Rosalyn Koepsell has also successfully worked many years obtaining matching funds from AAL and Thrivent.

The Concordia University Guild is proud to honor the Karchers as outstanding examples of volunteers who practice and model Christian leadership.

By Liz Zoch, President of the Concordia University Guild



Above: Monroe and Helen Karcher accept the Guild Service Award.

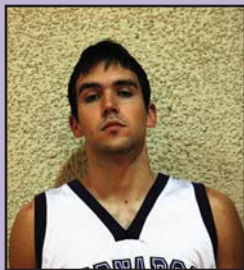
On March 30 and 31, Concordia hosted the annual TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools) State Art and Academic Competition. For the eighth year, approximately 2,500 private school students, teachers and parents from schools across Texas gathered on campus to face each other in academic, speech, and fine arts competitions. Concordia students, faculty and staff had the opportunity to serve as judges.

Students Put Out Fire at St. David's Hospital

One evening in February, a group of Pre-Seminary students were gathered for a "frat party" (complete with a root beer keg) at the new Theology House (formerly the President's House), when one of the students noticed flames rising from St. David's Hospital. Four of the guys ran over to St. David's to find that a gazebo was burning in one of the courtyards. While junior Jim Prothro made sure no one was caught in the gazebo, sophomore Sinclair Ender called 911 and sophomore Jonathan Shaw pulled the St. David's fire alarm. (The fourth student involved wishes to remain nameless.) After calling 911, Ender found a fire extinguisher and put out the fire that had spread to the hospital windows. Seeing that the roof was also on fire, the four guys found a security guard who took them to the roof where they put out that fire, as well. The fire department showed up a few minutes later. None of the students feel that they did anything heroic or deserving of merit. "We just reacted to the situation," Ender said simply. "Anyone else would have done the same," Prothro also said.

Tornado Watch

Student Athletes



Joel McDonald was named Concordia's Star Athlete of the Month for January for his performance on the basket-

ball court. He was also the recent recipient of the ASC West Player of the Week honor, and has reached a significant career milestone, breaking the 1,000-point barrier in his forty-third game as a Tornado. At season's end, McDonald had a total of 1,027 points for his career. In his two years at Concordia, Joel has established himself as both a top-notch athlete and student in the College of Business. While setting scoring records for the Tornado basketball team, he also is carrying a 3.5 GPA. Congratulations to Joel for his hard work on and off the court.



Nick Cmerek is unlike most college athletes in that he is a two-sport student-athlete. He is also a superior student with an accumulative GPA of 3.7. Cmerek is a great example of what it means to be a student-athlete at Concordia. Putting in around 20 hours a week for baseball keeps him busy, but whenever he has extra time, he practices his golf game as a member of Concordia's golf team. Nick spends most of his days on the playing fields of the games he loves to play but still excels in the classroom. Nick's love for these two sports is evident, but so is his desire to do well in the classroom.

Making History with Men's Basketball

History is exactly what the Concordia Basketball team has made this year. It marks the first time since the school joined the American Southwest Conference in 1998 that the men's basketball team has made the playoffs. In only three seasons, coach Stan Bonewitz has taken his team to the playoffs where they hoped to make even more history. The Tornados were led in scoring by sophomore guard Joel McDonald.

The men made their first playoff effort on February 23 as they traveled to Clinton, Mississippi, to play the nationally ranked and 2006-2007 tournament host the Choctaws from Mississippi College. In an early season match-up, the Choctaws defeated the Tornados 91-70, also in Clinton. The rematch played out in a similar fashion, with number 5 ranked Mississippi College winning with a score of 86-62.

Next season's squad will look to build on their success this season with a talented group of returnees. All five starters will likely return, as will forward Valentino Maxwell from injury. With the ASC West champion due to host the tournament next season, the team will be looking to take the ASC West crown and turn the tables on the Choctaws, as well as the rest of the conference.

Off the court, it is a win-win situation when it comes to the Concordia Rosedale Project and the Concordia Men's Basketball team. The Rosedale Project integrates multiply disabled young adults with their peers in a college campus environment. The basketball team members are encouraged by Coach Bonewitz to volunteer with the Rosedale students for at least one hour each week, and help the students with various needs and jobs. Many days you will find Basketball players shooting hoops in Woltman Gym with Rosedale Students. Rosedale students have also taken a big part with the basketball team during their seasons. Concordia Basketball considers it an honor to be able to work with the Rosedale Program and give back.

Softball & Baseball Start the Season Strong

Concordia softball began a new season on February 10 as they played a doubleheader against Grayson County College, a junior college from Denison, Texas. Present for the opening festivities were Christine Haas, news anchor for KVUE 24 and master of ceremonies for the event, as well as Texas First Lady Anita Perry, who threw out the first pitch, taking her responsibilities quite seriously. After losing the first game of the double header, the Tornados came back with a vengeance in the second game, earning a 10-9 win.

After a pair of hotly contested games against ASC East opponent East Texas Baptist, Concordia's baseball team exploded for an ASC record 38 runs in a 38-10 victory to push their record to 7-5 on the year. The Tornados got off to a hot start in the first inning, scoring 13 runs on just nine hits, three of them doubles. While that inning was incredible in itself, what followed was unbelievable. Concordia scored in every inning, including a 12-run outburst in the bottom of the seventh during which the team batted around twice. After that inning, it was mutually decided to call the game. The 38 runs broke a record previously set by ETBU of 31 runs in a nine-inning game against Texas College in 2003.

New Hymnals for Concordia

Rev. Dr. Clyde Duder was recently named by Erna and Walter Schroeder to serve as director of fund disbursement for their estate, which was nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Concordia University received nearly \$120,000, while the rest of the estate was divided between the Lutheran Foundation of Texas and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin. The funds for Concordia have already supplied the chapel with the new *Lutheran Service Book*, *Service Builder*, etc. The balance will be assigned to the Church Music program.

New Employees

Sarah Angerman – part-time Administrative Assistant, College of Business

Jonathan Clark '05 – part-time Assistant Service Learning Coordinator

Raquel Figur – part-time Administrative Assistant, Can Do Missions

Anastasia Holzhauser – part-time Support Services Associate

Jill Mathews '02 – Admissions Counselor, Transfers

Paul Ramos – Support Staff ITS Department

Alan Runge – Provost

Michele Rush – Human Resource Specialist

Dr. Mary Smith – Computer Science Instructor

Sylvia Soto – part-time Support Services Associate

Jennielle Strother – Director of Admissions Operations

Michele Teter – Administrative Assistant, College of Liberal Arts

Concordia Welcomes New Provost, Dr. Alan Runge



Dr. Alan Runge has joined the Concordia leadership team as Provost. In this role, Runge will provide visionary leadership for all aspects of academic and student life as he implements Concordia's mission of developing Christian leaders. His responsibilities include coordinating, developing, and improving academic programs; overseeing the work of the faculty; and supervising and consulting with the academic deans of the colleges of Business, Education, Liberal Arts, and Adult Education.

Prior to joining Concordia, Runge served as Dean of Academic Affairs for DeVry University in Houston since 2003. In that capacity, he managed the university's department of Academic Affairs and provided leadership for the central campus and three remote locations.

"Alan's strength in strategic planning and experience with student support, retention and outreach initiatives make him an ideal candidate for this position," Dr. Thomas Cedel, President of Concordia, said. "His results-oriented leadership style coupled with his high ethical standards make him a great fit with our team."

In addition to his experience with DeVry University in Houston, Runge has also held leadership positions with DeVry University in Kansas City and Concordia University, St. Paul. Runge has instructed at universities nationwide, including University of Nebraska, Miami University of Ohio and Kansas State University.

Runge holds numerous academic degrees, including a Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction/physics from University of Nebraska, Master of Science degrees in experimental and theoretical physics from University of Nebraska and Miami University, a Master of Business Administration from DeVry University, a Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia University Nebraska in physics and physical science respectively.

Runge is the author of several publications with topics ranging from computer use in classrooms to experimental solid state physics and instrumentation. For more than 15 years, Runge has spoken at conferences and meetings across the country. He is the recipient of numerous grants and honors, including the Ron Taylor Award—DeVry's prestigious award for employee excellence—which he received on four separate occasions.

Runge will be installed into his new capacity at the Baccalaureate service on May 12, 2007.

By Kristin Marcum, Elizabeth Christian & Associates Public Relations

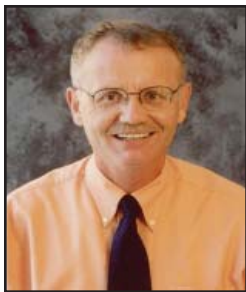
Meissner Teaches in Belize

Dr. Larry Meissner, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, taught "Marine Ecosystems of Belize," a four-day Chautauqua field course that was held at the Possum Point and Wee Wee Caye Biological Research Stations in central Belize from January 2-6, 2007. Nineteen professors from universities around the United States were enrolled. Administered by the University of Pittsburgh and funded by the National Science Foundation, the Chautauqua program offers courses in a number of disciplines for university faculty development. For information on 2007 courses visit <http://www.chautauqua.pitt.edu/>.



Church Music Workshop

The music department at Concordia will once again sponsor the annual Concordia Summer Church Music Workshop. It will take place on campus June 11-14, 2007. The featured keynote speaker is Carl Schalk, noted hymn writer and authority on the music of the Lutheran Church. More details are available on Concordia's Web site, www.concordia.edu. A link for the workshop is available on the Music Department's page, or you can call Dr. Jonathan Eifert at 512-486-1166.



Gregg Braun, Senior Development Officer, was elected president of the Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Lutheran Development Executives. The Lone Star Chapter was named the Chapter of the Year.

Dr. Allen Brown, Adjunct Instructor of English and Education, placed second in a national poetry competition called The Boswell Prize, sponsored by TCU in Ft. Worth.



Rev. Dr. Clyde Duder, Professor of English, has been busy making presentations (by request) on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Prison Poetry* under the theme: "What it Means to Lose One's Life in Order to Gain It." He made one presentation on the campus of the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest

and at two other places with the most recent being at the All Saint's Episcopal Church Lenten Meditation series. Last fall, Dr. Duder attended two Lilly Conferences on Faith and Learning at Xavier University in Cincinnati and Baylor University in Waco. He was recently awarded funding to study and explore "The Catholic Studies Program" at Loyola in Maryland, and used the experience to re-think and re-shape Concordia's Honors Program under the aegis of "Honors Studies in Christian Leadership." He is currently serving as vacancy pastor in Corsicana, Texas, and has been doing so since last May.



Nilo Figur, Associate Professor of Communication, co-authored an article titled "Perceived Authority and Communication Channel: Experiments

with Instant Messaging," which has been accepted for publication in *Social Science Computer Review Journal*. He will also serve as coordinator for

a mission trip to Portugal for a group of college students led by Concordia graduate Landon Ledlow '04, who is serving as a vicar for First Lutheran Church in Gainesville, FL.



Rev. Dr. Curtis Giese, Associate Professor of Religion, will attend a workshop sponsored by Concordia Publishing House for authors assisting

with the Concordia Commentary Series. He has also been assisting with services at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Austin.



Jonathan Eifert, Assistant Professor of Music, was the featured guest clinician for the Houston Area Lutheran Schools Choral Festival, held

at Lutheran High North on Nov. 12, 2006. The festival, which featured

the combined choirs of five Lutheran schools in the Houston area, featured a full day of rehearsal on Friday and a concluding concert on Sunday afternoon. He was also the organist for an introductory workshop for the synod's new *Lutheran Service Book* held in San Antonio on September 30, 2006. These workshops, held at different locations and times across the country, give participants an opportunity to see the new hymnal, sing many songs and canticles from it, and take a copy back to their own congregations. On March 30, 2007, he was the organist for the world premier of a work by composer P. Kellech Waddle entitled *When Losing Angels*, a "Requiem Chorale" for tuba, euphonium choir and organ.



Rev. Dr. Joel Heck, Vice President of Student Services, was the keynote speaker at a one-day seminar at Concordia University on Saturday,

April 21, 2007. The topic was "Irrigating Deserts: C. S. Lewis on Education." Dr. Heck related *The Chronicles of Narnia* to the teaching of values and virtues in children in a seminar especially for Christian educators. He is also writing an article on evangelism for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization* to be published by Blackwell Publishing of Oxford and New York. He will be a presenter at a Christian Writers Conference at East Texas Baptist University on June 2, 2007.

Dr. Jim McConnell, DCE Program Director and Associate Professor of Education, received an advancement in rank to the title of Associate Professor. He also led a youth ministry practicum entitled "Contemplative Youth Ministry" at the Youth Ministry Symposium 2007, A Symposium on Contemporary



Youth Ministry, was held to explore the latest thinking in youth ministry and challenge participants to "think outside the box" and consider the implications for the future of youth ministry.



Patricia Mitschke '82, Administrative Assistant for the College of Adult Education, San Antonio Center, recently took a mission trip to

Brazil with her husband as part of the course of study for the Pastoral Leadership Institute.



Dr. Ann Schwartz, Associate Professor of Sociology, was recently featured in the Volunteer Spotlight for Heart House Austin.

Her Introduction to Sociology class spent the fall semester volunteering with the Heart House after-school program, donating over 15 hours per student.



Dr. Woodard Springstube, Associate Professor of Business, has been appointed to the Travis County Citizens' Advi-

sory Committee on Elected Officials' Salaries. He has served on this committee every year since it was founded in 2001.

Dr. Barbalee Symm, Professor of Healthcare Administration, is the primary writer of an article for the Sept.-Oct. 2006 issue of the *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice*. The article is entitled "Effects of Using Free Sample Medications on the Prescribing Practices of Family Physicians". She co-authored the article with Michael Averitt, Samuel Forjuoh, and Cheryl Preece.



Dr. Don Zielke, Professor of Mathematics, is negotiating with publishing companies to have his *Lab Manuals for Mathematics for*

Elementary Teachers I and II published.

The entire Theology staff attended a conference of LCMS Theologians in early March where Rev. Dr. Joel Heck presented a sectional paper. In addition, all Theology faculty will be receiving new software to upgrade their Bible and Religion capabilities. This software includes resources in Greek and Hebrew, as well as the full computer version of Luther's Works.

Correction to Winter 2006 Issue: Serena Pace's presentation on spiritual formation and mentorship at the Lutheran Education Association Convocation will take place in the spring of 2008, not 2007.

Faculty Profile: Debra Allen

“Ridiculously smart” is exactly how one student describes Dr. Debra Allen, Professor of History at Concordia University since 1993. This graduate of Tennessee Technological University, Michigan State University and the University of Illinois, and former Fulbright professor certainly knows how to pass on valuable insight from her extensive education.

Active learning is something that Dr. Allen stresses with her students. Recently, she led a class on a trip to the Washington, D.C., area in order to gain a better understanding of history. Students toured facilities that dealt with government operations. Some of these government offices included the Department of State building, the Pentagon, the White House and the Capitol building. The group toured the Capitol building with the office of Congressman Lamar Smith, who represents the twenty-first District of Texas, which includes Concordia’s surrounding area. On his website, Congressman Smith states, “There are few things more valuable to an individual than a good education, and few things more valuable to a community than an educated populace.” Dr. Allen’s students are truly receiving this great value through their participation in events and classes such as this one.

The group was also able to visit the National Cryptologic Museum at Fort George Mead, Maryland. While at this museum, students were able to uncover information on the importance of code throughout history. Students viewed information on people who devoted their lives to cryptology as well as the devices that were used to do this. It is exciting that Dr. Allen’s students were able to participate in this event because it is the first and only museum dedicated to understanding signals intelligence.

The many online comments and photograph albums that Dr. Allen’s students have posted since their return clearly depict the great time that they had on this trip. Besides viewing all of these great sites, students also had the opportunity to see the busy lifestyle and community of the Washington, D.C. area. The photos that students are sharing online show them posing with statues and in front of buildings and eating at fine dining venues.

Dr. Allen’s encouragement of students to actively participate in learning does not end with this trip. Her students also have the opportunity to record items of historical significance to Concordia University in preparation for the move to the new campus. Along with the assistance of Dr. Allen, her students are able to log items that will be relocated to the new campus. Dr. Allen is also participating in the creation of a video documenting the history of Concordia University that is currently being developed. In

addition, students in her Historical Methods class this semester have taken several trips to the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum. There, they have had the unique opportunity to dig through the vast information found in the stacks of this library. Dr. Allen encourages her students to continue to take advantage of this active research.

Dr. Allen is currently developing a course entitled, “War, Peace and Diplomacy.” She is excited about this course because of the special interest and skill that she is able to put into its organization. The preparation of this course shows that Dr. Allen does not just challenge her own students to actively participate in their education, but she continues to challenge herself.

Dr. Allen’s time at Concordia has been a time of challenging students to do their best. As one student states, “She took the time to have an enormous impact on my life. She is what being a professor is all about.”

By Ryan Roehr, Sophomore Communication Student



Above: The group of students and faculty who went to Washington, DC, in front of the Library of Congress.

The Dean's Report

College of Adult Education

Dean, Cathy Brigham, Ph.D.

The College of Adult Education continues to grow, both in enrollment and in geography! We reached a record enrollment this spring, with our non-traditional population topping 400 students. We are also pleased to announce that we began offering Accelerated Degree Program courses in Fredericksburg this past fall. We started small in Fredericksburg, but are excited about the potential to further our mission of developing Christian leaders in the Hill Country. The Fredericksburg program is being operated out of our San Antonio Center.

Our Fort Worth campus recently experienced a staff transition as Dr. Gayle Grotjan was honored in being selected to work with the Concordia University System in St. Louis. We certainly wish her much continued success! The Houston Center has been working diligently to offer continual faculty development to its teaching roster. Faculty and staff from the Austin campus have been visiting the Houston Center regularly in order to provide training in teaching techniques and resources; I think all parties involved have been invigorated by the interchange between campuses.

A lot of people have been asking how the campus relocation will impact the College of Adult Education in Austin. We will certainly be offering our unique program on the new campus site, but we also plan to have a presence in central Austin so that we can continue to serve working professionals from all sides of the metropolitan area.

The College of Adult Education is also very excited to announce big changes in our Healthcare Administration program! Since the addition of Dr. Barbalee Symm as full-time faculty member in Healthcare Administration (HCA), we have taken a hard look at our coursework and overall degree design. Dr. Symm aligned our curriculum to match market needs and to pursue program certification. We re-wrote courses and re-designed the major to better meet current industry trends and the changing demands of our students. We are very proud of our results, and of the contributions of Dr. Symm. We are pleased to be able to roll out the new plan in the fall semester of 2007!



College of Business

Dean, Don Christian

What do ethical business decisions look like in the context of a Lutheran perspective? Dr. Kenneth Zawilinski is challenging his senior business students with this question during Business Practicum, the capstone course for all College of Business students. Before looking at ethical business case studies, Dr. Zawilinski took his students through several readings in Lutheran theology, pointing to some of the doctrines that shape Lutheran thought and practice. Students read, discuss and write opinions on these case studies, using a Lutheran world-view to argue their points.

A group of 4 COB students met with Concordia's Administrative Council in December, presenting their strategic plan for improved student intramural athletics on campus. They were invited to speak by President Tom Cedel and his Vice-Presidents after winning the Principles of Management class competition in which each student group formulated a strategic plan addressing different issues on campus. Winning group members included James Nimrod, Camia Pinto, Jennifer Sandoval and Sean O'Brien.

In a recent survey of College of Business graduates, more than 80% of those responding believed they were more than well prepared for their first career position, and characterized their education at Concordia as a positive experience. When asked about their professors, over 90% responded with above average rating, pointing to such aspects as being able to talk with professors, feeling that they were cared for, and that COB professors prepared them to be Christian leaders. A big thank you to all of the COB alumni who participated in the survey process.

Students in this year's Business & Leadership class are learning more than what it takes to be a Christian leader – they are also learning geography. Weekly map quizzes are a part of the course work, helping students know the difference between Bolivia and Belarus. Professor Christian began this project as a way to prepare COB students for the reality of the international aspect of business. One student noted that while they aren't thrilled about studying an atlas each week, they recognize the importance of knowing this information as they prepare themselves to be people of influence in today's global economy.



College of Education

Dean, Sandra Doering, Ed.D.

So many exciting things are happening in the College of Education! As we anticipate the move to the new campus, we are looking at what kinds of programs and continuing education opportunities we can deliver that will not only serve our students but also the Austin area and the Texas District.

The Kinesiology Department is in the development process for a new major that will educate people to be athletic trainers. The Director of Christian Education students planned a Vacation Bible School Curriculum Workshop on March 29th for area churches. This is an example of how the DCE program reaches out to the church as it educates its future leaders. The DCE program will be sending out 13 interns next year in Lutheran churches around the country.

Our 18 Elementary, Middle School and Secondary student teachers are out honing their teaching skills as they prepare to be practicing educators in our public, private and Lutheran schools. These preservice educators will conclude their student teaching experience with a one day retreat at McKinney Roughs near Bastrop, TX, and a special celebratory dinner the week before they graduate on May 12th. And the Master of Education program is expanding very quickly as we are opening up off-campus sites in Dallas, Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Houston and the Austin areas. Of course, all this growth necessitates our looking for committed and faithful servant leaders to teach and mentor our students and administer the programs under our supervision. We constantly pray that the Lord would continue to bless our ministries in the College of Education.



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dean, Michael Moyer, Ph.D.

What with the excitement of the new campus, reaccreditation in the next year, the hiring of five new faculty members in the College, exploring new programs, and all of the opportunities faculty and staff have to share their work with others, it's hard to know where to start! Since the fall, we have had a new faculty member join us; Dr. Mary Smith is now leading our Computer Science program. She taught at St. Edward's last fall and also taught for a number of years in Hawaii.

Dr. Larry Meissner [Biology] will lead a field trip next October as part of the sixty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology to the Friesenhahn Cave owned by CUA. I will be chairing a session at the sixteenth International Pectinid Workshop in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, right after graduation. Dr. Donna Janes [Biology] has presented her work to several groups in the last few months and also took a group of our senior Biology students to a meeting in San Marcos, where they presented the research they had done in her class last fall.

Dr. Claudia Teinert [English] is preparing to travel to Paris, France, this summer to present a paper at the eleventh Annual International Willa Cather Conference. Teinert's paper is titled "Early Cather and the American National Identity."

Dr. Debra Allen [History] led a group of students on a trip to Washington, D.C., in January during our break on a course she created centering around the many things available in that location. She is currently planning a trip to Poland for August which will include some mission work. Dr. Ann Schwartz is considering joining her on that trip.

Professor Ted Zoch will be retiring at the end of the current academic year. Professor Zoch has been at Concordia as a faculty member since 1968. The number of ways he will be missed could fill this entire publication. He will be honored on April 27 both with a special chapel and an evening program.

God has blessed us with many talented individuals, both as faculty members and as students. The items I have mentioned are by no means inclusive of all that is going on. Our goal is to be the best we can be in developing Christian leaders, and we can only accomplish that with your help and assistance.



A Bold Vision & A Blessed Journey

Relocation Update

On May 13, 2005, the Board of Regents of Concordia University at Austin took a visionary step of faith in deciding to relocate the main campus. During the summer of 2006, Concordia negotiated a contract to acquire the Austin Hill Country Reserve in northwest Austin. And most recently, on March 30, 2007, the deal was finalized as papers were signed to sell the current campus to East Avenue IG, LP, and to purchase the Austin Hill Country Reserve. With the closing of the deal, it is official that Concordia University is relocating!

The next phase of relocation involves planning the transition from one campus to the next. The master plan for the new campus was approved in January and can be found on pages 14 and 15. This 30-year plan features a village concept, with designated areas for academics/administration, student life, student living, athletics, and a retreat center. Initial construction will include remodeling the existing buildings and adding a field house/gymnasium and student housing.

In addition, large signs have been posted at the intersection of FM 620 and what is currently called Schlumberger Drive, announcing the site as the new home of Concordia University. Steps are being taken to have "Schlumberger Drive" changed to "Concordia University Drive".

With construction beginning soon, the entire property will become a "hard hat" area with limited access. After June 30, it will be gated to permit access to construction workers only. However, in the coming months, you will be able to check progress on various parts of the new campus through webcams, which you can access from the relocation website at www.concordia.edu/relocation.



Above: Dr. Tom Cedel signs the papers to close the deal.

Historical Preservation

The History Committee continues to work through the process of capturing and preserving Concordia's 80-plus years of history. They are currently compiling a video that tracks Concordia's history and includes past video clips and photographs as well as interviews with alumni and employees.

The committee continues to evaluate and catalog items to be considered for relocation. The cruciform and Martin Luther statue have already been moved and await placement in a new location on the new campus. The following items are still being considered:

- o All building cornerstones and any time capsules buried on campus
- o Sculpture in chapel chancel
- o Chapel furnishings - chairs, altar, lectern, etc.
- o Cross on top of the chapel steeple
- o Antique chapel lights
- o Baptismal font
- o Chapel stained-glass windows
- o Chapel organ
- o Organ from Peter Center Performance Hall (formerly of St. John's College, Winfield, KS)
- o Serbin/Wendish bell in front of chapel
- o University art collection
- o Sculpture/mobile hanging in the Beto Academic Center foyer
- o Wall murals in Beto and Harms Hall
- o Plaques and memorial items
- o Stonework and floor tiles from Kilian Hall
- o Science artifacts from Beto
- o Historic book collection from Founders Library



Above: Austin Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley and Texas State Representative Mark Strama joined Concordia president Dr. Tom Cedel and vice presidents Don Adam and Rev. Dr. David Kluth at the unveiling of the Master Site Plan on February 8, 2007.

Funding the Vision

As Concordia takes possession of its new 385 acre site, efforts continue to raise the funds necessary to complete the first phase of construction. Funding for relocation is coming through three sources: proceeds from the sale of the existing campus, additional long-term debt, and a major capital campaign.

Proceeds from the sale of the current campus on March 30 paid for the purchase of the Austin Hill Country Reserve and will partially fund renovations of the existing six buildings on the new site. Construction of a field house, student housing, athletic fields, site work and the actual physical move of the campus must come out of a combination of additional long-term debt and an aggressive capital campaign. The Advancement department will launch a campaign this spring to raise at least \$20 million. Gifts to this campaign will enable Concordia to complete first phase construction by the summer of 2008.

The campaign will be guided by a volunteer steering committee comprised of the following individuals:

Mr. Don Graf, Chair of the Board of Regents, 1958 Alumnus, Attorney with Mc Cleskey, Harriger, Brazill, & Graf, L.L.P.

Mr. Sloan Spaeth, Friend of Concordia, employed by Aquila Commercial.

Mr. Rick Burciaga, Friend of Concordia, retired, Wells Fargo Regional President.

Mrs. Robyn Roberts, Friend of Concordia, Secretary Treasurer of Pumpco.

Mr. Bob Schjerven, Friend of Concordia, Co-Chair of Campaign, President and CEO of Lennox International

Mr. David Stein, Friend of Concordia, Managing Partner of Roger Beasley Automotive.

Mr. Tony Budet, Friend of Concordia, Co-Chair of Campaign, President of University Federal Credit Union.

Ms. Dealey Herndon, Friend of Concordia, President of HS&A

Warbler Watch

We have all been told that Concordia's new location is the home of the Golden-Cheeked Warbler, an endangered species of bird. However, the warbler has proven to be illusive and has not yet been seen on site. Friends of the warbler, affectionately known as Tron and Station by Concordia's IT staff, have shown up in various places. On a trip to Austria, Station discovered a bottle of Schlumberger champagne, and later hung out on the beach in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, while Tron went scuba diving in Hawaii, played in the snow in Portland, Oregon, and got a tour of Washington, DC. Most recently, they were both guests at the wedding of Concordia staff member Dan Gregory.



Discovered by Cary-Anne Olsen, Web & Graphic Designer



Sun-bathing with Stan Kruse, Director of Information Technology Services



Diving with Ashley Forseth, Help Desk Manager



Playing in the snow with David Kluth, Vice President of University Services



Caught in the act by Paul Ramos, Computer Science Student



Observed by Joel Rahn, Academic Computing Manager

THE PRESERVE

With a 250-acre "living classroom," studies will include new curriculum to be developed for wildlife conservation, habitat protection, aquatic resources management, geology, forestry, and environmental policy.

Phase 1

Existing Buildings:

- A. Administration
- B. Student Center & Fine Arts
- C. Classroom & Offices
- D. Classroom & Offices
- E. Cafeteria & Meeting Rooms
- F. Library

New Construction:

- G. Residence Halls - Phase I
- H. Field House - Phase I
- I. Entry Guardhouse

The New Concordia Campus

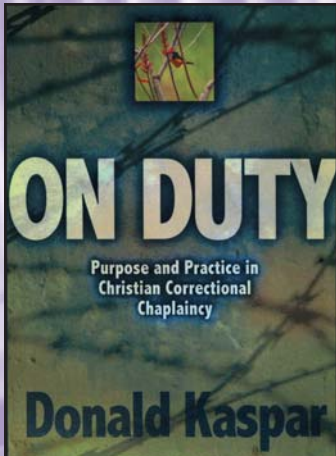
- Potential space to expand the student body and develop academic programs
- A Master Planned campus to facilitate optimal education and student life.
- Modern facilities
- Land for outstanding athletic programs
- Space for student life and residential life to flourish
- A 250-acre nature preserve and “living classroom”
- Beauty, clean air, nature, and inspiration

Future Construction

Proposed Buildings:

- J. Chapel
- K. Field House - Phase 2
- L. Administration Expansion
- M. Performing Arts Center
- N. Student Center
- O. Retreat Center
- P. Academic Buildings for:
 - Business School
 - Science & Nursing
 - Graduate School
 - College of Education
 - Administration Expansion
- Q. Student Life Complex:
 - Alumni Center
 - Early Childhood Center
 - Concordia History Museum
- R. Residence Halls - Phase 2
- S. Future Structured Parking
- T. Softball
- U. Tennis
- V. Football
- W. Soccer

The Concordia Bookshelf

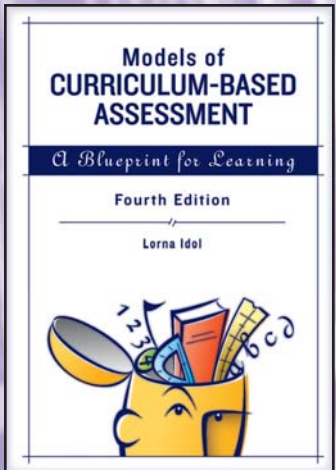


ON DUTY: Purpose and Practice in Christian Correctional Chaplaincy

Donald Kaspar '59
Xulon Press

Kaspar (retired Director of the Chaplaincy Department of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice) explores and resolves issues that must be addressed successfully if correctional chaplains are to

pursue their calling with deep personal satisfaction. This book provides needed insights for chaplains, for those who work with them as volunteers and as correctional staff, and for families and friends of the incarcerated for whom the services of a chaplain are vitally important. *ON DUTY* can be ordered from www.xulonpress.com, from www.amazon.com, and from www.barnesandnoble.com.



Models of Curriculum-Based Assessment

Dr. Lorna Idol
PRO-ED

Idol offers a practical "how-to" book suitable for special education and classroom teachers responsible for the education of exceptional learners. It is intended to support educators in identifying and measuring students' skill achievements at specified grade levels of difficulty, in the general education curriculum. Included in this book are examples of CBAs that have been constructed and used by teachers for a wide range of subjects (e.g., literary reading, writing, spelling, math, science, social studies, dictionary use, and study skills). Also accompanying each example is a description of administration procedures. This book is available from www.proedinc.com as well as www.amazon.com.



Walking George: The Life of George John Beto and the Rise of the Modern Prison System

George Nielsen '50 & David M. Horton

University of North Texas Press
Horton and Nielsen examine the entire life of Beto, former president of Concordia and former head of the Texas Department of Corrections, his many achievements in the

fields of both education and criminal justice, and how he wedded the two whenever possible. Beto's personal force and unique accomplishments defined him as one of the premier American penologists of the twentieth century. This is the first in-depth biography of the man and his contributions. It can be ordered from <http://web3.unt.edu/untpress/> as well as www.amazon.com.

Books from Concordia University Press

Concordia University Press is an agency of Concordia University at Austin that seeks to fulfill the University's mission by publishing works that develop Christian leaders. It is managed by Dr. David Zersen, Managing Editor, and Dr. Joel Heck, Executive Editor. The following books have been published by Concordia University Press:

Learners to Leaders: Stories about People in Process
David Zersen, 1999

Wellness at Will.
David Zersen, 2002

A Rock against Alien Waves: The History of the Wends.
Charles Wukasch, 2004

Transcontinental Encounters: Central Europe Meets the American Heartland.
Edited by C. Cravens & D. Zersen, 2005

For more information on each of these books, visit Concordia University Press online at www.concordia.edu.

Engaging The World

STUDENT LEADERS IN ACTION

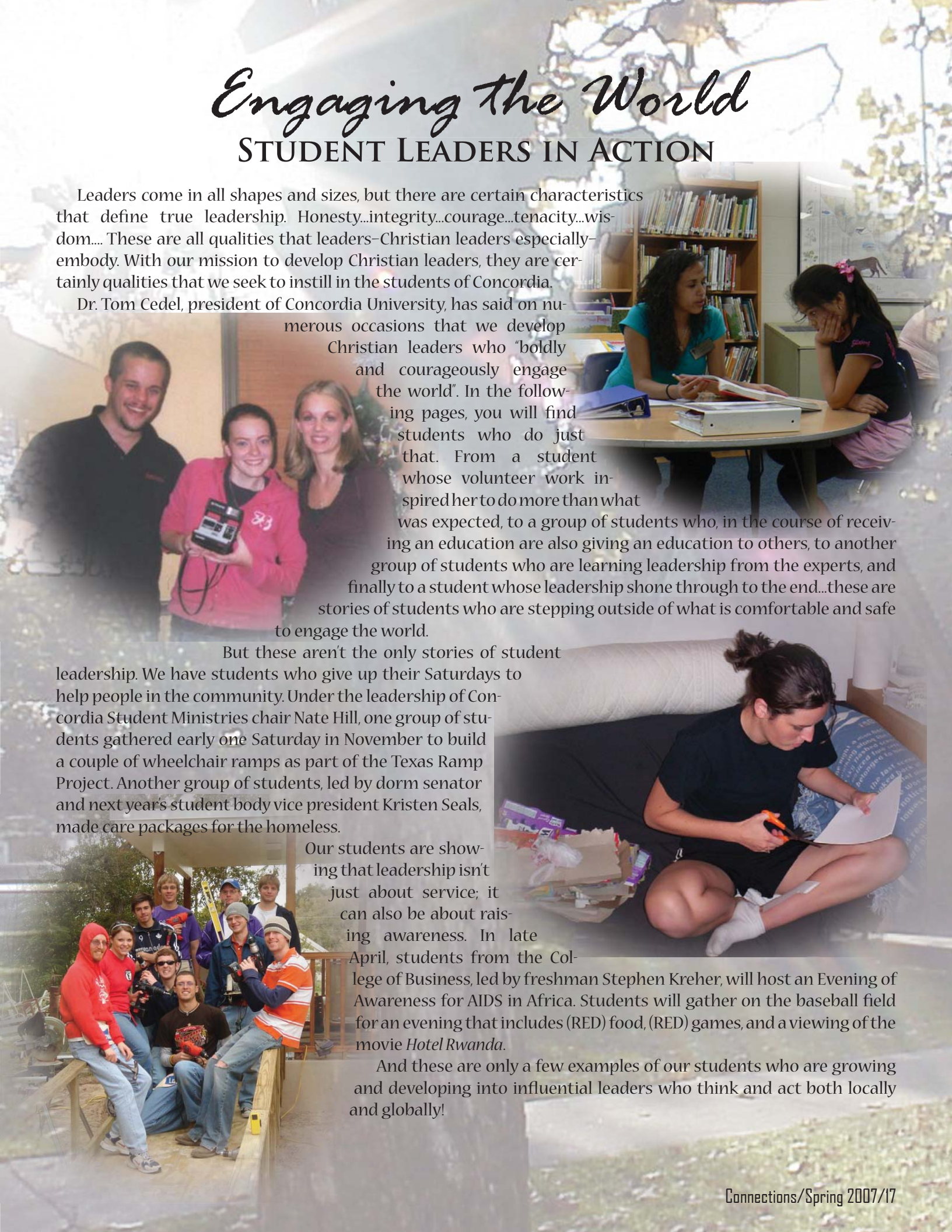
Leaders come in all shapes and sizes, but there are certain characteristics that define true leadership. Honesty...integrity...courage...tenacity...wisdom... These are all qualities that leaders—Christian leaders especially—embody. With our mission to develop Christian leaders, they are certainly qualities that we seek to instill in the students of Concordia.

Dr. Tom Cedel, president of Concordia University, has said on numerous occasions that we develop Christian leaders who “boldly and courageously engage the world”. In the following pages, you will find students who do just that. From a student whose volunteer work inspired her to do more than what was expected, to a group of students who, in the course of receiving an education are also giving an education to others, to another group of students who are learning leadership from the experts, and finally to a student whose leadership shone through to the end...these are stories of students who are stepping outside of what is comfortable and safe to engage the world.

But these aren't the only stories of student leadership. We have students who give up their Saturdays to help people in the community. Under the leadership of Concordia Student Ministries chair Nate Hill, one group of students gathered early one Saturday in November to build a couple of wheelchair ramps as part of the Texas Ramp Project. Another group of students, led by dorm senator and next year's student body vice president Kristen Seals, made care packages for the homeless.

Our students are showing that leadership isn't just about service; it can also be about raising awareness. In late April, students from the College of Business, led by freshman Stephen Kreher, will host an Evening of Awareness for AIDS in Africa. Students will gather on the baseball field for an evening that includes (RED) food, (RED) games, and a viewing of the movie *Hotel Rwanda*.

And these are only a few examples of our students who are growing and developing into influential leaders who think and act both locally and globally!



Leadership in Service

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Allison Hughes, a Liberal Arts sophomore, exemplified Concordia's mission of developing Christian leaders when she developed her idea of a Christmas party into a reality for the children at Heart House, a non-profit agency providing after-school programs for low-income and at-risk children. Hughes began volunteering with Heart House as part of a project for her Sociology class. When she heard Monica Armendiares, Program Director for Heart House, make the announcement that there would be no Christmas gifts this year, she began to form the idea of throwing a Christmas party for the children.

"I did not see any obvious reaction when the kids were told that they weren't going to receive gifts, but I knew the disappointment was there because I knew what it was like being a kid and wanting gifts for Christmas," Hughes said.

Hughes mentioned her idea to Dr. Ann Schwartz, Associate Professor of Sociology. "Allison was very enthusiastic about her idea. My involvement was to brainstorm with her and to provide her with suggestions, support, and assistance. I wanted to help her to realize that she had a wonderful idea and that it could happen," Schwartz said.

True to her word, Schwartz made an announcement to her classes. "There were nine students in the Introduction to Sociology class in Fall 2006 who had served at Heart House that semester, so there were many in the class with a personal connection to individual students at Heart House. The students were generous in donating money and toys. Staff members at CUA also donated money, toys and candy," Schwartz said.

Hughes and Kevin Winoske, a Behavioral Sciences

senior, created a list of activities for the Christmas party. Hughes showed it to the staff at Heart House. "I like to get an idea of what the group wants to do. We do work with the kids everyday and know what is going to work," said Shana Fox, Volunteer Coordinator for Heart House.

And Hughes' and Winoske's ideas certainly worked! There were rotating craft stations for ornament, frame, and cookie decorating and a game station for a candy cane walk and present toss. Gifts bags were tied with red ribbon for the girls and green ribbon for the boys so the children could hang them on their Christmas trees at home. Schwartz, who headed the cookie decorating station said, "The students were able to frost and decorate cookies. We provided frosting and all kinds of decorating supplies. The students seemed to enjoy being creative and getting a little messy!"

There were 60 children at the Christmas party. "It's a surprising thing that it [the party] happened because we initially didn't have anybody who was interested in doing it this year, so having people who wanted to do it was really wonderful. It was a great time, a great party," Fox said.

For Hughes, the fall semester was her first time volunteering with children. "I really enjoyed volunteering at Heart House. It was fulfilling every time I went," Hughes said.

Some time ago, another Behavioral Sciences student, Keri Von Holdt, shared her idea with Hughes of starting a resource group for students looking to volunteer. With Hughes' drive, creativity and leadership skills, the day isn't far off when she turns this idea into a reality as well.

By Nariman Ahmed, Senior Communication Student

Leadership in Education

STUDENTS PRACTICE LEADERSHIP THROUGH A SPECIAL TUTORING PROGRAM

Students in Dr. Lorna Idol's Diagnosis and Remedial Reading Practicum class are making a difference in the lives of at-risk children at Wooten Elementary School in Austin, Texas. Using a program designed by Dr. Idol called *Reading Success*, 19 Concordia students preparing to be early childhood and elementary school teachers provide one-on-one reading tutoring to third through fifth graders. Through this program and their work with Concordia students, these young children have taken tremendous steps towards growth and improvement.

"As we work with the children, we are analyzing their reading level and helping them progress to a higher level," junior Emily Eastwood said. Senior Amy Willis added, "After we have deduced their reading level, we're learning to work out a method that works for our individual students. It's helping us become better teachers even as we're helping them become better readers."

Since February, each child has already experienced a huge improvement in both reading and social skills. Many students have improved at least one reading level, and all of them are much more comfortable interacting with their tutors and each other. The Concordia tutors have found that the students they are working with have grown in confidence, as well.

"Working with the students one-on-one, we're able to share our personal experiences in both education and growing up. By doing that, our students are able to better relate to us," senior J.D. Fralicker (pictured with Trovone Lewis) said. "My student has already gained both responsibility and confidence. We're not just there for reading."

"We're role models," senior Rebekah House said. "Most of our students don't come from families of college graduates, but they see us succeeding and realize that it's something they can do, too. A lot of them are now talking about going to college themselves."

All of the Concordia students agree that they have grown, as well. "They are learning teaching and assessment strategies that they can take into their own classroom some day," Dr. Lorna Idol said. "And working with at-risk students who aren't always interested in school or learning has taught them flexibility and patience. It has been a wonderful experience for both our Concordia students and the Wooten Elementary School students."

Leadership in Training

STUDENTS GAIN LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN ARMY ROTC

It was an intimidating group to talk to, not only because of the individual drive and ambition each member possesses, but also because of their intensity and passion for what they are a part of, and their sense of unity. This group of Army ROTC students are truly a "brotherhood," as Staff Sergeant (SSGT) Brandon Edwards said, and in the short time I spent with them, a strong camaraderie was evident, as was the pride that each person had for the other members of the group and for the group as a whole.

They have reason to be proud. Although Concordia has partnered with the University of Texas ROTC programs for a number of years, this year's group of Concordia students is the largest so far. (In addition to the eight Army ROTC students, there is also one student in Air Force ROTC.) However, they are not content with their numbers and would love to see more Concordia students participating in the program.

Concordia's partnership with the University of Texas allows students to take classes at Concordia while also receiving credit for their participation in ROTC. In addition to their Concordia classes, students take between one and four hours of ROTC classes per week depending on their classification. They also attend a leadership lab two hours a week and physical training up to three days a week.

There are two ways that a student can be involved in ROTC. Anyone interested can participate for the first two years without making a commitment to serve in the Army. In order to enter the advanced courses, students must sign a contract.

Scholarships are available to students interested in ROTC; however, students on scholarship, such as Concordia sophomore Sergeant (SGT) Jonathan Shaw, are required to complete a period of service in the Army after graduation.

Students in the third year of the program also participate in a five week summer Leadership Development Assessment Course at Fort Lewis in Washington.

This course evaluates a cadet's leadership abilities and determines his/her future role in the Army. Concordia junior SSGT Brandon Edwards will be attending the course this summer. Upon his return for his senior year, he will join the other fourth year students in planning and implementing next year's daily curriculum and activities for their classmates.

All of Concordia's students agree that they have gained invaluable leadership training through their participation in ROTC. "The Army's position on leadership is to lead by example," SSGT Edwards said. "It's all about leadership from the front." In the leadership training courses, students are taught the various aspects of leadership and the different roles that leaders take as well as the challenges they face.

The training goes beyond just learning about leadership. They also receive hands-on training through simulation experiences designed to test their abilities.

"You learn a lot about who you are," freshman Cadet Kurstyn Casey said. "You learn your physical and mental limits. You push yourself further than you think you can go, but you have so much support from everyone.

The friendships you make here matter."

"There's nothing like pain and hardship to bring people together," SGT Shaw said. Despite the

"pain and hardship," it's obvious that every student involved loves what he/she is doing. Of the eight Army ROTC students, most plan to stay in the program throughout their time in college while the others are still deciding their level of commitment. Currently,

Shaw and Edwards plan to go to seminary and become chaplains; sophomore Corporal

Jarrod Brown plans to teach and join the National Guard; Casey will go into the

Aviation division; freshman Cadet Corbin Holly will go into the Armor division; sophomore Corporals Daniel Cisneros and John Martin plan to go into the Infantry; and freshman Cadet John Hunter plans to complete his Director of Christian Education internship before being commissioned.

By Sherrah Holobaugh '00, Director of University Communications

Leadership in Action

ONE STUDENT SHOWS LEADERSHIP OVERSEAS

Sometimes leaders are called to take a path that they didn't see coming. And sometimes that path calls leaders to make sacrifices. Steven Gill came to Concordia as a Director of Christian Education major planning to go to the seminary. After 9/11, however, his first desire was to join the Marines. He attended basic training in the fall of 2002, and then continued his education at Concordia until March 2005, when he was called into service in Iraq. Just a few months later, on July 21, he was killed when an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) exploded near the village of Zaidan, southeast of Fallujah. Corporal Gill wrote the following letter to his family shortly after his arrival in Iraq. It recently appeared in the April 2, 2007, special issue of *Newsweek*. A special thanks goes to his family for allowing us to reprint it here.

3-29-05

Dear Mom, Dad, and James.

If you are reading this, you will know that I am no longer here with y'all and that I am at a better place than all of us. I have been brought up in a loving Christian family that I thank God for every day. I was taught to fear and love God and to rejoice in the knowledge that his Son paid for all of my horrible sins that I have committed in my 24 years on this great planet. Up until this time I have led an adventurous life that hasn't been perfect. For the

anger and tears that have been caused and shed on my behalf, I ask for all of your forgiveness. Know that I wish I could have done better but I've cherished all my time with you all.

To my only brother James—I love you James, even if I showed it in a way that was sometimes hard to tell. I know that one day you will find a good Godly girl to marry and take care of. I wish I could be there as your best man. Know that the Lord loves you James, and when you seek Him, you will find Him, and His Peace.

I know you are still searching James, but when you find that Peace, the answers that you still seek will fall into place. Go in that direction James, that is my prayer. I love you Bro.

To my Dad—What can I say, you are the man I've always wanted to be and hopefully have become. You have given me a life that I could only have hoped to have given to a wife and kids. If you look deep in your heart Dad, all the good qualities that you see, know that you passed them on to me. If in the future someone asks you what your son was like, you tell 'em "He was just like his old man" and I'll smile down from Heaven and be proud. I love you Dad.

And finally to my Mom—A mother's love cannot be described, it can only be felt. It is peace, it is security, it is the warmth of arms wrapped around you and the knowledge that no matter what, all will be right in the world as long as my mom is holding me. I wish I could have felt that one more time. You are a Godly woman Mom, a husband nor a son could have asked or received a better woman. An angel sent down from Heaven. I love you Mom.

Well that's about it guys. As for the War, we've fought the good fight and I guess it was my time. If anyone should ask what happened, you tell 'em that your son didn't die doing what he loved, but doing what he thought was right. That America is the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave, and that wasn't going to change. Not on my watch. All I can ask now is that when I get to Heaven the Good Lord will greet me with open arms and say "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Rest easy and be at peace, for I will see *all* of you there in the future.

All of my love,
Your son,
Steve



Remember When...



A tremendous THANK YOU to everyone involved in this year's Homecoming! Thank you also to THRIVENT FINANCIAL for Co-Sponsoring this year's event!

The weather was cool, but the sun eventually came out, making it another beautiful Texas weekend. Alumni from as far away as California, Arizona and Iowa were on campus enjoying memories, rekindling past friendships, and being wowed by the changes that have been made since they were last on campus! The picnic on Saturday afternoon had a record attendance of over 300 people! We also had 250 people at Scholz on Saturday Night! What an evening that was! Michael Myers '93 performed along with Fred Frieling '61, who performed a song called "Remember When" that he wrote just for this occasion. We had a tasty fajita buffet, and the fellowship among old friends was priceless.

Special honor classes that were recognized included class years ending in 2's and 7's, as well as former cheerleaders, former Kings and Queens and Mr. & Miss CLC/CUA, the first Jr. College Class with females (1957), the first 4 year graduating class (1984), and the last year of Concordia High School (1967).

Sunday's worship service was well attended as well. Guest Pastor Rev. Ken Mitschke '82 of Schertz, TX, gave a sermon on Remembering When. And Sunday afternoon, a number of alumni gathered at the Austin Hill Country Reserve for a tour of Concordia's future home. by Carey Whitten, Assistant Director of Advancement Activities



Homecoming 2007
Connections/Spring 2007/23

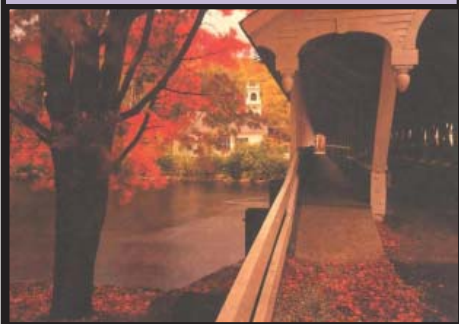
Upcoming Events

JULY 16 – ALUMNI NIGHT AT THE SYNODICAL CONVENTION IN HOUSTON, TX

All Alumni and Friends are invited to join us Monday, July 16, at 6:30pm for a reception during the Synodical Convention in Houston, TX. Enjoy appetizers, refreshments and fellowship with old classmates and friends. More details will be posted on the Alumni website soon.

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 5-

NEW ENGLAND BACKROADS TRIP
Have you ever wanted to experience autumn in New England when the leaves show their magnificent colors? Then plan now to join fellow Alumni and Friends on a New England Backroads get away, hosted by Dr. Ray '49 and Jane Martens '49, with arrangements being made by alumnus Mike Sprute '00 of Collette Vacations. A deposit of \$200 is due April 28, 2007, with final payment due July 28, 2007. The trip includes air travel to and from Austin to Boston with bus travel to New Hampshire, Vermont, and Kennebecport, Maine. Seating is limited so let Ray know soon if you plan to attend. To receive a beautiful colored information brochure please contact Ray Martens at 512-219-9131 or rfmartens@sbcglobal.net.



2007 Distinguished Alumnus



Our 2007 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS was awarded to Charles Jennings '57. His wife Anna Rammings Jennings, of Killeen, was there to accept the award on his behalf. Chuck graduated from Concordia Austin High School in 1955, received his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Concordia-River Forest and his Masters of Secondary education from Phillips University in Enid, OK. Chuck was an educator, church musician and a teacher in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and Department of Defense Schools in Taiwan and Germany. Most recently Chuck was the organist and music director for

Trinity Lutheran Church in Copperas Cove, TX. He led the choir and bell choir, continuously enhancing and improving the musical portion of the worship services. Chuck believed that everyone could sing and everyone could play.

Chuck had a distinguished career and was active in the local, state and national PTA, receiving The Distinguished Service Award from the European PTA. He was appointed to the Advisory Council on Dependent Education by President Ronald Reagan. He received numerous Superior and Excellence Awards from the Army, Air Force and DODDA. Chuck served as Vice president and President of the Concordia-Austin Alumni Association.

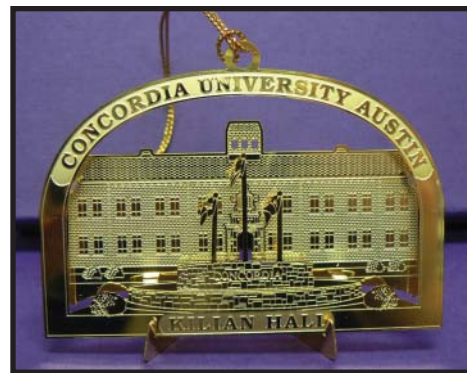
Chuck lost his life in January 2007 in a tragic car accident. His legacy of being a devoted Christian, teacher, husband, father, and son will forever be remembered.

Updates

Are you receiving the monthly Alumni PRIDE email updates?

Don't miss out on receiving up to date news about Alumni, Faculty, campus programs and happenings. Make sure the Alumni office has your email by sending your email address to carey.whitten@concordia.edu.

Are you in need of some Concordia Austin Alumni apparel? Next time you're on campus, stop by the Lieder Bookstore or go online to the Lieder Bookstore, personalized apparel, at <http://www.concordiabookstore.com>.



Call the Alumni Office at (512) 486-1191 to purchase a commemorative Concordia University ornament. Each ornament is \$16 and includes a stand.

Meet the 2007-2008 Alumni Association Board

President – Linda Pittsford '85, Manager of the Counsel Computer Center for the Texas Legislative Council

President Elect – Donna Rupp '87, Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Student Services at Concordia Lutheran School in San Antonio, TX

Past President – Kristin Wollman '00, Director of Marketing for Pluckers

Treasurer – Debbie Mitchell '01, Pre-k 4's teacher, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade music teacher, and Librarian at St. Paul Lutheran School in Austin, TX

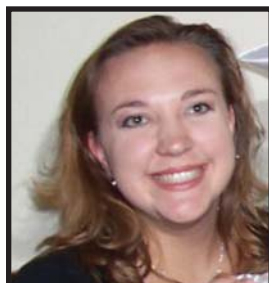
Secretary – Myra Simmons-Homer '05, Registered Agent at Capitol Services



Linda



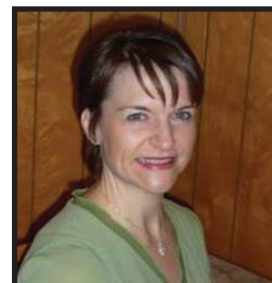
Donna



Kristin



Debbie



Myra

1980's



Nelson '88. She is welcomed home by her three brothers Jacob (10), Daniel (7 1/2), and Seth (2 1/2).

R e b e c c a Leann was born October 17, 2006, to Tom and **Wendy (Wachmann)**

1990's



and measured 21 1/4 inches. She was born at 10:43 am. She is welcomed home by big sisters Alyssa Jade (5 1/2), Erica Leigh (4 yrs.), and Tamera Dawn (23 mo.). Proud parents **Keith Ross '90** and Stacy Dawn (Bruns) Otto are very proud of all of their girls!

Mikayla Rose Otto was born October 9, 2006, at St. David's in Austin. She weighed 9lbs.

Cheryl G. Wilkie '93 recently took a call to Living Word Lutheran Church in The Woodlands, TX.



Terri, a '94 Behavioral Science major and '98 Business Management major, is an Investment Analyst with the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

TerriLynn Zarate Krumnow '94, '98 married Jim F. Krumnow on October 21, 2006, at Forrest Creek Country Club in Round Rock.



Proud brothers are Colton (8 years) and Codee (18 months)

Carlee Elizabeth Cooper was born to Terry and **Tricia Cooper '95** of Fort Worth,

2000's

Rev. Zach McIntosh '00 and Melody



Mayer '01 were united in marriage on December 30, 2006. They live in Portland, TX, where Zach serves at Fishers of Family Lutheran Church and Melody is teaching.



They are currently both in the Navy and stationed in Norfolk, VA.

Mitchell Jones '05 and Aurora Martinez were married March 10, 2007, in Austin. Mitchell is currently working at Dell.



Addison Layne Mellor was born June 9, 2006, to Brandon and **Paige Keeling Mellor '06.**

Lead Petty Officer John Wilkes, ADP '05 Confident and Empowered

John Wilkes '05 came to Concordia University to get a degree, but left with more than just that. Already an adult when he began classes at Concordia in 1997, he decided that the best route to degree completion was through the Adult Degree Program. And while it wasn't the fastest route (he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management in 2005), it did allow him to spend more time with his family, to work a full-time job, and to continue his commitment to the Navy Reserve.

John is currently the IT Program Manager for the law department at Freescale Semiconductor where he drives the department's development, planning and deployment of technology projects. In this position, he often finds himself in rooms full of people with advanced degrees. Where he was once intimidated by those degrees, he has found that since his graduation from Concordia, that is no longer the case.

"My degree has given me the confidence to say 'I can do that,'" John said. "I may not know something, but that doesn't stop me from learning and from doing it. The professors and staff at Concordia were empowering. They enabled my critical thinking skills, and now I know I can do whatever I put my mind to."

Work isn't the only place in which John has made use of this confidence. Since joining the Navy Reserve in 1990, he has been called into active duty twice. The first time, in 2003, he was deployed for six weeks in California but was allowed to return home. Then, in January 2006, he was recalled to active duty and served at Camp Fallujah in Iraq, where he stayed until September 2006.

In Iraq, he served as the Lead Petty Officer in the Current Operations Department for the Ninth Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), the first Reserve unit to command a regiment in Iraq. The primary mission of the regiment is the leadership, command and control, and engineering and logistical oversight for the subordinate units to execute their missions in support of the First Marine Expeditionary Force. This construction force consists of two Navy Seabee battalions, a Marine engineering unit, and an Army engineering unit. As part of this regiment, John managed a staff that completed over 200 construction projects, in-

cluding the building of hospitals and water wells. "Our job was to make sure the right supplies got to the right place on time," he said.

Being in Iraq taught John the importance of his family. He and his wife Diana have been married for eleven years and have two children, Cooper (age 5) and Caroline (age 3). Both children were old enough to understand what it meant to have him away from home and for him to return. Every day his daughter checks to make sure he is just going to work and will be coming home that evening.

"Being over there has made me appreciate everything here so much more. Just life in general is more important now," John said. "I get to watch my kids growing up! The other day I got to watch my son ride his bike for the first time. I love getting to do things like that!"

He also appreciates the American way of life and the opportunities we have here. Being able to travel from one town to the next with safety and security is a blessing we take for granted.

Even with a great family welcoming him back, John did admit that adjusting to the more frantic pace of life here has been difficult. In Iraq, the focus was always on the mission, but here there are so many other things in civilian life that are vying for his attention. In addition to his work, family, church and other commitments, he is also currently pursuing a direct commission in the Navy Reserve, something that would not be possible without his degree.

As for what's ahead for John Wilkes, anything is possible. "I came back from Iraq unharmed, which is something not everyone can say. I know God has something in store for me, and I'm anxious to see what it is!"



Biology Students Present Findings at Conference

Senior level biology majors Stacey Berry, Christa Bodin, Bethany Schmidt, and Merry Breitler presented their research findings to a Texas branch of the ASM conference in New Braunfels on March 23. With the help of their fellow classmates, they designed a poster entitled: "The influence of an urban population of Mexican free-tail bats, *Tadarida brasiliensis*, on denitrifying bacteria in the Colorado River."

Initially, the students sent in an abstract of their work for acceptance to the meeting. Their abstract was then published in a booklet of conference proceedings, followed by a public presentation of their work. Their preliminary findings suggest that the bats living in the Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin are not a health hazard to the water supply, but are in good ecological balance with microbes found in Town Lake, and that the bacteria are capable of cleaning up the guano dropped by the bats. The presentation and poster were judged and critiqued by Dr. Heidi Kaplan from the Department of Microbiology and Medical Genetics at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. Dr. Kaplan is the current President of the

Texas branch of the ASM.

When asked how the presentation went, the general consensus from the students was that, though it was a little nerve-wracking being critiqued, Dr. Kaplan was very nice and they really enjoyed speaking with her about their work. The student presenters also discussed their work with fellow students, and got a chance to hear talks and see poster presentations on a wide variety of microbiology topics including medicine, industrial production of vitamins, and ecology.

When faculty advisor Dr. Donna Janes was asked how the meeting went, she said, "Fantastic! I am so proud of how hard all the authors worked on the poster and how well the presenters did at fielding questions. These students did this on their own time and worked very

hard. I had several people at the meeting tell me what a good job they were doing at answering questions."

The research group would like to acknowledge and thank the following people: the entire math and science faculty and their fellow students who were kind enough to take the time to practice question and answer sessions with them at the end of the fall semester, David Parker and his family for their faith and continual support, and Dean Moyer and Concordia University for providing the opportunity to go to the conference.



Above: Merry Breitler explains the poster to a fellow student as Stacey Berry looks on.

By Dr. Donna Janes, Assistant Professor of Biology

Do you have a story you would like to share about your days as a student or employee at Concordia? Mail it to:

Attn: Connections
Concordia University at Austin
3400 IH 35 North
Austin, TX 78705
or email it to:
connections@concordia.edu.

Did You Know?

As an alumnus/a of Concordia University at Austin (anyone who has completed at least a 12 hour semester of coursework at Concordia) you are eligible for the following benefits:

- **Alumni Email Updates:** Receive monthly Alumni Pride Email Updates
- **Cultural Arts Information:** Receive updates on Cultural Arts events such as speaker series, art exhibits, dramas, and concerts taking place at Concordia
- **Library Services:** Borrowing and library privileges from Founder's Library
- **Woltman Activity Center:** Use of the racquetball courts and the fitness facilities and half price admission to all home athletic events
- **Fine Arts Events:** Student rate admission to all campus fine arts events
- **Future Concordia Tornado Bib:** Inform us of a new birth in the family, and we'll send you one of the gift bibs for your new baby!

Every Picture Tells a Story



Know the story behind this picture?
Send an email to connections@concordia.edu identifying the people in the picture and telling the story behind it. We'll publish the story in the next issue along with a new picture!

The Story Behind the Picture



The four guys in the picture (and one reluctant lady) were posing for a yearbook picture in the Spring of 1977. From left to right: Tim Eickstead, John Heinitz, Steve Wallace and Bobby Schroeder. I think the girl in the window is Sandy Koester. The four were the Sophomore Dorm Counselors (DC's). These were the guys who helped the Resident Dorm Counselor keep us guys in line. The photo was taken above the porch of Studtmann Hall. One of the DCs used the porch and the window to get into his girlfriend's room after hours. So the photo was sort of a joke in that the guys who were supposed to enforce the rules happened to be the same guys who knew how to break them. I won't say which DC discovered the secret entryway into the girl's dorm. If you look, the yearbook has the wrong captions for the photo.
Why do I know so much about it? I think I took the picture.
- Philip Hohle '77

Send in your update for the next Alumnotes

Name (last, first, maiden): _____	Class Year & Major: _____
Spouse: _____	Spouse's Class Year & Major (if applicable): _____
Street Address: _____	Home Phone: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	Email: _____
Is this a new address? Yes/No	Website: _____
Your News:	

*Photos are welcome and will be used on a space-available basis. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of photographs.
Mail to: *Connections*, Concordia University at Austin, 3400 IH 35 North, Austin, TX 78705; Email: connections@concordia.edu



*Join us for
Commencement
May 12, 2007*

2:00 pm

*Riverbend Centre
Austin, Texas*

 **CONCORDIA**
University ★ Austin

3400 IH 35 North
Austin, TX 78705