

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

TEXAS

M A G A Z I N E



Our Journey is Not Over

*The CTX Community Supports
Bastrop Wildfire Victims*

page 6

Concordia Partners with Extreme Makeover Home Edition

*Designer Paul DiMeo and Freshmen Maggie
Thompson take a quick break on site*



Mustard Seed Studios

Fall 2011
Vol. 4
Issue 1

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Concordia University Texas is a private, coeducational institution of liberal arts and sciences offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. Concordia offers an Accelerated Degree Program for part-time students and adult returning students. Concordia University Texas is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is under the auspices of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

www.concordia.edu

Cover photo: Blue cross in the ashes at the homesite of Concordia alumnus Tim Ristow, who lost his home in the September wildfires. Tim is the owner of Seventy Times Seven Media. <http://70x7media.com/> See page 6 for full story.

Concordia Today

Moving Forward to Tomorrow



Concordia University Texas has come through an incredible time in its history. In the last decade, we have moved from a difficult financial position to successfully relocating the main campus and being blessed with record enrollments. More recently, we have weathered the global financial crisis. There is much good news that defines us now. We have amazing new locations, dedicated faculty and staff, new programs that are a significant addition to our university, the availability of and participation in service learning and mission opportunities, an experienced and very competent senior staff, a redesigned core curriculum, an effective planning process, and a caring Christian community. Within this community, we are blessed with leaders at all levels who value their own spiritual life as well as others. We are ranked in the top tier of U.S. News and World Report for colleges in the west and Concordia student achievement is at or above peer institutions based on objective external measurements, especially in critical thinking, a key outcome of a quality liberal arts based education. We thank God for all the gifts He has given Concordia—our people, these places and financial support.

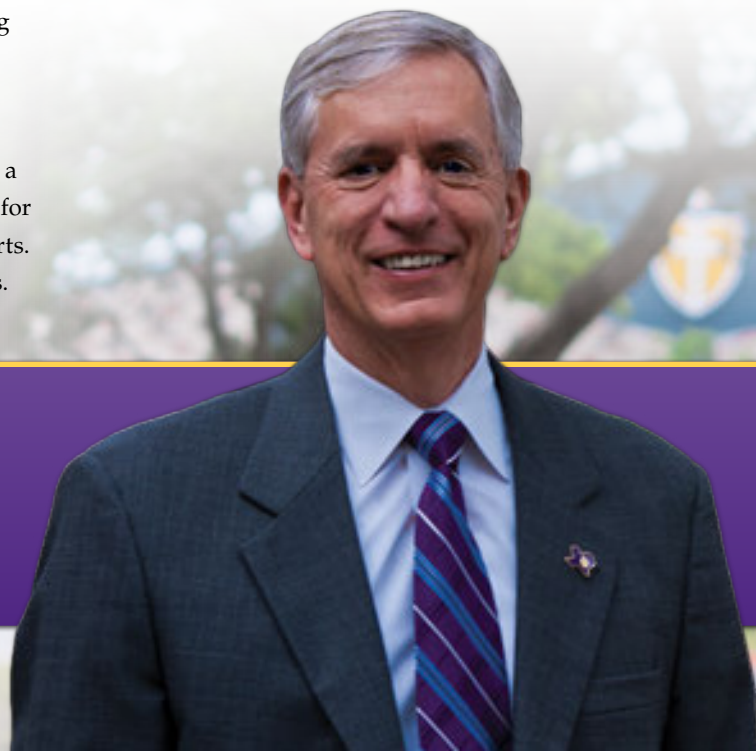
Even as we are blessed with these significant gifts, we, and higher education in general, face many major threats. State funding sources are being cut, and we are deeply tuition dependent. Our facilities, while excellent are neither new nor adequate for 2020. Our population is rapidly changing demographically, and the expectations of students, both traditional and non-traditional, have changed, driving us to address alternate delivery methods for programming. Improvements in student life are stymied because we are a commuter campus dependent on off-campus apartments for students housing and off-campus leased facilities for sports. We cannot even house our full freshmen class on campus.

While it is important for us to change to meet growing needs, the core components of Concordia's identity must be kept and strengthened.

In order for Concordia to meet the proposed transformation, it must embrace changes in the four "C's"—culture, curriculum, community and commitment to service. As a result of the strategic plan, Concordia will enable exceptional experiences that inspire people to seek leadership opportunities and influence others for Christ as a lifelong commitment. We must move from being budget driven to mission driven and budget minded. As we take this transformational journey, Concordia University Texas will be a student learning centered institution wrapped in its Lutheran ethos and known for academic excellence and leadership development.

We invite you, our friends, family, alumni, donors and partners to be part of this transformation with us. Gifts of your time, expertise, influence and resources will be a key component in our successful completion of this journey, from now until 2020- and beyond.

Thomas E. Gedd



"Concordia will enable exceptional experiences that inspire people to seek leadership opportunities and influence others for Christ as a lifelong commitment."

Read more
on our vision
for 2020

Concordia in 2020

will be a place where:

Students

- Students receive an exceptional education, focused on student learning through outcomes assessment and the integration of the curriculum and co-curricular activities.
- An honors curriculum provides an enhanced experience for exceptional students.
- All programs have some form of a capstone experience that includes internships, field experience and/or study abroad.
- Leadership development is also an integral part of the curriculum. The result is a compelling story of student success that attracts donors for major gift initiatives, program-specific grants, and capital gifts.
- Facilities enable community building. Academic infrastructure, athletic facilities, recreation spaces, and living accommodations on the main campus enhance the concept of a mixed residential and commuter learning community across all programs.
- Support facilities for adult and off-campus professional programs—undergraduate and graduate—accommodate the unique needs of working men and women.

Learning Experiences

- Learning experiences build institutional loyalty, enhance retention, and promote the public identity of Concordia.
- Students engage in a variety of learning communities where they collaborate in discovering how to use, manage, sort and communicate knowledge with classmates, faculty and other mentors.
- Extracurricular activities support student learning outcomes and provide a dynamic laboratory for practicing leadership.
- Students also develop relationships with organizations in the community as they serve. An intentional orientation experience for students will introduce students into the academic, cultural and social aspects of the CTX community. For however long they are part of our learning community, Concordia students are grounded in enabling and enriching experiences that prepare them to further their journey toward the mega-outcome.

Spiritual Life

- Spiritual life is a pivotal part of Concordia and frames everything we do. It is of such importance, that an executive level position will be dedicated to it.
- CTX's mission of developing Christian leaders permeates everything—on all campuses, in cyber space, in curricular and co-curricular activities, and in decision-making. Every academic major has an incorporated theological dimension that links sound Lutheran Christian values and theology to practices and beliefs within the discipline (the bridge between the core and a major).
- A chapel not only proclaims our Lutheran identity but also serves as an academic and social center serving the needs represented in our learning community.

O U R M I S S I O N I S T O D E V E

Practices

- Practices are focused on service and outcomes. For internal practices, CTX meets students and prospective students where they are, sharing responsibility for their success.
- Information and administrative services are easy to access and available 24 hours a day. All processes are one-stop and based on the latest technology of an integrated administrative computing capability.
- Course scheduling is based on student demographics and needs. Program admission, course registration, financial aid, and course delivery are based on academic excellence and student abilities/knowledge.
- Exceptional stewardship of the physical condition—environmental, structural, technological, and technical—of the campus and remote facilities is an imperative. Concordia is dedicated to environmental stewardship by becoming an efficient and green campus. Maintaining the aesthetic appearance of the campus is driven by a collaborative effort that considers efficiency, identity, artistic quality, and functionality.
- Students, faculty and staff have a world-class learning environment that is sustained, maintained, and supported by philanthropic relationships and responsible stewardship of the gifts that bless our endeavors.
- Externally, practices are based on the same core values. Concordia uses best practices and processes for investments, partnerships, banking and consultants.

Leadership

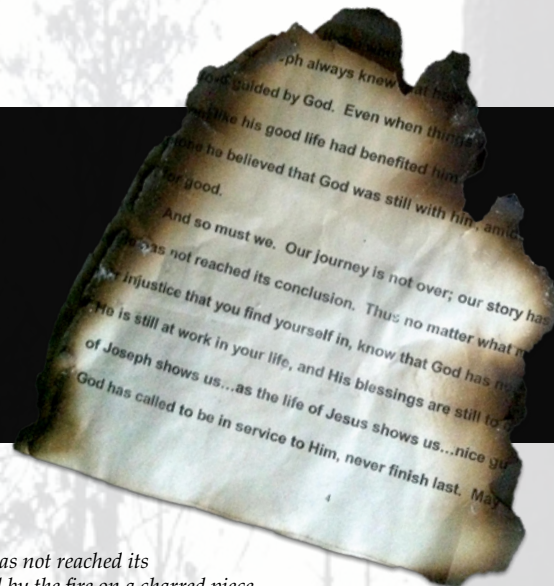
- Leadership development is critical to Concordia's educational mission. Christian leaders inspire and influence others toward a shared vision and toward acting as leaders themselves.
- CTX faculty and staff participate in external and internal leadership development programs so that each reaches their potential in a vocation.
- New full-time faculty and staff participate in a two-year learning and mentoring program. This program grounds our community in Concordia's Lutheran ethos and mission of developing Christian leaders.
- All individual offices and overarching institutional functions have succession plans in place to insure continuity of our core leadership into the future.

Relationships

- Relationships are built on trust, dialogue, faith, community and high standards. We do not compromise our values in building or maintaining relationships.
- Internally, this basis for relationships is absolute because it is consistent with CTX values.
- Externally these criteria define who we partner with and how these relationships grow.
- The Concordia University Texas Foundation has proven to be an incredible asset for community relations and fund raising reflecting a deep culture of philanthropy across the institution that seeks partners and investors in the success of our students.
- The Board of Regents and Foundation leverage an internal mindset of philanthropy into external initiatives that close the gap between budget limitations and genuine needs.
- Building on a track record of successful growth, major gift initiatives enable new programs and capital projects that would not be possible without the moral commitment and financial support of the communities we serve.
- Concordia's unique properties, Friesenhahn Cave and the preserve, have an internationally prominent Board of Visitors which nurtures the development of these assets, both physically and through their financial support and connections

Our Journey is Not Over

By: Melinda Brasher
Associate Vice President of Communications



The unthinkable happened on Labor Day weekend 2011 as fires popped up all over central Texas, igniting the dry kindling left behind from the hottest summer on record and the worst one-year drought in history for Texas. As fires spread, many watched, helpless.

The biggest fire burned just east of Austin in Bastrop County, home to some of Concordia's staff, students and alumni. The fires burned for weeks until containment. During that time, nearly 35,000 acres and 1,700 homes were destroyed.

The Concordia community responded as they usually do, with open arms and helpful hands, hosting a prayer service, collecting donations for the victims, and volunteering countless hours with area churches and service organizations to aid in relief efforts and begin the clean-up.

Service groups traveled to help distribute clothes and clean up home sites. Early childhood education classes provided babysitting services to

"The journey is not over. Our story has not reached its conclusion." This message was spared by the fire on a charred piece of paper at the home site of Concordia alumnus, Tim Ristow. Also spared in the fire is the blue cross that adorns the cover of this magazine, both symbols of faith and hope for the future. The journey is far from over. Families in Bastrop are still reeling from the loss, and the journey to recovery and restoration will take many years.

parents needing time to do Christmas shopping in exchange for one new and unwrapped toy to be given to children in the Bastrop area at the holidays.

Music students hosted a benefit concert on December 5, raising nearly \$1,200, all of which was distributed directly to families through a partnership with the First Baptist Church in Bastrop.

It's difficult to comprehend the destruction or the time it will take to rebuild communities. It's been said that for every week that a natural disaster wreaks havoc, it will take 100 weeks to rebuild. If that is true, Bastrop may be whole again by the next decade, 2020.

The CTX community will continue to support those in need on that journey. At press time, volunteers from Concordia had logged more than 1,600 hours in relief efforts, half of that as part of a rebuild for ABC's Extreme

Makeover: Home Edition to air in December 2012.



Nearly 35,000 acres burned in Bastrop County during September 2011.



Smoke from the fires was visible for miles. Astronauts on the Space Station even inquired about the smoky image from space.



The process of clearing and rebuilding the damage caused by the fires will take many volunteers and hours of hard work.

Tim Ristow



Tim Ristow

About the Cover

My eye caught the unmistakable color of something vividly blue, laying on the ground amidst a carpet of gray ash and brick debris. As I stepped over the bricks I recognized what the blue object was right away. There was no mistaking it. It was a ceramic cross that had hung above our kitchen sink, above the window, part of a trio of crosses. This one was almost entirely intact. A very small corner piece of the cross had chipped away but that was it. What was also amazing was that the brick walls of the house had all fallen around the cross, not on it, leaving it intact resting on the soft ash and dirt. It was face-up. The lone survivor of the trio of crosses had one word inscribed on it: "Blessed".

This is an excerpt from the blog of Tim Ristow ('92), a Concordia alum who lost his home in the Bastrop wildfires. You can read Tim's blog at: <http://ristowfamily.wordpress.com>.

BASTROP

by the numbers



35,000
acres burned



1,700
homes destroyed



5,000+
people evacuated
from Bastrop County



15,000
meals provided
by First Baptist Church, Bastrop



1,800
loads of laundry done
for displaced families
by First Baptist Church, Bastrop

GET INVOLVED

100% of the proceeds will go toward helping families.

If you would like to help families in Bastrop, you can send donations to the
First Baptist Church | 1201 Water Street, Bastrop, TX 78602
Attention: Rev. Dr. Raymond Edge

To learn more about Concordia's ongoing efforts to help, please visit www.concordia.edu/FireRelief

William Gibson's

the

MIRACLE WORKER



left: Annie Sullivan (Cassandra Hood) teaches Helen Keller (Maggie Thompson) sign-language while Helen's mother (Amanda Herrera) looks on.

below: Helen's mother (Amanda Herrera) comforts her daughter (Maggie Thompson).

The Concordia University Texas Theatre Program opened a production of *The Miracle Worker* at 7:30pm on Thursday, Nov. 10 in the Black Box Theater. Additional performances were held Friday and Saturday.

A cast of ten students performed playwright William Gibson's Tony Award-winning drama under the direction of Dr. Lisa Neely, who directed last spring's sold-out production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. *The Miracle worker* was completely sold out as well; additional seating was added for all three performances in order to accommodate the crowds.



left: Helen Keller (Maggie Thompson) recognizes the connection between words and their meaning at the water pump.

right bottom: Mr. Anangos (Brandon Marks), Annie's mentor and teacher from the Perkin's School for the Blind reflects on Annie's life.



TORNADO TUESDAY

Join the entire campus community on the first Tuesday of the month for free food, drinks, and games! Come-and-go to take a break from class/work and get to know someone you've not met before. The whole campus is invited!

sponsored by:



Opera Scenes and Arias



On November 18 and 19, vocal students in the Opera Workshop class performed scenes and arias from Opera favorites including "Carmen", "the Magic Flute", "Don Giovanni", "Hansel and Gretel" and many more. The performance on Saturday night had a full house. The class will be offered again next fall, giving the community another chance to experience students performing similar classics.

Photo: Senior, Sarah Hillis, and sophomore, Emily Pohland, perform "The Flower Duet" from the French Opera Lakmé.

[i am a patron]

**i am an integral part of the mission
of concordia university texas**

To become a patron of the arts, please return the enclosed questionnaire (center-fold) and indicate your area of interest.

To contribute to fine arts initiatives or the College of Liberal Arts please visit giving.concordia.edu or return your donation in the enclosed envelope (center-fold).

Current initiatives include:

- \$500,00 - to develop the Art major
- \$66,000 - for upgraded technology
- \$350,000 - to develop the worship arts ministry program



concordia.edu



*Leslie Webster, Tamsha Cole, Jan Karsten,
Katrina Perez, Julie McCown, Clara Love*



A Medical Mission Trip Filled With Compassion and Heart

CTX Nursing Students Learn by Serving in Guatemala and Belize

Concordia University Texas' Nursing Program established a partnership with the Central American Lutheran



Mission Society (CALMS) and Can-Do Missions to develop a medical missions program where nursing students are given opportunities to travel to foreign countries and assist in rendering medical care to those in need. During the 2011 fall break, five students traveled to Guatemala and Belize.

In Guatemala, they worked with Dr. Elry Orozco, director of the Santa Cruz Clinic in Amatitlan, an economically challenged community near Guatemala City and with the health center staff in a remote village near La Union. They

cared for patients with respiratory disease, open wounds, and back pain brought on from carrying heavy loads on their backs.

In Belize, the team was able to work in three different settings: Octavia Waight Home for the Aged, where they assisted with everything from physical care to mowing the grass, Good Shepherd Clinic in San Jose Succotz Village and in the underserved villages near San Ignacio, where they participated in activities such as distributing medications, taking vitals, and spending time simply listening and laughing with those seeking care at the free clinic.



Dr. Keith Ellen Ragsdale, Associate Director of the Nursing Program and Professor Pat Fick, Director of Can-Do Missions worked with the CALMS staff to develop the program and prepare students for the cross-cultural health service. It's a unique facet of Concordia's fast-growing nursing program that enables students to understand compassion behind the care they offer and grow as Christian leaders in the health care field.

"This is one of the most exciting experiences we can offer students," said Pat Fick. "It is one where we can impact the world in a loving and compassionate way. It is Christ's service in action."

CTX Nursing Needs You

All nursing students are required to participate in a medical mission trip. Opportunities exist in Texas, Central America and Africa. The high cost of travel to other countries, ranging from \$1600-2600 per person, is a challenge for many in the program and funding

is needed to support that experience. To learn more about medical missions at Concordia and how you can help, please contact Pat Fick with Can-Do Missions at patricia.fick@concordia.edu or the Nursing Program office at Sharon.saullo@concordia.edu.

“God Bless America”

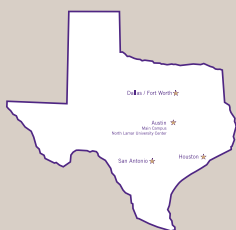
CTX Graduate Student Erika Stevens Sings at the 2011 World Series



*Concordia University Texas,
M.Ed. student , Erika Stevens
practices singing “God Bless
America” before game #4 of the
2011 World Series.*



Developing Christian leaders



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Austin, Texas 78752

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512-313-5603

Concordia University Texas graduate student Erika Stevens was invited to sing "God Bless America" in the 7th inning stretch of the 4th game of the World Series on Oct. 23.

"It was exciting to be part of a winning game," said Stevens, 46, who performed before a live crowd of 55,000 people at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington. "The crowd, the cameras. It was exciting and scary all at the same time. The next morning I woke up and thought 'Did I dream that or did it really happen?'"

Stevens, a vocalist in the Texas Air National Guard military band, received an invitation to sing at the game after her commander urged her to submit a recording to the Texas Rangers. The Rangers were looking for a representative from the military to sing "God Bless America". A celebrity would be chosen to sing the national anthem, she explained. Stevens' invitation came just two days before the actual game.

"I was sitting at my desk at school when my phone rang," Stevens said. "It was the Rangers calling. I almost passed out."

The weekend was a whirlwind of activity in preparation for the Sunday game. The Rangers gave her tickets to four choice seats. After her performance, Stevens changed out of her uniform and re-joined her sister and two friends in the 18th section of the stadium. She said reaction from her circle of acquaintances was immediate. "I got 19 text messages between the time I changed clothes and got back to my seat."

Erika Stevens is in the Masters of Education program at Concordia University Texas' Dallas-Fort Worth center. She will graduate in August 2012 with a specialization in Advanced Literacy. In addition to her role in the Texas Air National Guard, she teaches music at Leslie A. Stemmons and N.W. Hadllee elementary schools in the Dallas Independent School District.



Erika Stevens sings "God Bless America" during the 7th inning stretch of the 2011 World Series.

See Erika singing "God Bless America" at the 2011 World Series:

*[http://atmlb.com/
ErikaStevens](http://atmlb.com/ErikaStevens)*

*or scan this QR code
with your smart phone*



at five locations throughout Texas.

Fort Worth Center
2080 N. Highway 360, Suite 400
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1-817-810-0226

San Antonio Center
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sanantonio@concordia.edu
1-210-253-3254

Houston Center
18220 Upper Bay Road
Houston, Texas 77058

houston@concordia.edu
1-800-285-4252

Student News

Concordia is proud of its diverse student population and their accomplishments in and out of the classroom. We celebrate these students for their recent successes.

A Look Into Entertainment

Communication students, under the leadership of Professor Phil Hohle, participated in a 10-day exploration of the entertainment industry in Los Angeles. Students attended programs at the Writer's Guild and explored the renowned Paley Center for Media. They interacted with people working in the industry, most of them practicing Christians. They were privileged to take part in an intimate conversation with Bill Lawrence, the creator of the popular television show *Scrubs* and visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.



Top: Brandon Van Berkelo, David Hunt Middle: Rachel Ferry, Kat Asper Schaefer, Caitlin Coke, Sarah Payne, Ema Hamill Bottom: Adriana Morfitt, Alexandra Leonardo

Persuasion Contagion

Five students participated in the twice yearly Persuasion Contagion. Students create a five to seven-minute speech on the topic of their choice. Preliminary rounds were held on October 27 with finalists advancing to the final round on November 2. Three community judges including Heather White from the KASE 101 morning radio show, Meredith Michelson from Elizabeth Christian and Associates, and Kat Schafer, a recent Concordia University Texas alum listened to speakers who competed for hundreds of dollars in prizes. This event is supported by Concordia Development Officers, Elizabeth Christian & Associates, HEB, the Concordia Bookstore, Sodexo, on-campus Starbucks, Pluckers and Freebirds.

Participants often serve as spokespersons for events in the following year and the winner serves as emcee for the next Persuasion Contagion event.



Persuasion Contagion participants included: Alex Lee (winner), sophomore, environmental science major, Josh Jennings, sophomore, communication major, Domonique Liddell, freshman, communication major, Caty Johnson and Jill Cowie, junior, communication major.

Anyone interested in supporting or learning more about the event can contact Professor Erik Green at erik.green@concordia.edu.

Storm Chasers

Business leadership students launched a bike-sharing program, providing free use of bicycles for students, staff and faculty to get around campus quickly. The program, called 'Storm Chasers,' in reference to the university mascot, the Tornados, launched on November 11 with 15 bikes. Bikes were obtained through donations and painted purple,



Photo by Jeff Hoag

Sights Set on 2016 Olympics

Luke Hoag, a freshmen student in the director of Christian education (DCE) program is an avid archer who participated in the U.S. Olympic Trials for archery in October. A member of the Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) program, Texas State Archery Association and USA Archery, Luke has been practicing for just over a year. In his first showing at the JOAD national championship, Luke's team won a silver medal. Luke's



CTX freshman, Luke Hoag takes aim at the JOAD national championship.

goal is to try out and earn a position on the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team. To help him reach that goal, he works out with a coach daily for several hours and attends tournaments to hone his skills.

white and black. Campus Police are partnering with the program to oversee the security of bicycles. Donations are still needed to expand and support this program.



Business Leadership students with two of the first Storm Chaser bicycles shared on the CTX campus.

If you have a gently used bicycle or cash to donate to the program, please contact student program director Adam Case at adam.case@ctx.edu or 512-653-4812.

Iron Chef

The 4th Annual Iron Chef: College Edition competition was held on Wednesday, November 9 at 7pm in the residence halls. Esteemed judges were Meredith Oltmann (science), Heidi Doering (CTX development), and Cari Chittick (education). The winners won by making a pizza inspired tacos and an ice cream graham cracker sandwich. The winners were: Nathan Thurnau, Matthew Loppnow, Cari Booker, Kathryn Ayres. Winners received a \$5 gift card to Walmart, with a vintage-looking ice cream sundae cup and an ice cream scooper.



Brittany Scheel

CTX students prepare their dishes for the 4th Annual Iron Chef: College Edition competition.

Apprentice Austin Program

Four students were chosen to participate in the third launch of the

Austin Young Chamber of Commerce Apprentice Austin program for 2011-2012. The primary purpose of Apprentice Austin is to develop tomorrow's young professionals and the future leaders of Austin. Since Austin is one of the most desirable cities in the country to live, it is difficult for recent grads to find work in such a competitive environment. The program aims to help students find jobs in Austin upon graduation, as well as provide the expertise, insights, and connections to have a successful career in their field of interest. As many as 20 students from all area colleges are chosen for the program, which lasts seven months. Mentors in the program provide apprentices with weekly interaction to guide them on career development, networking and general work and community awareness.



Austin Apprentice participants are Kourtnie Espinoza, Ryan Camperchioli, Jonathan Brown, and Malori Carley.

Bugles Across America

Steve Kalowski, a business student in the ADP at CTX-DFW Center, was recently invited to speak on the Doc Gallagher show on KAAM 770AM radio about his volunteer efforts with Bugles Across America (BAA), a non-profit organization that enlists volunteers to play 'Taps' at the memorial services of those who have served our country. Steve is one of four state directors for the program. Originally from Chicago, Steve moved to Texas in 1995 with his job for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. His non-traditional work

schedule affords him the time to play at funeral services during the week as part of his service to BAA. He has been playing the trumpet since the fifth grade and was inspired to volunteer with BAA after the funeral of his late father-in-law, where a volunteer from BAA played live 'Taps'. In addition to playing 'Taps' at the funerals of service men and women in his spare time, Steve enjoys playing in area blues jams in the Fort Worth area. For more information on BAA, visit www.buglesacrossamerica.org.

Student Research Symposium

Six students participated in the inaugural Student Research Symposium on November 11 and 15. This activity allows CTX students to share with faculty and fellow students their learning outside the regular classroom. This will become part of a regular activity for students in the Honors Program. Students presenting at the fall symposium (and their topics) were: Jessica Waldron, Japanese Culture; Clare Adams, Galveston Flood of 1900; Lexi Brennan, British Romantic Era Medicine and Poets; Sarah Hillis, Romantic Musicians and Romantic Writers; Katie Melin, Macua's Blend of Portuguese and Chinese influences and Michael Vybiral, Analysis of Jean Rhys' Wide Sargasso Sea.

Senior Thesis

Four history majors, Andrew Kaspar, Michael Goldwater, Billy Blakely and Cameron Duke, will present senior thesis papers to the university community. The senior thesis experience is the capstone for the history major at Concordia, designed to integrate research, writing, and public speaking skills and prepare students for jobs after graduation.

Program News



Netza Gonzalez pins his fiancée, Paula, during the ceremony and thanks her for her support. Paula is also enrolled in the ADP.

Recognition of Support

Students in the Accelerated Degree Program (ADP) in Austin who graduated in December honored those who helped them obtain their degrees at a special Pinning Ceremony on Wednesday, November 30 in the university's chapel on the main campus. Graduates thanked family and friends who supported them throughout their journeys to obtain a bachelor's degree. Special guest speaker was graduate and single mom Michelle Fiorentini. Music director, Patricia Burnham, provided the music.

Concordia's Accelerated Degree Program offers bachelor's degrees in four areas of study: business, healthcare administration, human resource management and technical management.

Graduating students from the San Antonio center participated in their own Pinning Ceremony on Monday, December 5. Special guest speaker was M.Ed. student Keith Thomas, and music was provided by Concordia's Gospel Tornados.

New Honors Program

A new Honors Program is being developed under the guidance of Dr. Matthew Bloom, professor of history. As Chair of the Honors Program, Dr. Bloom will oversee the recruitment and retention of Honors Program students as well as the creation of Honors Program courses and learning activities.

New History Course

Dr. Matthew Bloom is developing a new course: American Environmental History, currently going through the approval process for implementation into the curriculum during the fall 2012 semester. This course, designed for both history and environmental science students, will examine three changing American attitudes and actions toward the natural environment, the growth of conservation, and the rise of environmentalism. The course is one part of a larger initiative at CTX to emphasize environmental learning and

stewardship on its northwest Austin campus and beyond.

The Concordia MBA

The Concordia MBA program in Austin celebrates its one-year mark. The first cohort will be preparing for the capstone course in consulting with local employers around central Texas. MBA students take their learning and professional experience and consult with local companies, including non-profit organizations. Students will work on creating strategic marketing plans, business plans, social media campaigns, research, and other related project management initiatives for their prospective clients. Students in the first MBA cohort will graduate in the summer of 2012.

The San Antonio MBA program kicked off in the fall of 2011. Applications are currently being accepted for the summer 2012 cohort. The application deadline is March 1, 2012. For more

information on the Concordia MBA, please visit mba.concordia.edu.



Robert Rodriguez and CEO Earl Maxwell of St. David's Foundation were recognized at the lab dedication. A sign outside the lab in D-130 recognizes the St. David's Foundation gift.

Interactive Lab Dedicated

Concordia dedicated the Interactive Learning Lab on December 5. The lab was a recent gift funded through a grant from St. David's Foundation, a joint owner of St. David's HealthCare, whose mission is to improve health and health care for all Central Texans by investing proceeds from their hospitals to fund community healthcare initiatives.

Concordia received this grant

to improve telecommunication opportunities for students. The lab is currently being used by its fast-growing nursing program, connecting students to Clinical Scholars in the field through web-based consultation.

Demands in the healthcare field for qualified nurses are growing. Since its inception in the fall of 2010, the nursing

program at Concordia has grown by more than 700%. It will graduate its first class of nurses in the spring of 2012.

Nursing Program

The nursing program has begun the process of seeking national accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the

accrediting body of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. This process takes more than a year and is separate from the accreditation of the program by the Texas Board of Nursing. It will raise the stature and marketability of our students and program.

Center News

Houston Center

CTX — Houston Center will launch its latest M.Ed. specialization, a Master's in Curriculum & Instruction with Teaching Certificate, in the spring of 2012. This program will allow students teaching in a private school or with a bachelor's degree in another discipline to earn their master's degree and Texas teaching certification simultaneously.

Fort Worth Center

Beginning in the spring 2012, CTX — DFW Center will add the Superintendent's Certification Program to its graduate education offerings.



Mark Ammann is raising awareness for the CTX Accelerated Degree Program.

New admissions counselor for CTX — DFW Center, Mark Ammann, is working with Center Dean Dr. Mary May to expand awareness of the Accelerated Degree Program. Students and faculty are encouraged to think of others – friends, family, co-workers – who may have an interest in completing their degree, then to 'Pay it Forward'

by connecting Concordia with the potential students. To learn more about the ADP, please visit www.concordia.edu/adp.

San Antonio Center

CTX — San Antonio Center is pleased to announce the introduction of two new programs for the San Antonio education community.

New programs include a new master's degree with initial teacher certification. This program is ideal for the professional with a degree in an area other than education who wishes to enter the teaching profession. It is a two-year program and includes student teaching as its capstone course.

The Superintendent Certificate program is offered to those educators with a master degree and administrative experience who wish to become school district superintendents. The Superintendent Certificate program is a one-year program with an internship.

CTX — San Antonio will continue offering the masters level programs in advanced literacy, curriculum and instruction, and educational administration with an attached principal's certification, as well as a principal certification program for

those educators who already possess a master's degree in education and wish to add the principal certificate to their resumé.

The Concordia Institute

One would need to live in a cave not to recognize the need in our country for helping people learn more about how to live, to love and to lead. That's the developing focus for a Concordia Institute that Jerry Kieschnick, Presidential Ambassador for Mission Advancement was asked to develop. After two "Think Tank" meetings of gifted women and men from Texas and beyond, the Institute is gradually taking shape.

In order to ascertain the accuracy of the initial plan and to confirm the perceived needs that will be addressed, the Institute will begin to take shape slowly and deliberately. As stated in a recent email Kieschnick received: "Don't try to change the whole world all by yourself. Change the little space where you are now. The rest will come later from others doing the same thing elsewhere." For Christians, the power for that change comes from God's baptismal grace and proceeds with deliberate sensitivity, humility and courage. Stay tuned for further developments.

Pressing On

Stained Glass windows find a new resting place at Concordia University Texas

By: Brittany Scheel

Along with cooler weather, the month of October saw the installation of beautiful stained glass windows in the chapel. The windows are a generous gift from St. Philip Lutheran Church in Houston and have been in storage until recently.

St. Philip was started in 1963 by 12 families who wished to be in a community of believers. As these families searched the Word for inspiration on naming the church, they stumbled upon the plight of an Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40) who did not understand the scriptures. An angel of the Lord sent Philip to this man to tell him the Good News. The families prayerfully decided to name their congregation St. Philip, as it is their mission to spread the good news of Christ.

In 1983 St. had more than 1,300 baptized members. As their church grew and changed, the community around them also became different. By 2005, many of the members had left the area due to the changing demographics. In that same year St. Philip put their property on the market. It was purchased by a nearby church that has now transformed the buildings into a youth ministry facility.

In the same way that Philip was carried away by the Spirit of God to another place after the baptism of the eunuch, the congregation of St. Philip was led to another location, "leaving

behind the brick and mortar and as a church body moving to a new location to spread the Good News," pastor Ken Burkhard wrote in a History of St. Philip that was handed out at the Decommissioning Service in 2006.

"It's amazing how God continues to work through change and relocation," said Linda Greenwald, administrative assistant for the College of Business at Concordia, and a former member and staff of St. Philip.

Four of the eight windows hang in the auditorium which serves as the university chapel.



And consequently, the windows were not left behind. They were put into storage until a new home could be found for them. The congregation decided to give them to CTX. Their installation is projected to be complete by the end of this year.

Four of the eight windows hang in the auditorium which serves the University as a chapel. The rest of the windows will be placed in Building A near the entrance to the chapel. The hope is that one day a more permanent place will be found for

the stained glass windows from Concordia's former campus along with those from St. Philip.

As these widows are still on their journey awaiting a final place to rest, so are we. These windows remind us, in the words of our theme verse for this year, that we are "pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14.

First Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

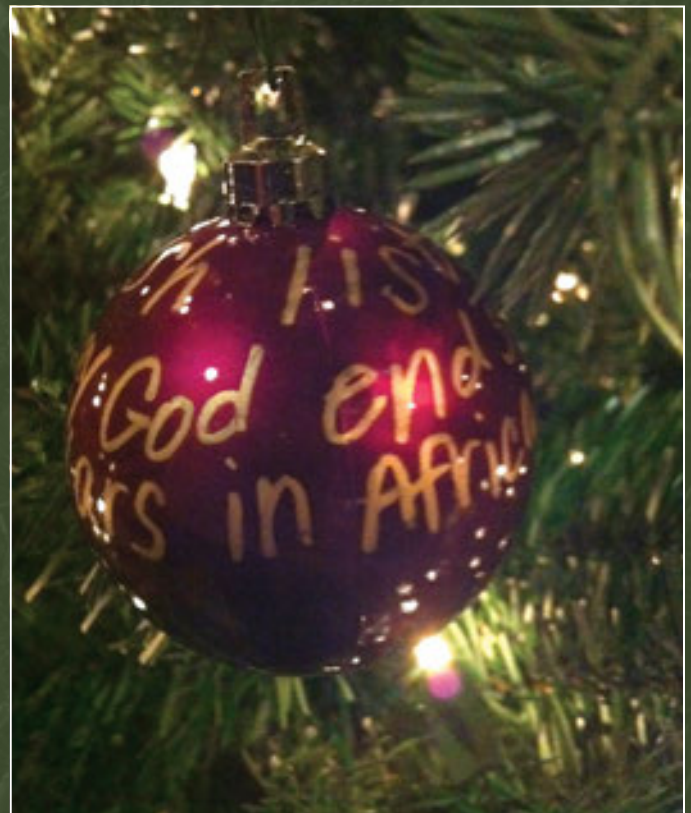
Christmas decorations by the numbers



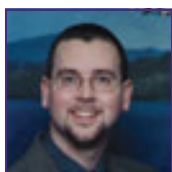
The sights and sounds of Christmas arrived early at Concordia University this year and a new tradition was born with the First Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the Pier at the Overlook on Thursday, November 17. Approximately 200 people came out for this event. Student groups played acoustic music, the crowd sang carols, decorated ornaments and enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies on what felt like a truly festive evening. The highlight of the evening was the official lighting of the 15-foot tree and the 10,000 other lights in the trees and along the walkways leading up to the Pier.

Students and other guests decorated ornaments to hang on the tree during the Christmas tree lighting. Materials were provided but no other directions were given as to what and how to decorate. The tree is full of wonderful messages of hope and inspiration but one message seemed to stand out among them all. It reads: "My Christmas wish: that God ends war in Africa and brings child soldiers home."

Concordia University Texas wishes you peace during this magical season and invites you to give thanks for the blessings in your life, remembering the reason for the season.



Faculty & Staff Highlights



Nursing professionals, **Dr. Betty Jensen** and **Professor Michael Aldridge** completed

all of the requirements, and upon examination by the National League for Nursing, have been awarded Nurse Educator certification.



Jason Shurley, assistant professor in Kinesology, wrote an article, "The Strength of Nebraska: Boyd

Epley, Husker Power, and the Formation of the Strength Coaching Profession," which has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research. This journal is distributed to more than 30,000 people in 56 countries.



Dr. Gerald C. Brunworth received the Spiritus Christi Medallion at the spring

commencement of Concordia University Chicago. This award is presented to an individual who has performed

responsibilities with unusual effectiveness and influence and with the highest quality of service. Brunworth is a 1960 alumnus of Concordia University River Forest and serves as adjunct faculty member at Concordia University Texas — DFW Center.



Dr. DeEadra Green, center dean for the Austin—North Lamar Center has been asked to serve on the

Education Advisory Board for Austin Community College (ACC), due in part, to her efforts on the '2+2 in Education Project'. The project is aimed at helping students from ACC who obtain an associate of arts in teaching (AAT) transition into Concordia's education program to complete their bachelor's degree.



Dr. Carl Trovall presented the commencement address at Cross Lutheran Church and

School in New Braunfels, TX on May 25, 2011. Dr. Trovall has also appeared as a regular panelist on the "American

Religious Town Hall Meeting" telecast. Airing since 1953, this weekly program is provided as an open forum for discussion on a variety of topics from varying viewpoints. Tune in to channel 262 on the Dish Network at 12 noon (CST) and channel 378 at 1:30 pm (CST) on DirectTV to view programming.



Dr. Mee-Gaik Lim, an adjunct professor of psychology at the CTX — San Antonio center created a

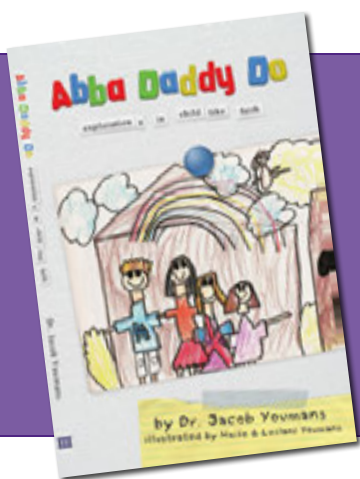
new banner for the center's use at ceremonies and other events.



Dr. Brian Malechuk, adjunct professor in Houston recently presented two seminars: one in

Bridge City ISD on cooperative learning and another in Bryan ISD on Classroom Instruction That Works: Using a Book Study Model. He is employed full-time in Spring ISD, where he serves as the Executive Director of Special Services, with special education. Spring ISD, in the Houston area, has 37 campuses and serves approximately 37,000 students.

Dr. Jan Wheeler co-authored two



Dr. Jacob Youmans, director of the Director of Christian Education (DCE) program at Concordia recently released a children's book *Adda Daddy Do*, illustrated by his two daughters Maile and Leilani. Dr. Youmans reclaims the wonder and excitement of childhood through 40 true-life stories, discovering the spiritual influence in everyday moments of childhood. His book is currently available directly through the publisher, Tri-Pillar Publishing and should be available on Amazon.com in the near future.

Long-Time Education Professor Honored as Outstanding Lutheran Educator of the Year

Education professor **Gertrude Keiper** was honored in October as the Outstanding Lutheran Educator of the Year at the Professional Church Workers Conference in Houston.

Nominees for the award are all educators in primary or secondary schools and institutions of higher learning who are recommended by their peers. Keiper was named one of three finalists before the final award was announced.

Keiper is a long-time educator, starting her career alongside her husband, a mission planter and pastor, as she opened and directed pre-schools in three states. They landed last in the Houston area where Keiper found

herself with an offer to teach at Concordia as an adjunct professor. That was nearly 20 years ago. For the past 15 years, she has served as a full-time professor, and currently acts as Director of Non-Traditional Teacher Certification. Keiper has taught all ages- from infants to college students- in bachelor's and master's program. She particularly enjoys teaching adult students who often find themselves back in the classroom seeking a second career.

"They now know what they want and what they need as adults," said Keiper.

She says Concordia stands out from other education programs because students receive personalized attention in small classes. While other schools

focus on numbers, educators at Concordia know their students on a personal level. One principal even told Keiper that her student was better prepared than a student teacher from another institution.

A long career in education has left Keiper with many fond memories. The best? "Seeing students you worked with- years later- be successful."



chapters of a new book on palliative care, and planned/coordinated a two-day educational seminar for pediatric palliative care professionals held annually in Austin. Dr. Wheeler teaches Curriculum and Ethics for the Houston Center's master's of education program and serves as Executive Director for the Texas Pediatric Palliative Care Consortium. Her passion is to help educators become better leaders in whatever capacity they choose to work.

History professors **Dr. Matthew Bloom** and **Dr. Debra Allen** co-presented a paper entitled "How the Discipline Identity of History Has Been Shaped by Lutheran Ethos" at the Association of Lutheran College Faculties Annual Conference on October 8, 2011 at Concordia University Texas.

Dr. Bloom served as a responder for presentations for the Lutheran Education Conference of North America on October 21, 2011 as part of Heritage Week.

Dr. Matthew Bloom has been busy writing, presenting a paper entitled "Less Swamp, More Farmland: Implementing Ditch Laws in Nineteenth Century Ohio to Improve Land Quality and Increase Crop Quantity" at the 2011 Agricultural History Society Conference in Springfield, Illinois and later writing an article, "Cities Large and Small Together: The Subregional Model of Economic Change in the Nineteenth Century" to be published in the upcoming edition of the journal *Eras*.

Dr. Mary Landon Darden, San Antonio Center Dean, spoke at the Institute for Education at the University of Edinburgh, in the spring of 2011 to talk about her ideas in [Beyond 2020: Envisioning the Future of Universities in America](#), a book she wrote about leading universities toward the future in a time of economic change. The book can be found on Amazon.com.



Smart Board Technology = New Learning Techniques

By Carrie Leising, Director of Annual Giving

Victoria Broughton, uses a SmartBoard to demonstrate area and volume of a box.

Technology is ever-changing and so is the way college students learn in the classroom. Technology is an integral part of the learning environment and in developing teachers who are ready to tackle the challenges and vast opportunities. Soon-to-be teachers in elementary, middle and high school are incorporating technology in their curriculum.

Gone are the old-fashioned green or black chalk boards; and even the white boards with scented glass-cleaner

“The goal of teaching is to inspire students. With this gift, we hope to continue this goal of inspiring others.”

Lowell Goeker

Enter in Smart Boards, an interactive whiteboard that dovetails with computer technology to enhance teaching via computer and “Smart” markers. It looks like a whiteboard, plug it in to a computer, and write on the board and voila! You have a Smart Board keeping track of your lesson via computer and allowing students to engage on a technological level.

Through Smart Boards, Concordia is preparing teachers for tomorrow, thanks to generous donors like Lowell and Kay Goecker.

The Goecker’s educational experiences and desire to impact many for the future is the inspiration for their giving. They remember teachers from their

childhood who made a difference in their lives and understand that education is more than just teaching kids about a subject. It’s about making connections and building relationships.

“Kay won’t tell you this but she was an exceptional teacher at sixth grade math,” said Lowell. “She took the time to individually diagnose kids’ needs and was willing to try new technology.”

Lowell and Kay both have long careers in school administration and teaching. Lowell was a teacher and administrator for over 40 years, and Kay taught more than 23 years, most of that time as a sixth grade math teacher. They know the ins and outs of how teaching has changed over the years.



Thanks to a generous gift from the Goekers, this CTX education class is receiving hands-on training on the technology they will be using in the classroom.

“Teachers are expected to come out of these education programs with some experience using this technology,” said Kay.

“The enhancement of Concordia’s technical capabilities prepares our students to make a significant and meaningful impact in the classrooms of our community.”

Now retired, they see the way education at all levels is changing with technology. Thanks to their generosity, Concordia was able to purchase two additional Smart Boards on the main campus. The increase of updated technology to our classrooms is an excellent example of Concordia’s commitment to create an all-inclusive learning environment for students and encourages their continued education outside the classroom. Additionally, having certain technological skills is a plus for graduates entering the teaching field.

“I demonstrate lessons on the Smart Board and have students do demonstrations with it, too,” said Dr. Karen Rhynard, assistant professor for education, “because job interviewers will ask students what technology they have experience with.”



Dr Rhynard using the Smart Board to do some basic Geometry with CTX student, Lauren Browning.

The enhancement of Concordia’s technical capabilities prepares our students to make a significant and meaningful impact in the classrooms of our community. Yet we need more. Concordia has determined that it needs four more Smart Boards and is embarking on a fundraising initiative for increased funding for technological needs, including iPads for faculty and increased software needs for Career Services to name a few major, but urgent, technological needs for the University.

For more information on the College of Education, please visit:
www.concordia.edu/education

To contribute to technology initiatives, please visit:
giving.concordia.edu or return your donation in the enclosed envelope (center trifold).

Current initiatives include:

- 4 more Smart Boards
- 60 iPads for faculty
- Updated software for Career Services

And for more information, contact Carrie Leising, Director of Annual Giving, at (512) 313-4109 or carrie.leising@concordia.edu



Scholarship Luncheon Recognizes Donors and Student Recipients in October

Scholarships play an important role for many students who couldn't otherwise afford their education. In the world of financial aid, it's rare that the donors behind those scholarships and the students who receive them ever meet. At Concordia, that story is much different.

Each fall, the External Relations Department hosts a luncheon for scholarship donors and their recipients. It's an opportunity for students to meet the people behind their scholarships. For some, that relationship continues to build

beyond the event. Some donors and students keep in contact well after the student graduates.

This year's event was held on Sunday, October 2 in the Black Box Theater. Nearly 200 people attended. Rev. Dr. Bill Knippa of Bethany Lutheran Church in Austin, a Concordia Lutheran College alumnus ('67), donor and friend was the featured speaker.

CTX Faculty and Staff Give Back to the University

By: Carrie Leising, Director of Annual Giving



Employee giving is a growing and vital component at CTX. As part of a campaign to create a culture of philanthropy, we had an amazing 75% increase in giving from our employees in 2011. This year, we tried something new and included all four remote centers throughout the state. We created three vignettes that were viewed via email and asked for gifts in the form of payroll deduction through an electronic form in each vignette. From this campaign, we increased Concordia's giving, and altogether we raised almost the equivalent of two full

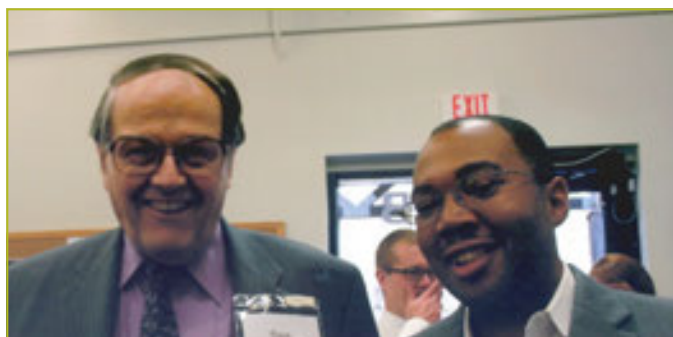
tuition scholarships for a traditional student. The growing commitment from the employees who work at Concordia is huge and heartfelt.

While we have more than doubled the amount of employees who participate in payroll deduction last year, there's always plenty of room for more. Imagine if Concordia had 100% participation of employees giving back to Concordia University? That would be a lot of scholarships, student programs, library resources and capital improvements that can be done on each campus throughout the state. Each gift, large and small, is meaningful and makes an impact.

Thank you to all who have given and continue to support Concordia University Texas!

Carrie Leising, Director of Annual Giving, carrie.leising@concordia.edu

Donors and Scholarship Recipients Meet



Brittany Scheel

Don and Dorothy Zielke set up The Henry and Emily Staffeldt Zielke Memorial Scholarship Endowment in memory of Don's parents to support students who wish to pursue a major in mathematics or a specialization in math in the multidisciplinary program. Justin Roland (Austin, TX) is the recipient of the assistance this year.



Brittany Scheel

The Hames Family Scholarship Endowment was established by Peter and Suzann Hames to provide scholarships for deserving students majoring in elementary and early childhood Christian education at Concordia, the alma mater of their daughter Ginger Hames Evoy. Ginger visited campus as a high school senior and was impressed with the small class size. It was the right choice for her. During her first year, when Peter and Suzann visited the campus, Ginger introduced them to other professors who didn't have Ginger in class but still knew her name. The Hames want to spread the word about the "Concordia experience" to others who are looking for a first-class Christian education in a small family atmosphere. 'We want to help deserving Christian education students

attend this wonderful university.' Pictured here are Peter Hames, student scholarship recipient Vicki Hill (Rockwall, TX), Ginger Hames-Evoy and Suzann Hames.



Brittany Scheel

Jennifer and David Stein, Jr. support The Judith Ann and David Timothy Stein Scholarship Fund. Five deserving nursing students each year are recipients. Judy, a former nurse, is pictured with Kendyl Winkler (left, Dripping Springs, TX) and Deanna Dixon (right, Friendswood, TX).



Brittany Scheel

The Carol Jean Sharp Palmer Memorial Scholarship Endowment was set up by Mark Palmer in gratitude for the life and witness of his wife, Carol. It was created to provide training of full-time professional church workers who closely match Carol's student profile: that of females majoring in Lutheran elementary education who play intercollegiate volleyball. Emma Clifford, a member of the volleyball team for the past two years, was also the student speaker representative at the luncheon. She is from Magnolia, TX and a member at St. John's, Cypress.



Giving Back to His Alma Mater

One alumnus funds three scholarships through the Alumni Association

By: Jackie Macha, M. Ed. '10, Associate Vice President for Development

Dr. Lloyd "Chip" A. Miller was very active at Concordia Lutheran College, serving as President of the Student Council in both high school and college.

Lloyd "Chip" A. Miller is a doctor, a retired Navy man, a pastor, a Mensa Society member, a Concordia University Texas alumnus and a really nice guy.

Chip Miller arrived at Concordia in 1965 as a high school junior. Although he describes that time as somewhat

frightening, he refers to his experience at Concordia Lutheran College as the most God-guided event of his life. Chip attributes a lifelong loyalty and love of Concordia to those many years on campus with best friends, committed faculty, and the opportunity to play as much basketball as he liked. Concordia represents the very best to Chip Miller.

"Dr. Miller sees his gift not only as a way to pay tribute to a memory but also as a way to stay active with his alma mater."

No matter where his life took him, Chip always harkened back to the days at Concordia and how very much they meant to him in those formative years. He completed studies at the seminary, earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology and served in the Navy.

He attributes his success to the spiritual and educational foundation he found at Concordia. So it was no surprise that when he was asked to consider funding a scholarship

Chip Miller was MVP of the 1969 Concordia Stags varsity basketball team.





“Chip attributes a lifelong loyalty and love of Concordia to those many years on campus with best friends, committed faculty, and the opportunity to play as much basketball as he liked. Concordia represents the very best to Chip Miller.”

for the Alumni Association, Chip emphatically agreed and said he was honored to be asked. He said that he truly appreciated the opportunity to bring more students to Concordia and could only hope they, too, could experience the transformation he experienced nearly 50 years ago. Dr. Miller sees his gift not only as a way to pay tribute to a memory but also as a way to stay active with his alma mater.

Chip chose to name the scholarship for his late wife Jo Ann, the love of his life. The Jo Ann and Chip Miller Alumni Scholarship was awarded to three Concordia students for the 2011-2012 academic term. They are: Kevin Ligitt



The Jo Ann and Chip Miller Alumni Scholarship recipients are Carla Stevens (non-traditional undergraduate), Jill Goodman (graduate) and Kevin Ligitt (traditional undergraduate).

(traditional undergraduate), Carla Stevens (non-traditional undergraduate) and Jill Goodman (graduate). Due to the continuing generosity of Chip Miller, the Jo Ann and Chip Miller Alumni Scholarship offers assistance

of \$1,000 (\$500 per semester) to three students each year. As this article went to press, Dr. Miller agreed to fund the scholarships indefinitely. Concordia is blessed with this generous gift... from a really nice guy.

Thank You.



Concordia gives thanks for generous gifts such as this one that help current and future students achieve their dream of a quality Christian education.

There are many ways for alumni and friends of the university to support scholarships and help even more students realize their dream.

If you would like to consider contributing to the alumni scholarship fund, please contact Alumni Director Amy Huth at alumni@concordia.edu or 512-313-4111.

Other opportunities exist through endowments and other scholarship programs. Please visit giving.concordia.edu or call 512-313-4483(GIVE).



CONGRATULATIONS

— CTX CLASS OF 2011 —



alumni.concordia.edu

Connect with other CTX alumni.

Contact Amy Huth at 512-313-4111 • amy.huth@concordia.edu

Join us for these upcoming Commencements:

April 28
Spring 2012 Commencement

August 4
Summer 2012 Commencement

More information can be found at
concordia.edu/commencement



Thank You to more than **450** alumni, students, parents, faculty & staff,

who made the 2011 CTX Homecoming & Family Weekend a huge success.

We look forward to seeing you again in 2012.



Save the date
October 19-21, 2012

2012 Homecoming & Family Weekend

October 19-21, 2012 • Austin, Texas

Keep up with all the alumni news at: alumni.concordia.edu

Curtis Mickan – 2011 Alumnus of the Year

By: Amy Huth, Director of Alumni Relations

Curtis W. Mickan was born and raised in Walburg, Texas. Curtis attended Concordia in 1951 and has been a part of the Concordia community in many capacities ever since. He served on the board of Regents of Concordia University for many years, and held the office as chairman of the Board of Regents. He was instrumental in the campus relocation efforts and part of the selection committee, which called Dr. Tom Cedel.

Curtis and his wife Marilyn also support Concordia through their endowments. The Curtis W. and Marilyn (Kelm) Mickan Scholarship Endowment established in 1990 supports pre-seminary students. The Bert and Mary (Herzog) Kelm Memorial Scholarship Endowment, to train future pastors and teachers, was established in memory of Marilyn's mother and father. In addition to their endowments, Curtis and Marilyn's generosity has supported various building projects.

Curtis and Marilyn (Kelm) lived in Dallas for many years before returning to Georgetown. While in Dallas, Curtis was instrumental in establishing the first Lutheran high school there (Dallas

Lutheran High School established 1976). Curtis has served on several boards of different companies in Texas. He has been successful in the construction and banking world, and is currently in the olive oil business bottling and selling Texas Olive Oil with his grandson in Walburg.

Curtis and Marilyn are members of Faith Lutheran Church, Georgetown, where Curtis was head of the building committee for the new sanctuary of Faith Lutheran Church, Georgetown. Curtis serves as head elder and on many church boards. He is truly one of Concordia's Christian leaders and a great alumnus.



2011 Alumnus of the year, Curtis Mickan and his wife Marilyn with former Alumni President Norm Stoppenhagen.

Alumni President's Perspective



Congratulations to the fall class of 2011, and thank you to the alumni who extended the hand of welcome to our newest members at the commencement ceremony on December 3. The CTX Alumni Association Board hopes that all of our alumni will return and take part in the 2012 Homecoming & Family Weekend celebration. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend October 19-21, 2012. As a member of the Concordia Lutheran College class of 1994, I am personally looking forward to hearing from my classmates.

It is an exciting time at Concordia University Texas, and it has been an outstanding year for the Association. One of our main goals for 2011 was to fund the Alumni Association Scholarship. With the generosity of alumnus Chip Miller, '67 and '69, the Jo Ann and Chip Miller CTX Alumni Scholarship was fully funded and awarded to three Concordia students. There is an article on page 26 about this alumnus with an introduction to the

students who received the scholarship monies this academic year. We want to be able to grow this scholarship each year to ensure at least three students receive financial support through this scholarship. Please consider making this part of your annual giving to your university.

“It is an exciting time at Concordia University Texas, and it has been an outstanding year for the Association.”

The alumni board vision statement for the 2011-2012 year is to *Serve with God's help and work with passion to accomplish our set goals for the betterment of Concordia University Texas Alumni Association and the Concordia University Texas family.* We extend heartfelt thanks to our outgoing board members Jodi Leslie '95, Jeff Strege '84, and President Norm Stoppenhagen '61. Norm will

continue to serve as Past President and Committee Chair for the Faculty Wall of Honor and Membership and Recruitment Committees. Shelly Looney '99 will serve as Vice President, and I am honored to serve as Association President.

Areas of focus for the coming year are scholarships, Homecoming & Family Weekend, Faculty Wall of Honor, and membership and recruitment. We have committees for each focus area with chairpersons who are passionate and excited about setting goals and delivering results. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the alumni office at alumni@concordia.edu or 512-313-4111. We would love to have your input.

Celebrating our victory in the birth of Jesus Christ, I am

Lee Zimmerman '94
CTX Alumni Association President



Alumni Notes



Carla Silber (M.Ed. '11), a recent graduate of the master's of education program

in educational administration and has accepted a job as Chief Operating Officer for Orenda Education in Georgetown, a private organization of public charter schools and educational support services and sports programming for children ages 5-18. She will handle campus operations and academic results along with oversight for special education, registration, testing and textbooks. Reporting to Carla will be five campus principals, the director of special education and the district PEIMS coordinator. Carla is married to Eric Silber, Concordia's Director of Support Services. They live in Round Rock with their two children.

Kenneth Brantley ('10), a graduate from the CTX — Houston Center master's of education (M.Ed.) program, was named assistant principal at MacArthur Senior High School in July after four years as a history and social studies teacher and football coach at Stovall Middle School in Aldine ISD.

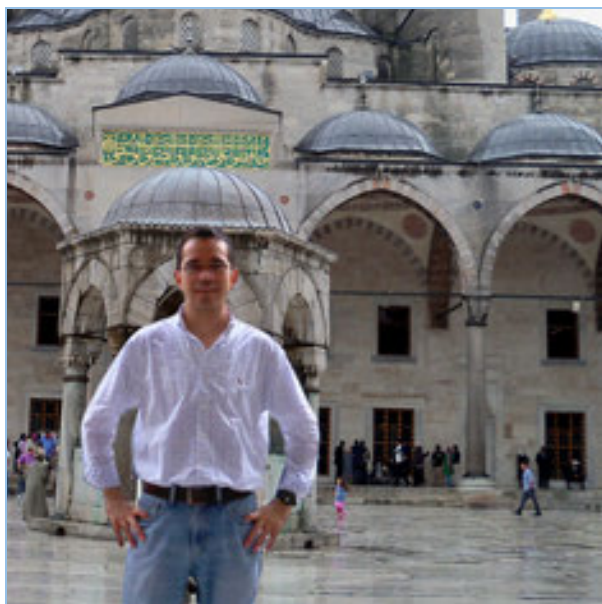
Marsy Blazek ('11), computer science major, accepted a job with IBM in Rochester, MN as a software developer. Marsy's husband Kirk Blazek, assistant professor in mathematics will be leaving CTX to join his wife in Minnesota.



Angela Bigham ('11) completed her bachelor of arts in health administration

last spring. After 14 years with the Texas Department of Insurance, she is hoping her degree will make her more marketable in the workplace.

Amanda Keeter, MBA student, was recognized in the fall of 2009 as both the Outstanding Member of the Year Award and Ambassador of the Year Award by the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce. (This is a correction to the spring edition of CTX Magazine, where it was reported that Amanda was awarded by the chamber in the spring of 2011.) In 2010, Amanda was recognized with the 16th Annual Central Texas women of Influence Profiles in Power Award and later featured in the March 2011 issue of Austin Women Magazine in the Wow (Women of Williamson County) section.



Ricardo Lozano, a graduate of the master's of education program traveled to Istanbul, Turkey in 2010 to present research at the World Congress of Comparative Educational Societies. During his visit, he contacted several universities and was offered a position teaching in the Educational Planning and Leadership program at Yeditepe University. In addition to teaching, Lozano is co-editing a book on comparative education along with colleagues in 12 countries. The book is to be presented in June 2012 at the Annual Conference of the Bulgarian Comparative Education Society. He is currently conducting research in comparative education between the United States and Turkey with an emphasis in teacher training programs in special education and working on a textbook he hopes to implement in comparative education courses around the world.



Homecoming & Family Weekend

Celebrating the Concordia of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



Photo by Jesse Guntlow

Members of the honor classes (2001, 1991, 1971, 1961, 1951 and 1941) gathered for a special breakfast with Dr. Cedel.



Photo by Jesse Guntlow

Alumni Director Amy Huth, President Tom Cedel recognize Carl IDoering '41 as the oldest alumni in attendance.



Photo by Jesse Guntlow

A highlight of Homecoming is the annual alumni basketball game where alumni return to play with current students.



Photo by Jesse Guntlow

Concordia Hall of Famer Wendell Holmes participated in the game this year.



Photo by Brittany Schiel

Mitchell Jones '05 enjoys dinner with his wife and baby after playing in the alumni basketball game.



Photo by Jesse Guntlow

Concordia cheerleaders motivate players during the alumni basketball game.



Photo by Brittany Scheel

Dr, Jacob Youmans with Mister Twister, Wade Pistole and his date.



Photo by Brittany Scheel

Mister Twister runners-up were Sean Richards and Andrea McClean.



Photo by Brittany Scheel

Alumni, students, faculty and parents at the Mister Twister dinner.



Photo by Brittany Scheel

Confetti rains down on Wade Pistole as the Mister Twister contest concludes.



Photo by Melinda Brasher

Rudy's kick-off BBQ and tailgate party. Parents got a glimpse of their child's life at college.



Photo by Melinda Brasher



Photo by Melinda Brasher



Photo by Melinda Brasher

Friends reunited at Homecoming and Family Weekend.

Concordia University Texas 2011 Excellence in Leadership Gala

By: Heidi Doering, Gala Director

Photo by Stacey Harrell



Each year the Concordia University “Excellence in Leadership” Gala recognizes an outstanding Christian leader and raises money for the University’s scholarship fund. We were pleased to recognize Rebecca Powers, founder of Impact Austin, at this year’s gala that was held on August 26 at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Austin.



Photo by Stacey Harrell

2011 Gala Honoree, Rebecca Powers



Photo by Stacey Harrell

The members of Impact Austin have raised over \$3 million on behalf of those in need in Central Texas.

“I am humbled to be named the 2011 ‘Excellence in Leadership’ Gala honoree,” Powers, said. “I am blessed to work closely with some of the finest organizations in Austin and being associated with Concordia University’s commitment to developing Christian leaders is an honor.”

In March 2003, Powers, along with a small group of women committed to making a positive change in the

community, founded Impact Austin, a charitable granting organization. The concept was simple and inspirational—bringing women and their financial resources together to make a profound impact in Austin. Members contribute annual donations of \$1,000, which are pooled to give multiple \$100,000 grants to local non-profits meeting community needs. To date, Impact Austin has raised over \$3 million on behalf of those in need in Central Texas.

Save the Date



Excellence in Leadership
G A L A

Friday, August 24th, 2012
in Austin at the Four Seasons Hotel

For more information about the 2012 EIL Gala,
please contact Gala Director Heidi Doering at
512.313.4110 or heidi.doering@concordia.edu.



Excellence in Leadership
G A L A

Thank You

to all those who made the
2011 Excellence in Leadership Gala a success.
Together we raised \$125,000.



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2011

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PURPLE OUT



*Wear your purple and
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concordia.edu/purpleout

UPCOMING PURPLE OUTS

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012
5:30/7:30 p.m.

**Men's & Women's
Basketball**

VS.

Texas Lutheran

Friday, Feb. 3, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Baseball

VS.

Southwestern

*The first 100 fans through the gate
wearing purple will receive a
Tornado Towel to cheer the team on.*



photos by: Will Brasel

Coach of the Year³

Three coaches earn Coach of the Year honors during fall semester

The athletics program has been blessed this fall with record setting seasons and many accolades including three Coach of the Year awards from the American Southwest Conference (ASC).

Corey Holton (pictured above left), head women's soccer coach, was named Coach of the Year for the ASC in October. Holton's honors came during her third season where she led the Tornados to their best season in school history. Holton also serves as the academic liaison and co-advisor for the school's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Tatenda Chieza (pictured above center), aka Coach T, was named

a co-Coach of the Year by the ASC in November after his first season at Concordia. He led the team to their best season in school history, placing 7th in final standings. Coach T previously spent seven years at division foe Hardin-Simmons as student athlete and assistant coach.

Head Cross Country Coach **Alex Aldaco** (pictured above right) led his women's team to their best season in school history as well. Aldaco is the longest tenured head coach at Concordia, currently in his 10th year. He architected all four of the cross country and track and field programs for the Tornados and serves as the athletic department's diversity coordinator.



Stellar Semester for Tornado Athletics

Three teams set school records and earn accolades within the division

Cross country wins first ASC Championship

photo by: Tim Clark



Women's cross country finished their fall season at the top, earning the team's first American Southwest Conference (ASC) championship. This came after never finishing higher than fifth at a championship in previous years. Sophomore Megan Wagenaar led the team in the regional finals by finishing 39th and placing the team in 9th place among 30 in the NCAA South/Southeast Regional Championship.

Women's soccer breaks records



Photo by Kendall Williams

The women's soccer team finished their best season in school history, eclipsing school records for overall victories (14) and conference victories (10) and recording their first-ever postseason win, which advanced

them to the semifinal round of the ASC Tournament. Under the leadership of head coach Corey Holton, the team has realized success each of the three years she has led the team, setting school records each year.

Best season in school history for men's soccer

The men's soccer team celebrated their best season in school history this fall under the leadership of new head coach, Tatenda Chieza. Previously, the team, which had never won more than five matches overall in a season, set program records by winning

six matches overall. They placed seventh in the final standings and fell just short of making their first-ever postseason appearance.



Photo by Christina Smith

Accolades for volleyball players



Photo by Christina Smith

Volleyball finished their season with four teammates earning all-conference honors and Kalynn

White earning the Sportsmanship of the Year award as well as a spot on the all-conference second team for the second straight season.

Student athletes from both men's and women's soccer, cross country and volleyball were named to American Southwest conference teams post season. To read more about the seasons or see a list of honored students, please visit alumni.concordia.edu

Concordia Women's Soccer Captain Named to National Student Athlete Advisory Council

Junior Dalaine Whitlock,
soccer defender and captain

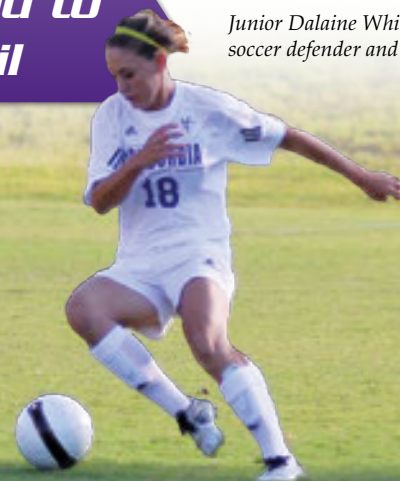


photo by: Will Brasel

Junior Dalaine Whitlock, soccer defender and captain, was named conference representative to the National Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) for NCAA Division III athletics earlier this year. Her three-year term began in July. Nominations for the committee are made by athletic directors and SAAC advisers at the institution level, but her recommendation was an easy one for head women's soccer coach and SAAC adviser, Corey Holton.

"We nominated Dalaine because she possesses tremendous leadership qualities," said Holton. "She is a young woman who takes the reins and makes things happen. She has a passion for athletics and a strong desire to make changes for the betterment of her peers, community, university and fellow student athletes."

Student athlete advisory committees are made up of student athletes whose

purpose is to provide insight on the student-athlete experience, offer input on rules, regulations and policies that may affect student athletes on all NCAA member institution campuses. Whitlock's involvement began at the institutional level, becoming vice president as a sophomore and then president in her junior year. She was nominated in her junior year for a conference-level position with SAAC that would lead to a seat on the National SAAC.

"It's amazing to see how much of a voice SAAC has in the NCAA," said Whitlock.

"We have an impact on sports legislation, student affairs and conference championships."

Whitlock is a junior studying behavioral science. She is considering a master's degree in education and counseling with an emphasis in sports psychology. One of her proudest moments since serving on SAAC is helping to form

the Athletes for Athletes partnership along with former soccer teammate Lya Morfitt, an initiative between Concordia and Special Olympics Texas that was inspired by the national partnership between SAAC and Special Olympics for all Division III sports.

"It's neat to see how all CTX athletes embraced the idea (of the partnership with Special Olympics)."

Dalaine Whitlock

Serving your fellow athletes on a committee of this stature is a prestigious honor, and Concordia is proud to have Dalaine represent the university and the conference as a whole on SAAC.

"Dalaine is a coach's dream; she makes good choices, works hard, and leads by example, CTX is lucky to have her."

Corey Holton
Women's Soccer Coach



student athletes gained fall post-season recognition from the American Southwest Conference

Number of head coaches named an ASC Coach of the Year



1st year men's soccer coach Tatenda Chieza, took team to the best season ever

4 Capital One District VIII academic all-district selections (2 volleyball, 2 women's soccer)



1st ever conference championship for women's cross country

The tournament team score posted by women's golf team at Lady Bulldog Classic





photo by: Will Brasel

CTX Forms Partnership with Special Olympics Texas through Athletes for Athletes Program

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) for NCAA Division III athletics formed a partnership with Special Olympics last spring to improve the lives of Special Olympics athletes through their involvement with Division III student-athletes and to foster a mutual learning experience between the two groups. Soon after that partnership was announced, Concordia soccer player and national SAAC representative, Dalaine Whitlock helped form Athletes

for Athletes, an initiative for Concordia aimed at meeting the national objectives of the Special Olympics partnership.

Through the partnership, Concordia

and Special Olympics athletes reciprocate their support at various events on a monthly basis or more. The first event to kick off the partnership was a gymnastics program last

“This partnership is so rewarding to Special Olympics athletes- and to us,” said Dalaine Whitlock, junior defender, women’s soccer captain and national SAAC representative. “They’re the epitome of sportsmanship and what athletics should be.”

spring. Since then, the Tornados have participated in bowling and flag football events with SOTX this semester. CTX Tornados host at least one event per sports season, where SOTX athletes can participate in home game events such as skill competitions and unified scrimmages during half time.

Additionally this spring, CTX will host clinics where they will help SOTX athletes enhance their skills.

Left: CTX students who participate in Athletes for Athletes gather during the Little League Challenger Division baseball event last April.

Right: CTX students including baseball player, Brent Shaekel, help referee flag football games during a Special Olympics event.



Photo by: Will Brasel

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Thursday, February 2
Leaving a Legacy

Paul Robshaw, AIC Ventures; L3
Kenneth Gladish, Austin Community Foundation

Thursday, March 1
**Leadership and Ethics:
Lessons learned from the Enron crisis**

Steve Furbacher, Dynegy Corporation

Thursday, April 5
From Pilot to President – A Leadership Journey

Concordia University President Thomas Cedel

There is Power in Numbers as Social Media Presence Grows at Concordia University Texas

By: Melinda Brasher
Associate Vice President of Communications



As this edition of the CTX Magazine comes to a close, there seems to be a theme in 'numbers'. Three coaches of the year, 10,000 Christmas lights, 1600 volunteer hours toward relief efforts in Bastrop County. Impressive numbers for a small liberal-arts university on the edge of Austin. We're also proud of our social media numbers since this time last year.

Followers for the university's Twitter account grew by more than 141% and Facebook followers increased by 67% in the last year. The number of Facebook and Twitter accounts affiliated with departments and organizations nearly doubled. We're talking. You're listening, reTweeting, responding, and we love it. Thank you.

Social media has been an important forum to share news quickly. Professors remind students of deadlines. Tornado

fans follow games when they're unable to attend. Many of you told us you found out first through social media when school was cancelled last February due to ice and snow. Community members can be invited to special events. Social media is instant, and obviously contagious.

If you're not currently following Concordia on social media, we invite you to check us out. Go to www.concordia.edu/SocialMedia for a complete list of social media accounts associated with the university. This magazine arrives in mailboxes twice a year, but through social media, we hope to connect with you more often.

As plans continue to improve social media efforts, we are also working toward releasing a mobile site to make navigating our website on your smart phone an easier experience. Stay tuned next spring for details on that. For now, we're working on a mobile application that should be available for download soon. To be one of the first

to know when it's ready, sign up at www.concordia.edu/qr-AppPreview. We'll email you before we announce it anywhere else. With the app, you will have the most up-to-date university calendar at your fingertips, along with a personnel directory, videos, a link to Tornado Radio so you can listen all the time or simply follow athletic events via live streaming and more.

And if you're not into social media, smart phones and technology and prefer the traditional pen and paper, we invite you to share your thoughts the old fashioned way. There is a survey insert in the center of this magazine. Check it out and send it back to us. We hope to hear from you soon. With almost 15,000 magazines hitting mailboxes in January, we're expecting a few replies.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Scan this QR code to go to our social Media directory.



Sign up to be first to know about the CTX mobile app at www.concordia.edu/qr-AppPreview

Concordia Presents Scholarships to Smithville Family Through Partnership with *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*



Photo by Jesse Gurntow

Representatives from Concordia University Texas presented the Zdroj family with three scholarships to the university.

During the filming of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, Concordia University Texas proudly presented three full tuition scholarships to the children of the Zdroj family—the Smithville family who received a new home courtesy of the ABC reality show after losing theirs in the September wildfires.

In addition to donating scholarships for the children’s education, throughout the week, more than 120 volunteers from Concordia served more than 750 hours on the home building project.



John Adams, President Tom Cedel, Melinda Brasher, Mike Moyer, Tammy Stewart and Andrea McDonald, in front of the house built for the Zdroj Family.

“Our mission is based on servant leadership,” Dr. Tom Cedel, president of Concordia University Texas, said. “When *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* announced plans to build the home for this deserving family our students, faculty and staff jumped at the opportunity to serve this family and community.”

Not including the hours spent volunteering on the *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* project, since September 2011, Concordia volunteers have served more than 900 hours cleaning home sites in Bastrop County, distributing clothing at shelter locations and collecting funds to aid families in wildfire recovery efforts.

“It was an amazing experience,” said Andrea McDonald, International Student Coordinator and Administrative Assistant for Can-Do Missions. “It was very different from the mission work I’m used to doing, but yet working to benefit a family for whom we can make a big difference. It feels great to reach out and serve others.”

Visit Facebook at www.facebook.com/concordiatx to view photos of Concordia’s participation in this project. You can also view local news coverage on Austin’s ABC news affiliate website www.kvue.com and search for ‘Extreme Makeover family receives check, college scholarships’. This episode is scheduled to air in December 2012.

Upcoming Concordia Events

Annual Phone-A-Thon

March 2012

Commencement

April 28 and August 4, 2012

Excellence In Leadership Gala

August 24, 2012

CTX Homecoming and Family Weekend

October 19-21, 2012