

**FAITH IN ACTION** CUW's School of Education prepares up-and-coming teachers to make a lasting impact.

**FRESH START** CUW Midtown opens a door of opportunity to at-risk students who believed college was out of reach.

**FRENCH CONNECTION** Have language skills, will travel. Meet the Bible professor who spends summer break far from the backyard.

# Concordian

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN



## Christian Education

Value that endures.



## Looking Forward, Pressing On

**Endurance** – by the time this issue of the *Concordian* reaches you, the second “Claws vs. Paws” challenge will be over. This friendly competition between Concordia and UW-Milwaukee is run over the 26.2-mile course of the Lakefront Marathon. CUW vs. UWM; Falcons (Claws) vs. Panthers (Paws) – dozens of faculty, staff, and students run the course in a test of endurance.

**Curriculum** – the Latin origin of this word literally means “running around a course.” The Concordia curriculum, or course of study, is also a test of endurance. Not every student follows the same exact route. Different programs and majors have varied course requirements, but there is a unifying factor that links Concordians in their learning quest. “Concordia is a Lutheran higher education community.” That is how our mission statement plainly describes who we are. At Concordia, all students, whatever their course of study, will learn in an environment defined by that identity. The Lakefront Marathon course may run through Concordia’s campus, but our Lutheran distinctiveness courses throughout our curriculum and shapes every student’s CUW experience – and beyond.

A marathon is a long race and may take hours to complete, but eventually the runner who endures reaches the finish line. A curriculum is a rigorous challenge and takes years to achieve, but the student who persists gains more than a medal or even a diploma. Christian education itself endures.

Concordia is a great place to get started, and our students who become our graduates are blessed by what they learn and do among us. The rest of the world is blessed when those same Concordians use their education and experiences to have a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

In the pages that follow, the enduring value of Christian education is featured in many ways. The Lakefront Marathon will have been run (I will be glad when it is over), and students will be well into their fall semester’s work. Some of them will graduate in December, others in May, others may still have far to go. Wherever they are on their CUW journey, they are on track to make a difference “for service to Christ in the Church and the world.”

**REV. PATRICK T. FERRY, PH.D.**

*President*

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FALL 2013

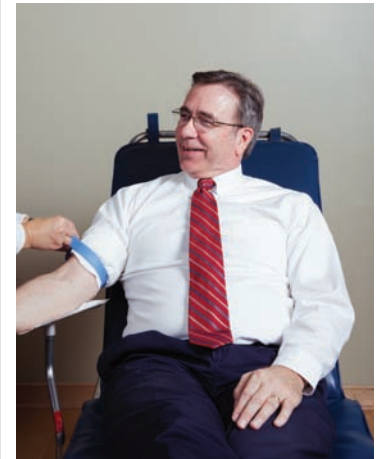
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## Faculty Spotlight

# The Gift of Life

**Dave Enters** has donated blood 350 times. And yes, he's still afraid of needles.



**D**AVE ENTERS, Director of Counseling at Concordia University Wisconsin, has come a long way since his first blood donation more than 35 years ago. He can't even remember why he donated in the first place, though he does recall, "There must have been a need."

Fast-forward 15 years, circa 1990. That would be the next time Enters would donate blood. The reason for the huge gap: donating blood never crossed his mind.

"I wasn't looking for reasons," he said. That is, until he read an article in a Christian magazine which contained an excerpt from the book *In His Image* by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey.

"They wanted to write a book on how the Bible uses the metaphor of the human body to teach, and shed light on Biblical truth and the body of Christ," said Enters.

The book had a profound impact on Enters, especially as it related to blood donation and how important it is.

"It developed in me more clearly the understanding that 'blood gives life,' 'Christ gave His blood so that I might have eternal life.' The significance of what He [Jesus] did for me all of a sudden was enhanced," said Enters.

From that point forward Enters began donating whole blood on a regular basis for about six or seven years. Then one day, while Enters was donating, a phlebotomist asked him if he had ever thought about donating platelets, the part of the blood that helps control bleeding. The phlebotomist explained to Enters that platelet donation was a longer process, and she went into some detail as to how the platelets are used.

"It intrigued me enough to try it," said Enters. "It's a two-hour process so is an investment in time - more than 45 minutes or an hour [the time for a whole blood donation]. Somehow I graduated from a whole blood donor to a platelet donor," he added.

Since platelets can be replenished in the body within a handful of days, donors are eligible to donate platelets every two weeks, according to Enters.

"I enjoy the every-other-week opportunity," said Enters. Something he's been doing now for approximately 15 years on a regular basis.

A platelet donation also yields two products that can

be used to help patients, as opposed to a whole blood donation which yields only one product.

"There's a multiplying of the good you can do if you're willing to spend that time," said Enters.

With more than a decade-worth of platelet donations, the time Enters has spent donating has not gone unnoticed by the BloodCenter of Wisconsin. Approaching 650 products that Enters has now donated over the years (350 donations), he's among the top donors in the state of Wisconsin. It's something that he's extremely proud of, and every chance he gets he encourages others to become lifelong donors, especially the students at Concordia University Wisconsin.

"Dave chooses to share his personal stories of why he started donating, what it means to him spiritually, and why he is asking others to step up," said Laura Schuetzler, community representative for the BloodCenter of Wisconsin. "He is truly inspirational," she added.

In 2000, Enters began teaching the course *LA 105, The Freshman Experience* on campus. Eventually the course changed, requiring a student service project for completion. Enters didn't waste any time encouraging his class to take on a campus blood drive as its project.

"We were able to have some pretty successful drives the first few years," said Enters.

"Dave was instrumental in designing what is now a strategic and well-received program on campus," Schuetzler recalled.

In the eight or so years that the *LA 105* blood drives have been taking place on campus the overall donation effort has grown, as well. There are now five blood drives a year, according to Enters. In September, more than 100 donors turned out for a campus-wide drive that included students, staff, and faculty.

"We're at the point now that we have a good rhythm," said Enters.

And while he still has a slight fear of the needle, the years of donating have given him a unique perspective on the act. Donating for him is all about expressing his thanks, his gratitude for what Christ did for him.

"What better way than to give blood so someone else might have physical life?" said Enters.

-Craig McCarthy, Editor

**"Dave chooses to share his personal stories of why he started donating, what it means to him spiritually, and why he is asking others to step up .... He is truly inspirational."**

-Laura Schuetzler,  
BloodCenter of Wisconsin



# Student Spotlight

If the Coat Fits At age 37, Christina Cash (center) is suiting up for an exciting new role.



## Prescription for Success

**Christina Cash** starts down the challenging road to a rewarding new career.

**C**HRISTINA CASH has never been content to just sit back and let things come to her.

The 37-year-old mother has traveled a bumpy road, from high school soccer star to first-year School of Pharmacy student at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Cash's sometimes-arduous path has included restaurant gigs, working as a sales rep for a beer distributor, climbing the corporate ladder, being mom to a 5-year-old girl, and helping her husband navigate scary medical challenges.

To make a long story short, Cash was in her mid-30s and back in college – for the second time – taking medical-related classes with

an eye toward becoming a nurse or a dental hygienist. There was only one problem:

“I saw this wound video in anatomy/physiology, and I got grossed out by the blood,” she said.

Around that time, Cash was introduced to a pharmacist whose work centered on helping make patients’ final days as comfortable as possible. And the light bulb went on.

“She was in their lives – these people who were dying – and impacting these patients and their families,” Cash said. “This is what I should be doing.”

However – as far as Cash knew at the time – the only pharmacy school in the state was in

# “I consider it fate that this happened .... This is where I’m supposed to be. I live, eat, and breathe this place.” *–Christina Cash*

Madison. She and her husband didn’t think that it would be realistic to pursue, considering his medical needs and the responsibilities they shared for their daughter.

“A few days later, I was driving on the freeway, I looked up, and I saw a billboard – ‘Concordia University Wisconsin School of Pharmacy ... Have You Seen Us Lately?’ ... I almost ran off the road,” said Cash.

After an excited phone call – where she said, with a chuckle, she asked the person on the other end of the

phone two or three times if she was sure CUW had a

pharmacy school – she sent in her transcripts, did two years of undergraduate work, and learned this spring that she had earned one of the 100 available seats in CUW’s pharmacy program.

Now her days frequently begin before dawn as she makes the commute from her rural West Bend home, often arriving on campus before 7 a.m. She said she takes nothing for granted. She knows she has to put in more effort than some of her classmates, whom she admirably calls “sponges,” who seem to absorb information faster than she does.

Cash and nine other students also formed a study group. They not only get together often on campus to cover the material they’re studying and challenge each other, they stay connected by Skype and text message when anyone has a question or needs support.

“We have the right fit for every subject we’re doing,” she said in early September. “It’s only been four weeks, but it’s like we’ve known each other our whole lives. We laugh together, and we also make each other sweat.”

The small class sizes at CUW – both in undergraduate and now in pharmacy school – and faculty members, who she said go out of their way to get to know their students, have also made a huge difference.

“If you go to undergrad here, you’ll never want to go anywhere else,” she said. “They care about you; you’re not a number to these professors.”

Several instructors drove her, challenged her, and convinced her that pharmacy school was something she could do, even though she

was a good decade older than most other students. “They’re

the most wonderful people,” she noted of her

professors, adding all have open-door policies and encourage interaction. “They welcome you like you’re family. Who would want to go to any other pharmacy school than this one?”

Dean Arneson, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, said he first met Cash when he taught an undergraduate ethics class.

“She’s had an enthusiasm for pharmacy, and she has worked extremely hard to achieve that goal of getting into the pharmacy school,” he said. “She’s a dedicated and devoted student and, with her personality, she’ll make an outstanding pharmacist.”

Getting accepted into the school was no small accomplishment. According to Arneson, there were approximately 500 applicants for the 100 available seats in this year’s class.

Cash has also come to appreciate the faith-based emphasis CUW puts on the education. And finds it interesting that, while not always obvious, faith is just a natural part of how her classmates and professors approach their tasks.

Cash was raised in a Lutheran family but has never been particularly religious. A religion

class she took as an undergraduate was “one of the most enjoyable classes I ever had.” It played a role in having her daughter Madilynn baptized within six months of starting pharmacy school.

She said having a caring, faith-based background directly applies to her future career as a pharmacist.

“If you’re going to care for others, don’t you have to be sensitive to their faith, sensitive to their needs?” she asked.

Meanwhile, Cash believes she finally has found her niche and embraces the four years of hard work she has ahead.

“I consider it fate that this happened,” she said. “This is where I’m supposed to be. I live, eat, and breathe this place [CUW].”

*–Gary Achterberg, Concordian contributor*



## A Healthy Investment

The national drugstore chain Walgreens has donated \$50,000 to the CUW School of Pharmacy Applied Patient Care Laboratory, recognizing CUW’s significant contribution to the development of future industry leaders. The money will go toward new video and technology equipment to better prepare students for successful careers. The grant represents an investment not just in the students, but in their future patients and employers.

CUW representatives are thrilled by the recognition and the opportunity to continue developing the program, and School of Pharmacy students are eager to start working with the new equipment.

# Campus News



## On the Cutting Edge

CUW awards internal research grants

**C**ONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN has awarded seven internal research grants totaling nearly \$17,000. The funds have been distributed to faculty members who can now develop their research projects as well as the University's academic reputation.

The Concordia Internal Research Grants (CIRG) will be applied to a wide breadth of research fields: gene function in cases of spinal defects, effective teaching strategies for end-of-life communication, stress and anxiety responses in zebrafish, nasal delivery of a drug to treat schizophrenia, and more.

"The University has assembled an incredibly

talented set of faculty and resources, and we're looking forward to collaborating with others to build southeast Wisconsin as a pharmaceutical drug discovery and development hub," said Dr. Daniel Sem, a Concordia School of Pharmacy professor and grant recipient.

The grants are an important investment in CUW research programs, reinforcing the university's commitment to its faculty and acting as an effective incentive. With these funds, researchers will not only be able to make significant advancements in their individual projects, but have the capacity to use the grants as seed money to compete for larger external grants – keeping Concordia on the cutting edge.

**DR. AARON MILLER**

*Assistant Professor, Physiology*

**\$3,020** The role of endocannabinoid system in zebrafish stress and anxiety responses

**DR. ROBERT BURLAGE**

*Professor, School of Pharmacy*

**\$3,000** A three-dimensional image of the XyIR regulatory protein

**DR. DANIEL SEM**

*Professor, School of Pharmacy*

**\$3,000** Dendrimer nanotechnology-based nasal delivery of a novel drug to treat the negative symptoms of schizophrenia

**DR. UVIDELIO CASTILLO**

*Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy*

**\$3,000** Antibiotic activity studies of essential oils mixture and the synergistic effects when combined with known antibiotics against Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* – common infections in burn patients

**DR. MICHAEL PICKART**

*Associate Professor, School of Pharmacy*

**\$2,250** Evaluation of gene function contributing to spinal birth defects

**DR. MARY LOU KOPP**

*Assistant Professor, School of Nursing*

**\$1,500** Active teaching strategies toward a sense of salience: end-of-life communication

**DR. DALE GERKE**

*Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy*

**\$1,300** Impact of manual therapy interventions on running economy in asymptomatic individuals with asymmetrical hip range of motion







## Friday the 13th Kickoff for Homecoming

Teams had mixed luck

**C**UW CELEBRATED HOMECOMING weekend a little earlier than usual. The annual event kicked off on Friday night, September 13, with a parade around campus. This year's theme - "The Masquerade" - included food, music/karaoke, carnival games, and a petting zoo. The parade was followed by a powder puff football game.

As part of the evening festivities, the Homecoming King and Queen were announced. Philip Helge, a senior from Albuquerque, N.M., was crowned King, while Caitlin Pilon, a senior from Neenah, was crowned Queen.

Pilon said the most appropriate way to describe her reaction to being crowned Queen was to quote Sally Field after she won the 1985 Oscar for best Actress in the movie *Places in the Heart*.

"You like me. Right now, you like me," said Pilon.

The Homecoming celebration continued into Saturday, where the CUW football team defeated Macalester College 20-10 in front of home fans, which included alumni.

The weekend festivities ended on a bit of a downer Sunday afternoon when the CUW Men's Soccer team lost 4-2 to University of St. Thomas.

"All in all, it was a great weekend," said Vice President of Student Life Dr. Andrew Luptak. "We had families and friends of all ages join in the fun."

## Toward a Rosier Future

Sendik's Scholars named

**F**OR BUSINESS STUDENTS interested in pursuing careers in retail management, red vests are the most coveted fashion piece of the season. Ted Balistreri, Sendik's Food Markets co-owner, and Dr. David Borst, Dean of the School of Business Administration, together welcomed the first five students into the prestigious Sendik's Scholars program at a reception this fall. The four-year undergraduate program provides selected students with an annual \$5,000 scholarship, a customized curriculum, and internship placement within the growing Sendik's Food Markets organization.

"This program will focus on developing future leaders for our family business," said Ted Balistreri. "Sendik's approached Concordia because the cultures of the organizations are a match, with an emphasis on values and work ethic." Family-owned and operated for more than 80 years, Sendik's Food Markets has been Milwaukee's source for quality food products, fine produce, select meats, and attentive customer service. Now with 11 locations, Sendik's is a rapidly growing retail establishment with sophisticated technology, trained and developed employees, and thoughtfully selected inventory.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2014 Sendik's Scholars program. For more information, visit [www.cuw.edu/programs/business/undergraduate.html](http://www.cuw.edu/programs/business/undergraduate.html).



**All Business** Left to right: Dr. David Borst, Emily Podewils, Ryan Senkbeil, Jennifer Reicher, Ted Balistreri, Benjamin Jaremko, and Marissa Bart.



## Upcoming Campus Events

### November

**16 - Graduate Visitation Day**

**17 - Christ the King Celebration (Kammerchor and Alleluia Ringers),** Chapel of Christ Triumphant, 3:30 p.m.

**22-24 - The Gift of the Magi,** Todd Wehr Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Sunday

### December

**06-07 - Christmas at Concordia (all CUW musical groups),** Chapel of Christ Triumphant, 7:30 p.m.

**14 - Baccalaureate Service,** Chapel of Christ Triumphant, 10 a.m.

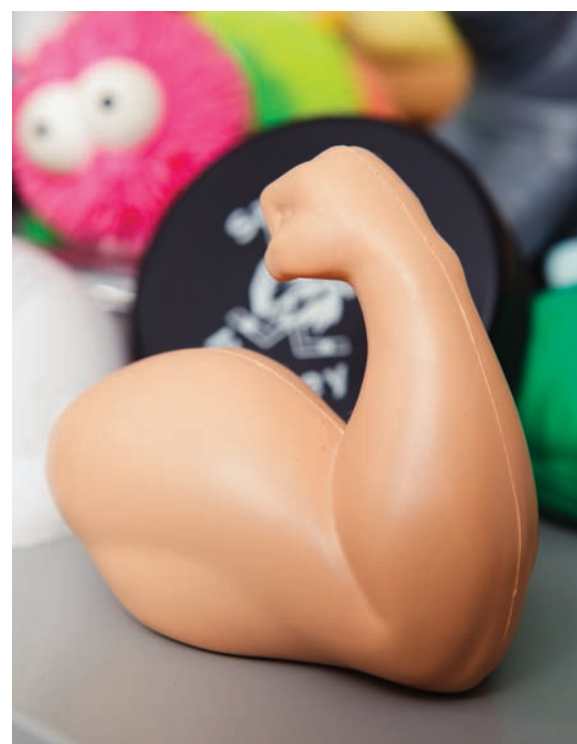
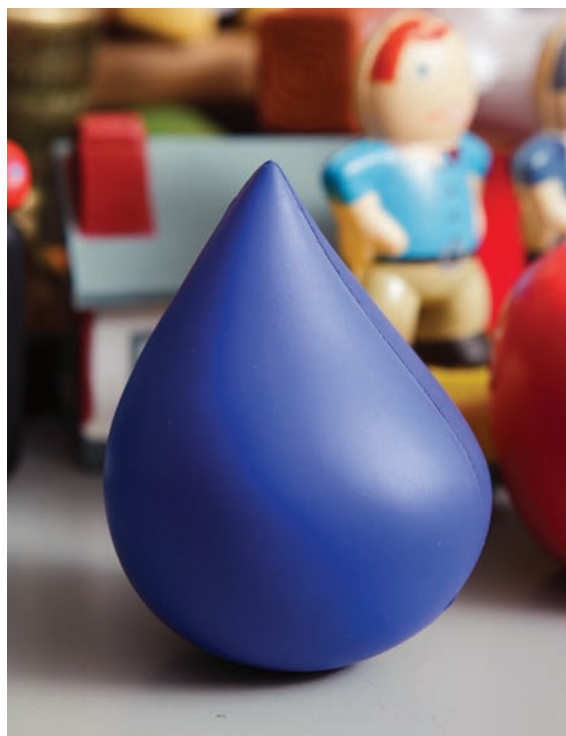
**14 - Commencement,** Field House, 1:30 p.m.

**16 - Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble Christmas Bellfest,** Chapel of Christ Triumphant, 7:30 p.m.

### January

**06 - Winterim Session Begins**

**20 - Undergraduate Visitation Day**



# Squeeze Play

**Judy Snieg** has possibly the world's largest stress ball collection. Needless to say, she's not stressed.

**F**OR MORE THAN HALF of the nearly 12 years she's worked at Concordia University Wisconsin, Judy Snieg has been doing something that made quite an impression on the students, staff, and faculty: collecting stress balls. "It's amazing how many different ones there are and how many people have added to the collection over the years," said Snieg, administrative assistant for Graduate Admission.

While she began working at the University in early 2002, it wasn't until years later, in 2006, that her collection started. Snieg's colleague, in Adult Education at that time, was leaving her position. Upon cleaning out her desk she offered five stress balls to Snieg, launching a collection that now numbers between 450 and 500.

"I have ones that talk. I have ones that make noise. I even have ones that light up if you throw them," Snieg admitted. "One year for my birthday everybody in the office chipped in and they got me a bunch. I was born on July 4th, so I got a flag and a star, the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell," she added.

The contributions to her collection have not only come from her office but the entire campus. The collection has grown so large it now wraps around her desk, takes up multiple shelves and risers, and even fills several containers.

According to those who have worked with Snieg over the years, the massive collection gets attention from all who enter the Graduate Admission office.

"I think it's one of the best talking pieces in this office," said Associate Director of Graduate Admission Katie Ruetz. "Whenever people stop by, whether they're visiting campus, or if it's a faculty or staff member who've never been in here, it catches everybody's eye. I think they have no idea that there are that many stress balls in the world," she added.

Kathy Butler, former assistant director of Graduate Admission, believes the collection is a great recruitment tool.

"When I met with prospective students with young children, the stress balls were a great way to entertain the children while we discussed the graduate programs," said Butler.

In fact, Butler was so impressed with the size of Snieg's collection that she contacted the folks at Guinness World Records. The request, however, was denied.



"They [Guinness] said they did not at this time have a stress ball collection [category]," recalled Snieg. The news didn't seem to bother her. "I'm too blessed to be stressed," Snieg joked.

This is the same phrase, coincidentally, that's posted on a sign that hangs over Snieg's collection.

"When the parents come in who are thinking about sending their kids here, they go by, and they stop and they look at them, and they see the sign and think it's neat," she said.

Snieg has had her share of stressful situations over the years. In 2008, she lost her husband to leukemia and in December 2012 her mother passed away. Yet through it all she's maintained a positive outlook.

"I do feel I have been blessed. And I do feel any stress I put on myself is my problem not anyone else's," she said.

While there's a story behind each and every stress ball, one in particular holds special

meaning for Snieg. Her late husband gave her a water droplet from Badger Meter in Brown Deer, Wis. He worked for the water company for 35 years but never had the opportunity to retire. In 2009, Snieg made the transition at CUW from the Adult Education office to the Graduate Admission office and now believes that was the best thing for her.

"I knew God had a plan," said Snieg.

Part of that plan now includes traveling the United States with her brother, after she officially retires next summer. She also wants to spend as much time as possible with her four children and five grandchildren. So it only seems fitting that one of her favorite stress balls is the one that reminds her of her future.

"Since I'm going to be retiring ... I have one with a lady draped over in the inner tube, and I'm thinking that's me come June 30," said a smiling Snieg.

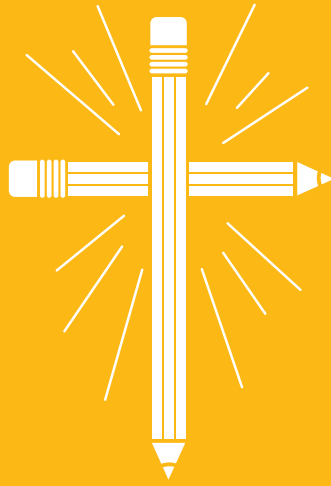
While the collection is an important part of the Graduate Admission office, not even Snieg can say with 100 percent certainty what's in store for the hundreds and hundreds of foam rubber malleable toys that have provided her and so many others on campus with fond memories.

"What am I going to do with all these stress balls?" Snieg asked.

—Craig McCarthy, Editor

**Recharged** Lukas Powers was set on becoming an electrical engineer – until he saw the light.





**A**  
*Degree*  
**With a**  
*Difference*

*A firm faith grounding prepares CUW Education students  
to become teachers who change lives.*

*by Gary Achterberg + photographs by Mark Brautigam*

# Lukas Powers

may be a fresh face on the Concordia University campus this fall, but his dreams and his goals align perfectly with the mission of the Christian school that started in the basement of a church in downtown Milwaukee 132 years ago.

The 19-year-old from Whitefish Bay, Wis. said he realized while working as a counselor at a Lutheran camp in northern Wisconsin that his calling was to become a pastor and to work with children. Disillusioned with his initial choice to major in electrical engineering, Powers transferred to CUW. He's now pursuing a Lutheran education degree – and he couldn't be happier.

“Basically, I just got to hang out with kids, talk about Jesus, play games, and get no sleep – it was awesome,” Powers said, fondly recalling his just-ended summer at Camp Luther. “I worked there and realized that I really like kids and that they're fun to be around, and that kind of opened the door for me.”

When Concordia College's inaugural class met at Trinity Lutheran Church in 1881, the school's mission was to prepare men for the pulpit and also to educate pastors to become the teachers in the Lutheran schools that would grow alongside those churches.

While those 13 students who studied in the church basement certainly would marvel at today's modern and sprawling campus on the shores of Lake Michigan, that initial goal of preparing young people for a meaningful life of service hasn't changed.

“While an important aspect of a university education is preparation for a specific job or profession, we view people as more than just income-providers or people preparing for the job market,” said William Cario, CUW's Senior Vice President of Academics. “Therefore, our education addresses body, mind, and spirit.”

Dr. Michael Uden, Dean of the School of Education – which has grown to include four undergraduate tracks, another 12 at the graduate level, and a variety of continuing education opportunities – has deep roots with the University. As a boy, he lived on the original campus while his father was a student. Dr. Uden earned bachelor and master's degrees in education at CUW and has been a faculty member for 15 years, the last five as Dean.

“I am a product of this place, and I really say that proudly,” Dr. Uden said. “A lot of the faculty has had a Concordia connection. I think that speaks a lot to the pride and tradition, and

the quest for excellence and the quest for Christian university ideals that not

only permeate our students but make them want to continue in their study and research to be part of something bigger.”

Being Lutheran – or even a Christian – isn't required to attend CUW, but Dr. Uden said faith plays a key role in the School of Education's mission.

“We welcome students from all backgrounds, and we're excited to give them an exceptional



education,” he said. “We're also very unapologetic and unabashed in our profession of who we are as a faith-based community.”

He said it is important for prospective teachers and all students to have a firm understanding of their core beliefs. They “had better be aligned with who I am in all aspects of my existence, particularly in the classroom, not because I necessarily am going to have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus directly with students, but I need to be a person of character and integrity no matter what student population I'm serving.”

Powers, who graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran High School in 2012, said faith is integral to his studies.

“I think the faith-based curriculum is what makes it here,” he said. “You can learn about how to be a good teacher and all that stuff, but this is my own personal belief: If you're God-fearing and you do everything in His name and you do everything to glorify Him, you're going to do a better job – and you're going to connect with your kids better.”

“I think all the teachers here have that attitude, and I think that makes all the difference,” he added.

Cario, CUW's top academic officer, said



preparing teachers and grounding students in faith are connected.

“The issue is not ‘either-or’ but rather ‘both-and,’” he said. “We at Concordia are called to do both. We are not doing our jobs if we don't prepare students to the best extent we can.”

**“... we view people as more than just income-providers or people preparing for the job market .... Therefore, our education addresses body, mind, and spirit.”**

– William Cario  
CUW Senior Vice President of Academics



**Man On a Mission** Dr. Michael Uden, Dean of the School of Education, aims to prepare CUW students to be the inspirational classroom leaders of tomorrow.

We believe that a faith-based approach is part of that excellent education. We believe that addressing issues from a holistic perspective gives students a real-world experience not a compartmentalized one.”

Perhaps the biggest question – at least in the mind of parents – is whether there will be a job waiting on the other side of the commencement stage.

According to Dr. Uden, it’s an excellent time for a young person to be joining the teaching profession, particularly for the 70 percent or so of CUW Education students who take additional courses and also graduate with certification in Lutheran education.

“We’ve done some recent studies to show that of students who are mobile – if they want to go where the opportunities are – we have well over a 90 percent placement rate for our Lutheran graduates,” he said, adding that there is strong demand for teachers who want to serve in urban schools, in special education settings, or in classrooms where an English as a Second Language background is needed.

“We don’t have enough teachers for the forecasted need,” he said. “So if teachers want to be employable, there’s no shortage of opportunity, especially if they’re looking at some of those niche areas.”

Even a casual observer can see the teaching profession is evolving. Benefit packages and automatic pay increases aren’t what they once were. In some cases, changes in collective bargaining laws in Wisconsin and other states have prompted long-time educators to retire.

Uden said that shouldn’t stop young people from pursuing education.

“What is hard-wired in a lot of young people is being mission-minded,” he said. “There are kids who so want to serve in their life’s career. They want to have purpose, they want to have meaning – and the field of education screams that,” he said.

Powers, who said that he hopes his education degree also will help him get a foot in the door for mission work, couldn’t agree more.

“I feel the people who are going into education right now are a special breed of person who purely do it because they want to help, and they want to make a difference,” he said. “This is what they feel they’re being called to do. This is what they want to do.”

According to Dr. Uden, freshly minted teachers entering the job market with the talents and tools received in their CUW education will be fine.

“You’re going to have a real satisfying economic opportunity, you’re going to have a fantastic vocation and a schedule that is family conducive,” he said. “It’s a very viable profession.”

When Dr. Uden first started teaching 25 years ago, the classroom he entered wasn’t all that much different from the one in which he spent his school days.

“We were using the same curriculum, we were using the same instructional strategies – it was pretty much the same shtick,” he said. “But today, kids are going to be teaching in environments that don’t replicate to any degree what they experienced. We’re going to have opportunities to connect students to learning in ways we’ve never previously done.

“So if the idea of a new frontier, a new challenge – and the idea that I’m never going to teach the same thing twice and that I’m never going to have two days that look the same – excites a younger person looking for a career field, then education has that in spades,” he said.

“It’s such an exciting time because the very way in which we teach and learn looks different than it did even five years ago,” he said. “And to think what it will look like in 20 years is staggering.” ■



# BRIDGING

# THE GAP

At CUW's Milwaukee Midtown Center, students heading to a four-year degree get a two-year running start with Design Your Future.

BY  
Mike Zimmerman

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
Mark Brautigam

## IT'S 8:05 A.M.

at the CUW Midtown Center on North 56th Street in Milwaukee. The campus just opened its doors, and classes don't start for nearly 90 minutes, but students are already making their way inside. The common area – two vending machines, half a dozen tables, one new six-foot likeness of CUW's Freddy the Falcon – slowly comes alive as students settle in to socialize, study together, and get ready for the day.

Perhaps it's not typical for college freshmen and sophomores to want to get such an early-morning head start on their studies, but these are not typical college kids. They're students in Concordia's Design Your Future (DYF) program, a two-year bridge program for at-risk Milwaukee-area high school graduates. They understand the value of the opportunity they've been given and are determined to take full advantage of it.

"All of our goals are pretty much the same," says sophomore Nelson Medlock. "We're all here to get done what we have to do."





**For DYF students** like Nelson, “getting it done” means completing a two-year Associate’s degree in one of three majors: Criminal Justice, Business Management, or Liberal Arts. But that’s really just the beginning. The program then gives students the opportunity – and the encouragement – to continue their education and earn a Bachelor’s degree at the CUW Mequon campus (or another school).

What kind of student is considered “at risk” in a way DYF can help? In a broad sense, the program is for students who are otherwise unlikely to enroll in college, says Tiffany LeFlore, DYF Academic Support Coordinator. Students from homes where no one has ever gone to college, students who didn’t have the best academic opportunities in high school, or students whose economic situation puts higher education out of reach.

DYF markets itself as “a perfect fit for Milwaukee-area high school graduates who seek an affordable Christian education at an accredited institution that is community-oriented and conveniently located close to home.”

All true. But Program Director Michael Hall puts a finer point on it, explaining that the ideal candidate is someone who got through high school without necessarily giving much thought to what comes next.

“All of a sudden you wake up one morning and think, ‘Wait, high school’s over? Shoot, what am I going to do now? Okay, I gotta get into college.’ Then you look at your ACT score and think, ‘Whoops! That’s probably going to limit my selection process.’ Then you look at your GPA and you go, ‘It wasn’t really that much of a spectacular four years!’

“So we look for that individual who then realizes, ‘I didn’t get it done. But if I don’t change, my options are going to be very limited.’ This environment is designed to give them options.”

Academic requirements for admittance are not steep: an ACT score of 15 or higher and a GPA of at least 2.5. But that’s only the first bar students must clear. Applicants must also provide three letters of recommendation and convince a CUW admission counselor that they’re ready to take a higher-education opportunity seriously.

Ideally, students enroll in time to take part in a six-week summer curriculum. This bridge program offers remedial refreshers in math and English, and an important introduction to the higher-education experience.

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–Michael Hall,  
Program Director,  
*Design Your Future*



“That first six weeks is very, very critical,” Hall says. “Because it unlearns some bad behaviors, and it teaches some good behaviors, which they carry on to the fall semester. It’s almost like a reprogramming.”

**A key idea** behind the program is the concept of “One Concordia.” When students graduate, Hall explains, they don’t have a degree from DYF. Rather, they have a degree from Concordia University Wisconsin.

All classes are taught by instructors from the main CUW campus. Though all their classes are at the Midtown Center, DYF students are free to access as



much student life at the main campus as they like. Athletic events, Bible studies, study groups, and other student activities are all open to them. There are even a few student-athletes and two members of the Student Senate enrolled in DYF.

“The message we keep trying to instill in the students’ minds is that you’re a part of one larger institution,” LeFlore says. “Even though you’re here, we want you to feel like you’re a part of a larger community.”

Students can even elect to take a class at the main campus if they’re so inclined.

In practice, however, students seem to find plenty of community right at the Midtown Center. With only 50 students in the entire program (up from just 30 last year), there’s a sense that everyone knows everyone. Class size is small, typically no more than 20. Students help each other out, and

instructors routinely stay late to make sure everyone gets the attention they need to understand the material.

“All of our teachers are really good at helping us,” says Dominique Davis, a second-semester Business Management major. “They’ll take time out of their day, or come in on their off-days, to make sure we understand and to tutor us on our homework. Most of my teachers have done that.”

Nelson, a Business Management major, also hopes to be the first in his family to graduate from college. He was able to enroll in the summer bridge program before he started and was helped by the running start it gave him for the fall semester. He also appreciates how his instructors are always willing to go above and beyond.

“I just like how with all of our teachers, we can keep in touch with them,” he says. “They tell us if we ever need anything to just call them. They’re always willing to help us out, whenever we need them.”

Both Nelson and Dominique are fairly representative of the DYF program: bright young people who want to succeed but who are the first in their families to attend college.

**Affordability** is another key factor in the DYF formula. Most students couldn’t dream of affording full tuition to a prestigious university like Concordia, so DYF keeps costs down in a number of ways.

Right off the top, students receive a 40 percent DYF tuition grant from the school. They then work with the Financial Aid office to seek out other grant and scholarship opportunities (completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA] is a requirement for admission). Rather than having to purchase their textbooks, students borrow them through a free book-loan program. And being able to live at home instead of on campus also helps reduce costs.

It’s no wonder the program has grown so significantly since it began in 2007. Hall has been the director for just a year, but it’s clear the program is thriving under his leadership. The current group of DYF students is the largest yet, and he looks forward to even more growth in the future. Visibility is key, he says, crediting the new CUW marketing campaign with giving DYF a big boost. Depicting a more diverse group of students, the campaign includes billboards in north Milwaukee and ads on city buses, as well as ads specifically touting the Midtown Center.

“Part of the problem with DYF was that nobody knew it was here,” Hall explains. “But now people are thinking, ‘Hmm, Concordia ... it’s not just that pretty little campus in Mequon, it’s also in Midtown.’ And we’re getting response from that outreach.”

He pictures a day when they can take the DYF Midtown “template” to other locations. The South side. Miller Parkway. St. Louis. Ann Arbor. “It’ll work,” he says, “because any place you get individuals who aren’t sure what they want to do, or how to do it, but they know they want to do something ... you gotta make something like this available to them. And once they learn about it, it will be very, very difficult to turn away.”

**By 2:45 p.m.,** DYF classes have been over for more than an hour. Adult continuing education students won’t start arriving for the evening classes until after 5:00, but the Midtown Center is far from deserted. In one classroom, an instructor still sits with two students going over the finer points of the afternoon lecture. In another, which doubles as the computer lab, a handful of students work on writing assignments. Back in the common area, under Freddy’s watchful gaze, still more are just hanging out, studying, laughing, living ... and learning what college is all about. ■

**Likely to Succeed** The CUW Design Your Future program helps local students make a smooth transition from high school to college. For many, it’s their best or only chance to attend a top-tier university like Concordia.



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# Advance



After reading this issue of the *Concordian*, I think you will agree that students receive a Christian education with enduring value at Concordia University Wisconsin. In a setting where faith is fundamentally and consistently integrated with learning in all subjects, values are strengthened that will last a lifetime.

Several important groups of people help make this happen. Critically important are the members of our faculty. These faithful men and women are dedicated to helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world. That's their mission; that's Concordia's mission.

Next, you have the students who are being equipped for service. They are the ones who will take what they receive from their instructors and put it into practice wherever they go. Our students, who become our alumni, become our mission ambassadors. The thousands of alumni that we have are even now influencing thousands more across our country and around the world with the values they received and practiced at Concordia.

But there is one more group vitally important in ensuring that the value of Christian education can endure for generations to come: those who have chosen to support Concordia financially, not only now but even beyond their lifetime through an endowment gift.

What is an endowment? Most commonly, endowments are gifts from individuals who wish to provide financial support to Concordia for a designated purpose – typically scholarships. Scholarships are awarded based on the size of the endowment. These endowment scholarships help put a Christian education within reach of our students.

Endowments are established by people from a wide range of economic levels. While some people fund an endowment during their lifetime and enjoy the blessing of hearing from those who benefit from it, many endowments are funded through an estate gift. At the end of this life, a person may designate a portion of their estate to be used to fund a scholarship endowment at Concordia.

Might you consider an endowment gift to help our students receive a Christian education with values that endure? Please call me at 262-243-4533 or email me at [roy.peterson@cuw.edu](mailto:roy.peterson@cuw.edu); I'll be happy to tell you more.

**REV. DR. ROY PETERSON**  
*Vice President of Advancement*

# *Retourner en Afrique*

A CUW Associate Professor of Theology takes his unique skill set where it's most needed.

*By Mike Zimmerman*



Mission Field Pastors' conference participant Pastor Tshibangu in front of the Lutheran Church of Matadi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

# Serving

**R**ON MUDGE IS TORN. On the one hand, he has a great life in Wisconsin, with an awesome wife, five amazing kids, and a rewarding job as an Associate Professor of Theology and Pre-seminary Director at Concordia University. On the other, he has a heart for Africa, where he spent 10 of the best years of his life teaching young pastoral students in the Ivory Coast and Togo.

Two very different situations, two very different worlds.

**Into Africa** This page: Mudge relaxes after Sunday worship with two pastors' conference participants. *Opposite page, top:* Pastors' conference locale Matadi (pop.: 245,862) is the chief seaport of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Bottom:* Approximately 50 laypeople and 72 pastors took part in the conference.

Fortunately, the Rev. Dr. Ronald Mudge also has something else: a unique set of credentials, gifts, and experiences that makes it possible to have the best of both those worlds.

As it turns out, there aren't many people who speak fluent French, have a Ph.D. in the Bible, a gift for teaching, and a decade of experience as a missionary in Africa. Throw "ordained Lutheran pastor" and a moderate case of wanderlust into the mix and ... well, now you've really got something.

Something that keeps Mudge in demand in Africa – and in regular transit between his two worlds.

**G**ROWING UP IN LAPEER, MICHIGAN, the future Rev. Dr. Mudge discovered a passion for languages at an early age. In high school he took French. Not because he had a particular affinity for it, but because that's what his sister had studied.

In college, at the University of Michigan-Flint, he majored in English and music. He also minored in French because "I'd started it and thought I should do some more," he says. "And that ended up shaping my life a lot more than I thought it would."

By then he was well on his way to becoming a pastor. Or a Bible translator. Or a missionary. He knew that seminary was in his future, but he wasn't sure where God would lead him after that. In the end, it was his fluency in French that crystallized his calling.

"Lutherans mostly speak German," he says (think about it). "When I talked to LCMS World Mission, and they found out that I spoke French, they were very interested. There aren't a lot of Lutherans who speak French, and that played a major role in where I ended up in the world."

Where he ended up was in Africa – for six years in the Ivory Coast followed by four years in Togo, a tiny sliver of a country on the coast of West Africa. Among its nearly seven million inhabitants are about two million French speakers, a vestige of French colonialism in the early 20th Century.

In Togo, the Mudges served at *Le Centre Luthérien d'Etudes Théologiques* in Dapaong. Ron taught Bible classes – *en français* – to future pastors, while Lisa supported him, the school, and the community in every way imaginable. A biology teacher by trade, she



especially enjoyed teaching about health and leading women's Bible studies.

A number of factors convinced the Mudges that God wanted them to return to the States. The family spent the first few years back home in St. Louis, while Ron worked on his Ph.D. at Concordia Seminary. In 2007, he was offered a position at CUW and moved the troop to Wisconsin.

It wasn't long, however, before both Ron and Lisa were longing to return to their "other home" in Africa.

"Lisa and I have found that after living in Africa for 10 years, whether we're in Africa or America, we always feel a little bit homesick for the other one," he says.

Fortunately, Mudge's particular skill set remains in high demand, so there's no shortage of opportunity for him to go back and teach. These days, it's more about finding the time – and balancing his missionary calling with his responsibilities at home and CUW. For now, he makes these trips alone, while Lisa keeps the home fires burning.

In 2013, Mudge traveled to Africa not just once but twice. In May he returned to teach at the familiar LCMS World Mission-affiliated seminary in Togo. In July, he was sent by Luther Academy to teach at a pastors' conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In both cases, he taught for a week on the book of Hebrews.

The reason teachers like him are in demand is primarily that there just aren't many teachers like him – in the U.S., Africa, or elsewhere.

"There are not very many people with a Ph.D. in Bible who speak French and who are willing to go [to places like Africa]," he says. "My cultural experience helps too because there's a danger with a class like this that a person could go from the U.S. and teach it the same way



## “There aren’t a lot of Lutherans who speak French, and that played a major role in where I ended up in the world.”

—Rev. Dr. Ron Mudge

Bible is teaching, but also how to apply its principles to life in Togo or the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

“The book of Hebrews is not the easiest book of the Bible to do that with! But we did it,” he says.

**R**EV. DR. MUDGE IS GRATEFUL for the support that makes these trips possible. In both cases, the sponsoring organizations provided financial support, as did his home congregation. CUW supports his trips in many ways, including through prayer, encouragement, and by giving him the time off.

“It’s one of our values,” Mudge says of the school’s eagerness to send its professors out into the world. “We consider our professors to be resources, and we are willing to share those resources with the community, both locally and internationally.”

University President Dr. Patrick Ferry agrees. “CUW is blessed with great professors like Dr. Mudge who have unique gifts,” he says. “It is a privilege to share these wonderful resources with the church around the world.”

Or, in the words of Christ Himself: *“Allez, faites de toutes les nations des disciples, les baptisant au nom du Père, du Fils et du Saint Esprit, et enseignez-leur à observer tout ce que je vous ai prescrit.”*\* (Matt. 28:19-20, LSG)

\*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (ESV)

you do in the U.S., and it just wouldn’t be applicable. You could talk about how it applies in America but not realize how it applies in Africa.”

As you might expect, teaching in Africa is different from teaching in the U.S.

“A lot of the school education in Africa still has kind of a post-colonial form to it,” Mudge says, “where the teacher writes things on the board, the students write down what the teacher says, and then the students do their best to learn it. It shows a lot of respect for the teacher, but it’s kind of dull for everyone and doesn’t result necessarily in good learning.”

What works better, he finds, is to follow Christ’s example of using “narrative” – stories and parables – to get the point across. This helps convey not just what the

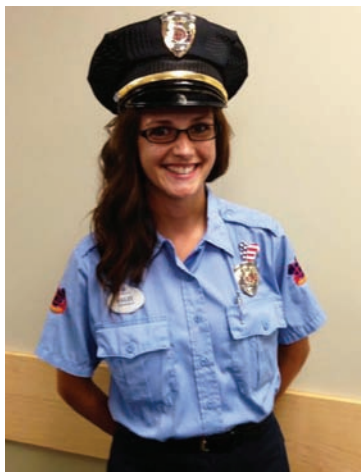


**MORE PHOTOGRAPHS** [www.cuw.edu/concordian-frenchafrica](http://www.cuw.edu/concordian-frenchafrica)

# AlumNotes

## 2000s

### Achievements



**Kailee Sager** (13) trained and “Earned Her Ears” with Walt Disney World Security this past August.

**Lucas J. Pfaffenroth** (11) is teaching English in Jiangsu Province, China.

**Scott Jacquart** (10) is the New Alternative Education and GEDO 2 coordinator at Dodgeland High School. He resides in Beaver Dam, Wis.

**William Uffenbeck** (09) was awarded the Associateship designation by successfully completing seven examinations administered by the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS). He also completed the required CAS Course on Professionalism, which presents real-world situations that contain ethical and professionalism issues for the actuary, and the Validation by Educational Experience Requirements.

### Marriages

**1 Craig McCarthy** (12-MBA) and his wife, Elizabeth, celebrated their one-year anniversary on June 16, 2013. Craig, who works in CUW’s Marketing Department, was named editor of the *Concordian* in 2012.

**2 Tegan Hemb** (10) and **Adam Schultz** (09) on April 20, 2013 at Two Brother’s Roundhouse in Aurora, Ill. Pastor Jim Wilson from Plymouth, Wis. officiated. The bridal party included **Krista (Jakeman) Biederer** (09) as the Matron of Honor. The couple honeymooned in San Francisco and San Diego, and Hawaii.

### Births



**Jozi Ozurumba** (07) married Alex Walker on June 30, 2012, and the couple welcomed daughter Abigail Grace Walker on May 17, 2013. Jozi is an elementary teacher at New Testament Christian Academy of Milwaukee.

**Aaron Paulin** (01) and his wife announce the birth of their son Blake William on July 6, 2013. The couple is celebrating their eighth year of marriage.

## 1990s

### Achievements

**3 Jill H. (Kison) Murphy** (99) recently started a physical therapy clinic, MotionWorks Physical Therapy ([www.motionworkspt.com](http://www.motionworkspt.com)). She was named the 2012 Wisconsin Physical Therapist of the Year by the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association. Jill and her husband, Tim, reside in Neenah, Wis.

### Births

**4 Gregory Hintz** (93), and **Sara (Neumann) Hintz** (93) celebrate the adoption of their son Isaiah James Hintz, born November 27, 2012. He is the eighth child of Greg and Sara, joining older siblings Louis, 16; Caleb, 14; Anna, 10; Elijah, 8; Samuel (safe in Heaven with Jesus); Hope, 4; and Levi, 2. Greg recently took a call at St. Peter in Schaumburg, Ill. to serve as an associate pastor in the areas of discipleship and outreach. Sara blogs at [www.hintzshappenings.blogspot.com](http://www.hintzshappenings.blogspot.com) about the faithfulness of God through their family’s experiences of ministry, domestic adoption, embryo adoption, stillbirth, and various family mission trips.

## 1980s

**Tom Boeck** (83) is a principal at Sustainable Options, LLC, a green building consultant firm. He entered the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program in the fall of 2012 and is serving his vicarage at Faith Lutheran Church, Marietta, Ga., where he resides with his wife, Sharon.



## 1960s

**Rev. Harold A. Avers** (62) retired in 2009, and currently is filling pulpity supply and vacancy needs in the greater Detroit area.

### CUW wants to hear from you!

What are you up to? Did you marry recently or give birth to a child? Did you receive a big promotion or travel the world? We want to know! Please email your update, with a high-resolution photo, if possible, to [alumni@cuw.edu](mailto:alumni@cuw.edu) or via our Web link at [www.cuw.edu/Alumni/whatsnewform.cfm](http://www.cuw.edu/Alumni/whatsnewform.cfm). With your permission, we’ll post your update on the CUW Website, and in the print and online versions of the *Concordian*.





## Greetings From CUW!



**Josh Kraegel** (09)

**Director of Alumni and Parent Relations**

**Concordia University Wisconsin**

**[josh.kraegel@cuw.edu](mailto:josh.kraegel@cuw.edu)**

As your new Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, I want to take a moment to introduce myself.

After earning my B.A. from CUW in 2009, I moved across the country, and was responsible for operations and revenue at an entertainment company. It's amazing how much CUW has grown in just the last four years. It's exciting to be part of a growing CUW community.

And just like CUW's campus, the CUW Alumni Association is always changing and growing. If you have feedback on past events, new ideas, or would like to become more involved in the CUW Alumni Association, I'd love to hear from you. This is *your* Alumni Association!

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!



# Treasured Moments

[Jesus said:] “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth ... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

I think I was at the seminary already when first I learned that the English word “thesaurus” is derived from the Greek word for “treasure.” In fact, if you sound out the Greek word for “treasure” it is literally “thesaurus.” So the original Greek version of Jesus’ words from the passage above would come out something like, “Do not store up for yourselves *thesauruses* on earth ... but store up for yourselves *thesauruses* in heaven ... for where your *thesaurus* is, there your heart will be also.”

In modern English the word has most often come to mean a literary treasure – a storehouse of words (like the famous *Roget’s Thesaurus*) –

more than monetary or financial treasure. To say that a great education is a treasure may help tie the ideas of the value of money and the value of learning together well. Learning is all about words and expression of ideas, and the new challenge of analyzing and reconciling or synthesizing a wide variety of things.

At Concordia, we’re blessed to have a treasury of literary and spiritual riches. Every time people gather on campus in classes, chapel, conferences, or conversation, it’s another

chance to mine the treasure of the faith and the treasure of Christian higher education. We realize the blessing of a good education and the treasure of words – the chance to live a life being well-read and well-spoken – lasts a lifetime. The treasure of knowing the Word made flesh – Jesus our Savior – takes us into eternity.

We’re thankful, as the season of Thanksgiving is soon upon us, for the blessings of the treasures we have received and continue to experience daily at Concordia. We continually marvel at God’s love and the riches we’ve been shown in God’s grace. It makes you want to get a thesaurus to find some new word to thank God for His love ... Concordia ... Jesus ... what priceless treasure!

**REV. STEVE SMITH**  
*Campus Pastor*





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**Craig McCarthy**

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**GS Design, Inc.**



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**Above** Late-afternoon sunlight  
through the stained-glass windows of  
CUW's Chapel of Christ Triumphant  
showcases its beauty.  
*Photograph by Jeffrey Phelps*

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH

**GAME 1 (1:00 PM)** CUC vs. CUAA Women's Game

**GAME 2 (3:00 PM)** CUNE vs. CUAA Men's Game

**GAME 3 (6:00 PM)** CUW vs. CUNE Women's Game

**GAME 4 (8:00 PM)** CUW vs. CUC Men's Game

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH

**GAME 5 (12:00 PM)** Women's Consolation Game

**GAME 6 (2:00 PM)** Men's Consolation Game

**GAME 7 (5:00 PM)** Women's Championship Game

**GAME 8 (7:00 PM)** Men's Championship Game

