

# Concordian

Concordia University Wisconsin / Fall 2009



# CONCORDIAN

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Front Cover: MBA student Alexandra Tran (top) outside the Xinjiang Regional Museum in Urumqi, China on a recent study abroad trip. Also pictured is a local teacher and her kindergarten class visiting the museum.

Back Cover: Each fall from late August to early October, thousands of monarchs migrate past the Concordia University Wisconsin campus. They stop to feed and rest on the many prairie wild flowers along the bluff. The best times to see them is early September when winds are from the northwest. Photo by Laurie Doty.



## From the President

The Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry

Bumping into Concordia graduates all over town has become a common occurrence for me. Recently I ran a rain-soaked 5K race along the Hank Aaron Trail near Milwaukee's Miller Park. Concordia grads shivered next to me at the starting line. Others passed me along the route. Later the same evening our family was out to dinner and Concordia grads were seated at the table next to ours. More Concordia alumni were scattered in the pews the next morning at the church where I was guest preacher. Almost everywhere I go in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, invariably I encounter former students.

Interestingly, the last several years I have had much the same experience when I venture farther away from home. Indeed, almost anywhere my work or leisure carries me, I meet up with CUW alumni, and I love hearing their stories about where paths have taken them.

"Christ's Path for us"—this is Concordia's theme for the 2009-2010 academic year, and it is based on John 14: 5-6, *"Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"* As a new school year begins, I am always intrigued to learn where our students come from and the path that led them to our campus. They come from across the country and around the globe to be here. It excites me to glimpse into the Lord's hand in guiding and leading them to Concordia.

Of course, Concordia is not their final destination. Christ's path leads through here for a little while and then onward from here to places near and far. This issue of the *Concordian* asks the question, "Where are they going?" Christ's path has led CUW students to all sorts of remarkable ways of fulfilling the university's mission of "serving Christ in the church and the world." With Jesus Himself as the way, truth, and life, the paths that He unfolds for Concordia students are always ones worth eagerly pursuing. In the pages that follow, you will have the opportunity to run alongside a few of them for awhile. I am sure that you will love hearing some of their stories as much as I do!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick T. Ferry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D.  
President



## Musings from the Editor

Dr. David W. Eggebrecht

Our theme for the last issue was “Why I’m Here.” I enjoyed musing on that theme and sharing how God has always influenced my life and placed me where I am and have been for almost 45 years. The theme for this issue is “Where I’m Going,” which the editorial team thought would be an interesting follow up, and would also allow us to see where some of our alumni have gone, as well as looking at a variety of plans for current students, faculty, and staff. So here I sit at my computer (technology not even thought of when I began my Concordia journey), contemplating where I’m going.

Where am I going? In one way that’s easy to answer – this is my final year of full-time teaching, so I’m going to partial retirement. Time to ease up a bit. I’m going into the next exciting phase of my life. I’m not completely “retiring” for a number of reasons: I’d be bored stiff in a week. My wife doesn’t want me under foot. I love what I do and where I do it too much to completely leave it. I don’t feel retirement age. But I have been teaching and administering for almost fifty years, and that’s a fairly good run. What does this mean for me?

I plan to continue editing *The Concordian*; I want to continue directing and acting; I’d like to teach a course or two a semester – traditional and/or non-traditional; and I plan to continue with my on-line students, currently about ninety of them. So I’ll still be busy and engaged and doing interesting things.

But I’ll have more time to read mystery novels; play tennis, swim, and work out; paint more pictures; have time to relax; visit my children and grandchildren; and I won’t have to go to faculty meetings! What more could one ask.

So that’s where I’m going, God willing. And I’m looking forward to it. I am. I really am. Yes, I am. So there.



An exuberant Katie Lane proudly displaying her diploma during commencement exercises on May 16, 2009.

# The Brand Story is Just That: Our Story

Anita R. Clark, Vice President of Marketing



**CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
WISCONSIN**

*Inspiration in Action™*



Enhancing an already positive and successful brand like Concordia University Wisconsin is not an easy assignment. But after a comprehensive research project soliciting perceptions and opinions of internal and external constituents, months of meetings with cross-department committees and students, and working closely with a top design firm, our goal was accomplished!

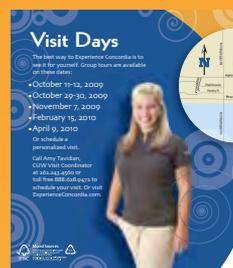
Our logo maintains the cross of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as our focal point and adds the waters of Lake Michigan with the rays of sun shone above the horizon. Our new tagline “Inspiration in Action” brings to life our mission and our vision.

The tagline is a direct reflection of the learning and activities that occur on our campus between students, faculty and staff as well as the University’s commitment to helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world. The result of this commitment is Inspiration in Action.

Our research clearly defined our geographic location as a key differentiator for our University, and that was an influential variable into our design of the logo.

We reviewed and tweaked numerous designs and taglines and none seemed to adequately reflect what we wanted to say. With guidance from our visionary president, Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, the process came together with unanimous agreement that we had achieved our objective of a fresh reflection of who we are and what we want people to know about us.

To promote and support this new image, we implemented a comprehensive marketing campaign. The campaign includes the development and implementation of a new website, television, radio, print, outdoor and online advertising. We kicked-off the program internally with students, faculty and staff on September 2nd with festive activities to celebrate the launch. The feedback has been extremely positive from internal as well as external constituents.



Direct mail postcard

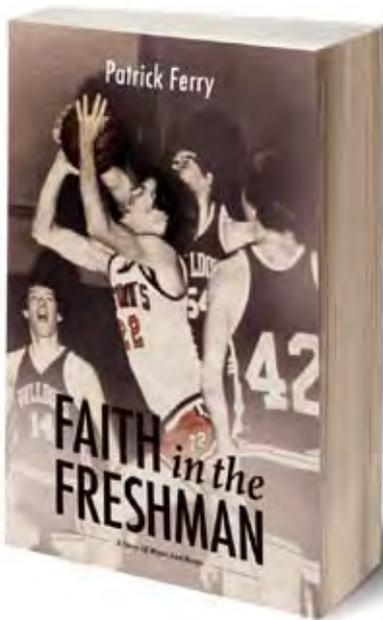


New billboards

# New Book by Dr. Ferry

David W. Eggebrecht

Concordia President, The Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, has written a new book entitled *Faith in the Freshman: A Story of Hopes and Hoops*. In alternating chapters, he discusses his own freshman college experience, at St. John's College – Winfield, Kansas, which led him to become a Christian, and his son Andrew's experience as a college freshman wanting to play Division I basketball and dealing with diabetes.



The book is an engrossing read (I had to wrest it from my wife's hands in order to read it so I could write this review by deadline.) Not only are the intertwining stories interesting, it's fascinating to see how they are tied together and build on each other. Dr. Ferry's intense homesickness as he leaves for college comes through strongly, and his personal struggles as he tried to adapt to college life are intense and moving. At the same time, Andrew's strong desire to play basketball at a Division I institution as he learns to adapt his physical nature to the ravages of diabetes is equally engrossing.

This is the sort of book with which one can't wait to turn the page to learn what's next; the sort of book the reader wishes would not end, and, when it does, can't wait for the sequel. The relationship between father and son is powerful and loving and drives the story along. The insights growing from that relationship are well worth reading about.

The book is now available – see order blank next page. An excerpt follows:

Enduring homesickness and an incredibly bad basketball season, Patrick Ferry makes a decision:

"Suddenly our situation had become almost surreal – stalling late in the game to keep our atrocious defeat under triple digits and avoiding foul trouble in the next outing as our only measures of success. 'Enough,' I cried, 'Uncle!' Actually, I called my brother, Bob, who braved icy roads all the way to make another trip to Winfield to come and deliver me home.

"All my belongings, including the stereo, records, and Raleigh fit more easily into the back of his Volvo station wagon than they had in the trunk of the Granada. I grabbed the bedspread off my bunk, the Converse canvas high tops out of the closet, shook hands with Reed and Erik and said good-bye. My brother retraced the route Lefty drove not so many months before. The furnace blast of summer was replaced by the blustery chill of winter. The radio played softly in the background, but it did not interrupt our 550 mile conversation. Not once did I doze or drift off. We talked about Billie and Lefty and the rest of our family. We talked about college and basketball. My brother was more than willing to explore the obvious question provoked by my departure from Kansas, 'What's next!?' (pp. 107 and 108)

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The following excerpt occurs as Andrew begins to show the early symptoms of diabetes: "Like mother, like son. Winter, spring, summer, fall – it made no difference, every season was basketball season; and Andrew strived to perfect skills nearly every possible waking moment. Perfecting is not easy. He worked long and hard. Our elderly neighbors next door surely noticed him playing right outside their window just as I heard him out mine, but they never called to complain about the bouncing ball and rattling rim disturbing their peace and quiet. It was anything but quiet, but it was a sound that I enjoyed, and I slept more peacefully knowing that he was at home safe and sound. Tammy told me once in a while that I snored and I looked forward to another chance to do so as Andrew came leaping and bounding out of the church as he hustled toward the Pacifica, an answer to my prayer.

"Who was this kid, and what did he do with my son? All of this unexpected energy caught me off guard given Andrew's earlier lethargy. I turned the radio down a

notch before he got the idea to change stations and to listen to him animatedly describe his two main activities the past few hours – pick-up games in the church gymnasium and consumption of an inordinate amount of junk food. Neither of these would have surprised me under normal circumstances, but I was astonished at the transformation of the early evening Andrew, who slumped in the pew at Mt. Calvary compared to the late night one who just flew out of Immanuel.”

*“This story is a gem! It is cleverly written and so touching. Pat Ferry’s writing has great meaning for me and will for others. His experiences reminded me of my own with my son, Tony. The big difference was my making sure my son got to play...as his coach! This book reinforces my belief that intangibles go way beyond inches, feet, pounds and physical talent... always have, always will.”*

Dick Bennett (Retired Head Basketball Coach - University of Wisconsin & Washington State)

*“An endearing story of the coming-of-age of a son, and then a father. Pat Ferry’s book will warm your heart and make you laugh. His self-effacing honesty is refreshing, even as he draws truths from sources as different as The Rolling Stones and Martin Luther! And through it all he leads the reader to the True meaning of life.”*

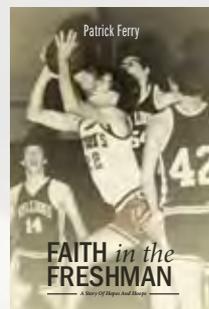
Bill Harris (Retired Head Basketball Coach - Wheaton College)

*“The author’s search to find what life is all about is a unique story of faith and hoops and their impact on a man and his family. He shares his personal journey and transforming faith in a heartfelt and enjoyable read. Pat and Tammy Ferry’s love and sacrifice for their children is a wonderful example for all.”*

Dr. Homer Drew (Head Basketball Coach - Valparaiso University)

*“Pat Ferry’s book vividly demonstrates that the lessons of competitive basketball clearly transcend the boundaries of the court. Basketball is life, and there is no greater or more powerful team than the family. Although I read this as a coach and former player, I found more significant meaning for me as a father and as a son.”*

Bob McKillop (Head Basketball Coach - Davidson College)



## FAITH *in the* FRESHMAN: A Story of Hopes and Hoops

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# Global *Education Experience:*

Occupational Therapy Students Experience

**Dolphin-assisted Therapy in Curacao**

Dr. Margie Blodgett, Dr. Christy Moser, Dr. Linda Samuel



OT student Rebecca Schuelke



CDTC therapist working with child in dolphin pool

Students and faculty from the Occupational Therapy Department have been participating in a global education experience on the island of Curacao since 2006. The main focus of the trip is to observe the treatment of children with disabilities at the Curacao Dolphin Therapy and Research Center (CDTC), which is affiliated with the Curacao Sea Aquarium. Families of children with disabilities from around the world visit the CDTC to participate in dolphin-assisted therapy for a 2 week period. Based on the research of Dr. David Nathanson (Wermer, 2008), specially trained therapists, including occupational, speech and physical therapists, work with the children in the dolphin pools.

The families are an active part of the treatment and interact freely with the therapists. Students who participate in this international trip interact with the families, observe the treatment sessions that occur in the ocean water with use of dolphins, and interact with the therapists at CDTC. During the ten day experience students and faculty also visit health care and educational facilities and participate in cultural experiences throughout the island of Curacao. The trip ends with an opportunity for the students to swim with the dolphins.

This experience affords the students an opportunity to cultivate personal and vocational skills. The interaction/ observation between them and the children in therapy, their families and the therapists promotes development of the students' therapeutic skills, as well as developing communication skills and compassion for others. This experience of observing and understanding other people from different cultures, faiths and communities not only increases their knowledge base of human development, occupational therapy and interventions, but also guides the student through personal exploration and growth.

The Curacao Dolphin Therapy & Research Center (CDTC) employs occupational, physical, and speech therapists to work with children dealing with a wide range of disabling conditions such as cerebral palsy, brain injury and autism. The dolphins provide motivation and support for the children. The CDTC offers a ratio of three trained professionals to each child during the entire treatment experience. Treatment objectives include: increase of fine and gross motor skills, improved communication skills and enhanced motivation and confidence. The CUW Occupational Therapy faculty not only



Picture of Curacao Global Education Students 2009  
Front row: Marco Kuerschner, CDTC Lead Therapist, Ashley Walkoviak, Meg Groff, Nicci Andersen. Second row: Beth Mull, Marcy Kelto, Kelly Supataraporn, Deanna Schlender, Becky Hoffmann. Back row: Angela Zubella, April Lettow, Jackie Thompson, Rebecca Schuelke

## Inspiration *in Action*™

assists the CUW students in understanding the treatment objectives promoted by the CDTC staff, but also discuss how cultural background influences treatment decisions.

The impact of this experience on the CUW students is profound. The head therapist, Marco Kuerschner explains on the students' first day of observation that the dolphins are not magical and cannot cure the child's disability, but they do provide a motivation for the child to accomplish goals that have not been achieved in traditional therapy. Marco leaves the students with this thought on the last day; "You can be the dolphin for your clients."



OT student  
Ashley Walkoviak



# Concordia *Reaches Out to Asia*

Craig McCarthy

Christine Kao, Director  
of Asia-Pacific Region

The Study Abroad program is alive and well at Concordia University Wisconsin. With a chance to see the world relatively inexpensively and earn class credit, more and more students are seizing this opportunity to expand their horizon, opening themselves up to new cultural experiences.

Over the summer, a delegation, which included 12 Concordia students and staffers, traveled to Beijing and Xinjiang, China. One of the goals of the trip was to provide educational opportunities for the five MBA students and one undergraduate student on the trip. It gave them a firsthand glimpse into China's business practices and the country's economy. While in Xinjiang, the students visited a winery and also toured a furniture factory that produces items for the Ethan Allen Company.

Another goal of the trip was to increase ties between Concordia and its Chinese sister school, Xinjiang University of Economics and Finance. The delegation stayed on campus at Xinjiang University, which gave the group an opportunity to interact with Chinese students and staff. Christine Kao, trip coordinator, director of Concordia's Asia Pacific program and the head of global education, said they have already arranged for another trip to Xinjiang next July and for two Chinese exchange students to attend CUW this year.

"While the trip educated the students," said Kao, "it also educated our staff members about the Asian way of life. They, in turn, are now educating the community so that more and more people will understand Chinese culture and how to do business over there. Only through mutual understanding can we break down the barriers that exist," Kao added. She has long been helping foreign students adjust to American culture at Concordia and believes that American students are now seeing the advantages of building such relationships with foreigners. In a recent article published in the *News Graphic*, a newspaper based in Cedarburg, WI, Kao said she'd like to help American students step outside their comfort zone and understand the other side of the world through the study abroad program.

Traveling abroad, however, always presents its share of challenges. Overcoming those challenges and learning to adapt is what makes the experience memorable. On the recent trip to China, one of the biggest obstacles was the language barrier. Of those who were in the Concordia delegation, only four of them spoke Chinese.

"That was the biggest thing for me - the language barrier," said Amanda Eden. Eden was one of the MBA students who took part in the trip and is now taking steps to learn to Chinese, with the help of Kao.

"When working with the Chinese in business, language is essential. Without breaking this barrier, understanding doesn't come through," stated Kao.

Adjusting to the culture and way of life is another issue that takes some getting used to for those visiting another country. Many modern conveniences Americans take for granted do not exist in other countries.

"Bathroom facilities were very different in China - something I did not know about beforehand. Many rural areas would not have running water inside. If there was a shower, the whole bathroom was the shower. You'd just close the door and turn on the water. "Western toilets are a luxury and not the norm in China," said Wende Warren, Concordia University Wisconsin MBA student studying international business.

The cultural differences between China and the U.S., when it comes to food and meals, were quite apparent on the trip. Most meals in China involve sitting at a large table with eight or more people while several dishes are placed on a lazy susan for all to share. As the dishes pass by, chopsticks are used to transfer the food to the plate or bowl.

"On one hand, food offerings were very diverse with lots of choices, and it was very good. On the other hand, some of it I would never eat," recalled Warren.

Concordia University Wisconsin encourages its students to study abroad at some point in their academic career. Several possibilities exist, such as co-curricular trips, missionary trips, studying abroad for a semester, foreign language immersion experiences, and short-term study abroad trips. These opportunities are available to traditional undergraduate, adult education, and graduate students.



Top row, left to right: Wendy Warren, CUW MBA Student; Amanda Eden, CUW MBA Student; Don Bader, CUW Volunteer; Tyler Thorpe, CUW MBA Student; Ellis Lynch, CUW Volunteer. Second row, left to right: Yung Chung, CUW MBA Student; Kathy Butler, CUW Staff Member; Craig McCarthy, CUW Staff Member; Liu Ying, XUOFE Student; Lin Zhong, XUOFE Staff Member. Front row, left to right: Xiao Ha, XUOFE Assistant to Director; Wu Wan Chen, CUW MBA Student; Li Junhui, XUOFE Director of International Studies, Dr. Michael Besch, CUW V.P. of Academic Operations; Christine Kao, CUW Director of Global Studies; Gao Lei, XUOFE Assistant Director; Tang Chun, XUOFE Director of International Cooperation.

## Where She Went

Personalized Tours and Coaches, Inc. is the company that transports Concordia's athletic teams to away games, takes The Friends of Concordia on their tours, takes the Kammerchor to their off campus concerts, and takes Dr. Dan Paavola and the many who go with him to Juarez, Mexico, on their annual mission trip over spring break. The President of Personalized Tours is Tracy Weber (97), a Concordia graduate.



She reports that her company began transporting Concordia groups in 2002, beginning with Val Keiper and the baseball team. Tracy graduated magna cum laude with a Baccalaureate degree, majoring in Liberal Arts with

an emphasis in Sales and Marketing. She says, "I didn't have a traditional college experience because I went from high school to Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland." There she earned an Associate Degree in Applied Arts/Marketing. From there she enrolled in the Adult Education program at Concordia. "Without that curriculum," she says, "I wouldn't have been able to get my Bachelor's Degree. I was married, had two small children and a full time job that had me traveling 50% of the time, so traditional schooling was out of the question. But, I had set a goal for a four year degree." Despite the tough workload, each course covering a semester's work in six weeks, she was thrilled with the program and graduated in two years.

Tracy is delighted that she can now provide needed services for her alma mater, truly a win-win situation.

## New GI Bill – Chapter 33 & Yellow Ribbon

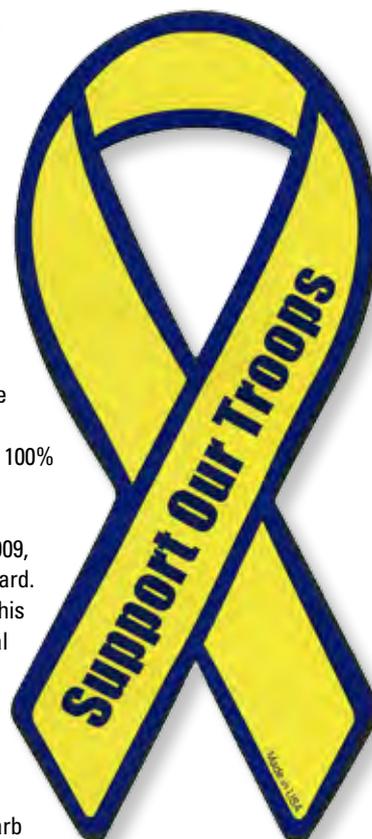
Steve Taylor, Director of Financial Aid

Starting this fall, students who are qualifying recipients are eligible to receive the new GI Bill Chapter 33/Post 9/11. This program has been widely reported for both the increased level of support it gives to eligible veterans and their qualifying dependents, as well as the new matching program entitled *The Yellow Ribbon Program*. This additional matching program—*Yellow Ribbon*—is a voluntary arrangement in which colleges can choose to participate in. It requires colleges to offer a predetermined amount of institutional grants to qualifying GI bill recipients, and the VA will then match dollar for dollar the school's portion up to the cost of tuition and fees.

Concordia University Wisconsin is very thankful to those who have served our country in military service, and we are proud to participate in the *Yellow Ribbon* matching program. By doing this, Concordia is allowing any qualified student in any undergraduate program to have 100% of their tuition covered.

Financial aid rules have also changed for this fall. Starting July 1st, 2009, nearly all VA benefits are not included in a student's Financial Aid award. This includes the new post 9/11 Chapter 33 and ROTC scholarships. This means students receiving these benefits can also apply for a financial aid package that will not include these resources.

Eligible students interested in taking advantage of these benefits while attending Concordia can apply for admission on-line at [www.cuw.edu](http://www.cuw.edu). All submissions of eligibility paperwork and specific questions can be directed to the University's VA Certifying Official, Barb Ellmaker, at [barb.ellmaker@cuw.edu](mailto:barb.ellmaker@cuw.edu).



## The Anatomy of Concordia's Cadaver Lab

Craig McCarthy

Bio 550 Human Anatomy may be one of Concordia University Wisconsin's best little known secrets. The course, taken by students in graduate level occupational and physical therapy programs, involves spending a significant amount of time in the university's cadaver lab, located on Concordia's main campus in Mequon.

This lab contains a total of seven human cadavers, each of which is housed in its own steel tank. Concordia rents the cadavers from the Medical College of Wisconsin and UW-Madison for a fee, and they're kept for two years on a rotating basis, which means every year, three or four new cadavers are made available for dissection.

Kathy Lemley, assistant professor of anatomy at CUW, teaches Bio 550. She sees the lab as a great hands-on tool and something that attracts those high school students who are interested in studying human anatomy.

"Students focus on the body's muscles, nerves, tendons, arteries, and ligaments," said Lemley. "Many programs today use human anatomy simulators instead of actual cadavers. This is not as beneficial to students," she added.

Laura Reinke is in her second year of the graduate occupational therapy program and recalled her time spent in the cadaver lab. "Going into the lab for the first time can be unnerving, but as you realize that these people want you to learn from their bodies it becomes a really cool experience. Being in the cadaver lab made me appreciate, even more, how intricately and wonderfully God made us," said Reinke.

There are several strict rules when it comes to dealing with the bodies in the lab and every student is well aware of the proper etiquette. The cadavers are never named so the bodies are treated with the highest level of professionalism. Any part removed from the body stays with that body and is eventually returned to the family.

Students who graduate from the physical and occupational therapy programs can go on to work in several different medical and clinical settings including hospitals, nursing homes, and mental health facilities. They can also decide to share their knowledge and teach at an educational institution.

The lab, however, is not strictly for physical and occupational therapy students. During fall and spring semesters, there are opportunities for undergraduate and graduate nursing, MSRS, MA, undergraduate anatomy and physiology, and athletic training classes to apply what they're learning in the classroom by observing the dissected cadavers.



Also located in the Cadaver Lab are supplemental learning tools such as the plastic skeleton shown here.



## Upcoming Theater at CUW

How about taking in a play at CUW? Tickets for the performances are \$8 for students, \$6 for children, \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$20 for families. An evening group rate is also available for \$6 per person. For more information, contact Heidi Tupper, Tour/Performance Coordinator at (262) 243-4400, or heidi.tupper@cuw.edu. Remaining offerings for this season are:

**You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown** – Friday, February 19, 2010 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 7 p.m. Various daytime performances are held for school groups. This is the original musical version of Charles Schulz's popular PEANUTS comic strip, with Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Sally, and the gang facing the foibles of growing up.

**You Can't Take It With You** – Thursday, April 15, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 16, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 17, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 18, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. This is a classic comedy by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman about an eccentric American family. Their somewhat "normal" daughter wants to marry a wealthy young man, Grandpa won't pay his taxes, and Father is making fireworks in the basement as Mother writes off-the-wall plays.

Inspiration *in Action*™

# Peru *Study Abroad*

Craig McCarthy



Kristin Priem

Northeast of Lima, Peru, the country's capital, you'll find the city of Cusco. With a population of nearly 350,000, Cusco is located in the southeastern portion of Peru, near the Andes mountain range, and is a major tour destination with approximately a million visitors a year.

Kristin Priem, a senior at Concordia University Wisconsin, had the opportunity over the summer to spend a month in Cusco and experience the splendor of the city and the surrounding area firsthand. She traveled there alone as the trip fulfilled her Spanish minor immersion requirement at Concordia.

"I had never traveled by myself before, and all of sudden I was flying internationally," said Priem. "The experience has made me much more independent and confident in my own abilities," she added.

During her time in Peru, Priem attended a Spanish language school for twenty hours a week. There, her knowledge was tested and expanded as she studied grammar, Peruvian culture, and history. Each week there was a new experience, Priem recalled. It was a way to expose her and the other students to a variety of native Spanish speakers.

Time in the classroom was only one aspect of Priem's adventure. Cusco is loaded with historic ruins and sites dating as far back as the Inca Empire. The trip gave her and others ample opportunity to visit and explore some of the world's most amazing locations, like Macchu Picchu, one of the seven wonders of the world.

"I felt so blessed to be able to go to a place where there is so much history and so much culture," Priem said. "It is one of those places that people have to see in person. Pictures do not do it justice," she stated.

Connecting with the people of Peru was something that Priem found easy to do once she finally arrived in the country. The host family she stayed with had such a passion for their Peruvian culture and history. They took every opportunity to teach her about various festivals and celebrations around Cusco. Priem remembers being taken to the market on her first day in Peru. She was taught the right way to purchase food and how to cook traditional dishes.

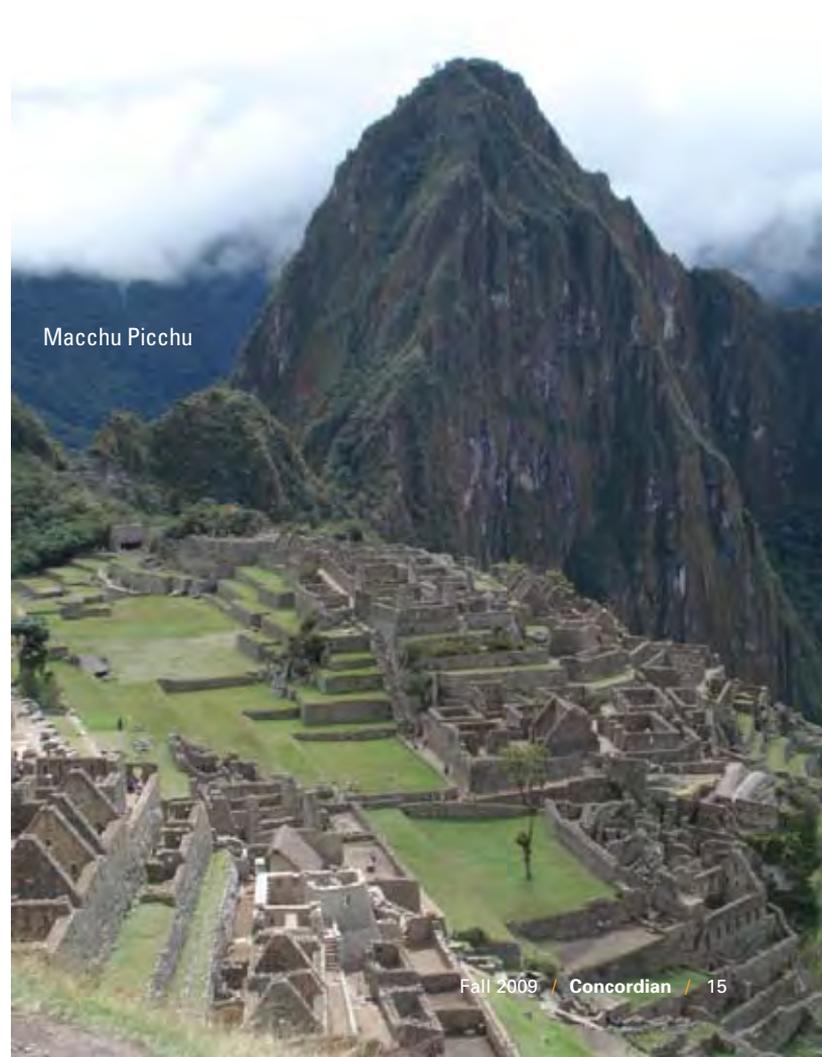
"There are many things eaten in Peru that we don't eat here in the United States, such as Guinea Pig. Guinea Pig is a delicacy in Peru and eaten at many different festivals throughout the year," said Priem.

One piece of advice that Priem would give to other students preparing to travel abroad would be to not waste time. During the trip she kept thinking she would have plenty of time, but now admits that the weeks flew by.

"Toward the end I wanted to do more, see more, and get to know my host family better," Priem stated.

As Priem finishes her final year at Concordia, she's looking to her future as she pursues a career in teaching. She says she will draw upon the experiences and lessons she learned during her time in Peru as she forges ahead and starts a new chapter in her life.

"I was expecting some sort of *Twilight Zone* episode entering this new country [Peru], but I was completely wrong. We are all pretty much the same when it comes down to what is really important in life," Priem said with a smile.



Macchu Picchu

# Where *am I going?*

Tirzah Cook, Student Editor



Laurie-Suzanne with natives

Often you lead me into the unknown, By paths thick with brambles and thorns overgrown;  
In clasping my hand ever teach me to know, Your will never leads where Your grace cannot go  
(K. Kosche)

Who can feel blind more than one being pushed into the future by the force of a desire to survive? When faced with an obstacle, the only chance of survival may be a dangerous exit. In the course of human life, obstacles occur as frequently and naturally as fog at dusk.

At Concordia the fog is like syrup. It seeps into your pockets and sticks in your ears. Driving might as well be like driving with bedding on your windshield. Try parking in the fog. Signs direct to keep driving—go a little farther—*this fog is really thick*—a little farther—*where am I going*—drive forward—*this fog looks like Lake Michigan*—Lake Michigan Unlimited Parking: *Welcome to Concordia*.

Fog references a variety of instances. In this case, it is the unknown; applied to the college student: graduation + career. Fog demands taking risk. Is there a chance something could go wrong? We live in a fallen world; disappointment is to be expected. TRUST to be led through it. God Leads.

She knew it. Thirteen years old and the Holy Spirit whispered a secret she alone heard. Outrageous! Did Moses think God had the right guy when he was told to deliver the slaves from Egypt? Laurie-Suzanne carried on with life. God likes to take His time polishing up the details. He never sends us until we are ready. She finished school, college, and moved from place to place working with animals. The years went by. God finally gave her an encouraging nudge to prepare for an ultimate change of scenery. First she went back to school. Now a senior, for the second time in her life, Laurie-Suzanne will graduate with a double major in lay ministry and theology. She knows exactly what kind of risk she's willing to take.

When I met her three years ago, we kindly exchanged interests. I was undecided at the time and thought only of marriage and, well, I still think about it. Laurie-Suzanne had it planned. "I'm going to be a missionary in Africa and take care of the orphans." Whoa, this lady was a statement. We became friends, ate lunch on occasion, shared a class,

and all the while my flighty wants and desires ranged from architecture to politician to mermaid. She remained rock solid. Last summer she visited Tanzania for a month. She went to schools, visited with children, and stayed in the home of a local. The experience built her dream stronger.

"It will be difficult to arrange in the first ten or fifteen years I'm there—government permission, funding, partners, and all of that. And maybe God just wants me to be a teacher. But, if I could design my own place, it would be to acquire acres of land, build an orphanage with a farm and teach group home-schooling."

"The kids there are different. They have a different sense of priority. They WANT to learn. Nothing is ever handed to them. Some children will walk seven miles, leave at 5 am in the morning to be to class at 8 am. They learn English, Kiswahili, and Maasai all at the same time. There are two to three children sitting in one chair. And they are so proud of their school, that at the end of the day they will get down on their hands and knees and scrub their own classroom floor to keep it clean. They have a sense of respect, completely opposite from a child in America. Four, five and six year olds, their feet don't even touch the floor, their hands folded in their lap, *they* didn't make a sound. They were so well behaved, no running around, no talking out

"That's why I would like to open an orphanage with a school and a farm. The founding basis of the facility will be Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Interestingly enough, a person going to another culture has to work from within those cultural boundaries to deliver Christ's saving message. There is no one set formula. In addition to regular subjects, children would not only learn about Christ, but animals, too. I'm vegan, so these animals won't be for eating. Animals will help teach the children about how to care for something other than themselves: since an animal is in captivity, it is totally dependent on their human.

"I'd like to give the children as many opportunities as I can. The majority of Africa is third world and the children don't have much opportunity to get out of what they're born into—I could teach them music, maybe start a choir. They could travel to different countries and perform. I could teach the competitive sports I was trained in. As an athlete, I competed locally and internationally in fencing, archery, swimming, diving, equestrian events, and rowing. Wouldn't it be wonderful if one of my children grew up to be an Olympian or a concert musician? Maybe they can wind up at CUW."

Courage pushes through the fog, the unknown, the future, because the Force of survival will only exit one way—

Lions appear often in the Bible. This picture was taken by Laurie-Suzanne in Tanzania.



of turn, eagerly waiting to be instructed. The state allows corporal punishment. No, the children aren't beaten, they are disciplined. The United States used to follow the same rules. I'm not in favor of hitting children, but when you see the difference between the kids here running rampant and out of control, being mouthy, as compared to the children there, it's different, vastly different. You don't want to misbehave after you get a whack on the rear-end. The kids respect their elders. In the classroom there is the teacher, and in the front, sitting on a desk off to the side, is an elderly woman. Having an elder in the room is like having a second pair of eyes. In the United States, where you aren't allowed to discipline in class, the kids are paying a deadly price for it; they don't respect authority and lack social etiquette.

"There are so many people that have nowhere to go. The elderly don't have the energy to do the jobs that the middle-aged sector is responsible for doing, and the middle sector has been wiped out by AIDS and tribal war. Few are left to teach the children. Students in the advanced levels are pulled out of class, sometimes permanently, to teach the younger levels because there aren't enough teachers.

through the fog. The Holy Spirit is that force. He is the One pushing. Life on this Earth is only temporary.

"Most importantly I want my children to end up in heaven with Christ."

**Lord, if I rise on the wings of the dawn  
and upward to places exotic be drawn,  
Although I may settle across the far sea,  
I pray, let Your hand, Lord, my guide ever be** (K. Kosche)

Going to Africa is a risk. Driving to school is a risk. Writing this article was a risk. Where am I going? To take a risk and follow my dreams, where God is calling me to be.

I dare you to sign up for classes, fall in love, graduate, apply for a job, start a family, learn how to skateboard. There will be danger, there will be disappointment; but - you are of the baptized—God's Will never leads where His Grace cannot go. He will always be with you.

Included in the photo are Don and Bev Backhaus, Alan and Nancy Ball, Bob and Joan Dean, Dante and Joanne Delponte, Gene and Barb Frane, Don and Tracy Frey, Lloyd and Joyce Gatzke, Bob and Arlene Gellings, Ken and Barb Huebner, Dave and Betty Kastenschmidt, Sharon Kitzerow, Clark and Inez Koechel, Glenn and Kathy Lindemann, Barb Martinka, Darwin and Rose Mildebrandt, Gustav and Alta Muencho, Rev. Roy and Dorothy Natzke, Rev. Roy and Joanie Peterson, President Patrick T. Ferry, Bob and Joyce Prill, Gordon and Florine Schwartz, Dena Soodsma, Jessie Veleke, Don and Jean Vetter, Dave and Lori Weaver, Dean and Verna Weigand, Mickey and Chris Wolf, Tom Niedfeldt, Dan Ward.



## An Alaska Adventure

Rev. Roy Peterson

As the plane descended gently into Anchorage, the sun was still shining, even though it was now late into the evening. But that is to be expected when you travel to Alaska in June. With nearly 23 hours of light each day, the wonder of God's creation and the adventure that He had planned for us was ready to begin.

On June 8th fifty friends of Concordia University Wisconsin, with our host, President Patrick Ferry, left for a thirteen day tour of the nation's largest state. Many things have been said about Alaska and its size, including how magnificent its scenery and wildlife are, but none of these descriptions did justice to what we would experience.

Alaska is a wonderful example of the power and diversity of God's creative hand. Throughout our tour, we became eye-witnesses of the scope and scale to which God creates. From small sea otters floating playfully on their backs to giant whales bursting forth from the sea, we encountered animals of every size and shape imaginable. The landscape also bore witness to the creation as we toured farms that were preparing for an abundant harvest while at the same time we saw magnificent mountain peaks in the distance.



Dr. Ferry with Joanie & Roy Peterson

The trip began in Anchorage with a short trip to Prince William Sound where we enjoyed a 26 glacier cruise and witnessed glacial “calving” as large pieces of ice and snow crashed into the sea.

Journeying north from Anchorage, we traveled through the heart of Alaska’s agricultural region to Denali National Park. As part of a side trip near Denali, we also had a chance to go white water rafting in a river that was only 36 degrees. No one fell asleep on that trip.

We continued north to Fairbanks, the northern most part of our adventure. From there we traveled south on the great Alaska Highway into the Yukon. One of the most scenic parts of the trip was on our way to Skagway.

Our final major stop on the trip was Juneau, Alaska’s capital, and a city that is accessible only via boat or plane. Our motor coach joined us on the ferry for a six hour cruise past some of the most beautiful scenery imaginable. Along the way we had the opportunity to see more whales and other marine life.

Few of the travelers on the Alaska Adventure knew each other at the start of the trip. However, our tour guide, Tom Niedfeldt from Tom’s Christian Tours, set a warm and welcoming tone that quickly allowed people to get to know one another. During our nearly two weeks together, friendships formed and relationships began.

Not only was the adventure a time for meeting new friends and seeing a part of our country that almost none of us had seen before, it was a time to reflect on the wonder of God’s creation and the power of His hand. One thing that many in our group commented about was the distinctively Christian element in the tour. Each day our group spent time in song, the reading of scripture, and hearing a short meditation based on God’s Word. All that God was putting before us gave President Ferry and the other devotion leaders plenty of help in connecting all of us to the truth of God’s love.

While the Alaska Adventure formally concluded on June 20th, the friendships that began are likely to continue for years to come. In September the group reunited for a time of sharing pictures and stories and to rekindle acquaintances. Some told stories of spending time together since the trip, playing golf or going out to dinner. Many have become e-mail partners and communicate regularly.

For years Concordia has sponsored trips throughout the country and around the world, giving friends of Concordia an opportunity to travel together and experience so much of what God has created. So what’s next?

In late July, 2010, President Ferry will lead a group of Concordia friends to the spectacular Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. The group will also visit other important Luther sites and take in the beautiful scenery of Austria, Lichtenstein, and Switzerland.

Alaska is behind us for now, but the journey continues to wherever God leads.



President Ferry finding his way in Juneau.



White-water rafting in 36 degree water near Denali. L-r Dr. Ferry, Roy Peterson, Dave Weaver, Guide, Bob Prill, Joanie Peterson, Lori Weaver

# Where are they now? *In Harm's Way*

Lynne Schroeder



Sgt. CJ Seim (07)



Sgt. Patrick Zeuschner (current student)

What do Douglas Fleischfresser, Steve McDonough, Justin Morrison, CJ Seim, Mark Sward, Jake Wampfler, Patrick Zeuschner all have in common? Concordia University Wisconsin! They are either alumni or current students. So, then, what do CH (LTC) Douglas Fleischfresser (Chaplain), SSG Steve McDonough (Maintenance), SPC Justin Morrison (Military Police), SGT CJ Seim (Chaplain's Assistant), SGT Mark Sward (Chaplain Assistant), SPC Jake Wampfler (Infantry), and SGT Patrick Zeuschner (Mechanic) now have in common? They are all serving their Lord and their country as part of the 32d Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Baghdad, Iraq. Chaplain Fleischfresser recently contacted President Ferry to let him know of Concordia's ties overseas.

The 32d Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) is made up of men and women from Wisconsin, along with other soldiers from Minnesota, Illinois, and Michigan. While their headquarters is in Baghdad, these soldiers are also spread across the country of Iraq. They are responsible for providing convoy security, detainee guard force, joint security operations, and base security defense. Serving in this dangerous area, their sense of duty is great and unwavering, knowing that they are helping to build and rebuild a better future for the Iraqi people.

When not serving our country, Rev. Fleischfresser (Class of 1983) is the Guiding Shepherd at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He yearns for the camaraderie and encouragement of those serving there alongside him, and would love to hear an "AMEN" from his parish sheep. Above all, he misses his family the most. If he could, Doug would love to have his Harley-Davidson there, although it would need to be outfitted with plenty of armor. Free time is at a premium, although he occasionally enjoys a cigar with his step-brother-in-law, LTC John Loomer. Doug credits CUW with better understanding the needs of mankind in general and to better serve those with whom he has little in common. "It didn't matter what our major was, our socio-economic background, our financial resources, what color our skin, if we were Lutheran or even if we were Christian or not. ... The academics tested and tried us and we learned to rely on one another as a 'community of God.'"

the supervision of John Wichman in the maintenance office to maintaining the Chapel Facilities, ...or even filing paperwork here in Iraq (thanks to the Business Office Staff)." If he could, CJ would love to have a "12-foot aluminum fishing boat with trolling motor for the large ponds with carp by the chapel."

Online class availability is extremely important to Sgt. Patrick Zeuschner. He's a theology major still pursuing his degree. Graduation is a bit far away for him. While in Iraq, Sgt. Zeuschner's major role is keeping his military police vehicles on the road – his vocation being a mechanic. While being far away from home, Patrick spends his time daily in the Word, instant messaging friends and family, and talking with other soldiers in his unit. He misses home a lot, but seeks experiences, particularly through Bible reading, to provide escape from stress. He writes, "I've received so many care packages from family and friends, the support has been amazing." He continues to value his experiences and fondly remembers CUW. Growing as a Christian has made him the young man he is today.

There are others who are serving in harm's way – relatives of our current students and even employees. Due to the importance of their duties, the questionnaire given to the other soldiers listed were not returned. We commend all who sacrifice for us by serving both God and country.

## Inspiration *in Action*™

Carl Jacob (CJ) Seim is a 2007 graduate, majoring in Pastoral Ministry. Prior to his call up, he was working as a Human Services Support Specialist at the Minnesota Extended Treatment Options Center. He helps clients with mental health issues to be re-integrated into society. He misses being able to awaken in the cold, crisp air and drive to the lake to enjoy family, friends, fishing, and the freedom to choose his own day. Asking how he has applied his Concordia experience, CJ writes, "I have applied the experiences...either by writing an e-mail and trying to remember Dr. Canapa's instructions for English structure, or finding rich history from the Bible in Dr. Jastram's OT class while deployed in the place once known as Mesopotamia, ...or under



Chaplain Fleischfresser  
& Sgt. Seim

## U.S. Congressman Andre Carson Speaks at Indianapolis Graduation

Bryan Woodhouse

Graduation is always an exciting time of year and an exciting event for all involved. With the sounds of Pomp and Circumstance filling the air, proud parents, spouses, and, for many of our adult students, proud children rustle in their seats and strain their necks to catch a glimpse of their loved one. The beaming graduates stir nervously but also smile ear to ear as they await the start of the processional and their turn to be recognized for their hard earned and life altering achievement of a college degree.



Graduate Jada Nunn receives her diploma cover from Congressman Carson

On Saturday, April 25th, that was exactly the scene in Indianapolis as 16 proud graduates of Concordia University Wisconsin lined the hallway outside of the Ruth Lilly Auditorium at Lutheran High School of Indianapolis. However, there was an extra tinge of excitement in the air as United States Congressman Andre Carson worked the line shaking hands, joking with, and congratulating each member of the graduating class.

Carson, who represents the 7th Indiana Congressional District, is a 2003 graduate of Concordia University Indianapolis with a Bachelor's Degree in Management of Criminal Justice, and graciously accepted the invitation to be the commencement speaker. After leading the processional and being greeted by loud applause upon his introduction, Congressman Carson spoke at length about the wonderful experience he had at the CUW Indianapolis Center, and how deeply he valued his Concordia education. The congressman spoke about how when he was elected to the House of Representatives in 2008 he became one of its youngest members, and at times struggled to earn the

respect of his colleagues. However, attending Concordia had prepared him to make significant contributions right from the start of his term, which enabled him to quickly earn the respect of the other House members. Congressman Carson stated that his Concordia education had prepared him well for the many challenges he faces as a U.S. Congressman, and that attending Concordia helped him to understand the value of receiving a quality education. Carson noted that he personally vetted every member of his staff with a particular interest in making sure they had attended a high quality institution. He invoked his fellow alumni to be proud of their degree and to be proud to have graduated from Concordia.

To learn more about Congressman Andre Carson you can visit his official website at <http://carson.house.gov>

## Nursing Department Announces Chartering of International Nursing Honor Society

Concordia University Wisconsin's Department of Nursing is pleased to announce their chartering of Phi Beta Chapter #480 of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society as of May 19, 2009!

Founded in 1922 by six nursing students at Indiana University, the honor society began with one chapter and six members. During the past 87 years, it has evolved to 463 chapters across the globe, with more than 400,000 inducted members who are active in more than 90 countries and territories.

As one of the most distinctive organizations in professional nursing, the honor society influences and changes the health of people by engaging the intellectual capital of nurses. Founded to advance the knowledge, learning and service of nurses, the honor society focuses on scholarship and leadership in its social and ethical commitment to excellence.

Concordia nurses were honored to have Sigma Theta Tau International's President-elect Dr. Karen Morin perform their induction of new members and the new board just prior to sharing a delightful meal together in the Lake Shore Room. Chartering board members are: Mary Lou Kopp, President; Dr. Teri Kaul, President-elect; Dr. Carol Lueders-Bolwerk, Vice president; Lori Henderson, Secretary; Megan Bishop, Archivist; Kim Heim, Treasurer; and Cindy Witte, Faculty Counselor.



MaryLou Kopp (L) and Lori Henderson (R) presenting honor cords to former CUW honor society steering committee member Gaylyn Randuenz



## Students in the *Spotlight*

### CUW Nursing Student Receives 2009 Nurse of the Year Award

Concordia University Wisconsin nursing student Jeffrey Luecke was named *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's* 2009 Nurse of the Year. Luecke earned his bachelor's of science in nursing from the University of Wisconsin in 1995. In 2005, he received a master's of theology degree with an emphasis in cross-cultural ministries from Dallas Theological Seminary. He is now in the master's of nursing family nurse practitioner program at CUW. He completed training in parish nursing at Concordia in 2005. He is employed by Aurora Healthcare in Milwaukee at the Walker's Point Community Clinic. Jeffrey said "It has been a great honor and very humbling to have received this award. I definitely did not expect it and really see it as a product of wonderful, caring people who have taught, mentored and influenced me throughout my life in showing me the heart of what it means to be a nurse."



CUW Madison Center student **Jude Egwuonwu** from Kenya was recently featured in local media regarding his efforts to build a business school in Africa. Jude graduated in May with a business management major and will continue on for his MBA.

Jude is a 1st generation graduate. Through entrepreneurship, Jude has managed to build his own business *Jude's Leather Furniture Place* in Madison. He has worked with and designed showrooms for famous designers worldwide. He recently submitted a portfolio for credit. Jude flew his family to Milwaukee from Africa to attend the ceremony in May.

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Congratulations to **Smith Group JJR** for winning the highest award from the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for the design of CUW's bluff project.

The award was presented at the ASCE's annual meeting in Oconomowoc WI at the Olympia Resort & Conference Center on September 11, 2009. The project will also be nominated to ASCE National.





## Faculty and Staff *Highlights*

**John Behnke** (Music) was recently featured in the *News Graphic's* "103 Who Embody Ozaukee County" feature, focusing on his music that is played around the world with organ, handbells and choir.

**Bruce Bessert** (Natural Science) served on the Executive Committee for planning the Renewable Energy Summit entitled Green Business on March 25-28, 2009 at The Midwest Airlines Center, Milwaukee. The keynote speaker was Dr. James E. Hanson, an internationally recognized expert on climate change.

**Bernard Bull** (Education) presented on *A Mission-Driven Approach to Distance Learning Leadership* at the Distance Learning Administrators Conference (Summer 2009); presented on *Digital Age Life and Learning* at the Fort Wayne IMPACT Workshop (June 2009); along with **Matt Stenson** (IT) presented on *Video Sharing, Mashup Technologies and Implications for Online Teaching and Learning* at the Annual Conference on Distance Learning and Teaching (August 2009); presented on *Discipleship in the Digital Age* at the Teaching the Word Conference (Summer 2009); presented to the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne faculty on *A Call for Theological Thinking about Life in the Digital World* (September 2009); and led a workshop on *Designing Effective and Engaging Courses* to faculty at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne (September 2009).

**David Eggebrecht** (Eng/Theatre) and **Michael Uden** (Educ) are two of several Concordia faculty members presenting at the fall Teachers Conference of the South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

**James Fleurimond** (Admission) was recently awarded the WACAC (Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling) Rising Star Award. This award honors individuals and programs that exemplify excellence and dedication to serving the needs of students in the transition from high school to college.

**Marianne Fleisner** (Admission), who is a member of the Southern Wisconsin Association for Continuing Higher Education (SWACHE) recently competed in a local triathlon to raise money for adult working students in Wisconsin. The triathlon consisted of a 500 yard swim, 13.7 mile bike ride, and 3.1 mile run/



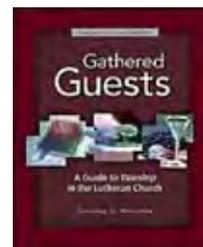
walk. Frank commented, "Training for this triathlon has taken a lot of work, time, and dedication. It has been very rewarding knowing that it will pay off in the form of a scholarship for a hardworking student who has taken on the challenge of returning to school. I am always so impressed with the amount of obstacles and challenges that our students face and overcome, and I am happy to do something that can help support them as they work towards their degree."

**Mary Lou Kopp** (Nursing) has recently authored a book entitled *Hospice Volunteer Orientation: A Coordinator's Toolkit for Effective Training*.

**Kenneth T. Kosche** (Emeritus) (Music) published "Baptized and Set Free: Five Organ Settings" (Augsburg Fortress Press); completed commentary on six hymns for the *LSB Hymnal Companion* to be released Spring 2010 by the LCMS Commission on Worship; as part of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians national convention, August 3-5, 2009, directed the convention choir at a hymn festival at the Cathedral of St. John, Milwaukee (four CUW master of Church Music alums participated in the choir); and also presented two sectionals on Enhancing Hymn Singing. He also published in summer by Live Oak House, an arrangement of "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella" for orchestral instruments. Ken continues to serve Covenant Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, as long-term guest organist.

**Timothy Maschke** (Theology) has had published a new edition of *Gathered Guests*. Now in its second edition, *Gathered Guests* has been revised to support, explain and enhance the use of the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*.

**Louis Menchaca** (Music) was one of the featured presenters and conference host for the Wisconsin Bandmaster's Association convention on the CUW campus in June, 2009. The closing convocation hosted the "Jazz Express" Big Band. He also led "The Ceremonial Brass" for the Medical College of Wisconsin commencement ceremonies in June, 2009. Menchaca has been recognized for 25 years of service to the music education profession by the Wisconsin School Music Association.



The Music Department is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Alexa Doebele, most recently from the University of Wyoming, as Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at CUW. Dr. Doebele brings a wealth of experience as an artist/teacher at University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Wyoming-Laramie and Director of Music at Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. She will be in charge of all music department vocal performing ensembles at the University. She will also have teaching assignments in the Masters of Church Music program.



## Ratcliffe Retires

Dr. Kermit Ratcliffe, who joined the Concordia faculty in 1991, decided at the end of the last school year to retire. He earned his D. Min from the St. Louis Seminary in 1998 and has been a member of the Theology Department since coming to Concordia from a parish ministry. He first came as director of the Lay Ministry program, but later became a full-time Religion instructor. He has also served as an Army chaplain.

When asked about his plans, Dr. Ratcliffe said that near the top of his list is restoring his records, most of which were damaged or destroyed in 2007 when a heavy snow leaked through the roof and into his office. At the time of his marriage, he promised his wife a trip to Hawaii, and that promise is finally going to be kept the first two weeks in September. They also plan to visit their son in Alaska, where he is serving in

the Air Force, and to see their new granddaughter. Their daughter Olivia is a Concordia graduate and works in a local nursing pool specializing in geriatrics.

The people Dr. Ratcliffe finds most memorable in his 18 year career at Concordia include President R. John Buuck, Dr. David Eggebrecht, Dr. Andrew Luptak, all of the Theology faculty, Dr. Paul Zietlow, Dr. Gaylund Stone, Dr. Marsha Konz, Dr. James Juergensen, and current President Dr. Patrick Ferry. His fondest memories include his first faculty retreat in 1991, which was held in Mexico City. He also enjoyed all of the graduations, seeing his students complete their college education and move on to the next stage of their lives.

"I have enjoyed every day I've spent at Concordia," Dr. Ratcliffe said. His cheerful "Good morning" and contributions to the school will be missed.



## Hollywood Idol Beckons

"Danny Gokey was the highlight," said Janet Mushall when asked what first came to mind regarding her recent prize winning trip to the "American Idol" TV show. "Meeting him was so exciting, and we also got to meet Adam Lambert." Janet, the Administrative Assistant for the Pharmacy School at Concordia, entered a local radio contest for a free trip to Hollywood and the final broadcast of last season's "American Idol." She has been a huge fan since the show first went on the air and was eager to participate in the contest on "The MYX," 99.1 on the FM dial.



While listening to the radio station, the certain number caller at a particular time got put into a pool for the final prize. She managed to be the selected caller at one of the opportunities and made it into the pool. The winner was picked at random, and it happened to be her. The most exciting part was that Danny Gokey was the one who called her to tell her she won. "I was shocked," she said, "I was completely speechless." But it was her dream come true.

To go with her, Janet chose her sister-in-law, also a dyed-in-the-wool Idol fan. The radio station paid for the round trip air fare to Los Angeles and a suite at the Wilshire Hotel. They left on a Monday night and returned on Thursday. "Most of the time we were there," she said, we spent on the red carpet meeting celebrities and contestants from previous seasons. It was really exciting." They were in the club section of the hotel, so breakfast was included, along with snacks and cocktails after five. However, they didn't take advantage of that because they didn't want to leave the theatre, where they were able to get autographs, take pictures, and enjoy the perfect weather. They did, however, slip away for a couple hours of shopping on Rodeo Drive.

Meeting Danny Gokey and his family was the highlight, and he was just as nice as could be, she said. Nonetheless, the show itself, even though Gokey had been eliminated the week before, was also exciting. Janet had never been at a live broadcast before, and couldn't believe how exciting it was. "It was the best thing ever!" she said.

One more exciting opportunity occurred for them as a great way to end the trip. On their way down the elevator in the hotel, a TV person told them that Adam Lambert was available nearby with very few people around. They quickly took advantage of the opportunity and had a chance to meet Adam and his family and chat with him, get pictures and autographs, and round out the trip in that perfect way. "It was the chance of a lifetime," Janet said, "and I will never forget the memories and the glorious time we had."

## Twelve New Faculty Members Join CUW

**Mark Bezik**; Associate Professor of Accounting.

**Michael Brown**; Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice; Chair of the Pharmacy Practice Department.

**Dana Carter**; Assistant Professor of Nursing.

**Alexa Doebele**; Assistant Professor of Music/Director of Kammerchor.

**Dale Gerke**; Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy.

**Julie Karpinski**; Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice.

**Ted King**; Professor of Occupational Therapy.

**Rachel Pickett**; Assistant Professor psychology.

**Ailey Runyon**; Assistant Professor of Nursing.

**Debra Schmeling**; Instructor of Nursing.

**Tracy Tuffey**, Assistant Professor of Psychology.

**Chrisherella Warthen**, Assistant Professor Education/Site Director of Teacher Certification in Madison.

Back row l-r Ailey Runyon, Chrisherella Warthen, Ted King.  
Middle row l-r Julie Karpinski, Michael Brown, Mark Bezik.  
Front row l-r Alexa Doebele, Rachel Pickett. Not pictured:  
Doris Carter, Dale Gehrke, Debra Schmeling & Tracy Tuffey



## Dr. William Grenville Ellis, Dean Emeritus

# His legacy carries on ...

Diana Raasch

"Dr. Ellis," "Professor," and "Bill" were all affectionate names used when addressing Concordia's former Dean of the School of Business & Legal Studies. Dr. Ellis was known for his strong commitment to higher education and to the students he taught. During his tenure as Dean,

Dr. Ellis authored an honors program open to students who achieved excellence with high ACT scores and grade point averages.

The Business Scholars program is designed to allow these students to simultaneously earn their undergraduate and graduate degrees within a

four-year time frame. The Ellis Family has established a scholarship endowment fund as a memorial to Dr. Ellis. The William Grenville Ellis Business Scholars Scholarship will be awarded annually to the student who ranks first among the Business Scholar students.

On April 24, 2009 Dr. David Borst and Dr. Ellis' son, Dr. Bradford G. Ellis, displayed an endowment photo detailing the Ellis Endowment. Thank you to the alumni,

faculty, staff, and students who have honored Dr. Ellis with gifts to The William Grenville Ellis Business Scholars Scholarship Fund. If you would like to donate to the Ellis Endowment or have any questions, please contact Diana Raasch in the Alumni Office, 262-243-4540 or 888-700-8336, Option #4.

The faculty of the School of Business and Legal Studies honored Dr. Ellis upon his retirement last year by instituting the William Grenville Ellis Student of the Year Award. This award is presented at the Annual Concordia Business School Graduation Reception to a business major who has exceptional academic performance; contributes to the CUW community; demonstrates commitment to the business community; and possesses a strong spiritual foundation and Christian character.

*"There is not a day that goes by that someone does not invoke their memories of Dr. Ellis to me. His spirit lives on in those stories and fond remembrances. His legacy continues in those students whose lives he touched. He is gone, he is missed, but never forgotten."* - Dr. David W. Borst, Dean, School of Business & Legal Studies





## Alumni Director Update

Diana Raasch, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

# Where Am I Going?

The theme for this edition of the Concordian magazine made me think of the Christian's ultimate destination of Heaven. The Hymn, "I'm But a Stranger Here," by Thomas R. Taylor, is often used at funerals, but it was also on my heart as I wrote this article.

Concordia's mission of "helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world" also references the church's mission of reaching all with the saving grace of Jesus.



Can you identify the people in this picture and the year it was taken? The first person to correctly provide these answers to the Alumni Office by e-mailing [alumni@cuw.edu](mailto:alumni@cuw.edu) will win a CUW hooded sweatshirt.

As the Director of Alumni and Parent Relations at Concordia, I am going to homes and other private meetings to visit with alumni, parents, faculty, and other donors as they tell me of their Concordia Experience. Many times these interactions result in gifts to the university for endowments, the Annual Fund, and many other fund designations.

I also go to events where alumni honor and thank past coaches and faculty. Roasts have become a new tradition at Concordia. Last spring Concordia's Kammerchor alumni honored Dr. Kenneth T. Kosche and helped to establish the Kenneth and Rosemary Kosche Choral Music Scholarship Fund. Two years ago, alumni and past coaches roasted former Coach Dick Weis. Through gifts from that evening and through gifts from Dick and Sandy Weis and many others, the Coach Weis Endowment is being established to support Concordia students with disabilities.

I continue to go to pastor and teacher conferences in the midwest. In July, 2010, I will again have the opportunity to go to the LCMS Convention. At these events I go as a representative of Concordia to tell prospective students and families about Concordia. I also go to provide updates from campus and share the blessings received from our Lord.

I also go to Orientation Sessions and Family Weekend where I have the opportunity to meet and visit with current parents and other family members. I go to Homecoming where five more alum will be inducted into the William C. Ackmann Hall of Fame this year. The 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees are **Kristine K. (Benter) Best** (93), **Max Bluemel, Jr.** (94), **Myron L. Cain** (76), **Marie L. (Holton) Lippe** (98), and **Robert W. Natzke** (56).

When at events and during individual visits, I often tell of my role here at Concordia; I truly believe I have the best position on campus. I am blessed by my time with alum, parents, faculty, and staff. I look forward to future opportunities to meet and reconnect with alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and others on campus.

As I go, and all faculty and staff serve Concordia University Wisconsin, it is all to the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for all donors, volunteers, and others who serve God at Concordia. If I may ever be of service to you, please contact me, at (262) 243-4540, toll free (888) 700-8336, Option #4 or email me at [diana.raasch@cuw.edu](mailto:diana.raasch@cuw.edu). Please also visit Concordia's new web site at [www.cuw.edu](http://www.cuw.edu), as this new site provides many resources for all within our Concordia Family. Where am I going? I am going to many locations; I hope to go to an area near you and look forward to seeing you soon.



## Alum Notes

### 2000's

**Michelle Bergquist** (07) married Ben Venteicher on May 24, 2009 at Christ Lutheran Church in Norfolk, NE.

**Benjamin B. Fraser** (07), who graduated from CUW in May 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in Athletic Training and Exercise Leadership, attended graduate school at Indiana State University where he received a Master's of Science degree in Athletic Training in December 2008. Meanwhile, he completed a summer internship with the Oakland Athletics (minor league team in Vancouver, BC) during the summer of 2008. Currently, he is working full-time as an athletic trainer with the Arizona Diamondbacks at their minor league affiliate in Yakima, WA.



**Katie Beth Anderson** (06) married Johannes Giessen of Frankfurt, Germany on July 5, 2008 at Camp Perkins located in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho. They currently reside in Moscow, Idaho.

**Laura A. Dippel** (06) married Daniel Birge on June 24, 2006 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Buckley, Illinois. She has been teaching 5th & 6th grade for three years at St. John's Lutheran School in Buckley. Daughter Anna Rose was born on December 24, 2008, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Anna was baptized on February 15, 2009.



**Katey L. (Tatro) Koch** (05) married Brian Koch on March 21, 2009 in Deerfield, IL at North Suburban Evangelical Free Church. Katey and Brian live in Northbrook, IL where Katey works for Dell Inc. as a Software Licensing Buyer and Brian is a Data Manager for a pharmaceutical research firm.

**Melissa M. (Hinze) Krause** (04) and **Jason W. Krause** (04) announce the birth of their son, Jack Hinze Krause, who was born on February 26, 2009 at 7:04 AM. Jack weighed 9lb. 14oz and was 20.5 inches long.



**Michele (Hinze) Stock** (04) and her husband **Rob**, announce the birth of Alexa Clare Stock on March 16, 2009. Alexa weighed 5 lb. 13 oz. Michele teaches 6th grade homeroom and is the Athletic Director at Grace Chapel Lutheran School in St. Louis, Mo. Michele and Rob live in Collinsville, Il.



**Gail Bast** (03) In 2006, Gail founded Association Acumen, which provides administration, educational program development, business, marketing, convention planning, membership management, and technology services to assist in the management of associations. She received AMC Institute Accreditation in March, a standard of quality that less than 10% of association management companies achieve.

**Daniel Lukas** (03) was married to Alexandra on August 15, 2009 at St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church in Springfield, Missouri.

**Jill L. Ortiz** (03) and Mark Spiegel were married at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Milwaukee on July 18, 2009 and reside in



Menomonee Falls, WI. Jill teaches first grade in West Bend, and Mark works as an Analyst at Kohl's Corporate in Menomonee Falls. **Heather Hojnacki** (03) was part of the wedding party and **Gena Ceroni** (09) was the photographer.

**Jen (Holte) Rasmussen** (03) married Thor Rasmussen in 2004 and they live in Laramie, WY. Thor works at the Laramie Fire Department and the Wyoming Air National Guard and Jen is a teacher at the Cathedral Home for Children, a residential treatment facility for troubled youth. They welcomed their twin boys, Brock Hunter and Braden Paul into the world on January 31, 2009.



**Mark** (01) & **Sarah (Robards) Barnes** (03) announce the birth of Mason Dale Barnes, born April 10, 2009 at 8:28 a.m. in Newport Beach, CA. He was 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 19 1/4 inches long. The family resides in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA.

**Christine M. Long** (02) is living in Waukesha, WI. She works full-time as a case manager for adults with disabilities and the elderly. She is also the Volunteer Children's Ministry Coordinator at Lamb of God Lutheran in Pewaukee, WI where she coaches Special Olympics, basketball and t-ball.

**Elise (Swanke) Lorenz** (02) and her husband, Matt, along with big sister Madeline, welcomed little Carly Anne to their family on May 3, 2009. Carly weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz. and was 20 in. long. She was baptized on June 14, 2009, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brookfield, WI.



**Kimberly L. (Walters) Williams** (02), her husband Scott and big brother Logan welcomed Andrew Kent Williams into the world on September 18, 2008.



**Sarah E. (Childers) Ring** (01) and her husband Jeffrey are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Wesley

Jacob, born on April 11, 2009. He joins his big sister, Callie, age 2. Jeff and Sarah continue to reside in Kimberly, WI, where Sarah is a stay at home mom.

**Bridget (Surdick) Thiel** (01) and her husband Marty were blessed with a baby boy on April 15, 2009, Malachi Martin Thiel, 7 pounds, 3 ounces, 21 inches long, born at 9:49 p.m. Malachi was baptized on April 19, 2009. He has 2 big sisters; Mikaela (age 4) and Rebekah (age 2).



**Melissa Wittcop** (01) became Principal at Trinity Lutheran School in downtown Orlando in June of 2008. She was officially called to this position March 1, 2009 and is engaged to Matthew Bergholt, alumnus of Concordia Chicago (07).

**Shawn Groshek** (00) was the 2009 graduation speaker at Adams Friendship High school, where he is Athletic Director and Wrestling Coach. He is also an Adam Friendship middle school Physical Education Teacher.



**Michelle H. (Holroyd) Williamson** (00) announces the birth of her first son, Hans Peter, born on June 4, 2009. She and her husband, Gehrig Williamson, both work part-time as family medicine physicians in Gehrig's hometown of Amery, WI.

## 1990's

**Jeremy Normington** (99; 01 GPT-MPT) has been promoted to Chief Executive Officer at Moundview Memorial Hospital & Clinics in Friendship, WI.

**Nate** (96) and **Lynn** (98) (**Weerts**) **Cox** were blessed with another daughter, Jocelyn, on July 10, 2009. Big sister Natalie, who turned 5 this year, is extremely excited, proud and loves helping out.



Nate and Lynn live in Menomonee Falls and can be reached at [Nato98@hotmail.com](mailto:Nato98@hotmail.com)



**Julia (Lonan) Daimbani** (96) married Andri A. Daimbani and after their first son was born, the family moved to the Philippines. Currently, they are living in Indonesia where Julia works for President University as a lecturer (professor) as well as serving

as Vice Dean of Student Affairs in the school of Communication.

**Jodi L. (Formolo) Pineau** (98) and her husband Tim recently relocated from Negaunee, MI to Iron Mountain, MI.

**Christine M. (Fay) Pannier** (92) is working for Wisconsin Power Constructors in the payroll office. She and her husband Paul have

4 sons: Dominick (17), Justin (15), Zachary (7) and Jacob (2). She returned to school to pursue a degree in business management. The family resides in Random Lake, WI.

## 1980's

**Mark Pieper** (88) visited with two of his childhood heroes, Larry Hisle and Burt Blyleven, at a recent Brewers vs. Twins game at Miller Park. The meeting was arranged by Larry Hisle, who is a friend and neighbor of Concordia University Wisconsin. Burt retired from baseball in 1992, and is now the Twin's announcer. Burt took the opportunity to share a few pitching tips with Mark's son, Christian, an aspiring high school pitcher. Mark is a partner in the Minneapolis-based accounting firm of Carver Moquist & O'Connor, LLC.



**Jay D. Mather** (86) and his wife Vivian were named the Will County (Illinois) Area Coordinators for the 4-H International Exchange Program. Their family has hosted Japanese students for the past three summers. This summer they will be hosting a Costa Rican girl as well as a Japanese girl once again. Besides working with the exchange program, their family, Vanessa (16), Jayson (8) & Cody (6) are very active in their local 4-H program raising & showing cattle, goats, & chickens.

## 1950's



**Alan M. Oberdeck** (Concordia High School '58) has written a novel entitled *Lost in the Shadows*. It is available through Walden books, Borders, Barnes & Nobel and many smaller stores. It is available at Amazon and direct from Tate Publishing.



## Faculty and Staff *Members of the Month*



### The Rev. Dr. Dr.

Amazingly, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Maschke has earned two doctoral degrees (D.Min. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield in 1984 and Ph.D. from Marquette University, Milwaukee in 1993)! This is a unique and astounding feat. Dr. Maschke is the featured faculty member of the month. He graduated from Concordia High School in 1966, and after graduating from the St. Louis Seminary, spent about ten years in the parish ministry. He says he had never thought about teaching and would never have seen himself in that role, but God had other ideas, and, in 1982, Dr. Maschke received a call to join Concordia as campus pastor and instructor in Religion, and he has been here ever since.

When asked when and how he decided to become a pastor, Tim replied, "My Dad was a pastor. I always wanted to be a pastor, since I was four years old. I never really considered any other profession." Consequently, he enrolled at Concordia Milwaukee High School, which was then a seminary prep school. He was a member of a class filled with people who have served the Church well, including Rev. Ken Klaus, current Lutheran Hour speaker, and Dr. Kurt Krueger, Executive Director of the Concordia University System.

Dr. Maschke has fond memories of his high school days at Concordia: Norm Wangerin's theology classes; David Eggebrecht's English classes, where he learned to write, he says; "Colonel" Loren O. Barker's high school marching band, for which Tim played French Horn; Jim Engel's music classes; Eldon Balko's choir – "He was the only teacher who ever yelled at me – for talking." (now there's a shock); Prof. Gienapp's English classes; Ron Schmeling's Latin classes; and Prexy Stuenkel's preaching. Those are names from the past many will recognize. Tim also participated on the track team as a pole vaulter on a team that won the conference championship and finished fifth at the State Private Schools Track Meet.

Other high school memories include evening chapel services with student speakers on the former campus, reading with a flashlight after hours when the lights were turned off, and his roommate smoking while using a straw to blow the smoke out the window.

When asked how he felt coming back to Concordia as a faculty member after having been a student, he said having an office in what had been his dormitory was strange, and having former teachers as colleagues needed some adjustment, even to calling them by their first names.

Upon graduating from high school Tim moved on to Concordia Ann Arbor for junior college rather than staying at Concordia Milwaukee. When asked why, he said, with a chuckle, "I had to meet my wife." Tim has been married to the former Sharon Kettelhut for 37 years and

has three grown sons—Jedidiah (and his wife, Anna, with two grandchildren, Ali and Si), Benjamin (and his wife, Jennifer), and Nathanael.

Talking about his experiences as a long-time faculty member at CUW, Dr. Maschke mentioned the growth of the school, from 250 students in his first year on the former campus to what Concordia is today. He remembers his first visit to the new campus, seeing the entrance wall with *Concordia* emblazoned on it. Although he has taught most of the courses in the Theology Department, he loves being able to teach in his specialty areas now – Doctrine and Worship. He especially appreciates that, because of the growth of Concordia, we now have a Theology faculty whose members can teach to their strengths and expertise.

Dr. Maschke joined the faculty as campus pastor doing part-time teaching (2/5 of his responsibilities were as campus pastor and 3/5 teaching). Another fond memory is that as campus pastor, his campus ministry team included over 200 students. "We couldn't get a student government organized those first years," he recalls. "Campus ministry pretty much ran the school's extracurricular activities."

A number of Concordia people have influenced his life, Dr. Maschke said, people like Evelyn in the Maintenance Department; Dr. Eggebrecht in English and track; and Prof. Wangerin in Theology. He declined to mention any specific students, saying there are too many to mention any individually, but many have kept in touch with him throughout the years.

Outstanding campus events he remembers include moving to the Mequon campus, the restoration of the bluff and the resulting spectacular view of Lake Michigan, the ongoing growth and development of pre-seminary students, and the variety of services to the Church former students have gone into. Dr. Maschke served on the committee to prepare Concordia to become a University, and that was very satisfying, he said, especially the visits to other schools that had done so. The one thing that stands out, he said, is the Concordia chapel, "Such a magnificent place to praise the Lord." Dr. Maschke also served on the organ committee when the new organ was purchased and built in 1989, and he loved that experience as well.

"I love working here," he said, "It's such a pleasure. I love teaching and the students and the stimulation they bring. I love sharing 'Old questions answered in new ways.' My faith has grown, and my idealism remains." This is quite a statement from someone who never wanted to be a teacher, but having become one, has powerfully influenced thousands of students now serving our Lord and His Church.



## An Admission of Success

Ken Gaschk, Vice President of Enrollment at Concordia, has been a member of the staff since he graduated from CUW in 1981 with a degree in Business. After three years working for Concordia, he spent a short time working for Lutheran Brotherhood in Finance; at that time new President Dr. R. John Buuck brought Ken back to campus as an Admission Counselor. This was at a time when more and more people were interested in Student Services as a profession, and the job became long-term rather than short-term, literally for Ken.

The interview with Dr. Buuck for the position in the Admission Office is one of Ken's vivid memories. "He told me my hair was too long and I'd have a contract on Monday." Ken joined the Admission staff which was then headed by Bill Ebel. Mr. Ebel was a good boss, according to Ken, and let the staff work to their strengths, a plan he continues with his own staff. He became the first admission counselor to have a territory beyond the state of Wisconsin. His first College Fair, he recalls, was in Des Moines, IA. His instructions were to recruit pre-seminary students, and he got four excellent students out of that fair, all four of whom are now effective pastors. "This will be easy," he thought, but soon discovered it wasn't, and that kind of response at a Fair has never happened again.

One of the exciting things in his new job, Ken said, was the changing paradigm of admission offices. The move toward more professionalism, the assigning of quotas, dividing territories for recruitment, and the application of other good business practices resulted in the ongoing recruitment success that continues to the present day at CUW.

When Mr. Ebel retired in 1994, Ken was appointed to replace him and continues to hold the Vice Presidential position, although the job itself has evolved over the years. One of the things for which the Concordia Admission Office has always been known is the stability of its staff. A lot of this stability, according to Vice President Gaschk, is the long-time presence of Tammy Rose as the Administrative Assistant. She affords much of the continuity that exists in the office. The biggest changes are a result of growing and changing technology. In 1981, the Admission Office received about 250 applications a year. Today the Office receives more than 2,500 annually, but has the same sized support staff. Technology is what makes this possible. Over the years, the perception of what an Admission Office does has also changed.

When asked about the changes during his tenure, Ken said the move to the new campus was the biggest and made the largest difference for his job. That was the first renaissance for Concordia as a school. He calls the last five years the second renaissance, beginning with

the restoration of the bluff, the construction of new buildings on campus, and the addition of new programs. Beginning with Business and then getting into the health care programs – Nursing, OT, PT, and now Pharmacy, has done much to change the nature of the school and its size, while at the same time, it has retained its core mission: to provide Church workers, and to help students "develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world." The non-Church work programs afford Pre-sem and teacher education the faculty, facilities, and finances to make Concordia University Wisconsin the number one provider of Church workers for the Missouri Synod.

The visit of President Bush as graduation speaker in 2004 did much to change the attitude of and about Concordia, Ken continued. "The attitude went from 'Not Concordia' to 'Why not Concordia?'" This became a "can-do" campus. All of these changes created a momentum that has not slowed down, even in the present economy. Gaschk figures we have added a new building every 1.6 years recently. This creates continual excitement.

At the top of the list of people he fondly remembers is Bill Ebel. "Bill was a great mentor," Ken said, "and really let me grow and develop the talents God gave me." Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz, who was acting President between Drs. Buuck and Ferry, also had a significant influence on Ken. "I remember especially two things that he told me. One was that doing nothing affirms the status quo and lets an institution go stale. The other was that you can change a no to a yes, but a yes never changes to a no. These have been guiding principles for me." He also appreciated Dr. Buuck's leadership style and what it did to grow Concordia to the institution it is today. "One can see God's hand," he said, "He always puts the right man in place. First Dr. Buuck for the needs we had then, and then Dr. Ferry for the present needs of the school."

"The biggest change in dynamics," Gaschk said, "is in the relationships among people. In 1981 everyone knew everyone on campus, and there was a family sort of feel to the campus. Today there are too many people for that to happen. That's not necessarily a bad thing, just a difference."

"The one thing I miss most from the former days," he chuckled, "was the annual Dean's Open, when faculty and staff would get together for an afternoon of golf followed by a barbecue at the Dean's home. That really brought people together in a positive way."

Sound financial practices, the application of good business practices, and the balanced mixture of business with mission have led to the ongoing success of Concordia according to Gaschk. As a result, the perception of the school has changed, both in the local community and throughout the Missouri Synod. At the same time, the competition has changed. "No longer is Concordia University Wisconsin in competition with the other synodical schools; rather, we are now a system working together to build God's Kingdom on earth. Our main competition for students is now with other private schools. All of this has been a healthy change."

"The one thing that most affected my life from my undergraduate days at Concordia," Ken said, "was the instructor I had for Intro to Lit and Fiction. He made me a reader, for which I am really grateful."

Twenty-seven years of student and institutional growth is truly an admission of success.



## Focus on Advancement

Duane H. Hilgendorf, Senior Vice President of Advancement

# Inspiration in Action

“For service to Christ in the Church and the world” are words contained in the Concordia University Wisconsin Mission Statement. Any organization’s Mission Statement is simply a set of words until it is demonstrated or proven by actions. Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry often comments that Concordia’s Mission Statement is not fulfilled until it is demonstrated through the lives of our alumni. Rev. Dr. Milton T. Berner’s (‘59) career as a pastor and attorney bring the University’s Mission Statement to life and well represent our new University tagline, “Inspiration *in Action*.”

## Interview with Rev. Dr. Milton T. Berner August 27, 2009

**During your vocational life you have pursued two passions, the ministry and the law. How were you able to pursue both?**

“I’ve always had a passion for both. I’ve never felt as if I had to go to ‘work.’ My interest in law goes back to my father who was a senior pastor at Mount Olive in Milwaukee but who always had an interest in legal issues. One of my first assignments was to be the vacancy pastor in a complex building program project and as a consequence I had to deal with attorneys and getting the whole thing straightened out. I remember loving the process.

When I was still at the seminary, my vicarage was in Long Beach, California, and during that year I had queried St. Louis Seminary as to whether I could pursue law school as well as continuing in the seminary. Although it was approved, I found that path to be very difficult. When in Cincinnati, I was aware that Chase Law School provided availability, and as long as it didn’t interfere with the work of my parish, I was allowed to go through a four-year law degree program. I graduated in 1974 and continued as pastor at Zion until 1977, but the law practice I was involved in was very demanding. I was made a partner in the firm in 1976 and resigned the parish shortly thereafter. My specialties became real estate and probate. I was involved with three parishes during that time as well.”

**One of your pastoral calls was to serve a dying inner city parish. Describe how you and the parishioners were able to find a solution to keep you as a pastor as well as the steps your congregation took to rebuild that ministry.**

“In June of 1983, I was asked to be the vacancy pastor at a dying, all-Black parish, Immanuel in Cincinnati. I felt that this is what the Lord was asking me to do. I shared with the congregation that in my opinion they could not afford

the services of a full-time pastor, but if they allowed me to continue my law practice, I would be happy to fill that role. I served there for 22 years practicing law throughout. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit the church flourished. When I retired in 2004, the congregation had built itself up from 13 to over 200 members. Financially, they were very sound. After the first two years, they were able to make their budget every year with a surplus and I was paid an adequate salary. The congregation had a lot of projects in the area and it was a very viable parish which could stand on its own two feet.”

**Would you describe your pastoral leadership as encouraging and enabling?**

“You have to understand that in the 1970’s and 1980’s in Black parishes the pastor was royalty, and what he said happened. My approach was to be the spiritual shepherd, but when it came to running the parish, the responsibility needed to be theirs. So the word *enabling* is the perfect word because it is what I strove to accomplish. I’m pleased to say they were absolutely capable when I left. My role was to provide counsel and encouragement. At the time I felt strongly that I would give anything to combine law with parish work and I still feel that way today.”

**You recently served as the Master of Ceremonies for your 50 year class reunion. In preparation for that event, what event or stories did you reflect on that helped you to articulate the Concordia educational experience.**

“I absolutely enjoyed my six years at Concordia. I reflected upon what the education that I received at CUW had done for me and for my life, and I am so thankful to the Lord for the education that I received because it prepared me very well for the professional life I pursued after 1959. The education

I received in a small school of a little over 400 students has served me well. I credit all of my instructors, most notably Professors Jenne, Rupprecht, Gienapp and Ackmann, with imparting wisdom and education as well as teaching me how to think and how to perceive the world and to do it through Christian eyes."

**Having served in both arenas and in regard to Concordia's mission to serve Christ in the Church and in the world, how does the mission manifest itself in similar or different ways today as compared to 50 years ago?**

"Concordia provided me with the foundation for understanding how to look at the world, its problems and its interests and yet do it through the perspective of the Christian faith. It wedded reason and faith together so that I had the foundation for my education. A lot of my life perspective was also provided through my parents. I have been effectively prepared to deal with not only the spiritual side of life but also the secular side - I have to do that as an attorney, a judge and as a pastor. People often kid me that I might see more Gospel in the courtroom than in church.

People don't generally feel comfortable in a court of law, and yet I've had many times when I have received thanks. I have had extremely difficult cases where I had the opportunity to use my faith and education in making tough decisions.

**Is there any encouragement you can give to fellow alums to stay connected to each other?**

"The whole reunion experience provided by CUW is a wonderful experience. The mission of Concordia in terms of what it is doing and in terms of future churchworker education is being done well at CUW."

**Do you have any recommendations for younger alum for serving the Church and in the world?**

"I received an excellent liberal arts education which provided me with the foundation for going into law. I would encourage others to become worker priests within our Synod by going into ministry as well as law and feel strongly enough that I'd be willing to set up a scholarship fund for just such a program."



## Concordian Online Coming Soon

In the near future, the *Concordian* will be available online on our newly designed website, [www.cuw.edu](http://www.cuw.edu)

Would you be interested in having the hyperlink e-mailed to you (which would help us save on printing & mailing costs) or would you prefer receiving it via US mail as you have in the past?

We would appreciate your feedback! Please fill out the box below, or e-mail the Marketing Department directly at [StudentWorker.Marketing@cuw.edu](mailto:StudentWorker.Marketing@cuw.edu) to share your comments.

We look forward to hearing from you.

I would be interested in having the hyperlink to the newest edition of the *Concordian* e-mailed to me at the following e-mail address:

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive the *Concordian* in the mail as I have in the past. My name and address is:

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Return to:  
Concordia University Wisconsin, Atten: Marketing Dept.  
12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI 53097-2402



**Rev. Dr. Milton T. Berner**, Class of 1959 Concordia Milwaukee, was the keynote speaker at the recent 1959 class reunion. He is currently a Judge Magistrate in Probate and Juvenile Courts in Brown County, Ohio. His varied and very full careers as pastor, attorney and judge have also included serving as a pastor at St. Paul Massena, NY (1965-69); Zion-Cincinnati (1969-77); CRM (1977-83); and Immanuel, Cincinnati (1983-2004). He was also a practicing attorney from 1974-98. Milton continued his education at Concordia Sr. College (B.A. 1961) and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (M.Div. 1965) and received a law degree at Chase Law School in Cincinnati in 1974. He is married to Barbara, and they have five children. He graciously agreed to share some of his experiences and insights.

Concordia Christian Tours

# Upcoming Tours

## 2010

July 30-August 9 – Lutherland & the Passion Play

October 15-18 – Land of Lincoln and St. Louis

## 2011

March 1-9 – Spring Training and the Grand Canyon in Arizona (9 days)

Mid-October – Frankenmuth, Toronto, & Niagara Falls (10 days)

## 2012

Early January – Hawaii: Oahu, Hawaii, and Kauai (16 days)

Fall – Nashville, Louisville, & Lexington (5 days)

## 2013

March 1-9 – Spring Training in Arizona

July/August – Footsteps of Paul: Turkey & Greece (16 days)

## 2014

Early January – Holyland: Jordan, Israel, & Egypt (15 days)

July – Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island



### Between Friends

Rev. Roy Peterson

For many decades, Concordia has been blessed with great friends and supporters of the University. Whether raising funds for athletic fields or working together on volunteer projects, our friends have helped make Concordia the world class, Lutheran, Christian institution that it is today. We give thanks and praise to God for all that He has accomplished through our friends.

Friendship is never described as a one-way relationship though. In order for true friendship to exist, there needs to be a desire on the part of both parties to connect with one another. That's what makes the relationship between Concordia and all of our friends so special. There is a great desire on the part of our friends and the University to be and stay connected.

During this past year and looking to the future, Concordia remains committed to reaching out to our friends throughout Wisconsin and around the country. In order to accomplish this, we have held and plan many events and times to connect. Here are a few examples of how Concordia is reaching out to our friends with the hope that our friendship can continue to grow and flourish.

In the past year pastors from Concordia have held **Concordia Sundays in over 40 congregations around Wisconsin**. That's over 40 in just one year! On most Sundays you can find Concordia University Wisconsin connecting with a local congregation, sharing the Good News of Jesus and celebrating our partnership in ministry. If your congregation has not had a Concordia Sunday in recent years, ask your pastor to contact Concordia.

Music is always a great way to connect with people and the **Music Department at Concordia** has been a great ambassador for the University. Not only do they hold wonderful concerts and performances on campus that our friends attend, but throughout the year they make special trips that build relationships with our churches and alums. In recent times our groups have traveled all the way to Texas and currently are planning trips to Illinois and Missouri. Watch our website for more information about our music program and tours.

Speaking of tours, **Concordia has relaunched our Concordia Christian Tours**. These tours provide a wonderful way for friends to meet one another and to travel with other Christians. For years we have taken groups to the Fireside in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, and have several trips planned there again this year. In addition, Concordia President Patrick T. Ferry hosted a group of 50 Concordia friends on a two week trip to Alaska (**see pgs. 18-19 of this issue**). Additional trips are being planned in upcoming years to Lutherland, the Footsteps of Paul, and the Holy Land.

There are also times when it is fun to connect in less formal settings. During the past year Concordia has offered the opportunity for friends to meet at **Lambeau Field (home of the Green Bay Packers), at a Madison Mallards baseball game, a Brewers game, the Rainbow Valley Fair (Wausau, Wis)**, and numerous other places and events both in Wisconsin and around the country.

The friends of Concordia have always been and remain an important partner in our ministry. We look forward to seeing all of our friends at upcoming events.



## Pastor's Corner

Rev. Steve Smith, campus pastor

# We're Off to See...

*Thomas said to him [Jesus], "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:5-6)*

I can't help it, but I really love *The Wizard of Oz*. I've probably seen it at least 50 times (which isn't really that many if you consider it terms of once a year for 40 years and a few more thrown in for good measure...). It's definitely a Top 10 Favorite movie of all-time if not a Top 5. It has some of the most memorable songs of any old musical; it is a movie the whole family can watch; it still inspires as a world turns from black-and-white to color; it is the inspiration for the fabulous Broadway show *Wicked*. But even more, I see a lot of metaphors for life in this movie.

In short, *The Wizard of Oz* is a travelogue. It is about a journey—Dorothy's house is blown to a strange place by a big storm ("Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore"). She discovers strange and wonderful people (and "lions and tigers and bears, oh my!") and places (Munchkinland, the haunted forest, Oz, the Witch's Castle). But it is really a story about her longing for home and trying to get there. From her beginning dream of going "Over the Rainbow" to the final scene's assessment that "there's no place like home," the thought of home prevails.

I suppose that could be the story of the Christian's life—of the Christian longing for home. How do we make our way in or through life? As the disciples followed Jesus, theirs was an itinerant path. The peripatetic Prophet went from place to place with the disciples in tow, them sometimes getting it and sometimes not as Jesus healed and taught, running across friend and foe. So as their journey with Jesus approached its end with Him speaking of His departure, Thomas asked the question on everyone's mind: "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus' answer seems to indicate that while there is a final destination (heaven, eternal life, of which death is the portal), perhaps more attention to the journey is important. What does it mean to follow Jesus? Is it as simple as hopping on the yellow brick road and going off to see the Wizard,

knowing that he will give you your heart's desire and make everything work out great without anything bad ever happening?

Any Christian can answer that the journey of the Christian life is filled with unexpected things—too wonderful to express and sadder than we could imagine. Births and deaths, love and heartbreak, sickness and health are all along the way.

So where are you going? Climbing up a corporate ladder? Building a nest egg? Off to adventure? Nesting with a family? One joy I can truly revel in is the common journey we have as Christians and the journey that leads people here to Concordia. Paths not only cross as people are drawn here from many places for many reasons, but paths become a common path—the road that leads to heaven. Maybe it is a road less traveled, but one to which any who bear the name Christian are called.

By happy coincidence, the theme of this issue of the *Concordian* and the theme chosen by campus ministry leaders for the 2009-10 academic year converge. The verse above from John 14 is the one chosen to consider the theme, "Christ's Path for Us." The path is certainly outlined in the Bible—"a lamp for our feet and a light for our path." Though there are some missteps and straying off the beaten path, we are able to spur each other on as we travel together, learning and serving.

A huge blessing of Concordia is that we can spend part of the journey of life together with other Christians. Dorothy starts out on her journey alone—sent off by the well-meaning Munchkins and Glinda the Good Witch. She soon meets others to journey with—the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion. They encourage each other, each looking for something different yet looking in hope to a common source—the Wizard.

Parallels between the Christian's hope in God and their hope in the Wizard soon fail. To the

knowledgeable Christian, God is not some mysterious entity to be feared, trying to get us to do His dirty work of getting rid of evil (although this is how some in the world view God). No, God in fact brings us to Himself to show us what He has done for us—that He has rescued us from sin and the devil.

So we are privileged to share that and encourage each other with that Good News. As we journey through life on this path it is something a little less obvious than a yellow brick road. But we are able to journey part of life together. At a place as transient as Concordia where a handful of years together is all we really get, we get to journey with other great people for those years.

So we're off to see what God will show us on this leg of the journey, knowing that the end will have led us to the realization that "there's no place like home [heaven]" and no better place on earth than the road that leads there.



Dedication of new chancel furniture for The Chapel of Christ Triumphant, Saturday, August 29, 2009 as part of the Opening Service of the 129th Academic Year. The Wangerin Family donated the funds for the new chancel furniture in honor and memory of the Rev. Dr. Norman P. Wangerin. Pictured in the photo: Rev. Steve Smith, Paul Wangerin (76), Kathryn Wangerin, Rev. Mark Wangerin (72), and Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry.

