Expanding Communities

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Front Cover: Concordia’s new Center for Environmental Stewardship is open and busting with excitement as environmental studies classes, community workshops and grade school tours begin. (see related article on page 18) Photo by Craig McCarthy.

Back Cover: Curt Gielow, Executive Dean of Concordia’s School of Pharmacy, addressed several hundred people at the school’s official groundbreaking May 14. Among those in attendance were a dozen of the 71-member Class of 2014 that began classes on August 23.
Concordia University Wisconsin is an expanding community. Our growth in recent years has been extraordinary. Over half of those who have ever graduated from Concordia have done so in the last twelve years. One-quarter of all Concordia graduates over our 129-year history received their diplomas in the past five years! With projections indicating another record-breaking incoming class this fall, the momentum for growth accelerates.

The increase in numbers has also made necessary an expansion of faculty and staff, as well as additional facilities and other upgraded infrastructure. Graduates, from classes as recent as a couple of years ago, occasionally return to campus and are astonished by all of the changes. I frequently quip that if you haven’t been on campus within the last few years, you have not been to Concordia. “Renewed by the Waters” is the title of our comprehensive campaign. It is also descriptive of our experience. Concordia is constantly being transformed here along the shore of Lake Michigan.

That same image, of course, applies to every single and individual member of Concordia’s expanding community. First renewed in the water of Holy Baptism, Christians are brought to the life of faith in that first saving splash. The experience of Christian higher education affirms Christian faith and offers the transformative renewal of learning and growing “in mind, body, and spirit” for every Concordia student. Within our community students are expanding their knowledge, skills, and understanding. Along the way, they are preparing themselves “for service to Christ in the Church and the world.”

In other words, our mission is not primarily focused on the growth and expansion of the Concordia campus community. Rather, this setting beside the waters is the port from which we launch women and men to touch the lives of others. The best way to expand into the community is to reach out. Hopefully Concordia will continue to find ways to do that here or on the north shore of Milwaukee. Even better, the growing number of Concordia’s graduates will find ways to reach out from sea to shining sea and beyond!

Concordia University Wisconsin is a Lutheran higher education community committed to helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D.
President
As I pondered our theme for this issue – “Expanding Communities,” a lot of thoughts came to mind, and I finally decided to reminisce a bit and go back to where Concordia was when I joined the faculty as a means of seeing how our community has expanded in the forty-five years since.

When Concordia was founded in 1881 in the basement of Trinity Church, it was in downtown Milwaukee. A year later a campus was built on 29th and State Streets on some farmland in the outskirts of the city. Over the years the city grew and expanded around it, and by the time I joined the faculty in 1965, it had become inner city. The turn of the century buildings on the campus were architecturally beautiful, and the classroom building was a classic. Faculty meetings were held in the faculty lounge in the center of that building, just downstairs from the chapel.

I remember my first faculty meeting vividly. In the middle of the large room there was a very large, long table. The sixteen clergy members of the faculty sat around the table and ran the business. The four second class citizens, those who were teacher trained, sat in chairs along the wall and had no say or vote. Having come from the faculty of a moderately large high school where everyone had an equal vote, it was an experience. The first female joined the faculty a year later, and she was a third class citizen. There were about 200 students divided between the junior college and the high school, and there was plenty of room for everyone in those old buildings.

I remember the chair of the English Department, trying to be helpful, telling me not to work so hard to prepare for my classes, since all I really needed to do was stay a page ahead of the students. It wasn’t an auspicious start, and I wondered if I had made a mistake in accepting the call to the Concordia faculty. I hadn’t, as I’ve reiterated in earlier issues. It wasn’t long before the faculty grew to the point where we had to use a classroom to meet and everyone got a say and a vote on faculty business. I did think it interesting that Prexy Stuenkel made the meetings last two hours, exactly, whether we had one item of business or two hundred. Bets were taken.

Now, of course, the community has expanded – to Mequon, from a 17 acre inner city campus to a hundred and twenty acre campus on the shore of Lake Michigan; from a faculty of 20 males, only three of whom had doctorates, to a full-time faculty both male and female of 150, most of whom have doctorates, plus several hundred adjunct faculty; from two majors to close to fifty; from 200 students (including women for the first time – five of them), to over 7000.

God has truly blessed this community and expanded it through his blessings of people, donors, and countless opportunities to serve His Kingdom here on earth. As our last issue demonstrated, the community continues to expand, for which all glory goes to our God.

Several years ago, Dr. Ferry asked me to do a composite painting of Concordia’s Mequon campus to match a composite painting he had of his alma mater, St. John’s College, Winfield, KS. So I did, and they’ve been hanging side-by-side in his office.

In the meantime, the Concordia campus has continued to grow and develop, “expanding our community”; so recently he asked me to update the painting and add three of the new buildings, which I have done. The idea came up to do a similar project of the former campus in inner city Milwaukee, and that is currently being worked on. The idea was also suggested to make copies available through the bookstore as a poster and/or a bookmark. More information on availability will be included in the next issue of the CONCORDIAN.
Concordia Bioethics Institute
Dr. Kevin Voss, Director

The Concordia Bioethics Institute (CBI) has had a busy year and continues to carry out its promise of helping people “make decisions compatible with the Christian Faith.” The hottest topic in bioethics today is health care reform. During the past academic year, the CBI hosted two panel discussions on campus concerning health care reform. Forum panelists were drawn from CUW’s faculty: Dr. Dean Arneson, Academic Dean, School of Pharmacy; Dr. James Burkee, Associate Professor of History and Economics; Dr. Teri Kaul, Director, Graduate Nursing Programs; Prof. Louise Mollinger-Riemann, Director of the Physical Therapy Program; and Rev. Dr. Kevin Voss, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Director, Concordia Bioethics Institute. Dr. Sarah Holtan, Assistant Professor of the CUW Communications Department moderated the event. You may watch the forum via streaming video on the web. The link is: http://martin.cuw.edu/CourseCast/Viewer/Default.aspx?id=1dc02827-0bc7-458a-8a8b-1c493660623. Over 200 people attended the two sessions.

Dr. Voss, CBI Director, is quoted at length in the June 2010 edition of Mercy Notes, published online by LCMS World Relief and Human Care. The topic, not surprisingly, is, “The New Health Care Reform Law.” The article may be found at this link: http://www.lcms.org/ca/worldrelief/resources/mercynotes/MercyNotes%20VII-2.pdf.

Health care reform was not the only bioethics issue addressed by the Institute. Dr. Voss spoke at the Concordia Pastors’ Conference on March 22 about the ministry and end-of-life care. He led the post-conference workshop for the 18th Annual Parish Nurse Conference on Friday, June 4. Topics for the post conference included: basics in health care ethics, health care reform, and Christian leadership in parish nursing. Dr. Voss presented “Bringing Good News to Life in the Petri Dish--Defending Adult Stem Cell Research” at the Lutherans For Life national conference held at the Tundra Lodge and Resort in Green Bay on July 23-24, 2010.

Beginning this fall, the CBI intends to partner with Attorney Kenneth Fleck, a member of the CBI Advisory Board, to offer a special seminar to local congregations. This session will present important information about living wills, health care powers of attorney, and Christian advance planning. If you have questions, comments, or ideas for the CBI, you can contact Rev. Dr. Kevin E. Voss at 262-243-4398, or by e-mail at kevin.voss@cuw.edu.
Women’s Leadership Institute
Lois Giordano, Director

The Women’s Leadership Institute (WLI), a servant institute of CUW, continues to educate, encourage and equip women who are on fire with the grace of Christ to use their God-given gifts and influence to serve God’s people in new and creative ways.

By God’s blessing, the past year has been filled with exciting growth and new opportunities:

• National Conference – The third WLI national conference held in Milwaukee in April was charged with energy and a heart for service. WLI’s passion for young adults was evident in the large group of young women who attended, including student and faculty representatives from each of the campuses of the Concordia University System (CUS), whose participation was funded by a grant from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation in Milwaukee.

• WLI is building a collaborative Women’s Leadership Initiative among the CUS schools to share resources, ideas for ministries with the young women on campus, and potential future young adult ministry projects.

• In April WLI hosted its first Speakers and Writers Schools under the expert leadership of Ruth Koch and Dr. Jane Fryar. The enthusiastic response of participants will open the door for future Schools to be offered in Wisconsin and other areas of the country.

• Young women are asking WLI leaders for mentors, so a new mentor project is in development that will connect CUW students with personal and professional mentors in the region. This pilot project should be launched in the fall of 2010 and could serve as a model for similar projects at other campuses and potentially in congregations.

• WLI leaders have been actively mentoring CUW’s Women’s Ministry Leadership Team, a group of students who have committed hearts and souls to ministry among women students on the Mequon campus.

• WLI will cosponsor educational and inspirational luncheons and workshops with ALIVE, a group of Women’s Ministry leaders in the greater Milwaukee area. The first of these ALIVE luncheons will be held in Hartland, WI in October.

• The WLI website—www.wlicuw.org—has been reconstructed to encompass both traditional website resources and the social networking applications needed to be in ministry to our culture. Check it out to learn more about the Women’s Leadership Institute.
The 2010-2011 year will see CBI growing in its outreach through the use of electronic podcasts, iTunes, monthly newsletters, an updated website, and more. Specific outreach projects for students will also be undertaken as well as continuation of our popular events.

In August, CBI will be hosting its seventh annual Teaching the Word summer seminar featuring 15 presentations on Bible studies, Missions and Volunteerism, End Times, and four other sessions that jump right out of today’s headlines. These classes are also available for three graduate credits.

Additionally, the CBI will be hosting three 6-class Adult In-Depth Bible Studies in Fall, 2010, and in Spring and Fall, 2011. The 2011 Wisconsin Lakeshore Lutherhostel will be keynoted by Rev. Dr. Maier, always a popular speaker, as well as plenty of Bible Study and related discussions, and a full day off-campus, exploring some of the many sights, sounds, and tastes of Milwaukee and surrounding areas!

The Bible Institute operates on the generous support of individuals who share the desire to see God’s Word and promises grow in the hearts of all people. Our donors will be invited to join us at Christmas at Concordia, a festive holiday event featuring all of Concordia’s instrumental and choral groups that fill one’s heart with the true spirit of Christmas.

For more information, check our website at www.concordia bible.org

“Each time we meet for the Bible class, I walk away saying, “That was more than awesome!” Yesterday’s class answered questions that I had buried inside myself, thinking they could not be accounted for here on Earth. Now I have the truth, and it’s a freeing experience.”

Lynne Woltring

Milwaukee Art Museum (left)-toured at 2008 Wisconsin Lakeshore Lutherhostel

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Concordia Bible Institute – Ten Years and Counting!

The Concordia Bible Institute, directed by Rev. Dr. John Saleska, is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year! Established in 2000 to give laity, church workers, teachers, and non-believers access to higher learning in theology and opportunities to increase their working knowledge of the Scriptures from a distinctly Lutheran perspective, the Bible Institute has held more than 23 Adult Education series, six 3-day summer workshops, and two Wisconsin Lakeshore Lutherhostels. Rev. Dr. Saleska also makes regular speaking excursions to groups in many other regions of the country.

Rev. Dr. John Saleska teaches Adult class

Dr. Paul Maier, always a popular speaker, as well as plenty of Bible Study and related discussions, and a full day off-campus, exploring some of the many sights, sounds, and tastes of Milwaukee and surrounding areas!

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Urban Education Institute
Dr. Steve Gerner, Director

“Kamisa rushed to meet me at the fifth grade classroom door with a gigantic smile, a warm hug, and a verbal, “Thanks for coming, we are learning about fractions.” With a return smile, I surveyed the room to see Concordia University Wisconsin education students actively engaged in assisting students. Not only were the Concordia students helping these fifth graders understand math in a Milwaukee school, they were practicing the urban school teaching strategies that they learned in the classroom and in the process transforming lives.

Many students are taking the opportunity to get involved in Concordia University Wisconsin’s Urban Education Institute on campus. The institute is driven by four goals: 1) to prepare students for urban classrooms, 2) to assist administrators, 3) to support teachers, and 4) to serve as a community resource for urban education issues. With great energy and enthusiasm, Concordia students shadow high-performing teachers, practice research-based techniques to engage students, and explore effective classroom management tools. All of these skills are being developed and refined in high quality urban schools. As classrooms in the city continue to show larger enrollments with more diversity, Concordia students readily embrace the challenges of effectively teaching all students. Propelling all students to success quickly becomes contagious. And that’s why we can all smile with Kamisa.”

Dr. Steve Gerner focuses his teaching on concepts and strategies for student engagement in urban classrooms. To learn more about how Concordia students are being prepared for the joys of urban classrooms, contact Dr. Steve Gerner steve.gerner@cuw.edu 262-243-4481.
As a lifelong learner, I recognize that education occurs in many ways. Sometimes, it happens within a life-defining moment. Experience is an exacting teacher. Other times, education occurs informally—perhaps through easy interaction and casual conversation with friends. Formal education is another way; and while “book learning” may not be any more valuable than other types of education, in the twenty-first century, a higher education degree has become a prerequisite of most well-paying jobs in an increasingly competitive market.

A June 20, 2010, story in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Milwaukee’s abysmal forty-seventh ranking in college attainment among fifty cities nationally. The article concluded, “Simply put, Milwaukee has to get smarter or risk being stranded in the economic backwaters as other cities race ahead in the knowledge economy” (2010, par. 3). Nowhere is the need for educated and qualified workers more critical than in the city’s child care system. “Early childhood professionals perform better with more credit-based education and so do the children they care for. Yet between 1980 and 2004 the number of child care teachers with at least a two-year associate’s degree dramatically declined” (Wisconsin Early Childhood Association website).

Numerous recent headlines have chronicled the tragedies of children mistreated by the child care system. I believe as much attention should be devoted to developing solutions to improve the quality of early childhood education. Most recently, the Wisconsin legislature has underscored the great importance of highly qualified child care workers by funding the Young Star Program, Wisconsin’s child care quality rating and improvement system which will assess the essential components of licensed centers, such as staff education. Concordia University Wisconsin is now most proud to invest in this vital education through the launch of an associate of arts degree in early childhood at the Milwaukee Midtown Center. This new degree option will be available in two formats: as part of the Design Your Future program, which targets first-generation traditional age college students, and as part of an evening, adult-education program for those who are already employed as child care workers.

Rolanda Johnson, Concordia’s Midtown Center Director, and Dr. Chrishirella Warthen, the Student Outreach, Access, and Resources (SOAR) Director in the School of Education have collaborated with Dr. Candyce Seider, chair of Concordia’s early childhood program, to bring this new degree program to life.

As a career educator and a parent, I recognize how every moment of a child’s life can be an opportunity to learn. Concordia’s new associate of arts degree in early childhood education is a critical means through which to impact the children of Milwaukee and beyond in a most positive and long-lasting way. That “degree of success” is imperative to our future, to our economy, and—most of all—to our children.
In the shadow of Mount Everest…  
*lives were changed…*  

Wendy Goldbach OTR CHT MEd, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy  
and Michael Borst, MS OTR CHT, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy

On May 15, 2010, eight OT and two PT students, accompanied by two OT faculty (Mike Borst and Wendy Goldbach, along with Wendy’s husband, Terry) left for the other side of the world – their destination Kathmandu, Nepal. The mission was daunting. A leprosy clinic, orphanage, street kids soccer camp, elementary school soccer camp, women’s English literacy group, and a school for children with disabilities were among the ventures these eager young therapy students and therapists tackled. For those with a propensity for adventure (even more than a 17 hour plane ride to Delhi, India) crossing a 100-foot suspension bridge and a 2000-foot mountain climb to a rural village was promised. If that wasn’t enough to tantalize the spirit of excitement, a night in straw and bamboo huts on the top of the mountain in a thunderstorm with severe wind and heavy rain was.

For their efforts, many experienced a “life changing trip,” according to PT student, Mick Collins. OT student, Megan Hinck agreed that for her it was a “lifetime experience.” It is impossible to communicate our entire trip in a couple of pages, but highlights included: watching a man who had hands paralyzed by leprosy button his shirt sleeves for the first time in years after we provided him with an assistive device; feeling the bond between several students and a group of impoverished women (at risk of being trafficked) who realized they had much in common, despite the cultural and geographical distances; looking in the eager eyes of 68 children in a remote mountain village anticipating a “reward” of school...
supplies for advancing to the next grade; playing games with the villagers in an ancient fort at the top of a mountain pass; sharing a meal and playing soccer with homeless children in the streets of Kathmandu; providing clothing, toys, and hygiene supplies for children fortunate enough to be in a Christian orphanage; and providing games for a daycare that serves children with developmental disabilities.

Most of the group was significantly impacted by the poverty they witnessed. Knowing we live in abundance and seeing others who have “nothing” by US standards is disconcerting. This type of experience has a way of reaching down and grabbing one’s core values. PT student Rhonda Eskritt summed it up best: “When you come face to face with poverty it brings a whole new meaning to life.”

The trip offered many faith-building opportunities for the group. Some participated in a village home worship where the members were frequently persecuted for their faith in Jesus. We witnessed many Nepali Christians working tirelessly for the Lord and giving their lives to advance His Kingdom. “The most incredible moment was a woman who asked us to pray for her even though she was Buddhist. I knew then that God was working through our mission team,” Eskritt added.

We returned after two weeks, feeling much more grateful for clean air, smooth roads, dependable power and water, and the freedom to worship. OT graduate Kristen Weber reflected: “The experience stays with you long after your return state-side. I have changed in several ways and have gained new understanding about the huge impact of religion on all aspects of a culture. More importantly, I have learned to take my faith seriously as people everywhere struggle against persecution for the beliefs I all too frequently take lightly.”

If you would like to read more about the Nepal Global Education trip you can view the blog at www.cuwnepal.blogspot.com, or contact Wendy Goldbach at wendy.goldbach@cuw.edu for information about future trips to Nepal.

Chinese Delegations Visit Concordia
Craig McCarthy, Media Specialist

CUW played host to not one, but two Chinese delegations in late spring, giving the dozens of foreign visitors a rare opportunity to visit Concordia’s campus, along with some of the area’s unique businesses and tourist locations. For many of the guests this was their maiden voyage to the United States.

“Having visitors from other countries, some who have never been to the United States, is quite an honor,” said Christine Kao, director of Asia-Pacific region at Concordia. “The relationships we have built with universities in China and other parts of the world continue to grow and will only get stronger with time,” Kao added.

The first group of 12 arrived on May 16 from Xinjiang, China. The group was made up of faculty, staff, and students from Concordia’s sister school, Xinjiang University of Economics and Finance. This group had the opportunity to visit Harley Davidson in Milwaukee, Allen Edmonds in Port Washington, Miller Brewing, and the Kohler Design Center in Kohler, Wisconsin. The group also took in a Brewers game at Miller Park and visited Chicago during their two week stay.

The second group of 18 arrived on June 7. This delegation was made up solely of MBA students studying International Business and Health Care Administration from Beijing and Shanghai Universities. These students are enrolled in Concordia’s MBA program that’s offered in Mandarin in China. While visiting, this group also toured some Wisconsin businesses and had the opportunity to visit a local hospital.

One of the highlights of this group’s visit was a special graduation ceremony held on campus in Concordia’s auditorium on June 16. Unable to attend the Spring Commencement in May, five of the Chinese students received their diplomas during the short ceremony.

“One of the highlights of this group’s visit was a special graduation ceremony held on campus in Concordia’s auditorium on June 16. Unable to attend the Spring Commencement in May, five of the Chinese students received their diplomas during the short ceremony.

“Regardless of where the students might be: Mequon, St. Louis, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Singapore, Taiwan, or China, they are all Concordia graduates,” said Dr. Michael Besch, vice president of academic operations at CUW, who spoke during the graduation.

Learning about American business, culture, and Christianity were the main goals CUW had for the foreign visitors with hopes of having them pass on the information to their families, friends, colleagues, and fellow students overseas.
One of the ways is through Service Learning, one of our privileges. We are called to serve. Our Lord Jesus Christ led the way as reflected in His own words: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

Service learning integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection. This is a hands-on approach to teaching which challenges students to integrate their service observations with course concepts and to grow in their faith.

Of all the disciplines, Psychology is one that lends itself particularly to service-learning, because both Psychology and service are about people. It’s hard to imagine a community where college students couldn’t meet real needs - for tutoring, assistance with day care, preschool, or after school programs, with the elderly, with at-risk youth, and so on. Likewise, it’s easy to see how these experiences might help students understand human development, personality, social psychology, motivation, and cognition. What distinguishes course-based service-learning at Concordia are three other important elements - the opportunity for reflection; the opportunity for integration and application of Psychological concepts, theories and ideas; and the opportunity to grow in faith.

As the Psychology department continues to integrate service learning into the required curriculum, we also strive for ways to serve others at the university. Collaboration is an essential part of successful service. Recently, the Psychology department ventured into collaboration with various other departments to provide service opportunities for our students and community. Following are some examples of Service Learning at CUW.
NEW DNP FOR CUW
Dr. Teri Kaul

On Dec. 19, 2009, Concordia University Wisconsin graduated the first class of 16 Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students in the State of Wisconsin. With the changing demands of this nation’s complex healthcare environment, the practice doctorate provides nurses with the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes. The current program here at CUW is designed for post master’s family, adult and geriatric nurse practitioners who are board certified and working in practice. However, plans are in place for development of an entry level post baccalaureate DNP program in the near future.

The response by the practice setting to the new DNP graduates has been very positive. Graduates have reported receiving recognition by their employers of their new educational credentials evidenced by expanded responsibilities and new leadership roles. Many of the graduates have presented their capstone translational research projects at local and national conferences. Several of the graduates have also had their work published in peer-reviewed journals.

The DNP represents a major paradigm shift in nursing education, and according to past president of the American Association College of Nursing (AACN), Jean E. Bartels (2004), “It is a move that puts in motion a future that recognizes and validates the unique expertise of nurses engaged in clinical practice at the highest level.” This move could not have been timelier considering the passage of the recent health care reform law requiring provision of care to more than 30 million more Americans. This need for more highly skilled and educated primary care providers can be filled by the nurse practitioner. CUW nursing department is proud to be a part of this paradigm shift in nursing education in preparing these professional nurse leaders competent to function in an advanced practice nursing role guided by Christian principles.

Project Eden: Psychology students hosted a Gardens of Grace service project. This project promoted the role Grace can play in helping others to move forward and heal. Students earned more than $500 to present to Project Eden for an environmental garden. The garden will be the first of its kind at Concordia and serve to continue to provide future service opportunities to students. Psychology students explored how systems are all connected and how service in one area can make a world of difference in another.

Flu Kits: Psychology students assisted the Health Center in creating flu kits to assist others in need. Psychology students explored ways physical health can impact the lives of others and how resources or lack thereof impacts health and wellness.

Breast Cancer Walk: Psychology students assisted Dr. Elizabeth Koch with a variety of responsibilities to serve others in the Breast Cancer walk. Psychology students explored ways breast cancer can impact the lives of others and how service to those in need can make a world of difference.

Nursing Respite: Psychology students volunteered for the Nursing Respite program, helping families with children with special needs. Psychology students explored ways that having a child with special needs can impact families and development.

Sexual Assault Trial: Psychology students assisted the Counseling center in conducting a mock sexual assault trial on campus. A judge and two attorneys from the community helped provide a more realistic scenario for our students to explore. Theatre students collaborated by playing realistic roles for this event. Psychology students explored the role the legal system can play in the lives of victims and perpetrators of sexual assault.

Faces of Depression: Psychology students assisted the Counseling Center in hosting a depression awareness event. General Psychology students created art exhibits that expressed their impressions of depression. These exhibits were then displayed to the public and larger CUW community promoting education and exploration of how depression can impact the lives of others. More than 265 people attended this event.

Student reflecting on an art exhibit at Faces of Depression.
Concordia University Wisconsin values international education. Not only does CUW encourage its students to travel abroad and go on mission trips, but also the university actively recruits students from around the world to join its community. As the Associate Director of International Admissions, I have the distinct pleasure of helping the university diversify and fulfill its mission of “helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world” by bringing international students to CUW. The CUW international student population continues to increase each year, and in the 2009-2010 school year, the enrollment was over 270 students representing 29 different countries.

As I travel the globe recruiting students to CUW, the students I meet usually ask me the same few questions. The first is: “Where is Concordia University Wisconsin?” To which I respond by showing the map of the university outlining the State of Wisconsin and the City of Mequon in relation to other more recognizable landmarks like Milwaukee, Chicago, or Green Bay. The second and more important question students ask is: “Why should I attend CUW?” Good question! Why do so many international students from India, China, Ecuador, Ghana, and most recently Saudi Arabia choose CUW? The answer is simple. CUW offers these students a safe learning environment, friendly atmosphere, welcoming community, strong academics, and, believe or not, affordable education.

In regard to international education, President Patrick T. Ferry writes that “International students inspire me. They leave home, family, and familiar surroundings to experience something dramatically different and to grow. Their presence on campus helps the entire Concordia community to grow along with them. The opportunity to meet, interact, and share ourselves with people from around the world broadens all of our horizons.”

There is an important cultural exchange occurring at CUW. The university is welcoming international students to the campus to share their unique heritage, culture, and faith with the students and staff from the United States. In return, the international students are learning U.S. traditions and customs. It is through this cultural exchange that CUW students are able to develop cultural skills that will be valuable in life. In our global society and interconnected world, it is important for students to learn to engage and interact with others from diverse backgrounds.

CUW is blessed to be bringing the world to the small city of Mequon, WI. I am happy to work for a place that values international education and is willing to seek out students from around the globe. CUW welcomes students to come and “develop in mind, body, and spirit,” whether you are from Dubai or Bangkok or Delhi or “La Mitad del Mundo” (middle of the World) in Quito, Ecuador.

Jennifer Hanon straddles both the northern and southern hemispheres at the exact center of the earth on a recent international student recruitment visit to Ecuador.
The “Renewed by the Waters” campaign is providing the resources to construct needed educational facilities, aiding scholarships by growing the endowment, and continually improving the quality of our programs through gifts to the Concordia Annual Fund.

The attached booklet will reveal a campus and community on the move; one that is growing dramatically as a result of generous contributions. Much has been accomplished, but there are projects that still need to be completed. This is your opportunity to place your mark on this remarkable campus renewal. Your contribution will go to work immediately, impacting thousands of current and future students.

To make a gift or learn more about our growth, visit: www.cuw.edu/RBTW

Concordia’s Grand Canyon and Spring Training Tour
Feb. 27-Mar. 6, 2011 • $1509 per person double occupancy from Milwaukee*

Join your Concordia host Diana Raasch and her husband Rev. Randy Raasch for a fun-filled eight-day tour to Arizona.

**Day One** – Montezuma Castle National Monument, Sedona, Red Rock State Park, Oak Creek Canyon, and Flagstaff

**Day Two** – The Grand Canyon

**Day Three** – Petrified Forest National Park, the Painted Desert, and Pinetop Lakeaide

**Day Four** – Salt River Canyon, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Casa Grande Ruin, and Phoenix

**Day Five** – Tour of Phoenix including the Old Capitol and the Wrigley Mansion. First baseball game featuring San Francisco vs. Seattle

**Day Six** – South Mountain and a tour of Chase Field. Today’s game will feature Milwaukee and San Francisco. The evening will include the Rawhide Western Town & Steakhouse with a wagon ride, dinner, and show

**Day Seven** – Phoenix International Raceway (Nascar site) and a game featuring Arizona and Chicago Cubs

**Day Eight** – Final baseball game with Milwaukee taking on San Francisco

Seating is limited so make your reservations soon. The deadline is December 20 or until the tour is filled. For complete tour information please call Sandy Vick at 262-243-4333 or email sandy.vick@cuw.edu.
Have you made any new friends lately? Perhaps you are one of those individuals who has more friends than you need, but if you are like most people, you can never have enough friends, especially good friends. It’s true for individuals and it is also true for Concordia.

Since our beginning in 1881, Concordia has been blessed with many friends. These friends faithfully supported Concordia and her students with the prayer and resources that were essential to prepare our future church workers. In turn, Concordia has been a good and faithful friend by returning students to the community who have been prepared for lives of service to Christ in the Church and the world.

In 1971, this special relationship with Concordia’s friends was officially recognized with the formation of the Century Club. Members of the Century Club continued the long tradition of friendship with Concordia and blessed us in countless ways. Twenty-five years later, the club’s name was changed to the Friends of Concordia. While the name changed, the friendships did not. These friends continued their support for Concordia and Concordia continued to support them by equipping future church workers and lay people for lives of service.

In more recent years, the friends of Concordia have continued to grow; after all, you can never have too many friends! As Concordia continues to be blessed with a growing student population and alumni base that is ever more diverse, the friends of Concordia also continues to expand, for which we are very thankful. The relationship that we have with our friends is important to us as we seek to fulfill the mission of Concordia University Wisconsin.

It is also important to us that we create opportunities for our friends to connect with one another. One of the ways that we do this is through our Concordia Tours. The tours give us the opportunity to spend some great time with our friends, to get to know them better, to share with them what is happening at Concordia, but also for them to be able to meet and make new friends.

Last year I traveled with a group of Concordia friends to Alaska. There were a few people on the trip that I had met previously, but most were unknown before the tour. By the time we returned home from Alaska, no one was a stranger. Not only were friendships created on a personal level, but several strong bonds were formed. Some of those we traveled with continue to connect with us on almost a monthly basis. They have become very good friends.

Each year we plan to offer two opportunities for our friends to travel together. These are high quality tours that include someone from Concordia who will help you connect with others. On these tours you will visit some wonderful places, but perhaps more importantly, you will meet some wonderful people. And who knows, maybe you will make some new friends.

Upcoming Tours:

**Grand Canyon and Spring Training**
February 27-March 6, 2011

**Michigan and Agaway Canyon Color Tour**
Early October, 2011

**Hawaii**
January 2012

For information about any of our Concordia Tours or day trips to the Fireside, please contact Sandy Vick at 262-243-4333 or email sandy.vick@cuw.edu.
A New Environmental Center
Concordia Opens New School Dealing with Great Lakes and Conservation

Corrinne Hess—The Milwaukee Business Journal

Concordia University is hoping a $4 million environmental center built along the bluffs of Lake Michigan in Mequon will distinguish the school as a leader in environmental education.

Bruce Bessert . . . “Historically, we have not had a lot of research on this campus, so this is an entry point for us to do research on several freshwater issues.”

Concordia University is hoping a $4 million environmental center built along the bluffs of Lake Michigan in Mequon will distinguish the school as a leader in environmental education.

The Center for Environmental Stewardship opened Aug. 1 and is expected to serve as a focal point for many activities dealing with the Great Lakes, sustainability and conservation. “As a Christian university, we are mandated to be good stewards of the creation God has given us,” said Bruce Bessert, director of the center for Concordia. “We are making that mission much more visible now.”

The center is the capstone project of Concordia’s ongoing mission to make the campus more environmentally friendly. Until now, the most visible effort was Concordia’s lakeshore project, which began in 1999 and peaked with a high-profile bluff stabilization project that was completed in 2007. Concordia won the 2010 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement world competition for the $12 million bluff project, which is now home to 20 different species of native plants and serves as an environmental landmark along the shore of Lake Michigan. Students and community members who use the Center for Environmental Stewardship will be able to take advantage of that project, said Lawrence Sohn, environmental sustainability coordinator for Concordia. “There is no other facility like this in Wisconsin,” Sohn said.

Construction of the 13,000-square-foot, two-story center began in July 2009 and was funded exclusively through charitable gifts. Three groups are targeted for use of the facility: local schools and community groups; Concordia students; and researchers. Environmental scientists and students will work with professors at Concordia’s new pharmacy school to do research in areas such as pharmaceutical pollution in lakes, Bessert said. “Historically, we have not had a lot of research on this campus, so this is an entry point for us to do research on several freshwater issues,” Bessert said. Concordia recently launched a collaborative program with Milwaukee Area Technical College in water technologies and purifies and Bessert hopes students from the program will utilize the new environmental center for their studies.

Another goal Concordia officials have for the building is to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum status from the U.S. Green Building Council, the highest level of LEED certification a building can get. So far, only one other environmental center in the state, The Leopold Center in Baraboo, has achieved it. Concordia officials find out in September if the center will be awarded the certification. “It will be an indicator of how efficient we are,” Bessert said. “And I believe we have been very efficient. All of the materials used are an example of environmental sustainability.”

The environmental center itself is a lesson in recycling. About 87 percent of the building is made from materials from the previous building, The Peace Center, which had been maintained as a dorm until 2009. The facility includes two classrooms and a laboratory, prep rooms and a large exhibit/conference hall with a capacity of up to 250 people. The building is set 135 feet above the restored Lake Michigan shoreline and its curved architecture gives a panoramic view of the lake from the second-floor exhibit hall and balcony. The building was designed to teach conservation and all materials were locally sourced or produced. Some examples include:

- A geothermal system for energy conservation that uses the temperature of the earth to save on heating and cooling costs;
- Low-flow bathroom fixtures that save between 50 and 80 percent of water normally used in daily operations;
- And high-efficiency lighting with motion sensors that saves 30 percent on energy costs.
Where are they Now

Ruth Loppnow
Dr. David W. Eggebrecht

She was secretary to three Concordia Presidents, oversaw the move of the President's Office from the Milwaukee campus to the Mequon campus, and was presented the Christo et Ecclesiae Award in 1991. Joining the Concordia community October 15, 1956, Ruth Loppnow became a Concordia institution. She retired in 1996, and now resides in pleasant surroundings at the Cedar Gardens Home in Cedarburg.

Ruth summed up her forty year career at Concordia by saying, “I thank God for placing me at Concordia.” She appreciates how God was working in her life when her pastor told her of an opening at Concordia for a secretary to the President. She applied, got the job, and faithfully served three different Presidents: Dr. Walter Stuenkel, Dr. Wibert Rosin, and Dr. R. John Buuck. She said, “Each was his own person, but they were all wonderful to work for.” When asked how long she worked at Concordia, Ruth replied, without hesitation, “Forty years, two months, and fifteen days.” And she enjoyed every moment.

What she enjoyed most about her job, Ruth said, was, “Chatting with the students.” She was particularly thrilled when then District President Ronald Meyer stopped by to see her and said, “I was a student when you were working here, and now I’m bringing my son and you’re still here.” She said she feels a real sense of pride in having seen so many young men come to Concordia as freshmen, go through the Synodical pre-seminary program and the seminary, and are now preaching the Word as Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors. She found the move to the Mequon campus a pleasant one, and said things went very smoothly from her perspective.

Ruth is happy about staying in contact with a number of her friends from Concordia, several of whom visit her regularly, such as Jan Heidtke and Evelyn Hutchins, and she loves her occasional visits to campus, where she is surprised to find so many new names on office doors.

Recently having gone through treatment and chemotherapy for cancer in her neck, Ruth is delighted to be fully recovered. When asked for a final statement, Ruth said, “Concordia is a beautiful little school that grew big.” Ruth Loppnow is truly missed on campus, but loves her remaining contacts and thoroughly enjoys visits.
The theme for this edition of the Concordian could not be more perfect. The addition of new programs, buildings, and property demonstrates that Concordia is not only expanding within the University community, but also among our greater external community. Fall enrollment follows suit and is on track for another record year.

Our Lord has truly blessed Concordia University Wisconsin, and our Concordia Community is very aware of this fact with the current economic conditions what they are. In the Education industry, many schools have had to cut programs and personnel, yet Concordia has completed the Concordia Center for Environmental Stewardship building, and the Pharmacy building broke ground in mid-May.

As I write this article, alum from the classes of 1935, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1970, and 1972 just celebrated the Grand Reunion 2010. More than 120 alumni and guests attended and observed the latest campus enhancements. After reminiscing about and visiting the Concordia Milwaukee campus, it is apparent how far Concordia has come. In addition to physical changes, the Concordia community has also changed. At the reunion banquet Dr. Ferry shared that 20,000+ students have graduated from Concordia over our 129-year history. Over half of those have graduated in the past 12 years, with one out of every four having graduated in the past five years.

Another exciting “happening” as of June 2 is the addition of Nicole Tilot as the new Director of Alumni & Parent Relations. I know you will like Nicole, as she is a wonderful servant of God. Read more about Nicole in her article that follows.

My new role will afford more opportunities to visit with alumni, parents, and friends. Although I will continue to attend alumni and parent events, Nicole will now handle the planning and communications for these events. I give thanks to God and to you for the opportunities I have had during the last nine years to serve as the Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, and I look forward to God’s expansion of the Concordia community in the future.

Congratulations to Mel Koss from the class of 1960 for winning the Mystery Photo contest from the last issue of the Concordian. The answers are: 1960 – “Six Year Men”


Inspiration in Action™

CUW has recently adopted a safety program called Concordia SafetyNet powered by MyStateUSA. Faculty, staff & students can get text message alerts sent directly to their phone in the event of an on-campus emergency. Concordia SafetyNet powered by MyStateUSA will keep the campus community informed when it matters most. Sign-up is done via the Services tab of the internal CUW portal, and prizes are being awarded to encourage participation.
Expanding Communities II
Nicole Tilot

The Concordia community continues to expand with the growth of the student and alumni populations. Consequently, staff needed to service our students grows as well. As the new Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, I am proud to be a part of this expansion. I have a great affinity for Concordia as a two-time alumna, receiving a B.S. in Marketing and Management in 2007 and an MBA in 2008. I previously served the School of Business & Legal Studies since 2007 and am excited to make the transition into Advancement.

Our continued growth has led to a new position within the Advancement Office, which Diana Raasch, the previous Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, has moved into. After nine years in the role, Diana has made great strides for alumni programming at Concordia. As the first full-time Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, she expanded reunion events, offering the first ever affinity reunion, team inductions during the Annual Hall of Fame ceremony, and “Roasts” for retiring coaches and faculty members that establish endowments to support student scholarships.

It is an honor to follow in Diana’s footsteps and continue to learn from her. We are truly blessed to have her at CUW and I know God will continue to work through her for the good of the University in her new capacity.

While many established events will continue, we are looking forward to bringing some new and exciting initiatives to CUW. As our alumni base continues to decrease in average age, we will begin reaching out to our young alumni through regional, networking and off-campus events at local hot-spots. We also plan to revitalize our Alumni Board and start building volunteer initiatives. As we expand our focus with young alumni, it is important to remember where we have come from and those who have gone before us. We will continue to bring alumni from the Milwaukee campus to Mequon to see just how much the CUW community has expanded and how God has continued to bless Concordia.

If you have questions or ideas that you would like to see from our Alumni Association, which all alumni are automatically members of, or have an interest in serving on our Alumni Board, please contact me at Nicole.Tilot@cuw.edu or 262-243-4474. I am pleased to continue to serve God, the University, parents and alumni as the Concordia family continues to expand.

Please remember to stay in-touch with Concordia!

- Join our Concordia University Wisconsin Alumni group on Facebook.
- Update your personal information or sign up for our Alumni E-newsletter by going to http://www.cuw.edu/Alumni/keeptouch.html.
- Sign up for our Parent E-newsletter by going to http://www.cuw.edu/undergraduate/future/parents/events.html.
2000’s
Michelle L. Gawinski (10) married college sweetheart Tom J. Larsen (10) on June 25, 2010 and moved to Racine, WI, where, in September, she will begin a long-term substitute teacher position at Good Shepherd School in Pleasant Prairie.

Heather M. Marek (10) married Andrew A. Slater on August 15, 2009 and are expecting their first child in August of 2010. She is an RN with ProHealth Care in Waukesha, WI.

Ronica McLaughlin (10) is currently finishing up an internship in Compensation/HR and will be pursuing employment in her field when the internship is complete. She resides in Milwaukee, WI.

Kristine (Weidler) Shanahan (09) is raising money for the American Cancer Society in honor of her late husband, Justin, and her grandfathers, all men who led Godly lives and had the optimism that God would care for all their needs. His plan was not for them to continue life on this earth but to be with Him in Heaven. http://main.acsevents.org/goto/teamextremeKristineS

Elizabeth M. (Eschelbach) Wollensak (08), is currently a second year medical student at Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and started clinical rotations in June of this year. She married her high school sweetheart, Alec W. Wollensak in June of 2009. The couple resides in Elmhurst, IL.

Wayne Makela (08) and Stephanie Zinda (08) became engaged on November 20, 2009. Wayne is the youth director and K-8 computer teacher at Pilgrim Lutheran, Green Bay. The couple will be getting married in June, 2011 in Iowa.

Nathan T. Wollenberg (08) married Katherine Cox (09) on February 27, 2010. CUW alumni in the picture, in addition to the bride and groom, are Andrew Gerike (09), Shayla Albers (09), Shannon (Stubbe) Grosnick (09), Chris Davis (08), Lindsey Kobin (09), Katie Lane (09).

Brett C. Louviere (07) is working on his Master’s degree in Mental Health Counseling. His goal is to build a private practice that will help adolescents struggling with identity issues and self esteem and he looks forward to achieving his dream of becoming a counselor. He currently is an Office Manager/ Tax Preparer at Carewell Hospitality/ Jackson Hewitt in New Orleans, LA. He resides in Baton Rouge.

Kecia L. Scheer (07) was married on July 3, 2010. She is an Employment & Training Specialist with the Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission in Postville, IA.

Ben Braun (06) and Anna (White) Braun (07) announce the birth of Kyah Anne-Marie Braun on September 23, 2009 in St. Louis, MO. Kyah is also the granddaughter of Pastor Wayne (80) & Linda Braun. Pastor Braun is CUW’s former campus pastor and a current Board of Regents member.

Fay Eichelberger (06) graduated from The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Masters in Library and Information Science in May of 2010. Fay is an Administrative Assistant at CUW in the Rincker Memorial Library.

Julia E. (Bollinger) Wackt (06) and her husband Mark announce the birth of Olivia Leeann Wackt born on September 15, 2009 at 6:54 pm. Olivia weighed 7lbs. 14oz. and was 21 inches in length.

Christie L. Bevan (05) is working as an Assistant Manager at Stop-n-Go in Lake Geneva, WI while getting her Master’s degree in Accounting from Capella University online. She and her husband Daniel are raising three very smart active boys. The family resides in Genoa City, WI.

Karen (Dare) (05) married Gary Wolak in Lombard, Illinois on October 17, 2009. She is currently working as a Transfer Articulation Analyst with National-Louis University.

Joy N. (Doerr) Tschudy (05) and Matthew Tschudy (06) announce the arrival of their son, David Matthew Tschudy. He was born on April 22, 2010 weighing 8lbs 11oz and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Adriane Dorr (05) began work June 21 as managing editor of The Lutheran Witness with the LCMS Board for Communication Services (BCS). In May, she received a master of arts from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, where she also held several administrative positions, served as a copy editor for Life of the World and other publications, and assisted with additional editorial projects. Most recently, she helped to coordinate the seminary accreditation self-study document and the on-campus accreditation visit. An article about Adriane’s new position can be found at http://www.lcms.org/pages/rpage.asp?NavID=17198.

Craig Trask (04) and his wife Linda announce the birth of their 5th grandchild on July 7, 2010. Olivia Kathryn Ingram weighed in at 7lbs 19 oz. and 19.5 in. long. Baby, mom and dad, grandpa and grandma are all doing great. Craig & Linda are moving back to Ashley, IL to enjoy country living on 5.5 acres.

Erin L. (Rost) Dehn (03) and her husband, Benjamin, announce the birth of a baby girl, Alyssa Jeanne, on February 22, 2010.

Wendy A. Fahrbach (03) is Manager of Quality & Social Services at Beaver Dam Community Hospitals, Inc. She resides in Beaver Dam, WI.

Lisa (Kutz) Plopper (03) and her husband Scott were blessed with a daughter, Katelyn Annalise, on February 22, 2010. Fay is an Administrative Assistant at CUW in the Rincker Memorial Library.

Nichole Beaver (02) married Roy Perez on December 27, 2009 at First Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Las Vegas, NV. They currently reside in Austin, TX where Nichole is teaching high school math at Hill Country Christian School. Nichole can be reached at beav1279@gmail.com
Megan (Brinkmann) Bryant (02) and her husband Chad announce the birth of Aubrey Grace born on April 2, 2010 at 1:41 am. She was 7 lbs. 6 oz and 20 inches long. She was welcomed by a very excited big sister, Maddie (6) and big brother William (4). Megan is a 3rd grade teacher at Child of God Lutheran School in St. Peters, MO.

Andrew Hintz (02) and his wife Judith announce the birth of their son, Oliver Martin Hintz, born on March 5, 2010. He weighed 8 lbs 15 oz and was 21.5" long. Oliver joins big brother Charlie, born in May of 2007. The family resides in Appleton, WI.

Matt & Kelly (Voskuil) (02) Lee welcomed a baby girl, Madelyn Kathryn, on January 27, 2010. Madelyn was 9 lbs. 13 oz and 22 inches long. Madelyn also has a brother, Corey Jacob, who is two years old.

Sarah M. (Porisch) Crowder (00) and husband Jason Crowder (01) report that Jason is teaching K-8 in a three room school house at Trinity Orchard Farm in MO. Their daughter Katie loves having her daddy for a teacher. Besides social studies, Jason is enjoying teaching science. They are planting a school garden and caring for a box of worms! Sarah is at home with Brendan who is 2, in addition to working on her photography business. The family resides in St. Charles, MO.

Robin A. Deethardt (00) is working full time as the Emergency Mental Health Services Director for Columbia County, Portage, WI, and is preparing to begin her doctoral studies in K-12 education.

Jennifer R. (Fruend) Moberly (00) and her husband, Jonathan announce the birth of their son, Oliver in March 5, 2010. He weighed 8 lbs 15 oz and was 21.5" long. Oliver joins big brother Charlie, born in May of 2007. The family resides in Appleton, WI.

Lee (02) welcomed a baby girl, Madelyn Kathryn, on January 27, 2010. Madelyn was 9 lbs. 13 oz and 22 inches long. Madelyn also has a brother, Corey Jacob, who is two years old.

John Marrs (97) was selected as a scholarship recipient to the Inaugural LCMS Songwriter’s Conference held in St. Louis in April. He also has had several instrumental pieces used on last season’s Dancing With the Stars and American Idol. He is Director of Music Ministry at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Houston, TX.

Zibusiso Ncube (96) recently published a book entitled “INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT: A survey analysis in the Southern Africa Development Community”. Dr. Ncube is Professor of Business and Computer Information Systems at Concordia College-Selma.

1980’s

Paul S. Zimmerman (83) just finished work on a new web page--Onword.net (http://onword.net). The site provides tutorials, resources, ideas and news about using social media to communicate more effectively on the personal and professional level. It is a Web 2.0, collaborative style site where users are encouraged to actively contribute their expertise to the project.

1970’s

Rev. Robert J. Benke (73; CHS ’71) appeared on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire in May of this year. He and his wife, Mary, reside in St. Paul, MN, moving there when he accepted the call as Campus Pastor for Concordia University-St. Paul. For the past seven years, he has served the people of Jehovah Lutheran Church and teaches part-time as an adjunct professor at CU-St. Paul.

Joel Gesch (76) was recently inducted into the Lutheran High West High School, Rocky River, OH Athletic Hall of Fame, (Athletic Director and Coach). Joel was named CUW’s Athlete of the Year in 1976.

Connie (Birthrong) Koehler (74) proudly announces the baptism of her first grand-daughter, Adalynn Grace Koehler. Adalynn was born on January 14th, 2010 and baptized March 14, 2010. Her parents are John R. Koehler (06) and his wife Lauren. Addie’s godparents are Kyle Jagler (06) and Rebecca Kostzewa (04). Kyle was also a member of John’s wedding party along with Peter Lorenz (05) on December 27, 2008.

Rev. Phillip C. Schwartz (71) (accompanying letter to the editor on pg. 30) recently graduated from Rhema Bible Training Center in Broken Arrow (Tulsa) OK. He moved to Santa Fe NM to assume duties as director of youth ranch and youth ministry at Bridge of Hope Ministries-Santa Fe. He was married on June 29, 2010 on the Rhema Campus, with Rev. Arthur Baisch officiating. The couple held their reception and went on their honeymoon in Michigan in July.

1990’s

Dana (Kenyon) Marthaler (98), Rebecca (Bell) Boppre (99), and Erin Junger (98), along with 4 friends, entered and won first place in a Clairol makeover contest. The prize was an all expenses paid trip to Los Angeles to the People’s Choice Awards on January 6, 2010. They were given limo service to the show and seated 3 rows behind the celebrities. It also included tickets to the after party, a shopping spree and accommodations in a 5-star hotel.

Penny S. (Schneider) Clark (97) and her family are stationed in England for two years. She and her husband, Anthony, added a daughter, Julianna Renee, to the family on March 15, 2010. Her big brother AJ (9) and sisters Carissa (7), Morgan (6) and Grace (6) are excited about her arrival!

1960’s

Rev. Steven J. Hasenstein (65) and his wife Laurel J. (Ehlke) Hasenstein (70) announce the birth of a great grand-daughter born on October 29, 2009 AND a great-grandson, born on April 14, 2010. The babies’ names are, respectively, Adeline Nora and Korgan. Rev. Hasenstein is Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Valley Park, MO.

Michael V. Scheerschligt (62) retired (“professor emeritus”) after 32 years as professor of law at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. He and his wife, Suzanne, reside in Robbinsdale, MN.
Barb Banner joined the staff of Concordia College Wisconsin in June of 1986, as part-time secretary in Concordia’s Division of Continuing Education under the leadership of Dr. Beverly Grottkau. Later she worked with President R. John Buuck rolling out the new accelerated learning Adult Education program and then the Paralegal Program. In March of 1987, Academic Dean Dr. David Eggebrecht hired Barb to the position of Administrative Assistant in Academics. She recalls typing lengthy annual reports to the synodical Board of Higher Education, accreditation documents and faculty information for the catalog. The move to computers was a huge event in her life. Barb witnessed tremendous growth in the numbers of programs and faculty members and the change and reorganization from Concordia College to Concordia University Wisconsin during her time in the Academic Office.

In January, 1997, after the retirement of President R. John Buuck and his Assistant Ruth Loppnow (see Where Are They Now page 19), Interim President Rev. Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz chose Barb to become his Administrative Assistant because of her familiarity with the institution, the faculty and the staff. Barb says “I learned so much from Dr. Stelmachowicz; his best advice was ‘It’s easier to change a no to a yes than to change a yes to a no.’ It was truly great learning experience and a pleasure to work with him.” In fall of that year, after President Patrick Ferry’s inauguration and the hiring of Lynne Schroeder as his Administrative Assistant, Barb took on the new title of Administrative Coordinator. In this “go-between” position she worked closely with the new President and with the Vice President of Academics regarding faculty matters as well as with the Board of Regents, the Administrative and Academic Councils, and mentored the new Administrative Assistants in the President and Academic Offices. She kept this position until she became Director of Human Resources in June 2000.

As Director of Human Resources, she and her two staff oversee all the university’s human resource functions—recruitment, hiring, compensation, benefit administration, discipline, maintaining records, and payroll. One of the fun parts of her job is being chair of the committee that plans the annual employee spring event, trying to make each one better than the last. Barb also enjoys being one of the first people to meet and welcome new employees.

In addition to her HR responsibilities, Barb has been a member of the CUW Future’s Planning Committee since its inception and was a member of the 2003 Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Team, and served as Chair of the Annual CUS Human Resources Directors Meeting. She is a member of a Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) committee that was instrumental in developing and implementing the WAICU Leadership Development Program, which is a series of leadership courses designed in partnership with MRA-Management Resources Association to provide progressive leadership training specifically for supervisors in academic institutions.

Barb earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management and Communication through the Adult Education program that she helped start and earned her Master of Business Administration in Human Resources Management at Concordia, and earned Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification through the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM).

Among her favorite things at Concordia, Barb says, are “the people, and the opportunity to share my faith. Our beautiful campus is a bonus.”

When asked for changes she has seen in her almost twenty-five years at Concordia, Barb replied, “Where to begin!” A big one, she says, is the growth of the number of employees. The faculty has increased from 45 when she began working in the Academic Office, to the 150 it will be next fall. She has seen the employee numbers grow to over 400. It’s been a challenge keeping up with all the changes. “I’m grateful for the opportunities Concordia has provided for me and my family,” she said, “Concordia is so different from other places; it’s a unique place to work. It’s a pleasure to drive onto the campus every morning and look forward to the day with its challenges and joys.”

Through her various positions on campus, Barb Banner has made many contributions that makes Concordia a better place.
An Artist Who Teaches
Dr. David W. Eggebrecht

Dr. Marji Bell began her teaching career at Concordia as a part-time instructor in the Art Department in 1980, on the former campus. She taught an evening crafts class twice a week in the old mansion that served as the Art House; it was a beautiful old building with a Rathskeller and a ballroom, which served well, but had inadequate electrical wiring so fuses kept blowing on a regular basis. The only person on campus she got to know in those early years was Cyndi Smith, who gave her her pay check.

It all began when the Bells moved back to Milwaukee from Chicago where she taught for two years as an elementary school art teacher and four years as a high school art teacher and joined St. John’s Lutheran Church in Glendale, where she met Bill Chandler, who was then Chair of the Concordia Art Department. At the time she was doing a lot of free lance art work, such as designing toys for inserting into Cracker Jack boxes, illustrating books, doing painting at the Milwaukee Museum and Zoo, and entering juried art shows. Teaching was thus able to fit into her schedule. One of her fondest memories from that time in her life was being accepted into the Gold Coast juried Art Fair in Chicago. Her art has won a number of awards, and she has also served as a judge for scholastic art shows.

When Concordia moved to the Mequon campus, Dr. Bell came along to continue her part-time teaching, now teaching two to three courses a semester, while working on her master’s degree and still free-lancing. “I remember,” she laughed, “one time when I came to the adjunct faculty orientation meeting and was told I didn’t have to stay because I had been through it so often.” Finally, in 1992, enrollment had grown to the point where another full time art instructor was needed and she was hired full-time. The timing was good for her, because in several of her part-time jobs she had been replaced by computer generated art.

A good preparation for her teaching, Dr. Bell said, was the substitute teaching she did over the years. She taught all levels, from lower elementary through high school, so she felt really well prepared to teach students who were preparing to be teachers. She knew what it would take to adapt art teaching to traditional classrooms.

“I never wanted to teach,” she said, “but now I can see that it was God’s plan, while not mine. He closed some doors and opened others that moved me to this position, and now I have everything I’ve ever wanted, but I didn’t get there as I expected. As St. Paul says, you have to be content with where you are. And I am.”

Dr. Bell could not love her job more. In addition to her students, she especially enjoys making the banners of the annual school themes. She also designed and made the beautiful purple banners that hang in the chapel during Lent. In addition, she does the large pictures representing Concordia’s theatrical productions that hang above the entrance to the auditorium.

Marji loves the camaraderie of the campus and loves coming to work every single day. She really admires the support staff and the hard work they do in keeping the campus working. She sees Concordia as a unique institution with a family atmosphere. Her fear is that the warm, family feeling will be lost as Concordia continues to grow.

Core courses are among Dr. Bell’s favorite to teach, as she can work with students in developing an appreciation of the fine arts and where they fit into their lives. “Everyone draws,” she says, “Children draw to know their environment. Their drawing verifies what they see and becomes a vocabulary through which they get to know their place in and appreciation of God’s creation. Students need to learn and use this information.”

The biggest change that Dr. Bell has seen is Concordia’s growth. Through it all, she continues to promote the fine arts in and outside of the classroom. When asked about her favorite thing on campus, she replied that she loves print-making, both doing and teaching. Her specialties are silk-screening and monotype.

Dr. Bell feels fortunate and blessed to be part of Concordia. Her involvement with Concordia began with swimming lessons on the former campus when she was eight years old and Chuck Finke taught her to swim. She really misses some of the people who have left Concordia When asked for a final thought, she pondered a moment, then said, “Listen to where God is leading you. Pay attention. I am where I am because this is the place where God wants me to be. And I’m happy to say that I’m an artist who teaches, not a teacher who does art.” She and her husband have three grown children, all of whom are CUW grads, and also have three grandchildren.

Dr. Bell is highly respected by her students and colleagues, which I can verify both as the former Vice President of Academics and as a student she taught to draw through several classes. She is, indeed, an artist who teaches.
Faculty and Staff Highlights

David Eggebrecht (English/Theatre), since his (sort of) retirement, has given up his view of Lake Michigan for an office backstage, called Dave’s Cave. He directed ALMOST, MAINE for The Cedarburg Players and is preparing to direct CURTAINS for Concordia in the fall. His relatively new pacemaker keeps him on track.

Albert Garcia (Theology) recently visited Argentina where he taught Mission and Confession: Proclaiming the Gospel in the 21st Century and The Missional Church.

Steve Gerner, Linda Hensel, and Chrishirella Warthen (Education) gave presentations about the teaching profession to middle and high school students at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction 12th Annual Urban Teacher World Conference in Milwaukee on May 6, 2010.

Linda Hensel (Education) presented her research entitled “The belief systems and instructional practices of special education teachers during reading instruction” at the AERA (American Educational Research Association) annual meeting in Denver, CO on May 1, 2010.

Beth Musil (Pharmacy) recently presented New Drug Therapy of 2008: Tools to Decide Where They Fit Into Practice at the 40th Annual Winter Refresher Course for Family Medicine (Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Family and Community Medicine).

Sheryl Guse, Katie Ruett and Kathy Butler (Graduate Department) presented at the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP) Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA in April. Their session topic was “Developing Off-Campus Cohorts and Managing Growth.”

CUW professors (from left to right) Rachel Pickert (Psychology), Sarah Holtan (Communication), Tracy Tuffey (Psychology) and Jim Burkee (History) traveled to Vanung University sister school in Taiwan with Christine Kao, Director of Asian-Pacific Region. The faculty team delivered a 7 day long English Language Summer Camp to college students from 13 local universities. Activities included lessons aimed at enhancing English conversation skills and vocabulary, sharing aspects of U.S. and Taiwanese culture, introducing students to Concordia and CUW’s mission, as well as University-led excursions around the island. The team enjoyed the gracious Taiwanese hospitality, working with the wonderful students/staff at Vanung and trying new and exciting foods.

Melanie Stewart (Graduate Curriculum and Instruction) recently received the Wisconsin North Central Association’s Wisconsin AdvanceED Excellence in Education Award for her unparalleled leadership in promoting and advancing excellence in education. She was recognized at the 2010 AdvanceED Conference in Atlanta, GA.

Van Mobley (History) was on the Wisconsin Public Radio ideas network as an analyst immediately after President Obama’s State of the Union address. Dr. Mobley was also the Chair of a Panel entitled “U.S. Civil-Military Relations in the 21st Century” at the annual meeting of the Society for Military History this past May at the George Marshall Leadership Institute at the Virginia Military Institute.

Chrishirella F. Warthen (Education) presented at the National Black Child Development Institute, Inc.’s 39th Annual Conference entitled “Incarceration of African American Females - Reversing the Trend” in October of 2009, and also presented on February 27, 2010 at the S.I.S.T.A.S. (Sisters Involved Strategically Towards Academic Success) at the Kenosha Unified School District, Career Extravaganza. She is also: Editor, GIRLFRIENDS Health Guide For Women Of Color; appointed February, 2010; Board Member, BCDI-Milwaukee ( Black Child Development Institute), appointed January, 2010; and Board Member, DanceCircus- Milwaukee, appointed October, 2010.

Ryan Wilkinson (Health & Human Performance and 2001 Alumnus) has been elected President-Elect of the Wisconsin Athletic Trainer’s Association (WATA). Ryan assumed the role of WATA President at the annual meeting in April 2010 and will serve a two-year term. He has previously served as WATA Vice President. The WATA is a professional membership association for Licensed Athletic Trainers and others who support the Athletic Training profession in Wisconsin.

CUW at Youth Gathering

This past July the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod held its National Youth Gathering. Some 25,000 Lutheran youth and youth workers gathered in New Orleans for fellowship, worship, and spiritual growth. Alumna Ann Carper said, “It was the experience of a lifetime.” As always, CUW Admission personnel had a refreshment room where alumni could gather for a break from the Gathering with some good food and drink, conversation, and a chance to meet with old friends. “It was really awesome,” Ann said, “They did a fantastic job in representing CUW.”
Behnke Leads Handbell Seminar in Germany

Between spring and summer semester from June 3-6, Dr. John Behnke was invited to teach a Handbell Seminar at the Church Music Institute in Schluechtern Germany. Here is an article describing his experience, along with some pictures.

The plan for Sunday morning was for us to play in the 10 am service at the local church, St. Michael's in Schluechtern. So Friday I introduced a hymn accompaniment for “Lobe den Herren” (Praise to the Lord) where we could play along with the organ and the congregational singing. At the end of each evening, the group casually assembled in the lounge or the restaurant across the street for more “Gemutlichkeit,” namely, beer or wine drinking and great conversations. By the end of this 4 day seminar, these musicians from all over Germany were very good friends.

Saturday evening we moved everything over to the St. Michael Church and had our final “Probe.” The progress that had taken place from Thursday to Saturday night and ultimately Sunday morning was remarkable. There was a bit of sadness at the end of the Saturday night rehearsal because everyone realized that after the play on Sunday morning it was over.

We had a marvelous discussion on Saturday about why each one came to the seminar, what they had learned, and what they were going to do with it. It was good to know that all of these people now had a small network of bell friends that they could call on with future questions or concerns. All of them headed straight to Direktor Gunther Martin Goettsche to ask when the next handbell seminar was going to take place.

We joked that it was “nur Spass” (just fun), but there was great learning, skill building, music making, and tremendous fellowship. Everyone left ready to meet again at the next German Handglocken Seminar!
Female Student Athlete-of-the-Year
Samantha Gries Excels in Both Athletics and Academics

Samantha Gries has been labeled an outstanding athlete, but that's not the only thing she wants to be known for at Concordia. Besides being awarded the 2009-2010 Female Student-Athlete-of-the-Year, Gries is carrying a 4.0 GPA and is on pace to graduate in May 2011 with honors.

Gries is in CUW's Athletic Training program and involved in cross country and track, and absolutely loves the team aspect of both sports. Of the two though, her favorite is cross country. "I like cross country because each course is different and everybody runs the same race," said Gries. "I love running in general because of the feeling of accomplishment that comes with it; I can see that hard work does pay off, and it's a great way to relieve stress and enjoy the outdoors," Gries added. Gries was also chosen as CUW's December 2009 Student-of-the-Month. After graduation in 2011 she plans on going to graduate school for Physical Therapy.

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Isn't it amazing how God uses people in the most unusual ways to have His will be done? Take David for example, a small shepherd boy who slew Goliath! Or Saul, later named Paul; a man who lived to persecute Christians, would later be used to spread God's love all over the world!

When I was growing up, I always thought that I would be either a farmer or a firefighter. However, God had different plans for me. I decided to go to Concordia University in Mequon, WI and earn a degree in Secondary Education, English, and History. As the years went on during my time at Concordia, my love for missions grew and grew. And this past Christmas break, when I was contemplating where God was calling me to serve Him, the Lord made that clear to me what His will for my life is. The Lord has called me to serve in the Eastern European country of Slovakia. I will be serving as an English as a Foreign Language Teacher and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with them through this opportunity.

I ask, first and foremost, that you keep me in your prayers. That the Lord would open the hearts of the Slovakian people I meet to accept His Word and that God would give me the strength to effectively witness to them. If you feel the Lord moving you to support me financially, thank you so much for your generosity! I need to raise $20,114 to be able to go, and any gift you can give me is greatly appreciated. Checks will need to be sent to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod World Mission and have Elliot Derricks under the Memo Line.

Thank you again for your prayers and support. May God continue to bless you, your congregation, and its ministries. In Christ, Elliot James Derricks.

Elliot Derricks
Inner City Teachers
Tirzah Cook, Student Editor

There are some children who go to school because it’s the circle of life. They don’t expect to learn or better themselves or imagine being doctors, firefighters or ballerinas. They concentrate on how they will get back home safely, and what will be waiting for them when they arrive. They stare into a future of mere survival and consider themselves born into failure. How do we stop this vicious cycle? We teach them what talent, dedication and aspiration makes in the future. We give them this hope through our teachers.

Concordia student Tiffany Gottowski, a 20-year-old majoring in Elementary Education, is preparing to teach children in the urban community. Gottowski was inspired to teach through her own caring teachers and strong commitment to her faith.

Gottowski prepared for this career by working at the inner city Milwaukee HOPE Christian School. The culture is a different world compared to the private Lutheran schools she attended. “The teacher will speak their language; she might ask, ‘do you feel me?’ instead of ‘do you understand?’ The boys will break out in rap on their desks during free time,” said Gottowski. She illustrated an occasion when the sixth grade teacher was looking for a pair of scissors to open a box. One of the students jumped up and whipped out a pocket knife to help her. The teacher calmly told him to sit back down and politely declined the use of the pocket knife. Teachers at HOPE understand their students come from rough neighborhoods. Contrary to most public schools, they turn their heads when the kids expose items necessary for self-defense.

“I’ve never been scared for my life,” said Gottowski. “They really have a passion for learning. The teachers have so much of their attention and respect. They need to know that you care for them. She pushes them above average.”

Teaching in this culture does not mean the students won’t get a proper English lesson. “If they say something wrong, you repeat it the right way. A lot of teachers from inner cities just don’t care,” noted Gottowski.

In July, Gottowski left for one month to internship in Phoenix to teach at EAGLE College Prep Elementary School, in the city’s lowest income and highest crime rate area. Two additional Concordia students, Ericka Helman and Kurt Stielow, who have worked at HOPE, also interned over the summer at the Eagle School. Helman knew she wanted to be a teacher—she wanted to change kids’ lives. Very energetic and spunky, she is constantly on the move; outdoors either swimming, boating, playing soccer, enjoying time with her family, or working at a daycare. When an internship brought her to Phoenix over the summer, she met other teachers who, like herself, wanted nothing more than to see children succeed and be loved. The mission statement at the EAGLE School is “Love and Logic.” Teachers at the School are so dedicated to the future of these children that they show all the support and love they can give. “Students will go up to their teachers everyday and give them a hug and say they love them. The hardest part of the job is hearing the stories of the student’s home life,” Helman said.

Stielow, a junior in Secondary Education with a focus in Social Studies, is a very outgoing man, the type who strikes up a conversation with a stranger at a restaurant and spends a lot of time with his friends and family. Teaching at HOPE in Milwaukee inspired him to continue teaching. “It was amazing to walk in the door and get 20 hugs!” He felt needed. Later, when he interned at the EAGLE School in Phoenix, he was introduced to a public school that represented more of a family. “The school was very integrated, not segregated like in Milwaukee.” What stands out, Stielow believes, is the unchangeable barrier between his past, and theirs. “You can’t relate to them. A first grader has gone through more than I have in my life. They don’t want sympathy—they want to be cared for as people,” he said. He can, however, connect with them in their future. “I can teach them to respect each other and be proud citizens and prepare them for their next level of education,” Stielow added.

All three Concordia students were chosen to intern in Phoenix because they were the only Education Majors who knew they wanted to teach in the inner city. It is the caring and courageous, like Gottowski, Helman, and Stielow, who will convince these students they have a future and present the road to medical and rescue careers, English and Science studies; a future in Love and Logic.
Dear Dr. Eggbrecht,

I was a freshman in the fall of '65, not a runner or FB (Coach Finke labeled me “butcherball” in a gym class. I was!!!). Sophomore, Jr and Sr years I was on Coach Basch’s swim team — he is still a friend. He was a major influence on my life; he inspired me to try harder because of my obvious lack of natural ability on the team and in life. It worked.

In college your creative writing (or poetry) course was a major influence also. I got married at-hoc Concordia College – Milwaukee and went to Marquette for 1 year, switched to UW-Milwaukee and started over, got my BS in Biology in ’76 and of all things, ended up being a horse trainer, and a good one at that. (Coach Basch’s advice paid off!) Unfortunately, my walk with the Lord vanished and I lived 30 years in immoral behavior and alcohol and ended up married and divorced three times. Now for the good part!!!

I was born again in 2001 on a cold night in February in my barn where I was planning on committing suicide with a shotgun and a bottle of Kentucky Straight. God stopped me and reminded me of my call to the ministry at age twelve. In May of this year, I became a licensed ordained minister. I graduated from Rhema Bible Training Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I was offered a position in Santa Fe, New Mexico in a ministry dedicated to protecting abused women and at-risk children. Besides being the youth pastor, I’ll be the director of a horse ranch that is in the process of being built. They plan on using the ranch for therapy but also doing rodeos and horsemanship as an outreach. Part of the time before I came to Rhema, I was doing rodeo ministry in Wisconsin which is also part of the reason they called me. God has a miraculous way of preparing us, doesn’t He?

Why did I communicate all this to you? I'm not sure why, but it was prompted by your article that began AUGUST 1965.

In retrospect, I regret not finishing at Fort Wayne and St. Louis (although I don’t think I would have survived Greek and Hebrew) but I have never regretted my six years at Concordia. I met some of the most influential people in my life and received good “direction” while I was there. For that I am grateful to Concordia.

In Jesus' peace,
Phillip C. Schwartz '68 and 71!

Dr. Eggbrecht,

My copy of the Spring CONCORDIAN just arrived and I read your “Musings” article. I know the issue is about moving forward but I DID enjoy your reflections from 1965. I didn’t get there until 1967 but was able to be a part (very minor) of those track championships. (I shared with my son the Marquette relays in the old MST gym with Messner and I was going after it in some great races). But all the drama and sports and classroom things you mentioned ... I remember ... from your classroom and to your steady approach as a coach. THANKS! You have always been a class act for your Lord and Concordia.

WOAH - 45 years. I have been at the North Wisconsin District/ LCMS office since 1979, after two parish stops in ME and OK.

May God continue to bless you, and thank you again,
Dwayne Luczk (73)

Dear Professor Eggbrecht,

I’m just writing to say I received the spring issue of the Concordian today. I took it back to my office with my other mail and thumbed through it. I noticed your familiar name in the Musings article in the front, and read it. I was a student who graduated from the high school in 1970. I remember very much enjoying The Caine Mutiny Court Martial and was also a student in your creative writing class, where you gave me encouragement.

Mostly the Concordian is about people and things that don’t mean much to me, and it was nice to see something that did, for a change. Thanks for the memories.

Chuck Sulphen (70)

Dear Dr. Eggbrecht,

Thank you for including such a magnificent awe-inspiring picture of our Concordia University Wisconsin, in the latest issue of the Concordian. It brought back memories of the two years I hit the books while on the campus of Concordia College in Milwaukee from 1969-1971, while attending the Lutheran Lay Training Institute (LLTI). Back in that day, the campus may have been small compared to the present at Concordia University Wisconsin, but there was always a whirlwind of activities and great opportunities of learning.

The articles in the Concordian present to the reader “what’s going on,” leading the way forward. Keep up with the fine articles coming our way.

God Bless,
Alex Mandel 1969-1971 LLTI
Last week I hit the limit of songs. In fact I had to delete 5 songs to add the new ones I was excited about just getting. Now I have to think about what other songs I can delete so that the inevitable new or re-discovered songs can be added. That is my middle-aged conservative thinking. My son added, “Or you could just get a new one with more memory [read: you could buy from me the one I have and I could get the newest one available].”

Is your default setting to buy a new I-pod or edit and pare down the old one? Do I anticipate an end to the good songs I like? Will I not like the old ones I used to like?

I suppose there is a hybrid answer that makes the most sense: every song that I ever once liked may not be one I’ll always like. But there will certainly be more great new songs or ones I never knew of.

Concordia has been blessed to be on a track of continued growth in recent years. In spite of many difficulties in the economy and world, we have been blessed to attract relatively large numbers of students. Our incoming class will be the biggest yet. As was last year’s. And the year’s before. Our increasing physical needs are being met by a number of building projects to make sure enough classrooms, labs, and residence halls can handle our burgeoning student body.

But I certainly think that evaluation of our growth goes along with the growth. When Jesus told the parable referenced above, he called the rich man a fool. It is because the man had a warped attitude about his prosperity. His security and status was tied up in the material wealth and prosperity—not in the source of it.

I know that right now Concordia has enough balance to keep us from being like the rich fool. As “bigger barns” are built, we can still recognize the source of all the growth. In fact, the source of the growth is the call to grow. That a Savior is calling us with outstretched arms to have more and more people know of His love and trust in Him and rely on Him is our reason for existing. We’d be fools not to call more to know this great message we have known so well.

But to be rich is more than just being bigger and having more, as Jesus points out. We are called to realize that what we have—our faith and our Savior—is wonderful and precious. In that sense, Concordia has amassed great riches.

Our new students used to do a game during Orientation called “Bigger or Better.” Teams of students started off with a penny (literally one cent) and had to go into the neighborhood to try to trade their item for something bigger or better. Then that item could be traded for something bigger or better. Within a certain time limit, the group that had the best thing at the end won. Amazingly, groups came back with couches, a big screen TV (that worked!) and I believe even a piano (although I never saw that one).

How interesting that the way to “win” that game was by relying on what was given to you. You couldn’t use your own money or control things. Whatever you were given is what you got.

It seems like the message we have been given, doesn’t it? Grace upon grace, the gift of life, of eternal life, all is gift. That’s what we get to keep reminding ourselves of, year after year, and now with more students than ever. Seems like it’s not just bigger or better; maybe we can safely say that we are blessed to be bigger and better. Maybe I’ll even consider getting a new I-pod to celebrate!
Upcoming Events:

- **Family Weekend**, October 1-3
- **Curtains**, Annual Fall Musical, October 14-17, Todd Wehr Auditorium, 7:30 pm and 1:30 pm on Sunday
- **Homecoming Weekend**, October 29-30
- **Symphonic Wind and Jazz Ensembles Pops Concert**, Chapel of Christ Triumphant, Friday, November 5, 7:30 pm
- **Kammerchor’s “Christ the King Celebration,”** Chapel, Sunday, November 14, 3:30 pm
- **Christmas at Concordia**, Chapel, Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11, 7:30 pm
- **Fall Commencement**, Field House, Saturday, December 18, 1:30 pm