

**A NIGHT IN THE LIFE** What goes on around here after the sun goes down? Come with us and find out.

**VITAL CENTER** The reenergized heart of CUW connects students, faculty, and staff and pumps new life into the Mequon campus.

**THE IRREVERENT REV. DR.** Fount of wisdom – and wisecracks. Get to know one of CUW's favorite professors.

# Concordian

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN



## (Un)changing

CUW advances, building on a firm foundation.

WINTER 2013

WELCOME



*Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.*

The French writer Alphonse Karr was the originator of this oft-quoted observation. “The more things change,” Karr reflected, “the more they remain the same.” He perhaps had other things in mind, but the little phrase of Alphonse Karr is certainly apropos to Concordia.

The theme of this issue of the *Concordian* is (UN)CHANGING. CHANGING at CUW should not stand alone. To be sure, anyone familiar with us easily sees that Concordia is CHANGING! The campus has experienced a remarkable renaissance. The faculty has doubled in size, bringing gifted teachers and scholars to the university. Exciting new academic programs have opened doors to fresh ideas and fresh conversations, and have brought us freshmen and other new students who might otherwise not have considered CUW. *Plus ça change ... the more things CHANGE!*

Not to be lost in the parenthesis, however, is the (UN) that modifies the meaning entirely ... *plus c'est la même chose ... the more things remain the same.* Any and all of our valued friends know that at its core, Concordia remains UNCHANGED. Indeed, the core is where to search to discover the essence of Concordia, and where better to begin that search than the university's Core Values? Here are ours, along with their preamble:

*Bound by the Biblical and Confessional teachings of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the members of the Board of Regents, the members of the Concordia University Foundation Board, the President, and employees of the University shall act in a manner consistent with these Core Values.*

**Christ-Centered** – *We have faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.*

**Truth and Integrity** – *We speak truth and display integrity in all our relationships.*

**Excellence** – *We expect excellence in all our endeavors to support CUW's mission.*

**Service** – *We serve others in caring, helpful, respectful, and knowledgeable ways.*

To know a place as it truly is, we look beyond the outer trappings and deeper than the surface. The more things have changed at CUW, the more the things that truly matter and are at our very core remain UNCHANGED!

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

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Pastor. Professor. Wisenheimer. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Feiertag is CUW's source for inspiration served up irreverently.



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### In the World

Research update. Serving on the I.T. front lines. Backing a budding chiropractor. Trainer to the Packers. AlumNotes.

**ON THE COVER:** "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Inspired by Jesus' invitation to Peter and Andrew (Mark 1:17), created by Latvian sculptor Igor Vasiljev, the bronze statue looks out over Lake Michigan. It was a gift by Vasiljev to CUW.

© **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?** Email us: [Concordian@cuw.edu](mailto:Concordian@cuw.edu) or tweet us: [@ConcordianMag](https://twitter.com/ConcordianMag)

## Treasures

# Pipe Dream

The Ott Organ, a “miniature crown jewel,” is finally complete

In 1992, aided by a gift from the Concordia Century Club, CUW hired the Martin Ott Pipe Organ Company of St. Louis to design and build a seven-rank, two-manual tracker practice organ. Two decades later, with additional funds from the university, the Ott organ is complete. It was worth the wait.

The Ott is a miniature crown jewel from a master organ builder, its impeccable craftsmanship evident in details down to the built-in music rack. Housed in the Alumni Heritage Room immediately east of the chapel, it takes its place on campus alongside the chapel’s own three-manual, 63-rank Steiner-Reck organ and practice organs built by Eminent, Schlicker, and Bosch.

Installed in 1994 to serve a then- and still-growing number of CUW organ students, the Ott entered service with only four of seven planned ranks. An additional \$45,000 from the university in the fall of 2011 funded the final three. With the organ complete, CUW students preparing to become church musicians now have the perfect instrument to help them fulfill their calling.

—Dr. James Freese, Associate Professor of Music,  
Director of the Master of Church Music Program

### Ranking Full Stop: A Look Inside the Ott Organ

Ranks. Stops to control ranks. Manuals (keyboards), two or more. Pedalboards, played by foot. Blower. Motor. A lot goes into an organ, even a small one like the Ott. But it’s the ranks – pipe sets grouped by timbre and volume – that define the organ’s sound. Five of the Ott organ’s ranks were made by the Ott Company and two by Jörn Fitzau, a German pipe maker working in Portugal.

Total cost: \$71,000.



# Student Spotlight

## 20/20 Vision

For **Andrew Reicher**, the future is clearly in focus

His cane isn't the first thing you notice when freshman Andrew Reicher walks through the hallways. It's his speed. With barely a tap on the floor, Andrew dashes from class to class with a purposeful stride and a fast, confident step.

We first noticed Andrew during CUW's Freshmen Orientation in September. He and his mom were counting steps from the main entrance in Luther Hall to his classroom. With each quick step another number was uttered between them ... 42, 43, 44 .... When they reached their destination, they stopped just long enough to write down the number and move on.

Andrew Reicher has Congenital Amaurosis, a rare eye disease that appears at birth and is characterized by severe vision loss. He's legally blind but can read at 20-point type size.

**He will receive two degrees, a BS and an MBA, in four years. He likes to move fast.**

He can't, however, recognize highlights and doesn't even try to read whiteboards. Basically everything is a blur. Yet he's a standout student in CUW's distinguished Business Scholars Program. He will receive two degrees, a BS and an MBA, in four years. He likes to move fast.

Andrew is majoring in Actuarial Science and plans to work for a major insurance company upon graduation. As a Business Scholar, he's obligated to take 18 credits each semester and maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA. While he was concerned that he was taking on too many challenges at once, the Eagle Scout in him took over and embraced the demanding schedule and difficult curriculum of the Business Scholars.

He credits his family and scouting for his capableness and achiever attitude. Andrew's parents and younger sister set high expectations for him and never let blindness be an excuse. Upon achieving Eagle Scout, Andrew went on to become an Assistant Scout Master and spends his summers teaching survival



skills at a camp on the Wolf River.

He always knew he was going to college. To better manage the transition between high school and college, Andrew chose to live at home in Kewaskum, Wis., his first year. His rigorous routine includes five to six hours of homework each day. While Andrew gets some assistance from the Learning Resource Center, he relies on technology to be successful in the

classroom. At 20-point type size, he can read emails, take tests, review notes, and write messages like everyone else.

Along with his future plans to become an actuary, Andrew hopes to one day test his survival skills on a back country hike through the Rocky Mountains. Knowing Andrew, he'll do it, and it will be a pretty fast hike.

—Lisa Liljegren, Dir. of Alumni and Parent Relations

## Happenings

# Sports Center

ESPN Radio in Milwaukee visited the new Student Center recently to tape episodes of its popular Ultimate Sports Fan trivia show with CUW students. Sideline viewers report that the students turned in an all-star performance.

## Priorities Rewarded

In recognition of his company's strong record of support for non-profit organizations, Kapco Inc. President Jim Kacmarcik received the Wisconsin Organizational Philanthropy Award in November. CUW nominated Kapco for the award, with President Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry calling Kacmarcik and his company "a blessing" to the university. In fiscal year 2011, Kapco lived out its company motto - "Making People Our Priority" - by making financial gifts of \$50 to \$35,000 to 98 non-profit groups.



## Dodging for a Cure

Freshman Seminar students and CUW Professor Michael McKinnis brought former Green Bay Packer LeRoy Butler to Concordia this fall for a dodgeball tournament benefitting women with breast cancer. The event raised money for Butler's foundation, which financially supports women battling the disease. For students, it provided an impactful - painfully, at times - experience of servant leadership and giving back to the community, concepts central to a Concordia education.

For more information on the LeRoy Butler Foundation, visit [www.lbf36.org](http://www.lbf36.org).





## Upcoming Campus Events

### February

**07-10** - "Almost, Maine," Winter Theatre Production, Todd Wehr Auditorium (262-243-4444 for ticket prices and show times)

**18** - Undergraduate Visit Day (optional overnight on February 17)

**20** - Graduate Visitation Day

### March

**05** - "Renaissance and Reformation Women" Reformation 500 Presentation by Dr. Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Pharmacy 026, 7 p.m.

### April

**05** - Undergraduate Visitation Day

**07** - Kammerchor Spring Concert, Chapel of the Christ Triumphant, 3:30 p.m.

**21** - Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert, Chapel, 3:30 p.m.

**28** - Concordia Chorale and Chapel Ringers Spring Concert, Chapel, 3:30 p.m.

### May

**04** - Spencerian Reunion

**05** - Alleluia Ringers Spring Concert, Chapel, 3:30 p.m.

### June

**21-23** - Reunion Weekend

## New Faces



### The Iceman Cometh

Title-winner **Jasen Wise** now coaching CUW squad

CUW has a new men's head hockey coach, Jasen Wise. No stranger to NCAA Division III hockey, Wise was a player and team captain at the University of St. Thomas, where he led the squad to a Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title during his junior year. Wise brings 13 years of coaching experience, including eight seasons as head coach at Marian University in Fond du Lac. Under his leadership, Marian scored a pair of wins over nationally ranked MSOE and a tie against NCAA Division III defending national champion St. Norbert College. Wise is excited about his new job at CUW. "The university's and Athletic Department's vision is the same as mine," he says. "To win conference championships and play in the NCAA tournament."

TOP: MARIAN UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION

### Pepped Up

'06 grad **Amanda Newman** joins CUW Music Department staff

Amanda Newman is back at CUW after a six-year absence. But this time around she's getting paid to be here. Newman, the newest member of the Music Department, has assumed the role of Athletic Bands Coordinator and Music Recruiter.

"It's thrilling to see all the changes on campus and how God is moving CUW to great things," she says. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with people I once called 'Professor' or 'Doctor'! It will be a chance to challenge myself to grow professionally at my alma mater."

Newman's professional experience prior to her new position includes teaching general music and band to K-8 students at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries in Livermore, Calif., where she was also very involved in church music, leading a contemporary worship team on Sunday mornings. She also played trumpet professionally for the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre.

Newman graduated from CUW in 2006 with a B.A. in K-12 Music Education. While a student, she directed the Pep Band for two years and was involved with several musical groups on campus.



## Extra Care

**School of Nursing** strengthens mission, extends reach



A new designation and a new vehicle for community outreach mark the 30th anniversary of the CUW "School of Nursing," as it was officially designated in July 2012. Both will help further the school's mission to equip

graduates with the knowledge and skills required in today's complex health care environment and inspire them toward a faith-filled sense of vocation.

The School of Nursing designation allows for national and international recognition of CUW's premier programs – a big help in attracting well-qualified faculty and students, and more grant funding.

The community outreach vehicle, a repurposed RV dubbed the "Health Mobile," will soon provide health screenings, immunizations, and education to underserved communities in Milwaukee and the surrounding area.

Planning for the Health Mobile began in spring 2012, followed by a pilot program at a Lutheran Urban Mission Initiative school in one of Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods. The pilot program, a collaborative effort of the School of Nursing and the School of Education, successfully met its educational goals. More importantly,



it increased awareness of the magnitude of the need for ongoing health and wellness education in urban communities and beyond.

With the curriculum tested and proven, the next step is to buy and outfit the actual RV. Once it's on the road, the School of Nursing can proceed full speed ahead in its efforts to improve the health and well-being of neighboring communities, while also providing students with real-world opportunities to broaden their worldview and prepare for service to Christ through caring for those in need around them.

The CUW School of Nursing serves more than 1,000 nursing students enrolled across five programs, ranging from the traditional Baccalaureate (BS-N) degree to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

*–Dr. Teri Kaul, Dean, School of Nursing*

## Healthy Choice

**New Physician Assistant program** addresses critical need

It's a job destined to be much in demand in the near future, and CUW students will have an inside track when Concordia launches its Physician Assistant program this spring. CUW will be one of only five Wisconsin universities offering a PA degree.

The CUW PA program's first class begins studies this May 2013. The 26-month, full-time, year-round program is designed to prepare students to become competent physician assistants committed to caring for patients, with an emphasis on primary care and preventative medicine. The program will grant the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree.

"This new program is a great fit with Concordia's mission to prepare students in mind, body, and spirit for service in this profession," says Senior Vice President of Academics Dr. William Cario.

The new director of the PA program is Dr. Michelle Heinan. She received her undergraduate degree from Alderson-Broadus College in West Virginia, a Master's Degree in Health Administration from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, and a doctorate of education from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. A physician assistant in family practice and occupational medicine before joining the faculty at University of Findlay in Ohio in 1998, Heinan has launched and guided PA programs at several universities.

"This program will, without a doubt, be an asset to the university and provide another strong health care profession for students to choose from," says Dr. Linda Samuel, dean of the School of Human Services.





# Shall we Gather?

by **Jay Sanders**

photographs by **Mark Brautigam**



# A new \$4.4 million Student Center gives Concordia its very own family room, minus the tacky paneling

**B**efore, if you wanted to hang out with friends at CUW, you went to a dorm room or the library, where you tried not to make too much noise. Now you can go to the Student Center.

Before, if you wanted to visit the bookstore, the health center, the counseling office, student affairs, campus ministry, campus activities board, the student government offices, and the multicultural student association, you were in for a campus-wide scavenger hunt. Now you can go to the Student Center.

Before, if it was almost midnight and you wanted a burger or a burrito or a pizza, plus a soda and maybe some chips, and, oh yeah, some of those little white powdered donuts, you were out of luck. Now you can go to the Student Center.

Where, if you want, you can eat your burger-burrito-pizza-chips-mini donuts combo and drink your soda while watching three



**“The couches  
are crazy  
comfortable.”**

big-screen TVs all at once. And fitting in games of ping-pong, pool, and shuffleboard between bites.

At the new Student Center you'll find lounges to lounge in. Conference rooms to confer in. Group study rooms to group study in. And really big rooms to do really big things in. Like throw a dance party for you and several hundred close friends. Or host a banquet in your honor.

The Student Center is the revitalized heart of CUW, connecting students, faculty, and staff with each other and with everything that's going on at the university. And, like any healthy heart, it's pumping new life throughout the campus.

Just as it was designed to do.

“It's a ‘wow’ space,” says Mika Frank of Groth Design, architect and construction manager for the new center. One that “first and foremost” prioritizes the needs of students.

Building the two-story, 30,000 square-foot facility involved extensive demolition and renovation. But before any scaffolding went up and walls came down, university officials did their homework. They spent a year researching exactly what students are looking for in a student center – sending out surveys, conducting focus groups, and studying the student centers at UW-Oshkosh, Carthage College, and Creighton University for ideas.

Once work began, it went fast. Construction crews started in on May 15, 2012. The Student Center's upper level – offices, bookstore, conference rooms – opened in August. The lower level – the hang-out, student-y part of the Student Center – was up and running by October 1st. Elapsed time for the entire project: four-and-a-half months.

Among the amenities students wanted – and got – on the lower level are a new food court; a cyber café; an expanded recreational and game area; and a large open lounge with lots of seating, studying, eating, and entertaining space. Another request was for group study rooms. Preferably near food. Students not only got two rooms – right across from the food court – they got conference tables, laptop hookups, large presentation screens, and whiteboards to go with them.

“The Student Center has definitely made life on campus better,” says Meghan Ballard, a junior double majoring in social work and music. “It just gives us more options to eat, study, hang out, and meet.”

Vice President of Student Life Dr. Andrew Luptak calls the new Student Center the family room Concordia never had.

“It's a place that brings our community together,” he says, “where the Concordia family can interact with one another.”

One thing the new building brings together are the student-centered services, groups, and associations that used to be scattered across campus. The student health center, counseling center, student life offices, and student organizations all relocated to the new building.

“There's now a centralized location for student life, with all of the student organizations really close together,” says Dr. Sarah Holtan, Dean of Students. “It makes it easier to work together.”

Student Government Association President Evan Beuscher agrees. “We're in here with campus ministry, and the multicultural association is right next door,” he says. “Our leaders are getting to know their leaders. We're seeing a lot more collaboration and much better results.”

Groups also gained something more than proximity from the move.

**“I like the fact  
that it's open  
24 hours.”**





# “And the **TVs.** Those are nice.”

Office-wise, Holtan says, “everyone got an upgrade.”

“I’ve got 16 feet of ceiling-to-floor window. It’s marvelous,” says David Enters, director of counseling services.

“We lacked air conditioning, which made summers a little warm. And the room was set up awkwardly, with a half wall in the middle,” SGA’s Beuscher says of his group’s old office. “This is a much more open space, with a conference room and a lounge.”

Enters says the old counseling center was “modest but adequate” for two staffers and their student clients. But it had limitations. There was no room to grow, a significant problem at rapidly expanding CUW. And there was no conference space to meet with small groups of students: “We just crowded in.”

In the new space, “We have a third office, which allows us to add staff, and a meeting room right across the hall,” Enters says. Beyond practicalities, there’s a more welcoming feel to the new counseling center. Which, given its function, may actually be a practicality.

“It’s a very inviting space,” Enters says. “When people come in they feel like they can be comfortable here, like they can just relax.”

And more people are coming in.

“It was evident the first month here that more and more students were reaching out to us,” Enters says. “Was that a function of the new location? Of more students willing to reach out for help? For whatever reason, we’re feeling needed. Our numbers are higher than they’ve ever been.”

The old Student Health Center’s cramped offices limited its effectiveness in caring for the CUW population. Now there are three

exam rooms, a waiting room, and two bathrooms. In a recent interview with *The Beacon*, health services manager and registered nurse practitioner Angie Palese described the additional space as a huge benefit.

“I can see more students at a time, which was impossible at the old location,” Palese said.

How do the students themselves feel about the new Student Center? If voting with your feet is any indication, they really like it.

The Center gets rush-hour crowds around lunchtime and from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., after evening classes. Plenty of people pass through at other times, as well, many of them stopping to grab a bite, watch TV, play pool, or hang out on the couches with an open textbook and maybe a few friends.

Other highlights for students include the Center’s modern design, friendly atmosphere, dining options, and – this one’s a biggie – that it’s open 24 hours a day. (The food court closes at midnight, though.)

Students are excited about their new home, and they’re sharing that excitement.

“I really enjoy seeing their pride at Homecoming and Parents’ Weekend, when they bring their family through and show off the building,” Holtan says. “Students respect that we’re a growing, thriving university that’s moving forward. This is a visible reminder.”

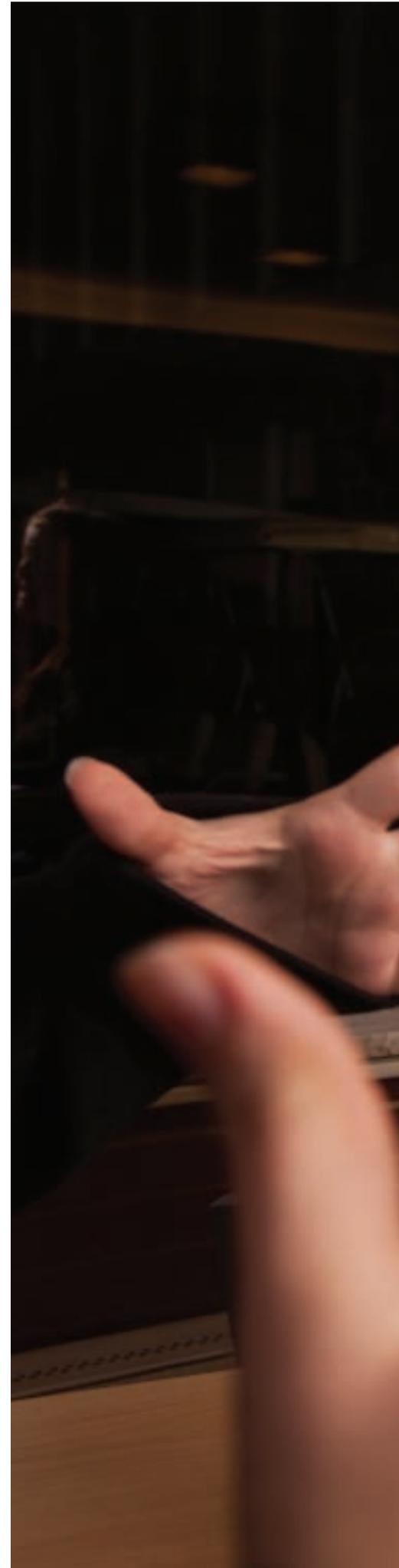
Just ask junior Meghan Ballard.

“Having transferred from a university where the campus revolved around the student union, I think it’s great that Concordia now has one,” says Ballard, who came to CUW from UW-River Falls. “It’s a fun place to be.”

# “More of a **friendly** atmosphere.”

# JOIN THE CONVERSATION about the Student Center  
on Twitter: @ConcordianMag #CUWSC





# CUW After Dark

As the hubbub of the day  
dies down, a different Concordia  
experience emerges



by JAY SANDERS *photographs by* MARK BRAUTIGAM



# I t's the evening of Thursday, December 6, 2012,

on CUW's Mequon campus. The unseasonably warm temperatures of last weekend are gone, replaced by tonight's chilly late-fall reality. The grounds are quiet, the visitor parking lots nearly empty. Late afternoon joggers have completed their circuits. Commuter students have mostly gone home. No one's out walking around.

The place looks pretty much dead, in other words. Might as well roll up the sidewalks. Nothing happening here.

Nothing you'd notice from outside, that is. But in fact, there's plenty going on. To get in on it, though, you have to do just that: get in. Because for 2,519 resident students at Concordia, where tunnels link almost every building, campus life is an inside game. And with finals week looming, that life is pretty busy.



**THE CAF 6:23** Fueling up with friends before hitting the books. Tonight's menu includes cheeseburgers, pizza, and a pasta bar, but cereal is a popular end-of-semester choice. Problem: pre-finals stress. Solution: Cocoa Puffs.





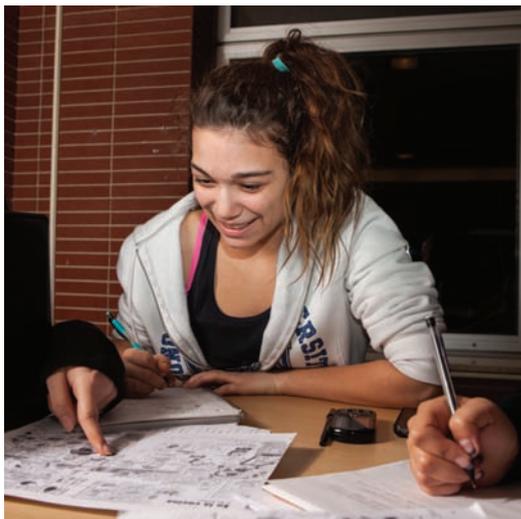
**FITNESS CENTER 6:40** Working out, another great stress reliever. A few early evening exercisers have the place pretty much to themselves. Busy time here kicks in around 8 p.m.



**OUTSIDE THE AUDITORIUM 7:03** Getting popcorn before grabbing a seat for the third annual CUW film festival sponsored by Movie Crew, a student-run group of movie lovers and creators. The juried festival features short films made by CUW students.



**RELIGION 100 CLASS 7:15** Taking note of Rev. Dr. Roy Peterson's reflections on the Pauline epistles. If you only read one, read Romans, he says. It's the Reformation cornerstone.



**COMMUTER LOUNGE 7:26** Cramming for a Spanish 201 final. Fun fact: *Perro* with two Rs is "dog"; *Pero* with one R is "but." That probably won't be part of the test. *Pero* being able to hold a conversation in Spanish definitely will.



**WOMEN'S DORM ROOM, REGENTS HALL 7:41** Studying for two biology tests - a regular exam tomorrow, followed by the final exam on Monday. It's going to be a long night.



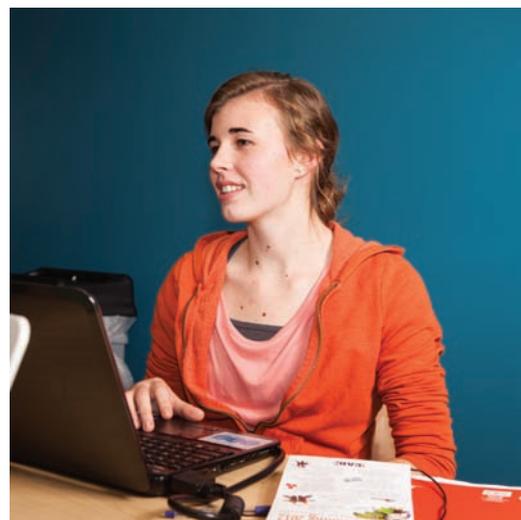
**ELEVATOR, REGENTS HALL 7:55** Arriving with personal pan pizza. Dinner was so one hour ago.



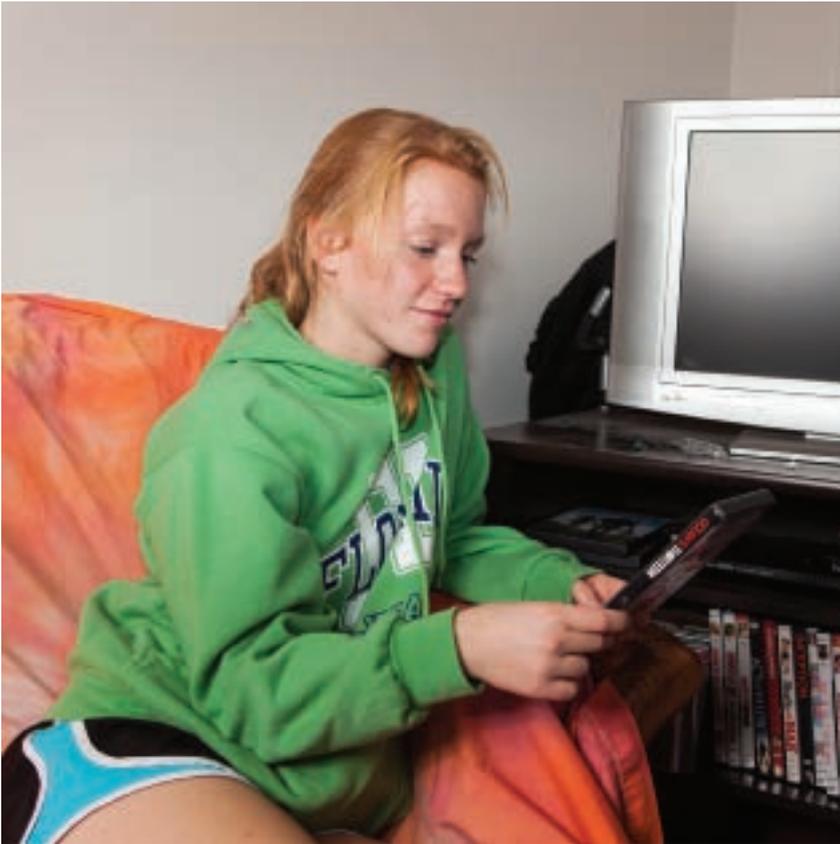
**LOWER LOBBY, REGENTS HALL 7:57** Members of the Pre-Seminary Students Association, gathering around the table for a Christmas party. The celebration includes lively conversation, unplayed board games, and beef stew.



**STUDENT CENTER 8:10** Getting in a quick game of pool.



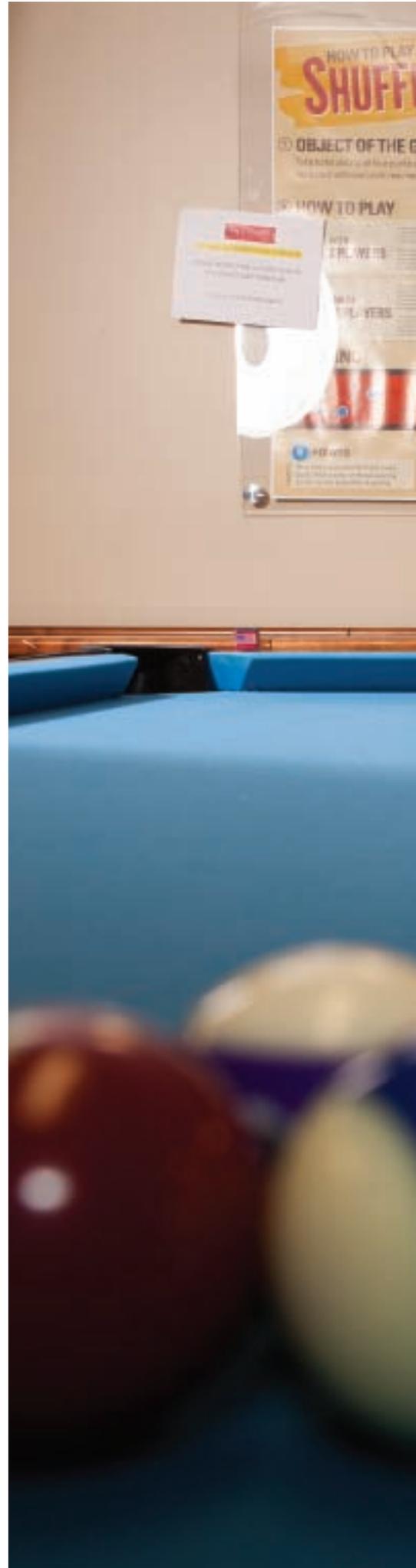
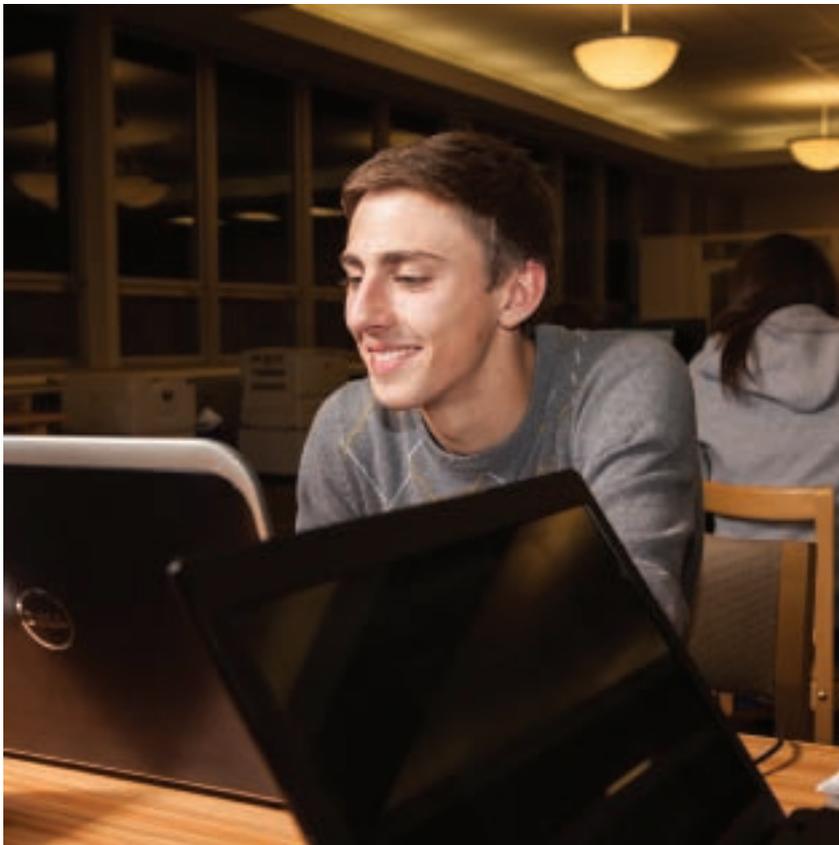
**STUDY ROOM, STUDENT CENTER 8:15** Assembling the final presentation for the Freshman Seminar course. Topic: celebrations.



# Study break!

REGENTS HALL/  
LIBRARY/  
STUDENT CENTER

Various times  
Sometimes the best  
finals preparation is no  
finals preparation. For  
a few minutes, at least.







**FALCON'S NEST, STUDENT CENTER 8:30**  
Grabbing a cheeseburger before hitting the books again - specifically the ESL books. For students from China, mastering English is a necessary first step in their Concordia experience.



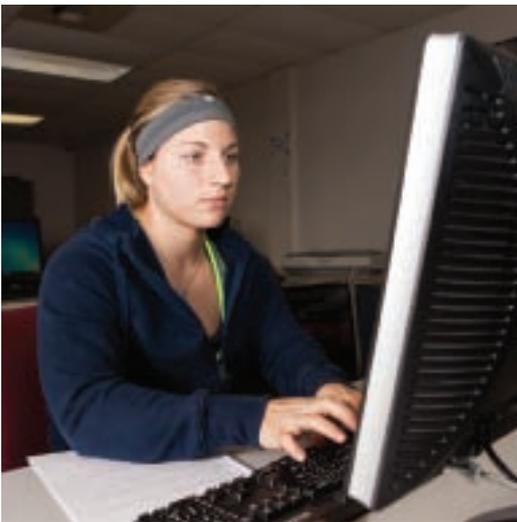
**UPPER LEVEL, STUDENT CENTER 8:35** Waiting for the women's sex talk, sponsored by female resident assistants - or, as they call themselves, "The Lady RAs." Less a formal presentation than a forum for getting answers to serious questions (submitted anonymously), the talk is very popular. More than 200 students attended last year.



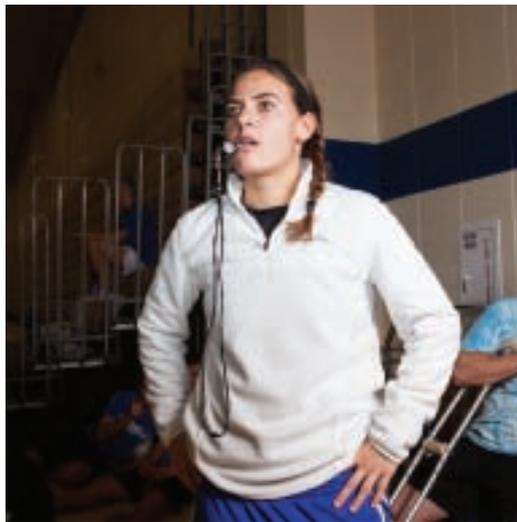
**STEINER-RECK ORGAN, CHAPEL OF CHRIST TRIUMPHANT 8:42** Soon she'll be filling the chapel with the sound of a Bach prelude. For listeners, it's majestic. For an organ student, it's practice.

“ What draws people to be friends is that they see the same truth. They share it.

- C.S. LEWIS



**THE FISH BOWL 9:45** Preparing for the last hurdle. Finals done, final papers handed in. Master's in Occupational Therapy earned, job waiting. But first: board exams.



**FIELD HOUSE 10:00** Students subjecting themselves to a different kind of testing: intramural soccer semi-finals. One somewhat serious injury so far. It's quickly handled by the Athletic Training students who make up a sizeable portion of tonight's teams.





**UNDERCROFT 8:58** Residence Hall Association members creating Christmas cards for soldiers as a service project and making less serious cards for themselves. One reads, "Have A Merry Christmas - or else." It also has a picture of a heart.



**UNDERCROFT 9:02** CIA special op in full swing. Here it stands for "Children (of God) In Action," a ministry group wrapping Christmas presents for delivery to children with a parent in prison.



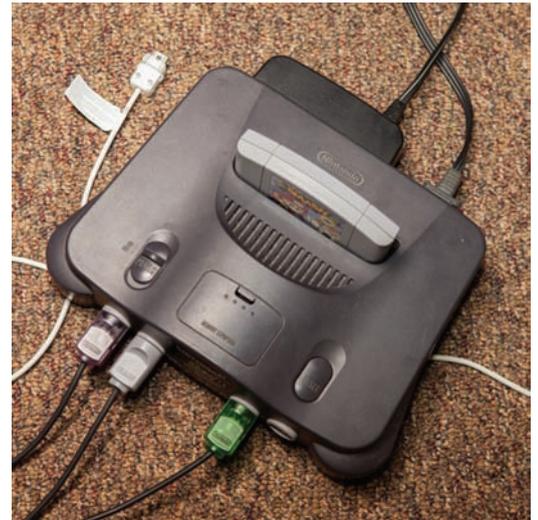
**KITCHENETTE, COBURG HALL 9:17** Cookie break: pumpkin, left over from Halloween.



**COBURG HALL 9:21** Doing the laundry. After five weeks, it was time.



**MEN'S DORM ROOM, COBURG HALL 9:30** Going retro with Nintendo 64. "Some people use video games to break up studying. I use studying to break up video games," says a junior.



**CERAMICS STUDIO 10:04** No more finals. Ever.



**RINCKER LIBRARY 10:10** Finishing up English papers, studying chemistry, listening to music on YouTube. Topic of papers: Henry David Thoreau's transcendentalism, the relationship of essays by Annie Dillard and George Orwell to football. The library is open until 2 a.m.

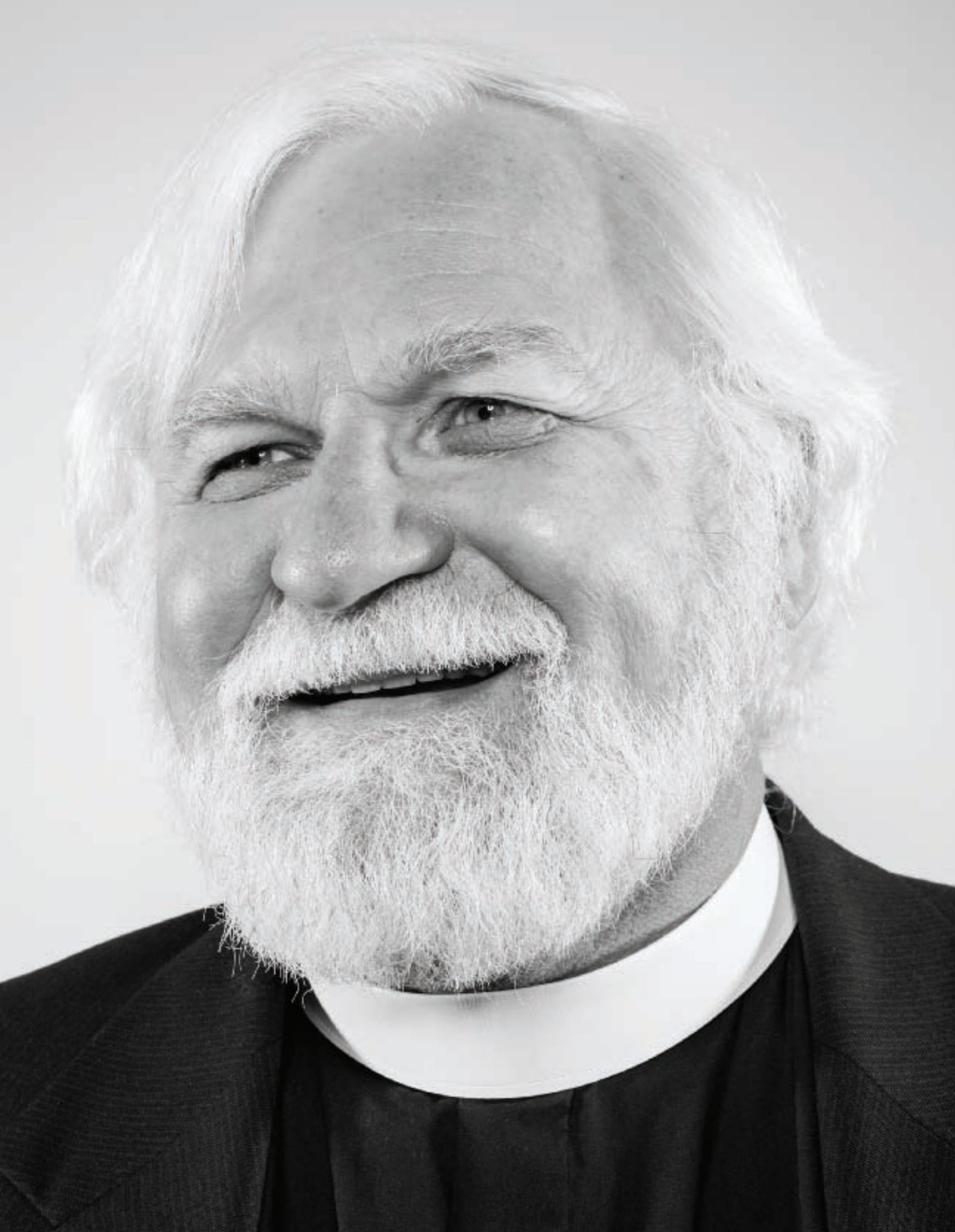


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[www.cuw.edu/AfterDark](http://www.cuw.edu/AfterDark)
- **# COMMENTS** @ConcordianMag  
#CUWAfterDark

Wise

Guy

The Rev. Dr. Thomas  
Feiertag delivers a lifetime  
of serious wisdom in a  
decidedly unserious way



# Twelve-year-old Tom Feiertag had to think fast.

BY  
**Mike Zimmerman**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
**Mark Brautigam**

His seventh-grade teacher was asking his classmates about their career ambitions, and by Tom's estimation, their answers had thus far been impressive. "A doctor," said one. "A nurse," said another.

But Tom, born to crack wise, had given the matter little reflection. So when his turn came, he chimed out the best answer that came to mind: "I want to be a Lutheran grade school teacher, just like you!"

"With the kind of grades you get in spelling?" the teacher replied. "You're not smart enough!"

"Okay," Tom shot back. "If I'm not smart enough to be a teacher, I'll be a pastor!"

"And he laughed and laughed," the Rev. Dr. Thomas Feiertag, associate professor of theology, says today. "And it was the weirdest thing, because my classmates afterward said, 'You know, you really should think about that.'"

"So I did."

Less than two years later, fall 1966, Tom found himself enrolled at Concordia in Milwaukee. In those days it was a six-year, all-boys boarding school: four years of high school plus two years of college, all geared toward preparing young men for seminary.

Today, the grown up (in most ways) Rev. Dr. Feiertag is one of CUW's most popular teachers – respected for his wisdom; revered for his biting, occasionally irreverent wit. His lectures keep students rolling in the aisles, though never at the expense of the lesson at hand.

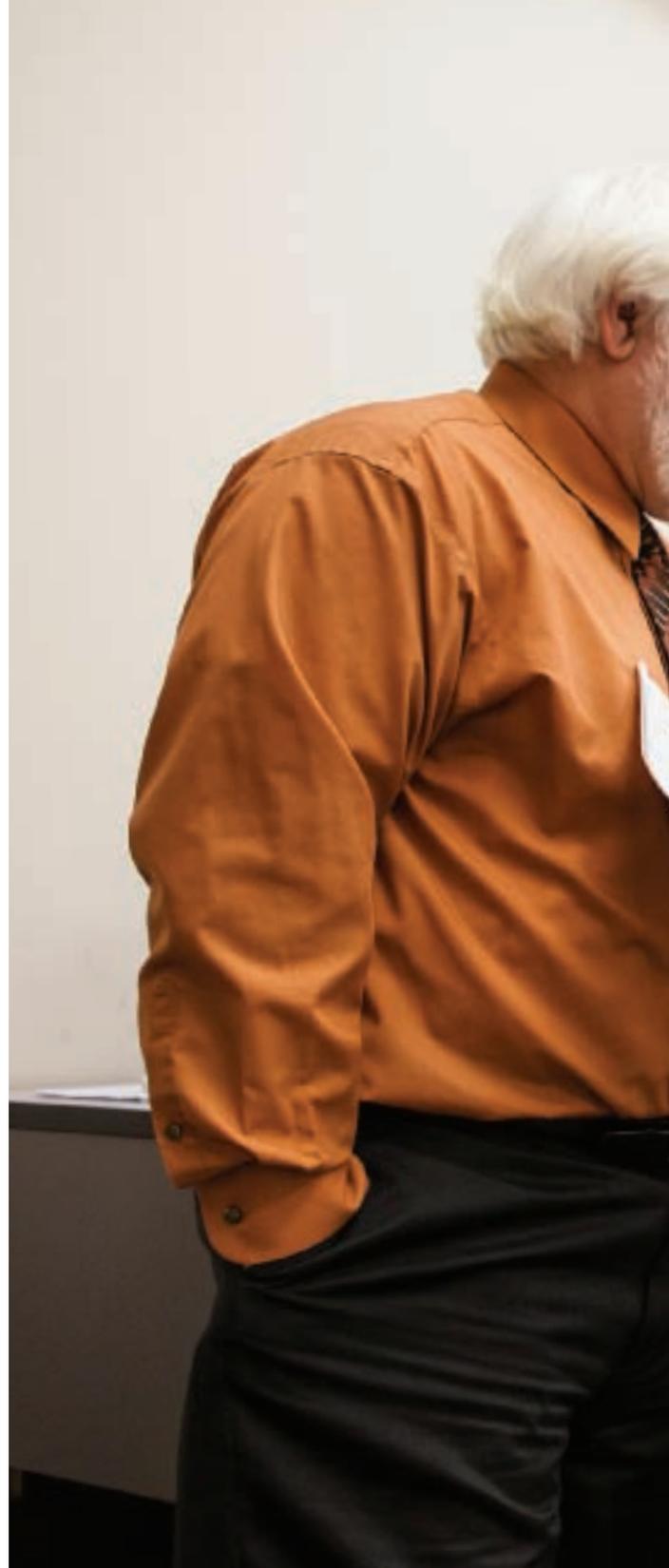
It's an approach CUW President Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry appreciates.

"He loves students, first of all," Ferry says. "He's willing to engage them at a kind of visceral, earthy level. He's genuine, a real guy, and kids pick up on that pretty quickly."

Another thing Feiertag brings to the Theology Department is levity, Ferry says. He then adds, with a touch of his own, "There are several really high-level scholars there. And he's not one of them."

Ferry continues on a more serious note.

"He deliberately understates his academic expertise, which allows the rest of us to tease him," he says of



Feiertag. "But the truth is he's extremely bright and a great teacher. The kids love him."

In addition to laughs, Feiertag's wit helps create a more effective learning environment.

"A lot of our students come in without much background in theology, and his humor helps defuse any anxiety they might be feeling," Ferry says. "He's able to come in and connect with them on their level."

Along with Feiertag's academic firepower and wit comes a wealth of real-world experience. All of it picked up along a life and career path largely unmapped, characterized by a few sharp and unexpected turns.



**“T**homas Feiertag: Evangelistic Missionary to the Philippines.”

The words reverberated through the chapel, where family, friends, and loved ones had gathered to honor the 1978 graduates of Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Ill. Mixed among the echoes was an audible gasp from the lips of Feiertag’s shocked Aunt Ruth, who could scarcely imagine her young nephew have accepting such an exotic assignment.

Feiertag himself was almost as surprised.

He had a wife, Cindy, and young daughter, Suzie, by this point, and the Philippines was a long way from home. But

his preferred destinations – Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, or Michigan – weren’t available. And the one stateside posting he was offered wasn’t to his liking.

“I thought, well, if I’m going to have to go to Kansas, I might as well go all out,” he says. So the Philippines it was.

He didn’t know much about the Philippines, so he looked it up. Seeing that he would have to learn Filipino gave him pause – he was never any good at languages, he felt. Once he was immersed in the culture, however, the new language proved no barrier at all. He showed such a knack, in fact, that his instructors went out of their way to teach him the language “the way it really is.”

**The Rev. Dr. Thomas Feiertag**  
“hard at work” in a Concordia  
classroom, one of the last  
places he thought God would  
one day lead him.



**Office mementos** include this bobble-head likeness, the product of a student art project, and (at right) a column of photos from the international student mission trips he leads each year.



**“Dr. Maschke called me up and said, ‘How would you like to be an adjunct professor?’ And I said, ‘I don’t even know what that is!’”**

“They taught me dirty jokes and dirty words,” Feiertag says. “They said, ‘You really need to know this if you’re going to be an effective missionary here.’ And it came in handy.”

The Feiertag family settled into their new home in Davao City, on Mindanao Island, and Feiertag pursued his duties as a church planter, working to establish a Lutheran congregation in the southern Philippines. Also stationed in the area were a couple of other missionaries. One spent a lot of time reading the Bible; the other spent a lot of time out in a boat drinking beer and fishing. Feiertag liked him better.

Back on land, as Feiertag devoted his time to welcoming locals into the family of faith, he also added one to his own family, which grew by two daughters during the Philippines sojourn. The first, Katie, by natural means, the second, Bekah, through local adoption.

“We realized there were a lot of abandoned babies there,” Feiertag says. “The government orphanages were full. So we decided to look into it. Nine weeks later, we had another baby, just like that!”

It was an exciting and rewarding life. Dangerous, too. The Philippines was a dictatorship at the time, one marked by sectarian strife between the Christian eastern

and Muslim western halves. The Feiertags learned a lot about missions, ministry, and how God works in the world. But after six years, they were ready to take their growing family home.

“I tell students, if you’re going to be a missionary, you have to put everything you have into it, but you probably aren’t going to do it the rest of your life,” he says. “You’re going to burn out eventually.”

So Feiertag accepted a call from a parish in Hartford, Wis., and finally became what he told his seventh-grade teacher he would be: an honest-to-God pastor. The problem was, seven years after seminary he had forgotten most of his pastoral training.

“I didn’t know what to do,” he says. “So I just went to everybody’s houses. Which I found out was the best thing I could do. Because the better you know your people, the better you can preach.”

It was a philosophy that would serve him well, not just as a new pastor but in the next calling God had in store for him.

**M**eanwhile, Concordia was changing with the times, going co-ed and offering more degrees. By 1989 it had become a full-fledged university, with a growing student body and a new location on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan.

A couple years before that Feiertag received an invitation from Dr. Timothy Maschke, then Concordia’s campus pastor, to speak during Missions Week. He made such an impression that a decade later Maschke, now head of the Theology Department, thought immediately of Feiertag when he was looking for someone to teach a new Missions class.

Feiertag says, “Dr. Maschke called me up and said, ‘How would you like to be an adjunct professor?’ And I said, ‘I don’t even know what that is!’”

Feiertag said thanks but no thanks. He didn't have any real teaching experience. Or any interest in working with college students.

"But he kept bugging me," Feiertag says. "He sat down and explained this is what a syllabus is, here are some textbooks, and here's how you do it. And finally I said okay."

Feiertag's first Missions class, fall 1997, had seven students. The second had 10. The third even more. Word was getting around about the funny new guy teaching the cool new class.

Maschke asked Feiertag to consider a full-time position in the Theology Department. Again Feiertag said no: "I like being a pastor."

But Maschke kept circling back, until Feiertag finally relented to an interview. Big mistake. He quickly became a unanimous choice for the job.

At which point, "I figured, this is what the Lord wants me to do. So I came back," Feiertag says.

"Why did we call him?" Maschke says. "I keep asking myself that same question."

Jibe aside, Maschke actually had very good reasons. Including Feiertag's mission experience, his ability to readily connect with students, and his appealing character.

"He's a terrific preacher and communicator of the Gospel," Maschke says, "as well as a strong advocate for strengthening the spirituality of our students."

Becoming a full-time professor was not necessarily an easy transition for Feiertag. He was just a humble pastor, after all, with "only" a Masters of Divinity, surrounded and intimidated by colleagues with impressive credentials and formidable brainpower. (He went on to earn a Ph.D. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 2006.) And as if that wasn't enough, then came the 9/11 terrorist attack.

"Just as my life changed with this new call, so did the whole world," Feiertag says.

Not long into his first semester, Feiertag was asked by fellow professor Dr. Nathan Jastram (Ph.D., Harvard) how he was getting along. Feiertag admitted to feeling a bit cowed by his new colleagues. The Harvard man replied that they felt intimidated by him. Six years in the mission field, preaching in a foreign language, 17 years in a parish? These were real-world credentials none of them could match.

It helped. Whether or not anyone actually was intimidated, "it was nice of him to say that, and it really made me feel good," Feiertag says. "I really felt a part of things after that."

**W**ith a Concordia history that dates back to the late '60s, Feiertag has seen more changes than most. But one thing that hasn't changed, from his time as a student to his tenure on staff, is the school's commitment to its Lutheran heritage and ongoing Christian mission. If anything, today's students are more open about their faith than he and his classmates were.

"Back then, you wouldn't pray with somebody. That was weird," he says. "These kids, they love each other and they love the Lord, and they see the value of prayer. So they'll sit down and pray together."

And even though the school is much larger now, the faculty is much more accessible to students than it was in his day.

"You didn't go to a professor's office unless you had to – and you were probably in trouble," he says. "But at the same time, the professors really cared."

Feiertag's own affection for the students is obvious as he walks the halls, greeting student after student by name, with a smile and a wave. The rapport is genuine, and the affection is returned – even in the face of the occasional zinger.

"Hey, Dr. Feiertag, two tickets to graduation!" says a student.

"Maybe you'll get a chance to use them," Feiertag says back.

That sort of banter is something he misses at home.

"My three daughters have all grown up and moved out of the house. I can't tease them so much anymore," he explains. "So the Lord has blessed me with classrooms full of students I can tease and joke around with instead."

Feiertag remains a pastor at heart, and the wisecracks help make students more willing to open up to him. He draws on his life experience to help young people plan their own lives after Concordia.

"I tell them what you do is you pray about it, you think about it, and you kick things around," he says. "I really enjoy doing that, because they've got their whole lives ahead of them. And I've had a lot of different experiences, so I can relate to a lot of different things they might be doing and going through. It's an exciting age."

Marshal Frisque, a 2011 CUW graduate who went on a mission trip with Feiertag and is now the school's social media manager, says no one has been more instrumental in helping him understand how to apply classroom principles to real-world situations.

"He had such great experiences going through Concordia, so he understands a lot of what we were going through," Frisque explains. "But then he also had years in pastoral ministry and years in the mission field. It really gives him a great perspective on how we can witness and share our faith. And I've been able to apply that in a number of cross-cultural situations, whether that's on the other side of the world or here at home."

Change is inevitable, of course. But if there's one constant in Feiertag's life, it's a willingness to always follow God's leading – even when it takes an unexpected turn. He never thought about becoming a pastor until he joked about it as a seventh-grader. He never considered missions work until the opportunity was dropped in his lap. And during 17 rewarding years as a pastor, he never dreamed he'd be a professor until Dr. Maschke "kept bugging" him about it.

"I remain convinced that the choice was God's will," Dr. Maschke says. "He has been an outstanding asset in so many ways on our campus and in our department."

At every detour in Feiertag's path, he trusted God – just as he advises his students to do today. As a result, it seems clear he's precisely where he's meant to be, doing exactly what he's meant to do: cracking wise and changing lives at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Funny how that works.

**Six years  
in the  
mission field,  
preaching  
in a foreign  
language,  
17 years in  
a parish?  
These were  
real-world  
credentials  
none of them  
could match.**



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS  
with the Rev. Dr. on  
Twitter: @ConcordianMag  
#TomFeiertag

# Advance



If there's one constant in the world of Advancement, it's change. Having just completed the most successful comprehensive campaign in the university's history, Renewed by the Waters Phase II, we see all around us, every day, the changes it brought about. From the striking Concordia Center for Environmental Stewardship near the bluff to the welcoming School of Pharmacy at the campus' entrance, Concordia has been transformed. It doesn't seem like a month has gone by in the past five years without construction taking place somewhere on campus.

In this regard, change has been very good for Concordia. With many new facilities, we have been able to expand our program offerings and attract more and more students who are seeking an excellent education in an overtly Christian environment. When prospective students and their families come to visit, it's readily apparent to them that Concordia is a very special place.

But the changes brought about by Renewed by the Waters go well beyond facilities and programs. Gifts to support endowments, which in turn support student scholarships, were so significant and generous that they helped us exceed our original campaign goal. This outpouring of support will help students today but also for generations to come.

All of this change is possible because some things are absolutely unchanging. What hasn't changed at Concordia is our mission and its focus on helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world. In a world full of change, our enduring commitment to providing a foundation built on Christ and service to others sets Concordia apart from so many institutions.

There's something else that's unchanging: the faithful support of thousands of people who helped make Renewed by the Waters such an amazing success. Through the sacrificial gifts of some and the broad support of many, the goal was reached. We're forever thankful for this unchanging commitment to providing our students the support they need to become living ambassadors of the Concordia mission.

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

# School of **Pharmacy**

## Research, Granted

**\$1.1 million in federal funding** opens new doors for the School of Pharmacy



A \$380,000 grant for studying how proteins work in tuberculosis-causing bacteria pushed the CUW School of Pharmacy past the \$1 million mark in federal research funding for 2012. It's a significant achievement for a school that opened its doors only three years ago at a university historically focused more on teaching than research.

And it signals the start of something big.

**“It’s part of our ... mission to address these critical issues.”**

“This opens doors for a new era for Concordia in terms of our growing research program,” says Dr. Daniel Sem, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, who will be conducting the federally funded tuberculosis research in tandem with a University of Wisconsin-La Crosse microbiology professor.

“In the past three years, we’ve completed four new research laboratories on campus, including an analytical and pharmaceutical sciences laboratory within the school itself,” adds Dean of Research Dr. John Dellinger. “This is an exciting time for professors to begin enhancing their

pursuit of knowledge through research directly supported by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and other external sponsors.”

Housed within the laboratory is the Center for Structure Based Design and Development, a core facility supporting drug development research in southeast Wisconsin. The three other laboratories on campus include one in Regents Hall dedicated to toxicity screening and studying zebra fish development. This lab will support planned research into the public health implications of disposing used and unwanted drugs into fresh water supplies, an issue of particular concern to the lakefront pharmacy school.

“We’ve assembled an incredibly talented set of faculty and resources, and we’re looking forward to collaborating with others to build southeast Wisconsin as a drug discovery and development hub,” Sem says.

The new growth is creating momentum for further advances. Concordia can now negotiate with federal granting officials for an indirect cost rate to help recover expenditures related to new investments. And the stage is set for important new research efforts.

“Many of our scientists, who are also teaching faculty, are interested in research on orphan diseases and orphan drugs that big pharmaceutical companies have failed to address because those sales markets aren’t large enough,” Executive Dean Curt Gielow says. “It’s part of our pharmacy school’s mission to address these critical issues.”

The new research efforts, while significant, are just one of many ways the pharmacy school seeks to embody not just leadership, but servanthood.

“Our pharmacy school strives to blend the mission of our faith-based institution into the fabric of our pharmacy education, to prepare servant leaders for the profession and the communities they will serve,” Gielow says.

Concordia President Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry adds, “With our School of Pharmacy, we’re able to highlight the important role that pharmacists play as vital health care providers in many rural areas. Our program is specifically designed to prepare students for service to Christ in the church and the world.”

—Jeff Bandurski, *Director of University Relations*

### The More the Merrier

Next fall an estimated 100 pharmacists-in-training will join 242 members of the Genesis, Beta, and Trinity classes as the \$12 million CUW School of Pharmacy (CUWSOP) enters its fourth year. That’s not just good for Concordia, it’s good for Wisconsin – and the rest of the country. There’s a nationwide need for more pharmacists. One that’s successfully being met at CUWSOP, the sole Lutheran-sponsored pharmacy school in the nation and only the second pharmacy school in Wisconsin.

### Earned, Not Won

How do you land nearly \$1.1 million in federal research and foundation grants over just 12 months? You earn it. By tackling key health issues like tuberculosis, as Dr. Daniel Sem is doing. By showcasing new work regionally and nationally, as faculty members Laura Traynor, Andrew Traynor, Laurie Schenkelberg, Lynne Fehrenbacher, Kassy Bartelme, and Mike Brown have done. And internationally, as Dean Arneson, academic dean, did at the Forbidden City International Pharmacist Forum in Beijing. And by showcasing student work, as the second-year Beta Class did by hosting and co-sponsoring the first “Molecular Pharmacology Poster Session,” funded by the National Science Foundation. Their works are currently on display in the School of Pharmacy.

## Alumni

# For God and Country

**Adam Eichelberger** answers the call, putting his I.T. skills to use for the U.S. Army



Adam Eichelberger (Computer Science '06) landed a good job after graduating from CUW, but it didn't last long. He just couldn't shake the feeling that God wanted him somewhere else. So he resigned.

And waited. All summer long. Working his old student job at Concordia, searching for that next opportunity, waiting for a sign. He was trusting God but starting to feel pretty anxious just the same.

Finally, in late September, the U.S. Army called. He interviewed and was offered a civilian job as a Strategic Planning Specialist. It all happened very fast – by Army standards. And this time, it felt right.

That was six years ago. He'd love to tell you all about what he's been doing since then, but he's not at liberty to talk about a lot of specifics. The simple description is "strategic planning and CIO (Chief Information Office) policy."

"I'm involved in writing how we use different computer systems, and how we actually use our unclassified network," Eichelberger says. "Things like knowledge management: figuring out where we actually store different things. And also cost schedule and performance of different contracts related to I.T. and I.T. work."

If all that sounds a little dry, it's not. His work has involved him in some very exciting projects, including "one of the largest tests the Army has ever conducted" at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, Eichelberger says. "It allowed me to see some of the coolest new stuff that the Army has in production while working with people from all across the world to help the war effort."

Again, he'd love to say more, but ... you know.

Eichelberger counts CUW's focus on critical-thinking skills as key to his success in this demanding field. It's something he feels sets Concordia apart – particularly in the Computer Science program.

"The majority of what we do is problem solving," he explains. "And that's really what the degree taught us, the critical-thinking skills that the entire CS program focused on: How do you *define* a problem and then solve it? And that's actually the number one thing the federal government is usually looking for."

Eichelberger had been working with the System of Systems Integration (SOSI) directorate at the U.S. Army TACOM (Tank Armaments Command) facility in Warren, Mich. But late last year he and his young family – wife Elizabeth and daughter Thia, 3 – pulled up stakes and moved to the nation's capital. Because when the Pentagon calls, you answer.

It's more than a sense of duty that motivates him. Eichelberger sees his career as a way to put his faith into action and answer to a higher calling – a perspective his time at Concordia helped instill and affirm.

"The people at CUW understand what it means to serve in a *vocation*, to feel that the Lord is calling you to do something," he says. "It's important to have that understanding."



Dr. Darren Werner (left) and Steve Samuel

## One for the Team

### Soccer connection leads to career assistance

When CUW soccer coach Dr. Tom Saleska recruited star high school soccer player Steve Samuel (Biology '09) for his squad, he dangled this offer: Enroll at Concordia, and I'll put you in touch with a chiropractor.

That's some incentive.

It certainly was to Samuel, who had his eye on a chiropractic career. And, true to his word, Coach Saleska connected Samuel with Dr. Darren Werner (Athletic Training/Sports Medicine '00), a Concordia Athletics Hall of Fame goalkeeper who's a partner at a clinic in Grafton, Wis. Samuel is now in his final trimester at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. And he's spending it working with Dr. Werner.

The arrangement is called a "preceptorship." Unlike a medical internship, it's not required training. Rather, it's more of a privilege – a chance to get some literal hands-on experience before moving on to a real-world practice.

"It's something that I didn't have the opportunity to do," Werner says. "Those first few weeks of practice after graduation were a real eye-opening experience for me. I told myself, 'If I ever have the opportunity to make that transition easier for someone else, I will.'"

"And now I would say Steve is way ahead of the game in terms of clinical and diagnostic skills. It's extremely valuable."

Samuel also sees it as a great way to learn some of the "intangibles" of chiropractic care. The stuff you can't learn in school.

"I think one of the biggest things I've learned from Dr. Werner is how to interact with the wide range of patients he sees," he says. "He's so professional and able to relate to everyone's own level of understanding."

Samuel and Werner don't play competitive soccer anymore. Ironically, it's largely because various soccer injuries have taken a toll on both of them, and chiropractic practice is so physical in nature. But having that shared background made it easy to get to know one another and develop a strong working relationship.

Coach Saleska never doubted that would be the case.

"They were both outstanding players," he says, "team captains who earned All-Conference honors. More importantly, they're both outstanding young men. And their new working relationship is a great story about members of the Concordia family helping each other out."

## On-the-Job Training Camp

### Mitch Schneider scores the internship of a lifetime – twice

An invitation to work for the Green Bay Packers? For a lifelong fan who grew up practically in the shadow of Lambeau Field, it doesn't get much better than that.

Concordia graduate Mitchell Schneider (Athletic Training '12) got the call not once but twice. First for a week-long athletic training internship in 2011, second for a training camp-long assignment in 2012.

It was a dream job for Schneider, though not always as glamorous as it might seem. The work was hard and the hours long. But he learned a lot – and the job satisfaction was downright dizzying at times.

Meeting Donald Driver, Charles Woodson, Aaron Rodgers, and other players, "it was very hard sometimes to hold back my excitement," Schneider says. "I still had to be professional and realize that they're just normal people, like anyone else."

One favorite memory is his "prolonged talks with Donald Driver about random things" while working with the star wide receiver in the training room. The Packers AT staff was also great to work with, he says. "If I wanted to try something I hadn't done before, they were always willing to show me and let me learn hands-on."

Schneider became interested in athletic training after he tore the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his knee playing basketball as a high school junior. "I spent almost every day with my athletic trainer rehabbing," he recalls. "As I progressed we became friends, and I started asking him about the profession."

That trainer must have done a good job. Not only did Schneider go on to earn a degree in Athletic Training from CUW, while there he also became the sixth all-time leading scorer in CUW men's basketball history, with 1,255 career points.

For now, Schneider is working in surgical sales while pursuing his athletic training dreams. He credits his time with the Packers for teaching him to keep pushing when things get tough, and his time at Concordia for giving him solid career and life skills.

"It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to be an athletic trainer. You have to love what you're doing," he says. "I hope what I did with the Packers opens up a door for future CUW athletic training students."



# AlumNotes

## 2000s

### Achievements



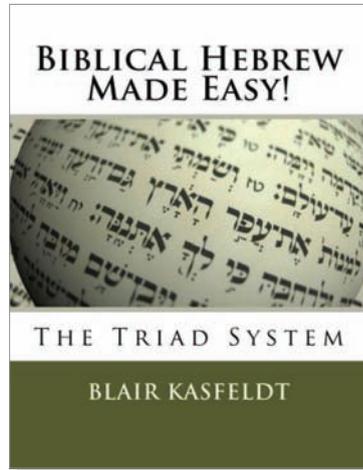
**Byron Winbush (10)** graduated in May 2012 with a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Loyola University.



**Nicole Tilot (07)** joined Thrivent Financial for Lutherans as a financial representative with the organization's East Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Regional Financial Office. She lives in Green Bay.

**Michael A. Vande Vrede (06)** was named to the St. Louis Business Journal's "30 under 30, Class of 2012." Michael is manager of customer experience at Sigma Aldrich. He and his wife **Maggie (Schuster) (05)** live in St. Louis.

**Sam Rugg (05)** was promoted to athletic director at Westfield Area High School, Westfield, Wis., where he is also a PE teacher and head wrestling coach. Sam is a 2011 CUW Athletic Hall of Fame inductee in wrestling.



**Blair W. Kasfeldt (03)** published his newest book *Biblical Hebrew Made Easy! The Triad System*. Available on Amazon.com, the book aims to help students learn and easily memorize foundational Hebrew paradigms. Blair lives in Fort Wayne, Ind.



**Steven Manor (00)** received the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award. He teaches mathematics and computer science at Homestead High School, Mequon.



**Sriram Rajagopalan (00)** of Physicians Interactive was one of five finalists for the 2012 Kerzner Award in project management excellence, administered by the PMI Educational Foundation and sponsored by the International Institute of Learning.

### Marriages

**1 Rachel Riddle (12)** and **Ryne Valentin (12)** on September 2, 2012, at Boulder Ridge Country Club, Lake in the Hills, Ill. Both work as credit analysts for Baxter Healthcare in northern Illinois.

**2 Benjamin Schmidt (12)** and **Rachel Beethe (07)** on June 23, 2012, at historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Milwaukee.

**3 Kolyssa T. VonDeylen (12)** and **Marshal R. Frisque (11)** on July 28, 2012, at Chapel of Christ Triumphant, CUW. Marshal is CUW's social media manager. Kolyssa earned a degree in Multimedia and Mass Communication.

**4 Kerrie R. Kelling (11)** and **David Roesler (10)** on February 4, 2012, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa. Alumni in the wedding party included **Kevin Elliot (10)**, **Kyle Carpenter (10)**, **Stu Johnson (10)**, **Kala Conley (11)**, **Sarah Hundertmark (12)**, **Heather Henning (11)**, **Lindsay Nass (11)**, and **Austin Sveom (10)**. Kerrie teaches at Elm Grove Lutheran School. Dave is a sales rep for Cintas. The couple resides in Waukesha.

**5 Sheila Scheidenhelm (11)** and Troy Cotton, Jr. on July 16, 2011. The couple lives in Menomonee Falls.

**6 Tana D. Dehning (10)** and **William Uffenbeck (09)** on June 23, 2012, at Christ Lutheran Church, Clinton, Wis. William is an actuarial analyst with Zurich North America in Schaumburg, Ill., where the couple resides. Tana is a nanny for families in the Schaumburg area.

**7 Tina M. (Campbell) Fennig (09)** in October 2011. Tina has been working as a teacher since graduating from CUW.

**8 Lauren Zahner (09)** and **Matthew Harvey (09)** on August 6, 2011.





**9 Brian Buczek (08)** and **Megan E. Blohm (07)** on December 6, 2008. Both work for Humana Insurance Company in Green Bay. The couple welcomed son Peyton Levi on February 25, 2012.

**10 Hannah B. Linderman (07)** and Daniel Lerud on July 7, 2012. The couple lives in Silver City, N.M.

## Births

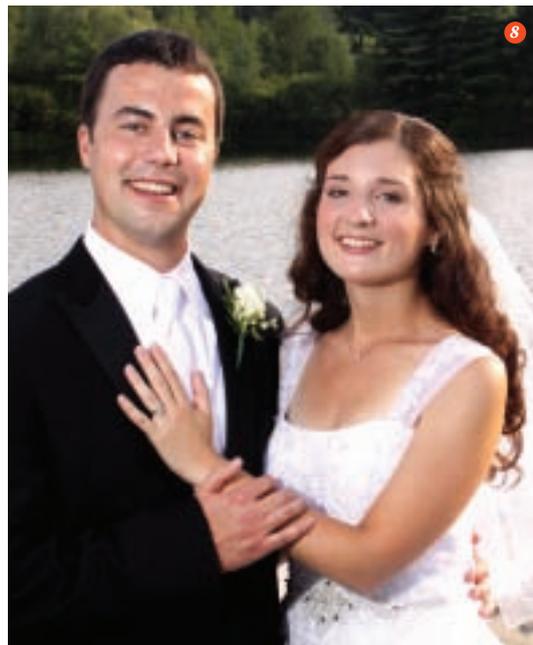


**Dale L. Nellor (01)** and his wife, Dianne, welcomed son Samuel Lloyd Nellor on November 7, 2012.

## 1990s

**Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy (96)** earned a doctorate in Business Administration. He was also reelected as vice president of the English District, LCMS.

**Charlie (Ruishi) Shao (96)** earned a Doctor of Business Administration degree from North-central University. He is a senior principal IT consultant for Aerospace and Defense at Computer Sciences Corporation.



## 1960s



**Robert Oettel (65)** recently volunteered at the Concordia English Center in Macau (SAR), China, where **Elliot Derricks (10)** and **Alissa Asmus (10)** are serving as missionary ESL teachers.

# (N)ever Changing

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)*

The only year I have ever lived outside the Midwest was my vicarage year in Florida. The people there were wonderful, but – no offense to those who live in the sunny and warm climates – I realized that, for better or worse, I’m a Midwesterner.

Living in the Midwest, you get four distinct seasons. Just when the heat of summer has lingered past its welcome comes the beautiful colors of fall. A white Christmas often greets us as winter sets in. And when we just about can’t take any more snow, spring comes to rescue us. Followed by the warmth of summer again ....

I have realized that my predisposition toward Midwestern-ness goes also to social trends. The newest fads and fashions and styles that land

on the coasts of LA and New York usually need to pass the test of time before they trickle into the Midwest and (maybe) become mainstream. That’s perhaps making the opposite statement of the one about weather. *The change in weather is something I appreciate about the Midwest, while the steadiness and unflappability of Midwestern culture is also comforting.*

Maybe this is a metaphor for our campus. We seem to be both ever *and* never changing. The new buildings and programs – residence

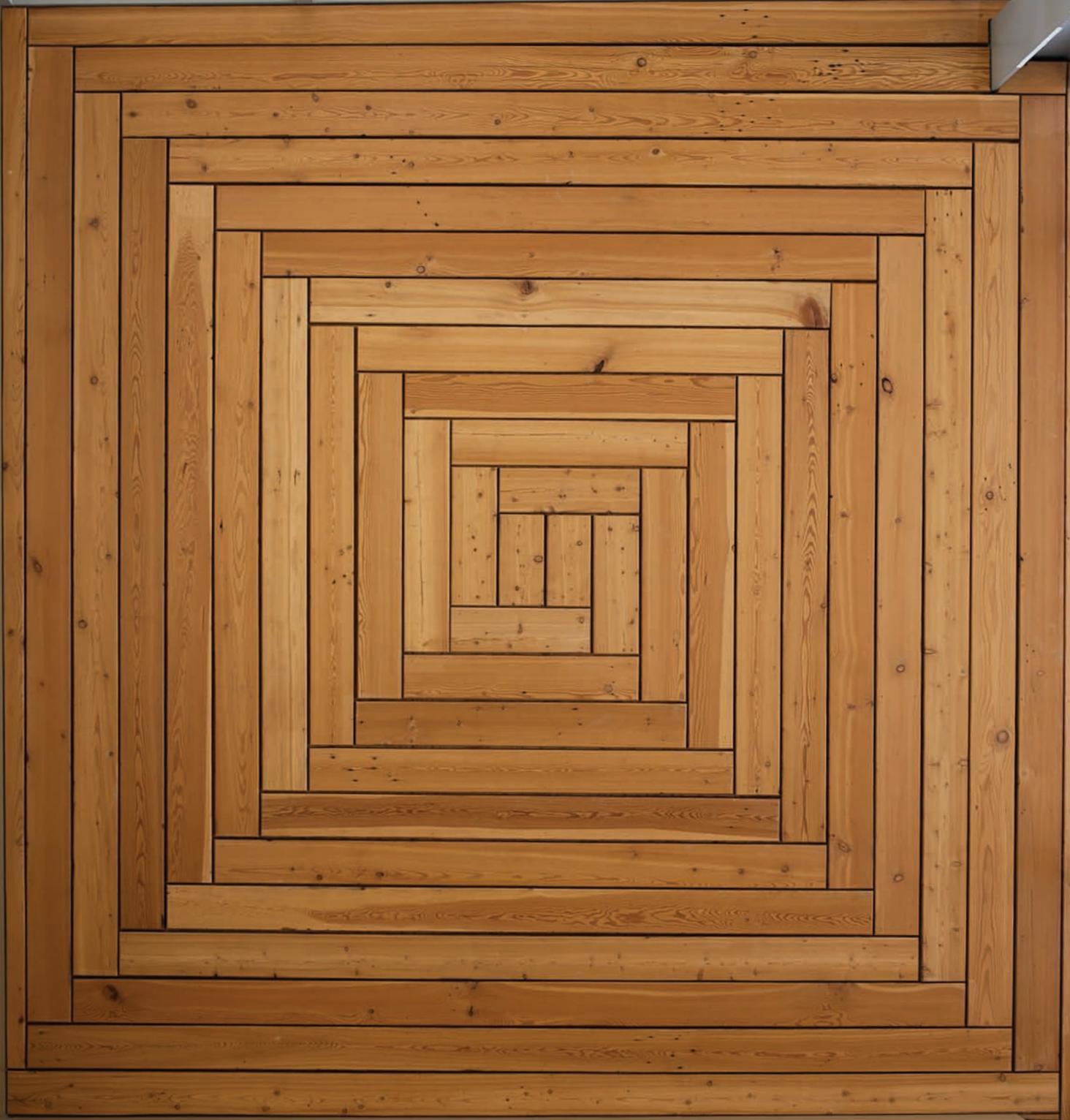
halls and athletic facilities, classrooms and labs, health services professions and liberal arts specializations – all provide opportunities for more students than ever to come and be a part of Concordia.

But while Concordia may look different, it has never been more the same. The Christian Faith class and the Bible class that all students take both speak of an unchanging Savior and a message that brings us comfort *because* it never changes. In the bleak midwinter of the Midwest, we wait with the shepherds and wise men to hear of the Savior’s birth. And later, as we’re rescued by the warmth and flowers of spring, we hear of Him again: “He is risen indeed!”

What a great place this is to be!

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





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**Above** Roof trusses salvaged from the Peace Center create the foyer ceiling in the new LEED Platinum-rated Concordia Center for Environmental Stewardship.



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a new romantic comedy



by **John Cariani**

On a cold, clear, starry night, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the Northern Lights hover above, Almost residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal and the hearts mend – almost – in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

Directed by Lori Woodall-Schaufler

**TODD WEHR AUDITORIUM • FEBRUARY 7-9, 7:30 P.M. • FEBRUARY 10, 1:30 P.M.**