

Concordian

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN

IN THESE PAGES

President Ferry celebrates 20 years! His journaling routine has been with him from the start.

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

Concordian CONTENTS

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

Features

12

Concordia's Chief Storyteller

President Ferry's journaling routine has accompanied his 20 years at the helm.



16

Hearts Together in The Holy Land

During an inaugural Winterim trip, CUW and CUAA students walked where Jesus walked.



18

Somebody to Lean On

A unique support team links distance learners to campus community.

On the Bluff

8

Freedom in the Gospel

A beloved professor shares three key takeaways of the Reformation.



In the World

22

Alumni Chat

A CUW leader talks exercising mind, body, and spirit with Grafton gym owner and alumnus Ben Quist.



CUW wants to hear from you!

What are you up to? Did you marry recently or give birth to a child? Did you receive a big promotion or travel the world? We want to know! Please email your update, with a high-resolution photo if possible, to alumni@cuw.edu or via our Web link at cuw.edu/alumni/stories. With your permission, your update may appear on the CUW Website, and in the print and online versions of the *Concordian*.

Go to cuw.edu/alumni/events for alumni resources, programs, and information on upcoming events, including:

- Fireside Theater—throughout the year
- Alumni Chinooks games—summer
- Concordia Servant Roundtable—second Thursday of each month

A Faith-Filled Journey

Editor's note: As the conclusion of the 2016-17 academic year approaches, so, too, does Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry's 20th year at the helm of Concordia University Wisconsin. We chose to mark this milestone by having the president's address come from the person who knows him best.

Dear Concordians,

Words cannot express my feelings as I write this letter, but I'll try anyway. Deeply grateful. Incredibly honored. Proud yet humbled. Blessed by the privilege to serve as the president's wife as we prepare the next generation for service to Christ in the Church and the world! I feel all of this because of you. The support, encouragement, and love you have given Pat and me over the past two decades has sustained, uplifted, and inspired us. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

Words cannot express how we felt 20 years ago, July 2, 1997, when we received the call that Pat was chosen to be president. I'll try anyway. Shocked. Scared. Numb. Excited. At 38 years old, with no administrative experience he was an underdog. As the presidential election process winnowed, we were geared up for a cross-country move to Texas, where Pat had already accepted a new position. Our house was sold! Needless to say, that phone call put into motion a whirlwind of unexpected change that, frankly, we had no idea how to handle. We could only trust in God's plan for our lives and how He would use Pat's leadership role to fulfill His purpose.

Words cannot express how proud I am of Pat, but, again, I'll try anyway. Over the years, I've watched him solve complex problems and sticky situations with great integrity and strength. I've witnessed his tenacity, humility, and patience. He is steadfast, disciplined, and visionary. His faith is active in love! One cannot count the number of times Pat has encouraged, comforted, and inspired others through the Gospel message. He is a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandpa. Our family is his highest priority, and we feel it every day. He is our rock. He is our friend.

My words fall short of adequately describing our 20-year journey at Concordia, but that's okay because all that matters is God's Word. His Word is the foundation upon which Concordia is built, and our mission is grounded in Scripture. Over the course of the next 20 years, presidents (and spouses) will come and go, but God's Word will remain. God's Word, made flesh in Jesus Christ, is the heart and soul of everything we do!

In His Name,

DR. TAMARA FERRY

President's Wife

Director of Institutional Research

Campus News

Lifting Up the Mission

Concordia's Week of Service makes an impact



By **Rachel Ferguson**, *University Affairs*
Photography by *Ashley Kilgas*

Their hands worked alongside each other, building up communities in the name of Christ. Their hands showed love and care to their neighbors. Their hands, the hands of Concordians, served.

Concordia University Wisconsin held its second annual Week of Service March 6-10. The effort brought together groups from across the university to further God's Kingdom through service endeavors.

"Service is key to our university's mission," said Rev. Dr. Randall Ferguson, CUW's director of Christian Service. "It is our witness to the world that God in Christ Jesus lives, loves, and redeems all who call upon His name."

As part of the week's efforts, staff and faculty made 500 sandwiches for a United

Way charity in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Concordia's 10 adult accelerated centers, located throughout Wisconsin and in St. Louis, each donated items and resources to local nonprofits.

Meanwhile, students, faculty, and staff made donations to the national charity Feed My Starving Children. Many also went off campus on Wednesday to extend helping hands to a number of nonprofits in the community.

The week culminated with the commissioning of spring break mission trip groups. Students from CUW and CUAA traveled to New Orleans, Appalachia, and Guatemala to help rebuild homes lost to natural disasters. ■

In Demand

New social work program addresses critical need

By **Kali Thiel**, *University Affairs*

It's one of the fastest growing professions in the country, and now students have the opportunity to turn themselves into coveted candidates by studying at Concordia University Wisconsin.

CUW introduced last fall its Master of Social Work degree—a two-year, full-time graduate program that aims to address the rapidly growing need for more, qualified workers in the social work professions. The program's first class begins studies in the fall of 2017.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor,

there will be a 12 percent increase in the need for social workers between now and 2024, which will result in the creation of 74,800 new positions. Concordia's new program promises to produce highly skilled workers who are ready to help fill that void and deliver Christ's love and care to those they serve.

"We're eager to have our first cohort of students begin in the fall," says Dr. Elizabeth Peffer Talbot, professor and chair of the department. "At Concordia, we'll train individuals in a Christ-centered environment

who will meet an urgent need in our communities."

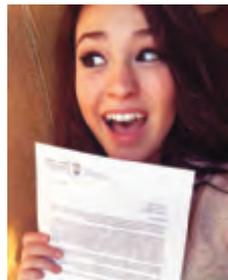
Professional social workers are employed to work with individuals, families, children, schools, and health care systems in areas such as mental health, substance abuse, criminal justice, administration, politics, and international social work.

Interested in a social work master's degree from CUW? Learn more by visiting www.onlineinfo.cuw.edu/msw. ■

Future Alum Posts

FUTURE ALUM POSTS FUTURE ALUM POSTS FUTURE ALUM POSTS FUTURE ALUM POSTS FUTURE ALUM POSTS FUTURE ALUM POSTS FUTURE ALUM POSTS FUTURE ALUM POSTS FUTURE ALUM POSTS FUTURE ALUM POSTS

Instagram @k.faubus



After a year and a half of hard work, I am so excited that I have this amazing opportunity to continue my journey to become a pharmacist in graduate school. I want to say thank you to all my friends, professors, and most importantly my family. Without your continual support, I don't know where I'd be. I love you all and can't wait for what lies ahead!

Twitter @BalloutMaurice6

Blessed to say that I will be continuing my academic and football career at Concordia University Wisconsin #falconsoar



Going the Extra Mile

CUW coach takes on 24-hour run in support of one of his own

By **Kali Thiel**, *University Affairs*

Photography by *Jeffrey Phelps*

Russ De Lap is no stranger to long-distance runs.

The Concordia University Wisconsin cross country and track and field coach has competed in numerous 5Ks, 10Ks, and marathons, as well as five ultramarathons—100 miles in the span of approximately a day.

So when he set out last November to “run, walk, or crawl” 24 hours straight in support of CUW student-athlete Lilly Johnson, 20, who was diagnosed with 2B Hodgkin’s Lymphoma in May 2016, he knew the physical and psychological toll he was in for.

“I kind of know the risks and the pain and the other things that come along with running that far,” De Lap, 59, said. “I don’t know if it’s a sickness or something, but there’s a curiosity of what can I really do?”

This time, however, it was more than just curiosity driving him.

De Lap, whose mother and sister passed away from cancer, decided he needed to do something big to support Lilly and her family. And so on November 5-6—even though at midnight his gut was already aching with pain, and he was saying he was ready to stop—De Lap completed 101 miles in just under 24 hours for Lilly, bringing in thousands of dollars from those who pledged money to his effort.

When combined with the proceeds from the annual President’s Run, a 5K fundraiser that was held earlier that same day, Lilly and her family received more than \$18,000 in donations.

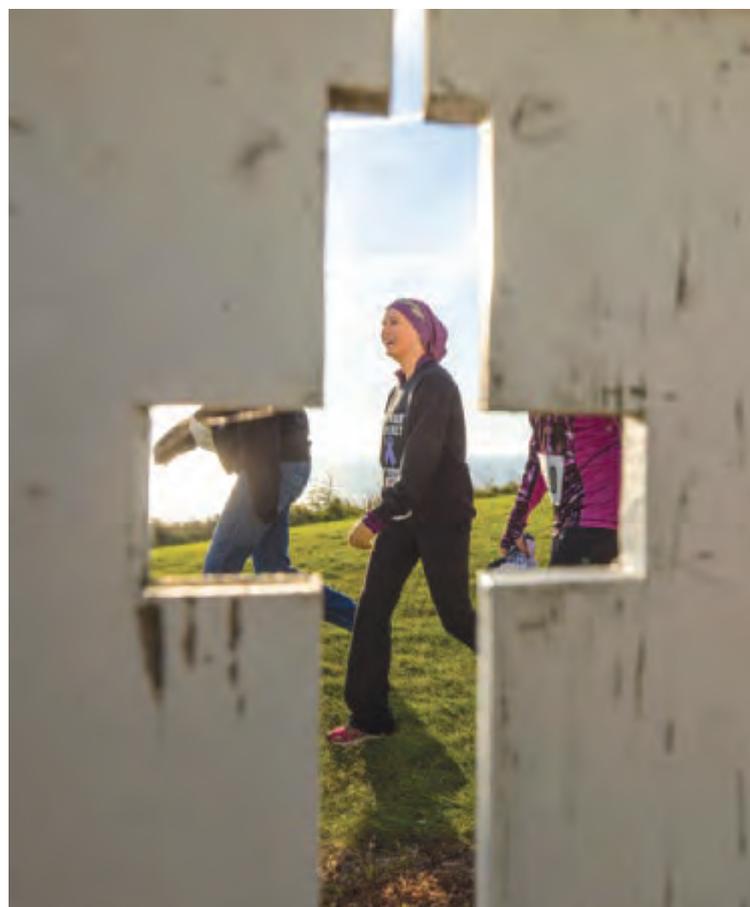
Even though she had endured yet another round of chemotherapy a week and a half before, Johnson was able to make it out for the day, and walked in the President’s Run. She was joined by several of her family members and even more CUW friends and supporters.

Soon after that day, Johnson and her family received the good news that she was cancer-free. She was able to return to CUW for the start of the spring semester.

“I’m still so grateful to everyone for their support,” Johnson said. “There aren’t many places that would go to that much effort. It just shows how special of a place Concordia really is.” ■

TOP: Lilly Johnson, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma in May 2016, was able to attend the annual President’s Run on November 5, 2016. Proceeds from the event went toward offsetting her medical costs.

BOTTOM: CUW cross country and track and field coach Russ De Lap bows his head in prayer at the start of the annual President’s Run, just hours before he began his 24-hour run on November 5, 2016.



Twitter @jenwendt

@CUWisconsin look what came in the mail yesterday! @CUWOnline #celebrateaccomplishments #keepmovingforward

Twitter @Ciara_Bond74 So proud to announce my acceptance to Concordia University Wisconsin to play Lacrosse & Field Hockey. Feels nice when your dreams come true.

Twitter @StAnthonyCHS

The St. A class of 2017 is #CollegeBound! @CUWisconsin



Instagram @ic.solt Still in awe at how amazing God’s timing is in my life. Can’t wait for the next four years... #CUW #classof2021

Campus News

Within Reach

The Luther Promise makes a CUW education attainable for more students

By Rachel Ferguson, *University Affairs*

Hannah Lull knew her entire life that she wanted to attend Concordia University, but when she reached her senior year of high school she wondered if that dream would ever truly be achievable.

With a heart for serving Christ and a devotion to Lutheran education, Lull knew that Concordia was the place she could experience both, but as the daughter of a Lutheran lay minister, she knew there would be financial barriers to attending a four-year institution.

Then Lull learned about the Luther Promise. This institutionally funded financial guarantee, which Concordia announced last October, awards qualifying undergraduate students up to \$20,000 of annual aid.

Despite initial concerns, Lull is now able to fulfill her desire of becoming a Concordian because of it.

“Concordia University has a bold vision to be the Church’s school, equipping the faithful to make an impact for Christ in ways they never imagined,” states Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D., president of Concordia. “The Luther Promise marks a significant commitment to invest even more resources in students—like Hannah—ensuring that lifelong Lutheran education is available to more than ever before.”

To qualify, students must meet one of four criteria. He or she must be a:

- Member of a Lutheran congregation (any denomination)
- Dependent of an alumnus from any of the 10 Concordia University System schools
- Dependent of a rostered church worker within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Graduate of a Lutheran high school (any denomination)

Previously, Concordia students received on average \$13,000 of institutional aid annually. With the Luther Promise, eligible students, including transfer students, are guaranteed up to \$20,000 of aid, depending on student GPA and ACT scores.

Instituted at the hilt of the Lutheran Reformation’s 500th year celebration, the Luther Promise truly is a continuation of the Reformation’s enduring impact, enabling students, like Hannah Lull, to pursue, as a Concordian, excellence in Lutheran higher education.

If you are passionate about Lutheran higher education and want to donate to the Luther Promise, contact Vice President of Advancement Roy Peterson at Roy.Peterson@cuw.edu. ■



Upcoming Campus Events

For a full list of campus events, please visit: www.cuw.edu/events

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

May

11
Alumni Reception,
Miller Inn, 5 p.m.

12-13
Commencement Weekend
Graduate Students,
Field House, May 12, 6 p.m.

Baccalaureate,
Chapel of Christ Triumphant,
May 13, 10 am



July

06-08
CUS Society of
Creation Conference,
Pharmacy Building

Evangelism and Apologetics Through Generations

A look at the Maier legacy and its part in Concordia's future

By Kali Thiel, University Affairs



Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier (pictured here, circa 1935–1940) was one of the renowned evangelists of the mid-20th century. Photo courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries



Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier, a respected and widely known author and historian, is pictured here at the Lutheran Hour Ministries headquarters in spring 2016. Photo courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries

When Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, he started a reform that has endured for centuries. This anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation presents an opportunity to lift up others, like Luther, who have championed the Christian faith, defended the Word, and shaped the Lutheran Church in significant ways—others, like Rev. Drs. Walter A. Maier and Paul L. Maier. Their witness serves as a model for Concordia as the university prepares students to boldly go forth and do the same.

In his 20 years as speaker of “The Lutheran Hour,” founder Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier

never missed a chance to preach the Word of God in its fullest and most compelling truth: Law always with the Gospel, sin with grace, death with Christ’s crucifixion for humankind’s salvation.

Clearly his messages struck a chord, because at the time of his sudden passing in 1950 “The Lutheran Hour” had secured a place as the largest regular broadcast—among secular and religious programming alike—in the history of radio. Thousands of tributes paying respect to Maier reportedly poured in from around the globe that day—including from the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, who once called Maier “the greatest combination of preacher and scholar that America has ever produced.”

Maier instilled in his children the same fervor for spreading Truth to the masses, leaving a

legacy that is still powerfully impacting the Church today. That legacy, in part, comes in the form of Maier’s son, Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier.

A prolific author and renowned historian and public speaker, Paul Maier has devoted his life’s work to tirelessly defending the Christian faith against the fallacies, bias, and poor scholarship of a sinful and misguided culture. He has written numerous scholarly and popular works, including 16 published books in the children’s literature, and adult non-fiction and fiction genres. His theological thriller “A Skeleton in God’s Closet” became a No. 1 national bestseller in religious fiction when it released in 1994. More than five million of his

books, as well as over 250 scholarly articles and reviews in professional journals, are now in print in 20 languages.

The Maier men’s witness serves as a model for future

generations, says Concordia President Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D.

“It is essential for the future of the Church that we mark the significant contributions of those who have paved the way for Gospel proclamation,” says Ferry. “The legacy of Rev. Drs. Walter and Paul Maier is both foundational and inspirational for our students, our synod, and believers throughout the world.”

If helping to establish a tribute to the Maier legacy is important to you, contact Vice President of Advancement Rev. Dr. Roy Peterson at roy.peterson@cuw.edu or 262-243-4533. ■

“It is essential for the future of the Church that we mark the significant contributions of those who have paved the way for Gospel proclamation.”

—Concordia President Patrick T. Ferry

CAMPUS EVENTS UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

August

27
Opening Service,
Chapel of Christ Triumphant, 10 a.m.

28
First Day of Traditional Classes



September

18
Falcon Day Golf Classic,
River Club of Mequon



FREEDOM *in the* GOSPEL

The Reformation's reach touches the CUW campus

By **Rev. Dr. Timothy Maschke**

Photography by Patrick Flood



Rev. Dr. Timothy Maschke is professor of theology at Concordia University Wisconsin, where he has served since 1982. He teaches courses in biblical, doctrinal, historical, and practical theology, with special interests in Luther, Lutheran doctrine,

and Lutheran worship. Maschke is chair of CUW's Reformation 500 committee, formed to help Concordians commemorate and celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

"How much freedom do we have?" a new faculty member asked me a couple of years ago when I was giving a presentation about CUW's programs. She had come from a public university that was very careful to instruct faculty on what could and could not be discussed in classes, particularly as related to political correctness. I was surprised by the question and told her honestly: "We can talk about everything! We have real academic freedom here."

Now, obviously, we don't speak against God's revealed truths, but we can certainly discuss all topics from all perspectives. We try not to be lewd, rude, or crude (although that didn't seem to stop Martin Luther in the 16th century), but we have real freedom of expression at Concordia.

After 500 years, what can we learn from a rebellious Augustinian friar posting of some theological distinctions in a small, obscure university town in faraway Germany? What relevance does the Reformation have at Concordia? Martin Luther articulated concerns that many people had voiced, yet they did not have the opportunity or gifts to advance.

Among the results of Luther's Reformation are several long-lasting and earth-changing ideas, particularly related to the Gospel, education, and vocation.

How do these themes impact Concordians? Primarily, we recall that Concordia was founded as (and we celebrate the fact that we remain) a Lutheran school committed to the Gospel. Salvation is by grace through faith because of Christ. All students have the privilege and opportunity to study God's Word in an academic setting. Scriptural study is literally at the heart of Lutheranism and of Concordia University. Almost a dozen times in his 95 Theses, Luther wrote, "Christians are to be taught" Later, Luther would speak of Christians as "taught by God" ("theodidacti"). One of our political science professors put it this way: "Scripture is the lens, providing perspective and illuminating all our other study, as is evident in our school seal."

Coupled with Scripture, our chapel services are open to all students. While never mandatory, most students, faculty, and staff discover chapel as a beneficial mid-morning change of pace. As a faculty member remarked, "Spending a few moments in an engaging Christian community centered on the Gospel message is invigorating physically and spiritually."

Concordia's emphasis upon Luther's rediscovery of the biblical teaching of "vocation" is another result of the Reformation. Our health-related programs, along with our business, education, and arts and sciences schools are as vigorous as our theological foundation.

And, of course, academic freedom is alive and well on our campus. Ours is not the modern "political correctness," but rather an opportunity to dig deeply into all subjects to seek the Truth as revealed in nature and Scripture. ■

PRESERVING *What Matters Most*

A spotlight on Lawrence Sohn, treasure keeper, educator, and servant leader

By **Lisa Liljegren**, *University Affairs*
Photography by *Jeffrey Phelps*

When Dr. Lawrence Sohn was asked to serve as assistant to Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D., the newly inaugurated young president of Concordia University Wisconsin back in 1997, he gladly accepted his friend's request under one condition:

"Keep me behind the scenes; don't put me in front of people," chuckled Sohn as he retold the story about how he went from the position of chairman of teacher education to the right-hand man of the university's 10th president.

Now, after 37 years of faithfully serving the university in a variety of capacities—most recently as keeper of the CUW archives—and doing his best all the while to keep out of the spotlight, Sohn will retire at the end of the academic year.

Sohn has worked in education his entire career. He began as an elementary teacher at Mount Calvary Lutheran School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1959 and moved through the ranks to become principal. In 1980, he received an unexpected call from Rev. R. John Buuck, Ph.D., then president of Concordia College, to chair the teacher education program and help to develop the college's teacher licensure process. Even though Sohn had no higher education experience, he accepted the call and discovered a passion for teaching the next generation of teachers at Concordia College.

Sohn had a difficult time remaining behind the scenes because his gifts in education and servant leadership always shone through. He continued teaching throughout most of his tenure at the university, and no matter his title was tasked to lead Concordia through the ongoing assessment and accreditation process. Sohn would go on to serve as executive vice president and briefly as vice president of academics before his first retirement on June 30, 2005.

"My wife refers to this as my failed attempt at retirement," joked Sohn.

Within days of his retirement, his friend President Ferry invited him back to Concordia to expand the official archive department to



Above: Dr. Sohn has held numerous titles during his tenure at Concordia University. Pictured are some of his titles over the years.

Opposite page: Dr. Sohn will retire as Concordia's archivist at the end of the 2016-17 academic year. Here he holds one of the numerous artifacts he's had in his charge for the past several years.

meet the ongoing accreditation needs and to help future generations appreciate the cultural legacy of the institution.

It wouldn't surprise anyone that Sohn has maintained a personal mission since his early teaching days: "Serving as a resource to others for a rich life in Christ."

Sohn has been a beloved and trusted resource to students, faculty, and staff his entire time at Concordia. And, in return, his life has been richly blessed. He and his wife of 55 years, Ellen, have three living children and three grandchildren. They are active members of their church and in their community.

Among the treasures in the archives are faculty minutes dating back to 1890 (written in German script), records from the meetings of the Board of Regents, Concordia's collection of catalogs since 1890, and files and files of photos and memorabilia that are carefully researched and labeled.

While much has changed since the university was founded in 1881, Sohn points out, and the archives support, that the culture at Concordia has remained remarkably steadfast throughout the decades.

"The mission of preparing pastors for seminary, and professional church workers to teach and serve God and others has always been the primary focus," reflected Sohn. "While our programs have dramatically expanded throughout the years, they have each been judiciously chosen to support our primary mission."

Sohn will retire for the second time on June 30, 2017. In his new free time he intends to focus on his own family's archives and the archives of his congregation. Because of his life's work of documenting and preserving the things that matter most, Sohn's own legacy is solidly planted at Concordia University within the archives underneath the chapel. ■



CONCORDIA'S STORYTELLER

President Ferry's 20 years of journals demonstrate his faith that God is at work

By **Kali Thiel**, *University Affairs*
Photography by Jeffrey Phelps

It was July 1, 1997, and Patrick Ferry was on the cusp of a monumental period of change in his life when he decided it was time to start keeping a journal.

Ferry was professor of history at Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin, at the time, seeking the Lord's next calling in his life.

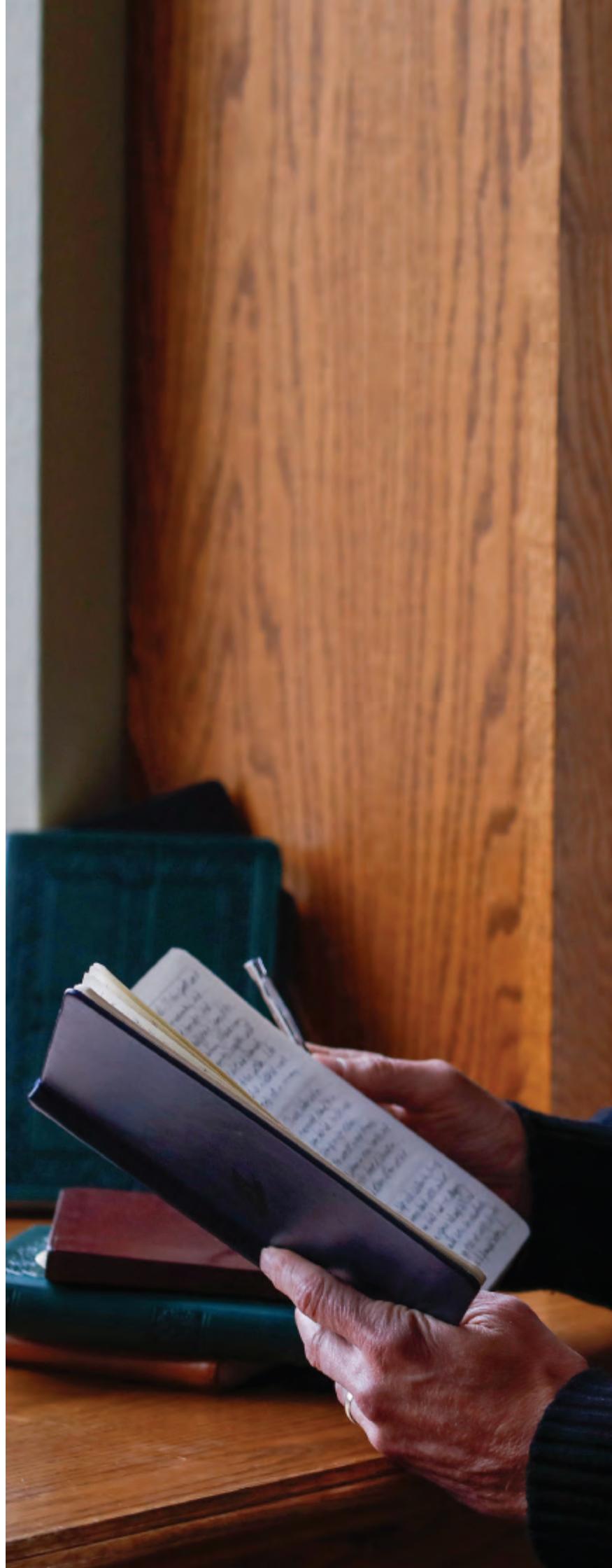
He was young, earnest, and humbled by the possibility that he could succeed R. John Buuck as president of Concordia University Wisconsin with aptitude, vision, steadfastness, and fervent attention paid to the Gospel mission.

If not president, then he would become vice president of academics at Concordia University in Austin, Texas. He had already accepted the position, contingent on being elected president. His bags were literally and, to some degree, figuratively packed for the South, as Ferry famously likes to tell. Of the five serious candidates in consideration for the presidency, Ferry by far had the least leadership experience.

His first journal entry details his reflections as he awaited the electors' decision:

"Today is the last chapter of one part of our life, and tomorrow begins a new one. By noon tomorrow I will know better if I am elected to be Concordia University's next president, or whether I will become Vice President of Academics at Concordia Austin. My feeling is that another will be chosen, though there is no clear choice.... Surely the Lord knows if I have put forth the right vision and if I am the right person. I am encouraged by Paul's reminder to Timothy that we have not received a cowardly spirit, but a spirit of power, love, and good judgement. It is that Spirit that I invoke now—praying that no one would look down upon me because of my youth, and that I would be an example to the believers."

The next day, "the underdog" was elected the 10th president of Concordia University Wisconsin, and two decades later the university is looking back on the tremendous season of growth it has experienced under his leadership. ▶





President Ferry has kept a handwritten journal for 20 years, the entire span of his Concordia University presidency. His journaling takes place at home, either at his desk in his study or, in more recent years, in his favorite chair in the family room.

THE NARRATIVE APPROACH

The conclusion of the 2016-17 academic year marks 20 years with Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D. at the helm of Concordia University Wisconsin, four of them with the Ann Arbor campus also under his charge.

As the third longest-running president of CUW, Ferry has propelled the university to a number of significant achievements: President George W. Bush as commencement speaker, the remodel of CUW's bluff, the addition of the School of Pharmacy program and building, the merge with the Ann Arbor campus, and a 74 percent increase in total student enrollment from his first academic year to now, to name a few.

All the while he's kept a near-daily journaling routine, recording his innermost thoughts and reflections on faith, his family, and Concordia's greatest triumphs and struggles.

The routine is therapeutic for Ferry. Oftentimes, putting pen to paper turns into a sort of private prayer practice, and other times it turns into a rant on the politics of the Church, Ferry says with a self-deprecating chuckle.

Perhaps it's the history professor in him, but Concordia's president loves a good story. Seldom does a sermon, letter, or speech go by without a memorable anecdote in its midst, sometimes drawn from his journals.

"There's something about the narrative approach," says Ferry. "We all have stories, and so all people are able to relate to them on some level. Most of mine are personal stories. I'll be fairly intentional about the ones that are somewhat self-effacing. It makes it clear that we're all human. Sometimes you can get caught up in metrics, but in the end we live our lives in kind of a narrative framework."

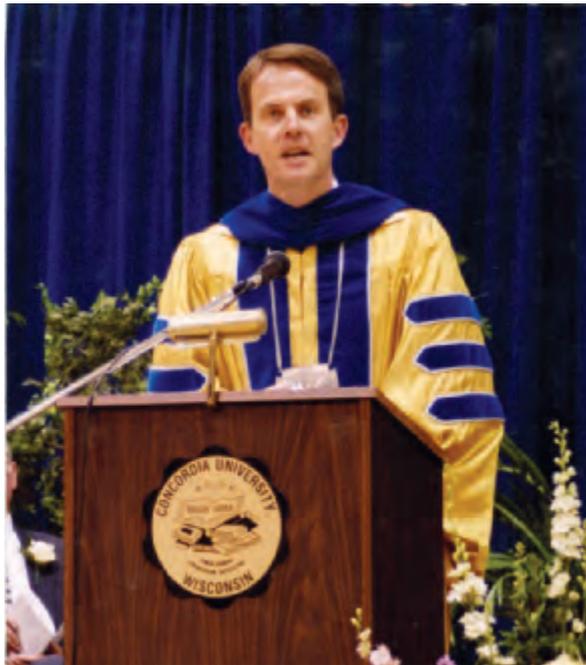
His trademark bowtie in place and his head cocked slightly to the side, he loves to tell the story, for example, of when CUW passed on purchasing the 40 acres of land across the street from its main campus.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame offered to sell the land for \$250,000 in 1982, but the offer was declined. At that time, it was hard to fathom that Concordia would ever need the space.

Fast forward two decades, when Concordia was laying plans for the Lakeshore Restoration project: The university found itself in need of extra acreage in close proximity, where workers could dump the 450,000 cubic yards of soil they would need to remove from the Lake Michigan bluff—an amount that if dumped on the already owned 40 acres of land on the north end of campus would have raised the entire plane by nine feet.

Concordia again looked to the land across the street. Only this time the price tag was more than 13 times the initial offer.

"So the School Sisters had improved their negotiating skills through the years," Ferry tells with a grin. "As we handed over the check to (the head of the order), I asked her in jest, 'Whatever happened to that vow of poverty thing that you guys used to make such a big deal about?'"





BEYOND STORYTELLING

But it's not just talk where Ferry is concerned. His friends, colleagues, and employees know that his ability to seek out feedback, and his capacity for genuine care and concern are equally extraordinary.

One longtime colleague described his observations of the president during countless meetings—faculty, Board of Regents, Administrative Council, and so on: “Sometimes these discussions get heated. President Ferry doesn't participate much in that, but he listens, and you can see the wheels turning. And then, at the end of the meeting he's able to say, 'Okay, here's what we're going to do.' I think that's what makes a good administrator and an admired administrator. People are fiercely loyal to him.”

In other words, Ferry listens, synthesizes, and comes to a decision and then is able to compellingly translate what's important for the university to those who need to hear it. And always at the top of his list of most vital messages is Christ's crucifixion and resurrection for us all.

When Ferry reflects on his first days as university president, he notes that much has changed. However, one thing is sure, he says—any success that is to be attributed to his time at Concordia University is the result of the Lord at work in him for the sake of His Kingdom.

Or, as Ferry put it on July 1, 1997:

“My confidence rests in God's will being done, and that He knows Concordia's needs better than I do.” ■

Top left: President Ferry addresses a commencement crowd early on in his presidency.

Top right: President Ferry and his family were photographed near Concordia's bluff within the first months of his presidency.

Bottom: Earlier this year, President Ferry held a symposium with international students about some of the current issues facing them.

Hearts Together in The Holy Land

By special contributor **Kristin Rathje**,
adjunct instructor at CUAA

For 12 days, 33 Concordians from Wisconsin and Ann Arbor explored Israel, eyes wide, saying to one another, “Pinch me ... I can’t believe we are actually here!” From singing in an amphitheater in Caesarea to riding on a boat on the Sea of Galilee to exploring Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found to praying at the Western Wall, we have been astounded by the history, the beauty, and the mystery of Israel. We are students and teachers; we are aged 19 to 62; we are from two campuses in different states; we are followers of Christ. We will never be the same.

One of the greatest blessings of this trip was the strong bond that was formed among the sojourners. Strangers when we met, we became a family—laughing and crying together, looking out for one another, and being transformed by walking the very places where many biblical figures walked. Although we departed from one another to return to our respective campuses, we Concordians will remain “hearts together.”

Students interested in studying in The Holy Land (REL476) over Winterim 2018 should contact Rev. Dan Flynn at Daniel.Flynn@cuw.edu. ■



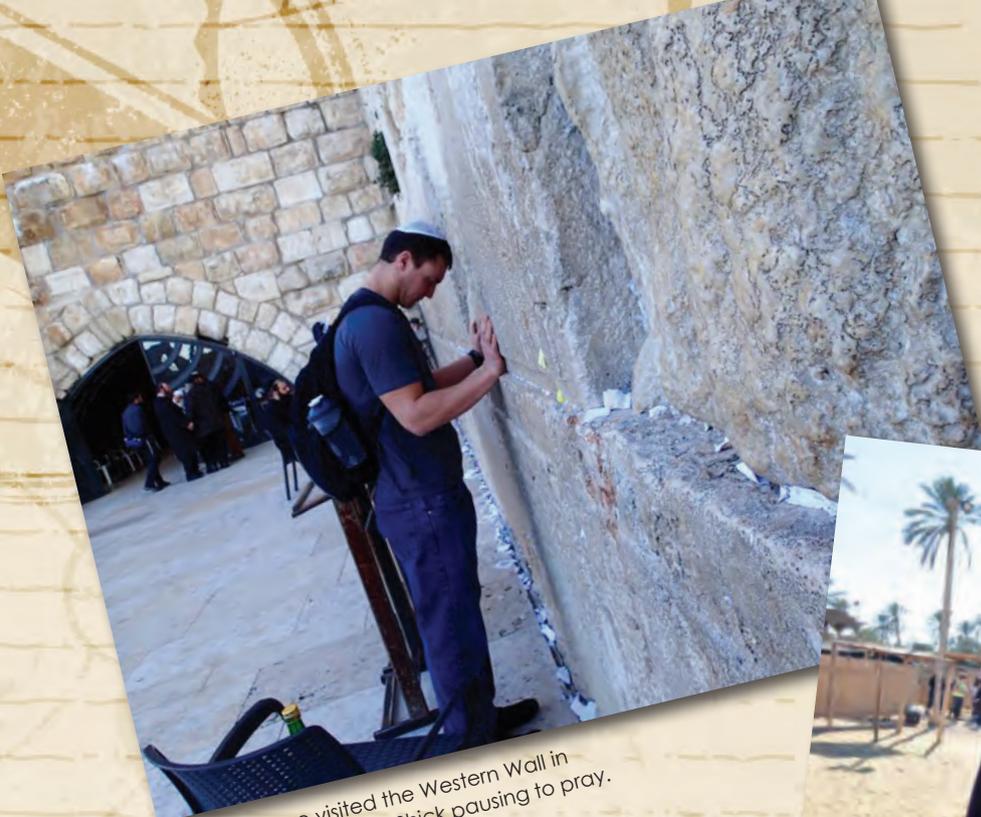
From our hotel overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, we boarded buses and went to Caesarea, where Herod the Great built a deep-sea harbor and a beachside castle. Here, Chris “Critter” Deneen can hardly contain his excitement!
Photo Credit: Monica Lee



Katherine Durkee and Nick Schlosser on a boat on the Sea of Galilee—a tour highlight! The day was overcast and threatened to storm. We imagined how frightening it must have been to be out on the waves with Jesus before he calmed the storm. Photo Credit: Katherine Durkee



On the Sabbath day (Saturday), we traveled to the Valley of Elah, where we each collected five smooth stones as David did when he slew Goliath there. Afterward, our driver took us to his moshav, or community, where a neighbor fed us the best pita, hummus, shakshuka, and salad that we had the whole trip. Notice the clean plates! Photo Credit: Monica Lee



Three times we visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Here's Sam Shick pausing to pray. Photo Credit: Rev. Daniel Flynn



From the Dead Sea to the desert. Monica Lee and Mackenzie Divine are ready for the camel caravan to move. Photo Credit: Mackenzie Drinan



While some days we huddled in winter coats, scarves, and gloves, our days by the Dead Sea required much less clothing. Here's Taylor Jacob, Jessica Kurpinski, Natalie Kurpinski, and Alana Akam enjoying a relaxing float on the mineral-rich water. Photo Credit: Taylor Jacob



Trip leaders Rev. Dan Flynn, pastor at St. Luke Lutheran in Ann Arbor, along with Rev. John Rathje, dean of students at CUAA, and his wife, Kristin Rathje, adjunct instructor at CUAA, both CUAA alumni, pause for a photo moment at Nimrod's Castle. Photo Credit: Olivia Wonsley

SOMEBODY TO LEAN ON

Concordia's OSSAs deliver extraordinary Christian care to each online learner

By **Kali Thiel**, *University Affairs*
Photography by Ashley Kilgas



Concordia's Online Student Success Advisors include, from left, Allison Wolf, Jessica Valdes, Susie Pipkorn, and Gayle Frisque. Not pictured: Heidi Tupper and Katy Klein.

Clifton Davis was in the midst of his online graduate counseling program through Concordia University Wisconsin when two of his cousins, who were more like brothers to him, unexpectedly passed away within months of each other.

The losses hit Davis hard. He recalls having trouble finding the focus he needed to be successful in his courses, and soon he was failing one of his classes.

Davis knew himself well enough to know that it was now or never where his degree was concerned. Determined to continue, he sought help in the form of one of Concordia's Online Student Success Advisors (OSSAs), Allison Wolf.

Wolf and the five other women who make up Concordia's OSSA staff are charged with being the spiritual, emotional, and practical support system for the more than 3,000 individuals throughout the world who are enrolled in online programs or courses through Concordia. They're the ones who receive the calls from the at-times burdened, overwhelmed, frustrated, or just plain overbooked students in pursuit of their degrees.

"I think of myself as the go-to person for my students," says Wolf, lead OSSA. "I want them to know they can count on me to walk with them through the program. As an OSSA team, we want students to feel a connection to the

university and know that someone is always there for them."

The OSSAs are different from Concordia's academic advisors, who guide students through course selection and the scheduling process. They do things like help learners navigate the online system, send reminders about essential paperwork to complete, look out for relevant financial aid opportunities, and act as an advocate.

OSSAs are an extra layer of support that few other universities offer, says Executive Director of Continuing and Distance Education Sarah Pecor.

"Other universities outsource this role to people who don't really understand the goals



CLIFTON DAVIS MS in Counseling 2018

Clifton Davis, from Madison, is on track to receive his master's degree in counseling in 2018.

He turned to Allison Wolf for guidance after two of his cousins passed away within months of each other, causing him to lose focus on his coursework.

"The opportunity to have an advisor like Allison to communicate with, that was tremendous. There's no doubt it's what I needed at that time."

of the university and who don't really know the people these students are asked to interact with," Pecor says. "Our OSSAs live and breathe Concordia's mission every single day. They truly want students to be successful—not just academically but as individuals, and that starts with extending Christian love and care to each learner."

The OSSA team makes a habit of doing just that.

Susie Pipkorn, for example, doesn't hesitate to whip out a card and write a personal note of encouragement to a student when she sees that student's name on Campus Pastor Steve Smith's daily prayer list. She then adds the student to her own prayer list, which she started in 2015. That list now has more than 200 names on it.

Sometimes Pipkorn will pray for the list as a whole, and sometimes she'll pick out individual names as the Holy Spirit moves her. As students call with general questions, they'll often share personal struggles with their course, family concerns, or time management issues.

"These students are taking courses like, 'advanced pathophysiology' or 'genetics, immunology & microbiology.' They're tough courses! So I'll run a class list and send up a prayer, especially during exam times."

Whether it's a student battling cancer while trying to still keep on schedule with his coursework, a single parent juggling school and parenting responsibilities, or an overwhelmed bride-to-be wrestling with the decision to drop a class in the months leading up to her wedding, it's not uncommon for students to divulge some of the most vulnerable details of their lives to their OSSAs.

"They'll call us to vent or voice their struggles," Wolf says. "We'll listen to them, talk through solutions with them and help bring resolution. And sometimes that is followed up by a prayer for them, a note of encouragement, or just a check-in to see how they are doing. We really care about our students, and it's rewarding to know we can help make this part of their life a little easier."

Get connected with an OSSA of your own. Learn how you can enroll in one of Concordia's Online programs at www.cuw.edu/MeetYourOssa. ■

CINDY KOHLER MS in Ed Admin 2016

Cindy Kohler, who teaches at Brillion High School in Brillion, Wisconsin, completed her master's in education administration in December 2016. Kohler turned to Gayle Frisque in 2015 when an unforeseen illness interrupted her schooling.

"Through her understanding of what was going on with me, Gayle went to great lengths to help me make sure I wasn't penalized for the class. I appreciated that because I am a very motivated student, and I was worried about not being able to meet my first deadline. She helped me maintain my integrity as a student, and that was a big deal to me."



DAVE NICPON MS in Nursing 2018

Dave Nicpon, from Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, will graduate in May with his Master of Science Nursing degree. He holds down a full-time job and cares for his elderly parents and two children—one of whom is autistic. He said of Susie Pipkorn:

"It's nice to have lifelines. As busy as I've been with everything in my life, I'll miss something that should have been on my radar, and I'll send out a panic email to Susie and she'll help me get it sorted out. Everyone needs a lifeline at different times in their life, and that's how I look at Susie. She's a real blessing to have. I can't say enough good things about her."

A Transformational Experience

CUW Family Helps People Help Themselves Through Unique World Service Organization

By **Lisa Liljegren**, *University Affairs*
Photography courtesy of Hope Without Borders

When Lance and Julie Parve quit their jobs, sold everything they owned, and moved to Somalia, East Africa, with their 1½-year-old son, Jeremiah, many family and friends thought they'd lost their minds.

Fast forward 30-plus years: The couple and their three adult children have gone on more than 25 international mission trips— with 16 involving the Concordia community— and through their self-started nonprofit Hope Without Borders (HWB) have brought advanced technologies, modern medical practices, and engineering innovation to Africa to holistically help communities make lasting change.

“As Christians we’re compelled to help,” said Julie (’03/’09). “We’re just ordinary people whom God has called to be catalysts to make a difference and to encourage others to do the same.”

At the time, Lance, a geologist, and Julie, a surgical technician, were compelled to help but had reservations about moving their son to Africa, and agreed to pray individually for guidance. The couple found their answer in Luke 9:62: “Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.’”

Upon reflection, they gave up everything and moved to East Africa.

While in Somalia, Lance helped with engineering projects, Julie provided dire medical care, and little Jeremiah thrived among the villagers. Their second child, Jennifer, was born in Kenya.

After serving a two-year term, the family returned to Milwaukee to continue serving disadvantaged people in the central city, while getting advanced degrees and working full time. Lance earned a master’s degree in engineering and a master’s certificate in GIS, and Julie earned a Master of Science and a doctorate in nursing from Concordia. She started teaching for CUW soon after that. During this time, their third child, Josiah, was born.

The couple longed, once again, to leverage their combined skill sets internationally, and in 2007 they founded Hope Without Borders,

with offices in Wisconsin and Nairobi. The humanitarian organization is entirely volunteer-based, so both Lance and Julie maintain day jobs to be sustainable.

The impetus of the organization is to bring hope to communities in need. They do this by leveraging resources in the U.S. to drill wells that become the life source of the community. They do this by raising money for home water purifiers that can sustain a family for 10 years. They do this by providing critical and sustainable hygiene solutions, like reusable sanitary pads and composting squatting slabs. And they do this through long-term commitments, a minimum of five years per community, so that residents learn the technology and teach it to others.

Over the years, as the Parves’ organization has grown, so, too, has their children’s commitment. All three have gone on to pursue careers in health care—two with degrees in nursing from CUW—and are leading HWB trips of their own. With four CUW alumni in the family (Jeremiah met his wife, another CUW grad, on a Tanzania trip) and Julie’s expanded teaching role within the School of Nursing, it was a natural evolution to combine forces, allowing nurse practitioners and nursing students to join them.

“People are starved to make connections,” said Lance. “We help people connect, both to make a difference in the lives of those in need and in the lives of those we bring along on the adventure.”

Learn more at www.hwb-intl.org. ■



A bucket and a hollow fiber membrane water purifier will keep this women’s family in Kenya’s urban slums healthy for around 10 years.

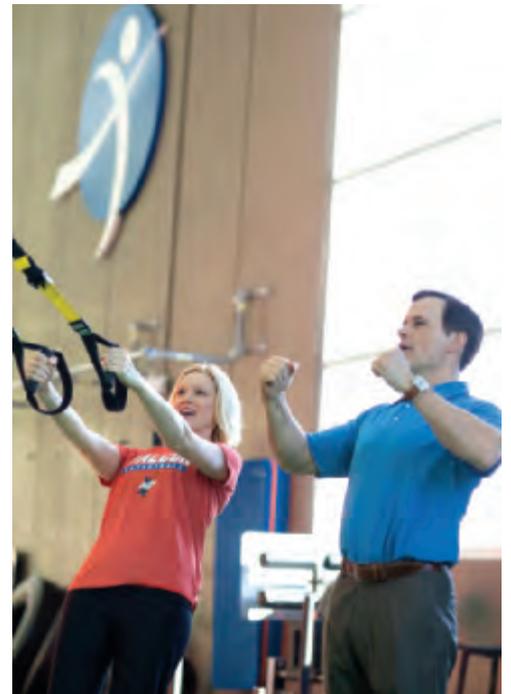


Packing up donations and supplies for the trip requires teamwork.



Top: Julie distributes reusable sanitary packs to Maasai mothers and daughters in rural Kenya. Most parents can't afford sanitary products for their daughters, causing the young women to miss school and eventually drop out.

Bottom: Families in the Mukuru slums in Kenya receive household water purifiers and training from Lance. The water purifiers prevent inhabitants from contracting a majority of the tropical diseases that threaten their health.



Alumni Chat

With Ben Quist, DPT, owner and founder of Form & Fitness

By **Gretchen Jameson**, Senior Vice President of University Affairs

Photography by Jeffrey Phelps

Columnist's note: Our mission to develop students in mind, body, and spirit for lives of service to Christ is not complete until Concordians go out and do just that. It is a mission that we instill and nurture in every student, across every degree program. And through the work of more than 31,000 living alumni, Concordia University daily makes its global mission impact. This column is an opportunity to celebrate a few snapshots of the diverse lives our graduates are blessed to lead.

On a bone-chilling Wisconsin winter afternoon, bundling up to hit the gym holds little appeal. But step inside the Grafton location of Form & Fitness and you quickly warm up—and not only because your muscles get a good stretch. Here, three-time alumnus, founder and owner Ben Quist, offers clients an oasis for mind, body, and spirit, a fitting model given his many years studying in the School of Health Sciences at Concordia University Wisconsin. Ben's three degrees at CUW include a Bachelor of Science ('99), a Master of Science in Physical Therapy ('00), and a Doctor of Physical Therapy ('04).

I met up with Ben for a tour, a talk, and a little workout. It's not every day that I encounter a physical therapist who, thanks to his Christian higher education, has read the entire Old and New Testaments. And while Ben's business is the art of physical healing, his approach stems from a whole-person perspective nurtured during his years on campus.

"When I started at Concordia, I did not have a strong faith. I was required to take three religion classes and remember being annoyed," Ben recalls. "I credit those classes as a starting point in creating a curiosity that led to a strong Christian faith, which has been a wonderful blessing in my life."

Ben always knew he wanted a career in fitness, and CUW's well-regarded program was certainly a draw to this Milwaukee native, but it was the close-knit community that engaged Ben and kept him coming back for his many years of undergraduate and graduate education.

"At Concordia," Ben explains, "I learned that hard work and perseverance pays off. When I started college, I was not a stellar student. Learning about the physical therapy program sparked my desire, and led to many long nights of studying and forgoing other activities in pursuit of being accepted into the professional program."

CUW's state-of-the-art physical therapy programs are robust, reaching all the way through the doctoral level (DPT). And graduates are in demand. For the past three years, our DPT students have achieved a 100 percent pass rate.

Ben helps each client strengthen the whole self: "It is a gift to be a part of a business that helps people achieve both positive physical results and also mental, social, and psychological benefits. We support a great exercise experience for our clients that improves their day and, in most cases, their life."

In the end, for Ben it's all about family. He's working hard to provide quality, excellent care to his neighbors, while building up a business that can stay in the family. As a Concordian, that made sense to me. Faith. Fitness. Family: a winning set, worthy of many repetitions. ■

"It is a gift to be a part of a business that helps people achieve both positive physical results and also mental, social, and psychological benefits."

Physical Therapy

CUW's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program is designed to help students become thoughtful, skilled, and caring therapists who are autonomous providers of physical therapy services. Concordia's program emphasizes evidence-based practice and focuses on developing clinicians who will serve the community through excellence in clinical practice, and understanding of the spiritual, economic, and psychological needs of the clients they serve.

The professional physical therapy program at Concordia leads to a DPT degree.

Did you know?

- CUW's physical therapy program shares the number one spot in the nation for the last three years on first-time pass rates for the National Physical Therapy licensure exam.
- All CUW DPT students are involved in Interprofessional Education (IPE) activities throughout their 3 years of training.

For more information about CUW's physical therapy program contact Dr. Bob Barnhart, professor and director of the physical therapy program, at Robert.Barnhart@cuw.edu.

AlumNotes

2000s

Achievements

Kenneth Biami ('16) is preparing for the Wisconsin Juvenile Detention Association Conference in October in the Wisconsin Dells. He enjoys spending time with his two-year-old child.



Elijah Glasenapp ('16) currently works as a music producer out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

His role involves social media management, marketing, and public relations.



William Uffenbeck ('09) has been awarded the Fellowship Designation. He successfully

completed the required examinations by the Casualty Actuarial Society. William works as an actuary at Zurich North America in Schaumburg, Illinois.



Robert Gutsche, Jr. ('08) has co-authored a new book that examines changes in

neighborhoods and in public-private developments that are bound to widen a divide between classes and races in South Florida. His new book is called "News, Neoliberalism, and Miami's Fragmented Urban Space."



Susan Perry ('05) published a book titled "From Beneath the Tarp: A Story of Abuse and Redemption." She currently guest

speaks at women's groups, law enforcement agencies, shelters, and to teens. In October of 2016,

she was awarded the Wisconsin Governor's Council on Domestic Violence Courage.

Lamar Hardwick ('00) released his first book, "I am Strong: The Life and Journey of an Autistic Pastor" on January 24, 2017. Lamar's book chronicles his life growing up with an undiagnosed developmental disability. He is the lead pastor of New Community Church in Lagrange, Georgia. He is married to **Isabella (Mchungula) Hardwick ('99)**.

Marriages

1 Hannah (Lehenbauer) Tordoff ('16) married Brian Tordoff after meeting in the Air Force ROTC program at Marquette University. They are currently stationed within the United States.

2 Adrienne Castree ('14) and **Bryan Samuel ('13)** were married on June 25, 2016. Bryan is the son of Linda Samuel, dean of Health Sciences at CUW. Both Bryan and Adrienne work as therapists in Illinois.

Welcome

3 Tanya Kollross ('10) is currently employed as a student success navigator with Mid-State Technical College. She welcomed twin boys, Clay and Cohen, in June of 2016.

4 Stephen Paavola ('08) and his wife, Natalie, celebrate the birth of their daughter, Gabriella. Gabriella was born in April of 2016. Stephen is currently a U.S. Army Captain stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. In 2015, he received an M.S. in Organizational Leadership from Columbus State University.

5 Emilie (Vick) Kassa ('02) and her husband, Ben, announce the birth of their first child, Easton Michael. Easton was born on October 18, 2016 in West Allis, Wisconsin. Easton enjoys spending

time with his grandma Sandy Vick, CUW's advancement database manager, and his godmother **Jamie (Vick) Wilson ('05)**.

1990s

Achievements



Jennifer Clearwater ('96) purchased Lovino LLC, a Wisconsin-based company behind the popular Lovino Sangria brand.



Charlie Shao ('94) was nominated as a member of the National Cyber Watch Center's Curriculum

Standards Panel. This panel contributes efforts to develop instructional materials, assessments, hands-on labs, or learning programs that align with national competency frameworks.

1980s

Achievements



Tom Eggebrecht ('86) recently published his first book, "Fully and Creatively Alive: How to Live a More

Joyfully Fulfilling Life." The book centers on God's gift of creativity. Tom interviewed numerous creative entrepreneurs and discovered the things that make them innovative and successful. The book is available at Amazon.com.

1960s

Achievements

Walter John Vosicka ('68) and his wife, Christine, are the owners of WoggWorks Kayaking in Omaha, Nebraska. They're enjoying their partial retirement. Walter still preaches at a small church in Carter Lake, Iowa.



Art Baisch ('61) celebrated his 25th ordination anniversary on September 4, 2016, retiring

in December 2016. During his ministry, Art served at Concordia University Chicago and throughout multiple parishes in the United States. Art and his wife, **Evelyn (Netz) ('67)**, are relocating from Arkansas to Pennsylvania.

You Responded. We Listened. CUWConnect.com

Thank you to the more than 1,000 people who responded to our 2016 alumni survey. Results showed us that many of you wish you had had more opportunities to connect with alumni while you were students, and many would like regular updates about your alma mater.

We value your input, and we're acting on it with CUWConnect.com.

Activate your profile at www.CUWConnect.com.

- Connect with fellow alumni, faculty, and students
- Learn about events and programs happening on campus
- Mentor students or other alumni
- Be a presenter in a classroom or find opportunities to volunteer
- Meet alumni living near you

With each new participant, the possibilities for growth and opportunity increase for students and for you!

Advance



Change; some find it hard to accept, others fear it, and still others realize that it's a necessary part of life. Imagine if a child were born and yet never changed. No matter how loved and beautiful that child may be, if it didn't change there would be great concern by the parents and family. For a newborn, change is not simply good, but it is essential. A lack of change would cause us to ask what might be wrong. For a newborn, change is a sign of health and growth.

As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, much of the Christian Church celebrates the change that it represented and that followed in the decades after. Bringing the Church back to the centrality of the Scriptures and the good news of Jesus Christ was a change that was long overdue.

But while the Reformation represented a major change in the Church, it also brought us back to what did not and must not change—namely, the Word of God. That Word has not changed since inspired by the Holy Spirit and must remain unchanged today.

On the campuses of Concordia University in Wisconsin and Ann Arbor it's not hard to find change. Every year there are changes in students and some faculty, as well as in programs and degrees. These changes are vital, and are signs of health and growth (not unlike the newborn). But what has not and will not change at Concordia is our proclamation of God's Word, the same Word that was at the heart of the Reformation.

As we continue to prepare young men and women for lives of "service to Christ in the Church and the world," we're so thankful for our alumni, parents, and friends who share this commitment to both change and the changeless. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support remain vital as we fulfill our mission together.

REV. DR. ROY PETERSON
Vice President of Advancement

Shedding Light on the Subject

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

The world is a metaphorically dark place, and people need a light to be guided through it. The darkness of sin and evil threaten to overshadow light. But we’re told that Jesus Christ is the light of the world—a light no darkness can overcome. That promise alone—that it can never get so dark that you can’t see Jesus’ love—makes this verse and this idea a great comfort.

The reason we sometimes can’t see is that we have our eyes in the wrong place to see the light. If you walk in the dark and want to see where you’re going, there are two choices on where to shine a light: You can shine it up on the pathway ahead to see where you’re going, or you can shine it right by your feet to see where your next step will go.

Your decision on where the light will best guide you depends on how sure you are of the path you’re walking. If it’s a smooth, familiar path, you can trust your steps a little more and shine the light up ahead in the distance to see better where you’re ultimately headed.

But if the path is full of stones and holes, winding and uncertain, you may need to put the light right down by your feet to make sure that every step is safe.

This verse promises both things to us; that God’s Word is a “light to [our] path”—a beacon to illuminate our path and give us a general sense of direction. On days when our path is a little smoother, we can rely on seeing the road ahead well enough to perhaps get a glimpse of God’s bigger plan.

But on days when the going is rough, God’s Word is also a “lamp to [our] feet.” That means that the light of God’s Word guides each step we take. For every struggle or heartache that some might consider small, God’s Word sheds light so that we can keep going and we’re never lost.

May God’s Word strengthen you again today so that your path is always certain.

REV. STEVE SMITH
Campus Pastor



Then



&



NOW

Concordian

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Above

Then: School Sisters of Notre Dame, the 1960s.
Photo courtesy of CUW archives

Now:

Rincker Memorial Library, 2017.
Photography by Ashley Kilgas

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WITH DR. ROBERT BENNE

OCTOBER 27

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OCTOBER 29

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