

SPRING 2016

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

TEXAS

M A G A Z I N E



ON THE COVER

Rising to the Challenge

President Christian's First 500 Days

OUR MISSION IS DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN LEADERS



Celebrating **90** years of developing Christian leaders

Since its founding in 1926, Concordia has been dedicated to developing Christian leaders. Please join us this fall as we remember 90 years of transformative history and celebrate a future of cultivating goodness, truth, and beauty. **More details to come.**



6 Doing Meaningful Work



16

It's a Great Day to Be a Tornado



ON THE COVER

The First 500 Days

10



IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 President's Message
- 5 Concordia Chatter
- 21 Campus News
- 24 Athletics News
- 27 Alumni Notes
- 30 Alumni in the Spotlight

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE SPRING 2016

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ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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ABOUT CONCORDIA

Concordia University Texas is a private, coeducational institution of liberal arts and sciences offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. Concordia offers adult as well as online degree programs for part-time students and adult returning students. CTX is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is under the auspices of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



Greetings from the President

Upon assuming the role of President and CEO in August of 2014, I thought I knew what I needed to know to do this job. The saying that “you don’t know what you don’t know,” however, is true. During these past months, there has been a lot of transition at CTX: a new executive team, new people as heads of some departments, a new (and almost completed) strategic plan, a wide-spread culture initiative, changes to how we think about our work, and the building and completion of our first-ever softball field. What I have come to realize is that we will always be in transition, both at Concordia and in our own personal lives.

In the midst of new roles, in the midst of transition, and in the midst of life, we believe and trust that God is there beside us, even if we do not notice Him. The prophet Isaiah records God telling His people that when we walk through floods and fires, He will be with us, because He is the Lord our God and our Savior (Is. 43:2-3). Note the word when, not if. Concordia recently lost one of its longtime faculty as cancer took the life of Dr. Debra Allen, professor of history since 1993. Those students who had Dr. Allen as a professor remember her as someone with rigorous standards, high expectations, and as one who cared deeply about her students, their success, and their faith in Jesus Christ. We believe and trust that God was there, walking with her through the floods and fires, just as we believe that God is present in all of our lives. Concordia’s vision of being ‘the premier university where the adventure of faith, learning, and life-changing experiences leads to meaningful work’ assumes that the adventure will have its share of floods and fires.

This magazine exists to tell the stories of our current students, our faculty and staff, and our alumni as they engage in their multiple vocations. We pray that you will join us by supporting the various programs and scholarship opportunities that allow more and more students to experience the adventure in a way that gives glory to God and serves the neighbor in our communities and churches. May God bless you on your own personal roller coaster of life.

Donald Christian
PRESIDENT AND CEO

“This magazine exists to tell the stories of our current students, our faculty and staff, and our alumni as they engage in their multiple vocations.”

What People Are Saying...

ON BEING A STUDENT

@concordiatx has changed my life in so many ways. Can't wait for next semester!

#whoosh
@MARQUIA_LEE

2015 brought me @concordiatx and I am so grateful for my school. #woosh

@JESSISTERNAT

@concordiatx Clear example of CTX students seeking out leadership positions to transform their community!

Awesome. #ctx
@CARRION512

Great day to be a tornado. #CTX #woosh Congrats to men's soccer and volleyball!!!

@KILACARRIE

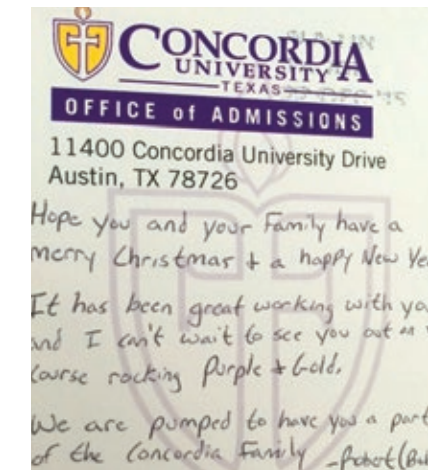
ON BEING ACCEPTED

Get more and more excited to attend @concordiatx every time I visit the campus and meet new people.

@VALERIIIEEEEE

Blessed to say that I'm furthering my education and soccer career at Concordia university. #CTX

@KAYCEERAE1



Seriously the best people. So blessed to be a Tornado next fall.

@_SAMMILER

ON THE NEW SOFTBALL FIELD



Ready for a new year on this new beautiful field.

#woosh
@RYANICOLEGIBSON

I. CANT. WAIT!!! #ctx #ctxsoftball #ctxsoftballfield #icantwait #newhome #fieldofdreams #tornados #woosh

@COACHRACHEL15



Follow us!

Connect with CTX via our many social media platforms, where we document the daily goings-on of campus on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and more.

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facebook.com/concordiatx

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youtube.com/concordiatx



BY CHELSEY DOERING

Doing Meaningful Work

Meet six alumni making a positive impact in their community.

Everyone loves a good story, and the alumni of Concordia University Texas are creating stories of success and service every day. They are many and varied in the scope of their incredible work, ranging from a group of individuals encouraging a business to move across the country to start a new branch in the Austin area to a young woman helping to provide free childcare for young mothers.

Katie Evans '13

The Leader

"It's not okay to ignore the adventure God has placed before you," Evans said. "The first few steps can be scary, but the adventure is worth it."

It is this grasp of daring vocation that drove Katie Evans '13 to accept an exciting-yet-half-formed job offer in Leander, Texas in 2014.

"A member of our congregation came to my wife one day," said Rev. Gabe Kasper, of ACTS Church Leander. "She said, 'I keep running into all of these young, single moms who are unable to finish their high school degrees because they can't afford childcare. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could offer them free childcare so that they could earn their diplomas?'"

"I was overwhelmed with excitement," said Kasper. "I brought the idea to a committee, and then to our church as a whole. The next day, I had an unexpected and extremely generous \$30,000 check in my hand to use in starting this ministry."

The next question the church would face, however, was that of leadership. Who would — or could — run such a ministry?

Katie Evans, originally from Friendswood, Texas, studied Behavioral Science and minored in Religious Education at Concordia from 2009-2013. She met her husband Tanner '13 at CTX, and after they graduated and married, moved to Arlington, Virginia so Tanner could complete his internship to be a Director of Christian Education. They both worked at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School during that year, after which Tanner received the call to be the Worship Arts Director at ACTS Leander.

"During Tanner's interview, ACTS threw out this idea that they were interested in starting a ministry for young moms in their community," Evans said. "They asked if I'd be interested in being the Director, and I immediately jumped on board."

It wasn't a simple process, of course. Finances and real estate were the biggest initial challenges, but Kasper had nothing but praise for Evans's passion and perseverance.

"Katie has been such a selfless servant leader through this whole endeavor," he said. "She's been the biggest champion of the mothers and babies we serve now that we're in the swing of things."

And in the swing of things they are. ACTS of Love is now a nonprofit, state-licensed early childhood education and childcare facility that freely takes in children who have parent(s) enrolled in Leander ISD.

"We have an incredible partnership with LISD's Parents as Teachers organization, for example, as well as Head Start," said Evans. "They provide a clothes and toys closet, mom and child classes, and they even schedule home visits to provide further support for mom and baby."

Evans is a Christian leader to be reckoned with, and she credits her eye for seeking out adventure in the everyday to her time at Concordia.

"CTX always provided countless opportunities to serve. I learned so much during my time as a student, chief of which was that God calls his people to follow Him."

"CTX always provided countless opportunities to serve," she said. "I learned so much during my time as a student, chief of which was that God calls his people to follow Him. Some days that calling consists of sitting at a computer, filing papers, and keeping our partnerships up and running. Other days, that calling is changing diapers, preparing bottles, cleaning toys, and listening to our young moms talk about their days."

Evans also credits her inspiration to pursue and advocate justice to Concordia professor Dr. Ann Schwartz, who runs CTX's Service-Learning organization. Evans worked for Dr. Schwartz for three years, and her experience as a student leader for that organization gave her invaluable experience in fundraising and all that it takes to bring a non-profit to life.

"The feeling of helping others is addicting," Evans admitted. "As soon as I got a taste of truly serving others in need, I couldn't stop."

When asked what advice she would give current CTX students, Evans had much wisdom to share.

"First, enjoy it. Stay focused, persevere, and enjoy the opportunity you currently have to learn, live, and grow on such a beautiful campus. You're surrounded by loving and supportive faculty and staff whose sole purpose is to help you reach new heights. Don't be afraid to take risks or make mistakes, because that's the best way to learn. And, though it sounds cliché, follow your dreams. God has placed those dreams in your mind and those passions in your heart for a reason. He actually wants you to do something about them. So take the risk!"

To support ACTS of Love, visit actsoflovecec.com.



DEBORAH CANNON

Askia Evans '15 Daniel Philhower '15 Eddie Cruz '15 Michael Leising '15 The Venturers

Nancy Batterman knew there was a need for the services her San Diego-based nonprofit group provided to those with disabilities (including life and job skills courses to help them learn how to live independently) in the Central Texas area. What she didn't know, however, was if the organization's business plan could work in a different setting.

Then: a surprise. The spouse of one of Batterman's former employees, who was living in Austin, was searching for a nonprofit organization to feature in his CTX Masters of Business Administration capstone project. Michael Leising '15, wanted to pursue a feasibility study as to whether the nonprofit's move to the capital area could work. He and his capstone partners (Concordia MBA students Askia Evans '15, Daniel Philhower '15, and Eddie Cruz '15), with the help of their professor Dr. Elise Brazier, completed the free feasibility study over the course of a year and a half.

Afterwards, Batterman's answer was clear: With a few adjustments, it would work.

Employment & Community Options has recently begun its expansion into Central Texas. This is the group's first endeavor into another state, and it would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Concordia's now-alumni.

"For us to do that comprehensive of a feasibility study as a nonprofit would have been time-consuming and expensive," said Batterman, the nonprofit's CEO. "It was because of the unique partnership with the capstone project and Concordia University Texas, as well as the high level of work they did that made this all happen."

The Austin version of the program will be modified slightly to fit conditions here. On the west coast, where legislation designates money specifically to provide resources to people with disabilities, the nonprofit serves about 1,600 every year. Texas ranks 49th in the United States in resources provided to people with disabilities, so the number of people served will be smaller at first as the group continues to look for other ways to fund its programs. Still, Employment & Community Options expects to help 25 to 50 people in its first year.

The feasibility study provided the groundwork for continued growth by identifying places in the area with the most need of these services. Evans, Philhower, Cruz, and Leising also provided the group with 50 to 60 potential clients and suggested potential partners in local school districts and state agencies.

"They really assessed the environment in Austin and could document the need," Batterman said. "We felt confident there was a need for another service provider in the Austin area."

Dr. Elise Brazier, the statewide program director for the MBA program at Concordia, said the partnership was a "win-win" for both sides. The nonprofit got a feasibility study that facilitated its move to Austin at no charge and the students got real-world experience to finish their education.

"I grabbed the opportunity because I saw it as an embodiment of what Concordia was teaching us to be: servant leaders."

"I grabbed the opportunity because I saw it as an embodiment of what Concordia was teaching us to be: servant leaders," said Eddie Cruz, one of the students on the project. "It was an opportunity to go into the community to serve those who don't have the means or voice that they need; to go out there and muster support for them in the community."

The students' involvement with the nonprofit isn't yet finished, either. Some of the students have agreed to sign on to the nonprofit in advisory roles going forward.

"It's not like the project ended and we're done because we graduated," said CTX alumnus Michael Leising. "It's a continuing thing for us all because we really believe in the mission."

Manuel Alarcon '14 The Achiever

For Manuel Alarcon ADP '14, the journey to graduation was long and sometimes difficult.

It began in Mexico City, where he was born and lived until the age of 20. He initially moved to San Diego, California, where he spent seven years working in the restaurant business. He began as a waiter and persevered into a general management position. It was at this point that he decided to move to Texas.

"The company decided to expand into the Texas market with restaurants in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, and several other Texas cities and surrounding states," Alarcon said. "I managed a couple locations when I first moved to Austin, and later became the area supervisor for operations in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. The job required excessive traveling which began to negatively affect my family life, so in 2004, I decided to switch industries and go into sales."

"My journey with Concordia began in Austin in 2005," he said. "Unfortunately, the journey was interrupted several times throughout a period of 10 years, but I eventually earned my business degree at the CTX San Antonio Center in 2014."

Alarcon was hired by KB Homes in Austin as a sales counselor. He sold homes for a few years before being promoted (as he so often was in his previous line of work) to the position of regional sales manager. He later moved to San Antonio as the director of sales and marketing, and through the next several years, he reached the position of senior vice president of sales and marketing, which is the position he currently holds.

When asked how Concordia helped him get where he is today, Alarcon said this: "Concordia provided me with the knowledge I needed to keep ascending in the ranks of my company, and definitely helped me to understand the business world in a new and ultimately better light. I found that the upper level courses like accounting and management were particularly practical and helpful."

Alarcon works in an industry that is completely immersed in the community, and he finds that his daily work of selling homes impacts his community in a positive way. He likes to be involved with the alumni association in San Antonio.

"When I first met him, Manny offered to split his burger and fries with me," laughed Jeff Frosch, Director of CTX Alumni Relations. "That's the kind of welcoming, open guy he is. His story of moving from Mexico to pursue his dream of a good life is pure Americana and I'm proud to call him a friend. He is the embodiment of the Concordia Experience."

Alarcon said he didn't have a favorite professor or staff member during his time as a Concordia student; rather, he was insistent in his belief that everyone with whom he came into contact at CTX made a positive impact on his life.

Speaking from a lifetime of experience, Alarcon also had this to say to current students: "Stay the course; persevere. Even if the journey seems rough sometimes, it will all be worth it in the end."



"Concordia provided me with the knowledge I needed to keep ascending in the ranks of my company, and definitely helped me to understand the business world in a new and ultimately better light."

The First 500 Days

A Conversation with the President

In the fall of 2014, Dr. Don Christian added his name to a historic list that includes Studtmann, Beto, and Cedel — names which now adorn Concordia's campus streets and buildings. After thirty years of teaching in various capacities, the self-proclaimed 'doer' would quickly find that being president and CEO would challenge him to focus less on executing things himself and more on managing others in that process. He sat down with us to discuss the challenges and joys of learning to manage outcomes, creating a new campus culture, and continuing to spur growth toward the ultimate goal of student success.

BY CHELSEY DOERING

LANCE HOLT





What is a Constructive Organizational Culture?

The culture of an organization directly impacts success. The more constructive the culture, the better the outcomes and overall performance.

Key attributes of an organization with constructive culture



Engaged Employees



Cooperation



Accountability



Sustained Growth



Strategy

You've been in office for just over 500 days now. If you could sum that time up in one word, what would it be?

I'm going to use the word challenging. And that's a broad one, meant to describe my own personal growth and more. I thought I knew what being President was, but you don't know what you don't know. I think if you were to ask me the same question three years from now, my answer would be the same. It's always going to be challenging. Higher education is a place in which there are consistent challenges put before us: financial challenges, accountability challenges, demographic challenges, and more.

When you first began in this position, what were your top priorities and new goals?

Top priorities included putting the right executive team together — checked that box. Another was finding a way to make sure we were financially sustainable. With the best people in place they are building teams which contribute to a new constructive, rich, full, people-oriented culture. When you combine the best leadership with the right resources you can reach the ultimate goal of student success.

Have those goals been achieved, or have we taken steps to reach those goals in the last year and a half?

It took me almost a year to get my team in place. That's been worth its weight in gold because I hired people who embrace our new constructive culture. For example, I sat in a meeting recently which truly embraced this shift. In the past, meetings would have representatives from one, maybe two departments. This meeting in particular had five or six departments represented, which was great. We are now communicating across the institution, listening to each other, supporting each other and celebrating together. That's really critical.

Financial stability will always be an issue for every college across the nation. However, I think we've taken steps in the last year to get to the point of really becoming more intentional about decision-making, practicing financial discipline, and doing so in a way which supports that constructive culture. That's a process, still, and this coming budget year will show how far we've come.

How have you personally changed in the last year and a half?

I'm a doer, and the way I've been successful in the past has been by getting projects done on my own. In this role, it's different. Things get accomplished by engaging others in the process.

My biggest change has been going from managing projects to managing outcomes. Part of that is learning how to lead people who are a whole lot smarter than me, which goes back to getting the right team in place. Our people are brilliant; they know what they're doing in their areas much more than I, and that's how it should be.

How has Concordia changed in the last year and a half?

I think we now have a greater understanding of the financial aspect of higher education, and everybody is better understanding their role in that regard. The line I always like to reiterate is: "Enrollment is everyone's responsibility." So, we can't just do what we've always done; we have to think about how what we do impacts the institution, and how it impacts enrollment and net revenue.

How has your study on the subject of leadership or vocation affected your time in office?

Overall, this experience has solidified my study of leadership. Everything I've learned has been true. For example, one of my lines is: "If you want more control, you have less control." Another is: "If you want to get things done, stop doing them." That's the truth of leadership; you have to be comfortable with paradox. And I think my study of leadership has allowed me to not have to learn such things by trial and error.

(From left to right)
1. The executive team meets weekly to stay current on CTX happenings. (Photo by Lance Holt)
2. President Christian catches up with a student. (Photo by Matthew Brooks)
3. The president attends daily chapel service. (Photo by Lance Holt)



“Whether it’s a leadership position or title, or whether it’s by nature of being a father, husband, mother, daughter, friend, employee; whatever that is, you lead.”

Why do you think the study of leadership is important for the students, staff, and faculty of Concordia?

The study of leadership is paramount to understanding vocation. Whether it’s a leadership position or title, or whether it’s by nature of being a father, husband, mother, daughter, friend, employee; whatever that is, you lead. Kurt Lewin, the founding father of social psychology, said: “There’s nothing so practical as a good

theory.” Often, people disregard theory, but theory does inform life. Good theory helps you live life more fully. So, if a student or employee here learns more about leadership, they lead better. If they learn more about vocation, they live out their vocation in a way that gives more glory to God and serves their neighbor better.

What has your time spent in office taught you so far?

For change to happen, you can’t just flip the switch. You have to slowly turn the dial. That hearkens back to something we talked about earlier: if I can do it myself, then it’s flipping the switch. If I can’t do it myself, then it’s turning the dial. That’s been difficult for me. It’s a process. It’s a culture change.

How would you like to see alumni engage with Concordia?

We are actively putting into place new ways for alumni to engage with us. Certainly mentoring is one of them, especially through our Center for Vocation and Professional Development, where alumni mentor students. Another idea is to have alumni help interview prospective students in their communities. We want to engage alumni where they are living out their vocations; it’s not always about coming back to the campus, though we do hope to see them at Homecoming. We hope that they speak well of Concordia, and that they give back, sharing their gifts as others have for them. Giving annually is a great way to do this. Ten dollars a month, over a lifetime, is a lot of money. If every alumnus who had a great experience here gave ten dollars a month — what is that, two coffees? Or less? — it would impact the life of this place in so many wonderful ways.

What do you want the next five years of Concordia to look like?

There are two words I like to use when I talk about Concordia: recognized and ready. I want us to be recognized for our core purpose of cultivating goodness, truth, and beauty, and for providing our students with life-changing experiences that lead to meaningful work. Such recognition will also show others that we’re

ready to serve wherever we are needed. I really believe that God has put us here to be a beacon to be seen and utilized. If we’re not seen, what difference does it make? And if we’re not ready once we’re seen, what difference will we make?

I also hope we are continually celebrating growth: in student numbers, in programs, in the number of championships, and ultimately in the number of student success stories we have to share. I’d also really like to see growth in institutional pride. I believe the work of our current students and growing list of alumni will only deepen the positive impact they’re having in this community and beyond. We certainly see it now, in our current students and in the schools in this community, in churches, in businesses, and in hospitals — you name it. They’re all doing amazing things.

Is it all it’s been cracked up to be?

It’s been a whirlwind. It’s 24/7, all-consuming, and I am privileged to have the opportunity to make a big impact. I get to put things in place. If it ever gets too easy, I’m probably not doing it right. It’s the hardest thing I’ve ever done, and it’s the most fun I’ve ever had — if I’m missing either one of those things, I shouldn’t be doing the job.

Well, we are glad you are doing the job.

Thank you. I love this place. It is very special to me.

LANCE HOLT



New Values at the Heart of the CTX Experience

As part of the strategic planning process, President Christian, along with his executive team, faculty, and staff, named six new values that are both core and aspirational for the university. He asks that the CTX community consider how to put these values into practice on a regular basis, serving as a constant reminder of what Concordia is about.

- Christ-Centered
- Caring for People
- Vocation
- Life-long Learning
- Courage
- Trust



LANCE HOLT



IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A TORNADO

Tornado Athletics gains a new director and brings their softball team home to a new field.

Concordia University Texas is no stranger to change. Our 90 year history is one of growth, adaptation, and innovation, and Tornado Athletics is proud to announce two more such milestones this year: the addition of a new Director of Athletics and the construction of a new state-of-the-art softball facility.

Ronda Seagraves, who joined the university on November 2, 2015, is the second woman to hold the position of director of athletics at Concordia University Texas. She comes to CTX from Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana, where she was the first woman to serve as director of athletics and wellness.

"After a thorough search, Concordia is pleased to welcome Ronda to our program," Dr. Don Christian, President and CEO, said. "She is a former 'Coach of the Year' and is known for leading Division III teams to success both on and off the field. We are excited to see what she has in store for all of our Tornado teams."

Seagraves is a former decorated basketball player for Ohio State University in Columbus. She earned her master's degree in education from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Seagraves began her coaching and teaching career at Allegheny College as the head volleyball and women's basketball coach, assistant

BY CHELSEY DOERING



LANCE HOLT

softball coach, and physical education instructor, followed by interim director of athletics and senior woman administrator.

Prior to her success at Centenary College, Seagraves spent more than 20 years at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, a member of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC). Seagraves was head coach of Southwestern's women's basketball, golf, softball, and volleyball teams. She is the only coach in Southwestern's long history to win two SCAC championships in the same year, taking home titles in women's basketball and women's golf. She was recognized for her success in coaching with the SCAC "Coach of the Year" award, twice for basketball and once for golf. She led teams to multiple NCAA national tournaments, and in 2014, was inducted into the Southwestern University Hall of Fame.

When she took over the reins in November, Seagraves was impressed with Concordia's athletic programs.

"There was visible competitive fire. Each athlete and coach was meeting challenges both in the classroom and in their athletic endeavors"

"There was visible competitive fire. Each athlete and coach was meeting challenges both in the classroom and in their athletic endeavors," she said. "The fall season at Concordia was a great success. We have shown marked improvement in our team sports, all qualifying for their conference tournaments and winning games at the conference championship level."

"I see great potential for growth and promise in Concordia's competitive sports programs," Seagraves continued. "I appreciate that Concordia's staff and administration share the same goal for athletics—to recruit and graduate student athletes who contribute to the mission and vision of the institution and strive for success on the conference and national levels. I'm delighted to join the Concordia family, especially as we transition into a new phase of history for our softball team with the completed construction of our new field. This field is something that the team and the entire campus community can rally around as we recruit future Tornado softball players and compete in a challenging, nationally recognized conference. We are so thankful for the generosity of our donors and the forward thinking of Concordia's administration and their continued support of Tornado Athletics."

Construction on the new facility began in the summer of 2014. The Beck Group was selected to build the \$4 million field that now sits next to Tornado Baseball Field on the main campus in northwest Austin.

"This is an exciting project that will continue to propel Tornado softball forward by giving our student athletes and coaches a state-of-the-art facility on campus," Stan Bonewitz, head basketball coach, said at the time of new construction. "This is the next step toward building a better athletics program for the university."

The field, which was in the design process for a year before construction began, has been eagerly awaited by the Concordia community. Said community is ready to watch the Tornado softball team take on their opponents this spring.

The construction process faced a few challenges on the way to completion, perhaps chief of which was the copious amounts of rain received. Concordia's campus was hammered with precipitation from three '100-year storms' and as a result, lost three months of working days to the wet conditions.

"I'm excited about finishing the project so that we can hand it over to our softball team," Dan Gregory, Associate Vice President of Facilities Services, said. "They've been patient through the design and construction process and I can't wait to see them start the 2016 season on their new field. This field sets a high bar for quality and our softball team is unbelievably deserving of such a great facility. I'm also excited about sharing the facility with our local community. I'm eager to see what new relationships we can form as we find ways to use this space to serve our neighbors."

The initial building project includes the field, dugouts for home and visiting teams, seating for 300, a press box, and additional parking. Long

Left to Right: 1. CTX softball players break ground on the field in 2014. (Photo by Jesse Gumtow) 2. An aerial view shows construction of the field, and its proximity to the baseball field. 3. Students throw around the ball on the newly completed field on a cloudy day. (Photo by Matthew Brooks) 4. The state-of-the-art softball field was finished in January 2016. (Photo by Lance Holt)



CTX Athletics Evolves Through the Years

1926–36

Concordia is known as the Outlaws, wearing orange and black.

1936

Concordia changes its mascot to the Cardinals. This name survives as the mascot of the current Concordia High School.

1951

Concordia becomes the Stags.

1980

Concordia becomes a four-year institution, becomes a member of the NAIA and the Heart of Texas Conference, sponsoring both men's and women's sports.

1982

Concordia men's basketball wins the NAIA National Championship.

1995

The mascot becomes the Tornados.

1998

Concordia makes the transition from the NAIA to NCAA Division III, joining the American Southwest Conference.

1999

Volleyball becomes the first sport to win an ASC Championship, makes NCAA appearance.

2002

Baseball wins its first ASC Title, advanced to College World Series and was the first DIII team from Texas to do so.

2008

The final athletic contests are played on the old campus. (basketball: Feb. 23; baseball: Apr. 26)

Volleyball holds the first athletic event at Concordia Fieldhouse on Oct. 31; basketball follows Nov. 15 (men) and Nov. 29 (women).

2011

Baseball wins the ASC Championship, advances to NCAA Regionals.

2012

Women's basketball and women's cross country win ASC championships, both advance to NCAA Tournament.

Baseball wins second consecutive ASC title, advances to NCAA Regionals.

2013

Men's basketball wins ASC Tournament, advances to Round of 32.

2015

Men's soccer makes first-ever ASC Tournament.

2016

Tornado Softball Field opens.

term, the university hopes to raise an additional \$4 million to build a 12,000-square-foot athletic facility that will include locker rooms, training facilities, offices, and a weight room.

"The facility is unique in a couple ways," Gregory continued. "First, its quality is second to none. In my opinion, it is one of the nicest facilities you'll see in all of collegiate softball, not just Division III. The field features an artificial turf playing surface which is, as of yet, the only one of its kind in the central Texas area."

Perhaps most excited, of course, is Concordia's softball team and coaches, especially Rachel Reekstin, head coach. Reekstin is an alumna of sister school Concordia University Irvine, where she played pitcher all four years of her undergraduate education.

"We are excited about the opportunities that this field will bring to Concordia," Reekstin said. "We have a very skilled team, and we are eager to continue developing the vision of the future of the Tornados and the recruits we will bring in."

Coach Reekstin and her team had to work through many challenges while they trained and played at a local facility during the time their home field was being constructed. "It can be a difficult process when you don't have a field to call home," said Reekstin. "The traveling to and from without any field flexibility was challenging, and there really was no room for change in our practice and game schedule because we were working around another facility's schedule. If they said the field was too wet, we couldn't play."

"Even without a field," Reekstin noted, however, "our girls were great about the commute and learned to treat any facility like it was their own. They worked hard and never made excuses."

Said hard-working athletes include Sydney Coffey (senior; pitcher) and Morgan Loredó (sophomore; second base). Both students are studying kinesiology and planning on becoming physical therapists, and when asked what excited them most about their new field, both mentioned the fact that they would finally have a home game crowd.

"I think it will be a more Concordia community-centered environment now," said Coffey.

"Yes, it will be nice to play a home game in which I don't have to drive twenty or thirty minutes to get to the field," added Loredó. "I am so excited about having a 'home' on campus."

They aren't alone in their excitement at the reality of having their own facility on campus.

"Honestly, one thing I am most excited about is having fans at our games!" said Reekstin. "It will be so nice to look up during a game and see seats full of students and fans."

"This facility will be a game changer for the team," she continued. "It will allow us much more field time than we have ever had before, and we'll be able to practice during the day, late at night, at 6:00 AM, or whenever we like! We're also so excited for the opportunity to learn every square inch of our field, and how to play it. It is the most beautiful facility in all of Texas, so to be able to call it home has really given my entire team a sense of pride."

Faculty & Staff News

Dr. Sarah Jean Baker successfully defended her doctoral proposal in 2015, and has recently been named a Clark Scholar. She has been invited to the 36th Annual David L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Seminar in K-12 Educational Administration and Policy being held in Washington, D.C. on April 7-8, 2016. Nearly 90 doctoral students were nominated from universities in the United States and Canada, but only a few were selected for this appointment.

Dr. Matthew Bloom presented a paper entitled "An American Environmental History Course in a Lutheran Higher Education Context" at the 2015 Association of Lutheran College Faculties in September 2015 at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

Mikail McIntosh-Doty is participating in the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Boston, MA as part of the incoming ALA president's initiative committee, helping to explore the value of the librarian. This will be a two year-long committee appointment.

Dr. Joel Heck's article entitled "C. S. Lewis Serendipities: Things You Never Knew about Jack and Warren" has been accepted for publication by CSL: The Bulletin of the New York C. S. Lewis Society, a bi-monthly periodical, and will be published by August 2016. He was also asked to speak at two C. S. Lewis conferences in Bucharest and Brasov, Romania, in October 2015.

Dr. Philip Hohle presented at the Organizational Communication Traditions, Transitions, and Transformations Conference in February 2016. The title of his presentation was "The Six Disabilities in Organizational Communication: A Metatheoretical Examination of the Perception of Power." His research on viewer responses to film, entitled "How Viewers Response to Transgressive Protagonist-Heroes in Film," has been condensed into an article accepted for an upcoming issue of the periodical "Projections," the journal for the Society

for Cognitive Studies of the Moving Image (SCSMI). He is also hosting the second annual "Conversations at the Intersection of Faith and Film" during South by Southwest (SXSW) in March 2016 at St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin. Hohle has also been accepted as a presenter to the 2016 conference of the Society for the Cognitive Studies of the Moving Image, June 1-4, 2016 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Dr. Anthony Ross was elected for a three-year term to the Board of Trustees of the City of Austin Employees Retirement System in January 2015, to the Audit and Finance and Benefits and Services committees. In December 2015, he was also appointed to the Finance and Budget Committee for a two-year term. This year, he is completing a term on the Texas Society of CPAs Board of Directors, serving on the accounting advisory boards for Austin

Community College and Park University, as well as the board of directors for the Austin Chapter Texas Society CPAs and the Austin Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Dr. Ann Schwartz has contributed a chapter to "Transracial and Intercountry Adoptions: Cultural Guidance for Professionals," a volume filled with essays by well-known adoption practitioners and researchers about the day-to-day realities of the transracial and international adoption process. She also participated in a Lily Network Exchange Seminar on "Service, Faith, and Higher Learning: The PULSE Program at Boston College" in March 2015.



Dr. Curtis Giese: German-speaking Preacher and Hapkido Expert

Dr. Curtis Giese presented his paper entitled "Remembrance of Christian Identity in James 1:22-25" at the 2015 Theological Symposium at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in September 2015. He is beginning his fifth year as New Testament editor of the Concordia Commentary scholarly series, intended for pastors, professors, and Bible translators. He is editing a commentary on Hebrews by John Kleinig of the Lutheran Church in Australia. He is authoring the James commentary in that same Concordia Commentary series, scheduled for completion in 2019. He preached for the German services at the Wendish Festival at St. Paul LCMS — Serbin, and German Christmas services at Cross LCMS — New Braunfels and King of Kings LCMS — Round Rock. He is serving on the semi-annual LCMS Theology Professors Conference, which will take place in Irvine, CA in May 2016, and also finished his fourth black belt in 2015 through the United States Hapkido Association to enhance his instruction of martial arts classes at Concordia.



AMANDA WALLACE

◀ Bocón ("big mouth") is the nickname affectionately given to Miguel, who wonders out loud about all the disappearing people, including his parents. "Does the earth just open up and suck them in?" he asks.

Children and Puppets Find Their Voices in *Bocón*

CTX's autumn theater production has historically been closely tied to the theme for Service-Learning Week, and this year's play was no exception. This year's theme of "Love without Borders" brought to light a very hotly debated topic: immigration. Dr. Kelly Gordon chose *Bocón* (1989, revised 1997) by Lisa Loomer, which not only highlighted immigration but was also a children's production.

Bocón is a fable filled with humor, mysticism, and song, and it tells the story of 12-year-old Miguel, who flees a repressive military regime in Central America for Los Angeles. A natural storyteller with an irrepressible "big mouth" (or bocón), Miguel loses his voice when his parents disappear. He then begins a metaphorical journey north to the City of Angels. On his journey, Miguel finds his voice and the courage to cross the border to a new life. Miguel's story is relevant to immigrant children from all parts of the world, and to any child who is learning the many meanings of finding one's own "voice."

Another unique aspect of this year's production was the use of puppetry to portray the character of La Llorona. The ability to help create the puppet was an eye-opening experience for all of the students. The highlight of the play's run was when Dr. Gordon invited children from Reed Elementary for a special performance.

Student Chelsea Wallace said, "When performing for the schools, the children's minds were able to expand their idea of reality and completely accept this world that was literally being created as the story progressed. I think this allowed them to truly appreciate all the fun and magical aspects of the play."

"It was almost magical to perform in front of the classes," said student Xzavier Beacham. "It felt as if they were so invested that we had to be that much on our game. They made us not only want to step it up, but to be more over the top, to try to bring this world to life!"

The cast included Concordia University Texas students Alan Ramirez (Miguel), Carmen Acosta (La Llorona), Xzavier Beacham (Kiki el Loco/The Voice Keeper/Duende), Rachel Stanford (Rosita), Chelsea Wallace (Cecilia), Susan Pacey (The Voice Picker), Breyanna Weekly (Ana) and Ed Pacheco (Border Guard/Luis). The student stage manager was Cooper Kelm. Concordia University Texas's production of *Bocón* was staged by Dr. Kelly Carolyn Gordon, with puppet design by guest artist Kevin Long.

Next, the theater department will be presenting *The Permanent Collection* (2005), by Thomas Gibbons, February 25–28 in the Black Box.

CONECTADO 2015:

Guatemala's Unforgettable Youth Gathering

In early 2015, Zacapa, Guatemala was chosen to host a monumental national youth gathering, which the youth chose to name 'Conectado.' The goal of the gathering was to 'connect' with Christ, while also 'connecting' with peers by bringing in new ideas and young voices to the roles of leadership.

The planning of this gathering proved to be both challenging and rewarding. Emma Clifford '14, a current CTX DCE intern who has been serving in Guatemala for a year, took on the task. Because of the time she had spent serving in that place, she had the respect of key leaders, which enabled her to be heard even when some ideas brought forth were met with some initial resistance. Hosted at the Lutheran School and Boarding School in Zacapa, the event garnered 175 youth and leaders who represented eight congregations and two mission plants from all over Guatemala.

One of the highlights of the conference (which took place Friday, December 4th through Sunday, December 6th) was a parade on Saturday evening from the Lutheran School to the local amphitheater in the central park of Zacapa, where a worship service was held. From Emma's point of view, that night in particular was very powerful in establishing the identity of the Lutheran youth of Guatemala in this age.

Emma's hope and prayer through the experience was first and foremost that Conectado would become a dynamic tradition; that it would be continued and improved upon every year by different congregations. She also hopes to see a growing recognition on the national level of the voice of Guatemalan Lutheran youth. Emma has since been in conversation with



the President of the Guatemalan Lutheran Church about forming a National Youth Council, and reports that he is supportive of seeing such an organization brought about in the future.

"Conectado 2015 has definitely been the highlight of my internship in Guatemala," said Emma about the experience. "I am so glad I was able to share the exciting things God is doing here!"

The Christian Family Hands off LBJ Papers

In January, a collection of books containing communications written during the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson was generously given to the university by the Christian Family. Elizabeth Christian, founder of Elizabeth Christian Public Relations, is a longtime partner of Concordia University Texas. Christian is the daughter of George Christian, the last of four press secretaries for Lyndon B. Johnson. Christian intends that Concordia Texas students and the greater Austin community will engage with the books to discover more about President Johnson's term and the remarkable events that occurred during that time. The books will be on display at Concordia's main campus for the public to read freely.



GEDRIC PERRY



LUCAS ALMOND



New Faces & Success Highlight Tornados' Fall Sports Campaign

BY TOM RITTER



SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETICS



TOM RITTER



PETE COLE



ASC

Fall 2015 saw great success for Concordia Texas's athletics programs. As a whole, Concordia Athletics welcomed six new faces to the full-time staff: athletic director Ronda Seagraves, women's soccer coach Brad O'Kelley, golf coach Chris Hill, cross country/track & field coach Adrian Carrillo, tennis coach Daniel Whitehead and sports information director Tom Ritter. Some of the season's biggest highlights included the men's soccer team's historic run, the men's golf team earning national rankings, the volleyball team's excellent run in the American Southwest Conference Tournament and various awards for the cross country teams.

SOCCER

The Tornados' men's soccer program established program records in victories, goals scored, goals surrendered and shutouts en route to its first-ever ASC Tournament berth this season. Under the direction of third-year head coach Corey Miller, Concordia amassed a record-breaking seven-game win streak to open the season.

The Tornados would go on to the ASC Tournament semi-finals, where they fell to eventual champion UT Dallas by a 2-1 tally and ended 2015 with a program-best 12-3-1 record. It was also the best turnaround in school history after the team finished 5-9-3 in 2014.

At the end of the season, Marshal Tucker, Alejandro Labastida, Fabian Billings and Diego Outeiral became the program's first-ever all-conference first-team selections. Marc Kouassi was the lone Tornado on the All-ASC second team. Farauz Abbaszadeh and Nick Martin earned All-ASC third team laurels. Martin's five shutouts set a new standard for Concordia goalies.

Additionally, Tucker and Billings became the Tornados' first-ever selections to the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America All-West Region teams. Tucker earned first-team accolades while Billings was a third-team selection.

"This was a very exciting year for the men's soccer team that was led by a great group of seniors. I am very proud of each member of this team. They bought into a system and style and did everything we asked to finally make the conference tournament and rewrite a lot of the Concordia soccer history book. This was a great year, but we still have many goals we are looking to achieve and many more records to break. The boys are already hungry to get back to work and continue establishing a great soccer culture here at Concordia," Miller said.

On the women's side, Concordia ended the year with another ASC Tournament berth. The Tornados fell in their first-round match to eventual-champion Hardin-Simmons. Over the course of 2015, Concordia collected a 4-11-1 record under first-year head coach Brad O'Kelley.

Nicole Young, Nicole Henderson and Kila Hartom earned all-conference selections. Young and Henderson earned all-ASC second team accolades while Hartom was an honorable mention recipient.

"This first season was a learning experience for myself and our players. We grew as a team as the season went on and are very excited about the progression of the program. We have quality recruits coming in for next fall and look to keep building the women's program here at Concordia," O'Kelley said.

VOLLEYBALL

Concordia's volleyball team used a late-season jolt that provided for some nail-biting action in the ASC Tournament. The Tornados entered the festivities with a 7-5 record in league play, which gave them the West Division's third seed. To that point, CTX was 11-11 on the season.

After pulling off a stunning comeback in a dramatic 3-2 victory over UT Tyler, the Tornados would go into the next day on the verge of elimination. Concordia rallied to another 3-2 win over East Texas Baptist and ended the tournament's second day with a 3-1 statement win over the Patriots, eliminating both teams.

"I am extremely proud of this team for achieving their goals we set at the beginning of season. This group has left their mark on the Concordia volleyball program and we are excited to build on this in the future," head coach Nicole McCoy said.

FALL SEASON Fast Facts

6 new CTX athletics employees

Women's Cross Country placed fourth at the ASC Championship **4th**

Tennis returns to CTX after **7** years

Volleyball finished third at the ASC tourney, making CTX history **3**

Men's golf is **ranked #5** nationally by golfstat.com

spring schedule

Come show your support for the Tornados by attending a game this season! You can view the full schedule online at athletics.concordia.edu

Concordia would face rival Mary Hardin-Baylor in the semifinal on the final day. While the Cru went on to win the 3-0 decision, the Tornados would boast several season accolades.

It was the first time in program history that Concordia won three matches in the ASC Tournament and the squad set a school record for postseason matches played with five. Additionally, the Tornados ended the year with a 14-13 record, marking the first winning season since 2000. Nacole Miller was named the ASC West Newcomer of the Year while Katie Baker earned all-conference accolades for the second time in her career. Jordan Redmond joined Baker on the All-ASC West First Team. Lexi Perez was voted to the All-ASC West Second Team.

CROSS COUNTRY

Under first-year head coach Adrian Carrillo, the cross country program saw great success thanks to a pair of freshmen.

The women's team ran its way to a fourth-place finish behind an outstanding effort from ASC Freshman of the Year Emily Villines at the ASC Cross Country Championships. Villines was the runner-up at the meet and went on to place 51st at the NCAA Division III South/Southeast Regional Championships in Virginia.

The men's team took fifth at the ASC Championships to cap their season. Freshman Dylan Zoch was one of the highlights all year long for the Tornados, earning two top-five finishes including one at the top of the field at the Southwestern Invitational in the squad's final meet before the conference championships. He went on to place in the top-20 in the conference meet and finished in 142nd at the regional race.

GOLF

The golf teams also had a new face at the helm in 2015. Under the direction of Chris Hill, the men's team ended the fall ranked fifth nationally by Golfstat.com. Individually, Seger Howell is ranked second in all of Division III with a 71.00 stroke average heading into the sport's championship season. As a squad, the Tornados won two of their three tournaments in the fall and finished second in the other. Concordia's lineup boasted six total top-10 finishes in the fall. Howell earned runner-up accolades in the first and last tournaments of 2015, while Nick Ratliff finished second in between. Cameron Quinn and

Josh Hernandez also placed in the top-10 during the run.

"The men's team is a special group that is coming together and improving each day! We are very excited to get back on the course in February as we push towards the NCAA championships this May," Hill said.

While the women's team struggled in team play in their four fall tournaments, Shelby Allen began the season with a third place finish and found the top-10 two more times before capping the fall with a top-20 result.

"The women's team fought hard in each event. They are working hard on developing their games and are looking forward to the spring season," Hill added.

Both Tornado golf teams play the bulk of their schedule beginning in February. The women's team is slated for four events while the men have six. Concordia hosts the annual Linda Lowery Invitational from Feb. 22-23 at Falconhead Country Club.

TENNIS

This year also saw the return of the tennis program after a seven-year absence. Under the guidance of former University of Texas standout Daniel Whitehead, the Tornados held their own in tough individual competitions during the fall. Freshman Gabriel Borunda took home first place at the ASC's Fall Individual Tournament.

The women's team's fall season was highlighted by a strong showing at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Fall Regional. Alexis Popovich advanced to her flight's consolation round of 16 in her collegiate debut. Both squads begin team play Jan. 29 against Division I's UT Rio Grande Valley.

"It's exciting with everything being the first in a long time. We can't wait for spring season," Whitehead said.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Tornados have a bright future ahead in 2016. Highlights include the softball team playing its first-ever true home contests at the brand new Tornado Softball Field on Feb. 11, when Concordia hosts Louisiana College in a double-header and the baseball team opening its 2016 campaign on Feb. 12 at 11 a.m. against Piedmont at Tornado Field while track begins Feb. 27 with the Trinity Open.



Where are they now?

Send us your news! We want to feature your incredible stories and celebrate all that our alumni are doing. Share your accomplishments, achievements and vocation with friends and fellow classmates. Submit your alumni note at alumni@concordia.edu, and see it in the next issue of the magazine!

Meaningful Work

1950s

Rudy Zoch '53 and '55 just completed his 12th Vision for Africa mission trip to Kenya.

1960s

Carol (Koehl) Helms '66 has retired from 36 years of teaching, the most recent of which was at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Austin, TX.

Ted Nelson '68 has retired after 43 years of teaching.

Celebrate the 60's

Concordia invites alumni from the 60's to campus April 15-16, 2016 to reconnect, reminisce, tour the campus, meet current students, and learn about the vision and mission of Concordia University Texas. Register to attend at concordia.edu/reunion.

1970s

Rodney Wren '77 formed a new company called TriGeo Energy in August 2014.

Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey '78 has recently moved to North Carolina to become senior pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church.

1980s

Tim Rosenthal '84 was recently promoted to Lt. Col. and is the Wing Chaplain stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base, FL.

Jeff Strege '84 is now a Producer for IMA, Inc., a commercial insurance and employee benefits brokerage firm in Dallas, TX.

Lanny Moore '86 and '13 has recently accepted a position with the Texas District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod as the Director of Development for Texas Partners in Mission.

1990s

Joyce Richardson '90 has recently published a book titled "Courtship Journal and Keepsake".

Arturo Salinas '93 has recently been promoted to the lead position of Program Specialist V at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

David O'Leary '97 performed as "Alan-a-Dale" in September 2014 at the Sherwood Forest Fair Celtic Music Festival in McDade, TX.

2000s

Angie (Zoch) Goeke '01 has recently published a book titled "A Girl and Her Warhorse".

Kim (Gerstner) Romberg '03 is teaching for Austin ISD and has been accepted to the Diagnostician Master's program at the University of Texas at Tyler.

John Wilkes '05 was recently recalled to active duty to serve as the Commanding Officer for Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC) in White River Junction, VT.

Daniel Hall '06 has accepted a new position as the HR/Talent Development Manager at KGBTexas Communications.

Rev. Ted Doering '09 and **Jon Zoch** '08 are planting a new church in Round Rock, TX, called Narrative Church.

Lindsay (Kelm) Gumtow '09 and M.Ed.'14, has accepted a position as a fourth grade teacher at Jim Plain Elementary School in Leander, TX.

2010s

Chelsey (Urban) Doering '10 has recently accepted a new position as Digital Content Specialist for Concordia University Texas in Austin.

Brian Nunnery '10 is now a Social Media Strategist for Adonit in Austin, TX.

Nicole (Seals) Burt '11 is now the Student Relations Officer at the Australian Institute of Business.

Nichole Beaver-Perez '12 has recently accepted a call from Central Lutheran School in Newhall, IA, as their new principal.

Phillip Bennett '12 is now Assistant Principal at Montgomery Elementary School for North East ISD.

Rosa Munoz, M.Ed. '12 moved back to her home town of Seminole, TX and is teaching 5th grade Social Studies.

Shayda Torabi '12 and MBA '15 was recently promoted to Product Marketing at WP Engine.

Jill Cloud '13 has recently accepted a position as Academic Marketing and Communications Coordinator for Texas A&M University – Central Texas.

Daniel DeHoyos '13 has been accepted into the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership cohort at Dallas Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA.

Matthew Doering '13 has been installed as Director of Christian Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in State College, PA.

Deanna (Dixon) Doering '14 is now a registered nurse at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Hospital System in Altoona, PA.

Larry Durand '13 is now a math teacher and basketball coach for Galveston ISD.

Tanner Evans '13 has been installed as Director of Worship Arts at ACTS Church in Leander, TX.

Rachel Ferry '13 is now Campus Communication Manager for Concordia University Ann Arbor.

JD Heathcoat '13 has recently accepted a new position at Austin Preferred Integrative Medicine as their Physical Therapy Technician in Austin, TX.

Alison Dadoly '14 has recently accepted a Staff Accountant position with Gerson Lehrman Group in Austin, TX.

Jordan Dedear '14 is now attending graduate school at Texas A&M University at Kingsville.

Erin Fredenburg '14 has recently accepted a position as a second grade teacher at Epiphany Lutheran School in Houston, TX.

Esmeralda Gonzales '14 has accepted a new position as the ERSEA Coordinator for South San Antonio ISD Head Start.

Harmony Hardaway '14 has been installed as Director of Christian Education at Messiah Lutheran Church in Boerne, TX.

Hannah (Folgate) Kasper '14 has recently accepted a position as a Marketing Specialist at the Texas Department of Information Resources.

Kelly Lovejoy '14 has been named Banking Officer and eBanking Supervisor in the eBanking Department of Broadway Bank in San Antonio, TX.

Cedric Perry '14 has recently accepted a position as Associate Director of Student and Alumni Relation for Concordia University Texas in Austin.

Sean Richards '14 has accepted a new position as Freshman Counselor for the Admissions Department of Concordia University Texas in Austin.

Zach Shearer '14 is now an Assistant Men's Soccer Coach at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, IA.

Daniela Vazquez '14 has recently accepted a position as a seventh grade Texas History teacher at Charles Patterson Middle School in Killeen, TX.

JoLeen Vinlove '14 was recently hired as Sophomore English Teacher with Owen County School in Georgetown, KY.

T'Asia Williams '14 is now a Student Support Coordinator for the Student Central Department of Concordia University Texas in Austin.

Morgan (Thorsen) Clifford '15 has moved to Seattle, WA to teach at Amazing Grace Christian School.

Elizabeth Evangelista '15 is now attending the University of St. Augustine to receive her doctorate in physical therapy.

Vicki Hill '15 has moved to Seattle, WA to teach first grade at Amazing Grace Christian School.

Matthew Ruhe '15 is now attending graduate school for physical therapy at Texas Women's University in Houston, TX.

Amy Ly '15 has recently accepted a full time medical scribe position at Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Woodlands, TX, and plans to pursue PA school in the future.

Special Honors

Linda Medina-Lopez '05 was named the 2015 Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Central Texas.

Stan Voelker '98 was inducted into the Rodeo Austin Hall of Fame after being distinguished as a long-time leader to that organization's mission.

Births

Rev. Nathaniel Hill '08 and **Candice (Bielss) Hill** '08 welcomed their son, John Barrett, on January 25th, 2015. He was baptized February 15th, 2015, at St. Michael's Lutheran in Winchester, TX.

Sara (Keithly) Karlik '09 recently moved to Colorado. She and her husband are now expecting their second child in April 2016.

Philip Middleton '10 and **Sara (Tullos) Middleton** '11 welcomed their first child, Sally Ruthadel, on September 25th, 2015.

Logan Brown '11, and **Ashley (Timmerman) Brown** '11 welcomed their son, Lincoln Ray, on October 11th, 2015.

Stella (Ebizie) Spagnolo '11 and husband Anthony welcomed their second daughter, Gabriella Viviana, on September 18th, 2014.

Brice Baker '14 & **Ashley (Reed) Baker** '14 welcomed their daughter, Harper Leigh, on September 4th, 2014.

Marriages

Rev. Adam Cooper '60 and his wife Linette recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Andrew French '07 was married to Kate Selman on August 16th, 2014, in Tennessee.

Jeremy Cooper '10 and **Chelsey (Graber) Cooper** '13 were married in April 2015 in Washington.

Andrew Kasper '11 and **Hannah (Folgate) Kasper** '14 were married on July 11th, 2015, in Austin, TX.

Nick Taylor '11 and **Abigail (Woolsey) Taylor** '15 were married in May 2015 at Crosspoint Community Church in Katy, TX, and are expecting their first child in February 2016.

Alec Carter '12 and **Kendyl (Winkler) Carter** '13 were married on November 8th, 2014, in Georgetown, TX.

Chelsey Gonzalez '13 and Todd Gold announced their engagement in February 2015 and will be married in February 2016 in Driftwood, TX.

JD Heathcoat '13 and **Meredith (Linze) Heathcoat** '12 were married on March 29, 2015, in Austin, TX.

Jason Clifford '14 and **Morgan (Thorsen) Clifford** '15 were married on June 27th, 2015, in Austin, TX.

Jarmarion Jenkins '14 and Erica (Dancer) Jenkins were married on October 4th, 2015.



In Memory of Debra Allen, Ph.D.

Debra J. Allen, Ph.D., of Pflugerville passed away peacefully to be with her Savior on January 9, 2016, surrounded by her family in Michigan. Achieving the rank of full professor, Dr. Allen dedicated many years teaching university students all over the world. She arrived at Concordia University Texas in 1993 and taught here through December 2015. In her years at Concordia, she served in many leadership roles, and was awarded two Fulbright grants. In 2011, she won the Martin J. Neeb Teaching Excellence Award at Concordia. Debra exemplified commitment to God, family, friends, and her community. She was passionate in her devotion to teaching students at CTX and as a commissioned teacher in the LCMS. She was an active member at Hope Lutheran Church in Austin, and a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and Hope Outreach Board. In her spare time, she enjoyed traveling, reading history, and playing games with her friends and family. Gifts in her memory may be made to Concordia University Texas, where they will be used to support the history program and its students.





Meet the Newlyweds on a Mission to Travel

For Heath '13 and Alyssa Padgett '12, their journey started with a bucket list, a goal to visit all 50 states, and an RV named "Franklin."

Heath and Alyssa met at CTX and decided to get married after Heath's graduation in 2014. Instead of going on a regular honeymoon to the beach, however, they put in their two weeks' notices at their desk jobs and hit the road, determined to find an adventure.

The adventure was an unlikely one: what if they not only saw each state, but spent dedicated time getting to know locals in every one? In order to accomplish this, Heath came up with the idea of working 50 hourly jobs – one in each state.

They contacted SnagAJob.com, a site that helps people find hourly positions, and were able to set up jobs across the nation. In exchange for this and a sponsorship to help offset the costs of the trip, the Padgetts would blog about and film their experiences.

The job opportunities were many and varied: Heath tried his hand at being a martial arts dojo, a park ranger, a stand-up paddle board tour guide, and a theme park zombie. If it sounds like something you'd like to watch, don't worry: Alyssa filmed everything and they are currently in the process of raising money to edit this footage into a documentary called Hourly America.

The Padgetts' adventure has not been an entirely smooth one. They ran into many challenges along the way, including breaking down on the side of the road, refrigerator explosions, and propane leaks. The small space was also a challenge for the newlyweds, since there was nowhere to hide if one was angry at the other.

Both alumni maintain that the experience has been rewarding overall, however, particularly considering the breathtaking, ever-changing scenery they can call their backyard and the people they were able to meet on the way.

The Padgetts aren't done adventuring. They've written a book, started a free 'e-course,' and are currently raising money to finish editing their documentary. If you'd like to follow them on their travels, please visit hourlyamerica.com.

HEATH PADGETT



Support the Concordia Experience

Your gift to the annual fund allows Concordia to continue creating innovative curricula, expanding student programs, enriching faculty and staff, and developing Christian leaders who will take their own Concordia experience and make an impact in their communities and workplaces.

concordia.edu/give

CTX FAST FACTS



FOUNDED IN
1926

22 TRADITIONAL
UNDERGRAD
MAJORS

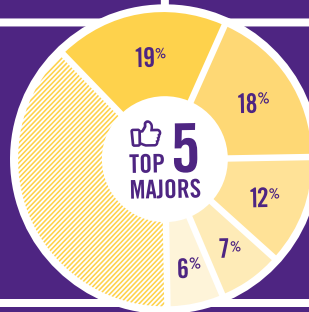


\$41,858
15-16 ON CAMPUS TOTAL COST
FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS
\$23,220
AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE
TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE 15-16

FACULTY TO STUDENT RATIO

1:18

- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- NURSING & PRE-NURSING
- KINESIOLOGY
- BIOLOGY
- ELEMENTARY EDUCATION



11,000+
TREES ON CAMPUS



NCAA DIVISION III
ATHLETIC TEAMS

15

CTX STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH
LOAN DEBT THAT AVERAGES

11% LESS THAN
PEER AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
30-40% LESS THAN
PEER AREA PRIVATE SCHOOLS



STUDENTS
FROM
COUNTRIES

15



300

DAYS OF SUNSHINE
PER YEAR, ON AVERAGE