

Connections

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY AT AUSTIN

WINTER 2006



Biology
Research
Project

Around
Campus

A Letter
from
China

Connections

Winter 2006 Issue

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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY AT AUSTIN

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From the President



Dear friends of Concordia, What an exciting year this has been! Looking back over the last several months, it is so easy to see how much God has blessed us, especially in the relocation effort. At the start of 2006, we had narrowed our list of potential sites for the new campus to two possibilities, but added an additional two locations in March. One of those new sites was the Austin Hill Country Reserve. With six existing buildings and approximately 400 acres of land, it quickly became our first choice, and we entered contract negotiations in May. Earnest money

payments were made in September, and we're currently conducting master site planning. We plan to start construction and remodeling in the next couple of months with relocation occurring during the summer of 2008.

In the past few months, we have offered opportunities for faculty and staff, students, alumni, and friends to tour the new campus. Their response has been positive and encouraging. Relocation will allow us to build on our current programs and grow. It will also allow us to better fulfill our mission and achieve our vision, to improve service to church and community, and to insure the future of Concordia.

Campus relocation is just one part of our bold vision for Concordia. We strive to grow in academic excellence, increase partnerships, improve our work environment, and enhance our financial stability. Ultimately, we seek to accomplish and sustain our mission of developing Christian leaders who courageously engage the world to serve God and His people.

Because of confidentiality agreements, you won't see more details about the relocation in this issue of *Connections*; however, we welcome you to visit the new relocation section of our website, www.concordia.edu/relocation, for pictures and the latest updates.

Penny and I hope you and your family have a blessed Christmas!

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Cedel, Ph.D.
President

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On the Cover: On October 31, 2006, students had the opportunity to tour the site of Concordia's new campus. As they walked through the covered walkways and under the towering arches, their response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. A number of students expressed regret that they would graduate too early to experience life on the new campus, while others were ready to camp out until the fall of 2008. **Below:** Travis Hartjen, DCE of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Austin, talks with students Loretta Watson, Jeff Richie, Jim Bretthauer, and Kevin Nicholes about the move. **Right:** One of the walkways leading to what may eventually be the administration building. More pictures of the new location can be seen online at www.concordia.edu/relocation.



From the Editor

There was a time in my life when I thought it would be fun to run a magazine. I imagined myself as the Editor-in-Chief, making the decisions about what stories would appear in the magazine, what staff person would be assigned what story, what the magazine would look like, etc. It wasn't something I ever thought I would actually do, though.

Until this summer, when I became the Director of University Communications and was given the charge of revamping our publications. With that charge came the responsibility of *Connections*, and suddenly, I found myself running a magazine. While it has certainly been fun, it has also been quite a learning experience. For one thing, I've learned exactly how much time it takes to put together a magazine (a lot more than I anticipated). And I've learned that it is not something that can be done by one person, so I am incredibly grateful to everyone who wrote a story, sent in pictures, or supplied information.

I want this magazine to be representative of the entire Concordia community. If you have any comments or suggestions, let me know. Also, I would love to have guest writers, so if you have an idea for a feature article that you would like to write, send me your idea and I'll let you know how it fits into a future issue.

I hope you enjoy this new version of *Connections* and that through it, you find new ways to connect with Concordia!

Ida Hansen Honored as Lutheran Woman of the Year

Concordia University awarded the Lutheran Woman of the Year to Mrs. Ida Hansen of Odem, Texas. Ida (pictured below with her family) was honored, along with the other nominees, at a special chapel service and luncheon on September 29, 2006. Ida is the 45th woman to be honored with this award, which was conceived as a way for Concordia to recognize women who are extraordinary examples of Christian witness and who give generously of their time and energy for the work of the Lord. Each year, Concordia asks the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) societies in the Texas District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to nominate women who fit the criteria.

Ida and her husband Ben are members of Trinity Lutheran Church in West Sinton. She has been an LWML member for 50 years and has been involved in a number of ways! Musically talented, she served as the organist for two district conventions and was the music coordinator for a third. She has been the chairman of the annual pecan sales fund raiser for 25 years, and she has served as a zone president, among other roles. In addition, she has made numerous quilts for Lutheran World Relief and the local Lutheran Social Services of the South Foster Home Care.

Trinity Lutheran Church has also benefited from her talents as an organist and Vacation Bible School organizer. She has constructed parlements and is currently spear-heading the Ablaze/Fan Into Flame movement at Trinity.

In the community, Ida was a 4-H leader for 15 years, was awarded the County Conservation Teacher of the Year, was active in the PTA, and a member of the American Sewing Guild. She taught in Lutheran schools for five years and in public schools for 20 years, the last eight of which she spent developing and teaching a Gifted and Talented program for fourth through sixth grades. She says her most important role in life has been as a Christian wife and supporter of her husband in his 25 years of serving as a part-time Lutheran lay chaplain at the Port of Corpus Christi, and as the mother of three children.

Ida and her husband are ardent supporters of Concordia University, as were her parents. Her grandson currently attends Concordia.



New Faculty and Staff

There are a lot of new faces at Concordia this year! We welcome the following new faculty and staff to the Concordia community:

New Full-Time Faculty

Dr. Barbalee Symm Healthcare Administration
Rev. Carl Trovall Religion

New Staff

Alex Aldaco Admissions Advisor
Chris Beck Development Officer
Connie Beran Registrar
Brooke Boggs Sports Information Director
Regina Dickey Administrative Assistant - Admissions
Tracy Glover '03 Admissions Advisor
Ashley Forseth '06 Help Desk Manager
Linda Hunt Administrative Assistant, President's Office
Casey Martinez Registration Assistant
Matt Matocha Athletic Trainer
Patti Mitschke '82 Administrative Assistant - ADP, San Antonio Center
Cary-Anne Olsen Web and Graphic Designer
David Ortiz Center Director - ADP, San Antonio Center
Kathy Pittman Co-Head Softball Coach
Sarah Richard Director, Accounting
Mike Rohr Admissions Advisor
Andrea Rust Administrative Assistant, Student Financial Services
Megan Schad Development Officer
Ken Schmidt Development Officer
Joyce Sinclair Administrative Coordinator - ADP, Austin Center
Stan Warren '76 Co-Head Softball Coach
Adrian Whatley Reference Serials Librarian

Familiar Faces in New Places

In addition to all the new faces, there are a lot of familiar faces showing up in new places. Several staff members either received promotions or moved from one department to another. We congratulate the following people on their new roles:

Jami Darden '05, Student Services Officer (previously the Administrative Assistant for Admissions); **Sherrah Holobaugh '00**, Director of University Communications (previously the Assistant Director of Admissions); **Kristi Kirk '95**, Director of Admissions and Financial Assistance (previously Director of Admissions); **Patty Lawrence '03**, Accounts Payable Specialist (previously Support Services Associate); **Terri Mathews**, Manager of University Services (previously Accounts Payable Specialist); and **Kristy Sauls**, Financial Aid Advisor (previously the Administrative Assistant for Student Financial Services).

Students Receive the Keith and Margie Loomans Excellence in Education Award

Juniors Sarah Davis and Michelle Heckmann and seniors Ashley Bortness and Rebekah Morrow were awarded the Keith and Margie Loomans Excellence in Education Award this fall. Four scholarships are awarded each year based on applicants' overall aptitude for professional church work in general and classroom teaching in particular. This award was established to honor Dr. Keith Loomans and his wife Margie on his retirement as the Education Executive of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, a position Dr. Loomans held for thirty years. He was and continues to be an avid advocate for the Lutheran Teaching Ministry.



Above: Front row: Ashley Bortness, Rebekah Morrow, Sarah Davis, and Michelle Heckmann. Back row: Keith and Margie Loomans and Concordia President Tom Cedel.

New Academic Programs

This fall marked the beginning of a new concentration in the College of Business. Students pursuing a bachelor of business administration degree now have the option of specializing in marketing. New classes include Consumer Behavior, Advertising Management, Integrated Marketing Communications, Marketing Management and Strategy, and a Marketing Internship. Classes are designed to provide students with both a theoretical and a practical approach to marketing.

Beginning in the 2007-2008 academic year, Concordia's education and music ministry majors will partner in offering a new education concentration in vocal music education. This specialization will prepare students to be music educators within the public school system or to become rostered church workers within the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod by gaining a Lutheran Teacher's Diploma which will certify them to teach in LCMS parochial schools. Vocal music education will supplement the existing music ministry major which specifically prepares students as worship leaders.

This program has very exciting prospects for the overall music program at Concordia and for its future. The new campus will include facilities to help grow the program and develop musicians in an artistic atmosphere. Future plans for the music program include adding specializations in vocal music performance, music industry, and an instrumental music education major.

Another Record-Breaking Year

Concordia's enrollment continues to increase. This fall, we reached yet another all-time high, with over 1,200 students enrolled! Not only did we have more new students on campus this year (a total of over 400, including new graduate students in the M.Ed. program, and first-time freshmen and new transfer students in both the traditional programs and the Adult Degree Program), but retention was also higher this year.

Spend Your Lunch With...

The College of Business initiated a new speaker series this fall called "Spend Your Lunch With...". This series gives the students, faculty and staff of Concordia and the Austin community an opportunity to learn from a variety of professionals who model Christian leadership. The guest speakers represent the worlds of commerce, non-profits and education and share the various ways they serve the community through their chosen vocation.



Left: Michael Willard, executive director of Austin Habitat for Humanity spoke on October 5. His topic, "Building Homes - Changing Lives," focused on his leadership role and how his values shape his vocation and his mission to eliminate poverty housing.

Right: Rebecca Powers, founder of Impact Austin, a women's philanthropic foundation, spoke on November 2. Her presentation, "This was Never Part of My Life Plan," shared how she had been preparing to lead Impact Austin her whole life...she just didn't know it.



On the Edge Discussions

The Religion Department has started hosting monthly panel discussions as part of the new "On the Edge" series. This series aims to help students explore questions that are on the edge of knowledge and certainty. Each discussion features a panel of Concordia faculty from different disciplines who present their positions on selected topics where modern research in science, economics, social studies, political theory, literary theory and theology leads our society to controversy and uncertainty.

See the "Coming Soon" section on page 27 for a schedule of the "Spend Your Lunch With..." and "On the Edge" speakers and topics.



George Parnham



Dr. Ann Schwartz and student Nate Hill



Admiral Terrance Etnyre

Christian Leadership Forum

Concordia's Christian Leadership Forum introduces students to men and women who practice Christian leadership in their careers and live out their faith in the public square. Each semester, the University hosts two to three speakers who are prominently engaged in modeling servant leadership as authors, ministers, military leaders, elected government representatives, and in a variety of other roles. This lecture series gives students the opportunity to see how leaders make difficult decisions, especially when those decisions involve doing what is right or what is easy.

Criminal defense attorney George Parnham, who has defended several high profile clients, including Andrea Yates and Clara Harris, opened this year's series with a lecture on why he has dedicated his life to the defense of the underdog and his passionate advocacy for legal reform in the criminal justice system. A panel consisting of Austin attorney Woodie Jones, Concordia sociology professor Ann Schwartz, and behavioral sciences student Nate Hill responded to Parnham's presentation.

Vice Admiral Terrance Etnyre of the United States Navy was the forum's second guest in October. He is the commander of the U.S. Naval Surface Forces, and is responsible not only for the readiness and deployment of ships and squadrons in the Global War on Terror, but also for the development and well-being of more than 100,000 men and women serving in shore support and sea duty positions around the world. He spoke on the challenges leaders face in both military and civilian circles. His presentation was followed by a question and answer session with the audience.

These presentations are free and open to the public. The Christian Leadership Forum will host two additional guests in the spring semester. Watch Concordia's website for more information and the dates of these presentations.

Periodic Table Lecture

On September 21, 2006, Dr. Eric Scerri of UCLA gave a lecture on "The Story and Significance of the Periodic Table" at the invitation of Dr. James Stevenson of the Concordia Chemistry Department. The Periodic Table is a fundamental tool of every chemist and chemistry student. Dr. Scerri is a leading philosopher of science, specializing in the history and philosophy of the periodic table. He is also the founder and editor in chief of the international journal *Foundations of Chemistry* and has been a full-time lecturer at UCLA for the past six years, where he regularly teaches classes of 350 chemistry students as well as classes in the history and philosophy of science. He has published over 100 scholarly articles in history and philosophy of science as well as chemical education. His talk consisted of an overview of the whole history of the periodic table, covering triads, Prout's hypothesis, Dalton, Cannizaro, precursors to the periodic system, Mendeleev, atomic physics and its impact, quantum mechanics, and different forms of the Table. Students and faculty of Concordia as well as the University of Texas and Texas State University in San Marcos were in attendance.

The Concordia History Club

The year 2006 has been a very busy one for the History Club at Concordia University. Under the guidance and support of Dr. Debra Allen, the History Club has been more involved with school functions. At Parents Weekend, the History Club set up a booth for the club fair with the theme "Back to the Beginning." With trivia questions and pictures of Concordia from when it was first founded through the many school sessions, it was a huge success! Not only were there pictures of the campus, but it also included old yearbooks and class photos. The History Club also used this time to interview alumni to add to the project of preserving Concordia's history (another project the History Club is working on). The next big project coming up for the History Club is a trip to Washington D.C. They hope to make it a success so students in the future can enjoy it as an opportunity for class credit.

On October 16, the History Club sponsored a discussion on the war in Iraq with three members of the military who served in Iraq. Students Jonathan Seeger (history major) and Brian Poole (secondary education major) who served with the Marines in Al Anbar Province, and Chaplain Nuckols, Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, who served as a Chaplain in the Army National Guard, shared with students and faculty some of their experiences in Iraq.



Above: Students Sinclair Ender and Kristen Seals at the History Club booth at Parents' Weekend.

Lutheran Educator of the Year



Above: Rev. Ken Hennings, President of the Texas District; Dr. Larry Meissner; and Dr. Bill Hinz, Director of School Ministry for the Texas District.

Dr. Larry Meissner, Professor of Biology at Concordia, received the award for Texas District Lutheran Educator of the Year at the Texas District Educators Conference in November. This is a well-deserved honor for Dr. Meissner, who has taught for 38 years, 33 of which were spent at Concordia. "The award symbolizes the efforts of so many on the educational team," Dr. Meissner says. "Students who give inspiration, fellow faculty who give encouragement, staff who give support, a wife and family who allow me to pursue my passion, and God who gives the opportunity, strength and grace to do ministry. Even as one architect gets credit for a new building or a president gets credit for a major corporate event, in reality the award symbolizes the hard work of a lot of people. It's far more than about what one person does. That certainly is true in the case of this award. I'm accepting it on behalf of all of us."

This award is given each year in order to publically recognize the accomplishments of Christian educators in classroom teaching, educational innovation, educational research, supervision and administration, and guidance.

Tornado Watch

Tornado Athletics Newsbriefs



Valentino Maxwell, junior secondary education major, was selected as an American Southwest Conference Men's Basketball Preseason Player of the Year. He begins this year as the league's top returning scorer.

He begins this year as the league's top returning scorer.

Michelle Heckmann, junior elementary education major, was chosen as an American Southwest



Conference Volleyball Player of the Week for the week of October 16-21. She also made the ASC West Second Team All Conference.



Brooke Boggs has joined the athletic staff as Sports Information Director. She spent two years as Mar-

keting Director for a sports agency in San Antonio, TX, and has a degree in corporate communication from the University of Texas.

- Media Guides for Concordia's athletic programs are on sale in the Lieder Bookstore and at games.

- You can listen to all conference basketball games online at www.audiosportsonline.com.

Basketball Outlook

This year's women's basketball team returns with all but one player from last year's squad and should compete for a spot in the conference tournament. Leading the charge will be sophomore **Kassandra Bills**, who filled **Ashley Edwards'** shoes admirably in her freshman campaign. Seniors **Megan Rogers** and **Leslye Yates** will provide veteran leadership in the frontcourt, while fellow senior **Jessica Vasquez** will stabilize the backcourt. Steal artist **Lanean Harris**, a junior, will help anchor the Lady Tornado's defense. The four upperclassmen will lead an underclassmen-heavy team notable for the aforementioned Bills, as well as her fellow sophomores **Whitney Clancy**, **Tiffany Turner** and **Katie Shaffstall**. Combined with Coach **Linda Sharp**, this year's team should rebound from their first losing season under Sharp to again claim a spot in the American Southwest Conference (ASC) tournament.

The men's basketball team boasts the past two ASC West Freshmen of the Year in junior **Valentino Maxwell** and sophomore **Joel McDonald**, with another possible candidate in freshman **Roland Mitchell**. Despite returning only six players from last year's squad, the 2006-07 version of the Tornadoes will look to improve on last year's 6-18 record and claim a place in the ASC tournament. Sanora Baptiste, the lone senior on the squad, will anchor the defense with his shot-blocking ability. After emerging last season as a top-flight ASC point guard, junior **Michael Moore** returns to key Concordia's fast-paced brand of basketball. Coach **Stan Bonewitz** will look to mold the team into an ASC contender in his second season at the helm of a Tornadoes team on the rise.

By Joshua Oliver, Student Assistant Sports Information Director

2006-2007 Basketball Schedule

12/14	East Texas Baptist	Marshall, TX	5:30 pm Women/7:30 pm Men
12/16	LeTourneau	Longview, TX	4:00 pm Women/6:00 pm Men
12/30	Incarnate Word	San Antonio, TX	7:30 pm Men
1/4	Ozarks	Home	5:30 pm Women/7:30 pm Men
1/11	Hardin-Simmons	Home	5:30 pm Women/7:30 pm Men
1/13	McMurry	Home	1:00 pm Women/3:00 pm Men
1/16	Colorado College	Home	6:00 pm Women
1/16	Mary Hardin-Baylor	Belton, TX	7:30 pm Men
1/18	Howard Payne	Brownwood, TX	5:30 pm Women/7:30 pm Men
1/20	Sul Ross State	Alpine, TX	1:00 pm Women/3:00 pm Men
1/25	Schreiner	Kerrville, TX	5:30 pm Women/7:30 pm Men
1/27	Texas Lutheran	Seguin, TX	1:00 pm Women/3:00 pm Men
1/30	Mary Hardin-Baylor	Belton, TX	6:00 pm Women
1/30	Mary Hardin-Baylor	Home	7:30 pm Men
2/1	Schreiner	Home	5:30 pm Women/7:30 pm Men
2/3	Texas Lutheran	Home	1:00 pm Women/3:00 pm Men
2/8	Howard Payne	Home	5:30 pm Women/7:30 pm Men
2/10	Sul Ross State	Home	1:00 pm Women/3:00 pm Men
2/15	Hardin Simonns	Abilene, TX	5:30 pm Women/7:30 pm Men
2/17	McMurry	Abilene, TX	1:00 pm Women/3:00 pm Men



Dr. Debra Allen, Professor of History, is organizing a travel course to Washington, D.C., to study American history

with ten history students. They will participate in this pilot class in 2007 by meeting with federal officials at the Capitol, the Pentagon, and the State Department, as well as visiting various archives, museums, and monuments to research, reflect, and write about American democracy. Allen is also conducting research for a spring 2007 seminar she will teach titled War, Peace, and Diplomacy.

Dr. Cathy Brigham, Dean of the College of Adult Education, has been invited and elected to serve on the international Council for the Society for Ethnomusicology. The Society for Ethnomusicology is an association devoted to the support of ethnomusicology and to the study of music-making all over the world.

Don Christian, Dean of the College of Business, recently served on the Ethics in Business Award selection committee. Concordia was a Community Sponsor for the awards dinner, which helped raise funds for the Samaritan Counseling Center of Austin. Faculty and College of Business students attended the dinner where Concordia was recognized for its role in this event. Christian was also recently inducted as a member of Sigma Beta Delta, the official honor society for business administration majors.



Nilo Figur, Associate Professor of Communication, presented a paper at the Fifth International Conference

on Media, Religion, and Culture in Stockholm, Sweden, last summer. The paper, titled "Religion as a Roundtable Topic for Media Credibility — the Perception of Religious News and Religious Content on a Regional Newspaper," was based on the results of a roundtable discussion on newspaper credibility with a Southern Midwest regional newspaper. He also presented a paper titled "Perceived Authority and Communication Channel: Experiments with Instant Messaging" at the 89th Annual Convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in San Francisco, CA. The paper was based on research done by a graduate student group consisting of Figur and University of Texas students. In addition, Figur and Ron Scherch, Director of Can-Do Missions, organized a mission conference in Canada focusing on the challenges of the LCMS mission in Portugal.



Rev. Dr. Curtis Giese, Associate Professor of Religion, has been contracted by Concordia Publishing House (CPH)

to write the Jude commentary in

the Concordia Commentary Series. His commentary notes on Genesis 25-30 for the *Lutheran Study Bible* were accepted by CPH this summer. This is a work similar to the *Concordia Self-Study Bible*, with the exception that it is based on more recent scholarship, founded upon the ESV text, and completely done by Lutheran scholars. He has also written German devotions for the 2008 *Feste-Burg Andachtsbuch* (the equivalent of the LCMS *Portals of Prayer*), published by the Lutheran church in Germany (SELK). In addition, he recently attained the rank of Second Degree Black Belt from the International Hapkido Federation. The training for this degree enhances the level of martial arts instruction he is able to give to Concordia students.

Rev. Dr. Curtis Giese and Rev. Paul Puffe, Associate Professors of Religion, have contributed chapters to a new book, just released in 2006 from publisher Wipf & Stock under the title *Called to Be God's People: An Introduction to the Old Testament*. It will serve as an Old Testament textbook at many of the Concordia University System schools.

Rev. Dr. Roger Grummer, Adjunct Instructor at the ADP Fort Worth Center, has recently written a series of devotions for the popular devotional booklet *Portals of Prayer*, a publication of Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis, Missouri. The series of 31 devotions titled, "I Am with You: The Season of Immanuel," will appear in the December 2007 Christmas issue.



Rev. Dr. Joel Heck, Vice President of Academic Services, published an article in *SEVEN: An Anglo-American*

Literary Review, titled "Researching Lewis in Wheaton and Oxford." His book, *Irrigating Deserts: C. S. Lewis on Education*, was released in January 2006 by Concordia Publishing House. The book describes Lewis's educational philosophy, the education that he received, and his practice as an educator. He has also written a chapter on *Mere Christianity* for a proposed four-volume reference set on the life, work, and legacy of C. S. Lewis, which is being edited by one of the world's foremost C. S. Lewis scholars, Dr. Bruce Edwards, of Bowling Green State University. The set, published by Praeger Publishers, is scheduled for release in 2007.



Dr. Lorna Idol, Professor of Education, has written a book titled *Models of Curriculum-Based Assessment*, currently in

press with PRO-ED. Her article entitled "Toward inclusion of special education students in general education: A program evaluation and study of eight schools" was recently published in the journal *Remedial and Special Education*. She is also currently listed in *Who's Who of America*.

Dr. Donna Janes, Assistant Professor of Biology, spoke in the Southwestern University Biology Department Seminar Series in September 2006. Her presentation was titled "The Influx of Ca²⁺ Through Low-Voltage Activated Ca²⁺ Channels Enhances Proliferation in HL-1 Cardiomyocytes." She is also currently working on a publication based on the same topic.



Rev. Dr. David Kluth, Vice President of University Services, was appointed this summer by the Board of Directors

of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to a term on the synod's Board for Communication Services. Kluth previously served two terms on the BCS in the 1980s, one term as chairman. The board oversees the communication efforts of the national church. He is also currently developing an instructional design course for the Concordia University System to be offered nationally starting in January 2007. He is team-teaching the course with Dr. Paul Massmann, assistant director of the *CUAccelerate* program at Concordia University in Irvine, CA. The course is designed to help improve college instruction by introducing professors at CUS schools to the fundamentals of course design. Much of the course will be taught online during the spring semester with a four-day face-to-face seminar at Concordia Austin. In addition, he recently had an article published

in *EdTech* magazine highlighting the relocation of Concordia and the challenges facing the ITS department as it prepares for relocation. Kluth is heading Concordia's relocation effort.

Donna Kull, Director of Grant Development, was recently elected president of the newly formed chapter of the Austin-Central Texas American Association of Grants Professionals.

Rev. Dr. Paul Muench, Associate Professor of Communication, is currently writing a text for the course Communication for Church Workers while on sabbatical. In addition, he will teach a course, Anthropology in Christian Perspective in the Ph.D. program of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.



Serena Pace, Assistant Director of the Director of Christian Education program, presented at the Texas District

Educator's Conference in November. The presentation, entitled "Nurturing Spirituality—A Lifestyle of Evangelism and Discipleship," discussed the believer's call in ministry to reproduce the life of Christ in others. She spoke on edification and evangelism as a way of life, helping participants to further develop their philosophy of discipleship and evangelism to all people (including themselves). She is also conducting research on spiritual formation and mentorship, focusing on the young adult population

and their disconnect with churches. This research was accepted for presentation at the Lutheran Education Association Convocation to be held spring 2007.

Dr. Tom Pate, Professor of Physical Education, and **Dr. Dick McGehee**, Adjunct Instructor of Physical Education, will present at the annual Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance convention in December. Their presentation is titled "Football for All Kids: Fun Lead-up and Skill Games."



Rev. Dr. Bruce Peffer, Campus Pastor, recently presented at Living Word Lutheran Church in The Woodlands, Texas, at a "Left Behind Conference: When the Teaching on the End Times Becomes a Religion of Fear." He gave three presentations titled: "The Challenges of Fundamentalism," "The Dangers of Millennialism" and "Methods for Properly Interpreting Scripture." He has also guest preached at Grace Lutheran Church, San Marcos; Hope Lutheran Church, Austin; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Austin; Crossbridge Church, Austin; and Christ Lutheran Church, Austin.

Amy Root, Adjunct Instructor of English, had a short story, titled "One Dry Dress," chosen for publication in *Beloit Fiction Journal* of Beloit College in Wisconsin. The story was inspired by Hurricane Katrina. In addition, her story "Im-

munity" appeared in *Copperfield Review*, an online journal of historical fiction, and her story "Solstice" is scheduled for 2007 publication in *Southern Humanities Review*.

Dr. Ken Schmidt, Development Officer, had an article titled "The Silent Witness: The Visual Arts in the Service of the Church" published in the most recent issue of *Issues in Christian Education*, a publication of Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska.



Dr. Ann Schwartz, Associate Professor of Sociology, presented at the Child Welfare League of America's national conference in Washington, D.C., held in the spring of 2006. The conference theme, "Children 2006: Securing Brighter Futures," focused on advocacy and outreach to promote best practice models and public policies that help children and families. Schwartz's workshop, entitled "Experiences of African American Adolescents in Kinship and Nonkinship Foster Care," discussed findings on how placement type influences identity outcomes and context of care variables.



Dr. Claudia Teinert, Associate Professor of English, will present a paper for The 11th Annual Willa Cather Seminar in

Paris, France, next summer. The title of her paper is "Early Cather Characters and the American National Identity." She will also give an evening performance during the conference of excerpts from Cather's early short stories.

Dr. Brian L. Trittin, Associate Professor of Music, released a CD comprised of classical alto saxophone compositions entitled *Contest Music for Alto Saxophone from the Texas UIL Repertoire*. The focus of the recording project was to provide an aural model of musical and stylistic performance practices for students studying and performing the saxophone repertoire. Music on the CD was selected from the Texas University Interscholastic League contest list but the pieces are standards of the saxophone repertoire and found on contest lists throughout the United States. Selections included are: *Suite* by Paul Bonneau, *Sonata* by Wolfgang Jacobi, *Sonata No. 3* by G. F. Handel. The recording also includes Concordia piano instructor Dr. Patricia Griggs-Burnham as accompanist.



David White, Assistant Professor of Business, was recently appointed to the TSCPA Substance Abuse Committee which serves public accountants throughout Texas.

Faculty Profile: David White

Most students know David White as Assistant Professor of Accounting, but a select few know him as someone who helps them with alcohol or drug addiction. In addition to his teaching duties, White has served as a substance abuse counselor at Concordia for approximately ten years.

White is personally familiar with the landscape of addiction. He was ten years of age when he started smoking cigarettes. "In Mississippi, that is what everyone did – to be cool like John Wayne," he said. He took his first dose of hard liquor at age 17. "When I drink, the world gets beautiful," he said. "It made me feel normal. My insecurities went away and I felt as beautiful as Robert Redford."

But that beautiful feeling can only last for so long. To keep reaching for this beautiful high, one has to drink alcohol in increasingly larger doses. White found enlightenment one morning when he realized that the beautiful feeling didn't feel so beautiful anymore.

"Anything is better than this," he said. And he quit. It was as if God had removed his need to drink. He has been sober for 22 years. Cigarettes, however, remain a problem for him.

According to White, only ten percent of the population has a problem with alcohol. People usually detect a problem later in life, and most of the college population is still too young to have a serious problem.

Still, for students who need help, White is there for them. At the start of the semester, he puts the word out to the new freshmen. On occasion, William Driskill, the Vice President of Student Services, sends students who may be experiencing a similar crisis to him.

White doesn't seek out students. Rather, he prefers that once a student decides he or she is ready for a change and wants to deal with their addiction, they can then come to him. Currently, he is seeing three to six students. He encourages students to come and talk to him, especially urging them not to be resistant to the idea or be embarrassed to talk about it. "I have heard it all and done most of it," he said.

White sees his role as an auxiliary. For him, it is an informal arrangement. "I want to share experiences, strength, and hope with others," he said.

For most students, meeting with White is their first step in the road to recovery. During his years of assisting students, eight to ten students have started their

recovery at Concordia University. "The last I heard about them, they were still in recovery," White said.

White distinguishes between alcoholism and social drinking. He attributes it to the alcoholic gene. "I don't believe that a person can drink enough to become an alcoholic, whereas if I drink half a glass of wine at church communion, I can feel the craving kick in," he said.

White said that Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" to addiction fails to address the underlying issues facing an addict. "Addiction is something you do when you don't want to," he said. It is easy to intellectualize issues of addiction. However, to let go of addictions, one needs to face them emotionally as well. According to White, mind over matter doesn't apply in cases of addiction.

What he does believe in is quitting an addiction in a moment of epiphany, when, for example, he realizes that he doesn't need to smoke anymore. Until then, one can see White on the porch outside Kramer Hall enjoying a smoker's delight.

For more information, call David White at 486-1157.

By Nariman Ahmed, Communication Major



Professor David White addresses the freshmen at orientation.



Biology Research Project: A Study of Denitrifying Bacteria in Town Lake

Dr. Donna Janes' class in Biological Science Research is a diverse group of students. While it is small, with only eight senior biology majors, they are representative of many campus groups. The class includes 2006 homecoming queen Stacey Berry, who has worked with athletics for three years, soccer player and former student body vice president Dan Darden, and athlete of the year Isaac Salazar. In addition, Leandra Turner has been active in the Biology club (and has already been hired by Brackenridge hospital), Christa Bodin works on campus as a tutor and in the biology labs, and Bethany Schmidt, who works at Cedra Clinical Research, and Merry Breitler have both been active in various musical groups on campus, and Danh (DT) Nguyen is the pianist at his church and has applied to medical school. They all have plans to pursue further study in nursing, medicine, physical therapy, and other programs following graduation.

While keeping up with all of these activities, this group of students is also conducting important research on denitrifying bacteria in Austin's Town Lake, focusing on the section around the Congress Avenue Bridge. This bridge is the roosting site for approximately 1.5 million bats, producing a large amount of bat guano, which is high in ammonia. The ammonia runs into the river, where it is quickly converted into nitrate. Because of these conditions, the local environment should be rich in nitrogen and selective for



species that participate in denitrification. "This is a process that converts nitrates to nitrites, and then to nitrogen gas," Dr. Janes explains. "It is an important environmental cycle, and there are potential health risks without the reduction of the nitrates." The students explained that if nitrates stay in the river without being converted into nitrites and then into nitrogen gas, they can potentially cause birth defects and Blue Baby Syndrome. Students also explained that some organisms could be converting the nitrates to nitric oxide instead of nitrogen gas, which is a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

As part of the research project, the students have looked at the differences in physical characteristics of the environment both downstream and upstream from the Congress Avenue Bridge. Comparing the two to each other, they found fluctuations in pH levels and the amount of dissolved oxygen, but no differences in water temperature. The next step in the process was to take a sampling of microorganisms from upstream and downstream and identify the number of organisms that contribute to the nitrogen cycle. Supporting the hypothesis that the bat guano provided a rich environment for bacteria involved in the nitrogen cycle, fewer of these organisms were found upstream compared to downstream. Surprisingly, the only organism capable of taking nitrate all the way to nitrogen gas was found upstream. Tests are currently being run to determine if the difference in pH might contribute to the distribution pattern of this organism.

Each student will present his or her findings in a public forum to Concordia biology professors and the student body as part of their final exam. In the spring, they plan to meet again to pull together their research for a poster presentation for the American Society for Microbiology (Texas Branch) conference in New Braunfels in March.



Top right: Bethany Schmidt examines a slide under the microscope. **Above:** Dr. Janes assists Stacey Berry and Christa Bodin in finding information on one of the microorganisms found in Town Lake. **Left:** Danh Nguyen examines one of the species while Merry Breitler and Isaac Salazar prepare slides.

Around Campus



Left: We have cheerleaders again! Courtnee Shelton, Elizabeth Casserly, Deanna Schaekel, and Alison Karisch are pictured at Midnight Madness.



Above: Faculty and staff Curtis Giese (and son), Debra Allen, and Chris Winkler helped new students move into the dorms in August. Student mentors Jason Lehmann and Brian Anderson (right) and Michelle Brown, Leah Mattil, and Chelsea Holloway (below) also helped.



Right: As part of the Welcome Week activities, students Andrea Lahm, Elizabeth Buchner, Amanda Ramiz, David Sollenberger, and Steven Krueger enjoyed the fun at Austin Parks and Pizza.



Above: Ever Barnes exchanges another school's shirt for a CUA shirt at the T-Shirt Trade-In sponsored by the Alumni Association. Also pictured are students Deandra White and Stacey Berry, and alumni Nicole Troester '05, and Debbie Steinpreis Mitchell '01.



School spirit is soaring this year! **Above:** Kevin Nicholes shows his support for Concordia while waiting in line for the taping of ESPN's College Game Day coverage of the UT-Ohio State Game.

Pictures on this page were contributed by student Brian Nunnery, Alumni Association Director Suzanne Mueller, Student Services Officer Jami Darden, and Director of University Communications Sherrah Holobaugh.



A number of students helped in various ways at Parents' Weekend in October. **Left:** Bethany Schmidt presides over the Biology Club booth at the student life fair. **Above:** Ashley Moerbe, Hannah Addickes, and Dr. Brian Trittin perform with the Jazz Ensemble. **Right:** Chris Green and Joshua Tinney unload the hay bales that decorated campus during the weekend.

Right: President Tom Cedel and his wife Penny serve pancakes to student PJ Rivera-Roman at the President, Profs, and Pancakes Breakfast during Parents' Week-end.



Right: Dr. Mary Voelker, Dr. Jim McConnell, and Dr. Donna Janes help prepare pancakes.



In October, students had the opportunity to tour the future home of Concordia. **Above:** Students Andrew Hisserich and Richard Didier are interviewed by a news team. **Right:** Students Jim Bretthauer, Jeff Richie, and Ryan Austin look at the campus map.

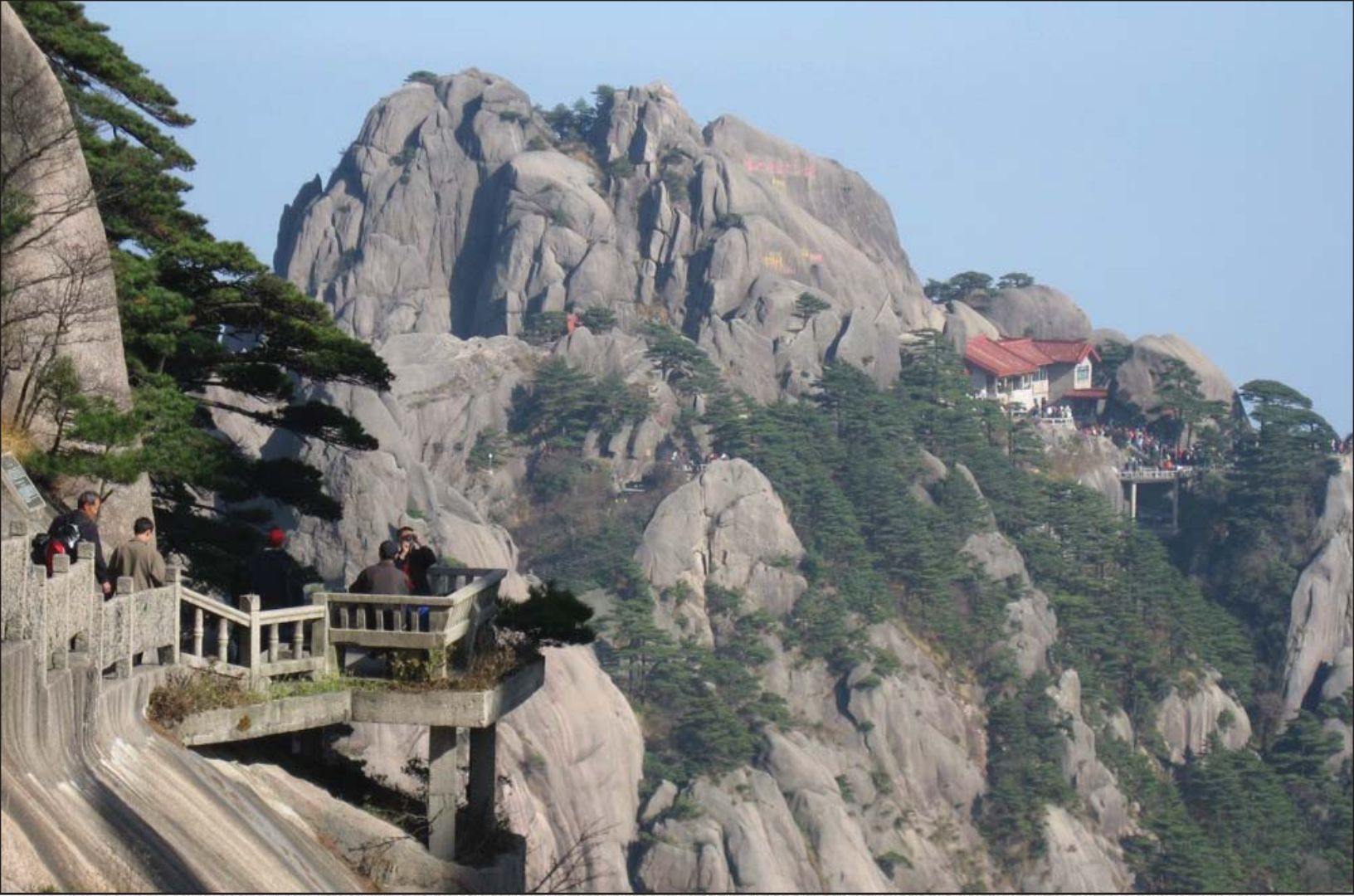


Right: Dr. Barbalee Symm, Dr. Donna Janes, Krista Smith, and Dr. Carl Trovall served as panelists in one of the "On the Edge" discussions sponsored by the Religion Department.



Left: The DCE club sponsored a discussion on Spiritual Warfare with panelists from CUA's religion department. Pictured are Professor Paul Puffe, Dr. Joel Heck, Redeemer Lutheran School teacher Matt Chambers, and Professor Serena Pace.





A Letter from China

By Beryl A. Dunsmoir, Ph.D.

DO YOU WANT TO SERVE THE LORD ABROAD – MAYBE IN CHINA?

Have you noticed that there is no mention of retirement in the Bible? In fact, just the opposite seems to be the case. Check out Abraham, Sarah and Moses for starters! The answer seems to be that if we are still living on this planet, God has something for us to do here on Earth.

John and I both retired on July 31st of this year—he from IBM, and I from Concordia. We had both been to China to teach Chinese teachers of English for three summers, with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the Amity Foundation, a Chinese Christian organization. Now we were “free” to go for longer. We were both convinced that this is what God was telling us to do. Why China? That’s where we believed God wanted us to go after our undergraduate years, but my health prevented it then. So, John went off to Uganda for two years and I had the “pleasure” of planning our wedding with the help of two sets of parents. He came home only three weeks before we got married!!

Maybe we had been wrong about China? We put it out of our minds. But God has His own timing. We may forget, but He doesn’t. As a good friend of mine once told me, “Be careful what you pray for.” Twenty nine years ago today (November 12th) at age 36, I had my aortic valve replaced with a human replacement—a longevity record, by the way. That’s another story, however. This was followed 20 years later by the replacement of my mitral valve, and by the replacement of John’s right hip earlier this year. Finally, we were deemed ready for longer term service in China. I only go into detail about these things to encourage you to believe that if God wants you to do some work for Him, age and health need not be barriers. If He can use John and me, He can use anyone.

So why Huangshan University (HSU), in rural and poor Anhui Province? God’s choice again. I wanted to go to Chengdu to be near the pandas. John thought he would like to be near Guilin and the “sugar loaf mountains”.

Neither of us wanted to be in a big city. You don't get to know the people easily that way. Beijing and Shanghai are too expensive and becoming more and more like any other big, cosmopolitan city worldwide. (Don't get me wrong, both cities have appeal. If you go to China you must visit the Great Wall and the Forbidden City in Beijing, and the chances are you'll fly into Shanghai's beautiful new airport.)

Back to the question – why HSU? In the year 2000, we taught in Anqing (pronounced An ching), another city in Anhui Province. One of our students from that time, a deputy principal, knew we were looking to teach the Fall semester in China. She called the university and told them to hire us! They emailed us and offered us the job. How could we refuse? Huangshan is a scenic area that is hard to beat for spectacle and beauty. Even the Chinese, who normally name mountains after one of their gods, acknowledge its uniqueness by not naming it in honor of a god. They say that it is so unique in its splendor that it can stand alone. I prefer to copy the apostle Paul in Athens and say that it is a creation of “the unknown God” that we want them to know.

We have just returned from spending the weekend in the mountains. In fact, I began writing this article while waiting for John and three of our Chinese friends. They climbed to the Jade Palace, a roundtrip “stroll” of 2,000 steps. I had done my 4,000+ steps up and down for the day, between heights of 5,000 ft to 6,000 ft. That followed yesterday's walk of similar distance and steps. As this weekend is the 29th anniversary of my first heart operation, it was a wonderful way to praise the Lord “who forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases” (Ps. 103). All right, so I walked very slowly and stopped for a short rest every 10 steps. I also received several offers of help from young Chinese, who show great respect for their elders (that's me these days!). But I did it without getting breathless and I have a “gold” medal, with my name and the date on it, to prove it.



The university is on the edge of the town and is in two sections; Bei Qu (north campus) where we live and Nan Qu (south campus) where we teach. We have a university bus service to transport us. We teach 12, 45 minute periods of Oral English and 12 periods of British and American Culture between us—six classes of two periods in each case. Actually, we both go to each other's classes and help out with conversation sessions. Some classes have 45 students and that is a big number for oral English practice. You may find this hard to believe, but we are required to teach about religion as part of our culture classes.

We shop and eat on the nearby street, where everyone says hello and where we feel so at home now. This evening, we went to our favorite local restaurant for a supper of freshly-made noodles, with meat and vegetables, for the great price of 3 yuan each (7.9 yuan to the dollar). Earlier today we each bought sweaters for 55 yuan each. It will get colder in the winter and we will get snow. Hurray for a white Christmas! The local church is about a mile away from the campus and we lead a student Bible study there on Monday evenings. It's tough sitting through a 45 minute sermon in Chinese, on hard benches, but it's a good time to read the Bible. We have Bibles and hymn books in parallel English and Chinese. Most of the hymns are Western and familiar to you.

The only qualification you need to do what we are doing is a Bachelor's degree in anything, an ability to speak English and a willingness to be adaptable. The students are wonderful and desperate to learn English. If you want to know more, contact LCMS Missions, or email me at beryl@dunsmoir@yahoo.com. You will have both the vacation of your life and the incredible opportunity of sharing your faith with 1.4 billion people, most of whom don't know the God who loves us so much that He died to pay for our sins and rose again to give us eternal life with Him.



The Dean's Report

College of Adult Education

Dean, Cathy Brigham, Ph.D.

The College of Adult Education continues to grow, both in enrollment and geography, and we are thrilled to announce the new directions we have created to support this growth. For the 2006-2007 school year, the College has approximately 400 working adults enrolled in its undergraduate programs. We also have over 200 adjunct instructors covering coursework in more than 20 disciplines. We offered professional in-services for our instructors in each city this year, covering topics ranging from Technology Tools to Assist Teaching to Biblical Perspectives on Leadership.

The College has rolled out its Accelerated Degree Program in Fredericksburg, with classes that began in October 2006. The program in Fredericksburg is being offered in conjunction with the Hill Country University Center (HCUC), a collaborative effort including Concordia University, Texas Tech University, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, Austin Community College, Schreiner University and Texas State Technical College. The HCUC is the culmination of a vision to offer higher education opportunities to residents in the Texas Hill Country, and we are proud to be a partner in this venture.

We are always pleased to announce new adjunct faculty to our teaching roster, but we are simply thrilled to announce our new full-time faculty member. Dr. Barbalee Symm joined the College of Adult Education in October of 2006 to oversee our program in Healthcare Administration. Dr. Symm jumped right in and started assessing our coursework and overall program goals. She has recommendations on improvements we need to make, and is considering pursuing program accreditation through outside agencies. We couldn't be as successful as we are without the input from experts like Dr. Symm. And we thank each of you for your support of our program goals.



College of Business

Dean, Don Christian

These are exciting times in the College of Business!

We have a new mission statement that reads "developing students to be people of influence." This statement came out of the strategic planning we did this past spring, which also led to our vision of being the best undergraduate business program in central Texas. During this school year, the faculty is revamping the curriculum to more accurately reflect the new mission and vision, as well as what employers are looking for from business school graduates.

This school year we began offering a concentration in marketing as a part of our Bachelor of Business Administration Degree. Dr. Kenneth Zawilinski is serving as the director of the program, and brings years of experience in both advertising and teaching in the university setting to Concordia's students.

We have inaugurated a speaker series entitled "Spend Your Lunch With... ", which features Austin area business and nonprofit professionals who model Christian leadership. The purpose of the series is to expose our students to a variety of business leaders, which is another part of our new vision. Michael Willard, Executive Director of Austin Habitat for Humanity, spoke in October, and Rebecca Powers of Impact Austin spoke in November. Funding comes from the Howard Lacey Business Management Advisory Endowment.

Seven College of Business students will be making a trip to Eagle Pass, Texas, and Piedras Negras, Mexico, as a part of the International Business Management class offered by the COB. Mr. Mike Garcia, Concordia alumnus parent, will be our host as we visit a number of businesses and organizations along the border. Professors David White and Don Christian will be leading the group. We are also planning a trip to Montreal, Quebec, for Spring Break. For more information on the College of Business and its various programs, visit our web pages on the Concordia website.



College of Education

Dean, Sandra Doering, Ed.D.

A recently developed mission statement for the College of Education declares that we are all about preparing educators who are leaders in nurturing lifelong spiritual, physical, intellectual, social and emotional growth and development in others. Each of our departments within the College of Education contributes to this mission statement in its own unique way. The elementary, middle school, and secondary programs prepare teachers for the Lutheran and Public Schools who serve early childhood through 12th grade. Our Director of Christian Education program prepares full-time church workers for a variety of ministries such as youth and family ministry, children's ministry, music and the arts, theology education, cross cultural ministry and outdoor ministry. Our kinesiology program prepares men and women to educate people to use wise stewardship when it comes to their bodies and physical well-being. Our Master of Education degree prepares educational practitioners who exemplify leadership in value-centered education, management of educational change, effective instructional practices, sensitivity to diversity in learners, and practical applications of theory, research, and assessment in education. Though all the professors in the College of Education have divergent perspectives on how we play out our mission statement, we have a commitment to working together to deliver the most tightly aligned curriculum we can. Not only do we plan the individual programs very carefully, but we also make sure that each of our programs fit together to accomplish our mission.



Some of our plans for this school year are to start up an all-level music certification program for our teacher education program, the implementation of special education and English as a Second Language (ESL) specializations in our M.Ed. program, revision of the cross-cultural specialization in the DCE program to be more mission-oriented, and increased participation in the Wellness Center for all faculty, staff and students.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dean, Michael Moyer, Ph.D.

It has been a busy year for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. We are involved in several faculty searches at the moment, as we seek to hire a third communication faculty member, two psychology faculty members (one due to the retirement of Dr. Beryl Dunsmoir during the summer), and a physical/earth sciences faculty member to replace Professor Ted Zoch, who will retire in the summer of 2007. Dr. Dunsmoir and her husband are currently in China teaching English and doing some mission work. Dr. Paul Muench in our communication department is on a year-long sabbatical in St. Louis where he is teaching at Concordia Seminary and writing a book for use in his Communication in the Church course. With the departure of Professor Brian Mosemann, who took a call to Oxford in England during the summer, we had an opening in the theology department. We are very pleased that we were quickly able to fill that position by welcoming back to campus on a fulltime basis the soon to be Dr. Carl Trovall, who served as campus pastor at Concordia until the summer of 2002.



This has also been a good year for placement of biology students. We have two recent graduates who started physician's assistant programs this fall (Jenny Breyer '05 and Jennifer Vasquez '05) and one graduate who started medical school (John Eatman '06). We also have a lot of biology graduates working locally in various medical positions in the hospitals and with the state Department of Public Health.

Stacie Watkins '96

"My work is my fun..."

Concordia University at Austin gave Stacie Watkins '96 the opportunity to turn her passion into a career. An avid athlete, she played volleyball under Coach Linda Lowery, and under the mentorship of communication professors Dr. David Barker and Dr. John Frahm, she was steered into the field of broadcasting. In the spring of 1996, Stacie participated in the Concordia University System's Simultaneous Enrollment Program, which allowed her to attend classes at Concordia College in Bronxville, New York, while participating in an internship program with CBS in New York City. And that's where the real adventure began!

The internship with CBS Sports gave Stacie necessary exposure to programming that would shape the rest of her career. Arriving in New York in time for the U. S. Open in tennis, March Madness, college basketball's Final Four, and the Orange Bowl between Michigan and Tennessee, Stacie learned a lot about working long hours and late nights, but also gained valuable insight into broadcasting, sales, scheduling and management.

Upon graduation from Concordia in the spring of 1996, Stacie went back to New York and was hired immediately by CBS. As a programming associate, she had the wonderful experience of covering the Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Stacie left CBS and New York City in 1998 for Charlotte, North Carolina, where she worked with ESPN Regional Television and managed syndication distribution of NCAA basketball and football games to local television stations.

One of her most exciting and awesome experiences came in 2000 when she went back to New York to become Manager of Production and Operations for the National Hockey League. This new job included producing the All-Star Hockey Games, the Stanley Cup Finals and overseeing the World Cup of Hockey.

Stacie recalls starting off to work on September 11, 2001, taking the subway and then passing 5th Avenue, and seeing the large TV screen outside the CBS studios by FAO Schwartz. The NHL was located downtown across from the Twin Towers, so it became very surreal to observe the towering inferno of the second

tower coming down and watching the plumes of billowing smoke and debris roll through the streets. She walked home with the throngs of New Yorkers and spent every waking moment of the next several days glued to the television. She later became one of the volunteers who baked cookies and handed out water, boots and blankets to fire fighters and cheered on their tireless efforts. The worst part of the ordeal for Stacie was the inability to communicate with her family and friends to let them know she was okay. That experience also made her very proud to be "a New Yorker".

Prior to the Hockey League lockout in 2004, Stacie left New York for Bristol, Connecticut, home of ESPN. There, Stacie oversees the programming and day-to-day relationship with the PGA Tours, LPGA Tours, and the National Football League (NFL), which ESPN acquired from the ABC network in 2006. Stacie is the "go-between" for the NFL and ESPN internal departments of production, marketing, sales and resources. As the liaison for ESPN, Stacie is on the road much of the time keeping up with Monday Night Football, the PGA Tours, LPGA and U.S. Figure Skating.

"I am proud of my Concordia education," Stacie said in a recent telephone interview. "Being a student at Concordia-Austin helped give me confidence in my dreams and the ability to pursue my goals. Dr. Frahm and Dr. Barker were so influential in the process. I really loved being an athlete and playing college volleyball under Coach Lowery. I think being an athlete and participating in sports helps make a person stronger. It gave me what I needed to leave my family to pursue higher aspirations. The whole Concordia experience—the students, friends, faculty, staff, faith and athletics — helps set people apart and gives them what it takes to aspire to do things they would in other circumstances not pursue. It helps people go beyond and take risks. Being an alumna of Concordia University at Austin helped play a part of where I am and who I am today".

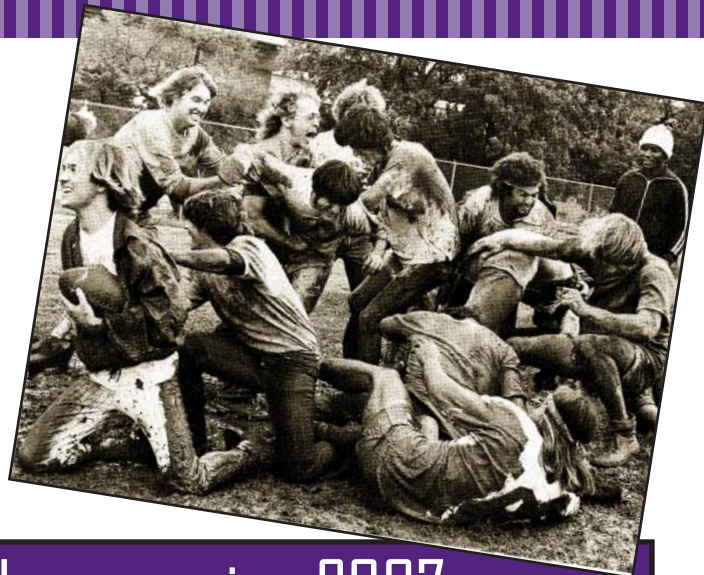
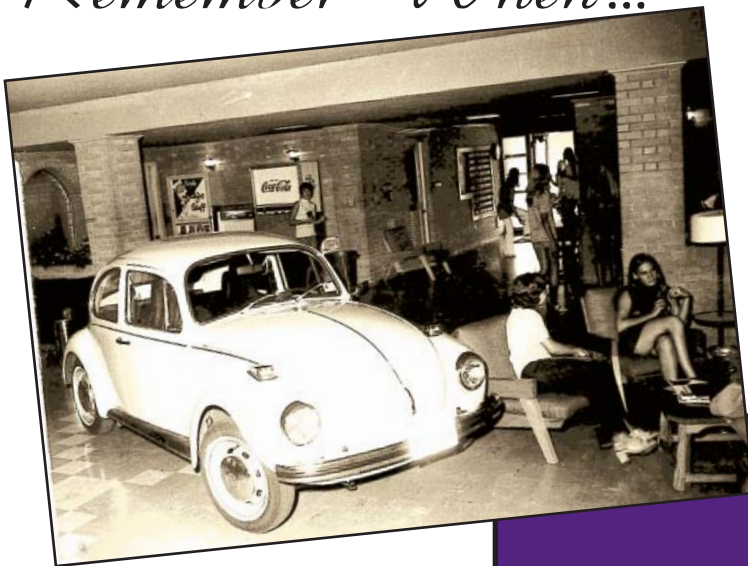
By Suzanne S. Mueller '67, Director of Alumni Relations



IS IT MONDAY YET?

ESPN

Remember When...



Homecoming 2007 February 9-11

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Every year the Concordia Alumni Association honors alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professions, communities, churches, organizations, or at their Alma Mater. Awards are announced during the Homecoming Festivities in February. To nominate Alumni who have achieved prominence within their vocations or been especially loyal to their Alma Mater, Concordia-Austin, please visit Concordia's website at www.concordia.edu or contact Suzanne at suzanne.mueller@concordia.edu or 512-486-1193.

Class Representatives are still needed for several of the classes ending in 2 or 7. If you are willing to represent your class please contact the Alumni Office at 512-486-1193 or email Suzanne at suzanne.mueller@concordia.edu.

***Mark your calendar today
and start planning your trip to Austin!***

Come celebrate the memories of great times at Concordia Austin...
Reconnect with former classmates and teammates...
Enjoy fun activities with your children...
Attend the annual Alumni Meeting...
Hear and view the latest about Concordia's growth and bold vision for tomorrow...
Enjoy the fun Saturday night at Scholz Garden-Saegurrunde Hall!

This will be the last homecoming held at our current location, so you won't want to miss Homecoming '07!

We will recognize the following special groups:

- Anniversary class years ending in 2 and 7
- Former Cheerleaders
- Former Homecoming Kings and Queens and Mr. & Miss CLC/CUA
- First Jr. College Class with females – 1957
- First 4 year Graduating Class – 1982
- Last year of Concordia High School – 1967

Visit the website for more information: www.concordia.edu!

To be a part of the Homecoming Planning Team and to submit your "Remember Whens," contact Kristin at kwillman@pluckers.com or Suzanne at suzanne.mueller@concordia.edu.

Alumni at the Texas District Convention

Concordia University Alumni were well represented at the special 100th anniversary Texas District Convention as pastors, congregation delegates or guests. Congratulations to the following Alumni and Friends who were elected to office: *Texas District President* – Rev. Ken Hennings, of Austin; *First Vice-President* – Rev. Dr. Robert Preece '67, of Dallas; *Second Vice-President* – Rev. David Schroeder, of Austin; *Third Vice-President* – Rev. Ralph Hobratschk '69, of Friendswood; *Fourth Vice-President* – Rev. Carroll Kohl '53, of Big Spring; and *Secretary* – Rev. John Davenport '77, of Walburg/Georgetown. In addition, David '68 and John '60 Goeke of the Centennial committee did an admirable job putting together and manning a very interesting "history room" which included displays, photos, and memorabilia from churches, schools, Concordia University, Hispanic Ministries, Camp Lone Star and Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball. Visit the Texas District website for highlights from the convention.

Meet the 2006-2007 Alumni Association Board



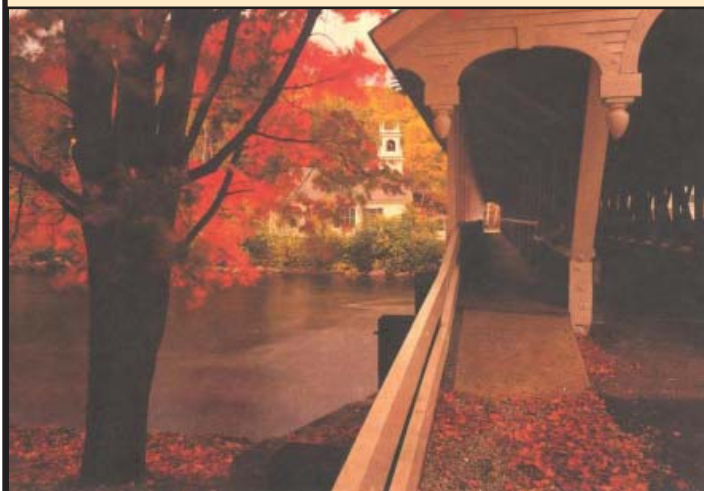
Treasurer – Debbie Mitchell '01, Librarian and 3rd grade teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School in Austin, TX; *President* – Kristin Wollman '00, Director of Marketing for Pluckers; *President Elect* – Linda Pittsford '85, Manager of the Counsel Computer Center for the Texas Legislative Council; *Secretary* – Carol Boerger '73, Travel Agent for Accent Travel; *Past President* – Greg Watson '90, Program Manager for IBM

Alumni PRIDE Email Updates

Are you receiving the monthly Alumni PRIDE by email? If not, make sure the Alumni Office has your current email address by sending an email to suzanne.mueller@concordia.edu or carey.whitten@concordia.edu. Don't miss out on receiving the most up to date news about Alumni, faculty and staff, and campus events!

Tour the New England Back Roads

Have you ever wanted to experience autumn in New England, when the leaves show their magnificent colors? Then plan now to join fellow Concordia Alumni and Friends on a New England Backroads Get Away, September 28 – October 5, 2007, hosted by Allen and Suzanne Socha Mueller '67 and Ray '49 and Jane Martens, with arrangements being made by alumnus Mike Sprutte '00 of Collette Vacations. A deposit of \$200 is due April 1 with final payment due in July. The trip includes air travel to and from Austin to Boston with bus travel to New Hampshire, Vermont, and Kennebecport, Maine. Seating is limited so let Suzanne or Ray know soon if you plan to attend. To receive a beautiful color information brochure please contact Suzanne at suzanne.mueller@concordia.edu, 512-486-1193 or Ray at rformartens@sbcglobal.net, 512-219-9131.



Upcoming Alumni & Friends Events

MARCH 8, 2007 — Alumnus Dr. Kurt Senske '79 to speak on campus for the "Spend Your Lunch With..." series

MARCH 2007 – Houston Family Picnic

SUMMER 2007 - Take Me Out to the Ballgame Events

JULY 14-19, 2007 – Alumni and Friends event at the LCMS Synodical Convention in Houston

JULY 2007 - Alumni Event at the National Youth Gathering in Orlando, FL

SEPTEMBER 2007 – Chicago Area Alumni Event

1960'S

Dr. Anthony "Tony" Schkade '61, Assistant Director of Registration and Records of the University of Nebraska, was nominated for Boss of the Year for the 5th consecutive year by the University's Office Personnel Association. Tony was also selected as "Coach of the Day" for the Nebraska vs. Kansas State football game by the Athletic Department of the University of Nebraska.

Congratulations to **Dr. Lou '64 and Martha Jander** on the birth of their sixth grandchild, Evan, born to their son Ted and wife Connie Jander in St. Louis, MO.

Rev. Mark Press '67 of Woodbury, MN, and his wife Connie have three children: Sarah (married to Rev. R. Brian Stolarczyk) in Merrill, WI; Jeremy, 2004 grad of St. Louis seminary, now studying for a Ph.D. in New Testament studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas; and Nathan, 2004 grad of Valparaiso, currently working in Merrillville, IN, and engaged to be married in August, 2007.



Congratulations to **Tony and Waldean Wiechering Rylander '67** of Katy, TX, on

the birth of three granddaughters, Emma, Carrie and Rylan, born just weeks apart to daughters Paula, Lynnette and Karen.

Prof. Craig Jobson '68, Director of the Columbia College of Chicago Arts/Florence Program, recently returned to the United States from the Tuscan area of Italy where he and three faculty members and 27 students spent a month in Florence teaching and studying studio art. Craig lives in Evanston, IL.

Larry and Penny Rice '69 are living in Bloomfield, MO, and continue to lead the Life Evangelistic Center, Inc. of which Larry is the Founder and Director. Penny has organized the Consider the Lilies Foundation to support and encourage other women going through breast cancer. www.considerthelilies.org

1970'S

Peggy Adler '73 completed her undergraduate degree in Organizational Communication with summa cum laude honors through the Adult Degree Program at Concordia University in Ann Arbor, MI. Peggy's degree came 33 years after completing her associate's degree in Austin, putting her husband **David '73** through senior college and the seminary as well as her two kids through college. Peggy and David have recently moved to Florida to care for David's parents.



Rev. Tony '73 and Ronelle Rottmann Schultz '73 were married August 10 in her mother's backyard in Austin. They are now liv-

ing in Vancouver, WA, where Ronelle works for the Portland Auto Auction and Tony is Pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Battle Ground, WA. In addition, Tony is an Adjunct Professor at Concordia University in Portland, OR.

Stan Warren '76 is serving as co-head coach for the Tornado Women's Softball team at Concordia-Austin. Stan's son Greg is a senior at Concordia and a member of the Tornado Baseball Team.

1980'S

Patti Doering Mitschke '82 of Schertz, TX, has recently joined the San Antonio Center Adult Degree Program Staff as Administrative Assistant. Patti is married to **Rev. Ken Mitschke '82**. They have two sons, Andrew and William, who is a freshman at CUA.

Matt Schubert '84 of Brownsburg, IN, is now the Senior Business Analyst for United Airlines.

1990'S

Doug Agnew '91 is the head basketball and golf coach at Jack C. Hays High School. His wife Brenda (Heath) '91 is the principal of Wallace Elementary in Kyle, TX. The Agnews have three children, Heath, Jamie, and Will.

Tod Stehling '92 is the Director of Development for Family Eldercare, a non-profit which provides services for elders, adults with disabilities and their caregivers.

Kim '93 and Tommy Coker '94 have recently moved to Round Rock where Tommy is a partner in a commercial windshield repair company and Kim is a speech pathologist at a skilled nursing facility in Georgetown, TX. The Cokers have two children, Hannah and Noah.



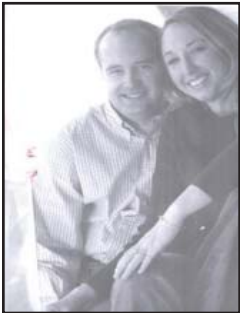
Ken Oltman '98 and his wife Jeannie are proud to announce the birth of their

son Ryan Kenneth Oltmann. Ryan was born February 21st and weighed 9 lbs, 1 oz.



Kurt '98 and Vickie Kiser Frieling '99 welcomed their newest child, Shay Elise on August 22nd.

She was welcomed home by big brother Aaron (5) and big sister Kaitlyn (2 1/2).



Juli Wolfe '99 and Todd Schkade were married March 18 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Nederland, TX. Juli and Todd are living in Dallas where Juli is teaching 4th grade at Holy Cross Lutheran School.

2000's

Sherrah Holobaugh '00 has been named the Director of University Communications for Concordia University at Austin. Prior to her new position, Sherrah was the Assistant Director of Admissions for Concordia.

Rev. Luke '00 and Darcy Madsen '01 are living in Sweetwater, TX, where Luke is the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church. After graduating from Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, in May, he was ordained in Elgin, TX. Darcy is a stay-at-home mother of their four daughters, Faith-Rose, age 4, twins Emma and Brooke, 3, and 19 month old Gracelynn.



Mike '00 and Carey Whitten '02 gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Hadlee Claire, on August 23rd weighing 9 lbs. 3 oz.

Rev. Paul '01 and Angie Zoch Goeke '01 are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Helen Nina. She was born June 23rd and weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. Paul is teaching at Science Hall Elementary School in San Marcos, TX, while also establishing a mission congregation in the Kyle/Buda area with Rev. Ryan Neuhaus, husband of Jill Williams Neuhaus '97.



Christina Oldham Taylor '01 was married August 12, 2006, at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Houston to Brad Taylor. Alumni attendants included Margie Pacey '01, Elizabeth (Woods) Steinger '99, Angela Albers '02, and Lawrence Oldham '04. Kristi Georgi '04 and Brian Rustan '03 also attended! The Taylors are living in Fort Worth where Christina teaches kindergarten at St. Paul Lutheran School.

Justin Johnson '02 has recently accepted a position as a financial schedule operator with Lockheed Martin, a premiere Government Department of Defense contractor, in the Defense Financial and Accounting Service Department.

Angela Albers '02 is teaching K-5th grade to bilingual children in San Marcos, TX, at Science Hall Elementary School. She is also completing 6 hours of graduate school at Texas State University and in her "spare time" works with the Grace Lutheran youth Sunday School class in San Marcos.

Tracy Glover '03 has recently joined the staff at Concordia as an Admissions Advisor. She plans to complete her masters in curriculum and instruction in the education department.



Amy Seybold '04 and Dusty Drosche '05 are the proud parents of a baby boy, Braeden Oliver born May 5th.

Amy and Dusty live in Houston where he teaches at Memorial Lutheran School.



Jami Jeffries Darden '05 and Dan Darden were married by Pastor Carl Trovall, May 20th at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin. Jami is the Student Activities Coordinator for Concordia and Dan is completing his degree in Biology.

Brandy Pletan '05 has moved back to Austin and is teaching Special Education at Del Valle High School and will also be coaching JV Basketball and assisting with the track team.



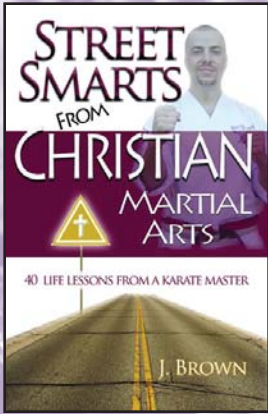
Rachel White '05 and Chris Talley were married July 15th in The Woodlands.

Alumni celebrating with Rachel and Chris included Ryan and Caroline (Ormiston) Honeycutt '04, Pat '05 and Sarah Williams Blake '06, Tiffany Engler '04, Kara Mueller '05, Mary Helen Conway '05, and Becky Conway '04. Rachel and Chris live in Tomball and are teaching at Salem Lutheran School.

John Wilkes ADP '05 has recently returned from Iraq.

Ashley Forseth '06 is the Help Desk Manager at Concordia.

The Concordia Bookshelf

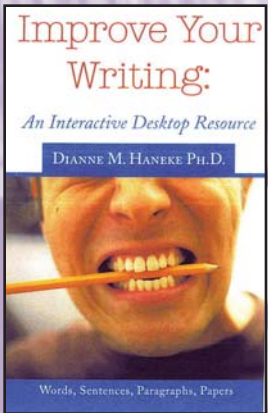


Street Smarts from Christian Martial Arts

J. Brown '05

Agapy Publishing

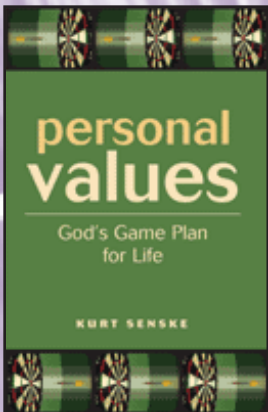
Brown's book is a compilation of his wisdom from both teaching karate and working in Christian ministry. These life lessons convey a holistic (mind, body, and spirit) approach to healthy living, and deal with balance, focus, success, and many others. The book is available online at www.UsaMartialArts.net and www.amazon.com.



Improve Your Writing: An Interactive Desktop Resource

Dr. Dianne Myers Haneke
Tate Publishing

Haneke, former Concordia education professor, presents this grammar-based writing book that assists writers of all ages in writing more effectively in all subject areas. It includes helpful hints, guidelines, and resources that will benefit every writer. It is available online at www.tatepublishing.com, as well as major bookstores and websites.

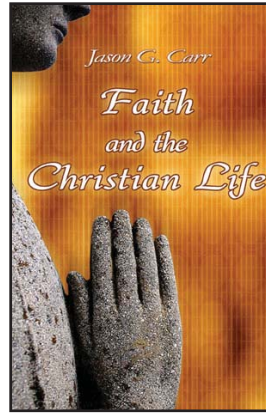


Personal Values: God's Game Plan for Life

Dr. Kurt Senske '79

Augsburg Fortress Press

Senske's book focuses on issues that help Christians and non-Christians find significance in their daily work, balance in their family lives, and improved physical, mental and spiritual health. It is a companion book to *Executive Values*, which is now in its fourth printing. It is available online at www.augsburgfortress.org, www.senskevalues.com, and www.amazon.com.

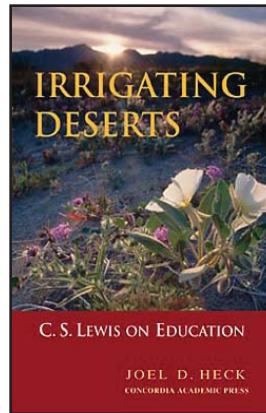


Faith and the Christian Life

Jason G. Carr '03

PublishAmerica

Carr looks at the various aspects of faith, including building faith, reasons to believe in God and Christianity, how to overcome faith challenges, learning to trust in God, and more. The ideas presented here will help you know what you believe and why, as well as build a stronger faith. It can be ordered from Publish America at www.publishamerica.com or at www.amazon.com, as well as at Book People in Austin.

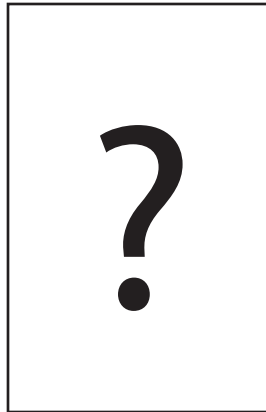


Irrigating Deserts: C.S. Lewis on Education

Dr. Joel D. Heck

Concordia Publishing House

In this book, Heck, Vice President of Academic Services at Concordia University, describes Lewis's educational philosophy, the education that he received, and his practice as an educator. The reader will learn about the gifted mind of Lewis, discovering how he was able to combine both the rational and the imaginative into powerful and effective prose. It is available online at www.cph.org or www.amazon.com.



Your book could be here!

Each issue, we will include four to six books published by members of the Concordia community. If you have recently had a book published, send an email to connections@concordia.edu, or mail the Alumnotes update form on page 29, so we can include information on it in the next issue!

Campus Visit Opportunities

Do you know someone who is interested in attending Concordia? Invite them to one of the campus visits available in the spring semester!

Tornado Watch

February 1-2, 2007 & April 12-13, 2007

Students tour the campus and meet with faculty and staff, as well as stay overnight in the dorms, attend 9:08 (night chapel), and sit in on a class!

Sneak a Peek

February 10, 2007

Students can tour campus, meet with faculty, and get important information on Admissions and Financial Aid. It's also Homecoming, so they can also attend basketball games and other Homecoming events!

Spring Break at CUA

March 12, 2007

Similar to Sneak a Peek, but it takes place during spring break.

Tornado Warning

April 30, 2007

Only students who have been accepted for admission and paid deposits can attend Tornado Warning. It's a great opportunity to start building friendships and to get connected with the Concordia community.

Guest Speakers and Discussions

January 26, 2007

On the Edge Discussion

3:00 pm

Kramer Hall 109

Cosmology vs. the Bible: What is the Meaning of Such Long Eons of Time?

February 1, 2007

Spend Your Lunch With...

11:30 am

Beto Lecture Hall

Dan Pruett, President & CEO of Meals on Wheels & More

February 23, 2007

On the Edge Discussion

3:00 pm

Kramer Hall 109

"Let's Do the Time Warp Again": Christian Entertainment and *The Rocky Horror Motion Picture Show*, etc.

March 8, 2007

Spend Your Lunch With...

11:30 am

Beto Lecture Hall

Kurt Senske '79, CEO of Lutheran Social Services

March 23, 2007

On the Edge Discussion

3:00 pm

Kramer Hall 109

Middle East Concerns: Israel and Palestine and Lebanon

April 5, 2007

Spend Your Lunch With...

11:30 am

Beto Lecture Hall

Janice Ryan, former CEO of SigmaDynamics

April 27, 2007

On the Edge Discussion

3:00 pm

Kramer Hall 109

When Christians Disagree: Conflict, Separation, or Anathema?

The Fine Arts at Concordia

February 4, 2007

University Choir sings at Bethany Lutheran Church in Austin, TX (service times 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 am)

February 6, 2007

Music Faculty Recital in Birkmann Chapel at 7:30 pm

February 23-24, 2006

Fine Arts Festival, sponsored by the English, Art, and Music Departments

March 3, 2007

Choral Vespers in Birkmann Chapel at 7:30 pm

April 25-29, 2007

Spring Choir Tour (schedule to be announced)

The Gallery at Concordia Presents:

February 2-March 9, 2007

Sink Paintings by Gabel Karsten

2nd floor gallery in the Peter Center

April 13-May 18, 2007

Arte Sagrado XII

main gallery in the Peter Center

April 27-May 11, 2007

Concordia student art exhibition

2nd floor gallery in the Peter Center

Every Picture Tells a Story



Know the story behind this picture?

Send an email to connections@concordia.edu identifying the people in the picture and telling the story behind it. We'll publish the story in the next issue along with a new picture!

Remember When...

We were such a close knit family at Concordia that I believe we share many of the same memories. I am going to write of one, however, that I believe is shared only by Fred Zoch, John Heinemeier, and myself. After 50 years I am finally going to blow our top secret cover.

As members of the *Record* staff, the three of us collaborated to write, for each issue, a "Dear Folks" column which purported to be a letter from a bewildered hayseed freshman to his parents back home. By allowing us to remain anonymous, Professor Leja gave us free rein to explore and point out the eccentricities and foibles of Concordia faculty members through the eyes and words of that freshman without suffering severe retribution to our grades. Each month we gently socked it to one of them - President Beto, professors Huebschmann, Linse, Viehweg, Dinda, and all the others. Each got his turn until we ran out of victims. Only Professor Leja himself remained, and what a treasure trove he was! No one else had such elegant ways of telling someone where to go and what to do when he got there. Dewey and Fred and I enjoyed creating and polishing that letter more than any of the others, knowing that the Leja quotes we had mined and combined would be recognized and enjoyed by all. It was our finest work. When that month's *Record* came to print, however, our jewel had been replaced with something so bland and disappointing we couldn't believe it. After repeatedly telling us how much each of the other faculty had enjoyed being selected for a little roasting, our esteemed English professor found that this time our humor had lost its magic. So he decided to roast himself, but with the heat turned way down on low. We complained to him, but the deed was done. Telling anyone else would have revealed our highly classified status.

After fifty years I remember almost nothing of what we wrote, and I doubt that anyone else remembers the column existed. But I do remember people laughing and grinning and trying to figure out who wrote that stuff. With so much time gone by I believe it is now safe, without endangering National Security, to tell you (with apologies to Fred and Dewey) that it wasn't just any fool, it was a team of fools.

By James Leifer, reprinted from 80 Years of Friendships Fun and Feasting

Do you have a memory you would like to share? Mail it to: *Connections*, Concordia University at Austin, 3400 IH 35 North, Austin, TX 78705, or email it to: connections@concordia.edu.

Support the Annual Fund

The primary purpose of the Annual Fund is to raise unrestricted gifts to support the University in the areas of greatest need and to sustain its day-to-day operations. We look for support for the annual fund from loyal Concordia alumni, parents, and friends. Every gift to the annual fund is important, because it impacts the lives of the entire Concordia family. Your support enables Concordia University at Austin to continue our mission of developing Christian leaders. Your gift to the annual fund donation will help:

- Provide student scholarships and financial aid.
- Attract and maintain world-class faculty.
- Create new and innovative curricula.
- Upgrade the campus information technology infrastructure.
- Enhance campus facilities for better student living and learning.
- Keep our residence halls comfortable and safe.
- Renew subscriptions to scholarly journals and keep our library up-to-date with the information our students need to support their education.

You can donate online at www.concordia.edu/giving
OR - By credit card by calling (800) 923-4282.

OR - By sending a check to:

Concordia University at Austin
Advancement Office
3400 IH 35 North
Austin, TX 78705-2799

We want to hear from you!

Each issue of *Connections* will include a new picture for "Every Picture Tells a Story." If you know the story behind the picture, or if you can identify the people in the picture, let us know! We'll publish the "Story Behind the Picture" in the next issue!

We're also looking for more of your memories for the new "Remember When" section. If you have a memory you would like to share from your time as a student (or as a professor, or the parent of a student), send it to us by mail or email.

In future issues, we'll publish your letters to the editor on this page. We want to know what you think... about this new magazine, about the latest campus news, about Concordia in general! (Any letters sent to the magazine will be considered for this section unless you state in the letter that it is not intended for publication.)

All correspondence should be sent to:

Concordia University at Austin
Attn: Connections
3400 IH 35 North
Austin, TX 78705

Or emailed to: connections@concordia.edu.

Send in your update for the next Alumnotes

Name (last, first, maiden): _____

Spouse: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Is this a new address? Yes/No

Your News:

Class Year & Major: _____

Spouse's Class Year & Major (if applicable): _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

*Photos are welcome and will be used on a space-available basis. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of photographs.
Mail to: *Connections*, Concordia University at Austin, 3400 IH 35 North, Austin, TX 78705; Email: connections@concordia.edu

Concordia University at Austin's Fine Arts Festival

February 23-24

Featuring Keynote Speaker

Mark Jarman and his text
Unholy Sonnets

Meditations on Recognizing Christ in Our Daily Living

Events Open to the Public

Friday, February 23

7:00 "Word, Note, Paint" Tickets: \$8, \$6 seniors, free with Student ID
A multi-media performance of art, poetry, and music followed by a panel response led by Mark Jarman.

8:30 Reception hosted by the Concordia English Department

Saturday, February 24

6:00 Banquet honoring participating artists. Tickets \$20, \$12 seniors, \$10 students
Reservations required.

7:30 Jazz improvisational responses to *Unholy Sonnets*

7:45 Keynote Address by Mark Jarman Admission is free.

8:30 Reception honoring Mark Jarman



3400 IH 35 North
Austin, TX 78705