

CONVERSATIONS WITH CONCORDIA

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CONCORDIA SPONSORS SUNDAY PARKWAYS

Concordia University is a proud sponsor of the City of Portland's *Sunday Parkways*, which kicks off May 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is expected to draw more than 15,000 neighbors for games and outdoor activities, and is a celebration of Concordia's Northeast neighborhood and healthy communities.

"Concordia's emphasis on community engagement and service to its neighbors makes Portland *Sunday Parkways* a natural partner," said Gary Withers, executive vice president of external affairs for Concordia.

On May 16, neighbors will enjoy traffic-free streets for walking, running, biking exploring local parks, watching performers, and more. About ten streets from NE 8th to NE 37th, and NE Oneonta to NE Shaver will be closed to traffic for the event. The four local parks include Woodlawn, Alberta, Fernhill, and Wilshire.

Sunday Parkways participants can look for activities near the Concordia bookstore, "The Bookmark" on NE Ainsworth and NE 30th. For more information visit www.PortlandSundayParkways.org. ■

COMING ATTRACTIONS

We invite you to be a part of our campus community and to attend one of our many cultural, athletic, and community events. Some upcoming events include:

- **Nursing Program Coffee Breaks** | Library & Learning Center | Tuesdays & Thursdays through June, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Helping Professionals Open House** | Library & Learning Center Room 310, May 19, 6 p.m.
- **Book Signing & Presentation on author's family experience with Alzheimer's** | Library & Learning Center, Room 300, May 15, 2 p.m.
- **Faubion Family Wellness Fair** | Faubion School, June 5, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Portland Sunday Parkways** | N.E. Portland Neighborhoods, May 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **14th Annual Shakespeare Authorship Studies Seminar** | Concordia Campus, August 9 to 14.
- **MAT/MEd Information Sessions** | Luther Hall, May 20 & June 10, 6 p.m.
- **Opera in the Park** | Concordia Campus Green, August 8, 4 p.m.

For full details on all of the events highlighted above, and for a complete listing of all campus events, visit www.cu-portland.edu/calendar.



Concordia was recognized for its service to the community with a place on the President's Community Service Honor Roll.



This May, Concordia graduated its largest class in school history. More than 445 graduate and undergraduate students received their degrees.



Students contributed 500 volunteer hours and prepared 80 tax returns.



Students, faculty, and community partners helped kick off the tax assistance program.



CU student Marie Selby works on a return

CONCORDIA STUDENTS PROVIDE FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

This past tax season, Concordia accounting students, under the leadership of accounting professor David Tucker, provided free tax preparation assistance to local individuals and families. After more than 500 volunteer hours, the students helped prepare 80 returns and generated \$122,078 in state and federal refunds to local residents.

A partnership between Concordia, CASH Oregon, AARP Tax-Aide, Multnomah County, the City of Portland, and the Internal Revenue Service, Concordia provided services each Saturday from January through tax day. One goal of the program was to increase awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families who qualify—an estimated 20 to 25 percent of

families are not aware of the credit. Of the 80 returns students helped prepare, 16 qualified for the tax credit and received an average of \$894. In addition, 16 families qualified for the child tax credit, and 17 qualified for the education credit.

“I am very proud of the Concordia students who worked so hard on this project,” said Dr. Tucker. “On average, students contributed more than 40 hours each on weeknights and Saturdays to help prepare tax returns.” The eight students who volunteered their time to prepare returns were Tabitha Magda, Ryan Sexton, Marie Selby, David Picker, Corrinne Rice, Dani Clauson, Sean Rivera, and Benedict Liambila. ■