

# CONVERSATIONS WITH CONCORDIA

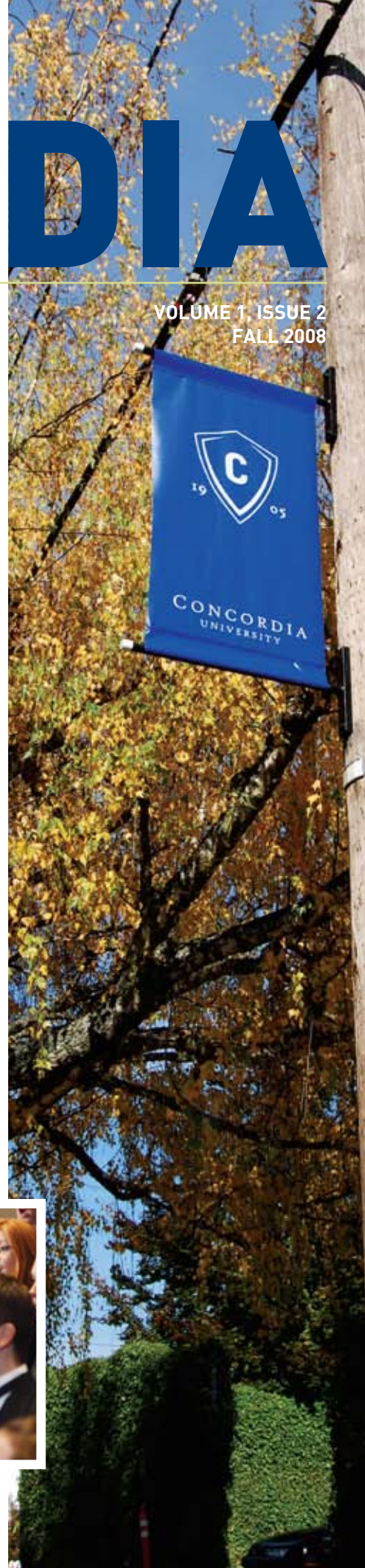
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## THOUSANDS BENEFIT FROM CU SERVICE

On Saturday, September 27, while most college students were taking in football games, relaxing with friends after a week of classes, or catching up on sleep, homework, or laundry—more than 100 Concordia University students spent their day helping others. As part of the CU Service Plunge, students volunteered with 10 local non-profit organizations in North and Northeast Portland. Projects included creating a field day for children, preparing meals and food boxes for hungry families, and working to restore the Historic Hollywood Theater.

Service is an integral part of campus life at Concordia. The CU Service Plunge is just one example of the numerous ways students, faculty, and staff are making a real difference in Portland and beyond. On average, the Concordia community contributes more than 223,000 hours (that equates to more than 9,290 days) each year through practicum, internships, and service learning projects. These programs serve an estimated 10,000 people, including 5,000 youth.

The George R. White Library and Learning Center, slated for completion next fall, will serve as the nexus for much of the university's community service and outreach programs. The new building will allow Concordia to expand its service even further, and will feature spaces designated specifically for community use. Watch us build the library at [www.cu-portland.edu/giving/success/librarylive.cfm](http://www.cu-portland.edu/giving/success/librarylive.cfm). ■



## 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:

- **Christmas Chorale - A Service of Lessons & Carols**  
St. Michael's Lutheran Church  
December 5, 7 p.m.  
December 6, 7 p.m.  
December 7, 3:30 p.m.
- **Voice Recital**  
St. Michael's Lutheran Church  
December 10, 4 p.m.
- **Men's Basketball vs. Pacific University**  
CU Gym, December 16, 7:30 p.m.
- **Nursing, M.A.T., and M.Ed. Information Sessions**  
Luther Hall  
December 18, 6 p.m.
- **Women's Basketball vs. Willamette University**  
CU Gym, December 29, 7 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/events](http://www.cu-portland.edu/events).



Women's Basketball



Volunteering at the Oregon Food Bank



Annual Christmas Chorale



“During the trip I realized that sometimes the dirty work is the best work, and that God is in the small stuff as well as the big stuff.”



## CONCORDIA STUDENT FINDS GIVING COMFORT IS NO SMALL THING

On a mission trip to Guatemala this past summer, junior Serena Little found herself next to the dentist's chair in the small town of Chajabal. The education major learned that giving comfort knows no cultural or language barriers, and that the small things can make a big difference.

Little's trip was organized through MOST Ministries, a Lutheran organization based in Michigan. "I thought I would be teaching English," said Little. "It turned out that I spent my time in the dental clinic holding children's hands and comforting them while their teeth were extracted."

Because the young patients received little or no dental care, many of their teeth were rotted to the bone. The dentist only pulled teeth that posed a risk for infection—nearly 300 teeth during Little's six days in the clinic.

"During the trip I realized that sometimes the dirty work is the best work, and that God is in all the small stuff as well as the big stuff," said Little.

The most memorable part of the trip for Little came when a young girl at the clinic had to have three teeth pulled.

"She was really scared, neither of her parents were there, and she was crying," remembers Little. "The girl started screaming and would not stop. The dental assistant turned to me and said, 'You sing in the choir—right? Why don't you sing to her?' So I sang *Amazing Grace*, the hymn my grandmother always sang to me. By the second verse she stopped screaming and was listening to my voice."

The moment touched Little, and she realized that her voice, a gift from God, could make a difference.

"As I pursue my teaching degree, my call for overseas mission work continues to grow," said Little. "I know that God's hand will always be in my life, even in the small stuff."

*Serena Little, along with nearly 95 percent of Concordia Students, rely on the generosity of donors for all or part of their tuition expenses. ■*



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