Transforming learning. It’s a phrase that’s bandied about with increasing frequency, especially in education circles. But what does it really mean?

In this issue of Concordia Connection, we delve into the concept of transforming learning, and how our strong Lutheran core values have positioned Concordia University-Portland at the forefront of this exciting approach to education.

You can learn about it in Sal Khan’s “flipped classroom” – a simple and unique idea that advocates having students watch teacher-led instructional videos at home, leaving classroom time for math problems, writing lessons, and other practice skills traditionally delegated as homework.

You can read about it in Concordia’s innovative (and rapidly growing) approach to online learning – allowing students both near and far to take classes and earn degrees when it’s convenient for them, often in-between work, family, and other responsibilities.

You can discover it in Dr. Chuck Kunert’s “inverted pyramid” theory of learning – a concept inspired by Luther’s teachings that Dr. Kunert has been using to empower Concordia students for nearly four decades.

And you can explore it, at length, in our exciting and purposeful “3 to PhD” Initiative – a Concordia first, designed to truly transform learning and close the education gap right here in our own northeast Portland backyard.

Rigor, servant leadership, and our Lutheran core values drive Concordia’s evolution of education. Join us now and learn more about this pursuit and realization of transforming learning.
Campus Life. Concordia program secures 120 iPads for Faubion School; New labs provide major benefits to Concordia science programs; Division of Theology adds two new professors; Lutheran approach to learning; Creating an MBA program for today and tomorrow, and more.

Transforming Education: The Story of “3 to PhD” Learn about Concordia’s innovative and groundbreaking approach to transforming learning, specifically designed to close the achievement gap at neighboring Faubion School.

Current Issue. It’s time to plug in, power up, and get smart with a pair of exciting, up-and-coming programs that are transforming learning.

Alumni Notes. Nursing couple shares their life lessons – and blog – from the heart of Africa; Charlean “Tootie” Smith turns a degree from Concordia into a career at City Hall; plus the latest about life after Concordia straight from alumni themselves.

Navy & White. See how Concordia’s stadium quickly became a community resource; Read the inspirational story of track star Junia Limage; Cavalier athletes shine bright during spring and winter sports season, and more.

Nailed to the Door. Discover how retiring dean Dr. Chuck Kunert turned Luther’s treatise into the inverted pyramid model for truly transformation teaching.

Cover Photo: A young Faubion student gets one-on-one reading help with his Concordia University mentor, creating a snapshot of “transforming learning.”

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“A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions.”

– Anonymous
Celebrating Read for America Day on March 1 took on a technological twist this year for the students at Portland’s Faubion School. During an all-school assembly, the students were presented with a donation of 120 iPads, each loaded with the Dr. Seuss book “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”

For several years, Concordia University-Portland has partnered with Faubion School, a mutually beneficial relationship that helps develop innovative ways to educate students and serve the community.

Today, this unique partnership is being further expanded to create a national model committed to helping young people fulfill their potential, from age “3 to PhD.” This effort will include a full rebuild and modernization of Faubion School in the next few years, following Portland voters’ passage of a capital bond to begin renovations and upgrades across the PPS district. Planning will begin soon and will include community input.

During Concordia’s Governor Victor Atiyeh Leadership in Education Awards held this past February, keynote speaker Sal Khan of the Khan Academy inspired the iPad donation as a way of increasing access to education. Edward Fields, CEO of the event’s presenting sponsor, HotChalk Inc., surprised the audience by donating all 120 iPads to Faubion School. The iPads are being used by students and educators to help improve access to technology and online resources.
Making Tax Time Less Taxing for Neighborhood Residents

So how does Concordia’s accounting department turn a dreaded and confusing yearly “must-do” into a life lesson in transformative learning? By turning income taxes into a community assistance project.

Here’s how it works. After spending hours with lectures, notes, and exams regarding income taxes, students apply what they learn in a real life client situation. Every Saturday from February through April 15, accounting students meet with clients from the Concordia neighborhood. One-on-one, students fill out, complete, and file individual tax returns – both state and federal. Concordia also partnered with the Northwest Children’s Theater to do the tax returns and filings for their employees, actors, and stage hands.

According to Dr. David Tucker, Concordia accounting professor and project leader, eighteen students worked as greeters, preparers, and reviewers. Eight of these students were new to the tax project this year, and two were strong reviewers with plenty of experience who supervised the rookies, reviewed all returns, and were on-hand for tax-law questions and software issues. This unique tax outreach program is a win-win for everyone involved. Students learn more about the technical knowledge of tax rules and accounting, as well as the people skills that allow them to be even more productive in the accounting field. Instead of debits and credits on a whiteboard, students learn how to communicate tax and accounting knowledge to the people they work with – people who, in most cases, have little understanding of tax laws and struggle with tax filings. Conversely, limited income individuals get the help they need with their income taxes. Learning through service education is just one of the ways Concordia helps prepare leaders for the transformation of society.

### TAX PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

- **Total Volunteer Hours:** 700
- **Tax Returns Completed:** 135
- **Oldest Client:** 83 years old
- **Youngest Client:** 19 years old
- **Average Income:** $25,000
- **Average Federal Refund:** $1,340
- **Average State Refund:** $350
- **Total Refunds/Federal:** $180,000
- **Total Refunds/State:** $40,000

The Concordia Nursing Club partnered with Bethesda Lutheran Ministries to provide a day of respite for families of children with special needs. Thirty children enjoyed a day of sports, crafts, technology games, and hanging out with a college buddy while their family members had some time for themselves.
End of School Year Brings Changing of the Guard to Concordia College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences

When students begin classes this fall, they will find several new additions to the College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences. New labs finished last year are now fully functional. A new fluorescent microscope is up and running. And a new person leads the department for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Kunert retires as dean, continues as professor

When Dr. Chuck Kunert began teaching at Concordia, the campus included a junior college with 125 students and a high school with 100 students. The year was 1969, and Kunert was hired to fill in for someone getting their PhD. The 14 faculty members – nine of whom were ordained clergymen – all lived within a block of campus. And the science department consisted of only two people. Since then, he has served as vice principal of Concordia High (Go Blue Jays!), coached girls high school basketball, overseen the high school’s move off campus, served as registrar, coached women’s college basketball at Concordia University, (including three regional championships and one 28-0 season!), received his doctorate, served as math-science department chair, and became dean of the College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences (CTAS).

Since becoming dean, Kunert has implemented the senior thesis project and emphasized hands-on research. He has also been instrumental in the development of the current biology major, as well as developing programs in environmental management, field studies, pre-medicine, and pre-physical therapy. During his tenure, the number of majors in the CTAS has gone from 80 just a few years ago to more than 200. “I remember when we had one lab in the basement of Luther Hall…with no plumbing and not much else,” says Kunert with a chuckle. One of the things he’s most proud of is pushing a curriculum that causes students to think analytically. During a yearly creation/evolution seminar, he challenges his students to see all sides of the issue and to come to terms with owning their own beliefs.

And while Kunert has now stepped down as dean, following his sabbatical, you’ll find him in Luther Hall, as always, teaching biology. For the students fortunate enough to have him as a professor, it’s a lesson they won’t ever forget.

Kluth introduced as new CTAS dean

Following a nationwide search, Rev. Dr. David Kluth accepted the position of dean of Concordia University’s College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences. Kluth has broad administrative and management experience within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Concordia University system and...
In inverted pyramid, professors are content experts. Under the “inverted pyramid,” professors at Concordia are both content and relationship experts, here to serve the students.”

Dr. Chuck Kunert, Former Dean, Professor of Biology
College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences

order to serve them. The Lutheran concept of vocation is that as educators, we are called to be servants by God. That transforms learning.”

In the 16th century, monk, priest, and professor of theology, Martin Luther, challenged the structure of the Catholic Church, speaking out against corrupt practices. Through his writings, he demanded that the authority for church doctrine and practice come from the Holy Scriptures, rather than from popes or councils. According to Concordia University’s retiring dean of College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences, Dr. Chuck Kunert, while Luther never wanted to start a new Christian denomination, that’s exactly what he did.

Transforming the way we look at scholarly learning

Today, Lutheranism is a set of theological principles, not a denomination. “Lutherans don’t want to merge church and state, civil and religious. They live in tension between the two. It’s like walking a tightrope between fundamentalism and secularism,” says Kunert.

“This tension is similar to higher education at Concordia. We want students to be challenged, to stay balanced, to wrestle with problems – not to know the truth but to seek the truth,” Kunert continues. “Making students uncomfortable, in order to grow, backed by guidance and assistance is all part of that tension.”

It is this “theology of paradox” – free yet bound, saint but sinner – that creates a perfect setting for higher education learning and serves as a basis for exploring the mysteries of life and mind.

This inspired Kunert to develop his own theory of servant leadership in education, something he calls the “inverted pyramid.” In this model, transformative learning takes place in an environment where students are at the top of the pyramid. Below them comes the faculty, with the department chairs at the bottom.

“Traditionally, the professor is seen as the all-knowing guru. At Concordia, we see the professors as the servants. God uses us to help others – in this case, the students. It’s a flipped way of looking at the hierarchy of learning. The inverted pyramid upends the way education usually works and empowers students to go beyond their limitations.”

According to Kunert, “The relationship between faculty and students comes from developing a meaningful relationship. It’s imperative that we get to know our students in order to serve them. The Lutheran concept of vocation is that as educators, we are called to be servants by God. That transforms learning.”

higher education. In addition to being an active Lutheran pastor, Kluth holds a master’s degree in mass communication from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate in instruction technology/instructional design from Nova Southeastern University. Most recently, Kluth served as vice president of university services at Concordia University Texas and led the largest capital project in LCMS history, relocating the university from downtown Austin.

Congratulations to both Dr. Kunert and Rev. Dr. Kluth. Thanks to these two leaders, the Concordia University College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences has become – and will continue to be – a thriving and vital asset to the community and beyond.
The idea for a doctorate in education, or EdD, had been on Dr. Joe Mannion’s mind for quite some time. Mannion, the former College of Education dean, and Dr. Jerry McGuire, Concordia’s director of doctoral studies, were inspired by the question, “If you could build a doctoral program what would your dream for it be?” And with that, the wheels were in motion for a Concordia University EdD.

An EdD with a twist

Going from initial concept to completed program meant asking a series of tough questions. How do we transform society via a curriculum? What do we need to effect dynamic change with responsible power and grace? And how do we stay true to Concordia’s core values of rigor, relevance, and Christian faith?

What emerged is a dynamic EdD program for Concordia: An innovative, invigorating, relevant, rigorous, and accessible program designed with the intent of strengthening decision making, collaboration, critical thinking, and creative problem solving.

Launched in May, the Concordia Doctorate of Education program is designed to prepare candidates to become transformative leaders in education, ready to make an immediate and long-term positive impact in schools, government, academia, business, and not-for-profit organizations. Candidates can complete the program on campus or online.

One of the unique features of the Concordia online EdD program is the “virtual residency,” which allows program participants access to the same collaboration and academic support system as a face-to-face residency, without the need to travel and leave career and family responsibilities behind.

Turning theory into action

So what happens when dreams become reality? In the case of the Concordia EdD, the program is growing. The first cohort is underway and the program is now being marketed nationwide, with the ability to market it worldwide. Never underestimate the power of an educator with a dream.

Food Service Learns to Watch its Waste

Anyone who’s ever made a meal for a group of picky eaters knows about food waste. In the United States, it’s estimated that the typical family throws away as much as 25 percent of the food they buy. Now multiply that a hundred fold and you can see how throwing away food in a large kitchen – such as the Sodexo-run dining hall at Concordia University – can really add up, draining precious budget dollars.

To help, Sodexo enlisted a program from Oregon’s LeanPath, a simple-to-use system that tracks waste in the kitchen. The program measures the weight of food that has expired and gives it a dollar amount. So now, the chef knows exactly how much money is going into the garbage each day.

According to Andrew Shakman, co-founder of LeanPath, “In food service, we find that up to 10 percent of what’s brought in the back door gets thrown away in the kitchen before it ever reaches a customer because of over-production, spoilage, expired items, and other things.”

After nine months of using LeanPath, Concordia has found that there is more waste on Mondays and Fridays, with the majority coming from over-production on the “Simply To Go” menu. “In the long run, it’s saving us money and time,” says Joel Schaefer, Concordia’s executive chef. “We save two ways – first, by not over-producing and throwing money away, and second, by not spending as much time making those products in the first place.”

Now with steps in place to curb waste, Concordia’s dining hall has prevented more than three tons of waste from going into the landfill.

Aloha! Concordia’s Hawaii Club put on the fourth annual luau to celebrate the culture of Hawaii. Students arrived in their finest grass skirts to watch hula dancers and fire blowers kick off the evening’s festivities.
New Labs Provide Major Benefits to Concordia Science Programs

To meet the current and future needs of students studying science, Concordia University-Portland has constructed three new laboratories at a cost of $800,000. These new labs will greatly enhance the ability of Concordia students and faculty to do pioneering research on campus, expanding the ability for student research in tissue culture, analytical chemistry, and biology.

The cell culture laboratory allows for tissue culture research, an in-demand ability previously unavailable at Concordia. Here, students are able to raise cells and culture tissue outside the body. Working extensively with tissue culture is a tremendous benefit for students interested in science-related graduate school or medical school.

The biology laboratory and research space gives students lockable, hands-off research space for the first time on campus. This provides students and faculty the ability to perform research with no outside interference or need to move long-term projects. The bulk of the room is classroom space, with a lockable gate between the lecture area and the lab to provide for ongoing research.

The analytical chemistry laboratory is critical for our goal of becoming an American Chemical Society (ACS) accredited chemistry major within five years. In order to obtain this accreditation, ACS requires an analytical chemistry lab, a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance instrument, and four professors in various chemistry disciplines.

Concordia currently has three of the four full-time PhD faculty members representing physical chemistry, biochemistry, and analytical chemistry. Within the next few years, Concordia plans to hire an inorganic chemistry professor. Once we achieve this milestone, we will be able to give our students the more advanced skills required for high-level graduate schools.

Augmenting our current chemistry, biology, nursing skills, and cadaver labs better equips Concordia to expand our science offerings – including nursing, ecology, geology, anatomy, and environmental science coursework. Without generous gifts from dozens of individuals, corporations, and foundations, this new learning space would not have been possible. Thank you for choosing to be a catalyst for science.

Thank you, Pacificmark Construction Corp!

PICTURED TO THE RIGHT: Principal Mark Matthews (far left), Mark Derhak, and their crew from Pacificmark Construction Corp. with student Tori Talbutt, staff member Kaycee Gillespie ’11, Professor of Biology Mihail Iordanov, and Jill Murray.
The business world of today is more complex, competitive, and fast-paced than ever before. What worked yesterday may not work today, so it’s important not to get complacent and set in your ways. Succeeding in today’s global, technology-based environment requires adaptability, flexibility, and the ability to change with the market. In short, it’s survival of the fittest. So how does an MBA program stay fit? How do we provide transformative learning that keeps pace with our fast-paced world?

Dr. Alain Gracianette, director of the Concordia MBA program, has a lot to say about this basic DNA structure of the MBA program at Concordia University-Portland. “It’s a program designed so students learn the importance of being nimble and responsive to market pressures that change from day-to-day. Team building and the ability to work together are emphasized, as teamwork brings a sense of humility.”

According to Gracianette, the learning strategies essential to this MBA program promote students to recognize their own strengths and weaknesses and then put them to work productively with others who offer complimentary skills.

“Teaching methods and materials in our MBA are designed to prepare students for the future of business via the constant evolution of mind and thought. As a result, we equip students to be comfortable with change and help them to anticipate and embrace it,” says Gracianette.

The MBA program prepares students for fulfilling management careers in business, government, and non-profit sectors. The program places particular emphasis on functions such as general management and international business and finance, as well as rapidly expanding fields such as health care and environmental management. It also stresses the critical importance of servant and ethical leadership, organizational change through constant innovation, global awareness, critical thinking, decision-making, financial modeling, and project management.

According to Gracianette, “With an MBA from Concordia, our students are ready to face the evolution of the global business world and adapt for powerful change. They emerge as problem solvers. Decision makers. Innovators. And ethical and transformational leaders.” This approach is transforming learning and leadership, equipping students for success both today and tomorrow.

IF YOU’RE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT CONCORDIA’S NEW MBA PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CONCORDIAMBA.COM OR CALL THE OFFICE OF ADMISSION AT 503-280-8501.
Department of Theology Adds Two New Professors

Marking the first new department hires in eight years, Concordia University-Portland has hired not one but two new theology professors, adding an amazing amount of depth and range to this already knowledge-rich department.

Scott Yakimow, a soon-to-be PhD graduate of the University of Virginia, is a “scriptural hermeneutics” professor who focuses on the intersection of philosophy and theology regarding biblical interpretation. Yakimow grew up in a very traditional Christian home, with his mom becoming a pastor just a week after he did. He has also done extensive overseas mission work in Africa. Here at Concordia, Yakimow will be helping students describe how other religions approach their own texts, as well as how religions can be and are translated into other cultures. Dr. Chad Lakies, on the other hand, was an atheist until 15 years ago. A drummer in a rock band, he became connected with the Lutheran church by way of “Will you be a drummer in our praise band?” He found the reception and the message so welcoming that he became a Christian. Lakies studies Millennials, the formation of Christian life, and the intersection of Christianity and postmodern culture. Lakies has his PhD from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

With different yet complementary focuses, the reasoning behind these two hires is to allow students to see theology as something that’s not a separate, isolated entity, but as something that’s interwoven throughout every part of day-to-day life. Providing different perspectives provides a wonderful way to achieve this.

A Special Thank You

Thanks to the generosity of Michael and Caryl Wray of Portland, Oregon, the Concordia University Library’s Special Collections is now the new home of a first edition of what is commonly called Samuel Johnson’s Dictionary. Published in 1755 after nearly nine years of work, historians have called Samuel Johnson’s Dictionary the greatest single achievement of scholarship compiled by one individual. The work remained the pre-eminent English dictionary until the Oxford English Dictionary was published 173 years later.

A full article highlighting some of the most prominent holdings of Concordia’s Special Collections will appear in the next issue of the Concordia Connection.

APRIL 21, 2013
Concordia’s finest baseball players returned to take on the varsity team for the inaugural alumni game on the new field. Former head coaches Art Wahlers and Dwaine Brandt were honored later at an evening reception at the Concordia Ale House.

MAY 4, 2013
Congratulations graduates! Friends, family and faculty flooded the Concordia green on this sunny Saturday to send off our graduates with a proper celebration.
More than 200 Attend Inaugural Concordia Law Event in Boise

Since its inception, Concordia University School of Law has been part of a new vision for Boise. It’s a growth in ethics. A growth in educational opportunities. And a strengthening of the civic infrastructure that will help change and improve the community. It was in this spirit that Concordia Law hosted its first-ever Leaders In Action event, created to honor community leaders in law and education who have been instrumental in giving back for the growth and well-being of the Treasure Valley region.

More than 200 business, civic, legal industry, and community leaders attended Concordia’s Leaders in Action Awards dinner, presented by Alliance Title & Escrow, on Thursday, April 18, 2013 in Boise, Idaho.

Dr. Linda Clark, Superintendent of Joint School District #2, and Richard C. Fields, Esq., senior partner at Moffatt Thomas Barrett Rock & Fields, were honored for their steadfast commitment and contributions to Boise and Idaho.

Idaho Governor Otter expressed his support for Concordia Law and its event in a letter, writing, “I encourage you to get and stay involved in supporting Concordia University School of Law and its students as they continue developing future leaders here in Idaho.”

The keynote address was delivered by Ralph Smith, Esq., senior vice president at the Annie E. Casey Foundation and national chair for the Grade Level Reading Campaign. He congratulated Concordia University for its mission and focus on developing transformative leaders. “Transformative leadership is bridge building, sense making, meaning making, fired by imagination,” said Smith, noting that “progress will come by building common-sense consensus.”

Smith congratulated the collaboration of Idaho organizations who, led by Idaho Voices for Children, have recently joined the national Grade Level Reading Campaign, saying, “If we can take the youngest kids and teach them to read...we will help every child fulfill their potential and we will keep our promise as a nation.”

Proceeds from the event will benefit Concordia Law student scholarships. Event sponsors included presenting sponsor Alliance Title & Escrow Corp., and leading sponsor, Norco, Inc., along with many others.

“We are so grateful to our sponsors for the ability to celebrate education and leadership,” says Dr. Cathy Silak, dean of Concordia University School of Law. “This was a wonderful way for Concordia Law to be involved with the community. And funds raised for scholarships will help lighten the load of future Concordia Law students.”

MAY 17, 2013
Concordia hosted the Asian American Youth Leadership Conference. Student Ambassadors gathered to expand their leadership skills and connect with their peers.

MAY 13-25, 2013
Six people from Concordia University served in Guinea, W. Africa with missionaries Jack and Cathy Carlos. The ministry included daily clinics in which Concordia students treated patients and learned the culture of the Maninka people.
Sodexo Renovations Take Dining Hall to a New Level

Imagine going to your favorite Northwest style restaurant. Warm woods and a crackling fireplace. Relaxing earth tone colors and soft, comfortable seating. Two- and four-person tables, community tables, and booths all help deliver a friendly, inviting feel. And the food – fresh, delicious, and cooked to order.

Welcome to the new Concordia Dining Hall, presented by Sodexo.

A new and better way of dining

Following multiple student and staff surveys, Sodexo determined there was a need for a dining hall renovation. But making over the surroundings was only part of the upgrade.

Instead of standing in line with a plastic tray, diners will order at on-site touch-pad kiosks, or from their smart phone or tablet. Once the order is placed, the kitchen will begin to create the meal. A reader board in the dining hall (or a message on your phone or tablet) will let you know that your food is ready at an expedited pick-up station.

This ain’t your grandma’s dining hall

Pre-made food? Gone. Tray lines? Not anymore. Students asked for faster service, better quality, and fresher meals – and the new dining hall delivers. More ethnic foods, too. And a greater variety of menu items.

When the dining hall opens, it will feature a grill (with burgers and chicken tenders), salads, deli sandwiches, pizza, and casseroles. Plus complete (and delicious!) entrees such as citrus glazed salmon with rice and fresh seasonal vegetables. All cooked fresh and made to order.

Think of it as the Concordia neighborhood’s newest bistro

Instead of open and closed hours throughout the day, the new dining hall will serve continually from 7:30 am until 7 pm. The area will feature an open kitchen so you can watch the chefs create your meal. Sodexo will now be able to provide a variety of food items to students that they weren’t able to serve before due to limitations of space, equipment, and deliveries.

The grab-and-go food formerly on the second floor of Hagen Campus Center will be incorporated into the new dining hall. So students in a pinch for time will still be able to grab a pre-made sandwich and other quick eats.

New Concordia Alumni Grant: 20% Off Tuition

Concordia University-Portland alumni qualify for a special Concordia Alumni Grant equal to 20% off tuition on most graduate programs. This grant applies exclusively to programs offered on campus or online by Concordia University-Portland, including Master in Education, Teaching, Business Administration, and the Doctorate of Education. This grant is available to alumni graduating from any of the 10 Concordia University campuses who attend Concordia University-Portland, Oregon. Call 503-280-8501 or email admission@cu-Portland.edu for further information about the new grant and a list for approved programs.
Building the Super-Highway to College

Providing a “super-highway to college” is Shayne Evans dream, and he’s making it a reality. “We need to start with a belief that it’s probable – not just possible – for every child to go to college,” says Evans, director of the UChicago Charter School. With 1800 students in pre-K through 12th grade, the four campuses that comprise UChicago Charter School share an overarching mission: 100 percent acceptance to, and graduation from, four year colleges. It’s an impressive goal, but one that seems likely given Evans’ passion. To that end, the average student attending their high school has made 25 visits to four-year colleges.

Evans was one of three speakers from the University of Chicago’s Urban Education Institute (UEI, the group that oversees UChicago Charter School) who were invited by Portland Civic Leader and University of Chicago Alum Irving Levin to share their research and experience at an event hosted at Concordia University-Portland on May 1. For more than 20 years, UEI has researched what makes schools successful. This information provided the foundation for the interactive workshop titled “Using Evidence to Change Schooling.” The topic was relevant and timely to the development of Concordia’s “3 to PhD” Initiative with the Faubion School next door. Portland Public School Superintendent and 3 to PhD supporter, Dr. Carole Smith, participated in a panel session during the event.

University of Chicago guest speakers shared the “5 Essentials” of school success, discussed in detail in the book Organizing Schools for Improvement: Lessons from Chicago. The 5 Essentials are: effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families and communities, supporting environment, and ambitious instruction.

Schools that are strong on three or more of the Five Essentials are 10 times more likely to improve student learning.

More than 65 education, community and business leaders attended the event, which was organized by Levin along with three other locally based champions for children: Swati Adarkar, president and CEO of The Children’s Institute; Ken Thrasher, chairman of the board for Compli and former board chair of the Children’s Institute; and Gary Withers, Concordia’s executive vice president of external affairs and current board chair of The Children’s Institute.

The 12th Annual FORE the Students Golf Tournament took place on a sunny Monday afternoon. This is the largest fundraising event for Concordia Athletics and brought in over $75,000 to benefit more than 300 student-athletes in 15 sports. Team LCEF won the tournament.

FIVE ESSENTIALS OF SCHOOL SUCCESS

From the book Organizing Schools for Improvement, Lessons from Chicago

EFFECTIVE LEADERS: The principal works with teachers to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.

COLLABORATIVE TEACHERS: The staff is committed to the school, receives strong professional development, and works together to improve the school.

INVOLVED FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES: The entire school staff builds strong relationships with families and communities to support learning.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT: The school is safe and orderly. Teachers have high expectations for students. Students are supported by their teachers and peers.

AMBITIOUS INSTRUCTION: Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.
What does it take to get a smart, motivated, first-generation college student the financial assistance he needs to attend Concordia University?

**SUPPORT FROM YOU.**

Your generous donations help students like Danny Morato realize their dreams. You can see it when he’s in class each day, well on his way to completing a business degree. You can see it when he’s on the soccer field, playing forward on the nationally ranked Concordia men’s soccer team. And you can see it when he’s giving back, volunteering at the Oregon Food Bank and Portland Rescue Mission. It’s a true success story that you made possible.

Yet the harsh reality is that for every Danny, there are dozens like him whose dreams go unfulfilled solely because of finances. Thank you for any and all contributions to our scholarship fund. Your gift can make a world of difference.

Just ask Danny.
TRANSFORMING
It’s 10:15 on a cloudy fall Tuesday at Faubion School in northeast Portland. Ken Howell, a master’s in teaching student at Concordia University, is working one-on-one with his second grade partner, Tariq. “Sound it out, you can do it,” says Howell with gentle encouragement. Without hesitation, Tariq reads the page, beaming from ear-to-ear. “Great job, T!” exclaims Howell as the unlikely pair high-five.
On the playground, two fifth grade boys start to argue during a heated game of four-square. Before things can escalate, Ben Culpan, a Concordia men’s soccer player, steps in. “Come on, guys, it’s a game. Now let’s have some fun!” And with that, Culpan takes a square and joins in.

Down the hall, Concordia exercise and sports science student Lindsay Mangan and nursing student Mackenzie Kampa are helping take fitness measurements with a class of fourth graders. One student, looking worried, asks the pair “What are we being tested on?” “How many sit-ups you can do,” replies Kampa with a smile. “Good,” says the fourth grader, looking relieved, “I’m great at sit-ups.”

Welcome to another day of 3 to PhD™
It takes a village...

It’s a story that has become all too familiar. Students at older schools in lower income neighborhoods fall behind in test scores. Finding themselves strategically located next to one such school, Dr. Joe Mannion, former dean of the College of Education at Concordia University, and Keylah Boyer, Concordia director of undergraduate studies and associate professor, knew there was a unique opportunity at hand. “We asked Faubion Principal LaShawn Lee how can we help, what can we do together that we can’t do individually?” The result is a groundbreaking initiative aptly titled “3 to PhD.”

Simply put, the 3 to PhD Initiative is an innovative approach to transforming learning, specifically designed to close the achievement gap. This unique initiative leverages the power of collaborative partners to create an economically viable, high-impact and high-quality education gateway that extends opportunities for both Faubion and Concordia students. Students, families, teachers, and the community as a whole are all stakeholders and partners, working together for a common goal: closing the achievement gap while getting students into a “college” mindset at an early age.

Once fully realized, the initiative will include focused mentoring, collaborative spaces, and optimal uses of technology and creativity, along with a practical focus on “STREAM” – science, technology, reading, engineering, arts, and math.

Why Faubion?

The statistics speak volumes. In the neighborhoods that feed into Faubion – the largest catchment (attendance) area for any pre-K through eighth grade school in the Portland Public School District – 38 percent of residents live at or below the federal poverty level, ethnic diversity is significant, and roughly 40 percent of residents are renters. At Faubion itself, most students are children of color, 90 percent live in public housing or trailer parks, 16 percent speak English as a second language, and too many struggle with weight. Academically, only 55 percent and 44 percent of third graders met reading and math benchmarks respectively, and achievement declines through graduation. According to Faubion principal LaShawn Lee, “The facility is described as poor. But our children are not poor in spirit. They’re not poor in

It is critical that we continue to work together to create the best opportunities for Faubion students.”

Keylah Boyer, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Associate Professor, and liaison to Faubion School
motivation. And they’re not poor in creativity.” The 3 to PhD Initiative takes this to heart as it helps students channel their spirit, motivation, and creativity to achieve academic success.

**Why Concordia?**

Through the Lutheran lens, Concordia students live simultaneously in two kingdoms – one where God rules in mercy and grace, and the earthly kingdom of neighborhoods and communities. Living with this dual citizenship, Concordia students, faculty, and staff are called to be actively involved in our neighborhoods, working for justice and transforming society through our words and actions. This calling makes Concordia University’s mantra of “servant leadership” a mission-perfect fit with Faubion. Or as a Concordia student tour guide was recently overheard saying, “Service, that’s who we are!”

### 3 to PhD: The Vision

At its core, the 3 to PhD Initiative catalyzes Concordia students to become leaders who do transform society, which, in turn, helps the university realize its mission. It embraces transformation and change by revolutionizing the education model for both Faubion and Concordia students. The initiative develops an integrated pre-K through age 20+ platform that will close the achievement gap, providing rigorous servant leadership opportunities for Concordia students in the process. Here’s an overview of the key elements:

#### On-Site College of Education

Imagine being a junior at Concordia majoring in education. In today’s Educational Technology class, you learn how to use an iPad and a special app to help readers having trouble with vowels. Following class, you walk down the hall to the reading lab where you put the lesson you just learned to work with a trio of second graders struggling with vowels.

In the master plan for 3 to PhD, the College of Education will co-locate with Faubion, operating on-site. By doing so, Concordia education majors will work daily with Faubion students. This practical model of integrated education rigorously challenges both schools – providing years of hands-on training for Concordia students and a willing battalion of extra educators-in-training to serve as mentors, tutors, and one-on-one literacy coaches.
Imagine being a junior at Concordia majoring in education. In today’s Educational Technology class, you learn about how to use an iPad and special app to help readers having trouble with vowels. Following class, you walk down the hall to the reading lab where you put the lesson you just learned to work with a trio of second-graders struggling with vowels.

Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Center

Another hallmark of the 3 to PhD Initiative is an anticipated early childhood development center. This community/campus resource would provide a remarkable learning environment for early childhood education students and faculty, serving as a magnet for vulnerable low income families with young children. As a point of reference, Head Start – the national program that provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families – generates a return on investment for society of $7 or more, according to numerous economic studies. Once fully realized, the 3 to PhD Initiative holds the promise to do even more, fully engaging Concordia students and Faubion students (and their families), along with other children and families from the surrounding community.

Collaborative Community Health and Wellness Clinic

Helping bridge the achievement gap is about more than education alone. It also involves the health and wellness of the students and their families. To that end,
the 3 to PhD Initiative is also exploring the development of a community health clinic and wellness center, leveraging close, working relationships with physicians, nurses, and health care providers from across our community, including current partners like Trillium Family Services and many others. The goal? Building a healthy community. Students from Concordia’s nursing and health sciences (nutrition, exercise, and sport science) departments would work in the clinic, providing them with invaluable real-world experience.

In conjunction with community partners, and consistent with a “wrap-around” model, the initiative would also include support for proper pre-natal care and other measures designed to reduce the probability of low birth weight babies for expectant mothers, along with proven practices to help lower childhood and adult obesity.

Science Lab Partnership
Locating basic science labs at Faubion is another element on the drawing board – one that would make an impact that is two-fold. First, it would put Concordia science majors on the Faubion campus, opening the door for much-needed mentor and tutor possibilities. And second, it would lead to the development of the STEM (part of STREAM) focus for Faubion students – science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. A year-round STEM academy, led by Concordia students and faculty, would increase learning and participation in these key areas – especially among girls and under-represented populations – ultimately preparing Faubion students for success in high school, college, and various careers.

Integrated Focus on Technology
Smart use of technology is a key component of the 3 to PhD Initiative. Studies show that proper use of technology among young learners leads to achievement improvements down the road. Technology drives learning, engages students, and allows for development at different levels. It has also been shown to make students more autonomous in how they attain knowledge. During Concordia’s Governor Victor Atiyeh Leadership in Education Awards ceremony this past February, online education partner HotChalk donated 120 iPads to Faubion (see story, page 4). In the future, Concordia students will be on hand to help with technology training.

Service Corp Expansion
In keeping with our mission to prepare leaders for the transformation of society, Concordia Service Corps is a mentorship program designed to promote meaningful relationships between university students and elementary and middle school students at risk. The Student Service Corps is divided into a variety of specialized groups, each working one-on-one with local school kids to address the issues of low graduation rates, low test results, and a lack of positive role models. The overall Service Corp includes teacher corps, athlete corps, health corps, green corps, and performing arts corps. With the 3 to PhD Initiative, the role of the Concordia Service Corps would be expanded, making it so virtually every Concordia undergraduate student would have the leadership opportunity to mentor both Faubion students, as well as students at surrounding schools, such as Woodlawn, Vernon, and Trinity Lutheran.

“Concordia University is deeply thankful for Portland Public Schools’ outreach for this partnership opportunity.”

➤ Gary Withers, Executive Vice President, External Affairs, Concordia University
As you can see, the 3 to PhD Initiative, as its vision evolves, allows future Concordia University teachers, nurses, scientists, social workers, and others to hone their craft with the professional rigor provided by this one-of-a-kind on-campus experience. It creates a blended education environment where Concordia students are mentors and models of servant leadership for at-risk children who too often find role models in the wrong places. But how will we know if it works? What does it take for the 3 to PhD Initiative to be judged a success?

**Measuring Results**

3 to PhD is a performance-based program, where key performance indicators will help measure the program’s success. For example, Concordia students engaged in service/servant learning at Faubion can be tracked, measured, and monitored. This includes the use of standards and best practices available from a variety of national organizations, including The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, Campus Compact, and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Moreover, the goals for the Faubion students have been identified by Portland’s All Hands Raised partnership, in their highly regarded “Cradle to Career” Initiative, with goals that include kindergarten readiness and attendance, grade level reading by third grade, and many more empirically proven benchmarks that are the stepping stones for closing the achievement gap.

**Proof Positive**

Initial elements of the 3 to PhD Initiative have been successfully helping students at Faubion close the achievement gap for the past four years. From Concordia student-athletes helping with structured recess to Concordia education majors teaching art classes and serving as reading partners, the program is working. According to Faubion’s Principal Lee, “Since we implemented the structured recess program, [recess incidents] went from 70 percent of office referrals to zero percent of office referrals. And the Concordia University one-to-one literacy program has averaged two levels of improvement per student.”

What’s more, Concordia’s 3 to PhD Initiative is aligned with a larger Multnomah County effort to improve educational outcomes for all children and youth, from “Cradle to Career.” Concordia President, Charles Schlimpert, has a leadership role in the partnership and many members of the Concordia community are engaged in the work to help all students achieve their full potential.

As for the community, on November 6 of 2012, Portland voters approved a major Portland Public Schools capital bond measure, with funding of $27.5 million for the razing and rebuilding of Faubion School. The leadership at Portland Public Schools has provided outstanding support for the partnership and the 3 to PhD Initiative.

“Efforts like Concordia’s 3 to PhD collaboration reflect the focus of the All Hands Raised Partnership – aligning the community’s efforts to improve educational outcomes for our children and youth.”

Dan Ryan, Chief Executive Officer
All Hands Raised
Critical goals require imaginative solutions

Closing the educational achievement gap for some of Portland’s most vulnerable children is one of our community’s highest goals as a society. This multifaceted approach to closing the gap will have a significant and lifelong impact on the children and families at Faubion, the students and faculty at Concordia University, and the community as a whole. Preparing leaders for the transformation of society has long been Concordia’s mission. Through the 3 to PhD Initiative, the university is able to put that mission to positive use each and every day – one student, one classroom, one school at a time.
While many hands have touched the 3 to PhD Initiative to date, much more work remains – particularly for capital development. The plans call for Concordia University to raise an additional $15 million in support of programmatic capital components, including the new home for the College of Education, an early childhood development center, and a possible health and wellness clinic.

The goal is to complete fundraising by the end of 2015. This would allow construction to start after school is out in the late spring of 2016, for completion by the start of school in 2017. Concordia University officials are in constant communication with Portland Public Schools officials on various partnership documents and important activities to ensure full public participation.
Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” A simple statement that speaks volumes in today’s internet age. For those who think learning is learning and a class is a class, think again. Read on and discover a pair of exciting, up-and-coming new programs that are helping to transform learning – at Concordia and beyond.

TRANSFORMING LEARNING: SAL KHAN AND THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM

In February of 2013, Concordia University brought Salman “Sal” Khan to town to share his global perspective on education innovation. Khan provided the keynote address at Concordia’s 2013 Governor Victor Atiyeh Leadership in Education Awards. As the founder of Khan Academy, Khan is one of Wall Street Journal’s “13 People to Watch in 2013.” He was one of TIME Magazine’s “100 Most Influential People in the World” in 2012. In addition, he was featured on the cover of Forbes Magazine in a November 2012 article entitled, “One Man, One Computer, 10 Million Students: How Khan Academy is Reinventing Education.”
“EDUCATION SHOULD BE A RIGHT, LIKE DRINKING WATER.”

The Khan Academy is a non-profit education website whose mission is to provide a “free world-class education for anyone anywhere.” While helping a young cousin with math in 2004, Khan, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard Business School, made a simple discovery: Kids learn well watching short video instructions – videos they can repeat at home as necessary to gain understanding of the lesson. This practical use of video has transformed learning.

The Khan Academy website provides more than 4,000 instructional videos, covering everything from basic arithmetic to college-level organic chemistry and economics. History, health care, and civics, too. It’s the most-used library of educational videos on the web, with 4.2 million unique students per month, more than 118 million lessons delivered, and over 260 million exercises completed. All free.

TURNING THE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM UPSIDE DOWN

So what is it that makes this use of video such a great example of transformative learning? It has generated the concept of the “flipped classroom.” In traditional classrooms, the teacher lectures and teaches the lesson, then gives the students work to do at home. In the flipped classroom, the teaching is done outside of class, via video. Engagement with that content – skill development, exercises, projects, and so on – is done in class, under the direct guidance of the teacher and working collaboratively with other students. A flipped classroom swaps lecture and explanation, traditionally given in class, with homework activities like math problems or writing activities. In other words, homework becomes classwork, and vice versa. In this setting, students can watch the explanation of the lesson as many times as necessary, then come to class the next day to put what they’ve learned into practice, helped by the teacher.

A SIMPLE IDEA WITH BIG BENEFITS

As a result, students spend much more one-on-one time with the teacher. By capturing their lecture or lesson on video, teachers can spend the bulk of their classroom time on individualizing instruction. Students learn at their own pace, with the ability to pause, rewind, and re-watch video lessons as many times as necessary. Because of this, no one moves forward until they have truly demonstrated understanding of the concept, encouraging mastery of the material. As some students grasp the lesson quickly, the flipped classroom model allows the teacher to use those students as peer tutors, adding another level of individualized instruction – with long-term learning benefits for the tutor. And since the lessons are on video, they can easily be used for students who miss class because of illness, school trips, or family vacations.

(continues)

To watch Sal Khan’s keynote address at Concordia’s 2013 Governor Victor Atiyeh Leadership in Education Awards, visit www.cu-portland.edu/salkhanvideo.
In the traditional undergraduate setting, classes are offered at very specific times each day. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 am, it’s calculus, for example, while Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 to noon, it’s humanities. This same scenario is repeated day in, day out, nine months a year for years.

But what happens if you have to work and can’t go to school every Monday at 9 am? Or you’re taking care of kids and can’t go to the campus at all? Or if the campus is too far away from where you live?

In the past, you would have been out of luck, with few options, if any. But these days, thanks to the internet, the very way college education is delivered is evolving.

Taking the Classroom Online

So how is online learning transformative? For one, it’s accessible. Online education isn’t constrained by time of day, month, or year. Students can attend class no matter where they are, no matter what the time or date. What’s more, online education allows students to engage in the learning process when it’s convenient for them – allowing new opportunities for working adults and those with families.

Ultimately, moving the educational experience online removes obstacles that have previously prevented people from pursuing further education.

The Power of Repetition

As with videos from the Khan Academy, online learning gives students the ability to revisit lectures, explanations, and academic conversations verbatim. A student can read, re-read, and review the online classroom’s written posts – which serve as the classroom discussion – as many times as needed in order to learn the content. This is not the case in the traditional classroom, where once the lecture is over and the questions are answered, that information is gone, existing only in notes taken and memory.

Self-Directed Learning

With online learning, students work in problem-solving groups and learn from one another in a cohort. This helps them become aware and critical of their own and others’ assumptions. According to Dean of Concordia University Online, Dr. Trish Lichau Shields, “Online experiences allow an unhurried exploration of moral, spiritual, and ethical values.” Students are exposed to different perspectives as they interact with students from different backgrounds, often from other parts of the country or even other parts of the world.

An Emerging and Relevant Force

College students today are older, and in many cases, in need of mid-career education. Online learning gives them a way to achieve their workplace and life goals. Since the technology is so easy to use, it makes the online learning
experience seamless. Because the traditional campus-based education is limited to location, time of day, and teacher availability, more and more students are seeking out the engaging, challenging, and satisfying pathway of online learning.

**MAKING THE CASE FOR ONLINE EDUCATION**

So why take a class or get a degree online? You can learn any time, at any place, from outstanding, highly qualified, and award-winning instructors you might never have access to otherwise. Concordia's online programs maintain a low student to instructor ratio of 15 to 1, optimizing the students’ access to their professor. Only experienced and proven online instructors who understand and practice transformative learning strategies are selected. And educators taking masters and doctorate programs from Concordia University-Portland become service-oriented and experience teaching/learning strategies that ensure rigor and academic excellence. They are able to transfer the strategies their online instructors used directly into their own classroom practices, with remarkable results.

From a child in Bangkok watching an elementary math video to a doctoral candidate getting a degree through Concordia online, the accessibility of online education is truly transforming learning.

**ONLINE LEARNING TAKES OFF**

How much – and how quickly – is online education changing the face of higher education? Consider this: At Concordia, enrollment in the online program went from just over 550 students in 2011 to nearly 3,000 students in 2013. During that same time, the number of individual courses offered went from just over 1,000 to nearly 2,500 in just two years. And the number of faculty grew from 54 to 196.
What’s New in Your Life?
Stay in touch and keep us posted on all of your news... new baby, new job, new spouse, new house, great vacation, milestone anniversaries, or recent retirement? Send us an email and give us the update on what’s happening in your life. Feel free to include photos, especially high-resolution (300 dpi) wedding and baby pictures:

EMAIL: alumni@cu-portland.edu

Or send mail to Alumni Notes, 2811 NE Holman Street, Portland, OR 97211

1940
Dr. Allen Nauss, HS recently published a book titled, “Implications of Brain Research for the Church: What it Means for Theology and Ministry” (Lutheran University Press April 2013). He currently lives in Orange, California.

1960
Dr. Gary Gable, JC just published a booklet called “I Was There...Destined To Witness,” by Tate Publishers. The booklet is meant for self-study or small group Bible study. Proceeds from sales this year will go to Zion Lutheran School’s scholarship fund. Dr. Gable currently lives in Snohomish, Washington.

1964
Keith Eilers, JC is enjoying a new chapter in pastoral ministry by serving in interim positions during his retirement. He currently lives in Issaquah, Washington.

1974
Larry Gross, JC and former Concordia faculty recently went on a “second honeymoon” with his wife, Sandy (Anderson) in celebration of their one year anniversary. His former colleague at Concordia, Dr. Norm Metzler, provided the homily for their May 26, 2012 wedding at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, where he and Sandy are both members.

1983
Dalene DeWitz-Agost is completing her 30th year of teaching. She and her husband, Dr. Brett Agost, reside in Happy Valley, Oregon. Their daughter, Taylor, is a junior at Clackamas High School, and recently accepted a full scholarship to play volleyball at the University of Oregon. Their son, Dane, just passed his parents in height and is dunking a basketball in the seventh grade. Their youngest, Leah, is in third grade. They are members of Immanuel Lutheran in SE Portland.

1989
Cindy (Hart) Vanyi has been married since 1991 and has worked at Providence Health and Services in the home services DME department for the past 13 years. She is currently the business office supervisor. Her daughter, Miranda, will be transferring to Concordia this fall. Son, Nicholas, is a freshman in high school. She and her family reside in Troutdale, Oregon.

1992
Travis Guse is currently a pastor at St. Philip Lutheran Church in Dublin, California. He is also a certified ICF life and executive coach, Gallup Strengths coach, and mission coach and trainer with Coachnet. He says that through these roles he is able to help empower people to discover and live out their unique calling in Christ. He resides in San Ramon, California.

1994
Carmela Lanza-Weil was recently appointed producing director for the Bread and Roses Heritage Festival in Lawrence, Maryland, requiring a relocation to the Baltimore area. In 2006, she earned a MFA in theatre from Towson University’s program for self-producing artists of new and/or experimental work.
1995
(J. Kenneth) Ken Hansen is celebrating his 15th year with the Lake Oswego School District. After graduating from Concordia in December 1995, he taught as a substitute teacher in North Clackamas and Lake Oswego for a year-and-a-half. He then traveled to Campbell, California and taught kindergarten for one year. Ken returned home and joined the Lake Oswego District in 1998. He spent 13 years teaching fifth and sixth grade at Palisades Elementary School, one year teaching fifth and sixth grade at Westridge Elementary School, and now teaches sixth and seventh grade language arts at Lake Oswego Junior High School.

Amy (Hollenbeck) Turpin has worked as a senior merchandise planner for Tilly’s, a surf/skate company headquartered in Irvine, California for the past five-and-a-half years. She and her husband will celebrate nine years of marriage this July. They have two sons who are very involved in little league baseball and golf. They enjoy attending Angels games and reside in Laguna Nigel, California.

1996
Dr. Mark Huth studied music at Concordia between 1982-1984. He returned to earn a degree in business, graduating in 1996. He came back again to take science classes in 1997-1998. After satisfying his science requirements for medical school, he was accepted into Oregon Health & Sciences University, where he graduated in 2003. He did his residency in family medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 2003-2006. Dr. Huth joined Group Health Cooperative of South-Central Wisconsin in 2007, where he has held numerous leadership positions. In April of this year, he was named chief medical officer and is responsible for providing overall vision and direction for all aspects of quality, patient safety, and clinical performance improvement throughout the Group Health Cooperative healthcare delivery system. He says of his time at Concordia, “I have such great memories of my time at CU and appreciate how the education prepared me for my career in medicine.” He and his wife have two boys, both adopted from Africa. They live in Madison, Wisconsin.

Maria Kim-Lagafuaina is living in Pago Pago, American Samoa and says, “Hope all is well with the graduating class of ’97. I wish to reconnect with all my friends and professors during my years at Concordia. Those were the best years of my life.” She has three children: son, Talanoa (6), daughter, Thessa (5), and daughter, Taui (2).

1997
Brett W. Denman currently lives with his family in Seoul, South Korea, where they have been the past nine years. In September of 2012, they welcomed their son, Luke Christian, into the family. Brett says, “Life in Asia as an English teacher and lay evangelist has been extremely rewarding. I have seen many people accept Christ into their lives and find the peace and happiness they have longed for, but have been unable to find. Please pray for the people of Asia to accept Christ into their life and start walking with Him today. God bless.”

1998

2001
Beth Reddekopp married Max Gummer on October 20, 2012 at the West End Ballroom in downtown Portland, Oregon. Beth has been teaching seventh grade math in the Centennial School District for ten years. Max is a geotechnical engineer at HartCrowser in Beaverton, Oregon.

2002
Chris Herold, MAT celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary in June 2013. He became principal at Pilgrim Lutheran School in July 2012. He resides in Beaverton, Oregon.

Troy Soles, MAT and his wife just celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, ages ten and seven. After receiving his master’s degree from Concordia, Troy was hired as an English teacher at Canby High School, where he had previously completed his student teaching. Since then, he has become the AP English literature and composition teacher, the varsity defensive line coach for the football team, and the pole vault coach for Canby’s track & field team. He also teaches martial arts classes through Canby Community Education and is a union steward and contract negotiator for the Canby Education Association.
It’s a tale as old as time. Boy meets girl at small Christian university. Boy and girl are in the same program. Boy and girl fall in love and get married. And boy and girl set off for Sierra Leone, Africa, to do public health nursing. OK, so maybe it’s not the usual story, but for Ashley ’08 and Tyler Van Brunt ’10, doing things the usual way has never been their style.

Following graduation from the Concordia University nursing program and becoming RNs, Ashley and Tyler decided to give back. Partnering with Children of the Nations, the Van Brunts spent three months in Africa, living with the people of Sierra Leone. Their mission: “To share of God’s goodness and all He has done for us, and to do this through friendship and delivery of nursing care,” says Ashley Van Brunt.

The couple raised more than $10,000 and sub-let their apartment. They got vaccinations and the requisite visas. And in January of 2013, they were in Sierra Leone, partnering with four local nurses in a clinic to deliver health care to the Banta region. “Americans and Sierra Leoneans are working together to raise the children [and encourage the community] to transform Sierra Leone in positive ways – through education, health care, Jesus!, relationships, and adequate nutrition,” writes Ashley.

CONNECTING ONLINE FROM A CONTINENT AWAY
To chronicle their journey and let people back home know what was happening, Ashley created the “Journey of Joy” blog to chronicle the trip in her own words.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013 — Life Is Beautiful
At sunrise the sun is a vibrant reddish pink hue. At sunset, a deep orange. We see blue skies every day, however, this time of year Sierra Leone experiences the “Harmattan winds” which blow in from the Sahara desert. The wind carries a lot of dust and makes the sky very hazy and “cold” to the locals.

We arrived to a welcoming ceremony put on by the kids. We were given our African names: Mukeh [sounds like “moo-kay” for Tyler] and Muje [sounds like “moon-jay” for me]. They mean “our father” and “our mother.” It’s kind of funny. The kids thought we were going to be an old married couple...thus naming us how they did.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013 — Greetings from Sierra Leone!
In the clinic, Tyler and I were able to assist in our first birth! It was the laboring mother’s first baby. Her labor started on a Sunday, and she ended up delivering at 8:28 on the immediate Tuesday. She did an incredible job. All in all, we praise God because the mom and baby are both healthy. It was an incredible, UNFORGETTABLE experience.

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013 — Sierra Leone Perspective
Sierra Leone has left me with a hunger for investing my time into what really matters. I want my personhood to scream: Love. Honestly. Loyalty. Compassion. Mercy. Justice. Jesus (whether you believe he was God or not, you have to admit – he was all about social justice and compassion). I want my husband to have the best life possible. I want my family to feel cared about. I want to bless my friends. I want to be the co-worker that makes your day better, not worse.

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION
During their three month stay, Ashley and Tyler gathered hundreds of pages of data, observations, and records that will help Children of the Nations write a guideline book for the clinic. This will enable the Sierra Leonean nurses to deliver the best medical care possible using evidence-based treatments. Bettering the lives of the children and residents of the Banta area of this African country is something the Van Brunts will carry with them as they continue their nursing journey.

To read more of Ashley and Tyler’s Sierra Leone blog and see photos of the journey, visit www.teamvanbrunt.blogspot.com
Amy (Keyne-Michaels) Allison has taught in the Issaquah School District for the past nine years. She married David Allison in 2008 and they recently had their first child, Katelynn, who just turned ten months-old.

Dr. Anne (Annie) Dietz Powell married Brendon Powell in 2002 during her junior year. She served as a mathematics and science advisor and assistant at Concordia between 2003-2004. She began her PhD program at Oregon Health & Sciences University in 2004, where she studied the dynamics of adult intestinal stem cells, resulting in numerous publications, including two first-author papers (a review on stem cell division and a book chapter on the behavior of adult stem cells). During her doctoral work, she developed a passion for teaching undergraduates and served as a laboratory instructor for Concordia's 100-level science courses, as well as an invited lecturer for 300-level biology courses. She received her PhD in cell and developmental biology. In June 2010, her family moved from SE Portland to Nashville, TN where she took a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center studying the pathogenesis of colorectal cancer. Since being at Vanderbilt, she is heavily involved in biomedical research with regard to what happens on the molecular level for colorectal cancer patients. Last year, her paper was featured in the journal, Cell, about defining a new stem cell population that is involved in colon tumor initiation. Last month she was honored by the American Gastroenterology Association’s national meeting for contributions in the area of GI stem cells. This year, she was awarded Vanderbilt’s Postdoctoral Fellow of the Year in both the department of cell & developmental biology, as well as the department of cancer biology. In April 2013, she was promoted to faculty and is now an instructor in the department of medicine-gastroenterology. Dr. Powell says, “I strongly feel that my time and training at Concordia was part-and-parcel to my success as a mentor, educator, and research scientist today. I know that Concordia is preparing leaders for the transformation of society, and I know this because I am 100% the product of that careful preparation. The door to my biomedical research path was opened with an opportunity granted to me from Concordia. I am filled with gratitude for the essential role that Concordia, and specifically, Drs. Kunert, Hallstrand, Munson, Eggert, Rowland, and Polozov have played in my training.”

Dr. Powell has two daughters and in her spare time, she is a marathoner and triathlete. Her family enjoys trying all the southern food and traveling in the south, but dearly misses the Pacific Northwest!

Charles F. Sams is the communications director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. He oversees public and legislative affairs, the tribal paper, and radio station. In addition, he and his wife are expecting their fourth child in June of this year. The family resides in Pendleton, Oregon.

Katie (Brock) Barker worked in Colorado as a director of Christian education from 2006 to 2009. In 2009, she married Andrew Barker, and they moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While Andrew worked at Louisiana State University, Katie completed a master of science degree in child and family studies. In January of 2013, the couple moved to Magdeburg, Germany, where Andrew works at the Max Plank Institute.

Dr. Jillian (Sturm) Moshay graduated from Northwestern University’s Family Medicine residency program in June 2013. She will be moving from Chicago, Illinois back to the Pacific Northwest and will begin work at Group Health in Redmond, Washington.

Andra (Booze) Williams and her husband started a new business called Shelter Wise last Fall. They specialize in providing energy efficient services for residential homes, as well as building the most energy efficient “tiny homes.” They live and work in Portland with their three year-old son.
Lynn James-Camara participated in the social work accreditation process after graduation, which made it possible for her to have advanced standing at Portland State for graduate school. She was then honored to be a part-time professor at Concordia. Lynn says, “Concordia continued to support me in my professional development and growth. I am now married to my ‘African Prince’ who is Dr. John Carmara in his country.”

Sarah (Dickson) Meyer and her husband, David, had their first son, Ross William, on November 9, 2011. They are expecting their second baby boy this summer in early July. The family resides in Boise, Idaho.

Karen Morley-Smith, MAT was awarded national board certified teacher status in the fall of 2012. In 2011, she was Washington State history teacher of the year and in 2012, she was exceptional educator for her state. Karen has served as a mentor teacher and on the OSPI Social Studies Cadre for several years. She teaches fifth grade students for Evergreen Public Schools and resides in Vancouver, Washington.

Lauren (Boehm) Weiss and her family have moved from Portland, Oregon to Sioux City, Iowa where she is the executive director of Harvest, Inc.

Alyssa Alvord, MAT and her husband, Brett, welcomed a daughter, Britta May Alvord, on November 7, 2012. Britta has brought much joy to their lives and they are enjoying the “adventures of parenthood.”

Ashley Springer currently works as a registered nurse in the state of Hawai‘i and welcomed her daughter, Brooklyn, in August. She is currently finishing her MS degree for adult-gerontology nurse practitioner and resides in Hilo, Hawai‘i.

Jeff Christianson, MBA ’13 worked for NIKE Golf for four years following graduation. In July 2011, he left NIKE and became the assistant men’s basketball coach at Concordia and enrolled in the MBA program. Jeff graduated with his master’s degree on May 4, 2013, and has recently been hired as the program coordinator for Concordia’s School of Management. He will also continue to coach basketball and will enter his third year as assistant coach this fall.

Tracey Spencer, MAT was hired this year as a physical education and health teacher, as well as activities coordinator for Oregon Virtual Academy, an online charter high school for the state of Oregon sponsored by the North Bend school district.
Eva Leung received her MAT in 2012 from Willamette University. She is currently teaching English as foreign language teacher in Japan at Tokyo University. She works with first year college students in a town called Kasumigaseki, which is about 40 minutes from the Tokyo metro area. She has been living and working here since March 2013.

Leon, MEd ’11 and Katherine (Tripp) Carl ’11 met at Concordia in 2007 as teammates and discus throwers on the Concordia Track & Field team. They both majored in secondary education for their undergraduate degrees and Leon went on to earn his master’s in education from Concordia in 2010. They married in 2009 and several Concordia alumni served as members of their bridal party, including: Geoff Pollington ’10, Zack Saltz ’09, and Aria Nojima ’12. The couple embarked on a journey to teach English to middle school students in a suburb of Seoul, South Korea in 2011 where they are currently finishing out their second year. The Carls traveled throughout South Korea, as well as China (where they saw the Great Wall and Terra Cotta Soldiers), the Philippines (where they swam with whale sharks and went scuba diving), Thailand (where they rode elephants and played with grown tigers at waterfalls), Cambodia (where they explored Angkor Wat), and Japan. They say they are grateful to Concordia for kindling their love of education and for allowing them to meet some of their closest friends to this day. They plan to return to teach middle school in Oregon this fall and look forward to reconnecting with old friends stateside.

Audree Waterhouse and her husband, Donnie, welcomed their son, Grady, on July 12, 2012. She has started her master’s degree in education at Concordia and currently works in the preschool at the NIKE Child Development Center four days a week. She also substitute teaches on Fridays.

Jennifer Wetter lives in San Tan Valley, Arizona with her husband, Joshua. They welcomed their third child on December 21, 2012. Isabelle EeLynne joins her big sister, Abigail (4), and big brother, Andrew (2).

2009

Rebecca (Sturm) Benoit married James Benoit in May 2013. They reside in Portland, Oregon.

Britany (Nelson) Johnson married her husband, David, in August of 2008 and a year later, they moved to Utah for a job opportunity and to be closer to his side of the family. She started working for a charter school in 2009 as a paraprofessional and recently was promoted to be a special education administrative assistant—a job she loves! In February of 2012, daughter Zoey was born and she makes them “incredibly happy.” The family resides in Price, Utah.

2010’s

Kate Cope, a graduate of the Concordia nursing program, worked at the OHSU emergency department following graduation. She recently accepted a new position working at the level-1 trauma center at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center.

Sarah Kenney works for her alma mater as the assistant to university special events and alumni & parent relations at the Concordia University Foundation. Prior to that, she taught English full-time to middle school students in Suwon, South Korea (a suburb of Seoul) and travelled throughout the country. While there, she visited the 2012 World Exposition in Yeosu. Sarah is currently finishing her MS in management communication at the University of Portland.
Jeremy and Brie (Sylvia-Clarno) Richards ’12 got married on August 6, 2011. Brie finished her last year at Concordia while Jeremy accepted a job at Coava Coffee Roasters in SE Portland as head trainer and barista. Since then, Brie has completed an internship at the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and accepted a job back on campus for the Concordia University Foundation. She’s been working for her alma mater since January of 2013.

Jeremy and Brie will leave August 1 of 2013 for North Carolina, as Jeremy has been accepted into the masters of divinity program at Duke University in Durham. Brie hopes to continue developing her passion for fundraising and philanthropy in North Carolina. They will also be bringing their new puppy, Winfield, along for the move.

Whitney (Greenidge) Vinegar and her husband, Brian, were married on December 28, 2012 and reside in Portland, Oregon. She says of her wedding day, “What a wonderful and blessed day it was!”

Nichole Werner-Harney currently works for CompView Inc. as a staff accountant and resides in Portland, Oregon.

2011

Keri Athanas received a call “out of the blue” this past February to be a new science teacher at Portland Christian School. She will continue to teach middle and high school science at Portland Christian and couldn’t be happier! She is also getting married on August 2 of this year to Christopher Trulsen. They are having a private ceremony on Rockaway Beach in Oregon.

Andy Bleiler, MAT received both his Oregon and Washington teaching licenses, then relocated to Tennessee and received his Tennessee teaching license for art and theatre (K-12). He was hired by Tennessee State University to be a member of their communications department faculty. Shortly after this, he was hired full-time by Lipscomb University as the technical director and adjunct professor of theatre. He teaches several classes and designs scenery for the department’s productions. Andy has also been designing scenery for local professional theatre companies, as well as Vanderbilt University. In June, he married his wife, Nora, who is a professional jewelry designer. He says of his wife and time at Concordia, “Nora was my rock during the trials of my MAT program, and is simply awesome! I am so very grateful for the MAT program, the fantastic faculty, and staff at Concordia! It truly has transformed my life.”

Ann (Tuma) Brandon was married this May and is working as a pre-op and PACU registered nurse at Northwest Ambulatory Service in Northwest Portland near Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center. Ann says, “I feel very grateful for the skills I learned at Concordia’s nursing lab and the excellent education I received there. I highly recommend this program to everyone who asks or is interested. I am very proud to have graduated from such an excellent facility.”

Christina Busby is currently teaching visual art full-time at Foster High School in the Tukwila school district outside of Seattle, Washington, named the most diverse school district in the country by the New York Times.

Christine Majka, MEd and her husband, Robert, will celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary on September 13 of this year by taking a trip to Naples, Florida. She is glad to announce that her husband has been cancer-free for two years. They reside in Chicago, Illinois.

Chris O’Donnell, MAT is living in Odessa, Texas and teaching third grade there. He says he misses Portland!

Alicia Odrzywolski resides in Rochester, New York.

Jody Pardun has been teaching in China for the past two years. This year’s kindergarten class consists of just six students, which Jody says is great for an inquiry-style classroom. She has also had the opportunity to travel all over China and Southeast Asia. In February, she went to San Francisco, California to the ISS job fair and will be moving to Myanmar next year. She has a website for viewing her class and time abroad at: jodyskinderclass.zohosites.com

2012

Kailey Anderson is currently living in Ridgefield, Washington and working at Portland Bolt as an estimator.

Julius Brownlee was recently hired as the site coordinator for the Gear Up program at the University of Kansas. He resides in Kansas City, Kansas.

Amanda “Mandy” Federici is currently the track & field throws coach for Concordia University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She is also furthering her education by getting her master’s degree in early childhood education at Concordia-St. Paul.
Charlean “Tootie” Smith:
TURNING A DEGREE FROM CONCORDIA INTO A CAREER IN CITY HALL

Charlean “Tootie” Smith ’92 came to Concordia in 1989 for the “life experience.” As the daughter of a fourth-generation hazelnut farming family from Molalla, Oregon, she was seeking several attributes from her time in college: a Christian environment, an education that would prepare her for a career, and a mindset of servant leadership amongst the students, staff, and faculty – and she found them all here at Concordia. It was these characteristics that primed her for a career in public and community service.

Smith majored in business and communication, skills she uses every day as a commissioner for Clackamas County, Oregon. Prior to her election as a commissioner, she served as a state representative in the Oregon Legislature (from 2001 to 2005). She has also been a journalist, lobbyist, managing partner, chief financial officer, consultant for the Oregon Legislature, and president of the Oregon Brain Injury Association.

In addition to her job as commissioner, Smith and her husband Nate run The Prairie House Inn, a farmhouse bed and breakfast in Molalla’s historic Moody-Eckerd House. Her daughter Tess has continued the Concordia legacy, having graduated this past May. She works as an accountant for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

SPEAKING OUT FOR VETERANS

Smith is a champion for many groups, but one that is particularly close to her heart is our military veterans. She is passionate about ensuring that our veterans come home to adequate housing. “Many of our veterans are homeless and I think this is a disgrace,” says Smith. “In my work with the Brain Injury Association, I’ve learned that so much of what veterans have to struggle with stems from traumatic brain injury from the battlefield, and that’s what led me to sit on the veterans’ committee. All people deserve adequate housing.”

She believes in moderation in a time of divisive political dialogue. As she sees it, her childhood on the family farm taught her that interests need to be balanced in order for a community to thrive. As an advocate for the needs of rural Oregon, she strives to communicate that farmers and foresters care as much about the environment as environmental lobbyists. There are ways to ensure the environment is taken care of, such as replanting laws, without devastating the timber industry. With so many potentially divisive issues on the docket each month, Smith says she references her favorite Bible verses every day before going to work for the people of Clackamas County. “I like to confirm my moral compass and gain the strength to carry through in decision-making that impacts so many lives.”

APPLYING THE CONCORDIA SERVANT MESSAGE TO EVERYDAY LIFE

When asked what her major accomplishment has been as a commissioner, Smith replies without hesitation: “To get politicians to see government through the eyes of the people, and not to forget that government is the servant of the people and not the opposite,” – a lesson she learned at Concordia. She encourages recent Concordia graduates interested in a career in public service to find “ancillary positions and volunteer because getting elected can be difficult” and not a reason to step away from being a leader in your community. But most importantly, she advises, “Be humble...stay humble.”

Smith remembers President Schlimpert often saying, “I have the privilege to serve as your President,” a sentiment that struck such a strong chord within her that she wanted to model a similar approach. Indeed, Smith is one alumna who embodies the spirit of Concordia – that of faith, transformative leadership, and civic engagement.

“...[The] Government is the servant of the people and not the opposite.” » Charlean Smith
Please Join Concordia University in Welcoming Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb of Christmas Lutheran Church – Bethlehem, Palestine

He will speak on the outreach ministries supporting the people of Palestine

Tuesday, September 24 | 7:00 PM

Concordia University
Hagen Campus Center (2nd Floor)
2811 NE Holman Street   Portland OR 97211

For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Paul Mueller   503-493-6550

Visit brightstarsbethlehem.org to learn more about Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb

Bright Stars of Bethlehem
Building Hope and a Brighter Future for the people of Palestine

Christianity got its start in Bethlehem, known worldwide as the birthplace of Jesus Christ. Bethlehem is located in the West Bank, Palestine which is not in Israel but is under Israeli occupation. Life is not easy under this occupation and many struggle under the constant conflict and strain.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb has founded at least 11 separate institutions that serve the desperate needs of Bethlehem, including a health and wellness center, a media center, a gallery, and more. He also founded the first and only Lutheran university in the Middle East.

“Liberation starts in our hearts and in our heads. This is why preaching, teaching, and healing our community has become our mission,” says Rev. Dr. Raheb.

Come learn how you can help Christianity not only survive but thrive in Bethlehem and throughout Palestine.

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Diana Gibson de Flores is teaching at Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy in Washington, D.C. She and her husband welcomed their first child, Stacy Elizabeth, in January of 2013. They reside in Fairfax, Virginia.

Jonas Sainvil, MEd is currently living in Selma, Alabama and completed his MEd in educational leadership online last fall. He is currently in the second term of a PhD program at Capella University in educational leadership for higher education where he is maintaining a 4.0 average. He says, “All thanks are to God for the good instruction that Concordia University provided me.”

Shelia Sewell, MEd completed her master’s in curriculum and instruction online in 2012. She will be leaving her hometown of Natchez, Mississippi where she has taught for the past twelve-and-a-half years and will take her talents to Memphis, Tennessee, where she will teach at the esteemed Achievement School District. The goal of the district is to transform Memphis’s bottom five percent of schools and move them up to the top 25% of schools. Her daughter is a recent graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Elisia (Feliza) Lopez was recently hired as the lead action for prosperity family advocate at Human Solutions and is working with families who are struggling with unemployment and housing. She says that it is an honor to work with many of the families and finds it fulfilling to lead them into stability and permanent housing.

Jennifer McMurtrey, MEd was promoted from instructor to associate dean of student affairs within eight weeks of receiving her MEd in curriculum and instruction; career and technical education. She resides in Yakima, Washington.

Kathryn (Bolton) Osborne and her husband, Derek, welcomed their daughter, Ella, on April 17, 2013. The family resides in Bend, Oregon.

Christine Robbins is now a kindergarten teacher at a STEM (science technology engineering and math) school in Arizona.

Matt Stormont has accepted a position at Oregon Health & Sciences University as the operational compliance manager for hospital facilities, beginning in April of 2013.

2013

Drew Wilkerson, MEd says of his time at Concordia, “My experience with Concordia University was amazing! As I was working through my MEd in educational leadership online, I felt that I had tremendous support from both my fellow colleagues and Concordia staff every step of the way.” He and his wife celebrated their son’s birth in December of 2012 and he graduated in January of 2013, making for quite a busy few months! He is thankful for the experience and opportunity to have worked with such accomplished and faith-centered individuals during his time at Concordia.

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Keep up to date with everything happening at Concordia by following us on Facebook and Twitter!

www.facebook.com/cu.portland
www.twitter.com/cu_portland
An Investment with Guaranteed Returns

Supplement your personal income through a gift annuity and invest in the future of Concordia University students. Your gift not only helps students who will transform the communities where they live and serve, it also provides you with guaranteed payments for your lifetime. These payments are fixed and do not fluctuate with the economy, giving you peace of mind.

For further information about gift annuities, call 503-280-8505 or email foundation@cu-portland.edu

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Les and Louise Whitney. He is survived by his children Steve and Cynthia Siu, Greg, Katie and Rodney Bauman, and his grandchildren Samantha, Ryan, Max, and Dylan. David is also survived by his siblings, Paul, Ted, Jim, Herb, John, Richard, Milton, and Robert and many nieces and nephews.

Joseph Hennig JC ’53 passed away on April 26, 2013, at the age of 77. He graduated from Concordia High School, the University of Oregon, and earned a master’s in physics from the University of Indiana. He went on to study the Southern Lights at the South Pole and has a glacier there named after him. He completed a PhD in statistics at Stanford University, taught at the University of Vermont, and was head of the statistics department at the University of Tennessee. He and his late wife, Jeanie, supported the performing arts in Knoxville, as well as at Concordia University. He is predeceased by his parents, Rev. Walter and Paula Sylwester, sister Margaret Sylwester, and in-laws sister Margaret Sylwester, and in-laws parents, Rev. Walter and Paula Sylwester, (Dale) Schempp, of Lenexa, Kan.; 19 Hennig, of Springfield, Ill., Bonnie Jean of Renton, Wash., Pastor Jim (Denise) Hennig, of Rockford, Ill., John (Suzy) Hennig, Charleston, Ill., Bettie Jo (Neal) Bertram, Valley, Ill., Doug (Mary) Hennig, of Fla., Dan (Margie) Hennig, of Cherry Valley, Ill., Doug (Mary) Hennig, of Charleston, Ill., Bettie Jo (Neal) Bertram, Rockford, Ill., John (Suzy) Hennig, of Renton, Wash., Pastor Jim (Denise) Hennig, of Springfield, Ill., Bonnie Jean (Tony) Huset, of Tacoma, Wash., Roberta (Dale) Schempp, of Lenexa, Kan.; 19 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Daniel William Roesler HS ’60 passed away on November 19, 2012 at the age of 70 in Twin Falls, ID. Daniel graduated from Concordia High School in 1960 and attended the junior college until 1962. He finished his college education at Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, IN. He graduated with a bachelor of arts in 1964, concentrating in religious studies. Roesler attended Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis from 1964 to 1965. He taught and coached at Messiah Lutheran School in Independence, Missouri, where he also served as youth director. Roesler worked as a systems engineer in San Francisco until he retired in 1997. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Susanne, and his sister, Faye Hall of Newark, Calif. He has four children; Rebecca (Robert) Moore of Declo, Jamie (Bruce) Barrett, of Fremont Calif., David (Melissa) Roesler of Union City, Calif., Jonathan (Becca) Roesler of Meridian, Idaho. He has nine wonderful grandchildren (ages 7 months – 21 years), nieces and nephews, many cousins, and Aunt Leola of Nebraska. The Roeslers have been active members of Clover Trinity Lutheran Church since moving back to Idaho in 2000. He was privileged to be a chaplain in the jail ministry in Twin Falls for several years, and was also a member of the Gideons.

Duane Bartsch, Esq. passed away on April 9, 2013, at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; sons, Rick and Scott; daughter, Debra Bergerson; grandchildren, Tom, Craig, Luke, Annie, Kedric and Destiny; as well as three great-grandchildren, Coby, Layla and Natalie. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Joan Thomas in 1979; mother, Dora Niederbaumer in 1997; and brother, Vernon in 2005. He served school in Anchorage, Alaska, and received his bachelor’s degree in education from Concordia. He is survived by his wife, Tanisha, son, Duke, and daughter, Bromwynn; as well as a brother, Jon, sister, Erika, and mother-in-law, Mary Ann Johnson.

Supporters & Friends

Mary Ausplund Tooze passed away on January 24, 2013, at the age of 89. She was a dedicated supporter of the arts – both at Concordia and in the Portland community at large. She was a graduate of Lincoln High School and Mills College. A talented pianist herself, she performed with the Portland Chamber Orchestra, hosted a monthly artist-centric performance group in her home called the Repertory Group, and contributed to the success of many Portland performing arts groups, including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Oregon Symphony, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Artist Repertory Theatre, and Portland Piano International. She contributed to key growth at Concordia through her support of the Luther Hall science laboratory renovations, Hilken Community Stadium, and the Friends of Music society. She is predeceased by her husband, Lamar Tooze, Jr., Esq. She is survived by her daughter, Kristen (Michael) Kern, two grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Peter Leas Porath ’98 passed away on April 2, 2013 in Portland, Oregon. He was a resident of Estacada, Oregon, and a member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Gresham, Oregon. The son of Dale and Sherry Porath, he graduated from high school in Anchorage, Alaska, and received his bachelor’s degree in education from Concordia. He is survived by his wife, Tanisha, son, Duke, and daughter, Bromwynn; as well as a brother, Jon, sister, Erika, and mother-in-law, Mary Ann Johnson.

Dr. David Luther Sylwester HS ’54 passed away on April 26, 2013, at the age of 77. He graduated from Concordia High School, the University of Oregon, and earned a master’s in physics from the University of Indiana. He went on to study the Southern Lights at the South Pole and has a glacier there named after him. He completed a PhD in statistics at Stanford University, taught at the University of Vermont, and was head of the statistics department at the University of Tennessee. He and his late wife, Jeanie, supported the performing arts in Knoxville, as well as at Concordia University. He is predeceased by his parents, Rev. Walter and Paula Sylwester, sister Margaret Sylwester, and in-laws sister Margaret Sylwester, and in-laws parents, Rev. Walter and Paula Sylwester, (Dale) Schempp, of Lenexa, Kan.; 19 Hennig, of Springfield, Ill., Bonnie Jean (Tony) Huset, of Tacoma, Wash., Roberta (Dale) Schempp, of Lenexa, Kan.; 19 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

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1990’s

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Alumni Notes

Summer 2013

August 4
SummerFest: Opera in the Park – Verde’s Otello

August 10
Men’s and Women’s Alumni Soccer Games

August 17
Alumni Volleyball Game

August 20
Summer Story Time

September 28
LCEF + Concordia are bringing the band RESCUE to campus. Come celebrate with us!

October 19
Men’s and Women’s Basketball Alumni Games

October 31
Halloween in the Halls. Residence halls open to public for trick-or-treating, games, and fun

December 3
4th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

December 6-8
63rd Annual Christmas Chorale

December 7
Chess for Success Practice Tournament

Please Stay in Touch...
If you know of a Concordia high school, junior college, or university alum or friend who has passed away, please let us know. We would like to honor their memory in the next edition of Concordia Connection magazine. Please feel free to include photos:

EMAIL: alumni@cu-portland.edu

Or send mail to Alumni Notes, 2811 NE Holman Street, Portland, OR 97211

Save the Date

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Stay in the loop and get details on above events & more at www.cu-portland.edu/alumni

in the United States Navy during the Second World War, attended Willamette University, and he went on to graduate from the University of Washington in 1951 with a bachelor’s in business administration. Upon graduation, he married Elaine Cloudy Hannah. He then went to work for the West Coast Lumberman’s Association in Portland while attending night classes at the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College, where he graduated and was admitted to the Oregon State Bar in 1958. Duane lived in Portland with his loving family and practiced law for over 50 years. He was admitted as a member of the Bar of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. in 1969. He was a faithful member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for over 60 years and served as member of the Board of Directors, Northwest District Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod for 13 years. In addition, he was a founding member of the Concordia University Foundation in Portland, Oregon.

Rev. Joseph F. Leas passed away on March 3, 2013 at the age of 70 in Portland, Oregon. He served as pastor of Our Redeemer in Emmett, Idaho. St. Paul in Wenatchee, Washington, Bethlehem Lutheran in Hermiston, Oregon, and Faith Lutheran in Seaside, Oregon. He received the title emeritus in 2009. He also served AAL, now known as Thrivent. He is survived by his wife, Virginia (Ginger); and their daughters, Heidi Senick of Seaside, Jennifer Rackliffe of Sherwood, and Wendy Stafford of Seaside; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Heather.

Forrest C. Soth passed away on January 2, 2013 at the age of 93. He was a long-standing resident of Beaverton, Oregon and the city’s honorary historian. He was also on the Beaverton City Council for 24 years (1981–2004), including six consecutive terms – the longest in the city’s history. Soth graduated from Portland’s Franklin High School at the age of 16, served in the Navy during the Second World War, and built his home by hand alongside his wife, Connie, who passed away in 2006. He enjoyed a long career with Texaco, served on the board of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, and was a committed friend of Concordia.

Nancy W. Weber passed away on March 29, 2013 in Portland, Oregon. She was the wife of the late Rev. Dr. E.P. Weber, former president of Concordia University. The Weber family is a long-time supporter of the university, specifically scholarships for professional church workers and the Art & Carol Wahlers Center for Applied Lutheran Leadership. She is predeceased by her late husband, Howard Rosenwinkel. She is survived by her children, Mark (Kristen) Rosenwinkel, Ann Rosenwinkel, Paul (Susan) Rosenwinkel, Jill (Tom) Skwerski; and stepchildren, Timothy (Misty) Weber, Andrew Weber, Jane (Walt) Lierman, Judith (Norm) Withrow, Jennifer (Scott) Seefeld; grandchildren, Adelyn, Martha, Emma, Jack, Grace, Daniel, Calloway, Olivia, Julia, Sophia; and step-grandchildren, Christopher, Lisa, Hilary, Jonathan, Eric, Reed, Bryan and Ben; as well as her brother, Ret. Cpt. John Ross Wear.
Concordia’s Stadium Quickly Becomes a Community Resource

When it was time to name Concordia’s new stadium, Bob and Virginia Hilken stepped forward and made an amazing gift because they believed in the idea of a stadium shared by the university with the community. Campus leaders responded enthusiastically about the mission to include the community as a key component of the new facility – so much so that the stadium was named Hilken Community Stadium. Now, more than a year after the official grand opening, the stadium’s name has been realized, as more than 1,200 hours of community use were logged during the 2012 calendar year, the first full year in the stadium’s life.

What’s more, the high amount of community use has not come from just one or two groups, as 39 different community groups used Hilken Community Stadium in 2012.

“Looking down the list, we’ve hosted everything from local youth soccer clubs, to the Timbers Youth Academy, to high school, junior college and summer league baseball, to the Hollywood Soccer Club in town to the Special Olympics,” says Concordia Athletic Director Matt English. “We even had a Major League Soccer team practice here last year, the Chicago Fire, so you really have everything from the youngest peewee soccer kids to professional soccer players using the field.”

Along with the breadth of use, Concordia has also been able to provide a depth of community use that stands unrivaled. Of the 2,607 hours of stadium use in 2012, 1,220 hours were used by outside community groups. That equates to 47 percent of the stadium’s entire usage, putting the athletic department within range of meeting one of its top goals it set when building the stadium.

“We’ve always said having over half of the stadium usage come from outside community groups was our goal,” said English. “We had estimated 51 or 52 percent, and we came out just under 50 percent last year, which is great for our first year of operation.”

And while Concordia is happy to share the stadium, the groups using the facility are even happier to have a place to play. Many of the groups using the complex last year said the stadium represented a step up over their venues in previous years, or filled a new need altogether.

“Frequently, the groups that we have been able to accommodate tell us that if they weren’t able to play here, then they either wouldn’t have been able to play at all, or they would have had to use a public area that they couldn’t possibly reserve or control the use of,” Concordia Facilities Coordinator Andy Duvall said.
“It’s an important service that we’re providing. It allows us to help make these organizations’ events more professional – it’s not something that a dog could run through like at a public park, for instance – and I think just more special.”

One of the biggest events in the new stadium has been Portland’s Annual 3v3 Barefoot Soccer Tournament. Concordia hosted the event, which raises money for Grassroot Soccer to fight the spread of HIV in Africa, in both 2012 and 2013, with the event bringing over 1,500 people to the stadium each time.

“People like to get down to the field and put their bare feet on the turf,” said Gordon Johnson, head of the tournament’s organizing committee. “It’s a great surface to play on, and the viewing area is superb.”

The most consistent user during the first calendar year, though, has been Northeast United Soccer Club (NEU), the local youth soccer league in Northeast Portland. In 2012 alone, NEU logged 515 hours at Tuominen Yard, which accounted for 20 percent of the stadium’s overall use.

That number pleases English, who deemed use for local youth teams as the “bull’s-eye” for the type of usage the athletic department would like to see.

“We really try hard to focus on youth, and particularly the youth from this area,” English said. “It’s not that we necessarily don’t go outside of that, but that’s the bull’s-eye, benefiting youth from north and northeast Portland.”

The department also helped fill a glaring facility need for the Central Catholic High School baseball team. Central Catholic has adopted Porter Park, the baseball side of Hilken Community Stadium, as its home field for each of the past two seasons.

Central Catholic had been playing their games at Sckavone Stadium in Westmoreland Park in southeast Portland, more than five miles away from their school’s campus. With the school’s agreement to play at Porter Park, however, the team can not only be assured to get all of their games in thanks to the NIKE Grind turf field, but also moved much closer to home. “We feel very fortunate to be able to use the facilities at Concordia,” Central Catholic Athletic Director Natalie Osburn said. “Andrew [Duvall] and coach [Rob] Vance have been great to work with. They’ve been very flexible and always try to accommodate our needs whether by adjusting games or game times.”

When Hilken Community Stadium was being built, Central Catholic was kind enough to host some of Concordia’s summer camps. So having Central Catholic play here is a great way to return the favor. Central Catholic’s generosity during that period was not forgotten, and now that the Concordia baseball and soccer teams have their own stadium, they remain determined to house as many teams as possible that may not have a place to play.

“I think as you look around the east side of Portland, there is a true lack of fields, and we were part of the problem when we were playing off campus,” English said. “Now we want to be part of the solution, and I think we’ve accomplished that with the new stadium.”
Concordia middle-distance runner Junia Limage has worked hard on the track in her career – winning three national titles in the indoor and outdoor 800 meters – but it doesn’t come close to the work Limage has put in off the track.

Limage, a native of Gonaïves, Haiti, has been financially supporting her half-sister and brother, Guirléné and Clotaire, who still live in Haiti, since she was 17 years old and a junior in high school.

She found herself in that situation after her half-siblings’ father passed away in 2005. Their father’s passing followed the passing of Limage, Guirléné, and Clotaire’s mother in 2000, leaving Guirléné and Clotaire without the support of a parent. According to Limage, when that happens in Haiti, it falls on the oldest surviving sibling to provide support for the others. So even though Limage was just a high school student and had not seen her half-siblings since she left Haiti with her father in 1998, the responsibility fell to her to support them.

Limage said that in some cases other relatives besides an older sibling can step in, but since she had moved to the United States, she was perceived as richer than she was and more than capable of filling the role of financial supporter. “It would be very selfish of me to be here in the U.S. and not send money back home,” Limage said. “I must, because I am now their parent.”

In that role, Limage rents a house in Haiti for Guirléné and Clotaire, while also paying for basic needs for both of them, as well as for Guirléné’s education. In order to do that, Limage has worked two jobs throughout her time at Concordia – and that’s in addition to her studies as an elementary education major and her role on the Concordia track & field team. Needless to say, that amount of responsibility has taken its toll on Limage, who struggled with it when she first came to Concordia.

“In high school it was fine,” Limage said. “High school you can work, do sports, and still have a good GPA. But then I came here and my GPA dropped big time because I had so much stuff that I had to focus on.”

“It’s been a long ride, but like they say at church, ‘God wouldn’t put anything on you He knows you can’t handle,’” Limage said.

Limage’s determination through track, school, and supporting her siblings in Haiti should not surprise anyone who knows her, though, as she has always had a strong work ethic. This came in handy when she first came to Portland as a 10-year-old and didn’t know any English. Limage was told she had one year to learn English before she’d be put back in a mainstream class for sixth grade.

Limage handled that challenge, however, thanks in part, to the strictness of her father, Kelny. “My father was really strict and said ‘you go to school, you do sports,
you go to work, you come home, you do homework and you repeat it over and over,” Limage said. “We couldn’t watch TV growing up, nothing, unless we had homework done and we read a book and wrote a summary.”

She’s since had to set a strict schedule for herself so she could handle all of her responsibilities in college. Once again, the discipline paid off for her, especially in track where she exploded during the 2011-12 school year, claiming four NAIA All-American honors between cross country, indoor, and outdoor track & field, including individual national championships in the indoor and outdoor 800.

In addition, Limage, who successfully defended her national title in the 800 meters at the NAIA Indoor National Championships this past spring, hopes that determination can lead to more success on the track after she graduates.

She would like to represent Haiti as a professional runner, which would make things much easier for Limage as she continues to support Guirléné and Clotaire.

In addition, Limage hopes to build an orphanage in Haiti – a dream of hers since she left her native country as a 10-year-old. Limage said the motivation for the project came from seeing the poverty throughout Haiti as she traveled across it on her way to America. I’m going to go over there, get an education, get a job, and then come back and build a home for these children because they don’t have anything and they’re begging for food and I’m going to make sure they have food and water just like I did back home.’ Just seeing that and having that mindset since I was 10, I’ve never forgotten it and that’s something I want to do.”

Limage says part of the motivation for the orphanage comes in part from supporting her half-siblings, who lost their parents. Guirléné and Clotaire, however, are lucky enough to have a half-sister like Limage, whose hard work has kept them out of similarly dire circumstances.

Of course, the orphanage will mean a lot more work for Limage, who says the idea remains just that until she can begin fundraising for it after she graduates from Concordia.

Even with the pressure of taking care of Guirléné and Clotaire, Limage will graduate in 2013 as one of the Concordia track & field program’s most decorated athletes. While those awards have been nice recognition for her hard work, Limage will get the ultimate reward when she finally gets to see Guirléné and Clotaire again this December as she travels back to Haiti for the first time since she left.

When she does, she’ll finally see the fruit of her hard work to support them. ◊
From Soccer Player to Soccer Coach:
CONCORDIA GRAD KATIE LIND FINDS SUCCESS DOWN UNDER

What do all-star college soccer players do when they graduate? If you’re Katie Lind, a 2006 Concordia grad, you travel half-a-world away and become the director of youth football in Auckland, New Zealand.

THE ROAD TO CONCORDIA
When Lind was in high school, she attended a soccer camp where Grant Landy was coaching. He spoke with Lind and her family about the NAIA division – something she knew nothing about – and got her to consider Concordia. “After visiting, I knew that it was going to be a great fit. They had small classes, so you could focus academically, as well as a stellar soccer program with a great coaching staff.” The rest, as they say, is history.

Her fondest soccer memory at Concordia? “It would have to be from the national tournament in 2004 in Santa Barbara, when we made it to the finals! Another was playing against girls from the Ghana National Team, when we advanced on penalties.”

COACHING AT CAMPS IGNITES THE DESIRE TO COACH
During her time at Concordia, Lind spent five summers helping out at Concordia soccer camps for area youth. “Dan Birkey, the men’s coach at Concordia, asked me to help coach at a youth summer camp. This is where my passion for coaching really developed. He challenged me to a higher level of thinking, beyond just the boring little drills you find in a book.”

“This is definitely what piloted my coaching drive with kids,” she says with a smile. “Spending every week with a new group and seeing them progress over the years, and now to hear that they have gone on and gotten soccer scholarships of their own is just fantastic – and a true testament of the program that Coach Birkey established.”

A LIFE-CHANGING TRIP
With a bachelor of arts in secondary education and an endorsement in health and physical education from Concordia, Lind started teaching in the Portland Public School District – first as a substitute for a year, then full-time teaching P.E. and health in middle school. The following year, she was moved to a different school where she taught a year of K-8 P.E.

At the end of that school year, Lind and a Concordia teammate decided to go backpacking in Europe for the summer. “While traveling, I met so many awesome people from all walks of life. I really fell for what the people from New Zealand and Australia had to say about the way they lived…and the possibilities that existed in the growing soccer community.”

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* Katie Lind
people from all walks of life. I really fell for what the people from New Zealand and Australia had to say about the way they lived…and the possibilities that existed in the growing soccer community.”

When Lind got back from Europe, she was told that she was being moved to a different school – again. That’s when it hit her. “If I have to learn new students again, why not do it in a new country!” So in August of 2010, she bought a one-way ticket to Auckland, New Zealand.

FROM PLAYER TO COACH

While she was waiting for her teaching certification to be converted to New Zealand standards, Lind inquired about playing soccer – or football as it’s called there. She began playing in a mixed male/female summer league. “I got a lot of attention because I was a girl who actually knew how to play,” she says. Word got out that an American was here who could play football and wanted to coach. “I contacted some clubs and tried to find the right fit. I found that fit with a club called Bay Olympic. After a few weeks of playing, they found me a team to coach for the season.”

Before long, she was asked to coach a few sessions for Auckland Football, which is at the higher “federation” level. More coaching certification followed. “At the end of the season, I was approached by the club directors about my philosophy on girls’ football and development. They liked my ideas and offered me the position as youth girls director at Bay Olympic. My role includes the oversight of all the girls’ teams that the club has to offer from 9-18 years of age. I provide coaching support as well as started an all-girls academy where we focus on fundamental skills and habits.”

MOVING UP THE LADDER

In addition to running the girls youth program, Lind was also asked to take on the role of player-coach for the women’s team. “I was hesitant at first but thought it would be a new adventure.”

During that season, she was approached to sit for her senior level 2 credential. It was a two week intensive course where coaches were evaluated by the head of New Zealand Football. “It was also very nerve racking,” she says, “as I was the only female out of 26 applicants. After two weeks and many on-the-pitch sessions, I was comfortable to sit for my final practical and passed!”

Having earned the highest senior level certification, Lind was next offered a coaching position within the National Training Centre, which is the future of New Zealand’s football program and is similar to the National Olympic Development Program in the United States.

A HAPPILY-EVER-AFTER FOOTBALL FOOTNOTE… Lind met her now-husband John in New Zealand while, what else – coaching football. They are expecting their first child, a daughter, as this story goes to press. They are also planning their first trip back to the United States in November. □
Cavalier Athletes Shine Bright

During Winter and Spring Sports Season

The past six months of varsity athletics at Concordia have seen seven individual national champions, 38 All-Americans, and seven different teams qualifying for the NAIA national championships. Once again, the Cavaliers are a force to be reckoned with. Here is a quick recap of the winter and spring sports teams.

Men’s Basketball

With third-team NAIA All-American Adam Herman leading the way, the 2012-13 Concordia men’s basketball team posted its best winning percentage record since the 2006-07 season.

The Cavs finished 15-14 overall thanks to a push during the latter half of the season that included a four-game conference win streak, as well as a stretch of six wins in seven Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) games.

The Cavs looked poised to host a quarterfinal game within the CCC Tournament as one of the conference’s top four seeds, but a tough finish to the regular season left them 9-9 and sixth in the conference. Then in the playoffs, the Cavs ran into a resurgent Southern Oregon University team on the road and lost 100-88.

Herman helped cap the Cavs’ season on a positive note, as he was selected to the NAIA All-America third team after the season. With the selection, Herman became the first Cavalier to earn NAIA All-American honors since Alex Hartman was named an honorable mention NAIA All-American following the 2006-07 season.
Herman earned the honor after leading the CCC in scoring at 22.4 points per game, the second-best scoring average in school history. In addition, Herman never failed to score in double figures during the 2012-13 season, and scored 20 or more points in 20 of the Cavs’ 29 games. Herman’s 2012-13 season also put him in position to become the Cavaliers’ all-time leading scorer next season, as he currently ranks just 361 points behind current all-time leader Alphonso Niles (1996-2000).

Guard Willy Ligon also earned all-conference honors as an honorable mention selection. Ligon, a newcomer for the 2012-13 season after transferring from Orange Coast College, earned the honor after finishing second on the team and fourth in the CCC with 16.5 points per game. Ligon led the Cavs from the perimeter during the 2012-13 season, finishing seventh in the conference with 2.3 three-point field goals made per game.

Most amazingly, though, the Cavaliers accomplished everything within the 2012-13 season without a senior on their roster. Consequently, the Cavaliers should have plenty of firepower back for a deeper postseason run during the 2013-14 season.

Women’s Basketball

Despite missing the Cascade Collegiate Conference Playoffs for the second straight season, the 2012-13 Concordia women’s basketball team showed marked improvement over the 2011-12 season, finishing with four more wins at 11-17 overall.

The Cavs fought hard to make the CCC playoffs at the end of the regular season, too, winning three of four heading into the final weekend of the regular season. However, back-to-back games against conference favorites The College of Idaho and Eastern Oregon University knocked the Cavs down to a tie for eighth in the CCC, where they found themselves on the wrong end of a tiebreaker and out of the playoffs.

Individually, several different players stepped up for the Cavaliers during the season, particularly Malori Dixon, Kelly Huey, and McKenna Daly.

Dixon scored over 20 points in six of the Cavs’ first 11 games before suffering a shoulder injury against the University of Puget Sound on Dec. 16. Dixon came back from the injury, though, and continued to lead the Cavs with 16.3 points per game a scoring average ranked fourth in the CCC. After the season, Dixon was named an honorable mention Women’s Basketball Coaches Association NAIA All-American.

Huey, meanwhile, came to the Cavs out of Skyline College in the San Francisco Bay Area, and posted one of the best all-around seasons in the CCC as the Cavs’ starting point guard. Besides ranking 18th in the conference with 11.3 points per game, Huey also ranked third in assists per game (4.7), fifth in steals per game (2.0), and 14th in total rebounds per game (6.0).

Finally, Daly was named the CCC Co-Freshman of the Year after showing dramatic improvement over the latter half of the season. During the Cavs’ final 14 games, Daly averaged 8.79 points, 7.64 rebounds, and 1.36 blocked shots per game. Daly also ranked second in the CCC with a .519 field goal percentage in conference games.

Huey and Daly both return next season during which the Cavaliers will look to continue their progression into the CCC playoffs.

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Golf

With head coach Ronn Grove at the helm, the Concordia men’s and women’s golf teams have quietly become one of the most dominant collegiate programs in the Pacific Northwest, with both teams bringing home conference trophies for the sixth straight season.

Despite a young roster comprised of three freshmen, one sophomore and one junior, the Concordia women steamrolled through the CCC season, winning the league title by 192 strokes over The College of Idaho. Junior Sunny Powers, the lone upperclassmen among the starting five, won medalist honors in five of the team’s 11 events in route to earning her second straight first-team NAIA All-American honor.

The women’s team went on to qualify for nationals for the ninth straight season where they finished in 16th place overall. Powers tied for 11th to become just the second Cavalier to earn All-Tournament honors.

The Concordia men, meanwhile, won the conference crown by 89 strokes over Warner Pacific College. Led by senior Jed Dalton, who was named a third-team NAIA All-American following the season, the Cavaliers placed in the top three in nine of the 11 tournaments they competed in during the 2012-13 season, including team wins on four occasions.

Track & Field

With six individual national titles between them, the 2013 track & field season turned into the Gabriella Dixson and Willy Irwin show. Dixson, who finished her Concordia career as a 14-time NAIA All-American, started things off by winning the NAIA title in the weight throw at the indoor championships held in Geneva, Ohio. Irwin, meanwhile, dominated the men’s shot put competition.

Successfully defending her indoor title in the 800-meter run, senior Junia Limage concluded her Concordia career with three national titles and eleven All-American accolades.

At the indoor track and field national championships, the men (fifth) and women (third) posted their best combined finish in program history.

Turning to the outdoor season, the Dixson-Irwin duo swept the national championships in the shot put and the discus to help propel the Cavaliers to a pair of top-10 team performances.

Dixson scored 24 points by herself to give Concordia a fourth-place finish while Irwin, who was named the men’s Most Valuable Performer, lifted Concordia to a seventh-place result. Besides the shot and discus victories, Concordia garnered four All-Americans in the hammer throw – with Bo Johnson and Adam Riddle placing second and third overall on the men’s side and Sharayah Kenady
and Dixson placing second and fifth, respectively, for the women. On the track, senior Linsie Michels cruised to a pair of All-American performances after both teams placed third at the CCC Championships. At the conference championships, where Concordia co-hosted the event for the third time in four years out at Mt. Hood Community College, nine Cavaliers posted winning marks while 13 more earned All-CCC honors.

Dixson and Irwin were named as the CCC Field Athletes of the Meet and went on to earn qualifiers for the U.S. National Championships. In the process Irwin earned a school record throw of 63-11 1/2 (19.49m).

Additional All-Americans for Concordia include Mikel Elliott (sixth, steeplechase), Ethan Moore (eighth, high jump), and Emily Redmayne (sixth, discus).

**Baseball**

Playing its second full season and hosting its second straight conference tournament at the spacious Porter Park inside Hilken Community Stadium, the Cavaliers theme for 2013 could best be described as “There’s no place like home.”

Competing as the number four seed in a five-team tournament, Concordia reeled off three straight wins to start the event and earn a place in the championship finale where they faced number two seed and defending conference champions Menlo College (Calif.).

The Cavs fell to the Oaks 9-7 in the first game, before rallying in the second game to clinch the title with a walk-off 4-3 win in the 10th inning – a win even more significant as it marked coach Rob Vance’s 300th career victory as the skipper for the Cavs.

A week later, while playing at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Championships opening round in Santa Clarita, Calif., Concordia finished on the wrong side of a 10-inning contest with an 8-7 loss against Tabor College (Kan.). The Cavaliers rebounded by pounding Cal State San Marcos 13-3 to set up another match against Tabor, falling again by a single run, 4-3 to conclude the season.

In just two years at the new park, Concordia has shown significant strides of becoming a national power, ending the year with a 30-27 record and gaining its first appearance at nationals since 2004.

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To help Cavalier fans connect with Concordia athletic programs, GOCUGO.com has added a special feature which takes a look behind the scenes of the lives of student-athletes and coaches who help make the Cavs one of the most successful NAIA athletic programs in the country.

So far this season, the Navy Spotlight has covered topics such as a volleyball player overcoming the rigors of daily practice while suffering from a terminal disease, the creation of a new business by a former men’s soccer player, and how a mission trip to Africa by one student-athlete has turned into a campus-wide life-saving effort.

Softball

Like the baseball team, the 2013 Concordia softball squad returned to nationals after a multi-year absence. Awarded one of 10 sites across the country to host the NAIA National Championships opening round, the Cavs guaranteed themselves their first national appearance since 2010.

Before that, however, the Cavaliers opened the year with 10 straight wins to quickly climb into the top-25 poll. Battling Oregon Tech and Corban University for the CCC title, Concordia eventually moved up to as high as a number 19 national ranking.

With a high-powered offense that set a school record with 67 home runs, the Cavaliers outscored their opponents by almost 100 runs (297 to 206) for the season. Freshman shortstop Taylor Copher led the Cavs with a sparkling .389 batting average while sophomore catcher Kate Santos set the single-season school record with 17 of the team’s round-trippers.

Senior hurler Ashley Suter paced Concordia’s pitching staff with a 2.65 earned-run average and 175 strikeouts in 179 innings of work inside the circle.

Copher, Santos, and Suter were joined by infield teammates Laura Luther (first) and Tobey Varney (third) on the All-CCC team after Concordia placed second in the conference standings and closed out the year by tying the school record with a 35-win season.
The Inverted Pyramid: Truly Transformational Teaching

One of the hallmarks of the Lutheran theological base of Concordia University is Luther’s notion, as stated in his 1520 treatise *The Freedom of a Christian*, that each of us is to be Christ to others. As Christ came to serve and not to be served, each of us is called to be servant of all. At first glance this may seem a pious platitude and little more. Upon further examination it has profound implications for teaching, learning, and life.

If one examines, for a moment, the nature of a servant and his or her master, there is a clear hierarchy involved. The master is on top and the servant is below. In many educational institutions, particularly in higher education, this model of servant and master is easily observable. I spent five years as a graduate research assistant at a major public university and it was clear that I was the servant and the professor was the master. While there were many fine individuals who bucked that trend, it was definitely the prevailing paradigm. The professor or laboratory head told me what to do and I did it…or else. In even more subtle ways, the classroom reflected that paradigm. The instructor’s role was to demonstrate her great knowledge and the student was to sop up whatever he might glean from the great exposition of wisdom. To be perfectly truthful, my early years of teaching were dominated by this paradigm. I honestly believed that my primary role was to share my knowledge and wisdom with students. They were to take notes furiously and be able to regurgitate copious amounts of information on whatever exam or quiz I wished to offer.

I cannot say for certain when my own paradigm shift began, but I know the seeds were planted years earlier by certain faculty mentors who behaved in a different manner. I was simply too naive and arrogant to recognize their wisdom. The shift began to take place about twenty years ago or so as I was wrestling with how to take on the new-to-me role as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. For the first time, I was confronted with a substantial group of very bright folks who each brought to the table a unique and valuable vision of what was important in life. It began to dawn on me that my role would be more effective if I saw myself truly as servant rather than master. If I upended the normal model of administration, I could empower those bright people in my college to use their God-given gifts in the most effective manner. If I didn’t care about the power or the glory, I could facilitate much more effective teaching and program development by playing the role of servant. My position became one in which I would sweep the path and remove barriers from in front of my faculty and staff. They became my master. In order to be a good servant, I would first need to really know each of them personally and find out what their goals were. Then I could assist them to meet those goals. This gave each of them the sense of empowerment that allowed them to reach their full potential.

I quickly saw the application in the classroom. My role was not to be the students’ boss but the students’ servant. In order to do that, I first had to develop a relationship with them that helped me know their goals and hopes and dreams. Then I had to find ways to assist them to overcome the barriers that were preventing them from achieving those dreams. This inverted pyramid model has continued to remake my own classrooms and, I know, has been adopted by many of the faculty in my college. The results are students who are learning not to answer questions on an exam but learning to meet their potential. They are moved from recipients of knowledge to creators of knowledge. That is truly transformational teaching. As Christ gave up His power to empower us, we are to become the servants of all. Luther had it right.

» Dr. Charles Kunert, Former Dean, Professor of Biology, College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences
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