



fall 2017
Concordia

UNIVERSITY TEXAS **MAGAZINE**

A CELEBRATION OF

**Opening
the Doors**

TO OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH



Ashley Alaniz-Moyer, '14

Ashley knew she wanted to earn her MBA and Concordia was the right fit. Concordia prepared her for leadership roles by helping to fine-tune her management skills and giving her real-world experience, such as a capstone project with Student Loan Genius. Now, she is serving as the Executive Director of the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium, where she oversees financial, program and development activities.

14 By Grace, through Faith

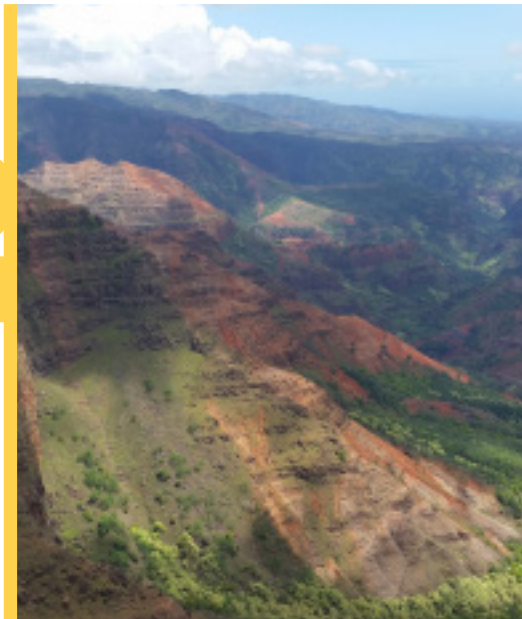


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**500th Anniversary
of the Reformation**

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Say Aloha



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BE A TORNADO

Take the world by *storm*

Since 1926, Concordia University Texas has been dedicated to the mission of developing Christian leaders. We are committed to being the premier university where the adventure of faith, learning and life-changing experiences leads to meaningful work. CTX alumni receive a scholarship when they choose to continue their education by pursuing a Concordia MBA. Find out more or sign up for an info session at concordia.edu/MBA.



Concordia University Texas Magazine *fall 2017*

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ABOUT CONCORDIA

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

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

The magazine is published twice a year by the university's Marketing & Communications office. It is provided free of charge. Please send comments, letters to the editor or story ideas to lisa.kessler@concordia.edu.



Greetings

FROM THE PRESIDENT

500 years...what a run! While Concordia University Texas proper is only 91 years young, our roots go back to that day in October 1517 when the young Dr. Martin Luther posted his 95 statements for debate around the use of indulgences and the power of the Gospel. Since that time, Lutherans (and especially those of us engaged in Lutheran higher education) have emphasized and embraced certain aspects of our history, theology and practice to shape how we think about teaching and learning. These include:

GRACE...understanding the centrality of the Gospel and placing Christ and His cross at the center of all knowledge and wisdom

PARADOX...teaching people to engage with multiple (and sometimes conflicting) ideas without trying to resolve the differences

CHRISTIAN FREEDOM...knowing that it is not only okay but imperative that we engage with the big questions of life and faith

TWO KINGDOMS...experiencing the Gospel and God's mercy while living with rules and consequences for our behavior

VOCATION...engaging in multiple roles to which we care called and, in the process, both serving the neighbor and giving glory to God

HUMAN FINITUDE...believing that doubt is the partner of faith and that questioning the truth leads to a deeper truth

In his book "How Christian Faith Can Sustain the Life of the Mind," Richard Hughes notes that:

"the Lutheran tradition possesses some of the most potent theological resources for sustaining the life of the mind that one can imagine. It encourages dialogue between the Christian faith and the world of ideas, fosters intellectual humility, engenders a healthy suspicion of absolutes and helps create a conversation in which all conversation partners are taken seriously."

For 91 years Concordia University Texas, as an institution of Lutheran higher education, has been educating students to go and take the world by storm...and they do so in a way that has been shaped by this deep Lutheran theological tradition. This issue highlights students who are living out that tradition, faculty who are serving in that tradition and alumni who are furthering that tradition. I hope that you will take the time to meet these new faces through the stories and pictures that make Concordia University Texas a special place. Your commitment to this place, your commitment to our students and your commitment to those who are served by our graduates will allow us to keep providing for years to come an education that sustains the life of the mind and changes the way people think about themselves, about others and about God...and all because of what happened 500 years ago.

Donald Christian
PRESIDENT AND CEO

TELL US WHY YOU CHOSE YOUR MAJOR AND YOUR DREAM JOB.

@JENTRY1348
I chose my major because I knew i wanted to help kids! My dream job is a pediatric oncology nurse.

@MICHAELMJK
Kinesiology major, Want to be a great high school coach, but also someone kids can look up to and be inspired by.



@JESSISTERNAT
I chose @concordiatx because of amazing professors! And the perks are going on mission trips with them to CAMBODIA.

@TORITHIBS
Don't be afraid to reach out! Talk to your professors, join clubs - CTX is one giant family!

@POECHRISTOPHER

I like ctx because the the campus is beautiful @concordiatx.

@DAUGHTEROFGOD99

I had **Amazing Grace** stuck in my head the week before visiting CTX for the first time, then we sang it at Chapel that day!

FACEBOOK REVIEW

My husband and I and my daughter and grand kids went to drop off my granddaughter Alyssa Rose Leyba. I thank God for leading my Alyssa to Concordia I can not imagine her any where else.

ROSIE GARZA

@KRISTA_CTX

Get with a tutor for help in your classes, and get involved in service-events to meet new people and have fun! Success =CTX



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE CONCORDIA?

@JOJO_MCDONALD10

I CHOSE CTX BECAUSE OF THE AMAZING COMMUNITY HERE!!

@VILLINESEMILY

I came to Concordia for the atmosphere, professors and amazing cross country team.

Follow Concordia

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



Reflecting on the 500th Year Anniversary of Nailing the Theses

On October 31 of this year, western Christians of the Protestant and Catholic traditions commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In Austin, Lutheran affiliated Concordia University Texas and Roman Catholic affiliated St. Edward's University also commemorated the Reformation in a series of lectures, discussions and concerts. The Reformation is traditionally considered to have been launched in 1517 on All Saint's Day Eve (or, All Hallows Eve, where we get the word Halloween) when Martin Luther purportedly posted his "95 Theses" (aka 95 points for debate) to the door at the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Historians debate whether Luther actually posted the theses on the church doors, but Luther certainly wrote them down and delivered them to his Archbishop in a conventional way: by letter.

This act of Luther came at a fortuitous moment, for while many clergy before Luther, such as Jan Hus, had attempted to discuss and challenge the practices of the 16th Century Roman Catholic Church, none of those challenges stuck quite like this posting did. The year 1517 would ultimately mark the beginning of the second major split Christianity between Protestants and Roman Catholics (the first being the split between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Church in 1054). Not only would this posting bring about theological divisions, it would also

lead to the religious wars that Catholics and Protestants fought all over Europe.

Written in Latin for the clergy and students of his day, Luther penned the "95 Theses" as debating points to discuss and clarify important matters of Christian theology, namely, the meaning of penance and repentance, the forgiveness of sins, and the nature of Church authority, especially the Church's practice of selling indulgences to forgive sin. In Luther's day, the "95 Theses" would have been similar to an academic paper, which contained a good solid thesis statement followed up by a series of supporting statements. Little did Luther, or anyone else for that matter, expect the consequence of that proposal.

But what was behind these "95 Theses?" Why did Luther pen them? What troubled him that he felt the need to write them down?

To understand that, we need to go back to the time before Luther had resolved his personal spiritual crisis of how he could find a merciful God by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. The central life-shattering answer to this human spiritual problem, namely that we are saved by God's grace alone through faith in Christ alone, would be uncovered later by Luther. But in 1517, while yet unsure of his answer, at least one conclusion seemed clear to Luther in 1517: getting right with God could not come from chiefly external rituals

Reflecting on the 500th Year Anniversary of Nailing the Theses

BY DR. CARL TROVALL

LEFT:
KILIAN DOORS
FROM HISTORIC
CAMPUS

Reflecting on the 500th Year Anniversary of Nailing the Theses

that the Roman Catholicism of its time demanded, namely, honoring of relics, pilgrimages, paying for Masses and purchasing of indulgences (of that more later). Luther wanted to find the way of getting right with God through internal means, which would produce not just external rituals and behaviors, but also internal change in the heart and a transformation of life.

In the fall of 1517, this fundamental conviction came to a head when Luther heard the Dominican and member of the Inquisition, John Tetzel, winsomely preaching about indulgences. Tetzel, a Walter Middy of the day, preached that Indulgences could be purchased to give sinners spiritual release. Proceeds from his superb salesmanship filled the bank accounts of Pope Leo X in Rome, Archbishop Albrecht in Mainz, and also John Tetzel himself. Tetzel could raise significant amounts of cash for the pope and the banker who backed the pope by selling certificates called indulgences. Details on the specifics of this market can be found in your history books, but to make a long story short, if you paid money for one of these certificates, you would not have to offer satisfaction for your sins or suffer in purgatory (a place of purging of your sins before the faithful get to heaven). Naturally, the larger the price paid for a certificate, the larger the spiritual benefit to yourself or your loved one.

Luther assumed that the papacy would be quite offended at this practice, in particular the practice of Tetzel. Luther also assumed, quite innocently, that the Pope would welcome Luther's challenge to this abuse. And, so Luther began to draw up his ideas to send in a letter to his Archbishop to make the essential point that indulgences drew people away from the proper fear and love of God, not toward it. If you were poor, you could not afford an indulgence for your own comfort or for anyone

“Was the Reformation a constructive event with Luther as a hero who rediscovered the centrality of the authority of Scripture and the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith alone, not by works of the law.”

else; if you were wealthy, you could purchase as many indulgences you needed or could afford, thereby driving people to either despair or complacency. Luther's criticisms of this practice became the “95 Theses” and he either sent them to the Archbishop, or nailed them to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, or did both.

What we now know as “95 Theses” were actually not thought through, but a series of ideas or proposals for debate. Some are clear, some are more challenging to understand. At least two things are significant about them:

1. They did not have the impact Luther expected; and
2. The genesis of Luther's theology, and Lutheran theology, that is contained in the “95 Theses.” Here are a few examples:

THESIS 62: The True treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.

Reflecting on the 500th Year Anniversary of Nailing the Theses

THESES 1-3: When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent” (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.

THESES 53-54: They are the enemies of Christ and the pope who forbid altogether the preaching of the Word of God in some churches in order that indulgences may be preached in others. Injury is done to the Word of God when, in the same sermon, an equal or larger amount of time is devoted to indulgences than to the Word.

THESIS 32: Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers.

Historically, we can see that Luther still had not yet come to the comfort of the Gospel...that in Christ alone, God looks favorably upon humanity; and that by faith alone one receives the benefits earned by Christ. That conviction would center the whole Reformation movement.

From our own vantage point in history, the Reformation has been interpreted in many ways. Was the Reformation a constructive event with Luther as a hero who rediscovered the centrality of the authority of Scripture and the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith

alone, not by works of the law? Or was Luther a heretic and church divider, who fragmented the church's unity forever into tens of thousands of Protestant sects? Was the Reformation a movement that spiritually liberated thousands from the demands of institution of the church and church-state tyranny? Or, did Luther and the Reformation destroy the idea of social authority to the point of fostering a hyper-pluralism of religious and secular beliefs that cannot be reconciled or adjudicated? Who are the John Tetzels of our own day, who promise God's grace through human effort or payment, monetary or otherwise? What practices do we engage in that actually move us toward knowing God's amazing grace better?

Or, was Luther a heretic and church divider, who fragmented the church's unity forever into tens of thousands of Protestant sects?

I close with these questions, not because there are clean answers to them, but because hopefully these questions, when honestly asked and discussed in communities of faith, will permit the ongoing reformation and renewal of our own churches.

The Reformation's central truth was that we are saved by grace through faith. We are made righteous by Christ's work, not by our own moral efforts or sacrifices. God has established our identity in Christ, we do not need to earn it or confirm it. In short, we have no need to justify ourselves, or to prove ourselves, nor do we need to fear God. **IN CHRIST, GOD LOVES US AND THE WHOLE WORLD. WE CAN BE AT PEACE WITH GOD.**

Carl C. Trovall, Ph.D., is Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Associate Professor of Philosophy and History at Concordia University Texas. He has also served as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Laredo, TX, and as campus pastor at Concordia University Texas and at the University of Texas.

SAYING

Aloha

SINCE
'91

BY ASHLEY SAVA

If you're a student at Concordia, you have probably heard about the pretty exciting trips that biology students have embarked on. Larry Meissner, Professor Emeritus of the Biology and Environmental Science departments, has been leading the courses since initiation in 1991.

"The first course was in the summer of 1991, and except for a possible exception, we offered the Geology and Ecology of Hawaii course every third summer, alternating between Geology and Ecology of Hawaii, Geology and Ecology of the Southwest and Ecology of the Pacific Northwest," he said. "During those years I took 113 students to Hawaii and was always joined by at least one other professor, sometimes more."

Counting all biology field courses, Meissner has taken a shocking 1,879 students on field trips since 1979.

"When the program was first started, besides giving students an excellent experiential learning opportunity, one of the objectives was to foster camaraderie and collaboration between biology faculty at sister Concordia campuses," Meissner said. "Each professor brings unique expertise to the program and we have learned a great deal from each other over the years."

Dr. Jennifer Hofmann, Assistant Professor and Biology department co-chair, said participation of multiple faculty members across several disciplines and from different Concordia Universities is what makes the course so special.

"I have learned so much from these field courses, both as a student and now as a faculty member," Hofmann said. "The knowledge and camaraderie from these trips have stayed with me for years and will continue to influence how I learn and teach."

Mea Attwell, a student who embarked on the latest Hawaii trip this past summer, said the class was a once in a lifetime experience.

"It was so cool to get to study all semester and then go out and apply everything we had learned," Attwell said. "I really loved getting to know my professors and the people on the trip and spending time with them."

She said the trip also knocked some things off of her bucket list.

"Every view, every hike, every day held something that took my breath away," she said.



Tornados

IN ACTION

BY ASHLEY SAVA



TYREENA HECK

TORNADO PROMOTES PREVENTION TO STOP VIOLENCE

Tyreena Heck, a Concordia student in the MBA program, is doing something amazing in our own backyard. She is working to stop domestic violence and sexual assault in its tracks.

Currently employed with the Texas Council on Family Violence, she constantly connects with influential allies in the domestic violence movement.

"The purpose of this work is to engage influencers who have the ability to mobilize our Texas communities, and to promote healthy relationships across the state," Heck said. "As a Prevention Coordinator, I work to promote healthy relationships within the community."

With a state-wide reach and direct local impact, the Texas Council on Family Violence shapes public policy, equips service providers and initiates strategic prevention efforts.

"Prevention is stopping violence before it even starts," Heck said.

Heck landed the job just weeks after graduating from University of Texas with a degree in Sociology and a Business minor. Before this, she worked as a Sexual Assault Primary Prevention Coordinator at Hope Alliance Crisis Center, making her well-versed in the domestic violence and sexual assault field.

"People assume that talking about violence and assault is only for sixteen-year-olds or teenagers," Heck said. "But working with our third grade students on healthy

communication, what it's like to be a bystander and an upstander, and reaching out to friends to see if they need help is beneficial."

Upstanders, are those that speak out when they see something that is wrong. While some people are too uncomfortable with conflict to stand up to bullies, anyone can learn to be good citizen.

"If you're non-confrontational, there is something you can do," she said. "Let someone else take over, a police officer, or a teacher, but

“Prevention is stopping violence before it even starts.”

let someone know there is something going on."

Heck said to never take on the "don't see it, don't hear it, it's not happening" mentality, as the majority of people in domestic violence situations do not report them.

Because prevention efforts in Texas are not widespread, Heck hopes to open her own organization for domestic violence and sexual assault prevention in the Austin area. She is working toward her MBA at Concordia for that very reason.

"Empowering others to have healthy communication helps prevention efforts," she said.

EMILY HILL

TORNADO PUTS ON LARGEST YOUTH RETREAT IN CTX HISTORY

Senior Tornado Emily Hill organized the largest Missional Youth Retreat in CTX history this past summer. Eighty students from across the state, as well as a few from Colorado and Tennessee, came to campus for a week of service, worship, learning and exploring vocation and mission.

"I spent the whole school year planning, but the key to making it the largest to date was starting the planning process early and reaching out to churches, nonprofits and Austin area businesses early," Hill said.

Throughout the week, the retreat served organizations all over the greater Austin area. They prepared meals for the homeless through Central Texas Food Bank, they helped clean up Concordia's Tornado Trail, they played beanbag baseball with the residents at Wesleyan Assisted Living, they worked on Faith Lutheran Church's campus, they played games and did yard work with the disabled at the Marbridge and they prepped meals for the Boys & Girls Club of Georgetown.

"I attended a Missional Youth Retreat in high school, so when I was excited to be the director of it at CTX," Hill said. "It was something that was really impactful for me before, so I was excited to put my own twist on it."

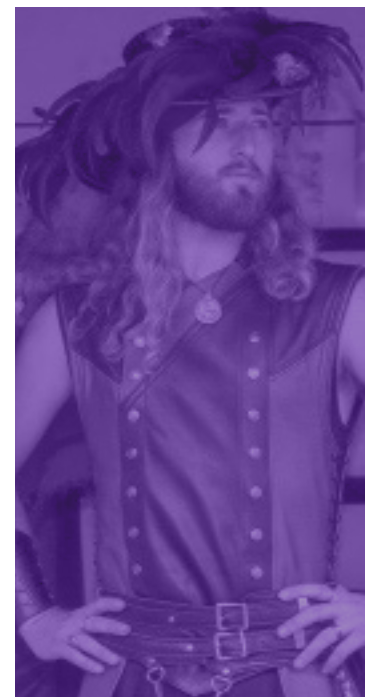
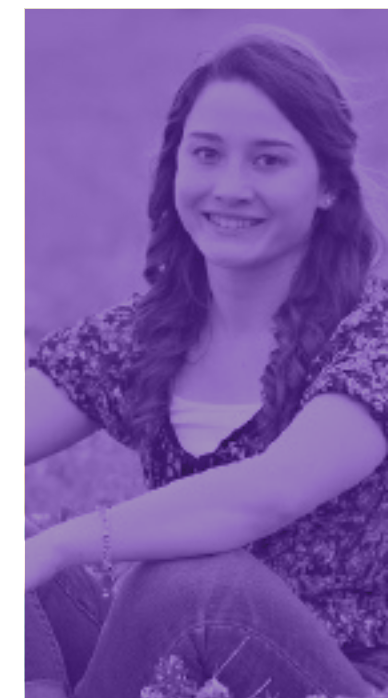
Concordia students volunteered as counselors during the retreat.

"When students weren't serving, they were at worship in the morning and at night, participating in small group time or participating in our nightlife events, such as Main Event, our own tournament game night (knockout and dodgeball) and the Galaxy Moviehouse & Eatery," Hill said.

The theme of the retreat was "to the ends of the earth."

"Meaning no matter where God calls you in life, no matter what job you are doing or who you are around, always spread, show and live out the love of Jesus," Hill explained.

Hill is a DCE major with a minor in Behavioral Science.



MICAH HODGES

TORNADO SPENDS FREE TIME WORKING RENAISSANCE FESTIVALS

Students at Concordia aren't just hard at work in the classroom. Take Micah Hodges, a Tornado that spends every ounce of time outside his studies in Renaissance and Shakespeare festivals.

"My fair name is Rooster," Hodges said.

More on that later.

Austin, Houston and Dallas all offer Renaissance festivals that keep Hodges plenty occupied. On any given weekend during Renaissance season, at least two of the three cities have festivals going on.

Hodges became interested in the Renaissance fairs after visiting a sword shop at a festival. He became fixated on a sword, but it was way out of his budget. The owners of the store talked him into working for it, in fact, at their very shop.

Shortly after, Hodges' family became involved with the festivals and opened their own shop called Heart of the Mountain Rocks, where they sell honeycomb calcite.

Besides helping with his family's shop,

Hodges does re-enactments for the festivals and is an aspiring actor. He's worked in Affluent Films, based in Round Rock, for almost four years. His goal is to get involved with Rooster Teeth, an Austin-based production company.

Speaking of Rooster, his fairmates have started calling him that.

"At Renaissance festivals, you have your fair name given to you," Hodges said. "But my grandpa gave me mine."

His grandfather named him that because as a baby he woke up at the crack of dawn "screaming his head off."

"He was the world's greatest grandpa, not just a saying on a mug," Hodges said. "After he passed away I didn't want to stop being known as Rooster so I had everyone at the fair call me that."

Hodges is studying Environmental Science and Communications at Concordia, a fitting dual major for someone with such a wide variety of interests.

Professors put academic theme into practice

BY ASHLEY SAVA

The theme for the 2017-2018 academic year, "By Grace, Through Faith," is taken from Ephesians 2:8-10. This particular theme reminds us of one of the central tenets of the Lutheran faith. Martin Luther insisted that salvation was given by grace through faith, not by works. As Lutherans, we believe that our salvation is dependent completely on grace and not works, but our salvation is going to produce good works.

According to Dr. Donald Christian, Concordia University Texas President and Chief Executive Officer, academic themes serve to shape campus worship and other areas of CTX life.

"I encourage all of us to think about how we can incorporate this theme into our daily interactions with each other, our syllabuses that shape how our students learn, our devotions and conversations across the institution, our co-curricular activities with students and other projects and initiatives the university undertakes," he said.

Faculty have worked to utilize this theme this semester and plan to continue to integrate it throughout the academic year.

Mathematics professor Kelly Lewis said she incorporates the theme by sharing her faith and showing grace.

"I have found it more effective than scripture memorization or lecture," Lewis said. "By being authentic, our students know we care about them and want the best for them. By being authentic, we can show grace and faith in our classrooms and be the body of Christ."

Dr. Carl Trovall, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, took a direct approach to making the theme heard.

"I have dedicated one class period in my Life and Leadership course to discussing the meaning and implications of the Reformation and the meaning of justification by grace through faith," he said.

Some professors are offering supportive words and encouragement to their students.

"I encourage students to continue on their faith walks and to put their trust in God and his plan for each of us," Nickles Chittester, professor of psychology, said. "We have our plans and God has his, I sometimes like to say. I offer this saying as another way to encourage students to have faith in God, especially during the times when things aren't working out in the way they'd like them to."

"I try and show grace to my students by having an open door policy where they are always welcome to come talk and share issues in a welcoming and non-judgmental space," Grant Carey, a DCE professor, said.

Director of Communication and Multidisciplinary Majors, Abigail Pfister, has her Interpersonal Relationships class spend five hours in a social situation with people they would otherwise never spend time with.

"Alcoholics, the homeless, those with physical/mental differences, those from different faiths, teenager moms, etc," Pfister explained. "I ask them to put aside their preconceived notions and really get to know these people as people. In short, show them God's grace."

Communication professor Philip Hohle even coined a new name for the student curve, Pure Grace.

"I've renamed the legendary curve we often give to students," Hohle said. "These are points the student didn't earn, and are freely given in spite of the student's performance. In the grade book on Blackboard I've titled it, 'Pure Grace.'"

"I encourage students to continue on their faith walks and to put their trust in God and his plan for each of us."

- Nickles Chittester, Professor of Psychology



BY
grace
THROUGH
faith

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
Ephesians 2: 8-10.



JOE GAYLOR



CTX celebrates 10th year on campus

We are now in our tenth year on our beautiful and scenic campus. Although Concordia's main campus has only been at its current RR 620 location for about nine years, it began operating on the original East Avenue location north of downtown Austin in 1926. Concordia was founded as a high school, grew into a junior college in 1951, evolved into a four-year college in 1980 and was officially declared a university in 1995.



THE INCUBATOR FOR INNOVATION AND IMPACT NOW OPEN

The Incubator for Innovation and Impact provides an accessible ecosystem and co-working for local entrepreneurs on the vibrant and scenic Concordia University Texas campus in NW Austin. If you're an entrepreneur interested in increasing your impact in our local community and beyond, visit incubatorctx.com and join us.

☎ 512.910.5702 ✉ info@incubatorctx.com ➔ incubatorctx.com

📍 Located on the Concordia University Texas campus // 11400 Concordia University Dr. // Austin, TX 78726

Remote Centers phasing out

Concordia University Texas is phasing out its last remote center this year, a project the university started years ago to serve our adult students across the state.

"When we began the ADP program in the 90s, we were one of the first to do accelerated adult learning in Texas," President and CEO Don Christian said. "That model has since faded due to technology, so we are changing with it as well, looking to see what is next in online and blended learning. This is something to celebrate.

🎓 Concordia has awarded over 5000 degrees since 2003 from its remote centers.

Concordia University Texas implements tuition lock program

Concordia is now a locked tuition university, meaning student's tuition will stay the same for two years at a time. University officials are excited as this new model will better allow students to plan for their educational goals.

"Locked tuition is a trend in the industry and we started researching if it made sense for us as an institution and for our students," KC Pospisil, Associate Vice President of Student Success and Retention, said. "After doing a lot of research, we felt it was a good model to try."

With the primary goal being to help students and families plan better financially for school, Pospisil believes that it will work well for CTX students.

"We see your education here at Concordia as an investment in your future," she said. "It is easier to make and sustain that investment if you can plan for it."

She believes it will also increase the likelihood of students receiving that coveted diploma.

"We think it will improve the chance of them completing a degree from CTX," Pospisil said.

How can students and their families start mapping out this investment plan? We encourage every student to take advantage of the resources available in Student Central.

"The most important resource is people," she said. "We have dedicated Student Financial Planners to serve as financial aid advisors and account representatives to help make sure you understand all the ins and outs of paying for college."

Understanding installment plans, methods of payment, loans and financial aid can be quite tricky and it isn't something anyone is expected to tackle on their own.

"Ask for help, even if you don't think you need it," Pospisil urged.

If you are continuously enrolled throughout your program without taking time off, we guarantee that your tuition rate will stay locked up tight for two years at a time. Now that's something to celebrate.

Concordia proud of Military Friendly status

Concordia University Texas is a 2017 Military Friendly School. Military Friendly is the military ratings division of Victory Media, a veteran-owned business that rates companies and colleges on their programs to recruit and retain military veterans as employees and students.

The Military Friendly School designation recognizes Concordia University Texas for demonstrating leading initiatives in recruiting and supporting post-military students.

Concordia offers multiple financing options to assist veterans and their dependents while pursuing their college education. Concordia accepts most VA educational benefits and is a participant in the Yellow Ribbon program.

➔ CONCORDIA.EDU/ADMISSIONS/MILITARY

Concordia library debuts Christian vocation collection

Students, faculty and staff can now check out books from the Meaningful Work Collection in Concordia's library.

Randa Scott, Director of the Center for Vocation and Professional Development, said when she first started studying Christian vocation she didn't realize how many books were available on the topic. However, after collaborating with professionals at conferences and through word of mouth, she was able to come up with 80 titles on the subject, more than 20 of which are already available for checkout. The rest of the titles will gradually roll in over time.

She hopes the works will enlighten interested readers about the concepts of Christian vocation.

"It helps answer questions such as 'what does vocation have to do with work?'" Scott said. "Our career is just one expression of vocation."

According to Scott, a grant from The Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) helped fund the collection. Librarians Mikail McIntosh-Doty and Angelica Delgado created a designated area in the library for the new collection and will continue to process books as they are available.

As humans, we often hug the fence between "it's just a job" and "my job is my life." Finding meaningful work can be the fulfilling solution.

"A consumerist society has created this," Scott said. "Exploring vocation can help."

A few months ago, Scott said a student came to her office requesting material to help her understand what vocation means in her personal life. Thanks to these new materials, Scott was able to help her identify the appropriate resource.

"The holistic nature of understanding vocation has helped me in my role to better serve students," Scott said. "The key to hearing the call for your vocation is understanding what vocation means and resources like these provide multiple ways of looking at it."

Remember Concordia University Press

BY ASHLEY SAVA

Concordia University Press (CUP) served its purpose of disseminating works of substance and general interest consistent with the heritage and mission of Concordia University Texas for several years before closing its operations this past summer.

As an agency of Concordia University Texas, CUP worked to fulfill the university's mission by publishing works that develop Christian leaders. Fifteen books were published during the reign of the Press, some of which went into second printings and three of which won national awards from Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis for Excellence as a Major Work.

"The Press was a wonderful endeavor for the University and a lovely brag point," Concordia librarian, Mikail McIntosh-Doty, said.

Dr. Joel Heck served as the Executive Editor with ties to the University administration. President Emeritus Dave Zersen served as Managing Editor with responsibilities for getting the board- identified books published.

Concordia University Press will be remembered for giving CTX intellectual stature and for the scholarly contributions it helped create.

Concordia University Texas now an AASHE member

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) empowers higher education faculty, administrators, staff and students to be effective change agents and drivers of sustainability innovation. Concordia University Texas is now a member of AASHE and encourages all members of CTX to take advantage of the membership benefits. Here are some resources available to everyone on campus.

"Joining AASHE is an important component to CTX's environmental stewardship initiatives," Zach Stark, Director of Environmental Stewardship, said. "The tremendous resources this organization provides will help us be more efficient educating our campus community and tracking our sustainability progress."

➔ For more information on the benefits of this membership, visit aashe.org/membership.



The press had most recently published a history of Concordia University, *Concordia on the Move*.

Here is the list of books published during the tenure of CUP:

- "Learners to Leaders" (Lectures of Concordia's more famous alumni)
- "A Rock Against Alien Waves" (Only English monograph of Wendish history in Europe)
- "Shaping Worship Space" (An architectural and theological study of church building)
- "Learning at the Foot of the Cross" (A study of various aspects of Christian education)
- "Shores of Hope" (A translation of a major work on Wendish immigration)
- "Transcontinental Encounters" (Scholarly treatments of immigration to the U.S. and Canada)
- "The Poetry and Music of Jan Kilian" (English publication of Kilian's music and poetry)
- "Worthy of Double Honor" (Life of Gotthilf Birkmann, first Texas District President)
- "C.S. Lewis Annual Calendar" (Personal calendar with a perpetual use)
- "Concordia on the Move" (The history of Concordia University Texas)
- "A Surprising Find in a Wendish Vault in Texas" (The discovery of Kilian's American Poetry)
- "Exodus of the Eight Hundred" (A novel about the Saxon immigration to Perry County)
- "Planting in Native Soil" (International scholars explore the inculturation of the Gospel)
- "Five Centuries: The Sorbs and the Reformation" (A contribution on the Reformation's 500th)



Jeremy Miller, Business Professor/Tattoo Artist

INK or SWIM

Business professor uses tattoo industry background to educate students

BY ASHLEY SAVA

When you close your eyes and imagine a Concordia professor who do you see? A clean-cut and prestigious looking individual wearing a dignified suit, glasses and perhaps a pocket protector? You probably don't visualize a young guy covered with ink. Jeremy Miller, a CTX business professor, knows that he doesn't fit the typical faculty mold and he embraces it.

Miller, once featured on Spike TV's "Ink Master," has been a tattoo artist for the past 15 years, and has been the owner of a local tattoo shop for eight years. You might be familiar with his studio, Pigment Tattoo & Laser Removal, located on

FM 620. Miller was personally inspired to open his small business due to the words of one of his professors.

"A grad school professor pushed me like no one ever had," Miller said. "He said it made no sense to work for someone else's shop when I could start my own business."

Just over a month after getting this advice, Miller was opening Pigment, which has been extremely successful, and this professor's impact is part of the reason why he decided to teach.

"I offer real-world experience to my students," Miller said. "I don't teach from the book. They learn from real-world scenarios like my own business endeavors."

His students say that the real-world analogies help them learn more effectively.

"It makes it relatable," he said. "They are picturing themselves in the situations themselves. The university wants to hire not just faculty whose studies revolve around learning, but faculty with real-world experience."

When he was starting out opening Pigment, Miller's landlord gave him some advice to live by.

"He said 'don't hit home runs, just hit singles,'" Miller explained. "That's what I'm doing."

He advises that anyone wanting to start a business should "plan, plan, plan."

"Aside from planning, accept the sacrifice before it has to be made," he said. "Most people don't have an instant success, it's more of a trickle."

Miller served in the United States Air Force for six years. He graduated from Southwestern College with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2008. He received his Master of Business Administration in 2012 from St. Edward's University. Currently, he is working toward his Doctor of Philosophy at Grand Canyon University.

"Opportunities present themselves all the time," Miller preaches to his students. "If you aren't ready, you'll miss them."

TORNADOS

2017
FALL SEASON RECAP

BY JOE FISHER

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The fall season is coming to a close for Concordia Athletics as men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country and volleyball all begin to prepare for their respective American Southwest Conference Tournaments, while the men's and women's golf and tennis teams completed their fall portion of their seasons.

In volleyball, the Tornados finished the regular season with a 16-10 overall, 10-6 conference record. It is tied for the second-most wins in school history equaling the win total of the 2000 team. Their 10 conference wins were also the most since the 2007 season. CTX qualified for the ASC Tournament for the first time since 2015 as they finished second in the west division.

The men's soccer team opened the season on a five-game winning streak, during which forward Omar Aguirre earned two ASC Offensive Player of the Week awards, while goalie Rob Oakley captured ASC Defensive Player of the Week accolades. CTX would go on to finish the season 8-4-2, 5-4-2 ASC, including a 4-1 win over 25th-ranked UT Dallas and earned the fourth seed in the conference. Alejandro Labastida became the program record holder in goals scored in a career with his goal against Mary Hardin-Baylor on Oct. 14 and finished the season with a team-leading six goals and 19 in his career.

The women's soccer team began the season with four-straight wins, their best start in program history. They would finish the season 10-7, 6-6 ASC to take the seventh seed in the conference standings. The Tornados were led by freshman standout Cayla Gonzalez, who scored 10 goals on the season. It is tied for third most goals scored in a single season and is the highest goal total in a season since 2012. The Tornados qualified for their eighth straight conference tournament appearance with their 3-2 win over Sul Ross State on Oct. 28.

In Cross Country, the men's and women's teams had successful season. Junior Emily Villines highlighted the season for the program, winning the women's team's first four meets of the year while also grabbing ASC Runner of the Week honors twice. In the ASC Championships, Villines finished third, her third-straight top-five finish at the

conference championships. She also earned her third-straight ASC First-Team accolade. On the men's side, the team took second at the Maryville College Invite, where Dylan Zoch had a top-ten finish individually. Zoch would also be the top runner for CTX at the ASC Championships with a 31st place among the field. The team will now prepare for the NCAA Regionals which take place on Nov. 11.

In the fall portion of their season, the men's and women's golf teams each had success in their tournaments. On the men's side, the Tornados opened the season winning the John Bohmann Memorial Tournament as Will Arend, in his first collegiate tournament, won the individual title and ASC Golfer of the Week honors. After competing in the prestigious Tournament Town Preview and Golfweek Invitational, CTX closed out the fall with a team and individual title at the Abilene Intercollegiate, as Ryan McGinley led the field, while it was the team's third-straight year of winning the tournament. CTX will enter their spring season ranked seventh in the nation according to Golfstat.com.

On the women's side, the Tornados would open the season with a top-five team finish at the Lady Bulldog Classic, led by Madyson Milliorn, who placed sixth among the field. In their final tournament of the fall, CTX placed fourth as a team while setting a 36-hole program record as they shot 320-325-645 over two rounds, beating the previous mark by six strokes.

The men's and women's tennis teams each competed in two fall tournaments. On the men's side, Micah Austin and Adam Compton would both finish as runner-ups in their respective draws at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional in San Antonio, Texas. On the women's side, in the ITA Regional, Justus Aarhus would place second in her draw of the tournament, while Camille Kempf and Alexis Popovich would reach the semis of their respective draws.

MEET THE NEW COACHES

Q&A

BY ASHLEY SAVA



LINDSAY
HANSON
WOMEN'S
SOCCER

Describe your coaching experience background.

I got my first USSF coaching license when I was 21 and started coaching recreational soccer after a professor recommended I pursue that path. From there I moved back home to San Antonio and coached club soccer in for FC Thunder Boerne and Alamo City Soccer Club while finishing up my undergrad degree. After graduation, I moved to Houston where I received a job coaching for Albion Hurricanes Futbol Club, where I spent a year coaching five different teams. I later moved to Austin and began working at Austin Sports Academy for Brad O'Kelley, the former CTX women's coach. He invited me on staff here at Concordia as a volunteer assistant in 2015. In 2016 I received the GA position, and in December of 2016 I was promoted to head coach.

Tell us about the typical day-in-the-life of one of your team members in the season? What about the off-season?

A typical day for one of my athlete's means that they have practice from 7 to 9 a.m., and then have class and homework the rest of the day. On other days they have practice from 3 to 5 p.m., therefore they have class beforehand,

practice and then work or homework. Some days also consist of team meetings and film, depending on the day and who we are playing for the week and whether we travel or not.

What is a typical day-in-the life for you as a coach during the season and off-season?

A typical day for me as a coach means reporting to campus at 6:30 a.m. to set up practice, and then practice from 7 to 9 a.m., sometimes meetings and chapel, breaking down film, responding to emails, following up with recruits, getting itineraries together for trips, emailing coaches to get scouting reports on other teams and occasionally meetings with some of my players throughout the day.

What excites you about coaching here at Concordia?

The family atmosphere, team dynamic and Christian campus is what excites me the most. I love that we as coaches are not just coaches to our athletes. We are also mentors, parents, coaches and leaders to them. We're allowed to share our views and values and not be turned away for that. I really enjoy how close the coaching staff is and how we are able to bounce ideas off each other.

What is your philosophy of coaching and its relationship to education?

I teach that family always comes first. That's not always immediate family, but the team and coaching staff. We all come from different backgrounds with different family lives, and with in all of that they need to know how

important having teammates really is, and that as coaches we will always have our doors open to them, whether it's just to come pass the time between classes or to talk about something more serious. Academics are also extremely important. Yes, I want them to be the best athlete they can, but we all know that after this they're not going to pursue professional careers in sports they are pursuing a career. We strive to have the highest GPA in athletics, so the girls are required to have study hall once, if not twice a week, depending on their GPA. I want them to walk across that stage in four years with a college degree and a career in line. Next comes being an athlete. That means making sacrifices and putting in extra work where needed. These girls have to know they are not just traditional students, but here to represent the university. When it comes time for the season to begin there are film sessions, weight room workouts, team training and sometimes individual or small group trainings. It takes a lot of time and work to compete at the highest level.

Tell us what you hope to accomplish in the next few years.

The women's soccer team has never been able to get past the first round of the conference tournament. We consistently make it, but can't get over the hump. My goal is for us to be able to get past the first round, and then from there begin to compete as one of the top four teams in the conference tournament striving for a conference title. In the meantime I'm going to continue on the foundation I already have, bring in more recruits to provide more options and depth.



LUKE HELM
MEN'S AND
WOMEN'S
TENNIS

Describe your coaching experience background.

I have been coaching tennis in various capacities since I was in high school. I served as a player/coach during college, and I have been a club teaching pro, a country club pro, and a college assistant coach.

Tell us about the typical day-in-the-life of one of your team members in the season? What about the off-season?

Classes early, practice in the afternoon, dinner and then they hit the books in the evening.

What is a typical day-in-the life for you as a coach during the season and off-season?

There is no typical day-in-the-life of a coach! I love the challenge each day brings, but aside from our practice schedule during the season, every day is different.

What excites you about coaching here at Concordia?

I have been working towards a job like this for years. I have been in the tennis world for most of my life, I have a master's degree in history and theology, and I'm almost finished with a master of fine arts degree in writing, and I joined Concordia looking forward to taking part in the life of the school. Operating in both athletic and academic capacities gives me a unique opportunity to engage with my athletes and Concordia students at large.

What is your philosophy of coaching and its relationship to education?

I'm convinced that becoming excellent in one field paves the way for excellence in other fields. My goal as a coach is to equip my players to be excellent at whatever they choose to focus on when their athletic and academic careers are over.

Tell us what you hope to accomplish in the next few years.

I hope to establish a culture of academic success, see our teams play for an ASC Championship, and I hope my players have the time of their lives along the way.



NICK MIMS
MEN'S SOCCER

Describe your coaching experience background.

After finishing undergrad, I began working as an accountant and I began coaching youth soccer on the side to stay involved in the game. I coached U14 and U16 girls teams for my hometown club Quad Cities United. I really enjoyed it and realized coaching was something I'd want to do full time. After a year of coaching with QC United I moved to Victoria, Texas to be an assistant coach for the men's and women's soccer programs at University of Houston-Victoria under head coach Adrian Rigby. After three years at UHV I accepted this position to be the Head Men's Soccer Coach at Concordia University-Texas.

Tell us about the typical day-in-the-life of one of your team members in

the season? What about the off-season?

A typical day for a men's soccer player includes a two-hour training session, twice a week they are in the morning and three times a week it is in the afternoon. Our student-athletes usually average two or three classes a day. Our team has study hall twice a week in the evenings, as well as weekly film sessions and other team meetings. Many athletes typically have appointments with our athletic trainers for recovery from injury and injury prevention.

What is a typical day-in-the life for you as a coach during the season and off-season?

A typical day for me consists of many different things and varies daily. During the season my tasks include obtaining scouting reports on upcoming opponents, planning training sessions based on upcoming games, running our trainings with both the first team and reserve team, meeting with players throughout the day, academic monitoring, breaking down film, setting itineraries for food, bus and hotel accommodations for road trips and following up with recruits.

During the off-season, my role shifts to more administrative work paired with recruiting. A typical day includes academic monitoring, setting team game schedules, reserving accommodations for road trips, fundraising for our program and meetings with players. Recruiting includes attending club and high school games, tournaments and camps to identify potential recruits for the Concordia Men's Soccer team. I then follow up with recruits via email, phone call and text to build the relationship and provide more information on our university and soccer program. We then have interested recruits on campus for visits and tours.

What excites you about coaching here at Concordia?

I am excited to coach a program in a community that aligns directly with how I was raised. The philosophy of developing Christian leaders and the ethics and morals I learned growing up in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are echoed in how I coach my student-athletes. It's great that the things we talk about as a soccer program are reinforced across all of campus.

What is your philosophy of coaching and its relationship to education?

My coaching philosophy is built around the pillars of hard work, discipline and doing all the little things right, on the field, in the classroom and in the community. If our student-athletes commit to those three pillars in all three phases of their life, they will put themselves in a position to be successful in everything they do. I believe the responsibilities of a student-athlete at the collegiate level, help to better prepare players for life after college. Being able to balance the rigors of an athletes' responsibilities while maintaining high academic standards will give an young man an outline of what it takes to be successful as the move forward in their chosen field.

Tell us what you hope to accomplish in the next few years.

My on-the-field goal is to win a conference championship in the next few years. The men's soccer program has made great strides to be a team that is consistently in the conference tournament. We have a special bunch of young men that have the ability to reach this goal very soon. I'd like to continue to grow the players off the field to be successful in the classroom and, as a result, beyond their time at CTX. I'd also like the men's soccer team to win the team academic award within the next three years.



MEGAN WAGENAAR
MEN'S AND
WOMEN'S
CROSS COUNTRY/
TRACK AND FIELDS

Describe your coaching experience background.

I was co-team captain on Concordia's team back when I was in college. While still in school, I coached middle school cross country and helped out with track. After I graduated, I moved to Houston and coached several cross country and track camps and private lessons. After moving back to Austin, I become an assistant coach at St. Edward's University. A year later, missing my home team, I become a GA here at Concordia.

Tell us about the typical day-in-the-life of one of your team members in the season? What about the off-season?

During cross country season, the athletes will either come to the 5:30 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. practice (depending on when they have class) every day. Twice a week, we will have weights, working on stability muscles, power and strength. These weight session will help the athletes maintain form towards the end of the race. We don't really have much of an off season. Once cross country season ends at the end of November, track season starts just a few months later at the beginning of the spring semester. During track season, we practice at 5:30 p.m. to about 7:30 in the evening. Most meets in cross county or track will be on Saturdays with a few Fridays.

What is a typical day-in-the life for you as a coach during the season and off-season?

As a coach, I will arrive at the

location of practice around 5 a.m. to set up the route. When my volunteer assistant coach is present, and the different pace groups are working well together, I have been known to jump into the workout with the athletes to help pace them and get them through a tough part in the workout. This is my favorite part of the day. Practice usually runs till about 8 or 8:30 a.m. and I make my way back to the office. When I am in my office, I am usually answering emails, recruiting prospective athletes, organizing meets, creating new workouts or ordering new gear.

What excites you about coaching here at Concordia?

I was an athlete here at Concordia. I completed all four years of cross country and track. I know the potential this program has, and I am driven to help get the program.

What is your philosophy of coaching and its relationship to education?

Athletics is often a door that draws people into college and helps them continue their education. The student desire to compete on a collegiate team draws them into college and away from the temptation to just go to work straight out of high school. College is the transition between living under one's parents and making it on one's own. A coach and the team is there to help in this transition.

Tell us what you hope to accomplish in the next few years.

I hope to build up the team. This year we have a lot of depth on the men's side and a few great women. I hope to continue to develop the men and recruit more women. We have a good chance on being top three in the conference for men and individual titles for women this year.

For more athletics schedule standings, go to athletics.concordia.edu or follow @CTXAthletics!

Faculty & Staff News



66

It was an amazing opportunity to get to go back for my 50-year reunion."

- Ron Hilliard, Nursing Professor

Once a Scout, always a Scout

NURSING PROFESSOR LENDS A HAND AT THE NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE

BY ASHLEY SAVA

Nursing professor Ron Hilliard used his expertise to benefit Boy Scouts of America. This past July, he traveled to West Virginia to serve as an Assistant Chief Nursing Officer on the Medical Team at the 2017 National Scout Jamboree.

The National Scout Jamboree is a gathering of thousands of members of the Boy Scouts of America, typically held every four years and organized by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Scouts from all over the nation and world have the opportunity to attend. The first jamboree was held in 1937 in Washington, D.C. and attracted 25,000 Scouts, who camped around the Washington Monument and Tidal Basin. Hilliard attended his first Jamboree in the sixties in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

"I still have memories of that first jamboree I went to," Hilliard said. "Scouting was a huge part of my life."

When the opportunity came around for Hilliard to offer assistance to the 2013 National Scout Jamboree 50 years late, he decided to go for it.

"It was an amazing opportunity to get to go back for my 50-year reunion," he said.

The jamborees are now held at The Summit: Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Mount Hope, West Virginia. He had such a great time during his 2013 stay that he decided to offer his expertise again for the 2017 gathering. So what exactly was he doing there?

First off, it's important to note that 20,000 scouts, 2,200 adult leaders and 5,300 volunteers all appear for this event. Due to the volume of people,

Hilliard said they have to create the infrastructure to support any potential accidents.

"In four days we create a city," he said. "A city needs police, a fire department, EMS, all the things it takes to support 30,000 people."

Eight base camp medical facilities and two hospitals were added to the mix. These were staffed with nurses, physicians and technicians. Hilliard served as a transportation officer and worked every day from 5 a.m. until midnight, taking those with illnesses and injuries to get their required medical attention.

We had 7,000 contacts for health care that week," Hilliard said. "Most were heat injuries and fractures."

With the 2017 theme being "Live Scouting's Adventure, it is no surprise that fractures occurred. The jamboree is known for being high-adventure, high-risk, offering BMX, skateboarding, roller skating, rock climbing, ziplining and whitewater rafting.

"It's a lot of work, but it's fun," Hilliard said.

President Donald Trump made an appearance at the jamboree and offered these words: "Each of these leaders will tell that you their road to American success, and you have to understand, their American success was paved with the patriotic American values and traditions they learned in the Boy Scouts. And some day, many years from now, when you look back on all of the adventures in your lives you will be able to say the same, I got my start as a Scout, just like these incredibly great people that are doing such a good job for our country. So that's going to happen. Boy Scout values are American values. And great Boy Scouts become great, great Americans."

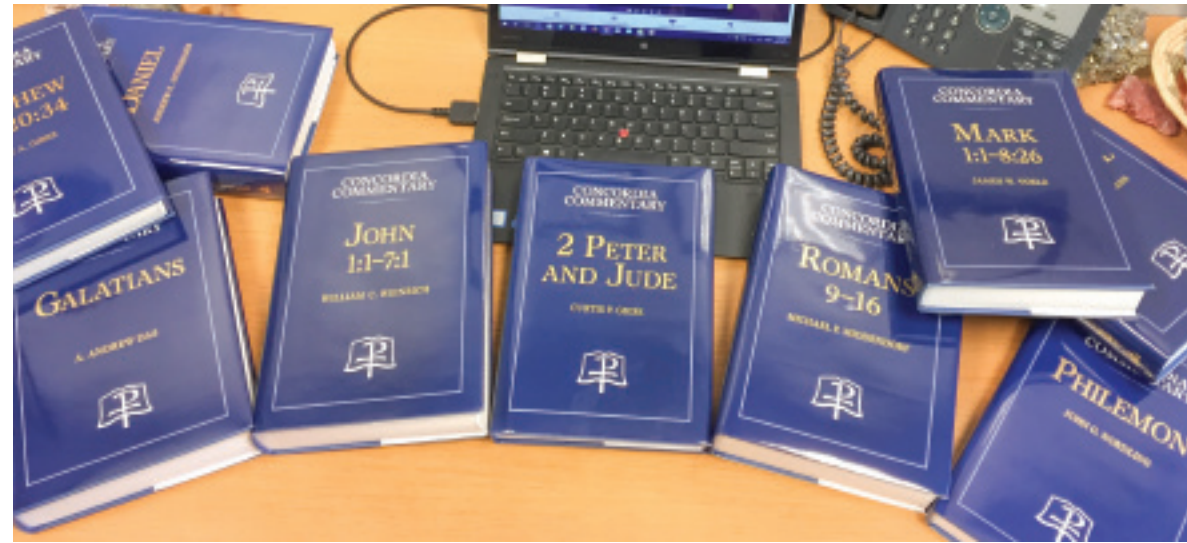
Hilliard encountered a 91-year-old Scout at the last jamboree. He hopes to continue experiencing these gatherings until he is the oldest Scout in attendance.

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Throughout the year, the Annual Fund helps Concordia students by providing them with financial and material support as they study, volunteer, work and play. Gifts of all size bolster the collective strength of the Annual Fund and gives students the opportunity to have the same life-changing experiences you remember. Help to empower them to join you in taking the world by storm! Make your gift today at concordia.edu/give. **TEXT YOUR GIFT AMOUNT TO (307)448-3289 [GIVEXTX]**





Seven days a week, James on his mind

BY ASHLEY SAVA

Greek and Theology Professor Curtis Giese is spending this academic year researching and writing the “James Commentary” in the “Concordia Commentary” series. The series, a scholarly collection of books, is intended for pastors, professors and bible scholars, and is published by Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis, Missouri.

Due to the extensive nature of the work, Giese was granted a sabbatical to tackle the project.

“I submitted the proposal for James in 2013,” Giese said. “I am blessed that Concordia graciously accepted and allowed me a sabbatical for research.”

He started working on researching the book of James over the summer. This volume will highlight the Lutheran emphases of Christ as the center of scripture and a proper distinction of law and gospel. This will be the second volume Giese has authored of the series, as “2 Peter & Jude Commentary” was published in 2012.

So what does a day in the life for Giese look like now?

“I go on a run every morning,” he said. “Around 9 a.m., I start researching and writing. This is about a nine-or 10-hour day. I always stop around 8 p.m. so I can leave refreshed for the next day.”

Although he is on sabbatical, he is still teaching two classes this semester. When he is not in the classroom, his days are filled at home

with the book of James, even his weekends.

“I divide each chapter of James into feasible sections,” Giese said. “I read as much as possible and gather the best information. After a reading day I make a detailed outline.”

In his home, he uses a combination of electronics and hard copy research to better understand James. He is particularly excited about unveiling the value of the book of James to the Lutheran community.

“It’s such a fantastic message,” Giese said.

“I want to get that out. It is such an underused book, and I’m excited to present it in a way professionals can use.”

Giese is also excited to have his work travel outside America.

“The Commentaries have been spread around the world,” he said. “We’ve had them sell in Africa and Asia, even.”

His work isn’t just on these tasks, either. Giese is the New Testament Editor of the Concordia Commentary series and has held that position for six years. During the spring and summer of 2017, he edited the “Matthew 21-28 Commentary” written by Dr. Jeff Gibbs of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Giese’s appreciation goes out to the Concordia community who he says treasures academics and biblical teachings.

“Being involved in a project like this develops me professionally,” Giese said. “I would not be the faculty member I am without these experiences.”



Mathematics professor partakes in Guatemalan service adventure

BY ASHLEY SAVA

Mathematics professor Karen Rhynard immersed herself in Guatemalan culture this past summer by participating in the Teacher2Teacher International program.

Rhynard arrived in San Lorenzo, Guatemala with the objective of providing staff development to the pre-K – sixth grade teachers at Centro Educativo El Porvenir. She focused on teaching math, particularly number sense and geometry. She tried to make the teaching as fascinating and creative as possible, so she used hands-on example and projects such as cutting fruit and making geometrical shapes by folding paper.

Most of the students had never seen a piece of colored construction paper before.

They picked up every last scrap and saved them all,” Rhynard said. “Their faces just lit up when we did the projects. They were so grateful for every single thing they received.”

The students had some different customs, such as brushing their teeth before entering the classroom.

“If you have never been to a third world country it’s truly eye-opening to see what’s important to them,” Rhynard said.

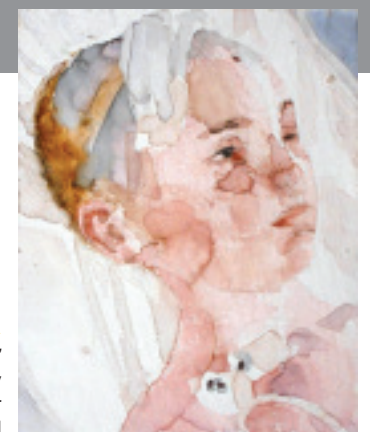
Teacher2Teacher International strives to provide culturally relevant professional development and support in STEM to teachers worldwide. The nonprofit program emphasizes a culturally sensitive approach that encourages student-centered instruction using community learning goals.

“It really was heartwarming to help those in a different culture,” Rhynard said. “They were most gracious.”

As for whether or not Rhynard will return again, it is not out of the question.

Painting by CTX professor exhibited in national display

Christopher Fitzgerald, assistant professor of art at Concordia, had one of his paintings on display at the View Multi-Arts Center in Old Forge, New York, from Aug. 5 to Oct. 9. His painting, entitled “Death Losing Grip,” was accepted into the 2017 Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors. A prolific practicing artist, Fitzgerald has shown in more than 50 group exhibitions throughout North America.



“Death Losing Grip” painting by Christopher Fitzgerald

For more information on the 32 volumes of the Concordia Commentary series currently in print, authored by Lutheran scholars from around the world, go to

→ CPH.ORG

Where Are They Now?

SEND US YOUR NEWS

We want to feature your incredible stories and celebrate all that our alumni are doing.

Share your accomplishments and your vocation with friends and fellow classmates. Submit your alumni note at alumni@concordia.edu, and see it in the next issue of the magazine!



CTX alumnus now WGU Chancellor

BY ASHLEY SAVA

Steven E. Johnson, '98, a Concordia University Texas alumnus, and a longtime executive of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, was named chancellor of Western Governors University (WGU) Texas this past September.

Johnson will direct the Texas branch of WGU, a private, nonprofit institution that offers mostly online curriculum. WGU Texas boasts more than 60 accredited undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Fifty-three-year-old Johnson was previously a senior vice president and chief operating officer of the community college group, which represents 50 community college districts in the state. Prior to that, he spent a year as the Director of Student Financial Services here at Concordia.

"I chose Concordia after meeting with Dr. Debra Allen in the spring of 1994," Johnson said. "As my advisor, and mentor, she made me believe I could achieve my dreams. This first meeting would lead to a deep friendship with Debra until her passing several years ago. It was clear to me that Concordia was truly a community of teachers and learners rooted in a Lutheran ethos that resonated with my Lutheran upbringing."

Johnson came to Concordia as a nontraditional student, more specifically, he was a 31-year-old freshman.

"The faculty, staff, and students made me feel at home," he said. "What CTX helped me discover was I really could still be a learner, and that is was okay to be an older student and that I could add

value to the classroom. That education set me on the path to where I am today."

Johnson earned his Bachelor of Arts in History at Concordia in 1998. He went on to pursue a master's degree from the University of Texas' LBJ School of Public Affairs and a Ph.D. in educational leadership and higher education from the University of Nebraska.

"I believe that education, and in particular higher education, is a fundamental way in which we can discover how we can each make a difference in this world for ourselves, our families, and our communities," Johnson said. "Concordia provided me the ability, knowledge and skills to serve in this type of a leadership role."



CTX alum works to set innocent free

BY ASHLEY SAVA

Hannah Boeck, '12, is exonerating the innocent. As a law school student at University of Wisconsin, she spent last summer working with the renowned Wisconsin Innocence Project, a legal clinic at the University of Wisconsin Law School with a mission for justice.

"Since it was founded in 1998, WIP has successfully exonerated more than 20 wrongfully incarcerated individuals," Boeck said. "It takes a long time to litigate these cases, which allows us the unique opportunity to be involved at various points in the process for each one."

Boeck worked on several different cases involving flawed eyewitness identifications, new DNA evidence, new research on Shaken Baby Syndrome, ineffective assistance of counsel and Brady violations.

1960s

Rev. Thomas Handrick Concordia Lutheran College High School '67, Concordia Lutheran College '69, Concordia Senior College '70, retired this past August after 39 years of fulltime pastoral ministry, from 1978 to 2017. He plans to spend his days with his children, his grandchildren and his wife, while providing part time pastoral support and assistance where needed.

Rev. Richard & Paula (Gruell) Noack '68 have been quite busy since retiring from full-time ministry at Trinity-Klein in 2014. They have traveled to Australia, New Zealand and Bible Lands (Israel, Turkey, Greece, Malta and Italy). Last year, they took a road trip to Alaska, where Rich served as short-term Interim Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Juneau. This year, they are researching their family histories and have visited sites in Texas, Missouri and Wisconsin. Rich is working on translating German letters, which originally were published in the Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt.

Rev. Paul & Jeanne (Laumann) Short '68 served in St. Andrew in Cape Girardeau, Missouri for 18 years, completing 40 years in fulltime ministry, 12 years of which were in Texas District. They retired in June of 2014. Paul served in Prince of Peace, Carrollton, Texas for 16 months as their International Interim Sr Pastor, July, 2015-October, 2016.

1980s

Suzan Winkleman '88 received the Distinguished Lutheran Middle School Teacher Award. This is the Lutheran Education Association's newest honor. Winkleman teaches at Zion Lutheran School in Georgetown, Texas. She teaches English and mathematics, while serving as Director of Curriculum for preschool through eighth grade, and as assistant principal. Winkleman was selected to receive this award by LEA's Middle School Network leadership team. She has been teaching 23 years.

1990s

Stacy Cozad '92 has joined Spirit AeroSystems, Inc. as senior vice president and general counselor.

Steven E. Johnson '98 was named chancellor of Western Governors University (WGU) Texas in September.

Kori Freeman Crow '99 was included in the "40 Under 40" Class of 2017 by the American Association of Political Consultants for her

achievements in politics and public affairs. She is the co-founder of KC Strategies, an Austin-based consulting firm.

2000s

Rev. Chris Kennedy '04, Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills in San Antonio, received his doctorate in Ministry this past May. His project was entitled "Sermon Impact: Extending the Preached Word."

2010s

Ted Doering '09 and **Chelsea Doering** '10 published a book titled "Myth of the Millennial" that is now available in stores.

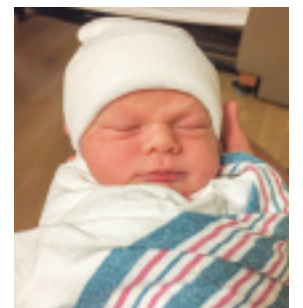
Jeremy Sanchez de Alcala '13 opening Green Space, TX a natural foods and juices food enterprise in the Buda area. His goal is to help an under-served market meet their nutritional needs.

Malori Carley '14 was named Williamson County's newest assistant prosecutor.

Sairam Pathi '14, MBA '17 is now CEO of Voyage Solar Energy, LLC, a premier solar installation firm for residential and commercial properties serving most of Texas.

BIRTHS

Concordia Enrollment Operations Analyst **Candice Hill** '08 and **Rev. Nate Hill** '08 announce the birth of their second son, Carter James Hill. Carter was born Wednesday, September 13 2017 at 8:52 am. He was 7 pounds, 12 ounces and 19 inches long. He was born at Saint Mark's Medical Center in La Grange.



In Memoriam

Roger W. Clark (1960-2017), a Concordia MBA graduate, adjunct instructor and admissions professional left this earth in October of 2017. A memorial was held for Clark on Oct. 14, 2017 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Selma, Texas.

Warren A. Ressel (1947-2017), a 1965 Concordia graduate, passed away on Oct. 5, 2017. A memorial was held for Ressel at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas on Oct. 9, 2017.



CHIEF SHANE SEXTON

SHARES PROGRESS, DISCUSSES WHAT'S COMING UP

Shane Sexton, Concordia's Chief of Campus Police, joined the Tornado family at the start of semester. He most recently worked for St. Edwards University and spent nine years in the Travis County Sheriff's Office prior to that.

CHECK OUT THIS LIST OF WHAT SEXTON HAS ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR AND WHAT IS COMING UP 📌



- 1 IN SYNC WITH APD
- 2 TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION
- 3 NEW OFFICER ON CAMPUS
- 4 SAFETY APP
- 5 CONCORDIA POLICE CAR
- 6 TORNADO OF THE MONTH PARKING SPOT

KEY

- 1 With six new radios, and a direct line to the Austin Police Department, the Concordia University Texas Police Department is better prepared than ever to get the latest up-to-date information on incidents happening in the area surrounding our campus.
- 2 Use of Report Exec, an automating reporting process technology, allows the Concordia Police Department to efficiently communicate within the department and to gain quicker access to reports and investigations. In other words, our officers will spend less time on tedious paperwork, and more time out in the field, keeping our community safer.
- 3 Officer Manuel Jimenez Jr. was hired this fall. Jimenez has a very impressive resume with more than 25 years of law enforcement experience.
- 4 A safety app called TornadoSafe is coming to Concordia in 2018.
- 5 Concordia will have its own decked out police car, and we can tell you it's going to look pretty awesome. We don't want to spoil anything, but this is not your typical cop car.
- 6 Expect a Tornado of the Month parking spot to emerge in the next year to recognize those ordinary faculty, students and staff who are doing extraordinary things to help their neighbors.



COME + CONNECT

MARCH 1-4 2018

Please join us for Concordia Crossing, our university's annual community celebration! Our long and varied history of crossing through change—of different mascots, locations and generations—is also one of faithful commitment to education, service and God. Featured programming includes a 50-year reunion dinner for the class of '68; a celebration of the decade of the '80s; special honors for the classes of '68, '93 and '08; a preview day for prospective students and a breakfast for church professionals. Events designed for families, friends and current and prospective students will take place throughout the Crossing's entirety. This event is an opportunity for everyone to come together to celebrate all things Concordia.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE THE FIRST WEEKEND OF MARCH 2018!
FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER: 📍 CONCORDIA.EDU/CROSSING

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#95 DOORS IN 24 HOURS!

500 years ago Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church. These doors symbolized the removal of Human obstacles to God, and reminded the church that grace and forgiveness are free for all who believe in Jesus. We celebrated opening the door to faith with our #95DOORS campaign on Snapchat!

