

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

TEXAS

M A G A Z I N E

Never a Doubt

CTX baseball captures 2011 American Southwest Conference Championship and competes at NCAA West Regional

Rev. Jerry Kieschnick

Former LCMS synodical president named Presidential Ambassador for Mission Advancement



Spring 2011
Vol. 3
Issue 2

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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS

M A G A Z I N E

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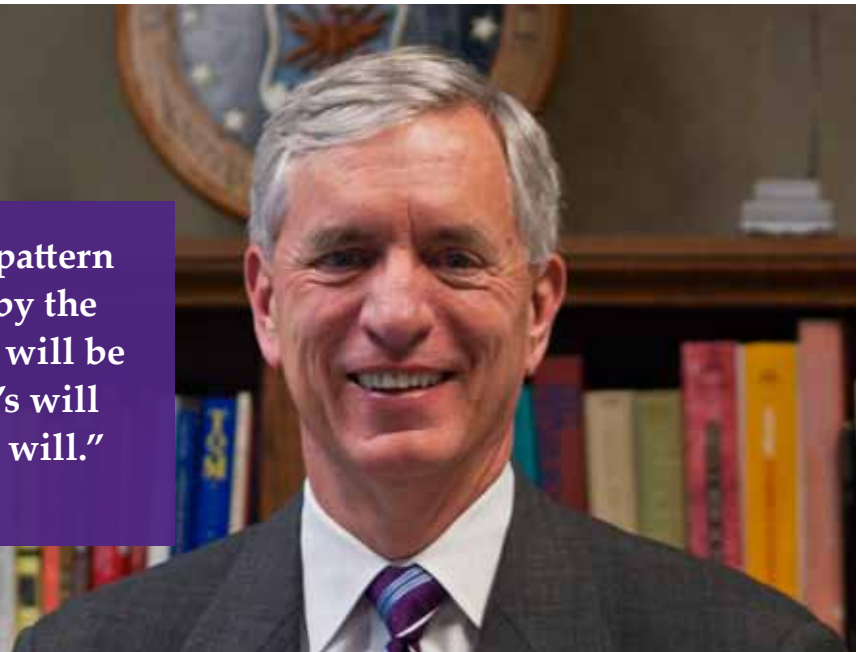
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Concordia University Texas is a private, coeducational institution of liberal arts and sciences offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. Concordia offers an Accelerated Degree Program for part-time students and adult returning students. Concordia University Texas is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is under the auspices of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

www.concordia.edu

Cover photo: junior Collin Janssen, ASC West Division Player of the Year

**“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.”
Romans 12:2**



Dear Friends of Concordia,

As we close another school year and prepare for the next, it’s a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of the year and the people and programs who have been transformed by impactful learning, inspired service to others, and prayerful commitment to be leaders in our faith, our community and our chosen vocations.

The music program was especially busy this spring including numerous chamber events and recitals, a powerful choral presentation of *Elijah* and a fund raising event, Ben and I Play for Peace, to raise money for Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids. The theater program was resurrected, with the first performance, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, opening to a full house.

The MBA and nursing programs continue to grow at impressive rates, with the MBA expanding to San Antonio this fall and the nursing program adding classes focused on medical missions and service.

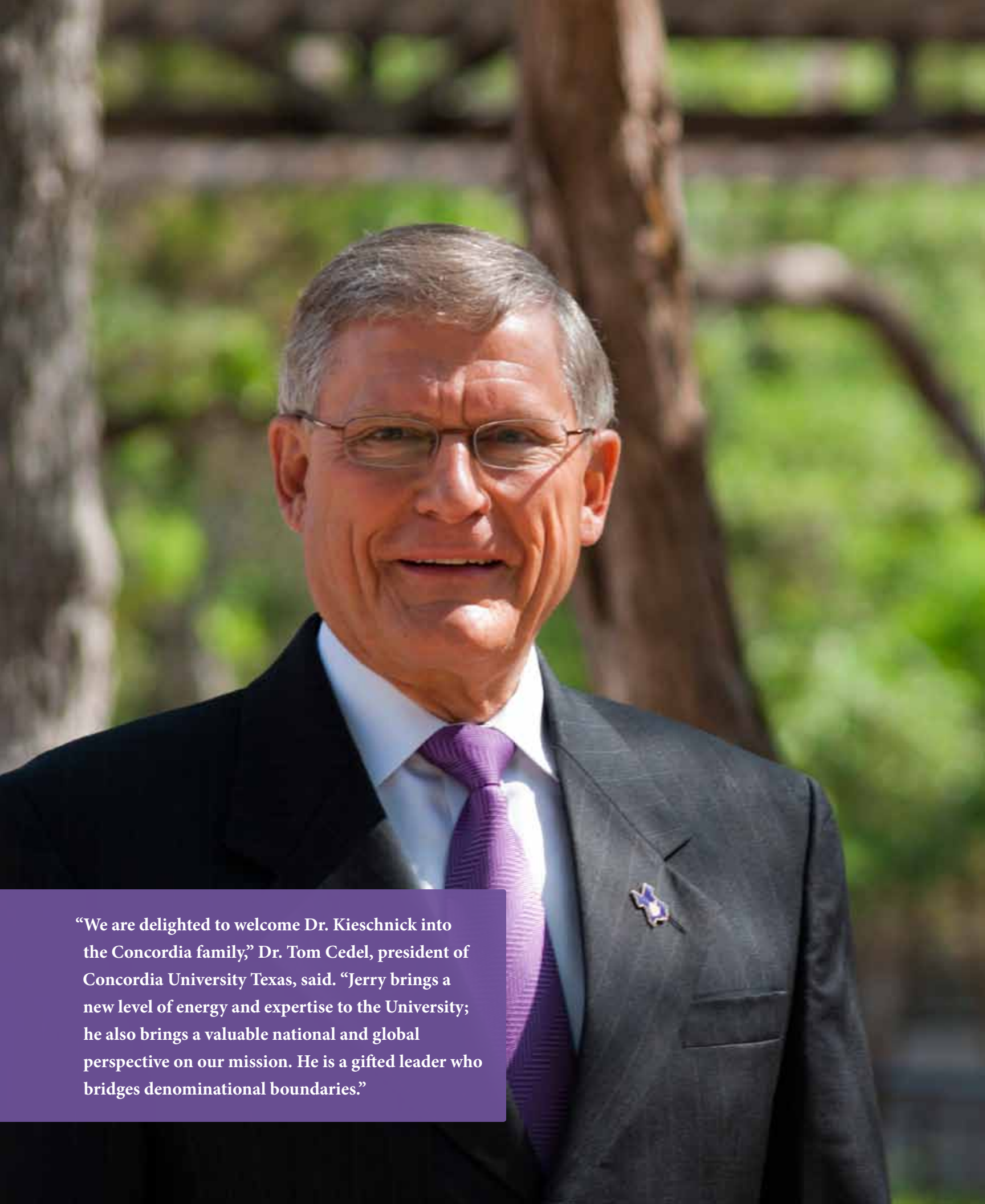
Thanks to the generosity of donors, a brand new state-of-the-art baseball field was completed this school year and dedicated in April. The baseball team realized, not only the

blessing of this gift, but the fruit of their hard work. They played host to the ASC west conference playoff series as a number-two seed, won the conference title and competed at the NCAA regionals. Additionally, 10 of 13 sports advanced to playoffs this academic year, a record in our school’s history.

We are excited about the future as we begin to implement a new vision for Concordia (more about that in the fall) and expect another exceptional freshman class. Enrollment numbers are projected to be at a record high. All of us at Concordia are truly blessed to be experiencing God’s rich blessings and thank you for your support in our mission to develop Christian leaders.

Yours in Christ,

Thomas E. Cedel, Ph.D.



“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Kieschnick into the Concordia family,” Dr. Tom Cedel, president of Concordia University Texas, said. “Jerry brings a new level of energy and expertise to the University; he also brings a valuable national and global perspective on our mission. He is a gifted leader who bridges denominational boundaries.”

Rev. Jerry Kieschnick

By Melinda Brasher

Former LCMS Synodical President named Presidential Ambassador for Mission Advancement

Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, President Emeritus of The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, joined Concordia's staff in March as the Presidential Ambassador for Mission Advancement.

Kieschnick has experience in multiple facets of ministry and mission and brings an expanded vision for outreach. In his new role, Kieschnick will nurture and expand existing relationships with congregations, organizations, foundations and individuals to support Concordia in its mission of developing Christian leaders while conducting necessary outreach to foster new relationships for the advancement of the University.

"The Lord has given me gifts and experiences to use in the cause for Christ," Kieschnick said. "Coming to Concordia provides opportunity to think creatively and act strategically,



Rev. Kieschnick and his wife Terry on campus at Concordia University Texas.

influencing younger generations with the Gospel of Christ. I look forward to becoming an integral part of Concordia's ministry and working with various constituents to further the University's mission of developing Christian leaders."

As the 12th president of the LCMS for more than 10 years, Kieschnick helped lead the Lutheran Church into the 21st Century. He began his presidency just three days before the September 11, 2001, terrorism attacks and was responsible for restructuring the church body and guiding its people to express their faith in Christ. Prior to leading as the LCMS president, Kieschnick served the Missouri Synod's Texas District as a circuit counselor, director of public relations, and president. Other career highlights include several roles within

the Lutheran Foundation of Texas and as pastor for churches in Biloxi, Mississippi, Beaumont, Texas and Georgetown, Texas.

"Concordia is a great place for Jerry to use his gifts as a leader. He has a strong doctrinal understanding of the Gospel and a perspective that allows him to listen to and engage people," Ken Hennings, Texas District president, Missouri Synod, said. "He knows what's going on across various religious communities and brings experience and credibility to Concordia's mission."

An alumnus of Texas A&M University, Kieschnick is returning to his native Texas. Rev. Kieschnick and his wife, Terry live in Georgetown. Their two children and two grandchildren live in central Texas.



Rev. Ken Hennings, Texas District President for the LCMS, installed Rev. Kieschnick on March 12, 2011 at a special service.

Faculty & Staff Highlights



Dr. Cheryle Vasquez, an instructor for the M.Ed. program at CTX- Houston Center,

has released the first book in a series of planned children's books that deal with strength, character and diversity. "No Tildes on Tuesday" was published in December 2010, and is for sale at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.com.



Dr. Christine Woodworth, an instructor for the M.Ed. program at

CTX- Houston Center, has published an innovative math curriculum, "Linking the Literature". The curriculum is designed to link reading and writing with basic math skills. The curriculum, released in 2010, complies with National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards for grades K-6.



Welcome to **Lydia Martinez** and **Nancy Larson**, who both began new positions as admissions counselors at the CTX San Antonio Center in April.



Rev. Dr. David Kluth made two presentations at the annual meeting of the

Association of Lutheran Development Executives (ALDE) in Portland, OR February 12-15. The sessions dealt with effective use of technology within professional presentations and featured a new look at Power Point along with emerging visual and audio media tools. Dr. Kluth is vice president of University Services and associate professor of communications at Concordia's main

campus in Austin.



Dr. Joel Heck, professor of theology at Concordia's main campus co-edited

"Learning at the Foot of the Cross: A Lutheran Vision for Education" with Dr. Angus Menuge of Concordia St. Paul. The book is intended as a guide to educators who seek to be more intentionally Lutheran in their teaching. It is the first book since Allan Hart Jahsmann's "What's Lutheran in Education?" (1960) to articulate a Lutheran philosophy of education applicable to all grades. The book is available through Concordia University Press. Email Dr. Heck at joel.heck@concordia.edu or call (512) 313-5408. Dr. Heck also released a new book in April: "In the Beginning, God" that focuses on the book of Genesis. This is

Hall of Fame Professor



Tom Orton, associate professor of history and geography, was inducted into the Valparaiso University Athletic Hall of Fame on February 19, 2011. He holds Valparaiso's all-time records for

a single-season batting average of .457, and a career batting average of .393 and won the Bronze Medal as a member of the U.S. Olympic Baseball Team in the 1959 Pan American Games. He also played four years as a catcher in the Detroit

Tigers Minor League system. In basketball, Orton was a three-year starter at Valparaiso. As Concordia's basketball coach, he led his 1983 team to a 30-7 record, winning the Little College National Championship. The Hall of Fame Induction coincided with the 50th wedding anniversary of Professor Orton and his wife, Lois. Tom has served on Concordia's faculty since 1979 and will retire at the end of the spring semester after 32 years of service.



Lt. Col Tony Burgess is a full time faculty member at the United States Military Academy at West Point, who came to Concordia on a sabbatical

CTX meets Westpoint

during the fall 2010 semester as a visiting research fellow. During his time here, he team taught a sophomore leadership course with President Tom Cedel, as well as worked with a number of faculty members and sports teams in leadership development. While

here, Tony was also selected for the rank of colonel. Tony and two fellow officers were the founders of www.companycmd.com, a virtual leadership laboratory for junior officers in the Army.

his third publication to be released in the last year.



Michael Aldridge, Assistant Professor of Nursing was featured in Nurse Educator for his innovative

teaching style that moves away from traditional Power Point lectures to a more interactive outline format.



Dr. Keith Ellen Ragsdale, Associate Director and Professor for Concordia's nursing

program at the main campus, received the prestigious Billye J. Brown Award for Excellence in Leadership by the Sigma Theta Tau International, Epsilon Theta chapter. Sigma Theta Tau is the only International Nurse's Honor Society and is a global community of nurse leaders for the purpose of improving the world's health through knowledge, scholarship, learning,

and service. Dr. Ragsdale was the second recipient to receive this award, recognizing her leadership and innovation in nursing education for over 25 years.

Scott McKinlay, history professor at Concordia's north Lamar (Austin) campus received the Nonprofit IT Executive of the Year award from the Austin chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals. McKinlay also serves as IT manager of the Austin Children's Center.



Dr. Curtis Giese narrated a commentary on the biblical books

of Jude and 2 Peter in the "Concordia Commentary: A Theological Exposition of Sacred Scripture".



Patti Mitschke (front row blue sweater), Student Support Coordinator for CTX San Antonio Center was invited to speak to the women of the North Sea Baptist Church in Stavanger, Norway. The retreat theme was "Friendship. Fellowship. A Deeper Connection." It focused on Jesus' words from John 15:5. The retreat was held at Holmavatr Missjons Senter, March 25 – 27, 2011.



Dr. Thomas Pate was granted sabbatical for the spring 2012 semester. He will

be doing follow-up research to prior work on the link between coaching preparation and future athlete injuries.



This is the first year of the new Concordia International Study Consortium program, of which CTX is a participant. The first destination was Costa Rica and the first faculty leader is Communications professor, Dr. Paul Muench.



Dr. Ann Schwartz was granted sabbatical for fall 2011.

Her primary research will be participation with a research team studying adopted children and relationships over time.



Dr. Elise Brazier will take over the role of MBA Program Director in May. Elise has been

serving as Center Director for the Main Campus since coming to Concordia in January 2011.



Linda Ford, founding director for the MBA program will leave Concordia in May

to pursue consulting full time. Linda's

dedicated work helped make the program a success in its first year.



Tatenda Chieza was hired in March to lead the men's soccer team. 'Coach T', a native

of Waco, Texas served as a graduate assistant men's soccer coach at Hardin-Simmons for the past three seasons while pursuing his masters degree. During his tenure there, the team qualified for the ASC tournament each year and advanced to the third round of the 2009 NCAA tournament.



Dr. Debra Allen, history professor, received the

Martin J. Neeb Teaching Excellence Award during

commencement in April. Named for a distinguished member of the original Concordia faculty, the Martin J. Neeb, Sr. Teaching Excellence Award was established in 1989 by a Concordia Council to recognize a faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding qualities as a Christian educator in and out of the classroom. Dr. Neeb taught at Concordia from 1926 to 1945.



Tom Orton, associate professor of history and geography, **Bob Otey**, associate professor of education, and **Marlene Sherfy**, executive assistant for business services, are retiring at the end of the spring semester.

Zersen Receives Award



Shores of Hope, a publication of Concordia's own university press, received a 2010 award for "significant contribution to Lutheran heritage in America."

Given annually by Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis, an archive and museum of Lutheran history, the award singles out major works of importance to the Lutheran church.

The Board of Concordia University Press chose to publish this work because it tells an important story about Wendish Lutheran immigration to Texas as well as to other countries including Australia, South Africa, Canada, and South America. The story of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Texas began under the influence of thirteen Wendish Lutheran congregations. These congregations ultimately founded in 1926 the school that became Concordia University Texas.

Because the original 1999 work was authored by Trudla Malinkowa in both a German and a Wendish edition, Concordia's Press worked with three translators. The Press' Managing Editor, David Zersen, served as the supervising editor and translator for the project.

Concordia University Press has published eight books in the last three years and has four more in process. All books can be reviewed and ordered on the Press' website, www.CUP.edu, or through the Concordia University Bookstore at www.concordiabookstore.com.

Dr. Joel Heck serves as the Executive Editor and Dr. David Zersen as the Managing Editor. The Press' office is in the Concordia Library and can be reached by calling 512-313-4995.

In photo at left is CUP managing editor, David Zersen.

Students Learning Leadership



Five Concordia University Texas students were selected to participate in The Hatton W. Summers Leadership Conference, held at the University of Texas. Student leaders learned about types of leaders, leading effectively and making ethical decisions. The student participants from left to right are: Adam Case, Michelle Hille, Alyssa McCormack, Kalynn White, and Gavin Ellis.

CTX Iron Chef Competition

Residential Life hosted the 3rd Annual Iron Chef cooking competition. Three esteemed judges: John Adams, Assistant Director of Student Services; Donald Christian, Dean for the College of Business, and reigning Miss Texas and CTX alumnus Ana Rodriguez tasted submissions and voted on the winning team. Teams of three to four competed using secret ingredients and only a coffee pot, microwave, and blender to

cook their entrée, side, and dessert. It truly was a sight to see. Congratulations to Lizzy Curtis, Stephanie Karolus, and Sharon Whightsil on their victory. The 4th Annual Iron Chef: College Edition will take place in the fall of 2011.



SHRM and Habitat for Humanity



In April the Society for Human Resource Management, student chapter at Concordia University Texas, participated in a service project benefiting Habitat for Humanity.

For more information on SHRM contact Jessica Clements - jessica.clements@ctx.edu

Spring Banquet 2011



This year's annual Spring Banquet took place at the beautiful River Place Country Club, situated in the gorgeous northwest Austin/Lake Travis hill country not far from the main campus of Concordia University Texas. This formal event, sponsored each year by Student Activities, is the closing major event of the semester for traditional age students, and took place on Friday, April 15.

"The students have a blast getting all dressed up and enjoying a night of great food and dancing with their friends," John Adams, Assistant Director of Student Services said. "This year's highlight was definitely the breathtaking views out at River Place."



Through a Child's Eyes

By Kayla Brock



This boy is the subject of Kayla's story and one of the many reasons she continues her work with CAN-DO.



Kayla has been particularly touched by her time spent with the people of Hooper Bay, Alaska, a village on the Bering Sea. Here she is pictured with Jalen. Kayla is a sophomore studying religious education.

Imagine, one hundred and sixteen children, seven white tables, twenty boxes of crayons, and two hundred coloring sheets filling the tiny room that stood empty ten minutes earlier. The tables were surrounded by children whose hands reach back and forth for the crayons that were scattered over the table. They all have mismatched clothes

We have been blessed to have approximately 1,500 people per year participate in mission trips.

that are very worn and covered in last night's dinner. Many do not have shoes and their feet are white from the dust of the dirt roads. Despite their appearance, they are some of the happiest children I have ever met.

Of all the children I came in contact with that week, there was one little boy I vividly remember. He was five or six and his chubby belly slightly stuck out of a shirt that was too small. He came up to me and tugged on my pants. I got down on my knees to be at his eye level and watched as his smile grew bigger, then slowly faded into a frown as his eye caught sight of my cross necklace. I did not know Spanish, so telling him about Jesus was out of the picture in my mind so I simply said, "Jesus." His smile came back and he turned and ran off.

He quickly returned with his coloring page and proudly held it up. It was a

picture of Jesus that was colored red, blue, and orange. I looked at him and a feeling of joy and happiness filled my heart because this little boy understood me. He laid his picture on the ground, grabbed my hand and placed his in mine. He then placed his pointer finger in my palm. A grin appeared on his face and he quickly touched my side. He grabbed a red crayon and drew a cross on the paper. This little boy was telling me about Jesus! I excitedly grabbed a crayon and traced my hand to see his reaction. He looked at me and then back at the paper and drew a red dot in the middle where the nail would have been on Jesus' hand. I looked at the paper again and slowly smiled as my heart began to overflow with joy.

Mission trips have allowed me to see God at work through experiences like this one. I have learned that God is bigger than any language barrier. Even



Students help pain a house at the Apache Indian MissionWhite Mountain Apache Reservation.



though the little boy and I could not communicate verbally, God allowed us to share His love with each other.

My first Can-Do mission trip was in 2006, and since then, my life has not been the same. It is humbling and life changing to give all your time and pour it into someone else and show them God's love through words and actions. Nothing in life can compare to the impact you can

Personal expenses to travel on mission trips vary: from \$210 to \$2450. Donations are encouraged to help support this ministry.

have serving God and others. Because of the awesome experiences I have had on mission trips, my dream is to one day be a missionary, ideally in Africa, but more importantly, wherever God leads me. Mission trips have helped me realize that I can be a missionary anywhere. There are many places in the United States in need of our help, as much as third world countries. We do not have to travel hundreds of miles to share God's love story. I think the coolest part about the mission field is that we are in it right here, right now!

WHERE CAN-DO HAS BEEN

- New Orleans, Louisiana
- White Plains, Arizona
- South Africa
- Orphanage in Brazil
- Guatemala
- Corpus Christi, Texas Hooper
- Bay, Alaska
- Hong Kong

WHAT CAN-DO DOES

CAN-DO participants have repaired and rebuilt homes, counseled in a women's shelter and volunteered for the Boys and Girls Club, provided incarnational assistance to the people on an Apache reservation, taught and served the rural poor of South Africa through the Thembe Trust schools, which function like a working farm, where missionaries teach workmanship and renovate facilities. They have provided vacation bible school, medical clinic support and soup kitchen services. Participants have also provided bible studies for women and teens and participated in Rogate.

WHERE CAN-DO IS GOING

CAN-DO is working with the nursing program to develop medical mission trips to Belize, Guatemala and Haiti, starting in the summer of in 2011.

Get Involved

For more information on CAN-DO missions and how to get involved contact:

Pat Fick, Director
 patricia.fick@concordia.edu
 www.can-do.concordia.edu

Phone: (512) 313-4331
 Office Phone: 512-313-4330
 Office hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Toll free number 866-254-8546

A Story of Service

By Mark Harris

Mark is a junior studying behavioral science at CTX.

My involvement with Service-Learning began during my first semester at Concordia University Texas. One of the leaders in the program asked me to join a group of volunteers who visited Summit Assisted Living on a weekly basis, and I gladly accepted the offer. At first it was a great opportunity to get to know some of my fellow students and a chance to play some blackjack. As time progressed my motivation began to change, and I became more and more attached to the residents of that place. Many of them also cared deeply for me and often thought of me as though I were a grandson.

Each week, when our group would arrive at Summit, the residents were very excited to see us; it has definitely been their favorite time of each

week. One resident, Betty, is always particularly excited to see me. She faithfully waits by the front door and her face lights up when she realizes that I am “that Mark”. She and a dozen other residents of Summit Assisted Living asked me to lead weekly Bible studies on an additional evening each week. Sharing the Word of God with them has been truly phenomenal. Some of the regular attendees have progressive Alzheimer’s and cannot usually

remember the topic of a conversation for more than a few minutes, but they are fully aware of the message of these Bible studies that often run for more than an hour in length.

During my freshman year, I was also involved in a few other projects organized by Service-Learning such as Mobile Loaves and Fishes, a service to the homeless community, and the Texas Ramp Project, which provides wheel chair ramps and a greater level of freedom to handicapped individuals. Through these, I developed connections with some of the Service-Learning student leaders.

Toward the end of that year, they approached me and asked me to apply for one of the leadership positions in the



Mark and other CTX students serving through the Texas Ramp Project.

program. I applied and was accepted as one of the Service-Learning Leaders for my sophomore year. The leader who had been coordinating the visits to Summit Assisted Living graduated, so I assumed the responsibilities of the relationship between that organization and Concordia. Volunteers visited faithfully each week that year; the entire softball team was attending for a couple months as well. I also had the opportunity to lead Concordia volunteers on a few building efforts through the Texas Ramp Project.

During that year, I also became involved with fund raising efforts to build a water well in rural Ethiopia through an Austin-based, Lutheran nonprofit organization, Water to Thrive. To accomplish our monetary goals, we pursued several diverse endeavors:



Mark at the Water to Thrive Banquet, holding a 5 gallon jug used by rural Ethiopians to get the day's water.

selling water bottles, partnering with a Group Dynamics course, and even organizing an Ethiopian-themed benefit banquet for the faculty and staff. After much time and effort we were able to meet our goal and finance a well that serves hundreds of people who had never before had consistent access to clean water in the history of their community.

This year, I continued my previous commitments to Summit Assisted

Living and to Water to Thrive. As my connection with these entities has developed, God has opened several doors to new ministries and connections. I was able to work with a handful of people from Texas Lutheran University to strengthen their connection to the work of Water to Thrive.

God has indeed blessed me richly through involvement with the Service-Learning Program, and I trust that this upcoming year He will continue to mold me. The director of Service-Learning, Dr. Ann Schwartz, will be on sabbatical this fall. In her absence, she has asked for me to lead the program. I look forward to this opportunity to grow in my relationship with Christ and to serve my neighbors in a new way!



Water to Thrive

Nearly 1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water world-wide, but the Concordia Community is working to change that through their partnership with Water to Thrive, a project to help people in rural Africa build wells. Since 2008, CTX has raised enough funds to fund three wells, approximately \$15,000 in total. These wells are benefitting thousands of people and saving lives.

For more information on Water to Thrive, please visit www.watertothrive.org

To help CTX with their fund-raising project to support Water to Thrive or other Service Learning activities, email servicelearning@concordia.edu.

Learning Through Service

Service-Learning at Concordia University Texas



Academically-Based Service-Learning (ABSL) provides students with the opportunity to engage in service learning in connection with coursework through linking service experiences with relevant assignments and activities. Service-Learning leaders organize and facilitate a number of service opportunities, occurring on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.



Service-Learning

NEIGHBOR SERVING NEIGHBOR - LUKE 10:29

Program coordinator: Dr. Ann Schwartz, professor of Sociology

Student Liaison: Mark Harris

For more information:

Contact: servicelearning@concordia.edu

www.concordia.edu/service_learning

Ongoing service opportunities include:

Environmental improvement projects at Emma Long Park

Bible study and recreation with residents at Summit Assisted Living Center

Volunteering at the Baptist Children's Home in Round Rock

Building ramps for the disabled through the Texas Ramp Project

Raising money through the Isaiah 49 program to fund clean-water wells in rural Africa through Water to Thrive



From left to right: Perla Lobera (CTX '11), Leah Brown (LSS), Kristen Ellis (LSS), Heather Hunnicutt (CTX '11)

Totes for Tots

In collaboration with Lutheran Social Services, students in the Isaiah 49 program conducted a Totes for Tots campaign, an effort to gather overnight bags, clothing and toiletries for foster kids. During the campaign, more than 30 suitcases and/or backpacks were collected in addition to a generous donation from Kim and Kyle Hughes and the KCL Foundation. That money helped purchase supplies to fill each

suitcase with one outfit, a pair of pajamas, a toothbrush, hairbrush, socks and underwear for foster kids ages 1-18.

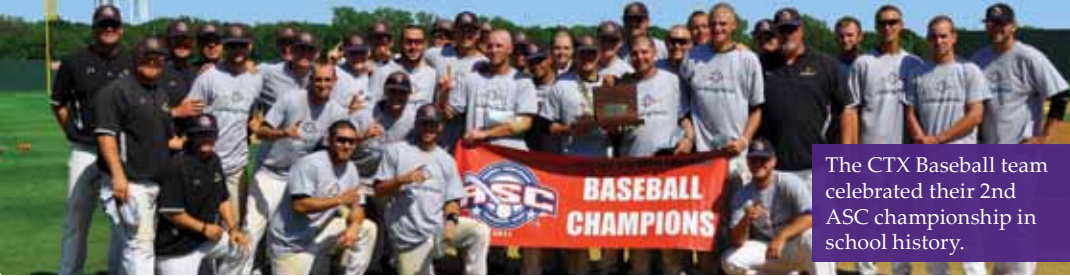


For more information on the Isaiah 49 program, please visit www.concordia.edu/isaiah49



BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

photo by Greg Weighorst



The CTX Baseball team celebrated their 2nd ASC championship in school history.

Concordia's baseball team (32-17) put together one of its biggest turnaround seasons in program history under the direction of second-year head coach Tommy Boggs. After winning just 15 games in 2010 and being picked to finish sixth among eight schools in the 2011 American Southwest Conference West Division preseason poll, the Tornados more than doubled their win total, won a share of the West Division

title for the third time in school history and captured their second ASC championship by knocking off the host school on its home field twice this spring. Boggs' squad ended the 2011 campaign at the NCAA West Regional championship tournament by defeating two nationally-ranked opponents before being eliminated by Chapman University of California on Friday, May 20.

"I'm so excited for the kids as far as they've come, the things they've been through, as hard as they've worked," head coach Tommy Boggs said. "I've been in this game a long time. It's so special to watch them out there."

The CTX baseball program will have a lot to look forward to next season, as it is slated to bring back all but 10 graduating seniors. Concordia's 32 victories in 2011 were the second most in the program's NCAA Division III era, only trailing the 35 wins that were recorded by the 2002 team.

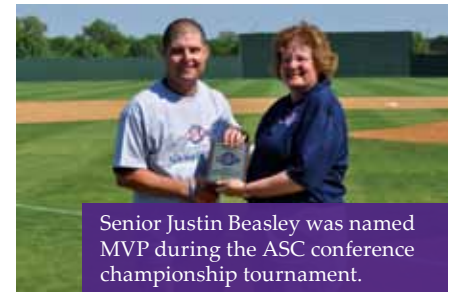


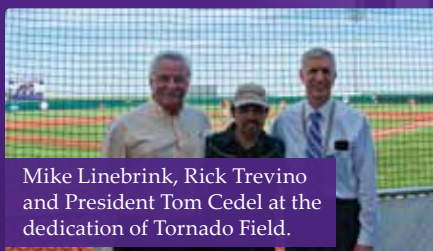
photo by Greg Weighorst

Senior Justin Beasley was named MVP during the ASC conference championship tournament.

CTX

Baseball Field Dedication

Concordia dedicated a new baseball stadium on April 12, followed by a double header against The University of Texas at Brownsville. Concordia broke ground on the baseball stadium



Mike Linebrink, Rick Trevino and President Tom Cedel at the dedication of Tornado Field.

in October 2009. Construction of the stadium was made possible through two generous donations: a \$2.25 million anonymous donation and an additional \$300,000 from former Concordia baseball player Scott Linebrink, who is currently a pitcher with the Atlanta Braves.

Austinite and country music star Rick Trevino sang the national anthem at the dedication game that evening.

Mike Linebrink, Scott Linebrink's father, threw out the first pitch. The athletic department also hosted Special Olympic athletes at the games that night to kick-off of the new NCAA DIII National Student Athlete Advisory Committee's partnership with Special Olympics.

You can read more about the baseball team's winning season of success at www.athletics.concordia.edu.

Baseball individuals collected numerous post-season honors

11 players were voted to the 2011 All-American Southwest Conference West Division Baseball teams including:

Catcher and utility player **Collin Janssen**
ASC West Division Player of the Year and All-West Division First Team as utility player and All-West Division Second team as catcher

Pitcher **Colin Butschek**
ASC West Division Pitcher of the Year

Second baseman **Matt McManemin**
All-West Division First Team

Starting pitcher **Pedro Maldonado**
ASC West Division Second Team

Outfielder **Bucky Bryant**
ASC West Division Second Team

Designated hitter **Justin Beasley**
ASC West Division Honorable Mention

First baseman **Robert Brown**
ASC West Division Honorable Mention

Shortstop **Colton Gommert**
ASC West Division Honorable Mention

Third baseman **C.J. Riojas**
ASC West Division Honorable Mention

Reliever **Bryant Hernandez**
ASC West Division Honorable Mention

Reliever **Ryan Ullmann**
ASC West Division Honorable Mention

Other Awards

Senior **Justin Beasley** was named MVP during the ASC conference championship tournament on May 8.

First baseman **Robert Brown** and outfielder **Brent Schaeckel** were named to the NCAA West Regional All-Tournament Team during the NCAA regional tournament on Saturday, May 20.

Coach's Corner

Denise Lira - Head Softball Coach



Denise Lira finished her first season as the head softball coach at Concordia by taking the girls to the ASC playoff tournament in April and finishing the season with an impressive 24-18 record.

Lira comes to Concordia after spending the last eight seasons at The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton. There, Lira helped lead the team to seven ASC tournaments, three West Division titles and one NCAA Regional tournament appearance.

Lira served as the UMHB assistant coach for five seasons. In 2008, Lira and the rest of the Lady Cru coaching staff was named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association

Regional Coaching Staff of the Year after advancing to the NCAA Regional Tournament. The Lady Cru coaches were again honored in 2010 after earning the ASC West Division Coaching Staff of the Year, following their third division title in four years.

Prior to Lira becoming full-time at UMHB she spent two seasons as a student assistant coach. Lira also played two seasons for the Lady Cru, earning All-West Division in both seasons. Her collegiate career began at Ranger Junior College before transferring to UMHB.

Lira earned a bachelor of science degree from UMHB in 2004. She went on to earn a master of science degree in 2008, also from UMHB.

CTX Athletics in the Community

CTX softball team and cheerleaders work with Little League Challenger Division



The Concordia University Texas softball team and cheerleading squad made a trip to Hutto High School on Saturday, April 9 to assist with the Little League Challenger Division, an outreach program for the sport of baseball, and its activities. This marked the first time the squad participated in the event.

The student athletes, along with coaches Denise Lira and Angela Gonzales, spent the day teaching and playing the



For the second year in a row, the softball team made an appearance in the ASC post-season tournament the end of April led by first-year head coach Denise Lira. Despite a successful season and a win record of 24-18, the Tornados fell to Mississippi College and ended their playoff run on April 29. More than half the team was recognized by the ASC with post-season awards. The team has much to look forward to in the 2012 season with several returning players.

“We all had a great experience working with these kids and helping them have fun while teaching them more about the game,” said Meghan Ferrell, a sophomore first baseman.

game of baseball with 70 children between the ages of four and 18 who have mental or physical disabilities. Each Tornado spent the morning and afternoon as a “buddy,” cheering on the participants, playing with them and instructing the kids on how to hit and throw.

The Challenger Division was established in 1989 as a separate division of Little League to enable boys and girls with physical and mental challenges, ages 4-18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school, to enjoy the game of baseball along with the millions of other children who participate in this sport worldwide. Today, more than 30,000 children participate in more than 900 Challenger Divisions worldwide.

Did You Know



Softball student-athlete senior Jessica Rattan was named ASC West Division Player of the Year.



The cheerleading squad placed first for a National Championship title in March. They got perfect scores (10 out of 10) on their motions and dance, pyramids, partner stunts, formations and transitions. They scored a 9.5 for their jumps, and received a 5 out of 5 for their overall performance.

CTX TORNADO ATHLETICS

2011-2012 FALL SCHEDULES

2011 Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
9/3/10	TBA	Chicago	TBA
9/9/10	Pacific Lutheran	Seguin	12:00 p.m.
9/9/11	Centenary College	Seguin	2:30 p.m.
9/10/11	Linfield	Seguin	10:00 a.m.
9/10/10	Gallaudet	Seguin	3:00 p.m.
9/13/11	Texas Lutheran	Seguin	7:00 p.m.
9/17/10	Hardin-Simmons	Austin	1:00 p.m.
9/20/11	Schreiner	Kerrville	7:00 p.m.
9/22/11	Howard Payne	Austin	7:00 p.m.
9/24/10	Sul Ross State	Austin	3:00 p.m.
9/27/11	McMurry	Austin	6:00 p.m.
9/30/10	Mississippi College	Abilene	5:00 p.m.
10/1/11	Centenary College	Abilene	10:00 a.m.
10/1/10	East Texas Baptist	Abilene	4:30 p.m.
10/4/11	Howard Payne	Brownwood	7:00 p.m.
10/7/11	Mary Hardin-Baylor	Belton	2:30 p.m.
10/7/11	LeTourneau	Belton	7:30 p.m.
10/8/11	UT Tyler	Belton	12:30 p.m.
10/8/11	UT Dallas	Belton	5:30 p.m.
10/11/11	Sul Ross State	Alpine	6:00 p.m.
10/13/11	Trinity	San Antonio	5:00 p.m.
10/14/11	Hardin-Simmons	Abilene	7:00 p.m.
10/15/11	McMurry	Abilene	1:00 p.m.
10/18/11	Schreiner	Austin	7:00 p.m.
10/20/11	Texas Lutheran	Austin	6:00 p.m.
10/28/11	St. Thomas	Georgetown	1:00 p.m.
10/28/11	Austin College	Georgetown	5:00 p.m.
10/29/11	Southwestern	Georgetown	12:00 p.m.
10/29/11	Texas Wesleyan	Georgetown	4:00 p.m.
11/4/11	Quarters/Semis	TBA	TBA
11/5/11	Championship	TBA	TBA



photo by Alex Aldaco

LEAPS AND BOUNDS

CTX freshman high jumper Chris Randle

Freshman high jumper Chris Randle is the first student athlete – male or female – to represent Concordia University Texas at the NCAA Division III Track & Field Championships. The competition was hosted by Ohio Wesleyan May 26-28.

Randle, a native of Temple, Texas who is also a member of the school's men's basketball team, eclipsed the NCAA provisional standard three times this spring and recorded a collegiate-best leap of 6-feet, 9.75-inches at the Trinity Alumni Classic on April 1. That mark currently is tied for eighth nationally among NCAA Division III student-athletes and a first among freshmen.

This accomplishment also marks the first time in school history that Concordia was represented at the NCAA Division III Championships in two sports during the same academic year (baseball and track).



2011 HALL OF FAME

The second annual hall of fame induction took place on January 29, 2011 at The Oasis on Lake Travis in Austin. The inductees were (pictured from left to right) Linda Lowery, Lisa Hintz and Kenneth "KB" DeBord with CTX president Tom Cedel and athletic director Dan Huntley.

For more information on the 2012 Hall of Fame go to:

athletics.concordia.edu

2011 Men's Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
8/21/11	Houston Victoria	St. Stephens	TBA
8/23/11	Ranger Jr. College	St. Stephens	7:30p.m.
9/1/11	TBA	TBA	TBA
9/3/11	Mountain View College	St. Stephens	4:00p.m.
9/7/11	Houston-Tillotson	St. Stephens	7:00p.m.
9/11/11	Austin College	Sherman, TX	4:00p.m.
9/16/11	Hardin-Simmons	Abilene, TX	4:00p.m.
9/17/11	McMurry	Abilene, TX	4:00p.m.
9/22/11	Howard Payne	St. Stephens	4:00p.m.
9/24/11	Mary Hardin-Baylor	St. Stephens	4:00p.m.
9/30/11	Texas Lutheran	Seguin, TX	4:00p.m.
10/1/11	Schreiner	Schreiner, TX	4:00p.m.
10/6/11	East Texas Baptist	St. Stephens	3:00p.m.
10/8/11	LeTourneau	St. Stephens	3:00p.m.
10/11/11	UT Tyler	St. Stephens	5:00p.m.
10/15/11	Centenary College	St. Stephens	3:30p.m.
10/20/11	UT Dallas	Richardson, TX	3:00p.m.
10/22/11	Ozarks	Clarksville, AR	3:00p.m.
10/27/11	Mississippi College	St. Stephens	3:00p.m.
10/29/11	Louisiana College	St. Stephens	3:00p.m.

2011 Women's Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
9/1/11	Trinity	San Antonio, TX	6:00 p.m.
9/3/11	Southwestern	Austin, TX	6:00 p.m.
9/7/11	Huston-Tillotson	Austin, TX	5:00 p.m.
9/11/11	Austin College	Sherman, TX	1:00 p.m.
9/16/11	Hardin Simmons	Abilene, TX	2:00 p.m.
9/17/10	McMurry	Abilene, TX	2:00 p.m.
9/22/11	Howard Payne	Austin, TX	2:00 p.m.
9/24/11	Mary Hardin-Baylor	Austin, TX	2:00 p.m.
9/30/11	Texas Lutheran	Seguin, TX	2:00 p.m.
10/1/11	Schreiner	Kerrville, TX	2:00 p.m.
10/6/11	East Texas Baptist	Austin, TX	1:00 p.m.
10/8/11	LeTourneau	Austin, TX	1:00 p.m.
10/11/11	UT Tyler	Austin, TX	3:00 p.m.
10/15/11	Centenary College	Austin, TX	1:00 p.m.
10/20/11	UT Dallas	Irving, TX	5:00 p.m.
10/22/11	Ozarks	Clarksville, AR	1:00 p.m.
10/27/11	Mississippi College	Austin, TX	1:00 p.m.
10/29/11	Louisiana College	Austin, TX	1:00 p.m.

CTX

TORNADO ATHLETICS 2011-2012 HIGHLIGHTS



3.63
Volleyball average
GPA for Fall 2010

Volleyball was awarded the ASC Team Sportsmanship Award for the second year in a row



3.02
Overall athletic department
GPA for Fall 2010



Tornado Field was dedicated on April 12, 2011

47% of student athletes had at least a 3.00 GPA in Fall 2010

92.3
average points per game

Men's basketball team was the second-highest scoring NCAA Division III team in the nation in 2010-11



For complete up to the date information and schedules go to:
athletics.concordia.edu

College of Business

The Concordia MBA will be launching in the greater San Antonio region in August 2011. The Concordia MBA has been met with great success in the Austin region with over 90 students enrolled in the first year of its launch. Designed for those who wish to master core business concepts and analytical tools while also building leadership capacity, The Concordia MBA is helping its students meet their personal goals and serve others for the common good. Current students have reported job promotions, recognition in their workplace, a greater sense of self-direction, and an increased capacity to serve others. For more information, or to apply for the first San Antonio cohort, visit mba.concordia.edu

College of Business students mix and mingle with local business and community leaders during monthly Conversation with... Speaker Series events and through Austin Leadership Forum breakfasts. More than 40 leaders have participated in the speaker series over the past five years. This semester's speakers included: Charles Attal (CTX alum with C3 Presents), Russell Bridges (3M), Dr. Bret Champion (superintendent for Leander ISD), Susan

Dawson (E3 Alliance), Allyson Peerman (Advanced Micro Devices), and Carolyn Schwartz (Health Alliance for Austin Musicians), speaking on topics including improving education, the role of big business in the greater Austin region, and the impact of the music scene in Austin. This Speaker Series is sponsored by the College of Business and was generously funded through the Howard Lacey Business Management Endowment at Concordia University. The speaker series for 2011-2012 will be made possible through a generous partnership with Regions Bank. Events are held the first Thursday of the month during the academic year from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm and are open to the public. For more information, visit www.concordia.edu/speakerseries

A new business leadership scholarship was announced, provided by Bob and Anita Schjerven. See the Donor Honor Roll insert in this magazine for more details.

The Thrivent Scholars program takes eight students and helps them learn on-the-job skills while also preparing them for leadership in today's society. Scholars for 2011-2012 will study the

topic of leadership, hearing from distinguished speakers and reading a variety of material on the subject. Participants are also considered for internships with Thrivent and eligible to attend leadership conferences.

Dean Don Christian serves as faculty support for the selection committee of the Samaritan Counseling Center, who gives annual awards in three categories, business, non-profit and individual awards, to those who show exemplary ethical practices.

The Executives student club hosts lunch with area business leaders to network and learn from their expertise. They are particularly looking for area business executives and alumni to participate in their events. More information at: www.facebook.com/ctxexecutives



Dean: Dr. Don Christian

5 majors: business administration, business, healthcare administration, human resource management and a master of business administration.

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512-313-5302
www.concordia.edu/cob

MBA Student Amanda Keeter was awarded Outstanding Member of the Year Award by the Roundrock Chamber of Commerce for the Spring of 2011.



College of Education

Students in the professional areas of business, education and nursing make up over half of the traditional student population at Concordia.

Master of Education programs continue to grow throughout the state with opportunities in Austin, Ft. Worth, Houston and San Antonio.

A new Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, with teacher certification program will be offered starting in the fall of 2011.

Specializations in teacher education for early childhood and special education were added in 2011-2012. A new superintendent certification program

began in the fall for those who already hold a master's degree.

NASA Education Specialist from Johnson Space Center Mike McGlone conducted a workshop with students from Lisa Owen's education class. McGlone works with future educators as part of NASA's Science Technology Engineering Mathematics program, otherwise known as STEM, and is funded by the Texas Space Grant Consortium. The focus of the workshop is teaching future educators how to teach math and science with free resources from NASA. For more information on Mike, his services, or resources for your classroom, visit www.aespmike.wikispaces.com



Dean: Dr. Jim McConnell

6 majors: Director of Christian education, teacher education, Lutheran teacher program, Lutheran teacher colloquy, DCE Specialist certification, and Master of Education

Glenda.prewett@concordia.edu
512-313-5108
www.concordia.edu/education

Ft. Worth Campus is home to the largest M.E.d program within the Concordia University Texas System

CTX & SELF 30

Three students graduated in April from Leander ISD's SELF 30 program. SELF 30 serves special education students between the ages of 18 and 22, according to a federally mandated law that says public schools must provide extended education for adult students with cognitive disabilities in an age-appropriate environment. The partnership between Leander ISD's SELF 30 program and Concordia began in the fall of 2010. Students attend school on campus daily and learn life and employment skills. Students in Concordia's education programs volunteer and serve as mentors and role models.

"Next year, our goal is to give back more to CTX," Aline Crompton, director of the SELF 30 program, said. "This was a learning year [as our first one on Concordia's campus]. Students have grown and

matured and have a much more fulfilling life because of their experiences at Concordia this year."

Two of the three students who graduated from the program have secured opportunities to work in the community. David Wright will volunteer at Cox Elementary in Leander ISD and also at the YMCA four days a week. Connie Moya will serve at the science material center for LISD and the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce.



Sami Gruber, David Wright and Connie Moya all Graduated from the SELF 30 program at CTX for Leander ISD.

College of Science

Concordia introduced a nursing program in the fall of 2010. The program grew by almost 20% from the fall to spring semesters and is projected to increase again by nearly 68% for fall 2011.

The nursing program received a \$250,000 grant from St. David's Foundation in February for a video teleconferencing lab to enhance student learning from experts in the field.

CTX was featured in the April issue of Texas Monthly in a story about mammoth sites in Texas. Concordia is the proud steward of the 285-acre Concordia Preserve and the Friesenhahn Cave site in San Antonio,

said to be one of the most important paleontological sites in the United States. You can read more at www.concordia.edu/cave

Concordia is looking at exploring future majors in political science and engineering, as well as revamping the environmental science program and creating a partnership with Concordia University Wisconsin for pharmacy.

Concordia is offering a new bachelor of applied arts and science degree with the new technical management major that offers a customized degree completion option for associate of applied science graduates.



Dean: Dr. Michael Moyer

6 majors in: biology, computer science, environmental science, mathematics, nursing, kinesiology

admissions@concordia.edu

512-313-5430



Fact: Concordia has more than 11,000 trees (just on the buildable area – not counting the preserve)

Technology in Nursing



With a \$250,000 grant from St. David's Foundation, Concordia University is being progressive by meeting students' learning needs, their constraints, and by providing an advanced education in nursing. The goal for creating the teleconferencing center was to increase communication between outside experts and nursing students for enhanced learning access. With this new technology, students can attend

virtual guest lectures from the country's top health care professors and seasoned health care practitioners, all while pursuing their studies on the Concordia University Texas campus. This conferencing room allows faculty to connect to any video conferencing system around the world, while still remaining in the classroom. The center has surpassed expectations, giving students not only the chance to talk to and learn from experts, but also to talk to and learn from the professionals who wrote their text books.

With the grant money, in addition to the equipment in the video conference room, the programs Movi, Adobe Connect, and Tegrity have been purchased to operate the video conference room and provide students with video conferencing capabilities even when off campus.

College of Liberal Arts

The bachelor of arts in music ministry degree was replaced with a complete B.A. Music degree with three possible specializations: performance, theory/composition, and music ministry. The new degree better prepares students for their chosen career paths, better emphasizes the strengths of the university (both faculty and students), and better prepares students for graduate study. The curriculum aligns better with the standard undergraduate music curriculum. Along with the music ministry specialization, Lutheran students can also take extra course work and add a DPM (Director of Parish Music) to their degree allowing them to be rostered Lutheran Church workers in the LCMS church.

The music minor was revised, making it more competitive with other schools. The minor would allow students to easily complete the coursework for a major if they so choose.

Music majors and minors have tripled in the past year, due to the changes in curriculum and changes in degree plans.

Concordia has a thriving performing arts series with ongoing faculty recitals and chamber music events throughout the academic year. Students also

have many opportunities to perform: mid-day recitals, jazz ensemble, opera scenes, vocal jazz, university choir, praise band, string ensemble, brass ensemble and piano ensemble.

Concordia has added a community arts outreach program. Community members can take lessons on our campus from many of the Concordia faculty as well as many talented area professionals who were hired to teach specifically for this program. Community members can also participate in the Community Choir or the Community Orchestra. These groups combine in the fall and spring with the University choir for a Choral Masterwork series.

This spring's Choral Masterwork was the Felix Medelssohn's *Elijah*. Read more about this performance on page 25. For more information on the music programs at Concordia, visit www.concordia.edu/music

The theater program was resurrected this spring with the classic, "The Importance of Being Earnest" in April. It opened to a sold-out audience on Thursday, April 7 and ran for three nights. For more information on the program and performances, visit www.facebook.com/ctxtheatre

A first-ever combined music and charity event took place in early April, Ben and I Play for Peace. Proceeds benefitted Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids. Learn more about this event and this project on page 24.

The miX festival 2011 opened on March 4th with a free concert by well-known contemporary Christian artist Charlie Hall. miX is a festival of music, art and media in worship aimed at helping church leaders maximize technology and the talents of worship teams for the Glory of God. miX is an annual event that happens each spring. Check out www.concordia.edu/mixfestival for updates on miX 2012.



Dean: Dr. Ken Schmidt

6 majors: behavioral science, communication, English, history, multidisciplinary, music

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www.concordia.edu/liberalarts

CTX is exploring the opportunity to offer engineering, architecture and art programs in the future.

Ben and Kim debuted "Tibetan Song," at the event, a piece written by Ben Verdery of the Yale School of Music.

Ben and I Play for Peace

highlights talent of Concordia music faculty & raises money for a good cause



Classical musicians from San Francisco to Sarasota joined forces this spring to help raise money for disabled children in Iraq, inspired by an event created

by adjunct music professor Kim Perlak and philanthropist Ben Werdegar (pictured above), *Ben and I Play for Peace*.

Ben and I Play for Peace was an instrumental concert in the classical and jazz styles featuring guest musician Ben Werdegar, a 13-year-old guitar prodigy from San Francisco, California, who has pledged to raise \$1 million to provide wheelchairs to disabled and injured children in Iraq through CNN Hero and Texan Brad Blausen's organization, "Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids." Joining Werdegar in concert was Kim Perlak and her colleagues on the Concordia instrumental performance faculty.

Perlak and Werdegar met during the summer of 2010 at the Verdery Guitar Class in Maui, Hawaii, where the idea for *Ben and I* was formed. Benjamin Verdery of the Yale School of Music Faculty composed a piece, 'Tibetan Song,' which was premiered at the concert on April 3.

It was a moving and emotional performance that inspired many for a great cause. More than \$5,200 was raised that day.

Preliminary plans are being made to continue this event for 2012. To read more about Ben or make a donation, visit www.isplayforpeace.net. For more information on Kim Perlak, visit www.kimperlak.com. And to learn more about Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids, please visit www.WheelchairsforIraqiKids.com.

Helping at a Glance

- Three concerts were held simultaneously on April 3 in the cities of Denver, CO, Austin, TX, and Sarasota, FL.
- Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids, spearheaded by Brad Blausen, was created in 2005 at the request of United States service members serving in Mosul who observed children pulling themselves along the ground because their legs did not work. Because of the situation in Iraq, there are no services to help these children with their disabilities.
- Through Reach Out and Care Wheels, the makers of the wheelchairs, pediatric wheelchairs that normally retail for \$3,500 can be manufactured and distributed by Blausen's organization to children in need at the cost of approximately \$350.
- To date, more than 850 pediatric wheelchairs have been distributed through Brad's organization.
- The *Ben & I Play for Peace* event raised enough money to purchase another 15 wheelchairs.
- Since Ben began his quest to raise money for this cause, he has raised more than \$26,000, enough to manufacture 74 wheelchairs.

Pictures from the event are at www.concordia.edu/facebook



A presentation of Felix Mendelssohn's classic

Concordia presented the monumental masterpiece *Elijah*, a favorite of professional choral ensembles all over the world, on April 17 at Bethany Lutheran Church to an audience of hundreds. This performance involved both the acclaimed University Choir and the community chorus, the

Concordia Singers. Under the direction of Joshua Chai, the massed choir was joined by some of the best orchestral musicians and vocal soloists in Austin, more than 100 in all. This performance was the largest and longest ever presented by CTX choirs.

The biblical narrative of *Elijah* is a dramatic and powerful story of vocation - God strengthening His servant in the midst of challenges from all sides. Through Mendelssohn's moving oratorio, the audience witnessed the intense personal struggle of a prophet, the triumph of God's power in the face of heretics, powerful leaders, and even death itself.

Whatever your connection to the musical arts, we invite you to join us at Concordia for concerts, recitals, workshops, and more. For more information, please visit www.concordia.edu/music.

The Importance of Being Earnest

Theatre returns to CTX

By Brittany Scheel



The CTX Theatre Program performed the world-renowned classic "The Importance of Being Earnest" for three nights starting on April 7. This was the first theatrical performance on Concordia's new campus since moving from downtown in 2008.

The resurrection of the theater program is taking place under the guidance of Dr. Lisa Neely, who understands the importance of the Arts in their contribution to how we observe our

world and interact with others.

"The theatre is particularly significant for its story-telling. Our faith is based on a story (a true story), and we can understand God, each other, and life more fully through narrative," Neely said.

On April 7, "The Importance of Being Earnest" debuted in the Blackbox Theater at 7:30 p.m. Other performance nights included April 8-9 at 7:30 p.m.

Lisa Neely, Ph.D., has worked in the theater as a director, actor, teacher, and research for the last 15 years. Her work ranges from contemporary plays to Greek classics, from mime to new play development. She was awarded best director by Portfolio magazine of Hampton Roads, VA, for her production of "Medea". She currently resides in Austin, where she teaches and directs at Concordia University, and continues an initiative in theatrical hospitality through 3rd Course: Theatre.

CTX Houston Center instructor Strives to “make a difference”



Demands from a struggling economy could push as many as one third of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department staff into retirement or unemployment. But retirement is not an option for 76-year-old Dr. Laura Wilson, the Department’s training administrator and adjunct professor at CTX- Houston Center for Curriculum and Instruction. Having already outlived two husbands and one son, Dr.

Houston Center News



The Houston Center moved into executive office suites in January at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church across from the Space Center. The new suites accommodate the office of the dean, student coordinator, center coordinator, administrative and undergraduate and graduate recruiting headquarters.

The Houston Center administrative team met with the president of the Houston Teacher’s Union, an organization representing 7,000 teachers in the upper gulf coast region and agreed to mutual collaboration on recruiting and program awareness which has potential to expand the M.Ed

program in the Houston region.

Discussions are in place with the program director for continuing education within Houston ISD to be a university of choice alongside the University of Texas as the preferred providers of graduate programs for Houston ISD’s future leaders.

The Houston Center administration engaged with the KIPP schools, a private charter school system, to open new cohorts for their teachers across Houston.

The dean and lead undergraduate recruiter met with the San Jacinto College District chancellor and Alvin Community College provost to develop a series of organizational agreements

for the CTX Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS). There are 75 different AAS degrees in the San Jacinto district available for transfer into CTX’s BAAS program.

The Houston Center is now a member of the Greater Houston Partnership with access to one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse regions in the country.

The Houston Center dean has been accepted into the Higher Education Task Force alongside the presidents of Rice University, St. Thomas, University of Houston, Texas Southern and Houston Baptist for the purpose of crafting local, state and national policy related to higher education issues affecting the upper Gulf Coast Region.

San Antonio Center News

The Concordia MBA will be launching in the greater San Antonio region in August 2011. The Concordia MBA has been met with great success in the Austin region. Designed for those who wish to master core business concepts and analytical tools while also building leadership capacity, The Concordia MBA is helping its students meet their personal goals and serve others for the common good. For more information, contact the San Antonio Center at 210-253-3254.

The San Antonio Center of Concordia University Texas has formed an official musical performance group named the Gospel Tornados. The band members include lead singer/keyboard player Shelia Kidd, drummer Robert Darden, and bass player Audin Vaquez. Kidd is an employee of CTX and Darden is the husband of the CTX San Antonio

Dean. The group will perform gospel tunes and spirituals in the greater San Antonio area.

The San Antonio Center of Concordia University Texas is planning a year of free seminars to help current and prospective students with college. The seminars and workshops include Pay for College workshops (about financial aid and scholarships), Writing Excellence seminars (tips for better writing), FAFSA workshops, Time Management Seminars, and more. All events are free and open to the public.



Center Dean: Mary Landon Darden

San Antonio Center
8626 Tesoro, Suite 112
San Antonio, TX 78217
210-253-3254

For information on enrollment, please contact Shelia Kidd, admissions counselor.

shelia.kidd@concordia.edu

www.concordia.edu/sanantonio



Daniel Saldana



Daniel gives a speech at the pinning ceremony on April 25, 2011.

Daniel Saldana will complete the Accelerated Degree Program this summer with a bachelor of arts in business. He was the featured student speaker at the graduation celebration and pinning ceremony on April 25 where graduating students recognize those who inspired and supported them in their educational success. Daniel was inspired to complete his college degree by his son. Daniel's son was approaching high school graduation and was not thinking about college. When Daniel encouraged his son to think about higher education, his son challenged him. Daniel knew he had to set an example for his son.

Dallas-Fort Worth Center News



The Ft. Worth center will be moving locations soon. Several sites were being considered at press time. The move will expand space and opportunity for the Ft. Worth center to grow and prosper. Stay tuned to www.concordia.edu/fortworth for updates.

Undergraduate degrees offered: business, healthcare administration, human resource management and a bachelor of arts and sciences in technical management.

Master of Education degrees offered in curriculum and instruction, advanced literacy instruction, educational administration, and the principal certification program.



Center Dean: Mary May

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1800 W. Freeway
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
817-810-0226

www.concordia.edu/fortworth



DFW Graduates

Nearly 100 students from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex area celebrated their graduation this spring from Concordia's Master of Education and Accelerated Degree programs. Pictured are Donna Washington, (B.A. in Healthcare Administration), Amelia Mullins (B.A. in business), Cecilia Falkquay and Lindsay Leander, (B.A. in Human Resource Management), and Pamela Brown-Smith (B.A. in Healthcare Administration).

Serena Irons



Serena is pictured here with her family following the pinning ceremony.

Serena Irons started in the Accelerated Degree Program in spring, 2002. In 2004, she had to drop out of the program. She returned in the fall of 2009 and will graduate cum laude this year with a bachelor of arts in business with a minor in human resource management. Serena gives all glory to God for helping her complete her degree. She has inspired her daughter to return to college for her degree as well.

The San Antonio Pinning ceremony was held Monday, April 25, 2011 at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in San Antonio. The ceremony is a special service for graduates in San Antonio to recognize those who were inspiring or supportive in their journey to obtain their degree.

Sunny Zunker



Sunny Zunker isn't your typical college student; yet, at 32, she is very much like others in her Accelerated Degree Program (ADP) classes at Concordia University Texas: a working adult. She's a single mom who works full time as an office manager and executive assistant at BMC Software.

Zunker headed back into the classroom in 2009 after her boutique business failed to generate enough capital to sustain itself and forced her to file for bankruptcy.

"There were some tough lessons learned, but nothing I would take back," Zunker said. "I did this without ever stepping into a business course. So I wanted to go back to school and still be an entrepreneur- this time with that

"We can change our communities through this program. If we're truly intentional in developing Christian leaders, and we instill that in our students, we're impacting the community with those students. It's powerful."

Tammy Stewart
Vice Provost for Remote Operations

classroom education I really need." Concordia's ADP program operates year-round with rolling admissions, which means there are no deadlines to apply.

"I heard about the ADP program, and it was the only program I found that was a good fit for me as a working, single mom," said Zunker. "One night a week is all I have, and every four to six weeks, you complete a class."

Zunker admits she was a little nervous about returning to school later in life, but those fears disappeared when she stepped into her first class.

"I love this program- it is a blessing to me," Zunker said. "I would not be in school right now if I hadn't found the ADP at Concordia."

Sunny will graduate in 2012 with a bachelor of arts degree in business.

She then hopes to pursue her MBA in leadership and development.

To read more about Sunny, and a

student's perspective on ADP at CTX, check out her blog at

www.concordia.edu/sunnysblog

Fast Facts

The ADP program is tailored to busy working adults who are looking to pursue their degree through a flexible accelerated program

- Classes are held just one night a week
- Earn up to 3 credits in 4-6 weeks
- Small class size of 12-15 students
- Textbooks are included

Classes are offered in

- **Ft. Worth**
concordia.edu/fortworth
- **Houston**
concordia.edu/houston
- **San Antonio**
concordia.edu/sanantonio
- **two locations in Austin**
concordia.edu

For more information, visit
www.concordia.edu/adp





CTX Alumni Association President's Perspective

Norm Stoppenhagen ('61)



Spring commencement services were held on April 30 at Riverbend Centre.

As I write this, another school year has ended and spring commencement services are completed. Again alumni were involved in the commencement exercises and extended the hand of welcome to all who walk across that stage to receive their diploma.

As we send them off to serve as Christian leaders in their various fields of endeavor, the Alumni Association Board will turn its attention to the 2011 Homecoming Weekend October 19-21. This year the class of 1961 in both high school and junior college will be holding their 50th anniversary Reunion, and the class of 1986 will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. Since I am a member of the Concordia Lutheran College class of 1961, I am personally looking forward to greeting all of my classmates and reliving our "glory days" from our college years.

Homecoming will be combined with Family Weekend this year. We are

so excited for this partnership. It is a wonderful way to include the current students in the tradition of Homecoming and help create traditions for them to come back for, once they become alumni. To make it even more exciting, Heritage Week will be celebrated the entire week on campus. Heritage Week is a celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the birthday of Johann Kilian, the Wendish pastor who emigrated from Germany to Texas with the Lutherans from Saxony who settled in the Serbin area of Texas. All who can attend Homecoming Weekend should plan to arrive early so that you can participate in the symposiums and artifact displays that will culminate the week on Friday, October 19.

The Alumni Association has listened to the evaluations of alumni and the schedule for the weekend will facilitate more opportunities for you to renew relationships with your classmates in relaxed settings and will be more family



Amy Huth, Director of Alumni Relations celebrates with new masters alum Eileen Godeaux.

friendly for all ages. Thank you for participating and providing feedback, I know you will enjoy the changes and additions.

Homecoming/Family Weekend invitations will be mailed out in July, and we are asking everyone to register on the website at <http://www.alumni.concordia.edu/ctxweekend>. Do not wait for the card! What makes the reunion exciting is seeing those who were classmates and friends and sharing the memories we had. This year we will be able to see the names of those who register for the weekend, and we hope this will be an encouragement for more members of each class to attend. Your early registration can help your classmates decide to attend.

If you need further information, contact Amy Huth, our Director of Alumni Relations, at amy.huth@concordia.edu.

Celebrating our victory in our risen Lord,

Norman Stoppenhagen ('61)

President

CTX Alumni Association

CONGRATULATIONS

— CTX CLASS OF 2011 —



alumni.concordia.edu

Connect with other CTX alumni.

Contact Amy Huth at 512-313-4111 • amy.huth@concordia.edu



Alumni Notes

Kylin Haedge Lee ('04)

just finished a doctorate in clinical psychology and works at Southwestern University in their counseling center

Chelsea Keyt ('04)

is a clinical social worker for the Austin and Travis County Integral Care



Brandy Ramm ('06) and Brandon Simmons were married Saturday, March 12, 2011 at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Flower Mound, TX. **Ashley Forseth Bayless ('06)** was a bridesmaid in the ceremony. The couple honeymooned in San Francisco & Napa Valley, California. Brandy is the Director of Children's Ministry (DCE) @ Lamb of God and the couple are currently living in Plano, TX.



Andrew Douglass ('06) and Megan Ramsey ('09)

have both been promoted to Assistant Manager at Enterprise Rent-a-Car. Megan and Andrew were working at the northwest branch in Austin, and upon promotion, moved to new offices. Megan and Andrew are now working at the south branch off of Slaughter and Manchaca roads.



Lindsay Kelm ('09) and Jesse Gumtow ('09) were married January 22, 2011. Lindsay is a preschool teacher

at Redeemer Lutheran School and Jesse is a graphic designer for Concordia University Texas. The Gumtows reside in Austin, TX with their dog Max.



Austin Smith ('09) was recognized by the Sacramento Metro Fire District on February 24 for his efforts to help save an accident victim before help could arrive. He received a certificate for lifesaving commendation. Smith lives and works in Birmingham, Alabama, but his company is outsourced by Quill Office Supplies for sales in northern California.



alumni.concordia.edu



Linda Medina (M.Ed. '05) is the founder of the Young Hispanic Professionals Association in Austin and works as the regional southwest consultant for McGraw-Hill Education. Prior to McGraw-Hill, she spearheaded the Education Foundation for the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as the program manager and worked to eliminate the Hispanic student achievement gap by providing resources to the

community and partners while advocating for the value of education to foster a globally competitive workforce. Linda has been recognized throughout her career for her work as an educator, volunteer and philanthropist in the community. Most recently, she was one of ten finalists for 'Austinite of the Year' and the '2010 Austin Under 40 Education Category Winner'.

WIND-DOWN WEDNESDAY

Austin Alumni Chapter's
Monthly Happy Hour

Join us this Summer!

June 29 – Chuy's (Round Rock)

July 27 – Uncle Billy's, at The OASIS (Lake Travis)

August 17 – Flying Saucer (The Triangle)



Follow us on Facebook for all the latest information or RSVP at alumni.concordia.edu



HELLO CHICAGO



Join alumni in the Chicagoland area
for a backyard BBQ on July 9th.

for details and to RSVP
Contact Ruth Schmidt Sievers '59
wrsievers@earthlink.net

HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

October 21 to October 23, 2011



Schedule of Events - more info at alumni.concordia.edu

Friday, October 21

Kick-Off BBQ and Tailgate Party
(Bring the kids to the Tiny Tornado Play Area)
Lady Tornados JV Volleyball game
Alumni Basketball Game

Saturday, October 22

Luth-A-Run 5K
Breakfast with the President*
Reunion Rally/Annual Meeting
Guild Meeting
Mister Twister Competition & Dinner
Scholz Garten Party
*Special event for honor classes

Sunday, October 23

Worship Service
Refreshments & Fellowship

For information about an alumni chapter event near you contact your representative:



Houston

Jodi Leslie ('95) | jodileslie1@yahoo.com
DeLynda Cruz ('04) | delynda@juno.com

Dallas / Fort Worth

Jeff Strege ('84) | jeffstrege@yahoo.com

San Antonio

Dave Goeke ('68) | dgoeke984@sbcglobal.net

Bryan/College Station

Dennis Bragdon ('76) | djb78945@gmail.com

Austin

Layne Jungmann ('00) | laynej@austin.rr.com
Amy Huth | alumni@concordia.edu

California

Marc Clakley ('90, '91) | mrclakley@hotmail.com

Washington DC

Stephanie Aspinwall ('97) | Stephanie.aspinwall@gmail.com

Chicagoland Area

Ruth Sievers ('59) | wrsievers@earthlink.net



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FOLLOW US

Concordia's communication team has beefed up its social media presence in an effort to reach out to a larger audience with news, event postings, inspirational messages and general university information. The response has been positive with an overall increase in web traffic of more than 63% from fall to spring semesters, a 24% increase in Facebook followers and nearly 57% increase in Twitter followers during that same time. In fact, more than 6% of all of our web traffic originates from Facebook.

Discover what's happening at Concordia University Texas
Connect with the Concordia community on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube

www.concordia.edu/socialmedia