

Arbor Light

A Publication of Concordia University

FALL/WINTER
2015

CELEBRATE!

NEW STADIUM

Boosts football program.

KREFT CENTER FOR THE ARTS

An investment in the community.

1965 CLASS GIFT

Brings Martin Luther to campus.

Arbor Light

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Fall/Winter
2015

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CELEBRATE

Academic Year Theme: Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21).

“In just two years, we have witnessed the Lord’s remarkable blessing upon Concordia University in ways too many to count. That is something to CELEBRATE.”

— REV. DR. PATRICK T. FERRY
President



CELEBRATION IN JESUS' NAME

AS I WRITE THE INTRODUCTION FOR THIS issue of *Arbor Light*, my wife, Tammy, and I eagerly await the birth of our first grandchild. Our daughter, Hannah, is due in mid-August. By the time this reaches you, Lord willing, we'll be celebrating a new member of our family. I'm told that grandparenting is a good gig, and I look forward to many more celebrations with this little one. Birthdays, games, concerts, confirmation, graduation—of course, there's a lot to anticipate, and there will be a lot to celebrate.

When I first began as a college president, the members of this year's freshman class were either newborns or not yet born. I like to tell them, "I have been waiting for you your whole life!" For some, that's actually quite accurate. Each of them has come a long way over the years, and so has their university. This issue of *Arbor Light* focuses on "Celebration" because, at Concordia, there's much to celebrate.

Over the course of my career as Concordia's president, there have been so many notable moments along the way. With a profound sense of humility and gratitude to God, I celebrate all that I've been privileged to be part of through the years. Perhaps the most notable was the merger of Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia University Ann Arbor. This summer, we celebrated the two-year anniversary of that monumental event. No longer still in its infancy, this new Concordia University configuration is still quite young, but growing up fast and right before our eyes. In just two years, we have witnessed the Lord's remarkable blessing upon Concordia University in ways too many to count. That is something to celebrate.

Given that I've spent most of my adult life connected to higher education, it should not surprise anyone to find that I'm already thinking about college for my grandchild. Eighteen years go by pretty fast. Perhaps he or she will enroll at CUAA and become a Concordia Cardinal. By God's grace, Concordia will continue to provide a Lutheran higher education opportunity with "Christ first in all things" for years to come. The fact that we're able to say and foresee that is certainly good reason to celebrate. So, let the celebration of Concordia continue in Jesus' name.

REV. DR. PATRICK T. FERRY
President



First Class Tribute

WEIGHING IN AT 900 POUNDS AND STANDING 6'-6"—WITHOUT THE BASE—THE new Martin Luther statue is a larger-than-life tribute to the 16th-century German friar and theologian who worked to reform the Church by returning scriptures and God's words of grace. In anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, CUAA commissioned this bronze sculpture from a monument manufacturer in Italy to pay tribute to our Lutheran heritage and recognize our firm foundation within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

“We felt like pioneers being the first class of a brand-new school. This statue, not only represents our alma mater’s Lutheran heritage, but it also is a fitting, lasting tribute to our collective history as members of CUAA’s community.”
— William Winkler

“Concordia University is faith-based; we are a higher-learning institution that exists to serve God in the church and the world,” said Curt Gielow, Campus Chief Executive. “This statue serves as a beautiful, lasting symbol of our Lutheran history and identity,” he continued.

The Martin Luther statue can be found on a walkway between Zimmerman Library and Krieger Hall that faces Earhart Manor. While still on central campus grounds, Gielow was quick to point out that the discreet location of the statue was important. According to him, “We wanted to make sure the Chapel of the Holy Trinity remained the focal point in our daily lives as Christians.”

The statue was made possible through a generous gift by an anonymous donor and alumni from the Class of 1965 (CUAA’s first class) in recognition of their 50th Reunion. Members of the Class of 1965 expressed interest in celebrating their 50th Reunion more than a year ago, and began meeting regularly to plan the event. With the help of University staff, members contacted classmates and encouraged each other to return to campus for the celebration and give back to their school.

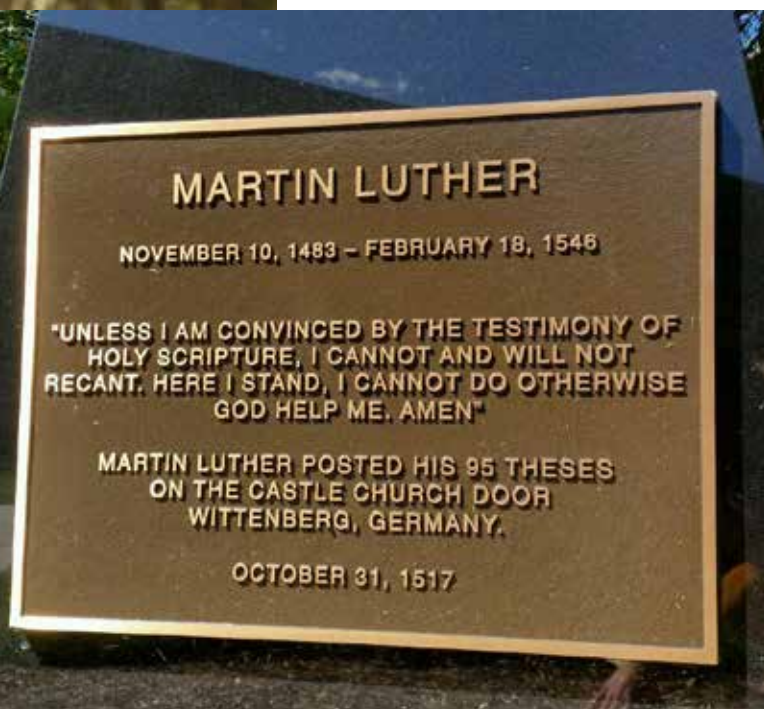
“Many of us were on the Synodical path when we were students back then,” said alumnus William Winkler (’65), MDiv, MD. “We felt like pioneers being the first class of a brand-new school. This statue not only represents our alma mater’s Lutheran heritage, but it also is a fitting, lasting tribute to our collective history as members of CUAA’s community.”

According to Winkler, the Class of 1965 has remained in contact throughout the years. “Many of us realize we were extremely well-educated and appreciate the ways in which our two years at Ann Arbor prepared us for life.” Winkler is particularly thankful for his life-long love of music, and attributes his time with the Concordia University Choir and Director, Dr. Paul Foelber, for developing this passion. He is also deeply appreciative of the love of language imparted to him by Dr. Eugene Nissen.

“I hope the Class of 1966 shares the same fondness for Ann Arbor as our first class,” adds Winkler. As plans get under way for the next 50th Reunion, Class of 1966 in Spring 2016, ideas for a 1966 Class Gift project are being considered.

For more information about the Class of 1966 Reunion, please contact: Laura Thomas at 734.995.7318 or laura.thomas@cuaa.edu.

— Lisa Liljegen, University Affairs



Improving Lives Through Education



IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR SANDRA HARRIS, ED.D. TO KNOW SHE FOUND A NEW home at Concordia University Ann Arbor. "I nearly fell off my chair when we started my interview with a prayer," said Dr. Harris with a laugh. As the newly appointed Director of Accelerated Learning at the Ann Arbor Center, Dr. Harris is excited to continue her calling as a teacher in a Christian setting and infuse her passion for education with adult learners. She thinks of the Ann Arbor Center as the area's best-kept secret. "In my new director position, I have the opportunity to help make peoples' lives better through education. More people need to know what we can do for them and their families." Dr. Harris considers outreach her first priority and wants to share the University's capabilities with as many people as possible to grow the program into a viable entity in the community.

Dr. Harris earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University and has worked in an academic setting for more than 30 years. "For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a teacher," she said. Among her many experiences, she has worked as the Superintendent of Oak Park School District, served as a consultant with several educational organizations, and was an adjunct professor at Eastern Michigan University. She is also very active in her church and community, and serves on numerous professional and civic committees.

– Lisa Liljegren, University Affairs

SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SPIRITUALITY in the Arts and Sciences (CSAS) took place at Concordia University Ann Arbor on April 9, 2015. Concordia students, faculty, and alumni offered scholarly and creative presentations on the conference theme, *Body and Soul*. The event included nine panels exploring topics such as "Overcoming the Mask of the Body," "Exposition of Bodies and Souls," "The Healing Work of Athletics," and "Images of the Soul."

Keynote speaker Dr. Paul L. Maier opened the conference with his message titled "Dissonance or Harmony?: Christian Origins and Secular History." Maier is the Russell H. Sieberts Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University, and author of numerous scholarly and popular works.

Two students were commended for outstanding conference presentations. Alexandria Cadavieco received the first place award for her paper "Accommodated and Unaccommodated

Man in Shakespeare's *King Lear*," which was included on the panel "Overcoming the Mask of the Body." Blake Martzowka was awarded second place for his paper "Rudolf Bultman: The Necessity of Demythologizing," which he presented on the panel "Of Myth and Scripture."

The Eighth Annual CSAS conference will take place in April 2016. The theme will be *Boundaries, Borders, and Thresholds*. Papers will be invited that examine physical, cultural, conceptual, and psychological borderlands. What does it mean to occupy a borderland between cultures, identities, or belief systems? What are some of our moral borders—those gray regions into which we must delve in order to live ethically sound lives? What does it mean to stand at a threshold, to occupy the ungoverned terrain of transition between one place or state of being and another? Next year's conference will consider these and other questions.

– Dr. Georgia Kreiger, Contributing Writer

CAMPUS
EVENTS

100

3 HOMECOMING
AND ALUMNI
TAILGATE

CARDINAL
STADIUM
DEDICATION

4 HOMECOMING PREVIEW CONCERT
Chapel of the Holy Trinity

8-11 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Black Box Theater

11 & 12 ADMISSIONS VISIT DAY

The **EGG**



THE EGG AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ANN ARBOR has expanded. Prior to its remodeling, the Egg was housed in the corner of the University's Nest. Now, it has become a stand-alone campus store with Cardinal products ranging from sweatpants and T-shirts to official polo shirts. There's also plenty of clothing for fans to wear to their favorite CUAA sporting events. In addition to spirit wear, the Egg carries multiple convenience store items such as candy, medicine, and stamps. The on-campus store, managed and operated by business students, was remodeled and expanded to help students and campus visitors easily access more everyday items, and assist them in showing off their school pride.

– Andrew Sohn, Contributing Writer

Goodbye and Farewell

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOB MCKINNEY, who has served faithfully as the Director of Campus Ministry at Concordia University Ann Arbor since 2007, recently accepted a Call to serve as principal at Good Shepherd Lutheran School (connected with Trinity Lutheran Church) in Simi Valley, Calif. Thousands of students, and many staff and faculty, were blessed by Bob's insightful and inspiring leadership. Anyone who knew Bob would know he always placed students first. CUAA alumna Danielle Cook said this as she remembered Bob's impact: "Bob really knew when to simply listen, when to ask questions, and when to give advice. His presence showed that he cared. His energy showed his love for students." The Concordia community will miss Bob, but is grateful that he will continue to serve and make an impact in the lives of many others.

– Pastor Ryan Peterson, Contributing Writer



PHOTOS BY KELLY CIESLAK

17 ALUMNI TAILGATE
*CUAA @ St. Francis,
Ft. Wayne, Indiana*

22 & 23 FALL BREAK



20 BAND CONCERT
Black Box Theater

NOV.

1 CHOIR CONCERT
Chapel of the Holy Trinity

6-8 SENIOR HIGH TOOLTIME





KELLY CIESLAK

PREPARING TO LAUNCH

CHRIST-CENTERED NURSING PROGRAM COMING SOON

“WHEN YOU PROVIDE CARE FOR SOMEONE, YOU become the hands and feet of Jesus,” said Dr. Cindy Fenske, dean of the newly launched nursing program at Concordia University Ann Arbor. The University has applied to the Michigan State Board of Nursing for approval to launch a four-year degree program in nursing and hopes to begin enrolling students for the 2016 academic year.

Fenske joins the CUAA faculty this fall to seek state approval for the program, which will be designed using the well-established nursing program at Concordia University Wisconsin as its model. She views the new program as a way for CUAA to better fulfill its mission of helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the church and the world. “Nursing is a service career,” she observed, identifying this discipline as a fulfillment of the University’s core value of serving others in caring, helpful, respectful, and knowledgeable ways. “Our students will go out into our communities, and

throughout the world, to serve people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, and economic levels,” she noted.

As CUAA’s Dean of Nursing, Fenske will oversee the program’s accreditation and development. Gaining approval from the Michigan State Board of Nursing involves a three-step process. First, the University must demonstrate the program’s feasibility by providing evidence to the Board that campus facilities are in place, that clinical placement sites are available, and that funding exists for the project. Second, the Board must conduct a campus visit to examine all aspects of the program. Finally, CUAA must conduct a self-study to create a broad profile of the project. The Board may then grant initial approval for the University to begin enrolling students during the Fall 2016 semester. Fenske is confident about the program’s future because it will be supported by, and work in conjunction with, the CUW program.

**CAMPUS
EVENTS**

NOV.

**11 VETERANS DAY
PROGRAM**



**13 ADMISSIONS
VISIT DAY**



DEC.

“NURSING IS A SERVICE CAREER; A FULFILLMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY’S CORE VALUE OF SERVING OTHERS.”

—Dr. Cindy Fenske

After it is approved, the new program will seek students with aptitude and background in the sciences, a strong interest in serving others, and a heart for missions. The nursing curriculum will involve one year of the University’s general education core courses and three years devoted to nursing education. Classes will prepare students to pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Fenske comes to CUAU from the University of Michigan School of Nursing, where she has served as a clinical professor in the acute and critical long-term care program since 1983. In 2013, Governor Rick Snyder appointed her to the Michigan State Board of Nursing. She was a recipient of the Sigma Theta Tau Award for Excellence in 2011 and a Collegiate Lecturer Award in 2013. Her credentials include a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Valparaiso University, a master of science in medical-surgical nursing from the University of Michigan, and a doctorate of nursing practice from Oakland University.

“I wasn’t looking for a career change,” she stated. However, when CUAU Chief Executive Officer Curt Gielow approached her to discuss the program’s development, she saw its merit and was convinced of its feasibility. “As I talked to Curt,” she recalled, “it became clear that I was supposed to go in this direction.”

Fenske’s professional and academic career has been focused on the development of innovative educational strategies, including the use of problem-based learning, teaching with a virtual community, and the application of simulations to enhance clinical judgment skills in nursing students and practicing nurses.

“Simulation,” Fenske explained, “is anything that mimics real life. For instance, Wi-Fi-enhanced mannequins are used to replicate the condition of a real patient so students can develop their nursing and critical-thinking skills in a regulated environment. Simulations provide standardized situations so all students have the opportunity to practice a particular type of event. We certainly could not guarantee that in the clinical setting. Up to 50% of a student’s clinical practice hours can take place under these controlled conditions.” Nursing students at CUAU will benefit from these and other innovations in the classroom as they pursue their degrees.

Fenske and her husband, Tom, have lived in Ann Arbor since 1979. She worked as a nurse at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospital for 25 years, as well as having joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in 1983. She and her husband are members of Living Water, a multi-site of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor. The couple has two children: daughter, Eryn, age 29, and son, T. J., age 25. Both are graduates of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich.

CUAU welcomes Fenske to its faculty. The University will gratefully reap the benefits of her expertise and experience as it educates future nurses for the service of Christ in hospitals and other clinical facilities and in missions throughout the world.

– Dr. Georgia Kreiger, Contributing Writer

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

NEW MAJORS:
Athletic Training
Early Childhood

Special Education in
Secondary Education

NEW MINORS:
Business minors
(18 credits each)
- Managerial Accounting
- Entrepreneurship
- Forensic Accounting
- Justice and Public Policy
- Individualized Business

English as a Second Language
(ESL) minor in Secondary Education
Spanish minor

NEW MASTER’S PROGRAMS:
Computer Science
Organizational Leadership
Administration (One-Year Program)
Special Education
Student Personnel
Administration in
Higher Education

4-6 BOAR’S HEAD FESTIVAL
Chapel of the Holy Trinity

7 WOMEN’S CHORALE & MEN’S CHORUS CONCERT
Chapel of the Holy Trinity

8 GUITAR/PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE CONCERT
Band Room at CUAU

10 BAND/STRINGS CONCERT
Black Box Theater

JAN.

24-30 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK
“Life Together”

29-30 CONCORDIA INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (C.I.T.)

CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS!

MANY PEOPLE TELL ME HOW GRATEFUL they are that the Ann Arbor campus of Concordia University has been, in a way, reborn in a flurry of new programs, people, buildings, and facilities. To God be the glory!

The merger of this campus with the Mequon campus of Concordia University Wisconsin has indeed been a success worthy of celebration. Resources from the Mequon campus have fueled new life on the Ann Arbor campus.

Over the past few years, we have seen student enrollment grow nearly 30%, multiple, new academic programs begin, a football program and stadium established, The Kreft Center for the Arts refurbished, the science building renovated, a dozen new faculty hired, and student spirit and pride renewed. In addition, daily student attendance in Chapel has more than doubled. To God be the glory!

More potential growth is underway as we research the establishment of a nursing school on our campus. A Christ-centered nursing program in our geographic area seems desirable and possible. To God be the glory!

There is much to celebrate at CUAA. This issue of *Arbor Light* will highlight other reasons to celebrate the many blessings our Lord Jesus is bestowing on our efforts.

CURT GIELOW
Campus Chief Executive

Our Vocational Calling

By Kevin and Kay Marie Brennfleck,
Directors, Center for Career and Life Calling

“YOU ARE CALLED TO BE YOU; THE UNIQUE, GIFTED, capable person who was designed by God and created to fulfill a divinely appointed purpose with your life.” This assertion from our book, *Live Your Calling: A Practical Guide to Finding and Fulfilling Your Mission in Life* (Jossey-Bass, 2005), is at the heart of our personal mission. For more than 20 years, our passion has been helping individuals realize that “we are God’s handiwork”—that each of us has a divine design—and that we have been “created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

This vocational calling emerged as we pursued our professions in higher education. Kevin has an M.A. in Student Development and worked at Azusa Pacific University (APU) and Seattle Pacific University. Kay Marie taught in the communications department at APU for eight years. We each found we had a passion for helping students discover their giftedness and find a career in which they could use their gifts to make a difference in the world. We pursued this calling by becoming National Certified Career Counselors and pioneers in integrating career development with biblical truths; guiding people in doing intentional career planning with an eternal perspective.

We founded our career-counseling firm, Lifework Design, in 1988 (which is also the year we were married). Promoting our services on the largest Christian radio network in Southern California, we worked with hundreds of clients and also provided career services to organizations such as World Vision and Campus Crusade for Christ. In the early days of the Internet, we partnered with Christianity Today to develop a “career channel” for them on America Online (AOL). Subsequently, Gospel Communications invited us to be a part of their network with our own website, ChristianCareerCenter.com, which enabled us to provide career services to Christians around the world.



KELLY CIESLAK

Since 2011, we have shared the position of developing and directing the Center for Career and Life Calling at Concordia, serving as part of, and under the office of, Student Life. Working with faculty and staff, our goal is to integrate career preparation into the curriculum so that all students are guided in choosing a major and career that fits their God-given design, and are prepared to get internships and jobs within their field. Students' career development begins in the freshman course, LA 103 College, Career, & Calling,

which we coordinate. Beyond career preparation, however, we desire to help students grasp the personal relevance of the doctrine of Vocation; specifically, that God's calling for them extends beyond their careers to all dimensions of their lives. In everything that we do in our role at Concordia, we seek to live out its mission of "helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world." We feel blessed to be "on mission" with the dedicated faculty and staff at Concordia University Ann Arbor.

NEW STADIUM & TALENT BOOST CARDINAL FOOTBALL

BY RACHEL FERRY, CONTRIBUTING WRITER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KELLY CIESLAK

FANS AND PLAYERS ALIKE ARE EXCITED FOR THE big additions to the Concordia University Ann Arbor Cardinal Football program as it enters its fifth season. CUAA football is underway with its inaugural season at the new Cardinal Stadium, featuring a 1,300-seat grandstand, locker rooms, and additional amenities that surround the new turf field and complete the athletic complex's construction.

The team's excitement for Cardinal Stadium is widespread. "I'm happy for the guys who came when the stadium was only an idea," said Lonnie Pries, head football coach. "To experience Cardinal Stadium before they've graduated... it's cool for them to be able to say, 'I was a part of that from the beginning.'"

Fans also appreciate the better experience the new stadium provides them, as everything they need is just steps away from their seats. While the conveniences of nearby concessions and restrooms are important, fans are most excited that the elevated bleachers give them a "heightened" view of the game.

Cardinal Football also has a "big" addition to its roster in the form of Edward "Eddie" Merhi, a 6'-3", 320-pound lineman from Garden City, Mich. Merhi's path to CUAA is less conventional than most. Merhi graduated from Salem High School in 2010 and spent the last few years as an assistant coach under his mentor at Garden City High School while playing for the Michigan Lightning, a semi-professional football organization.

Merhi chose not to accept money during his years playing semi-pro football, with the goal of maintaining his collegiate eligibility. He had great success as a high school athlete with potential to play for Division I programs, but, in his words, he did not "take care of business." In addition, Merhi had personal circumstances occurring at that same time, including the loss of his grandfather. "It took hitting rock bottom to see what I lost," he shared.

"For Coach Pries to believe in me and give me the opportunity to play for his program is life changing," said Merhi. He reflected on signing his Letter of Intent with tears in his eyes, realizing the difficult road he had taken to get to this moment he had long hoped for. "God has a real plan for me here. People believe in me. I'm ready to do big things on campus and be a great teammate." Cardinal Stadium symbolizes a new direction for CUAA football, and the start of the season is a new start for Eddie Merhi.

Merhi is comforted by CUAA's mascot of a cardinal, he and his grandfather's long-time symbol of endearment. In fact, he has a cardinal tattooed on his arm along with a tribute to his grandfather. Merhi officially became a CUAA student at Registration Day on July 10, his grandfather's birthday.



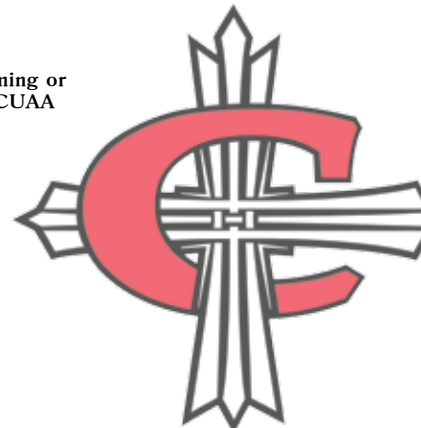


“I know I can’t do football without an education,” said Merhi, who hopes to keep football in his life for a long time. He has enjoyed being able to coach and mentor players at the high school level, and hopes to continue to do so after receiving his degree in sport and entertainment business.

Cardinal Stadium field dedication will take place during the Homecoming game on Saturday, October 3.



Share your photos of Homecoming or the dedication with us! Use #CUAA





Transformation in Progress

By Lisa Hartmann, *Contributing Writer*



RENDERING COURTESY OF MAYER | HELMINIAK ARCHITECTS, LLC

THE KREFT CENTER FOR THE ARTS WAS remodeled to be a collaborative, inspirational space for students to grow in mind, body, and spirit. While the open-concept design is impressive, it's the transformation happening within the walls that is cause for celebration. Featuring new technology, studio space, classrooms, labs, performance space, and a rehearsal hall, the Center will greatly expand opportunities for students to develop in the arts and provide a service to the community.

“Exhibits and workshops connect students, faculty, and the community to the big issues of our society, the kind of lives we lead, our relationship with God, and the world around us,” said Mark Looker, Professor of English and Director of the Kreft Arts Program. “I think The Kreft Center for the

Arts represents an aspect of the student experience that can have a profound effect on the lives we seek to nurture.”

Programming for The Kreft Arts Program has drawn more and more people from the community in recent years, including a number of successful visiting artists, such as a Tony Award winner, a Pulitzer Prize winner, and a Grammy Award winner.

“The goal is to make the building one of the centers for the community, where there’s an interchange between performers, students, and the audience,” Looker said. “We try to make sure the artists and performers visiting the campus engage with students wherever possible. A writer may come in to do a reading, and the next day, he or she is in classes with students answering questions.” >

The renovation of The Kreft Center for the Arts involves extensive remodeling of the existing space and is scheduled for completion this fall. Future renovations may involve building an addition around the Black Box Theater on the east side of the Center. The possibilities include several new spaces: a scenery shop and a new 3D sculpture/teaching studio on the lower level and three large, interchangeable classrooms on the second level, facing the river.

The Kreft remodel began, like many projects do, with some dreaming in the hallways over a cup of coffee. “It started with a discussion over the band room,” said Dr. Robert McCormick, Campus Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. “We wanted a flexible recital location for everyone. Not just the band, but a place you could do a talk, a lecture, a poetry reading, or someone could display their art. The original, internal discussion was, ‘We need a better formal presentation space on campus.’”

The remodel also arose from a desire to give the building and the entryway a more welcoming, aesthetic look. “We wanted to make it an inviting space where people can see what’s happening inside,” McCormick added.

The physical changes to the structure will be dramatic. Much of the building has been taken down to the studs, footings dug up, old walls removed, and a new entrance framed out.

Specifically, the remodel includes classroom space, a new painting studio, a graphics studio, a rehearsal hall, a vocal arts studio, a percussion lab, and a mid-sized performance space for readings and chamber ensembles. The building will also have a new musical technology space called MIDI, musical instrument digital interface, where students can digitally compose and arrange music.

“The world is changing fast from the type of technology needed, and the experimentation in different art forms and techniques. Bringing the facility up to today’s standards allows us to do more in terms of graphic design and electronic music,” Looker said.

This, in turn, opens the door to consolidating some academic programs onto campus. Concordia has a relationship with Washtenaw Community College, where CUA students pick a specialization in photography, graphic design/print production, video production, or digital animation and go off campus to complete their coursework. “As we enhance these spaces, we can begin to offer those classes on our campus, where we didn’t have the facilities we needed before,” McCormick explained.

The renovation isn’t just about walls and floors, though. It’s also about providing quality equipment people need within those spaces, such as new art easels, adjustable stools, computers, new AV and acoustical treatments, upgraded cabling, soundboards, speakers, and a five-year replacement plan for instruments.

Transforming the Center also includes new heating ventilation, air conditioning, upgraded restrooms, wall coverings, floor coverings, glass walls, furniture, lighting and windows for practice rooms, and some desperately needed storage space.

What do the students think of all this change? “It’s actually really fun to watch how it’s already changing; how it’s been demolished, and how they’re starting to rebuild,” said Kaylynn Lear, a music education major on campus for the summer. “I get excited every time I walk past it.”

Lear practically lives in The Kreft building during the school year, and the changes to the facility will be welcomed.



Above: Rehearsal space under construction. **Right:** Rendering of completed room.




“In the fall and spring, it was muggy and hard to work in there with no air conditioning,” she remembered. “It was also hard to practice or gather in a group without intruding on someone else’s practice. We just needed more space. Other music and art students are really excited to see how it will help them in their studies.”

The synergy between the expanding facility and a growing program is hard to miss. “We’ve outgrown what was put in place 25 years ago,” Looker said. “The remodeled facility makes additional programming possible, likewise, because of the success of the program, it’s made these updates possible. It’s not just about bricks, mortar, and glass,” Looker concluded. “It’s about how this space enables people to see the world through a different lens, in a clearer way.” +



What is your favorite part about the transformation of The Krefl Center for the Arts? Share it with us! [facebook.com/CUAnnArbor](https://www.facebook.com/CUAnnArbor)



*"EVERY DAY THERE
WILL BE THINGS
IN LIFE THAT WE
DON'T KNOW.
WE MUST PREPARE
TO BE UNPREPARED.
WE MUST BE LIFE-
LONG LEARNERS."*

*— EXCERPT FROM WERNER'S GRADUATION
SPEECH. WATCH THE ENTIRE SPEECH
ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: @CUANNARBOR*



THE PLACE TO BE

By Dr. Georgia Kreiger, Managing Editor
Photography by Kelly Cieslak

ATTENDEES OF THE 2015 GRADUATION ceremony at Concordia University Ann Arbor were entertained and inspired by student speaker Zachary Werner's commencement address. His message was chosen from many submitted by his peers who competed for the honor. What listeners may not have known about Werner is that CUA A has long been a part of his family legacy.

Werner's parents, Mark and Cindy Werner, are 1987 CUA A alumni who met while completing their undergraduate degrees. Four of his aunts and uncles are also alumni. His sister Abi, age 25, is a 2013 graduate with degrees in art and family life. His sister Leah, 19, is a sophomore hospitality and event management major, and his brother Joel, 18, will enter as a freshman pre-seminary major this fall. Werner's grandfather, John Werner, once served as a professor of statistics in the University's accelerated degree completion program. Clearly, the Werner family enjoys an ongoing relationship with CUA A. That connection influenced Werner's decision when he selected a college at which to complete his undergraduate studies.

"I chose to attend CUA A, because it felt like home," explained Werner, who graduated this year with a degree in sport and entertainment management. "When I came here, people seemed to instantly know me, and they cared about me personally."

After earning his bachelor's degree in an impressive three years, Werner decided to remain at CUA A to pursue a master of science degree in student personnel administration in higher education. For the next two years, he will be serving

as a graduate assistant in the athletics department. His duties will include, working with the intramurals program supervisor and assisting with the department's daily operations.

"My work as a graduate assistant will provide me with excellent field experience as I pursue my graduate degree. That is one of the reasons that I decided to continue my education right away, and why I wanted to stay at CUA A," Werner explained. In the future, he hopes to work as an athletic director in a high school or college.

Werner is excited by the changes on campus since CUA A merged with Concordia University Wisconsin. The recent renovations to the science building and the addition of the football stadium, he says, have increased students' pride in their school. The improvements have also initiated "a revival of interest in sports here," he observed.

Originally from St. Johns, Mich., Werner attended St. Johns High School. He and his family were members of St. Peter Lutheran Church in St. Johns. His family currently resides in Munising, Mich., where his father serves as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

CUA A celebrates its long relationship with the Werner family and wishes Werner and his siblings every blessing as they prepare to serve Christ in their chosen professions. ✚



What are your ties to Concordia? Family, friends, faith? Share with us on Twitter @CUAA

Looking to Make a Difference

By Lisa Hartmann, *Contributing Writer*

IT DOESN'T SEEM AT ALL UNUSUAL TO Mary (McVey) Buschmann (BA in Biology 2003) that she has her Ph.D. in her early thirties. "It's funny—in the sciences, people often come right out of undergrad into a Ph.D. program," Buschmann said. "It almost throws me when people are surprised that I have my Ph.D. at this age. I just think, 'Oh, yeah, I guess I did that,'" she laughed.



Buschmann, a Research Project Manager for the Chicago Pancreatic Cancer Initiative at the University

of Chicago, has covered a lot of ground since she was last profiled in these pages in 2003. Back then, she was just heading off to medical school at the University of Cincinnati. In the years since, she's earned her Doctorate in Philosophy in the Department of Cancer and Cell Biology of the College of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati, published a number of papers, married, started a family, and spent years performing lab experiments.

"When you watch the nightly news and see the people in the lab coats using all those tools... that was me," she said.

In her current role with the Chicago Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, Buschmann manages a multidisciplinary research team that hopes to make a difference in pancreatic cancer survival rates. "We want to understand patients at an individual level with the goal of improving their outcome. Only 7% survive five years," Buschmann said. "There are no really good therapies or much federal funding of pancreatic cancer research."

The research team Buschmann manages is comprised of scientists, surgeons, physicians, genomics researchers, computer programmers, and clinical researchers. "That's why the Chicago initiative is so important," she emphasized. "Very few projects have been so multidimensional. We're attacking it from several angles."

Buschmann's team is taking samples of tumors at the time of surgery and performing DNA sequencing to find mutations in the DNA. Their goal is to understand early markers in the disease and connect those markers to patient outcomes so they can better understand pancreatic cancer at the individual level and the disease as a whole.

Buschmann has long had an interest in cancer. During her third year at Concordia, she won a research internship at Pfizer in cancer pharmacology, looking for novel cancer therapy drugs. At the same time, she volunteered in the pediatric oncology department at the University of Michigan Children's Hospital.

In that setting, Buschmann developed the passion to understand cancer therapy and help cancer patients. "Even if I could contribute a small amount to help someone else, I wanted to do something good for people," she said.

That desire to help others started early in life, although her very first patients might disagree. "As a kid, I liked catching frogs and turtles, and being outside. I wanted to cut the frog open to see what was inside. Thankfully, my mom stopped me in time," Buschmann laughs. "I had this curiosity about how the world worked."

"Even if I could contribute a small amount to help someone else, I wanted to do something good for people."

—Mary (McVey) Buschmann

Her curiosity and determination have been instrumental in her academic and scientific accomplishments. "I'm a girl, and a mom, in the sciences. These are things people tell you all the time you can't do. If someone said that, I never saw it as a handicap," she said confidently. "If I look back, I wasn't doing girl things. I had Barbies, but I put them in my Tonka trucks. I just followed my interests."

"People go to CUAA with the intent of pursuing church work or teaching, but it's also a good environment for pursuing your interests, even if it's outside of those areas," Buschmann offered as advice to other students thinking about coming to Concordia. "You have to look for the opportunities and experiences."

It helps that the CUAA faculty go out of their way to help students find their niche. "I met Ron Allen on my first visit to the school," Buschmann recalled.



“I thought, ‘Here is a good guy.’ It was obvious that he cared about teaching and was good at what he did. And Neil Skov, and Rick Knotts—these guys were great teachers and cared about their students on a personal level. If you didn’t show up for class, they’d call you and ask where you were.” That respect and admiration is mutual. “As is now obvious in her research and organizational role, Mary was an excellent academic

student and role model for others,” Dr. Ron Allen, Emeritus Professor of Biology, said. “Students like Mary made my teaching at Concordia satisfying and quite enjoyable. For that, I thank her, recognize the development of her skills, and pray a measure of God’s richest blessings and continued success in her contributions in medical science. I’m proud to call Dr. Mary Buschmann my friend and colleague.”



Do you know someone making a difference?
Share it with us! [facebook.com/CUAnnArbor](https://www.facebook.com/CUAnnArbor)

alum*profile*



Mychal Thom, *Principal*
Concordia Lutheran
High School

'09

*“Don't be afraid
to seek ways to
strengthen your
walk with Christ.”*

CONCORDIA CONNECTION

An interview with Concordia Lutheran High School Administrator Mychal Thom

By Lisa Liljegren, *University Affairs*

Q: What is your role at Concordia Lutheran High School?

A: I am currently the principal at Concordia Lutheran High School (CLHS), and will transition to executive director by July of 2016.

Q: What drew you to CUAA for your degree?

A: When I was provided the opportunity to be the principal at St. John Lutheran School in Rochester, Mich., I felt it was important to continue my education with the colloquy study. Although I had grown up Lutheran, I did not attend Concordia University after high school.

Q: How did CUAA and your degree prepare you for your current position?


A: Administrating a Lutheran school is gratifying, but tough work! Not only has the training I received from CUAA provided me preparation to help guide others in their faith walk, it has helped me strengthen mine, as well.

Q: What connections would you say exist between Concordia Lutheran High School and CUAA?

A: Each year, we send students to CUAA, and many times they are among our top students! The location and programs are a good draw for the students and their families looking for a Christ-centered college experience. We also have faculty and staff members that are alumni of CUAA, and have continued their service here at CLHS.

Q: What advice would you give young people getting ready to embark upon college?

A: Take advantage of the opportunities in front of you! Get involved in the campus life, and don't be afraid to seek ways to strengthen your walk with Christ. Learn as much as you can from as many different people as you can, and strive hard to manage yourself and your time well!

 Want to be the next featured alum? Let us know on Twitter: @CUAA

FUTURE alumposts



CARDINALcloseup
Autumn Lehman, Junior
Early Childhood Education

"This program has given me the skills to be a creative, inventive, and organized teacher. I am excited for the things I will get to do in the future."



Melissa Graham (@MelissaGraham11)
I'm so ready to get back to Ann Arbor!
#CUAA

Joe Conner (@JoeConner14)
6 months ago I knew I'd be where I am. I knew I'd be in a position to succeed and grow by the Lord's Blessing. #CUAA



Shannon Angott (@shayangotti)
Beautiful sunset tonight! #CUAA #puremichigan



CUAA ALUMNI – Your Opinion is Important to Us!

CUAA is conducting a comprehensive alumni survey to learn what is important to you. In order to make sure your opinion is heard, we need your updated contact information, especially email address. Please update your information at: cuaa.edu/Alumni/whatsnewform.cfm

UPDATE BY OCTOBER 1ST AND BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR A \$50 VISA GIFT CARD!

You can also keep informed about all the activities and updates at CUAA through our alumni Facebook page: facebook.com/CUAAAlumni

alumnnotes



2000s

MICHAEL ELLSWORTH (05) served as a Family Life Educator at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School in Baltimore, Md. from graduation until he joined the U.S. Air Force in June 2010. He and ERIKA DUNIGAN (07) reconnected in Baltimore when she worked as a Child Life Specialist in the pediatric emergency department at University of Maryland Children’s Hospital in October 2009. After several years of a long-distance relationship, they were married in Dearborn, Mich. on October 25, 2014. Erika then moved to join Michael in Okinawa, Japan, where he serves as a Captain in the U.S.A.F.

JEREMIAH HOEHNER (02) was recently awarded the designation of Certified Professional Insurance Agent (CPIA), a professional designation conferred by the American Insurance Marketing and Sales Society (the AIMS Society). Jeremiah is with AAA Michigan and resides in Warren, Mich.

1980s



MELISA CAMERON (85) is celebrating 20 years of service with AT&T and has, for the second year in a row, received a Gold Level President’s Volunteer Service Award for achieving more than 500 hours of volunteer service in 2013 and 2014. This award serves as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

KURT J. KOLKA (84) had his CUAAbased superhero, *The Cardinal*, appear in newspapers around the world, thanks to the creators of the comic strip *Dick Tracy*. *The Cardinal* appeared in *Dick Tracy’s* comic strip as a thank-you to Kurt, who is an anti-bullying advocate, and consulted with the creators of *Dick Tracy* on an anti-bullying story in the comic strip *Dick Tracy*. *The Cardinal* was created for the *Campus Voice*, CUAAs newspaper, 37 years ago.



JOEL (84) and DAWN (GOODRICH) SARRAULT (84) reside in Adrian, Mich., where Joel has been the pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church for the past 16 years. This photo was taken recently on the CUAAs campus when both their sons, Zachery and Nicholas, were attending. They report that CUAAs has been a good and gracious place for their family, and they’re thrilled with all the positive changes and vision.



WILLIAM H. VOLLMAN (85) just completed his 30th year in the teaching ministry. He currently is the 8th grade teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School in Boca Raton, Fla., where he and his wife, Sarah, reside and also just purchased a new home.

Inaugural Class of 1965

THE 50TH REUNION OF THE Class of 1965 took place on the Concordia University Ann Arbor campus on May 16-17, 2015. From a graduating class of more than 175, 55 classmates attended. Alumni and guests enjoyed the reunion weekend, which included activities such as campus tours, a service of remembrance and thanksgiving in the Chapel, and a reception at the Earhart Manor on Saturday night. Sunday’s activities started with a recognition breakfast, where President Ferry presented medallions to the Class of 1965, and Class Vice President Lance Netland read a special greeting from Class President Gary Quick.



WANT TO SHARE YOUR NEWS?
Did you recently get married or give birth? Have you received a promotion, changed employers, or traveled the world? Email your alumni update with an accompanying photo (high-resolution if possible) to: alumni@cuaa.edu or submit online at: cuaa.edu/Alumni/whatsnewform.cfm.



WORD FROM ADVANCEMENT

IN THIS ISSUE OF *ARBOR LIGHT*, OUR theme is celebration. From what you have read so far, I trust that you would agree we have much to celebrate.

However, along with celebration comes the need to say, “Thank you!” Who should receive thanks for all that we celebrate?

God—At Concordia, we give thanks first and foremost to the One who provides for all that we need and so much more. His blessings are abundant and give us reason to celebrate, and give Him thanks and praise. To Him be the glory forever.

Students and their parents—Without students, our mission could not happen. We need students who will both experience the mission of “helping students to develop in mind, body, and spirit,” and then go on to live the mission “to serve Christ in the Church and the world.” So, our thanks go out to our students who embody this mission and to their parents, who lovingly encourage and support the academic pursuits of their sons and daughters.

Alumni, friends, and other supporters—High-quality Christian education requires far more than tuition dollars alone. Thanks to the generous financial support of our many alumni, friends, and other donors, Concordia is experiencing the greatest transformation since our opening more than 50 years ago. We celebrate this transformation and give thanks to those whose gifts are making it possible.

Please join us in celebrating all that is happening at Concordia, but also join us in giving thanks to God and to those who are His instruments in making these celebrations possible.

REV. DR. ROY PETERSON
Vice President of Advancement

WATCHING WITH WONDER

THE RHYTHM OF AN ACADEMIC YEAR creates certain markers and important occasions to celebrate. Most notably, persevering students, supporting family members, encouraging faculty and staff, and many in the community look forward to commencement as the ultimate celebration within a university context. At Concordia, like many other institutions of higher education, we want to celebrate commencement. This past May, like the previous May, and like many before, was a month of celebration. Of course, the celebrating came after a pressing week of final exams.

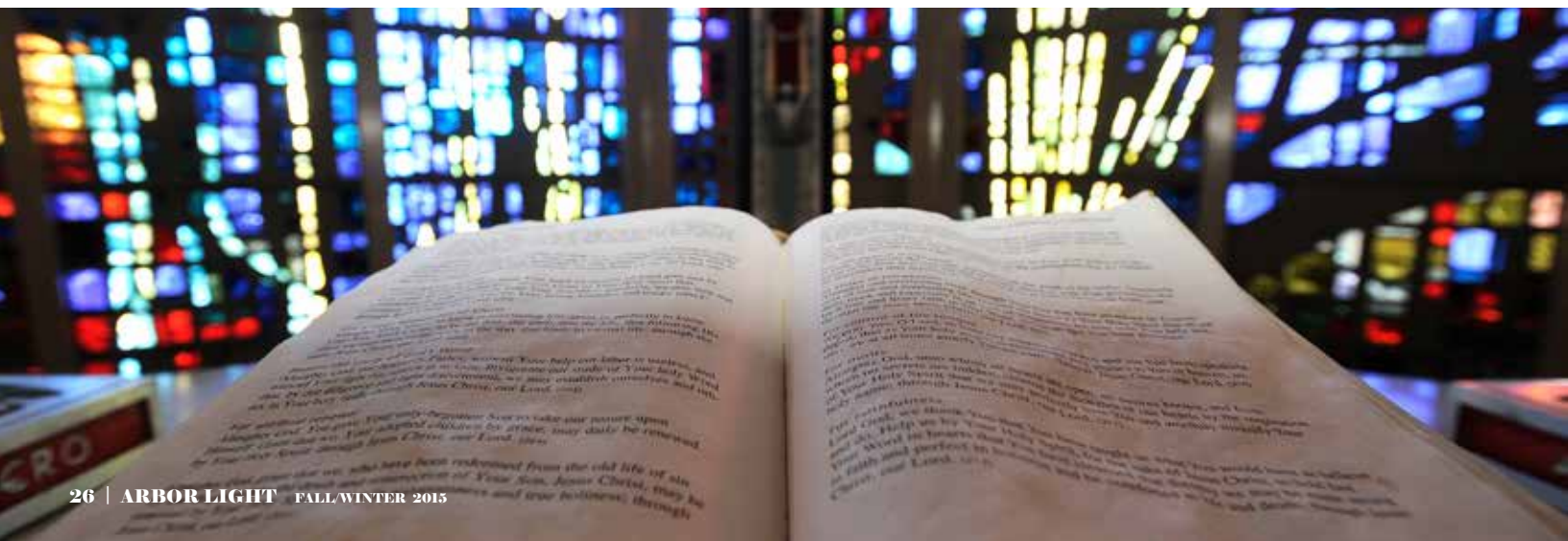
However, celebration is not limited to one big day at the conclusion of an academic year. Even as you read this article, the new semester has begun, and many celebrated the beginning of a new chapter in life. Smaller celebrations happen spontaneously every week: A student receives a graded paper with a grade higher than expected, hard work pays off as an athletic team wins a conference championship, and a few days off for fall break finally arrive. In the midst of sometimes difficult and challenging moments, opportunities to celebrate are especially important. God encourages celebration in the Old Testament, where he instructs His chosen people to celebrate various festivals throughout the year. The greatest celebration, of course, is the reality of Jesus' resurrection. We worship and celebrate because Jesus conquered death!

Our school theme for this 2015-16 academic year is "Immeasurably More." In the Apostle Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus, he boldly wrote, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work with us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21). Paul wrote these words as he celebrated the power of Christ's resurrection and the profound difference it made for him—at Concordia, we do the same. Because of Jesus, our lives are transformed. We are people who trust in God to do immeasurably more.



Next time you're on campus, join us in celebration. Daily Chapel (Monday–Friday at 10:30 a.m.) is one way our community gathers every day during the academic year to celebrate. We gather in community to receive God's Word for us, and to give thanks to our gracious and loving God who is able to do "immeasurably more" than any graduate of CUAA could ever imagine. As a Christ-centered institution, we teach, learn, and respond to God's love in Christ Jesus—all so that students may develop in "mind, body, and spirit, for service to Christ in the Church and the world." We celebrate commencement. We celebrate championships. We celebrate completed assignments and completed courses. But, above all, we celebrate Christ Jesus, who is "first in everything."

REV. RYAN PETERSON
Campus Pastor



THEN

Concordia
Spring
Commencement
Circa 1973



NOW

Concordia
Spring
Commencement
2015

Alumni & Friends Welcome!

SATURDAY, OCT. 3RD
HOMECOMING & CARDINAL
STADIUM DEDICATION

For details, visit: cuaa.edu/alumni/homecoming

