# Hearts Together

A CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN & ANN ARBOR
SPECIAL MAGAZINE EDITION



# **Hearts Together** contents

FALL/WINTER 2020





#### ON THE COVER

Under the leadership of Senior VP Dr. Gretchen Jameson,
Concordia rolled out its "COVID Conscious Campus"
campaign at the start of the fall term. The illustration on
the cover, which unites Concordia's Mequon and Ann
Arbor campuses, is a variation of the COVID Conscious
theme. It was conceptualized by Jameson and brought
to life by designer Lindsay Taylor.

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## **12–19 Timing is essential** (feature story)

With daily renewal from above, Concordians found ways to flourish in the midst of trying times.

#### 20-25 On the banks

A CUAA freshman is following in the footsteps of six generations of Halboth pastors before him.

### 26-27 Advancing the mission

s I write the introduction to this edition of our university magazine, we are over a month into the fall semester. So far so good! By the time you have your copy in your hands, however, the situation could be changed completely. There have been many lessons since COVID-19 interrupted our lives and disrupted the world. Among the ones that we have learned over the last several months is that plans are apt to change. Thankfully, our theme verses for our two campuses this year offer encouragement. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever!" (Hebrews 13:8) "In the world you will have tribulation," Jesus said, "but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

As I have grown older, I have discovered flexibility to be increasingly challenging. Touching my toes is not as easy as it once was. Standing on one foot with my eyes closed without bracing myself against a chair or wall is an exercise in futility. Colleges and universities have historically found it uneasy to bend very much. The reputation for the college campus was always that change happens at glacier pace. Even before the arrival of a global pandemic, however, the tectonic shifts in the world of higher education were being felt. Fortunately, Concordia has been nimbler than most of our peers. We have been fairly adept at flexing our flexibility muscle to meet the learning needs of students—whether traditional 18-22-year-olds, adult learners, students in graduate programs, or those seeking professional degrees. We have had good balance and have managed to extend our reach. The unwelcome arrival of COVID-19, however, put our ability to adjust quickly to the test.

The word "pivot" is often used to describe what has happened in response to the pandemic. Not unlike my inability to touch my toes, however, this description does not go far enough. Concordians have stretched themselves in ways that we would never have imagined to be necessary in order to reach the relatively good position in which we find ourselves today. More than a mere pivot, my colleagues have extended themselves heroically in order to continue our uncommon mission. In the pages that follow, you will have a sense of the ways in which Concordia and Concordians have responded with creativity and courage in these uncertain times. I am certainly proud of our faculty, staff, and students, and I commend them for their resilience.

It remains to be seen whether or not our plan to hold in-person instruction for the entire semester or school year comes to fruition. Certainly it will require us to stay flexible in order to reach our goals. We are hopeful that once we turn the corner from this annus horribilis into 2021 there will be a return of intercollegiate sports, music and drama performances, and all those activities and experiences that are typically enjoyed on campus.

Whatever awaits us, we are encouraged that our Lord Jesus walks beside us. The tests that we endure are ones designed to help us grow in faith and trust in Christ who loves us.

Although this, my last year as president of Concordia, may stretch me more than any other over 24 years in office, there is a benefit to getting older-retrospect! Looking back I know that our God who has been our help in ages past remains our hope for years to come. Be of good cheer, the love of God in

Christ Jesus never changes.

Patriol T. Ferm

REV. PATRICK T. FERRY, PHD

President

## **Hearts Together**

**HEARTS TOGETHER** is a joint publication of the Mequon and Ann Arbor campuses of Concordia University. In 2013, the two formerly independent universities merged into one institution, overseen by one president and one governing board. This publication shares the stories of the exciting advancements on each of the campuses; the notable accomplishments of faculty, staff, students, and alumni; and the life-changing service Concordians – hearts together - undertake for Christ in the Church and the world.

The Strategic Communications department is responsible for the production of *Hearts* Together. The magazine's editorial team welcomes your feedback. Please send comments or queries to Kali.Thiel@cuw.edu.

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Go green! If you would like to subscribe to our email edition instead of receiving a copy in the mail, please email email news@cuw.edu or news@cuaa.edu.

# social scene



#### Take root

These #CUAA students spent a Saturday afternoon planting 117 spring bulbs on the eastern side of the greenhouse. Stay tuned for some beautiful spring blooms! (P.S. social work is included in a \$2.2 million federal grant Concordia received to fight opioid abuse ... read more on page 8.)



#### AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW

Turns out it wasn't a pot of gold but a diploma for Pingping Zhou. The Tianhua alumna posted this rare pic of a double rainbow during one of her final weeks on CUW's campus.

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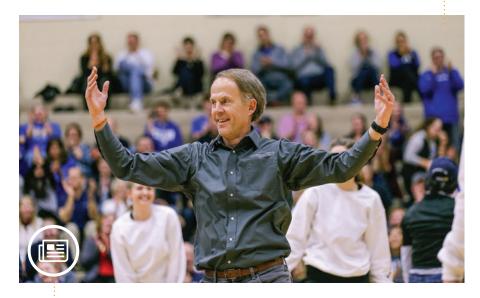
#### PANORAMIC PERSPECTIVE •

"For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations." -Malachi 1:11 Photo by: @yannikgruner



#### RESILIENT. DETERMINED. INSPIRING.

Wise beyond their years, these Concordians have meaningful lessons to share from their experiences overcoming childhood cancer. Read the faith-filled story at blog.cuaa.edu/childhood-cancer-survivors.



THE END OF AN ERA President Ferry announced that he will retire in June 2021 after three decades of service to Concordia University. Read more at blog.cuw.edu/ferry-announces-retirement.



#### · Lights on

Lights are BACK ON! Shine bright this semester, Concordians! See the full video at **facebook.com/cuwisconsin/videos.** 

#### **Reactions to President Ferry's** retirement announcement



#### **Kathleen Mary**

My husband remembers Dr. Ferry as a professor when he was at CUW. I remember him as president, and now our daughter is there and gets to remember a great president. Congratulations Dr. Ferry, we all wish you the best.



Dr. R. John Buuck You're way too young to retire!



#### **Charles R. Schulz**

Okay, you can go but not without leaving a large dose of your love for Concordia, your commitment to its mission, your vision of churchmanship, and your delight in proclaiming the Gospel.



**Andy Sohn** 

What a guy and what a tie!



#### Michelle Mickie Wagner

Congratulations, President Patrick Ferry on the announcement of your retirement! It is the end of an era, 30 years at Concordia with 24 as president. So many lives have been blessed by his leadership. Well done good and faithful servant.



**Jared Jurss** 





**Megan Wangerin** 

We love <3 <3 <3 P. Ferry!



# take five

# Get to know one of our *uncommon* Concordians, social work major Bri Dorpat ('22)

By Kali Thiel, Strategic Communications

hen Brianna "Bri" Dorpat decided to attend Concordia University Wisconsin, she carried on a proud family tradition that began more than a century ago.

Bri is one of eight Dorpats spread out over four generations to attend a school within the Concordia University System. While most have attended schools other than CUW, Bri was the first to bring the tradition back to Wisconsin, bookending the one who started it all, Rev. Theodore Dorpat, who began his time at Concordia College, Milwaukee (now CUW) in the early 1910s.

While at CUW, Bri is doing the family name proud. She's a student-athlete, she edged out approximately 30 applicants for a coveted RA position this year, and she claimed a spot among the university's first ever Diversity Advocates.

## What does it mean to be a Diversity Advocate?

There are eight of us, and we're all in different res halls. Our job is basically to be a set of ears for people to come talk to us about anything they're struggling with, especially struggles that might come with being someone in the minority.

One of the coolest things for me is the DAs meet to discuss books on social issues. Getting to meet and talk with this small group, it really gives me encouragement that there are people who actively care at Concordia. It's nice that we're able to have those hard conversations and feel safe in expressing our opinions.

## What's the ultimate goal of the Diversity Advocates program?

Our goal is to help people feel safe and welcomed when they come to Concordia. We want there to be diversity on campus, and we want people to feel like Concordia is their home away from home.

# You chose to major in social work, and minor in justice and public policy. What drew you to that combination?

My dad played a big part in my decision. He has over 25 years' experience in law enforcement. He would often share how important he felt a social worker could be in a police department. Police officers are taught to deal with people on a legal level. Social workers deal with them on a mental health level and connect them to resources that can ultimately help them stop getting into trouble with the law.

## How did you choose which Concordia you would attend?

It wasn't a given that I would go to a Concordia actually. I was initially looking at another school. I didn't even know CUW had a social work program until my dad suggested we visit, and then I saw how awesome the program was. I also love the fact that we're on a lake. I think it's an absolutely beautiful campus, and I'm so proud to carry on the family tradition.

## What's been the toughest part about being a first-time RA amidst COVID?

Definitely remembering people! Since you can't see their full face, you have to rely on other features. We really focused in training on ways to build community, though, and I'm finding creative ways.





CUWAA Social Work Chair Dr. Charnetta Gadling-Cole was the lead author on Concordia's \$2.2 million HRSA grant proposal.

# \$2.2 MILLION TO BATTLE OPIOID DISORDERS

oncordia is one of only 28 organizations nationwide to be awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to expand access to behavioral health services for families affected by opioids and other substance use disorders.

HRSA—the primary U.S. federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable—awarded Concordia a total of \$2.2 million over four years.

Led by social work faculty on the Mequon and Ann Arbor campuses, Concordia will use the funding to educate and train professionals to treat individuals who suffer from opioid abuse or addiction, with a special focus on helping family units.

"We're seeing the devastating effects of opioids on families," says CUWAA Social Work Chair Dr. Charnetta Gadling-Cole. "Social workers are in a prime position to make a difference because they're often on the front lines with these families. They need to be better equipped to recognize when an individual needs intervention so that they can be that conduit to other vital resources."

#### Fighting for opioid-impacted families

WITH THE HRSA FUNDING, CONCORDIA LAUNCHED THE OPIOID IMPACTED FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE, OPEN TO ALL CUWAA STUDENTS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS. THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM WILL:

- Demonstrate increased capacity to help families with opioid or substance use disorders
- Receive full tuition for the 3-credit, 8-week online course
- Have flexibility to work self-paced through online course materials in the first 6 months, followed by 48 hours of experiential learning opportunities at designated partner sites
- Be eligible to continue on into CUWAA's telecounseling apprenticeship training program, which will launch in fall 2021

Learn more at cuw.edu/opioidcert.



This fall, CUW began a four-year journey as a JED Campus to evaluate and strengthen its mental health, substance misuse, and suicide prevention programs.

The initiative is supported by the Charles E. Kubly Foundation.



Thanks to the Rev. Dr. Victor A. Bartling Memorial Endowment, which several alumni started decades ago, incoming preseminary students at CUW will receive four of their essential language texts for free.



A gift from the Russell & Josephine Kott Memorial allowed CUW to purchase a state-of-the-art manikin to better prepare future nurses for the unique health challenges of the skyrocketing elderly population in the United States.



Student-athletes and health occupations majors received free exercise mats and reflection journals this semester as an incentive to participate in classes that taught coping strategies and resiliency mindsets. The effort is funded by a grant from CIRG.

# A SEASON DEFERRED

n an effort to maintain the safety and competitive caliber of collegiate-level programs within their regions, several of the governing conferences for Concordia University Wisconsin athletics have decided to push competitions to the spring semester.

Impacted fall sports at CUW included men's and women's cross country, golf, and soccer; field hockey and football; and women's tennis and volleyball. The winter sports of men's and women's basketball, ice hockey, and indoor track and field; wrestling; and ACHA men's ice hockey were also disrupted. Esports, as well as men's and women's cross country, golf, and ice hockey continued non-conference competitions during the fall.

Teams met (safely distanced) throughout the fall season for conditioning and training. Coaches' efforts to maintain the team dynamic proved a winning compromise for many student-athletes. Concordia retained nearly 90 percent of its student-athletes from last academic year to 2010–21. CUW's student-athlete population makes up 32 percent of the university's traditional undergraduate enrollment.

"It's definitely been a disappointment to not have our typical season, but I'm so grateful that Concordia did in fact return to in-person instruction this year," said Morgan Bolz, a member of the women's soccer team. "Being around my teammates and coaches has really kept me grounded and motivated even though things look different this year."

Keep up with CUW athletics at **cuwfalcons.com.** 





Concordia currently owns two purebred Golden Retrievers, Zoey (left) and Sage. It will look to add a third to its Comfort Dog Ministry team in August 2021.

# COMPASSION UNLEASHED

he sad day is approaching when Concordia will lose one of its most dogged workers to retirement.

CUW's inaugural LCC K-9

Comfort Dog, Zoey, will unofficially hang up her comfort vest in summer 2021.

Concordia has launched a crowdfunding effort to raise

money for a new canine worker. Those interested in donating can visit blog.cuw.edu/compassion-unleashed.

The new comfort dog will serve students on campus and be a resource for CUW's School of Education and athletic training program when the university launches Wisconsin's sole Compassion Care Concentration in fall 2021. The concentration will consist of four three-credit courses. It is designed to equip future professionals to provide compassionate, trauma-informed care.

"Due to growing depression rates among teens, principals are now preferring candidates with backgrounds in trauma-informed care," says Dean of Education Dr. James Pingel II. "A comfort dog can serve as a powerful bridge to allow our graduates to reach those who are hurting and extend Christian love, care, and healing."



Mike Stolte (center) succeeded Mario Valdes (left) as head of CUW's Campus Safety.

Dan Buntrock (right) newly joined the team in spring 2020 as assistant director.

## IN GOOD HANDS

fter 15 years as the head of Campus Safety at Concordia University Wisconsin, Mario Valdes stepped down from the director role. The retired Mequon Police Department detective and U.S. Marine Corps veteran still serves in a part-time capacity at CUW.

Concordia's former assistant director, Mike Stolte, succeeded Valdes this fall. Stolte has over 17 years of experience in private security and 13 years of experience as a sworn law enforcement officer. In addition to rising in the ranks within the Town of Dover Water Patrol, he has served nearly his entire working career at Concordia. Together, he and Valdes have grown CUW's Campus Safety staff from a small team that was supplemented with student workers to what it is today: Sixteen part-time and six full-time officers, most of who are either retired law enforcement or hold current certifications.

Concordia has thrived under Valdes' and Stolte's conscientious care. The home security company ADT ranked Concordia the safest campus in Wisconsin, and in 2017 Concordia came in No. 2 on the list of safest college campuses in the U.S., according to the Milwaukee start-up Rent College Pads.

Stepping into the assistant director role this year is retired Mequon Chief of Police Dan Buntrock. He brings with him more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement, serving 12 years as operations commander in charge of the Patrol Division, Detective Bureau, Special Operations, and K-9 Unit and a little over one year as police chief for the Mequon Police Department.

# SAVE THE DATE

Due to COVID-19, Concordia has shifted most of its events to virtual gatherings. Check **cuw.edu/events** for more happenings open to the public and for full event details.



#### Christmas at Concordia

Virtual
Available for viewing in early December



# **CUW Commencement**

Virtual Dec. 12



Virtual March 1



#### **New programs**

COVID didn't stop Concordia from launching new programs in 2020. Here are a few of the latest. Want to enroll? Visit blog.cuw.edu/ new-programs.

- BS in applied computer science
- BS in business analytics and organizational performance
- BS in business analytics and change management
- BS in environmental science
- BS in public health
- BS in human resource and strategic leadership (accelerated)
- MS in nursinghealthcare informatics
- Post BSN to DNP
- Bridge PTA to DPT

## **DR. BUSINESS**

his past summer the Higher Learning Commission approved the Batterman School of Business' Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) proposal, which makes CUW the only Milwaukeearea university to offer a comparable program. Only one other university in Wisconsin offers a DBA.

The three-year, 60-credit program features three distinct concentrations for students: financial and economic management, organizational change and performance, and healthcare administration. The DBA is primarily an online program with minimal on-campus residency requirements.

The business doctorate will prepare Christian leaders to make data-informed decisions through the study of real-world businesses and organizational trends. Concordia expects to enroll its first class of graduate-level learners in July 2021, with a second cohort scheduled to start the following January. Applications are now being accepted.

Concordia's other doctorate programs include: Doctor of Leadership in innovation and continuous improvement (EdD LICI), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), and Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD). CUW also offers three dual degree PharmD programs that allow students to obtain their Doctor of Pharmacy and a master's degree in a shortened timeline.

Learn more: cuw.edu/DBA.

# **TOP-TIER, NATIONALLY RANKED**

.S. News & World Report's 2021 America's Best Colleges guide has ranked CUW among the top tier of national universities. Concordia rose 23 spots—from 281 to 258—among the nation's 389 four-year public, private, and for-profit universities that were listed. U.S. News used data from spring and early summer 2020.

Schools in the National Universities category offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and doctoral programs. This year Concordia was lifted out of the Midwest Regional Universities category and into the National Universities ranking due to a growing portfolio of doctoral programs, such as its new Doctorate in Business Administration program, and a wider range of undergraduate and master's degree programs.

"We're in the major leagues now with some tough competition the likes of Princeton, Harvard, and Columbia," says Dr. Tamara Ferry, executive director of institutional research. "Nonetheless, our percentile rank increased on several important indicators."

The university's commitment to its Christcentered mission is one of 17 indicators of academic quality that were evaluated. Other indicators, including test scores, retention rates, graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratio, social mobility, faculty and financial resources, alumni engagement, and peer rankings, were also considered.

Read more: blog.cuw.edu/US-World-ranking.





#### **Happy 10th birthday, CCES!**

IN THE PAST DECADE, THE CONCORDIA **CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP** HAS GROWN TO INCLUDE NEW ECO-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES, ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING, AND EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS. LEARN MORE AT BLOG.CUW.EDU/CCES-TURNS-10.







#### TIME FOR

# new services



Students received CUAA Health kevchain tags at the start of the semester. The tags serve as a handy reference for how to access 24/7 health services

ind, body, and spirit. The pandemic attacked all three, yet Concordia employees have nimbly shifted to reinforce the university's holistic approach to educating, nurturing, and equipping its students.

MIND-When it came to matters of the mind, Concordia's solid history in the online learning sphere has proven a remarkable asset. Concordia has led in this arena since 1998 and as a result fared far better than most in the about-face switch from in person to entirely online last spring.

Still, a vital piece of the collegiate experience—especially at the undergraduate level—exists in the on-campus experience. That value motivated university employees to do all they could to achieve Concordia's educational mission with as much face time as was safely possible. Under the leadership of Senior Vice President Dr. Gretchen Jameson, the university rolled out its COVID Conscious Campus initiative. The effort focused on the behaviors and mindset necessary for campus wellness in order to meet the challenge of the pandemic and keep campus open, all while protecting the well-being and spirit of the Concordia community.

"We committed this year to offering the fulsomeness of the Concordia experience so that as many individuals in our community can grow and develop through a Christcentered higher education," said Jameson. "We do that with excellence online, yet we believe the uncommon nature of the Concordia community is best achieved when we can be face-to-face as much as possible."

The university adopted a hybrid model of online and

in-person instruction for 2020-21, and welcomed residents to its respective campuses beginning in early August. Those on campus were encouraged to limit in-person interactions whenever possible, always mask up indoors, and daily complete an online symptom tracker to aid in the health centers' contact tracing efforts. Concordia remains transparent with its efforts through online dashboards that report the university's COVID-19 cases.

**BODY**—This year attention to "the body," or students' physical and emotional health, became a leading value. For the CUAA campus, this prompted the addition of a 24-hour telehealth service, called CUAA Health, that's available to undergraduates every day of the week. CUAA Health supplements the services already offered through the campus' Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) department.

Among its features is a resource named TalkNow, which grants students immediate access to a mental health counselor through an app. This service becomes especially vital in light of national data that shows COVID-19 has caused alarming rates of anxiety, sadness, and loneliness among college students. University Business reported in May that one in five college students (out of the 2,086 students surveyed) said their mental health had "significantly worsened" during the pandemic. That same survey found that more than half of the students polled wouldn't know where to seek help.

"The key word here is access," says CUAA Dean of Students John Rathje. "When in doubt about what is needed, our students can easily contact a health professional and get immediate answers. It takes the guessing game out of things for a student who is already in a vulnerable position."

**SPIRIT**—Whether online or in person, Concordia's Campus Ministry teams have produced a steady and robust stream of faith growth opportunities. Last spring CUAA Campus Pastor Randy Duncan eagerly picked up the charge to continue Daily Chapel in a virtual capacity despite sufficient roadblocks. His "Home Chapel" offered a daily Zoom one-man production of chapel messages and acoustic tunes for faithful audiences of students and employees.

On the CUW side, COVID-conscious Daily Chapels resumed this fall with limited in-person capacity and strong encouragement to tune in via livestream. The Campus Ministry Leadership Team cast a wide net with its offerings and effectively pivoted when necessary to aid in the mitigation effort. And campus tradition Tuesday Noon Bible Study returned in August in a virtual format to offer yet another opportunity for faith formation and muchneeded fellowship.

"We're in the midst of very troubling times, but Concordia is blessed to be able to openly talk about the One who never changes, who is always present, and who knows our needs better than we do," says CUW Campus Pastor Steve Smith. "Christ got himself into trouble for us and became a bridge over troubled waters in order to connect us back to God. This truth certainly brings us peace each day in a troubled world, as our theme for the academic year highlights."





#### TIME FOR

# personal growth

oncordians used the gift of time to start side hustles, tune talents, and propel personal growth amidst COVID-19.

The university as a whole has seen a creative surge among its students in recent months. An Etsy shop featuring customized t-shirts, the mass production of face masks for those in need, and a reframed hobby photography business are just a few on the list of dedicated efforts taken up since the coronavirus struck.

Paxton Green ('22) and Rachel Johnstone ('21), students on Concordia's Ann Arbor campus, had been formulating a creative venture just before the pandemic hit. The extra time in quarantine presented the opportunity to begin their handmade earrings business PJ & Ray Clay. Now the bold, colorful clay earrings can be spotted on students throughout campus. "We originally planned to launch after spring break, but then everything changed," said Johnstone, who made the first clay earrings practice batch in the John Mark Hall common area.

The ladies ended up altering their plans. Each made hundreds of pairs of earrings while sheltering in place in their hometowns. Once they felt safe to ship from the post office, they executed a successful midsummer launch, selling out half of their quarantine inventory within the first month.

Although not directly related to the women's chosen career paths, PJ & Ray Clay has already shown returns in numerous ways. Green, who is studying child life, says that doing something with her hands proved therapeutic and meditative. The extra income to pad her savings was a bonus. Johnstone, a nursing major, notes that the two are nurturing business skills that will last them a lifetime as they market their earrings, track spending, and invest revenue back into supplies. Their newly acquired artistic hobby also comes in handy for creating gifts for loved ones and expressing their own personal styles.

Cultivating creativity is one way to grow personally. Concordia students also took time to invest in their talents, practice spiritual disciplines, or introduce fitness habits into their regular routines.

Sophia Collins ('22) and Jenna Chaussee ('23) are teammates on the Concordia University Wisconsin volleyball team. Despite the team being unable to meet in person, the two took advantage of the circumstances, challenging themselves (and their teammates) to get stronger and stay physically active during the break.

Collins and Chaussee committed to acing their fitness routines. The Falcons volleyball teammates led the roster's outside hitters in group workouts via Zoom.

"What I had previously taken for granted I now cherish,"

says Collins. "Quarantine helped me rediscover my passion for volleyball and my love for my team at CUW. Though quarantine was not a high point of 2020, I was still blessed to be able to have a lot of positive outcomes because of it."

Both women capitalized on their time at home to work toward career goals, too.

Collins, a nursing major, started a job as a CNA in a hometown hospital serving on both the medical surgical pediatric floor and in the ambulatory unit. She also joined a nutrition challenge at her CrossFit gym to stay nutritionally fueled for both her job and workouts.

Chaussee, a rehabilitative sciences major who will go on to pursue her doctorate in physical therapy, spent time engaged in behavioral therapy with children from three different families in her hometown. Chaussee said her discipline during quarantine put her in the best shape of her life physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

"The pandemic has led to a complete shift in my mindset and what I find important in life," says Chaussee. "We cannot change things that are out of our control, but we can make the most out of any situation if we focus on the positives. It can be easy to get overwhelmed by the negativity, but I truly feel that this time brought me closer to my family, friends, teammates, and to God."



DaJuan Thomas ('21) took time in 2020 to reframe his photography business, DaOne Productions (a.k.a. D1P). With football practices on pause, the CUAA Cardinals' defensive back and business major found time during quarantine to try out new ideas and add to his business.



Sophia Collins ('22), left, and Jenna Chaussee ('23) kept up their fitness routine at Concordia with a jog along the bluff.

# take action

n March 23, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a stay-at-home order for the state due to the alarming spread of the coronavirus.

While every corner of Michigan was impacted, Detroit bore a particularly brutal brunt. Vital services, structures, and programs that long existed to care for the city's most vulnerable population were in peril. The heroic efforts of essential workers in every employment sector helped to keep the city and its citizens safe.

Meet two Concordians who provided uncommon care for their patients and scholars during Detroit's darkest hours.

#### STANLEY STINSON (NURSING '19), STREET OUTREACH NURSE AND CUAA ALUMNUS

When Michigan's stay-at-home order went into effect, Stanley Stinson's mission to provide emotional and medical services to Detroit's

> "rough sleeping" (homeless) citizens became significantly more challenging and exponentially more critical.

> > crew of health professionals and volunteers routinely comb urban areas in search of people living in the shadows. From an unmarked van. the team distributes food, blankets,

> > > mental and spiritual health support for those in need.

> > > > Over the years, many of their patients have become friends.

When COVID-19 hit Detroit, Stinson's patients had no homes to shelter in, and the critical services upon which they relied closed. In many cases, the street outreach team was their only source for information about the pandemic and, even more critically, their only human contact. Stinson and his team had to navigate new safety protocols that wouldn't compromise their distinct personal care. They also had to procure food, supplies, PPE, and outdoor gear that had become scarce when the city shut down.

"Our patients were alone and afraid," says Stinson. "The streets were empty, and everything they knew and relied upon to get by was different; was gone. During that scary time, the most critical thing our patients needed was other people. People who cared for their physical, mental, and spiritual health. That is what we do."

#### JACQUELINE DUNGEY (MS '12), PRINCIPAL AND CUW ALUMNA

New Paradigm Loving Academy in Detroit's North End is a safe space in which scholars want to learn and contribute to the thriving family culture. The K-8 charter school is located within a highly disadvantaged district, where students face an inequitable amount of challenges inside and outside of the classroom each day. The school's motto is "Whatever it takes, our kids deserve it."

"Our kids really do deserve it," says Jacqueline Dungey, principal. "It's not just academic, although we are committed to the achievement of each one of our scholars. We care about the whole child, and focus as much on their social and emotional development as we do academics."

As a mother of six children, Dungey and her husband, Jody, have their hands full with scholars of their own, but that doesn't stop her from doing whatever it takes to keep her Loving families safe and supported.

"Whatever it takes" took on a whole new meaning during COVID-19. When the school made the decision to move classes online, Dungey and her staff went to great lengths to contact every student in the school.

"It was all hands on deck," says Dungey. "We tracked them down like we were detectives."

For Dungey, that meant going door to door if necessary to find and account for the safety and wellness of her students.

This was not a "one-and-done" demonstration of concern. The staff at Loving Academy connected weekly with each student throughout the school year. While academic success was important to the school staff, far more pressing concerns were addressed during the check-ins. Issues including food instability, technology needs, diaper shortages, rent assistance, mental health concerns, and safety in the home were discussed. Sometimes Dungey and her staff were needed to step in. Always they were there

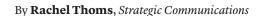
"I give my scholars, my babies, the same type of love and attention that I give my own kids," says Dungey. "I have high expectations for them and want nothing but the best for them."





# take five

Get to know one of our uncommon Concordians. pre-seminary and music major Aaron Halboth ('24)



alk about a family tradition. Aaron Halboth ('24) just started his freshman year at Concordia University Ann Arbor and will be a sixth-generation Halboth to answer God's call to become an LCMS pastor. Halboth, who is majoring in pre-seminary studies and music, is the first family member of his generation to prepare for pastoral ministry. The lineage traces back to The LCMS's inception!

As Halboth navigates his classes, new friendships, music lessons, and other cocurricular activities on campus, he's being prepared in mind, body, and spirit to serve God's Kingdom, following in the footsteps of five generations before him.

#### When did you first feel called to become a pastor?

Since I was a kid in Sunday school, I was always interested in the Bible and theology. I went to a church where both my dad and grandpa served as pastors, and I got to see firsthand what it means to be a servant of Christ as they spread the Word of God to the congregation.

#### You'll be a sixth-generation pastor in your family. Tell me about that.

Yes, so, Marcus Halboth came to the United States from Germany in the 1800s. He went to the seminary under the direction of C.F.W. Walther, the first president of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. His great-grandson, Rev. Dr. Victor Halboth Jr., was my grandpa.

It has been a blessing for me to witness my dad and grandpa not only on Sundays, but in their daily lives as pastors: Making phone calls to members, serving the people around them, serving the community.

#### What are you most excited about in your educational journey here at Concordia?

I'm just excited about the potential. Four years is a long time, and I know that I will learn a lot.

As I prepare to study at the seminary, I'm also studying music. I've loved music since fifth grade. I play the bassoon and played bass clarinet in my high school marching band. Now I play the baritone in the Cardinal Regiment and am learning the organ on our awesome organ in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. I can't wait to serve my future congregation through the gift of music, too.

#### What are your favorite classes so far and why?

I love my Old Testament class with Dr. Yakimow. He's a really engaging professor, and the class has led me to think about the Bible in ways I never have before. Our lessons have also helped me to work through some questions I've had, which is cool, too.

#### You graduated high school and started college during a pandemic. How do you hold on to hope?

My friends help to keep me steady for sure. I just started college, and I already have a bunch of really close friends.

Also, this is the first time I've gone to a private school. I love the Christian environment and going to Chapel every day. Everyone is really friendly here, too. I really am the happiest I've

INTERESTED IN CHURCH WORK? CUAA WILL TRAIN AND EQUIP YOU TO FAITHFULLY TEACH AND PREACH THE GOSPEL. LEARN MORE AT BLOG.CUAA.EDU/BE-A-CHURCH-WORKER.







Dr. Tori Negash is the director of CUAA's Academic Resource Center.

## **UNCOMMON SUPPORT**

UAA's Academic Resource Center (ARC) has launched Destination Cardinal, a "summer bridge" program geared primarily toward first-generation or low-income students.

Students will begin the program the summer before they officially start at CUAA in order to receive resources and support to ease the transition from high school to college.

"In some ways, it's like giving students a head start so that they don't arrive and immediately feel like they're left in the dust," says ARC Director Dr. Tori Negash. "Low-income and first-generation students have all sorts of obstacles stacked against them. Research and history tell us that they're less likely to complete college as a result, and we want to give them every opportunity we can to succeed."

In addition to serving certain at-risk groups, Destination Cardinal is available to the CUAA student body at large, providing an easily accessible resource for students at all achievement levels. The ARC team launched the resource in September to provide extra support for students as they navigated their uncommon return to campus amidst COVID.

The program is accessible through an online portal and includes sections of information such as:

- Online learning tips and tricks
- Academic and career exploration
- Personal growth, development, and well-being

Students can learn how to access the portal and learn more about the ARC services available to them at **cuaa.edu/arc.** 

**1** OUT OF **5** 

**28**%

**200** 

TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATES AT CUAA ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS OF TRADITIONAL
UNDERGRADUATES AT CUAA
ARE PELL GRANT ELIGIBLE

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF AT-RISK STUDENTS WHO LOGGED ON WITHIN A MONTH OF LAUNCH



# A CREATURE OF COMFORT

UAA has a new furry friend on campus.
Gracie Maize, a certified therapy dog, began
in the fall to pay weekly visits to Concordia
to serve as an emotional reprieve and stress
reliever for students. CUAA's Counseling and
Psychological Services (CAPS) department is
responsible for the mood lifter.

### **GAME CHANGE**

UAA's fall athletics programs continue to navigate schedule changes that had to shift due to COVID. At this point, winter and spring seasons are continuing as planned.

NAIA conferences and institutions held the autonomy to schedule fall games as they saw fit, playing entire schedules in the fall, spring, or a hybrid of both seasons. Football, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, and the men's and women's cross country national championships were all affected by this decision.

#### **REVISED SCHEDULES**

#### **Fully spring**



Football

#### **Hybrid seasons**



Men's and women's soccer



Men's and women's cross country



Women's volleyball

The Cardinals are also on the winning end of two national championship hosting bids for 2021–22. Together with the Ann Arbor Sports Commission, the Cardinals will serve as host for the NAIA Competitive Cheer and Dance Championships in both 2021 and 2022, as well as the host for the 2021 NAIA Women's Golf Championship. Both national championships

will be held off campus at local facilities in Washtenaw County.

For full details on

Cardinals athletics, visit

concordiacardinals.com.



Men's golfer Nick Althouse ('22) celebrates his firstplace victory at the CUAA Invitational. Men's and women's golf (along with men's and women's tennis) were the first programs to return to play. Both have split seasons in fall and spring.



Joanna Percy ('24), who played the role of Helena, poses in her 18th century Scotland concept costume for the show.

### VIRTUAL PLAY SPACE

t may be William Shakespeare's most widely performed play, but it has likely never been done like this before.

Under the direction of Amanda Williams-Contreras, CUAA's theater department got creative amidst COVID with its virtual production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Casting and rehearsals were accomplished via Zoom, and students were individually filmed acting their scenes in front of green screens. Williams-Contreras and her stage crew then edited the individual videos together to form a cohesive show that was livestreamed to audiences.

The final production included superimposed digital backdrops designed by Technical Director April Thomson. Thomson created five different backdrops over the course of four days using a digital painting process in Photoshop.

"The biggest challenge was figuring out how to do the production safely while still giving the students a good theater experience and producing a quality show," said Thomson. "Ultimately, I think we succeeded."

The fall production is still available for viewing. Those interested may find the recording at blog.cuaa.edu/midsummer.



When it comes to growth potential, work-life balance, and salary, a PA is the second-best health care job in the United States.

Data from 2019 "U.S. News & World Report"

CUAA's physician assistant program will be housed in a newly refurbished wing of the North Building. The space includes a dedicated PA lab/classroom for lecture and skills practice (pictured above), and a state-of-the-art anatomy lab.

### **READY TO ASSIST**

here is an enormous demand for physician assistants within the U.S., and this academic year Concordia is celebrating the fact that its Ann Arbor campus is part of the solution.

CUAA will officially launch its Master of Science in physician assistant studies program in January 2021 with 32 students. ARC-PA granted provisional accreditation earlier this school year.

The 27-month program is the only one of its kind offered by a Christian university in Michigan. Courses are delivered in an on-the-ground format, and students will complete 15 didactic months of education and 12 months of clinical rotations as a requisite for graduation.

The program's 32-student cap puts it at an 8-1 student-to-faculty ratio, a significantly lower rate than most PA programs nationwide.

"Our tight-knit campus community is one of the main reasons students say they love Concordia Ann Arbor," says Jacqueline Kazik, MA, PA-C, program director. "We plan to intentionally keep our PA class sizes small so that students can get the most personalized educational experience possible."

The PA addition augments a growing list of Christ-inspired health profession degrees offered at CUAA, including bachelor's degrees in social work, diagnostic medical sonography, and radiologic technology. Additionally, directors have been hired for the Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) and Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) programs. Pending the necessary approvals, the OTD program is expected to launch in fall 2022, while the DPT program is slated for a fall 2023 start.

Learn more at cuaa.edu/PA.

# **SAVE THE** DATE

Due to COVID-19, Concordia has shifted most of its events to virtual gatherings. Check cuaa.edu/events for more happenings open to the public and for full event details.



#### **Boar's Head**

Virtual Available for viewing in early December



#### **CUAA** Commencement

Virtual Dec. 13



**MATCHness** 

(Day of Giving)

Virtual and on campus March 1



The inaugural MSAT cohort includes (left to right): Jacob Bailey, Dayna (Schroeder) Schaffer, Julia Palushaj, Crimson Hughes, Daniela Perez, and Timothy Koehler.

# **EXCELLENCE IN (AND FOR)** THE FIELD

ith its inaugural cohort of graduates successfully in the workforce and accreditation recognition freshly under its belt, it's safe to say that Concordia University Ann Arbor's innovative three-year Master of Science in athletic training (MSAT) program is off and running.

CUAA celebrates the only three-year MSAT program in the nation. Students balance graduate-level coursework with clinicals in their third year to fulfill the accelerated timeline.

In May 2020, Concordia celebrated the commencement of its first six graduates. Just a month prior the program hit a milestone when it gained its initial CAATE accreditation.

It took a team of experienced practitioners to bring the one-of-a-kind program to fruition. Program Director Tim Neal, MS, AT, ATC, CCISM, joined the CUAA faculty in 2017 after a decades-long career as head athletic trainer for Division I Syracuse University. He has an extensive list of achievements to his name, having served as athletic trainer on a U.S. Olympic Committee and as an author of multiple safety guidelines that are still in play within the NCAA. More recently he was inducted into the Class of 2019 National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Hall of Fame and contributed to a statement that NATA released in June on the best practices for spine-injured athletes in American tackle football.

Assistant Professor Amber Melick, MS, AT, ATC, CAT(C), serves on ethics committees for two different athletic trainers' associations. She was recently named to the NATA Committee on Professional Ethics and also is on the committee for the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association. Melick is one of only a handful of athletic trainers in the world who holds credentials in two countries.

Learn more about the program: cuaa.edu/athletictraining.

#### It's another banner year!

CUAA added to a list of growing accolades this year with its fall 2021 census numbers. Below are just a few among the highlight reel. Read more at blog.cuaa. edu/enrollment2020.

**FASTEST-GROWING** PUBLIC OR PRIVATE COLLEGE IN MICHIGAN OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS

**38**%

**INCREASE IN TOTAL DEGREES CONFERRED ANNUALLY SINCE 2014** 

**250** 

**RECORD-HIGH** FRESHMAN CLASS (UP 35 STUDENTS FROM LAST FALL)

1,010

RECORD-**HIGH TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT** 

**75%** 

**INCREASE IN TOTAL** UNDERGRADUATE **ENROLLMENT** SINCE THE MERGE

# **REIMAGINING AND** RECALIBRATING

t is not summer anymore. In fact, as you are reading this issue you may be preparing for or be in the midst of the Advent and Christmas season. Around our house, that preparation includes different decorations, lights outside, and, of course, a Christmas tree prominently displayed. Typically we enjoy family and friend gatherings, but this year it is hard to say what will transpire.

Concordia has been in prep mode long before the holidays. For the weeks and months of this past summer, campus leaders spent hours reimagining spaces, and recalibrating anticipated patterns and expectations in preparation to boldly welcome our students back in August.

We walked the buildings and marked the floors. We hung new signage. We reduced the capacity of classrooms, creating a new "COVID capacity" for each room. Our food service partner Sodexo reconfigured the Cardinal Cafe. We marked new seating spaces in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. We removed tables and chairs. We discussed, debated, and then decided on new policies and procedures that would keep the safety and wellness of our campus community as our highest priority.

I am proud of the ways our campus has adapted to these changing circumstances. Many students and employees alike are back on campus, albeit in reimagined and recalibrated ways. Through it all, the unchanging and uncommon love of God in Christ Jesus has reminded us to remember that every day is the day the Lord has made; therefore, we will rejoice and be glad in it!

#### **REV. DR. RYAN PETERSON**

Vice President of Administration Chief Liaison to the Office of the President



#### 24-hour mental health support

**CUAA PROVIDES A NEW SERVICE THAT GRANTS** UNDERGRADUATES FREE AND IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO A MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY. LEARN MORE ON PAGE 14.





#### **Advancing the mission**



he season of Advent is a time of preparation. We get ready for Christmas by shopping for gifts, decorating the house, and planning family celebrations. As Christians, we also prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth and His glorious return.

One can hardly think of Advent without recalling John the Baptist. Through his faithful service, many were called to repentance and prepared for the coming of Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit, lives were changed then and into eternity.

Preparation is also a part of daily life at Concordia. Each day students gather in classrooms, either virtually or in person, and instructors help prepare them for lives of service to Christ in the Church and the world. Upon graduation, our students go out and prepare the way for others as they live out the Concordia mission.

But our instructors are not the only ones who prepare the way for our students. Alumni and friends also play a vital role through their generous support of the Concordia Fund and gifts to various endowment scholarships. Either during or at the end of life, these faithful stewards help make a Concordia education possible for thousands each year.

To those who have already helped prepare the way, please accept our sincere gratitude. As our graduates serve others in church work, healthcare, business, or any other vocation they choose, lives are changed as God works in and through them.

If you are not yet a regular donor, there is no better time to begin than now. Your gifts help keep Christ-centered education accessible.

On this page and the next, you will see how the generosity of our alumni and friends is making an impact on our students. Please consider joining us as we prepare the way.

REV. DR. ROY PETERSON, CFRE
President, Concordia University Foundation

#### PREPARE THE WAY...

# ...through Uncommon Giving

Because of the generosity of thousands of alumni and friends just like you, we are able to directly impact the lives of our students and enhance their campus experience in several unique ways. Here are just a few of the many ways you can make a difference.



# ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER (ARC)—MEQUON

Our ARC provides students of varied learning styles with face-to-face, virtual, and online support that improves their academic outcomes. We need to expand the physical space of the center to offer this critical resource to more students.



#### **CHAPEL ORGAN RENOVATION**

The organ inside of CUAA's Chapel of the Holy Trinity was installed in 1967 and has led decades of worship for our community. It needs updating to enhance the Chapel experience for all who attend, as well as make an immediate impact for our students who study organ.



#### **DIGITAL ANGEL FUND**

Annually, some students do not have the means to purchase laptops and program upgrades to meet university technology standards. Access to such technology is extremely important, especially in these times when online and Zoom classes are becoming more prevalent.



#### **COMFORT DOG MINISTRY**

Next year at CUW a new comfort dog will join Zoey and Sage, this time designated for our School of Education and athletic training majors. He or she will help prepare our students to provide animal-assisted, trauma-informed care in schools.



#### **EARHART MANOR**

The Concordia Guild established an endowment for the historical preservation and upkeep of the beautiful Earhart Manor on the Ann Arbor campus, which serves as a space for administrative offices, as well as for student, alumni, and organizational events.

TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION AND STUDENTS, GO TO

**CUW.EDU/GIVE OR CUAA.EDU/GIVE TODAY!** 

# ...through an Endowment

Many have heard the term "endowment," but are not sure what it means or why it is important. Here is a brief summary of how endowments help prepare the way into the future for our students.

Endowments are funds, donated by alumni and friends, that are set aside for perpetuity. These funds are carefully invested by the board, and a portion of the endowment is made available each year for scholarships or program support. Endowments may represent the gifts of many individuals, as in the case of the Church Work Endowment, or someone may personally establish one of these funds to honor a loved one.

Gifts to endowments can be made with current funds (cash, check, credit card, stock gift) or with an estate gift, such as a bequest, life insurance, or a retirement account.

Those who establish an endowment or include Concordia University in their estate plan become members of the Heritage Society at CUW or the Krieger Society at CUAA. Both of these societies recognize alumni and friends who are preparing the way for Concordia and our students.

Please note: For a limited time, we have a match available for endowment gifts only. All gifts above a minimum threshold made with current funds are being matched dollar for dollar. For many donors, this special offer makes it possible to establish a named endowment to support our students.

If you would like to learn more about endowments, our available match, or planning for an estate gift, please call Roy Peterson at 262-243-4533.

#### **HOW ENDOWMENT WORKS:**

# Step 1 You desire to support Concordia students now and into the future

# Step 2 Contact the Office of Advancement to discuss your interest

# Step 3 Decide the type of student who will benefit from your legacy

**MONTHLY** 

# Step. 4 Sign endowment agreement, and fund it now or with an estate gift

**ANNUAL** 

# ...through a Monthly Gift

#### BECOME A CONCORDIA GEM BY GIVING EVERY MONTH!

Your monthly contribution of any size adds up to make a **huge** impact in the lives of our students. Give in a sustainable way, with donations that are manageable for your budget.



GIFT	IMPACT
\$8.34 🂸	\$100
\$20.84	\$250
\$41.67	\$500
\$83.34 🂸	\$1,000
\$208.34	\$2,500

TO SET UP ONLINE AT CUW.EDU/GEM OR CUAA.EDU/GEM

#### **Upcoming events**

Check **cuw.edu/events** or **cuaa.edu/events** for full event details.



#### **January 11**

#### Leaving a Legacy of Faith Virtual Workshop

This free Christian plannedgiving workshop will equip you to leave a legacy of faith.



#### **January 19**

#### Alumni Virtual Town Hall with President Ferry

Join Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry as he shares university updates and challenges going into his final semester as president.



#### March 1

#### March MATCHness— Day of Giving 2021

A university-wide day of giving, friendly competition, and various opportunities to double your support!



#### March/April

#### **Alumni Attitude Survey**

Your thoughts and ideas matter! Watch your email for more information about this important survey.



12800 North Lake Shore Drive Mequon, WI 53097

4090 Geddes Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105



