

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
ANN ARBOR**

COMMENCEMENT

2023

December 17, 2023

MISSION

Concordia University Ann Arbor is a Lutheran higher education community committed to helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world.

OUR HISTORY

Concordia University stands on 150 acres overlooking the Huron River. Once a home to people of the Chippewa, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Huron and Miami nations, the campus is bisected by Geddes Road, formerly the Potawatomi Trail, an old Indian highway. In the spring of 1680, the French explorer LaSalle became the first European to view the campus site. The earliest settler of the land was Elnathan Botsford, one of the first residents of Ann Arbor, who arrived in 1825. In 1917, Harry Boyd Earhart purchased the property.

As a philanthropist, Mr. Earhart's interests focused on education, religion and charity. In the late 1950s, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod began a search for a site to build a college. The Earhart estate was purchased in the early 1960s and construction commenced. On September 30, 1962, Lutherans from across Michigan gathered on the grounds to install the cornerstone of a building that would soon become the centerpiece of a new college. The motto inscribed on the cornerstone, "That in All Things Christ Might Have Preeminence," set the tone and function for the Chapel of the Holy Trinity and the surrounding buildings that would embody the college.

Concordia College, Ann Arbor was dedicated in 1963 as a junior college. That year, Concordia was granted the right to award the Associate of Arts degree by the State of Michigan. The expansion of the college to a four-year institution with the right to award the Bachelor of Arts degree was approved by the State in 1976. In 2000, the State approved the graduate program and awarding of a Master of Science degree. In July 2001 the name was officially changed to Concordia University. In July 2013, a merger between Concordia University Ann Arbor and Concordia University Wisconsin became official.

In 2015, the university purchased a former law school building located just over two miles north of the main campus. The 84,5000-square-foot "North Building" now houses various health-care focused academic programs including nursing, athletic training, physician assistant studies, and soon, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Coupled with expanding academic programs, new athletic offerings, and continual improvements to campus facilities, enrollment over the past several years is the healthiest it has been since the school's inception. Since 2014, total enrollment has climbed 75%, making CUAA the fastest-growing public or private university in Michigan.

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NOTES

Photography: Call Photography will photograph graduates during the commencement ceremonies and will contact them with information about how to purchase photos.

Call Photography Contact Info

800.997.4890 | info@callphotography.com | callphotography.com



COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES CLASS OF 2023

December 17th, 2023

The Prelude

John W. Boonenberg, DMA

Please stand

The Processional

“Pomp and Circumstance”
Edgar Elgar

[Gentlemen please remove caps now and throughout the Service]

The Invocation

Rev. Randall S. Duncan, MDiv

The Reading

Psalm 42:1-5
2023-24 Theme Verses

The Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”
Lutheran Service Book 341, verses 1, 4, 5

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
5. Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Please be seated

The Welcome

Erik Ankerberg, PhD
President

The Commencement Address

Kyle B. Chuhran, EdD
Professor of Education, CUAA

The Academic Excellence Awards

Erin K. Laverick, PhD

The Presentation of the Candidates

The Conferring of Degrees

Erin K. Laverick, PhD

The Student Address

Jonathan Jackson
*Bachelor of Arts
Elementary Education - Language Arts
Granger, IN*

The Choral Anthem

The Concordia Choir
"An Irish Blessing"
James Moore

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and, until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Please stand

The Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

Rev. Randall S. Duncan, MDiv

The Recessional

John W. Boonenberg, DMA

ASSISTING WITH TODAY'S SERVICE

The President	Erik P. Ankerberg, PhD
The AVP of Academics	Erin K. Laverick, PhD
The VP of Administration	Rev. Ryan R. Peterson, DMin
The Campus Pastor	Rev. Randall S. Duncan, MDiv
The Commencement Speaker	Kyle B. Chuhuran, EdD
The Student Speaker	Jonathan Jackson
The Marshal	Rev. Scott E. Yakimow, PhD
The Assistant Marshals	Rev. Theodore J. Hopkins, PhD Neal E. Migan, PhD Jonathan D. Reasor, PhD Kristin M. Shuman, EdD
The Crucifer	Scott O. Chappuis, PhD
The Organist	John W. Boonenberg, DMA
The Concordia Choir	John W. Boonenberg, DMA
Concordia Brass Ensemble	William M. Perrine, PhD

THE CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES DECEMBER 2023

Graduation Honors

An undergraduate candidate who achieves a cumulative grade point average of 3.90 or better will graduate SUMMA CUM LAUDE; one who achieves a cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or better will graduate MAGNA CUM LAUDE; and one who achieves a cumulative grade point average of 3.60 or better will graduate CUM LAUDE.

Key: *** = Summa Cum Laude ** = Magna Cum Laude * = Cum Laude

Master of Science

Melanie Aldape

Curriculum Instruction-ESL

Emily Binkowski

Elementary Teacher Education
Certificate

Alexander Colville

Educational Leadership

Dominic Doyle

Secondary Teacher Education
Certificate

Sarah French

Elementary Teacher Education
Certificate

Robert Gonzales

Secondary Teacher Education
Certificate

Tyler Groth

Leadership

Nicole Kimmell

Secondary Teacher Education
Certificate

Jacob Klausmeier

Educational Leadership

Rachel Krieg

Secondary Teacher Education
Certificate

Nannette Kuhn

Curriculum Instruction-ESL

Cesiley LaCourt

Child Life

Ryan Mariouw

Educational Leadership

Melisa McKendry

Curriculum & Instruction

Misa Nakamura

Child Life

Angela Orr

Secondary Teacher Education
Certificate

Tracy Patterson

Elementary Teacher Education
Certificate

Colton Ritsema

Secondary Teacher Education
Certificate

Holly Robinson

Elementary Teacher Education
Certificate

William Rozema

Secondary Teacher Education
Certificate

Charlotte Schulz

Secondary Teacher Education
Certificate

Brandy Tevepaugh

Educational Leadership

Kathi Zimmerman

Educational Leadership

Bachelor of Arts**Jarrett Batanian***

Secondary Education-Mathematics

Maggie Coggin

Digital Media:Comm

Alexandria Elliott

Arts and Literature Studies

Jonathan Jackson*

Elementary Education-Language
Arts

Henry Knapp**

Elementary Education-Special
Education

Alyssa Kraemer***

Psychology

John Markiewicz***

Elementary Education-Math

Paxton Meyer

Family Life Ministry

Katrina Miller

Church Music

Samantha Putnam*

Family Life Education

Katherine Schultz

Secondary Education-English

Hannah Volz

Elementary Education-Language
Arts

Andrew Wiemer*

Exercise Science

Payton Woodruff

Elementary Education-Early
Childhood Education

Bachelor of Science**Danyelle Beckesh****

Biology

Andrew Burk

Sport & Entertainment Business

Caleb Comstock***

Rehabilitation Science

Korey Dunson

Sport & Entertainment Business

Amanda Fisher

Rehabilitation Science

Jose Garcia

General Business

Erin Hamilton

Sport & Entertainment Business

William Hieber

General Business

Tad Lenhart**

General Business

Colin McCartney

Justice & Public Policy

Olivia McGriff

Marketing

Brandon Miotke

Biology

McKenzie Peters

Rehabilitation Science

Adrianna Rugiero
Health Care Administration

Harrison Ryan***
General Business

Mary Salem*
General Business

Mallory Simmons***
Rehabilitation Science

Hannah Smigielski
Sport & Entertainment Business

Elysia Stephenson
Rehabilitation Science

Mackenzie Thurman
Entrepreneurship

Andrew Todd
Justice & Public Policy

James Wressel
Sport & Entertainment Business

Junqi Wu
Marketing

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Megan Espinoza*
Nursing

Karley Kent
Nursing

Madeline Kosman*
Nursing

Taylor Leatherman
Nursing

Mckenzie Maciejewski*
Nursing

Keegan Miller*
Nursing

Lauren Miller
Nursing

Andrea Nelson
Nursing

Jonathan Parsons*
Nursing

Madison Phillips*
Nursing

Casey Rauch*
Nursing

Katherine Vivacqua***
Nursing

Jordan Wieneke**
Nursing

Caitlyn Wilcox
Nursing

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Dr. Kyle B. Chuhran

Dr. Kyle B. Chuhran is currently in his thirty-sixth year in Lutheran school ministry, including twelve years as a K-12 teacher and fourteen years as a school principal. Since 2014, he has served in his current role as Elementary Education Coordinator in the School of Education at Concordia University-Ann Arbor.

Dr. Chuhran received a BA degree in Music Education in 1987 from Concordia College-Ann Arbor. In 2008, he received an MS Degree in Educational Administration from Concordia University-Wisconsin. In 2020, he received an EdD in Teacher Leadership from Concordia University-Portland. He is a member of the Lutheran Educators' Association (LEA), Directors and Representatives of Teacher Education Programs (DARTEP), and Michigan Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE).

He also serves as the District Commissioner for National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) for the Michigan District, LCMS, where he advises and consults K-12 Lutheran schools as they complete the accreditation process. He is the founder of ACT Money Coaching, through which he coaches young people toward making wise money decisions.

His wife Cheryl serves as a fifth-grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Clinton Township. The Chuhrans reside in Lathrup Village, and are members at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Birmingham. They have four adult children and six grandchildren.

In his spare time, Dr. Chuhran enjoys hanging out with the grandchildren, fishing, collecting antique fishing gear, and playing the trumpet in the church brass ensemble.

Academic Apparel

One of the most colorful features of an academic procession is the appearance of the faculty, members of the governing board, and guests of the University in full academic regalia. These caps, gowns, and hoods have long histories dating back to the Middle Ages. American universities and colleges have adopted a standard code of academic garb.

The design of the gown, the color of the tassel, and the pattern, length, and colors of the hood all have special significance. The bachelor's gown is closed at the throat and has long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, tapering at the back in a square cut which ends in an arc cutaway. The doctor's gown is faced with velvet and has bell-shaped sleeves, each with three bars of velvet or chevrons. The colored tassel of the cap signifies the college granting the degree.

The most colorful part of the costume, however, is the hood. The color of the velvet trim indicates the faculty or department of learning in which the degree was granted. The width corresponds to the level of the degree. The colors associated with the different subjects are as follows:

Velvet Colors

Apricot – nursing

Brown – fine arts

Citron – social work

Copper – economics

Crimson – communications, journalism

Dark blue – philosophy

Drab – accounting, business

Gold – computer science, healthcare administration, mathematics, psychology, science

Lemon – library science

Light blue – education

Midnight blue – criminal justice

Orange – engineering

Pink – music

Peacock – public policy

Purple – law

Sage – athletic training, exercise physiology, occupational therapy, physical education

Scarlet – theology

White – counseling, English, history, humanities, liberal arts, mathematics, sociology, student personnel administration

THE UNIVERSITY

Concordia University is one of six colleges and universities in the Concordia University System, which is owned and operated by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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The Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Ann Arbor, Michigan