

**AN INSIDE LOOK** Meet the people who make CUW a special place.

**MATCH MADE** Bone marrow donor gives the greatest gift.

**ON BOARD** CUW staff member appointed to elite U.S. taskforce.

# Concordian

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN



**Our People**  
CUW Proud



Concordia University Wisconsin has over eight thousand students, and tens of thousands of graduates who studied before them; more than one thousand instructors, full and part-time faculty; and hundreds more staff, who serve in a wide variety of roles. Others belong to the mix of those who support and cheer us on—parents, donors, volunteers—the list grows and grows. Put them all together, and you have the people of Concordia—Concordians!

In this issue of the *Concordian*, we take a closer look at the “People of Concordia.” Certainly, the number of people associated with Concordia has swelled in recent years. Our recent pattern of celebrating a record enrollment is repeated once again as we launch the 2014-2015 academic year. To support that growth, personnel—gifted and dedicated new colleagues and co-workers—have joined the community. There are many new faces at Concordia this fall.

Additionally, at the conclusion of each semester, new graduates join the distinguished ranks of Concordia alumni and fulfill the university’s mission of “serving Christ in the Church and the world.” The people of Concordia are increasing in number, and the lives of people they touch—around the corner and around the world—are growing, too.

This marks the beginning of my eighteenth year as Concordia’s president, and the start of my twenty-fourth year on campus. Lots of students have come and gone. At the heart of the Concordia experience, however, is the promise that Jesus loves each one individually. He reaches out to each one personally. While our community expands and the number of people connected to Concordia grows, this university remains committed to teaching and sharing the love of God in Christ Jesus with every single Concordian. Many are Lutheran or from another Christian background; some are not, but all of the people of Concordia are welcomed in the name of Jesus. *Anyone and everyone connected to this community are also connected here to Christ.*

What makes Christian higher education Christian if not Christ? Our growth in numbers loses all significance unless the people of Concordia are also growing “in mind, body, and spirit,” and in faith in Jesus “for service to Christ in the Church and the world.” May God continue to bless Concordia with the promise of His presence and unfolding purpose for the lives of each and every Concordia student!

Our Mission: *“Concordia 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.”*

**REV. PATRICK T. FERRY, PH.D.**

*President*

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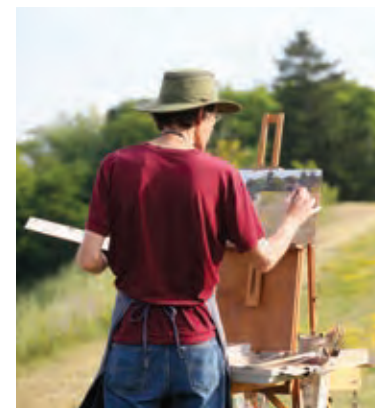
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**ON THE COVER:** A large mix of CUW faculty, staff, and students fill the Chapel Courtyard following a Friday morning chapel service. *Photograph by Jeffrey Phelps*

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or tweet us: [@CUWisconsin](https://twitter.com/CUWisconsin)

## Academic Spotlight

# Opening the Doors

Two Lutheran organizations join forces to launch a unique endeavor known as Bethesda College.

By Gary D'Amato, *Contributing Writer*

Kevin Shafer doesn't know where his son, Alec (both pictured on top opposite page), will wind up working someday, but he's confident Alec will be better equipped for whatever awaits him after learning independent living and social skills in a college environment.

Alec Shafer, who has Down Syndrome, is one of six students with intellectual and developmental disabilities enrolled in the Bethesda College of Applied Learning at CUW. The unique pilot program is a joint effort between Concordia and Bethesda Lutheran Communities, a non-profit organization based in Watertown.

The students, who live in Chemnitz Hall on the Mequon campus, participate in a two-year curriculum that blends campus living courses offered to all Concordia students with courses geared to the Bethesda program and focus on developing adult living skills and career preparation.

The blended model is designed to help students with cognitive disabilities grow intellectually, vocationally, socially, personally, and spiritually. Graduates will receive a certificate of applied learning.

"Alec is thrilled," said Kevin Shafer. "He has adjusted well to it. The roommate he was paired with has been phenomenal. The resident assistant (RA) at the residence hall is just a great guy who has taken him under his wing. Alec has really responded well to the whole college life—getting up, going to classes. I think he's going to thrive in that environment."

Dr. Wanda Routier, CUW assistant professor and director of graduate Special Education Programs, leads the program, which was designed for a maximum of eight students.

"We wanted to start small and manageable,"



Routier said. "Right now we have four women and two men. We're currently in the process of taking applications for two more male students."

Carol Burns has worked in postsecondary education for students with disabilities for more than 30 years, and serves as the Bethesda College program director. Burns and Routier co-developed the Applied Learning program at CUW.

"Postsecondary programs for students with disabilities on college campuses have been developing over the years," Routier said. "Carol worked in one of the first postsecondary programs many years ago."

"The unique thing is that this is a full partnership between Bethesda and Concordia

University Wisconsin. While there are many other postsecondary programs around the country, we are one of the only ones, if not the only one, with a partnership like this. Therefore, the support that we give our students is the difference. The on-campus part is a big difference," added Routier.

The students participate in all aspects of campus life, from attending sporting events, residence hall parties, and chapel, to singing in the Concordia Chorale. They're not just imitating college students, they *are* college students.

"It's a total immersion in the campus with student life and activities, community service, volunteer programs, and co-curricular clubs," Routier said. "It's been great. The Concordia



students have welcomed them in all aspects of campus life. They're just like any other student here."

The CUW community also benefits from developing connections with Bethesda College students in educational and social settings. Concordia Special Education students will have the opportunity to work and study with Bethesda College students as part of their coursework.

"I can't say enough about Concordia," Kevin Shafer remarked. "This program is a passion for them and it shows in their commitment to the religious background of the students and the social benefits of integrating these kids and their passion for making a difference."

Employment options are limited for Wisconsin adults with intellectual disabilities. But disabled students who take part in postsecondary programs, such as the independent living program at Edgewood College in Madison, improve their chances of

obtaining jobs at or above the minimum wage.

"The whole goal of the program is independence and employment," Routier said. "We're doing some assessments to see where their skills are. We have students who are going to work in the library, the international office, and housekeeping, and I believe we may have some in other departments as well."

An outgoing 20-year-old, Alec Shafer, who attended Nicolet High School, has had a variety of part-time jobs. His father hopes the Bethesda College of Applied Learning at CUW prepares him to live independently.

"We're hoping that this gives him the skills for independent living and that he'll also understand the need to work hard and be on a schedule," Kevin Shafer said. "There are always ladders we step up in life, and I think this is a big step for him."

"Alec is excited every day. On Labor Day, we had him home for the three-day weekend and on Monday he was saying, 'When do I get to go back?'"





# Merriment in the Moonlight

A Community Gathering of Star Gazers, Painters, Music Lovers, and More

Thousands of people took part in the inaugural Lake Moon Festival on CUW's campus over the summer. The August 9th free community event, sponsored in-part by the University, included food, music, bluff tours, kite building and flying, a 5K run, and a Plein Air art competition.

The event also gave stargazers a chance to take a look at the full moon as local astronomers were on hand to share their knowledge with community members.

According to University organizers, next year's Festival is already being planned for August 8th. To see a recap video from this year's Festival, visit <http://www.lakemoonfestival.com/>.

—Craig McCarthy, Editor



JASON PRIGGE (MANITOWOC) WAS THE WINNER OF THE FIRST ANNUAL LAKE MOON FESTIVAL PLEIN AIR PAINTING COMPETITION HELD AUGUST 9 ON CUW'S CAMPUS. HIS WORK, TITLED *ROLLING GREENS*, DEPICTS THE LANDSCAPE IN WHICH CUW SITS OVERLOOKING LAKE MICHIGAN'S SHORELINE. PRIGGE BELIEVES THAT ART SHOULD BE INTERACTIVE AND THAT THE VIEWER IS AS MUCH A PART OF THE WORK AS THE ARTIST.



## Campus News

# Coming Together for a Higher Purpose

This past summer, more than 1,200 young adults were on CUW's campus to take part in the Higher Things conference. The mission of the annual, four-day event was to assist parents, congregations, and pastors in cultivating, encouraging, and promoting a distinctively Lutheran identity among their youth.

Activities took place all over campus. The entire experience made quite an impression on those students involved.

"I am thankful that Concordia helped support the mission of Higher Things," said Bethany Woelmer, CUW student and conference college volunteer. "Higher Things reminds me of Concordia and the Christ-centered and cross-focused teaching that still remains within these walls," she added.

Next summer's conference will take place at Concordia University Nebraska in Seward.

—Craig McCarthy, Editor





# Campus News

## Scouts on Campus

Last spring, two NFL scouts, one from the Dallas Cowboys and the other from the Minnesota Vikings, came to campus to take a look at and talk to CUW quarterback Austin Damaschke, offensive lineman Nick Smith, and wide receiver Garrett Wenzelburger. The main duty of the scouts was to collect preliminary information on players prior to them entering their senior year.

"Anytime our players catch the eye of the NFL it is positive for the University," said head coach Greg Etter. "I am happy for Austin, Nick, and Garrett because they are great young



men and I'm also proud of where the program is going."

"It was a different experience from anything I have been part of in my career," remarked Damaschke. —*Craig McCarthy, Editor*

## Diving In

From the Great Lakes to the *Shark Tank*

Stephanie Jahr and her two sisters, Elizabeth and Annika, are on the verge of something truly great. Stephanie, a sophomore at CUW, along with her siblings, created a product known as S.E.A. Hamsters which has gained the attention of the producers of the hit television show *Shark Tank*.

The product was invented in the summer of 2013 which, according to Stephanie, is basically a human hamster wheel for the water. The sisters are currently working with an engineer to produce the product more cheaply in hopes of increasing sales.

In August, the Jahr gang auditioned in downtown Milwaukee for the television show *Shark Tank* and their presentation was one of only two chosen to be taped for an upcoming episode in Los Angeles.

"I'm really excited, but I'm also very nervous," said Stephanie. "These [Sharks] are big time guys."

While there's no way to know yet if their product will get a deal or not, you can find S.E.A. Hamsters at area fairs and tradeshows around the State of Wisconsin.

—*Craig McCarthy, Editor*



## Upcoming Campus Events

### November

- 14 - Undergraduate Visitation Day
- 16 - "Christ The King Celebration," Kammerchor, Selah, and Alleluia Ringers, Chapel of Christ Triumphant, 3:30 p.m.
- 18 - Graduate Information Session
- 26 - Thanksgiving Holiday Break Begins

### December

- 5 - "Christmas at Concordia," All CUW musical groups, Chapel, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 - "Christmas at Concordia," Chapel, 7:30 p.m.
- 8 - First Semester Final Exams Begin
- 13 - Baccalaureate Service, Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 - Commencement, Field House, 1:30 p.m.

### January

- 5 - Winterim Session Begins
- 19 - Undergraduate Visitation Day
- 29 - "A Bagful of Fables," Children's Theatre Show, runs through Sunday, February 1, Todd Wehr Auditorium

### February

- 2 - Graduate Information Session
- 16 - Undergraduate Visitation Day (optional overnight Sunday, February 15)

### March

- 5 - "Godspell," runs through Sunday, March 8, Todd Wehr Auditorium



# Meet Our People

A university is made up of all types of people. Each individual that considers themselves part of Concordia University Wisconsin has quite a story to tell. We're pleased and honored to share a few of them with you.

By Craig McCarthy, *Editor*

## Madalyn Sandtveit: A Student with a Plan

A native of Caledonia, Mich., Madalyn Sandtveit is a current student at Concordia University Wisconsin who finds herself in a unique position. She's about to graduate with a master's degree in occupational therapy having also received her undergraduate degree from Concordia *only one year earlier*. Madalyn must now decide what to do with all the knowledge and experience she's received from a university that she'd heard so many great things about while growing up.

**Q:** Why did you decide to attend Concordia University Wisconsin?

**A:** I heard a lot about Concordia through Our Savior Lutheran Church, which I was attending with my family in Grand Rapids, Mich. I knew a few people who went to Concordia, so I decided to check it out. Even though it's a private school, there were a lot of opportunities for scholarships, which was definitely attractive.

**Q:** When will you be graduating from the University?

**A:** I actually graduated in December of 2013 with my Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitative Science. This December I will be graduating with my Master of Occupational Therapy degree. Through the accelerated program, I was able to pursue a bachelor's and master's degree in less time.

**Q:** How has Concordia prepared you to enter your field of study?

**A:** Going to Concordia has prepared me much better than if I would have decided to go to a public university. I had a lot of personal attention from professors, and if I had any questions, I wasn't afraid to ask. Our teachers would bring in people from the community with whom we would work as student therapists under their supervision. That's something you really don't see a lot of at other schools—all that hands-on interaction with patients.

**Q:** Do you plan on leaving Wisconsin after you graduate with your master's?

**A:** That's the million dollar question I get from everybody. I am not one to make decisions with the blink of an eye. I'm not really tied to anything. Eventually, I would love to go back to Michigan. On the other hand, I've been in Wisconsin for five years, and I really like it, so I'm not taking that out of my options. I was drawn to the traveling part of occupational therapy, so I would like to experience another part of the country as well. As vague as that answer is, I don't have an exact answer.

**Q:** What have been some of your fondest memories at Concordia?

**A:** During my undergraduate years, it was finding a good, close-knit group of friends. I am still friends with all of those girls. Throughout my master's program, my fun turned into my class time. I can still remember many nights in the library studying for tests and trying to come up with fun, creative, and crazy ways to remember things.



 **CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY**  
WISCONSIN  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



## Kristin Gies: Attached at the Roots

Ever since she was a kid, Kristin Gies has loved plants. It's no wonder that her job these days is dealing with plants and environmental issues at a nature preserve. She received her undergraduate degree in 2003 and then went on to earn her graduate degree in 2006, both at CUW. With an emphasis on botany, Gies has a unique perspective on the environment, the campus, and what it means to be an alumnus.

**Q:** Describe your current position and job duties?

**A:** I am the executive director of the Mequon Nature Preserve in Wisconsin. We currently have a staff of only five, so I oversee the operations of everything. We handle about 8,000 students a year and are restoring the largest protected green space in Southeastern Wisconsin—438 acres.

**Q:** What role has your education at Concordia played in getting you to where you are today?

**A:** A week after I graduated with my master's, CUW hired me as an adjunct professor. I taught botany to master's students and loved it. Eight years ago, this led me to learn about a position with the then Ozaukee County Land Trust as a preserve manager, which meant I was outside ripping out buckthorn plants and watching the birds. The Land Trust eventually became the Mequon Nature Preserve, and I worked my way up to become the executive director.

**Q:** What are some of your fondest memories of your time here on campus?

**A:** I loved the old Falcon's Nest [on-campus eatery]. I really loved working here as a student worker. I thought that was a unique experience. I couldn't afford to pay for my master's any other way.

**Q:** What are your thoughts on the recent growth and expansion that has taken place on the CUW campus?

**A:** Mixed emotions. I think the growth is phenomenal. I think you need to expand because there is the interest. There are a lot of missed opportunities from the habitat to learn from. There are areas that used to have beautiful habitat, but have now been paved over. When I was studying at CUW, there were a few more ecosystems to learn from, which helped.

**Q:** What are some of your hobbies and interests outside of work?

**A:** I know this is going to sound really lame, but besides being a mom to my two children, my job is my hobby. I do a lot of side stuff with research—what plants are returning, what is on the land, and what is off. I am involved in the DNR Champion Tree Program; I sit on the board of the Urban Forestry Council for the state, and I'm part of the Water Council. I'm a member of various organizations that have to do with my job, but it's what I care about.



## Terry White: Teaching Future Business Leaders

Terry White may only have a few years of teaching under his belt at CUW, but don't let that fool you. As an entrepreneur and business owner, with decades of experience in the photo industry, he draws upon this vast knowledge to teach students that there's a lot more to the business world than meets the eye.

**Q:** What courses do you teach at Concordia?

**A:** So far I have taught two accelerated undergraduate classes: Economics and Integrative Project: The Business Plan.

**Q:** Where did you get your degrees from?

**A:** I received my undergraduate degree in economics and psychology from Western Michigan. I earned my MBA from Marquette University.

**Q:** What do you like most about teaching for the University?

**A:** I enjoy talking to younger people and giving them some of my knowledge about business. I share with them some of the things to look out for so they don't learn the hard way like I did, whether they use the information as an entrepreneur or while working for a company.

**Q:** What are some of the products you have brought to market as an entrepreneur and business owner?

**A:** As the owner of Isis Imaging Corporation we have developed a digital, single use camera. We have four different models to choose from at different price points. We also started roasting coffee. We branded it, Coffee Jar and we already have it in 100 stores. The product is jars that contain ground and whole bean coffee, along with k-cups and pouches. The reason we put it in a jar is that it's BPA free, cleaner, and we can get a nice vacuum seal.

**Q:** What kinds of things are you involved in outside of work?

**A:** I have a lot of relatives I like to visit. I'm from a big family, so I travel to different places in the United States. I like to play ice hockey. I'm on a team called the Bald Eagles and we play at the Ozaukee Ice Center in Mequon. I also enjoy spending time with my four grandchildren. Lastly, I enjoy fishing.





## Dr. Sarah Holtan: Setting the Tone

Dr. Sarah Holtan has worn many hats in her more than a dozen years of employment with Concordia University Wisconsin. Recently, she was promoted to Vice President of Student Life, a position which seems to be a good fit for her.

**Q:** You've been with the University now for 13 years in many different capacities. Is this the career path you envisioned for yourself?

**A:** I would never have been able to foresee this. It definitely changed from what I thought it was. I came here in 2001 to work on my master's degree and they [the University] had a position open that was related to one of its institutes; it was a support staff position. I wanted to get my master's so I could teach journalism. After getting my degree, an adjunct position became open in the Communications Department. Not long after that, I began working on my doctoral program at Marquette. In 2006, a full-time faculty position opened up here. I applied and got it. In 2012, the Dean of Students position came up. I was in that role until June 30 of this year when Dr. Andy Luptak stepped down and the Vice President of Student Life position became available. President Ferry appointed me to the position. It was not something that I could have predicted, but what an amazing blessing for me to see this side of the University!

**Q:** What do you like most about Student Life as it relates to your position?

**A:** It's unbelievable to me how nimble student life can be. Another great aspect is the fact that as a department we can sit down for a meeting, decide to do something, and within a short period of time just do it. We don't have as many layers as other departments. That's pretty exciting to me.

**Q:** What are some of the opportunities you see as you enter into your new role?

**A:** As the University grows and our demographics are just exploding, I'm really challenging my staff to find new ways to reach what I'll call our non-traditional students; the ones not coming straight from high school, living and attending classes on campus, or registered full time.

**Q:** What are some of the differences between the academic side and the administrative side of the University?

**A:** When I was in academics, it felt as if my time was my own and now that I'm in administration, my time is never my own.

**Q:** When you're not working, what do you like to do?

**A:** It's all family time. I have two young kids. I have a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter named Helena and a six-month-old son named Drew. ■

 **JOIN THE CONVERSATION!** *What makes you one of a kind?*  
Share your individuality with us on Twitter! #CUWOurPeople

# New Girl

Dr. Sharon Chappy talks about her new position, her love of the road, and what drives her to want to educate future nurses.

By Lisa Hartmann, Contributing Writer



For Sharon Chappy, CUW's new dean of the School of Nursing, it's not the office space that matters; it's the people who come into that space and the connections made there.

"I could work from a closet," admits Chappy, a self-described minimalist. Given that philosophy, one might expect that the handful of items brought into her new office would hold some meaning. And they would be right.



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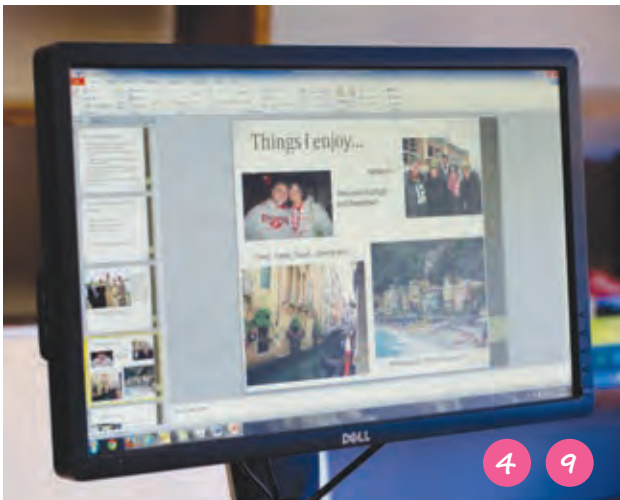
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### 1 Harmony Stone

One of my greatest mentors was my former dean, Rosemary Smith. I learned a lot about relationships while working with her. Everything we do in life is about relationships and establishing good ones. Creating harmony and collaboration among people is critical. We can't move forward if we're pulling each other back.

### 2 A Heart for Melinda Bracelet

I'll have this bracelet for the rest of my life. One of the nursing students I oversaw in a perioperative clinical passed out in my office two weeks after the semester started. I rushed her to the hospital and one year later she had a heart transplant. What 22-year-old should have to go through that? I worked with her while she was ill so that she could complete nursing school. We sold these bracelets as a fundraiser for her.

### 3 Operating Room Bear

I'm very passionate about perioperative nursing. It's where I spent most of my nursing years. The last words I'd say to my patients as they drifted off before surgery were, "I'll be with you the whole time." My patients remembered that when they woke up; it made them feel reassured. It's about advocacy. This

is how I feel about my role as dean. This job isn't about me; it's about the students, the faculty, and the program. I'd rather be in the background and showcase everyone else.

### 4 Photo of Italy

This past June, we went to Italy for the second time and had a wonderful trip. I did the Rosetta Stone language course before we left. One night at dinner I thought I'd practice my Italian by ordering strawberries and cream for dessert. Our waiter gave me an odd look and said, "You just ordered beans and bread."

### 5 In Search of Excellence Book

It's one of the best books I've ever read. It's about the leaders of the most successful companies in America. It's less about business and more about how to treat people—again, treating people with respect and dignity, and trusting the people you work with.

### 6 10 Truths of Personal Accountability

That's from *Question behind the Question*. We want everyone else to be accountable, but we don't think about our own accountability. I keep these with me to remind myself that I have to exercise these truths.

### 7 Mini Harley Motorcycle

My husband, Mike, and I have been riding our Harleys for many years. We've taken a number of road trips, and we've seen some tremendous things. I gave a commencement address recently, in which I likened life to experiences we had on the road. There are some great life lessons there. For example, if you don't go through horrendous storms, you'll never see the beautiful rainbows afterwards.

### 8 Nursing Care at the End of Life Book

My dad was the most influential person in my life and I had the great fortune of taking care of him and my mother in hospice at the last stage of their lives. It was humbling, helping them transition to that next phase of life after being here on earth. It's an honor to help people die peacefully.

### 9 Family Photo in Packer Apparel

We're big Packer fans. I'm proud of what Aaron Rodgers has done for the community. We go to one or two games a year. We don't have season tickets, so if anyone has some tickets they'd like to get rid of, I'll gladly take them! ■

# Up to the Task

John Dellinger, a CUW Professor, adds American co-chair of a joint U.S.-Canada task force to his title as he brings valuable knowledge regarding water issues to the table.

By *Gary Achterberg, Contributing Writer*



Concordia University Wisconsin occupies a picturesque stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline, but its influence stretches across the Great Lakes and into Canada, thanks to the work of one of its professors.

Dr. John Dellinger serves as the American co-chair of a joint U.S.-Canada task force; charged with looking at human health concerns associated with water quality treaties.

"It puts us on the map," said Dellinger as he sat in his Pharmacy School office with an expansive view of Lake Michigan. "We've



brought commissioners here for meetings. They've toured CUW's Environmental Center as it was being built. They've seen the School of Pharmacy inside and out. I've had a couple of our health professionals meetings here as well."

Dellinger has served on the Health Professionals Advisory Board of the International Joint Commission (IJC) for the past 14 years. He has served as co-chair, with a Canadian counterpart, for nearly four years.

It is an appointment made by the U.S. State Department, and the commissioners to whom they report are selected by the president of the United States and the Canadian prime minister.

**"...when you look at the world as a whole and look at the problems with fresh water, it's absolutely paramount to protect water."**

The international task force is one of two key panels on which Dellinger serves. He also is one of 15 senior environmental health scientists in North America to review and recommend pollutants that are to be included as "chemicals of mutual concern" for the United States and Canada.

"My work has been with fish consumption—both the benefits and risks of eating fish— and, of course, mercury, PCBs and pesticides, and everything else that shows up in a fish fillet is of concern to what I do," he stated.

In addition to working on both of those panels, Dellinger has his feet planted firmly in the classroom. He teaches a portion of five pharmaceutical sciences courses. Dellinger is the lead teacher for epidemiology. He also contributes lectures on veterinary pharmacology, history of pharmacy, and a variety of environmental-health-related curriculum.

His involvement with the panels has benefitted students.

"We've brought in a number of international people to campus and had workshops that students have attended," he said. "The biggest impact for pharmacy students is making sure that we properly dispose of our drugs so they don't end up in the water."

"There is a very direct connection to pharmacy with the stewardship of water," he added. "We have close to 400 pharmacy students. They're working in pharmacies throughout the region, either doing their rotation, conducting their experiential work, or actually working as part-time employees. They're having a big impact interacting with

people every day, making sure people know the importance of not simply throwing your drugs down the toilet."

Dellinger has been at Concordia for approximately five years. He previously taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Illinois. He served as the director of the Illinois Poison Center from 1997 to 2001. He arrived here before the Pharmacy School opened in 2010 and played a key role in hiring faculty. He said it has been particularly gratifying to see the Pharmacy School grow to the point where its Genesis Class has graduated.

"It's fun to be here and see the fruits of labor from early on and see it paying off," he remarked. "It's a very nice position to be in. It's been great—very gratifying."

Dr. Dean Arneson, dean of the Pharmacy School, said Dellinger's involvement on the panels benefits Concordia in a variety of ways.

"It's definitely an honor to have him on that joint commission," Arneson said. "It's a good reflection on his expertise in the area of water quality and his ability to attract faculty. This international recognition is where we want to go with the program as far as research and being involved with the public are concerned."

One result of Dellinger's work on the task force is to ensure that everything is being done to comply with treaties that already are in place.

"Basically, we have to ensure that the water is drinkable, swimmable, and fishable— and, if not, we have to point that out to the two governments, and they have to make progress toward making sure that it is."

In Dellinger's free time, he is an avid sailor and sea plane pilot. He said he never takes water for granted.

"We seem to have an abundance of fresh water," he reflected, "but when you look at the world as a whole and look at the problems with fresh water, it's absolutely paramount to protect water."

Dellinger said he is gratified to have the opportunity to combine his scientific expertise with policy.

"I've got a few more years until retirement, and it's nice suddenly to have the science making a difference," he noted. "I want to look back and see that we actually made a difference."

"Right now, that's what I'm doing," he added. "Our committees are making a difference in the lives of pharmacy students, as well as everyone's lives in regard to human health and water."

"For me now to do a capstone with regard to protecting human health through policy, is kind of a good way to finish my final two years at the IJC." ■

# *A Match Made on Earth*



# Bone marrow matches are few and far between. Kimberly Mittelsteadt accidentally found herself in a position to change someone's life after her name came up in a national bone marrow registry.

By Gary D'Amato, Contributing Writer

Kim Mittelsteadt didn't hesitate when she saw the information table for blood and bone marrow donation set up in the Concordia University Wisconsin Library earlier this year. Of course, she'd register. Her mother had been a regular plasma donor and Mittelsteadt had started donating blood in high school, when she learned her type was O-negative.

"I'm a universal donor, so anyone can use my blood," she said. "When I found that out, I felt like I should do this a little more often. I'm not as good as some people who go every eight weeks, but I try to go as often as I can. Who knows? If I can help someone, that's great."

Little did Mittelsteadt know when she filled out the form to donate marrow that she was setting in motion a series of events in which she would, indeed, help someone—tangible proof of the power of the spirit of giving. Her blood—or more specifically, the peripheral stem cells harvested from blood produced in her bone marrow—was eventually transplanted into a female battling a form of cancer.

Patient confidentiality required that Mittelsteadt, a financial aid counselor at Concordia with a soft voice and a ready smile, knew little else about the person who would be receiving the transplant, and vice versa. Still, she felt a connection on a spiritual level.

"I just feel really moved that I was called to do this," she said. "I feel ... relieved. I don't know what the word is—and I'm even an English major."

A few days after Mittelsteadt filled out the form, she received a kit in the mail with instructions to swab the inside of her cheek and return the swab in an envelope. That simple, painless procedure provided a DNA sample and put her on a registry.

Mittelsteadt didn't hear back from the Blood Center for a couple of months, which was not unusual.

"People I talked to when they found out I was doing this were like, 'I've been on the registry for eight years,' or, 'I've been on it for five,'" she said. "There are people who have been on the registry way longer than I have. You kind of get that feeling like, 'Oh, well, maybe I'll never get called.'"

But Mittelsteadt did get called. Ciarra Taylor, a coordinator at the Blood Center, said a potential match had been identified and asked Mittelsteadt to come in for a blood draw and further testing.

"After a couple of weeks went by, she called and said, 'You're a really good match,'" remembered Mittelsteadt, who then went to Froedtert Hospital for a full physical and a battery of tests, including a chest X-ray and an EKG.

Cleared for the peripheral blood stem cell procedure, Mittelsteadt underwent a series of four shots designed to increase her white blood cell count.

"In those white blood cells there is a specific stem cell," she said. "That is the magic. That's what makes the body produce bone marrow."

The shots created a mildly discomfiting feeling for a few days—the only unpleasant part of the entire procedure.

"It was similar to the last couple days of having the flu," Mittelsteadt said. "Your white blood cells are produced in your bones, and that's what makes you feel achy when you have the flu, because your body is producing all those white blood cells to fight the flu. As the shots progressed, it did start to make me very tired, very sleepy. The side effects range differently for everybody. I was just a little sleepy and tired, but nothing that was painful."

She was finally ready for the harvesting procedure, which was done at the Milwaukee Donor Center, near the Marquette University campus. Mittelsteadt arrived at 7:00 a.m. for the procedure, which took about seven hours.

"Kim was such a pleasure," Taylor recalled. "She was so great to work with, so sweet and understanding and willing to do whatever she needed to do. She is such a humble person."

Mittelsteadt sat in a chair while 24 liters of blood were removed intravenously from one arm; the stem cells were separated in a machine; and her own blood, with calcium and saline added, was reintroduced in her other arm.

"It just felt like a really long blood donation," she said. "You can't move your arms. You can't move the whole time. They can't detach you. So once you're hooked up, you're there. My sister came with me and she made me laugh a lot to keep me preoccupied. We watched a lot of daytime TV." ▶

Mittelsteadt also had plenty of time to think about the patient on the other end, the woman who would be receiving her gift.

“It’s a little overwhelming to think that at the same time I’m donating, they’re prepping the patient for surgery,” she said. “They have to receive [the stem cells] within 24 to 48 hours. It’s packed up on ice, and a special courier hand-delivers it. Additionally, at the same time, that person is going through a whole different procedure in reverse. They’re killing all her bone marrow with chemo, because mine will be going in.”

“My sister and I said prayers at the end because I just felt like I had done everything I could do and the rest was up to God.”

After the procedure, Mittelsteadt guzzled a can of Coca-Cola. A self-admitted “coffee addict,” she wasn’t allowed to consume caffeine for 24 hours before the procedure.

“Coca-Cola never tasted so great,” she said with a laugh.

After one year, the veil of anonymity will be lifted and Mittelsteadt and the woman she helped will be allowed to contact each other, if both agree to it.

“I struggled with that decision for a long time because I felt like I was giving a gift, and I don’t need the praise,” Mittelsteadt said. “But I talked to a lot of friends and family members about it and they said, ‘I think that would be good for the family, to be able to say thank you if they want to say thank you.’ But if they never want to, that’s fine.”


Mittelsteadt is not the sort of person who seeks the spotlight. She’s embarrassed when others compliment her for doing what she thought was simply the right thing to do.

“My co-workers have been teasing me because when people come up to me my cheeks get super red,” she stated. In fact, she agreed to talk about her experience publicly only because she hoped it would persuade others to donate blood.

“People can sign up. It’s real simple,” she said. “You can go on [bethematch.org](http://bethematch.org) and you just put in some information, and they send you the kit. You might never get called, but perhaps you might. If I can get one other person at Concordia to go online and sign up, that’s one chance for a family somewhere to possibly have a match.”

Mittelsteadt certainly didn’t donate blood to draw attention to herself or to profit in any way materially, but maybe, she said with a conspiratorial laugh, there would be a little something in it for her.

“If I get a cool parking spot,” she whispered, “that would be nice.” ■

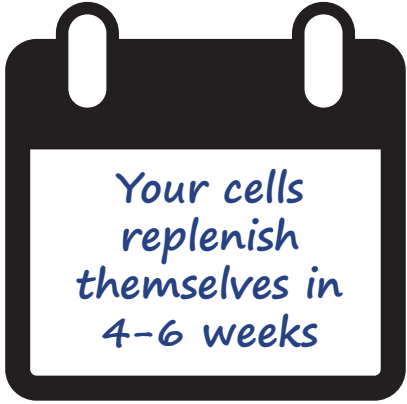
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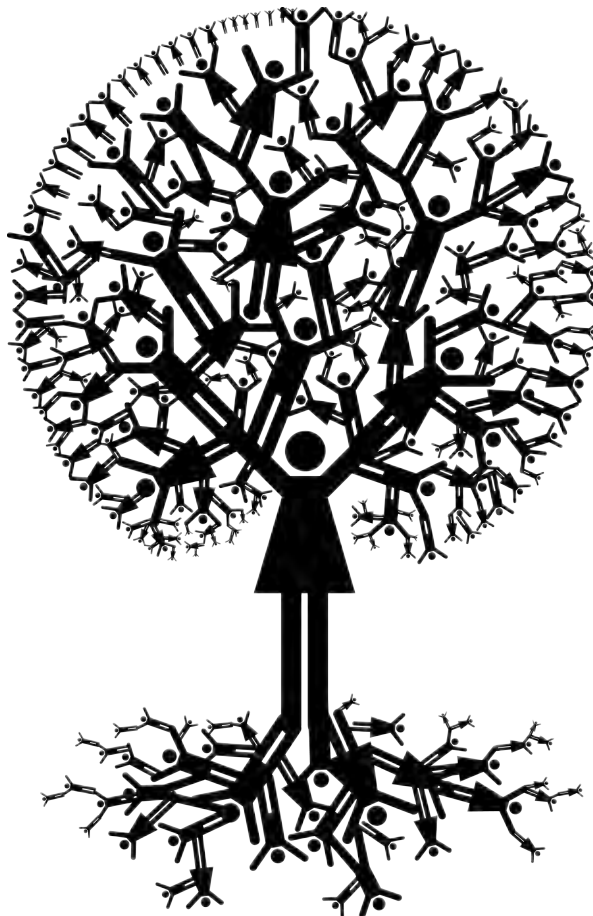
is the amount of your marrow needed to save a patient’s life.

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18 & 44 years old



Your cells replenish themselves in 4-6 weeks



Patients are most likely to match someone who shares their ancestry.

# Welcome to CUW!

Nearly two dozen students from Brazil now call the University home.

By Lisa Hartmann, Contributing Writer



Spend five minutes with Cherise Ann Beardsley and her Brazilian students and it's obvious she loves having them on campus just as much as they love being here.



The students are participating in the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program, an 18-month program administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The program provides scholarships to Brazilian students in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), giving them a chance to study at colleges and universities in the United States.

"We were contacted about the program in the summer of 2013," said Beardsley, an international admissions coordinator. "Dr. Birner, the Executive Director of International Education said, 'Let's make this happen,' and we did."

CUW's participation in the program began last fall with four students and has grown to twenty-one students this year.

"These students come from all over Brazil," said Beardsley. "When they apply to the program they don't know which university they'll be sent to."

"Concordia is perfect," said Camila Godoy De Matos, a computer science major, who was one of the first four students in the program last year. "I'm grateful I was put in a place where I feel so welcome."

The goal of the program is for students to take classes similar to those within their field of study in Brazil, learn how they can improve on what they've learned, experience a new culture, and then return to Brazil to complete their degree and share their new-found knowledge within their country and profession.

The experience for these students goes much deeper than grades and coursework.

"Living here is amazing because we learn about ourselves and different cultures," said Godoy De Matos. "I grew up here so much, not just from the education, but in my personal life."

**"I'm grateful I was put in a place where I feel so welcome."**

—Camila Godoy De Matos  
Computer Science Major

Godoy De Matos and Rodrigo Oliveira, also a computer science major, knew little English when they arrived on campus last year. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are an important part of the program and quickly help the students learn to communicate with their classmates, professors, and the community.

"Talking with Americans was scary at first, but ESL helped a lot," Oliveira said. "Our professor suggested we watch TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Talks to help us learn English."

"I only knew three sentences when I got here," Godoy De Matos adds. "I never imagined having a conversation like this last year."

The Brazilian students have made great strides in a short period of time, something that

doesn't surprise Beardsley at all. "Because of CUW's size, we can support these students in a way a larger university may be unable to."

And that's exactly what the CUW community has done. Everyone from the resident assistants to the library staff look for ways to make the transition as easy as possible for all of CUW's more than 200 international students. That spirit of support isn't a one-way street.

"These students give so much back to the CUW community," expressed Beardsley. "Our Brazilian students take the other international students under their wings. They are such a joy to have on campus."

These students are creating friendships and memories that extend far beyond the classroom.

The success of this program is the result of many factors, including support from President Ferry, the university community, and the other CUW students. But at the heart of the program is Beardsley herself.

Beardsley has worked for a non-profit organization as an exchange student coordinator, and is the founder of her own non-profit group called Language Exchange for World Peace.

"We all learn from each other," she states.

Beardsley is much more than an admissions coordinator; she's an advocate, a resource, a touchstone, and a friend to her students. She doesn't think twice about driving them to Target and Best Buy to make sure they have sheets and cellphones. She is servant leadership personified, and her students reap the benefits.

"Having this chance was such a gift. It's a dream come true," said Oliveira. "This is the biggest experience of my life."

# Meaningful Travel



## Pharmacists in Peru

Future pharmacists, led by Dr. Dean Arneson, CUW's School of Pharmacy Dean and Professor, got the opportunity of a lifetime when they traveled to Peru to observe overseas pharmacy practices.

By Gary Achterberg, *Contributing Writer*



Concordia University Wisconsin's School of Pharmacy has state-of-the-art labs, brand-new classrooms, and a world-class faculty, all of which provide a top-notch education to students.

This summer, the pharmacy school's dean and four students stepped into an entirely different world as they took a close look at how their profession is practiced in Peru.

While Peru is grounded in traditional medications, it also is a land where patients may visit a shaman who will treat their ailments from an array of native plants and extracts, many readily available in open-air markets.

"The two worlds are not as far apart as one might imagine," said Dr. Dean Arneson, the pharmacy school dean, who led his tenth trip of pharmacy students to South America in June. It is his second group from Concordia; the others were from Nova Southwestern University in Florida and the University of Oklahoma, where he previously taught.

"The approach that the shamans use is very patient-centered—and that's what we're trying





to teach our students,” Arneson said as he sat in his office adorned with paintings and artifacts from Peru.

“A lot of times here, you go to the doctor’s office and you get, if you’re lucky, 15 minutes with the doctor,” he added. “There, the shaman spends hours with the patients, gets to know them and finds a holistic approach to the patients’, finding socio-economic factors that may be affecting them, and seeing how they can fit the treatment into the patients’ lifestyles.”

Three of the students who accompanied Arneson on the 19-day trip are beginning their third year of pharmacy school; the other is a second-year student. In addition to meeting the shaman and touring a market with medicinal plants, the students visited three hospitals in Lima, toured an alternative medicine center, traveled to the cities of Iquitos and Cuzco, participated in a number of cultural activities, and spent the night on an island with a local family.

“It was a great experience to learn about a different culture and how they approach

medicine and provide health care,” said Angelika Steckbauer, a third-year pharmacy student. “I feel that we can learn from other countries on how to better ourselves, and they can learn from us. As a health care provider, we all have the same common goal and that is to do what is best for our patients.”

Arneson explained that many conventional medications in Western pharmacy have their roots in plants found in the rain forest. He added that he is now organizing a return trip over Christmas break for himself and three or four other CUW faculty members. He said he hopes to begin a dialogue with scientists from two Peruvian universities about joint research opportunities. Arneson also hopes to organize a similar student trip in the next several years to China so students can study Eastern medicine.

While much of this summer’s trip focused on academics, Arneson and the students also made time to see the sights including: the Incan ruins, Machu Pichu, Waynecchu mountain, and floating islands that are thatched together with reeds on Lake Titicaca, the largest South

American lake on the border between Peru and Bolivia.

The students and Arneson also traveled 120 miles down the Amazon River by boat to visit an artist, Francisco Grippa. In addition, they met and enjoyed dinner in Lima with Mark Eisold, who leads the Peru mission of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Arneson said much of what students learned on the trip wasn’t necessarily information that can be found in a textbook. For instance, they saw the impoverished conditions in which many Peruvians live. He added that he hopes students see that efforts to save the rain forest may have a direct connection to the profession they’re about to enter.

“You also learn about the rain forest and how it’s being deforested,” he said. “It’s important to save the rain forest because of the national products and natural medicines that are there. If we destroy the rain forest, we may be losing medicines that we don’t even know about yet.”

## Meaningful Travel

# Exploring Abroad, Developing Within

A travel course to Martin, Slovakia, through the study abroad program, gives a group of students a cultural experience like none other.

By **Emily Marciniak**, *Class of 2016*

“**H**elping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world,” reads the final line of Concordia’s mission statement. Carefully crafted, this statement was developed to set a high achieving standard and has encouraged the University’s mission to serve. These words continue to ring true thanks in part to Concordia’s Study Abroad Program, as two students describe their recent overseas journey.

“It was an incredibly powerful experience,” said senior Rachel Ferguson regarding her recent trip to the country of Slovakia. Ferguson, who has traveled several times outside of the United States, explains why this trip was exceptional. “It was definitely eye opening.”

In Concordia’s latest endeavor to cultivate global citizens, Ferguson and 12 other students traveled to Martin, Slovakia for an adventure of personal, academic, cultural, and spiritual growth.

“I loved it,” adds junior Tyler White. “I’ve never met people with so much passion; so many have faced harsh adversity, yet never cease to show their unfailing pride for their country.”

Slovakia, a country which struggled under Communist rule for 41 years following World War II, still shows signs of exploitation, as witnessed by the students on this trip.

“We were able to talk with the people and hear firsthand their experiences and fears, as well as learn about their perseverance through the many traumatic events in their country’s history,” said Ferguson.

White and Ferguson agree that one of the most powerful experiences from the trip was listening to Bohdan Hrobon, a teacher at Martin Bible School where the group stayed, speak about his lifetime of struggles being a Christian in a society with a repressive government.

“He told us what it was like to grow up during the communist control of Slovakia,” recalled Ferguson. “They [Christians] had to meet for church secretly, and had to be fully committed to their faith because if caught they could face severe punishment.”

CUW Study Abroad Program Director Tracy Tuffey, the professor who taught the course and traveled with the group, recognized a distinct transformation in her students.


“It was powerful to watch students develop a sensitivity to cultural differences, while at the same time growing in confidence to share their faith in another country,” said Tuffey. “I was excited to hear students sharing examples of all the ways they recognized how ‘God is everywhere’ as we explored churches, hospitals, concentration camps, campuses, and communities.”

Tuffey encourages every student to participate in a study abroad travel course during his or her time at Concordia. She explains that the educational experiences can accommodate any major, with short-term and semester long courses offered throughout the year.

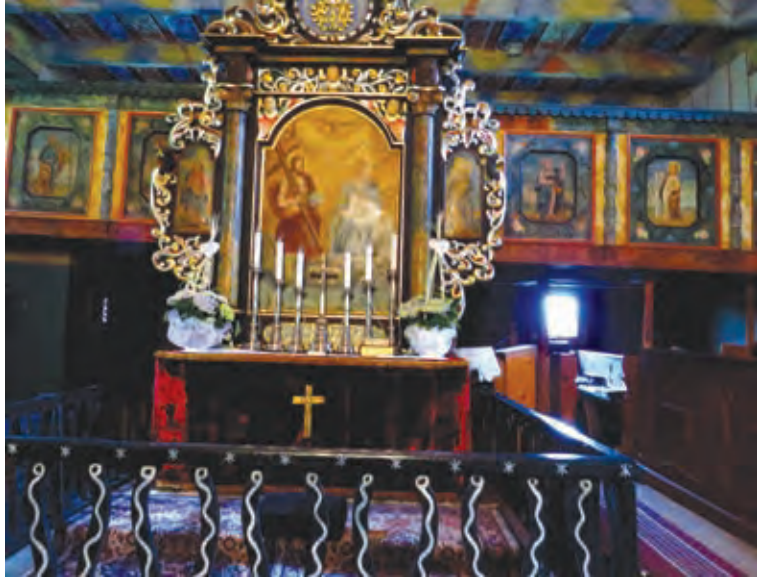
“It is such a blessing for me to share in students’ journeys as they develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ, the Church and the world,” said Tuffey.

It is safe to say Concordia’s mission statement is alive and well all across the globe.

**To learn more about the study abroad program and upcoming travel courses, visit: <https://www.cuw.edu/studyabroad> or contact Professor Tracy Tuffey at: [tracy.tuffey@cuw.edu](mailto:tracy.tuffey@cuw.edu).**

 **JOIN THE CONVERSATION!** Where did you study abroad? #CUWStudyAbroad





# Advance



If you were to ask a group of people to define “church,” you could expect a variety of answers. For some, it is a place of worship — the building and all it contains. For others, it means the worship service itself. Still, others use the word to refer to a particular denomination.

While all of these may be valid definitions, the response that you will hear most often is that the church is its people — God’s people gathered around His word and promises. While there are far more formal theological definitions of church, I think we understand what is meant here: it’s not the buildings, it’s the people.

How might we define Concordia University? Some might define it through description, noting that Concordia is a beautiful, 200-acre campus on the shores of Lake Michigan. Others might focus on our mission: 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. Still others might focus on its transformation and growth, its leadership and outreach, its service and excellence.

Again, while all of these are true, there is something even more important, and more central to defining Concordia. Concordia is about people. From students to faculty, support staff to administrators, alumni to board members, Concordia is best understood as being about people.

In this issue of the Concordian, you have been able to read about a small sampling of our people who, in many ways, ARE Concordia. But again, this is just a small sampling. Every day, more and more students are learning what it means to BE Concordia — to live our mission now and into the future. When they graduate, they take what they have learned and advance the mission through service to Christ in the Church and the world.

Because of its people, Concordia is not confined to the limits of acreage or buildings. Rather, it is impacting the world for generations to come.

**REV. DR. ROY PETERSON**  
*Vice President of Advancement*

# AlumNotes



# 2000s

## Achievements

**Ian H. DeJong** ('11) graduated from Marquette University with a Master's in British Literature and began the Ph.D. program in English at the University of Nevada, Reno, specializing in early modern drama.

**Darryl J. Albert** ('06) in May of 2014, completed graduate school at Southern University at New Orleans, earning a Master's of Arts in Criminal Justice degree. In addition, he is now Deputy Superintendent of Police in the New Orleans Police Department, overseeing the Operations Bureau.



**Paul J. Klajbor** ('02) was named the Assistant Dean for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's College of Engineering and Applied Science.

## Marriages

**Emilie M. Vick** ('02) was married to Ben Kassa on November 3, 2012 by Rev. Roy Peterson at St. John's Lutheran in Glendale, Wis. CUW Alumni in the wedding party included **Sheila Oppeneer** ('01) and **Katherine Spitler** ('03). Emilie recently began a new job as a Media Buyer/Planner at NonBox, an advertising agency in Hales Corners, Wis. Ben also recently began a new job at SPX Corporation in Waukesha as a Mechanical Design Technologist.

**Holly R. Peterson** ('13) married David Kennedy on June 13, 2014 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wasilla, Alaska. David is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He is currently training to become a submarine officer and Holly is teaching in the Charleston School District.

**Heidi vonBrauschitsch** ('10) was married to Benjamin Bush on Saturday July 26, 2014. The couple resides in Milwaukee, Wis.

**Tera Pfortmiller** ('09) married James Lewandowski on July 6, 2013. The couple lives in Wheatfield, Ind. where Tera works as the called director and teacher of Faith Lutheran Preschool in DeMotte. James works at Weil-McClain, a boiler manufacturer.

## Births

**Catherine (Corbly) Handschke** ('08), and her husband Sam, announce the birth of their first child, Annalise Malinda, who was born on May 14, 2014, weighing 6 lbs. 11oz. and was 20" long.

**Stephen L. Flewellen** ('04) and his wife Casey welcomed a new baby on April 21, 2014, named Finnley Dodge Flewellen. He was also welcomed by his 3 year old brother Callum.

# 1990s

## Achievements



**Peter E. Seaholm** ('94) retired from the military as the United States property and fiscal officer for Ohio on March 1, 2014. Colonel Seaholm and his wife Victoria reside in St. Augustine, Fla. and are the parents of two sons.

## Marriages

**Robin Dorschner** ('91) exchanged sacred vows on July 11, 2014 with Ms. Rebecca Rust.

**Ruth Oehme** ('91) married Steve Raab on April 26, 2014 at First Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedarburg, Wis. with Rev. Dr. Randall Ferguson as the officiant.

# 1980s

## Achievements

**Ann C. (Krueger) Rice** ('89) recently celebrated 25 years at CUW as the director of the Green Bay Center. She has been married to her husband Tom for 21 years and they have 3 adult children.

# 1960s

## Achievements

**Charles A. Weinrich** ('61) received the *Christus in Mundo* award at the Specialized Pastoral Ministry ZION XV Conference. Chuck continues to be active in inter-Lutheran activities as co-editor of *Caring Connections*, ([www.caringconnections.org](http://www.caringconnections.org)). Chuck was nominated for the award by fellow Concordian and classmate, **Charles Pieplow** ('61). Chuck Weinrich is pictured on the left, with his wife, Carol, and Chuck Pieplow is pictured with his wife, Jill.



## CUW wants to hear from you!

What are you up to? We want to know! Please email your update, with a high-resolution photo if possible, to [alumni@cuw.edu](mailto:alumni@cuw.edu) or via our Web link at <https://www.cuw.edu/Alumni/whatsnewform.cfm>. With your permission, your update may appear on the CUW Website, and in the print and online versions of the *Concordian*.

# A Cast of Thousands

*“When he [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36).*

You probably know there are some specific terms when referring to groups of animals based on the kind of animal. “Herd” and “flock” get used generically for several kinds of God’s creatures. You can probably call to mind a few others: a pack of wolves, a pod of dolphins, even some that are wonderfully alliterative, like a gaggle of geese. Some are just curious and peculiar: a kettle of vultures, a gaze of raccoons, a wisdom of wombats, and a parliament of owls. One that is particularly interesting—odd, but true—is that a group of alligators is called a congregation. I suppose a group of pastors could debate that....as well as what to call themselves.

So, what do you call a group of falcons? The answer: a cast. We, at CUW, have the falcon as our mascot and could rightly be called a cast. It would be true to say that we are a cast of thousands. The number of undergraduate, graduate, accelerated,

and distance learning students continues to climb and is now more than 8,000—that’s a lot of people. We’re not all together at once, but big groups gather regularly for sporting events, to eat in the cafeteria, and especially when we worship daily in chapel. It is hundreds that gather together at one time and yet it is an increasingly diverse group.

So what type of group is it when Concordia assembles together? We are a lot like those

crowds who came to Jesus when He walked on earth. Matthew says that they were “harassed and helpless sheep without a shepherd.” They needed Jesus. He had mercy on them. They were individuals with many different needs and problems, but all of them needed Jesus. They, like us, all needed forgiveness, hope, peace, joy, and more that could truly only be found in Jesus. So they became a flock of sheep under the Shepherd.

So like a flock of sheep, we, as a cast of thousands, have been brought together because of Jesus. It is interesting that many of the epic Biblical films are ones with a literal cast of thousands—films like *The Ten Commandments* and *Ben Hur*. It could be said that the Gospel message brought together these thousands of people. Our cast is not in a play or a drama, it is real life where we get to have a role in each other’s lives; to give and receive the compassion and forgiveness of Jesus. What a place to be God’s people—with this cast of falcons!

**REV. STEVE SMITH**  
*Campus Pastor*





BENEDICTION

Concordian Fall 2014

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Above A variety of Instagram photos capture the excitement of fall move-in day on campus.

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