

**AMERICAN HERO** Flight of a lifetime for WWII veteran.

**GAME CHANGER** How cancer redirected one student's calling in life.

**CONCORDIA PROMISE** How CUW is changing the value of education.

# Concordian

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN



## Honor

God, Country, Community

WINTER/SPRING 2015



# The Value of Higher Learning

What is the value of a higher learning experience? A lively debate is happening now about higher education and whether going to college is worth the investment. These discussions are framed by whether a degree will translate into a well-paying job after graduation. Gainful employment is a reasonable objective for any college student. At Concordia, we work hard to help launch and advance our students in meaningful and productive careers. We are delighted by their stories of success.

But, there is more to be said for the value and worth of higher learning. Among the noblest intentions of a collegiate experience is the quest to form and equip learners for effective and engaged citizenship. Universities have historically embraced this responsibility as part of the reason for their existence. Our own faculty has identified the preparation of students to assume responsible roles as citizens—in our community, in our country, and within a global context—as a university-wide learning outcome for every student.

The theme of this issue is “Honor: God, Country, Community.” Among the ways that we honor God is through our active and informed roles as citizens. Mindful that as Christians we are ultimately citizens of Heaven (I am but a stranger here, Heaven is my home). We live our lives in the here-and-now, glorifying God by serving others.

Pericles, the famous Athenian leader and orator, understood that the legacy of a life was manifested in service. “What you leave behind is not engraved on stone mountains, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

“Impact through Service” is one of the *Vision Themes* we are developing to help steer our university community in the coming years. I want you to have a glimpse of what we mean and envision for the University and our students when we talk about “Impact through Service.”

*Concordia impacts the Church and world, developing globally-minded citizens who transform lives, influence communities, and value their neighbors near and far, through Christ-like service and leadership.*

The questions about the value of higher learning ought to be more far-reaching. To the extent that we succeed in transforming lives, influencing communities, and caring for our neighbors in need—fulfilling our mission of “service to Christ in the Church and the world,” the Concordia experience is making a world of difference.

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

*President*

# Concordian CONTENTS

WINTER/SPRING 2015

## Features



8

### Passion vs. Paycheck

A seminary student on his path to serve God while supporting his young family.



10

### Filling a Need

CUW's School of Pharmacy resident providing a necessity in an underserved community.

4

### On the Bluff

CUW sisters share the spotlight in a very competitive way. Some special veterans inspire students on campus. A former dean leaves behind a lasting legacy. An important, annual art exhibit sheds light on a serious issue.



12

### One Tough Teen

A student's battle with cancer inspires others to not give up their fight.



15

### War Hero Takes Flight

After years of service, a WWII veteran receives the honor of a lifetime.



21

### In the World

Concordia found a way to offer families substantial savings for higher education with a lifelong impact. A CUW graduate talks about his worldwide servant leadership experience. AlumNotes.



ON THE COVER: Flags flying high outside the main campus entrance. Photograph by Jeffrey Phelps

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# Student Spotlight

## Dynamic Duo

Concordia students by day, world champions by week's end.

By Gary Achterberg, *Contributing Writer*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KOEHLER FAMILY

# Student Spotlight

**A**riana (on left, opposite page) and Kailey (on right) Koehler are like hundreds of other Concordia University Wisconsin students. They call the residence halls their home away from home. On a recent mid-December morning, both were relieved to have their exams behind them so they could head home to Lake Geneva for the holidays.

What sets them apart from their classmates, however, is both are world-class competitive water skiers. They have competed around the world as part of Team USA. The sisters go back and forth on which one wins state, regional, and national competitions.

Ariana, a 20-year-old sophomore, has won a world championship as an individual. She and Kailey, an 18-year-old freshman, were part of a junior world-championship team effort several years ago.

"I started skiing when I was two or three," Kailey said. "We have a lot of pictures."

Ariana said her parents—who also grew up as excellent water skiers and remain involved in the sport—encouraged the girls to try a variety of sports. They also played volleyball, ran track, and participated in gymnastics.

"They never expected us to be skiers," Ariana said. "It just happened to be what we both fell in love with."

By the time Kailey was six, both girls—and their parents—were part of the Aquanut Water Show Team, a stunt-skiing team based in Twin Lakes, Wis. The girls skied in routines; dad drove a boat and mom rode along, serving as a spotter.

"It's just been a huge family thing forever," Ariana said of the Aquanut Water Show Team, a group that includes roughly 100 members; about 60 skiers and the others perform a variety of support roles like making costumes and selling concessions at the shows.

"They're a second family," Kailey said. "We got to travel to so many places with them," her sister added.

While the girls remain active with the Aquanut Water Show Team, they got involved with barefoot competitions while they still were in elementary school. The competitions involve three events: slalom, performing tricks, and completing jumps.

"Our dad brought us to a competition to see if we liked it," Ariana said. "There was no doubt."

The young women worked their way up through the junior ranks, winning a variety of state, regional, and national competitions along the way.

"Kailey and I have been going back and forth on every one of those titles," Ariana said.

Their success led to invitations to compete for Team USA and a number of world competitions. Ariana has represented the stars and stripes in Texas, New Zealand, and Germany. Kailey competed at all of those world championships and also one in Australia. About 16 or 17 nations were represented at each of the competitions.

"Germany definitely was the highlight for me," said Ariana, who won the individual junior world championships there in 2010.

"That was really huge," she added. "It was something I didn't expect going into it. I put in the work to do my best, but that was kind of a surprise to me."

Kailey joined her sister that year in Germany as they also won the team junior world championship. Through the years, the girls also have other podium finishes in the world championships to their credit.

Water skiing is not an Olympic sport, so competing at the highest levels of the sport doesn't come with a huge amount of outside support.

"We do a lot of fundraising, just for the team to go," Ariana said. The sisters also spend their summer vacation running a water-skiing school; the money they make goes toward competing. Ariana added that their parents have been a huge support in all kinds of ways.

"They've been our No. 1 fans for our whole lives," she said.

"Water skiing is definitely not our lives," said Kailey, who decided to bypass competing at worlds in Australia due to starting college a year ago. "School is more

important to me." Kailey is studying to be a special education teacher; Ariana wants to be an occupational therapist.

Ariana said she initially had no idea where she wanted to attend college and was attracted to CUW because of the great reputation of its occupational therapy program. The sisters agreed that being a Christian school also was a big factor in their decisions to come to CUW.

"The professors are so personable and willing to help," Ariana said. "And we have made so many good friends here already."

Kailey said she looked closely at CUW because Ariana loved the school, but cemented her decision after she "fell in love with the special education program."

Kailey agreed that school is becoming a major focus in her life now that she has started college.

"I'm looking at the big picture. I'm not going to be water skiing when I'm 100," she said. "Hopefully, our children will enjoy it one day too."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KOEHLER FAMILY

## Campus News

# Dr. David Borst Steps Down

Dr. David Borst stepped down as the Dean of Concordia's School of Business Administration as of Jan. 1. The University recently launched a nationwide search for its next dean of the School with Dr. Michael Uden, dean of Concordia's School of Education, as the chair of the search committee. Dr. Borst had been with the University for 18 years, serving nearly seven of them in the leadership role of dean.

Dr. Suzanne Siegle and Dr. Jane Bishop have been named interim deans. Dr. Siegle currently serves as Concordia University Ann Arbor's Campus Dean. Dr. Jane Bishop has been a faculty member at Concordia University Wisconsin for three years. Both Dr. Siegle and Dr. Bishop



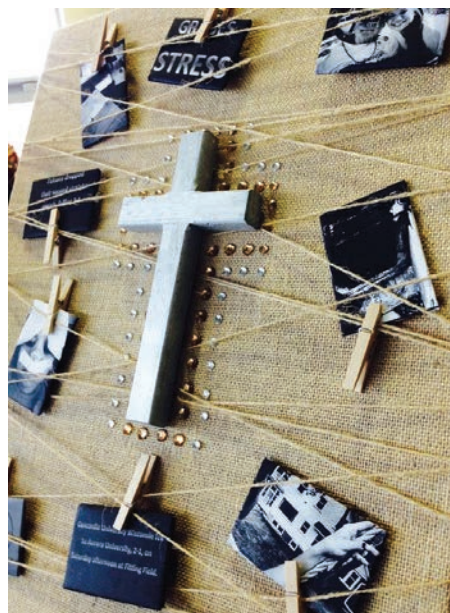
say they are eager to work together to continue the growth, innovation, and impact of the School of Business Administration.

—Craig McCarthy, Editor

## Artwork Depicting Depression Takes Center Stage

Hundreds turned out for the University's Eighth Annual 'Faces of Depression' exhibit, which took place in October on the Mequon campus. It coincided with National Depression Awareness Month. Concordia's Psychology Department has been the driving force behind this event over the years, which features more than 100 pieces of artwork that reflect impressions of depression from students, faculty, staff members, and the community.

Some of the artwork displayed at the recent exhibit included: paintings, drawings, photography, graphic designs, sculptures, and poems. The artwork also included a title and artist statement explaining the piece. Organizers say they've already begun planning next year's event. —Craig McCarthy, Editor



## Upcoming Campus Events

### March

27 - Undergraduate Visit Day

28 - *Easter Bash*, Open to families with young children for singing, crafts, and an egg hunt, 9-11 a.m.

29 - Kammerchor Spring Concert, Chapel of Christ Triumphant, 3:30 p.m.

### April

10 - Undergraduate Visit Day

10 - *An Evening Featuring A Dramatic Presentation of the Gospel of Mark*, Chapel, 7 p.m., Free and open to the public

14 - Reformation 500 Presentation, CUW Kammerchor Director Alexa Doebele, Terrace Room, 7 p.m.

17 - University Band and Jazz Ensemble Concert, Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

18 - "Living Love-Loving Life" Conference, Terrace Room, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

18 - Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra Concert, Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

23/24 - Lutheran Lay Ministry Conference, 5-9 p.m. Thursday and 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Friday

24/25 - Concordia Apologetics Conference, 5-7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday

26 - Kammerchor and Selah Choral Concert with Concordia Chapel Ringers, Chapel, 3:30 p.m.

30 - *MacBeth*, Todd Wehr Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

### May

01 - *MacBeth*, Todd Wehr Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

02 - *MacBeth*, 1:30p.m. in the Chapel Courtyard and 7:30p.m. in the Todd Wehr Auditorium

03 - *MacBeth*, Chapel Courtyard, 6 p.m.

03 - Alleluia Ringers Spring Concert, Chapel, 3:30 p.m.

15 - Graduate Commencement, Field House, 6 p.m.

16 - Baccalaureate Service, Chapel, 10 a.m.

16 - Undergraduate Commencement, Field House, 1:30 p.m.

28 - Graduate Visit Day

### June

07/09 - South Wisconsin District Convention, Field House

# Veterans Share Their Stories with Students

Concordia welcomed the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, Wisconsin Chapter, on Dec. 2. This meeting was particularly special, according to organizers, because it consisted of WWII and post WWII veterans who spoke to dozens of students from Manitowoc High School who were enrolled in American history courses.

“One of our goals is to educate the public on the price these brave men and woman paid for our country’s three F’s: freedom, family, and faith,” said Cindy Drehmel, president of the Society’s Wisconsin chapter.

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society was created in 1975 to preserve the legacy of the “Mighty Eighth,” and the part it played in American history during WWII.

—Craig McCarthy, Editor



# Leap of FAITH

*An Alumnus comes full circle on his journey to finding his true vocation.*

*By Lisa Hartmann, Contributing Writer*

*Photography by Kolyssa Frisque*

## **What are you called to do in this life?**

That's a big question. And even when the answer seems obvious, the path toward following that calling may not run in a straight line.

"I started telling people in third grade that I wanted to be a pastor," Marshal Frisque said over the telephone from the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. No surprise for a young man from a strong Lutheran family, where childhood pastors made a strong impression. Heading off to college and attending CUW's pre-seminary program was a given.

Then, a year and a half into the program, an early mid-life crisis hit. "I realized the Lord might be calling me in another direction," Frisque recalls. He still completed a minor in missions, and continued his involvement with campus ministry, but looked at other degree offerings like technology and decided to switch his major to computer science.

The new degree seemed to be a good fit. While still a student at CUW, Frisque worked with CUW computer science professor, Dr. Michael Litman, to start a mobile application development company called Awesomemat.

During Frisque's senior year, he was approached by CUW's marketing department about helping the University start a social media program. The resulting internship turned into a full-time job upon graduation. "I was doing some ministry directed at the students through social media, but I was still searching," Frisque admits. "I still didn't quite feel I was where God wanted me to be."

Rev. Dr. Thomas Feiertag, who taught several of Frisque's mission classes, sensed there was so much more that he should be doing. "When I first met Marshal, he told me he was thinking about being a pastor. He was struggling with the decision and leaning toward a career in information technology. I thought, 'If anyone ought to be a pastor, it's him.' He's

personable, he's empathetic, and he's a good listener. He cares for people, and that's what ministry is all about."

After two years as CUW's Social Media Manager, Frisque left CUW and moved to the Chicago area to join the team at Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) managing their social media and communications. He and his wife, Kolyssa, had their first child and life got a little hectic.

Then, the first of two "light bulb moments" happened.

Frisque's work with LCC's Disaster Response Team took him to Washington, Ill. in November of 2013 after an F-4 tornado ripped through the town. The tornado struck on a Sunday morning while many people were in church. Though the storm claimed three lives, it could have taken many more. The community's churches, including Our Savior Lutheran Church, survived the storm.

"We were taking pictures and video to raise



fun, and I was interviewing the pastor's wife, who was still pretty shaken up. After we finished filming, she broke down and cried. I gave her a hug and realized I didn't want to look through the lens. I just wanted to listen. I wanted to talk with people, be with them when they needed it, listening and comforting. I started thinking, "that's where I should be."

The second lightbulb moment happened while Frisque was on a Skype call with a close friend and seminarian and admitted he wasn't sure which direction to head. "My friend simply said, 'You know, you should really consider coming down to the seminary.' My wife,

Kolyssa, started laughing from the kitchen. I felt like God placed her in my life to be my litmus test because from that moment, she was very supportive of the idea, and it solidified what I felt inside."

In January 2014, Frisque talked with his boss at LCC and said that he planned to apply to the seminary. By April, the Frisque family had moved to Indiana and by the start of the summer, Marshal was knee-deep in Greek, a pre-requisite for the Master of Divinity program he entered in the fall.

Making a career change, no less a life change, as an adult with a family to consider

can be a weighty decision. "I'd been out of college for three years. I had a steady job with insurance, a new daughter, my family was growing. I wondered, 'How will I take care of my family while we're there, with student debt from undergraduate studies?' but that only lasted for a moment." Frisque said.

"I have faith that this passion God instilled in me is something I was meant to pursue. I'm grateful that He's here with me leading this journey to the ministry. It's an honorable occupation, to bring people to God. It's a wonderful, wonderful feeling." ■



Above: Marshal and his wife, Kolyssa, along with their daughter, Cadence, outside the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Below: Marshal outside the Kramer Chapel.





# Lending a Helping Hand

## Concordia's first participant in the pharmacy school's residency program sees value in urban clinical work.

By **Craig McCarthy**, *Editor*

At 30 years old, Dr. James Lokken is a pioneer of sorts. Not only was he one of the first graduating students from Concordia University's Pharmacy School in May of 2014, he's now the first student to take part in the School's two-year Residency Program.

It's a course of action that only about 15 percent of pharmacy school graduates take [residency programs], but one that Lokken believes will not only make him a better pharmacist, but will also better prepare him for a lifelong career in the industry. "I see this as a unique opportunity to advance my pharmacy knowledge," said Lokken.

Since beginning the Program in June of 2014, he's been splitting his time between doing research, teaching at CUW, and providing ambulatory care at Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. (MHSI), a clinic serving the urban underserved of Milwaukee. According to Dr. Lokken, his work in this setting is helping to guide patients through the medication process after they've seen their primary care provider.

"My role is to help manage certain disease states, like diabetes, high blood pressure, and cholesterol. I look at all the medications the patients are taking and help design the best strategies for the patients and those medications," said Dr. Lokken.

The Chairman of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Residency Program at CUW, Dr. Andy Traynor, believes Dr. Lokken was the ideal choice for this role. "James is an embodiment of what we set out to do within a school of pharmacy in terms of his desire to serve the community, particularly the needs of the underserved, and do that with excellence and with the Christian values that our University is about."

Dr. Loren-Ashley Williams is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at CUW and alongside Dr. Sarah Ray, also an assistant

professor of pharmacy practice, is involved in overseeing Dr. Lokken's practice and learning experience at MHSI. Dr. Williams says Dr. Lokken is a great fit for this type of training and is impressed with his work thus far.

"James is very personable and has a genuine passion to help patients improve their health. Patients at the clinic respond to him and enjoy working with him."

"We saw this Program as a win-win. The resident would get the academia experience along with experience in an ambulatory care clinic, working with a lot of underserved patients," said Dr. Ray.

Working in academia is something that is definitely on Dr. Lokken's radar. So much, that not only is he doing his residency work, he's also pursuing a master's degree in education at Concordia. It's this type of dedication and thoughtfulness to his career and the pharmacy profession that has gotten him noticed by faculty.

"You make these professional choices and sometimes you need to have a little patience to get better opportunities," said Dr. Michael Pickart, associate professor in pharmaceutical sciences and administration in the School of Pharmacy at CUW.

Dr. Pickart met Dr. Lokken while he was a professor at UW-Stout. Dr. Lokken was getting his undergraduate degree in biotechnology and working with Dr. Pickart on zebrafish research. Dr. Pickart remembers having discussions with Lokken about his academic career. He recalls convincing him not to leave the University after his third year to attend pharmacy school and complete his undergraduate degree.

Upon graduating from UW-Stout in 2008, Lokken decided to further delay pharmacy school and attend North Dakota State University to pursue a master's degree in chemistry. He graduated in 2010 from NDSU

and then decided to apply and be part of the inaugural class of Concordia's then new School of Pharmacy.

"If you think about the success of a program that starts from scratch, there tends to be some bumps in the road," said Lokken.

**"The quality of personnel and people in place here at Concordia made it a smooth ride the whole way through. I think we were very well prepared graduating from Concordia as the first class."**

The connection that Dr. Lokken had to his former professor at UW-Stout, Dr. Pickart, led to the School of Pharmacy offering Dr. Pickart a job in 2012. He realizes how special it's been to not only teach Lokken throughout the years, but to see him grow as a person.

"James is an excellent candidate for our residency program because throughout his career he's demonstrated to me patience, care, and concern, not just for his own development, but for everybody else's development."

As Lokken enters into the second year of his residency program at Concordia, he will be working more independently at an urban clinic, yet to be determined. One thing is for certain though, wherever he lands after his residency, it will be in a pharmacy setting in which he is serving others while doing something that he's passionate about. It seems that the sky's the limit for Dr. Lokken—just ask anyone who knows him. ■



True *True*

*True* Calling **Calling** *True* *Calling*

**Childhood cancer reveals lifetime passion.**

By Gary D'Amato, *Contributing Writer*

Photography by Jeffrey Phelps

Three years ago, during her sophomore year in high school, Emma Paulson of Mequon, Wis., was filling out forms that would help her identify possible career paths. She thought being an activities director on a cruise ship sounded exciting.

“My mom said, ‘You should probably do something a little more meaningful than that,’” Paulson recalled.

Her grandmother suggested nursing, but Paulson shuddered at the very thought. The mere sight of blood and needles made her queasy.

“When I was about 8 years old, my sister went to get her ears pierced and I fainted,” she said.

Fate would intervene, however. On January 17, 2012, Paulson was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a fairly common type of childhood cancer. She would become all too familiar with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and various protocols, including months of chemotherapy.

It wasn’t long into her treatment when Paulson realized she had found her calling. She wanted to be just like the caring people who were helping her through a difficult time.

In the end, her grandmother was right—Emma wanted to be a nurse. “Now,” she said, “I can’t imagine myself doing anything else.”

Paulson, 19, a freshman at Concordia University Wisconsin, is just starting on her career path academically, but her experience as a cancer patient has given her a head start in the form of lessons that cannot be learned in a classroom. She knows what it feels like to be a 16-year-old girl who is losing her hair. She knows first-hand the anxiety that grips a child who is going through chemo.

Paulson also volunteers at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Though

HIPPA laws prevent her from entering patients’ rooms, she helps families dealing with childhood cancer by answering questions and calming fears.

“There are two little boys at Children’s right now, they’re 18 months old and they have the same kind of cancer I do,” she said. “They’ll just cry and their parents don’t know what’s wrong with them or how they’re feeling after a certain treatment. I tell them, ‘This is how this made me feel and this is what I did that worked. Especially for the younger kids, I think it’s helpful.’”

Paulson is also active in fundraisers for pediatric cancer research and is closely involved with the MACC (Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer) Fund.

Back in Dec., she was featured in an Aaron Rodgers 12 days of Christmas full-page ad in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel sponsored by a large retailer. Those who shopped there had five percent of their toy purchases between Dec. 1 and 12 go to the MACC Fund.

She has technically been in remission since she started on her first round of chemotherapy the day after being diagnosed with leukemia. But, she considers herself cancer-free since May 2014, when she had her final chemo treatment.

“I feel normal,” she said, smiling. “I have a little problem with low energy. I get tired easily. I think I’ve always been like that but it’s a little more so because I’ve had so much medicine in me.”

Paulson was 16 when she started complaining about constant fatigue and dizziness. One day, she was too tired to go to school and her parents knew something was seriously wrong.

“I went to my pediatrician and they did blood tests,” she said. “They knew right away.” ▶



*“I chose something that I’m going to be passionate to do for the rest of my life.”*

The treatments started immediately and Emma missed the second semester of her sophomore year at Brookfield Academy. She was hospitalized for much of that summer. That was the low point.

“It was the hardest part of my treatment,” she said. “I was throwing up multiple times every single day, I didn’t have any hair, and I couldn’t see my friends because I didn’t have any immunity. I had such bad anxiety; I couldn’t even go to the hospital without seeing the sign and throwing up. It was just awful.”

Typical of teenage cancer patients, Paulson saw a psychologist.

“He didn’t really tell me to talk to him,” she said. “We would play on a tablet. He kind of acted like a big brother. I don’t even know what he did, but something about it worked. Now, my favorite place to go is the hospital.”

Paulson still must go in for monthly blood draws until she has been cancer-free for one year. After that, the blood draws will occur once every other month for a year, then once every three months, and so on.

The girl who once cringed at the sight of blood and needles has no problem with either.

“I like getting my blood drawn,” she said with a laugh. “It doesn’t even hurt anymore. I can’t even feel the needle go in. And after I hear the results, I can breathe easy for another month.”

Paulson said she’s learned a lot about herself over the last three years. She’s become a strong, confident, young woman. And she has chosen a career for which she is absolutely, positively a perfect fit.

“I chose something,” Emma said proudly, “that I’m going to be passionate to do for the rest of my life.” ■

**f** JOIN THE CONVERSATION! Where do you draw strength and hope from? Share with us on Facebook. [facebook.com/CUWisconsin](https://www.facebook.com/CUWisconsin)



# THE GREATEST GENERATION

WWII VETERAN EUGENE FERRY, 91-YEAR-OLD FATHER OF CONCORDIA'S PRESIDENT, DESCRIBES HIS JOURNEY SURVIVING 50 BOMBING MISSIONS.

By GARY D'AMATO, CONTRIBUTING WRITER  
ARCHIVE PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FERRY FAMILY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY STAYTON



**EUGENE "LEFTY" FERRY FLEW 50 MISSIONS** in the ball turret of a B-17 bomber during World War II. If that doesn't send a chill down your spine, consider this: the odds of surviving just a few missions over Nazi Germany, exposed to anti-aircraft fire and the Luftwaffe in the underbelly of a "Flying Fortress," were not good.

Ferry not only beat the odds, but he played an important role in the Allied Forces' victory over Adolph Hitler in the defining event of the 20th century. He was, in every sense of the word, an American hero.

After the war, Ferry came home to the States and, like most members of the "Greatest Generation," lived a quiet, exemplary life. He settled in Denver, Colo., became a bricklayer, raised a family, and spent years coaching youth sports teams—his way of giving back, as if he hadn't already given enough.

He would instill values, morals, and a strong work ethic in his three sons. One of them, the Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, would go on to become the president of Concordia University.

And on Nov. 1, 2014, seven decades after he climbed out of a B-17 for the last time, Lefty Ferry flew one final mission. This time, it was on

a commercial plane, and his son was at his side.

Dr. Ferry accompanied his 91-year-old father on a Stars and Stripes Honor Flight from Milwaukee to Washington, D.C. Joining them were 86 other veterans of World War II and the Korean War, along with Milwaukee Brewers catcher, Jonathan Lucroy. The group toured the National World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and other monuments and memorials on the National Mall.

The Honor Flight returned that night and the veterans and their chaperones were greeted in the concourse at General Mitchell International Airport by a high school band and thousands of cheering, flag-waving family members, volunteers, and appreciative members of the general public.

"It was an experience that exceeded even my highest expectations," Dr. Ferry said. "It was ▶









Wanting to give back, Lefty always made time to help children *circa* 1945.

extremely well-organized and done well from start to finish. The Honor Flight people do a tremendous job.”

Lefty Ferry, a New Hampshire native, enlisted in the Air Force when war broke out and was assigned to a B-17 that the crew nicknamed the “Mammy Yokum” after a character in a popular comic strip.

“We were oddballs,” Ferry said. “Everybody else named their plane after a beauty queen.”

At 5’ 6,” Ferry was the shortest man on the crew and was assigned to the ball turret, a tiny, cramped sphere under the plane. His job was to ward off enemy fighters with a pair of .50 caliber machine guns and signal to the bombardier when to drop the bombs. Also, because he was the only one in the plane who could see the ground, he had to document targets struck and destroyed.

The Mammy Yokum played an integral role in numerous strategic bombing missions. Patrick Winkler, the son of the late William “Bill” Winkler, the plane’s co-pilot, has spent 20 years researching the missions and plans to write a book.

“These guys did something amazing, and they were a bunch of teenagers,” Winkler said.

He has been able to document at least four missions over the Nazis’ oil refineries around Ploiesti, Romania, as part of the “oil campaign,” which disrupted the flow of petroleum-based fuel to the Axis. Winkler said German military leader Hermann Goering later testified that



Lefty with his crew during training *circa* 1945.

those bombings had crippled Hitler’s army.

On July 16, 1944, the Mammy Yokum helped destroy prototypes of the Me 264, a German bomber that might have changed the outcome of the war had the program been completed.

“The Me 264 was a high-altitude, long-range bomber designed to attack America,” Winkler said. “It would have been capable of bombing Washington, D.C., and New York, and returning to Germany. On that particular bombing raid, they destroyed all three of the existing prototypes.”

The nature of the mission was a well-kept secret. The Mammy Yokum crew members initially were told they had destroyed a mess kit factory.

“I said, ‘You mean to tell me I risked my life so they wouldn’t have a tin can to eat out of?’ ” Lefty Ferry said. “Nobody knew. But if they had developed that bomber, we would have lost the war.”

Ferry had more than a few close calls. Once, a bomb got stuck in the bomb bay door, hung up by a wire, its tail spinning. Instinctively, ▶





Ferry crawled back and cut it loose.

“I didn’t panic,” Ferry said. “I had to get out, go back there—the door is open, no oxygen or anything—without thinking. Somehow, I got it loose and it fell. If not, the plane would have gone down right there.”

But 50 missions would take an enormous toll on any man, and Ferry paid a heavy price. Not only was he in constant, imminent danger, but he witnessed bombs that missed targets and destroyed schools and homes, killing women and children.

“He’s got really unhappy memories about that because he would see where the bombs would stray,” Dr. Ferry said. “The collateral damage that occurred had a sort of deep, searing affect on him.”

Lefty Ferry said he asked many times to be transferred out of the squadron because of the extreme psychological stress, but was denied each time.

“After about 30 or 35 missions, they were all hard,” he said. “I told them, ‘Transfer me out,’ and they wouldn’t do it. I was almost nuts.”

For his fiftieth and final mission, Ferry had his choice of flying in the lead bomber in the

formation or with his crew. It was an option extended to all men on their last missions. He picked the lead bomber and it proved to be a fortuitous decision, because the Mammy Yokum was shot down.

“His crewmates parachuted into Switzerland and Dad was under the impression that they all got out OK,” Dr. Ferry said. “Subsequently, the Honor Flight people have done some research and have discovered they didn’t all get out OK. Some were interred and some died as prisoners of war.

“And so, what a blessing. Dad would have been on that plane. The Lord’s hand was with him, obviously.”

By then, Bill Winkler was training B-17 crews, so he wasn’t on the Mammy Yokum when it went down, either.

Nearly 70 years later, Winkler’s three sons traveled to Washington, D.C., to greet the Honor Flight and surprise Ferry. Patrick Winkler lives in Sunset Beach, N.C. Bob and Bill Winkler live in Baltimore.

Bill Winkler was the first to greet Ferry.

“He said, ‘Hello, my name is Bill Winkler,’” Patrick Winkler said. “Lefty jumped out of his

wheelchair and threw his arms around him.”

Dr. Ferry admitted, “I think that was the most emotional part of the trip.”

Lefty Ferry was also presented with duplicates of long-lost service medals and spent time talking baseball with Lucroy. Ferry was an outstanding high school pitcher and after the war, when he was stationed at Lowry Field in Denver, he played on a team with major-leaguers Satchel Paige and Vic Raschi.

“Dad had a chance to interact with Jonathan Lucroy,” Dr. Ferry said. “They had a good conversation. I tweeted that it was ‘Lefty and Lucroy—the battery that never was, until today.’”

The entire Honor Flight experience left father and son deeply gratified.

“We had a great time,” Dr. Ferry said. “It was just a wonderful day.” ■



**JOIN THE CONVERSATION!** Have you ever attended an Honor Flight? Share your experience with us on Facebook.

[facebook.com/CUWisconsin](https://www.facebook.com/CUWisconsin)

# A Promise for the Future

Concordia University Wisconsin is on a mission to make Christ-centered, higher education possible for more students.

By **Lisa Hartmann**, *Contributing Writer*



Concordia University Wisconsin is on a mission to make Christ-centered higher education possible for more students. “Kids used to ask themselves, ‘What do I want to be when I grow up?’” said Dr. Bernard Bull, Associate Vice President of Concordia’s Office of Continuing and Distance Education. “Now they ask, ‘What can I afford to be when I grow up?’ We want to change that.”

With the college debt burden rising faster than inflation (Phil Izzo, *Congratulations to Class of 2014, Most Indebted Ever*, Wall Street Journal blog), making higher education more affordable is a big task.

Today, college begins in high school for many students who take advanced placement courses (dual credit courses) to help them satisfy both high school requirements and earn college credits. “We asked ourselves, ‘How can we make a difference for these students? What can we offer them from an ongoing Lutheran education perspective?’” said Gretchen Jameson, Vice President for Strategy & External Relations at CUW and CUAA.

Concordia found a way to transform these questions into a tangible initiative called the *Concordia Promise* that offers families hard cost savings with a lifelong impact.

The Concordia Promise dual credit (early college start) initiative reduces tuition on dual credit courses from \$200 to \$50 per credit for students enrolled in either a Christian high school or homeschool; an offering that can add up to considerable savings given that some online courses can cost anywhere from \$300 to \$700.

If those students pursue an undergraduate degree at CUW or CUAA, they are eligible to participate in the *Concordia Promise Plus*, a tuition-back grant covering the cost of their dual credit classes (up to \$50 per credit). To put it another way, students could take their Concordia dual credit courses for free, which could equate to completing up to one year of a liberal arts undergraduate degree at no cost.

The program, offered by CUW and CUAA, began in the spring semester of 2015 and includes both online and in classroom dual-credit courses taught by Concordia professors.

The *Concordia Promise* initiative is also noncompetitive, meaning that students can take dual credit courses from Concordia and from other universities. Students can also transfer those credits to another university. “We don’t want to limit their options. This initiative is about the students,” said Jameson, who, along with Dr. Bull, is one of the architects of the program.

“We want to be a partner to our Christian high schools and work with them to identify coursework that students need. We’re doing everything

we can to build relationships with schools and churches around the country; to really be the Church’s school.”

“Students are excited,” said Katie Baganz, project lead for the program and CUW’s Online Dual Credit Coordinator in the Office of Continuing and Distance Education. “They want to get started with a variety of core courses they can take with them to any program, even if they aren’t sure what they want to major in. This program lets them do that in an affordable manner.”

**To put it another way, students could take their Concordia dual credit courses for free, which could equate to completing up to one year of a liberal arts undergraduate degree at no cost.**

At its heart, the *Concordia Promise* is much broader than access to affordable higher education; it’s about the benefits of a lifelong Christ-centered education and the impact such an education has on each student and the people those students touch over the course of their lifetime.

“We believe there’s something distinctive about Lutheran education. It allows us to see the world through a different lens and drives us to think about the inherent value of human beings,” said Dr. Bull.

That lens also helps students view their profession as more than just a career, but as a manifestation of their God-given potential and purpose. “Education is about helping people discover, embrace, and refine their gifts, talents, and abilities so that they can use them to love their neighbors in this world,” Dr. Bull continued.

“When you really get at the heart of this program, it’s about what kind of promises we should be making to people,” said Jameson. “It’s about helping students increase access and opportunity to higher education. Our mandate in the world is to help as many students grow in mind, body, and spirit as possible.”



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Share your thoughts on  
education reform with us  
on Twitter @CUWisconsin

# Servant at Heart

Concordia Graduate honors family traditions of helping others overseas.

By Gary Achterberg, *Contributing Writer*

Paul Kolesar walked across the commencement stage in May and picked up his degree in computer science from Concordia University Wisconsin.

After a summer that included time in Europe, a road trip around the United States with his sister, and the weddings of several friends, he set his sights on entering the real world and finding a job.

It didn't take long. He got multiple job offers, including two on the same day. While he said he initially wanted to work on either the East or West Coast—and had the opportunity to do that—he said he found the best fit just down the road.

Kolesar now lives on Milwaukee's East Side. He says he couldn't be happier with his job developing software for mobile devices at Red Arrow Labs.

Kolesar said that his CUW degree was important, but he credits the experience he got working as an intern with Dr. Michael Litman, an associate professor of computer science at CUW, with getting his foot in the door.

"They really wanted to know about work experience," Kolesar said of his new employer, which he said provides a casual work environment where every day presents new challenges. "I love it there. It's just a great environment."

Kolesar said he got to know Dr. Litman through classes who asked Kolesar to do an internship with a company, Awesomemat, which Litman owned at the time. The internship primarily involved writing "apps" (programs that would run on devices such as smart phones and tablets). He said that real-world experience is what made the difference for getting the Red Arrow job.

Litman, who has taught at CUW for eight years and started and sold five software companies, said Kolesar's ability to learn quickly has paid dividends.

"Paul is the classic example of a strong student in the classroom that would typically struggle coming out of school due to a lack of real-world programming experience," he said. "His work with Awesomemat bridged this gap, and he quickly adapted to the changes. He has his go-to technologies that he is already comfortable with, but he is highly intelligent and can learn new skills very quickly."

"I am not surprised at all that he is thriving at Red Arrow," he added. "He brings a flexibility to the table that is hard to find today."

Kolesar, who initially thought he wanted to study engineering, settled on CUW and computer science after meeting Dr. Gary Locklair, computer science professor, during a campus visit.

studied abroad in London for a semester and participated in a winterim trip to Slovakia and the Czech Republic, countries with which he already was quite familiar.

Kolesar's father is from Slovakia. His grandmother still lives there. He, his sister, and his parents made numerous trips there over the years to help his grandmother, particularly after his grandfather had a stroke in 1999; he died in 2013. Eventually, he or his sister would travel to Europe by themselves to help their grandparents. "Growing up, this was a real formative experience," he said.

He saw that Sandra Jahns, assistant to the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, was leading a trip over winter break to the countries. "I thought it would be a great experience for me to get a little different perspective," he said, adding that his father initially said that it didn't make a lot of sense to take a trip like that when he could travel there and stay with his grandmother. "I wanted to do this for myself," he said. "I wanted to make my own experience."

Part of the experience of that trip was to do mission work at The Martin Bible School, recently named the Center for Christian Education, in Martin, Slovakia. Kolesar said the experience he had there prompted him to return the following year with his sister.

Jahns said taking a step like that says a lot about Kolesar. "What was most amazing to me is that when we did our mission work in Slovakia—which was teaching and speaking English to students—he went back the next year and revisited the school on his own time and expense with his sister," she said. "This is truly the heart of servant leadership and serving God and the world as we frequently reflect on in our mission."

The students and Jahns also paid a visit to Kolesar's grandmother in Bratislava, Slovakia, during their trip. Jahns said that was a very special experience for the entire group.

"This was one of the most interesting parts of the trip," Jahns said, adding that Kolesar's grandmother "was there in Bratislava when the bombs were falling, and the Germans were marching into Czechoslovakia! Her stories were more vivid and meaningful than anything that could be covered in books."



Paul in front of the school he visited with CUW, The Center for Christian Education, in Martin, Slovakia.

"He was really inspiring," Kolesar said. "He was in charge of the program and he brought a Christian perspective to a mainly secular field. Most of my friends in high school were secular, and many of the people in science are that way. He is a really knowledgeable and intelligent guy."

Kolesar, who is from Mount Prospect, Ill., also embraced his passion for volleyball by forming a club team during his time at CUW. He also



# Advance



What percent of Concordia University Wisconsin undergraduate students receive financial aid? If you guessed 98%, you would be right. Almost all of our undergrads receive some financial aid and for most, it is thousands of dollars.

It's not hard to do the math and realize that thousands of dollars multiplied by thousands of students quickly becomes millions of dollars in financial aid awarded each year at Concordia. That is a tremendous gift to these students and their families and makes a Christ-centered, high-quality education possible. But where does all of this money come from? How can Concordia possibly award millions in financial aid?

There are many sources that make up the financial aid package for each student based on their academic achievements and family need. One of the most important and consistent sources of aid are our endowments. Many people have heard of endowments, but few realize just how important they are and the positive impact they have.

In simple terms, endowments are funds that are invested and used for the benefit of our students or designated programs. Endowments can be established by individuals, by congregations, or even large groups of unrelated people who want to support the mission of Concordia and our students.

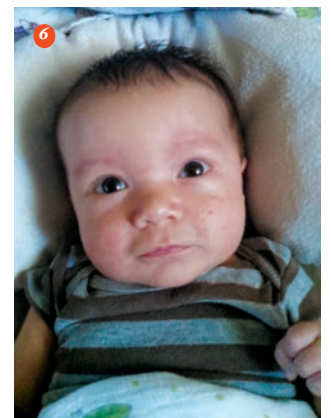
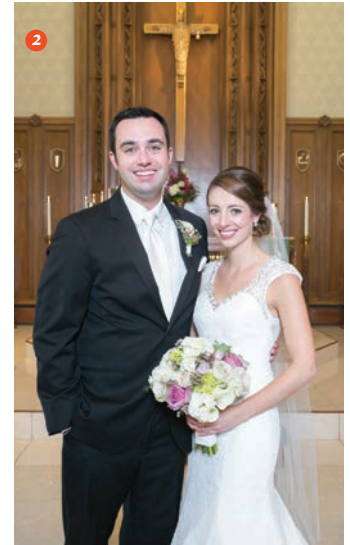
Many people who wish to support our students over an extended period of time will make a gift to the University and ask that it go to a specific endowment of their choice. Examples include: endowments for churchwork students, pre-seminary students, or future healthcare professionals. Gifts to these endowments can be made at any time and in any amount. During the spring and summer of 2015, endowment gifts of at least \$1,000 are being matched 1:1 while funds are available and within specific limits.

Individuals who wish to support scholarships, even after the Lord calls them Home, often do so by establishing a testamentary endowment funded through a bequest in their estate plan. Named endowments can be established for \$25,000 either at the time of death (testamentary) or may be funded over a period of five years during the donor's lifetime.

Endowments are a vital part of helping 98% of Concordia students receive the financial aid they need. If you would like to know more about supporting our endowments or might consider establishing your own endowment, please contact Greg Fictum at 262-243-4540 or email him at [greg.fictum@cuw.edu](mailto:greg.fictum@cuw.edu)

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

# AlumNotes



## CUW wants to hear from you!

What are you up to? Did you marry recently or give birth to a child? Did you receive a big promotion or travel the world? 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 [cuw.edu/alumni/stories](http://cuw.edu/alumni/stories) With your permission, your update may appear on the CUW Website, and in the print and online versions of the *Concordian*.

Go to [cuw.edu/alumni/events](http://cuw.edu/alumni/events) for Alumni resources, programs & information on upcoming events including:

- Fireside Theater - throughout the year
- Alumni Chinook Games - summer
- Servant Leader Roundtable - second Thursday of each month
- Lutherland Trip - May of 2016



# 2000s

## Achievements



**Bashir R. Easter** ('12) is a Dementia Care Program Specialist Coordinator with the Milwaukee County Department on Aging (MCDA).



**Rebecca (Becky) Peterson** ('08) was recently named an Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS). She is a Staff Actuary at Ameriprise Auto & Home Insurance Company.

**Mark A. Arnholt** ('00) recently received the Outstanding Science Teacher Award from the College of Biological Sciences of the University of Minnesota. He was one of six teachers across the nation to receive the award in October. Mark is a science teacher at Hartford Union High School in Hartford, Wis.

## Marriages

**1 Tiffany Riek** ('11) married Michael Beinemann on May 17, 2014.

**2 Sam Seefeld** ('09) **Hannah Nimmer** ('11) were married on September 19, 2014 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sheboygan, Wis. Hannah is finishing her M.S. in Community Counseling at UWM and Sam is finishing his Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Hannah is an outpatient mental health intern at Lutheran Counseling and Family Services and Sam works in academic support at CUW. The couple resides in Cedarburg, Wis.

**3 Casey Miller** ('02) married Adam DeGroot on July 12, 2014 at Camp LuWiSoMo in Wild Rose, WI, with Pastor Monte Haun of First Immanuel, Cedarburg officiating. Other CUW alumni who were part of the ceremony were **Jessi Crego** ('01), **Luke Hatfield** ('03), and **Courtney Kohn** ('98). The couple moved to Roseburg, Ore. after the wedding.

**4 Jacqueline M. Britton** ('12) accepted her first call to be a Lutheran teacher and began teaching at Trinity Lutheran in San Angelo, Tex. in August of 2013. She met her husband, John Rabb, while at Trinity, and they were married on July 5, 2014. The couple is now expecting their first child.

## Births

**5 Mark Schmidt** ('09) and his wife, Pamela, announce the birth of their first child, Amelia Marie, on December 24, 2014.

**6 Brian** ('08) and **Megan (Blohm)** ('07) **Buczek** announce the birth of Wesley Noah, born May 2, 2014. He was 8 lbs., 5 oz., 20.5 inches and joins big brother Peyton.

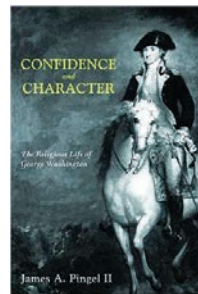
# 1990s

## Achievements

**Andrew Tomaszewsky** ('99), Principal of Faith Lutheran School in Bay City, Mich., has been selected by the Van Lunen Center for Executive Management in Christian Schools at Calvin College for a 2014-2015 fellowship. The Fellows program is designed for school heads who seek professional development in their work as administrators of faith-based schools.

**Mary Dowell** ('96), Vice President of Foundation Affairs and Global Community Relations at Johnson Controls, was awarded the United Performing Arts Fund Notable

Woman Award, at their annual meeting held this past December. This award goes to a woman who exhibits noteworthy achievements in promoting accessibility to arts education, personal philanthropy, educating stakeholders about UPAF and the performing arts, and commitment to the next generation and youth in the community.



**James A. Pingel** ('92) recently published a book titled *Confidence and Character: The Religious Life of George Washington*

which examines religion's impact on George Washington, the private and public man. The book is available at wipfandstock.com and Amazon.com. Dr. Pingel is Associate Professor of Education, Secondary Education Department Chair, and Adjunct Professor of History at CUW. He, his wife, and two children reside in Sheboygan, Wis.

# 1980s

## Achievements

**Janell (Grage) Cox** ('87) was honored as 2014 LCMS Pacific Southwest District Early Childhood Educator of the year. She teaches at Christ's Greenfield Lutheran Preschool in Gilbert, Ariz., where she resides with her family.



**Margaret Fischbach** ('87) was recently selected to serve as a volunteer leader on the Wisconsin

Leadership Board of The American Cancer Society. The Society's Wisconsin Leadership Board is a volunteer leadership group that works to increase the success of its efforts to save more lives from cancer. The new members began their two-year term in January, 2015.

# 1970s

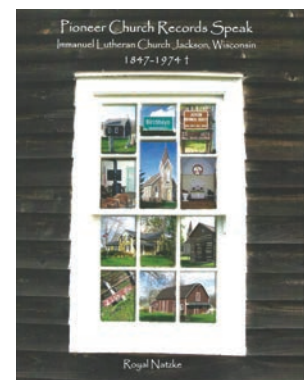
## Achievements

**Michael Oldenburg** ('74; MA '96) has been selected as a 2014 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. This prestigious award took into consideration both public and private schools across the country. Mr. Oldenburg is the principal at Divine Redeemer Lutheran School in Hartland, Wis.

# 1950s

## Achievements

**Royal W. Natzke** ('55) wrote a new book titled, *Pioneer Church Records Speak*. It is 220 pages of detailed local Lutheran history on earliest Pomeranian/German Churches in Wisconsin, based on the church's own records.



# Death and Taxes

*“Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor” (Romans 13:7).*

It was Benjamin Franklin who said, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” Since then, many variations of that pithy phrase have arisen, among them the humorous quip by Will Rogers who said, “The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn’t get worse every time Congress meets.”

It’s interesting that taxes, respect, and honor are parallel in the same verse (above) when Paul is addressing the Romans about government. Taxes are sometimes grudgingly given—because you have to—and respect is not always given because it’s earned—sometimes it’s demanded, with limited success. But what about honor—how is honor given or received? Who and how do we honor?

If left to choose who we honor totally on our own, who would we honor? We would get it right sometimes—many times those who are brave in the line of duty or sacrifice or suffer for the

sake of others draw our honor, for example, the recent honor flights of WW II veterans and honor for service men and women in general. But other times, what is lauded or honored in society is not godly; think awards given in the entertainment industry.

So God calls us to honor. Not only in the passage above, but in any number of places—to honor Him, to honor authority (the 4th Commandment) starting with parents.

It seems not to be optional any more than taxes are optional. But as we try to honor in appropriate and godly ways, we need His guidance.

Franklin and the other revolutionaries were willing to put their lives on the line in the cause of injustice and taxes—it was a matter of honor. The Declaration of Independence ends with the pledge of “our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.” For them, taxes could have been the death of them, literally!

For Jesus, the debt of sin and what was owed couldn’t be paid with anything other than His life. What was due to Him, honor, and what he took upon Himself, suffering and death, were two very different things. In a nod to the Will Rogers’ quote, the difference between death and taxes is that every time God’s people meet, death doesn’t get worse, but less powerful in the certainty of Jesus’ triumph over it! Taxes seem certain and death is too—but the latter is taken away in Jesus. And that is most certainly true! So, all honor where honor is due—to our Savior, Jesus.

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





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**Above** Kammerchor choir performing at the 2014 annual *Christmas at Concordia* concert.  
*Photograph by Jeffrey Phelps*

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## Education Opportunities at CUW



**April 23-24, 2015**

### Lutheran Lay Ministry Conference

Lutheran Lay Ministry: What Does This Mean?  
presented by the Lutheran Lay Ministry Association

*For registration please visit:*

[cuw.edu/organizations/llma/conferences.html](http://cuw.edu/organizations/llma/conferences.html)

**April 24-25, 2015**

### Concordia Apologetics Conference: Hold Fast

presented by the Undergraduate Pre-Professional  
Church Worker Organization (UPCO)

*For registration please visit:*

[cuw.edu/organizations/upco/index.html](http://cuw.edu/organizations/upco/index.html)

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