

---

# CONCORDIA

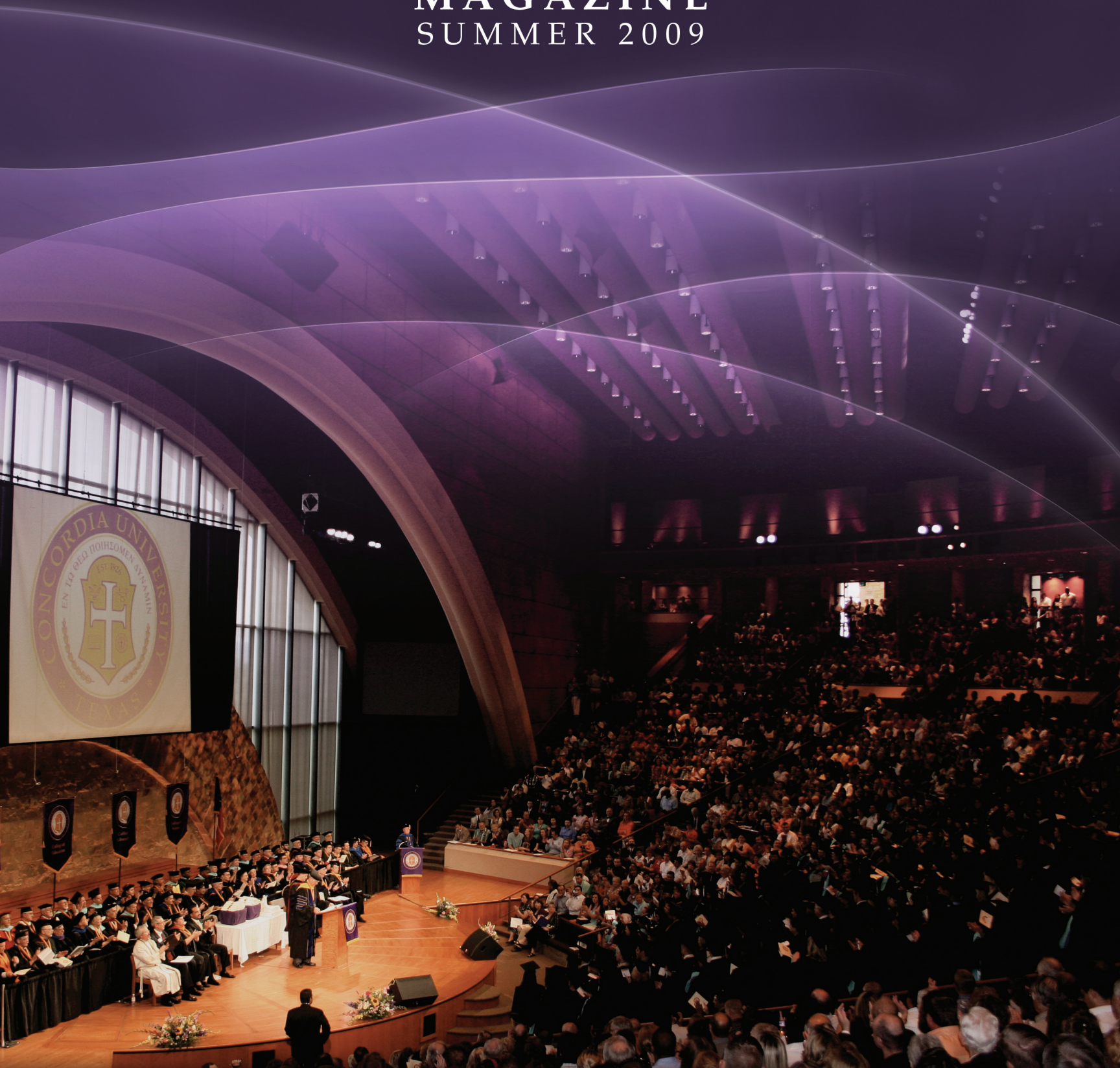
## UNIVERSITY

---

TEXAS

---

MAGAZINE  
SUMMER 2009



OUR MISSION IS TO DEVELOP CHRISTIAN LEADERS



GOING  
IS  
GREEN



To receive this magazine  
in PDF format by email  
and not in print,  
please send your request to:  
ctxmagazine@concordia.edu

EDITOR  
Lisa Candido

GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
Jesse Gumtow

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dr. Patricia Burnham  
Dr. Ann Schwartz  
Dr. Debra Allen  
Ana Christina Rodriguez  
KC Walters  
Mark Giradelli  
Dr. James McConnell  
Brooke Boggs  
Anita Rangel  
David Zersen

The magazine for Concordia University Texas is published two times a year by the University's External Relations Office.

It is provided free of charge.

Please send comments, letters to the editor or story ideas to:

Concordia University Texas  
Attn: Lisa Candido  
11400 Concordia University Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78726  
Email: lisa.candido@concordia.edu

Concordia University Texas

PRESIDENT  
Dr. Thomas Cedel

PROVOST  
Dr. Alan Runge

VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
Don Adam

VICE PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY SERVICES  
Rev. Dr. David Kluth

VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES  
Pamela Lee

VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT  
Gary Belcher

Concordia University Texas is a private, co-educational institution of liberal arts and sciences offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. Concordia offers an Accelerated Degree Program for part-time students and adult returning students. Concordia University Texas is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

[www.concordia.edu](http://www.concordia.edu)



## Letter from the President

### CTX News

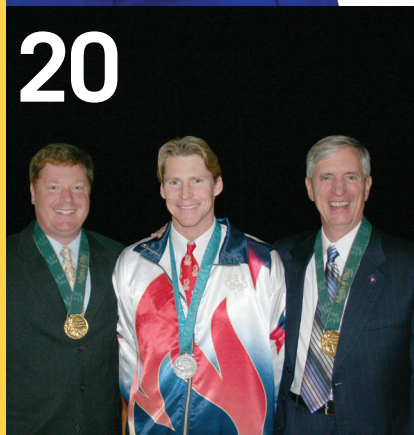
<b>The Future Begins Today</b> Concordia University Texas Spring Commencement 2009	<b>05</b>
Concordia Philanthropists A conversation with the Roberts	07
Year in Music Review	08
Pay it Forward	10
Democracy, the Worst Form of Government A trip with Dr. Debra Allen	12
<b>Meet a CTX Student</b> Ana Christina Rodriguez	<b>14</b>
CTX Service Learning Water Wells in Ethiopia and A Mission Trio to Mexico	16
<b>Dean's Message</b> New Dean of the College of Education	<b>18</b>
A Family Affair	19

### CTX Athletics

<b>2009 Concordia Athletics Banquet</b>	<b>20</b>
Development of New Baseball Field	21
Coaches Corner Changes Come for Concordia Baseball	21
CTX Announces Track & Field Program	22
CTX Athletics Schedules	23

### Alumni Notes

Alumni Updates	24
<b>Why Teachers Work at Retention</b>	<b>26</b>
Where are They Now Richard Dinda	28
CTX Alumni Chapter Updates	30



05

14

18

20

26



## Dear Friends of Concordia

**This** has been an amazing year! As we complete the end of Concordia's first academic year on the new campus, I think back and reflect on all that we have accomplished due to the goodness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Concordia had its highest enrollment ever this year across the traditional undergraduate, Master's of Education and the Accelerated Degree Program. We are developing more Christian leaders than ever before as we teach, model, recognize and practice leadership for our students.

Not only are we expanding in numbers, we are adding new programs to meet the demands of our community. Concordia began accepting pre-nursing students this academic year with the anticipation of junior-level students joining the Nursing Program in the fall of 2010. This program is being developed in conjunction with the Clinical Education Center at Brackenridge, a member of the Seton Family of Hospitals, The University of Texas at Austin and Austin Community College. Concordia was further blessed by a \$350,000 RGK Foundation grant that will provide funding for nursing faculty and start-up costs.

Since 2005, Concordia has relocated its an entire campus and gone through our regional academic reaccreditation. We've had ups and downs, but with God's help we've accomplished a phenomenal feat. What is next? With our faith in God, we will continue to strengthen our learning community. We will continue to focus on our mission of developing Christian leaders with servant leadership, problem solving, communications, field expertise and our Lutheran-ethos at the center.

Beginning Wednesday, August 26, Concordia will begin its eighty-fourth academic year. Please keep our students, faculty and staff in your prayers as we embark on another amazing year awed by God's continued blessings.

Yours in Christ,



Thomas E. Cedel, Ph.D.



With our faith in God, we will continue to strengthen our learning community. We will continue to focus on our mission of developing Christian leaders with servant leadership, problem solving, communications, field expertise and our Lutheran-ethos at the center.



# The Future Begins Today

Concordia University Texas Spring Commencement 2009



**Concordia** University Texas celebrated its first spring commencement since the relocation last summer on Saturday, May 9. There were two ceremonies, graduating students from Concordia's Master's of Education and undergraduate programs. The first ceremony honored approximately 300 students, and 200 in the second ceremony.

"I am proud of our graduates and all that they have accomplished during their time at Concordia," Dr. Tom Cedel, Concordia University Texas President, said. "Each year, our graduates continue to amaze me

with the level of drive and determination they have to enter the world and pursue their dreams armed with what Concordia has taught them."

The two ceremonies took place at Riverbend Church, just a few miles from the new campus location. With over 500 students graduating, the auditorium at Riverbend was filled to capacity with friends, family and Concordia supporters. The ceremonies featured live music and an inspirational message from Rev. Dr. John Arthur Nunes, President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief.

Rev. Dr. Nunes congratulated the graduates, acknowledging this is a time for celebration, but reminded them of their responsibility as global citizens.







“Even as you walk across this stage today, you are walking into a world of suffering... Are you ready to take on life? To take on responsibility? To take on the possibility of what can be?” He went on to say “it sounds like you, Concordia graduates, are ready to think and live out your faith in a way that makes a difference.”

the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might, and as you love your neighbor as yourself, yes, a better future is in store for planet Earth because today is the day your future begins.”



As a Concordia graduate himself, from Ann Arbor, Michigan, Rev. Dr. Nunes went on to say that he never imagined 25 years ago he would have the chance to head up Lutheran World Relief, an organization devoted to helping those with so little or nothing at all. “Don’t be content. Don’t be satisfied... Don’t stop learning and growing... Graduates, the future belongs to you”, he said. “As you love

The mission of Concordia University Texas is to develop Christian leaders. On May 9, over 500 Christian leaders were sent out into the world to be teachers, administrators, scientists, church workers, CEOs, all leading with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in their hearts and in their minds.

**Congratulations to Concordia University Texas 2009 graduates and their families!**





# Concordia Philanthropists

## A Conversation with the Roberts

Tell us your story as to how you became involved with Concordia and how that special relationship developed.

When Concordia decided to relocate, the Giddings Economic Development Council began to actively show Concordia the history that Giddings had with the original Concordia campus. Alan and I supported the Giddings efforts and began building our own special relationship with President Cedel and the Concordia family. Alan and I have hosted dinners with President Cedel and Gregg Braun and our friendship and support of the Concordia family has grown quickly. The more you get to know these men and their business and scholastic philosophy, the more you realize they will be successful.

*Alan and Robyn Roberts with their two daughters, Jennifer and Allyson.*



How does Concordia's mission to develop Christian leaders inspire you and influence your generous support of the University?

Alan and I value being able to give back to our community and Church family; we enjoy supporting children in many ways. Concordia and its mission to develop Christian leaders has been a very rewarding experience to support both financially and spiritually. We know that when we give funds to Concordia, they will be used wisely and with the intent it was given for.

Alan and I are both competitive people who were raised with Christian values and a team approach to family and business. We feel that with the leadership values that Concordia portrays, we are supporting the same Christian values and leadership skills that we grew up with and live by.

The Christo et Ecclesiate Award is given to those who demonstrate a special interest in advancing Christian education. What are your hopes for the future of Christian higher education in Texas?

Building Pumpco, Inc. took many hours of our lives and a very strong passion for achieving goals. We see that same passion at Concordia and we appreciate Concordia's foresight to move its rich heritage to a place where it can grow and expand faster and stronger than before. This bold act of moving Concordia University alone demonstrates the future of Christian higher education in Texas is well and flourishing.

What is a message you would like to share with all of Concordia's students, alumni, friends, faculty and staff?

Success of Concordia's magnitude doesn't get achieved alone. It has taken a team effort from everyone. Alan and I know from experience that success is achieved through much hard work and a love for your passion. Obviously, there is passion and hard work being poured into the mission of Concordia. I thank God that there are Christian higher education professors who can help inspire future Christian leaders that this country needs.

*Concordia would like to congratulate Alan and Robyn Roberts for winning the Christo et Ecclesiate (for Christ and Church) Award. The award is given to individuals who demonstrate a special interest in advancing Christian education by using the talents with which the Lord has endowed them.*



# Year in Music Review

**This** has been an exciting and busy year of growth for the Music Department. Throughout the year, there have been numerous recitals on campus featuring guest artists, Concordia music faculty and students. Guest performances included Dr. Eva Amsler, flute professor from Florida State University; Joseph M. Martin, pianist, arranger and composer who directed and performed with the Concordia Choir; Nathan Mayfield, Baroque Trumpeter; and JJ Plasencio, Worship Leader from Gateway Church who directs and coaches the Living Praise Band.

The Concordia Faculty Trio made its debut this year at the first Homecoming weekend since the relocation. Members of the trio include Dr. Patricia Burnham, piano; Dr. Ellen C. Johnson, flute; and Dr. Karla Hamelin, cello.

The Music Department also added new faculty: Dr. Ellen C. Johnson, flute; Dr. Kim Perlak, guitar; and Dr. Josh Davies, trumpet.



Part of success is practice, and Concordia students enjoy many opportunities throughout the year to share their gifts. Mary Gilmore and John Wassilak gave junior organ recitals; Matthew Cardona gave his senior recital on trombone and made his debut with the Austin Symphony; music students collaborated their talents with art students at the Fine Arts Festival;

the Ladies Tea at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; the Lenten Choir Concert at Bethany Lutheran Church; and the Majella Society Gala where students performed for Gov. Rick Perry, Gov. Mike Huckabee, Rev. Ken Jennings and other honored guests at a VIP reception.

Another event included Concordia's first music theater performance on campus, "A Star Filled Night", directed by Professor Susan Taborn. The production featured students singing music from Broadway musicals such as "Phantom of the Opera", "Jeckel and Hyde" and "My Fair Lady". Guests enjoyed the performances either with a delicious dinner during Saturday evening's show or decadent desserts on the Sunday afternoon performance. In addition, the Concordia music faculty, along with Austin area worship leaders, led the first Contemporary Worship Day. Leaders such as David Angerman, JJ Plasencio and Steve Samuel came to Concordia to lead inspirational workshops and worship services.

*Amy Romero, Leah Mattil, Courtney Gaither*





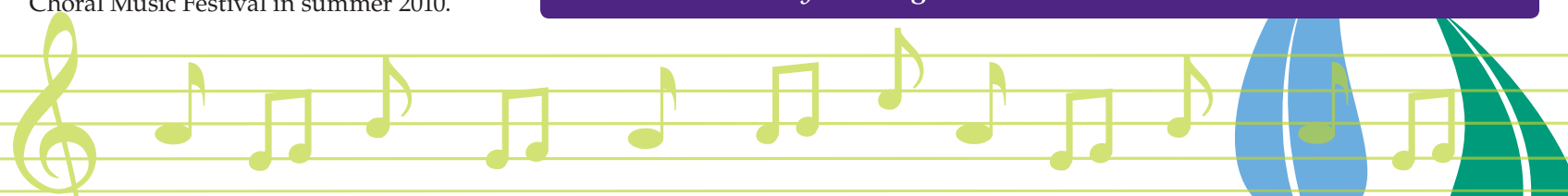
The 2009 – 2010 school year promises to be even more exciting. Stay tuned for the recital series featuring guest artists, faculty and students; the Christmas Choir Concert; the Faculty Trio at Homecoming weekend; the return of the jazz ensemble; a new Madrigal and a cappella vocal ensemble, a Music Composition Festival; a Spring Music Theater Production; the second Contemporary Worship Day; and the Choral Music Festival in summer 2010.

Look for the Concordia Choir in many of the Austin Churches as they prepare for their choir tour to Germany in May 2010 with Joseph Martin.

**Joseph Martin in concert Sept. 25 at 7:00 PM.**

*Keep up to date with more music department events*

*by visiting [www.concordia.edu/music](http://www.concordia.edu/music)*



## Jungemann Scholarship



**CTX** student, Amy Bond, is this year's recipient of the Dr. John Jungemann Scholarship for the Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Jungemann faithfully served Concordia University Texas from 1981 until his retirement in 2002 as a professor of psychology, Chair of the Behavioral Sciences Division, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Jungemann came out of retirement in the fall of 2004 to serve as interim Vice President of Academic Services, but due to illness, was unable to serve long and passed away in August of 2005. To continue his exemplary witness here at Concordia, an endowed scholarship was established in his name.

On Monday, March 30, Behavioral Sciences students, faculty, members of the endowment committee, former colleagues of Dr. Jungemann, and Mrs. Jackie Jungemann gathered for a luncheon to award the scholarship and share memories about Dr. Jungemann and his ministry with the Concordia community.

*Top Left: Dr. Anne Schwartz, Amy Bond and Mrs. Jackie Jungemann*

*Bottom Left: All of the scholarship nominees with Mrs. Jackie Jungemann (far right)*





# Pay it Forward

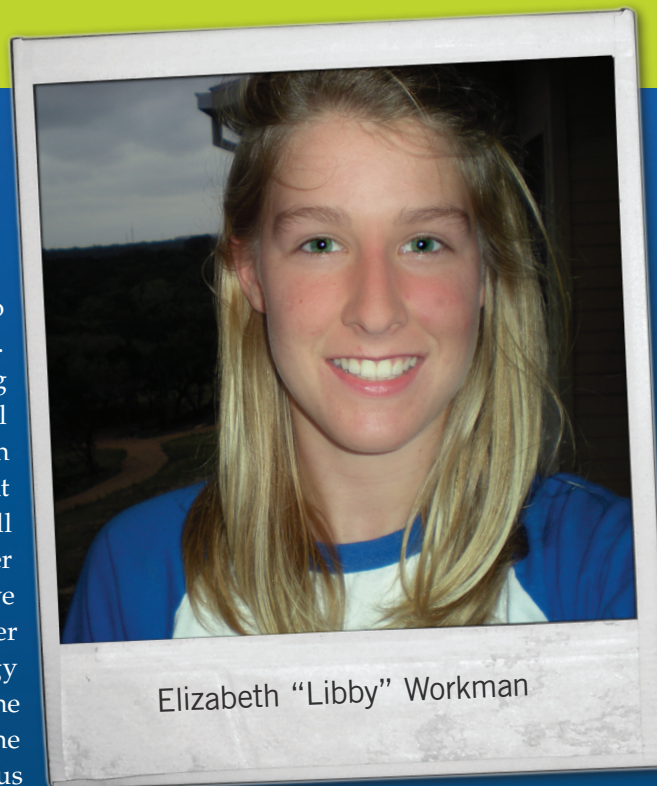
As with any university, alumni are proud of graduating from Concordia University Texas. Most of the graduates from CTX have warm fuzzies and fond memories associated with their college experience. They are able to look back and see that their college experience not only prepared them for a career, but success in life. If your experience was anything like the experiences current students are having today, then you would agree.

Elizabeth Workman, known as Libby by friends and family, is one of those current students who feels CTX is preparing her for life as a Christian leader. She is a freshman in the Pre-nursing Program, with hopes of continuing her nursing education at Concordia in the developing Nursing Program. Concordia is privileged to have a student like Libby among its scholars. Coming from her hometown in Saginaw, Texas, Libby is used to a “small town atmosphere, with big city conveniences” and that is what she loves about the campus. “The location of campus is perfect, close enough to downtown [Austin], but far enough away to see God’s beauty out in the preserve behind us,” Libby said. She likes the small campus community where she can get involved and meet new friends – and involved she is! She plays intramural sand volleyball and participates in the University Choir, along with her studies in pre-nursing.

Pre-Nursing as a major is no easy feat. It is one of those majors where a student really has to hit the ground running. Libby learned quickly that nursing requires many classes, which leads to a very full schedule. She recommends to incoming students to take as many Advanced Placement classes

as possible in high school to prepare for the curriculum ahead. She also recommends taking summer courses to lighten the fall and spring course load. Even with the heavy load and the difficult classes, Libby has done very well in school. She credits part of her success to the professors that have taken a personal interest in her success. “Donna Janes [Biology Professor] has impacted me the most,” said Libby, “she helped me get familiar with the new campus and college life in general...she teaches with such enthusiasm and would go above and beyond to help her students.”

So how did Concordia get so lucky to have a student like Libby Workman? She was recruited by alumni! “Several people from my home church, as well as the LCMS National Youth Gathering in 2007 exposed me to many of the attributes of the Concordia Universities,” said Libby. The alumna most excited to hear of her decision to attend Concordia is Libby’s grandmother, a Concordia System graduate herself. “My grandmother always spoke in favor of the Concordia University System. Who better to believe than someone who went here firsthand” said Libby of her grandmother’s influence. Libby’s grandmother, Audrey Gronet of Illinois said, “at our family gatherings, I talked about Concordia and the wonderful experience I had there. I guess Libby heard what a highlight it was in my life and decided to look into it for herself.” Audrey’s best memories of Concordia are the relationships that have lasted a lifetime, plus all the people she has met throughout her life with ties to Concordia and share the same wonderful experiences.



Because of alumni’s role in recruiting Libby to attend Concordia, she feels it is important to “pass on” your experience to students. “I already talk to my friends back home about the new, beautiful campus here in Austin and the fun events that take place,” Libby said. “This University does so much to help out my faith. Seeing professors worshipping God along with students gives me reassurance as well as great Christian models to follow.” Libby is on her way to achieving her goal of sharing her experiences with prospective students.

*Do you know of any students you think would excel at CTX? Or are you interested in playing an active role in recruiting students to experience the same wonderful CTX experience you had? If so, e-mail Kristin Coulter, Director of Admissions, at [Kristin.coulter@concordia.edu](mailto:Kristin.coulter@concordia.edu).*



# Texas Senator Kirk Watson

Selected as the

2009 Excellence in Leadership  
Gala Honoree



## Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available

**Texas Senator Kirk Watson** has been selected as the 2009 Concordia University Texas Excellence in Leadership Gala honoree. The Excellence in Leadership Gala recognizes an outstanding Christian leader each year and raises money for the University's annual scholarship fund.

Two-time Gala Chair Elizabeth Christian has spent many hours with Sen. Watson both in business and in social settings. "One of the most appealing facts about Kirk as an honoree is his devout belief in Jesus Christ," Christian said. "He and his wife are solid Christians, with two beautiful sons being raised in the faith; they truly exemplify the notion of Christian leaders living in a secular world."

Watson is a successful attorney, who graduated near the top of his class at Baylor University, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Baylor Law Review. In naming Watson "Best Mayor in Texas for Business," *Texas Monthly Magazine* described him as, "A man with a vision of what the community wants, and the moxie to carry it out." Now, as a Texas Senator, he has been recognized by numerous groups for his legislative work. *Texas Monthly* magazine even named him "Rookie of the Year" during his first Legislative Session and as one of the "Ten Best" legislators in 2009.

"In many ways, Kirk wears his faith on his sleeve more than most people, referring to it on numerous occasions in venues large and small, in public speeches and in private conversations," Christian said. "This is a man who has achieved much, has a strong love of Jesus Christ, is devoted to his family and has triumphed over adversity; he is certainly someone worthy of recognition."

Sen. Watson is married to his high school sweetheart, Liz, and they are parents to sons Preston McDaniel and Cooper Kyle.

The Concordia Excellence in Leadership Gala will be held Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, at 6:30 PM in Austin at the Four Seasons Hotel. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please visit [www.concordia.edu/EIL](http://www.concordia.edu/EIL) or contact Chris Beck at 512-313-4102.

The annual gala has received an overwhelming response, selling out both years since its inception in 2007. Past honorees have included Roger T. Staubach, Executive Chairman of The Staubach Company and former Dallas Cowboys quarterback, and Austin business and community leader Tom Stacy, President of T. Stacy & Associates



Excellence in Leadership

G A L A

Friday, Aug. 21, 2009

For more information about sponsorship  
opportunities, please visit

[www.concordia.edu/EIL](http://www.concordia.edu/EIL)

or

contact Chris Beck at 512-313-4102.



# Democracy, the Worst Form of Government



*Front Row: Sallie Pannenbacker, Elizabeth Buchner, Allison Hughes, Samantha Dominguez, Elizabeth Trovall, Admiral Mullen.  
Back Row: Cindy Belcher, Dr. Debra Allen, Carolyn Mellon, Taryn Merrill, James Pacey, Kenneth Vargas, Gary Belcher, Dr. Lani Kass.*

“Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time,” Winston Churchill told the House of Commons in 1947, two years after World War II ended and the British people voted Churchill out of office. Americans are justifiably proud of their “government of the people, by the people, and for the people” as President Lincoln stated in the Gettysburg Address, even if they sometimes find it difficult to define American democracy.

Dr. Debra Allen, Professor of History, has developed an experiential learning class that tries to get Concordia students to think deeply and historically about democracy. In early January, she took a group of nine students to the nation’s capital after brief stops in Philadelphia and Maryland. She was joined by Prof. and Mrs. Gary Belcher, Sallie Pannenbacker, Elizabeth Buchner, Allison Hughes, Samantha Dominguez, Elizabeth Trovall, Carolyn Mellon, Taryn Merrill, James Pacey and Kenneth Vargas.

In Philadelphia, the class visited Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were drafted and the Liberty Bell is displayed. The group visited the Betsy Ross House and learned about the symbolic importance of the American flag. They interacted with a speaker at the Quaker Meeting House who shared his view on Quakerism as background for the democratic ideas of the nation’s founders.

The group traveled from Philadelphia by train, a first for many of the students, to visit the Civil War battlefield of Antietam, known as the “bloodiest one-day battle” of the Civil War. The battle President Lincoln used to justify issuing the Emancipation Proclamation which expanded democracy and led to the Thirteenth Amendment.

The group toured the Capitol and Library of Congress, the National Mall and monuments, and the National Cathedral and Shrine of the



*CTX Students visit the Civil War battlefield of Antietam.*



Immaculate Conception. At the State Department they visited with officials and observed a press briefing, and most of the students agreed that the highlight of the trip was the visit to the Pentagon to meet Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mullen and one of his policy advisors, Dr. Lani Kass.

Dr. Allen has begun planning next year's trip to Washington, D.C. with stops in Boston and New York City. Allen notes that traveling to the east coast in December and January sometimes offers weather challenges, but sees the trade-off in thinner crowds and affordable flights and hotels. One of Allen's goals for Concordia Texas is to see the development of a center that looks at the interaction of religion and domestic and foreign policies. This trip that studies democracy in Washington, D.C. would fit well into such a center.

"Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time," Winston Churchill told the House of Commons in 1947, two years after World War II ended and the British people voted Churchill out of office. Americans are justifiably proud of their "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" as President Lincoln stated in the Gettysburg Address, even if they sometimes find it difficult to define American democracy.



*Dr. Debra Allen and CTX students gather in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia*



## Meet a CTX Student

by Ana Christina Rodriguez



**In** 8th grade I was told I would never be good enough to play sports. It's a challenge I was determined to conquer. That one statement changed my life tremendously, and I'm grateful because ultimately it has brought me to where I am today.

I'm happy to say that I've spent the past 10 years of my life playing volleyball. Four were at the collegiate level and accompanied by both athletic and academic scholarships. Not only was I fortunate enough to play two of those years at Concordia, but I was also able to coach and run camps, helping other young girls to pursue their dreams of becoming athletes.

Personal life challenges also took their place in my life when I lost my mother to ovarian cancer in 2004. Since then, I've competed for Miss Texas USA for three years, placing among the top five the past two years, in the hopes of winning the title and having the opportunity to champion Breast and Ovarian Cancer awareness throughout the state of Texas.

Every experience has built my character, making me a stronger person, teaching me not to take life for granted, but to take advantage of my abilities and use them to reach my fullest potential. There are times when I question why things happened, but as time passes,







I am Ana Christina Rodriguez, I am a Concordia student, I am a Tornado athlete, I am a Texas USA pageant contestant, and I am a Christian leader ... all because I am a believer.

I start to truly believe in these words: "everything happens for a reason."

Everything in my life has had a special purpose, from the decisions I've made about life and how I've lived it, to things I've had absolutely no control over. These experiences have shaped who I've become, tested my faith, and have motivated me to better my relationship with God.

I am sincerely grateful for my time at Concordia University Texas, where I can continue to strive for greatness. Choosing to attend a Christian university has made quite an impact on my life. I'm a young

woman who is determined to succeed and Concordia supports me 100 percent. The atmosphere is positive, the people are amazing and the education is worth it. Concordia's mission is to develop Christian leaders and it is something they truly live up to.

Every experience has built my character, making me a much stronger person.





# Service-Learning Leaders and Water to Thrive

Working together to build wells in Ethiopia

On Tuesday, March 24, Concordia's Service-Learning Leaders, in partnership with Water to Thrive, hosted an Ethiopian meal and silent auction to raise money to build a well in Sudi, Ethiopia. The well will serve 1,202 children who attend the Sudi School in a remote, rural town. The Service-Learning Leaders needed to raise \$3,500 in order to build the well. They surpassed that goal on the night of the banquet.

Thank you to everyone who contributed!







# A Mission Trip to Saltillo, MX.

by Mark Giardinelli

On March 15, a group of 36 high school and college students from Concordia Academy, Concordia University, University of Texas and Bethany Lutheran Church all embarked on a journey to Saltillo, Mexico. From the moment they arrived, the participants were shown love and acceptance by the congregations of Filadelfia and El Buen Samaritano Lutheran Churches.



In the morning, after breakfast and morning devotions, the group started construction projects, including painting, mixing concrete, and scraping paint off the window. At the same time, a small group of students planned out the activities for Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the afternoon. At 3:00, VBS began. Everyday, they sang songs, dramatized a Bible story, and did a craft or other fun activity with the kids.



This trip was amazing! It showed that God's love crosses over cultural lines. The group didn't know Spanish, yet at the same time, could communicate and show God's love to each other whether they were playing with kids, worshipping God or getting together for fellowship after a service. I think sometimes in America, we forget that we should show God's love to every person, whether we know them or not. The people we met in Mexico hardly knew us, yet they loved us, because we are Christ's people. What if all Christians in America showed that same type of love? Wouldn't that be amazing for an outsider to see?







# Dean's Message

New Dean of the College of Education

by Dr. James McConnell

We have now settled into our new campus in the beautiful Balcones preserves in Northwest Austin, and are back into a routine of classes and fieldwork for our students in the College of Education. While this move was certainly a significant landmark event in the lifetime of Concordia Texas, it has previewed some noteworthy and important events that will enable us to pursue our mission of developing Christian leaders.

When I became Dean of the College of Education in January 2009, I reminded our faculty, staff and students of the fact that we live in a culture of diversity and change, and that we must be prepared to live and work in this culture. With that in mind we are working hard on a revision to our existing teacher education curriculum. This summer, we will meet with advisory teams made up of teachers and principals, to ensure our programs prepare Concordia students to become successful teachers. Curriculum revisions will be discussed making certain all Concordia education students graduate with the knowledge, skills and attitude to work with English Language Learners (ELL/ESL) and to pass the state certification exam in this area. In addition, a certification in Special Education

will also be available to students to further expand their teaching abilities.

While our Master's Degree Program continues to grow, it is crucial that we continue to revise and refine our curriculum to ensure a quality education. Attention will be given to the specializations of Curriculum and Instruction, Advanced Literacy and Early Childhood. It is key we provide instruction and fieldwork that enables our Educational Administration students to exceed the requirements for state certification. We are very fortunate, through our Master's cohort model, to have faculty who live and work in Houston, Dallas-Ft. Worth, San Antonio and Austin, providing excellent educational experiences and community networking for our students. We are currently reviewing curriculum to provide a superintendent's certification for this growing need in the field of education.

Our Director of Christian Education (DCE) major continues to provide students an opportunity to serve the Church through Christian education. These graduates fill many ministry positions in the areas of youth ministry, children and family ministry, contemporary and praise worship, mission work and religious education. To maintain

a cutting-edge curriculum, revisions to these programs are on-going with plans to provide additional specializations in young adult ministry, social ministry and nonprofit management. DCEs today need their generalist background to provide the foundation for an ever-changing ministry field. Providing our current, and proposed, specializations will better allow churches to meet their mission in sharing Christ with their communities.

However, all of these changes in the College of Education cannot happen without the help and prayers of our alumni and supporters. Education, both public and private, is the backbone of our society. Encourage your children, and those students you teach or serve, to consider the field of education. Continue to pray for our University, faculty and staff, as we continue our mission to develop Christian leaders and define our future by building on the successful and well-respected past of Concordia Texas.



# Concordia University Press

Concordia University Press is committed to disseminating works of substance and general interest consistent with the heritage and mission of the University.

Publications are available for purchase online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

Zersen, David. **Learners to Leaders: Stories About People in Process**. Austin: Concordia University Press, 1999. (A work telling the stories of nine of Concordia's most famous alumni in the University's "Year of the Alumni.") \$5.00

Wukasch, Charles. **A Rock Against Alien Waves: The History of the Wends**. Austin: Concordia University Press, 2004, second edition 2008. (The only current English-language study of the European Wends who immigrated to Texas in 1854 and were largely responsible for the founding of Concordia.)

Cravens, C. & Zersen, D., editors. **Transcontinental Encounters: Central Europe Meets the American Heartland**. Austin: Concordia University Press, 2005. (A study of central European immigration patterns to the United States, including some to Texas, which seeks to make a contribution to the university community as a reader in immigration studies.) \$10.00

C. S. Lewis and E. M. W. Tillyard (reprint), **The Personal Heresy: A Controversy**. A reprint of an original 1939 publication with a new Introduction by Bruce Edwards and Preface by Joel Heck, 2008. \$19.95

E. J. Potente and David Zersen, **Shaping Worship Space: How Christians Shelter and Adorn their Liturgies**, 2008. \$14.95

For additional information please contact Dr.  
Joel Heck at [joel.heck@concordia.edu](mailto:joel.heck@concordia.edu)

## A Family Affair

Mother, Son, and Daughter Graduate Together

by Anita Rangel



“Once we accept our limits,  
we go beyond them.”  
- Albert Einstein

On May 9, three members of the Rangel family graduated together from Concordia. The following is an inspirational message from Anita Rangel, mother of Debra and Mark. “Receiving an education has never been an option for my family. It has been an expectation that was inspired from my parents and my children’s grandparents because they were not given an opportunity to study. As a family of educators we have dedicated ourselves to encourage, guide and motivate our students towards success. Concordia has allowed us a tremendous opportunity to enhance this desire and has prepared us academically to meet the challenges of today’s classrooms. My daughter, Debra, has worked in Peru enhancing educational opportunities for a small village. Mark, my son, is a role model for junior high students, showing them they have the potential to reach higher academic goals. I have had the blessing of helping students who struggle with reading find success in reading. We are thankful to Yahweh for making it possible to study at Concordia!”



# 2009 Concordia Texas Athletics Banquet



Concordia Athletic Director Dan Huntley and President Tom Cedel with five-time Olympic swimmer Josh Davis

**Concordia** University Texas Athletics Department hosted their third annual Athletics Banquet on April 28, 2009, at the K-Oaks Clubhouse in Lago Vista. The banquet serves as an opportunity to honor all of Concordia's student-athletes, coaches, department staff and administrators each year.

At this year's banquet, former member of U.S. Olympic Swim Team, Josh Davis, served as the keynote speaker. He told of his triumphs, and working to overcome obstacles by following his faith in God. Davis expressed to all of the attendees the importance in following the lessons from your "coach," with his favorite coach being Jesus Christ. After his speech he surprised the entire group by passing around his gold and silver metals that we won at the 1996 Olympics.

The night was highlighted by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) which is made up of two student-athletes from each varsity program, awarded honors to Faculty Member of the Year and Campus Staff Member of the Year. Dr. Joel Heck was honored by SAAC as the 2009 Faculty Member of the Year for his continued support of Concordia Athletics. Miguel Alejo was honored by SAAC as the 2009 Campus Staff Member of the Year for his support and dedication to Concordia Athletics.

## Top overall Concordia Athletics honors went to:

**Kassandra Bills** (Women's Basketball)  
Female Athlete of the Year (pictured on the bottom left)

**Michael Johnson** (Baseball)  
Male Athlete of the Year (pictured on the bottom right)

**Joel McDonald** (Men's Basketball)  
Male Tornado of Character

**Sara Keithley** (Volleyball)  
Female Tornado of Character

**Reza Farahani** (Men's Basketball)  
Male Distinguished Scholar Athlete

**Whitney Clancy** (Women's Basketball)  
Female Distinguished Scholar Athlete





# Concordia Begins Development of New Baseball Field



**This** May, Concordia received a \$1.5 million donation for the school's new baseball field. Given by donors who wish to remain anonymous, this is the largest single gift in the history of Concordia University Texas.

"This is an incredible gift that allows Concordia to continue on its transformational journey that began with the campus relocation," Dr. Tom Cedel, President of Concordia University Texas, said. "We thank God for all of the gifts He has given us during this process."

With this donation, Concordia has in hand more than 50 percent of the total funds needed for the design and construction of the University's baseball complex, which will include a playing field, lights, covered grandstands and concession areas. The school has already installed lights for the field.

Design of the new field is underway and Concordia officials say elements will be incorporated to honor former coaches Faszholz and Keller for whom the much-loved former Keller-Faszholz Field was

named. The retired numbers of former Coach Keller and player Scott Linebrink will be placed on the outfield fence. Construction of the new field, which has not yet been named, will begin as soon as permitting is finalized; completion is expected in mid-January 2010.



## Coaches Corner

### Changes Come for Concordia Baseball

After 10 successful seasons with the Concordia University Texas baseball program, all-time wins leader Mike Gardner will transition from coaching to accept a full-time teaching position with the Kinesiology Department at Concordia. Gardner will begin his new position as an Assistant Professor of Kinesiology on July 1, 2009.

"Mike has been a true asset to the Concordia Athletics Program and he will be sorely missed," Dan Huntley, Athletics Director, said. "We wish him well in his new position and know that he will continue to be a teacher and mentor for students off the field."

On March 30, 2009, Concordia baseball picked up a four to two win over Southwestern University, giving Gardner his 235 career win at Concordia, making him the all-time wins leader in the University's

history. Before the Southwestern game, Gardner was previously tied with former baseball head coach Jack Faszholz (1979 - 1990) for the most career wins.

On Thursday, May 14, the University announced that Tommy Boggs, former Major League Baseball (MLB) pitcher with the Texas Rangers and Atlanta Braves, will be filling Gardner's position as the University's new head baseball coach.

In 1974, Boggs was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the first round and as the second overall pick after a successful high school career at Lanier High School in Austin. Boggs pitched for the Texas Rangers and Atlanta Braves over the course of his 13-year career. He was a member of the 1982 Western Division Championship team with the Atlanta Braves and was honored to have played for great managers, such as Billy Martin, Bobby Cox and Joe Torre,



among others. "It has been a dream of mine to coach baseball at the collegiate level and I look forward to taking over the outstanding Concordia baseball program that Mike has developed at such an exciting time," Boggs said. "It is my intent to share the baseball knowledge that I obtained from managers and teammates through my years of professional baseball with my student-athletes and coaching staff. I look forward to the opportunity to work with many young athletes and to watch them fulfill their dreams of playing college ball, along with helping to mold them into great leaders."



## Concordia University Texas Announces New Track and Field Program

On Feb. 22, 2009, Concordia University Texas Athletic Director, Dan Huntley, announced the addition of men's and women's track and field to the University's Athletic Program. Concordia track and field will begin competing in the 2009 - 2010 academic year. Current sport sponsorships include men's and women's cross country, basketball, golf, soccer and men's baseball, as well as women's softball and volleyball.

The NCAA DIII sport sponsorship requirements played a role in deciding to add the track and field program. Currently, NCAA DIII requires an institution to sponsor a minimum of ten sports, which includes sponsorship of a minimum of five women's sports, as well as five men's and women's team sports during the fall, winter and spring seasons.

"As an Athletic Director, I feel that part of my responsibility to the University is to seek and maintain sport sponsorships that are productive in recruiting and retaining student-athletes, as well as provide a positive experience for the University's student-athletes, fans and community," Huntley stated. "It is our responsibility to build a vibrant and comprehensive athletic program that will provide opportunities for students to participate and represent Concordia in a positive manner."

Much thought and deliberation went into the decision to propose a men's and women's track and field program. Consideration was especially given to budget, as well as the number of students needed to fulfill team sponsorship and facility needs. A

proposal was provided to the University Ad Council for review and was received with unanimous approval on Feb. 13, 2009.

Current men's and women's cross country coach, Alex Aldaco, has been selected as the new coach for men's and women's track and field program. "The addition of track and field to our sport sponsorships will have a direct effect on the quality and number of cross country student athletes we can recruit and will allow them to become dual sport athletes," Aldaco said. "We plan on immediately recruiting and filling all areas of our track and field programs with student-athletes in order to prepare them for participation in sprint, distance and field events next spring."

Huntley added, "I am proud to continue to work for our coaches, to seek additional opportunities for student-athlete participation and to enhance our student life program."



# TRACK & FIELD





# CTX Soccer 2009

Tues.	9/1/09	Huston Tillotson	Austin, TX	Women 7PM	Men 7PM
Sat.	9/5/09	Paul Quinn College	Austin, TX	Women 2PM	Men 4PM
Sun.	9/6/09	Milwaukee School of Engineering	Austin, TX	Women 2PM	Men 4PM
Sun.	9/13/09	Austin College	Sherman, TX		Men 3PM
Thur.	9/17/09	Louisiana College*	Austin, TX	Women 6PM	Men 8PM
Sat.	9/19/09	Mississippi College*	Austin, TX	Women 2PM	Men 4PM
Fri.	9/25/09	McMurry*	Abilene, TX	Women 2PM	Men 4PM
Sat.	9/26/09	Hardin-Simmons*	Abilene, TX	Women 2PM	Men 4PM
Thur.	10/1/09	Mary Hardin-Baylor*	Austin, TX	Women 6PM	Men 8PM
Sat.	10/3/09	Howard Payne*	Austin, TX	Women 1PM	Men 3PM
Fri.	10/9/09	Schreiner*	Kerrville, TX	Women 1PM	Men 3PM
Sat.	10/10/09	Texas Lutheran*	Seguin, TX	Women 1PM	Men 3PM
Tues.	10/13/09	Univ. of Dallas	Austin, TX		Men 3PM
Thur.	10/15/09	LeTourneau*	Austin, TX	Women 6PM	Men 8PM
Sat.	10/17/09	East Texas Baptist*	Austin, TX	Women 1PM	Men 3PM
Sat.	10/24/09	UT-Tyler*	Austin, TX	Women 1PM	Men 3PM
Thur.	10/29/09	Univ. of the Ozarks*	Clarksville, AR	Women 1PM	Men 3PM
Sat.	10/31/09	UT-Dallas*	Richardson, TX	Women 1PM	Men 3PM

\* Indicates American Southwest Conference opponent

# CTX Volleyball 2009

## Concordia Invitational Tournament

Fri.	9/4/09	TBA	Ann Arbor, MI	TBA
Fri.	9/4/09	TBA	Ann Arbor, MI	TBA
Sat.	9/5/09	TBA	Ann Arbor, MI	TBA
Sat.	9/5/09	TBA	Ann Arbor, MI	TBA

## Southwestern Tournament

Fri.	9/11/09	Wiley College	Georgetown	5:00 PM
Sat.	9/12/09	Southwestern	Georgetown	2:00 PM
Sat.	9/12/09	Hardin-Simmons	Georgetown	4:00 PM
Tues.	9/15/09	Schreiner	Kerrville	7:00 PM
Fri.	9/18/09	Hardin-Simmons	Austin	5:00 PM
Sat.	9/19/09	McMurry	Austin	12:00 PM
Tues.	9/22/09	Texas Lutheran	Austin	6:00 PM
Thur.	9/24/09	Howard Payne	Austin	6:00 PM
Mon.	9/28/09	Sul Ross State	Alpine	6:00 PM
Fri.	10/2/09	Mary Hardin-Baylor	Marshall	4:30 PM
Sat.	10/3/09	Mississippi College	Marshall	9:30 AM
Sat.	10/3/09	East Texas Baptist	Marshall	2:30 PM
Mon.	10/5/09	Sul Ross State	Austin	6:00 PM
Fri.	10/9/09	McMurry	Abilene	5:00 PM
Sat.	10/10/09	Hardin-Simmons	Abilene	1:00 PM
Tues.	10/13/09	Schreiner	Austin	7:00 PM
Fri.	10/16/09	LeTourneau	Alpine	2:00 PM
Fri.	10/16/09	UT-Tyler	Alpine	7:00 PM
Sat.	10/17/09	UT-Dallas	Alpine	12:00 PM

## Austin College Invitational

Fri.	10/23/09	Univ. of Dallas	Sherman	TBA
Fri.	10/23/09	Southwestern	Sherman	TBA
Sat.	10/24/09	Paul Quinn College	Sherman	TBA
Sat.	10/24/09	Austin College	Sherman	TBA
Tues.	10/27/09	Texas Lutheran	Seguin	6:00 PM
Thur.	10/29/09	Howard Payne	Brownwood	6:00 PM

## ASC Championship Tournament

Fri.	11/6/09	Quarter/Semi Finals	Hosted by	TBA
Sat.	11/7/09	Championship	East No. 1 seed	TBA



For more information on all other CTX Athletics or for schedule changes please visit: [www.athletics.concordia.edu](http://www.athletics.concordia.edu)



# Alumni Updates



**On** April 19, 2008, Gretchen Krause, ('04), was wed to John McCullough in Homer, Alaska. Gretchen is working as the DCE at Faith Lutheran Church in Homer where she was introduced to John, an engineering technician at the local power company in December 2006.



**Rev.** Phil and Rebeka Garcia Cook ('01) welcomed their son, Thomas Emmanuel Cook, on December 16, 2008. He was baptized by his father at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Flower Mound, Texas on January 18, 2009.

**On** September 20, 2008, Michelle McClure ('05) married Greg Steinburg. The happy couple is currently living in Iowa.



**On** April 23, 2009, Paul ('01) and Angie ('01) Goeke welcomed a new baby boy, Gideon! Congratulations to the happy family! This wonderful addition to the Goeke clan is Dave "Pete" Goeke's ('66, '68) TENTH grandchild!

**Navy** Ensign John Wilkes ('05) has completed the Basic Qualification Course - Naval Reserve for the Supply & Logistics at Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Georgia.

**Betty** Becerra ('97) and Todd Barckholtz ('96) were united in marriage on March 14, 2009. Todd and Betty live in Brownsville, Texas. Todd works for Brownsville ISD as a teacher and coach. Betty works at The University of Texas at Brownsville as the Director of Student Success.

Upon graduation, ENS Wilkes accepted orders to be the Officer in Charge (OIC) for Charlie Company of Naval Cargo Handling Battalion (NCHB) 13. This unit is homeported in San Antonio, Texas.

**Travis** Peterson ('02) and wife Annissa welcomed a baby girl into their family.

## Martin J. Neeb Center dedication

**In** January 2009, the Martin J. Neeb Center was dedicated at Pacific Lutheran University. Dr. Neeb taught and coached at Concordia University Texas in the 1930s. His sons Martin Jr. and Larry are CTX alumni and established the Martin J. Neeb teaching award in their father's honor.

*Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Martin J. Neeb Center at Pacific Lutheran University.*







**Melodi** (Paskett) Oltmann ('94) her husband Craig and 11-year-old son Payton welcomed Grant Paul Oltmann on August 8, 2008. Melodi is a CPA at a local firm in Giddings, Texas.

**Kristin** Jakobson ('71) has been accepted for the Clinical Pastoral Education Basic Course internship at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta from May to July 2009. She will be one of the hospital student chaplains at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

**On** August 8, 2008, Carole Elizabeth Wall ('98) married Michael Scott Metcalf. Scott and Carole have purchased a new home and reside in Hutto, Texas with their dogs Blue and Lilo.

## Former alumni named to Lutheran Social Services board



**Fred** Bleeke, retired President and Chief Executive Officer of The Lutheran Foundation, a \$100 million grantmaking foundation based in St. Louis, Missouri, has been elected to Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of the South Board of Directors.

Selection for the board is based on demonstrated interest, expertise and involvement in serving the Lutheran Church through its social ministries. The appointment on the LSS board is for three years.

Bleeke earned an Associate of Arts degree from Concordia University Texas; and bachelor's and master's degrees from Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. Bleeke, who lives in Walburg, Texas, brings a wealth of nonprofit management experience to the board. In addition to his work at The Lutheran Foundation, he also served as a Vice President at Concordia University Texas.

### We Want To Hear From You!

Please email your updates to [alumni@concordia.edu](mailto:alumni@concordia.edu).

Many Blessings,

**Amy Huth and Jackie Faulkner (your Alumni Officers)**





# Why Teachers Work at Retention

by David Zersen



Together with the supply teacher in the parish school, Keith Loomans (now emeritus Ex. Dir., LCMS Texas Dist., Bd. of Parish Services), Dickie bought a Model A Ford and spent a lot of time driving through the golf course shooting jack-rabbits from the rumble seat. Once he misfired and blasted off the water cap/hood ornament. He also courted serious trouble when he stole a spare tire to help Loomans get home from a secret visit to his girlfriend, Margie. Finally, however, his shenanigans raised too many eyebrows, and at sixteen he was kicked out of Cisco High School

Supportive friends, including Grace's pastor, Jim Hennings, struggled to help the young man overcome his boredom and rebellion. Recognizing his keen mind, the pastor convinced Dickie to let him tutor him in Greek and Hebrew. Neuhaus bought a corner grocery store and gas station and tried to become a 16-year-

old entrepreneur. He bought popular items at the local grocery store and sold them at a profit at his station. He liked to remember himself as the youngest member of the Cisco Chamber of Commerce.

Visionary friends had more in mind for him than Cisco, and they recommended he consider a vocation at Concordia Lutheran College in Austin. He enrolled and began studies in 1952. The story goes that the Gymnasium (a German-type high school and college combination that emphasized classical languages and broad historical overviews) had two registration lines, one for high school and one for college. Dickie mistakenly got in the wrong line and signed up for college even though he had never finished high school. The rest is history.

James Linderman, one of his roommates, remembers that the first years were problematic. Neuhaus was put on probation

**Richard** John Neuhaus, perhaps the most famous graduate of Concordia Lutheran College of Texas (became Concordia University Texas), died January 8, 2009 at the age of 73. No one might have imagined the great laudations that would be written at his death, but many are the teachers who came to rejoice in their persistence in giving young Neuhaus a focus and a foundation in life.

Dickie Neuhaus spent his late teen years in Texas because he didn't fit well in the Pembroke, Ontario, Lutheran parsonage where his life began. There was also the matter of a panty raid the 15 year-old was reputed to have led at the next stop on his journey, St. John's co-ed preparatory school in Winfield., Kansas. Sent on to live with his great aunt, Granny Prange, in Cisco, Texas, he tantalized the members at Grace Lutheran Church with his dyslexic focus, but also with his energy and charm.







several times, was typically argumentative in class and with his peers, and once (a story Neuhaus himself liked to tell), incited a student rebellion against legendary president, George Beto. Gradually, however, he began to discover that although the assigned courses were not necessarily to his liking, learning could be exciting. He became a voracious reader, bringing volumes to his room from the library that had nothing to do with his courses.

The faculty sensed that Neuhaus had gifts that needed to be packaged. Concordia emeritus professor, Richard Dinda, remembers him as one of the “sharpest, brightest, most inquiring minds that he ever had as a student.” To keep him challenged, he was placed in a room with four promising students, all of whom came to assume significant roles in the church and academe. Robert Wilken is Professor of Early Christian Thought at the University of Virginia; Roddy Braun became a professor of Semitic languages at Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and James Lindermann became President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod’s Texas District. Neuhaus completed his studies in 1955 and went on to do graduate work at Concordia

Seminary, St. Louis. Upon ordination (1959), he was assigned to a black, Brooklyn LCMS parish, St. John the Evangelist, which served as a crucible in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area for growing urban and social activist interests. These led him to walk hand in hand with Martin Luther King at Selma in 1965 (Richard is the second man from the left) and to serve as a Eugene McCarthy delegate to the Democratic convention in 1968.

Such formation also focused his future. He became passionately concerned with ecumenical interests and served as editor of the pan-Lutheran liturgical journal, *Una Sancta*. In 1965 he served as co-founder with Father Dan Berrigan and Rabbi Abraham Heschel of Clergy and Laity Concerned about Viet Nam, an organization that helped bring that war to a close.

When, however, *Roe vs. Wade* was passed in 1973, Neuhaus felt that that liberal activism was taking him away from his theological moorings. He began to focus on more conservative pro-life issues. (His thinking on embryonic stem cell research later profoundly shaped the Bush

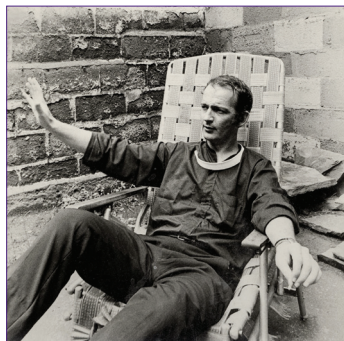
administration’s policies in this area.)

In 1984, he published his landmark work, *The Naked Public Square*, in which he warned of a state that drives out prophetic religion and claims a monopoly on public meaning.

When in 1991, after 30 years as a Lutheran pastor, Neuhaus was ordained a Roman Catholic priest, many felt that this was one more sign that Dickie had not fully worked out his rebellious tick and was going to see how far it could drive him. However, Neuhaus was not to be constrained by such a simplified critique. Already in the 1980s, he had been writing about “the interim church called Lutheran.” And at a presentation at his alma mater in Austin in 2003, he explained that he had to become Catholic because he was Lutheran. In his words, he had chosen to claim that the initial objective of Lutheranism to reform the church catholic had largely been fulfilled.

In the years that followed, he wrote, edited and collaborated on many books that showed a growing theological depth and perhaps a growing conservative bent. He focused on pro-life issues, on the importance of maintaining a religious perspective in





the secular marketplace, and on the catholicity that belongs to Protestants and Roman Catholics alike. He became

an advisor to Pope John Paul II, dining frequently at his table, and served as mentor to various heads of state. George Bush, who called him “Father Richard,” is reputed to have mentioned his name more than that of any other advisor.

When he died of lung cancer earlier this year, he had written over forty books and was the recipient of over fifty honorary doctorate degrees. He was Editor-in-Chief of *First Things*, which *Newsweek* called “the most important vehicle for exploring the tangled web of religion and society in the English-speaking world.” In 1988, *U.S. News and World Report* named him one of the most influential intellectuals in the U.S. In 2005, *Time* called him one of the 25 most important evangelical leaders in the U.S.

George Weigel and Michael Novak, both prominent lay theologians in the Roman Catholic Church, claim that there has not been so consequential a Christian thinker in the United States since Reinhold Niebuhr. The intellectual and political leaders of the world wrote the articles in newspapers and journals that lamented his passing.

Some years ago, on two different occasions, Father Richard was invited back to his alma mater in Austin to deliver lectures. His visit was controversial, as was his life. A few wondered whether it was appropriate to invite a man who claimed that the church body inviting him was an interim church. Others felt that Concordia, as a university, provided a broader platform than its supportive denomination. (Neuhaus did sweetenthepotbyproviding, along with John Sauder, a generous endowment for future lectures.) Neuhaus’ own words in one of his recent books, *Death on a Friday*, however, reassuringly embrace both his critics and his followers. To them, and to all of us, he writes;

When I come before the judgment throne, I will plead the promise of God in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. I will not plead any work that I have done, although I will thank

God that he has enabled me to do some good. I will plead no merits other than the merits of Christ ... I will not plead that I had faith, for sometimes I was unsure of my faith, and in any event that would be to turn faith into a meritorious work of my own. I will not plead that I held the correct understanding of “justification by faith alone,” although I will thank God that he led me to know ever more fully the great truth that much misunderstood formulation was intended to protect. Whatever little growth in holiness I have experienced, whatever strength I have received from the company of the saints, whatever understanding I have attained of God and his ways - these and all other gifts received I will bring gratefully to the throne. But in seeking entry to that heavenly kingdom, I will...look to Christ and Christ alone.” Those words, along with the adventuresome story of the life of one of Concordia’s finest, leave some professors and some Admission Committee members smiling. How difficult are those many decisions made about student retention! Here and there, however, a story reminds us why working at retention is so important. The story of Dickie Neuhaus is one of those stories.

## Where are they now? Dr. Richard Dinda

This is a new addition to the *Concordia University Magazine, Alumni Notes* section, that will reconnect you with Concordia faculty and staff.

**Richard** Dinda joined the faculty of Concordia University Texas, then called Lutheran Concordia College of Texas, on August 1, 1952. He remained there for forty years to the day, retiring August 1, 1992. For several years after retirement he spent much time traveling, and when he wasn’t on the road, he translated post-Reformation theological works.

His first wife, Arline, died suddenly on the last day of lectures during the fall semester of 1987. Many students will remember her as the hostess of countless spaghetti outings at their home. They had adopted a daughter, Elissa, who lives in Tyler, Texas with her husband and son J.C. Dr. Dinda remarried in August 1988 to Laura, and has a step son Roland with three young grandchildren, Cormac, Ava and Ella.

With your many years at Concordia, is there one experience that is the most memorable for you?

The one great advantage of teaching is that it provides an endless series of “one experiences.” Every time I see or hear of a former student enjoying his/her life, job, calling, family, work and play, it is a memorable experience. I left my parish ministry to teach so that I might have a greater influence and that hope has become an endless reality for me.



I'm sure Concordia looks very different now. Did you ever envision Concordia making such a major change as relocating it's entire campus?

Whenever I visit the new campus, I rejoice in how well the current administration and board have met the challenges the Lord presented them. But never in my wildest imagination did I envision a "big-time" campus such as Concordia University Texas has, nor its growth. I spent nearly half my life on the old campus, never pass the site without a lump in my throat and will always miss the old place (even as I miss the home in which I was born and spent the first 15 years of my life), but I would never want to move back.

Change is happening around us all the time. In order to succeed we must adapt. Do you have any words of advice or hopes for the future Concordia?

So Concordia has changed, even as it changed from a high school to a junior college, and even now as it enjoys an entirely new campus. If there is any "danger" in this change of location, it is that Concordia lose its Lutheran identity, even as so many great universities have lost and are losing their denominational identities. A university can indeed retain its conservative denominational identity without sacrificing any intellectual freedom, without losing its educational integrity and without sacrificing its future. After all, in the vast changes we see everywhere, there must be some stability, some immovable objects, which continue to endure and onto which everyone can lock.

As various people cross our paths in life, there are times when we look back and wonder what those individuals are doing now. I'm sure your former students, faculty and staff of Concordia would be interested to know how have you been spending



your retirement years. What have your projects and passions been since leaving Concordia?

To satisfy my urge to meet new people, see old and new places, I did considerable traveling for several years after retirement, mostly with Elder Hostel groups. (Elder Hostel travel is a huge set of learning experiences reserved for people in their older years.) I sang in Elder Hostels in IL, CN, TN and FL, taught English to adults in Poland, sight-saw in New Zealand and Australia, enjoyed especially 4 different learning weeks in Alaska and 2 more in Costa Rica. I spent about 90-100 weeks in all satisfying that urge to travel. And when I wasn't traveling, I translated. My first translation experience while I was still teaching) involved Luther's lectures on the Minor Prophets and on 1 Timothy (consisting of two and a half volumes of the CPH-Fortress Press Luther's Works). Currently published are the first 2 volumes of John Gerhard's Theological Commonplaces (which eventually will reach fifteen volumes, according to Concordia Publishing House). That work is the definitive Lutheran work of systematic

theology, beginning with the definition of theology and the function of Holy Scripture, and ending with the last days. This past March 31 was the publication date of Vol.1 of the HARMONY OF THE EVANGELISTS printed by the Center for the Study of Lutheran Orthodoxy in Malone, TX. (Alvin Dean, the Walthers and Bennie Lee – are you listening?) That too will run about 15 volumes and is a study of every passage of the Gospels arranged in chronological order by three giants of the post-Reformation period – Martin Chemnitz, Polycarp Leyser and John Gerhard. Also published by the same house are Chytraeus's Summary of the Christian Faith, which certainly rivals Luther's Small Catechism; Fischer's Life of John Gerhard, the first book-length biography of Gerhard printed in English; and Hunnius's Diaskepsis Theologica, a careful examination of the differences between Lutheran and Reformed theology. I find now that the infirmities of age are beginning to slow me down, so I am not translating anything at the moment, but I do have a good book sitting on my desk open to the title page and waiting for me to begin. I also would love to hear from former students.

Do you find the works you have translated important for Concordia students? Can you tell us why?

Chytraeus's Summary is invaluable – small enough to fit into a purse or jacket pocket. For Lutherans, a great review of what we believe; for non-Lutherans, a great and short reading to find out the theology which is distinctly Lutheran. The HARMONY, I think, would be a great asset for anyone – pastor, teacher, lay-person, Bible student, etc. – for his/her study. There are some wonderful insights which I never learned at the Seminary. If anyone ever teaches a Bible class or preaches a sermon or simply wants to learn more about the Gospels, this set will be of tremendous help.



## Houston Alumni Chapter Event



The Houston Alumni Chapter had their fourth event on Friday, April 24, at Barcenas Mexican restaurant. Approximately 40 alumni and their families gathered to enjoy good ole' Mexican food and margaritas, and to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. We had alumni from all different classes, from Harold Heckman ('38) to a 2008 graduate, and many in between. The unforecasted rain and flooding did not stop this party!

**A big thank you to Houston Chapter President, Jodi Leslie, for her efforts and leadership in the Houston Area.**



## Graduation Reception

Concordia University Texas Alumni Association hosted a reception for the 2009 graduates and their families Friday, May 8, at 8:00 PM. More than 80 graduates and alumni enjoyed a beautiful evening on Concordia's campus, on the outside deck of Building E under a full moon. It was an exciting time for the graduates and alumni to be together on campus for fellowship and refreshments, donated generously by Rudy's BBQ and the CTX Alumni Association. Congratulations Class of 2009 and welcome to the Alumni Association!



## EMBARK Volunteers Needed

As Alumni Association representatives, we are participating in the Admissions Office summer orientation program called EMBARK. We need a couple alumni volunteers for the 27 through 28 of July.

**Interested alumni can contact Amy Huth at [alumni@concordia.edu](mailto:alumni@concordia.edu) or 512.313.4111.**



# Welcome Home

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS

HOMECOMING 2009

October 24<sup>th</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup>

Save the date and mark your calendars  
for a weekend of fellowship and fun with friends both old and new.





# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS

# Family Day Weekend 2009

September 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>



11400 Concordia University Drive  
Austin, TX 78726  
512 · 313 · 3000  
[www.concordia.edu](http://www.concordia.edu)