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Applauding the arts, celebrating God’s gifts

The role of “the arts” in a Lutheran, Christian university is profound. The arts are a means to an end, not just an end in and of themselves. As our students participate, perform, study, experience, observe and enjoy the arts, they learn about themselves and the world in which they live. They gain enhanced perspectives about solutions to challenges in the world in which they serve.

This issue of the Broadcaster gives a glimpse of how the arts, especially the theatre arts, touch our students and the broader community, how they inform the Concordia experience and flourish in our midst. The statistics amaze me. This academic year 290 students will participate in choral and instrumental ensembles; 250 students will participate in drama and theatre presentations; 250 students will take art and design classes and attend Sunday Night Culture nights; 227 students will take private lessons; 87 students will take theatre classes; 78 students will major or minor in music; 28 students will participate in forensics. And the numbers do not include the students who attend performances, art shows, concerts and recitals! Nor do they include the eyes that see and enjoy the sculptures that adorn the campus lawn! Truly the arts are blessings of God to us that touch students, faculty, staff members and visitors on campus each day.

“Praising the Lord,” our academic year theme, reminds us that the arts find their highest good when used to praise the Lord, when expressed through voices, movements, instruments, sculptures and paintings; when they reflect and communicate God’s powerful Law and saving Gospel in fresh and familiar ways. To these ends, Concordia desires that all of the arts flourish on our campus. As they do, may they continue to help us catch glimpses of God’s great love for us in Jesus Christ and celebrate the blessings of His abundant gifts to us. I invite you to join us for a future production on campus. You will be thrilled and amazed by the quality, excellence and spirit of those who perform and support!

Brian L. Friedrich
President and CEO
Concordia University, Nebraska
Orchestra members warmed up.

The house lights dimmed.

And the curtain rose in Weller Hall, Oct. 20–24, for *Once Upon A Mattress*, a light-hearted spoof of *The Princess and the Pea*.

“This show brought more community people to the theatre than what we’ve had at productions in the past,” said Dr. Mira Wiegmann, professor of theatre arts and director of drama. “That was really gratifying.”

Months before the laughter and applause, however, hundreds of hours of work by more than 100 students, faculty and community members converged to prepare *Mattress* for the stage—a stage, in this case, that’s not built for musicals. And did someone mention there would be dancing?

“When I produce a musical, I need the help of many people to make it successful,” Wiegmann said. “For example I can’t direct an orchestra, so that wouldn’t happen at all.” Fortunately for Wiegmann, Professor Andrew Schultz ’89, a recent addition to the music faculty, rendered his services to the cause. *Mattress* was the first Concordia production to use a professional orchestra director.

*Mattress’s* success turned out to be a reminder of the theatre department’s bond with the rest of campus and beyond. Not only did community members enjoy a musical, many were also critical to contributing to the production itself.

In another first for the department, Wiegmann enlisted the help of Janet Jerger, ballet instructor at Shelly’s School of Dance in Seward, to choreograph the show.

The experience was new for Jerger as well, as her students usually arrive with a background in dance. She had never before worked on a musical. “It surprised me what people laughed at once the audience was there,” she said. “The dance is supposed to come off as funny, and I didn’t really know if it would. That was the challenge and the fun of it…seeing the audience laugh at movement.”

The additional help for music and dance allowed Wiegmann to use rehearsal time more efficiently; some cast members rehearsed on stage while others practiced chorus parts or worked on dance steps with Jerger but finding space required creativity.

“Frequently we were dancing and singing in the lobby,” Wiegmann said. “So the people that have offices nearby were hearing the music pretty constantly for eight weeks. One time we used the lobby upstairs and downstairs and the Weller stage all at one time.”

The space also posed a problem for Schultz, as Weller chapel was not designed to accommodate a full orchestra.

“Since (Weller) doesn’t have a full pit for an orchestra, there’s (the challenge of) balance between the vocals and the orchestra,” he said.
“(In) balancing sound...do you hear all the text and still get the full orchestral sound?”

“Weller’s a very unique space,” communications and theatre arts junior Jon Ross, Clinton, Iowa, added. Since August 2004 Ross has served as the department’s lighting director and assistant technical director. He brought in six additional lighting fixtures from nearby Southeast Community College and ran nearly 300 feet of cable to provide the deep blue and pink glows to bring out the musical’s cartoonish ambience.

“Weller’s what God’s given us...and we’re going to do the best job we can in this space,” he said. “It always works out.”

Wiegmann said that the additional support helped make Mattress the department’s most polished production, and she hopes to continue to include all areas of the university and community in future performances.

“It’s kind of one of those things where once people start to get involved, then more people learn about it and become involved,” she said. “So that’s what’s happening at Concordia. Over the years we’ve gradually built more and more community awareness and involvement.”

“The musicals have been a great way to bring in community members who might not otherwise choose to see a Concordia event,” said Dr. Kurt von Kampen, associate professor of music. Von Kampen and his wife, Dory, worked with the chorus and soloists in preparation for Mattress. “It’s so important to us in the arts that the community sees our performances as options for their entertainment and education.”

Vocal music senior Danielle Bruns, Utica, Neb., who played Princess Winifred, said the production resounded particularly with children. Area youngsters still recognize her for her role.

“Little kids have come up to me exclaiming, ‘Wow, you did a really good job in the play,’” Bruns said. “It just makes me laugh. They appreciate it.”

While musicals typically draw the greatest community response of the university’s drama productions, Wiegmann said that Mattress’s broad humor and positive theme brought a particularly warm reception.

“I think it’s important for us to laugh sometimes,” Wiegmann said. “It just seemed to let people forget about their troubles for a short period of time and laugh was a wise thing to do.”

King Sextimus, Ric Backhus, had to pantomime for most of the musical. He was mute until his son, Prince Dauntless the Drab, broke the spell. A curtain call celebrates the hard work of more than 100 people. Director Mira Wiegmann mikes the musical’s jester, Josh Brose. Sound design for the musical was a challenge on the Weller Hall stage. Rather than use the spoken voice equipment in Weller, sound equipment was imported from the music department.
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde changed everything for Paul Cloeter ’05. As a senior at Concordia University Cloeter applied for and was accepted to various clinical psychology doctoral programs. He thought he had his future planned. Then he played the role of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in Concordia’s production.

“Jekyll and Hyde helped me to realize that my more immediate passion was for acting,” said Cloeter.

He noted that Concordia faculty members Mira Wiegmann, Bruce Creed, Janene Sheldon, Denise Banker and Lynn Soloway inspired and encouraged him.

“Many churches need well-trained people who can lead ministries that use dramas, musicals and even dance,” said Cloeter, who would like Concordia to work toward an even stronger theatre program to prepare students to fill that need.

His acting passion led him from Concordia to the University Resident Theatre Association auditions in Chicago. While there he filled free time by auditioning for the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama’s master’s degree program in Glasgow.

“I did my monologues, sang a few songs a cappella, and that was that,” said Cloeter. “A few weeks later I received an e-mail from the RSAMD offering me a scholarship and one of 12 places in their program. The rest is history.”


After signing with an agent, he now lives in London. He was a lead vocalist in The Twelve Days of Christmas and is currently performing as one of two lead male vocalists in Mad about Musicals. This show performs hit Broadway and West End favorites and will tour the United Kingdom and Ireland March through November. Cloeter is unsure how long he will be in London.

“I’ve found that there is not much point in making plans in this business,” said Cloeter. “I have been considering many things, including working on cruise ships or moving to New York. But for now, I’m just going to keep auditioning in London until God makes something else clear.”

Paul Cloeter and a friend in Central Park in New York City during a showcase performance. Cloeter in London overlooking the River Thames. Cloeter performing his self-written cabaret Stuck in the Middle.
Diane Duganitz ’78 Schulz didn’t know what to make of the car salesman’s words. “When he said, ‘It’s paid for,’ I thought somebody else already bought it,” she said, referring to the $30,000 handicap-accessible van.

But Mark Zach of Mobility Motoring Anderson Ford couldn’t stop crying. Then Diane heard the words their anonymous benefactor told Zach.

It was a gift from God. “I was just shocked,” Diane said. “God has already given us so many gifts. I was just overwhelmed and humble.”

“The tears were certainly for joy,” Zach later said, “because for people to have that much compassion for other people is a beautiful thing.”

Slightly more than a year ago Neil ’78 and Diane never imagined themselves shopping for a handicap-accessible van.

From pick-up basketball games in the driveway with their children, Tera, 24, Nathan and Zane, both 21, and Jenna, 19, to yard work, Neil was always active. At Concordia he played football, basketball and track, as well as several intramural sports.

That was all before amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, entered their lives.

In 2005 Neil began losing control of his left foot. His speech slurred. That December their worst fears were realized when Neil was diagnosed with ALS at the Mayo Clinic. “It pretty much changes everything,” Diane said.

Neil can no longer eat without assistance. A keyboard is his only form of verbal communication as it speaks the words he types. They moved to a more accessible home. The time came to buy the van which would hold his motorized scooter and keep him from being homebound.

The family may never know who God used to give them that gift, but that’s alright with them. “At first we tried to find out who it was,” she said. “And then we thought, ‘You know, they don’t want us to know. They want it to be a gift from God, and we’ll just leave it at that.’ It just makes it pretty special that way.”

‘It was a gift from God’

Paying God’s blessings forward
When Neil heard, he knew they would use their blessing to continue God’s giving. “We have to pay it forward,” he told his wife. One way the family did that was by establishing the Schulz Family Endowment for Concordia’s Center for Liturgical Art. The endowment has been initially funded by Neil and Diane along with siblings and friends. They encourage alumni and friends of Concordia to help them grow the endowment.

The center’s resident artist is their close friend Mark Anschutz ’77. Diane said, “We’ve really appreciated (Anschutz’s) work to help people understand God and participate in worship.”

The four-year-old center offers resources, consultations and a variety of art for worship and ministry. Through the center, Concordia students have the opportunity to create ecclesiastical art and to provide furnishings for churches—from altars to stained glass windows to baptismal fonts.

“We spread the Gospel visually, and that visual language touches everyone,” Anschutz said. “It’s a universal language.”

The center is currently creating 20 pieces of art for churches nationwide. Next year its work may cross the Pacific Ocean for a church in Papua New Guinea.

Anschutz has remained close to the Schulz family since rooming with Neil at Concordia. Though the Schulz’s gift was unexpected, he was not surprised by their generosity. “I know they have big hearts,” Anschutz said. “He’s always been so positive about me making art. He’s the kind of guy everyone loves. Even now it just amazes me the life that’s in him.”

Despite the hardships ALS has brought, the Schulzes have seen God’s blessings clearly in their lives and grown even closer as a family. “We’ve always valued our time together and doing things as a family,” Diane said. “But when you’re very limited in the things that you can do, it is more important to you just being together and enjoying each other for whatever bits of time you can.”

“God has already given us so many gifts. I was just overwhelmed and humbled.”
Seward, our hometown
Starting with potatoes, collaborative relationship is still alive today

Seth Boggs ’03 stepped onto Concordia’s campus in the fall of 1998. Little did he know that nine years later he and his wife Megan Kropf ’02 Boggs would still be taking walks in Seward near their house on Second Street.

Seth and Megan came to Concordia to study art. Upon graduation and after contemplating other locations, they decided to settle in Seward. Seth has opened a graphic design business, Perspective Blend, in Seward, and Megan works at the Seward Memorial Library.

While Seth says the choice to come to Concordia and Seward was clear—“I liked the small town atmosphere, and I liked the size of the college”—it is not so clear why The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod chose Seward as the site for Concordia 113 years ago, especially since Lincoln, Neb., was the favored of five contending sites.

Some say Lincoln’s offer of land may have had too many strings attached, and the big city harbored dangerous temptations for Concordia’s students. Certainly Seward had its attractive features including nine Lutheran churches, an elementary school and a railroad station with service from three rail companies.

Since the beginning, the communities of Seward and Concordia have had a symbiotic relationship. Seward initially promised 20 acres and $8,000, but its support for the college went much further. The people of Seward gave the school flour, potatoes and other food that lasted the entire first year.

Seward’s Blue Valley Blade newspaper of Oct. 18, 1894, predicted of Concordia, “It will bring families and students here by the hundreds from all parts of the United States, and be the means of a large increase in our trade and population.”

Indeed, a 2006 study done by the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority reports that Concordia University has more than 1,250 students, employs 270 faculty and staff members and spends $49 million in the local economy.

“The collaboration of Concordia University and Seward County has been and continues to be a partnership of excellence, working to serve one another in education, health care, finance and ministry,” says Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, president of Concordia. “We are blessed to exist in Seward County.”

(above) Downtown Seward today, Café on the Square overlooks the Seward County courthouse. The Concordia band marches through Seward at the corner of 6th and Main on Memorial Day in the 1920s. An early 1900s baseball team wears Seward College uniforms. Townspeople often referred to Concordia as the German College or Seward College, though Seward was never officially in the name of the school.
(right) In September 1959, the students got a welcome and city tour sponsored by the Seward Chamber of Commerce.
The Boggles say, “We love Seward. Almost all of our business has been local; local people feel comfortable working with other locals.”

Seward County is home to more than 575 Concordia University alumni, and more than 100 current students claim Seward as home.

The campus community and Seward County residents continue to interact today. Dozens of student teachers enter Seward schools each year while the community supports art, music, academic and athletic events. Local businesses and residents support Concordia by working in partnership with events such as the opening of the school year dinner, Scholarship Parade of Homes, Cattle Classic basketball tournament and Jones Fine Arts Series.

As an alumnus and someone who has been involved in the workings of Concordia for many years, Roger Glawatz, mayor of Seward, affirms, “I cannot imagine Seward without Concordia or Concordia without Seward.”
By way of Concordia
Four share their blessings, lessons in life

Patrick Frerking received a bachelor’s degree in education in 1987 and a master’s degree in education in 1995 from Concordia University. Frerking taught at Hong Kong International School from 1993-98. In 1998, a few weeks after marrying his wife Susan, also a teacher, they arrived in Shanghai to help start Concordia International School Shanghai.

Ni Hao Wode Pengyou, Yesu Ai Ni! (Hello my friend, Jesus loves you!) Teaching in an international school is a fulfilling and humbling experience. By law, Concordia—Shanghai is not allowed to enroll local Chinese citizens as students, nor are we allowed to stand outside the school gate and distribute Bibles or evangelize, but we are allowed to be “Whose we are,” at all times.

The past 14 years have been filled with excitement, laughter, trust and blessings. I wear many hats including high school assistant principal, athletic director, service coordinator, school travel facilitator and classroom teacher. I also supervise the Yunnan Educational Project, which funds school libraries, school resource materials, health kits, village drinking water systems and construction of new school buildings.

How much longer will Susan and I live in China? Our answer is always vague, as we know that the Lord continues to place new and exciting challenges for His work in front of us in Shanghai.

—Patrick Frerking

Tilden, Neb., native, Angie Broberg, began her college education at Concordia University in the fall of 2001. After the spring 2003 semester, Broberg decided to pursue her dream of a country music career.

I loved my time at Concordia and really feel that it was the perfect place for me to prepare for my move to Nashville. My work with the A Cappella choir and Chamber Choir not only strengthened my voice and made me a more confident singer, but also strengthened my relationship with God.

I’m in a business where there are many ups and downs, and I feel that the spiritual growth I experienced at Concordia really helped me through. I’m truly blessed to be doing what I’m doing. Each day I’m surrounded by writers I admire, singers I hear on the radio, video producers and on and on. No matter where God takes me in life and no matter how long or short my career may be, it’s been an amazing ride.

I want to encourage everyone who has a dream to go after it. The journey is well worth it, and if you let God guide you, you’ll go places you never dreamed you could.

—Angie Broberg
Jonathan Stohs graduated from Concordia University in 1988 with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics. After attending graduate school and earning a doctorate in physics from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, Stohs began working as a government civil servant in the Air Force Research Lab located on Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque.

My job can be grouped into two categories: lab research and contract management. Another element of my job involves training young Air Force officers how to work in a real lab environment.

The most enjoyable part of my work is doing research and designing and assembling optical system prototypes in the lab. It’s fun to be at the forefront of technology, building things that are the first of their kind.

Today’s military relies heavily on science and technology, so it is important to have knowledgeable, experienced scientists and engineers overseeing the development of defense systems. It’s fulfilling to contribute new ideas and some responsible oversight to the process.

—Jonathan Stohs

John Deang, a Sudan native, came to Seward, Neb., in 1999 and graduated from Concordia University in 2002. In 2006 he graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. Deang is now assistant pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Neb., and missionary-at-large to African Immigrants for the Nebraska District LCMS.

I was born on Dec. 25, 1974, in Sudan. When I was about three or four years old my parents decided to move to Ethiopia because of the Christian persecutions in my homeland. Ethiopia was the place where I was raised and started my school. After I had finished my high school, I went to Kenya where I had a chance to come to the United States of America in 1995.

As a pastor, I travel throughout Nebraska preaching at different missionary events and planning churches for African immigrants. Being a missionary is a compassion that God is calling us upon. I have a passion for doing God’s work.

On Jan. 28, I baptized 18 members of Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mission, Omaha. It is very rewarding to see how God is using people and how He is bringing his people to church. How can they hear if no one can tell them?

—John Deang
Faculty Notes


**Paul Berkbigler**, assistant professor of art, earned two bronze awards in the Nebraska chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) annual design competition. One of the entries was a brochure designed to publicize Concordia’s art program to prospective students.

**Dr. Mark Blanke**, associate professor of education and director of the director of Christian education program, returned from his sabbatical with the groundwork laid for the recently established Institute for Religious Education at Concordia University, Nebraska. The mission of the institute is to “enhance the intentionality and effectiveness of Christian educational efforts in the church and school.” The institute will accomplish this through significant research, collaborating with other education professionals and creating resources for churches and schools.

**Dr. Jeffrey Blersch**, chair of the Department of Music, has been commissioned by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to compose three pieces for the 2007 National Youth Gathering in Orlando. The pieces will be performed by the youth gathering wind ensemble and choir; the choir will be conducted by Dr. Kurt von Kampen, associate professor or music.

**Dr. Robert Fiala**, emeritus professor of history, had several photos selected for the exhibition catalog for the Fifth Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia.

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**Strand takes helm of art department**

As Michael Strand and Bill Wolfram toured Brommer Art Center before sitting down to the interview, Wolfram thought to himself, “This is the guy.” As a previous department chair and professor at Concordia for over 45 years, Wolfram knew what was needed for the new leadership of the art department. “He had all of the qualifications we were looking for: respected artist, excellent teacher and experienced administrator. On top of that, he was engaging and easy to get to know,” said Wolfram.

Strand comes to Concordia with years of experience as a teacher, ceramist and painter and assumes responsibility as the chair of the art department and director of the Center for Liturgical Art on campus. “I am excited to be part of this level of quality,” said Strand. “I have a deep respect for the history here and want to continue to help create engaged artists.”

Strand’s educational background includes a bachelor of fine arts degree in ceramics and a master’s degree in painting from St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minn., and a master of fine arts degree in ceramics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also studied in Alnwick Castle and Alistair Hardie Pottery in England, and after completing a master’s degree, he was accepted into a residency at the Fundacio Tallers J.Llorens Artigas near Barcelona, Spain. Most recently, he was a faculty member at Midland Lutheran College.

He says he plans to spend this first semester getting to know the students, the faculty and the culture of the school. Among other things, he hopes to encourage the new student art group on campus and foster cross-over activities with other departments. “We are not emulating the art world here,” said Strand. “We are giving the students opportunities to engage in real-world projects.”

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*Michael Strand, chair of the Department of Art and director of the Center for Liturgical Art, finishes the surface of a ceramic form for a piece in his solo exhibition, “Cairn,” at Modern Arts Midwest in March.*
Diverse beginnings lead Jurchens to Concordia

If you are planning to take a chemistry class at Concordia, you will likely meet a Dr. Jurchen.

Dr. Kristy Jurchen and Dr. John Jurchen, both with doctorates from the University of California-Berkeley, cover the spectrum of chemistry courses on campus. And while God led them each to Berkeley and then together to Concordia, their respective early paths varied greatly.

In junior high school John knew exactly what he wanted: to go to the best graduate school in chemistry and then teach college students. He was initially fascinated by the periodic table, specifically, the placement of metals and the organizing of elements. He also was deeply interested in proving to himself and others that science is not antagonistic toward Christianity.

After graduating from Concordia in 1997 with a bachelor of science degree in secondary education, he went on to the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Kristy’s interest in science also began at a young age, but her fascination was sparked by the “nifty” stuff science could do, like magic tricks. Her favorite involved an acid base reaction that could be harnessed to make a coin rattle on the top of a bottle as if touched by an unseen hand. After deciding on chemistry as a freshman at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., she went on to earn a doctorate at Berkeley in 2003. While there, she met John in a department prayer group, and they were married during their fourth year. After enjoying her teaching assistantships in graduate school, she decided that teaching at a smaller school appealed to her as well.

The Jurchens are now in their fourth semester at Concordia and enjoy working together and with the chemistry students. “When things get busy, we can still see each other and connect. When students come to talk, often we both listen and both encourage them in school, life and their walk of faith,” said John.

Dr. Eunice Goldgrabe, professor of health and human performance, and Dr. Janell Uffelman, associate professor of education, have been recognized for educational excellence in the 2006 edition of Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.

Dr. John Jurchen, assistant professor of chemistry, published his paper titled “Measuring salty samples without adducts with MALDI-MS” in the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry as part of a special issue on mass spectrometry imaging. The research was conducted in collaboration with researchers at the University of Illinois during and following Jurchen’s post-doctoral studies at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Studies.


Dr. C. Matthew Phillips, assistant professor of history, contributed to the journal Crusades with an article titled “The Thief’s Cross: Crusade and Penance in Alan of Lille’s Sermo de cruce domini.” The article arose out of Phillips’ doctoral dissertation research.

Dr. Mira Wiegmann’s theatre program was honored by the Alpha Psi Omega and Delta Psi Omega National Theatre Honorary Societies with the inclusion of selected performance photographs in Playbill, their annual journal. Concordia’s program has been included in Playbill each year for more than 20 years and was one of 31 selected groups in 2005-06.

Professor William Wolfram’s work was part of the Collage Aesthetic exhibit at the Sheldon Art Gallery on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The exhibit included a variety of collages from the gallery’s permanent collection.
Shouts of greeting, handshakes and hugs filled the room as the 18 director of Christian education interns gathered on campus for their mid-year conference at the end of January. Spread out all over the U.S. and in one foreign country, the interns met for their first reunion since their internships started.

“At this point in their experience, they may be a little down. Getting started was exciting, but they are now learning what ministry is all about and that the church is not a perfect place,” commented Tim Rippstein, a professor in the DCE program. Dr. Mark Blanke, associate professor of education and director of the DCE program added, “This conference is a chance for them to come together, reflect and celebrate, swap lessons and plan for the second half of their internships.”

And they were full of lessons they had learned so far. In his work at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Green Bay, Wis., Ben Venteicher is learning a new framework of team ministry, “I’ve become even more aware of how important networking and relationships are while ministering to people,” he says.

Inese Pukste is doing double duty at both Messiah Lutheran Church, Santa Cruz, Calif., and California State University-Monterey Bay. In both places she has developed programs from the ground up and is working hard to build community. “God is teaching me to see the mustard seeds, those small things He is doing,” she says. “He is making changes in that one person’s life, even if it does not seem big to me.”

Unsure about it at first, Kelly Pokorney now loves Hong Kong and the people she gets to work with and minister to there. “Life is incredibly fast paced and media saturated in the city,” she says. “But it is also very safe, and the culture values a high level of respect for others.” In her work with youth, she has had to adapt some of her delivery methods to the technologically savvy students. “The production value of everything is 10 times better than in the U.S.,” she says, “so I have to be conscious of that in order to present a message worth listening to.”

“It is great to see them all again,” says Blanke. “During this time we have the opportunity to facilitate their understanding of the complexity and the joy of ministry.”
Kieschnick challenges students to find their passion in life

“Find your horse and ride it,” responded Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, during the question and answer time of the student forum held during his visit to campus in November 2006. He went on to encourage the students: “Whatever you do, whatever you become, whether it is a pastor or a dce or a scientist or an artist or a teacher, do it to the glory of God.”

As the Synod’s president, Kieschnick initiates visits to each of the 10 campuses of the Concordia University System on a regular basis. His wife, Terry, accompanied him to Seward.

Kieschnick shared a variety of topics during the forums with faculty and students as well as in his meetings with administrators. He highlighted the history and steadfast beliefs of the Synod, his discouragement over the shrinking church body and his enthusiasm for current synodical initiatives Ablaze! and Fan into Flame.

“I appreciated his honesty in the forum,” said Sarah Trinklein, a junior from St. Charles, Mo. “But what I appreciated most was his enthusiasm for us as we prepare to go and serve the church. We, as college students, can often feel neglected by the church, almost powerless, but President Kieschnick assured us that we, too, are part of God’s great plan with gifts to use and that God cares for us individually.”

During the forum question and answer times, he faced topics ranging from specific details of the Ablaze! movement, to the role and purpose of the university, to his personal list of leadership characteristics. When asked about the importance of educating future teachers, he complimented the faculty. “You do such a fine job of modeling good teaching here. The students witness great teaching from experienced professors.”

Kieschnick also took part in meetings with campus administrators and a time of sharing and questions with students in the pre-seminary program at Concordia. As he described his history of ministry with future pastors he said, “At each point where God had put me, I threw myself into it,” and he encouraged them to do the same.

“I was impressed with his world view,” said Michelle Chaffee, vice president of student servant leadership. “He sees a world of people who need to hear the hope of salvation through Christ and feels that it is our mission as people, as the church and as an institution to respond to that call. He believes that we are to be about equipping and educating students to respond to God’s call on their lives, no matter what profession they choose.”

...Kieschnick assured us that we, too, are part of God’s great plan with gifts to use and that God cares for us individually.”
Signature instrument will expand organ repertoire, student experience

Opus 3868 will soon fill Heine Recital Hall with song. Next summer an organ, Casavant Frères, Ltd.’s 3868TH, will be built by this oldest continuing name in North American organ building.

According to music department chairperson Dr. Jeffrey Blersch, it “will stand for generations as a work of both visual and musical beauty.”

The new organ will replace the 40-year-old organ in Heine. The technology that operates the current organ is simply worn out, and its mechanical condition has deteriorated to the point where it no longer functions reliably.

“Basically the organ is in a continual state of disrepair,” said Blersch.

In July 2004 discussion of a new organ began. Blersch invited proposals for a new organ, and Casavant Frères, Ltd. was chosen as the builder.

Casavant, located in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, is one of Blersch’s favorite builders, and he believes their organs showcase “absolute beauty of tone, marvelous sense of ensemble and unquestionable mechanical quality.”

The three-manual, 38-rank organ will have 2,171 pipes and is priced at approximately $720,000. The expected completion and installation date is June 2008.

The organ will be completely assembled in the Casavant workshop, tested, disassembled and shipped to Seward in semi-trailers. Casavant will then spend approximately seven weeks on campus assembling the organ and completing the voicing process by manipulating each pipe to alter its tone to fit Heine Recital Hall.

Freshman organist Ann Henny from Clinton, Mo., believes the new organ will sound great in Heine. “Each organ has a unique sound, which makes it more interesting to play them,” said Henny. “I am excited to find out what this organ is going to be like.”

Blersch believes Concordia is blessed to have many organ students preparing to provide musical leadership to the church’s song.

“Not only are our numbers strong, but the talent level and quality of our current students is unquestionable,” said Blersch. “This organ will give us a signature instrument that will allow us to continue to attract the best students and to train them in the best manner possible.”

Student Notes

Jennifer Bockerman was awarded second place in the three-dimensional art category at the Baker Arts Center 10th National Juried Art Exhibition, Liberal, Kan. She was one of two artists from the state of Nebraska to be selected to exhibit; two of her works were on display.

Thomas Craig was awarded a full-ride teaching assistantship in the department of geography and planning at the University of Akron in Ohio. Craig is the 41st Concordia student awarded this scholarship, continuing the long line of geography majors challenging themselves at the master’s level.

Nate Hanneman spent part of his Christmas break working on a medical trailer in Kyrgyzstan. Sponsored by LCMS World Mission, the trailer offered free health care to women and children in villages. Hanneman assisted the dentists, took vital signs and handed out hundreds of toothbrushes to local children.

Laura Knibbe, Tannon Osten and Michelle Roche each earned bronze awards for their illustrations at the annual design competition of the state chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA).

Joshua Miesner and Teagan Earhart attended and were selected to perform at a percussion
Bowling with Batman

Have you ever been bowling with a superhero? Concordia’s Student Activities Council provided students with this opportunity during the “Costume Bowl” in October 2006. SAC has hosted various campus activities throughout the year including other bowling events such as “Santa Bowl” and “Snow Bowl,” nights for food and fun, Open Mic., movies and even a backwards Prom–MORP. SAC also sponsored entertainers Rough Draft and Agape and brought in Ardan James, an animated illusionist. The first-ever Homecoming Fair was presented by SAC, as part of the annual Homecoming celebration in October.

master class at University of Nebraska-Kearney with Scottish clinician, Evelyn Glennie. Glennie is a Grammy Award winning percussionist and is the only person in the world to have a career as a solo percussionist.

Elizabeth Mueller has been accepted into two prestigious master degree programs in theatre education: New York University and Emerson College in Boston. She intends to attend Emerson.

Travis Prochaska received the American Future Farmers of America Degree at the 79th National FFA Convention. It is the highest degree awarded by the National FFA organization and recognizes Travis’s demonstrated leadership abilities and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing and service programs.

Jonathan Ross was selected to produce his five minute stage lighting with music design at the David L. Thayer Lighting Workshop and competition at the Region V Kennedy Center American Theatre Festival. He received favorable review comments from both judges, Matt Reinert, lighting designer at the Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, Minn., and the workshop’s namesake, David L. Thayer, professor emeritus at the University of Iowa.

Greta Wendelin has been accepted to the graduate program in communication studies at the University of Arkansas and the University of Kansas. She intends to attend the University of Kansas.

The Women’s Softball Team has been instrumental in the construction of the new press box at Plum Creek Park in Seward. The new building will be used for all Concordia and Seward High home softball games and will be finished in time for the start of the spring season.
Business department adds new marketing degree

Adding a marketing degree is a long-time dream realized for Dr. Stan Obermueller, chair of the business department. “It’s probably the most exciting time in my 25 years here; it’s really been invigorating.”

In investigating possible options, Obermueller confirmed that marketing was the right direction for the department. “Research essentially verified what I had a strong feeling about, which is that within the business disciplines, marketing is the most highly sought after by prospective students.”

Business students looking into career opportunities realize that an understanding of marketing is fundamental to any successful business. According to Obermueller, “Marketing has become a functional area, and all kinds of not-for-profit organizations as well as for-profit companies are seeing the value of having a marketing function in house.”

Concordia’s marketing degree opens up a variety of new opportunities for graduates. Students may earn a bachelor of science degree or a minor in marketing. Students earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration may now concentrate in marketing as one of five areas. Obermueller explains, “In business administration we have gone from approved electives to five well-defined areas.” Concentrations include accounting, communication, finance, management information systems and marketing.

In choosing courses for the marketing discipline, “Concordia benchmarked what we saw as top business programs especially in the marketing area,” recalls Greg Horn, assistant professor of business administration.

The courses prepare students for all areas of marketing, including selling, advertising, research and public relations. Classes in communication and commercial art add breadth to the degree, and all students are required to complete an internship. The strategic marketing capstone course integrates all the disciplines.

“Within the business department we have an emphasis on experiential learning, and there has been a long-standing requirement for an internship. So people will graduate with not just the theory but an understanding of how the business process works,” said Horn.

Kyra Schwartz, a junior from Greeley, Colo., is one of the first students to be offered marketing as a program option. “Marketing is innovative and creative,” said Schwartz. “I like to think outside the box, and our class projects give us good real-world experience.”

Voorman heads back to White House

Concordia University senior David Voorman has accepted the job of his dreams.

After graduation in May 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in history and communication, the Lincoln, Neb., native will fly to Washington, D.C., to begin his job in the office of records management in the White House.

“I never dreamed that I would be working at the White House right after graduation,” said Voorman. The job offer was the result of an internship that he had in the same office last summer.

The office is headed by Concordia alumnus Phil Droege ’89, but of course, “my ultimate boss is the President,” said Voorman.

Voorman believes that his participation on the debate team was an instrumental part of his preparation at Concordia. “Debate has provided me experiences and education that will benefit me for the rest of my life,” said Voorman.

“Without the support and encouragement of Dr. Renea Gernant (faculty advisor for forensics), none of this would have been possible.”
If you want others to follow, lead with your heart.

There’s no better place to start than at a Christ-centered university devoted to preparing leaders willing to serve: Concordia University, Nebraska.

As an academic institution, we have dozens of rigorous programs taught by experienced faculty. As community, we use our gifts in music and missions, art and athletics, dancing and debate. And as part of the body of Christ, we support and challenge each other as we grow in faith.

The best part is finding—and answering—your heart’s calling.

Would someone you know be interested in a Christ-centered education? Would you like to further your own education?

Visit www.cune.edu/referral
Ziegler sets all-time scoring record

Concordia University, Nebraska senior Jon Ziegler (Lincoln, Neb.) wrapped up his career on the hardwood for the Bulldogs in grand fashion, becoming the school all-time leading scorer in the final regular season home game and leading the squad to the semifinals of the Great Plains Athletic Conference Tournament.

Ziegler eclipsed the 2,000 point mark for his career, scored a career-high 47 points and became the Bulldogs all-time leading scorer in the Bulldogs 87-78 overtime win over the No. 11 University of Sioux Falls Cougars.

Entering the Sioux Falls match-up Ziegler needed 17 points to reach the 2,000 point plateau. If he could somehow get 34 points, he would surpass Concordia's all-time leading scorer, Tom Raabe (2,016). Raabe played for the Bulldogs from 1967-71, starting 101 consecutive games. He was inducted in the Concordia Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994.

After 16 points in the first half, Ziegler hit a jumper with 18:32 left in the second half for career points 2,000 and 2,001. He tied the Concordia all-time scoring mark and pulled the Bulldogs within one, 67-66, with 32 seconds remaining. With five seconds left in regulation he tied the game at 68 and became the all-time leading scorer in Concordia history on another layup.

Concordia outscored the Cougars 19-10 in the extra frame. Ziegler scored 12 of the Bulldogs’ 19 points in overtime and finished the game with a career-high 47 points, going 14-of-19 from the field (73.6 percent) and 16-of-21 from the charity stripe.

For his performance he was recognized as the NAIA Division II Men’s Basketball Player of the Week. According to Concordia head coach Grant Schmidt, Ziegler is the first Bulldog, in his 17-year coaching career, to be named the NAIA Men’s Basketball Player of the Week.

“Jon is just a true competitor,” said Schmidt. “On an individual level his performance against Sioux Falls was amazing, but he also helps bring everybody on this team to a higher level.”

Ziegler continued to add to his all-time scoring record as the Bulldogs made a run to the semifinals of the GPAC Postseason Tournament. In the tournament he averaged 23 points per game, including a 30-point performance in his final game. Ziegler finished his career with 2,099 points.

A four-time all-GPAC player and 2006-07 GPAC defensive player of the year, Ziegler was named to the NAIA Division II all-tournament team in 2004-05 when the Bulldogs finished as runner-up. He averaged 16.4 points per game and shot 45.4 percent from the field for his career. He scored over 500 points in three of his four seasons, including 304 points as a freshman, 577 in his sophomore year, 600 as a junior and 618 points as a senior.

In addition to scoring, Ziegler also had 762 rebounds, 287 assists and 223 steals during his 128 games as a Bulldog.
Bulldogs place third at conference meet

The Concordia University, Nebraska track teams each placed third at the 2007 GPAC Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln, Neb.

In all, Concordia had 25 top five performances (13 men, 12 women). Luka Thor was one of three Bulldogs that garnered individual championships that day. Thor had a pair of titles on the day, winning both the 5,000 and the 3,000. Concordia also had five runner-up performances.

Thor ran away from the rest of the field in the 5,000 with a time of 15:18.47, 1 second better than the second place finisher. In the 3,000 Thor took gold with a time of 8:50.00.

Kyle Johnson took the league title in the mile in a NAIA qualifying time of 4:19.13. Johnson also took third in the 1,000 (2:31.45).

On the women's side Charista Zehnder had the lone championship for the Bulldogs, winning the 60-meter dash. Zehnder's time of 7.81 in the prelims established the meet record. She ran a 7.82 to win the finals. Both times were NAIA qualifying marks. Zehnder had a busy day for the Bulldogs, taking third in the long jump (16-11.75), fourth in the 200 (26.32) as well as running a leg on the fifth place 4x400-meter relay team.

The women's 4x800 relay team finished as runners-up with an NAIA qualifying time of 9:41.90. The men's 4x400 was second in 3:21.63, also a NAIA mark.

Michael Saalfeld highlighted four other second place finishes for the Bulldogs with a school record time of 1:5.77 in the 800.

Concordia also had a runner-up finish in both the men's and women's pole vault. Erin Eitzmann led a 2-4 finish for the Bulldog women's vaulters clearing 11-07. On the men's side Dusty Morehead had an NAIA qualifying vault of 15-05 for second place while Adam Driver was fifth. Jordan Hinrichs rounded out the runner-up performances for Concordia in the shot put (52-04.00).

Concordia sent a solid group of competitors to Johnson City, Tenn., for the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championships on March 8-10. For complete results from that meet visit www.cune.edu/athletics.

Basketball teams wrap up season

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

The Bulldogs finished the season with a record of 10-21 overall and 5-13 in GPAC play but peaked at the right time, going 6-2 during the month of February, including upsets of No. 11 Sioux Falls and No. 16 Dakota Wesleyan, advancing to the semifinals of the GPAC Tournament.

Concordia was led in scoring on the season by Jon Ziegler (21.3 ppg), Scott Hannon (18.2 ppg) and Benjamin Buhr (11.8 ppg). The Bulldogs also had solid contributions from Brandon Schmidt, who emerged as the primary point guard, and Austin Thoms (6.0 ppg), who had 40 three-point field goals.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

The Concordia women’s basketball team fell one win shy of the 20-win plateau under the guidance of first-year head coach Drew Olson. The Bulldogs finished the season 19-13 overall and 10-8 in GPAC play.

Three Bulldogs averaged double figures in scoring on the season, led by Whitney Stichka (13.3 ppg). Melissa Tinkham (10.4 ppg) was accurate from beyond the arc, hitting 63 threes, fifth most in the GPAC. TaLisa Krejci averaged an even 10 points per game. Concordia returns all five starters off of this year’s squad.
Concordia University recently received two $25,000 scholarship endowments given by the 1956 Concordia High School class and the 1956 Concordia Teachers College class in honor of their 50th reunions.

According to Dr. David Held, a member of the 1956 Concordia High School class, their endowment will be used for scholarships for students preparing for full-time church work because the class knows “there’s a great need for scholarships today.”

Marvin Plamann, a member of the 1956 college class, said his class was essentially spurred on by other classes that had given to Concordia. “We felt a sense of thankfulness and joy being associated with Concordia; we’re thrilled to be a part of Concordia,” said Plamann.

At the 50th class reunion last spring both classes viewed the “Imagine the Mission” DVD and heard President Brian Friedrich and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Pete Kenow present an update on the “On a Mission” campaign, the university’s $60 million initiative to raise funds for capital, operations and endowment.

Held plans to attend the 1957 Concordia High School class reunion to inform them of how they, too, can give a gift to Concordia.

For more information on endowments, contact Concordia University’s development office at 800-55-5494, ext. 7408.

Alumni gifts recognize 50TH reunions

Our Treasured Friends provides an opportunity to honor your treasured friends. It is a way to celebrate a special occasion in your life, honor a birthday or anniversary or memorialize a loved one who has been called home to be with the Lord.

When a Treasured Friends gift is received at Concordia, a card is sent to the honoree, or the family of the person being honored, telling them they have been remembered in this way.

To make a Treasured Friends gift in honor or remembrance of a friend or loved one, call 800-535-5494, ext. 7408, or mail to Our Treasured Friends, Concordia University, 800 N. Columbia Ave. Seward, NE 68434.

A million thanks to NACC

Thanks to the support of the Nebraska Association of Congregations for Concordia 135 students received scholarships during the 2006-07 academic year. Since its establishment in 1981, NACC has given more than $1 million in scholarship aid to Concordia students who are members of nacc congregations.

All Nebraska District churches are eligible and nearly 50 percent of district congregations already belong. For more information or to participate in this program, contact 800-535-5494, ext. 7279, or nacc@cune.edu.
Tom Latter’s first and only trip to Concordia’s campus was for a Lutheran Laymen’s League meeting in the 1950s. He recalls being impressed not only by the physical appearance of campus, but also by the students he met. Tom decided to give his first gift after reading the Broadcaster and having the “urge to give.”

He first learned about Concordia from students who gave a presentation at his church, Saint Paul Lutheran in Minden, Neb. Tom remembers being impressed with the quality, maturity and friendliness of those students.

As Tom and his late wife Arlene made the transition from their life’s work on the farm into retirement, they found a solution to meet their income needs and enable them to reconnect with Concordia. “We needed to increase our retirement earnings and gift annuities provide great interest income,” said Tom, “It’s a double win. It was great retirement income for us and when God calls me home to heaven, our gift annuities to Concordia will go to establish the Thomas C. and Arlene M. Latter Church Worker Endowment and will help students further their education.”

I invite you to consider a charitable gift annuity, just like Tom and Arlene. If you are feeling the same “urge to give,” pick up the phone and call the gift planning office at 800-555-5494, ext. 7346. Fill out the form below and we will contact you. We are ready to assist you in any way we can.

A charitable gift annuity benefits you today and Concordia University, Nebraska tomorrow. Gift annuity rates vary by age. This is an excellent opportunity for you to advance the mission of Concordia, receive a great charitable deduction this year and receive income from the annuity every year of your life. Give today and receive each year!

☐ Please send me information about the Concordia University Heritage Society.

☐ Please send me a personal illustration for a gift annuity.

Name ____________________________ Birthdate ____________________________
Spouse ____________________________ Birthdate ____________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________
Telephone ____________________________ E-mail ________________________________

☐ I/We have included Concordia in our estate plan. Please enroll me in the Heritage Society.

Please return this form to:
Concordia University
800 N. Columbia Ave.
Seward, NE 68434
Gift Planning Office
800-535-5494, ext. 7346
E-mail CUfoundation@cune.edu

Gift Annuity Rates

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*rates vary depending on age of second participant.
The graduates and faculty of the class of 1907. This was the first class to complete a full teacher education program. The program consisted of three years of high school and two years of teacher education.

Celebrating the first commencement

A century ago in 1907 Ivan Pavlov was doing salivary gland research on dogs, the first Hoover vacuum was invented and the Seward County Courthouse was completed. That same year, 21 young men graduated from Concordia, then called The Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, in the first commencement.

These men went on to spend more than 300 combined years teaching. They ministered in 11 different states. Many of them also began a family tradition as their brothers, sisters, cousins, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended and continue to attend Concordia University. Lisa Rodenburg, great-granddaughter of John R. Rodenburg, who earned her bachelor of arts in 2006, is one such legacy.

Celebration of Concordia’s 100th commencement will take place with this year’s commencement events on May 5.

Hong Kong International School anniversary featured on alumni, student tour of China

Nineteen Concordia alumni and friends will travel to China in conjunction with the University Wind Ensemble, May 9-28, to help celebrate the Hong Kong International School’s 40th anniversary.

Highlights of the trip, hosted by President Brian and Mrs. Laurie Friedrich, include attending the Wind Ensemble concert in Beijing at the Concert Hall of China Traditional Folk Orchestra. While in Hong Kong they will worship at the Church of All Nations-Lutheran, where President Friedrich will preach. Traveling to Shanghai, the group will meet faculty and students at Concordia International School in Shanghai. Throughout their excursion, the group will visit at least eight Concordia University alumni who are located in China.

Jan Koopman, director of alumni and university relations, is looking forward to the gathering of alumni and friends of Concordia. Koopman says whenever that mix of people is together, the vision they have for Concordia’s future is shared.

“We are all part of Concordia’s past and future,” said Koopman. “Seeing ministry in action and being energized by the China experience bring all of our lives into focus for active service to the church and world.”

Legacy Link, e-mail, e-newsletter keep alumni connected

LEGACY LINK
Concordia’s Legacy Link program is an initiative to encourage more of our alumni to share their interest in the university with their children and grandchildren. Alumni are invited to register their children or grandchildren in the program. For information visit www.cune.edu/LegacyLink, call 800-535-5494, ext. 7240, or e-mail Alumni@cune.edu.

FREE E-MAIL ACCOUNT
It is easy to stay connected to your alma mater, fellow alumni and family and friends with a free e-mail account. Each account has a generous amount of space and can store hundreds of messages, depending on the size of the message. Messages are automatically scanned for viruses and strict checks help reduce the amount of spam. There is even space for personal Web pages with which to share information about hobbies or other interests. Stay connected through this fantastic service provided by the Concordia Alumni Association. To receive your free account e-mail Alumni@cune.edu.

KEEPING CONNECTED WITH THE LATEST NEWS
The Concordia Alumni & Friends E-newsletter is your access to the latest news on upcoming events, student and faculty achievements and important announcements. The e-newsletter is sent out periodically throughout the year. To subscribe, visit this link: www.cune.edu/alumni-news.
Alumni News

1940s

Harold Berg lives in Fairmont, Minn., where he enjoys good health. In July 2006 Harold and his wife, Helen, traveled to Downers Grove, Ill., where all 18 members of their family, many of them Concordia alumni, gathered for their grandson’s wedding.

Concordia University, St. Paul celebrated the service of Loma Meyerhoff in October 2006 by naming the Classroom Building as Meyer Hall. Loma has served Concordia University, St. Paul in many capacities since 1967.

Robert Sylvester, a retired Lutheran teacher, resides in St. Paul, Minn., with their son, Daniel.

1960s

Richard Bolland serves as senior pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Mo. He serves the district as chairman of the Western Missouri Pastors Conference. Richard actively publishes articles addressing issues of the LCMS. He and his wife, Linda Robie Bolland, a retired Lutheran teacher, reside in Kansas City.

1970s

Linda Gebhard now resides in West Bend, Wis., where she writes poetry for a hobby.

James Fandrey ’74 began serving in development and church relations at the Lutheran Heritage Foundation in Macomb, Mich., on Dec. 1, 2006.

Alvern and Deborah Tegtmeyer ’76 Klaver work as World Mission Prayer League Midwest Regional Coordinators speaking and representing the mission in churches, Sunday schools, women’s groups and conferences. They reside in St. Paul, Minn., with their son, Daniel.

David Mumm ’76 is senior pastor at Concordia Lutheran in Machesney Park, Ill. He and his wife, Katherine Schmidt Mumm, reside in Loves Park, Ill.


Daniel Heuer ’79 began serving Trinity Lutheran Church in Fremont, Neb., as senior pastor in December 2006. He and his wife, Deborah Schaefer Heuer, celebrated 27 years of marriage in 2006.

1980s


J. Eric Baker ’84 wrote, produced, directed and co-starred in Home For The Holidays, an original Christmas spectacular for the Monroe City Community Theatre. The show mixed over 50 Broadway and Christmas songs and included several genres. Eric resides in Palmyra, Mo., where he is a freelance writer.

Leanne Riem ’90 and Patrick Salandro were united in marriage Oct. 28, 2006. The couple resides in Capitola, Calif.

Karim Juengling ’85 Soria of Lake Worth, Fla., is a full-time music teacher at a public middle school, and her husband, Pedro, manages his own accounting practice. They have six children: Isaac, 17; Karina, 15; Erika, 13; Sara Kristina, 8 and Karl, 6.

Melissa Hahn ’87 was united in marriage to Robert Sindlinger April 23, 2006. Melissa is working on a master’s degree in diaconal studies and is the deaconess intern and handbell and adult choir director at Zion Lutheran in Tomball, Texas. She and Robert reside in Magnolia, Texas.

Jeffrey Stout ’89 of Norman, Okla., was elected president of The International Society of Sports Nutrition in November 2006. Jeff is a professor at the University of Oklahoma in the department of health and exercise science.

1990s

Mark and Melanie Reinke ’92 Drews of Mount Pulaski, Ill., rejoiced in the birth of their first child, Grace Patricia, May 19, 2005.


Jason Berry ’94 of Seward, Neb., founded Wildberry Production Group in August 2006. The business has five employees, including his wife, Julie Parde Berry, and focuses on video, audio, Web and print design.

Mark ’94 and Sara Schroeder ’97 Hans welcomed Samuel Timothy on May 26, 2006. Samuel joins Zechariah, 4. The Hans family resides in Waukesha, Wis., where Mark is a regional sales representative for Musco Sports Lighting and Sara is a stay-at-home mom.

Jim and Tracy Wagoner ’94 Jordan welcomed Joel David on Nov. 20, 2005. Joel joins siblings
Samuel; 7; Christian; 6; Anna; 5; Kathryn; 4 and Stephen; 2. The family resides in Columbus, Ga., where Jim is a telecommunications contractor working on Hurricane Katrina storm damage in New Orleans, La. Tracy is a stay-at-home/homeschooling mom.

Andrew ’94 and Katherine Boerger ’94 Steinke reside in St. Charles, Mo., where Andrew is an associate pastor at Zion Lutheran Church. Kathy is a tutor and stay-at-home mom to their three children: Timothy; 6; Amanda; 4 and Ashley; 1.

Brent ’94 and Kimberlee Krueger ’94 Wagner announced the birth of Natalie Beth on Sept. 20, 2006. Natalie joins Tatum, Reilly and Abigail. The Wagners reside in Rochelle, Ill., where Brent is a third-year law student and Kim is a stay-at-home mom.

Dana and Lenor Hough ’94 Wilkie welcomed Alan Everett on April 10, 2006. The Wilkie family resides in Diggins, Mo. Lenor is a teacher in Cabool, Mo.

Wade and Michelle Herndon ’96 Matsfield of Crete, Neb., rejoiced in the birth of Hannah Elizabeth Grace on Nov. 15, 2006. Hannah joins Miriam; 5 and Micah; 2. Michelle teaches part-time at Crete Public Schools, and Wade is a pastor at St. John Lutheran Church.

James ’96 and Kara Thies ’96 Tobaben reside in Centreville, Va., with Will; 4 and Elizabeth; 2. Jim works for Raytheon and has taken up golf. Kara keeps busy with Bible study, singing in the choir and contemporary group, co-leading the Women’s Retreat and volunteering at their church.

Joseph Burnham ’98 and wife Anita of Denver, Colo., celebrated the birth of their first child, Robert Fredrick, Sept. 15, 2006. Anita is a stay-at-home mom, and Joe is planting Genesis Lutheran Mission in downtown Denver.

Seward High School teacher Clark Kolterman CR ’98 was elected treasurer for the Nebraska English Language Arts Council (NELAC) at the board of directors meeting in September 2006. Clark co-chaired the 2006 Annual Literature Quiz Bowl sponsored by NELAC and held in conjunction with the Plum Creek Children’s Literacy Festival.

Benjamin ’99 and Christine Eifert ’99 Castens announced the birth of Emily Christine on Jan. 17, 2006. Emily joined Kathryn; 5 and Andrew; 2. The family resides in New Haven, Ind., where Benjamin works at BAE Systems in Fort Wayne and Christine is a stay-at-home mom.

In December 2006 Cassandra Pfeiffer ’99 Schermbeck of Garland, Texas, completed requirements for a master of arts degree in youth and family ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. She will participate in graduation ceremonies in May. Cassie is the DCE at Bethel Lutheran Church in Dallas and her husband, Timothy ’99 Schermbeck, is a teacher.

2000s

Douglas ’00 and Stacy Jenkins ’00 Gross celebrated the birth of Olivia Noelle on Sept. 23, 2006. The family resides in Wilber, Neb., where Doug is a teacher at Wilber-Clatonia schools and Stacy is a paralegal at the Saline County offices.

Ryan ’00 and Kyley Weinberger ’98 Cumbow of Pierre, S.D., announced the birth of Kaden Anderson Dale on Jan. 3. Addison; 3, welcomed him home. Ryan works with the U.S. Forest Services as a wild land firefighter, and Kyley is assistant principal at Georgia Morse Middle School.

Jonathan and Angela Hickson ’01 DeBruin celebrated the birth of Dakota James on July 12, 2006. Angela is a manager at McDonald’s, and Jon is pursuing a nursing degree at Western Iowa Tech Community College. The family resides in Sioux City, Iowa.

Michael Merker and Melissa Iehl ’02 exchanged wedding vows July 22, 2006. Melissa is a graphic artist at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., and Michael is in his last year of studies at Concordia Seminary.


Benjamin ’01 and Amanda (Mandi) Stahlecker ’02 Erslund of Las Vegas, Nev., announced the birth of Peder Elishama Walter on Sept. 28, 2006.

Jedidiah and Anna Hasty ’01 Maschke rejoiced in the birth of Alaethea Ruth on Sept. 8, 2006. The Maschkes reside in Lake Forest, Calif.

Brent ’02 and Marykay Christiansen ’02 Broberg of Tilden, Neb., welcomed Karlee Kaye on Jan. 2.

2001s

Kathryn; 4 and Elizabeth; 2. The family resides in Bismarck, N.D., where Kathy is a tutor and Christine Steinke a stay-at-home mom. Joe is a paralegal at the Saline County offices.

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Benjamin ’01 and Amanda (Mandi) Stahlecker ’02 Erslund of Las Vegas, Nev., announced the birth of Peder Elishama Walter on Oct. 28, 2006.
Dietrich Eisele and Shelley Vitosh ’02 were united in marriage Sept. 23, 2006. The couple resides in Odell, Neb. Shelley is a teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School in Beatrice, and Dietrich works for Astro Buildings of Omaha.

Brandon and Jacqueline Weyer ’02 Wroghton of Lincoln, Neb., were blessed by the birth of Owen Wroghton on Sept. 19, 2006.

Mark Gulbransen and Allison Cloeter ’03 were married Oct. 7, 2006. Allison is a professional nanny and works as a creative consultant for early childhood programs. The couple resides in Chaska, Minn.

Jake and Jessica Robinson ’03 Luebbe of Seward, Neb., celebrated the birth of Riley Joy on Oct. 5, 2006. Jake is a welder at Hughes Brothers, and Jess is a counselor in the student financial services offices at Concordia University, Nebraska.

Raul Griego and Tanya Merezko ’03 exchanged wedding vows on Aug. 5, 2006. Raul is a project engineer, and Tanya is in graduate school at the University of Colorado in Denver. The couple resides in Westminster, Colo.

John and (Rebekah) Anne McCall ’03 Ptacnik celebrated the birth of Amelia Grace on Jan. 13. The family resides in Yuma, Colo.

Luther Cameron and Karlyn Bohlken ’04 were married Dec. 28, 2006. The couple resides in Bel Air, Md.

Benjamin Cooper ’04 and Amy Morton ’04 were united in marriage July 8, 2006. The couple resides in Bel Air, Md. Benjamin and Amy are teachers at Hartford Lutheran School.

Michael and Bridget Meyer ’04 Dieckman of Cole Camp, Mo., announced the birth of Jason Emery on July 3, 2006. Michael and Bridget are teachers at Cole Camp High School.

Joshua Dixon ’04 and Jennifer Iehl ’05 were married July 2, 2005. The couple resides in Springfield, Ill.

Jose Beaton ’05 and Liesl Barz ’06 exchanged wedding vows Oct. 8, 2006, with Liesl’s father officiating. The couple resides in Milton, Fla., where Liesl is a substitute teacher in Pensacola and Jose is in flight training with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Daniel Jabs ’06 of Sheboygan, Wis., joined Midwest Laboratories in Omaha, Neb., in September 2006 as a laboratory technician in the fertilizer department.

Martin McGoe ’06 of St. Francis, Minn., was named the Nebraska English Language Arts Council Future Teacher of the Year in September 2006.

Lonnie Miller ’06 of Dalton, Ohio, is a staff accountant in the Woooster office of Rea & Associates Inc., a regional accounting and business consulting firm.

Scott Myers ’06 married Kristina Kois ’06 July 1, 2006. The couple resides in Modesto, Calif., where they serve Grace Lutheran Church; Scott as DCE and contemporary worship leader and Kristy as second grade teacher and reading resource director.

Samuel Powell ’06 and Lisa Radtke were united in marriage July 15, 2006. The couple resides in St. Louis, Mo.

In Memoriam

Ludwig E. Janzow ’33
Arnold J. Ludwig ’33
Laura Pebler ’33 Traugott
John H. Stohs HS ’30 CO ’33
Harold H. Rathe HS ’31 CO ’34
Alfred J. Freitag ’38
Hubert E. Fischer ’37
Nora Elmsheuser ’39 Meyer
Irene Ost ’71 Kirch
Linda Kuhl ’71
Sharlene Nipp ’76 Kleinedler
Gerald L. Niebling ’82
Steffani Hilgendorf ’98 Abegglen
Robert Maessen ’06

About Alumni News

Concordia University, Nebraska is interested and wants to know about your accomplishments and other newsworthy items. Please direct all items to Alumni@cune.edu or via mail to: Concordia University, Nebraska Alumni News, 800 N. Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434. It is preferred that news items be submitted by the featured alumni rather than third party so accuracy may be verified. All material may be edited for clarity or length.

Photos are welcome and electronic photos, in tiff or jpeg format, 300 dpi resolution, are preferred. Hard copy photos will not be returned. When submitting a death notice, please send a copy of the obituary, if possible, and include the names and class years of any survivors who attended Concordia in Nebraska.

Please submit items for the summer issue by June 15.
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C O N C O R D I A U N I V E R S I T Y
N E B R A S K A
### Calendar

#### April
- **12**  Observatory Show, Osten Observatory, 9-10:30 p.m.
- **13**  Softball vs. Dordt College, 5 p.m.
- **13-14**  Outdoor Track hosts Concordia Invitational
- **13-15**  One Act Play Festival, Studio Theatre, Music Center, 7:30 p.m.
- **14**  Gathering of the Talents
  - Softball vs. Univ. Sioux Falls, 1 p.m.
- **15**  Annual Student Art Exhibition, opening reception and awards presentation, Marxhausen Gallery of Art, 1-4 p.m.
- **15**  Baseball vs. Dakota Wesleyan Univ., 1 p.m.
- **17**  Softball vs. Bellevue University, 5 p.m.
- **18**  Softball vs. Nebraska Wesleyan, 5 p.m.
- **20-22**  Spring Weekend
  - **20**  Baseball vs. Dordt College, 4 p.m.
  - **21**  Baseball vs. Morningside College, 1 p.m.
  - **26**  Baseball vs. Midland Lutheran College, 4:30 p.m.
    - Handbell Concert, Heine Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
  - **27**  Jazz Band Concert, Heine Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- **27-29**  One Act Play Festival, Studio Theatre, Music Center, 7:30 p.m.
- **30-May 3**  Final exams

#### May
- **1**  University/Community Band, Janzow Campus Center, 6:30 p.m.
  - Concordia Chorale Concert, St. John Lutheran Church, 8 p.m.
- **3**  End of spring term
  - Annual Student Art Exhibition closes
  - Observatory Show, Osten Observatory, 9-10:30 p.m.

#### Commencement Weekend Activities
- **3-5**  Class of 1957 50th Reunion Celebration
- **4**  Baccalaureate, St. John Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.
- **5**  Commencement, Gym, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
  - Please note the new times. For further details, visit www.cune.edu/Commencement

- **7**  Summer term begins
- **7-27**  Wind Ensemble tour to China
- **9-28**  Alumni Tour to China
- **11**  Outdoor Track/Field hosts CU Twilight Meet

#### June
- **20**  Early Childhood Conference
- **29**  Visit Day

#### July
- **14-19**  LCMS Synodical Convention, Houston, Texas
- **28-Aug. 1**  National LCMS Youth Gathering, Orlando, Fla.

Stop by the Concordia University, Nebraska alumni exhibit and reception during the National LCMS Youth Gathering, and bring your youth group by the admission exhibit to visit with one of our counselors. Both exhibits will be in the chozone. See page 26 for more details.

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**Visit our redesigned Web site at www.cune.edu for the latest Concordia updates!**