WHY A LUTHERAN LAW SCHOOL?
In the fall of 2007, the leadership of Concordia University convened at the Portland campus for their annual meeting. The university was experiencing a period of exciting growth and was expanding its capabilities to meet that growth. The nursing program, for example, had recently been launched and was delivering high-quality, ready-for-hire education to its students.

That’s when the discussion turned to creating a law school. Several of the board members were attorneys, including Dr. Andrew White, the grand-nephew of long-time Concordia benefactor George R. White. As an attorney from Boise, Dr. White was well aware of the need for a local law school. In fact, a study published by the University of Idaho that same year showed that Boise was one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country without an American Bar Association-approved law school. What’s more, Boise was one of the only state capitals without a law school.

Five years later, this changed with the opening of the Concordia University School of Law in Boise. What had started as the board’s concept of fulfilling an educational need became a well-developed planning and building process.

Today, the law school…tomorrow, the sky’s the limit. With the vision and leadership of a highly engaged Board of Regents and Foundation Board of Directors, Concordia is well-positioned to take a further leadership role in higher education.  

» Cathy Silak, Dean  
Concordia University School of Law
Campus Life. Law school opens with commitment to service; Mentorship program at Concordia Law helps students and lawyers connect; Soccer standout Tori Talbutt brings life lessons from the soccer field to help those in need; Exciting changes to Concordia School of Management, and more.

Why a Lutheran Law School? Concordia University School of Law goes from conversation to class of 2016. Learn more about Concordia’s deep connection with the people of Idaho’s Treasure Valley.

Alumni Notes. Luis Garcia puts Concordia’s mission statement into practice; Aubrey Richardson turns Concordia culture into a way of life; Skyler Kamaka reigns supreme; plus the latest about life after Concordia straight from alumni themselves.

Navy & White. Meet the man whose name adorns Hilken Community Stadium; read the heartbreaking – and inspirational – tale of how Concordia volleyball player Melanie Miller takes on three life-threatening illnesses; “Buy local” works well for Portland native Isaac Frederick, Concordia’s new track/cross country coach; Fall athletes continue to shine.

Nailed to the Door. Discover how Concordia Law Corps transform their community by providing legal services to underserved populations.

Cover Photo: Five members of the Concordia University School of Law inaugural class enjoy the Boise sun.
Life Lessons From the Soccer Field

Senior biology major and Boise, Idaho native, Tori Talbutt, has come to see the world as an open door to service – a vision shaped by her mother and cultivated through opportunities available to her at Concordia. A three-year starter for the Concordia Women’s Soccer Team, Tori found that playing soccer was as important as academics in shaping the person she has become.

Concordia professors provided Tori with understanding and encouragement for life as well as learning. Recognizing certain qualities in Tori, Dr. Chuck Kunert recommended her to serve as Concordia’s charter Student Fellow with the Lutheran Malaria Initiative’s outreach in Tanzania during the summer of 2012.

Tori realized how small the world really is when she got to play in a Malaria awareness soccer game while in Tanzania’s Kisiwani parish. “We didn’t speak the same language, but we could communicate through soccer,” said Tori. Her response to this life-changing opportunity prompted Tori to pledge to raise $25,000 for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative over the next 12 months.
Glenda Talbutt, Tori’s mom, got involved with soccer when her daughter did because it was an activity they could do together. Now, Glenda continues to engage her own passion for soccer as a referee for youth and adult soccer. Off the field, she is a practicing attorney in Boise. As such, her interest in Concordia grew as the new Law School began to take shape. She agreed to serve on the School of Law Dean’s Advisory Council where she is tasked to help shape curriculum and formulate a mentor program between students and the legal community. “I got involved because Concordia’s Law School is dedicated to instilling new attorneys with ethics and commitment to service. The school requires pro bono work from its students, assistance that is sorely needed here in the Treasure Valley where Legal Aid services are so overtaxed. I really believe in giving back in this tangible way.”

As Tori was growing up, Glenda taught her to defend her own position on the field, in the street and in the classroom. She also taught her daughter to recognize that the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others will also enrich and shape her own life. This solid foundation has enabled Tori to put her plans for becoming a doctor into action. The Concordia mission and vision will serve her well on the next leg of her journey.

Malaria kills one child every 60 seconds and yet it is preventable and treatable. To help with malaria education and prevention in Africa, join the Concordia community and help student leader Tori Talbutt reach her goal of raising $25,000 toward the cause at WWW.LUTHERANMALARIA.ORG/UNIVERSITIES

“We didn’t speak the same language, but we could communicate through soccer.”

» Tori Talbutt, Concordia Student
Small Steps and Big Ideas: Educating Students Age 3 to PhD

Just 102 steps apart, Faubion School and Concordia University-Portland rely on each other, creating innovative ways to educate their students and serve the community. This partnership has grown to include the Portland Public School District (PPS), creating a mutually beneficial relationship that serves educational missions and students at both institutions. Faubion was the only pre K-8 school selected in the first phase of PPS facility upgrades, partly because of the Concordia-Faubion partnership and a dual mission to work together to promote life-long learning within a diverse community.

The work underway in Concordia and Faubion classrooms is transforming education by focusing on closing the achievement gap at Faubion through expanded opportunities for students, families, and teachers. This is being accomplished by strategically increasing academic enrichment for all students, deepening services offered to elementary students, and preparing students for the road ahead through immersion in a “culture of college” with real-life mentors.

Concordia received a $58,000 Community Investment Grant from the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette to help boost academic engagement for mid-level learners (grades 6-8), immediately addressing one of Faubion students’ most pressing needs. Mid-level learners at Faubion are on the bridge to high school, a path which has proven to be especially challenging. Only 36% of its 8th graders met science benchmarks, for example, compared with 57% statewide and 53% district wide. Faubion’s Schools Uniting Neighborhoods program surveyed mid-level learners to determine the programming most interesting to them. Academic need was matched with student interest. The result? Targeted tutoring, after school arts, and other enrichments designed to enhance motivation in the overall learning environment. This includes summer science academies, science career awareness, writing and math tutoring, and integrated arts programming – such as Brazilian drumming, Video Making, and Glee Club. According to Faubion Principal LaShawn Lee, “This grant builds support for the bridge, allowing certified teachers to tutor students with compensated, extended time.” This compensation is critical for the teachers and gives students more time with experienced educators. The goal of this unique partnership is continual growth in both the academic and personal outcomes of its students.

“United Way of the Columbia-Willamette’s support of the Concordia-Faubion partnership creates an opportunity to engage our community around educational outcomes for all young people,” said Gary Withers, executive vice president at Concordia. “By combining the efforts and resources of universities with local public schools, we can create a national model for collaboration, innovative learning environments, and increased student success.”

“By combining the efforts and resources of universities with local public schools, we can create a national model for collaboration, innovative learning environments, and increased student success.”

* Gary Withers, Exec. Vice President Concordia University
Concordia is working to develop a replicable model that can further the success of Faubion with strategies that better meet students’ academic needs and provide academic support to help minimize the summer learning loss. This strategy helps students improve scores for academic benchmarks and increase their self-esteem while creating a culture for college expectations. Student engagement and motivation stems from connecting participation in grant funded enrichments to classroom performance. Principal Lee confirms this, “Even in the first month of changes, we are seeing a difference. Student attendance has increased, while tardy rates and discipline for mid-level learners have decreased.”

Another benefit of the Concordia-Faubion partnership model is that it gives caring adults opportunities to provide more intensive academic interventions with students. It addresses low math and language arts achievement and expands mentor relationships. Concordia student-mentors come from all academic majors. They receive training to equip them with lasting cultural and academic skills. These meaningful experiences will carry forward in a graduate’s profession, whether they go on to teach, work in health care, or in business. When mentors gain experience interacting with youth, the entire community benefits.

“The Concordia-Faubion partnership fits our mission of preparing leaders for the transformation of society, as they work directly with local children from day one,” states Kevin Matheny, Concordia’s chief development officer. “This partnership establishes a model for excellence in education. We call it ‘3 to PhD.’”

Concordia Law School Opens with a Commitment to Service

When the Concordia University School of Law opened this fall, 73 students began following their call to become legal professionals and servant leaders.

“We’re committed to providing rigorous law curriculum with excellent faculty,” said Dean Cathy Silak, “but our commitment goes far beyond that to prepare students and graduates for lives as transformational leaders.”

During the formal dedication service, Concordia University’s music ensembles served as entertainment in the new George R. White Law Library in downtown Boise, Idaho. Held on October 25, 2012, the service was attended by more than 200 business, education, civic and community leaders, along with Concordia staff, students, and administrators.

Keynote speaker and American Bar Association President-elect, the Honorable James R. Silkenat, traveled from New York for the celebration. He applauded Concordia for its commitment to the region and to preparing future leaders in the field of law.

“This is an historic day for Boise and the region, and the result of tremendous contributions by so many,” said Concordia president, Charles Schlimpert, who recently began his 30th year as president. He applauded the steadfast commitment and leadership needed to launch the school by Dean Cathy Silak, a former Idaho State Supreme Court Justice.

Idaho’s own Chief Justice Roger Burdick (pictured above) led the inaugural class of students in an “oath of service,” remarking that “it is fitting for the Concordia School of Law to open with an emphasis on helping those less fortunate.” Already this academic year, law students, faculty, and staff have contributed hundreds of volunteer service hours in the community.
Introducing the School of Law Faculty and Staff

Cathy Silak serves as dean of Concordia University’s School of Law, which opened this past fall in Boise, Idaho. She joined the university in 2008 after serving as President and CEO of the Idaho Community Foundation, a statewide public charity based in Boise since 2004. Before that, she was a partner with the law firm of Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley for three years. In 1990, Dean Silak was the first woman in Idaho to be appointed as an appellate judge, and in 1993, she was appointed to the Idaho Supreme Court, serving until 2000. Dean Silak holds a bachelor of arts in both sociology and French literature from New York University. She received her master of arts in city planning from Harvard University and her juris doctor from the University of California School of Law. In 1995, she went on to earn her master of laws degree from the University of Virginia Law School. Dean Silak and her husband live in Boise and have three grown children.

Greg Sergienko joins Concordia University’s School of Law as the associate dean of academics. An experienced legal educator, Mr. Sergienko comes to Concordia after serving as the associate dean of academics and professor of law at Western State University, College of Law, in Fullerton, California. While there, Mr. Sergienko was instrumental in helping guide
the school through the process of gaining full American Bar Association approval. In his second term as dean, he helped increase the bar-passage rate from 17% to 73%. He has served as visiting faculty at several law schools, including the University of Chicago and the College of William & Mary. Prior to teaching, Mr. Sergienko clerked for the Honorable Alfred T. Goodwin, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1985-1986. He received his bachelor of arts, magna cum laude, from Harvard College in 1980 and his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from Harvard Law School in 1985.

As the director of experiential learning and career services, Jodi Nafzger directs the mentorship program, the externship program, and the pro bono service requirement, as well as career services. Professor Nafzger comes to Concordia after serving as an assistant city attorney for nine years with the Boise City Attorney’s Office. In this capacity, she handled misdemeanor criminal prosecution and provided police advice and training for both Boise and Meridian Police Departments. She served on committees assigned to downtown livability issues for the City of Boise and drafted proposed legislation for the mayor and city council. She also taught at the Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy. Professor Nafzger’s professional experience also includes private-sector public relations and marketing work. In 1996, she received a bachelor of arts in journalism from the University of Missouri, Columbia-School of Journalism. She earned her juris doctor in 1999 from the University of Missouri, Columbia-School of Law.

Fordyce-Ruff is responsible for creating, directing, and teaching the first-year legal writing course in partnership with other faculty, as well as developing upper level electives. Prior to joining Concordia, Professor Fordyce-Ruff served as a visiting professor of legal research and writing at the University of Oregon School of Law. There, she taught legal research and writing, advanced legal research, and intensive legal writing. She authored Idaho Legal Research, a textbook designed to help legal professionals and students in the state. Professor Fordyce-Ruff is also a monthly contributor to The Advocate, the Idaho State Bar’s monthly publication. After law school, Professor Fordyce-Ruff clerked for the Honorable Joel D. Horton in the Fourth Judicial District, in Boise, Idaho. She then clerked for Justice Roger S. Burdick of the Idaho Supreme Court. Professor Fordyce-Ruff has served as a partner in two Boise law firms. She received her bachelor of arts in international studies from the University of Wyoming in 1999. She received her juris doctor from University of Oregon, School of Law in 2004. Professor Fordyce-Ruff served as the managing editor of the Oregon Law Review from 2003 to 2004.
OCTOBER 8, 2012
Concordia University was named to the 2013 Military Friendly Schools list. The list honors the top 15 percent of higher education institutions in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military students and ensure their success on campus.

PHILLIP GRAGG
DIRECTOR, LAW LIBRARY

As director of the law library, Phillip Gragg provides leadership in designing, implementing, assessing, and managing the George R. White Law Library. Mr. Gragg comes to Concordia from Louisiana State University’s Paul M. Herbert Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he served as the associate director for public health services and as an adjunct professor of legal research. He previously served as reference and faculty services librarian at Louisiana State. While in law school, Mr. Gragg served as a judicial clerk for Iowa’s 8th District. Mr. Gragg received his bachelor of science in anthropology from the University of California, Riverside in 2001. He was awarded his juris doctor in 2004 from the University of Iowa, College of Law. In 2006, Mr. Gragg furthered his education, receiving a master of information and library science from the University of Arizona. While pursuing his master’s degree, Mr. Gragg served as law library fellow at the University of Arizona, College of Law.

CHAD DEVEAUX
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Chad DeVaux comes to Concordia after spending the past three years as an assistant professor at Western State University, College of Law, in Fullerton, California. At Western State, Professor DeVaux taught civil procedure, criminal procedure, and contracts. Prior to becoming a law professor, he practiced law for seven years, most recently at the San Francisco office of the international firm DLA Piper. There, he worked on both civil and criminal litigation and appellate work. Professor DeVaux was on the winning side of published decisions in cases involving the First Amendment, the dormant commerce clause, administrative law, housing rights, and the separation of powers. He received his bachelor of arts in political science, cum laude, from Bowling Green State University in 1997. He was awarded his juris doctor, summa cum laude, from Notre Dame Law School in 2001. In 2008, Professor DeVaux earned his master of laws degree from Harvard.

NING HAN
TECHNICAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Before becoming the technical services librarian at the George R. White Law Library at Concordia, Ms. Han was the serials librarian and an assistant professor at Mitchell Memorial Libraries at Mississippi State University. Ms. Han also served as the subject bibliographer/outreach liaison for the department of physics and astronomy, as well as the department of math and statistics. Prior to her work at Mississippi State, Ms. Han served as a graduate assistant at Middleton Libraries at Louisiana State University where she performed complex copy cataloging for serials and monographs according to AACR2, LCRIs, CONSER guidelines. Ms. Han received her bachelor of laws from Guizhou University for Nationalities, School of Law in China. In addition, she earned her master of laws at
Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2008 and her master of library and information science in 2010.

KERRY LOHMEIER
PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Kerry Lohmeier serves as the public services librarian at the George R. White Law Library at Concordia University’s School of Law. Prior to 2012, she served as an associate trial attorney for the Sixth Judicial District Attorney in Deming, New Mexico, where she represented the State of New Mexico in misdemeanor and felony prosecutions in magistrate and district courts. Prior to her work in New Mexico, Ms. Lohmeier was an employment advisor at Access JobLink AmeriCorps in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. In this position, she developed and conducted education and outreach activities pertaining to the job search, including weekly programming at three area libraries. Ms. Lohmeier received her bachelor of science in 2003 from Iowa State University, and her juris doctor from the University of Iowa School of Law in 2008. Most recently, Ms. Lohmeier earned her master of science in information sciences from the University of Tennessee in 2012.

Three Oregon Governors Attend Second Annual Atiyeh Awards

Three Oregon Governors – Atiyeh, Kulongoski and Kitzhaber – and 600 attendees filled the Kridel Grand Ballroom at the Portland Art Museum on February 5 to raise funds for student scholarships to Concordia University.

The second annual Concordia University Governor Victor Atiyeh Leadership in Education Awards, presented by HotChalk Inc, recognized two honorees – Ken Thrasher and the late Dick Alexander – for their leadership in early childhood education in Oregon.

Keynote speaker Salman Khan shared his story of founding and growing Khan Academy to now seven million monthly users. He emphasized its mission to provide "A free world class education for anyone anywhere," and closed the event by stating his view that "Education should be a right, like drinking water."

This year’s 2013 Atiyeh Scholars include the following 16 Concordia University students: Anab Abdirahman, Temari Asazuki, Scott Cozza, Marcie Fitzgerald, Megan Haug, Emmanuel Henreid, Feliza Lopez-Sanchez, Shannon Mackaben, Jennifer McDonnell, Danetta Monk, Damien Ntawumpora, Sable Phillipi, Yuki Rutherford, Naiby Tejero, Angela Tsoumas, and Leily Villela.

Read more in the next issue of the Connection.
Mentorship Program Helps Law Students and Lawyers Connect

The similarities between the two women are striking. They both run marathons, both own small businesses, and both achieved their goal of attending law school at a private university by going to school part-time while juggling the demands of full-time life. The differences between them lie mostly in titles and experience. One is the student, the other her mentor. And thanks to the Legacy Mentorship Program at Concordia University School of Law, the two have been brought together for the betterment of both.

“It’s a huge priority at Concordia University School of Law to make sure that we are part of the community – not just the legal community, but the broader community,” says Kate Haas, a part-time law school student and the managing partner at Kestrel West, a public relations and political strategy firm. “I think this program embodies that value.”

As a required part of the curriculum, the mentor initiative pairs each law student with a practicing lawyer or judge to offer insight into how what’s learned in the classroom can be applied to the real world.

Susan Veltman, a workers’ compensation attorney and principal at Breen Veltman Wilson PLLC, is Kate’s mentor. She signed on as a Concordia Law mentor after an Idaho Women Lawyers event that discussed the need to promote roles for women in leadership.

“Dean Silak is such a great role model, and Concordia has an exciting new vision,” notes Veltman. “Relationships are at the core of any successful law practice. It can be easy to feel like an outsider when you’re new, and inroads to the community are important.”

Veltman was intrigued and surprised when she received Kate’s resume, which outlined a wealth of high-level experience in Washington D.C. working for the Idaho Congressional Delegation on Capitol Hill. Haas, in turn, discovered a new perspective into law through Veltman’s area of legal practice, which offers a balance between transactional law and interacting with people.

“This is part of the excitement and adventure of law school, discovering what area of law I am passionate about. My career has intersected with law, but only from the policy making side. I was always interested in law school but never had the right opportunity,” says Haas. “I knew I wanted to move back west for the great quality of life. The part-time program at Concordia was the perfect marriage of desire and opportunity.”

“The more I learn in law, the less I know,” says Veltman. “I learn as much from Kate as she does from me. We both have inside experience and are running businesses. We may call each other and ask for advice.” In this mentorship, both parties involved have found a mutual respect and friendship to build on.
Exciting Changes to the Concordia School of Management Ring in The New Year

In ancient Rome, Janus was the god of beginnings and endings. His image is often shown with two faces – one looking forward and one looking backward. In the modern world, his name serves as the impetus for the month of January, a time for reflecting on what has come and looking forward to what lies ahead. As we begin a new year and a new semester, the story of Janus takes on special meaning here at Concordia. We bid farewell to long-time School of Management Dean Dr. Steve Braun and welcome our new Dean, Dr. Candace Petersen.

Braun Becomes Dean Emeritus

During his more than 25 years of dedicated leadership and service, Dr. Steve Braun has exemplified Concordia’s mission. He has served two separate terms as dean, as well as serving as executive director of the Concordia University Foundation and as a member of the university’s Board of Regents. His tenure as dean of Concordia’s School of Management is marked by significant program expansion, including the addition of the MBA China Experience and the expansion of the MBA program to include Bend, Oregon, among other milestones.

In his new role as dean emeritus, Dr. Braun will continue to teach and oversee transition of the MBA program. He will also continue to provide a pivotal role in the school’s ongoing accreditation – both professional and regional.

Petersen Introduced as New School of Management Dean

Dr. Candace Petersen began her position as dean of the School of Management in August of 2012. Dr. Petersen’s experience as a top executive, educator, and leader in online learning will help provide Concordia students with expanded opportunities as the university’s business programs continue to grow. “Dean Petersen’s experience positions Concordia’s School of Management for continued Lutheran liberal arts excellence,” said Concordia President Charles Schlimpert.

Most recently, Dr. Petersen served as president and COO of Learning.com, providing leadership and oversight as the company made key acquisitions and doubled in size over a five-year period. Prior to that, she was vice president of marketing and chief strategy officer at InFocus Corporation. Dr. Petersen earned her MBA and PhD in System Science from Portland State University, and her bachelor’s degree in math and economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Congratulations to both Dr. Braun and Dr. Petersen. Thanks to these two leaders, the Concordia University School of Management has become – and will continue to be – home to one of the region’s preeminent business programs.
Changes and Updates to Concordia Faculty

As a growing and thriving university, Concordia is pleased to announce several additions, changes and updates to our educational faculty. For those who have changed positions or updated titles, congratulations! For those who are new to the Concordia family, welcome!

REBECCA BOEHNE
NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR OF NURSING

Rebecca Boehne joined Concordia University in 2012 as the Director of the Baccalaureate Nursing Program. Before coming here, she taught nursing for 12 years at Linfield College, where she co-authored a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant that helped build the Hispanic nursing workforce in Oregon. She also served on the School of Nursing faculty at Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Boehne’s clinical experience is in critical care and emergency nursing — primarily with the Veterans Administration. She is especially proud to have worked with veterans throughout her nursing career and has received several awards for her work. In addition, she is a peer reviewer for the American Journal of Critical Care. Along with the entire nursing faculty, Dr. Boehne is currently working toward achieving national accreditation for the Concordia nursing program.

JULIE DODGE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Julie Dodge has worked at Concordia University as part-time faculty for the College of Health & Human Services since 1996. She became a full-time assistant professor in July 2012. She teaches a variety of social work practice courses, as well as the chemical dependency and addictive behaviors course. As the founder of Resilient LLC, Ms. Dodge provides training, program development, and grant writing services to public and non-profit organizations. Prior to her consulting work, she served at LifeWorks NW for almost 12 years as the service director for Prevention and Youth Addiction Services. Ms. Dodge was the executive director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Agency in Long Beach, CA, from 1990-1994. Passionate about international work, Ms. Dodge has partnered with a church in Nicaragua to address children’s education, hunger relief, micro-finance, and small business development. She has also led student trips to Central America.

ALAIN GRACIANETTE
MARKETING PROFESSOR

Alain Gracianette comes to us from Marylhurst University where he was the chair of the MBA Department since 2002. He has taught courses ranging from strategic planning and international marketing to business in China,
strategic leadership in sustainable management and marketing, and Capstone/final project. Mr. Gracianette has three decades of business experience spanning multiple industries, including printing, advertising, direct marketing, sporting goods, hi-tech, and clinical research. He has held a variety of management positions, working for both small and global companies. He is currently a member of the Saint-Vincent de Paul Society and enjoys reading, sports, gardening, and cooking. He has traveled to 16 countries, both for business and pleasure.

Stephanie Murphy joined the College of Education in 2010 as assistant director of the MAT Program, and she now serves as the director. She oversees the Portland and Medford MAT programs, as well as assisting teacher candidates in pursuing their goal of becoming licensed teachers. She received her undergraduate degree in journalism and communications from the University of Florida and her MAT degree from Concordia-Portland. Ms. Murphy’s teaching background is in middle and high school language arts, with a focus on working with disenfranchised and at-risk youth. Apart from teaching, she has spent time mentoring foster children and volunteering within her community. The daughter of a career Army officer, Ms. Murphy has moved frequently and traveled extensively throughout her life. She credits this lifestyle with giving her a global and cultural awareness that she now fosters in her own students.

New Concordia Alumni Grant: 20% Off Tuition

Concordia University-Portland alumni qualify for a special Concordia Alumni Grant equal to 20% off tuition on most graduate programs. This grant applies exclusively to programs offered on campus or online by Concordia University-Portland, including Master in Education, Teaching, Business Administration, and the Doctorate in Education. This grant is available to alumni graduating from any of the 10 Concordia University campuses who attend Concordia University-Portland, Oregon. Call 503-280-8501 or email admission@cu-portland.edu for further information about the new grant and a list for approved programs.
Why Concordia Lutheran

Why Concordia University School of Law?
What do Treasure Valley farmers, community-minded activists, love for God, a growing university in Portland, and barkdust have to do with a law school in Boise, Idaho? Read on for the full story.
Concordia University President Dr. Charles Schlimpert remembers a conversation that started during a van ride with a small group of board members. Sitting in the front seat, Schlimpert was lost in his own thoughts about potential property sites for his rapidly growing university when he first took notice of a discussion among some of the university trustees coming from the back of the van. “What’s this?” Schlimpert remembers thinking as the animated conversation about the potential for starting a law school in Boise, Idaho swelled around him. “A law school? Are you sure?”

That was 2007. In August of 2012, the Concordia University School of Law became a reality, welcoming an inaugural class of 73 and becoming the first institution within the Concordia 10-member system to open a law school. In fact, there are only two other law schools in the country associated with any Lutheran college or university.

Why Concordia University School of Law? Here’s some simple rationale.

- Preparing lawyers with Concordia’s values and commitment to community service fits the university’s mission of preparing leaders for the transformation of society.
- According to the university’s strategic plan, current growth into a premier, regional Lutheran university, opens the possibility of geographic expansion, as long as it fits the core mission.
- The Treasure Valley, in which the school of law resides, is one of the four largest metropolitan service areas in the country that didn’t have an American Bar Association-approved law school within 100-150 miles.
- The only other law school in Idaho is on the University of Idaho’s campus in Moscow. Yet nearly half the state’s lawyers and the state supreme court are 300 miles away in Boise.

According to Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, there is a theological rationale for establishing the school of law as well. Writing in his “Reflections on the Question of a Law School in Boise, Idaho” (February 4, 2008), Nafzger says that the key consideration in undertaking this law school “will have to be answered primarily on the basis of human reason, ‘the queen of the earth’ as Luther refers to it, and not on the basis of Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, or the two kingdoms doctrine, but by those who have been entrusted with making such decisions by Concordia and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.”

Concordia University has a history with Idaho – from the students who enroll here to the farmers who provided food to the Portland campus from the 1940s through the early ‘80s. The school of law is a natural extension of that history.
“Human reason tells us, it seems to me, that the opportunity to sponsor a Law School in Boise, based on positive responses to a whole host of other questions for which the church as God’s kingdom has no special insights, offers, nevertheless, a marvelous opportunity for the LCMS to model the Lutheran understanding of the relationship which exists between church and state in a concrete, positive way…”  

Once the university’s Board of Regents authorized Schlimpert to move forward with preliminary planning for the school, a search was undertaken to identify the founding dean. To lead this unique opportunity, Schlimpert turned to Cathy Silak, a woman of immense stature in Idaho’s legal circles.

A graduate of New York University in French literature and sociology, with a master’s degree in city planning from Harvard University, Silak also studied law at the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Virginia. A former partner at Hawley Troxel Ennis and Hawley LLP, Silak became the first woman appointed to the Idaho Court of Appeals in 1990. In 1993, she was appointed by Governor Cecil Andrus to the Idaho Supreme Court. Following her career on the Court, Silak returned to her partnership and later served as president of the Idaho Women Lawyers, Inc. and CEO of the Idaho Community Foundation. Her appointment as the founding dean of Concordia Law began December 15, 2008.

In 2010, Silak received the Distinguished Lawyer Award from the Idaho State Bar Association. This honor recognizes attorneys “who have demonstrated exemplary conduct and service to the profession and to Idaho citizens.”

To assist her in the formation and development of the School of Law, Silak recruited a 24-member Dean’s Advisory Council, chaired by Richard C. Fields. Fields, a partner at Moffatt Thomas Barrett Rock & Fields, CHTD, has more than 45 years of experience in litigation and dispute resolution.

Construction of the School of Law facility was completed in October of 2011. Inaugural classes began on August 27, 2012. The university celebrated the dedication of the School of Law this past October.

As Nafzger noted at the outset of this five-year journey, “And dare I say it, if I were giving advice to those making the decision to whom the opportunity to sponsor a law school in Boise should be given, it would seem to me that, once again, assuming positive responses to a whole host of other questions were present, it would certainly make sense to give this opportunity to an institution which has a clear understanding of the limits and boundaries between church and state as do Lutherans.”

Let the people say, “Amen.”
God Has a Bigger Shovel

George R. White’s belief that every person can make a difference helped propel Concordia University from a college serving 300 students in the early 1980s to a master’s level university with a law school, serving more than 3,000 students around the world today.

George has been a catalytic force for good, benefiting Concordia students and the entire community with his modeling of transformational leadership. You can see it in the George R. White Law Library in Boise, Idaho and the George R. White Library & Learning Center in Portland, Oregon. And you can hear it in the beautiful L. Geraldine White campanile chiming hourly on the Portland campus.

The youngest of five children, George grew up in New Plymouth, Idaho in the 1920s. After school, George would make the rounds about town, following the horseshoe-shaped main road past the blacksmith and the bakery to the place he spent his afternoons – helping out with the family business, White Hardware & Implement Company, founded by his father, Roy.

At an early age, George learned the importance of dedication and hard work. His years in the family business translated into managing the bark division at Boise Cascade, followed by the founding of his own company, National Bark Co., that mills, packages, sells, and distributes “bark in a bag.” Now at age 93, George still keeps office hours at his business.

“Work ethic is an integral part of who George is,” says Fred Bagley, a fellow Boise businessman and friend. Cleaning typewriters in order to work his way through business school, investing carefully, and recording every penny by hand on his business ledger, George knows how to make money work for him – and for the benefit of others.

George’s nephew and current Concordia University School of Law Dean’s Advisory Board member, Terry White, admires his uncle’s hard-working, independent, business-savvy qualities, while emphasizing that they come hand-in-hand with “a strong set of values that inspire him to leave the world a better place.”

“He feels God has blessed him,” adds his daughter Barbara. “He’s always said that ‘God has a bigger shovel than you do, and, when God gives more, then you give more.’” Barbara added that he always enjoyed working hard and giving gifts, yet always did so modestly.

One of George’s most distinguishing trademarks is that he always wears a suit. He often recounts the childhood story that instilled this habit. As a young boy, his father took him on the all-day journey,
by horse and buggy, from New Plymouth into Boise to conduct business. There, George was taken into Alexander’s Men’s Store and fitted for a suit by the tailor. He was taught that his appearance should reflect his work ethic, a lesson he took to heart. And with that, George has worn a business suit every day since.

Work aside, George has always enjoyed music and sports, particularly baseball. He and his late wife, Geri, to whom the campanile on the Portland campus is dedicated, took notice of each other in high school. Both took part in musical performances at New Plymouth High School. One thing led to another and, following his service in the Navy during World War II, the two were married, attended Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boise, started a family, and celebrated 70 years of marriage together.

Meeting with George was among the first priorities of Concordia’s fourth president, Dr. Charles Schlimpert, upon accepting his call to serve Concordia in 1983. A long-term relationship bloomed where George served on the Concordia University Foundation Board of Directors. He also served three terms on the Board of Regents, holding roles as chairman and vice president. In 2008, George received an honorary doctor of laws from Concordia and continues to serve as an emeritus board member.

Continuing the White family’s commitment to education, service, and the region, George’s grandson-nephew, Dr. Andrew White, currently serves as regent and a member of the foundation board at Concordia.

George White is a testament to the adage that one person really can make a difference. And while God may have the biggest shovel of all, George White isn’t far behind.
Southern Idaho’s Long Legacy of Support

Magic Valley and Treasure Valley in southern Idaho are both known for their rich agricultural bounty – orchards full of peaches, apricots, plums, and pears…and crops of pickles, beets, beans, and other vegetables. And, of course, the potatoes Idaho is famous for. In the 1940s, well before Interstate 84 was built, Highway 30 was the main route across southern Idaho into Oregon. Even though road access was limited, love for God, dedication to the Church, and commitment to Concordia moved the Lutheran farmers of the Magic and Treasure Valleys to share a portion of their crops to help feed Concordia’s students in Portland. Back then, there was no Sodexo or contracted food service. Concordia had its own cook and kitchen staff who served meals “family style.” So the generous gift of food provided by the Idaho farmers saved the university thousands of dollars and kept food costs very low.

From that first run in the early 1940s, a tradition was born. Every year on the day after Thanksgiving, Lutheran farmers from the tiny farm communities between Rupert and Buhl in the Magic Valley would bring their gifts of food to Memorial Lutheran School (now called Immanuel Lutheran School) in Twin Falls. Martens, Meyer, Holtzen, Thaete, Schwarz, Jones, Martin, Pastoor, and Huettig are just some of the family names involved in this project, sponsored by the Lutheran Layman’s League (LLL). Trucks were loaded with five tons each of potatoes, vegetables, frozen beef, canned fruit, and jam.

Trucks would then wind their way from Twin Falls and the Magic Valley to Leonard Tiegs’ farm in the Treasure Valley. The Tiegs family, Betty Lubcke, and other members of Zion Lutheran Church in Nampa collected half-gallon jars to can vegetables, fruits, and pickles. A canning plant in Nampa did the canning for free. During World War II, Leonard had extra gas and tire rations which enabled him, his son Harold, and farm-hand Jim Dodd to add their truck to the caravan delivering food. Immanuel Lutheran Church’s 1954 annual report notes that the LLL collected about 7 tons of food to feed Concordia’s students.

The tradition of sharing a portion of their crops with Concordia finally came to an end in 1983 as federal regulations made such gifts much more difficult to give. The food truck caravans may have ended, but the Lutheran farmers of the Magic and Treasure Valleys still have a deep and abiding love for God, the Church, and Concordia.
Lutheran theology not only shapes liberal arts education at the Portland campus, it also shapes legal education at Concordia University’s School of Law in Boise, ID. In addition to providing a place for worship and devotional reflection, the law school’s chapel also gives visible witness to the way Lutheran theology shapes legal education at Concordia.

The cross and altar remind us that God in Christ invites us into relationship with Him and calls us to love our neighbors as we have been loved by Christ. The green altar cloth illustrates the breadth of the Idaho community to be loved and served by the law school and its graduates.

The red altar cloth depicts both the Ten Commandments and the burning bush of Exodus. These represent the foundation of our judicial system and the symbol of God’s call to servant leadership. The law school prepares its students for a life of vocation and servant leadership.

The purple altar cloth, used during Lent, has a crown of thorns representing Christ’s suffering, a bag of money signifying Judas’ betrayal, a rooster representing Peter’s denial of Christ, and the three crosses of Calvary. The law school prepares its students to serve people impacted by the suffering caused by sin and brokenness in our world – the very sin and brokenness for which Christ died.

The blue altar cloth features the four candles of an Advent wreath, as well as a manger and a star, symbols of Christ’s birth. Together, they signal God’s promise fulfilled. The law school prepares its students, empowered by the Gospel of Christ, to bring hope and truth to the needs of their clients.

The white altar cloth, used for Christmas and Easter, depicts the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove centered in the cross which symbolizes Christ our Savior. In John 14, Jesus gives the Holy Spirit as our Advocate. The Law School prepares its students to serve as advocates for their clients, empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring the light of the truth to bear for the sake of their clients.

Concordia is so thankful for Grace Lutheran Church in Pocatello, ID, Rev. Jonathan and Mrs. Teresa Dinger, and Living Savior Lutheran Church in Tualatin, OR, whose gifts made possible these wonderful chapel appointments. The university also gratefully acknowledges the work of textile artist Laurie Bredehoft in creating the altar cloths that are true works of art. Finally, Concordia is so grateful for the enthusiastic support and partnership in ministry from the pastors in southern Idaho who have been eager to serve the ministry needs of our law school.
What’s new in your life?
Stay in touch and keep us posted on all of your news... new baby, new job, new spouse, new house, great vacation, milestone anniversaries, or recent retirement? Send us an e-mail and give us the update on what’s happening in your life. Feel free to include photos, especially high-resolution (300 dpi) wedding and baby pictures:

EMAIL: alumni@cu-portland.edu

Or send mail to Alumni Notes, 2811 NE Holman Street, Portland, OR 97211

1974
Shari (Tait) Altree, HS says, “I am pleased to have come back to the fold and am happily spending my days on the beautiful CU campus as director of marketing.”

Over the last 20 years, Shari has been busy running her advertising and marketing agency. It has been a rewarding effort that has presented incredible business opportunities across the U.S. She has been happily married for 23 years and has two children, both in college. When she’s not busy with viewbooks, postcards, web sites, and marketing plans, Shari’s passion is serving vulnerable populations in Kenya. Along with three others, she has opened a school in a remote and desperate slum near Thika, Kenya where food and instruction is provided daily. Shari’s program, Ameena Project, is actively developing opportunities for women and children with the hopes of expansion over the next year. Visit ameenaproject.org for more information.

1979
John and Nikki (Ruff) King met at Concordia in 1977 during their third day on campus. Nikki was a resident in lower South Hall and John lived in upper South Hall. They married two years later and presently celebrate 33 years together. The King family consists of Linda, age 32, Tanya, age 28, and Eli, age 16.

1983
Cindy (Newkirk) Steinbeck launched Steinbeck Vineyards & Winery with her parents Howie and Bev Steinbeck in 2006. They produce 1,000 cases of wine annually from their estate vineyards in Paso Robles, California. Cindy travels extensively, selling wine and speaking at retreats and conventions. She currently serves on the Board of Regents for Concordia University Irvine.

1986
Cheryl Anglin relocated to Northern Maine in December 2011 after living and teaching in Los Angeles, California for nearly 25 years. She currently teaches for Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) in their Early Head Start Program at the Caribou Center. “Living in Northern Maine is a wonderful change of pace from living in Los Angeles,” says Cheryl.

1988
Doug Williams is a national account executive with Saia LTL Freight and has held various management roles with the company for the past 23 years in Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. Doug and his wife, Caryn, live in Camas, Washington and have two children, daughter Courtney, age 18, and son Carson, age 12.
Koty Zelinka Cole is currently in her 14th year teaching language arts at Portland Lutheran High School. Her work includes creative writing instruction as well as college counseling. Koty values the hands-on experience she received in early field experiences while studying secondary education at Concordia.

Dr. Michael A. Thomas, professor of humanities and theology, served this fall semester as the visiting faculty member for the AHA International Studies program in Siena, Italy. He was joined by sixteen students from eight different universities; four students came from Concordia. He taught two courses: Apostles, Martyrs, Emperors, and Popes: Christianity in Italy from Christ to the Reformation & Emperors, Slaves, Gladiators, and Centurions: The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire. While he teaches similar courses at Concordia, they took on a much different context in Tuscany. Enhanced by more than a dozen excursions to Tuscan hill towns such as San Gimignano and Montepulciano, Renaissance cities like Florence and Pienza, and the Christian sites connected to Sts. Peter, Paul, Catherine of Siena, and Francis of Assisi which included Rome, the Eternal City, the courses came alive as the students walked through churches, monasteries, piazzas, and the ruins of the Roman Empire. In addition to teaching, Dr. Thomas was also a student in Italy. He worked on increasing his fluency in Italian and took an Art History course on the Renaissance Masters alongside his students. However, two highlights of this semester abroad stand out. The first is that he undertook this adventure with his 13 year-old-son who learned Italian rapidly and mastered the back alley passages through the medieval, walled city on his way to school. The other is that he really got to know the students in the program. Each Wednesday they gathered together for “family night.” Opening the kitchens of the three adjacent apartments, all the students gathered together to cook and share an elaborate meal. Utilizing the knowledge gained in their Tuscan cooking class, a competition ensued each week to see who could cook the best dish. “It was a wonderful way to get to know the students and to share time together outside of the classroom!”

Cody ’06 and Anna (Leek) Lail ’04, Marty ’06 and Anna Welch, Michael ’07 and Carol (Vitale) DeDominick ’05, and Eric ’06 and Charlotte (May) Bohlmann ’05 still gather at least once a year to celebrate and catch up on life. It has been fun over the years for this group of friends who have enjoyed staying in touch and watching each other’s families grow.

Christian Graham is the vice president of marketing for Globe Tax Services, Inc. in New York.

Don Sunde and his wife Anne-Marie are proud to announce Don’s graduation with honors from Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine – Arizona on May 31, 2012. Don would like to thank the entire Concordia University College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences (CTAS) faculty for their exceptional education, support, and love. He and Anne-Marie will continue to carry on the mission to transform society as Don participates in a one year residency with the Northwest Dental Residency Program working out of the Yakima Union Gospel Mission Clinic.
Luis Garcia, a 2006 graduate from Concordia University, believes in the genuine strength of lifelong partnerships. Taking the Concordia mission to heart, he honors its principles, well aware of the impact it has had on his life and career.

“I can honestly say that I try to live my life by honoring our university’s mission. I don’t view our mission as a pretty marketing catch phrase that helps recruit students to the university. Rather, I view it as a partnership between our professors, administrators, and students.”

An immigrant child from a family of ten, Luis is thankful for the people who have helped him become the person he is today. When he was an undergrad, Luis was a standout forward and midfielder on the Concordia men’s soccer team, earning NAIA All-American honors for three years. In the classroom, Luis took on the challenge of being an English major, working double-time to overcome the language barrier. It was during this time that he sought out the mentorship of Dr. Daniel Wright for motivation and connection. Dr. Wright found an unlikely solution to help Spanish-speaking Luis reach his goals – Concordia’s Shakespeare Authorship Research Centre. “Luis was a remarkable student. He was especially gifted in Shakespearean studies,” Dr. Wright, professor and director of the centre, says of Garcia. Through studying authors and plays, Luis discovered many themes he now identifies with, especially those with legal undertones.

Luis combined his degree in English and his passion for the legal system as a springboard to become a law student. Thanks to the strong foundation he received at Concordia, Luis enrolled at the University of Oregon School of Law, where he received his juris doctor in 2009. Now in his third year at the well-known law firm, Stoel Rives LLP, Luis has never forgotten his immigrant roots – or the lessons he learned at Concordia.

As a result, he is involved in mentoring disadvantaged kids here in Portland. Luis volunteers with nonprofit groups, such as Friends of the Children, “to help them achieve their dreams the way so many people have helped me achieve mine.” Garcia hopes to further his community involvement with future plans to assist underrepresented individuals gain access to justice.

As a member of the Concordia Foundation Board of Directors, Luis truly values continuing his relationships and service at Concordia. He states...

“Our board is composed of individuals who are truly invested and passionate about making Concordia a model university. Working with people that truly care about what they do is inspiring.”

Image at top - left to right: Nick Caleb ’06 and Travis Morrow ’07 with Luis Garcia’07.
Image at bottom - Garcia as a student.
2004

Aubrey Richardson, Concordia alum and current Concordia Law student, won the CALI award for Civil Procedure during the first semester of her first year. The CALI Excellence for the Future Awards program recognizes excellence in achievement by law students in their studies. The award is given to the student with the highest grade in the class as determined by the instructor or registrar.

2005

Amanda Larsen has accepted a new teaching position in the math department at Corbett High School, Corbett, Oregon, where she worked as a student teacher.

2007

Jen Hughes, a 2007 Women’s soccer alumnus, is in her second year of medical school at the University of Vermont. She confirms, “Concordia University Soccer will always and forever have a huge chunk of my heart and so I’ll always be a strong supporter.”

2008

Alicia Gross has been working at the Providence Acute Rehabilitation Center since 2008. In 2010, she became a certified rehabilitation registered nurse. She is currently the nurse safe patient handling representative on her unit and trains all nursing staff and students on safe patient transfers and mobility. Alicia has also taught as a clinical instructor for the Concordia Nursing program. She is recently engaged.

Angela (Robison) Guillory and Brian Guillory welcomed their second son, Zachary, on November 17, 2012.

Tim Hays (formerly Tim Fox) teaches at Rock Creek Middle School in Happy Valley, Oregon, and was one of 123 teachers selected for the national teaching “Dream Team.” Tim flew to Atlanta for a three-day “TeachFest,” where the teachers on the dream team created more than 2,000 online lessons to be used by students and teachers across the country. All of the lessons meet new common core state standards soon to be adopted in Oregon. Tim, along with another teacher from Springfield, Oregon, were chosen to participate in the program hosted by LearnZillion, an online platform for video teaching lessons and sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

2009

Gina Easley is a lead nurse at the Parry Center for Children in Portland, Oregon.

Adrienne Hagen, a 2009 women’s soccer alum, is the program director at the Joseph Pfeifer Kiwanis Camp in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her experience at Pfeifer Camp has been “truly awesome.” She describes the residential camp for at-risk third through fifth graders as being a place for students to focus on academic growth, social awareness, and self-esteem. While at camp, they spend time learning in a one-room school house atmosphere, go camping once a week, and work at getting along with their cabin mates. For two years, Adrienne was a counselor and team leader. This year, she celebrates her service in this one-of-a-kind program as the program director.

2010

Whitney Greenidge has been teaching fourth grade at Hayhurst Elementary for three years. Whitney continues to apply the skills, lessons, and resources gained from initial experiences at Concordia to develop her current curriculum, still in use and redeveloped today.
LaDonna Seele says, “I have had an incredible two years at DaVita Dialysis Center in California.” LaDonna started out as a staff nurse, moved into a charge nurse position, and within a year became an administrator of her own clinic that is now expanding from 13 to 20 chairs. She goes on to say, “I love the opportunity that this great company has offered, including a wonderful financial award that was applied to my student loan.”

Ashley Watson graduated in May 2010 and immediately started in the Emergency Room at Portland Providence. “It’s busy and exciting which is perfect for my personality.” She serves on the Pediatric Care Committee and met her boyfriend of over two years, who is also an ER nurse, at Providence.

2011

Connie Lynn Spieler Compton is currently teaching as a substitute for Portland Public Schools and the Archdiocese of Portland. Since graduation, she has been a substitute for Head Start in all grades K-8 in language arts and social sciences, PE, music, reading, English as a second language, and special education at Alameda, Woodlawn, and Jason Lee. Connie has utilized all aspects of her education, from planning to peer support – certain that once she has her own classroom, her success will be because of the education, support, and confidence she gained while at Concordia.

James Mack Ensley is in his second year teaching math at Fort Vancouver High School in Vancouver, Washington. He teaches pre-algebra and pre-calculus to grades 9-12. James benefitted from student teaching at two very different schools during his practicum at Concordia. He gained diverse knowledge with regards to teaching style and classroom management strategy.

Marisa Hirata celebrates her first year teaching third graders at Alameda Elementary. She values the Concordia education program for many reasons. Her access to resources and materials refined her understanding of benchmarks and standards as well as teaching lessons, planning, and obtaining feedback for lesson effectiveness.

Brady Miletich turned his marketing degree from Concordia into a job with the Portland Winterhawks Hockey Club, working as a Group Account Manager to help facilitate large groups coming to games throughout the season. “My time at Concordia not only prepared me with the knowledge I needed to succeed, but the networking skills and connections that helped me get my first job.” Brady married his wife, Kati, in August 2012 and lives in Vancouver, Washington with their greyhound “Gandalf.”

Rob Richards works at the Vidadent Medical Center in Greenville, North Carolina.

2012

Courtney Alexander moved to Montana with her long-time boyfriend, Kevin, (and dog) after graduation. She started work at the Billings Clinic this past October where she works in the ICU following a three month orientation.

Megan Cumley is currently working for Oregon Reproductive in Portland, Oregon.

Cari Few is working in labor and delivery at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura, California.

Emma Napier recently landed a position at a senior nursing facility and has been training for all positions, including admission nurse. She has had a wonderful experience and has learned a great deal in a short period of time. Her goal is to take as much away from the experience as possible, while maintaining her goal to work in long term care.

Kimber Nelson just accepted her dream job at the OHSU Richmond Clinic, with its ideal setting and services. The Richmond Clinic focuses on underserved populations and just became a federally qualified health center with a well-established patient-centered medical home model. Kimber serves as the RN for one of four care teams and is responsible for case management and education of patients with chronic illnesses, plus some triage/advice, nurse visits, and helping with nurse tasks such as IVs. Since Richmond is a part of OHSU, they have access to all of the resources of a big institution and are focused on teaching and innovation. Kimber would like to thank family, friends, and Concordia “for all of the assistance and encouragement along the way!”

Amy (Gilchrist) Phillips is currently employed at Sunset Pediatrics in Portland, Oregon.

Catherine Young is working at South Tabor Family Physicians, and loving every second of it. She says, “Being in a clinic is so much different than the hospital setting, so the learning curve is pretty much vertical.”
In Memoriam

Michele Renate (Brown) Mason ’58 passed away on Friday, August 31, 2012. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Mason, who is a theology instructor in the College of Theology, Arts, & Science. Michele, an alumnus of Concordia, spoke fondly of her time as a student. She was also a talented musician and a gifted teacher.

John Burgess passed away on July 23, 2012. He was an entrepreneurial, energetic, and effective faculty member at Concordia who started his work in the 1980s. He was a marketing professor, highly valued colleague, and first director of the bachelor of science in business degree completion program (ADP). The business ADP program was significant and integral to Concordia’s success and growth in the 1980s and 1990s. After his retirement, John continued to be a good friend and advocate for the university. He will be missed by his family, his church, and the Concordia community.

Helen Laura (Leupke) Iben passed away on February 2, 2013, at the age of 91. She is survived by her husband, Emeritus Pastor Harold Iben; son Rev. Douglas and his wife Carole; and daughters Sharon, and her husband, Rev. Erwin Wichner; Carolyn, and her husband, Jim Shore; Cynthia Keepers; and Sylvia Leupke-Iben; and by nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Helen served alongside her husband in five Lutheran congregations as they raised their five children. Harold’s call to do chaplaincy work brought them to Portland where Helen worked at Concordia University on the administrative staff. Following her retirement, she volunteered at a variety of local charities, including Snow Cap, Lutheran Community Services, and Loaves and Fishes.

Aubrey Richardson: Turning Concordia Culture into a Way of Life

When Aubrey Richardson’s family relocated to Boise, Idaho, because of her husband’s career, she decided to take advantage of an opportunity she longed to pursue. As luck would have it, her move coincided with the opening of the Concordia University School of Law. For Aubrey, it was a perfect fit — combining her passion for Concordia culture and her longtime desire to study law.

With a bachelor’s degree in elementary education, Aubrey was able to take the education and life skills she learned at Concordia and apply it in new directions — including marketing, business consulting, and training — ultimately becoming a real estate analyst and broker.

But beyond the first-rate education, what really stuck with Aubrey was the Concordia culture. “The faculty and students I developed relationships with at Concordia helped me form a moral compass that has allowed me to be of better service to my clients.” Aubrey traced her career successes back to Concordia, where she developed leadership skills, networking avenues, and the desire to reach out to the community.

So when considering becoming a part of Concordia’s inaugural law class in 2012, Aubrey felt a natural draw to the curriculum. “I immediately connected with the school’s pledge to provide a challenging, supportive learning environment, one which integrated faith, education, and civic engagement.” Recalling experiences she had as a student in Portland, Aubrey quickly realized that combining Concordia’s mission with a legal emphasis would impact her in a powerful way. Studying law would not only help with her career choices, but would further her commitment to serving the community. She confirms that Concordia’s emphasis on service has been a key factor in shaping her career path, no matter where that path may take her.

Aubrey was pleased to discover that even though she’s now far from her familiar Portland roots, she can still feel very much at home. With the new school located right across from the courthouse, she is quick to point out that Concordia Law School is following suit with what Concordia does best — putting students at the helm of leadership by integrating learning with real-world applications. “Boise is very much an extension of the campus in Portland, with a culture that puts students first in a collaborative environment.”
As a young girl growing up in Hawaii, Skyler Kamaka ’12 never felt like she quite fit in. When she was seven years old, she was diagnosed with dyslexia and was promptly pulled from her classroom and all sporting events as it was decided that she would “slow” the class down. In seventh grade, during a parent-teacher conference, her mother was informed that she would never be able to mingle and be part of the regular class. In middle school, she was the “end of the bench” kid, always called into the game last, if at all. And throughout high school, Skyler kept her dyslexia quiet, afraid that if she told anyone, these same stigmas would return.

FINDING SOLACE IN SPORTS

Despite the fact that she was deterred from playing sports, Skyler never gave up, eventually finding her niche as a volleyball player. And it was this sport that brought her to Concordia on a scholarship. “I immediately fell in love with the spirit of Concordia University,” she said. “Everyone was kind, loving, and the school was community based. I felt like I was home.”

While at Concordia, Skyler took an adaptive sports class from Dr. Joel Schuldheisz which struck home for her. “I believe that sports build life skills, and this course helped me find my passion for sports even more.”

Wanting to make sure no other child ever felt like she did, Skyler created Athletes Promoting Inclusion (API), an organization dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities play sports. During her years at Concordia, she recruited college and professional athletes to help. As a senior, she created the Hoops for Autism event, raising money for autism research in Oregon. She has shared the API model with other colleges and universities, including several schools in her native Hawaii. Her goal is as simple as it is powerful: “No child should be excluded from sports because of a disability.”

A CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

After completing her bachelor’s degree in exercise & sports science from Concordia, Skyler decided to continue on and complete her masters. But without the scholarship money she had from volleyball, grad school seemed out of reach. That’s when Skyler discovered the Miss Hawaii scholarship pageant. “I learned that if I ran for Miss Hawaii, I would qualify for a scholarship if I won. And deep down, I knew I could win.” Despite the fact that she had never been in a pageant before, Skyler was up to the challenge and determined to do her best. And in June of 2012, Skyler Kamaka was crowned “Miss Hawaii” and went on to compete in the Miss America pageant.

“The Hawaii Club (HC) gives students the opportunity to become involved with the community. When Skyler was a freshman, she was instrumental in getting the luau off the ground as she took charge of the event. As a sophomore, she became president of HC. Skyler is a strong reason why the club has grown from 15 members when she first became involved to more than 70 members today. She’s a strong leader with a genuine and generous heart.”

Julie Rowland, Professor of Mathematics, Hawaii Club Faculty Advisor

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Julie Rowland, Professor of Mathematics, Hawaii Club Faculty Advisor
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For further information and questions contact Prof. Metzler at 360-254-1874, or email nmetzler@cu-portland.edu.

**Departs November 2, 2013**
For Bob Hilken, a leader in establishing the Concordia University Foundation, “community” was the most important word in “Hilken Community Stadium.” Humility was a true hallmark in his long-term service to Concordia. When Bob passed away on January 15, 2013, he left more than an athletic complex bearing his name – he left an enduring legacy of family, faith, and community.

EVER THE BUSINESSMAN

Born on April 28, 1928 in Winona, Minnesota, Bob’s family moved to Portland, Oregon in the mid-1930s during the heart of the Great Depression. Business-minded from an early age, Bob attended Commerce High School, home of the mighty “Stenographers.” He calculated that Commerce High would point him in the right direction for business – and the three-to-one female-to-male ration wasn’t a bad draw, either.

During World War II, Bob served as an enlisted man in the Navy. Following the war, he attended Lewis & Clark College. It was here that he met his beloved Virginia, his wife of more than 60 years. In 1952, Bob graduated with a degree in business, then returned to service in the Korean War, this time as an officer. Shortly after that, he began his career in business – a career he was born to have.

A KNACK FOR HELPING

“There is nothing wrong with making money,” Bob Hilken would often say. He loved financial planning and loved helping people develop their financial plan. It’s no surprise, then, that he served as executive vice president at Morgan Stanley for 49 years. Bob prided himself in working in partnership with clients from all financial backgrounds, helping them achieve their financial goals.
FINDING HOME IN CONCORDIA

Throughout his life, Bob volunteered for the NW District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, serving on the Board of Directors and donating time to his church for a variety of causes. He was also a champion for Lutheran higher education – which is how he came to be associated with Concordia.

While Bob was proud of his Lewis & Clark alma mater, Concordia University was his school. Even though he was proud to be one of the founding members of the Concordia University Foundation – the fundraising, gift management, and alumni/parent/church relations arm of the school – he was the last person to ever mention it. Serving on the Concordia Foundation’s board of directors was something Bob would faithfully continue for more than 30 years.

“As a stock broker for over a half century with a remarkable gift for financial planning, Bob hung on every word uttered by our financial managers, and he was quick to share his opinion when he had a perspective to offer – which was usually right on the money, so to speak,” said Gary Withers, Concordia executive vice president, external affairs.

“Rick [Porter] is a very humble man. He puts high value on his open and honest relationship with the senior leadership team at Concordia. And he loves baseball!”

* Mike Madison, Concordia University Foundation

Catchers, Concrete, and Community:
The Story of Porter Park

What do libraries, elementary schools, and community centers have in common? They’re all high-use, landmark structures that require a high-level of experience and expertise to build. For Rick Porter, CEO and president of Union Corner Construction, it’s all in a day’s work. Rick and his crew are the team responsible for building the George R. White Library & Learning Center and the Hilken Community Stadium, both on Concordia’s Portland campus, as well as the Concordia University Throw Center and Concordia University School of Law in Boise. But for Rick, the project goes well beyond blueprints and bulldozers. “For Concordia, Rick is the perfect partner. Not only does he get projects done on time and under budget (a must when working with a university), but he also generously donates back to the very projects he helps create,” says Mike Madison, Concordia University Foundation development officer. “He really loves helping – especially when it benefits the greater community. His values are definitely in line with Concordia’s.” To honor Rick, and thank him for everything he has done for Concordia, naming the baseball field after him – a baseball field he built – seemed a perfect tribute. These days, when he’s not busy with work, you can often find Rick and his family enjoying a game at Porter Park. Batter up…
Headers, Hard Work, and Heart: The Story of Tuominen Yard

Jarkko Tuominen’s road to Concordia was a little longer than most. Born in the United States, Jarkko spent most of his childhood in Finland where he completed the mandatory military service required of all Finnish males. When his father, Jaako (a 1964 and 1968 Olympic track & field athlete for Finland) began working for NIKE in Beaverton, Oregon, Jarkko got a job at the NIKE employee store. That’s when he began playing in soccer leagues around Portland, where someone spotted him and told Concordia men’s soccer head coach Dan Birkey to check him out. Birkey would be forever glad he did, as Jarkko went on to become a three-time NAIA All-American at Concordia, amassing 50 career goals, 60 career assists, and 160 career points. Yet Jarkko’s mark on Concordia went beyond the soccer field. Following graduation in 1994, he got a full-time job at NIKE and promised his coach that he would soon have a NIKE sponsorship for the Cavaliers. Sure enough, as he worked his way up the ladder at NIKE he made good on his word. Then came September 23, 2005. Tragedy struck as Jarkko Tuominen died in an accidental fall while camping. While the accident ended Jarkko’s life, it did not end his impact on Concordia – nor the Concordia men’s soccer team on which he played. It was now the university’s turn to give back to Jarkko and the Tuominen family. So when the time came to decide on a name for the soccer pitch within Hilken Community Stadium, the choice was obvious. “Having Jarkko’s name on the stadium keeps his memory alive,” said his younger brother, Juha.

“Jarkko was an outstanding athlete who proved his dedication to Concordia during his time here as well as years after during his work with Nike. He is remembered as a respected leader and friend to many. Naming the soccer field Tuominen Yard is a statement to his pursuit of living life with character and zeal.”

* Dan Birkey, Head Coach, Concordia Men’s Soccer Team
A DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY

As a member of the finance committee in his later years, Bob cautiously treated every nickel for Concordia as if it was his own—and in many instances, it was. His decision to financially support the stadium project reflected both his passion for Concordia and the university’s more-recent dedication toward making community engagement an integral part of its mission. He loved the idea that Concordia, and particularly the students, served the community every day and in so many different ways. To him, it made the university’s “preparing leaders to transform society” mission come alive.

Along with his amazing gift to support the athletic complex, Bob also helped fund the Hilken Family Nursing Center, housed in the George R. White Library & Learning Center, and established the Hilken Family Endowment which provides scholarship support for students majoring in business administration. “Bob inspired us to always do our best work,” noted Withers. “He had the highest expectations for Concordia, and he was quick with a compliment as the university met new heights over the past few years.”

LIVING LIFE TO ITS FULLEST

When Bob wasn’t working, volunteering, or playing golf, he faithfully watched his grandchildren participate in their various sporting events, activities, and plays. Bob and Virginia enjoyed traveling and he would often document each stop with a photo album…or five. He created the foundation for Beaverton’s Care to Share, a network of west-side area churches that help meet the needs of the less fortunate. And in his down time, he was also a life-long philatelist, specializing in collecting stamps with images pertaining to Martin Luther or golf.

REMEMBERING THE REMARKABLE

For more than 30 years, Bob was a cornerstone of Concordia University—a “wise and revered senior statesman” as his fellow trustee Rich Baek often referred to him at meetings of Concordia’s Council of Trustees. So what did Bob Hilken mean to Concordia? Withers sums it up best, “His wisdom set us on an extraordinary course, and his generosity and humility set new standards. Bob’s legacy will last forever—just like he planned.”
If you hang around the Concordia University athletic department long enough, you will inevitably hear the phrase, "these are good problems to have."

Riding an unprecedented run in the Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) by winning four of the last five league All-Sports trophies, the Cavaliers have faced several unique challenges over the years in terms of multi-tasking various events simultaneously.

Recently, the "perfect storm" of these convergences took place the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving, as Concordia hosted four national championship events in a nine-hour span. The date was November 16, 2012. With staff members and student workers finishing up the men's and women's national championship cross country course in the dark of morning, work was in the home stretch for a pair of men's and women's national championship soccer matches that would take place later that day.

The women's 5,000-meter cross country race got started at 10:30 a.m., with the men's 8,000-meter race following at 11:45. More than 600 runners from across the country ran the course around the Fort Vancouver Historic Site in Vancouver, Washington. Both Concordia cross country teams finished in the top 20, with the women's team placing 16th, one spot ahead of the men's team.

Turning to the soccer pitch, the men's soccer team earned the 16th and final home playoff spot where they welcomed Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University out of Prescott, Arizona. Coming off a hard-fought win in the CCC title match against Evergreen State, the Cavs punched their ticket to the NAIA 'Sweet 16' where they would give the No. 1-ranked Lindsey Wilson College (Kentucky) Blue Raiders everything they could handle in a 2-1 defeat.

The Concordia women's soccer team, a year removed from advancing all the way to...
Cavaliers Score Big – as Teams and National Champions – During 2012 Fall Sports Season

The NAIA National Championship match, captured their 13th straight CCC title before escaping an NAIA Opening Round tilt against California State San Marcos by a score of 1-0 in overtime. From there, the Cavs, the No. 8 seed in the national tournament, recorded a 1-0 win against Cumberlands University (Tennessee).

The victory placed the Cavs into the quarterfinals of the women’s national championship for the ninth time in ten seasons, where they would suit up against four-time defending national champions from Lee University (Tennessee). Facing the team that ended Concordia’s season three of the last four years, including defeats in the NAIA title match in 2008 and 2011, the Cavaliers faced an early deficit before senior Jenna Peterson found the equalizer in the 56th minute of action. Lee, however, found the game-winner in the waning minutes to end Concordia’s season.

And while we didn’t host a national championship for volleyball, our up-and-coming volleyball team continued its climb in the conference standings.

Having a roster with no seniors, the Cavaliers played even with Southern Oregon University and College of Idaho – the league’s strongholds – en route to a fourth-place finish in the CCC standings. Earning an opening round home match, the Cavs dispatched Northwest Christian University before falling to the eventual conference tournament champion College of Idaho.

At the end of the season, a total of six Cavaliers earned All-American honors in the fall of 2012. Linsie Michels from women’s cross country, Jenna Peterson, Hannah Kimsey, and Tori Talbutt from women’s soccer, Septi Danciu from men’s soccer, and Lindsay Mangan from volleyball.

How Good are the Concordia Fall Teams?

Over the past four seasons, Concordia men’s soccer, women’s soccer, and volleyball teams have compiled a win/loss/tie record of 204-65-11, which translates to an impressive .742 winning percentage.

**MEN’S SOCCER:**
- 2009: 13-5-2
- 2010: 16-3-1
- 2011: 16-2-1
- 2012: 16-4-2
- **61-14-6 (.790)**

**WOMEN’S SOCCER:**
- 2009: 21-3-0
- 2010: 19-1-2
- 2011: 19-5-1
- 2012: 17-3-2
- **76-12-5 (.847)**

**Volleyball:**
- 2009: 16-10
- 2010: 19-9
- 2011: 15-10
- 2012: 17-10
- **67-39 (.632)**

And we haven’t forgotten about our awesome cross country teams. Both the men’s and the women’s teams placed inside the top 25 at the NAIA National Championships for the fifth straight year. Go Cavs!
It’s been said that God doesn’t give us more than we can handle. If that’s the case, Concordia volleyball player Melanie Miller must have very broad shoulders.

For starters, she is one of only a handful of people in Oregon who has Limited Systemic Sclerosis (LSS), an autoimmune disease that attacks the internal organs, eventually causing them to calcify, or harden, causing death. Due to its rarity, not much is known about the disease, but Miller says it’s a combination of lupus, scleroderma, acid reflux, pulmonary hypertension, and rheumatoid arthritis. 

As if that weren’t enough to bear, Miller’s LSS is linked to Raynaud’s, another disease she has that affects her circulation. And just this past summer, Miller was diagnosed with type I diabetes. As a result, Miller has to take 12 different medications twice a day and constantly check her blood sugar to make sure she’s at a healthy level.

In the face of all that, Miller has kept playing volleyball for the Cavaliers. “I’ve played volleyball for 15 years and it’s something I’ve always loved. It’s been an escape for me throughout all the challenges in my life,” said Miller. “I know with volleyball I can just be in the moment and enjoy the team, the game, and everything that surrounds it.”

Before volleyball could become her escape, she had to show an incredible inner strength at a young age as various health issues threatened to take her beloved sport away from her.

THE LSS DIAGNOSIS

While Miller’s health issues first cropped up with the diagnosis of Raynaud’s when she was 11, the most significant change in her career as a volleyball player – and in her life – came when she was diagnosed with Limited Systematic Sclerosis during the spring of her junior year of high school.

Miller’s doctors first found the LSS in her body when they drew blood as part of a regular check-up for her Raynaud’s. The LSS forced Miller to be in and out of the hospital for months and caused her to miss most of the spring semester. During that time, Miller lost a lot of weight as her body adapted to a sudden onslaught of medications.

Miller also had to get used to the emotional weight of the disease – a disease which will eventually take her life. Over time, the LSS will calcify Miller’s internal organs – an ugly process which is currently irreversible. “There’s no specific time frame,” Miller says matter-of-factly, “but, ultimately, one organ will fail and then another.”

Understandably, the LSS diagnosis left Miller angry and depressed – not only over the sudden threat to her life, but also over the loss of her volleyball career. Miller had been playing for an elite club volleyball team in the NIKE Northwest Juniors league, but the LSS diagnosis limited her participation. She counted making the Northwest Juniors team as a huge accomplishment in her career, so it hurt when things out of her control kept her from performing at her best.
Yet rather than lament her loss, Miller used the possibility of playing at a high level again to drive her through the endless hospital visits that spring. She credits her family for being part of her dogged determination, which would eventually lead her back into playing shape.

Miller still had to adjust to playing with all the medications she was taking, which produced multiple side effects including nausea, fatigue, and migraines. The nausea frequently pops up for Miller during matches, including the Cavaliers’ match against Corban University this season when Miller felt so nauseated, she vomited right before the national anthem.

In a medical catch-22, the LSS raises Miller’s resting heart rate to 140, so she has to take medication to lower it, otherwise she wouldn’t be allowed to play. Unfortunately, the side effects of this medication leaves Miller fatigued.

“I’ve adapted to the changes and have just had to learn how to play my weaknesses with my strengths,” said Miller. That attitude helped advance her volleyball career to the collegiate level, an enormous accomplishment for anyone, let alone someone dealing with multiple serious physical illnesses.

**THE DIABETES DIAGNOSIS**

Unfortunately, Miller’s health issues would crop up again, as fate saddled her with another challenge this past summer. Miller was diagnosed with type I diabetes, a tough blow for anyone, but especially for Miller who still had to deal with her LSS.

Not surprisingly, the diabetes diagnosis sent Miller into another low point. “I found myself really angry and questioning why something else would happen since I feel like I’ve already been faced with a lot and overcome a lot,” said Miller.

Despite the anger, Miller found strength yet again in the support of her family and in her faith. “God and my family have helped me realize that there’s a reason whether or not we see it right now or ever see it,” said Miller.

Miller’s family was much better prepared to help her with the diabetes since her brother Jonny – a former golfer at Concordia – had been diagnosed with type I diabetes when he was 13.

“My first question when they told me I had type I diabetes wasn’t ‘what do I have to do now,’ it was ‘am I going to be able to play volleyball?’” said Miller. Doctors told her she could play, but there was a catch. “They told me that first I had to prove that I could manage the diabetes without playing volleyball. And once I did play, I had to be able to show them I could manage it under the stress of college sports.”

Miller turned to her brother for advice, as he had already competed collegiately with type I diabetes. “Jonny taught me a lot about how to manage it and still compete.” With her brother’s help, Miller overcame the second major health scare in her life to continue playing the sport she loves.

**THE CHALLENGE OF MANAGING MULTIPLE ILLNESSES**

Miller’s return to the court has been astounding, but it has come with the knowledge that playing with multiple diseases is an ongoing process.

In addition to the LSS medicine putting her in a fog, Miller can also lose circulation in certain parts of her body during a match as part of her Raynaud’s. What’s more, Miller has to constantly check her blood sugar as part of her type I diabetes.

“My first question when they told me I had type I diabetes wasn’t ‘what do I have to do now,’ it was ‘am I going to be able to play volleyball?’”
“When you’re an athlete with diabetes, your blood sugar can go one of two ways. Exercising lowers your blood sugar. But if you’re prone to high stress and high adrenaline, then that raises your blood sugar,” said Miller. “Typically when I’m playing, I start off really high from the adrenaline and the stress, but get pretty low near the end and then after the game I drop even more.”

So far, Miller has been able to manage her blood sugar fairly well. She keeps a bag with glucose, juice, Gatorade, and sugar nearby in case she gets low. Miller also has to have Glucagon shots near her in case of emergencies.

Women’s volleyball head coach Melanie Hambelton said that she’s never had a player with diabetes on her team, but has been more than willing to put in the work to keep Miller safe. “It’s been a learning process for us to know how much we can push her and for her to know how much she can push herself,” said Hambelton. “Melanie [Miller] is the type of person that would want to push through it when she’s feeling off, but that’s not a healthy thing for her to do.”

Someone Miller credits with pushing her in the right way has been Concordia volleyball assistant coach Ray Nunn. Without Nunn, Miller says she might have given up volleyball following an unpleasant redshirt freshman season at Western Oregon University. Miller transferred to Concordia after that year thinking she was done with volleyball, but Nunn called her and refused to let her quit. These days, quitting would seem unthinkable, as Coach Hambelton says Miller has become a symbol of perseverance for her teammates. “I’m really trying to teach these kids to fight,” said Hambelton. “I want them to fight in every set, every practice, every match and to me Melanie Miller is the perfect example of a person who has fought through tough times and has been successful.”

Miller has been happy to play that role for her teammates, but says she is more thankful for their understanding as she adjusts to her new condition. Miller says she was initially worried that her teammates might think she was just being lazy when she would have to sit out some drills in practice due to her health issues. Fortunately, that has never been the case. “Their understanding has made the process a lot easier,” said Miller. “I don’t think I thank them enough.”

Her teammates’ understanding has also made it easier for Miller to talk about her struggles. For a long time, Miller said she had a tough time saying anything – partially because she’d get emotional when talking about it and partially because she didn’t want people to feel sorry for her. Now, she hopes talking about her issues can have a different effect on people. “My goal is to let other people or other athletes know that if you’re determined, you can face challenges in your life and still do what you want to do,” said Miller. “For me, I feel like the more positive I am, the better I feel and the healthier I am.”

And with that attitude, who knows what else Miller can overcome.
“Buy local.” We’ve all seen the signs and heard the call. Those same words of advice were put to the test as the Concordia athletic department sought its new cross country and track & field head coach before the 2012-13 academic year.

Concordia had several highly-qualified candidates apply for the position, but the athletic department shopped smart and ultimately decided to “buy local,” selecting Isaac Frederick, a native of Southeast Portland and a graduate of David Douglas High School.

“We did a national search, but in the end, our preference was to have someone with Northwest ties who could come in and recruit locally – both in Portland and throughout the Northwest where there’s a ton of great track & field talent,” said Concordia athletic director Matt English. “The people I spoke with in the track & field community called him a ‘rising star’ in the sport.”

Frederick competed in track for Western Oregon University, where he also earned his B.S. and M.A. in teaching. After becoming a USA Track & Field level II certified coach in the sprints, hurdles, relays, and jumps, Frederick spent the next seven years as a coach within the Western Oregon program, including the last five as the team’s associate head coach.

In that role, Frederick guided WOU to eight Great Northwest Athletic Conference championships, and helped WOU student-athletes earn 71 all-conference honors.

For his efforts, Frederick was twice named the NCAA Division II U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association West Region Assistant Coach of the Year. That level of success would have made Frederick an attractive candidate no matter what. So the fact that he’s from Portland is the cherry on top.

More importantly, Frederick’s success at WOU gave English the confidence that Frederick could take over some of Concordia’s top programs. In just seven seasons of existence, Concordia’s cross country and track & field programs have amassed some impressive records, including the 2011 women’s outdoor track & field national championship (Concordia’s only team national title). In addition, the Concordia teams have placed athletes in the top 10 at nationals 15 other times and has swept the Cascade Collegiate Conference outdoor track & field titles six straight seasons.

From Frederick’s perspective, the move to Concordia was less about the success of the program, and more about the growth of the university.

“Being from Portland, I’ve been on the Concordia campus before. That was before the stadium, before the library, before these projects were developed. So I’ve seen Concordia go from a very small, almost overlooked school … to one that has expanded and become much more prominent. And I’m thrilled to be a part of it,” said Frederick.

Beyond that, Frederick said Concordia’s values were a major draw for him and helped fulfill his main desire when coaching: to give athletes the same positive experience he had in college.

“You learn things in athletics that you don’t learn in the classroom,” said Frederick. “I think there’s more to an education than just the academic side of it. You learn teamwork, cooperation, and leadership by being involved as an athlete, and I love being part of teaching that.”

“I think the long-term outlook for our cross country and track & field programs is fantastic under Isaac,” said English. “I firmly believe we will continue our tradition of success and even take it up a notch.”

Looks like English’s decision to “buy local” has paid off.

Track Team Posts Impressive Indoor Season Results
Coach Frederick guided Concordia to its best all-time combined finish at the recent NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championships. Congratulations, too, to our three National Champions – Junia Limage, Gabriella Dixson, and Willy Irwin – and to our 14 All-Americans. Go Cavs!

“Buy Local” has Positive Results for Concordia Track
CALLING ALL AREA ATHLETES! If you can kick, pitch, throw, catch, volley, bounce, block, pass, stuff, toss, dink, dunk, hit, dig, spike, scoop, and lob a ball, we’ve got a sports camp with your name on it. Join us for a summer of fun and educational sports camps, each taught by top-level Concordia University-Portland coaches, staff, and athletes. Born to bump? Destined to dribble? Spaces are limited – sign up today!

**BASEBALL CAMP:**
- June 24 – 26
- All Skills Baseball Camp
- Co-ed, Ages 7-18

**SOFTBALL CAMP:**
- July 8 – 11
- Youth Softball Camp
- Girls, Ages 8-12

**VOLLEYBALL CAMPS:**
- June 24 – 28
- All Skills Volleyball Camp
- Girls, Grades 4-8

**SOCCER CAMPS:**
- June 17 – 21
- Youth Soccer Camp (A)
  - Co-ed, Ages 5-14
- July 8 – 12
  - HS Advantage Soccer Camp
  - Co-ed, Grades 8-12

**BASKETBALL CAMPS:**
- August 3 – 4
- Girls Basketball Camp (1)
- Girls, Ages 14-17

**VOLLEYBALL CAMPS:**
- July 8 – 11
- Advanced Volleyball Camp
- Girls, Grades 9-12

**SOCCER CAMPS:**
- July 15 – 19
- Youth Soccer Camp (B)
  - Co-ed, Ages 5-14
- July 22 – 25
  - Girls Soccer Camp
  - Girls, Grades 7-13

**BASKETBALL CAMPS:**
- August 5 – 8
- Girls Basketball Camp (2)
- Girls, Ages 8-14

**SOCCER CAMPS:**
- July 22 – 25
  - Girls HS Soccer Camp (1)
  - Girls, Grades 9-12
- July 22 – 25
  - Girls HS Soccer Camp (2)
  - Girls, Grades 9-12

**SOCCER CAMPS:**
- July 29 – August 2
  - Youth Soccer Camp (C)
  - Co-ed, Ages 5-14

**SOCCER CAMPS:**
- July 22 – 25
  - Girls HS Soccer Camp (2)
  - Girls, Grades 9-12

**SOCCER CAMPS:**
- July 29 – August 2
  - Youth Soccer Camp (C)
  - Co-ed, Ages 5-14
Nailed to the Door

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TERRY BLACKBURN, PORTLAND, OREGON

Nailed to the Door provides Concordia staff, faculty, alumni, and students a forum for editorial comment.

Concordia Law Corps: Transforming our Community Through Service

Providing legal services to underserved populations is an ethical obligation that the legal community in Idaho has always embraced. As a member of the legal profession, lawyers are citizens with a special responsibility to ensure equal access to the legal system for those who, because of economic or social barriers, cannot afford quality legal services. In the Idaho State Bar 2011 survey, lawyers reported performing more than 38,000 hours of pro bono service, amounting to free legal services valued at over $5.75 million.

As a Lutheran institution, Concordia University School of Law is following the lead of the Portland campus in its pledge to transform the community through service. Modeled after Concordia University-Portland's Service Corps, the Law Corps has formed on the Boise campus to fill a crucial gap in legal services. Law students are required to complete a minimum of 50 hours of pro bono service before graduation.

As we train the next generation of lawyers, Concordia Law is determined to play a role in the professional obligation to increase access to justice. The University is participating in a collaborative effort with the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association, Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, and the City of Boise to offer a free monthly clinic at the downtown Boise library. This free legal clinic provides advice and assistance to low-income Idaho residents who cannot afford legal representation. A similar opportunity presents itself with Concordia Law’s neighbor, Faces Family Justice Center, to provide family law legal services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Concordia students who are military veterans are also exploring ways to participate as volunteers for the Idaho Veterans Restorative Justice Outreach Program. These programs provide law students the opportunity to engage in their communities and, at the same time, learn and apply practical lawyering skills.

As Christians and lawyers, we have a common goal to speak up and serve. I have the following scripture displayed in my office as a reminder of our responsibility to serve the underserved.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
Proverbs 31:8-9

Concordia Law students show a deep commitment to contribute to their communities and to put their legal training and expertise to good use for the common good. The School of Law and Law Corps members are confident that graduates will make a lasting impact on the communities they are privileged to serve.

» Jodi Nafzger, JD
Assistant Professor, Director of Experiential Learning
& Career Services, Concordia University School of Law
What’s new at CU?
Exciting new degree programs!

Earn your Doctorate of Education at Concordia University – on campus or online.

Launching in May, the new Concordia University-Portland doctorate degree program is designed to prepare teachers and administrators to become transformational leaders in education, ready to make an immediate and long-term positive impact in schools, government, academia, business, and non-profit organizations. For more information, visit www.concordiateacher.com.

Concordia now also offers undergraduate degrees in Accounting, Homeland Security, and Early Childhood Education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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