

Concordia Beams

CONCORDIA ACADEMY ROSEVILLE

Summer 2015

Celebrating Success at CA



Waves of Success

Rev. Dr. Timothy Berner



They will find favor and great success in the sight of both God and man.

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The 2014-2015 school year was truly an extraordinary one. I describe it as a year marked by wave after wave of success.

The success began with our incoming freshmen class increasing in size for the third year in a row. We were blessed with many wonderful young men and women from a wide geographical area. This success was soon followed by amazing athletic success when, for the 11th time in school history, CA's volleyball team returned to the state tournament! Our Beacon girls placed 6th in state.

This year, CA's STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) program took two giant steps forward. In its first year of existence, our competitive robotics team not only qualified for state competition, but won the state championship! This victory qualified them to compete in the international competition, held in Louisville, Kentucky. Here they competed against the very best of over 60,000 national and international teams.

Following the robotics team's success, our STEM program took yet another step forward by competing in the State Science Fair. Students in our STEM program must complete both an independent research project and a paper for competition. Stephen Mylabathula and his *Air-Touch* Hands Free Computer Software and Hardware, was not only honored at the state science fair, but he was also selected to be one of two students representing the state of Minnesota at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Stephen was unable to attend CA's Honors Convocation because he and his *Air-Touch* were competing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Besides athletic and academic success, CA also experienced waves of success in its *Advancing the Light Campaign*.

This short, one-year campaign is designed to improve CA's relational spaces. Thus far, the campaign has been a tremendous success. Enough money has already been raised to build a beautiful new outside Alumni Plaza, order all new bleachers for the lower gym, and complete the first phase of our beautiful new commons and conference center. In addition, a significant amount of money has been raised for debt reduction and student scholarships. This current issue of *The Beams* marks the final push of this campaign. We still need financial support to complete the second phase of our new commons and conference center, and, of course, gifts for debt reduction and scholarships are also a tremendous blessing. (For more information on *Advancing the Light*, see page 12.)

All of the above is certainly worthy of celebration. Yet it was at our graduation ceremony, as I called out the names of CA's latest graduating class, that I was overcome by, what I believe, is this year's greatest success. It hit me, as powerful as any wave, that these young men and women have truly been prepared by their parents, their congregations, and Concordia Academy, to go forth and bless the world. And as I called out their names, I realized that they will do just that! In the words of Proverbs 3, these are young men and women who "*will not forget (God's) teaching, but will let their hearts keep his commandments. They will not let steadfast love and faithfulness forsake them; but they have bound them around their neck and written them on the tablet of their hearts. They will find favor and great success in the sight of both God and man.*"

Thank you Lord, for a year that has truly been marked by waves and waves of success.



Skit Guys / Newsboys



This past December, Concordia Academy was hugely blessed and was asked to host two major family events on campus. The first was a comedy act performed by the Skit Guys, a nationally-renowned Christian duo. The second was a concert by the Newsboys, one of the largest and most popular Christian pop rock musical groups of the last decade. Both events sold out within weeks of tickets going on sale!

The Skit Guys event took place on December 4th and was attended by over 420 people of all ages. CA partnered with Brightpeak Financial (a division of Thrivent Financial), to welcome the Skit Guys to Concordia Academy. The evening started out with a pizza party for all attendees before the show. Afterwards, there was a carnival-like family funfest complete with games, a photo booth, and a meet-and-greet with the Skit Guys, Tommy Woodard and Eddie James. Everyone had a blast!

On December 18, Concordia Academy hosted the largest event in school history and welcomed the Newsboys to campus! The concert, titled "The Reason," was focused on a Christmas story theme but was definitely more pop-rock than Christmas music. Over 1,400 people attended the sold-out show that was held in the gym and had a fantastic night of music and worship.

A huge thank you to all of the attendees and volunteers that made these events possible! We could not have done it without your help. In the 2015-16 school year, we are hoping to again be blessed with similar opportunities. Make sure you are following CA on Facebook for event announcements!



Decades of Dedication



Next year, Concordia Academy definitely won't be quite the same. Mr. Keith Esala and Mr. Steve Dickhudt, who have taught at CA since the late 1970s, will not be returning in 2015-2016. They leave behind a legacy of tireless, heartfelt service to God that has impacted thousands of students.

Mr. Esala began his teaching career at CA while still in college, teaching band from 1975-1977 while finishing his studies at Concordia College. He returned to CA in 1980 to teach band, choirs, and religion. He also taught music appreciation, 9th Grade English, Journalism, Yearbook, and Speech. Those who were students in his 9th Grade English probably remember the class going to the gym and acting out the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Esala coached track, baseball, cross country, and wrestling (including 22 years as head coach) and served as the trainer for the football team. Directing the pit orchestra for CA's musicals, leading the marching band in numerous parades (including *Disney World* in 1988), working with a jazz band, and directing the pep band are other memorable roles that Mr. Esala took on at CA.

He has been married to Beverly, a 1973 CA grad, for 37 years. They have three children, Joel ('00), Jason ('02) and Hope ('05), and six grandchildren.

Although Mr. Esala is closing out this chapter of his life at CA, he'll be keeping busy. He'll continue to teach choir at Bethany Academy in Bloomington and band and English at King of Kings Lutheran School in Roseville.

Mr. Steve Dickhudt's connection to CA goes back to 1962, when he lived down the street and would play on the dirt piles as St. Paul Lutheran High School (which would later become Concordia Academy) was being built. His parents were founding members of King of Kings Lutheran Church.

As a freshman, he attended the first year of the combined "Concordia Academy" and "Saint Paul Lutheran High School" and was part of the first graduating class of "Concordia Academy, A St. Paul Lutheran High School."

In 1978, he returned to CA to teach Senior Bible Class, Sophomore Health and Physical Education, Freshman Physical Education, and Advanced Physical Education. Over the years, Mr. Dickhudt also taught 9th -12th grade Bible classes, Sophomore Health, Basic Physical Education, Resistance Training and Personal Fitness, Dynamic Health and Human Movement (for Concordia University), and Psychology.

Coach Dickhudt has also left his mark on CA's athletic program, having been a coach for JV football, wrestling, baseball, girls basketball, softball, and volleyball. As the Beacons volleyball coach, he took the team to the state tournament eight times.

Another one of his notable accomplishments at CA happened in 1991, when he pierced his ear and wore a pony tail in the building for first (and last) time. More notably, in April 1992, he married his wife Candy on the same day as the Foreign Dish Dinner here at CA. He made the right choice by skipping the dinner to attend his wedding ceremony.

Mr. Dickhudt is looking forward to retirement, when he can travel and spend more time with his grandchildren. He's also excited at the prospect of devoting more time to mission trips.

Keith and Steve have both been deeply woven into the fabric of Concordia Academy, and their absence will definitely be felt. Their incredible legacies of service to their students, their colleagues, and their God laid the foundation on which the next generation of servant-teachers will continue to build.

Thank you Mr. Esala!
Thank you Mr. Dickhudt!

Do you have memories of Mr. Esala and Mr. Dickhudt and/or words of gratitude that you would like to share with them and the whole CA community? Then please go to www.concordiaacademy.com/alumni/memories. On that page, you'll be given an opportunity to share your comments and upload photos! Those submissions will be shared later this year.



Vision4Life

New this year to CA, Family Life Groups were formed and began to meet in September to help knit students together and create small communities of trust and friendship amongst students. These groups of students would engage in small group discussions, prayer, worship and outreach and would be the very groups that bonded together over Vision4Life Week. It has always been the hope of CA that the promises of God these students hear each day would become the reality that they experience on a daily basis.

Recently, a senior came to me regarding the issues in our world of sex trafficking. He said that he had never been so moved as he was while listening to a former prostitute who gave her testimony of rescue at Breaking Free in St. Paul during V4L. This senior now wants to invest his money and future to helping rescue young girls from such atrocities. What a privilege it is to sow into these young people passion and fervor for the cause of Christ.

– Dean Dunvan

A message from Dean Dunavan, Scripture and Life teacher:

God continues to pour out His blessings on Vision4Life here at Concordia Academy. This year proved again to be spiritually powerful for our students. During Vision4Life 2015, CA students, and their adult leaders fed breakfast to over 400 homeless people, built houses for Habitat for Humanity, and painted, cleaned, served and proclaimed the promises of the Gospel at Union Gospel Mission, MN Teen Challenge, Urban Homeworks, Breaking Free, Bridging, Urban Refuge, Source Ministries, Trinity First Lutheran School, Somali Day Care & Salvation Army. This is powerful stuff!

Jesus has called us to do the very things He did, "To proclaim good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom to captives, release for prisoners, to comfort those who mourn." This is from Isaiah 61, the very text Jesus stands to read in the synagogue. I am seeing this reality in our students.

Our speakers this year spoke powerful truth of "believing in your heart and proclaiming with your mouth" (Romans 10:9). They challenged our students in areas of purity and relationships, in displaying the love of God in every area of our lives. What a joy to be alongside these young people as we worshipped together, prayed together, learned together and served together. I would like to give special thanks of praise to all the parents, grandparents, pastors & youth pastors who joined us in serving this year. Praise God, for His mercies are new every morning.

*Peace,
Dean Dunavan*



Beams



Grandparents Day



CA's annual celebration of grandparents was held September 15 here on campus. We had over 140 grandparents in attendance enjoying a morning of worship, hearing guest speaker Rev. Deane Schuessler, past parent and current grandparent, and finally joining their grandchild(ren) in the lunchroom for a boxed lunch. Thank you to all our grandparents, near and far, for your support of Christian education and CA!

Mark your calendar for next year's Grandparents Day on October 5, 2015.



Spring Musical *Bye Bye Birdie*



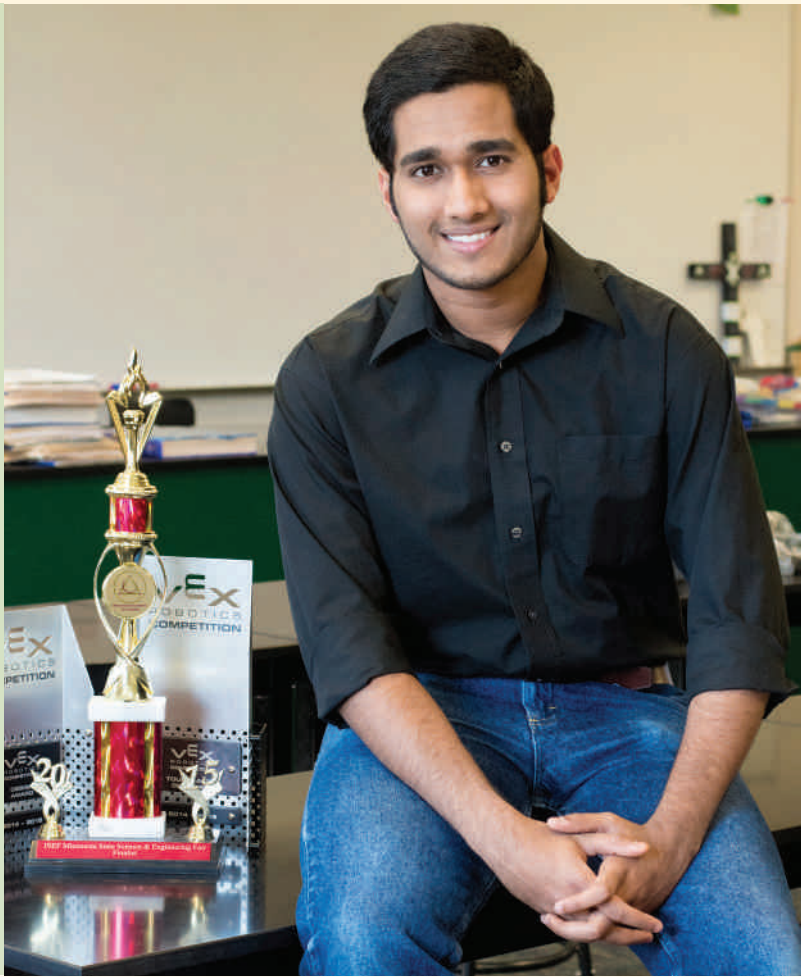
CA's production of *Bye Bye Birdie* last spring created a sense of déjà vu for Pastor Tim Berner. During his senior year at CA (in 1985), he made his CA stage debut playing title role of Conrad Birdie. Flash forward 30 years later, and he couldn't resist the temptation to hop back up on stage during a dress rehearsal to show his Birdie moves to the cast and crew. The *Roseville Review* was even on hand to document the dueling Conrad Birdies. He explained in the article, "I turned down my career in showbiz and became a principal. I'm all about the kids."

You can read the whole article at <http://bit.ly/bye-bye-berner>.



STEM2 + Stephen = Success

By Chris Roth, Communications Director



In just three short years, Concordia Academy's STEM2 (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Medicine) program has reached heights that similar programs at other schools can only hope to achieve. Our students have finished in the Top 20% of the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair, qualified for the State Science Fair, taken first in a state robotics competition, competed in the VEX Robotics World Championship, traveled to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, and won a fellowship to do research in Italy. However, only one CA student has accomplished all of those things: Stephen Mylabathula.

The 2014-2015 school year was definitely a busy one for Stephen, as he spent countless hours immersed in the world of STEM2. A major focus was his "AirTouch" project, a novel method of communicating with a computer without physically touching it. AirTouch uses a webcam to view gestures, interpret them, and then perform a corresponding task.

While there are other systems for communicating with computers using gestures, Stephen explains that AirTouch "is the cheapest solution for touch-free interaction with the computer, because the only equipment is the webcam."

Stephen remembers, "I got the idea from an MIT 'Ted Talk' about 'Sixth Sense,' an augmented reality project." While he admired the technology, the way it was implemented wasn't ideal, because "users had to put colored tape on their fingers, meaning there would be no practical market for that."

At the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair, Stephen was awarded the Intel Excellence in Computer Science Award for AirTouch. Then, at the State Science Fair, he was a bronze medalist and won the Beckman Coulter Award for engineering. He also gained an invitation to ISEF (the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair), a one-week event in Pittsburg, with over 80 countries represented. Out of one million projects, 1700 were selected to be a part of ISEF, the world's largest pre-college science fair.

June 21 – July 11, Stephen went on to participate in a summer research project in Italy through the Bruno Kessler Foundation. Eighteen students, selected from two international science fairs, performed research on physiological sensors, creating a web platform for scientists to enter related data and understand the meaning of that data. These sensors are being used to study early parent/child interaction to see how it impacts autism.

AirTouch and science fairs were just part of Stephen's STEM2 work last year. He was also part of PETRA, a CA robotics team that took first in State and went on to compete in the International Championship. That success is especially remarkable considering that 2014-2015 was the first year for CA's Robotics and Engineering class.

PETRA finished in the Top 8 in a regional robotics competition in Albert Lea and then went on to take first place at the Metro Minnesota Robotics Competition in Osseo. That victory placed them in the Top 60 robotics teams in the world at that time and secured for them an invitation to the State competition. Their performance at State actually earned them two invitations to the VEX Robotics World Championship in Louisville, KY: one for being state champions, and one for winning the "Programming Skills Challenge." At the World Championship, Team PETRA competed against 450 teams from 32 different countries.

Stephen makes it clear that his success was only possible with help from others, including robotics teacher Dave Boll. “He deserves more credit than he likes to take. He let us experiment by ourselves, but he was always there should we have any questions.” Concordia Academy’s willingness to let Stephen and other students burn the midnight oil made a difference, too. “If we could have only stayed until 5:00 pm, this never would have happened. Mr. Neuman [one of CA’s custodians] even stayed until 11:00 pm some days, coming in and sitting with us and giving us pointers. Mr. Boll came in on weekends, too. I love CA’s math program, too, especially Mr. Kuhlman. I’ve seen Math apply to everything I’ve done with STEM. Our math program is extremely strong. The school really gave us resources to help us do well.”

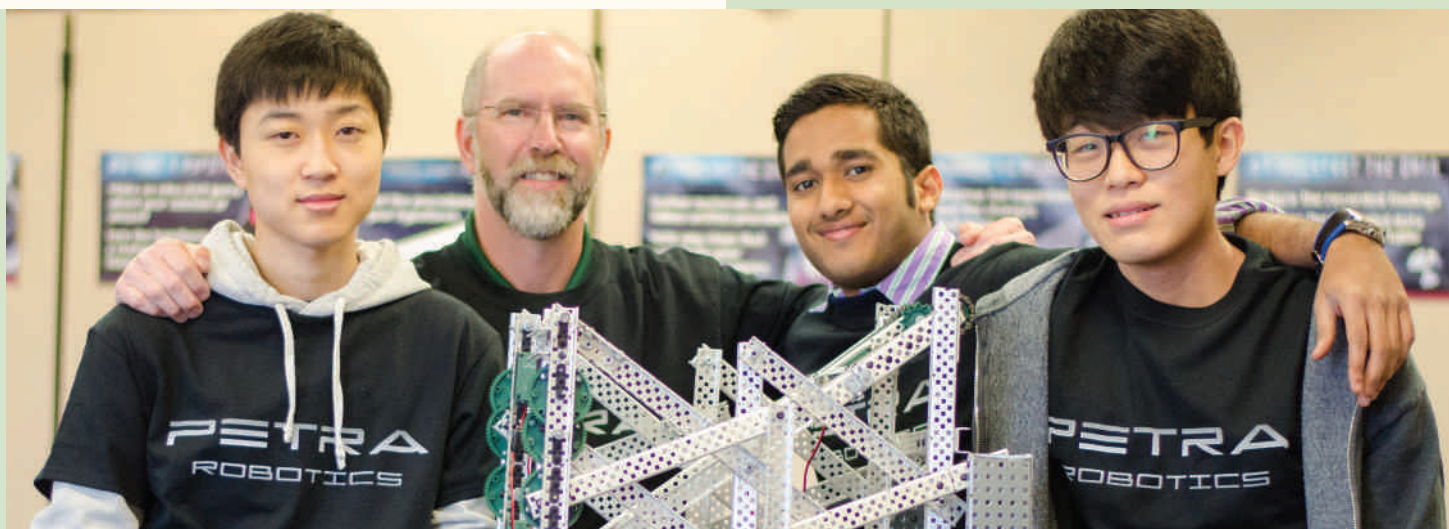
Faith also plays a key role in Stephen’s passion for STEM2. He explains, “At the International Science Fair, one of the speakers blatantly said, ‘I want people to stop doubting evolution.’ The first thing that popped into my mind was what I learned in Scripture and Life class: ‘Always be prepared with an answer when people question your faith.’ People think they have it all under control, but God is so much bigger than that. Science has no value without God.”

Stephen, who will study at University of Minnesota in the University Honors Program this fall, is a fantastic example of CA students being beacons for Christ. In fact, he says Matthew 5:6 was the theme verse for the PETRA robotics team. “It’s about being the best that we can be, honoring God through excellence, and glorifying God through our character.”

STEM2

The goal of CA’s STEM2 program is to *prepare Christians to take the lead in advanced fields of science, technology, engineering, math and medicine*. Three years ago, we began with just six students who agreed to take our most rigorous math and science classes, complete an internship with a STEM2 company, and submit an independent research project and paper for competition. In 2014-2015, our students saw remarkable success.

- Two robotics teams (made up of Subin An, Sarah Arend, Michael Ettesvold, Nolan Harre, Jun Kim, and Stephen Mylabathula) competed in the State Robotics Competition. One of those teams took First.
- The PETRA robotics team (Subin An, Jun Kim, and Stephen Mylabathula, shown below) competed in the VEX Robotics World Championships in Louisville, KY.
- Based on their performance at the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair, Natalie Anderson, Tom Berglund, Summer Ettesvold, Stephen Mylabathula, Ben Vallin, Cindy Wang, and Jenna White all advanced to the State Science Fair.
- Stephen Mylabathula was invited to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburg and was awarded a fellowship to do research in Italy through the Bruno Kessler Foundation.
- Summer internship partners include pharmacies, engineering companies, and the DNR.
- The STEM2 program was awarded a grant from the Minnesota Independent School Forum to conduct water quality testing for two marshes of the Harriet Alexander Nature Center in Roseville.



Advancing the Light

A campaign for relationship spaces



Help us finish strong

We are nearing the conclusion of ***Advancing the Light*** – CA's one-year campaign to improve and create *new relational spaces*. This campaign has already blessed students, families, and guests with new and improved areas for study, gathering together, and for cheering on the Beacons.

In addition to money raised for new bleachers (arriving this fall), a new outdoor Alumni Plaza, and Phase I of our beautiful new commons, over \$72,000 was raised for debt reduction and student scholarships. The total thus far raised exceeds \$415,000!

Help us finish strong. We need an additional \$50,000 to complete phase two of our new commons and conference center, including a huge chalet style fireplace, stone walls, and a wood floor. We are also still collecting money for our new track fund.

Please consider donating to ***Advancing the Light***. Simply use the enclosed envelope and designate to Advancing the Light or make an online gift at www.advancingthelight.com.

For more information contact Pastor Berner at tim.berner@concordiaacademy.com or call 651-484-8429 ex. 111.

The new commons is already a wonderful gathering place for students, parents and friends after concerts and musicals, and for guests who use our new conference center. It is also a nice “wow” factor for perspective students!

*Send out your light and your truth; let them be my guide;
let them bring me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you dwell.
– Psalm 43:3*



*Pictured is the new
Carlander and Koepke
Family Alumni Plaza*

Celebrate CA Dinner Auction

Concordia Academy's 16th annual dinner auction, *God Gives Growth*, was held April 11, 2015. It was the first time this event took place in the springtime. We enjoyed the change of the seasons and had 230 guests in attendance soaking in the vibrant décor, sipping on drinks, and listening to music played by parent Mark Arend on the piano and our own CA chamber orchestra. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this year's event a great success. We were able to raise over \$60,000 to help support our students!

We would like to thank:

- The many generous donors at CA and the Twin Cities community
- Underwriters who helped offset our costs
- Volunteers who gave their time and talents before, during and after the event
- The many CA supporters who attended the event and generously bid during Silent and Live auctions

Thank you and blessings to you all!

Please mark your calendar for next year's event which will be held **April 9, 2016**. We hope to see many of you there!





SnoDaze

SnoDaze week was held February 9-13. Of course students participated in the usual fun dress-up days, but this year we introduced Pony Hop Races. Teachers began by demonstrating what to-do, or not to-do in some cases. Then students participated by competing against their classmates first, then battling out by grade. This year's all around winner was freshman Annika Scholten ('18), daughter of alumnus Garth Scholten ('78). We ended the week with a Minute to Win It competition between the classes. To view more pictures of all the fun, like our Facebook page, Concordia Academy-Roseville.



DID YOU KNOW ABOUT ...

Mindy (Schultz) Aurich ('72) has been married for forty years to Mike Aurich, retired CA coach, teacher, and administrator. Mindy works as a civil case manager for the Second Judicial District. They have four sons - **Ben ('97), Philip and Peter ('99) and Andrew ('02)** and eight grandchildren. Mike and Mindy recently moved to Farmington, MN. Their new address is 19800 Dawson Lane, Farmington, MN 55024.



Kirk Swenson ('90), was recently promoted to a Master Sergeant in the United States Marines. He is also celebrating 22 years of dedicated service and will be stationed aboard MCAS Marimar San Diego, CA. This year also marks 22 years of marriage to wife Rhonda. They have a daughter, Brittany, who will be attending Southern Oregon University, older son Christian will be attending college in San Diego and Gunnar will be a senior in high school this fall. Congratulations to the Swenson family!

Chad Corrie ('95), has recently seen his newest fantasy novel, *Return of the Wizard King*, published as an e-book in the US with combined print, audio, and e-book versions being produced by publishers in Germany, Denmark, and The Czech Republic, allowing additional reach into Austria, Switzerland, Slovakia, and parts of Scandinavia. Those interested in finding out more can go to: www.chadcorrie.com or www.facebook.com/chadcorriefans!

Sarah (Wychor) Evans ('99) and her husband, Michael, welcomed triplets on December 6, 2014. Rhys William weighed 3 lb 9 oz, 16.5 inches long. Alexander "Xander" John weighed 4 lb, 17 inches long. Philippa "Pippa" Charlotte weighed 3 lb 4 oz, 17 inches long. After spending five weeks in the NICU they finally came home and everyone is doing great. Congratulations!



Andrew Aurich ('02) married Michelle Morris in Princeton, NJ on June 6, 2015. Andy is the special teams coordinator and tight end coach for football at Princeton University. He graduated from Princeton in 2006. There will be a Minnesota marriage celebration for Andy & Michelle in July 2015!



OBITUARIES

Dr. Eugene Linse (CAS '40) passed away May 30, 2014. His career began at Concordia Academy in Austin Texas (1948-1956), then moving to Concordia College, St. Paul from 1956-1982 as professor of Government and Constitutional Law and head of the Social Science Department. Dr. Linse is survived by his four children Robert, Pamela, **James ('74)** and **Daniel ('77)**.

Connie Bade, wife of **Bob Bade (CAS '47)**, mother to **Cathy (Bade) Morse ('82)** and member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, passed away on November 25, 2014.

Dr. Raymond Buelow ('51) died April 19, 2015 at the age of 81, in Santa Barbara, California. He was a practicing veterinarian for 35 years. An air force veteran and graduate of North Dakota State University, he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University, and a Master of Science in Veterinary Clinical Sciences at Colorado State University. He served for 41 years as member and elder at Good Shepherd Lutheran church, was president of the Santa Barbara-Ventura Veterinary Medical Association and on the board of the Marguerite Doe Foundation. A lover of the great outdoors, Ray especially enjoyed fishing – fish feared him in the mountains, ocean, and even off the coast of Baja. He is survived by wife Margaret Buelow, son Doug Buelow (Karen), daughter Jonelle Patrick (Steve), brother Fred Buelow, sisters Lucille Buelow and Carol Owens, and six grandchildren.

Linda Krueger passed away April 15, 2015. Linda will be greatly missed by husband **Rev. Robert Krueger (CAS '63)**, and sons **Rob ('89), Scott ('92)** and **Jon ('94)**.

James Frank ('67) passed away unexpectedly September 3, 2014 at his family home near Austin, MN. He will be missed by wife Rhoda, children Sean, Joseph and Cody.

Ernest (Bradley) Brown ('73) passed away April 16, 2015 after a battle with cancer. He will be dearly missed by his parents Ernest and Joan, brother **Brian ('76)**, and sisters Brenda and Barbara.

Lois Steinmueller was called to her heavenly home May 7, 2014. She was preceded in death by husband Herb, and son **Paul ('67)**. She will be greatly missed by children Jim, Gail, Mark, **Nancy Ulrich ('78), Joel ('83)** and the Concordia Academy community.

Roy E. Derickson joined God's "great darkroom in the sky" on September 21, 2013 at the age of 87. He was a beloved St. Paul Lutheran/Concordia Academy parent and took many photographs of SPL/CA events over the years. He was also an award winning photo journalist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press for 45 years. Roy's children, Scott, **Carol Kirchner ('67), Chris ('69) and Joani Holmes ('72)** attended SPL and later CA. Roy blessed many Concordia students and parents by capturing photographic memories that will be treasured forever.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Did you know we are on Facebook? Find us at **Concordia Academy Alumni Association Group** and ask to join! By joining the group, you will be updated on events at CA, alumni group events and outings, and connect with fellow alumni.

UPDATES

Do you have any updates you should let us know about? Married, children, moved, or other exciting news? Please email us at alumni@concordiaacademy.com.



Admissions Corner

– By Sofia Humphries, Admissions Director

The 2014-15 school year was filled with great attendance at traditional events as well as new and exciting things in the marketing of Concordia Academy. We saw new admissions events such as parent shadow days, a hip-hop youth night and a variety of family nights hosted by CA. We also had great attendance at our traditional admissions activities such as open houses, the Beacon Blast, and shadow days, where we welcomed many students each week as they shadowed current CA students for a day.

CA was also blessed to be able to host two very large events this past winter. In partnership with other ministries, we hosted the Skit Guys and the Newsboys! The combined attendance for those two events was close to 2,000 people. Many of these people had never heard of Concordia Academy, so it was great to have them join us on campus for these awesome events.

Our marketing efforts have also continued in a new campaign titled “Uniquely Me” at Concordia Academy. This campaign will continue for the next few years and highlights a number of wonderful students and what makes them “Uniquely Me”, just as God intended. Keep your eyes open in your community for our billboards, postcards, posters, online presence and more.

As we look towards next school year, we are excited to welcome around 74 new Beacons to Concordia Academy! The class of 2019 will be joining us as freshmen and we also will see many transfer and international students in grades 10-12. We are currently still accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year, so if you know of a potential student who would be a great fit for CA, we would love to meet them.

Please contact me at sofia.humphries@concordiaacademy.com or 651-796-2679 and I will assist in any way possible.



Fall Drama *James and the Giant Peach*

This year's fall drama was a family-friendly production including colorful characters and talking animals in the Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*. Once again, our student actors performed amazingly and many, including our grade school visitors, enjoyed the play. We can't wait for the 2015-2016 season!

ALUMNI MESSAGE

Hello Beacon Alumni!
I am so excited to welcome the class of 2015 the ranks. We are blessed with 70 new alumni. Some alumni are serving in our military, some are entering the work force, and many are continuing their education through universities and colleges around the world. Congratulations, again!

Make sure we have your current address and email info to help keep you informed on all the new alumni events we are planning for this next year. It's easy to do! Email Lisa Sell at lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com or call Lisa at 651-484-8429. If you have an announcement you would like shared, please feel free to contact me.

Lisa (Kuseske) Sell,
Class of 1999

2015 SPORTS AWARDS

BASKETBALL

Ella Beardsley	11	Defense & Hustle Award
Shannon Moore	12	Academic All-State, Beacon Award
Anika Neuman	10	All-Conference, Offensive Player of the Year
Clara Paul	11	All-Conference-Honorable Mention, Defensive Player of the Year
Michala Walther	12	All-Conference, MVP
Jacob Falk	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention
Isaiah Maddox	11	All-Conference
Roger Moore, Jr.	12	All-Conference, Offensive Player of the Year, MVP
Michael Nordby	12	Most Improved
Samuel Root	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention, Defensive Player of the Year
Cole Schuessler	12	Beacon Award
Mark Stage, Jr.	12	Defensive Player of the Year

CROSS COUNTRY

Joshua Carlson	10	All-Conference-Honorable Mention, Rookie of the Year
Thomas Madison	12	All-Conference

DANCE

Chloe Deutsch	12	Alternate of the Year
Grace Dunavan	11	JV - MVP
Alexis Fabian	12	All-Conference
Rebekah Johnson	12	JV Allstar (Dance)
Kasey Kalthoff	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention, Coach's Award
Angelica Phillips	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention, Kick Allstar, MVP
Reilly Potter	10	Most Improved
Mary Anna Preble	11	Hardest Worker
Annika Scholten	9	Rookie of the Year
Madeline Thompson	12	All-Conference, Jazz Allstar, Senior Dancer of the Year
Meredith Thompson	9	Most Improved

FOOTBALL

Isaac Hernandez	12	All-Conference, MVP Defense
Nicholas Johnston	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention
Kole Leistikow	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention
Zachary Morse	11	All-Conference, MVP Offense
Soren Mundfrom	11	Scout Award - Football
Cooper Wood	10	All-Conference-Honorable Mention
Adam Maser	10	All-Conference-Honorable Mention
Samuel Root	12	All-Conference, Beacon Award

HOCKEY

Zachary Morse	11	All-Conference
Josiah Roen	11	All-Conference

SOCCER

Jillian Bloomer	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention
Lily Courneya	9	Most Improved
Chloe Deutsch	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention, Most Improved
Monica Haug	12	All-Conference
Hannah Lageson	8	Beacon Award
Lillian Langevin	10	Coach's Award
Danielle Peterson	12	All-Conference, MVP
Katherine Wicklund	9	Rookie of the Year
Karsten Galyon	9	JV Newcomer of the Year
Hayden Butzlaff	12	All-Conference
Sean Cardinal	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention
Seguy Hanson	11	All-Conference
Ashish Saha	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention
Cole Schuessler	12	Beacon Award
Benjamin Vallin	12	Beacon Award

VOLLEYBALL

Erin Fallert	10	All-Conference, All-State
Karene Jensen	11	All-Conference
Clara Paul	11	All-Conference-Honorable Mention
Elisabeth Tramm	11	All-Conference, All-State, Showcase All-Tournament Team
Michala Walther	12	All-Conference-Honorable Mention

WRESTLING

Nicholas McMurry	11	Academic Award
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Athena Award 2015

Congratulations to CA senior **Michala Walther** who was recognized April 15 at the Athena Awards luncheon at the Prom Center in Oakdale.

The St. Paul Area Athena Awards program honors female high school seniors for their athletic achievements. Michala, who has participated in volleyball, basketball, and track at CA, scored 1352 high school career points in basketball. Michala was also awarded Concordia Academy's Female Athlete of the Year. She recently announced that she will play basketball for College of St. Scholastica next year.

Concordia Academy Athletic Hall of Fame

The inaugural celebration of the Concordia Academy Athletic Hall of Fame was a fabulous evening. The induction ceremony, held in the lower gym at CA on October 4, 2014, brought in alumni, their families and special guests. The ceremony also included Tom Kuseske, past teacher and coach, as the emcee. He brought great insight into the evening as he spoke about his experiences with the alumni being recognized and revisiting the 1984 Volleyball team's State Championship win. Many inductees shared their stories and memories and thanked many of our past and current teachers and coaches for the great influence in their lives.

The committee also recognized the 2004 inductees: Janet (Cobbs) Mulholland ('85) and Matthew Reem ('91). The Athletic Hall of Fame 2014 inductees included the following individuals and team: Steve Dickhudt ('71), Kim (Steffel) Duis ('89), Pamela (Vehling) Fallert ('86), Curt Kietzer ('84), Andy Wohlin ('98), Justin Surrency ('02) and The 1984 State Volleyball Team.

From the 1984 Team the following individuals were in attendance: Sheila (Stoltenow) Ziems, Stephanie (Grotheer) Dahl, Karen Savereide, Sarah (Smothers) Bradfield, Lisa (Paul) Tolzien, Pam (Vehling) Fallert, Coach Steve Dickhudt and student manager Mike Steffel.

Congratulations, again, to all our Beacon Athletic Hall of Fame members!



Volleyball Team – State success, again!



Concordia Academy competed for a state title for the 11th time this past October. The Beacons were the Class A champions in 1984 and 1987. This year's competition resulted in a 6th place trophy when they battled Maple Lake, Mora and Rocori. Coach Kristin Fink had her first state appearance as a Beacon in 1997. Coaches Dickhudt and Duis have had their fair share of appearances as well, with Dickhudt coaching the '84 and '87 teams to victory. Coach Duis competed on the 1987 team. The 2015 season brings another great chance for a championship run as Kim Duis has accepted the head coach position. Congratulations to our Beacon volleyball players and coaches!

Homecoming 2014

September 27 - October 4



Rain didn't stop us from having fun at Homecoming 2014! We moved the carnival inside this year and added more games and an area for Beacon Alumni to gather and enjoy walking tacos. The Class of 2004 held a reunion as well, gathering many alumni together for the weekend to catch up and revisit their days at CA.

Thank you to all those who helped make this day a great success.

Our students participated in many activities throughout the week, including dress-up days, tug-o-war and a Sadie Hawkins Dance.

Mark your calendars for next year's homecoming week September 21-26.



Beacon Bolt

CA's kickoff to Homecoming week started with the Beacon Bolt 5K Run on September 27. With over 100 runners in participation, we could not have asked for a better day. It was sunny and fun!

Thank you again to all who participated, volunteered and donated items for this event. It was a great way to gather alumni, current families and CA friends.

Weight Room Platoon Project

Concordia Academy has taken weight training to the next level. Not only are weight training coaches working to strengthen athletes to become bigger, faster and stronger; they are building confidence and creating a healthy community of students. Training includes speed, lifting, core conditioning, and stretching with trained supervisors assisting in technique.

Chad Michaels has been working with our student athletes since 2002, when he joined the football coaching staff. He has since played a large role in leading the weight-training program to the success it has been today. "Having played football in college, I already had the knowledge of how beneficial the next level of weight training can help an athlete. I saw the opportunity to help CA athletes benefit from this experience. We started to use a software tracking system to track the progress of our athletes. This resulted in creating faster and stronger athletes."

Coach Michaels played football for Concordia University from 1998-2001 and graduated with a Criminal Justice Degree. After college, he also played in a semi-pro football league. He met Ben Aurich, class of 1997 and son to retired coach and teacher Mike Aurich, and was asked to join the CA football coaching staff. There he developed friendships with alumni on the staff and became a part of the CA community. "CA was a culture shock for me. I had only ever been to public high school. When I came here it was a shock at first, seeing students leave backpacks in the hallways and have such great attitudes. The teachers are great and the coaches really care about the athletes. I am able to build relationships with the students. This is a great place to be," says Coach Michaels about CA.

When asked what Coach Michaels thinks the greatest benefits are for the program, he said this, "The program builds confidence and makes CA athletes, or any student, become a healthier person and teaches them good workout habits."

So, who can participate in this program?

All students are welcomed and encouraged to participate. The program, which originally was for training our athletic teams, has taken on students who want to gain confidence, strengthen their bodies, and learn good workout habits. During the summer, the Weight Room Platoon Project is Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and splits the boys and girls and is offered to grades 7-12. During the school year, the program is also Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays after school for grades 9-12.

What does a typical weight training workout look like?

It would be begin with warm-ups consisting of stretching, jump rope, plyometric, and hurdles. Then, students are divided into work out groups to perform circuit training. Circuits consist of stair sprints, vertical training, and weighted sled sprints, then is all followed with an intense weight training experience.

What is the greatest benefit you received from weight training with CA's program?

"The weight-training program has allowed me to become a better overall athlete. I am stronger, faster and more explosive. The program is not just about "getting big" but is aimed at applying strength to sports. I compete in shot put and discus for track, and my work in the weight room has increased my shot put throw significantly," Nick Johnston ('15)

Weight Room Success

The Tri Metro Weight Lifting Competition has been held at CA for seven years. Five of those years have resulted in a first place win for the Beacons. Coach Michaels has been instrumental in making this event happen along with members of the Brooklyn Center coaching staff. For more info about the program, contact Brian Brown brian.brown@concordiaacademy.com or check out CA's website at concordiaacademy.com.



Concordia Academy Gifts January 2014 through December 2014

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CA Pictures are online

CA has been blessed to have photographer Nate Jorgensen present at numerous school events, capturing memories through his striking photography. Nate took many of the photos seen in this issue. If you'd like to see hundreds of other photos he's taken at CA over the last two years, go to <http://natejphoto.smugmug.com/CABeacons>. The password to the galleries is "GoBeacons14!" (note the capitalization and exclamation point). Images can be viewed and downloaded, and prints can be purchased. Nate Jorgensen donates a portion of the proceeds to CA. We thank Nate for sharing significant time and incredible talents with Concordia Academy!

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Concordia Beams

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Upcoming Events

August 20	New Family Orientation and Picnic; Back-to-School Night
August 24	First Day of School
September 19	Beacon Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
September 21-26	Homecoming
September 26	Homecoming Dance
October 5	Grandparents Day
October 11	Fall Open House
October 15-16	MEA – No School
October 22	Parent Shadow Day
November 17	Fall Open House
November 20-22	Fall Drama
December 12	Christmas Concert
January 18	Beacon Blast
January 19-23	SnoDaze
January 23	SnoBall Dance
January 25	National Lutheran Schools Day Visit
February 23-24	Vision4Life
March 10-13	Spring Musical
April 9	Celebrate CA Dinner Auction
April 23	Prom

Mission

The Concordia Academy Association of Schools develops and sustains exemplary Lutheran Christian schools to equip young people for lives of faith and service.

Accreditation

Concordia is fully accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement and the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA).