

# CONCORDIA ACADEMY beams

Shining a light on the stories of Concordia Academy

SUMMER 2018



**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
LOVE FOR CA BRINGS ALUMNI BACK AS STAFF

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

# STILL THE SAME

In 1983 I was a high school junior attending Concordia Academy. During one of our religion classes, Chaplain Bruce Fredrickson asked us to share what we hoped to do in our future careers. When it came to me, I paused, looked at Pastor Fredrickson, and said, "Someday I'm going to have your job." **Ten years later Pastor Fredrickson was at my ordination as I was installed as the new chaplain of Concordia Academy.** So, yes, I am a confirmed prophet!

This August, I began my 24th year at CA (28th year if you include my four years as a student). When I began as CA's chaplain, almost all of my old teachers were still on staff. Since then, most have retired, with the exceptions being Bruce Urban and Rick Kuhlman. (Come on guys...one more year!) The building has also

changed with three major additions and countless renovations and improvements. New programs have been added, including robotics, STEM<sub>2</sub>, Emerging Artists, and

ICE Lab. Walking the halls, I don't run into my old classmates, but I do smile when I see their children. These currently include young Fallerts, Harres, Kruegers, and Edwards (Czywczynskis).

Much has changed in 28 years. And yet, I am absolutely convinced that which has always been at the heart of CA is as strong as ever...perhaps stronger than ever. **The mission of Concordia Academy is to lead, teach, and inspire students to become all that God would have them be.** This is the ultimate goal of every class, program, sport, action, and activity. We continually talk about, strategize, and pray for this. Most significantly, we continue to be blessed by God in this. It is my great privilege to witness how, year after year, students are healed, inspired, and led into becoming more and more of whom God intends them to be. At times this process can be messy and hard, but it's real. **The Kingdom of God is built up, one child at a time, in this place.**

Whether you're new to CA or an old-timer like me, I ask that you would join me in thanking our God for the great work He has done in and through this school, and asking that He would continue doing this same great work for generations yet to come.



Rev. Dr. Timothy Berner  
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That which has always  
been at the heart of CA  
is as strong as ever...  
perhaps stronger than ever.

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## CONCORDIA ACADEMY BEAMS

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# 2017 2018 REWIND

Look back on another year of learning, growing, laughing, & being blessed by God.



## GETTING ORIENTED

**AUGUST 18** Our Student Ambassadors, teachers, and staff were excited to welcome 80 new students to CA for New Student Orientation. Enrollment in 2017-2018 grew by almost 10%.

## BEACONS MEET VIKINGS

**SEPTEMBER 18** When Beacon football players volunteered to help a family move heavy, bulky furniture, they had no idea that they would be helping Carl Eller, a Minnesota Viking from 1964-1978, and his wife Molly. At the end of the day, he unexpectedly signed helmets for the players and Coaches Bob Wolf and Eric Schutte and took everyone to see his basement of memorabilia.



## SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

**AUGUST 22** Our Freshman Seminar class helps students transition to high school, plan for the future, and develop their God-given strengths and talents. Topics include personal strengths inventory, study skills, social media use, career interest inventory, time management, organizational skills, goal setting, coping with anxiety, and leadership skills. Miss Sarah Tramm (CA '09), brings so much fun to the class, it hardly seems like learning!



## #BEACONPRIDE

**SEPTEMBER 22** Homecoming 2017 kicked off with the t-shirt reveal courtesy of Mr. Kuhlman. The week included dress up days, pep fests, and a 30-22 football victory over St. Agnes.

## STARTING THE DAY IN THE WORD WITH FOFANA

**SEPTEMBER 27** On Wednesday mornings throughout the school year, students gathered for a men's Bible study led by Lusiene Fofana, CA's custodian (and a fantastic Lutheran pastor, too). It was a blessing to be able to start the day in the Word with friends.



## OUT IN NATURE, CLOSER TO GOD

**OCTOBER 18-19** The Class of 2018 headed to the Heartwood Retreat Center in Trego, WI for their senior retreat. A weekend spent in fellowship, in fun, and in the Word made a significant impact on our seniors!



## GRANDPARENTS GO BACK TO SCHOOL

**OCTOBER 9** Over 200 grandparents filled our building on Grandparents Day, getting the opportunity to join their grandchildren in the morning for chapel and lunch.



## CA ART GOES TO THE DOGS

**OCTOBER 5** Having life models in our CSP College Drawing class (one of dozens of college classes offered on-campus at CA) is nothing out of the ordinary. However, Professor Erin Maurelli brought in a new model for her students to draw: her dog Scout! It's true...art classes have really gone to the dogs!

## LAUGHTER SUPPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

**OCTOBER 28** Laughs filled the building at our Second Annual Comedy Cabaret. Improvisational antics from ComedySportz Twin Cities kept everyone in stitches, especially when audience members got pulled up on stage to be a part of the fun. After the comedy ended, the fun continued with people enjoying wine, cheese, and great conversation in our commons. In fact, some people stuck around until almost midnight. Best of all, the event raised over \$8000 for student scholarships!



## HOMETEAM TOUR ROCKS CA

**NOVEMBER 1** CA's Main Gym was filled with almost 800 people whose hearts were filled with the Holy Spirit and whose ears were filled with great music by Trip Lee, KB, Joseph Solomon, and Ty Brasel. The Minnesota stop of the Hometeam Tour was a powerful, dynamic, electric night.



## STEFAN AND SONS RETURNS

**NOVEMBER 16** Six years ago, CA began an occasional acoustic chapel tradition known as Stefan and Sons. Although the tradition's namesake, former CA teacher Matt Stefan, can no longer be physically present, Matt's spirit lived on in chapel as students and staff boldly praised and worshiped the Lord with strings, accordion, percussion, and loud voices.



## CA CHOIR AT REFORMATION FESTIVAL

**OCTOBER 29** CA choir students were a part of mass choirs that participated in a festival service celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Held at Concordia University, St. Paul, this massive event included drama, dance, music, and a sermon by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison. CA's Rebecca Fritz directed the Youth Choir.



## OUR TOWN TAKES THE STAGE

**NOVEMBER 17-19** Thornton Wilder's stage classic, *Our Town*, came to life as the CA fall play. Described by Edward Albee as "the greatest American play ever written," the story followed the small town of Grover's Corners through three acts: "Daily Life," "Love and Marriage," and "Death and Eternity." Mrs. Sara Kampf Neel was the director.



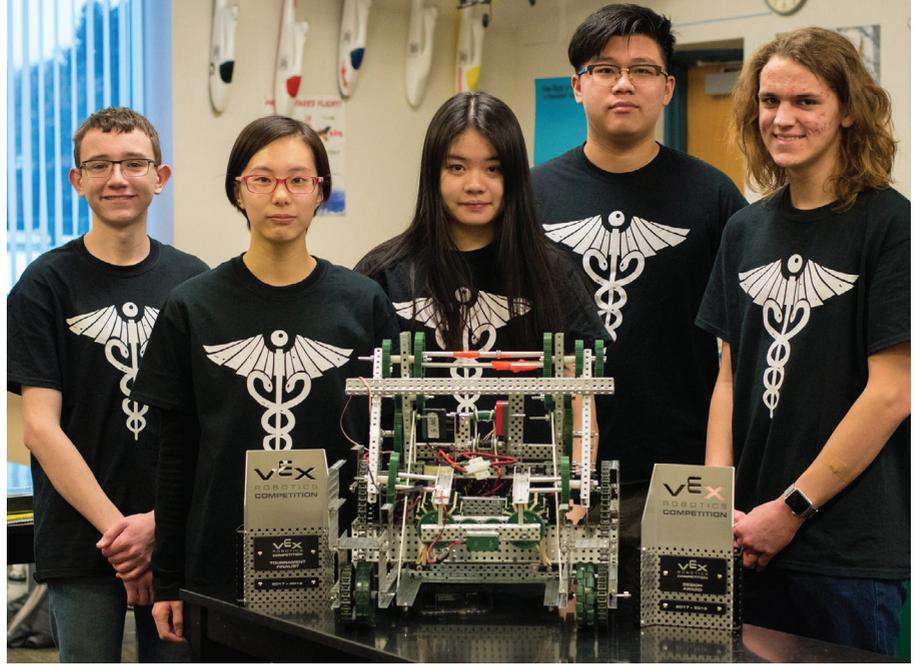
## CHRISTMAS SIGNS

**DECEMBER 4** CA students enrolled in American Sign Language and choir went Christmas caroling at Lyngblomsten Senior Living in St. Paul. Whether singing with their voices or their hands, they brought Christmas smiles to many faces!



## CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT CA

**DECEMBER 9-10** CA's choirs, band, and art students answered the question "Who Is This Child" at standing-room-only Christmas concerts in December.



## ROBOTICS TEAM HEADS TO STATE

**DECEMBER 16** Students in Concordia Academy's Engineering & Robotics class competed in the regional VEX Robotics Competition, and the five students who made up Team Mercury were part of the tournament finalist alliance, earning themselves an invitation to the State Tournament in St. Cloud on February 2 and 3. Mercury also earned the "Design Award," given to the team that shows the most detailed and accurate record of their problem-solving approach to designing, building, and operating their robot.

## PRESIDENT RIES LEADS CHAPEL

**JANUARY 18** It was a blessing to hear Concordia University, St. Paul President Tom Ries speak to the CA students in chapel. His story about beloved CSP baseball assistant "Kos" was a powerful reminder that God gives each of us unique strengths.



## TRI-METRO CELEBRATES ARTS

**JANUARY 29** Musicians and artists from schools in the Tri-Metro Conference, including CA, gathered at St. Croix Lutheran Academy for workshops, rehearsals, and an evening concert featuring an honor band, honor choir, and honor orchestra led by guest directors.



## ASTRONAUT STEVEN SMITH IS OUT OF THIS WORLD



**FEBRUARY 5** Retired astronaut Steven Smith was at CA for a special assembly, sharing stories of his time in space, answering questions, and encouraging students to pursue their dreams. He was selected as an astronaut in 1992 and is a veteran of

four spaceflights, completing seven spacewalks for a total of almost 50 hours in space walk time. Currently, Smith works as Associate Director of the International Space Station Directorate, Ames Research Center.

## DUMPLINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR

**FEBRUARY 16** CA's Global Partners celebrated the Chinese New Year by making...and eating... lots of delicious dumplings! The Global Partners program connects international students with traditional students.



## MOMS IN PRAYER... AND LUNCH

**FEBRUARY 6** Each Wednesday, Moms In Prayer meets to pray for the needs of our students, teachers, staff, and school. But on February 6, these Moms In Prayer blessed CA's staff in a different way, providing a delicious lunch!

## WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPS FOR 8TH YEAR



**MARCH 13** Beacon athletes competed in the Tri-Metro Weightlifting Championship and took first place for the seventh year in a row (and the eighth time in nine years)!



## SNODAZE IS FROZEN FUN

**FEBRUARY 23** CA's SnoDaze celebration wrapped up with a CA Olympics pep fest, followed by some fun in the snow as students made a final attempt to find the elusive and coveted SnoDaze Medallion!



## GRADES 5-8 HAVE A BLAST

**FEBRUARY 19** Over 100 5th-8th graders spent a morning at CA for our annual Beacon Blast! Games, worship, fun, and food were a great way to spend Presidents' Day.



## AUDIENCES TRANSPORTED TO **THE LAND OF SEUSS**

**MARCH 17** After two weekends, five performances, two sell-outs, and almost 2000 attendees, *Seussical*, the spring musical, came to a colorful, energetic, delightful end.



## HIS PEOPLE SOCKS IT TO 'EM

**MARCH 23** When His People left for their tour to Arkansas in mid-March, they brought 523 pairs of socks with them. The director of the Memphis Gospel Mission homeless shelter had mentioned that they give out hundreds of pairs of socks to their clients every week, so His People began collecting new men's socks, and each pair they collected was matched with a second pair through a Thrivent.

## SNOW WOMEN PLAY SOFTBALL

**APRIL 11** CA's softball captains spent part of the afternoon shoveling the field! Now that's dedication... and the joy of playing "spring" sports in Minnesota.



## WE ♥ PASTORS

**APRIL 19** For Pastor Appreciation Day, students offered special words of encouragement and prayed over visiting pastors in chapel. The pastors were also treated to a special lunch afterwards.



## HILARY, KATE, & CA

**APRIL 23** We loved having Hilary and Kate in concert for a special chapel, sharing their special blend of Christian folk rock.





## SENIORS BECOME ALUMNI

**MAY 25** CA said “goodbye” to the Class of 2018 at graduation, held at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills. The class chose Mr. Gary Fritz to deliver the commencement address.



## FRESHMAN WINS BEREAN ORDER

**MAY 8** Congratulations to freshman Ethan Eng, the newest member of the Berean Order! The ten finalists of our Berean Order Bible knowledge competition were seniors Madeleine Peck, Peter Ross, and Wes Tacheny; junior Sam Elting-Ballard; sophomores Alec Johnston, Caleb Loomis, Tirza Stanelle, Ike Tacheny, and Kristina Wicklund; and freshman Ethan Eng.



## WE’LL MISS YOU, LAURI!

**MAY 23** After 19 years of keeping students and staff well-fed with burrito bowls, turkey gravy, and Egg McLaughlins, Lauri Laughlin served her last lunch at CA. We celebrated Lauri by presenting her with a heartfelt standing ovation, flowers, and a custom recipe box filled with cards containing personal notes of appreciation from CA students and staff. While we’ll miss her delicious food, what we’ll really miss is regularly seeing her smile and her love for the Lord. Lauri, thank you for being a huge blessing to CA, and enjoy your well-deserved retirement!



## DAD BAND LEADS CHAPEL

**MAY 7** Dads of past and present CA students sang, shared, and witnessed in a special chapel. Who needs the Four Tenors when we have Andy Moldenhauer, Eric Harre ('89), Mike Pinotti, Terril Tolzien ('84), Christian Schiller, and Marc Paul ('89)?



## COMMONS

A new commons was constructed in 2014 in the space the used to be occupied by the old commons and several classrooms. Since then, additional enhancements have been made. A fireplace was added in spring of 2017. Later that year, numerous photo enlargements filled the walls, surrounding presentations of CA's four core values.

There is also a bit of St. Paul history in the commons. The soda counter/bar from the beloved Saint Clair Broiler (which closed in 2017) now resides at CA and will be used as a student gathering spot, special events serving area, study area, and perhaps eventually even as a coffee bar.

The commons is not only a hub of daily student activity, but it is used for receptions, meetings, coffee houses, art exhibits, and more.

BETTER  
THAN WE ONCE WERE

One of CA's four core values is to "become better than we once were." Over the last couple of years, that value has also been applied to our campus facilities. Exciting improvements have been made throughout the building, with plenty more on the way. If you haven't been inside 2400 N. Dale St. in awhile, you might not recognize it!

# MAIN GYM

Remember those rickety, wobbly, wooden bleachers that had been a part of the lower gym at CA since it was built? Few tears were shed when they were replaced in late 2016 with more comfortable bleachers that are even Beacon green!

Last school year, new scoreboards were added to the lower gym. The old scoreboards moved to the upper gym, and the old upper gym scoreboards have left the building. The "Beacons" graphics on the new scoreboards match new floor graphics that were painted several years ago.

Plaques featuring all the members of our Athletic Hall of Fame now grace one of the mezzanine walls in the gym.



# ICE LAB

The ICE Lab is one of the coolest spots in the building. ICE stands for "Invent, Create, Explore," and this makerspace environment is technology-rich. Using Computer-Aided Technologies, students can learn CAD design, 3D printing, laser cutting/engraving, and CNC routing. Other students may explore the chemical processes of cooking in Molecular Gastronomy or the creation and sequencing of music with digital audio workstations. Students in the ICE Lab are involved in hands-on, project-based, cutting edge learning.



# CONSERVATORY

The ITC (or library) has been re-conceived as the Becken Conservatory, a multipurpose space that has been used for art exhibits, recitals, theatre and music rehearsals, meetings, classes, and special events. It also serves as a dance studio for Celebrate! Dance Academy.

That's not all! New **directional signage** and **room signs** make it easier to navigate the building. A large **digital display** in the lobby welcomes visitors. A new **stage lighting system** has been installed in the auditorium. Plus, a number of other **summer projects** will surprise students when arriving in the fall!

Would you like to help with future building enhancements? There is still much to do! Please email Tim Berner ([tim.berner@concordiaacademy.com](mailto:tim.berner@concordiaacademy.com)).

# BACK TO SCHOOL

While some students can't wait to say "goodbye" to high school, others don't want to leave. And then there's that select group that, when given the chance to return to their alma mater, can't say "no."

CA is fortunate to have nine current staff members who loved this school so much as students that they came back to impact future generations. When they were students, we knew that they were talented. Now that they're staff members, it's clear that they're exceptional.

Some things have changed. Others have stayed the same.

There have been some surprises, too. Read what CA's alumni staff members say about going

## Becky (Braun) Berner ('87), Registrar



**At CA, I was involved in:** basketball, drama, choir, His People, student council

**A favorite CA teacher:** Frau Schmidt

**A favorite CA student memory:** We put Larry Schneider's car in the study hall room.

**After graduating:** I attended Concordia St. Paul and graduated with my BA in Psychology.

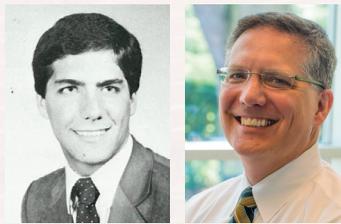
**The best part about my job:** I love meeting our international students and learning about their cultures.

**Something that has changed since I was a student at CA:** The chapels have become amazing experiences led by a great student worship team.

**Something that is still the same at CA:** Everyone still cares deeply for each other, and Jesus is the most important part of the school.

**My CA secret:** Randy Lowe's hair was really a toupee!

## Tim Berner ('85), Principal



**At CA, I was involved in:** football, basketball, track, His People, a bit of drama

**A favorite CA teacher:** Mr. Kuseske. He loved his students and his subject matter. What more could you want in a teacher?

**A favorite CA student memory:** I remember Chip Cummings ('82) and Dave Erickson ('82) sneaking up on the roof and jumping off it into a snowbank, in front of the whole school during a SnoDaze assembly. They were both crazy, so I, of course, thought they were awesome!

**After graduating:** I spent some time in college, seminary, and a bit of grad school, and then came back to CA!

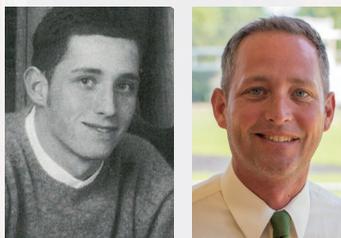
**A favorite thing about being on staff at CA:** I get to work with great colleagues and great students. There is an energy and enthusiasm around CA that I love.

**Something that has changed since I was a student at CA:** There are many more specialized options for students. Three additions and lots of remodeling has also resulted in a much nicer building.

**Something that is still the same at CA:** We have the same mission to lead, teach, and inspire students to be all that God would have them be.

**My CA secret:** I know where "lost treasure" of Steve Dickhudt is hidden!

## Brian Brown ('97), Athletic Director & Dean of Students



**At CA, I was involved in:** football, basketball, baseball

**A favorite CA teacher:** Alice Dornseif. She taught me, a severely lost freshman, what it meant to be a student at CA. She tirelessly cared for people.

**After graduating:** I enrolled at Concordia St. Paul and changed majors more than I would like to admit, finally landing on middle school/secondary education. I taught at Prince of Peace Lutheran in Spring Lake Park for two years before joining the CA staff in 2004.

**A favorite thing about being on staff at CA:** Working with great people. Please don't tell Gary Fritz. He'll get a big head.

**A big surprise when I returned to CA:** I was surprised by how creative the staff is. I am blown away by how much fun it is to work in this place.

**Something that is still the same at CA:** Our mission still powerfully impacts students.

## Kim Duis ('89), Director of Finance, Volleyball Coach



**At CA, I was involved in:** volleyball, basketball, softball, weight room  
**A favorite CA teacher:** Mr. Kuseske. I loved our history classes and his start to the day with "Today in History"

events. He was also my softball coach along with Mr. Dickhudt. That was a unique pair!

**A favorite CA student memory:** I'll never forget winning the state volleyball tournament in 1987 at the old Met Center.

**After graduating:** I went out to Montana State University in Bozeman on a full-ride volleyball scholarship. After graduating, I came back to Minnesota and have been at CA ever since. I love spending time with George, my husband of 13 years, and we really enjoy watching our son Logan play basketball and football.

**A favorite thing about being on staff at CA:** I love being able to minister to students and teach God's Word, especially to the volleyball team. They are a joy to be around and make life fun.

**A big surprise when I returned to CA:** I was amazed at how welcoming the staff was and how comfortable they made me feel. It was a little weird calling my former teachers by their first names. That took some getting used to.

## Marc Paul ('89), Scripture & Life and Psychology Teacher, Boys Basketball and Track & Field Coach



**At CA, I was involved in:** His People, choir, football, basketball, baseball, track & field.

**A favorite CA teacher:** This is really difficult. Because he was my basketball coach, I

connected with Bruce Urban. One of the main reasons I went into teaching was Tom Kuseske. Steve Dickhudt was a tremendous influence on my development. Randy Lowe's impromptu talks were sometimes awkward but usually fun. Hal Schmidt's love for what he does and for students was evident and made class time more enjoyable. I learned so much about responsibility and music through Martin Dickie. And, of course, there's Rick Kuhlman, who has forgotten more about math and sports trivia than most of us will ever know. Check that. Who are we fooling? Rick hasn't forgotten *anything* about math or sports trivia.

**A favorite CA student memory:** I'll never forget choir tour and hanging out as a Boston Celtic.

**After graduating:** I attended North Dakota State University on a Track & Field scholarship and really loved being involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes. My wife of 22 years, Sara, and I have loved being parents to Clara, Sally, and Bryce. I taught and coached in Cottage Grove and Woodbury for 10 years before God called me to CA 14 years ago.

**The best part about my job:** I have the opportunity to share Jesus with students in the learning process. I also simply enjoy getting to know the students and parents of CA.

**Something that has changed since I was a student at CA:** The spiritual culture of what goes on in the classroom, in chapels, and on the sports teams has really deepened.

## Lisa (Kuseske) Sell ('99), Director of Alumni



**At CA, I was involved in:** softball and serving as the baseball stats keeper. I was in His People my junior and senior years, too. I loved aiding for Mrs. D (Alice Dornseif) and her morning donuts.

**A favorite CA teacher:** *My dad!* I loved having my dad, Mr. K, as a teacher. His wisdom and humor was loved among many students, but for me it was extra special to see his years of preparation at home (test grading, having to review VHS recordings of history-related TV programs, and all the historical vacations we took) all come to life in the classroom!

**After graduating:** I studied for a semester at CSP and then decided to work. My first major job was a short stint working as a flight attendant for Mesaba Airlines. Then I worked in the Fleet Maintenance Department at Cemstone Products Company for 11 years before accepting the position at CA. Bradley and I were married in January 2004. We welcomed our son Benjamin in January 2005 and Andrew in September 2006.

**A favorite thing about being on staff at CA:** I appreciate the support and love you receive from the CA community. Spending my work day discussing with staff the life and success of students is something I never dreamed I would be a part of. I now have a whole new appreciation for the teachers who cared for me and my classmates while being a student here. Amazing things happen in this place every day.

**A big surprise when I returned to CA:** I can't believe how awesome the spiritual life is here on campus. The students are on fire for Christ. Our chapels are musically led by teams of students. Stop by and see for yourself...it's quite the thing!

**Something that is still the same at CA:** These teachers are amazing.

**My CA secret:** I still think of this place as my school and not my place of employment.

## Laura (Zimdars) Slusarczyk ('99), Director of Mission Advancement



**At CA, I was involved in:** dabbling in basketball, soccer, theater, choir, band, cheerleading, and dance team. I was also the boys basketball manager and wrestling manager, and I did

sound and light crew. I was sort of a jack-of-all-trades and a master of none.

**A favorite CA teacher:** There were so many great teachers, but if I have to choose just one, I'm going to go with Keith Esala for band. He had a really great dry sense of humor that was a big part of what made band fun.

**A favorite CA student memory:** I loved the opening and closing chapels—which are still a thing, by the way. Tim Berner and the gang are constantly looking for ways to outdo themselves.

**After graduating:** I went to Bethel University where I got a degree in Youth Ministries. After college, I had planned to join the military as a chaplain, but instead was offered a job to move to Germany and work with military kids on behalf of a nonprofit organization. I loved it so much, that I decided to go back to school and get a masters in Nonprofit Management and continued to work in the military and veterans space on the nonprofit side of things. I was able to do that both here in Minnesota and in New York, where I worked on policy issues that impact veterans and built a leadership and community engagement program for post 9/11 veterans across the country. When we moved back to Minnesota, I found my way back to CA, where I hope that I can contribute things that I've learned along the way and give back to the school that really was instrumental in getting me to where I am today. I'm also currently working on my Master's in Law at Hamline University. Aside from education and career though, the thing that I'm most proud of is my family. I married my husband Joe in 2007 and we have a 4-year-old daughter, Nena, and a 19-month-old daughter, Ivy.

**A favorite thing about being on staff at CA:** The faculty and staff here are really incredible; they truly care about the students. I felt that as a student, but I see it even more clearly now. I think an eye-opener for me was coming back as staff and receiving such a warm and loving welcome from people I hadn't seen in nearly 20 years.

**A big surprise when I returned to CA:** They gave me Mr. Aurich's old office! If these walls could talk...

**Something that has changed since I was a student at CA:** The building. I legitimately get lost.

**My CA secret:** I just learned that there is a giant area above the school amongst the ductwork that is basically a time capsule of messages from students dating way back to the 60s. Apparently I didn't get the memo while I was a student here, but it is a treasure trove!

## Sarah Tramm ('09), English and Freshmen Seminar Teacher



**At CA, I was involved in:** volleyball, friendships, and shenanigans

**A favorite CA teacher:** Mrs. Mack. I even remember drawing her a picture that she taped to her desk.

I was honored.

**A favorite CA student memory:** It was great beating Minnehaha's volleyball team and making it to the state tournament. We didn't place during the tournament, but I am still proud of our participation banner that hangs in the gym.

**After graduating:** I was involved in YWAM (Youth With A Mission) for two years in Montana. I am so glad that I went to a high school that encouraged seeking and serving the Lord. My time with YWAM and at CA fostered a personal and foundational relationship with Jesus. I then came back to Minnesota to finish up my undergraduate degree at Northwestern College.

**A favorite thing about being on staff at CA:** I still get to come to my high school every day.

**The best part about my job:** It's great teaching at a Christian school where I can grow in my own faith daily and encourage others to do the same. I also love that we celebrate staff birthdays with treats in the office. (Thank you, Kim Dunn!)

**A big surprise when I returned to CA:** That Mr. Fritz has a first name...just kidding! But it is still very difficult to drop the habit of formality with all of my former teachers.

**Something that has changed since I was a student at CA:** The commons is huge now. I remember sitting at one of the booths and listening to *Screwtape Letters* on audiobook on my iPod while the faces of hundreds of alumni peered down at me.

**My CA secret:** I was voted class clown by my classmates in 2009.

## Rebekah Vincent ('98), English Teacher



**At CA, I was involved in:** drama, yearbook, track

**A favorite CA teacher:** Mr. Kuseske. I looked forward to going to his class every day, and his teaching style was creative and unique. I didn't

just learn history under his direction but became fascinated with it.

**A favorite CA student memory:** Pastor Benken spoke at our graduation about being a servant like Jesus and then washed the feet of our class. Another would be when Mrs. Dornseif played Rose in the Titanic-themed chapel. I can still see her on the bow of a fake ship with a giant fan blowing her scarf behind her. Or perhaps it was when Tim Berner swung over our heads on a rope tied to the catwalk during an Indiana Jones-themed chapel.

**After graduating:** I pursued a degree in English Education, taught internationally for six years as a drama director, and traveled the world.

**A favorite thing about being on staff at CA:** CA is a community of students and staff who support and pray for each other.

**Something that has changed since I was a student at CA:** The student population is more diverse in ethnicity and church background.

**Something that is still the same at CA:** the first and last chapel of the year continues to be a great example of how fun, creative, hard working, and totally crazy the teachers are at Concordia.

# Save the Date!

CONCORDIA ACADEMY

125  
years

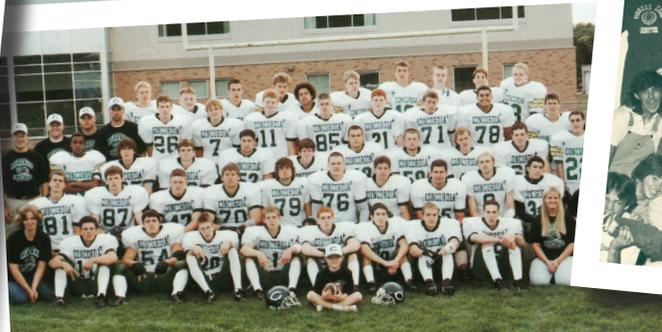
IN THE LIGHT

July 26-28, 2019

For the next year, Concordia Academy will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary, culminating with a Celebration Weekend, July 26-28, 2019.

Designed with your whole family in mind, the weekend events will include an all-school reunion for both alumni and friends of CA, as well as a special worship service. Watch for more details in the coming months at [ConcordiaAcademy.com/125](http://ConcordiaAcademy.com/125). You can also keep informed by making sure we have current contact information. Alumni and families can update their information at [Concordiaacademy.com/alumni](http://Concordiaacademy.com/alumni) or [lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com](mailto:lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com).

As part of the 125th Anniversary Celebration, CA would also like to recognize the connections of **love and marriage** through the decades as well as families with **multiple generations** who have attended CA. **If you married your CA high school sweetheart or are part of a multi-generation CA family, tell us!** Fill out the Keep In Touch form at [www.concordiaacademy.com/alumni](http://www.concordiaacademy.com/alumni).



# STUDENT NEWS

## STEM<sub>2</sub> SUCCESS

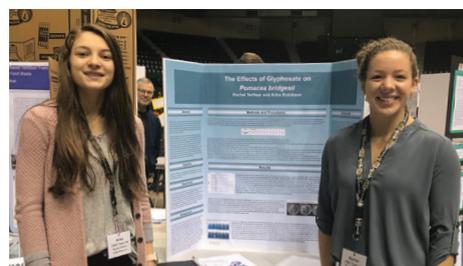
*CA scientists invited to International Science Fair*

Seniors in CA's STEM<sub>2</sub> program were recognized for their outstanding work last year.

Arika Robinson, Rachel TerHaar, Garrett Johnson, and Taylor Hermansen received invitations to the MN State Science Fair and the International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) based on their projects at last winter's Twin Cities Regional Science Fair. In addition,

Garrett and Taylor presented their science fair research at the North Central Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Northwestern University in March.

Rachel and Arika's project was titled "The Effects of Glyphosate on *Pomacea bridgesii*," and Taylor and Garrett's project was "The Effects of Pollution on Algae Within 24 Hours of Exposure."



Arika Robinson (left) and Rachel TerHaar at the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair.



Taylor Hermansen (left) and Garrett Johnson at the North Central Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.

## ROLLERSON HONORED AS FUTURE LEADER

Last winter, Elijah Rollerson ('18) was honored by Urban Venture's Act Six Initiative as one of 40 students who are seen as future community leaders.



Those 40 students, including Elijah, each received a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to one of five Minnesota universities. Elijah will be attending Bethel University this fall.

## TERHAAR RECEIVES ATHENA AWARD

In late April, Rachel TerHaar ('18) was named an Athena Award recipient at the 2018 St. Paul Area Athena Awards luncheon. The Athena Awards program honors female high school seniors for their outstanding athletic achievements. In addition to numerous conference awards, Rachel has been a state participant in both volleyball and track.



Left to right: Track Coach Marc Paul ('89), Track Coach Bob Quast ('97), Rachel TerHaar ('18), Volleyball Coach Kim Duis ('89), Track Coach Dan Wimmer ('89)

## DEPARTMENT HONORS, PLUS ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC, & ARTS AWARDS

**Science:** Rachel TerHaar  
**Math:** Maria Brand  
**English:** Elizabeth Ostendorf  
**Social Studies:** Wes Tacheny  
**Foreign Language:** Annika Scholten  
**Music:** Lydia Hellevik  
**Physical Education:** Jonathan Boll  
**Theology:** Elijah Rollerson  
**Art:** Lindsey Noyed  
**Service Award:** Jacob Lahti  
**Best Actor:** Alex Tramm  
**Best Actress:** Lily Courneya

**Emerging Artist**  
 Lydia Hellevik  
 Lindsey Noyed  
 Mitchell Zenda-Johnson

**STEM<sub>2</sub>**  
 Rachel TerHaar  
 Arika Robinson  
 Garrett Johnson  
 Taylor Hermansen  
 Elizabeth Ostendorf

**Valedictorian:** Annika Scholten  
**Salutatorian:** Elizabeth Ostendorf

**Athletes of the Year**  
 Arika Robinson  
 Casey Hackett



Valedictorian Annika Scholten, Principal Tim Berner, & Salutatorian Elizabeth Ostendorf



Athletic Director Brian Brown with Athletes of the Year Arika Robinson and Casey Hackett

# CA ARTISTS EXCEL IN SECTION COMPETITION

*Students earn superior and excellent ratings and advance to state exhibit.*

Artists from Concordia Academy took home numerous honors in the Minnesota State High School League Section 4A Visual Arts Tournament in April.

Lindsey Noyed ('18) received three superior ratings and one excellent rating, Elise Eisfelder ('18) and Mitchell Cooke ('18) each received a superior rating, Meredith Thompson ('18) received two superiors, and Hailey Paup ('18) received two excellent ratings.

In addition, Meredith's watercolor and ink piece, titled "MINNE," was selected to advance to the State Visual Arts Exhibition at Perpich

Center for Arts Education on May 5.

Congratulations to all the students for their achievements, with special congratulations to Meredith for advancing to the state spotlight!



Meredith Thompson poses with "MINNE," her watercolor piece that advanced to the MN State Visual Arts Exhibit. She also designed and painted much of the art room wall mural visible in the background.

## ATHLETICS CONFERENCE AWARDS

### ALL-CONFERENCE

#### Baseball

Benjamin Reinhard ('20)

#### Basketball

Lydia Lecher ('19)  
Hailey Paup ('18)  
Barnabas Preble ('19)  
Ivane Tensaie ('21)

#### Cross Country

Meredith Thompson ('18)

#### Dance

Rebekah Gertz ('18)  
Hannah Lageson ('19)

#### Football

##### (All District)

Donovan Baker ('18)  
Casey Hackett ('18)  
Emmet Heck ('19)  
Michael Juelich ('18)  
Mitchell Zenda-Johnson ('18)

#### Golf

Caleb Landvik ('19)

#### Soccer

Benjamin Boll ('19)  
Katharine Wicklund ('18)

#### Softball

Taylor Brunn ('19)  
Lydia Lecher ('19)  
Sydney Pelzer ('21)

#### Track

Jonathan Boll ('18)  
Casey Hackett ('18)  
Michaela Hartinger ('19)  
Eben Mundfrom ('18)  
Barnabas Preble ('19)  
Arika Robinson ('18)  
Annika Scholten ('18)  
Rachel TerHaar ('18)  
Shaina Zinter ('22)

#### Volleyball

Kira Fallert ('21)  
Sarah McTaggart ('19)  
Rachel TerHaar ('18)  
Brooke Weichbrodt ('21)

### ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION

#### Baseball

Kyle Carey ('20)  
Will Oelschlaeger ('19)

#### Basketball

Casey Hackett ('18)  
Gavin Harbo ('18)  
Arika Robinson ('18)

#### Cross Country

Michaela Hartinger ('19)  
Matthew Nordby ('18)

#### Dance

Maria Brand ('18)  
Maggie Law ('20)

#### Football

##### (All-District)

Jordan Brennan ('19)  
Gavin Harbo ('18)  
Eben Mundfrom ('18)  
Luke Raymond ('19)

#### Golf

Tommy Hammons ('18)

#### Soccer

Jonathan Boll ('18)  
Sydney Hackett ('20)  
Hannah Lageson ('19)  
Ethan Winterfeldt ('20)

#### Softball

Emma Brunn ('21)  
Madelynn Harre ('19)

#### Track

Mitchell Cooke ('18)  
Kira Fallert ('21)  
Sydney Hackett ('20)  
Emmet Heck ('19)  
Kathryn Ousdigian ('20)  
Jaden Quast ('21)  
Isabel Romay ('19)  
Myia Schuessler ('19)  
Meredith Thompson ('18)  
David Voelker ('19)  
Paige Winterfeldt ('19)

#### Volleyball

Arika Robinson ('18)  
Rachel TerHaar ('18)

#### Wrestling

Michael Juelich ('18)  
Eben Mundfrom ('18)

## VISION4LIFE FEATURED ON KSTP NEWS

On March 1, KSTP Eyewitness News aired a story about students volunteering during our Vision4Life program. While the story discussed the V4L service days as a whole, it also had a special focus.

That focus was on one group of guys who spent the day cleaning up a home in the north metro that had recently been destroyed by fire. Our students were actually helping out a fellow Beacon. The burnt-out home is where CA graduate Ben Downing ('16) lives. After spending years volunteering during Vision4Life, Ben was now having the favor returned.

View KSTP's coverage of Vision4Life at <http://bit.ly/V4LKSTP>.



During Vision4Life, Jessica Miles interviews Eben Mundfrom ('18) for KSTP Eyewitness News at the home of Ben Downing ('16). Ben's home had recently been destroyed by fire.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## BEACON FAMOUS

*CA's Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes Hahn, Quast, Lark, & 1987 State Volleyball Champions*

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, plenty of Beacon memories were shared and athletic excellence was honored as new members were inducted into the Concordia Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. The 2017 inductees were Heidi Hahn (1989), Robert Quast (1991), DeVon Lark (Coach), and the 1987 State Volleyball Championship Team.

Tom Kuseske (CAS '64) was once again the emcee for the event, sharing memories of the inductees

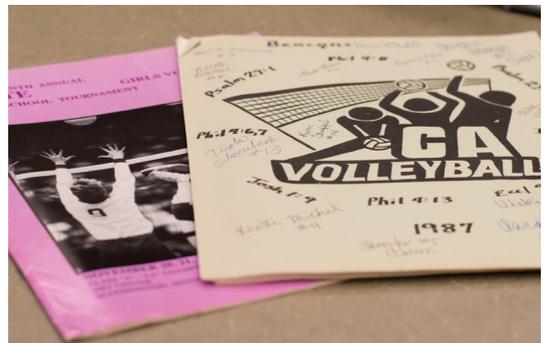
and allowing them to share their own personal stories. For example, members of the 1987 volleyball team, along with Coach Steve Dickhudt ('71), remembered that they were unable to practice in the CA's gym during that entire championship season due to floor repair.

The Hall of Fame wall in the Main Gym honors all inductees with plaques. Be sure to visit it when you're at CA! You can also read about all Hall of Fame members at [ConcordiaAcademy.com/hof](http://ConcordiaAcademy.com/hof).



Left: Heidi Hahn ('89) was delighted that her daughter wore her 1980s CA letter jacket to the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Below: Coach DeVon Lark and his family.



### NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

**YOU CAN NOMINATE PLAYERS, TEAMS, COACHES, AND FAMILIES FOR THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME.** Just go to [ConcordiaAcademy.com/hof](http://ConcordiaAcademy.com/hof). Nominees for 2019 will be accepted until January 7, 2019.

Far Right: Memorabilia from the 1987 volleyball season, including the state tournament program, was on display at the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction.

Right: 2017 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees.





Tom Kuseske (second from right) and his wife of 50 years, Cherice (third from right) are pictured with (from left to right), son-in-law Bradley Sell ('99), daughter Lisa ('99), son Grant ('88) and daughter Lara ('90).

## CSP HONORS MR. K

*Tom Kuseske receives service award from Concordia University*

On September 29, retired CA teacher Mr. Tom Kuseske (CAS '64 and CSP '68) was honored with Concordia University, St. Paul's "Alumni Distinguished Service Award." This award is given to exceptionally accomplished CSP alumni who have upheld the university's ideals in their profession and in service to the community and church. They have also demonstrated professional leadership, have recognition from professional peers, and have distinctiveness of performance.

Congratulations, Mr. Kuseske, on this well-deserved honor!

## FRIENDS OF CA

*Channel your inner Chandler, Monica, or Phoebe with CA Coffee Club*

Hey Beacons—how you doin'? One of the Central Perks of CA is the great community. That's why, **whether you're a parent of a current student, an alumni, or a friend of the school, we want YOU to be a part of our NEW Beacon Coffee Club**, launching in August!

This club is an online community of Friends. It's a virtual coffee house where we'll share life with one another while supporting Concordia Academy! Coffee Club members will receive special offers for CA events throughout the year and also get their very own exclusive Coffee Club mug!

Membership is \$10/month for the year, but the community we'll build is priceless. **Sign up and pre-order your mug today at [ConcordiaAcademy.com/friends!](http://ConcordiaAcademy.com/friends)** Could this BE any more exciting?



## REUNION UPDATES

**CLASS OF 1979** is planning a 40th reunion for June 22, 2019.

**CLASS OF 1999**, do you want to be on the 20th reunion planning committee? We would love your help! Email [lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com](mailto:lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com) today and find out how you can be a part of the fun!

## NOTE FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

### Hello Beacon Alumni!

Keep those updates coming; we love hearing from alumni about their families, events, and careers. It's easy to keep us in the loop by visiting [concordiaacademy.com/alumni](http://concordiaacademy.com/alumni). Click on the Keep in Touch tab and fill out our Alumni Update Form. You can also find us on Facebook. Email me for more info at [lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com](mailto:lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com).

If your class is due for a reunion and you aren't sure where to start, contact me today for more info! I love helping alumni get a party started.

You're always invited to stop by and see the updates at CA and visit with the Mission Advancement Team! We love alumni visits, like the one pictured on the right from 2015 graduates Dan Klaver, Nick Johnston, and Stephen Mylabathula!

And don't forget: once a Beacon, always a Beacon!

Lisa (Kuseske) Sell ('99)  
[lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com](mailto:lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com)



# ALUMNI UPDATES

**JOHN OLSON (CAS '65)** was part of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23), a two-week conference in Bonn, Germany, where over 195 countries came together to negotiate climate change policy and implementation strategies of the Paris Agreement. Part of his interest regarding the conference arose from his previous service in the Peace Corps in Liberia.



**PETER VALTERS ('71)** retired January 31, 2017 after 38 years in the workforce. Paul and his wife have relocated to Texas. Paul is enjoying his new full-time job as a grandparent to his granddaughter Addie. Paul praises the Lord for guiding them through retirement and relocation.



**DAWN (ANDERSON) SPERRY ('73)** has retired after 18+ years at Hewlett-Packard and other corporate stints. She is enjoying retirement with her four grandchildren and three cats and enjoys time on the deck watching the squirrels and birds! She prays for joyful retirement for others and blessings to you all.

**REV. KATHERINE (VOLZ) FINEGAN ('83)**



was elected to serve as Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on May 23, 2017.

Prior to this election, Bishop Finegan served five years as the Assistant to the Bishop and ten years as a parish pastor. She resides in Ishpeming, MI with her husband, Dave. They have three sons

**LAURA (SHEPPARD) KOEPP ('84)** has a son, Joshua (age 23) serving in the Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa. Joshua is working with the community to build a Health Post in a remote village so that health services for women and children can be more accessible. Laura has been working at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview (Minneapolis), as a psychotherapist/family therapist at an adolescent day treatment program. This is her 11th year at Fairview working as a therapist.

**HEATHER (ERICKSON) GREGORY ('84)** is currently residing in Lino Lakes, MN with her three children and is happily married. She works for Clinique Cosmetics.

**KATHRYN GALCHUTT ('88)** received an Award of Commendation by Concordia Historical Institute. They annually highlight people who "advance the knowledge of American Lutheranism." She wrote an article titled "Lutherans and the Civil Rights Struggle in Selma." She was one of 13 who received the award.

**CYNTHIA (MULLEN) CAVE ('92)** graduated in October 2017 from Grand Canyon University with a dual degree and started her masters in reading last spring.

**ANDREW WALES ('99)** is now a National Account Manager for 3M and resides in Naperville, IL. He is married with children.



**BRADLEY SELL ('99)** and **NICK SCHWALBACH ('05)** joined the Little Canada Fire Department as volunteer fire fighters. Bradley works full-time at Cemstone Companies as Assistant Fleet Manager and Nick works for SPS Commerce as a product manager.



**MATTHEW GRISWOLD ('01)** appeared on Public Television's *Prairie Mosaic* last spring with a two-song sample of a 30-minute show scheduled to air in July. You can watch him sing "Everyday War" and "Fading Away"



on the Prairie Public Broadcasting Channel's YouTube channel (look for Prairie Mosaic Episode 908).

**ADINE MOMOH ('02)** became the 100th president of the Hennepin County Bar Association (HCBA). She is a partner at Stinson Leonard Street, where she practices in the areas of securities



and banking litigation, estates and trust litigation, and creditors' rights and bankruptcy. She represents clients in both state and federal courts around the country. She is the first black woman and the youngest attorney to serve as president of the HCBA.

**SARAH (ERLING) AND ANDREW WEISBECKER ('02)** were married in 2007 and now have four daughters: Gemma (9), Adelaide (7), Charlotte (4), and Willa (2). They live in Blaine.



**JASON TAYLOR ('08)** married Michelle Manship on May 6, 2017 at the Dellwood Barns. Congratulations!

**SAM AND TARA (TOLZIEN) WIRTH ('10)** welcomed their first child, Blake Anne Wirth, born on May 2, 2018. Congratulations!



## KEEP US POSTED!

**WE WANT TO KNOW** about important events, milestones, and accomplishments in your life! Go to [ConcordiaAcademy.com/alumni](http://ConcordiaAcademy.com/alumni) and click on "Keep in Touch" to give us big or small updates.

## IN MEMORIAM

**DAVE DITTBERNER** arrived in his Heavenly home on July 22, 2017 after courageously enduring a 5½ year challenge with Alzheimer's. Dave is survived by his wife of 60 years, Caroline, and children Tim ('78), Joel ('81), and Debbie ('82). Dave was former principal and teacher at Gethsemane and Walther.

**LYNN SCHIBONSKI ('80)** died peacefully on April 25, 2017, following a courageous battle with ovarian cancer. Lynn was employed as an Office Administration Specialist with the State of Minnesota. She was active in her churches, serving many years as Sunday School Superintendent and in church choirs. She also had a passion for animal care and rights.

**IRENE ALLHOUSE**, mother of Dawn Mackey ('81) and Todd ('83), died on June 11, 2017.

**THOMAS WESTLING ('83)** passed away unexpectedly July 4, 2017.

**WILLIAM "CHIP" CARLSON ('84)** died April 29, 2017 from T-cell leukemia. Chip is survived by his wife, Jennie; children, Tina and Sabrina; mother, Michelle Carlson; brother, Scott Carlson ('77); and sister, Sherri Carlson ('74).

**BARB WESTPFAHL**, mother to Mark ('87), passed away July 16, 2017. Barb served her community for over 40 years as a school teacher at Central Lutheran School in St. Paul and as an active member of her church. Throughout her lifetime, her love, stories and laughter touched the hearts of countless individuals.

**ROBERT DURBAND** passed away unexpectedly on July 28, 2016. He was father to Heather Schulz ('88).

**MARIE GROVER**, mother to Sara Waters ('89) and Sadie Benson ('93), peacefully passed away July 6, 2017.

**LYNETTE LEE BRINDLEY** passed away September 1, 2015 at the age of 75. She was the mother of Dena Schull ('92).

**RYAN FUITH ('01)** passed away unexpectedly on November 1, 2017.

**ALAN GEAR ('84)** passed away December 25, 2017.

**DOUGLAS SELTZ**, father of Gretchen ('81), Tom ('83) and Robert ('85), passed away on December 21, 2017.

**LORNE ARNDT ('70)**, father to Jason ('92), passed away January 1, 2018.

## MEMORIES OF A BEACON FOR JESUS

**DIANNE QUAST** (née Robert), class of 1963, peacefully crossed into heaven on March 22, 2017. Her long nine years of suffering with dementia were over at the age of 71.

She was so proud to be a Beacon, shining for Jesus. Her light shone bright for us and countless others. Now, as she celebrates in the light of her Savior, we remember her earthly labors for her beloved school.

She grew up in the West 7th Street area and worshiped at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (on Victoria). Her older brother, James Robert, was part of the committee in 1959 to form a new Lutheran High School called St. Paul Lutheran. She bragged that she was one of the first student's enrolled.

She thrived in this very small class environment of Christian education and embraced being involved with everything. Dianne said everyone "had to" be involved with everything in order for the school to function and grow. This first class chose the school mascot: the "Beacons," a light to the world. They also chose the school colors and song and penned the first issues of the school newsletter and yearbook.

She often recalled a warped gym floor and classroom settings at other properties as the new building was being built during the first three years of the young St. Paul Lutheran High School.

She told many stories of the excitement of moving into the new campus at 2400 North Dale during the winter of her senior year. Like many of us, her high school friends were her lifetime friends.

Dianne's passion for her high school continued far beyond the merger of St. Paul Lutheran and Concordia Academy in 1967. She took it upon herself to be the keeper of the St Paul Lutheran alumni records well into the late 70s and held a reunion of the class of 1963 in our family back yard. She helped assemble CA's original version of Festival of Nations and participated in many outreaches, committees and events. We, her family, knew the building well. Even before we were old enough to attend CA in the 80s and 90s, we spent many hours stuffing envelopes for mass mailings and running in the halls and gym.

Blessed be her memory and the memories she shared with all of us the in the beginnings of St Paul Lutheran and Concordia Academy High Schools.

-Vic Quast, Laura Benson ('87), Juli Kjorness ('88), and David Quast



A NOTE FROM  
THE DIRECTOR. OF MISSION ADVANCEMENT

# 10 NON-TRADITIONAL WAYS TO SUPPORT CA

If you're anything like me, you probably have a list of causes you care about—kids, animals, the environment—and if you're reading this, probably Concordia Academy! Some of us find the time to volunteer, others donate when they can, and some are vocal supporters and advocates for whatever causes mean the most to them. That being said, it can often be a challenge to

It can often be a challenge  
to find the time, energy,  
and money to give  
to everything we care about.

find the time, energy,  
and money to give to  
everything that we  
care about.

This summer my  
family is juggling  
kids activities, grad  
school, and family

obligations while simultaneously tucking away money for a trip to Disney World this winter. **It's hard to think of ways to still contribute to the things that matter to me when there's so much already on my plate — and I'm sure that at least some of you can relate.** That's why I want to share my list of 10 non-traditional ways that I've found to support CA.

## Stock Gifts

One of the perks that many employers offer are shares of company stock. Fortunately, when you donate stock to a nonprofit like CA, you'll generally receive a tax-deduction for the full fair market value of your contribution!

## Company Matches

Does your company offer a matching incentive for charitable contributions? This is a great way to double your impact and investment in Concordia.

## Bequests

What legacy do you want to leave? Estate gifts are an amazing way to support the students of Concordia Academy for years into the future.

## Sponsorships

Do you work for a company that would love to get some brand exposure while supporting the mission of CA? Consider sponsoring our annual dinner auction or 125th anniversary celebration! You can contact [lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com](mailto:lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com) for more information about our 2019 sponsorship packages.

## Join our Beacon Coffee Club

Ok, so maybe you don't like coffee, but if you like people, this is the club for you! For \$10 per month you can be a part of this

online community of CA advocates doing life together. You're helping the mission, and it's fun too! Get more details on pg. 19.

## Volunteer

Do you have a skill or expertise that you think would benefit CA? Or do you have the time and willingness to learn? From administrative support to event staff and everything in between, we're always looking for a few helping hands. If you're interested in volunteering, let us know!

## Online Ambassadors

Do you have a large social network? Do you have an online community that you're connecting with regularly? Commit to sharing about CA. It's as easy as retweeting or sharing our content and tagging friends that might be interested. We have active Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages, and anyone can help spread the word!

## Make an Impact with Thrivent!

Are you a Thrivent member? If so - you can help Concordia in big ways through Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Community Impact Cards. It's super easy and produces immediate impact. Want to learn more? Contact us at [info@concordiaacademy.com](mailto:info@concordiaacademy.com).

## Give In-Kind

Do you have something of value that would benefit CA? Whether putting together an auction basket, donating a service for the auction, or providing furniture, equipment, or other materials to the school, your in-kind gifts are appreciated! Email [info@concordiaacademy.com](mailto:info@concordiaacademy.com) to find out more about how to give.

## Pray

**You can never underestimate the power of prayer, and Concordia Academy requests and appreciates your commitment to praying for our school.** We ask you to remember our students, staff and teachers in your daily prayers, that we would know and follow God and fulfill His purpose for CA.

Laura (Zimdars) Slusarczyk ('99)  
[laura.slusarczyk@concordiaacademy.com](mailto:laura.slusarczyk@concordiaacademy.com)



# SNOW WAY!

*A record-setting mid-April blizzard couldn't stop the auction from raising almost \$90,000.*

When planning "Almost Paradise," the 2018 CA Dinner Auction, a blizzard was far from anyone's mind. Although heavy snow in mid-April isn't impossible in Minnesota, it's also not common. However, April 14 ended up being the second-snowiest April day on record for the area, with over 11 inches of snow, second only to the 13.6 inches that fell on April 14, 1983.

Although the snow understandably kept half of the auction ticket holders at home, the event was an incredible success! Attendees were decked out in prom dresses and other 80s attire, danced to 80s tunes by "Dreamscape" (featuring 1995 CA graduate David Burkart), and showed incredible support for CA as they bid on fabulous items in live and silent auctions. Remarkably, the event brought in over \$87,000, which is comparable to our record-setting auction total from 2017 (which had almost twice the attendance)!

By the time the auction was over, the snow had stopped, the roads were in slightly better condition, and CA's student ambassadors had brushed off cars and shoveled around them in the parking lot.

The weather may have not quite been "Almost Paradise," but it was definitely a night to remember!



## 2018-2019 EVENTS

### Homecoming

Friday, October 5 | 5:30 pm (Carnival) & 7:00 pm (Football vs. Humboldt)

### Grandparents Day

Thursday, October 11

### Fall Play

November 16, 17, 18

### Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 8 | 7:00 pm  
Sunday, December 9 | 3:00 pm

### Vision4Life

February 27 - March 1

### Spring Musical

March 8-10, 15-16

### 20th Annual Dinner Auction

Saturday, April 13 | 4:30 pm

### Spring Concert

Thursday, May 9 | 7:30 pm

### Honors Convocation

Tuesday, May 14 | 7:00 pm

### His People Concert

Thursday, May 23 | 7:30 pm

### Graduation

Friday, May 24 | 7:00 pm at North Heights, Arden Hills

### 125th Anniversary Celebration

July 26-28

*Visit [ConcordiaAcademy.com](http://ConcordiaAcademy.com) for our most up-to-date calendar.*

Top Left: Auction attendees get into the "prom spirit."

Far Left: Isabel Romay ('19), one of CA's Student Ambassadors, tries to get ahead of the snow as she shovels the walk before auction guests arrive.

Bottom Left: Pastor Tim Berner introduces David Burkart ('95), who remarked that, 25 years ago, he never would have believed that he'd be playing Van Halen's "Jump" in the CA gym.

## CA FLASHBACK

*Looking back at a classic moment from the past 125 years*



Whether finishing off a cheer with a "C" jump, cheering the boys basketball team to a 75-70 victory vs. Minneapolis Lutheran, or combining with the B-Squad for a half-time cheer, CA's A-Squad cheerleaders displayed immense amounts of school spirit during 1969-1970.