

the Concordia Academy beam

SUMMER 2023

LEGACY

A CA family reflects on the powerful impact of a devastating fire, Concordia Academy, and God's faithfulness.



from the Principal

We are in the midst of a *golden age* in Christian education. Over the last three years, 80% of Christian schools in the US have seen an increase in enrollment. This is certainly true for CA, where we've seen a trend of steady annual enrollment increases (41% growth since 2017).

Many attribute this growth to the impact of Covid. Parents, frustrated with online education, left for Christian schools who reopened long before their public-school counterparts did. While this is true, it's significant to note that enrollment continues to increase in Christian schools despite the reopening of public schools.

What's more, Christian schools are growing despite the rapid growth in other educational options. Charter schools, home-schools, online

schools, and PSEO (Post-Secondary Education Option) options have all significantly increased since Covid, and still enrollment in traditional Christian schools continues to increase.

Schools like CA are growing for the very reason that Christian schools exist. We exist that students *may know the mys-*

tery of God, namely Jesus Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:2-3). This is what is truly golden about Christian schools.

In a world convulsed by confusion, division, and anger regarding politics, morality, sexuality, race, and speech, it is no wonder that so many parents are searching for a place of refuge for their children. Jesus is the only true refuge in this turbulent world. He is, in fact, *the way, the truth, and the life* (John 14:6).

This is what we all want for our children.



Rev. Dr. Timothy Berner
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ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Paul

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
St. Paul

Cross View Lutheran Church
Edina

Eastern Heights Lutheran Church
St. Paul

Emmaus Lutheran Church
St. Paul

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
St. Paul

Jehovah Lutheran Church
St. Paul

King of Kings Lutheran Church
Roseville

North Heights Lutheran Church
Arden Hills

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
St. Paul

South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church
White Bear Lake

St. Stephanus Lutheran Church
St. Paul

Trinity Hudson Lutheran Church
Hudson

Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church
Eagan

Woodbury Lutheran Church
Woodbury

The Concordia Academy Beam Vol. 14, No. 1 Summer 2023
Published by Concordia Academy, 2400 North Dale Street,
Roseville, MN 55113. 651-484-8429.

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Beacon Highlights

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Rebecca Fritz honored by Concordia University, St. Paul

Last fall at Concordia University's Alumni Awards Banquet, CA's own Rebecca Fritz was recognized as an Educator of the Year. This award is conferred upon alumni of Concordia University, St. Paul, who have demonstrated exemplary performance in creating communities of learning that positively engage students, families, and the community at large.

Although she is perhaps best known for her work as CA's choral director since 1998, she was primarily recognized by CSP for her extensive work further developing our Family Life Group program and senior Scripture and Life curriculum.

Congratulations, Mrs. Fritz!



NO TECH? NO PROBLEM!
Last year, Thursdays at CA were "Tech-Free Thursdays," meaning that lunchtime was free from phones and other technological devices, and students got to be "in the moment" with their peers. The result was extra time to connect with friends in different ways.



FRESHMEN FUN
What do you get when you combine games, food, prayer, community building, competitions, crafts, lots of flannel, and almost 80 9th graders? You get our fun Freshman Retreat, held early last fall at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills. This experience was designed to help build new friendships and equip the Class of 2026 to make the most of their four years at CA.



FLAHERTY FAMILY FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP BLESSES CA FAMILIES

CA is blessed by an ongoing partnership with the Flaherty Family Foundation, a group that provides scholarships to high-achieving students with economic need who attend dozens of faith-based high schools throughout the country.

The foundation connects with their CA Scholars multiple times throughout the year, including breakfast gatherings and individual check-ins. Seniors from all their partner schools are celebrated at an annual spring celebration.

An incredible level of care, concern, and mentorship by the Flaherty Foundation helps position these students for success.

Thank you, Flaherty Family Foundation, for all that you do for these students, their families, and CA!



During Homecoming Week, Ed Flaherty, founder of the Flaherty Family Foundation, met with this year's scholars.

LITTLE WOMEN: BIG SUCCESS
In mid-November, cast and crew members brought to life Louisa May Alcott's beloved story of the March sisters. Performances of *Little Women* were November 18, 19 and 20.



GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

On April 17, CA was proud to have students participate in Youth Day at the Capitol. They attended advocacy training, met with legislators, had a Q & A session with the Attorney General and Governor Walz, viewed exhibits at the MN History Center, and observed a legislative session. Several of these students had previously gathered at the Capitol for the immersive four-day Youth in Government experience.



2000 POINT CLUB

AJ Greene hit a huge milestone when he scored his 2000th high-school basketball career point and became only the third basketball player in CA school history to achieve that number. He joins Zach Towle (2009 boys team) and Ivane Tensaie (2021 girls team) on the 1000 Point Board with numbers topping 2000!



BOW-VEMBER

CA's Mr. Gary Fritz designated November as "Bow-vem-ber" and sported a different bow tie each school day. Here are a few highlights.



Tim Benz, the president of Minndependent, presents the 2023 Program Award to Pastor Tim Berner.



MINNDEPENDENT HONORS CA COHORTS

CA is the recipient of the 2023 Minndependent Program Award for our Concordia Cohorts and Cohort Conversations. Pastor Tim Berner accepted the award at the 15th annual Private and Independent Education Awards on Sunday, April 30. This celebration recognizes the excellence found in Minnesota's private and independent school communities. To learn more about Concordia Cohorts, visit www.concordiaacademy.com/cohorts. And to view a video produced by Minndependent about our Cohorts program, scan the QR code on the right.



CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY

Thanks to our annual Holiday Craft Fair, Christmas was in the air early at CA last fall. On November 12, over 1200 people explored fantastic gift items from 100 crafters and vendors. Mark your calendars for the 2023 event on November 11.



UNFORGETTABLE

The 2022 volleyball season was a roller coaster of memories

CA's 2022 volleyball season was one of the most memorable in history. The team started the season 4-4 and finished it 4th in the state, giving Beacons fans countless memorable moments along the way. One of those memories was winning the Section 4AA Championship against the

undefeated, number-one team. It was one of the most impressive victories in CA volleyball history.

These ladies never gave up, and they never stopped making us proud. Congratulations, Beacons, on an incredible season!



Above: The Beacons took 4th Place at the 2022 Minnesota State Volleyball Tournament. They were coached by three Beacon Volleyball Alumni: Head Coach Kim (Steffel) Duis ('89) and Assistant Coaches Pam (Vehling) Fallert ('86) and Erin Fallert ('17).

Left: Players and fans celebrate after an amazing Section 4AA Championship victory.

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS CELEBRATE AT CA

In January, Concordia Academy welcomed 700 students from Twin Cities Lutheran schools to celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. The day was filled with laughter, learning, and love for the Lord! CA Student Ambassadors, His People, teachers, and staff members did an outstanding job running sessions, welcoming our visitors, setting up, taking down, leading worship, and making the day run smoothly. A huge thank you goes

to King of Kings Lutheran School, our partner for the event and host to many of the activities for students in Kindergarten through Grade 2.

National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 early childhood centers, preschools, elementary schools, and high schools with the opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



ART STUDENTS HONORED

CA was one of four schools invited to participate in this year's High School Honors Art Exhibition at Concordia University, St. Paul. Ten CA students had their work displayed in this exhibit. Anna Boll (CA '23) received an Honorable Mention for her sculpture "Back to Life," and Katie Harris (CA '23) received Second Place for her series of four *Little Women* posters (from CA's fall theatre production). Both Anna and Katie were members of our 2023 Emerging Artist Cohort.



SEEING GREEN

Shrek The Musical Is a Record-Breaking Smash

Shrek The Musical came to life at CA at sold-out performances over two weekends in March. The show set a new attendance record for theatre at CA and was perhaps the most technically ambitious theatre production in CA history.

The cast and crew were recognized for their achievements by Spotlight Education, a program of the Hennepin Theatre Trust. Awards included Honorable Mention for Overall Production and an invitation to perform at the Spotlight Showcase at the State Theatre on June 12. Congratulations to the cast, crew, and directors (Sara Neel, Alan Lecher, Sean Boll, and Sarah Pieper) for these much-deserved awards!



RIGHT ON TRACK

Athletes finish strong in playoffs and at State

The Beacons wrapped up a successful track and field season with a Section 4A Track Championship for the boys and a second-place finish for the girls.

In addition, 15 CA athletes qualified for State, with the following Beacons achieving All-State honors:

- Keira McCord, 5th Place - Discus (117'2")
- Nicklaus Wimmer, 6th Place (Tie) – Pole Vault (12'9")
- Michaela Zenz, 7th Place – 100 Hurdles (15.82)
- Anna Konsti, 8th Place – 200 Meter (26.29)
- Elissa Bensus, Heidi Krekelberg, Anna Konsti, Sarai Kieser, 4th Place – 4 x 100 Relay (50.11)



GOVERNMENT GUESTS

Our College Government class welcomed a number of notable guest speakers last year. These included Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Anne K. McKeig, Sheila Harsdorf (a former Wisconsin State Assembly Member, Senator Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection), and Minnesota State Auditor Julie Blaha (pictured below).



SCHMINSKI IS TOP ATHLETE

In April, Cole Schminski (CA '23) was honored as a top Minnesota Scholar Athlete at the Minnesota Football Honors. This awards ceremony is sponsored by the Vikings and The Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame.



LEGACY

Multiple legacies entwine in a powerful way for the Stage family.

There's no question that Jim and Cally Stage are part of a CA legacy family. They are proud parents to current students Gracen ('24) and Evelyn ('26), with three more children to follow and several nieces and nephews who currently attend CA. Jim ('00), four of his brothers, and a sister are CA alumni, and another sister, Rose, works in the front office. Even though Cally didn't grow up in the Twin Cities, she is so involved and invested in CA that she is often mistaken for a CA alum.

“We gathered with family and friends, prayed, cried some more, and then came up with our plan.”

-Jim Stage

But that's not the only legacy to which Jim and Cally are connected. Jim is a pharmacist, and he and Cally own Lloyd's Pharmacy in St. Paul, just a few blocks from Jim's childhood home. Jim has spent most of his career at the pharmacy, including working for the previous owner, Ron Johnson, at a Rochester location. Jim, Cally, and their family moved back to the Twin Cities in 2011 after the opportunity arose to transfer to the Snelling location. In 2014, the Stages purchased the pharmacy and its building when Johnson retired.

May 2020 was a tragic time for many Minnesotans, and it hit incredibly close to home for the Stages when the 102-year legacy of Lloyd's

Pharmacy almost ended. On Friday morning, May 29, their family business and community staple burned to the ground during the civil unrest that followed the death of George Floyd.

The initial loss of Lloyd's was not only painful for the Stages but also for the Midway neighborhood. The business had a loyal customer base that was heartbroken about losing their longtime neighborhood pharmacy. Many of their loyal customers cried and expressed their sadness. Others brought flowers and wrote notes, Cally remembered.

“It was devastating. Cally and I both cried, and then we had to move on,”



Jim and Cally Stage in front of the rebuilt Lloyd's Pharmacy

said Jim. "We had to think about the next steps. We gathered with family and friends, prayed, cried some more, and then came up with our plan."

Jim and Cally were determined that the Lloyd's Pharmacy legacy would continue. The day after the fire, Lloyd's moved operations to Setzer's Pharmacy on Rice Street, which the Stages also own. Customers were directed there for six weeks until Jim and Cally set up what they called "Mini Lloyd's" in a storage location just a few doors down from the original site.

Jim's friend and business partner helped organize a GoFundMe page for the rebuilding, which raised nearly \$125,000. "We really saw God provide through our neighbors, friends, and customers," said Jim. The amount of community support they received was an answer to prayer. "They encouraged us, prayed for us, cheered for us. They wanted us back here. They missed Lloyd's, too. It's not often that a business owner gets to see what you mean to the community like I got to see. That's special."

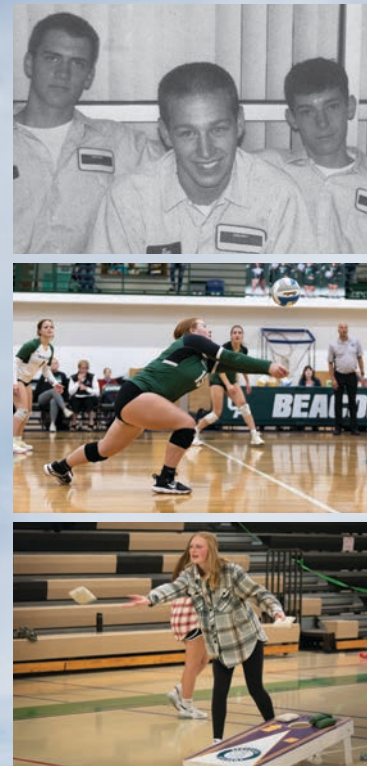
In late July 2021, one year and 58 days after the fire, Lloyd's reopened in its original location. "We've really

been blessed," said Cally. "Lloyd's is important to the neighborhood and to our family, so to reopen in the original spot was really special. We saw the Lord's provision for us in a really tangible way."

The Stages feel blessed to be a CA legacy family. "I loved being a student there, but of course, as a parent, my perspective has changed," Jim observed. "I was just having fun then. I think we've really noticed, especially since Covid, when the world was plunged into chaos, that CA held true and thought independently and prayerfully. Our kids, their students, were truly their first priority. What more could we ask for?" The Stages have blessed fellow Beacons interested in pharmacy work by inviting them to shadow pharmacists and pharmacy techs. "It's been neat to be able to welcome students and give them some insight into this business," Jim said.

So, in the end, this is actually a story of how three legacies have intersected in a powerful way. A CA legacy family has been able to continue the legacy of Lloyd's Pharmacy, thanks to God's legacy of faithfulness. "At CA, the students all write a faith story, so Gracen and Evelyn both talked about

how this [the fire] is where their true faith lives began," Cally explained. "So if that is what the Lord was doing, it's so worth it. It was just such a visual representation of his faithfulness that we all got to witness."



Stages at CA
Top: Jim Stage (center) with Alex Sellke (left, '00) and Kevin Schaeckel ('00) on the 1998 Homecoming Junior Court.
Middle: Gracen Stage on the CA volleyball court
Bottom: Evelyn Stage at last fall's Freshmen Retreat

PASTORAL PATHWAY

Andrew Asp's journey to shepherd young Beacons meant sharing the road with other CA pastors

"Well, if you know Pastor Berner's story, you know mine," said Andrew Asp, reflecting on how he went from being a Concordia Academy student, graduating in 2010, to Campus Pastor beginning last fall. While there is more to both stories, there is truth in that statement, as both pastors were students at Prince of Peace Lutheran School, then attended Concordia Academy, and finally went on to the same seminary.

How did Andrew know that ministry was the pathway for him? Surprisingly, "It started as discipline in school," Pastor Asp explained. While never malicious, there were many days when he found himself in a bit of trouble for being loud and never having a lack of things to say. There were many occasions when teachers or school administrators told him that, though he had to work on not being a distraction to

other students, his voice and tendency to share his thoughts would make him an excellent pastor.

It was during his time as a CA student that he started to make connections about the impact of the Gospel and, as he put it, "how good the Good News is." Pastor Asp began to seriously consider pastoral ministry as part of his future. By the time he graduated from CA, Andrew believed that his path would take him to seminary and eventually to a church, but he had also known several wonderful pastors who were "second career pastors." The idea of working outside of ministry for a bit before seminary was both practical and exciting for him. While a student at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN, he majored in Broadcast/Communications, but he also studied Biblical Languages and took several pre-sem classes.

Pastor Andrew Asp and Pastor Dean Dunavan after Pastor Asp's ordination service at Messiah Mounds View last August





Pastor Asp leads a Q&A during CA's Vision4Life program last winter.

Andrew met his wife Maddie (Schmidt, '10) while they were both students at CA. Following college graduation, Maddie finished her master's degree in social work, while Andrew sold cars and worked part-time as the Youth Group Director at Messiah Lutheran in Mounds View. It was there that he found passion and enjoyment in working with youth through ministry.

After five years working with youth at Messiah, Andrew and Maddie moved to St. Louis so Andrew could attend Concordia Seminary. He served his vicarage at Woodbury Lutheran Church, where he worked with Dean Dunavan, his former Campus Pastor and theology teacher at CA. Connections were made, and when Dean was ordained and became ready to become full-time pastor at the Oak Hill campus of Woodbury Lutheran, Andrew was called to step into this role.

"I didn't think there would be a track like this, so it isn't anything I planned for or envisioned for my life," said Andrew. "What I have come to realize, through my own experiences in ministry, is just how important this age is for a person's faith and their life in general. So what excites me is the opportunity to speak truth, hope and Good News into the lives of students each and every day. I'm honored and blessed to get that privilege." And then, he added with a chuckle, "It's also been fun to be able to get our daughters little Beacon gear and be part of the Beacon family again."



Andrew and Maddie Asp and their two children, Leah (left) and Claire

KEITH ESALA CELEBRATES 40 YEARS COACHING WRESTLING AT CA

In 2023, Keith Esala celebrated his 40th year coaching Concordia Academy wrestlers and his 43rd year as a wrestling coach. Even though he retired from teaching at CA in 2015, he has continued with his wrestling coaching duties, setting a school record for coaching years.

When he began his teaching career at Lutheran High School in Racine, WI, the school needed an assistant wrestling coach, and since he had wrestled in high school, Mr. Esala was recruited. In 1980, his call to Concordia Academy included directing all the music groups and serving as the head wrestling coach. In the four previous years, Concordia had four different coaches.

During his coaching tenure, CA won six conference championships in the 1980s and two division titles in the 1990s. From 2002 to 2005, CA did not have a wrestling team. However, in 2005, CA partnered with Brooklyn Center to become BCCA Wrestling. With the co-op, Coach Esala joined as an assistant coach. He also drove the CA wrestlers to and from Brooklyn Center for practice and matches. His love for the program has never wavered. He says, "It has been a joy to coach Concordia wrestlers for these 40 years."

Thank you, Coach Esala, for your service to CA!



Alumni Spotlights



Stephen Mylabathula ('15)

Senior Software Engineer, AR/VR
Meta

Stephen Mylabathula developed an interest in technology and robots at a young age. At CA, he was on the first-ever robotics team which launched in his senior year. That team took first in State in their first year competing. Stephen has gone on to work at Meta, the American multinational technology conglomerate, formerly known as Facebook.

When did you realize you had an interest in robotics and technology?

It was in 6th grade that I developed a real interest in robotics because of things like self-driving cars and virtual chat agents.

What happened at CA that encouraged you to pursue science and technology?

Well, I went to CA feeling like I might miss out on some of the experiences my peers at other schools were having. My parents really wanted me to attend, and I found that I had a lot of opportunities and numerous experiences in leadership. As a CA Student Ambassador, I was in these round table discussions with Pastor Berner, where he asked what we wanted for our school. It was nice to be part of a group that had a voice.

Through some of that, in 11th grade, we piloted the first STEM cohort. I was active in that, and through that program, several students and I were able to participate in science fairs. In the two science fairs that I participated in, I worked

on something similar to what I'm doing now for work.

Then, senior year, the Robotics Team was formed by Mr. Boll, and that's when I began to realize how much I loved working with robotics and that I could do this as a job forever. I didn't even care whether I would get paid, I just loved being around all of that futuristic stuff.

How did you begin working on virtual (VR) and augmented reality (AR)?

In college, I learned that there was a lot of research being done in robotics, and I saw that so much of the research was manifesting itself in VR/AR. I had the opportunity to try out these VR goggles for the first time in 2016 at MIT's international hackathon, and I've been hooked ever since.

How did you get to Meta?

I had several internships through high school and college, but in 2018 I interned with Meta and joined full-time after I graduated.

What are you working on now?

My team is responsible for generating the data that makes people safe while they're in VR. You can imagine that when you put on these goggles, without safety measures, you're swinging your arms and hitting people or running into walls. We are a team of about 80 people who work to make VR safer and more immersive.

What's next for you?

Well, right now I'm in an MBA program while still working for Meta. I've always wanted to start my own company or join a start-up. It's great to be an engineer at a huge organization like Meta, but there is so much disconnect between the people actually using the product and the people engineering it. I would like to go out and talk to the users and find out what it is we should make next. Product Management is really what I'd like to do with the MBA/Engineering combination.

Was there anyone at CA who made a lasting impact?

There were so many people, but certainly Mr. Boll and Mr. Kuhlman. They gave me such a strong background in science and math. I didn't like math all that much, but I understood it. I took up to Calc 2 at CA and then thought, "When will I ever use this?" Then, in college I started my robotics classes and realized how such a strong math program prepared me.

There were other people in the CA community as well. Mr. Hal Schmidt was someone who I spoke with often. And then there was a parent, Dean Gratz, who gave me my first internship and was the first to tell me that an MBA/Engineering pairing could be beneficial. I am grateful to many in the community.



Dr. Danielle (Peterson, '15) Veenstra

Chiropractor
New Life Chiropractic

Dr. Danielle (Peterson '15) Veenstra and her four brothers were active from day one, spending summers boating and fishing on the lake and winters outside skiing and snowmobiling. They kept their parents busy with constant soccer games, but it was worth it. They were building regular habits of exercise and wellness that would last a lifetime. Now her dad has retired, but the chiropractic legacy lives on in Danielle and two of her brothers.

What got you interested in being a chiropractor?

Well, I grew up watching my dad, who is a retired chiropractor, give adjustments. I didn't know that I wanted to be a chiropractor, too, until taking a PSEO, college kinesiology class while at CA. My teacher led the class in asking hard questions about basic elements of the American lifestyle that most people consider healthy. It was a small class, only six of us, so there was a lot of good conversation.

As we researched the food dyes and sugars in popular sports drinks, I was kind of inspired to find healthier options. Because of my familiarity with chiropractic, having been adjusted since I was an infant and just watching my dad, I knew that chiropractic medicine was more than just adjustments; it's an entire lifestyle, including diet, exercise, and ergonomics. I always knew that I wanted to help people, and this is where I could do it: by helping patients build holistic, healthy lifestyles through adjusting and educating.

When you realized chiropractic medicine was your plan, what was your schooling like to facilitate that?

Well, after CA, I attended Bethel University for two years and then transferred to Northwestern Health Sciences University to focus on chiropractic medicine. Chiropractic school is a 3.5 year postgraduate program with thorough academics and hands-on internship and externship training. I graduated in 2021 and began practicing in the spring of 2022.

You have recently opened your own practice. When did you realize that you wanted to be a chiropractor and business owner?

My goal was always to own my own clinic. The two options I had were to buy a clinic or start my own. I did look into the buying option at first, but I couldn't find anything. I decided then to start my own clinic, which included finding the right location and building. I had almost a year between graduating and buying, which ended up being a blessing because my husband got a job in Burnsville. I was thinking more of opening my practice on the east side, but that would have been a pretty long commute. I ended up opening in Lakeville. It was a process, but the actual clinic happened in three months.

Now that you have opened up your clinic and are practicing chiropractic, what is your favorite part of what you do?

It really is that I'm helping people. Seeing a chiropractor is often kind of a last-ditch effort. A lot of times we're the last people they see, mostly because not a lot of people know about chiropractic and how it can help. It's fun to adjust or educate and get to watch people find real relief. I love seeing people happier, healthier, getting back to doing what they love, living with less pain, and functioning better.

Alumni Awards

At CA, we're incredibly proud of the many ways that our alumni are beacons of light in the world. So we are proud to announce the launch of an exciting opportunity to honor alumni for their work in and around the CA community. Nominations are accepted for the following awards for **Distinguished Alumni**:

- Distinguished in Business/Humanitarian Work
- Distinguished Service to CA
- Distinguished Young Alumni

CA also continues to honor outstanding Beacon alumni athletes through the **Athletic Hall of Fame**. We look forward to celebrating both awards this fall. Stay tuned for details!

To get more information or nominate alumni for these awards, visit www.concordiaacademy.com and click on "Alumni," or contact Lisa (Kuseske) Sell ('99), Director of Alumni and Events at lisa.sell@concordiaacademy.com.

50s Flashback

CA's "Happy Days" Dinner Auction on April 22 was a rockin' success, raising just over \$95,000 for scholarships because of the generosity of so many! Thank you to those who attended the event, participated from afar by bidding online, and volunteered or made donations. Mark your calendars for our 2024 event, which will be held on April 13.



INSPIRATION LEADS TO GENEROSITY

John Kirchner was well-known and well-loved as an Athletic Director and math teacher at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Edina, MN, a place he served for 20 years. "Mr. K," as many of his students knew him, had a passion for teaching children and loved being in a place where he could get to know all of his students and lead them toward Christ by sharing his faith.

Every year, eager, hard-working, exceptional kids want to attend CA, but it isn't financially possible for their families. The Lighthouse Scholarship was built with those students in mind. Sponsors of the Lighthouse Scholarship, like the young man honoring his teacher, commit to paying up to 100% of a student's tuition for all four years.

Mr. K was kind, soft-spoken, and always had time to answer a question or solve a problem. His sudden death in 2020 at the age of 57 was a loss felt greatly by his family and many former students. An alum of St. Peter Lutheran began considering ways to honor Mr. Kirchner's legacy; he remembered how Mr. K had impacted young people through his teaching and ministry. After graduating from St. Peter's, this young man attended a Lutheran high school, and his younger brother went on to attend CA, both benefiting greatly from their Christian educations. This St. Peter's alum decided to honor his teacher, Mr. K, by sponsoring a Lighthouse Scholarship at CA.

John Kirchner was a blessing to so many, and his ministry inspired one former student to pay it forward by blessing a CA family.

We are incredibly grateful for our generous Lighthouse Scholarship sponsors! If you would like to give toward a Lighthouse Scholarship to honor a teacher or someone else who has impacted your life, please contact Kristin Rucks, Director of Mission Advancement, at kristin.rucks@concordiaacademy.com or 320-443-3430.



"Mr. K inspired students to find joy in the moment, pursue passions in academics as well as athletics, and, most importantly, to always show God's love to everyone. He lived out a life of service and vividly demonstrated the impact of God's grace on one's life. The scholarship gift is in honor of Mr. K's investment in Christian education and embrace of God's grace."

-An alum of St. Peter's Lutheran School, Edina, MN & Lighthouse Scholarship Sponsor

THE Beacon CONNECTION

Advancing the Light *Your Own Way*

The landscape of Christian secondary education is constantly changing. There is a need for financial resources, volunteerism, and prayer more now than ever. We recognize that we have talented and invested people in our own community. **CA's new program, the Beacon Connection is a way to harness the power of the "three T's": Time, Talent, and Treasure.**

While Advancement work is primarily about raising funds, we recognize that there are many other gifts available to us that are not always financial in nature. If you love and believe in the mission of Concordia Academy, then take action. The Beacon Connection offers a variety of ways to get involved in advancing the light. We invite you to go to our website and let us know how you are willing to partner with us in ministry:

Through Prayer.

This is a challenging time for educators and students alike, and there is nothing more powerful than the prayers of God's people. (1 John 5:14)

Through Giving & Stewardship.

Giving to CA is more than just making a donation. It's an investment in the school's ministry and students.

Through Sharing CA.

People value the opinion of those they know and respect. You can make Concordia Academy stronger by helping to spread the word that CA exists to lead, teach, and inspire students to become what God would have them be.

Through Volunteering.

Your time and talent are valuable. There are numerous ways to partner with us by sharing your God-given skills on campus.

Learn more about The Beacon Connection!

•Visit www.concordiaacademy.com/BeaconConnection.

•Contact Kristin Rucks at 320-443-3430
or kristin.rucks@concordiaacademy.com.

•Scan the QR Code below.



CONCORDIA ACADEMY BEACON CUP

AUG 18 OAK GLEN GOLF COURSE, STILLWATER

18-HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE

\$500 per foursome | \$125 per golfer

9-HOLE EXECUTIVE COURSE

\$300 per foursome | \$75 per golfer

Prices include cart, hole contests, prizes, and dinner.
Dinner-only tickets are available for \$25 per person.

Register at www.ConcordiaAcademy.com/golf by August 11 →



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AVAILABLE, TOO!

Your favorite high school memories could be *theirs*

Beacon alumni, visit Concordia Academy with your kids. See for yourself the exciting ways we've changed and the important ways we've remained the same.



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CA FLASHBACK

Whether flying a radio-controlled plane at halftime of Homecoming, taking Engineering and Robotics students to State, or helping his science students fire rockets, Dave Boll is still a STEM fixture on the CA faculty. In fact, he's currently the CA staff member with the longest tenure. In this photo from the 1996-1997 school year, Mr. Boll is hanging out with members of the CA Radio Control Club. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

