

# PREPARE *The Way*

Concordia University Wisconsin & Ann Arbor



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# Teaching, knowledge emphasized in 2022-23 academic themes

Prior to the start of every new academic year, the Campus Ministry teams at CUW and CUAA each choose a theme and Scripture verse to help guide our students, faculty, and staff as they seek God's direction for the school year. Although the verses are chosen independently, it's remarkable how often they seem tied together. It must be a "God thing!"

This year is no exception.

On the Mequon campus, the 2022-23 academic theme is "Guided by God," citing Psalm 25:4-5. In Ann Arbor, Concordians will look to Colossians 1:9-11 as they live out the theme of "Walking in Faith." Both themes suggest turning to God for direction and guidance as we strive to do His will.

Digging deeper, we discern that God is teaching, preparing, and equipping us to do His work in the world. "Guide me in your truth and teach me,"

writes King David in Psalm 25. In his letter to the Church in Colossae, the Apostle Paul prays for Christ's disciples to "be filled with the knowledge of His will." It is only by seeking these things that we can "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord" (Col 1:9-10) and to make sure that our "hope is in You all day long" (Ps 25:5).

It is fitting that in our Lutheran higher education community, teaching and knowledge are emphasized in these verses.

Both passages also call us to action. We know that every new year, pandemic or no, is sure to bring its own set of unique challenges and obstacles. There is a sense that it's time to get moving again. These verses remind us that when we seek God's guidance, we can move forward and walk in faith with boldness and confidence.

Finally, they both focus on prayer. As CUAA Campus Pastor Randy Duncan points out, these verses show that we have been both "prepared" and "pre-prayed" to do God's work. Psalm 25 is a prayer in itself, as King David beseeches God to show him the way. In Colossians, Paul is telling Christ's disciples that he never stops praying for them! This is reminiscent of the apostle's words in 1 Thessalonians 1:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances."

What a high standard Paul is setting for us here! Really, it's just saying that there's no such thing as "too much" prayer. And that's my prayer for all of us in 2022-23: that we continually turn to God for guidance during the coming school year as we strive to walk in faith while serving Christ in the Church and in the world.

To God be the glory.

*William R. Cario*

DR. WILLIAM R. CARIO  
Interim President and  
Professor of History



Join us on campus for homecoming fun  
CUW October 7-9 • CUAA October 28-29



# Work inside North Building helps make our students more *uncommon*

**W**hen a university is student-centered and mission-focused, great things will happen. Such is the case at Concordia, where education and hands-on experiences equip our students to transform the world with sharp minds, moral courage and servant leadership for Christ. The newly remodeled North Building on the Ann Arbor campus helps make our students and university uncommon.

“Our spaces are designed to focus on hands-on, experiential learning in realistic environments,” said Juliane Chreston (pictured right), professor and director of the OTDe program. “This will give our students confidence in the skills they are learning.

“Part of being an uncommon healthcare provider is the ability to be self-reflective and utilize best practices grounded in evidence,” Chreston added. “Our spaces allow learning activities that build these skills.”

The North Building underwent a significant remodel this past year to prepare for the launch of the newest programs on the Ann Arbor campus: the entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTDe) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degrees.

Workers tackled more than 7,300 square feet to create an intentionally and expertly designed shared space for future occupational therapy and physical therapy students. The upgrade was on top of significant renovations that the university undertook in 2015 for its School of Nursing and in 2020 for its Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program.



*New facilities enable occupational therapy students to learn how to teach adaptive living skills to patients.*

Altogether, the North Building is fast becoming a state-of-the-art epicenter for CUA's blossoming health care offerings. And this is part of what helps make our students uncommon.

“We were deliberate in building spaces that simulate real-world environments that students will encounter in practice today and in the future,” Chreston said. “All of our classrooms/labs create a variety of environments so students can gain confidence before being in a clinical or community setting.”



To see our students in action in the North Building, visit [blog.cuaa.edu/nursing-disaster-simulation](https://blog.cuaa.edu/nursing-disaster-simulation) for photos from a realistic disaster simulation this summer.



*State-of-the-art labs provide our students with experiences that will help them become uncommon practitioners.*

# Uncommon impact: Changing student lives through *scholarships*

**B**ecause of you, Concordia students go on to do great things. Because of your prayers, they become servant-leaders of Christ for others. Because of your generosity, they develop in mind, body and spirit.

Scholarship donors make a profound impact on many of our students. Due to their contributions, about 35 percent of students receive scholarships as part of their financial aid package at Concordia. Without this form of help, many of our students would not be able to enroll in the university to pursue their vocations and ultimately change the lives of others.

Nearly 100 percent of undergraduates receive financial aid. Additional scholarship support offsets the burden of student loan debt these students incur.

Following are the stories of several of our Concordians, all of whom received scholarships. It's because of our donors that these alumni live uncommon.

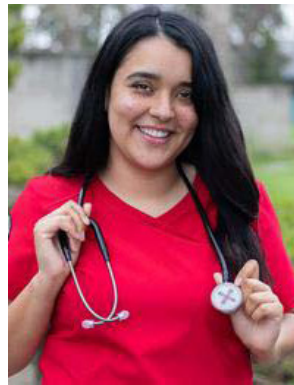
## Logan Davis and Abby Haggard



Meet Logan Davis ('22) and Abby Haggard ('22), CUA pre-seminary and secondary education majors who recently were preparing for graduation, a wedding, a move across the country and a new adventure in St. Louis, MO. Although they will be moving across the country, away from the community they have come to love, this couple is confident in the call process, the community the Lord has for them in St. Louis and the life they will get to begin together in a new place!

**More at [blog.cuaa.edu/uncommon-couple](https://blog.cuaa.edu/uncommon-couple)**

**About 92 percent of our surveyed alumni describe their overall opinion of Concordia as “good” or “excellent,” surpassing national averages.**



## Maria Esquivel

Meet Maria Esquivel ('22), a first-generation college grad and nurse. She has her sights set on helping to close the language gap (Esquivel speaks fluent Spanish) and ensuring proper care for all patients in the Metro-Detroit area. Originally from Ypsilanti, MI, Maria transferred to CUA in

2019 and graduated from the Ron and Marvel Jones School of Nursing! **More at [blog.cuaa.edu/uncommon-nurse](https://blog.cuaa.edu/uncommon-nurse)**

## Brian Morrison

Brian Morrison ('22), an undergraduate horticulture major at CUW, has already made his mark in the natural world of his South Milwaukee community. Morrison, who will graduate in the fall, is the founder of the Suburban Soles program, an initiative through the Friends of Grant Park. The idea of such a program, which is free and now in its fifth season, came to him when he was on a hike with friends and they started having questions about things they were seeing.



**More at [blog.cuw.edu/horticulture-morrison](https://blog.cuw.edu/horticulture-morrison)**

## Rhiannon Mueller



Meet Rhiannon Mueller ('22), a social work student with sights set on earning her master's and eventually giving back to students in the same way she was supported at CUW. When she learned she had ADHD in June 2021, she knew the diagnosis was an opportunity to help those who also struggle. Mueller's goal is to work in a college setting to serve as an “inter-professional professional,” helping students to achieve their potential, no matter their learning abilities. **More at [blog.cuw.edu/uncommon-rhiannon](https://blog.cuw.edu/uncommon-rhiannon)**

## In their words:

# Why donors give to Concordia

**W**hat compels you to give to a charity or non-profit? Do you have a personal tie to the organization? Has your life somehow been changed or touched by its mission? Do you pray before you give? There are as many reasons to give as there are donors. Each has personal intentions for providing a gift to organizations such as Concordia. Following are some of the “whys” of Concordia’s donors.

### **Bob Schrock, CUA A friend**

“A few years ago, after hearing a presentation by Concordia’s former director of donor relations and alumni, I inquired about what the university was doing for veterans. Not too long after, we came up with a plan to get me involved in assisting veterans through their college journey. I was honored to be able to establish the Schrock Endowment for Veterans in 2015. These service members put their lives on the line for our country every day and I am so proud of those who continue learning at Concordia.”

### **Harriet Pedersen, CUW non-traditional alumna ‘98**

“In the early 1990s, Concordia put together a number of accelerated learning programs and when I saw they offered something I had always been interested in—criminal justice—I decided to look into it further. I called to sign up and finally began college in 1994. Concordia truly changed my life and I met so many wonderful people there. I always looked forward to the end of each course, when my like-minded classmates and I would go out to celebrate. Concordia’s Christian foundation provides a wonderful community atmosphere and there are so many campus events and programs available. Since I was a first-generation college student myself, I can relate to the many deserving students that just need a little assistance and I feel blessed that I am now in a position to help.”

### **Ron and Peggy Steinke, CUA A parents**

“Our son, Eric, was very involved in youth programs through our church while growing up and knew he wanted to work for the church in some capacity. We were very familiar with Concordia... It was a great fit for him and he looks back fondly on his time there. As parents, we were pleased with his choice (to attend) and, later, that he was able to find his true calling through his education. (We know that) gifts to the Concordia Fund are critical for continuing the top-notch educational experiences students have become accustomed to.”

### **Josiah Buss, CUW alumnus ‘15**

“My parents met when they were Concordia students, so the university has always played a role in my life. We would often visit Concordia’s campus when we were near Milwaukee. Concordia was naturally on the list of schools I wanted to check out... and as soon as I got there, I started to feel my own connection. Several of my current coworkers are Concordia alumni and I love hearing them speak so highly of the experiences that they had. The way Concordia integrates faith into learning was also really impactful in my life.”

**GIVE ONLINE AT [CUW.EDU/GIVE](http://CUW.EDU/GIVE) or [CUAA.EDU/GIVE](http://CUAA.EDU/GIVE)**

# Music Department composes plan for *new space*



Music makes the world go around, as the saying goes, and no one knows that better than Lou Menchaca, professor and chairman of the Department of Music at Concordia University Wisconsin. He sees a huge need to grow Concordia's current music facilities into designated space that will include practice rooms, as well as instrumental spaces and, in the future, area for choirs.

"Music study provides rich opportunities to teach critical thinking, artistic expression, historical reference/perspective, leadership, collaboration, service, social justice, and inclusion," Menchaca recently wrote in a presentation to the College Orchestra Directors Association at the University of Louisville.

Currently, the CUW music department is divided throughout campus without a cohesive physical locale. "We've never had a designated space," said Menchaca, who has worked in music at CUW for 30 years. "And as the program has grown, we just really need a dedicated space."

To that end, Menchaca and others in the department would like to eventually bring it all together under one roof. To accomplish this, he has partnered



with the Office of Advancement to raise the necessary funds to build a music building in the area west of the chapel.

"The (new) building will help me attract more liberal arts students on campus," Menchaca said. "It will help me strengthen a world-class music department. It's going to serve the population of the entire liberal arts students (not just music majors)."

Why are liberal arts important? Because they prepare students to function in any career field, he said.

In fact, he has seen a trend where science-based jobs are eager to hire graduates with a liberal arts education. "Every company needs people who can communicate well," he said.

In addition to strengthening our students' experiences, a cohesive, dedicated space for music will enhance our recruitment efforts. When students come to campus for general tours, "we constantly get the question, 'Can we see your music building,' and we just don't have one," Menchaca said.



## *Learn more about:*

**CUW's Music Department**— Contact Lou Menchaca, Professor and Music Department Chair at [Louis.Menchaca@cuw.edu](mailto:Louis.Menchaca@cuw.edu)

**Supporting the new music building**— Contact Dean Rennie, Vice President of Advancement at [Dean.Rennie@cuw.edu](mailto:Dean.Rennie@cuw.edu) • 262.243.4580

# Don't have a will yet? *How to get started*

**D**o you have a will or estate documents to inform your family and, most importantly, the courts about how to divide up your possessions and assets after you die? Nearly 70 percent of Americans don't have any estate documents.

In fact, musician Jimi Hendrix (age 27 at death), billionaire Howard Hughes (70) and musician Prince (57) all died without a will. If you don't direct your assets, the courts will.

So, what happened to their possessions? It took 30 years to settle Hendrix's estate. Hughes's estate was divided among 22 cousins. And the estate of Prince was divided among a publishing company and heirs. Not sure that's who they would have wanted their hard work to ultimately benefit.

How things are divided is not always the major concern. If you have minor children, it is crucial to complete estate documents that provide guardians and care for your children.

You may be wondering how to get started. The first step is to organize your thoughts, wishes, and objectives. Ask yourself: What do you want to happen when you're gone? Who gets what, and why?

Next, take an inventory of all your assets and write them down. Assets can range from property (house, boat, summer home) and things (artwork, jewelry, mom's wedding dress) to intellectual property (inventions, domain names, business or trade names). Attorneys and planners will want to take all of that information into consideration when helping you.

Finally, if you need assistance, there are professionals who are willing to help get you pointed in the right direction. For more information, contact Greg Fictum, senior director of Donor Relations and Planned Giving at Concordia University, [greg.fictum@cuw.edu](mailto:greg.fictum@cuw.edu) or **262.243.4540**.

## Think of people you trust to fill the following positions:

- **Durable Power of Attorney** for healthcare and finances. These people act on your behalf while you are still alive if you are unable to make decisions and conduct your personal business.
- **Personal representative** (trustee for a trust or executor for a will). He or she will ensure that what your documents say will be carried out correctly.
- **Guardians for your children** These important individuals will take care of your children after you have died. Be sure to talk to each person prior to listing them since you want them on board with your desires.

## *Leaving a legacy to Concordia*

An estate gift of any size can be made to an existing endowment that aligns with your area of interest. An estate gift of \$25,000 or more can be used to establish a new, named endowment.

Contact us to help advise you about how to achieve your stewardship goals.

**Refer a Student** Please mail completed form to CUW or CUA, Attn: Office of Advancement

Student Name

Student Address

City State Zip

Email

Name of High School

Student is currently a  Sophomore  Junior  Senior



PREPARE *The Way*