

**From Bronx Streets to NYS
Social Work Student of the Year**

Anthony David, Concordia College-New York '07, was recently presented with the New York State Social Work Education Association's Student of the Year Award. His amazing story is emblematic of the College's Mission, to "...engage and nurture a diverse student body in a Christ-centered, value-oriented, liberal arts education for lives of service to church and community."

Anthony was born in the Bronx. Throughout his young life, he was often drawn to the streets, having been abandoned by his father and a very ill mother. Survival became necessary after the institutionalization of his mother. In and out of foster care and group homes, he became attached to the guys on the street. Ultimately, he was arrested and incarcerated for some years. While in prison, he earned his GED, took some college courses, and met Mrs. Kay Schonberg, MSW, who took a special interest in him.

After being paroled, he decided to return to college with the goal of becoming a social worker to prevent other young men from going through the same life experiences as he. Not wanting other young men to suffer the emotional, physical, and psychological trauma he did, David attended Westchester Community College to complete his associate's degree in Human Services. He was referred to and applied to Concordia College. He was interviewed as a condition of being accepted as a candidate in the social work program. Years later he mentioned he fully expected to be rejected from the program. Anthony was surprised to be told that because of his great compassion for others and his commitment to give back, he had great potential to be a terrific social worker.

Anthony has been at the White Plains Youth Bureau for several years. He was hired by them after fulfilling his field education requirements for the program—a great honor for him and Concordia. He works with gang-affiliated young people in assisting them in finding employment. Anthony is passionate in his understanding that the major reason young people cannot find employment or keep a job is their lack of belief in themselves. He spends much time as a caring, structured, nurturing presence in these young peoples' lives. He believes in them and, in return, they begin to believe in their abilities.

It is for these reasons Anthony David, now a graduate student at Fordham University School of Social Services, was bestowed this prestigious award. Congratulations to Anthony David, student, advocate, and compassionate social worker!