

The Concordia Current

A Communication of the Office of Institutional Advancement
Winter 2009

Iraq War Veteran Adult Education Student



Jamel Daniels found Concordia via a recommendation by Concordia friend Heather Bernard

IRAQ WAR VETERAN JAMEL DANIELS found a home at Concordia after serving for eight months in Iraq as a Marine. Daniels was in the 1/2 Alpha Company for the 24th MEU in Al Iskandariyah, Iraq. While serving his country, Daniels sustained extensive injuries—including the amputation of his left leg—and, for his sacrifice, received the Purple Heart. Upon returning to the United States, he decided it was time to complete his education.

Corporal Daniels heard about Concordia from close family friend and former Bronxville resident Heather Bernard. His visit to the College solidified his desire to attend. He said he began the interview process “and the next thing I knew, I was signing the papers to attend.” What convinced Daniels to attend Concordia College was the welcome he received during his first visit. “I experienced a warm feeling from the moment I began the application process, of which (Adult Education Admissions Counselor) Nereida Quiles was so wonderful in helping me.” He noted most colleges do not take the time and energy to establish such a relationship.

Daniels is enrolled in the Adult Education Accelerated Degree Program to earn his B.A. in Behavioral Science. He “really enjoys it at Concordia College,” though it is difficult for him to adjust to the classroom setting since he has not been in school since 1997. After he earns his degree, Daniels plans to become a speech pathologist. He was inspired to pursue this career as he had to re-learn how to speak as a result of his many injuries. ■

Corporal Daniels heard about Concordia from close family friend and former

From Bronx Streets to NY State Social Work Student of the Year

ANTHONY DAVID, Concordia College-New York '07, was recently presented 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.”

Throughout his young life in the Bronx, he was drawn to the streets, having been abandoned by his father. Survival became necessary after the institutionalization of his mother. In and out of foster care homes, he became attached to the guys on the



New York State Social Work Student of the Year Anthony David, Class of 2007, with professors and mentors.

street. Ultimately, he was incarcerated for some years. While in prison, he earned his GED, took some college

Continued on page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January
23-30 Westchester H.S.
Student Art Exhibition
OSilas Gallery
- 23 StArt Exhibition
Reception & Awards
OSilas Gallery
- 24 Musical Adventures
Concert
Schoenfeld Center
- 24 Hoch Chamber Music Series
Conservatory Benefit
Sommer Center
- 28 “The Moustache” Opera
Sommer Center

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Dr. John Loase was invited to the National Mathematical Association of America's Annual Conference in Washington D.C. earlier this month to present his lecture "Statistics: the Key to College Success for Under-Prepared Students", which discussed specific strategies on how colleges can achieve higher graduation rates through innovations in mathematics.

Senior forward Stefan Dimitrov ranks number three in the nation for scoring in NCAA Men's Soccer Division II. He finished the season as first-in-the-nation for goals scored, 23, and third in the nation for points per game, averaging 2.76. Dimitrov was named 2008 East Coast Conference Offensive Player of the Year and voted to the 2008 Division II Daktronics All-East Region First Team.

New Concordia Face for Congregations

REV. GREGORY DWYER has joined the Concordia College family as the Director of Church Relations. Gregory arrived at Concordia in September, after serving three congregations in Ohio, Connecticut, and, most recently, in Yonkers, New York at St. Mark's Lutheran Church where he also taught 7th and 8th grade Religion courses in the church's middle school.

Rev. Dwyer will be responsible for outreach and relationship building with all Lutheran churches on the east coast, working in the pulpits and pews of our East Coast Association of Churches. In addition to preaching and bringing Concordia Sundays to

parishes, Pastor Dwyer is conducting the free seminar, "Financial Peace University" to assist parishioners and pastors in taking charge of their finances and getting out of debt. Concordia views this as one of the many ways in which we can be of service to our sister churches and their congregations. In December 2009, Gregory will be leading an educational pilgrimage to the Holy Land. For more information about the trip or to make an advance reservation, please e-mail Rev. Dwyer at gregory.dwyer@concordia-ny.edu.

Besides being a pastor, Gregory has done public speaking for a number of clients and corporations, and is the recipient of the



Dale Carnegie Highest Achievement Award. He is a graduate of Central Bible College in Springfield, MO and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Gregory and his wife Michelle reside in Litchfield, Connecticut ■

Send Us Your News!

Please send your AlumNotes—news of births, marriages, and employment—to alumni@concordia-ny.edu.

AlumNotes are posted online and printed annually in *The Concordia New Yorker*.

Alumni News

Alumni Reunions 2009

THE PREP AND JUNIOR COLLEGE CLASSES OF 1959 will be honored during Commencement Weekend, May 1-2, 2009. A special reunion biography book is being prepared and Concordia will host a Friday evening "Welcome Back" reception in the Maier Conference Room. On Saturday, both classes will be special guests at Baccalaureate and Commencement ceremonies.

June 5-6, 2009 will be Reunion Weekend on campus for classes ending in "4" and "9". The weekend will begin with a reception on Friday evening, and continue Saturday afternoon with a family style BBQ and fun on the Quad!



Join the Reunion crowd!

This Clipper tradition is sure to reconnect you with campus and your fellow alumni. Call your Concordia crowd and reunite on the Quad. Enjoy a walk through your old dorm and visit the many new upgrades on campus. You need not be a member of the honored classes to attend—all are welcome!

For more reunion information, or to plan a reunion of your own, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800.YES.ALUM or visit the alumni community at <http://alumni.concordia-ny.edu>. ■

Franceska Jean—Inspired to Perform

BEFORE SHE AUDITIONED for Concordia Conservatory's 2007 show, "A Christmas Carol", Franceska Jean's most significant performing experience had been an ensemble role in her high school's production of "Dreamgirls". Conservatory Director Kathleen Suss was impressed: "I thought she was a young lady possessing a lovely voice with great potential." Franceska won the role of Mrs. Cratchit, and distinguished herself with her friendly personality, confident stage presence, and memorable voice. According to the show's producer, Sallianne McClelland, "Franceska Jean never misses an opportunity to greet people with a smile and a welcoming hello. During the musical rehearsals, she was consistently kind to her peers and the younger cast members."

Kathleen soon persuaded Franceska that her vocal tal-

ents deserved professional coaching, and awarded her a scholarship to study with Jennifer Hoppe at the Conservatory, made possible through generous scholarship donors. Franceska noted that the breathing techniques Hoppe taught have already enabled her to expand her range significantly.

Franceska's first exposure to Concordia College came through the Conservatory's rehearsals, performances, and recitals on campus. As she considered her post-high school options, Franceska started looking seriously at the College where she already felt at home, and liked what she saw. She now sings in the choir and studies voice while pursuing a liberal arts degree.

Franceska lives at home in Mount Vernon with her mother, commuting to school via bus. When she was 14, she and her three sisters lost their father, a taxi



Franceska Jean, back row left, in "A Christmas Carol".

driver, in a senseless murder. Franceska says the experience opened her eyes—in a positive way. Before her father's death, she was a shy, reserved girl who never considered performing. But with a changed perspective, she began to see her vocal talent as a gift she should put to good use. At the same time, standing in front of an audience no longer seemed so daunting given the challenge she had faced. Although Franceska's father never had the chance to see her perform, he is with her every time she takes the stage. ■

From Bronx Streets to NYS Social Work Student of the Year

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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 suffering the traumas he did. David attended Westchester Community College to complete his associate's degree in Human Services. He was then accepted into the Concordia social work 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, working with gang-affiliated young people in assisting them find employment. He understands that the major reason young people cannot find employment or keep a job is their lack of belief in themselves. As he spends much time as a caring, nurturing presence in these young peoples' lives, they begin to believe in their abilities.

Anthony David, now a graduate student at Fordham University School of Social Services, is a remarkable Concordian in which the social work program can take great pride. He is the fourth Concordian to be named NY State Social Work Student of the Year in the last 8 years. ■

How to Excel in College

CONCORDIA PROFESSOR DR. JOHN LOASE brought his math students to Saunders Trades and Technical High School in Yonkers as a part of Concordia's Fall 2008 Expo Day. Dr. Loase and his students presented "How to Excel in College" to a group of 40 seniors, in which they discussed, with great honesty, the obstacles students face in college and provided solutions on how to overcome them. The seminar was received with incredible success, as the majority of the student evaluations rated it an "excellent" presentation.

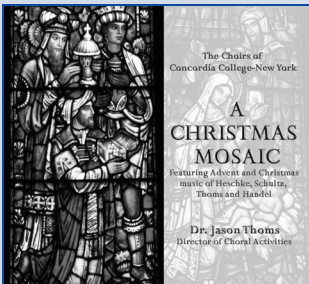


Dr. Loase with students

Dr. Loase expressed that the "connection between the Concordia students and the Saunders students was unbelievable, it was magical." The Concordia students were amazed at the bond established between them. Julie Walsh, a senior math team member, "was not expecting to have such a great interaction with the students," and felt it was an "awesome" experience. Because of its overwhelming success, Dr. Loase and his students have been invited back to Saunders in the spring to present the same lecture to the junior class. ■

New CD from Concordia Choirs

A **Christmas Mosaic** features Advent and Christmas music written by Richard Heschke, Ralph Schultz, Jason Thoms, and George Frederic Handel. Much of the CD is a live recording from the December, 2007 Christmas Concert when Concordia named its College Chapel in honor



of longtime choir director and President *Emeritus* Dr. Ralph C. Schultz. The title track, *Christmas Mosaic*, was written by Dr. Schultz for that concert and is a medley of beloved Advent and Christmas Carols for choir and orchestra, directed by the composer. The CD also includes the *Sinfonia* and selected choruses from the Christmas section of G.F. Handel's *Messiah*, directed by Dr. Jason Thoms, Director of Choral Activities. The Festival Choir for both the Schultz and Handel pieces was a combination of student, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Concordia College. For each copy desired, please send \$15 by check payable to Concordia College—which includes postage—to:
Christmas CD
Dept. of Advancement
Concordia College
171 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708

Campus Braille Workers

DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL LIFE and Service Learning Rev. Robert Boehler has created a great service learning opportunity for Concordia students. The College is the first volunteer site on a Lutheran college campus for the Luther Braille Workers, Inc. (LBW), translating the Bible into Braille.

This service has been made possible through the Arthur Miller Endowment Fund at Concordia and the LBW. The organization has sent the College the necessary equipment to produce the Braille Bibles, including paper and the printing and binding press. The students participate in the entire process, from the preparation of the zinc pressing plates to the final assembly of books.

Rev. Boehler and his team of students are now in the process of translating the books from Ezra to Nehemiah into English, and Galatians to Philemon into Spanish. After the books have been completed, they are mailed to the homes of requesting individuals. According to Rev. Boehler, this is the most rewarding aspect of the project, as mailing the books directly to the individual in need creates a personal relationship.

The final assembly of the translated books of the Bible is planned to begin in the Spring Semester. Rev. Boehler expressed, "I am really, really excited about this opportunity, especially the enthusiasm that has surfaced from our students."



Student Coordinator Emily Ringelberg prints a page of a Braille Bible

CONCORDIA COLLEGE—NEW YORK

TOUR CHOIR MIDWEST TOUR CONCERT SCHEDULE

2009

(412) 884-3232

Friday, February 27
Trinity Lutheran—LCMS
4560 Glendale Avenue
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 385-2651

Saturday, February 28
Zion Lutheran Church—LCMS
204 South Grant Street
Hinsdale, IL 60521
(630)323-0384

Sunday, March 1
8:00am Worship Service
Zion Lutheran Church—LCMS
204 South Grant Street
Hinsdale, IL 60521
(630) 323-0384

Sunday, March 1
11:00am Worship Service
Grace Lutheran Church –
Ind. Lutheran
7300 Division Street
River Forest, IL 60305
(708) 366-6900

Sunday Evening Concert
Concordia Lutheran
Church—LCMS
4245 Lake Avenue
Fort Wayne, IN 46815
(260) 422-2429

Monday, March 2
Ascension Lutheran—LCMS
2780 Haslett Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 337-9703

(330) 723-8293

Wednesday, March 4
St. Paul Lutheran
Church—LCMS
31 Washington Avenue
Batavia, NY 14020
(585) 343-0488

Thursday, March 5
Redeemer Lutheran—ELCA
72 Main Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 722-1029

Friday, March 6
Immanuel Danbury—LCMS
18 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, CT 06811
(203) 748-3320

Aviles: 4th in A.L. Rookie of Year Balloting

CONCORDIA COLLEGE—NEW YORK graduate Mike Aviles' success in baseball did not end after his college career. After spending six years in the minor leagues, Aviles was called up to the Kansas City Royals in May where he made his debut against the Minnesota Twins.

Aviles finished 4th in American League Rookie of the Year voting this year. He led all Major League rookies with a .325 batting average; while placing second with a .345 on-base percentage, and third in hits, 136, and runs, 68, among American League rookies.

Aviles frequently batted second in the lineup, and was credited with "giving new life to the Royals' lineup", as he drove in 52 runs and cracked 10 homers. Aviles was also named winner of the Les Milgram Award, as the Royals' Player of the Year.

Toby Cook, Royals' Vice-President of Community Affairs said, "Mike was such a neat

story on the field in 2008. We knew he hit well in the minors over a number of years, but you never know how that's going to translate at the big league level. He surprised everyone, but perhaps himself. And what a great bonus for the organization! He turned out to be a great guy who was willing to help out in the community. We're looking for big things from Mike on and off the field for years to come."

While attending Concordia, Aviles, from Middletown, New York, starred at the Division II level, ranking at #1 in home runs per game, slugging percentage, and runs per game for the 2002 and 2003 seasons. The 2003 season marked the highlight of his college baseball career, as he batted .500 that season and was named "Division II Player of the Year". ■



Mike Aviles hitting for the Kansas City Royals during the 2008 Major League Baseball season

National Rankings for Tennis Programs

THE CONCORDIA men's and women's tennis teams, through hard work and dedication, have been nationally ranked in this year's Division II polls. The men's team is ranked #8 in the nation, according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) poll released October 31st. The team is anchored by sophomore Alex Grubin, from Belgrade, Serbia, who ranks

second in the nation in singles play.

The women's team is ranked #39 in NCAA Division II, according to the ITA. The Lady Clippers are led by Cristina Oliveira, from Porto Alegre, Brazil, who was the East Coast Conference Player of the Year with an impressive undefeated record. Another up-and-coming star is freshman Maria Ortiz, from

Bogota, Columbia, who was named the ECC Rookie of the Year; she and Oliveira were doubles partners and finished with an 11-0 record. The head coach of the women's team, Kela Simunyola, was named ECC Coach of the Year after the team finished with an unblemished 11-0 record, leading them to their first national ranking. ■

Concordia College-New York will hold the first induction ceremony of its chapter of **Kappa Delta Pi**, an International Honor Society in Education, on January 21, 2009. Approximately 24 students will be inducted under the guidance of faculty counselor **Dr. Robert Berman**.

Since 1998, Village Lutheran Church in Bronxville has held its annual St. Luke's Health Fair to provide health screenings, education, and flu shots as part of its Parish Health Ministry. What made 2008 special was the involvement and participation of **Concordia College's Nursing Students**. Having mastered basic nursing skills, including injection techniques, 8 of the program's 23 students, under the supervision of **Dr. Joy Elwell**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, took their "clients" through the entire Health Fair experience, including blood pressure screening and administering a flu shot. Dr. Elwell serves Village Lutheran Church as its Parish Nurse Practitioner. She said, "The St. Luke's Health Fair has always been well-received by church members and people in the community. As a member of the Faculty in Concordia's Division of Nursing, I thought including the nursing students was a great fit. I proposed it to Dean Apold and she was very supportive. The students did really well and they received very positive feedback from the folks who received flu shots."

Students go behind the scenes at NYC TV station

For the New Media class, "Real World: The Business of Media", Professor Kit Fitzgerald and her students recently visited public television station WNET/13 in New York City. The students were given a tour of the full facility and sat in the control room and production studio during a live production. The directors, producers, writers, and technical staff discussed each of their jobs and entertained questions from the group.



Concordia students pose with a stage manager and cameraman on the WNET-TV studio floor.



UPCOMING EVENTS
continued from front page

February

1 Honor Recitals
Conservatory

2 The Vale of Kashmir:
Photos by John Isaac
OSilas Gallery

2 Kit Fitzgerald
New Media
OSilas Window

5 OSilas Gallery Talk
John Isaac

26 Video Symposium
OSilas Gallery

27 Tour Choir
Midwest Tour

March
4 Home Concert
from Midwest Tour
Sommer Center

19 Art on Film
OSilas Gallery

20-21 Play-a-Thon
Conservatory

22 Children in the Gallery
OSilas Gallery

29 Music in the Gallery
OSilas Gallery

For information on these and
all campus events, please
call (914) 337-9300, x2167 or
visit www.concordia-ny.edu.

CONCORDIA ATHLETICS

MEN'S & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL—remaining schedules

JANUARY	10	LIU – C.W. POST*
	14	QUEENS COLLEGE*
	17	ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE*
	19	POST UNIVERSITY <i>Women only</i>
	21	MERCY COLLEGE*
	24	ADELPHI UNIVERSITY*
	25	PRINCETON UNIVERSITY <i>Men only</i>
	26	FELICIAN COLLEGE <i>Women only</i>
	28	UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT*
	31	N.Y. INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY*
FEBRUARY	4	MOLLOY COLLEGE*
	7	DOWLING COLLEGE*
	11	LIU – C.W. POST*
	14	QUEENS COLLEGE*
	16	ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE <i>Men only</i>
	18	ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE*
	21	MERCY COLLEGE*
	25	ADELPHI UNIVERSITY*
	28	UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT*

Bold Bold denotes home games.
* *East Coast Conference Game*

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