

**Bork,Ron**

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**From:** Bork,Ron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2010 5:01 PM  
**Subject:** On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!!!  
**Attachments:** Giants Devo.doc; Tips 1-10.doc; Parasailing.JPG; Parasailing 2.JPG

Greetings from Concordia University, Nebraska where we are days away from starting our 117<sup>th</sup> academic year,

I'm sure that most of you who are teaching have already started. I know that some of you aren't teaching this year but have taken on new ministry opportunities where you will use your skills and still touch the lives of God's people. Blessings to each of you as you serve God's people.

This has been quite a summer at Concordia and throughout Nebraska. For those who may not have heard – Dana College closed in the middle of the summer. We have about 15-20 Dana students joining us at CU this fall. Some of them are in teacher education and we are preparing to welcome them and help them finish their programs. We have one that is already student teaching at Millard North and others who will student teach in the spring. It was quite a shock for them since they had no warning. Dana had been "sold" to a for-profit organization with the stipulation that the purchase would go through if they would continue their accreditation with Higher Learning Commission. The HLC voted not to accredit Dana for the coming year and the for-profit company backed out of the sale. A few days later the Board of Directors of Dana voted to close permanently and notified students, faculty, and staff the next day that they were shutting down immediately. Pray for the students that are trying to figure out what to do in a new school. Many of them went to Midland College.

We will have about 1100 undergraduates this fall on campus. Our graduate program will probably be over 700 this fall. If you are interested in starting a graduate program in the near future consider CU as an option. We are starting a Curriculum and Instruction masters this fall for all those who don't want to become a principal and don't want to become a reading specialist. C & I will be a good program.

We didn't make any changes in the faculty in our education department. Everyone decided to return. That's unusual – I think the first time in my 8 years as a Dean that we haven't had a faculty change in education. I love consistency.

I have a request ... if you get this e-mail and there is a better e-mail to use for contacting you just respond with the new e-mail and I'll change my distribution list. I'd like to keep in touch with all of you by the best way possible. We are considering doing a Facebook page for our TE Alumni but that's a few weeks away yet. Maybe by next month I'll have more to share.

I've attached a devotion that you can use with students or faculty. It's really for you, but the message is good for everyone. I've also attached a list of "tips" that you may enjoy. They are from a friend of mine who had other teachers share ideas for "success". You can share these with others or you can just keep them to yourself and smile on your own. More tips will follow each month.

Let me know what's happening in your life. I know that some of you are married now, that others are overseas, that some are on DCE internship, and that others are still looking for positions. I enjoy reading about your life and hope to keep up with you in the years to come.

I've also attached two pictures from "What I Did This Summer". Yes, that is my wife and me parasailing at Lake Tahoe. What a thrill!!

Blessings on your year. Please keep in touch.

Ron (now that you've graduated I have a first name)

Ron Bork, Ed.D.  
 Dean, College of Education  
 Concordia University  
 Seward, NE 68434  
 402-643-7475  
 ron.bork@cune.edu  
 fax 402-643-3328

8/19/2010

**Bork,Ron**

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**From:** Bork,Ron  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2010 8:27 AM  
**To:** Borgen, Jennifer; Behnken, Nicole; Boettcher, Mark; Bork,Ron; Chrismer, Allison; Dehning, Christopher; Ferry, Hannah; Foster, Matthew; Haider, Rachel; Heidtbrink, Seth; Hein, Craig; Hershberger, Ann; Hinrichs, Jordan; Hunt, Stephanie; Juergensen,James; Kettler, Erin; Kober, Daniel; McDaniel, Jonathan; Panwitz, Ashley; Ramstad, Mollie; Raphelt, Katherine; Schranz, Bryan; Schultz, Andrew; Schwartz, Amber; Stahlecker, Karla; Stevenson, Ann; Stolee, Thomas; Thies, Austin; Weidner, Lindsey; Werner, Jessica; Wisely, Amber; Zilm, John  
**Subject:** News from Concordia  
**Attachments:** Tips 11-20.doc; Leaf Devo.doc

It's homecoming time at Concordia University, Nebraska!

This weekend we welcome alumni and friends on campus for Homecoming. Activities start on Friday morning and continue through most of the weekend. Football, volleyball, and soccer all have home contests. We also have a visit day on Friday that will welcome 40+ students and their families on campus to see what Concordia is really like and to help them make their decisions about college next year. It's a good time of year and the weather is even cooperating.

I hope that your year is going well. It's getting to be that time of year where District Teachers' Conferences and Parent Teacher Conferences begin to happen. I'll be presenting at the Kansas District Conference on October 12. We have other pros who are presenting at other teachers' conferences in the Midwest. Check your conference schedule to see if any of us are coming your way. Make sure to track us down to say hello.

If you haven't had your first official parent conference here are a couple suggestions to make that first meeting enjoyable and productive for you, the child, and the parents:

- Start with a prayer – if you are in a public school you'll probably want to just pray on your own before the conferences begin. In Lutheran schools pray with the parents.
- Have something positive to say about the child when you begin the conference. Start on a good note. Every child has some strength that you can share
- Have samples of student work that parents can see. You may have sent a lot of work home, but parents don't always look at it carefully. You can use this to point out strengths and areas where the child needs more work.
- Be focused on what you want to accomplish. If the child is a challenge you can't "fix" everything in a 15-30 minute conference. What's most important?
- Remember that you and the parents are partners in this task together. They need to recognize what needs to be done and they need to be involved. Have specific suggestions of things they can do at home to assist their child. It might be simple things like checking homework and making sure the child has necessary supplies ready.
- Make sure the parents have an opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns. It's part of the partnership focus.
- If you decide to address a concern write down what you and the parents are going to do. Also decide when you are going to get together again to talk about progress.
- Always end on a positive note. Let them know that you appreciate their partnership. Let them know you are there to help them. Thank them.
- Take the time to write notes about what happened. These are helpful to you now and later.

There are other things that you may think of. Don't compare the child to other children and don't let parents try to do that. If a parent comes in and starts yelling, as hard as it is let them yell. Soon they will stop and then you can talk. Until they get it all out it won't do you any good to try to defend yourself. Don't disagree unless you can point to evidence to the contrary. Try to work out a plan to address their concerns. Remember that it's their child and they are concerned. If you need other help let me know.

I've attached more tips and also another devotion. I hope that these are enjoyable and helpful. Let me know how things are going.

9/30/2010

AC/CF

**Bork, Ron**

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**From:** Bork, Ron  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 8:55 AM  
**Cc:** Bork, Ron; Juergensen, James; Kromminga, Kevin; Pester, Beth; Oliver, Annette  
**Subject:** Greetings from Concordia, Nebraska

The Admissions Office shared with me that you have been accepted at Concordia University, Nebraska. I believe that was a good decision on their part. We are excited at Concordia that you are considering coming here for your continued education. Concordia has been known for years as a top-quality teacher education institution. Our students have great opportunities to get involved in classrooms with students already in their freshman year. This gives you a chance to experience the teaching atmosphere from the other side of the desk – as a teacher rather than as a student. In your senior year you will have the opportunity to student teach all over the US and possibly even overseas. This weekend we sent 26 students to schools in Alaska, Arizona, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas, Wisconsin, and Shanghai, China. Our graduates serve all over the US and the world. You could be one of those people.

I hope that you will confirm your intentions soon. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have. I'm looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our Concordia family.

Blessings,  
Dr. Bork

PS Watch for us soon on Facebook at CUNE Education. "Like" us and we'll keep you updated on what's happening at CU!

Ron Bork, Ed.D.  
Dean, College of Education  
Concordia University  
Seward, NE 68434  
402-643-7475  
ron.bork@cune.edu  
fax 402-643-3328

10/15/2010

'10 grads

**Bork, Ron**


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**From:** Bork, Ron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 03, 2010 11:22 AM  
**To:** Borgen, Jennifer; Behnken, Nicole; Boettcher, Mark; Bork, Ron; Chrismer, Allison; Dehning, Christopher; Ferry, Hannah; Foster, Matthew; Haider, Rachel; Heidtbrink, Seth; Hein, Kraig; Hershberger, Ann; Hinrichs, Jordan; Hunt, Stephanie; Juergensen, James; Kettler, Erin; Kober, Daniel; McDaniel, Jonathan; Panwitz, Ashley; Ramstad, Mollie; Raphelt, Katherine; Ripke, Megan; Schranz, Bryan; Schultz, Andrew; Schwartz, Amber; Stahlecker, Karla; Stevenson, Ann; Stolee, Thomas; Thies, Austin; Weidner, Lindsey; Werner, Jessica; Wisely, Amber; Zilm, John  
**Subject:** Greetings from Concordia  
**Attachments:** Tips 21-30.doc; Teacher Article.tif; The Parable of the Talents devo.doc

It's fall ... you tell by the leaves and the wind and the temperature. Things continue to move along at a Concordia pace through this first semester. I hope all is well for you. We are at that exciting time of the year where we have sports finishing (football, soccer, cross country, and volleyball) and starting (basketball and wrestling), drama productions on tap this weekend and next, art shows in the Marxhausen gallery, orchestra concerts on the schedule, and classes ... yes, we still teach and learn.

We've got construction on campus ... we're actually tearing out the steps in front of the music building and making it into a type of ramp so people can get into the music building – at least the entry area – in wheelchairs. I'm sure there are plans to get people into the recital hall soon. We are also building a deck on the west side of Janzow overlooking the sand volleyball court. It will be interesting to see how that progresses.

We sent off 26 student teachers the middle of October to Alaska, Arizona, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas, Wisconsin, and China. They all made it safely and are into week three of their experience. So far no one has bailed out on us. Pray for them. I know that you aren't that far away from the experience yourself.

We have a visit day this Friday with 65+ students and their parents arriving on campus. It will be exciting for them and for us to find out more about each other and to encourage them to join us as students next fall. If you have the names and contact information for anyone in your church or school let me know. We'll follow up and see if we can get them interested in Concordia. If you have a number of high school students that may be interested let me know and I'll try to find some money so you can host an event – pizza party – and we'll send information to you that you can share.

I've attached an article from the Lincoln Journal Star that talks about students and what teachers need to know and do with those who are challenges in our classrooms. It struck me as I remembered some of the students I had in grade school over the years.

I've also attached a devotion for the month and another list of tips for your enjoyment.

Let me know how you are doing and if there's anything we can do to assist you.

Blessings,

Ron

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 ron.bork@cune.edu  
 fax 402-643-3328

11/3/2010

# Carrying the load of lessons learned

BY LYNN (BOESCH) SAFFER

When I first started teaching English 25 years ago, I thought it would be the greatest job in the world to be paid to help students find meaning in various authors' words and to find meaning in writing their own words.



Yes, I was ready to challenge ambitious students and to patiently encourage under-skilled students. Egotistically, I gathered my books and materials, ready to embrace this new avenue in my life.

However, I wasn't ready for Daniel.

Daniel was one of my 150 students that year — one who seemed to never care about what was going on, one who would write minimally coherent sentences, one who did not like English class (and even less, English teachers!), one who had experienced little classroom success in previous years.

## COMMUNITY COLUMNIST

In one of many education classes, I learned that fairness means "everyone gets what he/she needs." Though he received all the same assignments and tests, Daniel did not get what he needed in my class.

Daniel was only one of the hundreds of students who have crossed my path throughout my subsequent years in education, mostly young adults through GED and community college classes. It is only recently, however, that I have come to appreciate the fact that in my embryonic teaching years, I thought I would give students my knowledge; instead, I now humbly acknowledge that students have given me so much more.

Through their written words, they have taught me:

■ Good marriages matter. Hundreds of my young adult students have divulged the hurt they experienced as their parents ended their marriages. Though of course it is understood that half

of today's marriages do not endure for a variety of legitimate reasons, children of these circumstances took it upon themselves to grow up and handle their fate in the best way they could. Most matured, accepted, forgave and carried on; others carry that hurt today. They vow to have better marriages.

■ Fathers play a vital role in their children's lives. Of course, it is needless to say that mothers are indeed significant parents, but many of my students have declared that they wanted, needed and deserved a father in their early years.

■ Family is important. Many admit that without the support of a parent or grandparent, or other extended family member, they would not have had the motivation or ability to attain the educational successes they did.

■ Teachers have had positive and negative influences. Thankfully, most remember at least one outstanding teacher in their

young lives; many can name several.

■ Alcohol and drugs continue to prey in homes and are some of the biggest obstacles students encountered throughout their lives.

■ Even though they know money does not make people happy, lack of money caused stress, increased struggles and undeniable challenges in their families.

■ Schools are doing a lot to conquer the bullying issue. But many found it impossible to learn math and history when they worried about getting picked on or hurt in the parking lot.

■ An education really is a valuable asset. Though many regret their earlier choices, they now have discovered the endless opportunities education brings.

■ They have vulnerable, sometimes wounded, but most always strong, courageous hearts.

■ They have stories to tell.

I cannot help thinking where Daniel might be today if I had at least attempted to make seventh-grade English class a little more

positive for him. But I will never know. I can't even ask him. Daniel committed suicide several years after graduating high school.

No, I am not so arrogant to think it was because of his seventh-grade English experience (or lack of it), though a part of my ego wants to think I could have affected his outcome.

Knowing that much of my confidence came from former teachers makes me scared, makes me humble, yet makes me more determined to be influential and encouraging so that not only the Daniels, but all of my students will experience success, will have the courage to tell their stories, will go out of my class a little bit happier than when they came in. This column is dedicated to my students — who have trusted me with their stories — and to all teachers who, through their wisdom and understanding, have made a positive difference in their students' lives.

Lynn (Boesch) Saffer lives in Lincoln, is an adjunct English instructor at Southeast Community College and is the mother of three adult children.

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## Address comments to:

Gordon Winters,  
Opinion Page Editor  
P.O. Box 81689, Lincoln, NE 68501  
gwinters@journalstar.com  
(402) 473-7434

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writer's name, address and home and work telephone numbers. Please sign letters that are mailed, faxed or hand-delivered. The editors may edit and condense letters; the suggested length limit is 200 words. Send letters to Letters to Editor, Lincoln Journal Star, P.O. Box 81689, Lincoln, NE 68501. E-mail: oped@journalstar.com. Fax: 473-7291.

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can comment on editorials and letters to the editor at [www.JournalStar.com](http://www.JournalStar.com). Comments posted online are not substitutes for submitting letters to the editor.

to 07,08,09  
grades**Bork,Ron**

**From:** Bork,Ron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 03, 2010 11:26 AM  
**Subject:** Greetings from Concordia  
**Attachments:** Teacher Article.tif

It's fall ... you tell by the leaves and the wind and the temperature. Things continue to move along at a Concordia pace through this first semester. I hope all is well for you. We are at that exciting time of the year where we have sports finishing (football, soccer, cross country, and volleyball) and starting (basketball and wrestling), drama productions on tap this weekend and next, art shows in the Marxhausen gallery, orchestra concerts on the schedule, and classes ... yes, we still teach and learn.

It's been too long since I contacted some of you, so here's my attempt to get in touch again.

We've got construction on campus ... we're actually tearing out the steps in front of the music building and making it into a type or ramp so people can get into the music building – at least the entry area – in wheelchairs. I'm sure there are plans to get people into the recital hall soon. We are also building a deck on the west side of Janzow overlooking the sand volleyball court. It will be interesting to see how that progresses.

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Let me know how you are doing and if there's anything we can do to assist you.

Blessings,

Ron

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 Seward, NE 68434  
 402-643-7475  
 ron.bork@cune.edu  
 fax 402-643-3328

**Bork,Ron**

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**From:** Bork,Ron

**Sent:** Friday, December 03, 2010 2:41 PM

**To:** Borgen, Jennifer; Behnken, Nicole; Boettcher, Mark; Bork,Ron; Chrismer, Allison; Dehning, Christopher; Ferry, Hannah; Foster, Matthew; Haider, Rachel; Heidtbrink, Seth; Hein, Kraig; Hershberger, Ann; Hinrichs, Jordan; Hunt, Stephanie; Juergensen,James; Kettler, Erin; Kober, Daniel; McDaniel, Jonathan; Panwitz, Ashley; Ramstad, Mollie; Raphelt, Katherine; Ripke, Megan; Schranz, Bryan; Schultz, Andrew; Schwartz, Amber; Stahlecker, Karla; Stevenson, Ann; Stolee, Thomas; Thies, Austin; Weidner, Lindsey; Werner, Jessica; Wisely, Amber; Zilm, John

**Subject:** Christmas Greetings from Concordia

**Attachments:** Who Started Christmas.doc; Tips 31-40.doc

This is Christmas at Concordia weekend. It's the usual concerts, parade of homes and the holiday buffet. We know it will be wonderful, but we still anticipate the event each year.

I've attached a short story that you can use for yourself or with your staff as part of a devotion. I've also attached the next 10 tips for teachers. I hope you enjoy both of these.

My memories of teaching in grade school during the month of December are getting farther and farther in the rearview mirror. One thing I do remember is the great amount of time that was spent on Christmas practices for the Christmas service or concert or other event. I remember being frustrated with the amount of class time I was losing. As I've grown older and realized what those Christmas services, concerts, and events have meant to students and to parents (and even to members of the congregation) I've gotten a better perspective on the time spent. Yes, it's a lot of time away from the "important things" of school, but it's also a time when children can learn to lead in worship. You may not call your "event" a service, but even if it's a "program" it's still an opportunity for the children to share the message of Christmas in word, in song, in pictures, and in many other ways. Help each of them realize how important it is to share the good news of Jesus with others. This "event" is one special way to do that. For those who aren't involved in all the practices, etc. you can still appreciate the time that is taken for your Christmas services at your church and you can still let the children and teachers know that it was time well spent.

Christmas break is a great time to re-charge. It's been a long fall and winter so far. You're tired. Hopefully you aren't discouraged. This is a time to sit back and reflect a bit – to take the time to evaluate how things have gone so far. You can make adjustments and changes in what you have done if you feel you can be more successful. You can ask for help also or for advice from someone else on things you can do more effectively. One of the things that I learned early in my teaching is that coming back after Christmas break is a lot like starting over. The children and teens have been home for a couple weeks. They've settled in to routines that are not as defined as school. When they come back you may want to spend some time re-orienting them to life in the classroom and school. Take time to listen to their Christmas stories and to share in their joy. Then take the time to remind them of the expectations that you have for them. Then start teaching again. Depending on your days off and your spring break possibilities this is probably one of the longest stretches ahead without significant time off school. Don't worry, you will survive. Remember that your goal for year one is to be standing at the end of the year and to be excited about coming back to the classroom for year two.

After the first of the year I'll be attaching an evaluation form for you and your principal to fill out. These are important pieces of information that we use for assessment. The time you take to fill it out and have your principal fill it out is very helpful to us. I'm also going to be making another request to receive achievement test information from your class. I'll give you more details about this request later. We're interested to hear and see how your students are doing academically. While it's not rigorous scientifically or statistically it will give us a picture. Also, I'm only going to ask for class information – nothing with names attached to it – so we won't run into privacy issues.

Let me know how things are going. I love to hear your stories. We are on Facebook now so check us out. You can find us at CUNE Education. We'd love to have you as friends.

12/3/2010

**Bork, Ron***Sent to 07.08.09***From:** Bork, Ron**Sent:** Friday, December 03, 2010 2:46 PM**Subject:** Christmas Greetings from Concordia

This is Christmas at Concordia weekend. It's the usual concerts, parade of homes and the holiday buffet. We know it will be wonderful, but we still anticipate the event each year.

My memories of teaching in grade school during the month of December are getting farther and farther in the rearview mirror. One thing I do remember is the great amount of time that was spent on Christmas practices for the Christmas service or concert or other event. I remember being frustrated with the amount of class time I was losing. As I've grown older and realized what those Christmas services, concerts, and events have meant to students and to parents (and even to members of the congregation) I've gotten a better perspective on the time spent. Yes, it's a lot of time away from the "important things" of school, but it's also a time when children can learn to lead in worship. You may not call your "event" a service, but even if it's a "program" it's still an opportunity for the children to share the message of Christmas in word, in song, in pictures, and in many other ways. Help each of them realize how important it is to share the good news of Jesus with others. This "event" is one special way to do that. For those who aren't involved in all the practices, etc. you can still appreciate the time that is taken for your Christmas services at your church and you can still let the children and teachers know that it was time well spent.

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Next February I'm going to be making a request to receive achievement test information from your class. I'll give you more details about this request later. We're interested to hear and see how your students are doing academically. While it's not rigorous scientifically or statistically it will give us a picture. Also, I'm only going to ask for class information – nothing with names attached to it – so we won't run into privacy issues.

Let me know how things are going. I love to hear your stories. We are on Facebook now so check us out. You can find us at CUNE Education. We'd love to have you as friends.

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Concordia University  
Seward, NE 68434  
402-643-7475  
ron.bork@cune.edu  
fax 402-643-3328



**Bork,Ron**

---

**From:** Bork,Ron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 5:36 PM  
**Subject:** Winter Greetings from Concordia!  
**Attachments:** Tips 41-50.doc; CF Checkpoint 4 Evaluation Form.doc; What Teachers Make.doc

Ahh! It's winter and the timing was impeccable. It started snowing on Sunday morning and by Monday morning ... first day of classes for the semester ... we had 6-8" of powdery snow on the ground and a 10:00 start time for first-day classes. Good thing about all this ... I got to use my new snow-thrower on Monday morning once I got it started. Yes, we do have snow and by Wednesday we also had all of our students manage to get back to Seward.

We are starting up our second semester with new transfers and with student teachers anxious to get out into their classrooms. We have 15 elementary, 14 middle level, and 19 secondary student teachers. You probably vividly remember the excitement and small parts of anxiety as you got ready for that first ST experience. These students seem to be much the same as you were ... ready and anxious to get out. We're doing the usual student teaching orientation week – a bit rearranged because of the snow and the delay for a couple of our presenters. Sharon Mason and Tony Rainey arrive tonight for their two-day workshop tomorrow and Friday.

Not too much has changed on campus. They have begun putting a deck onto Janzow next to the sand volleyball court. The floor is on and we are probably going to have to wait until spring for the railing around the outside. It goes the length of Janzow from the doors out toward Esther and Dorcas to the front of Janzow by the sidewalk. Big enough for a nice party. They also have put in a ramped sidewalk in front of the Music Building so we can actually get wheelchairs into the entrance area without going up steps. That's the sum total of construction for right now.

Our accreditation reports for the Nebraska Department of Education have to be finished by October. I'm attaching an evaluation form (CF Checkpoint #4) for you and for your principal (assuming you are teaching – if not, don't worry about this). Please have your principal fill one out (electronically if possible) and return it to me along with the one that YOU fill out also. If you can mark which is yours and which is your principal's that's really helpful. This is important so I would really appreciate if you could do this for me and get it back by the middle of February. I'll remind you in next month's newsletter.

I've attached another set of "Tips for Teachers" that I think you will enjoy. I've also attached a story called "What Teachers Make" which can be used as a devotion if you'd like.

Have a great January. Let me know how things are going for you.

Blessings,

Ron

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 fax 402-643-3328

**Bork,Ron**

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**From:** Bork,Ron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 5:38 PM  
**Subject:** Greetings from Concordia  
**Attachments:** What Teachers Make.doc 07-08-09

Ahh! It's winter and the timing was impeccable. It started snowing on Sunday morning and by Monday morning ... first day of classes for the semester ... we had 6-8" of powdery snow on the ground and a 10:00 start time for first-day classes. Good thing about all this ... I got to use my new snow-thrower on Monday morning once I got it started. Yes, we do have snow and by Wednesday we also had all of our students manage to get back to Seward.

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Have a great January. Let me know how things are going for you.

Blessings,

Ron

Ron Bork, Ed.D.  
 Dean, College of Education  
 Concordia University  
 Seward, NE 68434  
 402-643-7475  
 ron.bork@cune.edu  
 fax 402-643-3328

**Bork,Ron**

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**From:** Bork,Ron

**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 8:28 AM

**To:** Bohnert, Adele; Bork,Ron; Brunkhorst, Ashley; Heggemeier, Melanie; Himmelberg, Lindsey; King, Melissa; Levick, Ashley; Lipovsky, Antonia; Meyer, Rebekah; Moyer, Emily; Oliver,Annette; Schweitzer, Britney; Theilen, Ashley; Williams, Amy; Anderson, Jennifer; Backhus, Karyn; Baller, Amy; Besel, Brittnie; Brack, Anna; Brock, Natalie; Colclasure, Richelle; Douglas, Kathryn; Edmiston, Mark; Hanusa, Rebecca; Kaio, Dana; Kromminga, Kevin; Krueger, Hannah; Leonhardt, Katheryn; Lindeman, Jenna; Marrs, Brittany; Morley Liz Kusmierczak; Nehrt, Jessica; Norz, Annika; Pettet, Holly; Pinter, Meghann; Rempfer, M'Leigh; Repenning, Michelle; Richters, Noell; Schulteis, Jennifer; Strecker, Kyle; Williams, Mary; Wren, Melissa; Hansen, Emily; Henschen, Joel; Hoefelman, Amanda; Koziel, Megan; Mol, Rebecca; Niederklein, Alex; Pester, Beth; Rodine, Drew; Topil, Jessica; Borgen, Jennifer; Behnken, Nicole; Boettcher, Mark; Chrismer, Allison; Dehning, Christopher; Ferry, Hannah; Foster, Matthew; Haider, Rachel; Heidtbrink, Seth; Hein, Kraig; Hershberger, Ann; Hinrichs, Jordan; Hunt, Stephanie; Juergensen, James; Kettler, Erin; Kober, Daniel; McDaniel, Jonathan; Panwitz, Ashley; Ramstad, Mollie; Raphelt, Katherine; Ripke, Megan; Schranz, Bryan; Schultz, Andrew; Schwartz, Amber; Stahlecker, Karla; Stevenson, Ann; Stolee, Thomas; Thies, Austin; Weidner, Lindsey; Werner, Jessica; Wisely, Amber; Zilm, John

**Subject:** Happy Valentine's Day for Concordia

**Attachments:** CF Checkpoint 4 Evaluation Form.doc; 19 Things That It Took Me 50 Years to Learn.doc; Great Lent Devo.doc

Ahh ... it's February and it's almost Valentine's Day. I hope you are all ready. Consider using sections of I John for devotions. Chapter 3:16-18 and chapter 4: 7-12 are good ones for any age ... including your faculty.

Life in Seward continues as usual. We haven't been hit by as much snow as some places. We got 1-2 inches a couple weeks ago when the big storms went through the Midwest and the East. The biggest thing is the wind – so what's new about wind in Nebraska – that caused wind chills to get into the minus 20s and minus 30s.

This was a big week for athletic competitions on campus. JV basketball on Monday and Tuesday, varsity basketball on Wednesday, JV women's tournament on Thursday and Sunday, indoor tennis (yes we can do that in the field house now) on Friday, and an indoor track meet on Saturday.

Last month I sent out a checkpoint evaluation and asked all of you to complete it and also have your administrator complete it. I've only gotten four back – mucho thanks to those four and their principals. I'm hoping that more of you will complete the form and return it to me. IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT I GET A BUNCH OF THESE BACK AS WE PREPARE FOR OUR ACCREDITATION VISITS. Follow-up with our graduates is one of the things that accreditation teams look for. I've attached the form again for anyone still needing to complete this.

I have another request that may or may not be easy to complete and it's probably more focused on elementary teachers than ECE or high school. I am looking for information that would help me verify that all of you are highly qualified teachers. One of the ways we indicate that is by demonstrating that you have a positive effect on student learning. Here's my request. I'd like to have class and student data on achievement tests that you have given to your students. I DO NOT want any names. What I do want is the name of the test, your grade level, and test results (with percentiles or with grade equivalents or both preferably) in reading and math for individual students and for the class as a whole. Before you send this to me make sure you consult with your principal. If he/she isn't willing to share the information that's fine. If you don't give achievement tests that's OK also. This is going to be a very un-scientific assessment of your impact. I'm making the assumption that if your students are above grade level that you are going a great job and if some are below grade level that you are working to bring them up to grade level. If there are unique characteristics of your class let me know that also (special needs students, minority groups, low income, etc.). Again, NO NAMES of individual students.

I've also attached a Lenten devotion that you can use with your class or your faculty. It's long, but it's worth the time to use it.

**Bork,Ron**

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**From:** Bork,Ron

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 7:57 AM

**Subject:** Blessings from Concordia

**Attachments:** Attitude Check Devo - Holy Week.doc; CF Checkpoint 4 Evaluation Form.doc

Friends,

I pray that your year continues to go well and that as we move through the final days of Lent and approach the Easter celebration that you have taken time for yourself to reflect on the great love that God has shown to us through His Son Jesus, sent to live, suffer, and die for us and pay the penalty for our sins and then to rise and guarantee a place for us in heaven.

The year is almost over – well sooner for me than for you probably. We have a little over 2 weeks of classes left and then finals. Graduation is on May 7 and this year will feature one of the largest classes of Masters graduates in the history of Concordia. I believe we have over 200 and over 150 are going to be at graduation to walk. WOW! Our program has grown. I hope that some day you will take advantage of our graduate programs – literacy, early childhood, ELL, administration, and curriculum and instruction.

This weekend is Spring Weekend on campus and we have an outside chance of getting some light snow on Thursday evening and Friday. The weather pattern is just about right and the temperatures are going to drop below freezing in the evening. That would be exciting for the Spring Weekend participants – especially those in the Sync and Swim. We also have athletic events and concerts this weekend. You know that it's near the end of the year and there are many activities going on.

I hope that you are still excited about teaching and are getting ready to finish year one and begin year two. I've told many of our graduates that the goal of year one is to be standing upright at the end of the year and ready to come back again. Year one is often a challenge as we really move from student to teacher – as we move from one side of the desk to the other. The joy is knowing that our students have learned at least a little and that we have settled in to a good routine that has been successful. I'm always excited to hear about how things are going for you so please let me know what has happened in your teaching life (and in your personal life also if you'd like to share that).

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but if you haven't returned your evaluation and the evaluation that your principal is being asked to complete on you please do that soon. I've attached a copy that you can give to him/her and then send back to me via e-mail or snail mail. These are very helpful for our accreditation and also to see where we need to improve our instruction. Also if you can share achievement information with me please do that also. It also is helpful to demonstrate that our graduates have a positive impact on their students.

One other piece of news that may be interesting to you – Dr. Juergensen has accepted a call to go to Concordia Mequon as their director of secondary education and educational administration. He will leave in July to begin his new responsibilities in Wisconsin. This is going back home for him since he attended high school in Milwaukee and college at Mequon. We are sad to see him go, but we know that his gifts and talents will be beneficial to the ministry at CUW.

I've attached a devotion for Holy Week that you can use for yourself, your class, or your faculty. It's important that we conduct an "attitude check" at times in our own lives.

God's blessings to you,

Ron

Ron Bork, Ed.D.  
Dean, College of Education  
Concordia University  
Seward, NE 68434  
402-643-7475  
ron.bork@cune.edu  
fax 402-643-3328

4/13/2011

## **Bork,Ron**

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**From:** Bork,Ron  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 4:09 PM  
**To:** Bailey, Katherine; Baker, Nicole; Bartling, Lindsay; Beckman, Austin; Bloch, Nicholas; Bloomfield, Keegan; Bork,Ron; Cattle, Roger; Chaveriet, Charles; Dinslage, Scott; Dinslage, Teagan; Eloge, Clarissa; Ficken, Kole; Gerth, Caledonia; Groth, Justin; Henny, Ann; Hente, Ellen; Hinkle, Elizabeth; Houchin, Wade; Houghton, Andrew; Igo, Chelsey; Kaaz, Rebecca; Klein, Abby; Korb, Micah; Kromminga, Kevin; Love, Antoine; Maxson, Melanie; McGargill, Zachary; Miller, Curtis; Onions, Lauren; Phillips, Kate; Ramp, Bradley; Rathe, Andrew; Refenes, James; Rempfer, Jonathan; Schmidt, Kyle; Sims, Amber; von Kampen, Paul; Wagner, Kelsey  
**Subject:** Greetings from Concordia, Nebraska  
**Attachments:** Giants Devo.doc; Tips 1-10.doc

Friends ... colleagues in school teaching and ministry,

This is about one month later than I had hoped to contact all of you to let you know that I still remember you and still do think (at least occasionally) about you. We are already nearing the end of week four in our semester. Those of you teaching are probably nearing the end of week 6 or 7. I hope that your year has been good so far and that you are at least still smiling occasionally. The first year is always a challenging one as you settle into new surroundings, new people, and new responsibilities. My first call was to a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri as a math teacher (gr. 6-8) and youth director at Concordia Lutheran School, Kirkwood – now Christ Community Lutheran School. What a culture shock for a farm boy. But, with the help of good people in the church and school I survived year one.

Enrollment is up again this year in the undergraduate program. We have 474 students on campus who are claiming teacher education as their program. That means we have full classes of Educ 101 and the anticipation of lots of new teachers coming out of CU in 2015. All of you knew that Dr. Juergensen took a call to go to Concordia, Mequon. He's doing well. When he misses us we hear from him – that's been about twice lately. Once he e-mailed just to gloat about not having to work on Labor Day. We didn't replace him, but we did rearrange ourselves for the year. Professor Kromminga is secondary director, Professor Pester is middle level director, Professor Opfer is elementary director, Professor Oliver is early childhood director, and Professor Geidel is still doing the special education program. We will have 19 students this year doing student teaching in SpEd.

I know that you aren't thinking more education for yourself right now, but I wanted to let you know that we are developing an online graduate level special education endorsement program. We hope to have it ready to start in March. It's a 30 hour (10 course) program that would finish in fall of 2013.

I have a request ... if you get this and you have a better e-mail address just respond and let me know what that is. I REALLY do want to keep in touch with you during the next couple of years and accurate contact information is important.

I've attached a devotion that you can use for yourself or with others. I've also attached the first list of 10 Tips for success. I hope you enjoy both of these. Please keep in touch. I love to hear your stories. I pray for all of you regularly.

Blessings,  
Ron

Ron Bork  
Dean, College of Education  
Undergraduate and Graduate Studies  
Concordia University, Nebraska  
402-643-7475  
[ron.bork@cune.edu](mailto:ron.bork@cune.edu)

## Bork,Ron

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**From:** Bork,Ron  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2011 9:12 AM  
**To:** Bailey, Katherine; Bartling, Lindsay; Beckman, Austin; Bloch, Nicholas; Bloomfield, Keegan; Bork,Ron; Cattle, Roger; Chaveriet, Charles; Dinslage, Scott; Dinslage, Teagan; Eloge, Clarissa; Ficken, Kole; Gerth, Caledonia; Groth, Justin; Henny, Ann; Hente, Ellen; Hinkle, Elizabeth; Houchin, Wade; Houghton, Andrew; Igo, Chelsey; Kaaz, Rebecca; Klein, Abby; Korb, Micah; Kromminga, Kevin; Love, Antoine; Maxson, Melanie; McGargill, Zachary; Miller, Curtis; Onions, Lauren; Phillips, Kate; Ramp, Bradley; Rathe, Andrew; Refenes, James; Rempfer, Jonathan; Schmidt, Kyle; Sims, Amber; von Kampen, Paul; Wagner, Kelsey; Weiss, Nicole (Baker)  
**Subject:** Another Beautiful Day in Seward  
**Attachments:** Leaf Devo.doc; Parent Teacher conferences.pdf; Tips 11-20.doc

Greetings from one of the greatest places on God's planet ... Concordia University, Nebraska

I hope all is going well with you. We are halfway through this first semester and still doing well and learning much. Our student teachers begin their second placement today all over the US. We have 6 in California, 2 in Florida, 2 in Illinois, 2 in Kansas, 2 in Michigan, 4 in Missouri, 10 in Nebraska, 2 in Nevada, 4 in Texas, 1 in Utah, and 1 in Wisconsin. We also have all of our Special Education candidates who will be doing their first elementary placement this quarter locally. What a blessing to see so many joining you soon as teachers in our schools.

Homecoming weekend has come and gone. It was fun and successful as the football team, both soccer teams, and the volleyball team all won. It's always good to have wins on a weekend when so many alumni come back.

You are probably nearing parent teacher conferences if you haven't already finished them. I've attached a sheet on conferences that comes from a veteran teacher. I hope it provides some encouragement and advice. I've found that the best way to start is with prayer. If you are in public education then pray on your own before parents arrive. If parents are upset and start yelling, let them yell until they stop, then calmly repeat the important thing that they said and try to move forward on that concern. You can't solve all of the problems in 15-20 minutes so pick out the one that is really important. Parents have to be partners in this. The children are "on loan" to us as teachers. Parents are really in charge. When you finish make sure that you and the parents agree on what will happen next and how both will be involved. Pray again even if just to God by yourself.

Of some interest to you may be the fact that we continue to lose pine trees on campus. All four that were in front of the Music Building have been cut down due to disease. There are a couple more on campus that may go soon. It's disappointing to see that happen since it really does change the look of the campus.

This spring we are going to offer a pilot technology course for teacher education students. We're doing this as a blended class of online and face-to-face. It's probably pretty important and something we should have done a long time ago. I'll let you know next semester how it's going.

I've attached 10 more thoughts for new teachers. I hope you enjoy them. I also attached another devotion for you.

The rest of what's going on at CU is pretty much same old – same old over and over again. It's getting to be accreditation time so I'm working on pulling everything together for that. I will be contacting you and your administrator in early 2012 to fill out a "final" evaluation form. If you have ideas now of things we could improve or things that went really well while you were here please let me know. I appreciate the input.

## Bork,Ron

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**From:** Bork,Ron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2011 8:59 AM  
**To:** Bailey, Katherine; Bartling, Lindsay; Beckman, Austin; Bloch, Nicholas; Bloomfield, Keegan; Bork,Ron; Cattle, Roger; Chaveriet, Charles; Dinslage, Scott; Dinslage, Teagan; Eloge, Clarissa; Ficken, Kole; Gerth, Caledonia; Groth, Justin; Henny, Ann; Hente, Ellen; Hinkle, Elizabeth; Houchin, Wade; Houghton, Andrew; Igo, Chelsey; Kaaz, Rebecca; Klein, Abby; Korb, Micah; Kromminga,Kevin; Love, Antoine; Maxson, Melanie; McGargill, Zachary; Miller, Curtis; Onions, Lauren; Phillips, Kate; Ramp, Bradley; Rathe, Andrew; Refenes, James; Rempfer, Jonathan; Schmidt, Kyle; Sims, Amber; von Kampen, Paul; Wagner, Kelsey; Weiss, Nicole (Baker)  
**Subject:** Advent/Christmas Greetings!  
**Attachments:** Tips 21-30.doc; Who Started Christmas.doc

Friends,

It's (not) beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Seward, but we know it's coming. Temperatures on Thanksgiving day were in the mid-60s which made it really nice for Santa to arrive downtown. My wife and I spent time with our daughters, son-in-law, and three grandchildren celebrating Thanksmas (that's Thanksgiving and Christmas combined). The weather man says it's supposed to get colder this weekend with a slight chance for snow. We'll see.

It may not "look" like Christmas is coming, but the events of the next two weeks tell us it's near. Christmas at Concordia is this weekend with concerts, food, and the parade of homes. I always look forward to the concert as our students really pull out all the stops and do their best to bring the Christmas message to us in word and song. That's followed the next week by the Jazz Concert, Advent by Candlelight, and Break for Breakfast with President and Mrs. Friedrich. I manage to sign up each year for the breakfast so I can be a greeter at the door. I just love wearing my sequined suspenders and Santa hat to greet those students who have been "studying" so diligently all day.

So, what's new at CU? They are finally finishing work on Founders roof which means that we are really going to do something with the building. Mixed reviews, but it's nice to know that we are going to keep the original campus building for a longer time. We've lost a lot of evergreens on campus from storms and from disease this year. All of the large pine trees outside the Music Building are gone as well as one big one near Founders and a number of them in front of Weller.

Sports ... the football team finished 4-7 which is twice as many wins as last year. The women's cross country team finished 17<sup>th</sup> at Nationals, one freshmen male runner (Ben Sievert) qualified for nationals when the men as a team didn't qualify, the volleyball team finished 11-21 and played some exciting games, both soccer teams qualified for the conference tournament and did well in the early games (men 11-5-3; women 9-9-1), the women's basketball is 8-0 and ranked 9<sup>th</sup> nationally, the men's team is 4-2 and doing well.

Education ... I knew you'd want to hear about this. We are adding a graduate level initial special education certification program in March. This is intended for current teachers who want to add the mild/moderate certification. It will be entirely online so you actually don't have to come to campus for any of the classes. We are limiting our first cohort to 22 students. It's a 30-hour program. We are also considering adding 12 hours at the end to make it a Master's in Education, emphasis in special education curriculum and instruction. If you are interested let me know and I'll send more information. We also have our Master's in administration, early childhood, literacy with our without ELL, and curriculum and instruction. When you start thinking about advanced study consider CU again.

That's probably all for now. I've attached an Advent/Christmas devotion as well as a few more helpful tips for teachers. Enjoy your Christmas preparations and celebrations and hopefully some time with family and friends. Let me know how things are going. I always enjoy hearing from all of you.

Blessings,  
Ron

## Bork,Ron

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**From:** Bork,Ron  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2012 11:20 AM  
**To:** Bailey, Katherine; Bartling, Lindsay; Beckman, Austin; Bloch, Nicholas; Bloomfield, Keegan; Bork,Ron; Cattle, Roger; Charles Chaveriat (charles.chaveriat@cune.org); Dinslage, Scott; Dinslage, Teagan; Eloge, Clarissa; Ficken, Kole; Gerth, Caledonia; Groth, Justin; Henny, Ann; Hente, Ellen; Hinkle, Elizabeth; Houchin, Wade; Houghton, Andrew; Igo, Chelsey; Kaaz, Rebecca; Klein, Abby; Korb, Micah; Kromminga, Kevin; Love, Antoine; Maxson, Melanie; McGargill, Zachary; Miller, Curtis; Onions, Lauren; Phillips, Kate; Ramp, Bradley; Rathe, Andrew; Refenes, James; Rempfer, Jonathan; Schmidt, Kyle; Sims, Amber; von Kampen, Paul; Wagner, Kelsey; Weiss, Nicole (Baker)  
**Subject:** The End is Near!  
**Attachments:** CF Checkpoint 4 Evaluation Form ADMIN.doc; CF Checkpoint 4 Evaluation Form.doc

No, it's not the end of the world as predicted by the Mayans this December ... it's the end of your first year of teaching – for those of you who are teaching.

I have a favor to ask. Please fill out the attached self-evaluation form and also have your principal fill out the administrator form and send them back to me. This is the year of Accreditation and having information like this from as many of you as possible is very helpful as I finish writing the necessary reports.

Also, check us out on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/ConcordiaEducation> - and also check out the Teacher Tips - <http://www.cune.edu/academics/graduate-studies/teacher-tips/> - they may be helpful. If you'd like to do a Teacher Tip for us let me know and I'll get you connected to the marketing people. It's easy and very helpful for others.

Blessings on your end of year activities. I hope you are all still standing and ready to return next year.

Ron  
(Dr. Bork)

Ron Bork, Ed.D.  
Dean, College of Education  
Undergraduate and Graduate Studies  
Concordia University, Nebraska  
402-643-7475  
[ron.bork@cune.edu](mailto:ron.bork@cune.edu)