

Class of '99 Grads Have Their Day in the Sun

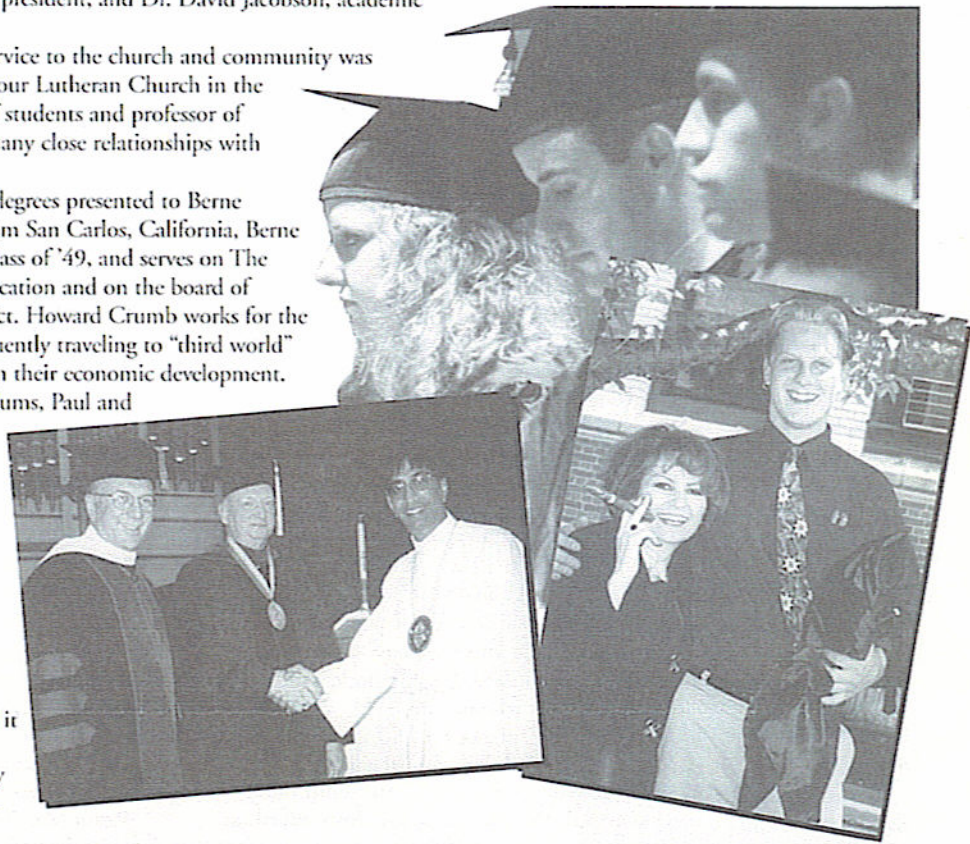
Under the blue sky and shining sun of a beautiful spring day, ninety graduates of Concordia College marched across the stage before family and friends to receive their degrees. May 15, 1999, was the first time in 30 years that Concordia's commencement services were held outdoors. Dr. Viji George presided over this, his first commencement as president. Rev. Dr. David Benke, chair of the board of regents and president of the Atlantic District, Rev. Dr. Merlin Rehm, former interim president, and Dr. David Jacobson, academic dean, also participated in the awarding of degrees.

The Servant of Christ Medallion for outstanding service to the church and community was awarded to Rev. Dr. Thomas Nelson Green of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in the Bronx. Dr. Green served our Concordia as both dean of students and professor of English. "Dean" Green established and still maintains many close relationships with Concordia students.

Other awards included two honorary doctor of law degrees presented to Berne Schepman and Howard Crumb. A chemical engineer from San Carlos, California, Berne Schepman is the husband of alumna Grace Koepchen, class of '49, and serves on The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's board for higher education and on the board of directors of the synod's California-Nevada-Hawaii District. Howard Crumb works for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, frequently traveling to "third world" nations (Mongolia, Thailand, and Macedonia) to assist in their economic development. Crumb is also the father of two Concordia class of '82 alums, Paul and Amy Crumb.

Greetings from the graduating class were delivered by Johanna Perry and Jon Grobe, president and vice president of Concordia's Student Government Association. "It is from our experiences of being college students that we become proud, confident and hopeful about ourselves and our future," Perry said.

Accelerated Degree Program graduate Catherine Sherman delivered the valedictory address for her class. "As we leave here today with a college degree," she said, "we should all approach life as if it were a classroom—call it LIFE 101." She adequately summed up the feelings of every graduate when she said, "Every graduate here today is a winner in every sense of the word. It is not 'comfortable' to be a student—it is a lot of hard work." ■



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