



The LIGHT

Good words for Great Souls

BY: ALAN OTHMER

What an incredible start to the Spring semester this has been! Everyone is adjusting to returning to college, and finding new or different class locations, and the support, connections and comradery that have been built amongst AbleLight students and their Concordia peers is truly awesome. Ann Arbor student Jack P. visited Mequon for the CIT tournament and had the opportunity to meet or re-connect with WI AbleLight students and staff. Students are engaged in a variety of employment experiences this spring, taking at least one traditional Concordia class and all have participated in campus and community events! In Ann Arbor, Erik S. was selected as CUAA February Student of the month!! Congratulations Erik!! Spring Individualized Goals & Services Plans (IGSP) meetings are well underway with some already completed. The active role that students are playing to facilitate these meetings has been incredible! Spring break is right around the corner with the CUWAA spring break March 1st-March 10th. Students need to be checked out of their dorms by March 1st at 4:00pm and may return on March 10th 5-8 pm.

On behalf of the AbleLight College teams at CUW and CUAA, we hope you have a wonderful Spring break and we look forward to seeing more excitement in the second half of this semester! Capping off the 2nd year experience for students will be graduation. The remarkable accomplishments of our second-year students will be celebrated formally on May 4th in WI and May 5th in Ann Arbor when they participate in the CUWAA undergraduate graduation ceremony and earn their Certificate of Applied Learning through AbleLight College at CUWAA! More details regarding graduation will be coming over the next several weeks.

We are currently enrolling for the 2024-2025 academic year!

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CUW: Campus & Community Updates

The Spring semester is off to an amazing start. Students have adjusted to new routines and are finding their place on and off of campus. Many students have joined clubs and organizations including Best Buddies and The Deaf Appreciation Club. The 71st Concordia Invitational Tournament brought our students out to support the men's and women's basketball teams, cheer and dance teams, and pep bands of Concordia Wisconsin, Ann Arbor, Chicago, and Nebraska! Many students have made their health a priority within the new year and have made commits to form better habits. Shoutout to our SSA Anya for starting Walking Club with students, prioritizing low intensity walks during the week.




RA, Madeline Rasco enjoying Concordia Invitational Tournament (CIT) with students.

WALKING CLUB

Tuesday Afternoon at 4pm
Thursday Afternoon at 4pm
Friday Afternoon at 3pm

Meet in Chemnitz Lobby and Walk with Friends around Concordia or on Cold Days on Treadmills Together!

[Reach out to Anya with any questions!](#)



Anya Matke, coordinator of CUW AbleLight Walking Club



CUAA: Academic Updates

For academics, given the size of our student body, the decision was made to combine our AbleLight classes. Overall, this decision has produced a number of positive outcomes, namely a renewed focus on all students being AbleLight College students as opposed to focusing on their status as first- or second- year students. Another positive outcome of combining ALC classes is the opportunity to pilot offering Financial Literacy to 1st year students, which is typically offered only to second year students. Once again, we have seen positive outcomes of opening this class up to all students and have already seen students applying what's been covered in class in their day-to-day life on- and off-campus. For CUAA classes, similarly to last semester, expectations related academics are personalized to the needs and goals of the students. Classes to note that our students are taking include America and Vietnam, Chapel Choir, Michigan History, Orchestra, and Data & Space: Teaching Pre-K - 9th grade.

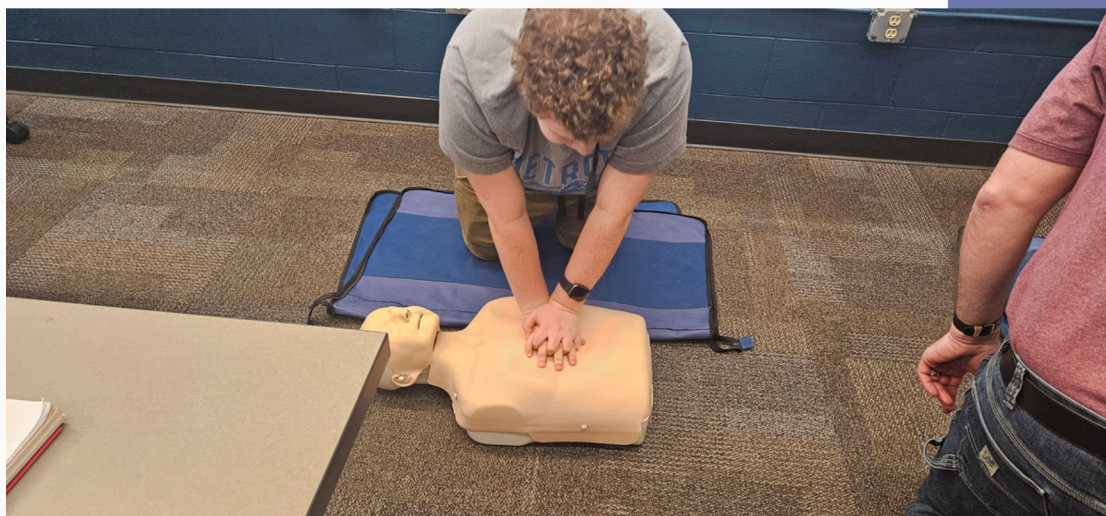


Ann Arbor students enjoying Financial Literacy course.



CUAA: Internships & Employment Updates

Things in Ann Arbor continue to go well, in spite of the weather we've had lately. All students continue to work in their internships with sites including CUAA's IT department and library, and off campus at a local pre-school. We are also happy to share that all three of our students are working an average of 6 hours a week and have the potential for additional hours based on availability and completion of required trainings.



Jack Potter student during CPR Training.



Ann Arbor students working out in gym on campus.



CUAA'S FEBRUARY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



ERIK SWANSON IS A FIRST YEAR ABLELIGHT COLLEGE STUDENT WHO EXEMPLIFIES THE MISSION AND VISION OF CUAA AND ALC IN ALL THAT HE DOES. IN THE CLASSROOM, ERIK HAS GROWN IN HIS ABILITY TO WORK WITH OTHERS AND CONTRIBUTING TO IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS. HE NOTES THAT HE ENJOYS BEING IN CUAA CLASSES WITH HIS PEERS AND LIKES THE CLASSES HE IS IN. MOST NOTABLY, ERIK IS IN CONCORDIA'S ORCHESTRA AND PLAYS THE CELLO. OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM, ERIK MANAGES A YOUTUBE CHANNEL IN WHICH HE CREATES, PRODUCES, EDITS, AND FILMS YOUTUBE VIDEOS THAT FOCUS ON MODEL TRAINS. LASTLY, ERIK IS A FAITHFUL MEMBER OF HIS CHURCH AND REGULARLY ATTENDS CHAPEL ON CAMPUS.



AbleLight College





FRI 2/2: NO CLASSES - 4TH FRIDAY
BREAK

FRI 3/1 - SPRING RECESS BEINGS
(CHECKED OUT BY 4PM)

SUN 3/10: STUDENTS CAN RETURN
ON CAMPUS BETWEEN 5-8PM

THURS 3/28: EASTER BREAK BEGINS
(CHECKED OUT BY 4PM)

MON 4/1: STUDENTS CAN RETURN
ON CAMPUS BETWEEN 5-8PM

SAT 5/4: CUW GRADUATION
RECEPTION & CEREMONY

SUN 5/5: CUA GRADUATION
RECEPTION & CEREMONY

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

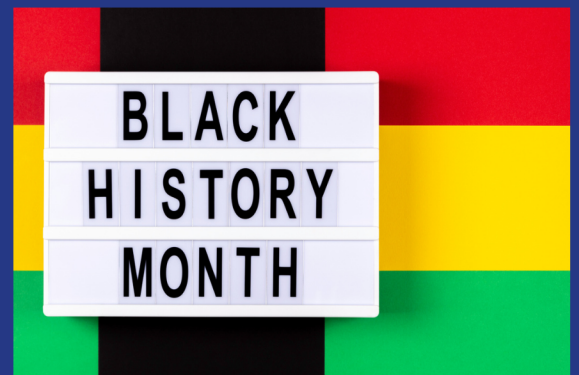
2/5: MATTHEW ALCALA
(CUW SSA)

2/12: TARAH ALLISON
(CUW SSA)

2/19: ANYA MATTKE
(CUW SSA)

2/26: CAMILLE FFRENCH
(CUW CAMPUS &
COMMUNITY
COORDINATOR)

3/6: EMMA CLUSMAN
(CUW SSA)





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ALAN OTHMER, MANAGER OF EDUCATION & TRANSITION SERVICES

CUW

ERIK HALLING, COORDINATOR OF ADMISSIONS

TASIA PINKHAM, CAREER PREP. COORDINATOR

CAMILLE FFRENCH , COMMUNITY & CAMPUS COORDINATOR

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TARAH ALLISON, SSA

ELIZABETH HERTEL, SSA

TARYN KANNON, RA

ADELYA KORMONICKA, RA

ANYA MATTKE, SSA

SARA MCCORMACK, SSA

TYRONE MCKEE, SSA

MADISON SCHMITT, SSA

MADELINE RASCO, RA

JADYN VAIL, RA

BRADYN WINDNAGLE, RA



CUAA

ANGELA POST, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

SINSERY GARDNER, ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

DANIEL MORRIS, SSA/RA

MORGAN JENKINS, SSA

JULIA HIRT, SSA





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CUW



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Campus and Community Events and Outreach

CHECK OUT THE [CUW ANDROID APP](#), [CUW EVENTS](#), OR [CUW IOS APP](#) FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND CUW!



CUAA UPCOMING EVENTS ARE POSTED ON::
[HTTPS://WWW.CUAA.EDU/EVENTS/INDEX.HTML](https://www.cuaa.edu/events/index.html)

