

# Concordia Highlights — For The Cho's Graduate School's A Family Matter

*Continue to explain that it's not the fact our criminal justice BA & MA degrees are all online that makes them different. It's our students and faculty who make this such a rich learning environment. In this article I would like to introduce two of our graduate students to share their experience. By the way, it's not unusual to have family members attend school together. In addition to the Cho's, we have a mother & daughter earning their master's degrees; a father & son who attended school at the same time, one earning his BA while the other his MA; and we had a father & daughter earn their degrees together. Rather than the stress some college programs can cause for families and relationships, students at Concordia University St. Paul find it brings them together. ~Scott Harr, Criminal Justice Department Chair, Concordia University St. Paul*

## **PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELVES:**

My name is Henry Cho. I am a Detective with the Rosemount Police Department. I currently attend Concordia's Master of Criminal Justice Leadership Program online, with my wife Jennifer Cho. She is currently an Investigator with Dakota County Sheriff's Office assigned to the Minnesota Metro Gang Strike Force. We are both from Minnesota and live with our beloved dog Sampson. Our hobbies include traveling, scuba diving, and playing Guitar Hero III for Nintendo Wii.

## **WHY DID YOU EACH WANT TO GET YOUR GRADUATE DEGREES?**

We both had discussed continuing our education for several reasons. This included providing us with more career opportunities in our field. In addition it

was a personal goal for both of us to attend graduate school and obtain a master's degree. It also provided us an opportunity to go through this endeavor together, supporting each other along the way.

## **HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON CONCORDIA?**

After reviewing several schools,



Concordia University St. Paul had a program that fit our busy schedules. We found that Concordia University also provided us with a challenging educational curriculum that offers a quality education with exceptionally high standards.

## **DID YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO LEARN THE TECHNOLOGY OF ONLINE LEARNING?**

No, if you can turn a computer on, you have the skills to use online learning.

## **WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING?**

Online learning is flexible and unique. Concordia University offers a diverse program that emphasizes what it preaches. Family and career are put before school. The program has been challenging and rewarding. This style of learning is very conducive to a busy person looking to complete their college degree.

## **WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO OTHER POLICE OFFICERS CONSIDERING RETURNING TO SCHOOL BUT WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER THEY CAN DO IT WITH ALL THE REST OF WHAT THEY HAVE GOING WITH**

## **BUSY SCHEDULES, SHIFT WORK, ETC?**

Concordia University's program should eliminate all of those fears. The program is tailored for the lives of busy working professionals. The learning is accelerated. However, the workload is manageable and allows for minimal sacrifice in your life.

## **WHAT DO YOU THINK IS IMPORTANT IN FINDING A PROGRAM?**

Finding a program that works for you! We needed a flexible program with our busy personal lives and our constantly changing professional schedules. Concordia University offered the best fit for us. In fact, Jennifer spent her first online chat in a squad car as she was preparing to execute a search warrant.

## **DID ANYONE CRITICIZE YOU FOR CONSIDERING AN ONLINE PROGRAM? WHAT DID THEY SAY AND WHAT WOULD YOUR REPLY BE NOW?**

We had friends that criticized the online learning concept. They were biased by other online, non accredited institutions or made assumptions based on not experience of their own. Since we have started this endeavor, we have changed their opinions and shown them that online learning is not easier than the traditional classroom style learning, just different. Online learning provides additional educational benefits, including learning to use and become more confident with technology.

Admission does not require any testing and the admission fee will be waived for anyone hearing about the program from the MPPOA Journal. Further information can be obtained by contacting Criminal Justice Department Chair Scott Harr at [harr@csp.edu](mailto:harr@csp.edu) or 651-603-6277 or department recruiter Mike Conner at [conner@csp.edu](mailto:conner@csp.edu) or 651-641-8249 and by visiting [www.csp.edu/cj](http://www.csp.edu/cj). ■