

# GOLD GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE



**Katie Heyer '19**

**Major:** Chemistry | **Minor:** Spanish

**Current Role:** Pharmacy Student at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, University of Hawaii at Hilo

## What did Concordia mean to you as a student?

I toured Concordia between my junior and senior years of high school and automatically fell in love. I met with an admission rep and had already applied before my senior year. I remember feeling very comfortable and everyone was so nice. After touring I remember thinking, "This is where I'm going. It doesn't matter if I get in anywhere else. I'm going to Concordia."

## What does Concordia mean to you now?

My advisors and professors were very knowledgeable about a pre-pharmacy route. They helped me get to where I wanted to go. I'm very thankful for Concordia and what they provided for me. It was exactly where I needed to be. I could head back to the science building and see a professor and they'd remember me. That's something that I think is really special about this place.

## What is a life lesson you learned in college?

Having an open mindset is the most important skill one needs in pharmacy. You'll run into people who don't want to be on medication or think they know best. Trying to have an open conversation with them is the best approach and I think Concordia really helped me with that. With the liberal arts education and learning how to think differently, I've been able to look at situations uniquely compared to some of my classmates.

## Did you have a mentor at Concordia who was influential during your time at college (and/or beyond)?

I really liked taking biochemistry courses with Dr. Mach. I also enjoyed the non-science courses in the Spanish and religion departments. I liked taking my religion courses from Dr. Roy Hammerling.

## How did your time at Concordia prepare you for your role now?

I'm thankful for the education I received at Concordia. The curriculum makes you think outside the box and the writing intensity of the classes has been useful to me now. I've had to write papers for pharmacy school and I can crank them out quickly with few edits while many of my peers struggle. (Thank you, Concordia, for making me write so many papers!)

## Do you have any favorite Concordia memories you'd like to share?

I have a couple. I liked doing the beanie toss at Orientation and getting my Cobber ring. I loved being in the Concordia Christmas Concerts; I was involved in choir all four years. That was always the highlight.

## What advice would you have for future Cobbers?

Don't be afraid to branch out. If you live far away from Concordia and you're considering it, it's worth it. I learned that with moving all the way to Hawaii. It's been a great experience and I wouldn't trade it. So, if you're worried about distance, take the plunge. Also, don't be afraid to ask for help.