

# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHRONICLE

An Educational Mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ■ October 2013

## Concordia University Newsbriefs

✚ **Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn.**, will celebrate the installation of the Rev. Tom Gundermann as Campus Pastor on Oct. 4.

✚ For the second consecutive year, **Concordia College—New York**, Bronxville, N.Y., is ranked in the top tier of the North Regional Best Colleges by *U.S. News & World Report 2014*.

✚ **Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward**, now offers a Church Work Award Guarantee, with a minimum of \$15,000 in scholarships and grants.

✚ **Concordia University, Portland, Ore.**, has launched the Doctorate of Education degree program online and on campus.

✚ **The Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.**, debate team captured the national championship in parliamentary debate.

✚ A 274-bed residence hall (Chemnitz Hall) with classrooms is under construction at **Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon**.

✚ **Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich.**, commemorated the 50th anniversary of its dedication Sept. 27-29.

✚ **Concordia College Alabama, Selma**, and **Concordia University Wisconsin** have formed a partnership to provide additional programs for students at Selma. A criminal-justice degree program is under way, beginning fall 2013.

✚ For its commitment to volunteering, service learning and civic engagement, **Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.** was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the fifth time in the last seven years.

✚ A school-record 55 **Concordia University Texas, Austin**, students were named to the 2012-13 American Southwest Conference Academic Honor Roll.

✚ The **Concordia University, Irvine**, student marketing team earned first-place honors at the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) National Student Marketing Competition this past April.

✚ Ryan Ullmann, baseball pitcher for the **Concordia University Texas** baseball team, was drafted by the Washington Nationals in May.

## Concordia University Wisconsin, Concordia University, Ann Arbor, officially merge

This summer, after years of hard work, Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) announced that it has merged with Concordia University, Ann Arbor (CUAA).

According to Dr. William Cario, vice-president of Academics at CUW, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association approved CUW's acquisition of CUAA in a July 9 letter to the Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, president of CUW and now CUAA.

"We are excited to pursue Concordia's mission in this new way with a new campus and the additional combined resources of two excellent faculties," says Cario.

According to Ferry, CUAA could not obtain needed cash flow and was not in a position to add new, progressive programs. He said that CUW did not want to lose a



Concordia University Wisconsin

The Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, president of Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, and Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., visits the Ann Arbor campus.

Concordia presence in Michigan, where presence existed for 50 years. "We can bring the financial strength and experience of CUW and help

change the experience in Ann Arbor," says Ferry. "We think it's going to be a positive, and it's already started out very well."

Curt Gielow, executive dean of CUW's School of Pharmacy and former Mequon mayor, has been promoted to vice-president of Administration and chief campus officer at CUAA and has moved to Ann Arbor. Gielow will ultimately be in charge of assessing and developing

## System-wide enrollment increases 7 percent

Estimated student enrollment at the 10 Concordia University System institutions increased by 7 percent for fall 2013.

This is an additional 2,057 enrolled students (compared with fall 2012 increases). The total headcount goes from 29,597 in fall of 2012 to 31,654 in fall

2013. This marks 22 consecutive years of continued growth in enrollment since the inception of the Concordia University System in 1992.

A complete statistical enrollment report will be published in the January issue of the *Concordia Chronicle*.

## For the Sake of the Church endowment fund

Generous donors and supporters of Christian higher education increased the endowment funds at the Concordia colleges and universities by \$5,760,182 during the fiscal period January-June 2013. Cash and pledges of future gifts now total more than \$234 million.

The *For the Sake of the Church* endowment effort financially assists Lutheran students enrolled at one of the 10 Concordia colleges and universities.

Even though educational costs are expensive, the colleges and



universities provided more than \$80 million in financial assistance to enrolled students during the past fiscal year.

"We think it's going to be a positive, and it's already started out very well."

the campus and its programs.

"We want to grow student enrollment, we want to improve our retention of students, we want to create new programs and we want to build new facilities," says Gielow. "We want to invest in a future that assures Ann Arbor's continued success."

On July 1, the start of the new fiscal year, CUW and CUAA began operating as one entity, although each institution will retain its distinct name and distinct identity.

The Ann Arbor campus has approximately 600 students and 34 faculty members on a 187-acre campus. There are currently three schools at CUAA: Arts and Sciences, Education and Business.



# Studies abroad offer CUS students ‘unique cultural experience’

By Laurence L. Meissner

A mong many benefits offered students attending a Concordia University are the opportunities to spend a semester studying abroad.

But with such study abroad, students who perhaps until college age may have had little opportunity to venture beyond the safe and familiar environments of home, church and community are provided a unique cultural experience that allows them to earn a full semester of credits, visit unfamiliar natural environments and immerse themselves in studying a foreign language and culture.

This was the case in the spring semester of 2013 for nine students and a professor from Concordia University Texas, Austin, in the Concordia International Studies Consortium (CISC) program. Joined by a student from Concordia University Chicago and a student from Concordia University, Irvine, Calif., the group spent January through early April at Veritas University in San Jose, Costa Rica.

While in Costa Rica, these students also had the opportunity to complete courses in subject areas including biology, environmental science, photography, history, Spanish and art. Students studied in formal classroom settings during the week, and on many weekends they traveled throughout Costa Rica and Panama. Excursions to Arenal Volcano and Monteverde in Costa Rica’s interior, Playa Tamarindo on the Pacific Coast and Bocas Del Toro on Panama’s Atlantic coast were field components of courses in Environmental Science and Tropical Biology taught by Dr. Laurence Meissner from Concordia University Texas.

Because the study-abroad program also emphasizes service learning, Concordia students volunteered at a children’s hospital, a clinic, a school and a zoo.

Abi Boeck, a student from Wisconsin attending Concordia University Texas, said, “A children’s hospital is by nature not a happy place. Our job as volunteers was to bring some joy to lonely, sad and bored kids. I held a lot of “solitos-babies” who did not have parents with them. Seeing many fragile little people every day changed my perspective on Christian compassion. We have a call to care to the point where we feel our neighbor’s hurts.”



Concordia International Studies

The group from Concordia University Texas poses for a photo on one of the main plazas in San Jose, Costa Rica, during an orientation tour of the capital city. Dr. Laurence L. Meissner (second from left, back row) conducted classes in Environmental Science and Tropical Biology for the semester in Latin America.



Concordia International Studies

Students from three Concordia University System schools hold a weekly Bible study last spring during their study abroad at Veritas University in San Jose, Costa Rica. Other students from across the United States joined them for the Bible studies.

Besides learning Spanish in formal academic courses, students lived in the home of a Spanish-speaking family, often where no English was spoken. Concerning her house mother, Boeck said “My ‘Mama Tica’ is an extremely loving mom to her own kids and to every student who stays in her home. From signing me up to run a 10-k race with her to inviting my family to stay in her spare room when they came, she encouraged me to explore and engage in her culture and her life more than she ever would have had to.”

Three months studying abroad in Costa Rica was not without the stress of adjusting to different foods and cultural norms and dealing with separation from loved ones back home. Yet young Lutheran leaders invented ways to support each other and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ among their peers.

Boeck said, “The conversations I had with other kids on the trips or walks to work, on the beach or on a night bus dove deeply into what God was teaching us. We grew closer as a family as we processed the stream of new cultural norms, incredible sites and emotional situations with our focus on Jesus. I still cannot grasp how great God is or how much He loves us, but it is pure joy to reflect that love to other people.”

A highlight of the experience was a Bible study organized and mostly led by a Lutheran student and professor group that met each Wednesday at noon to sing, pray, study God’s Word and provide support for each other.

CISC Study Abroad Semester Spring 2014 will take place in Europe at two locations — Wittenberg, Germany, and Florence, Italy.

Dr. Laurence L. Meissner is professor of Biology at Concordia University Texas and served as guest professor for the Concordia International Studies Consortium program in Latin America this spring.



Arenal Volcano



photos: Getty Images/iStockphoto

Cloud forest in Monteverde



# Johnson retires as president of Concordia University Chicago

“It has been my great privilege to lead Concordia-Chicago,” said the Rev. Dr. John Johnson, who retired Aug. 16 as president of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest. “I have been personally blessed to serve at this university during an exceptional period of growth and change,” he said. “The institution stands in a strong position to continue its mission of equipping students to serve and lead with integrity, creativity, competence and compassion in a diverse, interconnected and increasingly urbanized church and world.”

In an open letter to the university, Johnson also praised the “outstanding, dedicated and talented faculty and staff members.” The announcement



Johnson

coincides with the 10-year commitment Johnson made to the University’s Board of Regents at the beginning of his tenure.

As president, Johnson’s strategic priorities included increasing enrollment, ensuring the financial health of the university, establishing long-term growth strategies for academic programs and continued service to the community and church. He is recognized for strengthening Concordia’s presence globally, nationally, regionally and locally as a destination institution for post-secondary learning.

Under his leadership, the university was named by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

as the nation’s second-fastest-growing campus (from 2004 to 2009) among nonprofit master’s degree-granting institutions. For the past three years, enrollment has exceeded 5,000 students, reaching an all-time record of 5,454 in fall 2012.

As president of Lutheran Educational Conference of North America, Johnson has been recognized for contributions to the field of higher education — Lutheran higher education in particular.

Underscoring the university’s commitment to service learning, Johnson led by example. Earlier this year, he joined a team of fellow Lutheran college and university presidents to fund the construction of a water well in Ethiopia.

Johnson became the 10th president of Concordia University Chicago in November 2004. His higher-education career of nearly 36 years includes 14 years as president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; president of Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., and academic dean at Concordia Seminary. He also has served Lutheran parishes in Fort Worth, Texas, and Ellisville, MO.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

### Recalculating ...

GPS devices are a common part of our experience. When I don’t follow my GPS’ instructions, it responds with the message “recalculating.”

As leaders of Lutheran colleges and universities we find it necessary to constantly “recalculate” our path. We have goals of service to the church, academic quality and financial stability. But the forces and pressures in our society do not make it easy to achieve our goals.

We seek to serve the church by preparing students for full-time vocations. We strive to be known as places where Lutheranism is easily seen. But it isn’t easy to reach that goal. We must recalculate from time to time how we are serving the church and how Lutheranism is visible on our campuses.

We seek to provide academic quality. But the rapidly changing higher-education arena makes it difficult to meet the expectations of the public while remaining true to the academic disciplines that are the basis for the education we

provide to our students.

New approaches and regulations make it necessary to recalculate frequently how we educate students.

We seek to be fiscally stable institutions. The forces of rising prices, expensive consumer-oriented expectations, and costs of technology make it very difficult to create fiscal strength. Our institutions must constantly recalculate how they operate.

My GPS relentlessly points me to the address I assigned it to find. No matter how often it is forced to recalculate my route, it still points me in the right direction. The Concordias know their destination — service to the church and to students. With God’s help we will continue to recalculate our path to that goal.

*Dr. Alan Borcharding is interim president of the Concordia University System.*



Borcharding

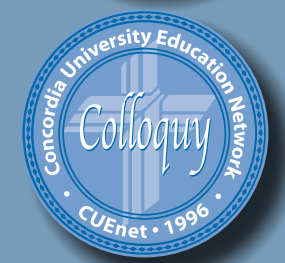
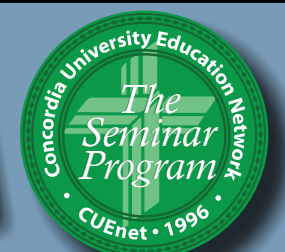
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# Cedel announces retirement at Concordia University Texas

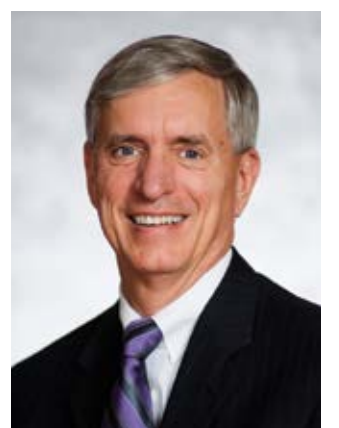
After more than a decade of leading Concordia University Texas, Austin, as president, Dr. Tom Cedel announced that he is retiring effective August of 2014.

“Concordia has experienced incredible growth under Tom’s leadership, becoming a recognized leader for Christian education in the Austin community as well as the church system,” the Rev. Ken Hennings,

**It’s been my pleasure to work with someone of this caliber who is passionate about Christian education and leadership.**

president of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, said. “It has been my pleasure to work with someone of this caliber who is passionate about Christian education and leadership. Tom has positioned the university to take the next step in excellence and expansion as it carries out its mission of developing Christian leaders.”

Cedel is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and fighter pilot who commanded a fighter squadron and wing in various parts of the world. He received his PH.D. in biology from the University of Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Penny, are the parents of David and Becky.



Cedel



# Consider a planned gift

Planned gifts generally are the result of careful thought and considerable time. In almost all cases, a planned gift is one that is of a significant size and will probably mature at some future time. It offers the donor the opportunity to use assets intended for distribution in the future, while at the same time to reconsider the initial selection of the named charity. Or, the donor may make a present-day gift that is irrevocable and receive a tax benefit at the time of the gift. A variety of asset types can be used to fund a planned gift. Writing a check is the simplest way to give. Securities, especially highly appreciated ones, are often selected by a donor as the source of funds. But there also is tangible personal property (art objects, collections, antiques, jewelry) or even real estate — all of which will require an appraisal. Many planned gifts are life insurance policies. The donor purchases a life insurance policy, names the charitable entity as beneficiary and makes the annual premium payments. The payment

of premiums is considered as a charitable gift. But gifts via a will, charitable trust or gift annuity, for example, are in many cases the preferred documented gift forms. There are numerous ways to design a planned gift. The donor must choose which type best serves his or her purposes. A good strategy is to consult with a planned giving counselor or an attorney. The benefit to the donor is the appropriate selection of the type of gift and how it is funded. More importantly, it is a gift that is carefully planned and put into place with good intentions that involve the heart and spirit of the donor, to benefit the ministry of choice. Remember the scriptural statement in 2 Cor. 9:7: “Each one must give what he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” You are encouraged to make a planned gift to the For the Sake of the Church endowment fund to financially assist Lutheran students studying at one of the Concordias. Please call or email the Concordia University System office for assistance: 800-248-1930, ext. 1256, or *William.Meyer@cus.edu*.

# CUS Viewbook available cost-free



Would you like to have an overview of the programs, admission requirements, financial aid, tuition costs and institutional focus of the Concordia colleges and universities? Can you use an information piece to help share the importance of a Christian, Lutheran college education? Do you need a handout to encourage a young person to consider studying at a Concordia? If so, please contact the Concordia University System office for copies of the 2013-14 *Concordia University System Viewbook*. Either e-mail *cus.info@cus.edu* or call 800-248-1930, ext. 1252.

Share a copy with friends and future college students!

## CUS can help with estate planning

Planning your estate? Adding a codicil to your will? Why not include For the Sake of the Church, the Concordia University System endowment fund in that planning? You may want to establish a named scholarship fund for Lutheran students preparing to serve the church in local communities as pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, family life ministry, deaconesses, etc. For assistance, consult your estate planner or attorney or call the Concordia University System office at 800-248-1930, ext 1252.



Lutheran Educational Conference of North America

## Upcoming Lutheran college fairs

Attending a Lutheran college fair is a great way for college-bound youth and their parents to learn more about Lutheran colleges and universities. In addition to the opportunity for prospective students to meet with representatives from Lutheran colleges to learn more about academic programs and campus life, there is an excellent seminar on financial aid for parents. For more information on locations and times of upcoming Lutheran college fairs, go to *www.lutherancolleges.org* and click on “college fairs.”



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