

CONNECTIONS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY & STAFF NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 28, 2015

Greetings from Concordia University, Nebraska where we learn, serve and lead in the Good News that Jesus came that we “may have life and have it abundantly” John 10:10b (ESV).

IN THIS EDITION

Special Announcements

Board of Regents meeting highlights
MONEY magazine names Concordia in top 25 of most affordable private colleges in U.S.

Concordia News & Events

Donations requested to support St. John
Education workshops on campus in September
Book sale to support Plum Creek
Latest news and event details
Concordia event calendar

Community/Extras

Casey’s fundraising cards available one more week
Library offers several ASRT programs
Immigration in Nebraska library program

Additional resources

Concordia University social media
Church resources
Community resources
Thrivent Financial
Chartwells newsletter

Board of Regents Highlights

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board of Regents meeting highlights

The Board of Regents of Concordia University, Nebraska held its regular quarterly meeting on July 28, 2015. A summary of the board’s actions is included at the end of this newsletter.

MONEY magazine names Concordia in top 25 of most affordable private colleges in U.S.

Concordia University, Nebraska was named on the second annual list of MONEY’s Best Colleges, a value ranking that evaluates colleges on measures of educational quality, affordability and career earnings to help families find great schools that are truly worth the investment. Concordia was slotted as number 23 out of 50 on the list of The 50 Most Affordable Private Colleges.

CONCORDIA NEWS & EVENTS

Donations requested to support St. John

In September Concordia’s dining services provider, Chartwells, is focusing on community by working with the campus to collect both school supplies and money.

The school supplies should be appropriate for preschool children (such as washable glue and markers, crayons, pencils, construction paper, etc.) and will be donated to the St. John Child Development Center. Monetary donations will be given to St. John’s SMART Snack program. Every \$40 collected will pay for a morning snack for one child for a whole semester.

Donations can be dropped off at the cashier’s station in the Janzow Dining Hall. This community enhancement initiative runs through Sept. 11.

Education workshops on campus in September

The Caleb Secondary Education workshop will be held Thursday, Sept. 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 18, from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the TLEC Seminar Room 111. The presenters are a team from Orange Lutheran High School in Orange, California. All secondary students who student teach this semester are required to attend. All staff are welcome to join. Call Brenda Topil, ext. 7227, for more information.

The Joshua Elementary Education workshop will be held Thursday, Sept. 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 25, from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the TLEC Seminar Room 111. The presenters are a team from Christ Community Lutheran School in Kirkwood, Missouri. All elementary/early childhood and special education students who student teach this semester are required to attend. All staff are welcome to join. Call Brenda Topil, ext. 7227, for more information.

Book sale to support Plum Creek

The Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival will host a pre-event book sale in room 03 on the lower level of the Thom Leadership Education Center at Concordia University, Nebraska on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The sale will include books by the Plum Creek authors, illustrators and literacy experts featured at the 20th annual festival Oct. 1–3, 2015, at Concordia University, Nebraska. Books purchased may be left for the authors to sign and picked up after the festival.

The book sale, run by volunteers, is one of the main sources of funding for the festival, so please stop by and support this wonderful event!

Latest news and event details

Check out what's happening at Concordia. Get more details regarding these news and events at cune.edu/news.

Nebraska Court of Appeals convenes at Concordia on Sept. 16

The Nebraska Court of Appeals will convene on the campus of Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward on Sept. 16, 2015, as part of its "College Campus Initiative" outreach program.

Colorful star Alberio viewable at fall Osten Observatory open houses

Star clusters, nebulae and the colorful double star Alberio will be viewable at the three fall open houses of the Osten Observatory at Concordia. The observatory will be open Sept. 1 from 9 to 10:30 p.m. and Oct. 6 and Nov. 3 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Admittance is free, and the public is invited to attend.

Marxhausen Gallery of Art announces 2015-16 exhibit schedule

The Marxhausen Gallery of Art at Concordia announced its art exhibition schedule for the 2015-16 academic year. The gallery hosts a number of regional and nationally acclaimed art exhibitions, as well as faculty and student shows.

Festival brings back previously featured authors, offers two community events

Concordia will host its 20th annual Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Oct. 1–3, 2015, on campus in Seward. The anniversary festival will honor its history by showcasing authors and illustrators who have participated in festival activities in past years. Some new presenters will also participate this year.

Concordia event calendar

Check out Concordia's event calendar at cune.edu/events.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/EXTRAS

Casey's fundraising cards available one more week

Will and Harrison Helmer—and other St. John Lutheran Church youth—are selling Casey's pizza and donut cards to raise money for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer. The cards will be available through the week of Aug. 30.

If you choose to buy, you come out ahead after only using it twice. It can be used at any Casey's, and it does not expire!

If you would like more information or would like to buy a card, call Holly Helmer at 402-641-6687.

Library offers several ASRT programs

Seward Memorial Library will be hosting several programs in conjunction with the 2015 All Seward Reads Together (ASRT) selection, "A Good American" by Alex George. Get out your calendar and mark these special dates:

- On Sunday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. Humanities Nebraska speaker John Schleicher will travel from Omaha to talk about "Immigration in Nebraska" with an emphasis on those people from a German heritage.
- The library will host a community book discussion on Monday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m.
- "Take a Musical Journey through *A Good American*" with Dr. Wendy Schultz as she shares the sounds mentioned throughout this novel on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 2 p.m.
- Seward Memorial Library invites the community to listen to the author, Alex George, talk about his book "A Good American" on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 2 p.m.

Immigration in Nebraska library program

Everyone is invited to John Schleicher's program, "Immigration in Nebraska," which begins 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Seward Memorial Library.

You could say that almost everyone in Nebraska came from somewhere else. Nebraska's greatest growth occurred between the Civil War and World War I. Seward Memorial Library will host Humanities Nebraska speaker John Schleicher, who will focus on this period when almost half of the new settlers in Nebraska came directly from foreign countries. During his one-hour presentation, he will emphasize the German immigration, since this is the dominant heritage of Seward, as well as the Meisenheimer family in the 2015 All Seward Reads Together novel, "A Good American."

Funding for this program is provided by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Additional resources are available on the next page.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources will be available in Connections each week for your reference.

Concordia University, Nebraska social media

Concordia University, Nebraska

- www.facebook.com/ConcordiaNebraska
- www.twitter.com/CUNE

Concordia Alumni

- www.facebook.com/ConcordiaNebraskaAlumni
- www.twitter.com/CUNEAlumni

Concordia Athletics

- www.facebook.com/ConcordiaBulldogs
- www.twitter.com/CUNEBulldogs

Concordia Career Services

- www.facebook.com/CUNECareers
- www.twitter.com/CUNECareers

Church resources

St. John Lutheran Church

- Website: www.stjohnseward.org
- Calendar: <http://stjohnseward.org/aboutstjohn/calendar>
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnseward

The Rock Lutheran Church

- Website: www.therockseward.org
- Calendar: <http://therockseward.org/calendar.html>
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/therockseward

Community resources

Visit the links below to see what's going on around the community:

- Seward County Independent: www.sewardindependent.com
- Seward Chamber of Commerce: www.sewardne.com
- Seward Memorial Library: www.sewardlibrary.org

Thrivent Financial

Thrivent Financial has provided more than \$170 million through its Thrivent Choice® program to help congregations, educational institutions and other nonprofit organizations. Thrivent Choice lets you recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable funds go. Find out more about Thrivent Choice at these links:

- Thrivent Choice program details and eligibility: www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/program/index.html
- Thrivent Choice campaigns provide even more dollars toward your organization of choice: www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/campaigns/index.html

Chartwells newsletter

View "The Scoop" at www.dineoncampus.com/concordia/show.cfm?cmd=newsletter.

Board of Regents Highlights

Nebraska City, Nebraska on July 28, 2015. The following items highlight the board's actions.

Under **Consent Agenda:**

- Approved April 28, 2015 minutes.
- Received the unaudited, consolidated financial statements as of 6/30/15.
- Received the endowment investment report as of 6/30/15.
- Received FY2016 capital budget summary.
- Endorsed the following Personnel Transactions:

Faculty Calls and Appointments Accepted

Russell Sommerfeld Assistant Professor of Theology (1/1/16)

Resignations and Releases from Calls

Charles Gebhardt University Student Information Compliance Officer

Adam Hengeveld Director of Alumni and University Relations

Kevin Kohnke Director of Family Life, Gerontology and Human Services

Joy Johnson Director of Forensics

- Received updates and reports from each administrative area of the University: Academic Services; Enrollment Management and Marketing; Finance and Operations; Institutional Advancement; and Student Life and Athletics.
- Received meeting notes from Board of Regents committees: Finance, Governance, Investment, Personnel and Strategic Planning.

Under **President's Report**, received a quarterly report highlighting Concordia Online Education, Critical Outcomes Report Card, Financial Outlook, Thrive 2020-2024 and CUS Matters.

Under **Board In-Service**, Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein, Director Emerita of the Peter Kiewit Foundation, gave a presentation about 21st century board trends and hallmarks of board excellence.

Under **Board of Regent Committee Items:**

- Received an update on the progress of development of Strategic Plan 2020: Mission Advanced and completed a strategic plan perceptions survey.
- Adopted the preliminary FY2016 Operating Budget with net unrestricted assets of \$1,315,361.
- Designated bequests from the Ethel M. Borgmeyer and Elizabeth S. Fischer estates as general use quasi endowment.
- Re-designated a bequest from the estate of John Horn from general use quasi endowment to support the university's operations, including the provision of scholarships.
- Re-elected Tim Moll (chair), Paul Schudel (vice chair) and elected Jill Johnson (secretary) as executive officers of the Concordia University, Nebraska Board of Regents for FY2016.
- Approved the FY2016 Critical Outcomes as proposed.
- Appointed Dr. Nancy Elwell to hold the Richardson Professorship of Education commencing August 1, 2015 and continuing through June 30, 2018.

Under **Board of Regents Matters:**

- Welcomed new regents: Krista Barnhouse, Ryan Burger and Richard Snow.
- Endorsed Board committee chairs and members.
- Received a report on the Nebraska District Convention.
- Expressed thanks and appreciation to Gene Brooks, Scott Seevers, Devin Smith and their administrative areas for the successful efforts in recruitment for the FY2016 academic year.

Brian L. Friedrich, President