

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHRONICLE

An Educational Mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • November 2014

Concordia University Newsbriefs

- ✚ **Concordia College—New York, Bronxville, N.Y.**, launched a new Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technologies program.
- ✚ **Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, Neb.**, prepares students to teach in technology-enhanced classrooms with the use of iPad tablets in the teacher-education program.
- ✚ To accommodate its increased enrollment and limited space, **Concordia University, Portland, Ore.**, expanded its educational sites by opening a remote campus on the Columbia River.
- ✚ In September, **Concordia University, St. Paul, St. Paul, Minn.**, welcomed the inaugural class of its new Doctor of Physical Therapy program — the first doctoral degree to be offered in the university’s 125-year history.
- ✚ **Concordia College Alabama, Selma, Ala.**, expanded its baccalaureate degree programs with the addition of criminal justice and social and behavioral sciences.
- ✚ **Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich.**, dedicated a new athletic field for use by its football and soccer teams.
- ✚ **Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis.**, welcomed 21 Brazilian students participating in the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program.
- ✚ Accreditation of **Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.**, was reaffirmed for another 10 years by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
- ✚ Campus Pastor Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger led a special chapel service to dedicate the new Fitness Center at **Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.**
- ✚ **Concordia University Texas, Austin, Texas**, was recently recognized as the top private university in Texas for shaping the next generation of educators, ranking ahead of Baylor University, the University of Texas at Austin, Texas State and Texas Tech.
- ✚ A Master of Science in Nursing program was initiated this fall at **Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.**

CUS enrollment up 8.5 percent

The total fall 2014 enrollment headcount for the Concordia University System (CUS) colleges and universities is 36,250. That is an increase of 2,851 undergraduate and graduate students.

For 22 consecutive years, total enrollment increased between 3 and 12 percent annually. The graphs provide a visual trend of the enrollment numbers.

While the total enrollment grew significantly, the number of declared church-work students declined from 1,531 to 1,392. Students who identified themselves as LCMS Lutherans totaled 4,031.

The Concordia college and university presidents are very concerned about the continued decline in church-work student enrollment. The presidents and Concordia University board recently gathered to develop approaches to reverse this trend. LCMS President Harrison joined the group and encouraged the continued efforts to invite students to consider professional ministry as their career choice. Annually the institutions distribute significant financial aid to church-work students to assist in the reduction of tuition and fee costs.

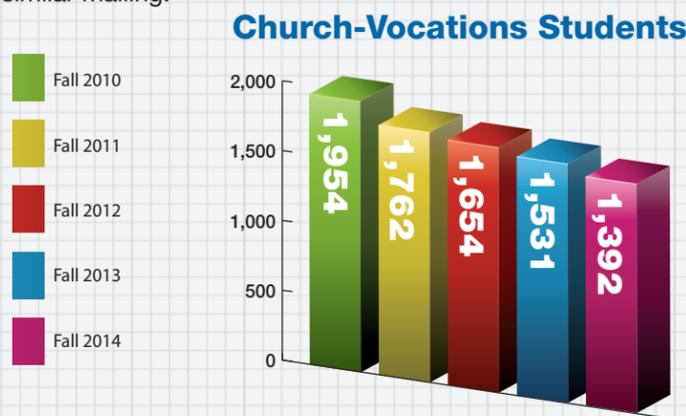
It should be noted that the decline in church-work student enrollment mimics the decline in the number of young people in the LCMS. A year ago the Concordia University System office mailed 13,000 brochures to 8th-grade LCMS students to encourage them to consider professional church work as a career. This year there were only 7,900 available names and addresses to make a similar mailing.

Headcounts at the individual colleges and universities are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Ann Arbor, Mich..... | 829 |
| Austin, Texas | 2,504 |
| Bronxville, N.Y..... | 1,037 |
| Irvine, Calif..... | 4,311 |
| Mequon, Wis. | 8,161 |
| Portland, Ore. | 7,435 |
| River Forest, Ill..... | 5,038 |
| Selma, Ala. | 546 |
| St. Paul, Minn. | 4,057 |
| Seward, Neb..... | 2,332 |

The increase in enrollment is significant with ever-increasing tuition costs and competition of the many colleges and universities across the country vying for students. Increase in enrollment also can be attributed to a need for a faith-based education—an environment in which faith and life experiences are daily discussed and experienced.

“I encourage parents, grandparents and congregations to point students to a Concordia college or university for an exceptional Christian educational experience,” said Rev. Dr. Dean Wenthe, president of the Concordia University System. “It is important for students to grow intellectually and spiritually as they encounter a variety of social structures in their futures.”



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Athens or Jerusalem:

Where does the Concordia University System reside?

The fifth century B.C. witnessed two remarkable moments in the history of Western education. It was then that Pericles oversaw an Athenian culture that still dazzles students to this day. In philosophy, Plato reflected on what constitutes reality and happiness. In medicine, Hippocrates advanced knowledge significantly. In architecture, Ictinus



“Pericles’ Funeral Oration” by Philipp von Foltz (1805–1877)

designed and built the Parthenon. In theater, the great poets Euripides, Aeschylus and Sophocles probed the depths of human feeling and life.

Paul’s encounter with Greek culture took place in the Areopagus, a valley just below the Parthenon, where we are told: “All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new” (Acts 17:21). When Paul engages this audience, he states that he will tell them about the “unknown god” to whom they had erected a statue (Acts 17:22–24). He begins with a summary of Genesis 1 by describing “the God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth” (Acts 17:24a). This invites

the Athenians to another understanding of God, as revealed by Moses and the prophets.

It also was in the fifth century B.C. that this knowledge of God was being gathered into the Old Testament. Ezra pointed people to Moses’ Torah — God’s disclosure of Himself in the first book of the Bible (Ezra 7:10). Ezra’s life and ministry occurred in the city of Jerusalem.

Hence, the fifth century B.C. provides two contrasting models for understanding the human condition. One can be identified with Jerusalem, the other with

(See President’s message, Page 3)



Wenthe