District Alumni Representatives and Members of the Alumni Council -

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This will be my final communication to you as the Director of Alumni Relations, as I will be retiring from this position this week (June 30). I want to take this opportunity thank you for your faithful service to the Lord and to Concordia Seminary. My five years of service at Concordia have been blessed by the encouragement and support of so many of you. I have accepted a call to serve as Assistant Pastor at Chapel of the Cross, in St. Peters, MO.

Rev. Wayne Knolhoff, currently serving as the Stewardship Executive for the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, has accepted the Seminary’s call to serve as Director of Placement and Alumni Relations beginning August 1. Cathy Whitcomb will continue to serve as Executive Assistant for Placement and Alumni Relations. Dr. David Peter will continue to serve as Placement Counselor and will be available for placement matters during the July vacancy period.

Seminary Update

On May 1, calls to serve as pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) were issued to 81 students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, during a worship service in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. In a separate service held earlier that day, 69 students received assignments to serve as vicars. Concordia Seminary also celebrated four deaconess students who were assigned internships. The Missouri District received the most vicars from Concordia Seminary, with nine vicars assigned, followed by the Florida-Georgia District with seven. The Texas District issued the most calls with ten, followed by the Missouri District with nine.

The Concordia Seminary Alumni Council met on May 10-11 and welcomed two new members: Rev. Kevin Jones of Bay City, Michigan, and Rev. Steven DeSanto of Payson, Arizona. Dr. William Knippa, of Austin Texas, was elected as the new chairperson, and Deaconess Ashley Hesson, of Vinton, Iowa was elected the new secretary of the council.

The 2012 Alumni Reunion (classes graduating in the years ending in “7” and “2”) was held on campus June 5-7. Approximately 150 alumni and spouses attended. At the banquet, Dr. Otto Hintze and Dr. Wilbert Rosin (both from the class of 1947) received the Erwin T. Koch award as the oldest attending alumni. Next year’s Reunion is scheduled to take place June 4-6, and will include classes from years ending in “3” and “8.”

Here are a few items from President Meyer’s report following the May Board of Regents meeting:

The Board of Regents approved a 5½ year (July 1, 2012 – December 31, 2017) comprehensive fundraising effort for Concordia Seminary with a goal that Stable On-Going Support (SONGS) from endowments, trusts, funds and future expectancies would provide a projected 40% of the annual operating budget through the course of the effort; and fund $7,000,000 in technology and capital support, which includes but is not limited to the library.
The Board of Regents formally established the “Buehner-Duesenberg Chair in Missions at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri” and upon recommendation of the President of the Seminary named Rev. Dr. Victor A. Raj as first occupant of the chair. Rev. Andrew J. Buehner and wife Pauline were long-time LCMS missionaries in India. Their daughter is Mrs. Phyllis Duesenberg, who with husband Richard has endowed this chair.

The Board of Regents approved, effective July 1, 2012, the following advancements in rank:
Dr. Bruce Hartung, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, to Professor of Practical Theology; Dr. David Schmitt, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, to Professor of Practical Theology; and Dr. William Schumacher, Mission Associate Professor of Historical Theology, to Mission Professor of Historical Theology.

174th Academic Year to Begin
As the faculty and staff of Concordia Seminary prepare to welcome returning students along with new CHS, EIIT, SMP, MDiv, Alternate Route, deaconess, and graduate students to our 174th academic year, please keep this important ministry (and especially everyone involved in this ministry) in your prayers. The Opening Service is scheduled for Friday, August 31, at 11:00 am.

I would like to encourage you to regularly connect with our seminary website www.csl.edu, featuring a number of user friendly links which we hope will enable alumni and friends of Concordia Seminary to easily navigate and connect with the numerous information items and theological resources that are available. The “concordiatheology.org” link is an interesting addition to these resources. This site features a faculty blog, as well as feeds from other faculty-related blogs, multimedia content (video podcasts, iTunes U, etc.), homiletical helps, articles, a Concordia Journal archive, and more. A Facebook page (Concordia Theology) and Twitter account (CSLTheology) add to the interactivity of the website.

And finally, let me encourage you to continue to be an “encourager” of others:
• encourage young people to prayerfully consider serving Christ as a pastor, teacher, missionary, chaplain, or deaconess;
• encourage the new pastor (and his family) as they arrive in your congregation/circuit/district upon graduation from the Seminary;
• encourage pastors/congregations to host a Concordia Seminary Sunday and allow your people to be informed about the important work that takes place here;
• encourage pastors, teachers and congregational leaders to get acquainted with and make use of the quality Seminary resources for ministry;
• encourage one another; that is being a blessing to one another.

Rev. Robert Hoehner
Director of Placement and Alumni Relations