THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support of Concordia Seminary’s International Adopt-A-Student initiative. Your generous support has made it possible for the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary to increase the number of students that it plans to support with this initiative from two in 2010–2011 to four in 2011-12 to five in the upcoming academic year! The International Adopt-A-Student program has expanded also to include occasional students from Lutheran church bodies with which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a developing relationship, not yet a partner church relationship. If any donor prefers that his or her contribution is used only to support LCMS partner church students, he or she is encouraged to contact Deaconess Ruth McDonnell by email to mcdonnellr@csl.edu or by telephone at 314-505-7102. Ruth will see to it that all contributions are used according to the wishes of the donor.

Every contribution both large and small makes it possible for students from Lutheran churches throughout the globe to receive the highest level of training in confessional Lutheran theology at the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary. When they return home, Concordia Seminary’s graduates have a tremendous impact on the next generation of pastors, teachers, and missionaries for their home church bodies. International Adopt-A-Student contributions are used to support the travel and living expense cost of the students. Donors receive fall, winter, and spring IAAS Newsletters with updates on the progress and status of all of the students. On behalf of the students, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of these exceptional servants, who look forward to returning home to advance the cause of the global proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Preparing to Welcome the Newest International Adopt-A-Student

Our newest International Adopt-A-Student is Rev. Dimbiniaina Randrianasolo Havanjanahary. He goes by “Andry.” He is from Madagascar where he is a pastor in the Malagasy Lutheran Church and a professor at the Malagasy Lutheran Regional Seminary of Theology. The Malagasy Lutheran Church is a denomination with six million members and five thousand congregations. Compare that to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which has just over two million members and slightly more than six thousand congregations. Madagascar is an island country in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of Africa.

With a population of approximately 21.9 million, 90% of the country’s people live on less than two dollars per day.

Rev. Andry will be a student in the Theology and Culture concentration of the Graduate School’s Doctor of Philosophy program. He hopes to pursue research that compares reconciliation with God and neighbor with the reconciliation practices of Malagasy ancestral worship and community rules. Andry plans to arrive in St. Louis this summer to begin his studies in the fall.
**Saying Farewell Briefly to the Current IAAS Students**

**Tom Omolo** is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya and teaches on the faculty of Matongo Lutheran Theological College. He has successfully completed his second year of residential study in the Doctrinal Theology concentration of the PhD. Tom is spending his summer at home with his family and colleagues and will return in the fall to take his comprehensive examination. “Comps” are a stressful time for any PhD student. Please keep Tom in your prayers as he prepares for and takes this important exam. Once the exam has been successfully completed, Tom will begin work on his dissertation. His research area is ministerial developments in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya.

**Gordon Alex** is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya. Gordon has successfully completed his first year of coursework in the Graduate School’s MA program. He is also now home for the summer. When Gordon returns in the fall, he will pursue his second and final year of work toward the MA. Gordon plans to write his master’s thesis on the topic of reconciliation. Dr. Rick Marrs will be his supervisor.

**Roberto Bustamante** is a pastor in the Argentina Evangelical Lutheran Church and a professor at Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires. Roberto has returned home to his family and to his teaching responsibilities after successfully completing courses in the fall and winter terms in the Doctrinal Theology concentration of the Graduate School’s PhD program. Roberto will return to St. Louis in the fall to continue his studies. His goal is to complete the coursework required of him and to successfully complete his comprehensive examinations in the coming year. Once completed, the work of his dissertation will come next. He plans to do research in the theology of the Word, the Lutheran Confession’s role in exegesis, or the means of grace.

**Antonio Schimpf** is also a pastor in the Argentina Evangelical Lutheran Church and a professor at Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires. Antonio has completed two quarters of academic work majoring in Exegetical Theology in the Graduate School’s STM program. Antonio too has returned home to his family and to his teaching responsibilities. Antonio will also return to St. Louis in the 2012–2013 academic year to complete his studies and to receive his degree.
Meet the Students

Will you be visiting St. Louis or do you live in the St. Louis area? Would you like to meet the students supported by your generosity? If so, please contact Deaconess Ruth McDonnell by sending an email to mcdonnellr@csl.edu or by calling Deaconess Ruth at 314-505-7102. We very much hope to hear from you and to see you sometime soon!

Concluding Class Project

Many thanks go to the 2012 concluding class of Concordia Seminary. This year’s class project was a collection to support the Graduate School’s international students. These graduates have caught the vision of the worldwide impact of the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary. God’s richest blessings as you go out into the world to serve Him and His people!

Share the Vision

Thanks to your generous support, these fine students are able to study at Concordia Seminary. Many from other parts of the world are also hoping and praying for similar funding so that they too can pursue advanced degrees at Concordia Seminary. The Graduate School of Concordia Seminary is thankful for the opportunity to work closely with those who in the future will teach and lead in the global proclamation of a confessional Lutheran understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Concordia’s Graduate School relies significantly on the generosity of its supporters who share in its vision to accomplish its mission. So please share this newsletter with any and all that you may know who might be interested in supporting the goal of the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary to provide the highest level of theological scholarship to the next generation of teachers and leaders who will share the message of salvation in Jesus throughout the world.

Bulletin inserts are also available should you like to share this opportunity with the members of your congregation. You may download the electronic file at this link or request hard copies by sending an email to GradSchool@csl.edu.

For more information, or to make a donation, please call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287 or email adoptastudent@csl.edu. Please indicate that you are interested in supporting Concordia’s International Adopt-A-Student effort and mention that you received this newsletter. Thank you!

E-news

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter via email? Please email your request to gradschool@csl.edu and we will be happy to provide the newsletter in this way.