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 supports with this initiative from two in 2010–2011 to four in the current academic year! The Graduate School hopes to expand this number to six in 2012–2013. Every contribution both large and small makes it possible for students from Lutheran churches throughout the globe to complete their studies in the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary. When they return home, Concordia Seminary’s graduates contribute significantly to the leading and training of the next generation of pastors, teachers, and missionaries for their home church bodies. On behalf of these 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.

If you happen to live in the vicinity of the seminary, or if you know that you will be coming to St. Louis for any reason and would have an interest in meeting the students supported by your generosity, or would like to meet with the faculty and staff of the Office of the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary, you are encouraged to 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!

Update on Our 2011–2012 International Adopt-A-Students

This year’s International Adopt-A-Students are Joseph Tom Omolo and Gordon Alex from Kenya, and Roberto Bustamante and Antonio Schimpf from Argentina.

Tom Omolo is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya and teaches on the faculty of Matongo Lutheran Theological College. This fall, Tom began his second year of residential study in the Doctrinal Theology concentration of the PhD. Tom will complete his coursework in the Spring Quarter. He will spend his summer at home with his family and will return in the fall to take his comprehensive exam. “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.

Gordon Alex is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya. Gordon is completing his first year of coursework in Concordia’s MA program. Gordon will also be going home for the summer. When he returns in the fall, Gordon will begin his second and final year of work toward the Master of Arts.
Roberto Bustamante is a pastor in the Argentina Evangelical Lutheran Church and a professor at Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires. Roberto is a graduate of Concordia Seminary’s STM program and is now a doctoral student in Concordia’s Doctrinal Theology concentration in the PhD. Roberto has returned home to his teaching responsibilities and to his family after successfully completing courses in the fall and winter terms of the present academic year. He will return to Concordia’s campus to further his studies in the fall. 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 would come next.

Antonio Schimpf is also a pastor in the Argentina Evangelical Lutheran Church and a professor at Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires. Antonio is a student in Concordia’s STM program, majoring in Exegetical Theology with an Old Testament emphasis. Antonio too has returned to his teaching responsibilities and family after successfully completing a first two quarters here in residence in Concordia’s STM program. Antonio will also be returning in the 2012–2013 academic year to complete his studies and to receive the STM.

Creative Ways to Support Concordia Seminary’s IAAS Initiative

Frequent Flier Miles. One of the major expenses for our international students is the cost of travel to and from St. Louis. Such travel generally happens once a year over the summer. The cost of an international flight can be as much as $2,000, sometimes more! Such costs can be reduced substantially with the use of frequent flier miles. Do you travel extensively? Or does someone you know travel extensively? You may be able to donate some of your frequent flier miles. Please check with the airline regarding the transferability of your benefits. And if you are able to donate any of your miles, contact the Graduate School at gradscho@csl.edu.

Gift Cards. Does your congregation or school sell gift cards and certificates as a fund-raiser? Our students would be blessed by many types of gift cards. Here in St. Louis, Schnuck’s is a super market within walking distance of the Seminary campus. Also appreciated would be gift cards for restaurants and department stores. Gift cards and certificates may be sent to the IAAS Initiative at Concordia Seminary, in care of The Graduate School of Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. All contributions will be distributed to Concordia’s IAAS students based on need.

Donations to Concordia’s Re-Sell-It Shop. Dedicated gifts to the Re-Sell-It Shop earmarked in support of Concordia’s IAAS students are a great help to them. Many of Concordia’s IAAS students arrive on campus with few personal possessions other than the clothes they are wearing and what they can fit into a suitcase. Your donations of dedicated goods to the Re-Sell-It Shop serve greatly to help Concordia’s IAAS students, who are able to purchase clothing and household items for minimal cost. Another way you can help is to make a monetary contribution to the Re-Sell-It Shop in support of Concordia’s IAAS students. A monetary donation earmarked for the support of Concordia’s IAAS students can be used to cover the “tab” of one our students so that they can shop for free!

Please check with your tax advisor regarding the deductibility all such donations. And thank you and may God bless you for your generous support of Concordia’s International Adopt-A-Student initiative.
Thanks to your generous support, these fine students are able to study at Concordia Seminary this year. However, there are many from other parts of the world who are hoping and praying for similar funding so that they too can pursue advanced degrees at Concordia Seminary. The Graduate School of Concordia Seminary is anxious to work with the partner church bodies of the LCMS to train those who in the future will lead and teach and proclaim Christ. It significantly relies on the generosity of its supporters to share its vision and to accomplish its mission. So please share this newsletter with others who might be interested in helping us to reach our goal of providing the highest level of theological scholarship to the next generation who will share the message of salvation in Jesus with all 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 questions, more information, or to make a donation, call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287 or email adoptastudent@csl.edu. Please indicate that you are interested in supporting an “International Adopt-A-Student” and mention that you received this newsletter. Thank you!

E-news

Would you prefer to receive your newsletter via email? Please email your request to gradschool@csl.edu. Simply write, “IAAS E-news.”