

The Concordia Trust

Cultivating and promoting the German language and cultural experience **Volume 1, Issue 1**

The Concordia Trust, created in 2001, is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable foundation that focuses on promoting and subsidizing German language education, scholarship and cultural programming.

Kalmus Scholarship Awarded to Immanuel Student

Gerhard Kalmus knows quite a bit about foreign languages. He spent his childhood in Berlin, Germany before moving to Brazil, where he learned Portuguese. As a young teenager, he arrived in New York, where he was considered to be educationally challenged because he did not understand English.

Learning English became a priority for him so he could enroll in the American school system, which he did. He spent almost two years at Lower Moreland before moving to California. There he graduated high school and became a student at the University of California - Berkeley, where he majored in German.

Dr. Kalmus's love for language and education continued. He experienced both sides of the classroom, as a teacher and a student, when he pursued his doctorate in biology at Rutgers University. Now he looks back on a productive and rewarding academic career as the Director of Graduate Studies and Professor of Biology at East Carolina University, but he never forgot his roots, nor an earlier teaching position as one of the Immanuel German School's first instructors.

For this reason, Dr. Kalmus created a scholarship for a graduating senior of the Immanuel German School. The recipient, he explained, should have plans to go into teaching and continue with his or her German studies.

Ryan Lee, who graduated at the top of his high school class, matches Prof. Kalmus's criteria. During his five years at Immanuel, Ryan was an outstanding student, who always scored at the highest levels of the AATG and Advanced Placement exams. He will apply his \$1,000 scholarship to his studies at Brigham Young University, where he expects to minor in German. Ryan anticipates a teaching career and hopes to return to Immanuel one day to teach German.



Ryan Lee and Prof. Dr. Gerhard W. Kalmus, the sponsor of the Kalmus Scholarship, during the Immanuel German School's Award Ceremony.



Immanuel Church Council President Christine Simpson and Ryan Lee display the Kalmus Scholarship plaques.

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The Concordia Trust

Excellence in German Awards



Ryan Lee with classmates Sarah Bahkit, Annina Ott and Christian Mewes.

“Vielen, vielen Dank für all Ihre Unterstützung und besonders für den Concordia Trust Award, über den ich mich sehr gefreut habe.

Meine zukünftige Pläne für deisen Sommer lauten, einen Monat nach Deutschland zu fliegen, um meine Familie und Freunde wieder zu sehen. Ich habe vor, an einem Computer-Grundkurs des Centers for Talented Youth der Johns Hopkins University teil zu nehmen. Nächstes Schuljahr, wenn ich in der achten Klasse bin, habe ich vor wieder in meinem Schulorchester zu spielen und weitere Auftritte zu machen als Mitglied unseres Jazz Ensembles. Nochmals vielen herzlichen Dank.”

Felix Kampfer

Immanuel German School students **Sarah Bahkit, Christian Mewes, Annina Ott** and **Adriana Zegarra** received the “Concordia Trust Excellence in German Awards” for their high scholastic achievement and enthusiasm during the German School’s Awards Assembly on May 20. They received cash awards in the amount of \$250 and \$100.

Adriana Zegarra wrote, “Thank you so much for sending me the awards and the card. I really had a great time these four years I attended German School.”

Adriana will be attending Purdue University in the fall where she will study industrial engineering.

Maria McKenna received an “Excellence in German Award” at the May 23 Awards Night program for Lower Moreland’s graduating seniors. This award is given to the graduating senior who has completed six years of German and has maintained the highest academic average in Advanced Placement German. Consideration was given to students who plan to continue their study of German at the university level.

Dr. Del Hausman, Lower Moreland’s Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Concordia Trust Director presented the cash award to Maria in the amount of \$250.00. The award was given in memory of Mrs. Ida Wasylw by Ida and Frank Macri.

Certificate of Achievement Awards

The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) Awards Ceremony on April 29 at the German Society of Pennsylvania was the venue for the Concordia Trust to present seven students with awards for their outstanding German language proficiency. Marlene Stocks presented the \$75.00 and \$100.00 cash awards to:

Andrew Costello – Level 2 Exam – Kennett High School

J. Thomas Kelly – Level 2 Exam – Springfield High School

Mathew Lopez – Level 3 Exam – St. Joseph’s Preparatory School

Stephen Lantz – Level 3 Exam – Souderton Area High School

Andrew Smith – Level 3 Exam – Great Valley High School

Eric Storm – Level 3 Exam – Souderton Area High School

Felix Kampfer – Level 4 Exam – Immanuel German School (Felix scored a perfect 100%).

Danke schön

I just want to thank you very much for the check. When I started taking German I never thought that I would be monetarily rewarded for it. So, thank you! Unfortunately, my school only offers German 1 and 2, so I have to take the next levels of German in tutoring. However, if everything works out, I’d like to take my senior year in Germany as an exchange student so I can perfect my German and be truly fluent. Thank you very much for your generous gift. Sincerely, *Thomas Kelly*

First of all, I would like to thank you very much for this generous gift. I most certainly was not expecting this when my father and I arrived at the awards ceremony. I will be going on a school trip to Germany with Frau Alexander and some of my fellow



Marlene Stocks with Andrew Smith, Thomas Kelly, Eric Strom and Felix Kampfer.

classmates over Spring Break next year. The trip will last 9 days, during which I hope to improve my German accent as well as my vocabulary. Sincerely, *Andrew Smith*

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Danube Swabian Cultural Exhibit

A cultural exhibit, representing the heritage of the ethnic Germans who, during the 18th century, settled along the Danube River in what became Hungary, Romania and the former Yugoslavia, took place on April 8 and 9 at the Philadelphia Danube Swabian Society.

The exhibit was sponsored by the Philadelphia and Trenton Danube Swabian Associations, as well as the United German Hungarian Club. Various items, reflecting this heritage, such as costumes, pictures, tools, genealogies, maps, books, crafts and dolls were displayed.

The same three groups sponsored the Third Trachtenfest on May 20 at the United German Hungarian Club in Oakford, PA. The evening

spotlighted ethnic dances performed by dancers in the colorful costumes (Tracht) of the Danube Swabian region, poem recitations and skits spoken in regional dialect, and lively dance music.



"I want to thank the Concordia Trust for your support of the Danube Swabian Cultural Exhibit. Through your help, we were able to reach out to the German teachers in the area. I also wanted to thank you for your generous contribution towards the exhibit. Your support of the German language and culture is greatly appreciated."

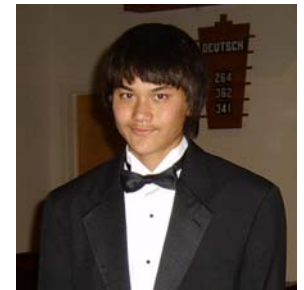
*Rosalie E. Matico
President Donauschwaben
Philadelphia*

Lieder Konzert



Kenneth Borrmann, Jacqueline Smith, Michelle Schulman, K. Rebecca Oehlers and Concordia Trust President, Marlene Stocks

The Concordia Trust sponsored its second Lieder Konzert on Sunday, October 30, 2005 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Somerton. Sopranos Jacqueline Smith and Michelle Schulman and mezzo-soprano K. Rebecca Oehlers performed Lieder of Robert Schumann, duets of Mendelssohn and Brahms, and trios of Beethoven, Schubert, and Schumann. Pianist Kenneth Borrmann provided the accompaniment and played a set of variations by Beethoven. Guest pianist Albert Cramer, a student of the Immanuel German School, displayed his musical talents by playing a Schubert piece. This benefit concert, in support of the Trust's programs, was dedicated to the memory of Doris Knott.



Pianist and German School student, Albert Cramer.

More Thanks ...

This year I was selected by the Concordia Trust to receive one of their awards for excellence and enthusiasm for the German language in combination with having taken the AATG National German exam and scoring above the 90th percentile.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and the Concordia Trust for granting me this award. In the fall, I will be taking German IV and eventually the German AP exam.

I thank you also for the \$75 check enclosed with the award.

Thank you again, *Eric Strom*

Thank you for honoring me with this great award. After attending a school in Germany for three weeks during the summer of 2004, my interest for the language grew. I plan to pursue my education further at James Madison University where this award will go to great use, and I will be continuing the study of German at the university level. Sincerely, *Maria McKenna*

I would like to thank the Concordia Trust for their recognition of me. I am honored by your gifts. In the future, I plan to continue studying German as well as other languages.

Sincerely yours, *Stephen Lantz*



The Immanuel German School: Celebrating Outstanding Achievement during Awards Assembly at Lower Moreland



“I could not think of any other place that I would rather be on Saturday mornings than at the Immanuel German School.”

Annina Ott



Deputy Consul General Dr. Hans-Dieter Stell presenting Gabriela Zanzforlin with her Outstanding Achievement Certificate.

On May 20, the students of the Immanuel German School gathered in the auditorium of the Lower Moreland High School, where classes convene during the school year, to receive prizes for outstanding achievement and certificates of attendance. This year, with the Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York, Dr. Hans-Dieter Stell, and Lower Moreland Township School District Superintendent, Dr. Marykay Feeley, as well as other honored guests including Immanuel Council President Christine Simpson and Rev. Sönke Schmidt-Lange looking on, the achievement of the program’s 120 students was recognized.

Marlene Stocks, Head of School, set the tone for the celebration. “Today we are celebrating more than the conclusion of our 31st year of offering German language instruction at Immanuel. We are celebrating the outstanding achievement, commitment, dedication and enthusiasm of our students, as well as our collective passion for the German language and German language education. This is why we convene for 30 Saturday mornings each year since 1975.” She went on to quote Annina Ott, one of the school’s students and a resident of Abington, who recently reflected that “she could not think of any other place that she would rather be on Saturday mornings than at the Immanuel German School.” To this, enthusiastic applause was received.

The students, who distinguished themselves with outstanding achievement, were recognized with certificates, books prizes and cash awards from numerous sponsors including the Consulate General of Germany, the American Association of Teachers of German, the Hans R. Haug Memorial Fund, the Sigrid Wiswe Memorial Fund, and the Germania Männerchor. James Schwartz, President of the International German-American Police Association awarded Thomas Golanoski of Abington with a scholarship to the Immanuel German School for next year.

The Concordia Trust honored four exceptional students: Sarah Bakhit, a junior at Central High School in Philadelphia; Christian Mewes, a senior at Cherry Hill High School East, who will attend Drexel University to study international business; Annina Ott, a junior at Abington High School; and Adriana Zegarra, a senior at Moorestown High School, who will pursue industrial engineering at Purdue University.



AATG Award Recipients: Thomas Golanoski, Felix Kampfer, Stephanie Mewes and Katja Turcios-Wiswe.

This year’s highest award, the Gerhard W. Kalmus Scholarship, was presented, for the first time, to Ryan Lee, a Levittown senior and Truman High School class valedictorian. The \$1,000 scholarship will be used to fund Ryan’s education at Brigham Young University starting in the fall. Ryan is considering a future in education and after completing his college studies, hopes to return to Immanuel to teach German. His advice to the younger students, “Stick with it and don’t give up. It does become fun!”

Every student in the program received a Certificate of Attendance and recognition from his or her teacher. After all of the school’s sponsors, students, parents and faculty were thanked, the 2005/2006 school year came to a close.

The Concordia Trust thanks its Generous Benefactors

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“Eine kleine Zugabe zu Ihren vielen Bemühungen. May the Trust be blessed with the sunshine you have brought forward to all our children in the past and at present. Wishing you great success.”

H. & I. Steinke



Experience the German Language and Culture

The Concordia Trust

invests in the future of German language instruction and scholarship by ...

- Providing financial support to the Immanuel German School
- Presenting language awards to deserving high school students of German
- Promoting German cultural programming

Cultivating and promoting the German language and cultural experience

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We're on the Web:

How many times have you heard about a unique and interesting event, one that you would have gladly attended, only to realize that it has already taken place and you are too late?

Given the rich variety of cultural programming with a German focus that is available in Greater Philadelphia, the answer to this question could be "often".

The Concordia Trust is looking to increase community awareness of programs that have a German flair to them. To this end, the Trust has created a website, which includes a *Calendar of Events* that is designed to highlight such musical, educational

and cultural events in the Greater Delaware Valley.

To learn more about what is being offered, please visit www.concordiitrust.org.

The website is still under construction, so I encourage you to visit it often, not only to keep yourself up-to-date with current programming, but to also learn more about the Concordia Trust and its goals.

Keeping this website populated with diverse programs will require input from many sources, so I encourage you to partner with the Trust and communicate any known events with a German focus or theme to me so they can be included too.

I invite you to join us in

cultivating the German language and cultural experience.

*Marlene H. K. Stocks
President*

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within the Commonwealth

1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

