

# LEADER NEWS

CLU COMMUNITY LEADERS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2006

## CLU Community Leaders Association Celebrates Awards and Scholarships

In March, at the annual membership luncheon, CLA President Gary Trow announced the William E. Hamm Outstanding Service Award recipients and introduced the 2006 student scholarship winners. The keynote address was delivered by Dan Kuntz, Director of Athletics.

This year's membership event, "Celebrate Spring," marked another first—a tour of the new Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center. Dan and Natasha Windle, project assistant from the Facilities Department, led CLA members through the 96,000 square-foot building currently under construction. The Center, which opened in July, will be dedicated on Saturday, October 21, at 11 a.m.

### William E. Hamm Award

As ambassadors of California Lutheran University, CLA depends on volunteers who give of their time and talent on behalf of the University and its students. In 1986 CLA established the William E. Hamm Outstanding Service Award to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to these efforts. The 2006 recipients, a husband and wife team, have a long and distinguished record of service to the community and to CLU.

Michael Arndt, chair of the Theatre Arts Department since 1999, has directed over 150 theater productions and has written and produced



numerous plays. He is a founding member of the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company and the Alliance for the Arts. Michael's service credits include past board member of CLA and emcee for the CLA auction for several years.

Vicki Arndt earned her bachelors and MBA at Cal Lutheran. She worked in Admissions and served on the Alumni Board as president. In addition, Vicki once held the position of Director of Alumni Relations. She has served as CLA president and as chair of the annual auction, CLA's major fundraising event. She founded Eagleson Arndt Financial Advisors, is active in community organizations, and is currently president-elect for the Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks.

Michael and Vicki married in 1987. They have two children, Caitlin and Caleb.

### CLA Scholarship Winners

Through its endowed scholarship

fund, CLA annually grants scholarships for returning students in honor of former CLU president and his wife, Mark and Jean Mathews.

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## Dr. John Sladek Selected as New CLU President

Dr. John Sladek, who has been selected as Cal Lutheran's sixth president, will officially fill the office on August 15.

He previously served as Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. An undergraduate alumnus of Carthage College with degrees in biology and chemistry, he received his master of science from Northwestern University and his doctorate in anatomy from Chicago Medical School.



# CLA President's Message

I want to thank the 2005 board for their service and support of Cal Lutheran. I want to especially thank Carl Herman for his devotion and contributions during his term as president last year.

We're off to a strong start in 2006. The annual member's lunch showcased CLA efforts, with the Hamm award going to Vicki and Michael Arndt for their service to Cal Lutheran and the community and for Vicki's outstanding work as the 2005 auction chair. The day included a chance to actually see how our grant monies for the Exercise Science and Sports Medicine Department will provide enhancements. In addition, we were pleased to finally visit the new Gilbert Center and experience dreams funded by our Athletics Complex pledge.

We've set ambitious goals for this coming year based on the strategic planning work led by Immediate Past President Carl Herman and last year's board. The board reviewed and approved the 2006 CLA

Strategic Task Force Plan in January, and the respective committee chairs began implementation.

Specifically, we want to grow CLA membership by at least 10 percent, and Marty Rouse and Ernie Sandlin are working to make that happen.



Laura Newman stepped up to lead the 2006 auction which will be the centerpiece of our fundraising this year. We've set a fundraising goal of \$100,000 to enable more grants for the faculty and academic departments. We're building on the energy

and spirit of the 2005 auction. Laura held the first monthly planning meeting at the Plug Nickel. They selected an event theme and garnered the support of a strong group of volunteers.

We are working closely with Vice President of Marketing and Communications Ritch Eich and his staff to better promote CLA (and thus Cal Lutheran) within the community at large. In order to track, promote, and align CLA and Cal Lutheran events, we've established a CLA event calendar. To add leverage to Cal Lutheran's recent branding effort, we have adopted a tagline—Experience Success: Community Ambassadors to Excellence.

CLA has room for more members and more volunteers. Please contact any board member or call the CLA office at (805) 493-3151. Together, as ambassadors of Cal Lutheran, we can build a great future for CLU students, the University, and the community.

Gary Trow

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## CLA Board Expands and Welcomes New Assistant

**Elaine Marchessault** returned to the CLA Board for a one-year term, continuing her long history of service to the University. Elaine served as president of CLA in 1998 and previously as chair of the Mathews Leadership Forum.

She retired as district manager of California Water Service, which serves the Thousand Oaks portion of Westlake Village. Elaine is an active member of Westlake Village Rotary, a former president, and a past assistant to the district governor of Rotary.

**Matt Caudill** began his first term on the CLA Board at the April meeting. Matt is a broker associate with Dilbeck Realtors in Westlake Village and a 1987 Cal Lutheran alumnus. He previously worked as a mortgage broker and also at Verizon. Matt and his wife Dana reside in the local community with their children Emma and Cole.

The CLA Board is pleased to announce that **Michele Starr** has accepted the position of Community Relations Assistant in the University Relations office. Michele will

play a major role in assuring a smooth workflow along with facilitating communication among CLA members and the board, University departments, and student workers.

Michele and her husband Jeff have two adult children and two grandchildren.

Michele is available to answer questions about CLA activities and membership. She may be reached by telephone at (805) 493-3084 or by e-mail at [mstarr@callutheran.edu](mailto:mstarr@callutheran.edu).

## Awards and Scholarships (continued from page 1)

Gary Trow announced three scholarship winners for this academic year.

Cynthia Cardona, a junior history major, has volunteered at Catholic Charities of Ventura County soup kitchen and has been active in Rotaract, the Latin American Student Organization, and the French Club. Cynthia plans to earn a doctorate and teach history at the university level. She has been on the Dean's List since 2003.

Rosalyn Sayer is a junior psychology major, with an emphasis in family and child development. She has worked as a vacation Bible school leader and Sunday school substitute teacher. She has also joined mission teams to South America, Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Rosalyn was elected to the ASCLU Senate for 2005-2006 and has been on the Dean's List since 2003.

Pilar Sumalpong is a returning student who is fulfilling her lifelong dream of becoming a psychologist and working in the mental health field. She plans to pursue both master's and doctoral degrees. Pilar has volunteered at the Ventura Open Alternative Education Program for elementary school and was recently the chair for Open Classroom's annual silent auction.

### Keynote Address and Tour

Dan Kuntz, Director of Athletics and head coach for the men's soccer team, leads Cal Lutheran in 19 intercollegiate sports that compete at the NCAA Division III level in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Going beyond a mere discussion of bricks and mortar, Dan conveyed the excitement and enthusiasm that students, faculty, and friends of Cal Lutheran experience now that the University has such a great facility on campus.



The Gilbert Center's superior facilities will be in demand for regional tournaments as well as Cal Lutheran sporting events. This facility will also become an important element in recruiting students to Cal Lutheran.

The Community Leaders Association has donated funds for the mezzanine level of the fitness area, which overlooks the ball fields and the mountain ridgeline north of campus.

In addition, the Center will house equipment funded by CLA grants made to the Exercise Science and Sports Medicine Department. Funding for both of these projects continues the CLA tradition of enhancing academic programs at the University.

## Dinner with the New President

All CLA members are invited to meet Cal Lutheran's new president, Dr. John Sladek, at a special dinner on Thursday, October 5. The event begins at 6 p.m. and will be held in the new Lundring Events Center in the Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center.

Watch the mail for your invitation, and please respond promptly. Join us and learn about Dr. Sladek's vision for the University.

## New Provost Begins at CLU



Christopher Kimball of St. Paul, Minn., new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at CLU, began his official duties on June 1.

Previously, Dr. Kimball was Provost and Dean of the Faculty at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, where he had served in faculty and administrative positions since 1991.

An alumnus of McGill University, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Dr. Kimball is well known in academic circles and in the ELCA college and university network.

He was selected for his proven abilities as an academic leader and administrator and for his commitment to the mission and excellence of Lutheran higher education.

A widely published author and speaker on academic affairs, Dr. Kimball's scholarly work is in the field of American history. At CLU he is also a member of the History Department.

## Save the Dates

- Aug. 19 —Digital camera class. To enroll, contact Sue Bauer at [sbauer@callutheran.edu](mailto:sbauer@callutheran.edu).
- Oct. 5 —CLA Member Dinner with the President in the new Lunding Events Center.
- Oct. 21 —Dedication of Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center.
- Nov. 4 —27th Annual Auction, Hyatt Westlake Plaza; see below for more details.

## In the Next Issue ...

Carl Herman reports that the annual CLA golf tournament, held on July 17 at Sunset Hills Country Club, was a great success. Watch the Fall issue of Leader News for more details about the day's fun.

Watch for interviews with CLA scholarship students, beginning in the next issue. And, of course, there will be expanded coverage of the auction plans and preparations in the Fall issue.

Leader News is published four times a year by the CLU Community Leaders Association. The articles and opinions stated within are not necessarily those of CLA members at Cal Lutheran.

Editors: Sue Bauer and Bob Jordan

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[www.callutheran.edu/cla](http://www.callutheran.edu/cla)

## Committee Issues 2006 Auction Passports

Laura Newman, chair of the auction committee, reports that the 2006 event theme will be “**Passport to the World.**” The theme was chosen in part to reflect the international diversity at Cal Lutheran. In keeping with the theme, each dining table will represent a different country or region, with entertainment, menus, student involvement, and decorations built around the global theme.

California Lutheran University's total enrollment is nearly 3,200 students. These students come from across the nation and around the world and represent a diversity of faiths and cultures. International students come from all over Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Cal Lutheran's 21,750 alumni reside in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Federated States of Micronesia, and 34 countries.

**“Passport to the World” will take place on Saturday, November 4, at the Hyatt Westlake Plaza in Westlake Village. Don't miss this global experience!**

The auction committee meets on the first Friday of every month at the Plug Nickel Restaurant in Westlake Village. Call Laura at the CLA office, (805) 493-3151, and join us.

Call Laura now and ask how you can become a sponsor or to donate goods and services for the Auction.

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### California Lutheran University

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