Greetings from Concordia Language Villages,

In 2008 we recognize the launch of Mar e Floresta, the Portuguese Language Village, which represents our 15th language. We sincerely thank Dr. Rui Machete, President of the Luso-American Foundation, for the significant financial contribution to Concordia Language Villages for this new language offering and for ensuring a very successful first summer of operation.

In my introductory letter to our 2005 Annual Report, I cited the U.S. Department of State’s commitment to language education under the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI). We were confident that this federal program would create new opportunities for the Language Villages – and it has. For example, we have been receiving annual funding from STARTALK, a NSLI program, which provides scholarships for students from across the country to attend our Arabic and Chinese Language Villages and for teachers of both languages to receive immersion training with us in the summer. This year we joined a consortium of exchange organizations that received NSLI funds to further the study of strategic languages for high school youth by sending them abroad. Our role is to create the language assessment tool and to provide training to the program faculty to use it effectively. It is evident that our almost 50-year history has established tremendous credibility for the Villages within the international education community.

All of the stories in this year’s annual report highlight advances and notable milestones for the Language Villages, though none of them would be possible without the continued support of families, friends and partners who share the vision of a world where everyone understands.

With gratitude,

Christine Schulze
Executive Director, Concordia Language Villages
Vice President for International Development, Concordia College

CONTENTS

Concordia Language Villages
A Brief History of Concordia Language Villages

In 1960, Gerhard Haukebo, Ph.D., a Concordia College faculty member, suggested the College initiate an experimental program using immersion techniques to teach language. The intent of the program was to teach young people about other languages and cultures, while giving Concordia students the opportunity to gain practical teaching experience. Concordia College sponsored the project in the summer of 1961. The College rented Luther Crest Bible Camp, north of Alexandria, Minn., for the first two-week German session. “Camp Waldsee,” which was limited to 72 campers aged 9-12, was a resounding success.

Languages Added

Interest in the program increased steadily and more “Villages” were added. Now, in addition to its year-round, architecturally authentic sites on Turtle River Lake near Bemidji, Minn., several seasonal sites throughout Minnesota and one near Savannah, Ga., host Language Villages every summer.

1961: Waldsee German Language Village
1962: Lac du Bois French Language Village
1963: Skogfjorden Norwegian Language Village
1964: El Lago del Bosque Spanish Language Village
1965: Lesnoe Ozero Russian Language Village
1975: Sjölunden Swedish Language Village
1978: Sup sogu˘i Hosu Korean Language Village
1982: Skovsøen Danish Language Village
1984: Hometown English Language Village
1988: Mori no Ike Japanese Language Village
2006: Al-Wah·a Arabic Language Village
2008: Mar e Floresta Portuguese Language Village

Concordia Language Villages’ enrollment is international. We welcome participants from all 50 U.S. states and more than 25 countries around the world.
Concordia Language Villages is now a member of a consortium of exchange and education organizations funded by the U.S. Department of State to promote the study of strategic languages. The seven million dollar grant will fund short-term and long-term study abroad programs in Farsi, Hindi, Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Turkish, and Russian. Specifically, Concordia Language Villages will develop and provide the assessment tool used annually by over 500 high school students studying abroad over the next three years. Donna Clementi, director of Education and Research, helped secure the grant and has worked closely with the other members of the consortium to adapt the CLVisa, an assessment tool widely used in the Language Villages Summer Programs, to the needs of students studying abroad. Clementi’s research into assessment practices and her broad experience as a language educator have raised the profile of Concordia Language Villages in the field of language and culture education.

Kiyo Akasaka, under-secretary-general for communications and public information for the United Nations, visited Concordia Language Villages making him the highest-ranking U.N. official to visit the Language Villages. Akasaka, who is from Japan and joined the U.N. in 2007, serves as the head of the Department of Public Information and as a coordinator for multilingualism for the U.N.

Eric Falt, former Lac du Bois staff member and current director of the United Nations Information Center, helped facilitate the visit noting that the missions of the Language Villages and the U.N. share some important similarities: “The United Nations aims to achieve peace and understanding between nations. The appeal of Concordia Language Villages is that it provides young people with the tools to properly contribute to this objective in their adult life, not just through language learning but also through a vision of peace and harmony between the peoples of the world.”

During his two-day visit in Minnesota, Akasaka toured Mori no Ike, the Japanese Language Village, where he observed activities and language groups. “A part of what he does is educate people about the U.N. and a part of what we do is educate young people about how to get along in the world,” said Patricia Thornton, director of Summer Programs and former Mori no Ike dean who coordinated the visit.

Under-secretary-general Akasaka also participated in the August 8 International Day at Waldsee, the German Language Village. While at International Day he helped villagers convene a U.N. summit on global water use and policy. The summit challenged teams from each Village to draft a common document ensuring access to clean and safe drinking water for all citizens of the globe. Each International Day features a global summit or simulation, however this marks the first time that a U.N. official of his stature helped facilitate such an activity.

Akasaka also addressed the audience during the closing ceremony at International Day thanking the families for supporting language education and encouraging the villagers to continue their study of another language.

U.N. Diplomat Visits Villages

Kiyo Akasaka, under-secretary-general for communications and public information for the United Nations, visits Concordia Language Villages.

National Security Language Initiative for Youth

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2008 saw the launch of Concordia Language Villages 15th language – Mar e Floresta – the Portuguese Language Village. The Village opened with 30 villagers and six staff in two two-week sessions at the Callaway site north of Detroit Lakes in Minnesota. Using the same immersion strategies, staff training, and curriculum design as the other summer villages, Mar e Floresta’s success has been the result of over two years of planning and fundraising by a steering committee of twenty-two Portuguese scholars and language education professionals gathered from across the US and Lusophone world. The committee’s efforts and financial support for realia, scholarships, advanced marketing, and curriculum development have been funded by a four year $300,000 gift from the Fundação Luso-Americana (Luso-American Foundation), located in Lisbon, Portugal. Steering committee co-chair and Summer Programs director Patricia Thornton cited the rich historical and cultural significance of Portugal, the emerging economic importance of Brazil, and the number of Portuguese-speaking countries around the world as the primary reasons why Concordia Language Villages selected Portuguese as its 15th language. “Portuguese is a multi-continental language with a rich history and a bright social and economic future that provides exciting learning and growth opportunities for our villagers. Thornton adds that, while enrollment may be lower than expected in the initial years, she expects Portuguese to become a more visible and strategic language in the U.S. in the near future. While the names of the Villages typically translate into some combination of “lake” and “woods,” Mar e Floresta translates as “sea” and “forest” in a slight twist on the naming conventions. This subtle difference represents the strong sea-faring traditions of Portugal, Brazil, and many other Lusophone countries. Kirsten Salome Addison, who has also worked as a Spanish and French dean in her twenty-one years on staff with the Language Villages, was selected as the first dean of Mar e Floresta. Addison led a staff of five, featuring two Americans and three Brazilians, on a journey around the Portuguese-speaking world. From Cape Verde to Lisbon to São Paulo, the villagers experienced the Lusophone world with activities, songs, games, and food. “At Mar e Floresta, we recognize and celebrate the distinctive cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world daily. During a two-week stay, our villagers will experience food from around the Lusophone world including Brazil, Portugal, Angola, Timor Leste and even Goa. Our language curriculum explores a different Portuguese-speaking country each day.” Mar e Floresta will continue to operate at the Callaway site for the foreseeable future and plans to begin offering high school credit in 2010.

Sjölunden, the Swedish Language Village, dedicated Visby, its newest residence at a ceremony on August 8 - the afternoon of International Day. The 1000 square foot building sleeps twelve villagers and, like the other building designs at the Swedish site, reflects the style of Swedish Viking buildings. Designed by St. Paul architect Kerrik Wessel, Visby will accommodate the growing demands for housing for Sjölunden during the summer and provide additional space for programs in the academic year. Amy Rutten, construction and special projects coordinator, considers Visby a new direction in construction for Concordia Language Villages because the architect “took traditional Swedish architectural vocabulary and updated it through modern materials.” The dedication ceremony featured a dance performance by the Sjölunden villagers and formal recognition of the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation’s generous support of the project.
Waldsee, the German Language Village, was honored in July to host the Swiss Ambassador to the United States, Urs Ziswiler. Ambassador Ziswiler spent his day learning about Waldsee’s German language program and participating in Village life. He enjoyed a traditional Swiss breakfast of Bircher Müesli and Croissant with villagers from Waldsee’s high school credit program.

After breakfast three villagers led the ambassador on a tour of Waldsee, ending at the Waldsee BioHaus where he was met by Environmental Program Specialist Edwin Dethlefsen and Swiss native Stephan Tanner, architect of the Waldsee BioHaus, for a tour and discussion about sustainable building practices in Switzerland. Villagers and staff learned how Switzerland has become a leader in “green” architecture and technology.

Ambassador Ziswiler’s visit marks the seventh time that the ambassador from the mission of a German-speaking country has visited Waldsee.

25 Years of Dedication

Three Concordia Language Villages staff were honored for 25 years of dedication and service to the Villages. Scott Marius Smedburg has worked at Skovsøen, the Danish Language Village, for 25 years in a variety of roles including dean and biking program coordinator. A family event in his honor began with a game of “family” soccer, an activity invented by Marius so that everyone, regardless of age or physical condition, could play along. His generosity and spirit of inclusion are two of the character traits that make him so beloved by villagers and families alike. Skovsøen staff and villagers presented Marius with three exquisitely carved bike racks in honor of his dedication to the biking program.

Denise Denise Philippe has worked as a French staff member and dean and more recently as an associate director in the Summer Programs. Denise organizes the orientations for summer staff and is a tireless advocate for staff development and recruitment. At the celebration marking her 25 years of service, Concordia Language Villages inaugurated the Denise Philippe Staff Development Endowed Fund to support professional development opportunities for Language Villages staff.

Gary Steele, the grounds supervisor in the facilities department, has been caring for the grounds and facilities at the Turtle River Lake site for 25 years. Gary moves mountains of snow each winter and makes sure that lawns and soccer fields are ready for the summer. In honor of Gary’s years of service, a trailhead shelter was dedicated on the Buck Lake hiking trail on the southern end of the Turtle River Lake property.
20 Years of Adult Programs

Since the first adult program opened 20 years ago, Concordia Language Villages has helped thousands of adult villagers learn twelve different languages. The first programs were primarily designed for heritage learners, but in recent years the weeklong and weekend language programs have attracted a more diverse group of adult learners. According to Martin Graefe, director of year round programs, “The most significant change in our adult programs has been the development of curricula that address the different language skills of participants. With over 50% of participants returning year after year, we’ve seen a significant increase in skill levels, essentially elevating the amount of language spoken and heard in our adult programs across the board.” Adult programs continue to be an area of strategic growth for the Language Villages with increased opportunities on the horizon for government contracts, professional development and college-level programming.

The French city of Tours and Lac du Bois, the French Language Village, share a latitude, a dream, and at least a dozen residents.

On July 11, the first International Day, official representatives from the Mayor’s office in Tours were on hand to present the villagers and staff of Lac du Bois with a borne cochère symbolizing the partnership and collaboration between these two communities. The festivities featured music and dance from Lac du Bois villagers along with greetings from Concordia College President Pamela Jolicoeur. The borne cochère itself is a fitting symbol of French architecture and design and represents, along with its twin to be dedicated in Tours at a later date, the dream of building Place Plumereau, a future activity center for the French Language Village.

The relationship between Tours and Lac du Bois stretches back many years with over a dozen Lac du Bois staff having worked and studied there. Tours is widely known as a center of language education for foreigners in France. Alex Loefrée, former Concordia Language Villages assistant director for public relations and Lac du Bois staff member, studied in Tours and now serves as a member of the Lac du Bois advisory committee charged with mapping a strategy toward the construction of Place Plumereau. “In this particular instance we saw a remarkable show of support from a regional government with 1,000 civil servants and over 300,000 residents,” commented Loefrée. He went on to note that it is “fairly unusual to have a city like Tours make a symbol of a summer camp located in the U.S. a permanent element of the city.”

The Tours delegation, led by Yolande Brives – Conseillère Municipale, toured the Language Villages in Bemidji, attended International Day and met with members of the Lac du Bois advisory committee. Other members of the delegation included Jean-Louis Delagarde, architect, and Marie-Bernard Amirault-Deiss, director for international relations.

A similar ceremony will take place at the installation of the borne cochère in Tours and will be attended by a delegation of Concordia Language Villages and Lac du Bois staff.
2008 Villager Awards

Circle of Peace Medallion
The Circle of Peace Medallion is presented to villagers with 30 years of participation in the program.

The Sage Award
This award is presented to individuals who have given outstanding service as a staff member for 35 years.

The Evergreen Award
The Evergreen Award is presented to individuals who have given outstanding service as a staff member for 25 years.

Key to the Village Award
This award is presented to individuals who have given outstanding service as a staff member for five years.

The Citation of Excellence Award
Citation of Excellence Award

The Circle of Peace Award
The Circle of Peace Award is presented to individuals who have given outstanding service as a staff member for 25 years.

2008 Summer Staff Profile

Summer Youth Staff 1,309
Return Rate 43%
Native Speakers 29.8%

This year our world class summer staff members came from 40 countries.

Argentina 43
Australia 44
Austria 1
Barbados 1
Canada 103
China 12
Colombia 22
Costa Rica 5
Cuba 2
Cyprus 50
Egypt 4
Ecuador 1
Estonia 2
Finland 20
France 21
Germany 2
Italy 16
Japan 29
Kenya 1
Lithuania 3
Netherlands 48
Norway 18
Peru 3
Russia 1
Serbia 1
Slovakia 2
South Korea 1
Spain 1
Sweden 1
Taiwan 1
Thailand 3
Trinidad & Tobago 1
Turkey 1
Ukraine 1
United Kingdom 5
United States 359
Venezuela 1

2008 Staff Awards

25 Year Award
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Sage Award
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Concordia Language Villages 2008-2009 Financial Report

Total Revenue $12,947,820

Donors Bring the World to Us

Concordia Language Villages values the generous visionaries who have offered their support and resources to our programs in the past year. We are thankful and humbled to be a part of such a strong, dedicated community of donors, many of whom have supported our programs and our capital investments for decades.

Donors will appear in next year’s report. This list is compiled from our computer records. Please notify us if you find incorrect information.

The following list recognizes donors who made gifts between May 1, 2008, and April 30, 2009. Contributions received after April 30, 2009 and our capital investments for decades. We are thankful and humbled to be a part of such a strong, dedicated community of donors, many of whom have supported our programs and our capital investments for decades.

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William and Marsha Abbott
Anonymous

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the many staff, volunteers, and friends of Concordia Language Villages who gave of their time and effort to support the mission of the organization. We are grateful for your contributions and support. This list is compiled from our computer records. Please notify us if you find incorrect information.

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At El Cago de los Requiescientos www Spanish through songs and music
In our almost 50-year history, Concordia Language Villages has grown and changed to meet the challenges of new generations, technologies, educational strategies and market interests. Our logo has remained very similar for almost thirty years and, in the interest of a more concerted, blended identity with Concordia College, we have adopted a new logo and wordmark. The new logo speaks to the ideal of “embracing” global community—with white bands or “arms” that span the globe—and reflects the affirmation of diversity, unity, justice and other key values at the heart of the CLV mission.

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History of the Concordia Language Villages Logo

Concordia Language Villages 25

24 Concordia Language Villages

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