

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTIONS – CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

SERVANT OF CHRIST AWARD – BRUCE KINTZ, HAWK NEWSOME

Thank you, Dr. Nakhai. And thank you to our Fellows, whose current brilliance and abundant potential inspire our work here at Concordia College every day.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

First Peter four ten. There is an entire roadmap for living packed into this short verse.

The verse tells us that we have each received a gift. We are all gifted!

How do we know that our own gift is unique? Because the grace of God is manifold: multiple, diverse and abundant.

And what does God want us to do with this gift of ours – this precious manifestation of God's manifold grace?

We are to use our gift in the service of others.

Each year, Concordia College bestows a Servant of Christ award on a person or persons who use their unique and God-given gifts in the service of others.

I am very happy to say that two previous recipients of the Servant of Christ award are here with us this morning: Jean Hanson, who serves on our Board of Regents, please stand and be recognized; [APPLAUSE]

We also have with us the previous Chairman of our Board of Regents – T. Scott Wittman, will you please stand and be recognized. [APPLAUSE]

This year, Concordia College New York identified two people whose gifts – and the way they choose to use their gifts – make them most deserving of the College's Servant of Christ award.

Dr. Bruce G. Kintz has a gift for business.

Early in his career he saw great success in the corporate world, rising to the director level at McDonnell Douglas/Boeing and making contributions across the corporation. His gift for business has made him sought-after as a mentor for leaders in the aerospace industry, and sought-after as a member on corporate boards as well.

Of course, corporations are not necessarily known for serving others, so how does that get us to the Servant of Christ award?

In 2006 Bruce shined his gift for business on the non-profit world, becoming the President and CEO of Concordia Publishing House, the publisher for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, of which he is a lifelong member. In fact, Bruce was nominated for the Servant of Christ award by none other than the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

At Concordia Publishing House business means more than meeting quotas and the bottom line (although thanks to Bruce, CPH does those things too.) It means touching the lives of God's people with His Word. Concordia Publishing House serves individuals, families, and congregations in 75 countries with some 8000 products and services that help them learn and proclaim the Gospel.

Leading and expanding the good work of CPH keeps Bruce pretty busy, but he also finds time to share his gift for business in another way: by mentoring the owners of small businesses who may face special challenges as members of disadvantaged or minority communities.

Bruce, please come forward.

On behalf of Concordia College New York, I am delighted to bestow upon you the Servant of Christ award in recognition of the way you share your gifts for the greater good. Congratulations.

Hawk Newsome has a gift for organizing people to bring about change: otherwise known as activism.

Hawk's journey to sharing his gift for activism took some zigs and zags – as journeys often do. His parents met at a civil rights rally in the 1960s, which may have provided him with a clue to his future, but as a young man growing up in the South Bronx, Hawk was concerned with his own struggles. And as a student right here at Concordia College New York, playing basketball and finishing his degree were priorities.

But along his journey through a job as a paralegal in the Bronx County Office of the District Attorney, and then earning a law degree from Howard University and Touro Law Center, the injustice he saw around him became something he could not ignore.

And where Hawk Newsome sees injustice, he rallies people together to do something about it. When Trayvon Martin was killed, Hawk started organizing. When Eric Garner was killed, Hawk vowed to march. He's been marching, protesting and educating ever since, now as the President of Black Lives Matter Greater New York.

Hawk has served his community as a County Committee Member of New York's District 79. He has worked to get people registered to vote. He has been an advocate for the LGBT community,

the mentally ill, and victims of human trafficking. As a devout Christian, Hawk likes to point out that Jesus was a revolutionary.

Hawk, please come forward.

On behalf of Concordia College New York, I am delighted to bestow upon you the Servant of Christ award in recognition of the way you share your gifts for the greater good. Congratulations.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD – LANA PHILLIPS

To volunteer is to make God's grace visible. This morning, we honor someone for whom volunteering has been a way of life.

Lana Phillips is a **good neighbor** to Concordia in every sense of the phrase. She is literally a neighbor – her home is right across the street from campus. And like a good neighbor, Lana is there.

In her long association with Concordia Conservatory and the OSilas Gallery, she has served on executive boards, planned and supported galas, even hosted events at her home. The greater world has felt the force of her volunteer service as well. This former tax attorney offers her sound advice and good counsel wherever she sees a need, which at present is the launch of a charitable foundation which will raise funds for hospitals and schools in South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains.

And now it is my very great pleasure to invite our good neighbor and good friend Lana Phillips to the podium.

Lana, on behalf of Concordia College New York, I am delighted to bestow upon you the Volunteer Service Award. Congratulations.

(Lana's remarks)