

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jane and Joel Klammer each awarded honors as LEA's Distinguished Lutheran Secondary Educators

Jane and Joel Klammer were individually selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2018 Distinguished Lutheran Secondary Educator awards. Both teach at Concordia International School in Shanghai. Each was selected for this honor by LEA's Secondary Educators Network leadership team.

Jane is the high school visual arts teacher at Concordia International School Shanghai. She also serves as club advisor and on various faculty committees. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree-Liberal Arts from St. Paul's College, Concordia, Mo. She earned her B.S. in Education, Art from Concordia University, Seward and an M.A. in Teacher – Art Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill., with an emphasis on painting and drawing, and art education. Jane was chosen as the Gold Key/Silver Educator at the Scholastic Art Awards in 2014, 2015, and 2016. She was chosen as the Art Teacher of the Year by *That's Shanghai Magazine* in 2015.

Joel is the marine research coordinator, instructor in physics, engineering and computer science, robotics coach, and serves on the Spiritual Life, Teaching and Learning, and High School Marketing committees. He earned a B.A. in Lutheran Teacher Education at Concordia, Ann Arbor. He earned an M.A. in Education Administration from Teachers College, Columbia, N.Y. Joel's most recent honor was being the first foreigner elected to the Shanghai Medical Association, serving on the Hyperbaric Medicine Board. In 2015, he was chosen as the National Science Foundation's "Large Hadron Collider Fellow" to present particle physics to schools worldwide.

Supporting Jane and Joel, the Head of School wrote, "What makes Jane and Joel such a blessing is their level of excellence which is only surpassed by their humility. Each of them serves in such a manner as 'unto the Lord' and not unto people. They open their hearts and their home to all people. They approach each day or each task with a quiet energy and passion for using their gifts to point people to Jesus! On any faculty, they would be exemplary models of faithful LCMS educators. It is an honor to serve alongside of them in ministry at Shanghai."

A colleague commented, "Through the years in Shanghai, Joel and Jane have expanded the depth of learning the students of Concordia-Shanghai experience in their classes on and off campus through the service learning trips both have led. Jane led service trips to India, China, and Thailand, often working with orphanages and other human care providers. Joel took a group of 20 high school students from Concordia-Shanghai to Gansu Province to work with Dr. Hailu You on the largest dinosaur fossil ever found in China...later featured in a program produced by *The Discovery Channel*. These are a few of the many examples in which Joel and Jane have helped students better understand themselves, their role in the world, and their relationship with Jesus Christ."

Another colleague added, “As an artist, she (Jane) has had exhibitions in Hong Kong and Shanghai. In 2004, the LCMS chose her “Ablaze” graphic image for its Synodical Conference. [We] were blessed to receive “God’s Hands & Feet,” a commissioned glasswork representing our years at Concordia Shanghai. Her crosses, chalices, and stoles for Lutheran worship are beautiful.”

Jane states, “My greatest joy is to inspire students to become the next art world’s sensation. My educational mission of sharing God’s love and truth nurtures a classroom climate that joyfully fosters thoughtful and respectful consideration of alternative viewpoints and ideas. My students pursue their personal ownership of learning and the individual construction of personally meaningful knowledge within the visual arts. My greatest professional duty is to create and participate in an active, exciting learning community in which I am a teacher, yet one of the learners.”

Joel’s personal mission statement is “To serve all of God’s people by sharing the love that He first showed us.” His greatest joy as he works with students is sharing their excitement as they grow and discover new ideas and phenomena. The shared joy of the ‘Aha’ moment when it all comes together and they see farther than they could see without you. When the students take on the mantle of discovery and proceed with bravery and boldness because of the resilience you have created in them.”

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