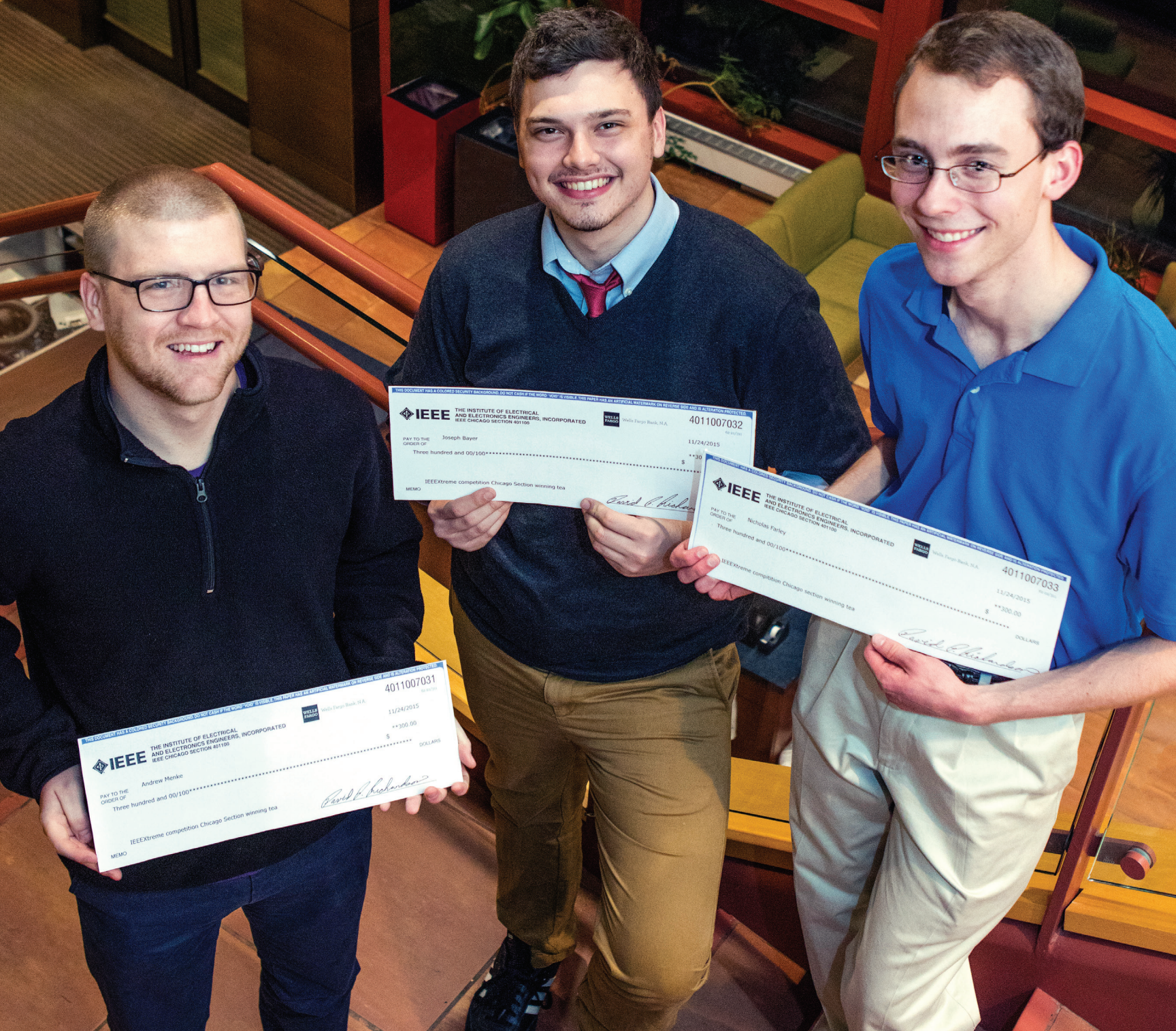


CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO Forester

CUChicago.edu

Winter 2016



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As we begin a new calendar year, I am reminded of how blessed we are. Each of our students, whether undergraduate or graduate, comes to us with unique, God-given gifts and talents which are further developed by their experience at the University. Each student also provides us with an opportunity to encourage, through the Means of Grace, service to Christ. In this issue of *The Forester*, you will find stories about our exceptional students, alumni and faculty. Each of them, in their own unique way, is making a difference locally, nationally and internationally.

Students enrolled in our undergraduate Computer Information Systems and Computer Science programs are excelling nationally. CUC's student team recently won the Chicago Xtreme 24-Hour Programming Competition, sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). This is an exceptional accomplishment, as our undergraduate students beat teams containing doctoral students from schools including the Illinois Institute of Technology and Northwestern University. The strength and continued growth of these two degree programs are integral as the University looks at new ways to serve domestic students and as well as an anticipated increase of international students.

For more than half a century, the Wind Symphony and the Kapelle choral group have been sharing the Gospel

through music. The Kapelle recently travelled to Poland and spent 10 days connecting with audiences through the power of music. A major highlight included participation in a Pentecost service, where they sang in Polish, including a piece that directly related to the pastor's sermon. Next year, our Wind Symphony will travel to South Africa.

The Foundation's Vision Task Force continues its focus on the university-wide concept of differentiating initiatives. In partnership with our College of Graduate and Innovative Programs, CUC's Center for Gerontology has developed several new programs aimed at serving Illinois' aging population. The Center is also pressing forward with several additional initiatives that will provide unique gerontological services and care to the region.

In this edition, you will meet each of this year's Presidential Honors Scholars and learn how they intend to make a difference in the lives of others. Our alumni featured in the magazine, are working for professional and semi-professional athletics teams, from the Chicago Cubs to the Chicago Bandits. These unique vocations allow each individual to use talents to make a difference in their organizations.

You will also read about the University's ongoing recognition by the Golden Apple Foundation. Since 1986, 14 CUC alumni have received the award, which is testament to the

continued strength of our education programs. In addition, 21 students have been named as Golden Apple Scholars, recognizing their dedication to teaching in Illinois schools of need. The University was founded as a teacher's school, and our education graduates continue to make a difference in the lives of students more than 150 years later.

Concordia-Chicago recently hosted the 2016 Concordia Invitational Tournament, which is the second-oldest collegiate basketball tournament in the U.S. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to interact with students from the Concordias in Ann Arbor, Nebraska and Wisconsin. We agreed that while we are competitors on the court, we all have the same goal off the court—service to Christ.

Every member of the Concordia-Chicago community makes a positive difference, no matter how large or small the impact. This is a direct demonstration of the strength of a Christian-based education. As our world faces innumerable challenges, it is important—now, more than ever—for us to act as servant leaders in our own communities, across the nation and throughout the world. Together we are blessed to be the servants of God. To Him alone be all glory, honor and praise!

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Aaron Bean

MISSION

As a distinctive, comprehensive university of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, centered in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and based in the liberal arts, Concordia University Chicago equips men and women to serve and lead with integrity, creativity, competence and compassion in a diverse, interconnected and increasingly urbanized church and world.

VISION

Concordia University Chicago is the university of choice for those seeking a Christian institution in the Midwest which provides a broad, liberal arts based undergraduate education, as well as graduate and professional programs in areas of demonstrated competence, which serve a particular need of society and advance the mission of the Church.

CORE VALUES

We at Concordia University Chicago embrace these Core Values as essential to living together in a vibrant and influential Christian academic community and as productive citizens of the Church and world.

CHRISTIAN FAITH.

The Christian faith is an integral part of our community.

THE INDIVIDUAL.

As a member of God's creation, each person is unique and is blessed with inherent worth.

EXCELLENCE.

We strive for excellence in who we are and what we do.

INTEGRITY.

Our community demonstrates the accord between our beliefs and practices.

SERVICE.

Recognizing and addressing the needs of others is a response to God's love for us, and a reflection of God's love for them.

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ON THE COVER

CUC computer science students recently earned first place in the Chicago IEEEExtreme 24-Hour Programming Competition. Learn more on page 14.

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1. Communication Department (left to right) Alyssa Castaneda, Dr. Laura Pollom, Todd Hauser, Susan Ericsson

2. Chicago area senior citizens visited the Illinois State Fair as part of a partnership between CUC's Center for Gerontology and other community and government agencies.

3. Niko Vercelletto, CUC senior

New Departments in the College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences recently announced the creation of a dedicated Communication Department and separate Theater Department, replacing a structure which combined the two disciplines.

"Department chairs and program heads will now be able to easily introduce new methodologies and practices related to their specific disciplines," said Dr. Laura Pollom, chair of the Communication Department. Dr. Jason Narvy was named chair of the Theater Department.

The Department of Communication is focusing on developing new resources for the campus newspaper, *The Spectator*, and for WCGR Radio and TV. In the last five years, all three student organizations have experienced

growth. The department is also proud to announce its first international trip to Italy this spring. Students will spend time in Pompeii and Rome learning about communications and exploring famous sites including Mount Vesuvius, the Colosseum and the Vatican.

The Department of Theater is forging relationships with other collegiate theater and performance studies programs nationwide. They are also providing students with more focus on global performance. Notably, the department renamed its production wing, previously known as Artists of Concordia Theatre, to The Collective. The new name reflects an emphasis on ensemble-based performance. The department is also increasing its partnership with Chicago Dramatists, a group dedicated to the development and advancement of future playwrights in Chicago.





The Center for Gerontology is working to expand its programming for area seniors. Future opportunities include a trip to the Milwaukee Zoo, a senior prom featuring a fashion show and dancing, and a centenarian birthday celebration.

Student Writer Gets National Exposure

Since 2014, Concordia-Chicago senior Niko Vercelletto has developed a passion for writing about technology and science. He credits summer internships with *Popular Mechanics* magazine and Davler Media in New York City with finding his voice as a writer and believing in his own creative ability.

“The article I’m most proud of is “10 Scientific Images that Changed How We Looked at the World” from *Popular Mechanics*. It was my first original article based on my ideas and my first pitch to a senior editor. It was proof that my ideas were good,” says Vercelletto.

Additional articles by Vercelletto have been featured in *NYMetroParents*, *ThoughtGallery.com*, *Popularmechanics.com*, *AbsolutePunk.net* and CUC’s own student newspaper, *The Spectator*.

Vercelletto is an active member of Image, CUC’s student-led art club, and is an athlete on the men’s cross country team and captain of the men’s tennis team. He will graduate this spring with a major in English and a minor in marketing. After graduation he hopes to gain employment with a magazine or online media outlet.

Center for Gerontology Visits State Fair

The Center for Gerontology at Concordia University Chicago held its first-ever senior road trip in the fall. Over 100 seniors from the greater Chicago area enjoyed an afternoon at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

“The Center for Gerontology promotes lifelong learning activities that engage, empower and educate older adults and their caregivers,” said Dr. John Holton, Director of the Center for Gerontology. “The road trip to the Illinois State Fair was an opportunity to demonstrate seniors’ continual interests in learning.”

The excursion was a community partnership with multiple agencies, elected state representatives, senior care providers and local businesses. The trip was coordinated by a large group including volunteers from the area, CUC professor Dr. Lydia Manning, graduate assistant Marcus Wolfe, and CUC staff members Dr. Fred Spurgat, Denise James and Tina Nepomuceno.





CUC Administration Invited to Meet with Lt. Governor

Illinois Lt. Governor, Evelyn Sanguinetti, extended an invitation for Concordia University Chicago leadership to meet with her and Chief of Staff Brian Colgan in an effort to learn more about the University's commitment to serving a diverse student population, including the University's designation as an Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution. Concordia-Chicago Board of Regents member A.J. Sales arranged the meeting between the Lt. Governor, her staff, President Gard and Senior Vice President Evelyn Burdick.

Discussion during the more than hour-long meeting, focused on the ways in which CUC provides access to and services for undergraduate first-generation college students, as well as leadership and academic opportunities for all undergraduates. They praised the University's efforts and invited its participation in future initiatives, including one which will be focused on encouraging Latino students to pursue vocations in science, technology and health sciences.

1. Left to right, CUC Senior Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing Evelyn Burdick, CUC Board of Regents member A.J. Sales, Illinois Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti, CUC President Rev. Dr. Daniel Gard

2. Leaders from Triton College and CUC gathered at the signing of an articulation agreement for business degrees.

Triton College and CUC Announce Business Program Articulation Partnership

With a focus on providing a seamless pathway for area students to complete Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees, administrators and the presidents from Triton College and CUC signed an articulation agreement on December 9. Students enrolled in the partnership program will complete an associate degree in either accounting and business administration, business management, or accounting and finance at Triton College in River Grove, IL. The final two years of study will be completed at Concordia-Chicago.

"We are looking forward to welcoming students from Triton College to earn their bachelor's degrees here," said Dr. O. John Zillman, Interim Senior Vice President for Academics at Concordia-Chicago. "By establishing this valuable partnership and through close collaboration, our two institutions are fostering the pathway to graduation and a chosen business profession."

The institutions signed a similar agreement in early 2015 related to education degrees. "This articulation agreement strengthens our partnership with Concordia University Chicago and provides Triton students with a seamless opportunity to further their education toward attaining the bachelor's degree," said Dr. Doug Olson, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Triton College.



2016 University Events

- March 4-13** Kapelle & Wind Symphony Spring Tours
- March 4-April 3** Ferguson Art Gallery Show
Student Art Invitational
- March 18** Wind Symphony Home Concert
- March 19** Kapelle Home Concert
- April 1** University Band Concert
- April 2** Undergraduate Admitted Student Visit Day
- April 11-May 7** Ferguson Gallery Show
CUC Graduating Senior Art Show
- April 14-24** The Collective presents
"Crawling Between Heaven and Earth"
- April 18** Jazz Band Concert
- April 23** Undergraduate Visit Day
- April 25** Kapelle performs with the Symphony
of Oak Park & River Forest at
Chicago Symphony Center

- May 1** Spring Music Festival
- May 7** Spring Commencement
- May-July** Ferguson Gallery Show
CUC Informal Summer Art Show
- June 25** University Band Pops Concert
- July 29** Undergraduate Visit Day
- August 1-5** Youth Robotics Camp
- August 21** Opening Service
- October 23-30** Homecoming Week
- October 29** Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

For additional details and a full list of University events, visit CUChicago.edu/events.



◀ Youth Robotics Camp

CUC's summer Youth Robotics Camp is open to students ages 11-17. Participants will assemble, program and debug LEGO Mindstorms EV3 and NTX robotics kits by learning the necessary mathematics skills to enable the concepts behind their designs.

August 1-5

Information: Victor.Govindaswamy@CUChicago.edu

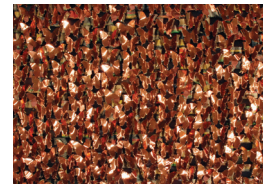


◀ Kapelle at Chicago's Symphony Center

The Kapelle will join the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest to perform Mahler's Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection" at Symphony Center Chicago.

April 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Symphony Center Chicago



◀ Graduating Senior Art Show

This annual exhibit at the Ferguson Art Gallery showcases the work of senior art students completing their degree programs at CUC.

April 11-May 7

Location: Ferguson Art Gallery

Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.,

Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

BY: **REV. DR. JEFFREY LEININGER**, University Pastor and Dean of the Chapel

Westfield House is the theological training college for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England—one of our LCMS partner churches overseas. It rests just up the hill from the medieval city center of Cambridge, England. But more than a Victorian building, a college, a seminary or a church, Westfield is a community. It is a community of exceptional scholars from around the world, individuals gifted in so many different ways, but who are united in Christ.

Inspired by my own experiences of graduate study in Cambridge, we began a partnership between Westfield House and Concordia University Chicago in 2003. It has grown to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my ministry. Concordia-Chicago sends a couple students each semester to live and study at Westfield. There is a three-fold purpose to the program:

1) to immerse students in the life and learning of a Lutheran seminary, while offering them opportunity to attend lectures at the University of Cambridge; 2) to enrich the community life of Westfield House, Resurrection Lutheran Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England with CUC's best and brightest students; and 3) to expose Concordia-Chicago students to a semester abroad in one of Europe's premier academic and cultural centers.

The experience has been life changing for our students. They have the opportunity to hear from some of the best scholars in the fields of theology, history and philosophy, while remaining grounded in Lutheran teaching. They meet exceptional people from all over the world and learn the breadth of witness of the body of Christ. They walk in the grounds, gardens and chapels of an 800-year-old university, marveling at its legacy and beauty. They travel



throughout Europe, experiencing the history and culture of the "Old World," which is rapidly changing and remains remarkably impactful on contemporary life. And perhaps most importantly, they discover things about themselves—what they can accomplish, how much they have to learn, the incredible academic and cultural opportunities ahead of them, and, especially, how the hands of Christ will guide them no matter where they go or what they do.

In a world that seems overcome with chaos and darkness, it's good to be reminded of some beauty and light. This university is making a difference in people's lives—by the grace of God—and exciting partnerships like our Concordia in Cambridge program are an important part of this difference.

For more information about Westfield House and our Cambridge program, visit: www.westfieldhouse.eu/wordpress.

1. Westfield House in Cambridge, England has partnered with CUC since 2003 to prepare men and women for service in the Church.

2. CUC sophomore Nikki Johnson (left) and junior Mason Vieth (center) recently had the opportunity to live and study at Westfield House.



NID Plants the Seeds of Mercy at CUC

More than 1,000 students, teachers and parents from Lutheran schools in the Northern Illinois District (NID) packed CUC's Geiseman Gymnasium for the 2015 Youth Rally on October 16. Visitors were welcomed to campus by President Gard and NID President Rev. Dan Gilbert, accompanied by Concordia-Chicago faculty and staff members.

Keynote speaker Rev. Jeffrey Meinz wove this year's theme of "Planting Seeds of Mercy" into his talk to the seventh- and eighth-grade students in attendance. Students learned how to grow together in God's Word and how their lives may be used by God to share mercy with others. Meinz serves as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, CO.

"The committee wanted to do more than gather these students to celebrate Lutheran schools. We wanted to engage them in God's mission of doing good in their own lives in the name of the Gospel," said Michael Zimmer, District Mission Facilitator of Schools for the NID.

The event was sponsored by the NID and guided by a committee composed of NID staff and local educators. Concordia-Chicago faculty member Ken Sankey, Assistant Professor of Education and coordinator of the Lutheran Teacher Education program, served as the liaison between CUC and NID staff for the event.

Rally participants were from 31 different Lutheran schools in the greater Chicago area including Rockford, Aurora and Yorkville. This was the second rally hosted by CUC in the last two years; the first was co-hosted by the 150th Anniversary committee in January 2014.

Moving forward, NID is planning to hold a youth rally every other year. The next event is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2017.

“

We wanted to engage them in God's mission of doing good in their own lives in the name of the Gospel...
-Michael Zimmer



Students, teachers and parents representing 31 regional Lutheran schools grew together in God's Word at the 2015 NID Youth Rally.

Presidential Scholars Awarded to **Three Top Freshmen**

Each year, a select few exceptional freshmen are awarded full-tuition scholarships to attend Concordia University Chicago. The President's Honors Scholar program recognized three new incoming freshmen for the 2015-2016 academic year. To qualify, these students had to maintain a 3.75 GPA for no less than six semesters in high school, and earn a composite score of 30 on the ACT, a 1340 on the SAT (Critical Reading and Math) or be designated a National Merit Semi-Finalist. To remain eligible for the University's top academic honor, the scholars will continue to meet rigorous academic standards throughout their undergraduate studies. All three participate in the CUC Honors Program.



Jeremy Hartman

Jeremy Hartman, of Kokomo, IN, had a life-changing experience as a high school student when he was in a car wreck. He flipped his truck on the ice and escaped without serious injury. After he reflected on the incident, he realized, "Everyone is alive for a purpose given by his or her Creator, and only needs to follow Him to discover what it is."

Jeremy is looking forward to discovering that purpose at Concordia-Chicago, where he is majoring in computer science and pre-seminary studies.

At Northwestern High School, Jeremy was a member of the National Honor Society, Rotary Interact, the science club where he served as treasurer, and his youth group where he was on the leadership council.

He was also a co-captain and state qualifier in the Spell Bowl, played the lead in the school fall theater production, and participated in numerous service projects and mission trips.

His enthusiasm for software development and his desire to serve the Lord have renewed Jeremy's passion for the pursuit of knowledge. Jeremy credits his natural curiosity and love of learning as key influences in his academic success.



Rachael Nuckles

Rachael Nuckles, of Monmouth, IL, believes strongly in the integrity of a scholar. Not only should a scholar be an academic high-achiever, she says, a scholar must be well-rounded, honest and should set good examples. Scholars push themselves to learn and grow, and Rachael has held herself to this high standard in her academic career.

As a student at Monmouth-Roseville High School, Rachael was vice president of the drama club, captain of the speech team, first-chair flute in the band and co-president of the Latin club. She was a member of the National Honor Society, sang in the choir and was an active volunteer at her church during vacation Bible school, coffee hours and dinners.

Rachael, an English major, finds the deeper meaning in works of literature and draws life lessons from what she reads. After reading *The Great Gatsby*, a title assigned to many high school students, she learned not to dwell on her mistakes in the past. "I can now say that I am constantly moving forward. My mistakes are simply motivation to try again."



Abigail Malme

Abigail Malme, of Green Bay, WI, sets new goals for herself every day, and tries her hardest to accomplish them. In doing so, she has learned that attempting to reach perfection is ultimately unrealistic. But, "putting all your effort toward something and knowing that you did your absolute best is still a very rewarding possibility," she says. Abigail maintains that imperfections are important because they drive people to be the best they can be.

At Northeastern Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Abigail participated in band, choir, volleyball and drama. She plans to pursue similar activities at CUC. She was also a member of the praise team both at school and church, and the National Honor Society. In high school, she competed on the highest level of the math team, and at Concordia-Chicago, she is a mathematics major with a specialization in actuarial science. Coming to CUC fulfills another goal of Abigail's—to attend a university where she can freely share her beliefs and will be encouraged to have a strong faith life. She looks forward to growing as a person, furthering her education and becoming spiritually prepared for what lies ahead.

CONCORDIA-CHICAGO EDUCATION STUDENTS AND ALUMNI SET GOLD STANDARD

BY: **ANNA SEIFERT**, Communications Associate

Last fall, Phyllis LaCour, a pre-kindergarten teacher at Pulaski International School in Chicago, was honored with a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. LaCour, who lives by the motto that children have unique capabilities and limitless opportunities to learn, became the 14th Concordia University Chicago alum to receive the prestigious award.

The University has a long and successful history with the Golden Apple Foundation. Last year, Golden Apple marked its 30th year of preparing and celebrating great teachers in Illinois. The Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented to 10 outstanding Illinois teachers every year. Candidates are nominated by administrators, fellow educators, counselors, parents and students.

The idea for the award was conceived when Golden Apple founders Pat and Mike Koldyke were watching the Oscars—they wondered why teachers didn't receive the same recognition as Hollywood actors. As a result of their vision, every year, award

winners are celebrated at a formal event that is broadcast on WTTW11, Chicago's PBS station. During the ceremony, honorees receive a Golden Apple statuette and are individually recognized for their dedication to their students and schools.

The winning teachers receive a \$5,000 cash award and a spring quarter sabbatical to study at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. They are also inducted as lifetime members into the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, which creates, develops and supports programs for teachers to make them more effective in the classroom. As fellows of the academy, they help cultivate future teachers through the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program.

The director of Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois is Concordia-Chicago alumnus Jim Sorensen MA '95, who earned a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1999. The scholars program, for undergraduate education students, started in 1989. Twenty-one CUC students have taken part or are currently in the program. These students are committed to teaching for five years after graduation at an Illinois school of need. The rigorous application process for the scholars program

Phyllis LaCour MA '13 (fifth from left) recently became the fourteenth CUC alum to receive the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.



**GOLDEN APPLE
AWARDEES**

1988 - Dale Halter '74
 1990 - Mary Murphy MA '87
 1991 - Karen Bauder '64, MA '89
 1994 - Kerri Druckmiller MA '90
 1997 - Jessie Kalinowski MA '94
 & '00
 1997 - Susan Moody MA '95
 1999 - James R. Sorenson MA '95
 2001 - James Arey '91
 2003 - Paula Sprecher '94
 2005 - Seth Baker MA '02
 2007 - Glenn Lid MA '85
(Teacher of Distinction)
 2007 - Patricia Parsons MA '81
(Finalist)
 2008 - Daniel Morvaji MA '00
 2015 - Phyllis LaCour MA '13

**GOLDEN APPLE
SCHOLARS**

Ilse Barragan '18
 Lisa (Simoncelli) Bulak '05
 Elsa Cadwallader '16
 Jennifer Camacho '16
 Laura Carey '07
 Jonathan Carrillo
 Rebecca Einspahr '17
 Evelyn Estrada
 Ana Flores
 Jennifer Frazier '17
 Christina Lewandowski '06
 Jenise Martinez '09
 Teresa Onstott '16
 Alejandra Prado '16
 Cristina Pruitt '07
 Nicholas Rivera
 Cynthia Saavedra '16
 Elvira Toledo '16
 Anita Unzueta '10
 Zi Luan Wang '06
 Sara (Michaelsen) Weeks '11, MA '14

involves essays, interviews and letters of recommendation—it's intended to identify those students who are truly committed to work in the field of teaching.

A primary goal of Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois is to help place top teachers into the schools where they are needed most, and to stay to make the greatest impact. "Golden Apple aims to cultivate students who are highly focused and feel a calling to serve in high-needs schools," said Dr. Kevin Brandon, dean of the College of Education at CUC. "Many of these students end up staying in these schools for their entire careers. Educators who aren't prepared to work in a high-needs school, where demands on teachers can be very heavy, may leave after a semester. This program prepares them for the reality of teaching in a school of need."

Scholars receive up to \$23,000 in financial assistance during their baccalaureate studies. They come from diverse backgrounds, and 60 percent are first-generation college students. Fellows in the Golden Apple Academy of Educators coach and mentor the scholars during a five-week program each summer. Over a four-year period, the summer institutes help students earn as many as 700 hours of observation and pre-service student teaching. This unique experience takes place in an environment similar to the one they will teach in upon graduation, allowing them to learn in context about the problems facing high-needs schools.

Nationwide statistics show that approximately 50 percent of new teachers leave education within five years. Among the Golden Apple Scholars, however, 82 percent remain teaching for at least five years after graduation.

"We are exceptionally proud of our alumni who have received a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching as well as our Golden Apple Scholars," said Brandon. "Concordia-Chicago has been a leader in training educators for more than 150 years. We are continuing that tradition through the high value of our education programs today."



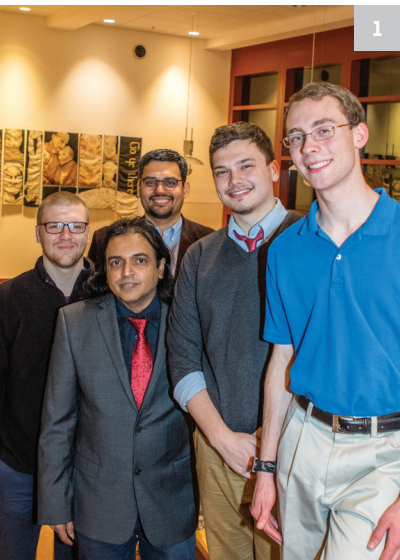
Concordia-Chicago has been a leader in training educators for more than 150 years. We are continuing that tradition through the high value of our education programs today.

-Dr. Kevin Brandon

COMPUTER SCIENCE EXPANDS AT CUC

BY: **ANNA SEIFERT**, Communications Associate

“The camp provides a fun way for students to gain STEM skills and develop computer programming, problem solving, critical thinking, design and research skills. —Dr. Victor Govindaswamy



The Computer Science and Computer Information Systems programs at Concordia University Chicago have had an exciting and productive year.

A team of CUC students recently earned first place in the Chicago IEEEExtreme 24-Hour Programming Competition, besting teams of undergraduate, master's and doctoral students from Northwestern University, IIT and UIC. The students' win in the Chicago Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) also ranked them 2nd in Illinois and 11th overall in IEEE Region 4, comprising 10 midwestern states.

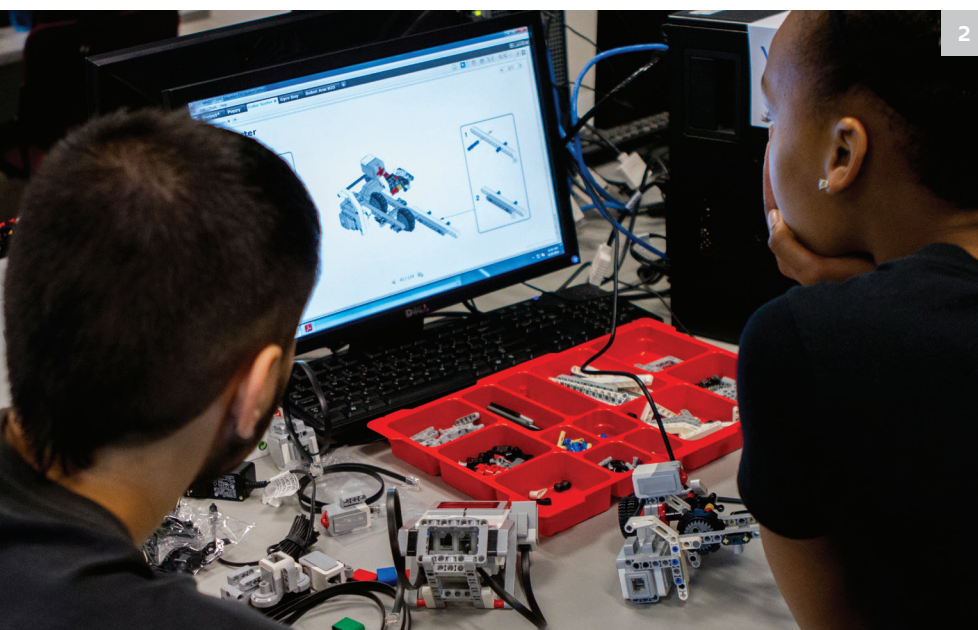
The competition is an annual global challenge where students at all levels compete in a 24-hour period to solve a set of

programming problems. The winning team was made up of undergraduate students Andrew Menke, Joe Bayer and Nicholas Farley, who were encouraged to participate by faculty mentor Dr. Victor Govindaswamy, associate professor of Computer Science at Concordia-Chicago.

Last summer's inaugural Youth Robotics Camp was enormously popular with the students ages 11-17 who attended, as well as with the Computer Science faculty and students who served as counselors and mentors—CUC students have continued to provide weekly mentoring in robotics and programming to middle-school students in the Oak Park-River Forest community.

“The camp provides a fun way for students to gain STEM skills and develop computer programming, problem solving, critical thinking, design and research skills,” says Dr. Govindaswamy. The camp will be held again in the summer of 2016.

Beginning in fall 2016, the University will offer a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, in addition to the existing Bachelor of Arts. Both degree programs align with requirements for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. “We plan to expand our programs even more—developing a master's degree program, building more community connections for internships and job placement, and providing more opportunities for students to build practical skills that will set them apart,” says Dr. Rachel Eells, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



1. Undergrad computer science students Andrew Menke, Joe Bayer and Nicholas Farley were presented with \$300 scholarship checks for their first place finish in the IEEEExtreme 24-Hour Programming Competition. Also pictured are CUC faculty member/team advisor Dr. Victor Govindaswamy (second from left) and Dr. Charudatta Phatak (CD), IEEE Chicago student activity chair.

2. CUC Computer Science students served as mentors at last summer's Youth Robotics Camp while Oak Park and River Forest youth learned to build, program and debug robots.



Make a Difference

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Christian Early Childhood Education, Gerontology and Literacy.**

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GERONTOLOGY INITIATIVE TAKES SHAPE

BY: **JIM MILLER**
Foundation President and CEO

A year ago at this time, we introduced you to the CUC Foundation's Vision Task Force and shared the concept of the Differentiating Initiatives, which include the areas of Christian Early Childhood Education, Literacy, and Gerontology. In one short year, these concepts have been developed into programs that continue to distinguish Concordia University Chicago as a global leader.

The area we are highlighting in this issue is gerontology. In the past year, the College of Graduate and Innovative Programs and the Foundation have received funding for gerontology research from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Chicago Community Trust and the Russell & Josephine Kott Memorial Charitable Trust. Dr. Lydia Manning, Associate Professor of Gerontology, reported in 2015 the University enrolled 13 doctoral students, 19 master's students and 100 students working on their associate degree/certificate in Gerontology. These students are well aware of the needs the world's population is facing as society ages. Their studies at CUC will place them on the forefront to serve in and lead this growing workforce.

Thanks to the generosity of the Kott Memorial Trust, Concordia-Chicago has initiated the University's programmatic Center for Gerontology and hired its first Director, Dr. John Holton, an educator and public servant trained in understanding the life course of human development. Dr. Holton most recently served as Director of the Illinois Department on Aging. CUC's Center for Gerontology encompasses research efforts that include generating,

organizing and disseminating high-quality multidisciplinary aging-related practice and knowledge. It strives to make a difference in the lives of older adults and their families through faith-based education and research, which will have far-reaching effects on the communities it serves.

Several new programs began this year: Aging Well Initiatives for 55+, Memory Loss Initiatives, Christian Home Health Care and Gerontology Consultancy. Staff also began partnership talks with numerous community organizations. In the near future, the Center is looking to apply education, practice and research on aging to design a Spirituality and Aging Center, launch the first-of-its-kind Mental Health and Counseling Center for older adults and their families, have a Gerontological Life Coaching Center and provide intergenerational care.

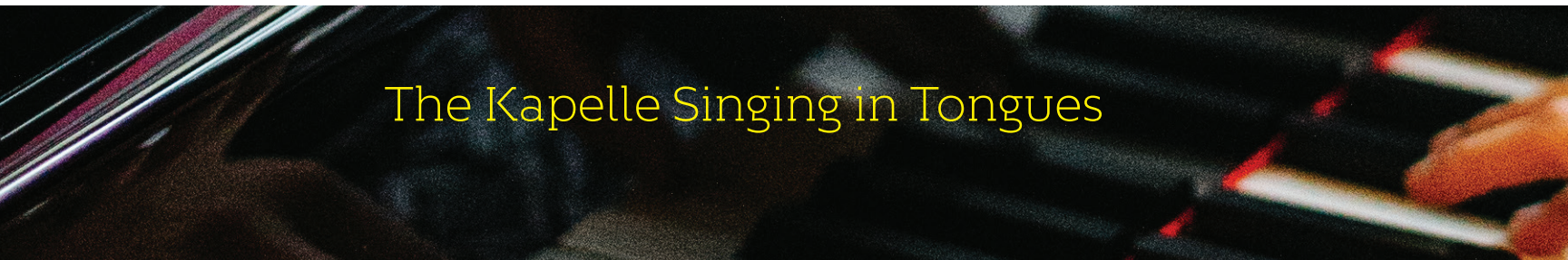
If you would like to enroll in the many new educational programs Concordia-Chicago has to offer in the area of Gerontology, please visit gradschool.cuchicago.edu/the-centers/center-for-gerontology for class information. For information on partnerships and sponsorships to support these dynamic programs, contact Dr. John Holton at John.Holton@CUChicago.edu or Sandra Nelson, Vice-President, Major and Planned Giving in our Foundation Offices at Sandra.Nelson@CUChicago.edu. If you would like to support the Differentiating Initiatives (Christian Early Childhood Education, Literacy, and Gerontology) please visit CUChicago.edu/support, or call 888-733-6386.

Donald BA '65 and Olga (Reiser) Schulteis BA '60 return to the Pillars for Golden Celebration 2015.





Pentecost in Poland



The Kapelle Singing in Tongues



1



2



3



4



BY: **DR. CHARLES BROWN**
Associate Professor of Music and Kapelle Director
PHOTOS BY: **AARON BEAN '16**, Student

The Kapelle has toured many parts of the globe for nearly half a century. In addition to the world tour in 1969, Concordia University Chicago's premier choir has travelled internationally every four years since 2003.

Our mission is the same regardless of the location: to proclaim the message of the Gospel of Christ to our audiences by singing beautiful choral music. Domestic audiences know this very well, even when we sing pieces in different languages. When we perform concerts in distant lands, however, the understanding of our mission gets tested, since language is typically a barrier.

Poland was not initially considered when planning for the Kapelle 2015 international tour. We had deliberated travelling to Germany, where we would have visited the major Martin Luther-related sites in anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Yet a unique opportunity and a charming story set us on our course to Poland—starting with an invitation from royalty.

Richard Dietrich of Von Promnitz USA Tours invited the Kapelle to a concert tour that would trace the historical towns of the Von Promnitz family. This noble family line dates back to the 13th century and includes territories that stretch across the Silesian region through Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany. The decision to take this trip, beyond the history and culture, was primarily sold by the story of our hosts.

Our hosts' story begins with a genealogy search. Richard and Brenda Dietrich are Americans who have been involved in church work in Phoenix, AZ and missionary work in Jamaica. Brenda had heard through family stories that she might have a blood-line



connection to the Von Promnitz name, but there was an understanding in Poland that the Von Promnitz line had died out. Upon completing their search more than five years ago, they discovered that Brenda was indeed a direct descendent, and the Polish government granted both Richard and Brenda the titles of Count and Countess soon after the discovery. They also learned that there were a variety of properties in the Von Promnitz name throughout the Silesian region, to which they could lay claim.

In response to this surprising development, Richard and Brenda used their new diplomatic status to create cultural exchanges between the United States and Poland by hosting American music groups from private Christian schools to perform concerts in towns with Von Promnitz associations.

The Polish towns where the Kapelle primarily focused on performing were Pszczyna, Gniezno and Żary. In addition to visiting these quaint towns, we were able to visit major cities like Warsaw and Kraków, visit several historic sites, and absorb the lessons that came from the atrocities at Auschwitz.

Connecting with audiences through the power of music is a gift from God and it bridges gaps between cultures. While music can be entertaining, one of my goals in programming concerts is

to allow the audiences to feel genuine emotions related to the music. Foreign audiences enjoy hearing American ensembles perform American music, such as spirituals, folk songs, jazz and Broadway tunes. In addition to American music, however, I wanted to make the musical connection to Poland and to the Von Promnitz family. That was accomplished partially through the music of the composer Georg Philipp Telemann, a friend and musical contemporary of Johann Sebastian Bach. Count Erdmann II of Promnitz employed Telemann as court composer in Żary (formerly Sorau, Germany) during the first decade of the 18th century. We particularly enjoyed performing Telemann's German motet, "Es segne uns Gott," which is taken from Psalm 67: "God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him."

To further that connection with Polish audiences, I wanted the Kapelle to sing music in Polish, but the majority of sacred music from Poland is in Latin. I was able to locate some Polish Taizé songs, which provided audiences an opportunity to sing with us. The titles are "Bóg Jest Miłością" (God is Forgiveness) and "Wysławiajcie Pana," which is a Polish translation of the "Te Deum." The music was accessible, and we eventually became more comfortable through some superb Polish diction coaching by Kapelle alumna, Anita Stefanek BA '11. Thankfully, these

pieces were well received, and we were even given compliments on our Polish pronunciation.

We had an inspiring experience in Pszczyna during worship at the local Evangelical Lutheran Church on Pentecost. The congregation walked into church with their personal hymnals from home. They sang the morning liturgy and hymns with fervor. While we didn't understand the spoken words throughout the service, we still felt welcome. We also had the opportunity to perform for the congregation during worship. We later learned that the pastor referenced the Kapelle's singing of the Polish Taizé songs, and related it back to the first Pentecost: hearing the Gospel of Christ in one's native tongue. The piece in our post-service program was Walter Pelz's "Peace I Leave with You." This text from John 14:27 turned out to have been the central focus to the Gospel lesson and the pastor's sermon. Only the Holy Spirit can move so powerfully!

One of my greatest joys at Concordia-Chicago is to join with the Kapelle as one voice in praise to God. Watching the students interact with other cultures in a Christ-like manner is truly an honor to witness as they engage the world. This joy will continue as the Lord allows. Japan? Sweden? British Isles? Stay tuned for 2019.

“

Connecting with audiences through the power of music is a gift from God, and it bridges gaps between cultures.

-Dr. Charles Brown

1. The Kapelle performs in the Hall of Mirrors in the Von Promnitz mansion in Pszczyna.

2. Conductor Charles Brown has toured with the Kapelle to Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Chile and Argentina, as well as throughout the United States.

3. The majority of Poland's sacred music is in Latin, but the Kapelle performed some Taizé songs in Polish, allowing the audience to sing along.

4. Foreign audiences enjoy hearing unique American music including spirituals, folk songs and jazz.

Celebrating 65 Years of CIT Competition

No matter how great or small one's passion is for basketball, the Concordia Invitational Tournament is an event that unites the campus and brings together Concordia University System schools in Christian fellowship and camaraderie, along with friendly but intense competition. On January 29-30, CUC introduced a new generation of students to the nation's second-longest-running collegiate basketball tournament.

The visiting teams from Nebraska, Wisconsin and Ann Arbor arrived on Thursday night and woke to a special CIT breakfast. The dining hall was dressed to emulate the ESPN Gameday set, complete with live interviews with coaches and administrators. Entertainment included a school mascot dance contest. Teams packed a special chapel service led by Rev. Brian Davies BA '02, who provided an inspirational message based on I John 4.

On Friday afternoon, the tournament tipped off with four exciting games. The Cougar men and women gave great effort before a crowd of nearly 2,000 fans but, unfortunately, missed achieving their ultimate goals as the Nebraska and Wisconsin teams swept the day and set the pairings for the second day of competition.

Friday also provided numerous opportunities for CUC to honor its alumni—former CIT coaches, players and cheerleaders were honored during halftimes. Other honored guests, special contributors to CUC athletics and/or CIT itself, were recognized as part of pre-game ceremonies during which they delivered the game ball to the officials. They included Judy Kretschmar, Henry Knueppel, Marche Smith BSBA '11, MBA '12, Jim Paduch BA '06, Greg Michael BA '99 and Bob Rogalski BA '65.

CUC's Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony added excitement to the weekend. Five former athletes were inducted, bringing the total number of honorees to 91 since 2002. Honorees included Greg Michael BA '99, Jim Paduch BA '06, Bob Rogalski BA '65, Marche Smith BSBA '11, MBA '12, and Richard Wegehaupt BA '65.

During Saturday's pregames, Chick Lillis '77, Mike Graf '81, Dr. Lois Klatt and Tom Faszholz were honored for their contributions to CUC and CIT. The Saturday afternoon matchups were hotly contested as the Cougars put forth valiant efforts despite falling to Ann Arbor. The evening championship games both went to Concordia Nebraska, although the men's final

Concordia-Chicago 2015-16 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Greg Michael
BA '99
Tennis



James Paduch
BA '06
Baseball



Bob Rogalski
BA '65
Football



Marche Smith
BSBA '11, MBA '12
Basketball



Richard Wegehaupt
BA '65
Basketball

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was not decided until a final three-point shot by Wisconsin rimmed in and out, allowing the Bulldog men to escape by a score of 86-85.

While many headed back home on Sunday morning, there was one special event remaining for the CUC crowd. A group of over 100 people gathered to honor former Coach Tom Faszholz on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The crowd included many of his former basketball and tennis players as well as former colleagues, coaches and administrators. The event brought a wonderful close to an exciting and warm weekend on Concordia-Chicago's campus.



Staying in the GAME

BY: **ANNA SEIFERT**, Communications Associate

Concordia-Chicago alumni have built upon their experiences at the University and are using their vocational talents in professional and semi-professional athletics organizations. Whether the workday involves facing thousands of cheering fans and A-list athletes, or more closely resembles another day at the office, these individuals work hard each day to make a difference in their own unique ways.

Addressing the Crowd



Andrew Belleson BA '09

Public Address Announcer - Chicago Cubs

A few hours before the first pitch of every Chicago Cubs home game, Andrew Belleson BA '09 goes over the roster of the opposing team, familiarizing himself with each player's name—not just because he's a die-hard fan—but because he's the public address announcer at Wrigley Field. At every home game, around 40,000 fans hear Belleson announce lineups, introduce the national anthem, provide updates throughout the innings and give a final line score at the end of the game.

How Belleson came to be the man behind the mic is not your typical corporate-ladder story. "The Cubs opened it up to a public hiring process, which is relatively uncommon for that type of position," Belleson says. In response, he submitted a recording of himself reading a script. From nearly 3,000 applicants, Belleson made the cut to the final audition round, which entailed reading a script live at Wrigley Field for several representatives from the Cubs front office. When he was offered the job a few days later, Belleson experienced a bit of disbelief—"Keep in mind, this was all two to three weeks before opening day," he says.

As an undergraduate at CUC, Belleson was a business major with a concentration in management, but he and fellow student Sam Krue BA '10 developed the sports division of WCGR campus radio, where they broadcast men's and women's basketball games as well as football games. "It was a tremendous opportunity for us not only because we enjoyed it, but because the experience played a huge role in my broadcast career moving forward," Belleson says.

Growing up as a Cubs fan and a baseball player, Belleson always wanted to get into sports announcing, and remains grateful to be working at his dream job. "Getting hired by the Cubs was one of the most incredible and special things I have been fortunate enough to experience," he says. "Being able to call Wrigley Field my 'office' still hasn't completely sunk in, and it's been five years."

Being the announcer while the Cubs were in the playoffs last fall made the whole experience even more exciting for Belleson, who remains optimistic about the team: "I am really looking forward to next season, because the future is very bright!"



Natasha Larry BA '09 MBA '13
Account Executive - Minnesota Timberwolves



Bringing Enjoyment to the Fans

Natasha Larry BA '09, MBA '13 had long been interested in working in sports, but didn't know exactly what avenue she wanted to take. After earning her bachelor's in psychology at CUC, she went on to obtain a master's in sports psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Deciding against pursuing a career as a sports psychologist, Larry returned to CUC to earn an MBA with a concentration in sports management.

After an internship and a job with the Chicago Sky WNBA team, Larry moved into her current position as an account executive for group sales with the Minnesota Timberwolves and its affiliated WNBA team, the Minnesota Lynx. As a group sales representative, Larry helps create fan experience packages and accommodates events for large groups.

While an undergraduate at CUC, Larry played on the women's basketball team. "Being a four-year letter-winner at Concordia-Chicago motivated me to want to stay in sports," she says. Playing for the Cougars, she got to understand the day-to-day grind of the life of an athlete, as well as how to work as a team and how to take leadership. When she returned to pursue her MBA, she grew her knowledge of practical business skills and learned how to be successful while doing something she loves. "Everything I learned in that program has been very beneficial to me," she says.

The Lynx won the WNBA championship last October, which Larry was thrilled to be a part of. "That's definitely a highlight of my career right now!" she says.

Enhancing the Experience



Drew Davidson BA '12

Broadcast Producer - Chicago Bears

All through college, Drew Davidson BA '12 hadn't considered a career in sports, but he knew he wanted to work in video production. After an internship at ESPN, he realized that out of all his internships, he enjoyed working with professional sports teams the most. "My life growing up seemed to revolve around sports, and once I realized I could do video production for a team, it really seemed like a job that was right up my alley," he says. "I guess it hit me like a ton of bricks at the time."

Today, Davidson is a broadcast producer for the Chicago Bears. His primary role is as a camera operator and

video editor for the organization, where he works on pregame, postgame and specialty TV shows. On a show called "Meet the Rookies" last year, he produced a segment that told the inspirational story of Bears' player Hroniss Grasu, whose parents fled the communist regime in Romania in the 1980s and started a new life in America.

Davidson also prepares and creates graphics, videos and animations for the video boards in Soldier Field. A recent challenging project involved setting up an in-stadium LED panel that displays real-time fantasy football statistics from across the league—it can now be seen during every Bears' home game.

Davidson honed his video production skills during the Lutheran College Washington Semester his junior year. "That program made me realize that there were still ways I could continue to learn the trade while working toward obtaining my bachelor's at Concordia-Chicago," he says. "I would say it was the defining experience of my college career."

The director of community relations and media for the Chicago Bandits, Chicago's National Pro Fastpitch softball team, is Jacquie Boatman BA '10. Like Davidson, she hadn't originally planned to pursue a career in professional sports. "I didn't really have a lot of experience in sports marketing when I was hired as an intern, but after graduation I thought it would be something really neat that I could apply my degree toward," she says.

Boatman graduated with a major in marketing and a minor in communications, which gave her knowledge that she uses at her job every day, where she manages the

Bandits' social media accounts and keeps the website updated. As the liaison to the community, she handles donation requests and is in charge of signing up schools for "Hit the Books," the team's reading program. "I love going to events and meeting fans," she says. "I enjoy finding different things within our community for the team to get involved in."

When she began her job search after graduation, Boatman was no stranger to athletics—she played on the Cougar women's volleyball team. "When you're a student-athlete, you have to balance a lot of different things—it's a skill I now apply in my job each day," she says. "The Chicago

Bandits are a small organization, so even though I'm in charge of community relations, I've done ticket sales, and as an intern I had duties as clubhouse manager. I've learned a lot of different aspects of the sports industry."

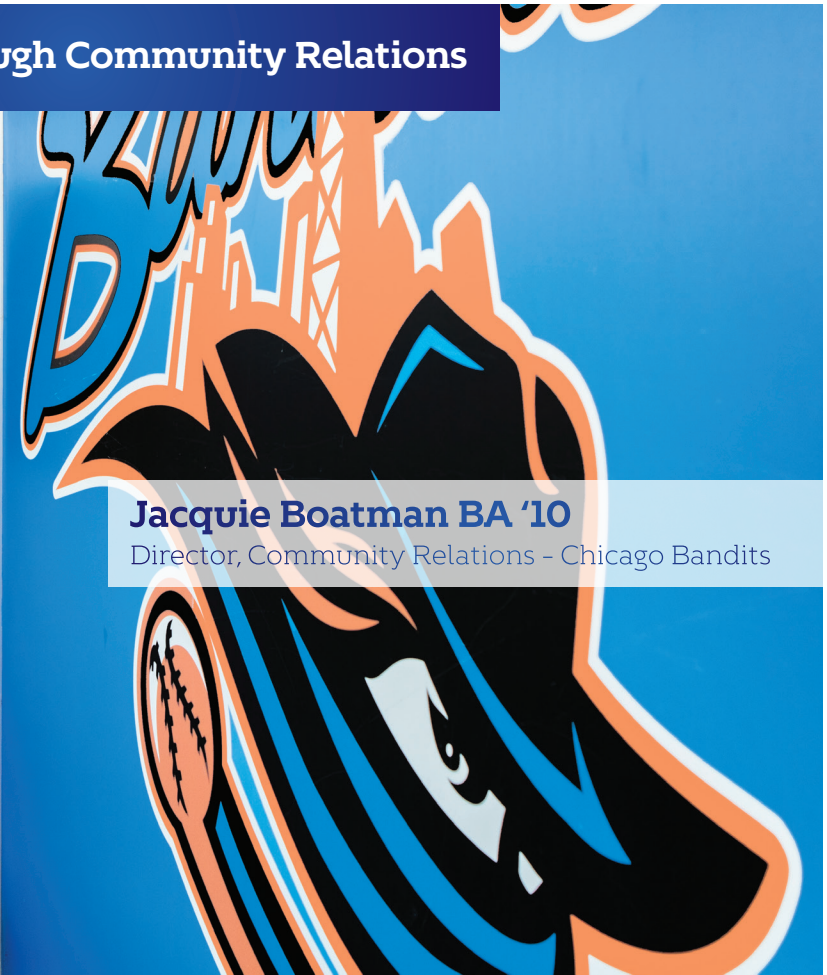
Last summer, the Bandits won the Cowles Cup, the championship of the National Pro Fastpitch league. For Boatman, "it was crazy trying to keep up with all the games and make sure we were getting all the information out," she says. "After winning, the team was honored by the Chicago Sky and the Chicago White Sox—some of the girls got to throw out the first pitch before a Sox game. It was really exciting and a lot of fun to be a part of."

Connecting Through Community Relations



Jacquie Boatman BA '10

Director, Community Relations - Chicago Bandits





Paige Craig, Director of Alumni Relations, with CTClass of 1965 Connecting Team including left to right Roger Walker, Mary (Bobb) Gude, Penny (Richter) Klein, Donna (Steinmann) Delihant, Karen Dahmer, and Gene Wachholz. Not pictured Bob Rogalski.

Alumni Volunteers Make Reunions and Programs Possible

BY: **PAIGE CRAIG BA '99, MBA '14**
Director of Alumni Relations

The Office of Alumni Relations is honored to welcome new students, also known as “alumni-in-residence,” during orientation each semester.

It is the first opportunity to highlight how communication, collaboration and celebration help connect them to the CUC community.

Concordia-Chicago’s alumni program is your alumni program. It would not be possible without you. This statement is true for all alumni, whether you are still a student or are marking five, 25 or 50 years since graduation. You can make a difference in our alumni program.

Diverse interests and experiences of alumni are best represented when classmates partner with the Office of Alumni Relations to organize reunion celebrations. These “Connecting

Teams,” or groups of alumni who invite classmates to help with planning, are vital to the success of any reunion.

Paula (Rietschel) BA '66 and Jim Krikau BA '66 will mark their 50th anniversary of graduation at Golden Celebration in August 2016 and are co-chairs for the CTClass of 1966 Connecting Team. “My most favorite experience so far is witnessing the zeal of those we asked to serve,” said Jim. “In a matter of days, 20 classmates literally jumped at the chance to help plan the reunion.”

Both Jim and Paula have enjoyed their classmates’ enthusiasm for reuniting to celebrate. “I think most are ready to celebrate tomorrow! The excitement and involvement, plus their great ideas, are reflective of this class which first came together in fall 1962,” says Paula. “Also, many of the interns (who graduated a different year) are pleased to be offered the option to join the 1966 class roster.”

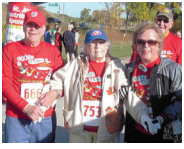
It is not a new phenomenon for CUC students—whether as a supply teacher, intern or other unique experience—to begin their studies with one class and finish with another. To ensure they remain connected with friends and classmates, alumni are able to designate a “preferred class year” with the Office of Alumni Relations.

Concordia University Chicago has also recently focused class reunions on distinguished years and distinct alumni groups rather than the traditional “every five years” model. These specialized gatherings allow alumni to celebrate with friends across graduation years and acknowledge the impact of extracurricular activities on their collegiate experience.

Jim Krikau encourages alumni to consider the opportunity when asked to serve. “Given the educational, spiritual growth and development we experienced at Concordia-Chicago, (getting involved) is only a small task to reconnect with former classmates and celebrate with them as we honor this institution.”

What to make a difference? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations toll free at 888-258-6773 or alumni@CUChicago.edu to learn how you can get involved.

Irma Koehneke, wife of former Concordia President Martin Koehneke (1954-1972), conquered her first 5K race at the age of 89 in Neenah, WI in October 2015 with assistance from her daughter **Jan (Koehneke) Bathke '71** (pictured right), son-in-law and a family friend.



The LCMS's Northern Illinois District honored teaching excellence recognizing **Paul Piel BA '77, MA '83** (far left) as 2015 Junior High Teacher of the Year, and **Susan Wyeth CQ '83** as 2015 Early Childhood Teacher of the Year.



River Forest alumni teaching at Concordia-Nebraska gathered during their Homecoming 2015. Alumni present included **Gil Daenzer BA '52, Doris (Gugel) BA '52** and **Larry Grothaus BA '54, Fred BA '50** and **Norma (Wukasch) Luebke BA '50, Esther (Rehwaldt) BA '61** and **Jerry Pfabe BA '60, John Hink BA '04** and **Jack Kinworthy BA '63**.

Mark BA '02, Denny BA '73 and **David Witte BA '06** (left to right) summited Capitol Peak in July 2015, completing their goal to top all 54 of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks. Mark is Sr. Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Monroe, MI; Denny is Vice President for Administration at Concordia-Chicago, and David is Asst. Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Little Rock, AR and a Military Chaplain in the Arkansas Army National Guard.



1960s



Former Krauss Hall roommates from the 1960s reunited in September 2015 including (left to right) **Brian Young, Jim Dewar, Tom Phillips, Ken Gerbers, Wally Krone, Ken Schilf, Stu Kern, Larry Hoffschneider, John Wellen, Jim Krikau** and **Al Merrifield**. Not pictured: **Dave Seifferlein** and **Gene Friedrichs**.



Friends from the Class of 1964 gathered in September 2015 in Arlington Heights, IL. The classmates donned hats and enjoyed an authentic English high tea. Pictured left to right include (back) **Judi (Schroeder) Capouch, Eunice (Timm) Miller** and **Audrey (Buntrock) Paepke** (front) **Susie (Pergande) Meyer, Janet (Socha) Kasper, Marilyn (Stein) Weiser, Alice (Kratt) Smith** and **Grace (Petzoldt) Schmit**.

Jim Kracht BA '67 retired in December 2015 after 40 years as a faculty member in education and geography at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. During his last four years, Jim served as Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Studies and established a university-wide academic success center. Jim and his wife, Erin, plan to remain active in volunteer activities in the community.



Friends from the Class of 1966 reunited on campus in August 2015 including (left to right) front row **Sharron (Salat) Schademann, Gayle (Dieck) Friebus, Sandy (Jensen) Wetzstein**, back row **Stella (Olson) Rainey, Diane (Rode) Gorman, Paula (Rietschel) Krikau, Judy (Severance) Grotelueschen** and **Pat (Polzin) Schumacher**.

Ken Schilf BA '66, MA '69 was conferred Emeritus status by Lutheran Ministries Media, producers of "Worship for Shut-Ins," having served as Executive Director from 1985-2014. The east wing of the LMM Media Center was also named in his honor. He and his wife, **Sally (Strussenberg) BA '67**, live in New Haven, IN.



1970s

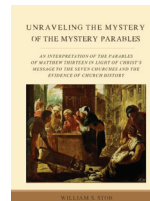
Hollis Thoms BA '71 presented a recital of his chamber music at St. John's College, Annapolis, MD in May 2015. His opera "Conversations" premiered in October 2014, and in February 2016 Hollis will premiere an opera based on Shakespeare's sonnets.



Larry Luikart BA '76, MA '77 released his first book, *Throw Salt on the Water: A Test of Friendship and Faith*, a work of Civil War fiction available on Amazon. Larry lives in Westcliffe, CO with his wife, **Monika (Rhode) BA '76**.



William S. Stob MA '77 recently had a second Bible commentary released as a Kindle eBook titled *Unraveling the Mystery of the Mystery Parables: An Interpretation of the Parables of Matthew Thirteen in Light of Christ's Message to the Seven Churches and the Evidence of Church History*.



1990s

Paul Miles BA '90 began his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Wheat Ridge Ministries in October 2015. He succeeded **Rick Herman BA '74**, president since 2006, who retired in November.



Erik Ankerberg BA '92 became provost and chief academic officer at Concordia University Texas in 2015, overseeing the curriculum, people and programs in all academic units.



Scott Schumacher BA '93 was honored in October 2015 as a National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Scott is principal of St. Peter's Lutheran School in Columbus, IN.



Cindy (Lockett) Isaac BA '95 is Assistant Professor at Resurrection University, Concordia-Chicago's partner in its joint nursing program. After 15 years in Southern California, she lives with her family in River Forest, IL.

Jennifer (Dennis) Dembowski BA '97 earned a MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at MidAmerica Nazarene University in 2015. She works as a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice in Leavenworth, KS where she resides with her husband LTC Richard Dembowski and their children Katey (15), Jeremy (13) and Ryan (9).

Amy (Monk) BA '00, MA '04 and **Thurman Hendrix BA '99, MA '03** welcomed baby Ally June on November 30, 2015. She joins big sister Ashlyn at the family home in Carol Stream, IL. Thurman continues as a performance enhancement coach for athletes, while Amy is a Reading Specialist in Glendale Heights, IL.



2000s

Abigail (Lessner) BA '00 married James Girkant on June 7, 2013 and welcomed their first child, Evelynn Jean, on September 8, 2015. Abbie teaches Junior High Language Arts at Trinity Lutheran School in Lansing, IL.



Cassie (Sater) BA '09 married **Steve Shinsako BA '02** on September 13, 2015. Cassie serves in Concordia-Chicago's Office of the Registrar, and Steve works at Pugi Hyundai in Downers Grove, IL. The couple resides in Oak Park, IL.



Bridget (Johnson) BA '04 married Curtis Frisk on July 25, 2015 in Pleasant Valley, IA. Bridget serves as a Career Navigator in the GED Program with Eastern Iowa Community Colleges. The couple resides in Davenport, IA.



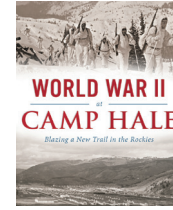
Jayme (Hardy) BA '05 and **Tim Wier BA '05** welcomed Brandon Lee on April 4, 2015. Tim serves Concordia-Chicago as a Network Operations Administrator. Jayme stays home with Kari (6), Anna (3) and Brandon. The family lives in Bensenville, IL.



John Festa BA '06 received a Juris Doctorate from Northern Illinois University College of Law in May 2015 and awaits results from the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar. John plans to practice in the area of labor and employment law.



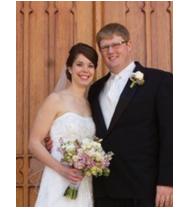
David Witte BA '06 released *World War II at Camp Hale: Blazing a New Trail in the Rockies* with Arcadia Publishing. He lives with his wife **Megan (Abbott) BA '06** and their three children in Little Rock, AR.



Kristen (Manck) Winsemann BA '08 and her husband welcomed Hudson David on September 11, 2015. Big sister Calla (3) loves her little brother. Kristen teaches middle school at Emmaus Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, IN.



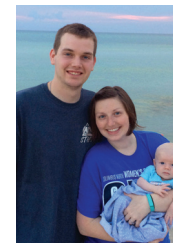
Jessica (Becker) BA '09 married Philip LaBrash on March 7, 2015. **Amy Becker BA '12** was maid of honor, and **Peter Becker BA '15** was crucifer. Parents of the bride are **Carla (Oswald) BA '84** and **Greg Becker BA '82**. The couple resides in Fort Wayne, IN where Jessica teaches middle school science at Emmaus Lutheran School.



2010s

Geordie Denholm BA '15, Anthony Huspen BA '15, Jessica (Baker) Sophiea BA '11, Ron Roman BA '12, Jake Roush BA '13, Micah Streubel BA '15, and Kristin Schoenback BA '15 joined together with other artists to form Cat's Cradle Theater Company. Their first production debuts in March 2016 at Collaboraction Theatre in Chicago, IL. The show includes work by students **Aaron Bean BA '16, Kara Grimm BA '16, and Ryan Kenney BA '17**.

Jenny (Look) BA '12 and **Andrew Montgomery BA '12** were married on September 21, 2013 and welcomed their first child, Graham Michael, on July 23, 2015. Andrew teaches fifth grade at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Columbus, IN.



Kelly (Dixon) BA '14 and **Peter Schimm BME '14** were married July 18, 2015. Kelly is substitute teaching at Valley Lutheran High School in Phoenix, AZ. Peter is the Director of Instrumental Activities at Valley as well as three other Lutheran elementary schools in the Phoenix area.

Christopher J. Baikauskas MA '15 has joined the Prairie State College Board of Trustees. A former Prairie State student, Baikauskas is REACH director for Washington-McKinley School in Chicago Heights, IL.

Erika (Bredehoft) BA '14 married Richie Palys on August 8, 2015. Erika teaches 6th grade science at Haven Middle School in Evanston, IL. The couple resides in Des Plaines. Parents of the bride are the late **Linda (Tamm) BA '82** and David Bredehoft.



Rebecca (Aumann) BA '12 and **Jacob Schumacher BA '13** welcomed Conrad Jacob on November 8, 2015. CJ is named in honor of his great-grandpa, Concordia's former Athletic Director Connie Aumann. Proud grandparents include Dottie (Rust) and **Jim Aumann BA '82**. The family resides in Carson City, NV where Jacob teaches and coaches at Sierra Lutheran High School.

About Class Notes

The University welcomes news of milestones in the lives of our alumni. To ensure accuracy, information should be provided by the featured individual, rather than another party. Photos are welcome, whether prints or electronic files (high resolution jpgs only, please). We are unable to return photos. Submission of a Class Note or image does not guarantee publication. The University reserves the right to edit submissions for style, length and content.

Condolences

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Faculty

Prof. Robert L. Busse, Professor Emeriti of Music – January 2, 2016

Alumni

Charlene E. Agne-Traub BA '67 – May 24, 2015
Sally A. (Steinke) Betzner BA '65 – December 30, 2014
Mary L. (Heitzman) Biggs BA '57 – March 31, 2015
Paulette A. (Holzen) Bishop BA '64 – June 13, 2015
Ralph H. Boardman BA '49, MA '66 – October 30, 2015
Gregg A. Braun BA '73, MA '84 – August 30, 2015
Jean Ann Bright BA '84 – October 21, 2014
Robert W. Busch BA '53 – August 7, 2015
Don L. Chaplin BA '66 – June 5, 2014
Elaine (Raymond) Crutchfield BA '65 – September 27, 2002
Ethel Detz MA '83 – December 29, 2015
Jack D. Downs BA '61 – October 20, 2015
Donna M. (Nordbrock) Engel BA '79 – November 14, 2015
Stephen R. Everette BA '91 – January 3, 2016
Frank H. Gabler BA '65 – September 1, 2014
David P. Gohn BA '67 – October 18, 2015
Dorothy V. (Chorba) Haberstock BA '54 – October 19, 2015
Jamie S. (Polen) Harvan BA '00 – October 3, 2015
Barbara J. Henn BA '58 – December 22, 2015
Tom A. Jenks BA '82 – August 5, 2014
Jason A. Jensen BA '02 – September 14, 2015
Ruth L. Kirstein BA '73 – April 3, 2015
Carole J. (Maier) Kohrs BA '58 – January 8, 2016
Ralph L. Kohrs BA '58 – December 24, 2015
Gerald L. Lange BA '62 – August 1, 2015
Lynn (Krug) Luetgert BA '67 – August 10, 2015
Kristine (Andersen) Marconi MA '04 – May 23, 2015
Marie A. (Bilyea) Mahnke BA '72 – December 23, 2015
Lowell A. Meyer BA '61 – February 11, 2015
Henry M. Pickelmann BA '70 – August 30, 2015
Paul A. Pohland BA '52 – September 14, 2015
Fay R. Richert BA '54 – December 21, 2015
D. Elaine Sipe BA '64 – May 29, 2015
Allen R. Stoll BA '66 – June 4, 2015
Robert O. Strieter HS '44 – June 28, 2015
Norman A. Tiedje BA '62 – October 17, 2015
Robert H. Trusheim BA '51 – July 22, 2015
Lois M. Warnke BA '65 – November 28, 2014
Richard "Dick" Wegehaupt BA '65 – September 25, 2015
Carl P. Witt BA '49 – February 12, 2015
Erhard W. Wolf BA '55 – June 30, 2015

Financially, the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 was a year of mixed blessings for Concordia University Chicago. On a positive note, the University's operations resulted in a \$537 thousand operating surplus—its tenth consecutive operating surplus. This surplus was achieved on the strength of \$50.9 million of tuition and fees, an increase over the prior year's amount of \$50.2 million.

Concordia-Chicago's endowment investments reflected a negative return of \$0.7 million – (3.52%) as compared to the prior year return of \$3.3 million – 17.41%. Concordia-Chicago consistently employs a fully diversified asset allocation approach to the investment of its endowment funds. Consequently, unrestricted net assets decreased by \$0.4 million, and total net assets only increased by \$0.4 million as compared to the prior year increase of \$2.2 million and \$5.1 million respectively. Despite the continued decline of the investment markets in early fiscal 2016, management views the investment declines as temporary and expects to see ongoing growth of its endowment funds.

Enrollment remained relatively static, reaching 5,013 students in the fall of 2015, as compared to 5,038 the year prior. Although down from the fall 2012 high of 5,454, it is the seventh consecutive year with enrollment in excess of 5,000. Looking forward, Concordia-Chicago seeks to continue the enrollment growth experienced during the previous ten years.

Gifts and grants during the year ended June 30, 2015 totaled \$51.3 million, as compared to the prior year total of \$5.3 million. However, revenues received from the Illinois Independent Colleges Capital Program, a one-time program completed during fiscal 2015 which funded certain capital improvements, declined by \$1.0 million over the prior year. Net of these grant revenues, gifts and grants increased by \$0.8 million.

Net assets increased by \$0.4 million from \$33.2 million to \$33.6 million. Long-term debt decreased from \$40.6 million to \$36.4 million. Both numbers represent signs of growth despite the negative impact of the investment markets. But continued financial improvement depends upon growth in contributions and enrollment. Concordia-Chicago continues to expand its strategic planning so as to incorporate new fundraising strategies, expanded graduate and undergraduate (domestic and international) offerings, and necessary expense management—all necessary to meet the demands of the future.

CUC Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Overview

Summary Financial Information for Years Ended June 30, 2016, 2015 and 2014

	2016	2015	2014
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Budgeted Activities (000s)			
Operating Revenues:			
Tuition and Fees	\$71,896	\$67,554	\$66,697
Less Scholarships and Fellowships	(17,130)	(16,683)	(16,528)
Net	54,766	50,871	50,169
Auxiliary Services	6,127	5,472	5,427
Operating Gifts and Grants	992	951	755
Other	1,223	1,659	817
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>3,100</u>	<u>2,535</u>	<u>2,490</u>
Total Operating Revenues	66,208	61,488	59,658
Operating Expenses	<u>65,188</u>	<u>60,952</u>	<u>59,621</u>
Operating Surplus	<u>\$ 1,020</u>	<u>\$ 536</u>	<u>\$ 37</u>
Summary Balance Sheet (000s)			
Total Assets		<u>\$80,959</u>	<u>\$84,972</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>\$47,361</u>	<u>\$51,763</u>
Net Assets		<u>33,598</u>	<u>33,209</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		<u>\$80,959</u>	<u>\$84,972</u>
Net Assets Breakdown:			
Unrestricted		\$966	\$1,317
Temporarily Restricted		20,645	20,091
Permanently Restricted		<u>11,987</u>	<u>11,801</u>
Total		<u>\$33,598</u>	<u>\$33,209</u>
Supplementary Financial Data (000s)			
Total Gifts, Grants and Contracts		<u>\$ 5,055</u>	<u>\$ 5,255</u>
Return on Endowment Investments:			
Endowment Payout		\$1,410	\$1,006
Reinvested with Endowment Principal		<u>(2,179)</u>	<u>2,248</u>
Total		<u>\$ (769)</u>	<u>\$ 3,254</u>
Endowment Net Assets		<u>\$21,254</u>	<u>\$22,147</u>
Loans and Bonds Payable		<u>\$36,408</u>	<u>\$40,605</u>

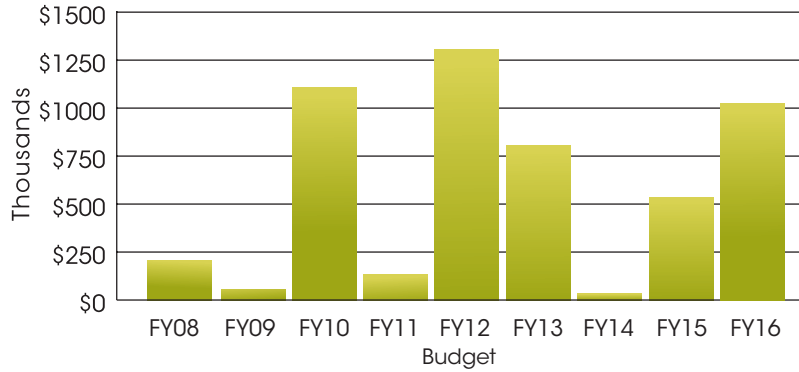
Enrollment Data

	Total Enrollment			Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment	
	Fall 2015-16	Fall 2014-15	Fall 2013-14	Fall 2015-16	Fall 2014-15
Undergraduate	1,509	1,538	1,604	1,446	1,475
Graduate	3,504	3,500	3,682	1,646	1,654
Total	<u>5,013</u>	<u>5,038</u>	<u>5,286</u>	<u>3,092</u>	<u>3,129</u>

Financial statements are available at CUChicago.edu or a hard copy will be sent upon request by writing Concordia University Chicago Finance Office, 7400 W. Augusta Street, River Forest, Illinois 60305.

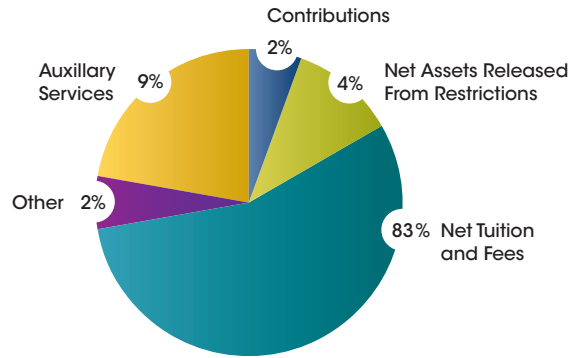
Operating Net Surplus

A budgeted FY16 operating surplus will represent the 11th consecutive operating surplus.



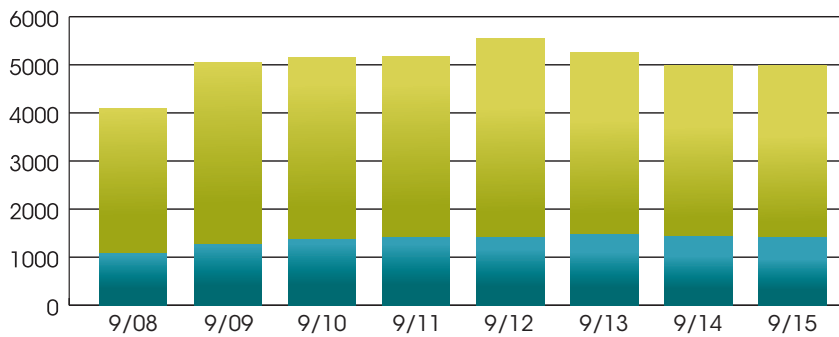
Operating Revenues

The FY15 operating budget was 92% reliant on tuition, fees and other student-related revenues.



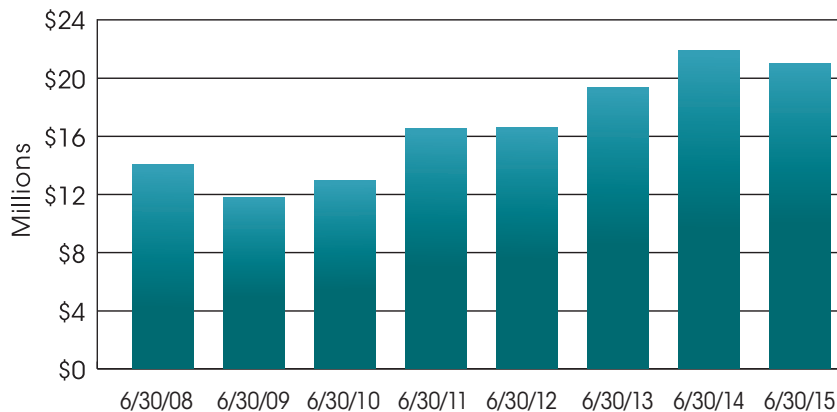
Total Enrollment

The fall 2015 enrollment of 5,013 students marks the seventh consecutive year in excess of 5,000 students.



Endowment Fund

Despite investment market declines, the 06/30/15 \$21.3 million is just short of the previous year's record high endowment.



Faculty/Staff News

Tim Basadur, assistant professor of business, and two colleagues published “Does information sharing always improve team decision making? An examination of the hidden profile condition in new product development” in the *Journal of Business Research*. Their results indicate that information use, rather than information sharing, is the ultimate gateway that leads decision-makers to optimal outcomes.

Benjamin Boche, assistant professor of education, presented “Filling in the Gaps: Practicing Middle School Teachers’ Multiliteracies Knowledge” in the Issues in Middle-Level Instruction and Planning session at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago, IL.



Dr. Christian Hauser, associate professor of music, presented “The Effect of Orff and Kodaly Approaches on Composition” at the Desert Skies Symposium in Music Education at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ.

Dr. Kathryn Hollywood, professor and chair of leadership and professional studies, and **Dr. Donna Blaess**, associate professor of leadership and professional studies, published “Strengths-based E-Mentoring for Organizational Leadership Doctoral Students” in *Connect*, the journal of the International Mentoring Association.



Dr. Elena Lyutykh, assistant professor of research, and **Dr. Maja Miskovic**, associate professor of research, presented “It’s the End of the World as We Know It: In Search of Pedagogies for Teaching Qualitative Research Online” at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago, IL.



Sandy Noel, adjunct instructor in the College of Education, was honored as part of the Illinois State Board of Education’s 2015 “Year of the Volunteer.” The program honors individuals for their dedication and volunteer service. Noel, a physical education and fitness instructor for more than 35 years, was chosen for her outstanding service in promoting health and fitness to children around the state.

Dr. Isabel Nunez, associate professor of foundations and social policy, and **Dr. Pamela Konkol**, director of the Center for Policy Studies and Social Justice, along with Gregory Michie, authored the book “Worth Striking For: Why Education Policy is Every Teacher’s Concern” with Teachers College Press. The book discusses significant shifts in education policy in the last decade, and presents them in relation to the experiences of real teachers in real classrooms.

Dr. Ardelle Pate, associate professor of instructional design and technology, presented “Creating Effective Instructional Design: Feedback Loops within Online Courses” at the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference in Chicago. She also presented “Using Infographics (and Other Tech Tools) to Design Visual Images to Enhance Reading and Literacies” at the 40th Annual CUC Reading Conference.

Dr. Rekha S. Rajan, visiting associate professor of research, received a \$10,000 research grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The award, the largest available to fund academic research of this type, will be used to investigate the effects of passive arts participation—such as attending a concert, play or musical—on slowing cognitive decline in older adults. The research is a collaborative project between Concordia University Chicago and Rush University Medical Center.



Dr. Veronica Richard, associate professor of curriculum, language and literacy, presented “Hidden Competence: Common Core and Adolescent Learners” at the 40th annual CUC Reading Conference.



Craig Sale, Director of the Preparatory & Community Piano Program, presented “A Teacher’s Companion for All Methods” at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, and “Pedagogical Truths and Consequences...from the Teachings of Frances Clark” at the Music Teachers National Association Conference. He also edited a new publication for piano teachers, *The Success Factor in Piano Teaching: Making Practice Perfect* by Elvina Pearce, released in 2015.



Dr. Claudia Santin, dean of the College of Business, **Dr. Tom Jandris**, senior vice president for educational innovation, and alumna Jennifer Groh MBA ‘10 presented “The DNA of Higher Education Innovation: Innovative Program Impact” at the Higher Learning Commission annual conference in Chicago, IL. The presentation examined the enrollment growth in the College of Graduate and Innovative Programs.



Dr. Brian Sundermeier, associate professor of psychology, co-presented “Sit Stay Read: How Dogs Can Help Struggling Readers in the Classroom,” and “Going Beyond the Text: Inference Making in Young Readers” at the 40th annual CUC Reading Conference.



Dr. Carolyn Theard-Griggs, associate professor of curriculum, language and literacy, along with Dr. Stanley Griggs, presented a workshop entitled “Developing a School-Wide Reading Incentive Program in an Urban School Setting” at the 40th annual CUC Reading Conference.

Dr. Beth Venzke, professor of psychology, and **Dr. Elizabeth Owolabi**, associate professor of research, co-presented “Addressing Measurement Challenges in the Use of Rubrics to Evaluate General Education Outcomes” at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago, IL.



Dr. Astrida Cirulis, professor of mathematics, was elected president of the Illinois Math Teacher Educators (IMTE). The organization is made up of individuals involved in mathematics teacher preparation in Illinois, and is the state affiliate of the national organization, Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators.

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Location: Addison Hall – Pillars Lawn
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Concert begins 6:30 p.m.