

# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO Forester

CUChicago.edu

Spring 2019



Approaching retirement,  
**Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard**  
reflects on his tenure at CUC



# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

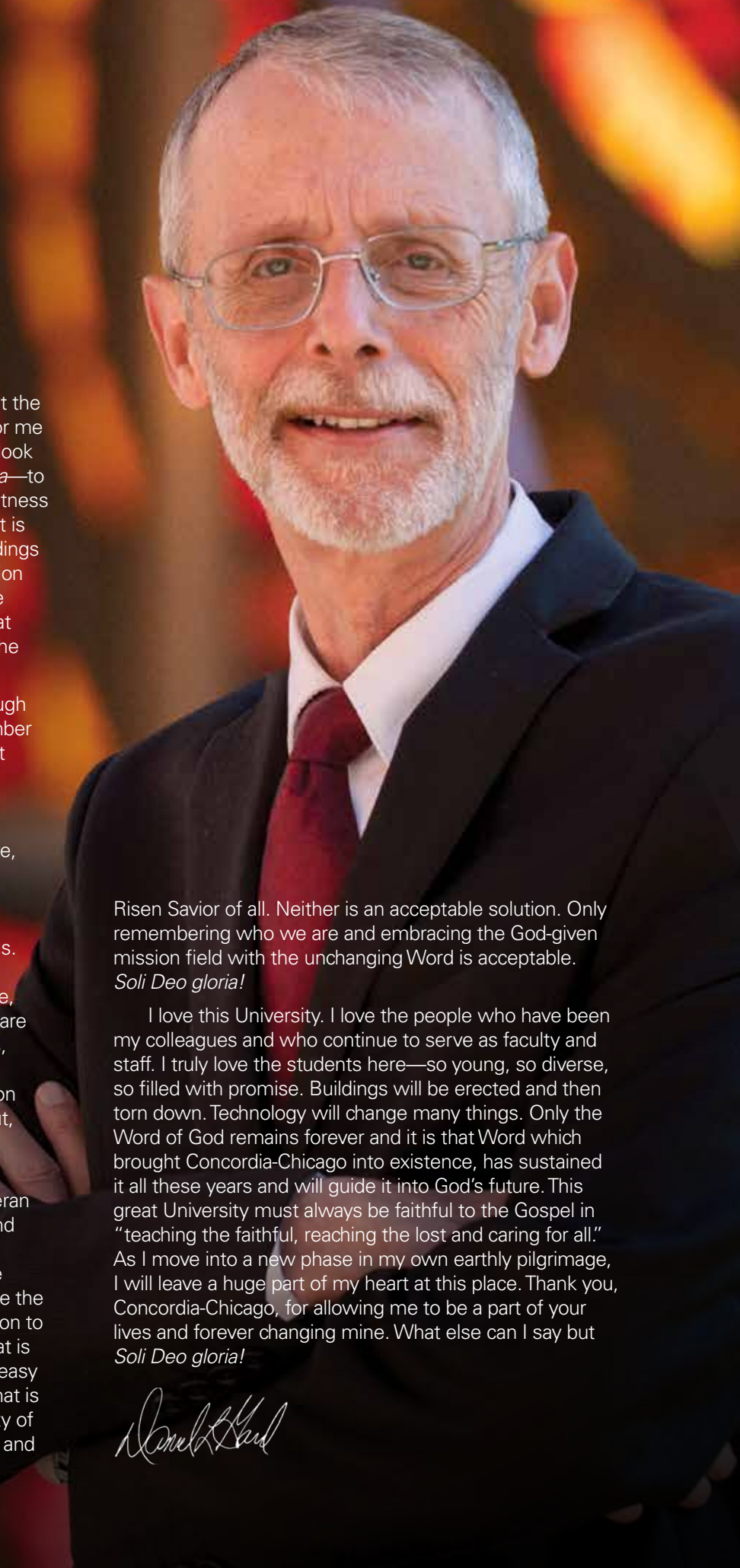
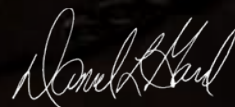
There are times when one simply has to marvel at the grace and goodness of our Lord. This is such a time for me as I make final preparations for retirement. I can only look around this amazing University and say, *Soli Deo gloria*—to God alone be glory! Our heritage since 1864 bears witness to the sustaining power of our Triune God. The present is one of undeserved blessings seen on campus in buildings and faces and in the “ether-world” of distance education around the globe. The future is known only to the One who is beyond all time and who will be present here at Concordia-Chicago, just as He has in the past and in the present. *Soli Deo gloria!*

People of my vintage can reflect on the past through the lens of lived experience under the Cross. I remember my days as a young seminarian when we were taught to “teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.” Concordia-Chicago, as an educational mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, had become an embodiment of those ideals long before I arrived. Here, the faithful are taught—students who are preparing for Church vocations, Lutheran students who seek an education grounded in the Gospel for vocations in the world, and other Christians who desire to learn with us. Here the lost are sought by holding up the Cross and Resurrection of the Lamb of God to all who study here, in our Chicago community and the world. Here we “care for all” regardless of ethnic heritage, economic status, male or female, born or unborn. As a seminarian I had no idea that I would serve at a place where the mission of Christ could be lived out in such profound ways. But, unworthy as I am, God has given me that gift here at Concordia-Chicago. *Soli Deo gloria!*

These are challenging times for the Church, Lutheran education and the world around us. Divine wisdom and guidance is needed as the University charts a course through uncertain days. On one side, there will be the temptation to be religiously neutral in order to appease the culture. On the opposite side, there will be a temptation to curve in on ourselves and avoid engaging a culture that is increasingly hostile to the Biblical message. Both are easy answers that result in failing to give human beings what is truly needful, Jesus Christ. Both undermine the beauty of knowing and serving the Creator who is the Crucified and

Risen Savior of all. Neither is an acceptable solution. Only remembering who we are and embracing the God-given mission field with the unchanging Word is acceptable. *Soli Deo gloria!*

I love this University. I love the people who have been my colleagues and who continue to serve as faculty and staff. I truly love the students here—so young, so diverse, so filled with promise. Buildings will be erected and then torn down. Technology will change many things. Only the Word of God remains forever and it is that Word which brought Concordia-Chicago into existence, has sustained it all these years and will guide it into God’s future. This great University must always be faithful to the Gospel in “teaching the faithful, reaching the lost and caring for all.” As I move into a new phase in my own earthly pilgrimage, I will leave a huge part of my heart at this place. Thank you, Concordia-Chicago, for allowing me to be a part of your lives and forever changing mine. What else can I say but *Soli Deo gloria!*



# Table of Contents

## **SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, ENROLLMENT AND MARKETING**

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## **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.

## **NEWS AND COLUMNS**

- 4** CUC News
- 6** University Events
- 7** DCE 60th Anniversary
- 10** Total University Enrollment Sets Historic Record
- 12** Great Gifts: Record Fundraising Thanks to the Generosity of Donors and Alumni
- 18** Deaconess Program Prepares Women for Global Service through Discipleship
- 24** Computer Science Students Share Love of Learning, Teaching, Serving
- 26** President's Honors Scholars
- 28** Athletics
- 31** Alumni News
- 32** Class Notes
- 37** Lincoln Laureate
- 38** Faculty/Staff News

## **FEATURES**



- 8** Sharing the Love of Christ Across Borders



- 14** Your World Opens Up from Here: Seeking Dreams and Expanding Horizons



- 20** Reflecting on the Past, Focusing on the Future: An Interview with Rev. Dr. Gard

## **ON THE COVER**

One of the primary tenets of Rev. Dr. Gard's five-year presidency was his dedication to putting the interests of students above all else.

## **CONTACT US**

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## Concordia-Chicago Ranked Among Best Universities by U.S. News & World Report

Over the last year, Concordia University Chicago was nationally recognized for the value of the education it provides, its diverse student body and the quality of its online programs. In *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings released in September, CUC was named as a Best Regional University – Midwest, Best Value – Regional Universities Midwest and listed for Best Ethnic Diversity – Regional Universities Midwest.



In January, *U.S. News* separately released its rankings for online college programs, where CUC fared just as well, making the lists for Best Online Bachelor's Programs (for its Accelerated Degree Program), Best Online MBA Programs and Best Online Graduate Education Programs.

"Concordia-Chicago is graduating well-prepared, academically fulfilled students from a multitude of different backgrounds pursuing bachelor's through doctoral degrees," said President Gard. "Our students come from all over the country and the world, reflecting the communities they will live and serve in throughout their lives."

"Our numerous degree options offer a competitive advantage and prepare students to be engaged and successful leaders, whether they are traditional undergraduates or adult students coming back to college," added Dr. John Zillman, senior vice president for academics.

## Strength and Conditioning Degree Program Earns Key National Distinction

Concordia University Chicago's Master of Science in Applied Exercise Science: Strength and Conditioning was recognized by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Education Recognition Program (ERP). The association recognizes and distinguishes schools with standardized, approved strength and conditioning or personal training curricula in undergraduate and graduate settings designed to prepare students for the NSCA-Certified Personal Trainer® (NSCA-CPT®) and NSCA-Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist® (CSCS®) certifications.

Dr. Theresa Miyashita, associate professor of exercise science, and Kenneth Howard, head strength and conditioning coach for the athletic teams, spearheaded the effort to earn this recognition of the program's educational strengths. The NSCA ERP lays the foundation to ensure excellence for students in the classroom, as well as long-term professional success after graduation.

Since its establishment in 2013, Concordia-Chicago's M.S. in applied exercise science has grown rapidly to serve a population of individuals who want to integrate their passion for health and fitness with a career that helps others achieve well-being. Degrees are awarded in five specialization areas: fitness and health promotion, human movement science, sports nutrition, sports performance training, and strength and conditioning.

## Center for Gerontology Awarded Grant to Fund Strategic Planning Initiative

Concordia-Chicago received a grant award of \$21,082 from the Retirement Research Foundation (RRF) for the purpose of supporting the development of a capacity-building strategic plan in the University's Center for Gerontology.

Dr. John Holton, director of the Center for Gerontology and visiting associate professor of gerontology, praised the RRF's decision to support the Center's organizational capacity building. "The University founded the Center for Gerontology in 2014 to address the tremendous need for tools and resources to promote the well-being of the world's fast-growing population of older adults. Our ability to accomplish our mission depends on bringing together passionate volunteers with thought leaders from the academic, public and private sectors to develop high-impact initiatives."

"The RRF grant will allow us to build out our organizational infrastructure to better coordinate and synthesize the disparate initiatives currently being undertaken in the field of applied gerontology," said Dr. Lydia Manning, associate professor of gerontology. "With this grant support, the Center can sustain and enhance its leadership role in avoiding redundant efforts and building model programs that can be tested, improved and scaled up to serve larger populations."





2



## New Athletics Logos, Charlie T. Unveiled

During Homecoming Week 2018, a new Charlie T. Cougar mascot costume, illustrated Charlie T. artwork, Cougar head logo and athletics branding elements all made their public debut.

"This initiative involves so much more than creating a new logo; we have developed a comprehensive brand for Concordia-Chicago Athletics," said Jeff Hynes, Foundation CEO and vice president for student life and intercollegiate athletics. "We have created visual elements that are rooted in tradition—by building off the previous Cougar head logo that we have used for more than 30 years—and are also very intentional about connecting with our Christian mission."

In addition to introducing the new Cougar head, the University also revealed a new font style with a cross at the center, for use on new athletic uniforms.

"I am excited that we are able to further reflect the mission of the University with the cross being represented," Director of Athletics Pete Gnan added. "I appreciate all the time and effort everyone put into helping to create our new brand."

The new logo release coincided with the 85th anniversary of the creation of CUC's beloved mascot, Charlie T. Cougar.

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1. The Center for Gerontology received a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation that will allow it to build out its organizational infrastructure.
  2. The new Charlie T. Cougar costume, Cougar head logo and athletics branding elements debuted during Homecoming 2018.

## 2019 University Events

<b>April 5-14</b>	The Collective presents "The Threepenny Opera"	<b>May 10</b>	Senior Recognition Recital
<b>April 6</b>	Undergraduate Admitted Student Visit Day	<b>May 11</b>	Spring Commencement
<b>April 11</b>	Convocation Chamber Concert	<b>May 27</b>	River Forest Memorial Day Parade
<b>April 13</b>	Preparatory and Community Piano Faculty Recital	<b>June 7-8</b>	Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference
<b>April 15-May 11</b>	Ferguson Gallery Show: Graduating Senior Art Show	<b>June 29</b>	Patriotic Pops Concert & Ice Cream Social
<b>April 25</b>	Music Department Student Recital	<b>July 2-5</b>	Higher Things Conference
<b>April 27</b>	Undergraduate High School Visit Day	<b>July 11-15</b>	LCMS Youth Gathering Minneapolis, MN
<b>April 28</b>	Chamber Orchestra Concert	<b>July 16-17</b>	CCLE XIX Conference
<b>April 29</b>	Jazz Band Concert	<b>July 17</b>	The Trotsendorf Lectures
<b>May 2</b>	Student Honors Recital	<b>July 19</b>	Undergraduate Summer Visit Day
<b>May 5</b>	Spring Music Festival	<b>July 20-25</b>	LCMS National Convention Tampa, FL
		<b>August 25</b>	Opening Service

For additional details and a full list of University events, visit [CUChicago.edu/events](http://CUChicago.edu/events).



### Undergraduate Summer Visit Day

At the undergraduate summer visit day, prospective students will discover more than 70 degree programs, meet faculty, athletic coaches and current students, and tour Concordia-Chicago's beautiful campus.

**July 19**

**Registration:** [CUChicago.edu/visit](http://CUChicago.edu/visit)



### Chamber Orchestra Concert

Conducted by Maurice Boyer, Concordia University Chicago's Chamber Orchestra will perform a concert that will feature the winner of the annual Concerto Competition.

**April 28 at 7 p.m.**

**Location:** Chapel of Our Lord

**Admission:** Free





## Concordia-Chicago's DCE Program Celebrates the Profession's 60th Anniversary

At the convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1959, a resolution was passed to include Directors of Christian Education (DCE) as commissioned ministers on the Synod's roster, and thus the profession was formally established. In 2019, DCEs will celebrate 60 years of official status in the LCMS, and nearly as many years at Concordia University Chicago.

Individuals had been serving as DCEs before it was official, explains Dr. Debbie Arfsten, director of Concordia University Chicago's DCE program: "Those who served in the role informally before 1959 were predominantly male Lutheran school teachers, who might have also had the role of church organist, choir director or Sunday school director." But it was the resolution by the Synod that legitimized the vocation, followed by the establishment of the first specific training programs for DCEs at Concordia-Chicago and Concordia Nebraska in 1962.

When a DCE is called to a congregation, he or she may be tasked with leading Sunday school, vacation Bible school, adult education, confirmation, youth ministry or other areas, in any combination. Over the last several years in Concordia-Chicago's program, "We've made some changes to focus more on family ministry and children's ministry, based on what churches are looking for," says Arfsten. "The culture has changed, and young people are now so overextended that they're not necessarily looking for more to participate in. Today we stress the role of ministry in building relationships, not just planning activities—but they can easily go hand in hand."

Other changes since 1959 include the removal of a teaching requirement. Originally, DCE students were

required to complete a teaching degree in addition to their DCE coursework, but that is no longer the case. Today, Concordia-Chicago students can pursue single certification as a DCE, or dual certification as a DCE and Lutheran teacher.

"Our DCE students are very active on campus and very involved with spiritual life and Concordia Youth Ministry teams," notes Arfsten. "They bring a level of service, friendliness and community to the campus. I think the field attracts people who, by nature, want to be with others."

Arfsten and Dr. Kevin Borchers, assistant director of Concordia-Chicago's DCE program, diligently keep in contact with their students after they graduate. "We tell them that they're never really done with us," Arfsten says. "When you leave Concordia-Chicago, there's a big DCE community in our church body. We're always looking for ways to get our students connected to where they'll be serving."

Looking to the future of Concordia-Chicago's DCE program, Arfsten believes that more incoming students want to be innovative in how they undertake ministry. "While we train them to be in parish ministry, it's not unusual to have some who want to take it in a new direction. That offers the Church more places where DCEs can serve; for example, I have one student who is very focused on missions," she says. "Part of my challenge is to find those students someplace unique for their internship. Today's students now have a broader, more complete picture of the world."



# Sharing the Love of Christ Across Borders

BY: **BETSY KARKAN** BA '08, MA '18, University Deaconess

**M**aking a difference in a diverse, interconnected and increasingly urbanized church and world is nothing new for Concordia University Chicago. Throughout the year, our students, faculty and staff regularly participate in service and outreach activities as a way of sharing the love of Christ with individuals and communities who are often the most vulnerable and at-risk members of society.

One remarkable opportunity to share His love is the University's annual mission trip to Guatemala. Since 2011, eight teams of students and I have had the privilege of spending a week in this beautiful country. We serve alongside local Guatemalan missionaries through the Christian ministry organization Groundwork Guatemala.

"It's not just 'charity tourism.' We've established a long-term relationship with Groundwork Guatemala and the community served there," says Rev. Dr. Jeff Leininger, University Pastor. "It is a partnership which has blossomed into enduring, meaningful relationships both institutionally and personally."

“In addition to spreading God’s word, the team is sent with suitcases full of educational, hygiene and medical supplies **collected from the CUC community.**”

Each day during our visits, our teams have the opportunity to share Christ’s message with children, youth and adults in the communities of Guatemala City, El Rincon, Amatitlán and Buena Vista.

For many students, this is their first time traveling outside of the United States. It is not only a wonderful learning experience that serves to broaden their worldview and understanding of a different culture, but also brings them into community with fellow Christians who live and worship in an entirely different context from what they are used to.

Upon first arriving, our students are often struck by the level of poverty—many houses are shacks with tin roofs and a small, wood-burning stove inside. There are only dirt roads in most villages, and in Guatemala City, the city dump has been paved over and turned into housing communities.

Despite the difficult living conditions, some of the poorest members of Guatemalan society joyfully welcome us into their homes each morning. They have a very different perspective on life—one that is not rooted in material possession. We read the scriptures together, pray with one another and encourage each other in the faith.

During house visits, we sit on tree stumps, bunk beds or other makeshift furniture. A whole family might live together in one room. It can be very hot, with insects flying around, but no one minds—our students are always amazed that we can walk into a complete stranger’s home and be received so warmly. What little



the Guatemalans have, they are happy to show off, and they always want to share with their guests. When we pray with them, they pray for their families, their faith and for their children to grow up with integrity, but seldom for material belongings.

These house visits often stand out for students as the most memorable parts of their trip as they begin to see how Christ draws His body, the Church together through His word despite language and cultural barriers. This is shown to be true over and over as our students lead faith lessons with Guatemalan children and youth each afternoon, spend time in fellowship and prayer with one another, and develop close relationships with the missionaries they serve alongside.

Student Maddie Sunstrom has been a part of the mission team two years in a row. “Every trip that I have taken to Guatemala, I am surprised how people who have so little have such joy and love for the Lord,” she says. “It would be very easy for people who live there to be constantly in despair. Yet, they are the complete opposite. They are the most joyful and loving humans and they fully rely on God for all of their needs.”

“I have grown in my faith enormously through each experience I have had there,” says student Skyler Meyerhoefer, who has participated twice. “I have learned how to love other people through the love that the people there have shown me. I have learned not to take anything for granted and have come to realize how



truly blessed I am in my life. Guatemala has shown me a passion that I have for mission work that I did not know I had before, which is the most amazing thing.”

For those of us who have been to Guatemala multiple times, each trip feels like coming home. Our missionaries there remember us and ask us about our lives, making it feel like a big family reunion. While each trip is limited to just 16 team members, this doesn’t stop the whole campus community from getting involved. In addition to spreading God’s word, the team is sent with suitcases full of educational, hygiene and medical supplies collected from the CUC community. Last year those supplies went directly toward disaster relief aid following the Volcán de Fuego eruption in May 2018.

“Many of our students who participate end up leading and serving in nonprofits or mission organizations all over the world,” says Leininger. “One of the joys of the program is to see how the seeds planted with this experience bring a harvest beyond our University.”

Service in the name of Christ is central to Concordia University Chicago’s identity and mission. Our ongoing work with our brothers and sisters in Guatemala is but one of the many ways faith is active in love through students, faculty and staff.



1. Cassandra (Casey) Garza connects with students in El Rincon, Guatemala, during craft time.
2. Andrew Thompson reads the Bible in Spanish to children in the town of Amatitlán.
3. During these trips, many participants decide to sponsor a child to help cover the expenses of their education, which is a great way to help families out of extreme poverty.

# Total University Enrollment Sets Historic Record

## *Largest Freshman Class*

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Concordia University Chicago's combined graduate and undergraduate enrollment reached an all-time historic record of 6,005 students in the fall of 2018. A significant milestone for new incoming students was also reached as the University welcomed its largest freshman class ever—395 students. The previous high enrollment for freshmen was in 2013 with 387. The combined new freshman and transfer students set a historic record as well, with 512 students.

"This is an amazing accomplishment for the University and is attributable to the high level of collaboration and coordination among all University departments," says President Rev. Dr. Daniel Gard. "Faculty and staff ensured a high level of personalization in all interactions with all our students—those returning to Concordia-Chicago and those who have chosen to enroll for the first time, either to pursue an undergraduate or graduate degree."

Concordia-Chicago has had a strong history of graduate enrollment growth for nearly two decades, initially at the master's degree level and more recently as doctoral programs have expanded. Doctoral students represent a rapidly growing segment of the graduate student population, increasing at a rate of 10 percent per year, reaching 1,224 last fall. Graduate degrees offered online are highly appealing, and 62 percent of new graduate students have chosen this format.

In addition, annual undergraduate retention—the number of the previous year's freshmen who returned as sophomores in fall 2018—increased significantly from 67 to 74 percent, which contributed to overall University enrollment growth of 4.2 percent.

Eighty-eight percent of the undergraduates who reported their faith indicated a Christian denomination. CUC has also been named a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education, in recognition of an undergraduate Hispanic population of 33 percent.





**6,005**  
TOTAL STUDENTS  
FALL 2018

**62%**  
ONLINE  
GRAD  
STUDENTS

STUDENT  
ATHLETES  
APPROX.  
**1/3**  
UNDERGRADS



HISTORIC  
NUMBERS

**395**

Freshman Students

**117**

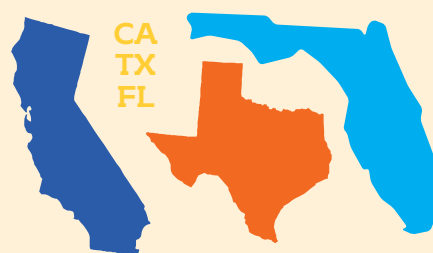
Transfer Students

**1,224**

Doctoral Students

**74%** **7% INCREASE**  
**RETENTION  
RATE**

**DISTANT STATES**  
MOST REPRESENTED



The University continues to attract growing numbers of international students as well, with the largest representation this year from Saudi Arabia, India, China, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

"At a time when higher education has become increasingly competitive each year, and colleges and universities are challenged to meet enrollment goals, Concordia University Chicago is the college of choice for an increasing number of students," says Evelyn Burdick, senior vice president for enrollment and marketing.

Burdick noted that 32.4 percent of the University's undergraduate students are athletes. She also added that the large 2018 freshman class includes four

students who earned full-tuition scholarships and an overall freshman class with an academic profile (GPA and ACT scores) similar to the previous year. In addition, the number of transfer students with high academic profiles tripled from the previous year. Overall, College of DuPage, Morton College and Triton College represented the community colleges from which the highest number of students transferred to CUC to complete their bachelor's degrees. While the Midwest states are heavily represented among the freshman class, others come from as far away as Florida, Texas and California.

This is the ninth consecutive year that combined graduate and undergraduate University enrollment has exceeded 5,000 students, and the first time ever that enrollment has reached and topped 6,000 students. "This historic enrollment is a testament to the institutional focus on the needs of our students and the intentional opportunities for them to be highly engaged academically and throughout their participation in co-curricular activities and athletics," says Burdick.

**“** Doctoral students represent a rapidly growing segment of the graduate student population, increasing at a rate of **10 percent per year**, reaching 1,224 last fall.”

1. CUC's fall 2018 freshman class is the largest in the University's history.

# Great Gifts:

## Record Fundraising Thanks to the Generosity of Donors and Alumni

BY: **DR. RICHARD E. HERMAN** BA '74, HON. LLD '91, Chair, Concordia University Chicago Foundation Board

If you've visited our River Forest campus lately, chances are a construction crew was at work.

In the past five years, Concordia University Chicago built its first new residence hall in half a century and renovated the interior of Trusheim Hall. Transformation of the West Annex into the Kreft Center for Student Success placed all student services under one roof, in an attractive and accessible facility.

Other recent improvements include two new student lounges (in honor of Keturah "Kay" Thunder-Haab BS '59, BA '09, and the late Katie Kloess BA '09), new playing surfaces and other improvements to the baseball and softball fields, and Zoar Plaza, which includes new pavers, landscaping and outdoor furniture. We also relocated the venerated statue of Martin Luther to a new and more central campus location. This spring, construction begins on a new link between the Kreft Center and the Christopher Center.

These projects have in common support and encouragement from the Concordia University Chicago Foundation, which helps generous people support the University through their philanthropy. Because the CUC Foundation staff and board often work "behind the scenes," many people do not realize the powerful impact of charitable giving on the University.

The Foundation helps individuals, corporations and other organizations channel their support to many short- and long-term needs, including capital improvements, scholarships, academic and extracurricular programs, and general operations. For example, the Russell and



Josephine Kott Memorial Charitable Trust supports the University's Center for Gerontology, which does pioneering work to make life better for older adults and their families.

In recent years, the Foundation's work has gained momentum. During the last five years, gifts and pledges to the University increased 157 percent, from \$2.6 million to \$6.7 million. Valued donations of all sizes contributed to this remarkable growth. For example, last year more than 2,000 gifts of \$25 or less were received. The Foundation also received many larger gifts. At press time, the most recent was a \$100,000 gift to CUC's pre-seminary program from the former Oxon Hill Lutheran Church in Maryland. Planned gifts, in the form of bequests and charitable trusts, continue to be wonderful opportunities for individuals to make a lasting impact on the mission of the University. Such gifts have helped the University grow its endowed assets, which are now valued at more than \$25 million.



During the last five years, **gifts and pledges to the University increased 157 percent**, from \$2.6 million to \$6.7 million.



Managing those funds is the responsibility of the CUC Foundation Board, a group of people dedicated to sharing their experience and influence to help Concordia-Chicago's president and Board of Regents support the University. Separately, the new Alumni Association Board of Directors extends this reach as a special committee of the Foundation Board. As the chair of the Foundation Board, it is a joy to work alongside this generous group of volunteers to build a better Concordia University Chicago. We encourage all alumni and friends of the University to give generously.

Concordia-Chicago is blessed by a talented and hardworking Foundation staff, who works tirelessly to tell the Concordia-Chicago story and assist the University's expanding number of donors. In January we bid a fond farewell to Jim Miller, president and CEO of CUC's Foundation for the past five years. He oversaw the dramatic growth and the building projects described above. We thank God for Jim and wish him the best in his retirement.

As we search for a new president and CEO of the CUC Foundation, I am pleased to share that Jeffrey Hynes has assumed leadership on an interim basis while he continues to serve as dean of students and vice president of Student Life and Leadership Services. Jeff's deep understanding of Concordia-Chicago's institutional priorities make him an excellent fit to guide us during this period of transition.

Though our leadership is changing, our key goals are the same, and significant projects continue. This summer we will begin a major renovation of the McCormick Recital Hall, thanks to an estate gift from the late Dr. Julia Hennig, who served the University for more than 40 years as professor of music and chair of the piano department. The Foundation is also pleased to be assisting University leaders in developing plans for major improvements to the health science, technology and athletic facilities on campus.

Thank you for all you continue to do as a friend and supporter of this University. By God's grace—and with your help and support in the years ahead—Concordia University Chicago will continue to equip men and women to serve and lead with integrity, creativity, competence and compassion in a diverse, interconnected and increasingly urbanized church and world.

## Foundation Board Members



**Dr. Daniel L. Gard**  
President,  
Concordia  
University Chicago



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and Vice President  
for Finance and  
CFO



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Life and Leadership  
Services



**Jim Miller**  
Foundation  
President and CEO,  
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*Photo Not Available*

**Karen Jean  
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Control Specialist &  
First Vice President,  
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Advisors



**Brian Becker  
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Insurance



**Joel P. Zielke  
BA '05**  
Berkshire  
Hathaway Home  
Services

1. Members of the former Zoar Lutheran Church, Elmwood Park, unveil the sign for Zoar Plaza, dedicated Aug. 26, 2018.

# Your World Opens Up from Here:

## Seeking Dreams and Expanding Horizons

BY: ANNA SEIFERT, Communications Associate

Those who have attended Concordia University Chicago see their vocations lead them on many different life journeys. For some, their path follows the direction they thought it would, while others head in unanticipated directions. In all cases, **CUC alumni are well prepared with the knowledge, skills, abilities and versatility to succeed**, whether they choose their path or unexpectedly find themselves on it.

### Rev. Gerard Bolling BA '12

Ever since high school, Gerard Bolling knew he wanted to be a pastor. He also knew he wanted to attend a Lutheran university. But while he did exactly what he set out to do, events along the way have caused him to reflect on the phrase “your world opens up from here.” “I think about that all the time, because my world literally did,” Bolling recalls. “If I had not gone to Concordia University Chicago, I would not have the life that I have now.”

Bolling serves as associate pastor and pastor for the deaf at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO, where he lives with his wife Lorenda (Kirby) Bolling BS '14 and their two children, Lincoln and Monroe—who is named after Monroe Avenue on the west side of the CUC campus. To say that Bolling is enthusiastic about the University is an understatement.

“My favorite thing about Concordia-Chicago is that you are a family. There were professors and staff members who looked out for me and genuinely cared about my future,” he says. “It’s becoming a tradition in my family to go to Concordia-Chicago, since my older sister (Janine Bolling BA '11) and younger cousin (Toni Corchado BA '15) also went there. It’s such an important school to us.”

While a pre-seminary student at CUC, Bolling chose to major in theater. “That was extraordinary, because I got to experience a whole different group of professors,” he says. “So, for pre-seminary I was taking theology, Greek and Hebrew; at the same time, I was taking advanced directing, advanced acting, I was writing plays and I was doing public speaking regularly. I love the tension and correlation between the two worlds.”

Bolling successfully petitioned to start an American Sign Language (ASL) class at CUC, where he connected his passion for ministry and working with the deaf. In addition to what he learned in the class, Bolling traveled throughout the Chicago area to attend sign

language meetups, and continued learning ASL through community college classes when he moved to St. Louis.

When Bolling was called to Bethlehem Lutheran, “my primary contact with them was because I knew sign language, which I learned at CUC,” he says. He started an inclusive deaf ministry at the congregation—that is, they do not to separate the deaf people, but seek to involve them in Bible studies, ushering, serving as adult acolytes and other opportunities. Bolling also started “ASL boot camp,” which is composed of four- to eight-week courses for the rest of the congregation to learn to communicate in sign language.

Future plans for Bolling include continuing with the deaf ministry, expanding outreach to the youth of inner-city St. Louis and finishing his doctoral degree in transformational leadership from Concordia Portland. As a St. Louis resident, he stays in touch with CUC’s largest alumni network: “We get to see each other all the time. We’re still a family to this day!”







## Kathy O'Day

### Deaconess Certification '17

Being able to adapt when the unexpected happens is part of what makes Deaconess Kathy O'Day perfect for her line of work. O'Day was serving her call as a lay minister at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Greeley, CO, and was in the process of completing her deaconess certification at Concordia-Chicago when she received the call to serve as Director of Disaster Response for Lutheran Church Charities (LCC), based in Northbrook, IL. She had many years of experience in disaster response working for Catholic Charities USA. "I wasn't expecting a new call, but after prayerful consideration, I moved and began serving in my new role at LCC," she says.

When a disaster strikes in the U.S., O'Day monitors the situation and gets to the scene early. She is joined by a group of trained LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) volunteers. "We have just over 1,000 active LERT members in the LCMS Northern Illinois District ready to deploy at any time. I conduct LERT trainings and coordinate disaster response deployments for the Northern Illinois District (NID) as well as support other LCMS Districts as invited. LCC LERT volunteers respond with chainsaws and heavy equipment for tree removal or pumps for mucking out after a flood."

Last December, O'Day was getting ready to head to Taylorville, IL after tornadoes hit the area, where she would assess the damage, meet with homeowners

and make sure they had all the necessary equipment to clear away debris. "In order to make the most of the volunteers' time, you want to ensure that the necessary supplies are available when they arrive on site," she says.

LCC Disaster Response must be invited to the area of a disaster by a local LCMS church. "We work with that local church so they can be the beacon of hope throughout the community," says O'Day.

During Hurricane Michael last fall, the Living Water church building in Mexico Beach, FL, was destroyed. "There was no physical structure left at all. But the church isn't a building, it is people," says O'Day. During training, O'Day emphasizes the need for LERT volunteers to "be the church" to those they serve.

While she often meets people who are facing the worst hardships in their lives, O'Day calls on her training as a deaconess to bring them comfort. "I listen to their stories and offer to pray with them. I'm not there to sensationalize their situation—I'm there to help," she says. In the typical news coverage of a disaster, she notes, "you don't always see the love, care and mercy shown to people. LERT volunteers are reaching out, and there are many opportunities to share the compassion of Christ."

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1. LCC Director of Disaster Response Kathy O'Day meets with Pastor Dave Gieseking at the site of the Living Water church building in Mexico Beach, FL in November 2018.

## Ron Román BA '12

If you had told Ron Román during freshman year at CUC that he'd be working as a professional actor one day, he wouldn't have believed you. "If things had gone the way I thought they would when I first got to Concordia-Chicago, I would have been pursuing a career as a worship pastor while also trying to develop some traction as a writer," he says. "But I dipped my toes into the world of theater on a whim by taking an intro class, and was completely sucked in."

He built his skills in acting and theater production by participating in Artists of Concordia Theatre, now called The Collective. He is grateful to department chair Dr. Jason Narvy, Professor Emerita Eunice Eifert, Associate Professor Andy Pederson and former faculty member Jayme McGhan for their guidance in helping him become the artist he's grown into today. One of Román's favorite moments from his time at Concordia-Chicago was playing Mercutio in Dr. Narvy's production of "Romeo & Juliet."

**"I've been incredibly fortunate that since graduating from CUC I've been able to find work in a field where employment can fluctuate greatly."**

"I would not have entered the world of theater had it not been for the CUC theater department taking a chance on me," he says. "My experience there was a wonderful step in making me a well-rounded artist."

After graduating from Concordia University Chicago as a theater major, Román went on to pursue an MFA in classical acting from Illinois State University. He's been very busy since completing his graduate degree. Román and a group of other CUC alumni (Kristin Schoenback BA '13, Justin Glombicki BA '13, Kara Grimm-Denholm BA '16, Geordie Denholm BA '15 and Ryan Kenney BA '17) founded Cat's Cradle Theatre Co. and put up a production of Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead." At the same time, Román was working as an understudy at Chicago Shakespeare Theater for a role in "Short Shakespeare! Twelfth Night."

In the summer of 2016, he moved to Staunton, VA, to join the touring company of the American Shakespeare Center, where he's been ever since. He has played a wide range of roles there, some Shakespearean and others not. This year he is playing Leontes in "The Winter's Tale," King Creon in Sophocles' "Antigone" and multiple characters in "The Comedy of Errors." He is also the touring troupe's music coordinator.



Even with an exceptionally full plate, Román finds free time to write and record music with his band, The Slings, which he started with his brother. Living in western Virginia, he also enjoys going on hikes throughout the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge Mountains.

"I've been incredibly fortunate that since graduating from CUC I've been able to find work in a field where employment can fluctuate greatly," says Román. "Being able to say that I've been working steadily as an actor for the last three years feels pretty unreal."

1. In addition to acting, Ron Román serves as the music coordinator for the American Shakespeare Center (photo by Lauren Rogers Parker).
2. Román as Leontes in Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" (photo by Marek K. Photography).
3. Román as Petruchio in Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" (photo by Tommy Thompson).



## Jennifer Groh MBA '10, PhD '16

Working in the corporate world, Jen Groh couldn't quite put her finger on what kind of a change she wanted to make. "I was on a fine career track, but something was missing. I chose the Concordia-Chicago MBA program not for the next career move upward, but for my own personal growth and to figure out a different path," she says.

Groh, who was a college volleyball player and still has a passion for sports, shares that she was not a very focused undergraduate student. "I wasn't confident in my academic abilities as an undergraduate, but the support and the curriculum at CUC really opened that up to me as I pursued my master's," she says. "For me, the MBA experience was about growing my confidence in academics and in my ability to do real scholarly work, and putting theory behind the things I had been doing in corporate jobs and leadership for many years."

After completing her MBA, Groh continued her education and earned a Ph.D. in organizational leadership, which led her to connect her corporate and higher education experience at the nonprofit Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). "The whole organization focuses on socioeconomic mobility of underserved populations, through education and work experiences—we link learning and work. My role there is to help institutions become more adaptable for adult learners," Groh says.

Groh credits her professors Dr. Claudia Santin, now dean of the College of Business, and Dr. Tom Jandris,

now dean of the College of Innovation and Professional Programs, with encouraging her on her academic journey. "They became my mentors and helped me unlock where I am now, which is a career pivot into the higher education field," she says. "The strong professional relationship we developed during the MBA program gave me the confidence to pursue my Ph.D. I was really nervous about that, but their recognition of my strengths before I recognized them in myself was definitely a part of my success."

Groh says pursuing her graduate degrees at CUC opened her mind to a different kind of academic experience than she'd had as an undergrad. She met a diverse group of friends that she keeps in touch with to this day, and she is an active alumna who serves on the Business Advisory Committee for the College of Business. "I just try to be a good Concordia-Chicago citizen, because I think it's a really unique spot that they have in the world."

She keeps busy outside of work by teaching sports to her nine nieces and nephews, traveling with her husband, and looking for new things to learn—her latest undertaking is joining a rowing team. "I am learning how to row on the big eight-person boats. More to come on that in the spring!"

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1. Jennifer Groh (left) upon graduating with her Ph.D. in organizational leadership, with College of Business Dean Dr. Claudia Santin.



# Deaconess Program Prepares Women for Global Service through Discipleship

BY: **MARTINA REESE**, Director of Marketing and Communications for Graduate and Innovative Programs

**G**ifty Kollie entered Concordia-Chicago's deaconess program with an inspiring dream: to go back home and help bring people to God. Home is Cotton Tree, Liberia, about 45 minutes from the West African nation's capital, Monrovia. Kollie, 22, is a freshman who plans to graduate in 2023.

As the third of five children and daughter of an ordained Lutheran pastor, it's natural that Kollie gravitated to church work. While attending high school in Minnesota, she felt a call to perform mission work and is pursuing deaconess training as the path to her goal. Kollie chose Concordia-Chicago because it is the only university in the Concordia University System to offer full deaconess certification at the undergraduate level.

"The purpose and mission of the deaconess program is to provide competent and caring deaconesses for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," explains Deaconess Kristin Wassilak, director of CUC's program. Undergraduate deaconess students major in theology while learning about deaconess history, ethos and practice. Students in the program also pursue a minor or second major in an area complementary to deaconess service: Biblical languages, not-for-profit business, communications, education, music, psychology, social work or sociology.

"The undergraduate program requires two years of field work in local congregations or service agencies as

well as a one-year, full-time internship," Wassilak says. "Students hoping to undertake international mission work take an additional year of internship, during which they study a specific language and culture. It is an exceptionally rigorous program."

Students from outside the United States enrich the campus experience for the entire Concordia-Chicago campus community. "Our international students bring a much bigger perspective of church and world, and open our domestic students' eyes to God's work in other countries," Wassilak notes. "It changes my teaching too, causing me to think more broadly about the contexts in which our students are going to apply their education." Thirteen students are currently enrolled in Concordia-Chicago's undergraduate deaconess program, including two international students—Kollie, and May Itzkovich.

Itzkovich, 34, is a current sophomore who grew up in Carmiel, Israel, not far from Nazareth. Her grandparents were practicing Jews who emigrated from Hungary to Israel. Itzkovich's path to Christianity was unusual for an Israeli. Until she encountered the Gospel of Jesus at age 27, she considered herself an atheist. "I was working in a car leasing company in Tel Aviv," Itzkovich remembers. "I had no degree, no future, no connection to anything. I felt empty inside."

Itzkovich became interested in the profession of embalming and, since it is not practiced within Judaism, sought information by contacting Emmanuel Lutheran Church, a 115-year-old Scandinavian Lutheran church in Tel Aviv. She emailed the pastor, Christian Rasmussen, with two requests: "I wonder if you know anything about embalming," and "I would like to know a little bit about Jesus."

Itzkovich's meeting with Pastor Rasmussen began her journey toward belief in Christ and transformation of her life goals. "I went to a Saturday church service and sat in the back. I just listened," Itzkovich recalls. "I started reading the Bible. I went from tears of despair to tears of joy."



The deaconess studies programs, **which have been offered at CUC for nearly 40 years**, prepare women for vocations of mercy and spiritual care in service to church and community. "





After three months of Bible study and congregational involvement, Itzkovich asked to be baptized. The ceremony took place three months later in the Jordan River. “It was cold and fun,” Itzkovich explains. “You die in baptism and rise again.” Itzkovich started going to church on a regular basis and receiving communion. She was asked to serve on the advisory council and to lead the young adult group. “It was a refuge for Christians my age to talk about Christ, have Bible study and pray together a few times a week,” she explains.

Unlike her classmate Kollie, it is unlikely that Itzkovich will return to her country of origin after graduation because there are no LCMS churches in Israel. Itzkovich isn’t worried. “Scripture says, don’t worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will worry about itself,” she muses. “I want to serve God and His people if that’s His plan for me.”

Alongside its undergraduate program, Concordia-Chicago supports deaconess preparation at the graduate level through its Master of Arts in Religion. Most coursework is online, and during two consecutive summers, students come to campus for a week to take face-to-face courses. For the first two years of the program, four hours per week of field work is undertaken in locations near the student’s place of residence. After completing coursework, students begin a full-time internship.

The deaconess studies programs, which have been offered at CUC for nearly 40 years, prepare women for vocations of mercy and spiritual care in service to church and community. “Deaconesses may work and serve within an LCMS congregation, a church-related

institution, or a domestic or foreign mission field,” explains Wassilak. “Deaconess program graduates work within homes for aging adults, Deaf ministries, orphanages, residential facilities for pregnant teens, international mission projects and mercy ministries—institutions for marginalized persons living with developmental disabilities, mental illness, homelessness and prior criminal convictions. Deaconesses also work in youth ministry, in chaplaincies and as instructors in Lutheran Classical Education schools.”

“I am so excited that I get to study the Word of God and be taught by brothers and sisters God calls to teach and train future church workers,” exudes Itzkovich. “When I look back on waiting to hear if I was accepted to Concordia-Chicago, not knowing if finances would work out, everything seemed impossible,” she remembers. “If something is His will, nothing, and I do mean nothing, will stand in His way.”

Gifty Kollie is excited about the future that awaits her after graduation. “I want to go back to Liberia to help with the Lutheran churches there,” she says. “Children are in need, and women need support to know their Savior and hear the Gospel message from their pastors. With the help of Concordia-Chicago, I will be equipped to serve.”

1. Deaconess Kristin Wassilak (right), director of Concordia-Chicago’s undergraduate and graduate deaconess programs, celebrates the enrichment and insight that international students bring to the program and the wider campus community. Gifty Kollie (left), a freshman in the program, is from Cotton Tree, Liberia. May Itzkovich (center), a sophomore, grew up in Carmiel, Israel.

# Reflecting on the Past, Focusing on the Future

An Interview with  
Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard

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As he began his presidency in the fall of 2014, Rev. Dr. Daniel Gard discussed his thoughts on a wide range of topics with the University's Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing. **Bringing the conversation full circle as President Gard prepares to retire in July 2019**, they sat down again to reflect on some of the same questions, discuss lessons learned and look toward a bright future.

**Eric Matanyi:** In 2014, we began our conversation with a discussion about vocation. Your retirement from Concordia University Chicago and the U.S. Navy (October 2016) puts you on a very different path than you were five years ago. Talk to us about your vocation today and moving forward.

**Rev. Dr. Gard:** My vocation of serving God certainly does not end as I leave CUC. Rather I will simply shift toward exercising that vocation in a different way. I will serve as a pastor of the Church till the day I die, in whatever capacity that I am needed. I've been very blessed to serve as both a classroom and parish professor, as a Navy Chaplain and especially as President of Concordia-Chicago for the past five years. Looking toward the future, I'll continue in my pastoral vocation as a guest professor at the LCMS Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana—part time, of course. I will also continue to fulfill my vocation as a husband—as I have now for nearly 37 years—as a father of three children, as well as that of a son, brother and member of a larger family.





**EM:** You previously discussed your admiration of CUC's long history of integrated faith and learning along with the legacy of your presidential predecessors. After five years, what do you admire about the University today?

**DG:** The same things that I admired about the University when I arrived five years ago are still true, but in a slightly different way. Beginning even before I arrived at the University, it had begun undergoing a transition in its mission field. As an example, CUC has recently been designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution, which serves as an indicator of mission field change—that is, who we are reaching with this gift of education. I believe this is something that will continue to evolve into the future and I am thrilled that the faculty and staff have absolutely embraced what that means. It is an incredible opportunity that God has given to this university to impact the world through the students—both undergraduate and graduate—that God continues to bring to its doorstep.

**EM:** In what ways do you feel you best served Concordia University Chicago?

**DG:** Answering that question is more difficult than it sounds, as I am not necessarily one to reflect upon my own accomplishments. I'll let historians look at these five years and determine if I made a difference. I am gratified to say that when I first arrived, there were some very difficult tensions that existed on campus. I think that over the past five years, many of those divisions have been healed. There are additional relationships that are still working to be healed—but in those cases, that is the work of the Holy Spirit at this place. And I'm grateful to the Lord that I have had the opportunity to witness His work.

**EM:** Discuss the role that your personal faith and relationship with Jesus Christ has played in your leadership of the University.

**DG:** Every day when I look in the mirror, I am reminded who I am. Who I am is a baptized child of

God. A sinner, as we all are. Broken, as we all are. But also forgiven. And so each day I am reminded to be grateful that God, in His mercy, has called me into a relationship with Him. And in that relationship I receive His forgiveness and blessing daily. With that assurance, I have been able to fully concentrate on my vocation as President.

**EM:** Concordia-Chicago has grown in many ways under your leadership. What future opportunities do you see for the University?

**DG:** I think the University has many, many opportunities in both the short and long term. We are engaged in a strategic planning process, so I want to be careful to not pre-empt that process. The final plan will be carried out by those who remain after I have retired. Very intently, we have involved many younger and mid-career servants in this planning process. Working alongside our more senior leaders, the plan should provide both a sense of continuity along with new ideas.

I see the University expanding its footprint in health sciences. For instance, we are undertaking a very deliberate plan to increase and improve campus facilities to support those programs. I also see the University always remaining a residential campus at heart, but with expanding distance education opportunities as well, including stronger international programs. The campus has witnessed exceptional physical change in the past several years and I believe we will see more—including additional residence halls, science facilities, athletic facilities—all with a focus to better serve the students who study here. I have said since the beginning of my tenure as President that it is all about the students. That will continue as a constant because they are the reason we are here. I am certain that the best years of this university are ahead.

**EM:** What have you learned and how have you grown personally during your tenure as President?

**DG:** I have learned, first, how truly grateful I need to be for the people that I've been privileged to work with. It is an honor to be a colleague to an amazing faculty and staff. I witness every day their untiring dedication to our students and the mission of the institution. Another lesson that I've learned in other contexts has been reinforced at CUC. I realize that so much does not depend on me, but instead always depends on God working through His people. Seeing the recent growth at this university, we have witnessed wonderful changes and the credit for that truly goes to God, who works through His servants here. And so the ultimate lesson is that we each must go along for the ride as we watch God work.

**EM:** The University continues to work on its strategic plan, which will take into account changes within the organization. Higher education is changing also. What challenges does higher education, as an industry, face moving forward?

**DG:** I think higher education has and will always face challenges. There are dire predictions about its future. For instance, a Harvard professor recently predicted that at least half of all private colleges and universities will be bankrupt in the next 10 to 15 years. Concordia University Chicago is positioned not to be among them, but instead to continue toward the future in a position of strength.

The industry will always have financial challenges—just simply balancing the books without overly burdening the students with debt. There are particular pressures on faith-based institutions, including CUC. On one hand, we must maintain our distinctively Biblical approach to maintain our Christian identity and define







**“It is all about the students.** That will continue as a constant because they are the reason we are here. I am certain that the best years of this university are ahead.” – **REV. DR. DANIEL GARD**

our community. I think challenges against faith-based universities will increase, and not get easier. I pray that this university always will stand for values that are not determined by the dying culture around us; but instead we must continue to speak with authority and certainty, and love and concern to a world around us that desperately needs a voice.

**EM:** Can you share a favorite CUC moment?

**DG:** Oh, wow. I have had so many great moments here. But time and again, I have had the opportunity to interact directly with our students—whether it’s shaking hands after chapel, running into someone in the hall and learning about their lives, or even having students stop by my office just to share in prayer. There are so many instances like that—those are truly the moments that have had an effect on me. I would also include the high honor of being able to dedicate new, student-focused campus spaces like Concordia Hall and the Kreft Student Success Center. And being a part of that, after all the work that the wonderful people here put into this...to be able to open it up to serve students stands out as a golden moment. Those aren’t only highlights for me, but also for the entire campus community.

**EM:** What are you most looking forward to in retirement?

**DG:** Becoming a harmless theologian <laughs>. The day I announced my retirement, Concordia Publishing

House immediately emailed me asking if I was finally going to finish my commentary. And I told them that I would. So, I am looking forward to being able to spend some time again as a scholar; to open up the books and work through the glorious Hebrew text, and prepare a legacy in the written word for the Church and the future. I also can’t wait to get back into the classroom to teach one or two classes a quarter, which will increase the amount of time I can directly interact with students. I am really looking forward to teaching again, as I did for the 25 years prior to accepting this presidency.

**EM:** You have historically closed your written and spoken messages to the campus community with the phrase *Soli Deo gloria*. Talk about the significance of that phrase to you and why it is a fitting closing to your time at Concordia University Chicago.

**DG:** To God alone be the glory! And in all things remember who the giver of all good is. Never take glory for yourself because that goes to the grave with you. But direct your own mind and heart, and the minds and hearts of others, to reflect on who God is and what His love is. And when you truly witness the evidence of His grace and mercy all around us, the only thing left to say is *Soli Deo gloria*.

# Computer Science Students Share Love of Learning, Teaching, Serving

Students majoring in computer science and computer information systems continue to bring distinction to the University. These students, under the leadership of associate professor Dr. Victor Govindaswamy, are grabbing the spotlight in competition, realizing their career aspirations, and mentoring youth in the community through technology-based camps and programs.

Last fall, for the third time in four years, a team of CUC undergraduates came in first place in the Chicago IEEEExtreme 24-Hour Programming Competition. Their performance in the annual Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) contest placed them 30th in the United States and 426th in the world—in the top 10 percent—out of 5,155 teams. Student teams from CUC captured the top seven places among competitors from universities in and around Chicago. The University also debuted its first-ever all-female programming team, which finished 84th in the United States and 915th in the world—among the top 20 percent.

The competition is a global challenge during which undergraduate, master's and doctoral-level students compete as equals in a 24-hour period to solve a set of programming problems. The first-place Chicago team was made up of CUC undergraduate students Karl Camp (captain), Andrew Nicoara and Marcos Duran.

Dragana Antic (captain), Angela Herrera and Antea Pela comprised the all-women team.

Govindaswamy, who holds a B.S. in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Texas-Austin, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in computer science and engineering from the University of Texas-Arlington, has been encouraging his students to participate in the competition since coming to Concordia-Chicago in 2013.

"I am not surprised that so many of our teams keep climbing the rankings in the IEEE contest, considering that in the past two years, our students have graduated with good jobs after having done very well in technical job interviews," he says. Recent graduates are employed as software engineers, data systems specialists and IT managers at companies such as Motorola, Caterpillar, Metra, Sogeti and Cerner Corporation.

The students in these degree programs are applying their skills at academic conferences as well. In 2018, Concordia-Chicago undergraduate students participated in the Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area (ACCA) Symposium, which included a record 21 computer science presentations.

They also serve at-risk middle and high school youth in the community through outreach activities. STEM-4NE1 (a play on "for anyone") is a program that promotes computer and electronic literacy and the field of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Participants use computers to write programs to manipulate robots, learn app design and development, programming languages such as Java and C++, and 3-D game programming. They also work on mathematical puzzles and other computer science-related activities.

"STEM-4NE1 program is made up of our student volunteers, and it is our way of teaching them the importance of giving back to the community," says Govindaswamy. "The program is broken up into two main components—the weekly mentoring clinics during fall and spring semesters, and youth robotics camps each summer."

Govindaswamy was recently awarded the Certificate of Appreciation by the IEEE Chicago Section in recogni-







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tion of his valued service as a professor and mentor for the community outreach activities at CUC.

At the robotics camps, middle and high school students assemble, program and debug robotics kits by learning the necessary mathematical skills to enable the basic concepts behind their designs. The goals of the camp include enhancing interest in STEM-related careers, development of analytical skills and ultimately preparing students for college-level work. Sponsored in part by Oak Park-River Forest Youth Services, the camps have been highly popular and have earned resounding praise from parents and participants. "Dr. Govindaswamy is a passionate, energetic and thoughtful teacher. He is confident in kids' abilities and supports them so that they believe in themselves," one parent says.

Concordia University Chicago offers a Bachelor of Arts in computer information systems, a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in computer science, and a Master of Science in computer science, all of which are designed to help students build practical skills and prepare them for a rapidly changing field.



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1. CUC students volunteer at the University's robotics camps every summer teaching youth in the community.
2. (Back row, left to right) Nick Rittling, Dr. Victor Govindaswamy, Marcos Duran, Karl Camp and Andrew Nicoara, with (front row, left to right) Antea Pela, Angela Herrera and Dragana Antic after the IEEEExtreme competition in fall 2018.
3. The STEM-4NEI program promotes computer and electronic literacy for middle and high school students through weekly mentoring clinics.
4. Dr. Govindaswamy has been a driving force in encouraging his students to lead and serve in the community.

# Four Freshmen Awarded University's Top Scholarship

CLASS OF 2022



**Chloe Dugas**

HOMETOWN: GRINNELL, IA

MAJOR: MUSIC

**CHLOE DUGAS**, of Grinnell, IA, thinks her affinity for music began at birth. "My mother's heartbeat must have instilled a permanent rhythm that spurred me to always seek a melody to accompany my pulse," she says. While the instrument she most often uses to create music is the flute, it was an experience as a choir member that led her to decide "that no matter what I create, I will be the music that opens the door to betterment, empowerment, love, cooperation, progress, and most importantly—unity."

As a student at Grinnell Community Senior High School, Chloe sought out the most challenging classes, taking many AP and college courses in order to expand her potential. She admits to being more proud of a hard-earned B than an easy A. Chloe participated in band, choir, theater, speech team, varsity tennis and AmeriCorps, where she performed more than 300 service hours teaching literacy to youth.

At Concordia University Chicago, Chloe plans to help others enjoy learning as much as she does, and to continue fulfilling her curiosity and making the most of every educational opportunity.



**Michelle Frerking**

HOMETOWN: THE WORLD

MAJOR: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (LTE)

One might say that **MICHELLE FRERKING** is from Fort Wayne, IN, where she graduated from Concordia Lutheran High School. But to Michelle, the question of where she's from is complicated. With her father working for the LCMS school system, she grew up in China and Vietnam, and did not move to the United States until age 16.

"As long as I have the people that matter the most to me, I am home," Michelle says. "I'm looking forward to having new opportunities to know and learn from people with different experiences than my own, and finding the next addition to my growing list of homes."

Michelle's activities in high school included Model United Nations, theater, choir, planning service trips and serving as secretary of the Concordia-Hanoi National Honor Society. She also played soccer and volleyball, and was a school Bible study leader. As she begins to pursue a degree in Lutheran elementary education at CUC, she is eager to encourage the next generation of scholars to be excited about learning and to apply the knowledge they have gained.



Concordia University Chicago awards a small number of full-tuition scholarships each year through the President's Honors Scholar program. For the 2018-2019 academic year, the University recognized four exceptional freshmen. **To qualify for the scholarship, these students had to maintain a 3.75 GPA for no less than six semesters in high school, and had to earn a composite score of 30 on the ACT, a 1390 on the SAT (Critical Reading and Math) or be designated a National Merit Semi-Finalist.** The scholars will continue to meet rigorous academic standards throughout their undergraduate studies to remain eligible for the honor.



**Jesse Muehler**

HOMETOWN: FENTON, MO  
MAJOR: SECONDARY EDUCATION (LTE)

**JESSE MUEHLER**, of Fenton, MO, had a choice to make when he was entering high school—attend a local school with all the resources of the city, or take a risk and become a boarding student in a small town across the state. He decided on the latter, attending Saint Paul Lutheran School in Concordia, MO.

"It is my belief that risks must be taken in order for anything worthwhile to be achieved," Jesse says. As a school with many international students, "Saint Paul did not just educate me in academics, but also in cultures from Europe, Asia and Africa."

Jesse was active in choir, serving as president his senior year; theater, as an actor, promotions manager, stage manager and understudy; band, as a first-chair trombonist; sports, as a manager of the football, boys' basketball and softball teams; and student government, as president for two years. At Concordia-Chicago, Jesse plans to stay involved and take risks that push him to always learn more.



**Andres Salvador**

HOMETOWN: CHICAGO, IL  
MAJOR: BIOLOGY

**ANDRES SALVADOR**, of Chicago, IL, believes that scholars must actively use their knowledge to solve problems. "It is important that what someone learns is not just stored away, but consistently applied to helping them improve and grow," he says.

While Andres is looking forward to pursuing a medical career, he is also passionate about art. "Art is a very important part of my life," he says. "I consider it to be my therapeutic release from stress and anxiety." A life-changing experience for Andres was his art class trip to New York City—it was the first time he traveled out of state, and he relished the chance to absorb the art and culture of a new city.

At Saint Patrick High School, Andres competed on the swim team and water polo team, worked as a swim lesson instructor, and was a member of the National Honor Society. Even when Andres faces challenges in life, he remembers an important lesson he learned from his friends and teachers: "No matter what you go through, you are never the first and you are never alone."

# Men and Women of the Year: Cougars are Cream of the Crop in Conference



BY: **JIM EGAN** BA '82, Sports Information Director

In recent years, Concordia University Chicago athletics has raised its profile to compete for higher stakes. Few of us will soon forget the CUC baseball and the women's track and field team competing at the national level in 2018, or the football team hosting an NCAA III playoff game in 2012. Just as teams compete for the big prizes, Cougar student-athletes have earned individual accolades in recent years. **One of the most prestigious of those is the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference Man/Woman of the Year award.** First instituted in 2007, the recognition is given to one male and one female student-athlete annually who represent the best of athletic excellence, academic achievement, and service and leadership.

Over the years, the conference has awarded **three Concordia-Chicago student-athletes** with this honor. Below, *The Forester* presents a brief profile and an update on CUC's honorees: **Zach Bickel** BA '09 (baseball), **Kevin Coppin** BA '18 (baseball) and **Chelsee Wilson** BA '18 (track and field).



## Zach Bickel

**Director of Athletics  
Lake Country Lutheran High School  
Hartland, WI**

Zach Bickel and Lutheran education have had a close connection ever since he came to Concordia-Chicago from Racine (WI) Lutheran High School in 2005. Bickel was a four-year member of the baseball team and was a key member of the first Cougar team to play in an NCAA III regional tournament in 2009. The outfielder finished his four-year career with a .326 batting average, and his 688 at-bats, 173 runs and 224 hits were among the team's bests at that time.

Since August, Bickel has served as the athletic director at Lake Country Lutheran High School in



## Kevin Coppin

**Accountant, Porte Brown LLC  
Elk Grove Village, IL**

Starting catcher and key member of the first two CUC baseball teams to go to the Division III World Series, Kevin Coppin had the unique distinction of winning the NCAA's Elite 90 award (highest GPA at an NCAA championship series) in 2017, prior to his Man of the Year award in 2018. "Cop" was a career .281 hitter in 124 games and was also a standout defensive catcher and an unsung hero in making the CUC pitchers the formidable staff that they were.

Coppin graduated summa cum laude with a degree in accounting and a minor in management, and recently joined Porte Brown LLC, where we caught up with him:

*You must have so many memories from your CUC days, both baseball and otherwise. Which ones stand out?*

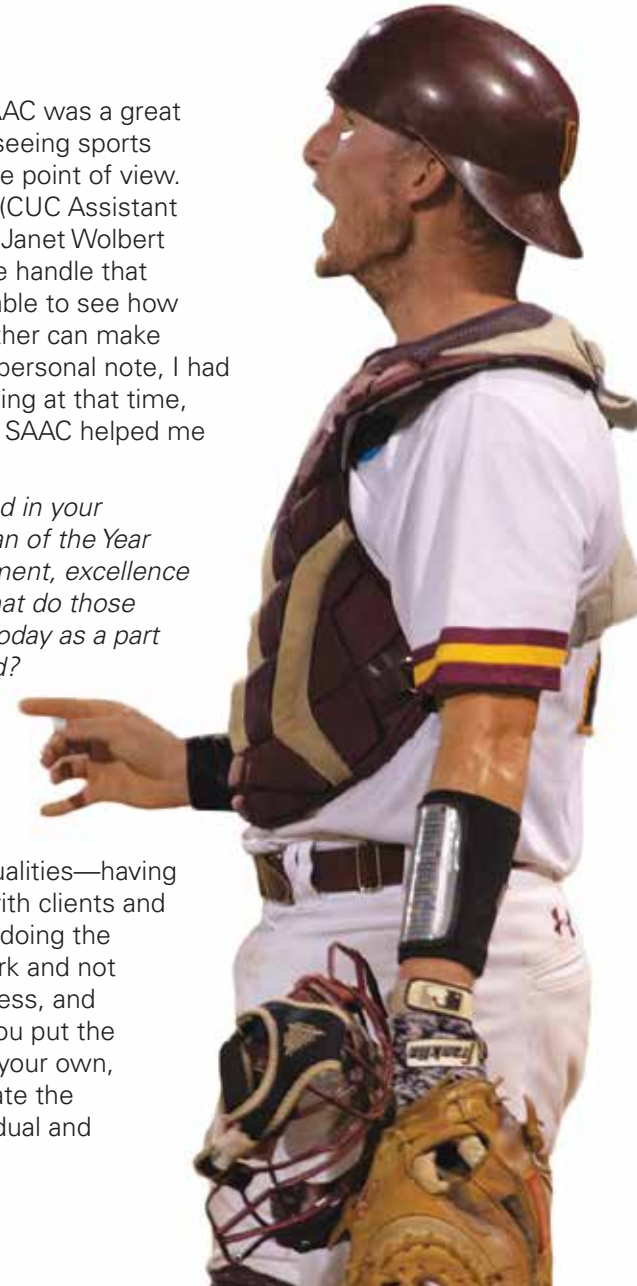
**KC:** Two World Series appearances, but the two years leading up to it were special in their own way. We had to deal with a lot of crazy things going on around us, like having a sub-.500 record halfway through the 2017 season, not winning the conference tournament in 2018, and yet coming back to get into the World Series both of those years—and one of those years, we were picked as "the team most likely to disappoint." Finally, the crazy game we won in last year's regional against Bethany Lutheran and making ESPN SportsCenter were memories you can't forget!

*You were president of CUC's chapter of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). I'm guessing that involvement provided both insight into college athletics and also tips that prepared you for your professional life.*

**KC:** Being part of SAAC was a great experience for me—seeing sports from an administrative point of view. I'm really thankful to (CUC Assistant Director of Athletics) Janet Wolbert BA '96 for helping me handle that responsibility. I was able to see how people working together can make things happen. On a personal note, I had a fear of public speaking at that time, and being involved in SAAC helped me to overcome that.

*Three words you used in your statement for the Man of the Year award were commitment, excellence and selflessness. What do those words mean to you today as a part of the business world?*

**KC:** They're absolutely essential. I have had some mentors at my workplace who are examples of these qualities—having valued interactions with clients and going the extra mile, doing the highest quality of work and not settling for anything less, and realizing that when you put the client's needs above your own, that is when you create the opportunity for individual and company growth.



Hartland, WI where he is on staff with several other CUC alumni. We caught up with him recently:

*What's your favorite baseball memory at CUC?*

**ZB:** Winning the conference tournament in 2009 by beating Aurora 12-6 in the final game (a game in which Bickel went 5-5 with three RBIs). Running in from the outfield at the end of the game, we knew what we had accomplished and the journey we had made to get there.

*What have you been doing since graduation?*

**ZB:** I worked in Concordia-Chicago's admissions department before taking my first teaching job at Immanuel Lutheran in Seymour, IN. Later, I was at St. Peter Lutheran in Arlington Heights, IL for six years as athletic director, P.E. teacher and boys'

basketball coach before I got the call to become athletic director at Lake Country Lutheran High School.

*How did your overall CUC experience prepare you for your career?*

**ZB:** I learned a lot from so many people—classmates, coaches, teammates, professors—that treated me well and took a genuine interest in me. Being a great "teammate" and taking care of people is a lesson that I've carried with me, and I try to make a positive impact on everyone I'm working with.



## Chelsee Wilson

**Communications Manager  
Schnack Financial Group  
Oak Park, IL**

Chelsee Wilson was the first track and field athlete to qualify for the national meet all four years of her career. Fittingly, she culminated with an NCAA III All-American honor as part of the crew that finished sixth nationally in the 4 x 400-meter relay.

Along with her athletic ability, Chelsee's lengthy list of service projects and scholarly studies at CUC defined her as a young woman of many talents. These days, she is taking her talents a few kilometers down the road from CUC's campus to Schnack Financial Group in Oak Park, which is where we tracked her down:

*Your list of qualifications for the Woman of the Year honor is truly impressive, not to mention lengthy. Looking back, do you ever wonder how you were able to accomplish all of those things?*

**CW:** I was always trying to figure out timelines, but all these things were important to me, and when you want to get those things done, you find time to make it work.

*Tell us about your current position and how your CUC experience helped prepare you.*

**CW:** When I was a junior, I started an internship with Schnack Financial Group, and today I am their communications manager. I help with marketing, video production, and there's lots of writing involved too. It's all about what we can do to serve our clients best.

My dad taught me the importance of being a humble person, and I see the importance of that when working with a client or co-worker. Everything I took part in at CUC, all the jobs I worked during that time, added up to a bigger perspective of the world, one which, in the end, humbles me. I'm grateful to everyone who has worked with me and helped me in my opportunities.

“ Everything I took part in at CUC, all the jobs I worked during that time, **added up to a bigger perspective of the world**, one which, in the end, humbles me.”



# Celebrating 50 Years of Sharing the Gospel Around the World

BY: **PAIGE CRAIG BA '99, MBA '14**, Senior Director, Alumni Relations & Annual Giving

In 1969, Dr. Thomas Gieschen BS '52 led more than 60 members of the Kapelle, Concordia-Chicago's premier vocal ensemble, on a two-month Around the World (ATW) tour performing 22 concerts in 12 countries. The Office of Alumni Relations will celebrate the 50th anniversary of these extraordinary musical moments at Golden Celebration 2019, August 23-25 on the River Forest campus.

In February 1968, *The Spectator* reported the tour idea was conceived shortly after the Kapelle performed for the 1966 National Christmas Tree lighting at the White House. The tour was designed to reach as many mission stations as possible within the limitations of time and geography.



University leaders acknowledged the ATW tour would provide participants with valuable educational advantages, exposure to the mission ministry concept as well as history appreciation by visiting global landmarks. Dr. Martin L. Koehneke, University president at the time, took an advance trip in winter 1968 visiting mission schools in six countries and attending the World Council on Lutheran Education in Hong Kong.

The trip's global impact is quite evident within the lives of the choir members. Music has remained prevalent in members' lives both personally and professionally.

“Christians have much to sing about in praise of God... (Kapelle's) concerts will be more than a musical presentation; **they will also be a confession of faith.**”

— **DR. MARTIN L. KOEHNEKE**, PRESIDENT (1954 - 1972)

Four tour members also became travel agents and tour directors. Another alumni couple served abroad teaching for the Department of Defense. The mission impact sought, however, is most prevalent in the multiple alumni who taught at the Hong Kong International School and Concordia Lutheran School in Taiwan.

Sharing memories, from performing for the King of Thailand to watching the Apollo XI moon landing while in Athens, Greece, is only part of the ATW Connecting Team's reunion effort. “It seems appropriate that Dr. Koehneke's original tour concept—to uplift and support missionaries—remains a focus of this year's gathering,” says Connecting Team member Jim Gladstone BA '70.

The ensemble will share the Gospel through God's gift of music by leading Sunday morning worship during Golden Celebration, under the direction of current Kapelle conductor Dr. Charles Brown. ATW Kapelle members will also join current students to voice the choir for the Opening Service of the University's 156th Academic Year. Fittingly, they will be among the first to enjoy the renovations to McCormick Recital Hall, made possible in part through an estate gift from professor emeritus Dr. Julia Hennig.

Interested in joining the reunion? Details and registration can be found at **CUChicago.edu/Golden** or by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations at **Alumni@CUChicago.edu** and 888-258-6773.

1. King Rama IX (white jacket) presents gifts to Dr. Carl Waldschmidt BS '38, former academic dean, and Dr. Thomas Gieschen BS '52, former conductor of the Kapelle, following a command performance in Thailand's National Theater in 1969.

## Class Notes

### 1950s



**Glenn Offermann BS '58** and his wife, Marilyn, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in July 2018. Glenn retired in 2000 as director of library services from Concordia University-Saint Paul, which also recognized his 60 years of service to the church. Glenn and Marilyn are members of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Roseville, MN.

**Verna (Roedel) Besancon BS '61, Dee (Rodenbeck) Hahm BS '63, Barb (Uffman) Hanson BS '62, Ellen (Stahl) Hetz BS '62, Lois (Schiller) Moots BS '62, Sandy (Stockhaus) Schmidt, Donna Siemro BS '63, and Jean (Von Strohe) Hofmeyer BS '62** participated in a 90-minute conference call in September 2018 to observe the 60th anniversary of their first night as roommates in 324 Lindemann Hall.

### 1960s



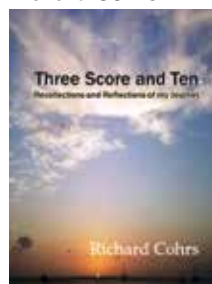
Former roommates from Krauss Hall gathered for their sixth reunion in October 2018—56 years since their first meeting. Those who gathered in Fort Wayne, IN included (front row) **Jim Hitzman, Wally Krone, Ken Schilf, Jim Dewar, Gene Friedrich**, (back row) **Ken Gerbers, Denny Vierk, Stu Kern, Larry Hoffschneider, Tom Phillips, Dan May**.

### 1970s



Wearing iconic aprons celebrating the "Class of 70 turns 70," classmates recently gathered for a reunion in Philadelphia, PA including (left to right) **Edwina (Gier) Langenberg, Luann (Elitt) Prosek, Denise Funk, Louise (Radtke) Bockelmann, Carol (Rieschl) Lynch and Joyce (Hesemann) Martinez**.

**Richard Cohrs BA '71** recently released



*Three Score and Ten: Recollections and Reflections of my Journey*. The book is a reflection of his life and times including common generational experiences to help others find hope knowing that at least

one other person has walked a similar path. The release can be found at Amazon.com.

**Paul Borth BA '75** retired from entomology



research and management at Dow AgroSciences and is now the principal at his entomological consulting firm, Ento-Centric Consulting, LLC. Previously, Paul taught at Baltimore

Lutheran High School, his alma mater, then worked for the University of Arizona. Paul lives in the Indianapolis area with his wife, Sandy.

**Peggy Coggins BA '76** served in Thailand in



summer 2018 studying emerging models in conservation and education as well as spiritual connections to nature in Thailand. Peggy, a teacher at Stewart Elementary in the Princeton City

School District, lives in Cincinnati, OH and is a graduate student in Miami University's Earth Expeditions.

**Chick Lillis BA '77** is now director of



basketball operations for Chicago State University Women's Basketball. A Cougar once again, she is living out a lifetime goal to serve and lead in a NCAA Division I program.

### 1980s



**Janet (Young) Bahr BA '87**, head coach of girls volleyball at Lake Country Lutheran High School in Hartland, WI, led her team to the 2018 Wisconsin Division 3 State Championship for the second consecutive year. Family celebrating this victory included (left to right) **Phillip Wingfield BA '81, Norman BS '56 and Carol (Meyer) Young BS '58, Jeanne (Young) Wingfield BA '82, Janet, Angela (Hennig) Bahr BA '16, Kathleen (Young) Wilham BA '85, and Tim Bahr BA '17**. Not pictured **David Bahr BA '87**.

**Debbie Beeber BA '88** published her first novel, *Lambs Fighting Wolves*, in November 2018. The novel examines the power of religion and the Constitution. Debbie taught middle school science for many years and is now retired. She currently lives in Arlington Heights, IL, but plans to move to Arkansas this summer.

### 1990s

**Eric Jensen BA '95** successfully defended

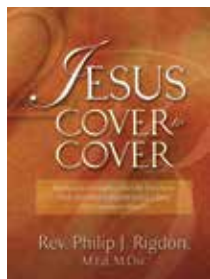


his dissertation, "The Endurance of Tell Qarqur: Settlement Resilience in northwestern Syria during the Late Bronze and Iron Ages (ca. 1200 - 700 BC)" and graduated with a

Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Arkansas in December 2018. He is pictured working on an archaeological survey in Iraqi Kurdistan in August 2015.



**Philip Rigdon BA '96** published the



devotional *Jesus: Cover to Cover* in June 2018. Highlighting the work of Jesus in the Old Testament, Philip intends the devotional be used in a small group setting for people to explore Christianity in depth. Philip also

received a call in November 2018 to St. John Lutheran Church in his hometown Fort Wayne, IN.

**Michael Wolniakowski BA '96** was

named 2018 Finalist for the American Prize in Composition (choral division). His newest sacred work, *Beati quorum via*, was commissioned by the UK-based chamber chorus LUMEN and recorded in May 2018 on the Convivium record label. In May 2019, he will premiere *Sim Shalom*, a collaborative work with Barbara Brotman, former *Chicago Tribune* reporter.

**Bernard Bull MA '99** has been named



president of Goddard College in Plainfield, VT. Bernard most recently served as chief innovation officer, vice provost of curriculum and innovation, and professor of education at Concordia University

Wisconsin. There he led a university-wide effort to refine and expand low-residency and online learning opportunities for adult and post-traditional learners.

## 2000s

**Melissa (Passe) Perry BA '03** began her service as senior human resources partner for Tesla in July 2018 after receiving her master's in human resources from Chapman University in 2005. She currently resides in Gig Harbor, WA with her husband, Jon, and seven children.

**Melissa Kay (Waldie) BA '07** married Joel



Cruz on Nov. 24, 2017 and became stepmom to Elias (15) and Jeremiah (12). **Krista (Rohe) Hinrichs BA '07** was a bridesmaid. The family lives in Acampo, CA where Melissa and Joel both serve at St. Peter Lutheran

Church & School in Lodi. Melissa also received a Master of Science from Montana State University in 2013 and finished LCMS School Leadership Development certification in 2018.

**Stephanie (Rogers) Nunez BA '09** and



her husband Andrew welcomed Parker Richard on Nov. 6, 2017. Stephanie teaches Spanish at St. Peter Lutheran School

in Arlington Heights, IL. The family resides in Palatine.

## 2010s

**Josh Evans BA '11** received his Master of



Divinity in May 2018 from The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and was ordained in December 2018 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL. He has

accepted a call to serve as associate pastor at Unity Lutheran Church in Brookfield, WI.

**Nick Skala BA '12** became head baseball coach in August 2018 for Adlai Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL.



**Sean Newman BME '12** was selected for membership in the Illinois Music Education Association Clinician Network, an organization "composed of outstanding music educators from across the state to collaborate, develop and deliver music education specific professional learning content."

**Marc Solodky MA '12** became coordinator of Student and Family Services for Troy School District in Troy, IL. Marc previously served as a school counselor and instructor.

**Pascale Creek Pinner PhD '12** has been



named an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow and is spending 11 months in Washington, D.C. serving in the Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists

in the U.S. Department of Energy. One of Concordia-Chicago's first Ph.D. graduating class, Pascale has taught earth and space science for 30 years at Hilo Intermediate School on the Big Island of Hawaii. Pascale has also lectured in science education methods at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

**Alyssa (Soulis) BA '14** and **Daniel**

**Mueller BA '14** were married June 2, 2018.



The couple thanks God for finding each other at CUC. Both student-athletes, Alyssa and Dan participate in soccer and hockey leagues

to stay active. Together they have visited seven countries, and hope to visit more. Recently they earned class M licenses and look forward to riding around Chicagoland on motorcycles this summer.

**Nathan Schilling TC '14** and doctoral candidate began his service in 2018 as superintendent of Lansing School District 158 in Lansing, IL.



**Edd '17**, and doctoral candidates **Michael Buttil** and **Margie Aker** led sessions on various topics promoting community, student participation and identity development.

**Eric Turlo MA '15** was appointed associate principal of Madison Middle School in Mansfield, OH. He previously served as a teacher in Lexington, KY and currently resides in Mansfield.

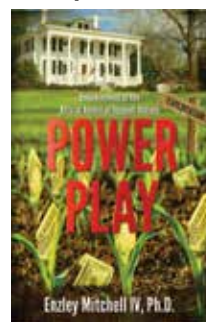
**Hunter (Bloom) BA '16, MA '18** and **Christian Stuckemeyer BA '18** were

married at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altamont, IL on June 15, 2018.



**Katy LaFayette MA '17** began her service as assistant branch manager to mBank's Negaunee and Ishpeming, MI branches in May 2018. Katy's past banking experience includes working with a wide range of clients and managing trust and estate accounts. Katy currently resides in Ishpeming.

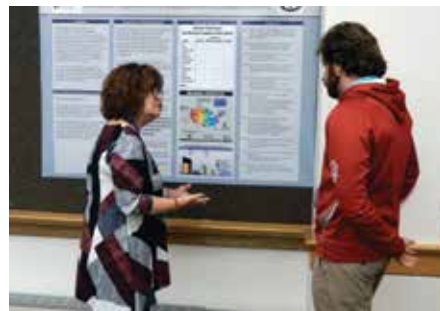
**Enzley Mitchell IV PhD '17** wrote *Power Play: Empowerment of the African American Student-Athlete*, which was published by Xlibris in September 2018.



He currently serves as assistant professor of sport management and kinesiology department chair at Bethel College in Mishawaka, IN.

## About Class Notes

Information listed reflects details received as of January 15, 2019. 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.



CUC alumni, faculty and students presented at the Midwestern Educational Research Association (MWERA) Conference in October 2018. Speakers included (order based on photo): **Dr. Pamela Konkol, Dr. Rebecca Homberger PhD '16, Dr. Mary Crabtree PhD '17, Dr. Amy Varchmin Edd '17, Dr. Patricia Farrenkopf Edd '14** (pictured), **Dr. Donna Knight**

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## Condolences

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*But thanks be to God, who gives us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
*1 Corinthians 15:57*

## Faculty

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**Robert Eggold HS, BS '51** – November 5, 2018

**Charles Froehlich** – January 9, 2019 professor emeritus theology and humanities (1962-1997)

**JoAnn Kiefer** – October 11, 2018 administrative assistant (1982-2004)

**Victor Peper BS '56** – January 12, 2019 vice president of development (1989-1992)

**Wilbert Rosin** – October 29, 2018 professor of social science and dean of Graduate studies (1961-1978)

## Alumni

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**James Ackmann BS '53** – August 1, 2018

**Adriana "Mieke" Appel BA '72** – November 27, 2018

**Otto Beckendorf BS '58** – June 15, 2017

**Robert Beckmann BS '55** – July 9, 2018

**Herbert Behmlander BS '55** – August 14, 2014

**Richard Berg BS '55, MA '67** – December 16, 2018

**Betty (Bruss) Blech BA '67** – September 15, 2018

**Friedrich Brauer III BS '49** – July 4, 2011

**Ellen Brusick BS '65, MA '72** – September 15, 2018

**Ronald Brusius BA '67** – January 17, 2018

**Benjamin Buck CQ '48** – July 19, 2005

**Barbara Cizek, S.J. BA '87, CAS '94** – May 31, 2015

**Marie (Hendrickson) Courchaine BS '66** – September 27, 2018

**Sandra (Arbogast) De Leo BA '68** – July 20, 2015

**Robert Eggold HS, BS '51** – November 5, 2018

**A. Wayne Engebrecht BS '58** – July 22, 2018

**Nicholas Fanale BA '92, MA '99** – May 21, 2018

**Clotilde Frankiewicz BA '88** – August 13, 2018

**Carl Garske HS '45, BS '50** – January 14, 2016

**Herbert Geisler BS '49** – September 19, 2018

**Mary Giese BA '69** – December 17, 2012

**Alyce (Kraepel) Glotzhober BS '52** – December 8, 2018

**Glenn Goeres BA '72** – March 21, 2018

**Arnold Goerke BS '58** – October 31, 2017

**Carole (Appel) Goff BS '61** – June 2, 2018

**Carolyn (Meifert) Grunewald BS '54** – December 25, 2018

**John Hawlicheck BA '66** – January 29, 2018

**Eileen (Haff) Herr BS '55** – September 2, 2018

**Arthur Himmler BA '69, MA '72** – February 7, 2013

**Dan Janssen BS '57** – August 24, 2018

**Robert Junkin BA '65** – July 6, 2017

**Dean Kell MA '66** – December 28, 2017

**Harold Kenow BS '53** – January 29, 2018

**Gerald Klonke BA '73** – May 17, 2017

**William Knorr BS '52, MA '67** – October 16, 2018

**Donald Koeller BS '54** – September 2, 2018

**Arthur Krafft HS '43, BS '48** – December 15, 2018

**Mary Jo (Hanna) Krause BS '46** – December 16, 2017

**Kenneth Lamb BS '55** – January 26, 2017

**Rosalyn (Barr) MacFadden BA '68** – November 4, 2012

**Virginia (Oswald) Manteuffel BS '63** – October 24, 2018

**Thomas McGhee BS '62, MA '69** – December 13, 2018

**Pauline (Adam) Meier BS '50** – May 10, 2018

**Ellen (Carney) Meyerhoff BS '62** – July 3, 2018

**Robert Neumann BS '54** – September 2, 2018

**Victor Peper BS '56** – January 12, 2019

**Ellen (Rafert) Peterson BS '60** – August 25, 2018

**Kevin Popp BA '77** – December 16, 2004

**Wayne Rasmussen MA '67** – June 3, 2018

**Elsie (Vollmer) Rebane BS '51** – June 29, 2018

**John Reuter BS '54, MA '64** – November 26, 2018

**Mary (Giese) Robinson BA '65** – August 4, 1999

**Darl Rose BA '60** – July 12, 2018

**Norbert Schaekel BS '56** – August 21, 2018

**Victor Schuler BS '50** – November 30, 2018

**Elaine (Kangas) Schumacher HS, BS '53** – September 4, 2018

**Ruth Senske BS '65, MA '70** – October 15, 2018

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# Lincoln Laureate a Problem-Solver Committed to Setting an Example for Others

BY: **ANNA SEIFERT**, Communications Associate



Concordia University Chicago senior Anna Friedrich says she felt truly honored to learn she'd been named the Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois for 2018.

Every year, the Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Awards are presented to one student from each of the degree-granting institutions in Illinois, for excellence in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. "I have always tried to work hard and set an example for others. Being selected by the faculty made me feel like I had accomplished these goals," she said.

Friedrich, of Green Valley, IL, received her award of a Student Laureate medallion and a \$1,000 educational grant at a ceremony at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, IL. "The ceremony and luncheon was a wonderful experience where I was able to engage with a variety of students from all across the state," she said.

"As of today, your name is inextricably connected to the name and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. Embrace this legacy and carry his name and reputation, with honor," Chancellor of the Lincoln Academy, Stephanie Pace Marshall, said during the address to the laureates. "Your unapologetic commitments and intense passion to serve others have already made a difference on your campuses and in your communities, and beyond."

Friedrich will graduate in May with a degree in mathematics, specializing in actuarial science. During

her time as a student, she has been a member of the Wind Symphony percussion ensemble and was part of a Concordia Youth Ministry team. She has excelled academically, making the Dean's list every semester of her academic career. In addition, she has also volunteered her time and taken part in math competitions hosted at Concordia-Chicago.

Given her major, it may not be surprising that she enjoys problem-solving. One of her favorite sayings is, "Sometimes to get around a problem, you have to be irrational. Just ask pi. Not only is it irrational, it also never quits." After graduation, Friedrich plans to seek employment as an actuary or statistician, preferably in the Central Illinois area so she can remain close to family.

"The thing that I have enjoyed most about my college experience is the lifelong memories and friendships that I now have, especially with two of my fellow actuarial science majors," said Friedrich. "Without their friendship and support, I would have had a very different experience both in and outside the classroom."



1. Left to right: Vice Chancellor of the Lincoln Academy Ronald Spears, Anna Friedrich BS '19, Chancellor of the Lincoln Academy Stephanie Pace Marshall

2. All of the Student Laureates at the ceremony at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, IL in November 2018.

# Faculty/Staff News

**Dr. Andrea Dinaro**, associate professor of special education, co-presented, "Curriculum supports for international families about disabilities and special education" at the meeting of the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education Winter Conference in Springfield, IL.



**Dr. Rachel Eells**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, co-authored, "The power of collective efficacy" with Jenni Donohoo and John Hattie in the journal *Educational Leadership*, 75(6).



**Dr. Helga Hambrock**, assistant professor and senior instructional designer, was named the Lutheran Education Association (LEA) 2019 Leader in Outreach. The award is given every year to a nominee who infuses outreach in their given ministry, is dedicated to reaching the lost, encourages evangelism, and personally witnesses and proclaims Christ's saving message.

**Nikkole Huss**, associate professor of art, and **BettyAnn Mocek**, professor of art, exhibited in Chicago Society of Artists: Members' Exhibition, Gallery Seven in Lockport, IL, and also both had work in A Collective Expression, Chicago Society of Artists at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL.



The book *Getting to Where We Meant to Be: Working Toward the Educational World We Imagine/d*, written by **Dr. Pamela Konkol**, professor of foundations and social policy, and Patricia H. Hinchey, was awarded the American Educational Studies Association (AESA) Critics Choice Book Award for 2018.



**Dr. Jamie Kowalczyk**, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, co-authored, "Context, entanglement, and assemblage as matters of concern in comparative education research" in *World Yearbook of Education 2018*, from Routledge Press.

**Jenna Nelson**, visiting assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, presented "(Un)Doing Giftedness: Adolescent Latina Identity in Dual Language Gifted and Talented Classrooms" at the IRC Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers Serving Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students, and co-presented "Considering Adolescent Latina Identity in the Secondary English Classroom" at the Illinois Association for Gifted Children Annual Conference.

**Dr. Kevin O'Mara**, associate professor of educational leadership, was named to Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's educational success committee. O'Mara served in an advisory role on the transition team to define the new governor's education plan for the students and families of Illinois.

**Andrew Pederson**, associate professor of English, presented, "Realism is Dead/Long Live Realism: Rejection and Acceptance of a Dramatic Form" on a panel at The Association of Writers and Writing Programs National Conference in Tampa, FL.



**Dr. Andrew Steinmann**, distinguished professor of theology and Hebrew, published, "They Could Only Save Themselves: Noah, Daniel, and Job (Ezekiel 14:14, 20)" in *His Words Soar Above Him: Biblical and Northwest Semitic Studies Presented to Professor Charles R. Krahmalkov*, edited by Robert M. Kerr, Robert Miller II and Philip C. Schmitz.



*Leading with Resolve and Mastery:*

*Competency-Based Strategies for Superintendent Success*, written by **Dr. Craig Schilling**, professor of educational leadership, **Dr. Daniel Tomal**, distinguished professor of leadership, **Dr. Robert Wilhite**, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and **Dr. Jeffrey Brierton**, associate professor of educational leadership, received the Book of the Year award for 2018 from Success Solutions International (SSI) in the category of Leadership and Education.



**Dr. Mary Zaharis**, assistant professor of educational leadership, **Dr. Paul Sims**, associate professor of educational leadership, **Dr. L. Arthur Safer**, professor of leadership, **Dr. Arthur D. Hendricks**, associate professor of leadership, **Dr. Kim Sekulich**, associate professor of educational leadership, and **Dr. Denise Glasgow**, assistant professor of leadership, published "The Impact of Spirituality on School Leadership" in the journal *Education Leadership Review*.







## PLANNED GIVING AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

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Do you want to impact the success and experiences of students through scholarship, program or improved campus facilities? **You have the opportunity to impact students' lives and help shape Concordia-Chicago's future by including the University in your estate plans.**

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Your plan administrator or life insurance agent can provide you with a beneficiary form. Whichever option you choose, your financial position won't be affected until your estate is settled.

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Contact:

**Sandra H. Nelson**

Vice President

Concordia University Chicago Foundation

866-288-3026





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## Visit the CUC booth at the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering!

**July 12-14 Minneapolis, MN**

Don't forget to tag **#CUCNYG19** in your Instagram and Twitter photos to be included in our photo mosaic wall.



**LCMS YOUTH GATHERING**  
Minneapolis · July 11-15, 2019

Join Us!

### **CUC Alumni Reception**

July 14  
12 - 3p.m.

*DoubleTree  
Suites by  
Hilton Minneapolis*