

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO Forester

CUChicago.edu

Fall 2020

The Deaconess Intern



The Nurse



The School Superintendent



The Pastor



The Military Chaplain



The Mental Health Therapist



Serving in unprecedented times



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

To be honest, penning this column proved quite a task. Where does one begin to sum up a year like this? How do we begin to wrap our heads around having our lives upended in ways we could not have imagined?

If nothing else, 2020 has reminded us that we are not in control of history or even our own lives. We are ultimately in God's hands, and that provides us with great comfort! As 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." No amount of careful planning, teamwork, or dedication can bring the kind of abundance that God pours out on us in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Still, planning, teamwork, and dedication do matter in this life. They are tools God has given us to help us serve others faithfully and effectively. While it is no secret that Concordia-Chicago doesn't possess the same resources as some other universities, we continue to serve students and the Church very effectively, even in this time of pandemic and social unrest. Time and again over the past year, I have witnessed the entire University community drive the institution forward, providing for students in many different ways. By the grace of God and through planning, teamwork, and dedication, we've done more with less.

As a result, we have much to celebrate despite the challenges we face. Chief among those accomplishments is that we reached record enrollment this fall—a momentous achievement at any time, let alone during such societal upheaval. This actually marks our 11th consecutive year of growth and our third year of serving more than 6,000 students.

U.S. News & World Report recently recognized Concordia-Chicago for our ethnic and economic diversity, among other notable rankings. This is a testament to our continued dedication to providing an exceptional Lutheran education that is accessible to students from diverse backgrounds. Related to the economics of earning a university degree, both Money Magazine and LendEDU heralded our university for affordability, with the latter recognizing our average student debt per borrower as the sixth-lowest in the state of Illinois.

I also continue to be overwhelmingly impressed by the University's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Our faculty and staff have embraced the institutional changes needed to continue serving our students to ensure continuity of an exceptional learning experience. They transitioned operations and courses from an in-person to online format almost overnight, and continue to devote themselves to improving the remote-learning experience. Our COVID-19 response team also continues to lead us in providing a safe and secure campus amid an ever-changing situation. I couldn't be more proud.

Likewise, I am proud of the members of the University community who are on the front lines of the pandemic. Whether in the military, hospital operating room, or the classroom, Concordians are serving in Christ's name in many different ways. We've shared some of their inspiring stories in this edition.

This spring, we will change our campus operations yet again, based on what we've learned over the past 10 months. We look forward to welcoming even more students and faculty to campus through the addition of hyflex courses. These classes will combine components of remote learning with face-to-face opportunities that are integral to the traditional college experience. Best of all, students get to choose their preferred method of study.

One other important change occurring on campus in 2020 is a complete review and prioritization of all University operations. Completion of this in-depth assessment, with the input and participation of faculty and staff across the institution, will help set the University up for long-term future success. The end result will be reallocation of resources to best support moving forward with our forthcoming strategic plan.

I look forward to introducing you to the tenets of that plan in a future edition of the Forester. In the meantime, I encourage you to read my explanation of our new Mission and Vision statements, which are guiding our work.

Even though we can't foresee exactly when our current challenges will end, we rest assured that we are safe in God's hands through all the inevitable changes. I urge you to continue praying and relying on Christ as your pillar of strength. We all face a lifetime of change, but we do so together as children of God.

Russell P. Dawn

President

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

Eric Matanyi

MANAGING EDITOR

Anna Seifert

DESIGNER

Tracy Vasquez

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Paige Craig BA '99, MBA '14

Dani Gariglio MBA '20

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger

Eric Matanyi

Martina Reese

Anna Seifert

PHOTOGRAPHY

Emily Adkins

MISSION

Steadfast in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, Concordia University Chicago promotes academic rigor in its liberal arts and professional programs; grounds students in objective truth, integrity, and excellence; and practices faithfulness to the Confessional teachings of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, as it forms students for vocations in church, family, and the world.

VISION

Concordia University Chicago is a Christ-centered Lutheran university where truth, freedom, and vocation form students for lives of influence and service for the common good.

CORE VALUES

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

CHRISTIAN FAITH.

The Christian faith is an integral part of our community.

THE INDIVIDUAL.

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

EXCELLENCE.

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

INTEGRITY.

Our community demonstrates the accord between our beliefs and practices.

SERVICE.

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

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CONTACT US

Forester Magazine: c/o University Communications & Marketing
Concordia University Chicago, 7400 Augusta St., River Forest, IL 60305-1499
708-209-3111 | forester@CUChicago.edu



Emerging Leader Grant Awarded to Elementary Education Student

The We Raise Foundation awarded a \$15,000 Emerging Leader Grant to current student Charnesha Collier, who serves as Tuckpointing Crew Leader for Harambee Citybuilders, a program of River City Development Center (R CITY) in Chicago. Collier began as an apprentice and quickly worked her way up to head crew leader. Collier is majoring in elementary education with a middle school endorsement at Concordia-Chicago.

"The grant is used to fund one of our grad crew programs, which is a branch of Harambee Citybuilders," Collier said. Since 2017, R CITY has operated the Harambee Tuckpointing Apprenticeship Project. Serving youth ages 12-18, the project provides training in the skill of tuckpointing, a technique that involves filling gaps between mortar and brick on masonry chimney and walls, via classroom teaching and community service experience.

The We Raise Foundation partners with Christian organizations to raise consciousness, community leadership and capital, in order to support and develop sustainable programs that help people thrive.

Students Excel at Self-Employment in the Arts Conference

Art majors took part in the Self-Employment in the Arts conference at Columbia College, Chicago earlier this year, before the coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of large events. The annual conference welcomes college students majoring in the art, music, theater, dance or film from around the country. Three of the 15 students accepted into the juried art show were from Concordia-Chicago:



senior Baleigh Bennett, Anastasia Camp BA '20 and Jahari Thompson BA '20. This was Camp's third year as a participant, which represents a significant accomplishment given the exhibition's prestige. Bennett's ceramic work "Hands" was awarded Best in Show.

Thompson was accepted into the Pitch Competition, which provides an opportunity to win a cash prize for students who present an idea for a new business or are interested in growing an existing one. Nine students were selected to give a three-minute presentation before a panel of six business and entrepreneurial professionals. Thompson was the only undergraduate chosen among four winners and is using the funds to purchase photographic equipment and promote his art studio.

CUC students are able to attend thanks to funding from the Len and Carla Schoepp Scholarship Fund for art student enrichment experiences.

Hymn of the Year Arranged by Acclaimed Composer

The theme of the year, "Together, A New Creation," and hymn of the year, "In Christ There Is No East or West," premiered at Opening Service on Aug. 23. While the service was streamed live online rather than attended in-person, it



was no less celebratory as new students were welcomed and the rites of induction and installation were carried out.

"Concordia-Chicago is honored that Stacey V. Gibbs, a prolific and highly accomplished Black composer, has arranged 'In Christ There Is No East or West' for the enrichment of our worship this academic year," said University Pastor Dr. Jeff Leininger.

The hymn was originally written by Henry T. Burleigh (1866-1949), who adapted a tune from the African American spiritual tradition for use with the hymn text. Burleigh, a descendant of slaves, collected, edited and arranged hundreds of tunes then known as "plantation songs."

"Gibbs' composition follows Burleigh's as a stirring example of a musical tradition birthed from a painful past, but now liberating and edifying for all," said Leininger. An archived video of Opening Service is available for viewing at CUChicago.edu/live.

Doctoral Student Wins Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

Colleen McKenna MA '13 is a graduate of Concordia-Chicago's master's in reading education program, current doctoral candidate in special education leadership at CUC, third and fourth grade teacher of deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and now, a Golden Apple winner. She was announced as one of 10 winners of the prestigious award, selected from more than 730 nominees in Illinois. McKenna joins 21 other CUC alumni who have won the award in previous years. The Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented to 10 outstanding teachers in the five-county Chicago area every year.

According to Golden Apple, McKenna has been a dedicated advocate for her students in her 15 years of

teaching, paying attention to each student's individual needs, securing funding for projects that are of interest to them and volunteering after school to teach sign language to non-hearing-impaired students.

After earning her master's at Concordia-Chicago, McKenna decided to return to pursue her doctorate thanks to the supportive environment she initially encountered at the University. Her ultimate goal is to be able to contribute to research in deaf education. "I realized there is so little research out there pertaining to deaf education," she says. "I wanted to figure out how it's changing and be a better leader in the field and bring awareness to others."

Concordia University Chicago Enrollment Reaches Record High

In a time of great uncertainty for universities nationwide due to the pandemic, Concordia-Chicago celebrated the largest-ever enrollment in its 156-year history. This year's fall enrollment totals 6,490 students, a growth of 5% over last year. This also marks the third consecutive year of combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment exceeding 6,000 students.

"It goes without saying that achieving this type of increase in normal times is a challenge, let alone during the turmoil that we've faced together in 2020," said President Russell Dawn. "We give thanks to God for CUC's continued success, and for the dedication of each and every faculty and staff member. They responded to the challenge of transitioning courses from an in-person to an online format almost overnight, and we still saw enrollment rise significantly. We couldn't be more proud."

6,490
RECORD
ENROLLMENT

Concordia-Chicago's enrollment for 2020 includes 4,953 graduate students—its largest number ever. In addition, the University's accelerated degree program (ADP), a pathway for non-traditional undergraduates to earn their degrees, grew to a record 287 students.

"We look forward to building on this fall's excellent results, achieving future growth and pushing beyond our current success," Dawn added.

1. Undergraduate student Charnesha Collier, right, was awarded the Emerging Leader Grant from the We Raise Foundation.

2. "Hands" by CUC senior Baleigh Bennett won Best in Show at the Self-Employment in the Arts conference.

3. Colleen McKenna MA '13 joined 21 other CUC alumni in Illinois who have been named Golden Apple winners.

Upcoming Events

As the University continues to operate under COVID-19 protocols, many large in-person events have been canceled or postponed. However, faculty and staff have found unique and innovative ways to continue offering key events in alternate and virtual formats.



▶ Service of Lessons & Carols

December 5 at 7 p.m.
December 6 at 4 p.m.

Join us virtually for the University's Christmas tradition of Lessons & Carols. Following all state and local recommendations for

gathering sizes and shielding performers, the Service of Lessons & Carols will be streamed online on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.. The services will also be available thereafter as an archived video. The University's music ensembles, including the Kapelle, Laudate, Handbell Ensemble, Schola Cantorum and Chamber Orchestra, will perform during the services, which are an annual part of the Christmas preparation for students, alumni and friends of Concordia University Chicago.



▶ Fall 2020 Commencement

This December, celebrate with our graduates from near or far! Three separate virtual ceremonies will be hosted via online streaming video. In addition to the traditional

undergraduate and graduate ceremonies, CUC is hosting its first-ever Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.

Doctoral Hooding - Friday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m.

Undergraduate Commencement - Saturday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m.

Graduate Commencement - Saturday, Dec. 12, 4 p.m.



▶ CUCelebrates

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Concordia-Chicago's Annual Day of Giving provides the entire CUC community the opportunity to show the world we are 100% behind the University's mission and its students. Join alumni & friends for

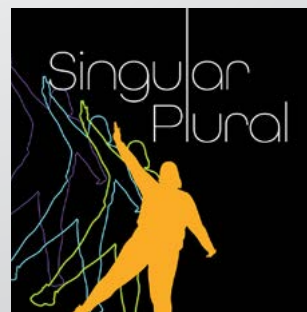
another record-setting day as we broadcast our support. Details to come in early 2021 at CUCChicago.edu/CUCelebrates.



▶ Undergraduate Virtual Visits

Throughout the winter and spring, prospective undergraduate students can take advantage of many opportunities to learn what CUC is all about. Check out CUCChicago.edu/visit for the latest dates

and times for virtual information sessions, or schedule an individual virtual visit that is customized to your interests.



▶ The Arts at Concordia

CUC's theater performances, music ensemble performances and Ferguson Gallery shows have all adapted to bring the arts to the community in innovative new ways. We're excited

to bring you an engaging spring arts season. Be sure to visit the Arts at Concordia webpage to find out take part in the experience: CUCChicago.edu/the-arts.

The Word at Work

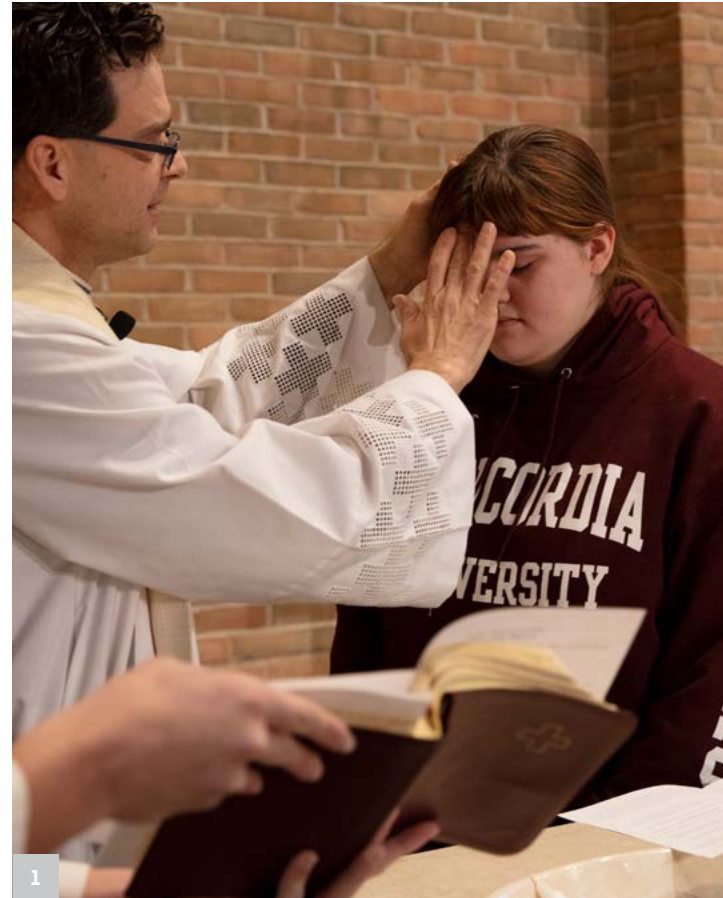
BY: **REV. DR. JEFFREY LEININGER**, University Pastor and Dean of the Chapel

“ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
—John 1:14

In the beginning, the word of God broke through the darkness, ordering the waters of chaos. That same word spoke through the prophets of old, calling people to repentance and to faith. The word of God spoke into our life in the person and work of Jesus Christ, who became en-fleshed in our humanity. In this One Word, God worked miracles, restored creation and called us back to Himself. That Word then was crucified for us and for our salvation, suffering bitterly for us; receiving all that was supposed to be upon us; yet speaking forgiveness and love for those he came to save. That Word died, but did not remain dead. The Word of resurrection shouted forth from the grave a more powerful word than sin and Satan, death and hell. The word of “Life” conquered the word of “Death” once and for all. That same word, by the Spirit, danced like tongues of fire on the believers’ heads as they spoke words in many tongues and languages at Pentecost. That same word, then, over the centuries moved its way to River Forest to unleash its power on a Concordia University Chicago student named Abby Merkler.

Abby received new life through the waters of Holy Baptism last semester, prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a beautiful and celebratory Chapel service, she affirmed with our worshipping community the “one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.” Abby’s story, which is a story of the word at work, needs to be heard. She came to Concordia-Chicago with little or no faith, resistant to the gospel. Yet through the witness of classmates, the example of Christian professors, and the call of the Spirit through the word, Abby was brought to faith in Jesus. The gospel of forgiveness, life and salvation now strengthens her daily walk and will bring her to an eternity with Christ.

This is the way God has always worked—using the ordinary things to do the extra-ordinary. Sinful, human beings; a less-than-perfect university; three splashes of water on a young woman’s forehead all conveyed God’s power in humble, but miraculous ways. As a university, we explore the greatest questions of the human condition. As a *Christian* university, we also proclaim the greatest answer: “the word became flesh and dwelt among us.” This became true for Abby this semester, as it has for countless others in the history of this institution. May God bless Concordia-Chicago as we continue to be a place where His Word is at work!



1. Abby Merkler receiving the sign of the cross from Pastor Leining at her baptism on Feb. 21, 2020.

A simple gift makes a big impact.



Concordia University Chicago is continually advancing to provide the tools and resources our students, faculty and staff need to lead and serve our ever-changing world. By giving to our Pillars Fund, you make a big impact in every program, student and aspect of the university.



Visit CUChicago.edu/GiveNow
or Call 866-448-3867
and talk to a gift officer.

Your gift will make a big
impact in our student's lives.

Foundation@CUChicago.edu
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Pillars Pantry Launches to Fight Hunger on Campus



BY: **ANNA SEIFERT**, Communications Associate

According to the College & University Food Bank Alliance—a national organization of campus-based programs focused on alleviating food insecurity, hunger and poverty—30 percent of college students in the United States are food insecure. They lack reliable access to sufficient quantities of affordable, nutritious food. Furthermore, food insecure students are statistically less likely to graduate. A student may be experiencing hunger for various reasons, many of which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Low-income students may qualify for significant tuition assistance, but grants and scholarships typically do not cover food costs. In addition, unexpected hardships, such as sudden loss of employment or unforeseen medical expenses, can lead to food insecurity for those already on a tight budget.

As she learned more about the issue of hunger on college campuses, University Deaconess Betsy Karkan BA '08, MA '18 decided to lead the effort to open a food pantry at Concordia University Chicago. "Our students shouldn't experience hunger under our roof," says Karkan. "As a Christian community, we care for one another. Like the Christians in Matthew 25 who ask Jesus, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?' we know that it is when we feed those we are called to serve."

On Sept. 30, the last day of Hunger Action Month, the University officially cut the grand opening ribbon on the brand-new Pillars Pantry. All enrolled students who do not have a CUC dining plan are eligible to visit the pantry for free food items once per month. The Pillars Pantry provides supplemental support; that is, it does not provide all of the food a student will need, but it helps alleviate that need in some way.

"Concordia-Chicago welcomes students from a variety of backgrounds to enjoy the blessings of a Christ-centered education. For some, this means a tremendous sacrifice," says Dean of Students Kathy Gebhardt BA '96. "Our prayer is that the resources provided through the Pillars Pantry will provide a practical benefit to those in need, especially during these difficult times with COVID-19. We take very

seriously our Lord Jesus' command to remember those in need, and we seek to model His life of ministry and service among all God's children."

Students themselves have also played a significant leadership role in developing this new service. A student board will eventually drive the future direction of the pantry, leading food drive initiatives, promoting the pantry to the community, making decisions on how it will grow and more. The pantry's inaugural student advisory board members are junior Grace Conrad, and sophomores Caleb Gustafson, Adrian Hernandez and Nikita Robbins.

The Pillars Pantry can only remain fully stocked through kind and generous donations—both monetary and food—all of which are tax deductible. "Food is a basic need. Lack of access to it should not be a deterrent for our students to complete their degrees," says Karkan. "The Pillars Pantry will help ensure that they don't have to choose between food and books." Learn how you can support the needs of CUC students today through donating or volunteering, by visiting CUChicago.edu/pillarspantry.



1. Deaconess Betsy Karkan and students officially open the Pillars Pantry, located on the second floor of the KCC.



The Future of Lutheran Identity at CUC

BY: DR. RUSSELL DAWN, President

Never has Lutheran identity been a more important topic than it is today. Higher education is maligned for overwhelming students with debt and underwhelming them in preparation for careers. The influence of Christianity in America is in steep decline. Fewer and fewer families understand the connection between religion and education, to say nothing of valuing it. In such circumstances, does Lutheran identity offer answers? Does it provide a viable alternative to the chaotic mainstream of higher ed? Can we even peg what the essence of Lutheran identity is?

That last point, the real essence of Lutheran identity, is a crucial one. In many ways it's a threshold question, the one that must be answered before any other conversation around this topic can be fruitful. My goal

“A university that has a **clear identity** is doing its best work and has a magnetic quality about it.

- Dr. Russell Dawn

for this edition of the Forester is to paint a picture of Lutheran identity in the university context. It is a picture of faithfulness intersecting with academic rigor, of an education that is neither secularized nor sectarian, of identity as the lynchpin of future success. That exciting, robust picture reflects my vision for the future of Concordia University Chicago.

I'll begin my discussion with the importance of having an institutional identity, along with the struggles Concordia-Chicago has had in this regard over the last couple of decades. I'll then turn to the vision for the future of CUC's Lutheran identity, with an emphasis on drawing contrasts against other approaches to higher education.

Having a clear identity is absolutely crucial if an institution is going to thrive. There's more going on than just a name, merely a set of things that the institution does, or even a reputation. Identity is about essence—what the institution really is. A university that has a clear identity is doing its best work and has a magnetic quality about it. People want to be part of something, and identity is what makes a university really something. Identity is an integral part of thriving.

Concordia-Chicago expanded significantly in the 2000s and early 2010s. New academic programs were added rapidly, and not always with consideration for the fit

of such programs with the University's identity. A number of those programs ended up fitting quite well, but some others didn't. Eventually it got to a point where there was no strong, clear, unifying identity to draw it all together and make sense of it.

If Concordia-Chicago is going to thrive—truly thrive—it will only do so if it develops a clear, strong, unifying identity. I'm firmly convinced that this is how we'll do our best work, and that there's a sizeable enough niche for the identity we're developing, an appetite among future students and donors that isn't satisfied anywhere else.

The identity we're developing is described aptly in our Mission and Vision Statements. Here they are:

Mission Statement

Steadfast in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, Concordia University Chicago promotes academic rigor in its liberal arts and professional programs; grounds students in objective truth, integrity, and excellence; and practices faithfulness to the Confessional teachings of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, as it forms students for vocations in church, family, and the world.

Vision Statement

Concordia University Chicago is a Christ-centered Lutheran university where truth, freedom, and vocation form students for lives of influence and service for the common good.

I could take a lot of time expounding upon these statements. Indeed, I've spoken and written at some length about these things, especially Truth, Freedom, and Vocation. But sometimes it brings more clarity when we talk not only about what is or will be, but what isn't or won't be. A little contrast can sharpen the image.

Much of modern academia has been built over the last century or more upon collections of beliefs that have come to be called Secularism. Secularism is a worldview that includes understandings about a variety of fundamentally important matters like human nature, the purpose of human life, the nature of concepts like justice and truth, the nature of the universe, the existence of God (or lack thereof), and a number of other things. In many cases, Secularist views about these things are specifically reactions against the Christian tradition. Secularism works a lot like a religion, complete with moral codes, norms about language, different branches, and often very little tolerance for competing worldviews or traditions.

Again, much of modern academia is steeped in one form or another of this quasi-religion of Secularism. So entrenched is Secularism in many institutions that its adherents don't even see it as a worldview; it's just a neutral, factual baseline to them. And many of them not only reject competing views (the chief of which is Christianity), they won't even permit academic engagement with Christian views.

Secularism not only pervades many institutions, it pervades many scholarly disciplines. And through those disciplines it has permeated previously Christian institutions. Many faith-based colleges have become like a plate of doughnuts where Secularism is baked in, saturating the batter. Maybe there's a little bit of Jesus or some passages of Scripture sprinkled on top. Maybe there are a couple of odd, non-Secularist doughnuts over in this department or that one, but no more than that. And then the banner over the whole plate is "Christian" or "Catholic" or "Lutheran." But the substance defies the banner and the sprinkles.

Now to be clear, I don't believe for a moment that this describes Concordia-Chicago. But I do think there's more Secularism in our batter than we as an institution ever intended. In a culture that's dominated by Secularism (and make no mistake, the culture of American academia is so dominated), remaining faithful requires constant, intentional, sometimes painful effort. Unless we make the effort, and make it constantly and intentionally, we could eventually become a plate of Secularist doughnuts under the banner of Lutheranism. That is, quite simply, unacceptable.

It's unacceptable religiously for obvious reasons, but it's also unacceptable intellectually. I firmly believe that Secularism has been poison to the academic enterprise, killing the Academy intellectually as much as spiritually. Moreover, the more secularized Concordia-Chicago would become, the less distinctive it would be. It would be just like almost every other university, with little to set it apart and serve as a magnet for students and donors.

Concordia-Chicago's future is very different from this bleak picture. Its future is intellectually and spiritually robust! It's filled with unifying purpose, bright and energized around Lutheran identity.

“Concordia's future is intellectually and spiritually robust! It's filled with **unifying purpose**, bright and energized around Lutheran identity.

- Dr. Russell Dawn

What does that mean for Concordia-Chicago? It means the things laid out in our Mission and Vision statements. It means Truth, Freedom, and Vocation. It means lives of influence and service for the common good. It means academic rigor. It means objective truth, excellence, and integrity. It means, first and foremost, that we remain steadfast in Jesus Christ. To be more specific, it means that our understanding of Christ is formed by the full scriptural witness, Old and New Testaments, and not just those passages that seem to paint Christ in our own image. Even more specifically, it means that our understanding of the scriptural witness is formed by the Lutheran Confessions and the historic creeds of the universal church. The individual does not have to sign on personally to belief in the Creeds and Confessions, but they serve as norms for institutional vocation.

Lest anyone claim otherwise, this is decidedly not the route of withdrawing from society or from the academic enterprise. We are not becoming a Bible college. True to the Lutheran intellectual tradition, we treat the intersection of faith and learning differently than many other institutions. While we uphold the clear and reliable witness of Scripture, we also understand that God has given us reason and senses to help us pursue and discover temporal truths about our world. While we strive to understand our world as it is, we also acknowledge that it's God's world, discernable by our reason but ordered by His revelation. We pursue truth wherever truth is to be found, while understanding that the world's claims of "Truth! Truth!" are not to be accepted uncritically. In short, we live in the tension of the ancient Christian tradition of faith that seeks understanding.

“Students are served best when they can see these challenges and conflicts clearly and **draw their own conclusions** accordingly. That's academic rigor!

- Dr. Russell Dawn

Thus, in student life we grapple with the real-world challenges that our students face, but not necessarily in the ways that the world says we ought to. In academics, we embrace the dialectical—sometimes even conflicting—relationship between the Christian scholar and the mainstream of Secularist academia. We welcome open debate and discussion, never failing to bring both a biblical lens and a reasoning mind to such debate and discussion. Students are served best when they can see these challenges and conflicts clearly and draw their own conclusions accordingly. That's academic rigor!

In these ways, taking hold of our Lutheran identity will help us to flourish. Neither secularized nor academically diminished, Concordia-Chicago will provide a truly distinctive and outstanding educational experience. This is as crucial to our future as any financial reform. There is truth in the adage, “no money, no mission.” But the more profound truth is this: “No mission, no reason for the money.” That's what Lutheran identity is all about. It's about a bright future, an important future for Concordia University Chicago, the original Concordia.



A photograph of Tom Hallett, CFO and COO, sitting in a library. He is a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is sitting in a red upholstered chair, with his hands clasped in his lap. Behind him are tall bookshelves filled with books. The lighting is soft and even.

Celebrating Retirement: Tom Hallett, CFO, COO

In early 2021, the University will recognize the retirement of longtime CFO/COO Tom Hallett. He has served diligently since 2003, when he was brought in to engineer a financial turnaround of the University as it teetered on the brink of bankruptcy. He worked side-by-side with then-interim President Ralph Reinke to develop a plan that addressed both short-term survival and a long-term fiscal restructuring.

Within just two years of his hiring, the University realized an operating surplus, something that has continued every fiscal year since 2005. Throughout his tenure, Hallett has worked tirelessly to secure strong financial relationships with new banks, to identify new sources of revenue and to streamline operations. Of particular note was the significant increase in the number of graduate students during the early 2000s, due in no small part to the new relationships and contracts he developed with external recruitment partners.

He is recognized for having a concurrent eye on the small and large financial pictures. Hallett put into place clear and actionable operating plans that ensure Concordia-Chicago is able to balance ongoing growth with achievable results. Under his strong fiscal guidance, the University has also significantly expanded and improved its campus facilities, including the building of Concordia Hall, the transformation of the West Annex into the Kreft Center, the expansion of our athletic

fields, the renovation of Mary Martha and Trusheim Halls, the addition of the Fitness Center and the general beautification of our campus.

He indicates that in retirement, he won't completely disengage from his passion for finance, and looks forward to consulting and acting as a board member for nonprofit organizations. At the same time, stepping away from a full-time position will provide him with plenty of opportunities to travel, spend time with his family and focus on returning to music performance (he has played the clarinet for the last 58 years). Recognized for his soft-spokenness, sense of humor and humility, Hallett will be remembered for his steadfast service to the University, the Church and, most importantly, to CUC's students.

Within just two years of his hiring, the University realized **an operating surplus**, something that has continued every fiscal year since 2005.



Service to the Church and World Amid a Pandemic

Concordia University Chicago **alumni, students, faculty and staff have been serving Christ in their vocations in many different ways since the COVID-19 pandemic began**—often times in ways they never would have imagined. Several members of the extended CUC community talked with the *Forester* about how their lives and job descriptions have changed, and how they are able to lead with strength and compassion.

The Registered Nurse

Jona (Bautista) Santos BS '03 currently works as a registered nurse in the neuroscience intensive care unit at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. The unit treats patients who have experienced severe brain injuries, stroke, brain tumors, trauma, cerebral aneurysm and autoimmune crisis/storm. In her role as an ICU nurse, Santos prepares and assists before and during invasive neurological procedures. In addition, she manages medication and reports the results of invasive brain monitoring devices, craniotomies and other surgical sites. Above all, Santos is a healer, serving others, she explains, by “providing compassionate and professional care and education for patients and their families.”

As a health care worker in a hospital setting, Santos is high risk for contracting a COVID-19 infection. Managing that risk has left her unable to visit her long-distance family, as she seeks to protect them from acquiring the virus and also to safeguard herself from exposure during travel.

Santos, like many front-line health care workers, has experienced a lack of essential supplies—common medications, medical supplies, equipment, machines and personal protective equipment—needed to confront the pandemic. She feels fortunate that her employer has withstood the financial challenges of the pandemic period without laying off or furloughing any employees. The enormous stress of being a front-line worker has been reduced somewhat by the Center’s commitment to employee well-being delivered in the form of emergency housing and hotels, food, monetary bonuses and, for those who desire it, psychological support.

Santos earned her BS in nursing through Concordia-Chicago’s joint degree program with West Suburban College of Nursing. Looking back, Santos credits her undergraduate experience in preparing her for subsequent success in the field of nursing. She says, “The academic and professional preparation in my nursing education motivated me to fulfill my duties to get to where I am now...with many sacrifices and hard work, of course.”

—Martina Reese

The Military Chaplain

On a chilly Easter morning, soldiers from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) lined up at a perfectly precise social distance from one another. Rev. Dr. Tom Korcok stood in front of the group, Bible in hand, his military fatigues starkly contrasting the bright purple ecclesiastical stole around his neck. Korcok, professor of theology at CUC and CAF reservist since 2009, and his parishioners had recently been called up to active duty. They were assigned to Canada's primary COVID-19 pandemic response effort, codenamed Operation Lazer.

As Chaplain, Korcok was responsible for the spiritual well-being and morale of the troops stationed at CFB Borden, an Army base in an isolated location north of Toronto. "It was both the coldest and coolest Easter service I've ever led," he recalls. "At a time when churches were not able to offer worship in person, I had the opportunity to provide spiritual guidance to a group that desperately needed it as first-responders during the pandemic." Chuckling a bit, Korcok mentions that the only musician available on base was a bagpiper. "I'm not sure that instrument was designed to play hymns, but it was fitting as part of a unique service during a unique time."

In Canada, COVID-19 had the largest impact on elder care facilities. This 500-troop rapid response group provided support services to nursing homes throughout the region. As part of his ministry outreach, Korcok also led daily worship that was broadcast via Zoom to troops in remote locations.

Anxiety was extremely high as the soldiers were faced with death among the elderly each day. The service members faced dire circumstances while isolated from their friends, families and support systems. Korcok helped to improve their spirits by merging the words of the Gospel with a ministry of presence—not pretending things were better or worse than they actually were, but instead pointing people to the fact that Christ makes all things new.

During his deployment, Korcok also continued to teach his CUC theology classes online. Always up for a challenge, he describes the experience as exciting and inspiring. "As pastors and educators, we are used to connecting with people face-to-face," he says.

"Admittedly, I'm still figuring out how to best relate the articles of faith in an online environment. At the same time, we're so blessed with the opportunity to share the Word virtually."

He recalls staying grounded himself by focusing on three key aspects of being a military chaplain: the spiritual component of daily worship; the emotional component of listening and helping people through crisis; and the chain of command, which he described as a two-way street, informing his superiors about troop morale while offering counsel to them as well.

"The pandemic has highlighted the fragility of life, but also the need for the comfort and direction that our faith provides," Korcok says. "In times of crisis and suffering, our confession of that faith helps us keep a positive outlook. Throughout history, the Christian emphasis on the Cross and suffering brings connection to hope in uncertain times."

—Eric Matanyi



The pandemic has highlighted the fragility of life, but also the **need for the comfort and direction** that our faith provides. In times of crisis and suffering, our confession of that faith helps us keep a positive outlook.

- Rev. Dr. Tom Korcok

The School Superintendent

As superintendent for Community High School District 99 in Downers Grove, IL, Dr. Hank Thiele BA '96 works at the front lines of educational delivery. Thiele is responsible for supervising a district comprising two high schools, 5,000 students and 700 staff members.

Thiele's role as an educational administrator has been profoundly impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The greatest challenges we currently face come from trying to allow for in-person learning in a safe environment for our students and staff," he says. "Leadership has been made incredibly difficult by the nebulous, late and ever-changing COVID-19 response guidance." He notes that managing divisiveness over the issue in the school community frequently fell to him.

Thiele completed his BA in secondary education at Concordia-Chicago and counts his time at the University as formative. "My experiences at Concordia-Chicago have always been the base from which I have taught and served as a leader," he notes. "I frequently think of the relationships that were formed, the life lessons I learned and the strong, positive examples set by my professors." Thiele continued his progress toward educational leadership by earning an MA in teacher leadership,



It is up to us as leaders to reciprocate and provide the **best possible experience** for our students and families throughout these difficult times.

- Dr. Hank Thiele BA '96

an EdD in educational leadership and organizational change from Roosevelt University, and a superintendent endorsement from Loyola University Chicago.

"Through the last few months, education has been restored in the eyes of many as a critical and essential service to our communities," Thiele observes. "For far too long, schools and teachers have been blamed for society's problems. The pandemic has demonstrated how important our profession is to the world. It is up to us as leaders to reciprocate and provide the best possible experience for our students and families throughout these difficult times."

—Martina Reese





The Deaconess Intern

When the U.S.-Canada border closed to all non-essential travel due to COVID-19, it was a subject of concern for current student Emilie (Stoller) Prozenko. As she was finishing up her spring semester classes, she was looking forward to getting married in the U.S., followed by starting her deaconess internship in Montreal.

"We had to determine if I would even be allowed into the country or not," she says. "Thankfully, Canada considers churchwork essential during this time." And, although the wedding was postponed a bit, she and her husband Avery married in August in Montreal.

At Ascension Lutheran Church, Prozenko's responsibilities include organizing Sunday school, youth group, internet outreach and checking in with shut-in members. Her main focus is immigrant outreach, and she is beginning to teach English classes online.

"This is all work that I expected to be doing before the pandemic, but the way I am doing it is drastically

different," she says. "Instead of meeting people on the street and inviting them to the service at the church building, I'm meeting people online and sending them links to our Bible study and church service. In some ways it's harder to build deep relationships, but it also gives the opportunity to reach more people."

Prozenko says that everything she has been doing during her internship was informed by her courses at Concordia-Chicago. And while she couldn't have anticipated serving in the middle of a worldwide pandemic, she says, "the theology faculty instilled in me a great sense of what we do, no matter the circumstances: share God's Word, and be Christ's hands and feet serving our neighbor."

So far, the deaconess internship has taught Prozenko to speak plainly and have confidence in what she shares. "I have been well equipped by my education," she says. "I've learned that you just need to take each day as it comes and see what the Lord has in store for you."

—Anna Seifert



No matter the circumstances: **share God's Word**, and **be Christ's hands and feet** serving our neighbor.

- Emilie (Stoller) Prozenko



The Mental Health Therapist

Scott (Scotty) Rein, Jr. BA '14, MA '17 provides psychotherapy and counseling to youth in partial hospitalization programs (PHPs), intensive outpatient programs (IOPs) and private practice. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Rein met primarily face-to-face with individuals and groups. These days, given the precautions for mitigating virus transmission, his practice is largely conducted through telehealth services.

Rein is a double-degree alumnus of Concordia-Chicago, having earned a BA in psychology and history and an MA in clinical mental health counseling. Like millions of Americans, Rein's employment security has been disrupted by the pandemic. In June, he was let go from his job as a therapist. Despite the economic turbulence that continues to drive widespread job losses, Rein has succeeded in finding new employment. He is now a psychotherapist at Open Path Psychotherapy Collective, an organization dedicated to providing middle- and lower-income clients with affordable psychotherapy and mental health education.

In addition, Rein recently started as a program therapist with the Eating Recovery Center.

As Rein provides mental health services to others, he has sought creative strategies for maintaining his own psychological well-being even as quarantine and social distancing changed his daily routines. Remaining physically fit had always been a part of that routine. In fact, Rein's track & field team record time of 56:09 in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles still stands at Concordia-Chicago.

"When COVID hit, I was suddenly unable to go to the gym and workout in groups," he observes, "and that's a big part of my self-care and socialization. My overall motivation declined for everyday tasks, so I worked to explore new ways to stay active and in contact with friends."

Rein credits Concordia-Chicago for connecting him with a great leaders, resources and support in preparation for his vocation. His experience in Cougar Country, he recollects, taught him to "be grateful, be kind, give back and serve others."

—Martina Reese

“ ...be grateful, be kind, give back and **serve others.**

- Scott Rein, Jr. BA '14, MA '17

The Pastor

Dealing with the dual crises of the global pandemic and Hurricane Hanna was not on Nathan Wendorf's mind when 2020 began, but as senior pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Harlingen, TX, Wendorf BA '01 and his congregation have continually adapted to best reach those in need.

Wendorf has been conducting live video devotions from home each morning via Facebook and YouTube, "helping people stay grounded in the promises of God in the midst of the pandemic," he says. "We also have congregation members volunteer to call on fellow parishioners to check in on them, trying to make sure that those who aren't as digitally connected are not forgotten." The church has been offering curbside communion two times a week, using special communion cups individually sealed with the bread and wine. "That has been very well received, with hundreds of people coming through in their cars. This provides the pastoral team with time for more intimate visits and time of individual prayer, while celebrating the Lord's Supper together," Wendorf says.

In July, the hurricane hit, as did a second surge of COVID-19 cases in Texas. "Because the storm was fast moving, there was not a lot of flooding—but we did have damage from the strong winds, resulting in power outages and lots of debris," he says. "Many volunteered to help in the hurricane recovery, which has been complicated by the virus outbreak. We are thankful that damage was not more severe." The church serves as a distribution site for food boxes provided by the USDA

“

I think back to being involved in things like Student Government and Spiritual Life on campus, where we were **encouraged and empowered to lead with love** and to live out our baptismal calling as children of God.

- Nathan Wendorf BA '01

Farmer to Family program, which has allowed them to deliver hundreds of fresh produce boxes and milk to people in the community who are hurting because of the pandemic, the hurricane or both.

Wendorf says Concordia-Chicago prepared him to be a person who doesn't wait to respond, but who proactively and quickly finds ways to serve his neighbor. "I think back to being involved in things like Student Government and Spiritual Life on campus, where we were encouraged and empowered to lead with love and to live out our baptismal calling as children of God," he says.

Through all the trials of this year, Wendorf says, "My strength and ability to keep going comes first and foremost from Christ Jesus. I am extremely thankful to my wife Kristine (Grunden) Wendorf BA '00, who has been the greatest support, especially in leading our four children through this."

—Anna Seifert



Growing Our Mission

BY: **JEFFREY C. HYNES**, Senior Vice President for University Advancement and Foundation President and CEO



Alumni & Friends of Concordia-Chicago,

Thanks to each of you who were able to join us from your homes for this year's virtual Maroon & Gold. Regardless of how we gather, whether in-person or online, our signature event provides an important opportunity to

formally honor distinguished alumni whose world opened through their time at Concordia-Chicago. Each leader has gone on to impact the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals through their own unique vocations. Their experiences as students at this Lutheran university uniquely prepared them for their respective callings. I have seen firsthand how students have been transformed through the Concordia-Chicago experience.

In addition to recognizing our distinguished alumni, Maroon & Gold also serves to inspire our current students as they live out their chosen vocations in their churches, families and the world. After many years of serving CUC students directly as Dean of Students, I gained an in-depth understanding of what our students need to succeed and how the University can best support

those needs. Now I'm working with Advancement teams that are eager to partner with you to fund the University's ministry. Maroon & Gold is just one example of how we work together to share the Concordia-Chicago story, one of faith and learning, with our students at the center.

We are grateful for your generous gifts to scholarships that will help make students' Concordia-Chicago experience possible. For those that have already made gifts through Maroon & Gold, thank you. All proceeds from this year's event directly support student scholarships. For those who have not yet given, I encourage you to consider how you will help make it possible for students to be transformed. Let's join together and open students' worlds!

God's Blessings,



More than \$200,000 Shared to Sustain Scholarships

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

Maroon & Gold 2020, CUC Alumni Association's signature event for student scholarships, was a historic success as nearly 200 alumni and friends across 26 states joined together online for a record-breaking evening. Thanks to generous giving of alumni, friends and sponsors, more than \$200,000 was shared to sustain scholarships.

Emcees Andrew Belleson BA '09, Chicago Cubs Wrigley Field announcer, and Mackenzie Jean-Marcoux, a sophomore in CUC's Director of Christian Education program, led the entire Concordia-Chicago community for a celebration broadcast live-streamed from the River Forest campus. Highlights included:

- **\$50,000 Matched by Meinders Scholarship Challenge** – Alumni and friends shared a variety of gifts to clear the Cougar Scholars Giving Wall yielding \$55,600, of which \$50,000 was matched by Herman Meinders, a longtime University partner.
- **Announcement of Two New Scholarships** – Barnett Student Success Scholarship created by Dr. Russell and Mrs. Sharon Dawn and Rogner Scholarship for Creative Writing Students funded by Dr. David Rogner BA '82, chair of CUC's English Department.
- **Greetings from Six Cougar Scholars** – Carter Gledhill (sophomore, Regent Scholar); Alexa Hoover (sophomore, Kloess scholar); AJ Howard (senior, Manka Music Scholar); Mariah Mielke (sophomore, Spiritus Christi Scholar); Jesse Schultz (sophomore, President's Honor Scholar); and Simone Wilson (senior, Faculty Scholar)

- **Recognition of 2020 Distinguished Awardees** – Donald Christian BA '81, Distinguished Alumni, Undergraduate; Theresa Straub MA '07, Distinguished Alumni, Graduate; and Marva (Gersmehl) Dawn BA '70, Spiritus Christi.
- **Announcement of Golden Ticket Drawing** – A 2021 Travel Package was won by Deb Ness MA '90 (Park Ridge, IL). She received a 5-day, 4-night stay at the Wyndham resort of choice in the continental U.S. and a \$1,000 airline credit.

"We had a lot of 'bell ringing' moments," says Joel Zielke BA '05, chair of CUC's Alumni Association Board, in reference to the Foundation's tradition of ringing a bell in the office when major donations are received. "We were proud to celebrate three distinguished alumni honorees, two new scholarships and one big community. We are also blessed that alumni and friends came together—even though celebrating apart—in such a momentous way."

Alumni and friends are encouraged to save the date for next year's Maroon & Gold on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021.



“We had a lot of 'bell ringing' moments.

- Joel Zielke BA '05

There's Still Time to Sustain Scholars!

Return your Maroon & Gold reply card, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 888-258-6773, or give online today at CUChicago.edu/GiveNow.



1. Dr. Russell and Mrs. Dawn announce the new Barnett Student Success Scholarship
2. Emcees Andrew Belleson BA '09 and sophomore Mackenzie Jean-Marcoux give thanks for the record-setting evening.
3. Kylie Gilmore (right), Manager of Alumni Relations, gives final instructions to the Cougar Scholars featured during the live broadcast.
4. Michelle (Seris) BA '11 and David Dwyer BA '11, MBA '12, Alumni Association Board Member, watch the festivities with their girls from home.
5. Paula (Eckhardt) Wegner BA '68, Alumni Association Board Member, hosts a socially distanced watch party with her friends online.

Distinguished Alumni Awards: Celebrating Educators Influencing Across Generations

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

Concordia University Chicago strives to put the focus on its students: what they need, who they are and how we can help them grow in their vocations. The **Alumni Association Board of Directors** is proud to partner with its alma mater to inspire students, alumni and their families by **the great work our graduates are doing**. This year's honorees' global impact was celebrated at the fourth annual Maroon & Gold on Saturday, Sept. 26.

The **Spiritus Christi Award** was first awarded in 1966 and has celebrated more than 80 servant leaders over the past six decades. These individuals have performed their responsibilities with unusual effectiveness, influence and with the highest quality of service to the Church at large. Both alumni and friends have been honored for sharing the Spirit of Christ with those they encounter.



**Marva (Gersmehl)
Dawn BA '70**
2020 Spiritus Christi
Vancouver, WA

An internationally renowned theologian, author and educator, Marva Dawn has more than 35 years of global teaching experience. Her world first opened at Concordia as a member the 1969 Kapelle World Tour as

she became impassioned to the needs of the poor and hurting.

Marva went on to earn four master's degrees in English, Christian Ethics, New Testament and Old Testament, and a doctorate in Christian Ethics and the Scriptures. She has translated two books and written more than 20 books, many of which have been translated into Chinese, Korean, Portuguese and other languages.

Under Christians Equipped for Ministry (CEM), Marva has taught throughout the United States and 18 countries. A nonprofit organization, CEM was founded

to prepare professionals and lay persons for deeper Bible study and active involvement in Christian life and ministry. Now retired, Dawn and her husband live in Washington state. A legacy alumna, Dawn's father Herold "Lefty" Gersmehl BS '36, MA '51, received the Spiritus Christi in 1973.

"My father is always the one I admired the most. I wanted to be like him and have the same gentleness and encouragement for everybody," says Dawn. "It is in his honor because he received this award many decades ago. In the same way I want to receive this award as I demonstrated to the world the Spirit of Christ."



My father is always the one I admired the most. I wanted to be like him and have the same **gentleness and encouragement** for everybody,

- Marva (Gersmehl) Dawn BA '70



The **Distinguished Alumni Awards** show that a Concordia-Chicago degree can lead to remarkable life of service and leadership. Originally created in 1984, this award celebrates graduates who exemplify Concordia-Chicago's core values while bringing honor to their alma mater by their personal accomplishments, professional achievements or humanitarian service. This year's two honorees join more than 50 alumni who have been recognized to date.



Don Christian BA '81
2020 Distinguished
Alumni, Undergraduate
Round Rock, TX

Don Christian has served as president and CEO of Concordia University, Texas since 2014, following his tenure as dean of the College of Business (2005-2014). Don's 35 years of ministry in the LCMS includes not

only his work at Concordia-Texas but also service in classroom and leadership roles at Lutheran high schools in Minneapolis, Baltimore and Houston.

"Concordia University Chicago shaped me deeply into the person I am today," says Don. His father, Arthur BS '42, as well as his three older siblings and two of their spouses attended Concordia-Chicago ahead of him.

Don gives distinct credit to Dr. David Stein, Dr. Thomas Gieschen BS '52, and Dr. Richard Fischer as professors who shaped and formed him during his Concordia Experience. He says, "All three gave me multiple opportunities to learn about and practice leadership."

Don is known for his care and concern to energetically nurture fellow and future leaders. He is active in his community and serves on various boards in the greater Austin, TX area where he lives with his wife Deb (McClean) Christian BA '80.



Theresa Straub MA '07
2020 Distinguished
Alumni, Graduate
Park Ridge, IL

Theresa Straub taught 15 years as the literacy and English Language Learners resource teacher at Orchard Place Elementary School in Des Plaines, IL. She, alongside fellow alumni teaching in Des Plaines

School District 62, served a student population that represents more than 52 languages.

During her tenure, Theresa completed her master's degree in Curriculum & Instruction and joined the "No Excuses University" movement—she was instrumental in establishing a 12-year partnership between Concordia-Chicago and Orchard Place to encourage elementary students to persist to a college degree. In addition to annual campus visits, Theresa developed a curriculum to accent students' familiarity with the language of higher education.

A recipient of District 62 Lighthouse Service Award, Straub served as Student Council Supervisor, mentoring the young leaders to commit to service to others as she encouraged their leadership. Theresa retired in 2019 and continued to serve as a substitute teacher until spring 2020.

This fall her grandson receives one-on-one academic support during online learning. She is also enjoying more time with her husband, Joe. "I am praying and hoping for many Orchard Place students—especially ones who visited the campus—that they will come to Concordia-Chicago and graduate," she says. "Thank you for this honor. I am forever grateful and forever touched."

Watch videos to learn more about the 2020 Honorees and nominate an alumni leader at [CUCicago.edu/DistinguishedAlumni](https://cuchicago.edu/DistinguishedAlumni)



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Reflections on a Life Guided by Faith:

Dr. Paul Kreiss Reminds Us to Seek God in Trying Times

BY: **REV. DR. JEFFREY LEININGER**, University Pastor

Some life stories need to be told because of their power to edify and encourage others. Beloved Professor Emeritus Dr. Paul Kreiss' BA '52 story is an account of faith under fire, the importance of family and the value of Christian education at an institution like Concordia University Chicago.



back into Alsace, skillfully avoiding recapture, which would have meant execution for desertion. By God's providence and grace, he managed to make his way to the safety of his grandparents' village—although the battle lines prevented a safe return all the way home. Paul's godmother—a family friend—had connections

Born to a German-speaking Lutheran family in the Alsace region of France in 1926, it wasn't long before Paul's family and their faith met with the wider tumult of World War II. Hitler's invading armies occupied Alsace in 1939, forcibly conscripting many into the German forces. Although his parents refused to join the Nazi party, Paul himself could not avoid the draft. As a teenager, he spent half days at school and the other half in military training. Hitler sent the Alsatian conscripts to the worst of the front-line fighting. Both his older brothers were ordered to the Russian front and spent much of the war in a Siberian prison camp—one was never the same again because of the traumatic experiences of winter and war, and the other died, possibly of malnutrition, on the way home. As the war raged on, Paul himself was drafted into officer training school, and eventually sent to Poland to prepare for his own stint at the Russian front.

Paul's mother had previously been diagnosed with serious breast cancer, but now her condition worsened. The commanding German officer denied Paul's request to return home to be with his dying mother, and so he took a bold step of faith: he conceived an elaborate plan to defect from the German army and smuggle himself

with the French resistance, which aided in keeping him safe, hidden and well-informed of troop movements amid the anticipated Allied liberation of his homeland. While in hiding, Paul learned the tragic news that his father was murdered protecting their village's Lutheran church from Moroccan looting soldiers. His father helped build that church, and many of his family had received the gift of salvation through baptism at its font. Paul describes this time as his greatest test of faith. Mercifully, as the Allied forces liberated France, he was able to see his mother before she died, shortly after the war came to a close.

Upheaval and uncertainty made post-war France an unsettled homeland for Paul. His distrust of the rising communist influence in the universities provoked him to immigrate to Brazil. But as he tells it, "God had other plans." The first stop-over on the journey was Ellis Island, New York. Paul's American relatives encouraged

1. Paul Kreiss working on Kretzmann Hall in 1950 (left), and posing in the same spot 70 years later.

him to spend some time in the U.S. visiting colleges. A cousin brought him to Chicago to look at Northwestern University, but on a whim Paul wanted to visit a small Lutheran teachers' college in River Forest as well. Paul fell in love with the school and felt called to become a Lutheran teacher. There he met Ruth (Froemming) BA '52, also an orphan, who would become his wife of 57 years. Together, they served as Lutheran teachers, as well as in various congregations and communities over the years.

Paul's connections to the University were only beginning, however. In 1960, God called him back to River Forest, where his instruction in French and German, along with several administrative roles, would bless the institution's students for 37 years. As Glen Steiner BA '91, MA '95, associate vice president for administration, remarked, "Since arriving as a student in 1949 and joining the faculty in 1960, Paul has led a life of service to the Lord and His university in this place. What a blessing it is to have known Paul for these last 33 years as a teacher and friend. He is a true example of living out one's calling from God."

Many of Paul and Ruth's 10 children grew up on our River Forest campus, and six of them went on to attend the University. Concordia's history and the Kreiss family legacy are inseparable.

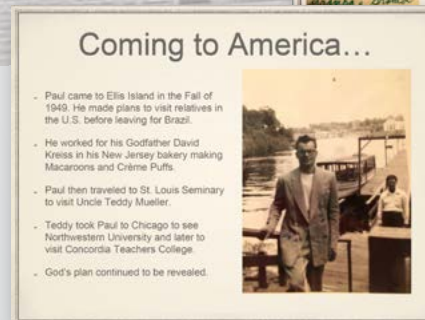
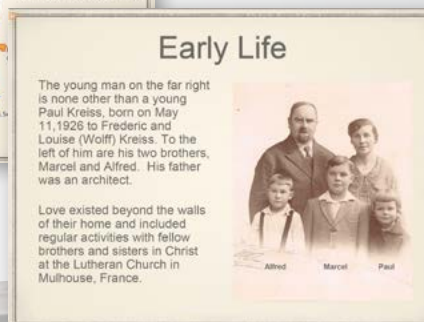
Paul's love for learning only grew with age. While in his 90s and living retired in campus housing, he recently embarked on an academic mission. Inspired by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Paul wrote an extended account of the renaissance origins of Luther's theology, tracing the reformer's impact throughout the world (see sidebar).

When Paul was asked to reflect on his life at age 94, with its many dramatic ups and downs, and to offer a word of advice to current students, his eyes welled up with tears. He counsels, "Do not give up believing that even in the worst of circumstances, a larger, more beautiful story is unfolding. God is at work for good. You may at times wonder, 'Where is God in all this?' But He is truly there."

Some life stories need to be told. Paul's is one of them: a homeland torn apart by war, a cruel despot unleashing hatred, a daring defection led by love, a father murdered, a mother dying too young, a brother lost to the cruelties of war, a providential visit to River Forest, a family of faith, and 45 years of dedicated ministry. With our brother in Christ, we too can pause in spiritual reflection upon our own lives, looking to a larger story—the story of Christ's love—to fortify faith and persevere in peace. To close with Paul's favorite quote, attributed to Martin Luther, "...I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." This is most certainly true.

Paul's Academic Labor Of Love

Read an online abbreviated edition of Paul's academic labor of love, **"Luther's Reformation: From Humble Beginnings to Widespread Restoration"** (<https://bit.ly/3eMLZBX>).





Chasing a Legacy

BY: DANI GARIGLIO MBA '20



Senior Simone Wilson has already had a career that most athletes can only dream of during their college experience. As a two-time All-American and four-time national qualifier with nearly two handfuls worth of division championship medals, there isn't much she hasn't accomplished. But if you ask her what her favorite memory on the track is, her story transcends simple athletic victory.

"Simone is the most humble person I've ever met," says Head Cross-Country and Assistant Track and Field Coach Phil Kopinski. "You could see her walking around campus and you may never even know how decorated of an athlete she truly is, because she just doesn't talk about it."

It's true. Wilson's demeanor is quiet and calming. She'll never brag about her successes, nor will you hear her complain about her tougher days on the track or in life.

That's why in April 2019, when Wilson was struggling with the anniversary of her grandfather's death approaching, no one knew. She just carried on. But there was more she was keeping to herself.

“

I really wanted to run in this meet because I knew **my grandfather, Ray Eiland**, had run for Drake University back in the 50s and qualified for the relays himself.

- Simone Wilson

"Around that time, I remember my coaches talking about how I might qualify for the Drake Relays, but I think it was really close as to whether or not I would make it in," Wilson said. "I was so nervous. I really wanted to run in this meet because I knew my grandfather, Ray Eiland, had run for Drake University back in the 50s and qualified for the relays himself."

It turns out Eiland didn't just compete in the Drake Relays—he and his teammates set meet records in the 440-yard, 880-yard and 1-mile relays during the 1951 season. Their records held for more than 50 years.

Known as "America's Athletic Event," the Drake Relays are one of the premier track and field meets in the nation, across all three NCAA divisions. The meet has existed for over a century and takes place in front of crowds of more than 40,000 people each year. For Kopinski, it was the first time in his 17 years of coaching that he had Division III athletes qualify for the event.

"I didn't talk to my parents about the possibility qualifying for the meet," Wilson admits. "Whenever I tell them something [about my success on the track], they take it and tell everyone. I didn't want to get their hopes up about this one."

It was April 17, 2019, a little over a week away from the starting pistol going off to begin the 110th running of the relays. Wilson woke up in her dorm room at Concordia-Chicago like she did any other day; she prepared for her classes, ate lunch and got ready for practice. She also took a few minutes to think about her grandfather, Eiland, who had passed away 15 years prior to the day. She honored him as she does every year, reflecting on memories she'd shared with him and going on a run—one of Grandpa Ray's favorite things to do himself, as he ran over 10 marathons during his lifetime.

Finally, sometime that afternoon, the official word came in. Wilson's fastest time in the 400-meter hurdle stacked up with the best in all of NCAA women's track and field, and she was selected to participate in the national event. On the 15th anniversary of her grandfather's passing, she found out that she would be running on that same track he stepped foot on 68 years prior.

It was finally time to share the exciting news with her family. "Oh," Wilson exclaimed with a crafty smile, while thinking back on her parents' reaction to the news. "I think they were more excited than I was."

And as for her reaction?

"I got excited, and then I got emotional," she shares. "When I first started running track, people always used to say, 'You should run because your grandpa did,' so being able to compete where he went to school, on the same track as him, it was such a surreal feeling."

As Kopinski recalls, Wilson was just one of two Division III athletes to earn a spot to compete in the women's 400-meter hurdle race, and she was the only Division III representative in her respective heat.

"Simone lined up next to athletes from the Universities of Kentucky and Iowa, some of the best in the sport and in the nation," Kopinski recalls. "Enabling our athletes to compete in these moments is what coaching is all about; creating experiences they can take with them for the rest of their lives."

Due to travel and distance, Wilson's family had seen her compete at the collegiate level just once before. But, with the Drake Relays, it presented an opportunity for them to see her compete at the highest level, and honor Ray Eiland's memory along the way.

"I had more than 10 family members there," Wilson said with a laugh. "They even got T-shirts made with my face on them."

As the Wilson/Eiland clan piled into the packed stadium that weekend, Wilson caught a moment to herself, sitting in the same seat her grandfather once did. When he passed away, Wilson was just six years

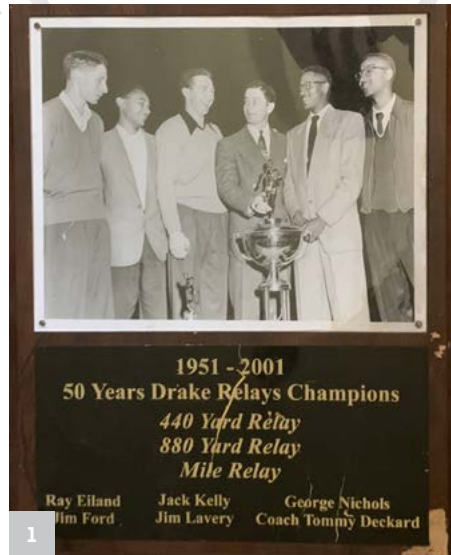
old. She was about to create a new memory with her grandfather to add to the others that she so frequently reflected upon—one that was solely hers to keep.

"All I could think about was him," she says. "When I was running, I was thinking about how he ran here. It was just amazing. The whole experience just reminded me that God really does work in mysterious ways."

At the end of the day, Wilson didn't place at the 2019 Drake Relays, which is a rarity for her, and that's OK.

"Making it to nationals and all that has been great, but this meet had a personal connection to it," she says. "I'll never forget that experience and I hope we can go back again next year."

When spring 2020 athletic events were canceled due to the pandemic, Wilson wrapped up her junior year from home in Minneapolis, MN. She is back on campus this semester, running to stay in shape during these unique times, ensuring that both her and Eiland's legacies are in good hands until she can gear up for another run at a national title. Literally.



Drake RELAYS



1. Simone Wilson's grandfather and his teammates set meet records that held for more than 50 years.

2. "Being able to compete where (my grandfather) went to school, on the same track as him, it was such a surreal feeling," says Wilson.



Early Childhood Education Center Celebrates 45 Years of Inspiring Learning

BY: **ANNA SEIFERT**, Communications Associate



CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO

Early Childhood
Education Center



The Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) is a treasured institution within Concordia-Chicago and the surrounding community. As the ECEC celebrates its 45th anniversary, teachers reflected on how the Center inspires lifelong learning as a centerpiece of the educational experience it provides.

"What has helped the ECEC endure for 45 years is its unwavering commitment to best educational practices rooted in the most current research and theory, as well as the Gospel," says Bogusia Ryndak-Mazur MA '00, assistant director. "Our exceptional teachers foster children's natural curiosity about the world and support a lifelong love of learning through guided play and project-based learning."

Ryndak-Mazur has been working at the ECEC since 2001, when it was still housed in the basement of Lindemann Hall. In 2002, the ECEC moved into the brand-new Christopher Center building, where Ryndak-Mazur taught younger full-day preschool, and eventually became assistant director in December 2019.

"As part of the University, the ECEC has always inspired me, personally, to continue my education," she says. "I came to the Center with a master's degree, but working with University students, professors and families who have high expectations of us has motivated me to pursue further education. I went on to earn a Professional Teacher License and I am currently in my third year of a PhD program in early childhood education. My educational journey is far from over."

Teacher Hunter Stuckemeyer BA '16, MA '18, '20 also continued her education beyond her bachelor's degree at Concordia-Chicago. "I do not think I could have gotten as far as I have in my education without the support of my co-teachers and directors," she says. "As a teacher I take a strong focus on social and emotional development, fostering relationships with students that support them to feel safe in the classroom to accomplish their goals. Using a combination of a play-based approach and student interests allows for them to begin to develop their own journey of lifelong learning."

Therese Pudela BS '17 has been a part of the ECEC for nearly 24 years, first as a preschool assistant and later as a teacher. "I've always tried to lay the foundation of a love of learning with the children," she

“What has helped the ECEC endure for 45 years is its **unwavering commitment** to best educational practices rooted in the most current research and theory, as well as the Gospel.

- Bogusia Ryndak-Mazur,
Assistant Director



ECEC Future Vision

Our staff and administration will show the love of Jesus to our families through our teaching and connections with families.



Be an example of high-quality, Christ-centered early childhood care and education.



Continue to be a leader and example of quality, developmentally appropriate emergent curriculum.



As a lab school for CUC students, inspire young teachers to leave our University and Center shaped with current knowledge about the field of early childhood education with them.



says. "I tell them that even though they are little, they can do great things! We can help those in need, be a kind friend and neighbor, care about others, share Jesus' love, and be good people. It is my hope that those skills are things that the children will use to continue to grow, learn and make a difference in our world!"

The connection between the ECEC and the College of Education was the idea of Professor Emerita Dr. Shirley Morgenthau BS '59, and it continues to this day. "The curriculum framework we use is based off Shirley's original framework," says Cathy Gruenwald BA '88, ECEC director. "Over the years, the ECEC staff have taken her framework and expanded it as the basis of our emergent and project-based curriculum."

Teacher Kim Keane BA '11 explains that the Early Childhood Education Center has multiple layers of learning built into it: the children, the lab students and the teachers. "The ECEC has a significant impact on the learning and growth of every person involved, from the infants all the way up to the administration," she says.

"By working in the Center, lab students are gaining hands-on experience in the classroom. They also get to ask the different teachers they work with questions about the methods they're observing," Keane says. "Much of my teaching style was informed by the practices that I observed here as a lab student a decade ago."

Recent CUC graduate Emily Poholik BA '20 is now a teacher at the Center. "The ECEC inspires lifelong

learning through curiosity. We are able to use what the children are interested in and turn that into a learning moment that they not only simply recall, but one that will help them continue to grow their knowledge," she says. "The children are able to realize that they are capable of trying anything, especially through their imaginative play."

Through the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, it became even more apparent how valued the ECEC is by the local community. After temporarily closing in March in adherence to state of Illinois pandemic regulations, the Center reopened in June with a lower capacity, amended operations and strict safety measures in place. "Over these past several months I have been struck repeatedly by how blessed I am to be part of this community. Everyone has approached the work that we do with such grace, compassion and commitment," Keane says. "The teachers have worked hard to provide safe and positive environments for their students. The administration has advocated for us. While we were closed, the families even got together to fundraise in our support. God is so good!"

"The ECEC has been an invaluable asset to Concordia-Chicago and the community for the last 45 years," says Ryndak-Mazur. "I am confident we will continue to share the Christian faith with others while also providing the best early childhood environment and experiences for many years to come." ❤️



**We are each
unique and
beautiful,
but together
we are a
masterpiece.**



Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity. —Psalm 133:1

How to Start a Preschool



Early childhood education pioneer and recently retired distinguished professor of education Dr. Shirley Morgenthauer BS '59 reflected on the founding of the Early Childhood Education Center 45 years ago. With little more than her own resourcefulness, she established a program that the University and the surrounding community grew to have tremendous faith in due to its history of offering a demonstrably excellent education to children.

"I was assigned to teach a class called Early Childhood and Kindergarten Education. As I was putting it together, I knew that I couldn't teach methods without having actual young children to observe," she recalls. "I asked the wife of one of the faculty members to round up 10 to 12 children for me. There was a space in the basement of Krauss Hall that was free on Fridays. I said to my students, 'We're going to start this preschool—I don't know how it's going to happen, but it's going to happen!'"

"I went to the head of housekeeping and asked for the old benches from the student lounge that were stashed in a basement. Those became tables for four-year-olds. I went to the theater department, and I got some child-size folding chairs from them. I went through my own children's toys that they had grown out of, and some of my undergraduate students brought things from home that we could use. I don't think we purchased anything except plain paper and crayons, juice and snacks."

Without Dr. Morgenthauer's resolve and out-of-the-box thinking in the early days, the ECEC would not be what it is today. Her support of lifelong learning has been passed down through several generations of ECEC teachers, many of whom she taught when they were students at Concordia-Chicago.

Dr. Morgenthauer continues to stay involved with the ECEC, advising and supporting the staff with new initiatives. "It is our hope that we can continue to work with Shirley now that she is retired," says ECEC director Cathy Gruenwald. "Her influence will be felt here for a very long time!"



“

We're going to start this preschool—I don't know how it's going to happen, but **it's going to happen!**

- Dr. Shirley Morgenthauer,
ECEC Founder

Business Programs Earn Highly Sought-After ACBSP Accreditation



BY: ANNA SEIFERT, Communications Associate

Over the summer, Concordia University Chicago earned the long-awaited accreditation of its MBA programs from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners. This hard-earned accreditation certifies that the teaching and learning processes within the programs offered through the University's College of Business meet the rigorous educational standards established by ACBSP.

The accreditation decision follows an in-depth, three-year institutional analysis by ACBSP using the criteria of teaching excellence, student learning outcomes and continuous improvement. For the College of Business, ACBSP accreditation is the culmination of several years' steadfast work by numerous dedicated faculty, past and present. Collegiate business programs earning this designation are recognized for equipping students with the high-level skills employers are seeking.

"This milestone achievement is one that provides our MBA graduates a competitive edge in the global marketplace," says Dr. Claudia Santin, dean of the College of Business. "We aspire to create leaders who transform the lives and organizations they serve. In order to implement our college's mission and vision, we must maintain a thriving learning environment that reflects our commitment to our students and the community at large."

“ This milestone achievement is one that provides our MBA graduates a **competitive edge** in the global marketplace.”

- Dr. Claudia Santin

The ACBSP is the only organization offering specialized business accreditation for all degree levels. Based on the Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence, the ACBSP evaluates aspects of leadership, strategic planning, relationships with stakeholders, quality of academic programs, faculty credentials and educational support. An in-depth assessment determines whether the business programs offer a rigorous educational experience and demonstrate continuous quality improvement.

"Concordia University Chicago has shown its commitment to teaching excellence and to the process of quality improvement by participating in the accreditation process," notes ACBSP chief accreditation officer Dr. Steve Parscale. "This accreditation is evidence that Concordia-Chicago is committed to providing the highest quality business education for their students."

Santin continues, "Our amazing alumni and students were integral in our achieving ACBSP accreditation. Their accomplishments, testimonials and support for the college is unparalleled and much appreciated. Let us all bask in the glow of this accomplishment and thank the Lord for His abundant love."





IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

70½
OR OLDER

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\$100,000

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If you are 70½ or older, you can use your individual retirement account (IRA) to make an impactful gift to Concordia-Chicago. Your gift can help support your favorite program or provide scholarship for students. Create your legacy by making an IRA charitable rollover gift today.

Contact Naomi Tselepis at 708-209-3142 or Naomi.Tselepis@CUChicago.edu.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Concordia-Chicago Welcomes Four President's Honor Scholars for Fall 2020



Isaac Conrad
Freshman Scholar

HOMETOWN **SAINT PETERS, MO**

MAJOR **MATH-ACTUARIAL SCIENCE/PRE-SEMINARY**

Leading up to college, Isaac learned the importance of serving others. Whether he was volunteering as a youth liaison or as an usher and cantor for his church, he felt strongly about making a difference. But his role as a counselor at a Christian summer camp had the greatest effect on him. "As I returned each year, I discovered how much I enjoyed helping others and providing opportunities for spiritual growth." He plans to enter the ministry, and believes his prior service experiences will be valuable in his future as a pastor.

Isaac says one of his favorite albums by the band Three Days Grace inspired him to confront his flaws, even if it required trying and failing. When he faced setbacks in high school athletics, Isaac began to view them as a chance to grow and make the best of new circumstances. At Lutheran High School of St. Charles County, Isaac was on the cross-country and wrestling teams, and qualified for the state wrestling tournament. He also participated in concert choir, theater and scholar bowl.



Grayden McClellan
Freshman Scholar

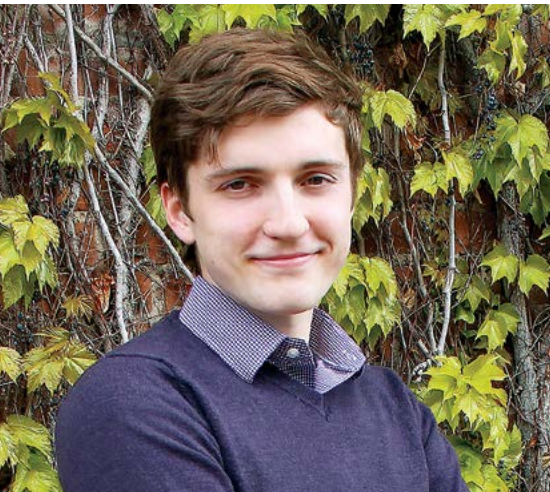
HOMETOWN **ITASCA, IL**

MAJOR **ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

Grayden credits his grandfather with instilling in him the importance of having a passion project in life—especially if that passion contributes to the community. Grayden felt the first spark of his enthusiasm for teaching when he started working as a park district referee for first-grade basketball. "I saw the process of kids learning firsthand because of something I helped teach them," he says. "The feeling I had from seeing these kids learn and grow was so fulfilling."

Grayden further solidified his passion for teaching by volunteering at vacation Bible school through his church. He established himself as a leader at Lake Park High School through Lancer Interact, where he was one of just 10 students in his graduating class to serve as a liaison between the student body and administration. Grayden's participation in mission trips, high school soccer, math team and as a special education gym mentor have made him a well-rounded individual. "I now understand that all of the little things we encounter make up life's mosaic," he says.

Concordia University Chicago's **highest academic honor** for new students is designation as a **President's Honor Scholar** or a **President's Community College Transfer Scholar**. Students who earn this full-tuition scholarship have met rigorous academic standards and submitted applications with multiple essays. **Incoming freshmen** must have maintained a 3.75 GPA in high school, and a minimum ACT composite score of 30, SAT total score of 1360 or designation as a National Merit Semi-Finalist. **Incoming transfer students** must have a minimum 3.8 college GPA, an earned AA or AS degree, and Phi Theta Kappa member recognition.



Jeremiah Schultz

Freshman Scholar

HOMETOWN **OVERLAND PARK, KS**

MAJOR **SECONDARY EDUCATION-ENGLISH (LTE)**

As a student at Lutheran High School of Kansas City, Jeremiah stayed involved with a vast array of activities. He served as secretary and class representative on student council; played on the soccer, basketball and cross-country teams; and participated in concert choir and concert band. He also went on mission trips and worked at the school newspaper and various part-time jobs.

Jeremiah uses his creativity when faced with a challenge: "My mind, body and soul beat to a rhythm unique to most and absurd to all," he says. Inspired by reading the works of David Foster Wallace, Jeremiah realized that he has "stories to tell, tales to spin and readers to move." As he begins his college journey, Jeremiah wants to continue to grow as a writer, so that his words will have a lasting effect on those who read them.

While maintaining those ambitions, he also knows that humility is important. "If I were to seek my worth in worldly possessions and relationships, I would always be disappointed. But my value comes from Christ and Christ alone," he says.



Wendy Andrade

Transfer Scholar

HOMETOWN **BELLWOOD, IL**

MAJOR **ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

Wendy is dedicated to volunteering and speaking up in order to give back to the community. When she was in high school, she joined the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), even though it pushed her out of her comfort zone. As she stayed with the program, she grew more confident in herself and more involved in service activities to benefit veterans. "I started to donate at blood drives and encouraged others to do so by speaking up about the importance of donating within my school," she says.

Wendy was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the community college honor society. As a student at Wilbur Wright College, she took on the cause of raising awareness and addressing misconceptions about the 2020 census. She researched the most common questions and doubts about the census, and created posters that were placed all around campus. "A large portion of my community was most likely not aware of the purpose of the census, and they deserve to be well informed about the benefits of filling it out," Wendy says.

Nurturing Disciples through Planned Giving

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



Marjorie Meier BS '52 was passionate in her love of classical music, teaching and especially her Lord. She wanted to nurture disciples to share their love of Jesus Christ with their own students. Marjorie's passion continues today through the new "Martha and Marjorie Meier Scholarship Endowment for Lutheran Teacher Education," funded by an estate gift.

Her father taught in and her mother supported Lutheran schools, inspiring Marjorie to follow their example. After moving to Chicago before senior year

at Luther Institute, no one questioned Marjorie would attend Concordia Teachers College. She briefly taught elementary school in Chicago before receiving a call to teach piano in Seward, NE. Marjorie also served in library sciences during her 30 years at Concordia-Nebraska before retiring to Florida to live with her mother, Martha, with whom she was very close.

Marjorie honored this bond and her mother's legacy with the new scholarship. "My aunt would want everyone to know they are a precious child of God," says niece Carol (Meier) Fleury. "We pray this gift enables scholarship recipients to reflect His great love and mercy on those around them, especially their future students."

When you make a gift to Concordia-Chicago's endowment fund, you are investing in the future of our school and our students. Establishing a named endowment (or scholarship) at Concordia-Chicago can be a meaningful way to honor a loved one that will endure for many lifetimes.

Named endowments like the Meier Endowment at Concordia-Chicago are restricted accounts permanently invested to generate a steady source of annual funding. Once established, a portion of the interest is distributed each year to help the University remain strong. The remainder of the investment gains are re-invested in the named endowment, helping it grow over time. Whether you prefer to support music, athletics, future teachers or current needs, your named endowment becomes part of Concordia-Chicago's future.

Named endowments can be created with a current gift, an estate gift or a combination of the two. To start planning your named scholarship, contact Naomi Tselepis at 866-448-3867 or **Foundation@CUChicago.edu**.

1. Marjorie Meier BS '52 pictured with her brother Robert J. Meier BS '55

Class Notes

1950s



Larry BS '54 and Doris (Gugel) Grothaus BS '52 recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary and Larry's 90th birthday with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren from seven different states.

1960s



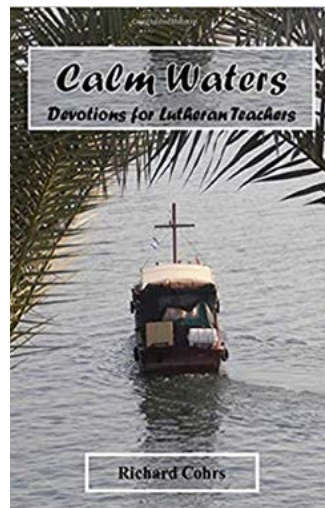
Karen (Sell) BA '69 and Bruce Siebarth celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2019 on a Hawaiian trip along with **Monica BA '96, Jolene BA '96, MA '04** and Amber, Trevor, Tyler and Brayden. Karen and Bruce reside in Britton, MI.

Steve Tirmenstein BA '69 was inducted into the Missouri Music Educators Saint Louis Metro District Hall of Fame in January 2019. Steve served the district over the years as director of bands at Lutheran High School North in Saint Louis. Steve retired from teaching in 2011 but continued to coach. In spring 2020, he was recognized for 50 years of coaching track and field.



Kay (Schlehlein) Berry BA '74 retired June 30, 2020 from 45 years of ministry. Kay taught in churches and schools at St. John's (Merrill, WI), Immanuel (Rock Island, IL) and Trinity (Davenport, IA). Kay enjoys reading, gardening, LWML and being granny on-call.

1970s



Rich Cohrs BA '71 has released "Calm Waters," a devotion for reflection, meditation and instruction in the Word. Written specifically for Lutheran day school teachers, any Christian who teaches children can relate to the topics. The book is available at Amazon.com.



Paul Krieg BA '74 welcomed **Karen Bohleber BA '66, Noel Kirsch (Abel) BA '72 and Bob Kirsch BA '66** to Florence and Tuscany in February 2020 (pictured left to right near the Leaning Tower in Pisa). Paul and Bob first met in 1965 when Concordia's European Study Tour visited Casa Cares Institute. Paul has been responsible for Casa Cares in Tuscany since 1985 and is now retired, but his enthusiasm for Casa Cares and Florence is contagious.

1990s



Tamela Odom BA '98 recently completed her doctorate in education. Tamela serves as District Chief of Staff to State Senator Patricia Van Pelt, 5th Legislative District.

2000s



Kevin Hendrix BA '00 and wife Jackie welcomed their son Anthony James "AJ" on Feb. 18, 2020.

Jeff Knapp MA '01 was named Human Resources Director for the Illinois Antioch School District #34 serving pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. Jeff has spent the last nine years as principal at Rockland School and the six years prior as principal at Woodview School in Grayslake, IL.



Sam Eatherton MA '03 earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Church Music in Aug. 2019. He serves as the minister of music at Zion Lutheran Church and School in Dallas, TX

Rachel Elsea BA '08 serves as the Fairfield County Board of Commission clerk. She schedules commissioner events and meetings, maintains records, and is the official record keeper..



Emily (Adas) BA '09 and husband Daniel Hollendoner welcomed their daughter Claire Leona on Nov. 13, 2019. The family, including big brother, Logan, resides in Mesa, AZ.

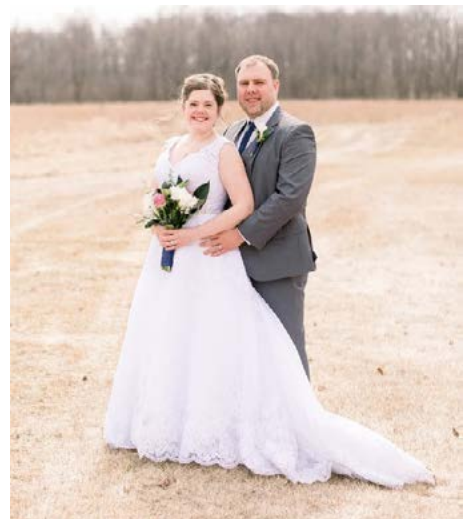
2010s



Rosa (Reiber) BA '10 and **Justin Glombicki BA '13** were married on Sept. 4, 2020. Rosa serves as a senior admission counselor (Chicago region) for Marquette University, and Justin is a production manager at Absolute Production Services. The couple resides in Berwyn, IL.



Josh Evans BA '11 was called in August 2020 to St. Philip Lutheran Church in Glenview, IL. Josh recently served at Unity Lutheran Church in Brookfield, WI before making the transition back to the Chicago area.



Amy (Becker) BA '12 married Joshua Peterson on March 22, 2020. Amy serves as a kindergarten teacher at St. John's Lutheran School in Corcoran, MN, and Josh is a senior accountant. The couple resides in Bloomington, MN.



Sofia Bustamante BA '15 welcomed her first born Sonny Giuliano on Jan. 5, 2020. Sofia serves at CUC as programmer analyst.



Alison Clark PhD '16 was selected as the 2020 New York State Elementary Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State and by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.



Rebekah (Thoelke) BS '17 married Nathan Pauls on Nov. 9, 2019. Rebekah taught 3rd grade at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Munster, IN for two years before joining Nathan in Manhattan, KS. A 1st Lieutenant in the Army, Nathan is stationed at Fort Riley, KS and serves as a platoon leader for an Assault and Obstacle Platoon.



Simeon Cornwell BA '15 was ordained at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Spring Lake, MI on July 5, 2020.

Trisha Engel MA '15 was hired as principal of St. John's Lutheran School in Seymour, IN on July 14, 2020 after previously teaching 2nd grade at Immanuel Lutheran School in Seymour.

Mark Gleichauf EdD '15 was unanimously approved as superintendent of Lakewood Local Schools in Hebron, OH. Mark previously served as superintendent of Brooklyn City Schools in northeast Ohio since 2015.

Steve Rippeth MA '15 began as the adult education assistant director at Buckeye Career Center in New Philadelphia, OH on July 1, 2020. Steve supervises full- and part-time adult programs and works with local employers to develop customized training.



Enzley Mitchell IV PhD '17 was named Saint Mary of the Woods College's first men's head basketball coach. In addition, Mitchell serves as an assistant professor in the Master of Leadership Development program and develops the undergraduate sport management major. He continues to provide college success education for prospective student athletes through PrepSearch LLC.

About Class Notes

Information listed reflects details received as of September 16, 2020. The University welcomes news 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, however we do not return prints. Submission of a Class Note or image does not guarantee publication. The University reserves the right to edit submissions for style, length and content.

Condolences

But thanks be to God, who gives us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

Faculty & Staff

Carl Bollwinkel BS '54 – December 28, 2018 Former Faculty, Biology

Richard Krause – September 26, 2016 Former Board of Regents and Foundation Board Member

Harold Krueger HS '41, BS '45 – January 2, 2018 Former Board of Regents Member

Walter Martin BS '52 – October 13, 2020 Professor Emeritus of Art

Raymond Moehrlin BS '57 – February 6, 2020 Former Faculty, Sciences & Mathematics

Louis Thrasher – March 29, 2020 Former Controller

Wesley Wilkie – January 25, 2020 Professor Emeritus, Theology

Alumni

Jacqueline Appelt BA '66 – April 28, 2020

Renelda (Burgdorf) Arkebauer HS '48, BS '52 – June 3, 2020

Mavis (Hagen) Bagby BS '57, CAS '89 – April 3, 2020

Erwin Bauer HS, BS '43 – August 28, 2020

Erich Von Behren HS '48, BS '53 – May 12, 2020

Marilyn Beyer BS '60 – July 20, 2020

Elfred Bloedel BS '45 – March 18, 2020

Marilyn Boeschen BA '64 – November 16, 2018

Carl Bollwinkel BS '54 – December 28, 2018

Linda (Leimer) Budde BA '62 – August 25, 2020

Marie (Ehlers) Busch BS '43 – March 8, 2020

Elinor (Gaulke) Dahmer BS '54 – June 15, 2020

Dale Elmschaeuser MA '70 – January 4, 2020

Elaine (Goedde) Fick BA '03 – November 16, 2019

Leanne (Rossnagel) Frank BA '64 – August 16, 2020

Reinhold Frank BA '64 – August 16, 2020

Edwin Feddersen BS '32 – July 1, 1999

Betty (Oehmke) Galen BS '59 – April 7, 2020

Muriel (Stein) Going BS '53 – April 1, 2020

Betty (Claybrook) Golden BS '58 – January 21, 2009

Elizabeth (Wilson) Gotsch BS '58 – July 27, 2020

Walter Gresens BS '59 – May 30, 2020

Ralph Grewe BS '58 – August 18, 2020

Dorothy (Bunge) Haensel BA '62 – May 31, 2020

Ernest Hagenmueller, Jr. BS '52, MA '64 – February 24, 2020

Iona (Zielinski) Herrmann BS '58 – June 15, 2020

Guenther Herzog BS '50 – May 23, 2020

Norman Hoerauf BS '53 – March 19, 2019

John Janzow BS '52, MA '81 – March 11, 2020

Eunice (Haeger) Jungkuntz HS '50, BS '53 – April 27, 2020

Edith (Gaebler) Kalbfleisch MA '68 – November 19, 2019

Lorna (Berthal) Kline BS '60 – May 24, 2020

Anne (Eissfeld) Kolberg HS '46, BS '51 – May 4, 2019

Harold Krueger HS '41, BS '45 – January 2, 2018

Leroy Laeder HS '49, BS '53 – June 10, 2020

Betty (Bultmann) Lohraff BA '62 – March 23, 2020

Karen (Rutkowski) Lutze – October 24, 2018

Christel (Trolenberg) Marquardt – March 8, 2020

Tracey Marshall MA '12 – April 2, 2020

Walter Martin BS '52 – October 13, 2020

Robert Meier BS '55 – February 13, 2020

Marjorie Meier BS '52 – May 28, 2020

Orville Melcher BS '53 – December 10, 2018

Ellen (Baker) Mills BA '72 – March 9, 2020

Raymond Moehrlin BS '57 – February 6, 2020

Janis Morgan BA '73 – May 19, 2019

Orval Mueller BS '60 – November 19, 2019

David Nelson BA '62 – January 23, 2019

Frederick Nietfeldt HS – September 19, 2017

Katie (Hansen) Ode BA '04 – February 18, 2020

Arthur C. Pinnow BS '51 – February 20, 2020

Norman Roger BS '31 – November 1, 1985

Richard Rose BA '75 – August 23, 2020

Eleanor (Zelmer) Schlegel BA '61 – July 22, 2020

Gene Schmidtke HS '45, BS '52 – May 21, 2020

Lorraine (Glossop) Schnack HS, BS '47 – September 5, 2020

Patricia (Polzin) Schumacher BA '66 – March 6, 2020

Patricia (Schwebke) Weasner BS '60 – July 2, 2020

Arthur Seboldt BS '50 – January 25, 2019

Irene (Zillman) Seim BA '77 – July 11, 2020

Vernon Siekmann BA '54, MA '67 – June 26, 2020

Pauline (Hesterman) Simo BA '62 – July 14, 2020

Chevonne Sharpe MA '16 – September 20, 2019

Ellis Stephens MA '13 – April 6, 2020

Diane Theilgaard-Hoppe BA '85 – November 22, 2019

Marian (McClaghry) Ulmer BS '52 – January 21, 2017

Edward Weerts MA '73 – April 17, 2020

Eugene Wiegman BS '54 – July 1, 2020

Clyde Wobeck MA '73 – August 27, 2020

Edwin Zielske BS '49 – September 11, 2019

Deborah (Rudick) Ziemann BA '89 – September 7, 2020

Celebrating Fall 2020 Graduates

Concordia University Chicago's faculty, staff and administration will once again celebrate commencement virtually in December due to COVID-19 restrictions. This year has presented unexpected challenges, to say the least, yet our students have persevered to complete their degrees. We are exceptionally proud of each and every one of them. In this difficult time that tests our patience and resilience, we encourage each of our graduates to learn from their experiences and continue to grow as individuals and children of God.

The following pages list the names of all Fall 2020 graduates as a special tribute to their perseverance and recognition of the many challenges they faced to complete their degrees in the face of adversity.

The virtual ceremonies will take place according to the following schedule, and can be viewed at **[CUChicago.edu/live](https://cu-chicago.edu/live)** and at **facebook.com/ConcordiaUniversityChicago**.

- Friday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m. - Doctoral Hooding Ceremony (NEW!)
- Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. - Baccalaureate Service of Praise & Consecration
- Saturday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m. - Undergraduate Virtual Commencement Ceremony
- Saturday, Dec. 12, 4 p.m. - Graduate Virtual Commencement Ceremony

Congratulations to the class of 2020!

The list of fall candidates for graduation presented in this edition is current as of 11/13/20 and may not reflect the final list of names.

The symbols SCL (Summa Cum Laude 3.9-4.0), MCL (Magna Cum Laude 3.7-3.89) and CL (Cum Laude 3.5-3.69) identify academic honors bestowed on candidates. A Concordia Scholar has completed the requirements for the Concordia Honors Program.

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

CANDIDATE FOR THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

College of Business

Bonjovi Davenport

Organizational Management

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Arts and Sciences

Katherine Aldana
Criminal Justice

Ghaida Aljebreen MCL
Theater

Brian Arredondo
Computer Science

William Barker
Strategic Communication

Baleigh Bennett MCL
Graphic Arts and Art

Nicole Bertucci
Graphic Arts

Alexander Bjoraker
Christian Ministry

Samantha Bloom SCL
Psychology

Heidi Calderone
Psychology

Giovanna Carrillo
Political Science

Isaac Cowlin CL
Political Science

Alexander Crinigan
Strategic Communication

Yuda Dong
Music

Janett Espinoza
English

Noelle Louise Fajardo
Social Work

Adilene Franco
Psychology

Stephanie Garcia
Psychology

Antonia Garza MCL
Graphic Arts

Arius Gatson
Media and Communication

Cindy Gomez Zuniga
Music

Benjamin Heinz SCL
History

Megan Jacobsen SCL
Natural Science:
Biology & Chemistry
Concordia Scholar

Jaylynn Johnson
Psychology

Brett Krueger
Criminal Justice

Rene Lara
Sport, Fitness, & Recreation

Joseline Mena CL
Psychology

Juan Ortega
Graphic Arts

Nicholas Pimentel
Natural Science:
Biology & Chemistry

Nia Pitman
Sociology

Madison Rametta
Media and Communication
Journalism

Charlie Reznikoff
Sociology

Melissa Rivas CL
Graphic Arts

Hannah Rubin
Psychology

Kelsey Schultz
Theater

Nicholas Sinatra
History

Shannon Stamp SCL
Psychology

Hope Stropes
History

Brittany Thompson
Music

Anthony Torres
Philosophy

Ryan Vilanova
Social Work

Abel Zacharia SCL
Biology

Anet Zacharia SCL
Biology

Ann Zacharia SCL
Biology

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION

College of Arts and Sciences

Tyler Ruthemeyer CL
Music Education (K-12)

Eden Schultz MCL
Music Education (K-12)

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

College of Arts and Sciences

Jessica Allen
Kinesiology

Natalie Dominguez
Kinesiology

Tyler McKendrick
Kinesiology

Emily Sansom
Kinesiology

Kara Belanger
Kinesiology

Julian Dorsey
Kinesiology

James Narvasa
Kinesiology

Emily Slazyk
Kinesiology

Mirna Boktor
Kinesiology

Ivonne Garzon
Management Information
Systems

Karee Passmore MCL
Kinesiology

Melissa Snider
Kinesiology

Robert Brown
Kinesiology

Anjelica Haberlein
Kinesiology

Yeswanth Rayappan
Nursing

Dana Trilla
Kinesiology

Audrey Butler MCL
Kinesiology

Jenna Johnson
Kinesiology

David Rhodes SCL
Kinesiology

Matthew Vreeland
Kinesiology

Noah Collins
Biology

Matthew Lilly CL
Kinesiology

Kaitlynn Roberts
Kinesiology

Amy Whiteman
Kinesiology

Edwin Daleccio, Jr.
Nursing

Meganne Salazar
Kinesiology

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

College of Business

Nicholas Dalton
Accounting

Abelardo Paz Agudelo
Sports Management

Justice Silvera
Management

Jiazheng Yue
Marketing

Brian Guratowski
Management

Jordan Perez MCL
Sports Management

Kyle Strepek
Marketing

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Business

Octavio Antinori
Healthcare Management

Carissa Brenwall
Healthcare Management

Ivana Brnica
Healthcare Management

Elizabeth Dalrymple
Healthcare Management

Emily Detzel
Healthcare Management

Victoria Di Monte
Healthcare Management

Rea Bianca Doligosa
Healthcare Management

Kara Garrod
Sports Recreation
Management

Shannon Gothard
Healthcare Management

Hannah Guerrettaz
Healthcare Management

Abigail Hillyard
Healthcare Management

Chloe Hodges
Healthcare Management

Nikki Keophet
Healthcare Management

Amanda Klun
Healthcare Management

Kelly Kurth
Healthcare Management

Jacob Landau
Healthcare Management

Melissa Mandarino
Healthcare Management

Charles Martinez
Organizational Management

Jamie McCreedy
Healthcare Management

Jose Mendez
Organizational Management

Jessica Miaso
Healthcare Management

Selena Moreno
Healthcare Management

Kristen Murray MCL
Healthcare Management

Antonia Olsowka
Healthcare Management

Nicholas Orlando
Healthcare Management

Janet Parises SCL
Organizational Management

Laurie Paschke
Organizational Management

Tania Perez Duenas
Healthcare Management

Belen Rivera
Healthcare Management

Salvatore Romano
Healthcare Management

Thidawan Ruangdit
Healthcare Management

Giuliana Seymour
Healthcare Management

Daniel Sullivan
Sports Recreation
Management

Alejandra Talavera
Healthcare Management

Leanne Thomas
Healthcare Management

Ronald Toledo Cardoso
Healthcare Management

Ernest Uguna
Healthcare Management

Christine Vazquez
Healthcare Management

Felicia Williams
Organizational Management

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

College of Business

David Bamsch SCL
Accounting

Kevin Barzowski
Sports Management

Allaina Dellert MCL
Management

Joseph Dressler
Sports Management

Brianna Garcia
Management

Adam Gray
Sports Management

Ashish Singh
Management

Cynthia Suaste CL
Accounting

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

College of Business

Kaylin Gause
Human Resource
Management

Gina Rodgers
Human Resource
Management

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

College of Education

Janelly Acosta MCL
Education Studies

Allison Brown CL
Early Childhood Education

Sara Browne CL
Early Childhood Education

Akai Carter
Early Childhood Education

Charnesha Collier
Education Studies

Ashley Cozzi
Education Studies

Oscar Emeterio
Education Studies

Marina Galicia
Early Childhood Education

Jennifer Hernandez
Education Studies

Panayiotis Kass
Special Education

Stephanie Lamberty
Elementary Education

Natalia Molski
Early Childhood Education

Cintya Ruiz SCL
Early Childhood Education

Abigail Schaffer MCL
Math Education

Shelby Spitz MCL
Secondary Education
and Middle Grades Education
Concordia Scholar

Tiffany Tapia
Physical Education

Amanda Wilson
Elementary Education



CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS

College of Arts and Sciences

Scott Gercken
Religion

William Jackson
Religion

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF CHURCH MUSIC

College of Arts and Sciences

Katherine Jarrett
Church Music

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE

College of Arts and Sciences

Andres Acosta
Applied Exercise Science
Strength and Conditioning

Matthew Aiello
Applied Exercise Science

Bill Amaya
Applied Exercise Science

Devin Anderson
Applied Exercise Science

Savanna Anderson
Applied Exercise Science

Frank Avilla Jr
Applied Exercise Science

Michelle Babin
Applied Exercise Science

Jessica Balzano
Applied Exercise Science

Diane Banderas
Applied Exercise Science

Karl Barth
Applied Exercise Science

Alessandra Battig
Applied Exercise Science

Duneya Bazzi
Applied Exercise Science

Emily Beatty
Applied Exercise Science
Sports Nutrition

Sean Beckett
Applied Exercise Science

Andrew Bell
Applied Exercise Science

August Bickle
Applied Exercise Science

Emily Boardman
Applied Exercise Science

Andrea Bombard
Applied Exercise Science

Nick Bonacker
Applied Exercise Science

Kierstyn Brooks
Applied Exercise Science

Steven Brown
Applied Exercise Science

Jeffrey Bryant
Applied Exercise Science

Megan Burns
Applied Exercise Science

Erik Bustillo
Applied Exercise Science

Natalie Camardo
Applied Exercise Science
Sports Nutrition

Julia Cap
Applied Exercise Science

Troy Carbaugh
Applied Exercise Science

Laura Cardoza
Applied Exercise Science

Rachel Cassidy
Applied Exercise Science

Jessica Cellamare
Applied Exercise Science

Jenna Charbonneau
Applied Exercise Science

Madisyn Chavez
Applied Exercise Science

Raymond Chow
Applied Exercise Science
Strength and Conditioning

Sabrina Clark
Applied Exercise Science

Rebecca Cochran
Applied Exercise Science

Todd Cofer
Applied Exercise Science

Kalah Collins
Applied Exercise Science

Taylor Collins
Applied Exercise Science

Dustin Cordier
Applied Exercise Science

Bryan Cortez
Applied Exercise Science

Ryan Costanza
Applied Exercise Science

Matthew Covarrubias
Applied Exercise Science

Andrew Crandall
Applied Exercise Science
Strength and Conditioning

Ian Cruse
Applied Exercise Science

Nardia Cunningham
Applied Exercise Science

Sidnee Darling
Applied Exercise Science

Jane Davis
Applied Exercise Science

David Dean
Applied Exercise Science

Michelle Degitis
Applied Exercise Science

Nicholas Dobson
Applied Exercise Science

Christina Douglas
Applied Exercise Science

Richard Draizin
Applied Exercise Science

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE

College of Arts and Sciences, continued

Aristeo Duenas

Applied Exercise Science

Taylor Duncan

Applied Exercise Science

Christine Edwards

Applied Exercise Science

Brittany Ellingsen

Applied Exercise Science
Human Movement Science

Cori Ellis

Applied Exercise Science

Nicole Ervin

Applied Exercise Science

Zachary Estes

Applied Exercise Science

Jerry Fan

Applied Exercise Science

Khojiakbar Fayzullaev

Computer Science

Jason Fernandez

Applied Exercise Science

Briana Ferullo

Applied Exercise Science

Monique Fluker

Applied Exercise Science
Sports Nutrition

Sydnei Foster

Applied Exercise Science

Lauren Fox

Applied Exercise Science

Adam Fuertes

Applied Exercise Science

Gregory Gardziola Sr.

Applied Exercise Science

Derek Gay

Applied Exercise Science

Ryan Gieseemann

Applied Exercise Science

Christian Gimenez

Applied Exercise Science

Sean Gough

Applied Exercise Science

Alexander Grahn

Applied Exercise Science

Kyle Groves

Applied Exercise Science
Strength and Conditioning

Nick Haberlach

Applied Exercise Science

Jacob Helm

Applied Exercise Science

Koreena Hemker

Applied Exercise Science

Abigail Hendricks

Applied Exercise Science

Antonia-Adsilla Henry

Applied Exercise Science

Yu Peng Her

Applied Exercise Science

Eve Hesselroth

Applied Exercise Science

Benjamin Holland

Applied Exercise Science

Charles Hollwedel

Applied Exercise Science

Matthew Hoover

Applied Exercise Science

Alan Hough

Applied Exercise Science

Andrew Howard

Applied Exercise Science

Brian Iossi

Applied Exercise Science

Bradley Johnson

Applied Exercise Science

Jared Johnson

Applied Exercise Science

Daniel Keil

Applied Exercise Science
Human Movement Science

Jason Kelly

Applied Exercise Science

Elizabeth Knepper

Applied Exercise Science

William Koehl II

Applied Exercise Science

Derek Kruse

Applied Exercise Science

Joshua Laird

Applied Exercise Science

Noble Landry

Applied Exercise Science

William Lane

Applied Exercise Science

Cassandra Lapinski

Applied Exercise Science

Timothy Laroy

Applied Exercise Science

Kyndal Lawrence

Applied Exercise Science

Melissa Le Beau

Applied Exercise Science

Jessica Lime

Applied Exercise Science

Brenden Linear

Applied Exercise Science

Katherine Loadman

Applied Exercise Science

Heidi Lucke

Applied Exercise Science

Allison Luther

Applied Exercise Science

Patrick Madden

Applied Exercise Science

Joey Manana

Applied Exercise Science

Tai Mayes

Applied Exercise Science

Shawn McCabe

Applied Exercise Science

Joshua McCune

Applied Exercise Science

Nykia McDonald

Applied Exercise Science

Michelle McGurl

Applied Exercise Science

Matthew McIntire

Applied Exercise Science

Mackenzie McInturff

Applied Exercise Science

Kayla McKenzie

Applied Exercise Science

Delia McNally

Applied Exercise Science

Kirk Mearig

Applied Exercise Science

Jack Meixelsperger

Applied Exercise Science

Mandy Mendoza

Applied Exercise Science

Nicholas Mesnard

Applied Exercise Science

Kayci Miller

Applied Exercise Science

Robert Miranda

Applied Exercise Science

Jhonny Moros Archila

Applied Exercise Science

Christina Myers

Applied Exercise Science

Samantha Myers

Applied Exercise Science

Fredrick Myles Jr

Applied Exercise Science

Katelynn Naujock

Applied Exercise Science

Kelsey Norby

Applied Exercise Science

Cristopher O'Brien

Applied Exercise Science

Hannah O'Brien

Applied Exercise Science

Shane Orlow

Applied Exercise Science

Lindsay Owens

Applied Exercise Science

Jeremy Owusu

Applied Exercise Science

Brian Pacelli

Applied Exercise Science

Matthew Page

Applied Exercise Science

Lila Palmer

Applied Exercise Science

Yolanda Pappas

Applied Exercise Science

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE

College of Arts and Sciences, continued

Alyssa Parten

Applied Exercise Science
Strength and Conditioning

Ashley Patel

Applied Exercise Science
Sports Nutrition

Jared Patus

Applied Exercise Science

Anthony Pedrotti

Applied Exercise Science

Will Peppard

Applied Exercise Science

Eleazar Perez

Applied Exercise Science

Tevin Pham

Applied Exercise Science

Meagan Poole

Applied Exercise Science

Patrick Probst

Applied Exercise Science

Cecilia Pulido

Applied Exercise Science

Luis Alberto Ramirez Torres

Applied Exercise Science

Diana Reina

Applied Exercise Science

John Rhodes

Applied Exercise Science

Samantha Ridgway

Applied Exercise Science

Kaitlyn Risen

Applied Exercise Science

Linette Rojas

Applied Exercise Science

Kendall Rosebrock

Applied Exercise Science
Strength and Conditioning

Ann-Marie Roth

Applied Exercise Science

Leah Rutz

Applied Exercise Science

Michael Salminen

Applied Exercise Science

Timothy Sesko

Applied Exercise Science

Vishwa Sevak

Applied Exercise Science

Amber Shields

Applied Exercise Science

Justin Shipp

Applied Exercise Science

Kyra Sigmon

Applied Exercise Science

Tyler Simmons

Applied Exercise Science

Iskandar Sobirov

Computer Science

Mark Spana

Applied Exercise Science

Lauren Speers

Applied Exercise Science

Norielis Subero Rojas

Applied Exercise Science

Sara Tapp

Applied Exercise Science

Ronaldo Teixeira

Applied Exercise Science

Brent Theriault

Applied Exercise Science

Reginale Thomas

Applied Exercise Science

Samantha Thomson

Applied Exercise Science

Keon Thorpe

Applied Exercise Science

Tate Tobiason

Applied Exercise Science

Kayla Toussaint

Applied Exercise Science
Sports Nutrition

Alexander Tran

Applied Exercise Science

Nathan Vanmetre

Applied Exercise Science

Jeremy Vonner

Applied Exercise Science

Michael Walker

Applied Exercise Science

Katie Wallace

Applied Exercise Science

Shawn Wayland

Applied Exercise Science

Sarah Wegrzyn

Applied Exercise Science

Christina Weidman

Applied Exercise Science

Oren Whiting

Applied Exercise Science

Carl Wise

Applied Exercise Science

Ryan Witter

Applied Exercise Science

Kirsten Woolsey

Applied Exercise Science
Sports Performance & Training

Jeffrey Wright

Applied Exercise Science
Strength and Conditioning

Margaret Yates

Applied Exercise Science

Christopher Ybarra

Applied Exercise Science

Emily Zaler

Applied Exercise Science

Ariel Zeigler

Applied Exercise Science

Anthony Zeppieri Jr

Applied Exercise Science

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS

College of Business

Christian Bantz
Organizational Leadership

Tyesha Barefield
Organizational Leadership

Daniel Bennett
Sports Leadership

Dean Dodero
Sports Leadership

Arthur Ethel
Sports Leadership

Lauren Gray
Sports Leadership

Rasool Hajj
Sports Leadership

Tevin Haynes
Organizational Leadership

Joan Henehan
Organizational Leadership

Teerra Higgins
Organizational Leadership

Jarrod Jones
Sports Leadership

John Labouliere
Sports Leadership

Jasmine McGaughy
Organizational Leadership

Marlin McMichael
Sports Leadership

Nicholas Meyers
Sports Leadership

Sean Ortiz
Organizational Leadership

Jennifer Parker
Organizational Leadership

Nathan Phillips
Sports Leadership

Matthew Ribbens
Sports Leadership

Brady Roberts
Sports Leadership

Crystal Rose
Organizational Leadership

Darin Wecker
Sports Leadership

Kyle Whitman
Sports Leadership

Christopher Wido
Sports Leadership

Alexander Worthey
Organizational Leadership

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

College of Business

Rasulbek Abdirimov
Finance

Dildorahon Abdulkarimova
Business Management

Nursulton Abdukayumov
Business Management

Thomas Abernathy
Sports Management

Mazhar Ali
Leadership & Change
Management

Banan Aridi
Project Management and
Healthcare Management

James Arscott
Project Management

Hoang Son Bach
Finance

Kamran Bamasood
Business Management

Kiara Banister
Healthcare Management

Pratik Mahipatbhai Bhatt
Business Management

Samuel Prem Anand
Bhupanipad Sunkesula
Digital Marketing

Haoyue Bian
Business Management

Nina Binkowski
Finance

Katrina Britt
Business Management

Mark Byrne
Business Management

Edward Guy Holden Carter
Business Management

Claudia Cattouse
Business Management

Shelley Chan
Business Management

Hui Chang
Digital Marketing

Ravina Rathnam
Chiranjeevi Rathnam
Business Management

Rebecca Ciccone
Sports Management

Gin Cing
Business Management

Cedric Clarke
Finance

Grant Davis
Business Management

Egor Degtiarev
Business Management

Cenk Demirel
Business Management

Bofan Di
Digital Marketing

Lihui Ding
Business Management

Aliyah Downs
Business Management

Melanie Duplessis
School Business Management

Joshua Edwards
Sports Management

Azamjon Ergashev
Finance

Steven Fouts
Business Management

Tsatsral Ganzorig
Business Management

Xeo Golding
Business Management

Alekya Goli
Business Management

Dominique Gonzalez
Business Management

Terry Grant
Business Management

Breauna Green
Business Management

Noel Grigsby
Sports Management

Harshita Gwalani
Business Management

Tianxin Han
Business Management

Deanna Humphrey
Sports Management
and Finance

Chih-Yuan Hung
Digital Marketing

Le Hoang Lan Huynh
Digital Marketing

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

College of Business, continued

Jahongir Jabborberganov
Business Management

Karen Jackson
Business Management

Jacquelyn Jones
School Business Management

Dilovar Kalandarov
Business Management

Jamshid Khasanov
Finance

Asilbek Khudoyberdiev
Business Management

Kiranjeet Kaur
Healthcare Management

Aneesh Kumar
Business Management

Pala Murugan Lakshumanan
Business Management

Aracely Lara
Business Management

Adonis Lee
Sports Management

Seungeon Lee
Business Management

Ge Li
Business Management

Jiaxing Li
Business Management

Zhuoyan Li
Business Management

Carissa Little
Healthcare Management

Peiwen Liu
Business Management

Shuo Liu
Business Management

Htet Htet Ma
Business Management

Nasiba Mamadalieva
Business Management

Shuhrat Mamadjanov
Business Management

Ian McMichael
Business Management

Huaiyu Miao
Finance

Farrukh Mirazizov
Business Management

Jamshid Mirsolikhov
Business Management

**Amiel Perdana
Syahminan Mohede**
Business Management

Shokhzod Muminov
Digital Marketing

Sidra Munawar
Business Management

Nomin Myagmarsuren
Business Management

**Darryl Chris
Joseph Mylabathula**
Business Management

Barbara Needham
Business Management

Julie Neenan
Chief School Business Officer

Vignes Nellainayagam
Business Management

Diana Nemes
Healthcare Management

Yana Nikolaeva
Finance

Jennifer Noguez
Healthcare Management

Michele Obaya
Business Management

Maria Pantoja
Chief School Business Officer

Tiffany Preuss
Chief School Business Officer

**Aishwarya Lakshmi
Rajkumar**
Business Management

Denzel Randle
Business Management

Lamiya Ferozbhai Rangwala
Healthcare Management

Jiabao Ren
Business Management

Shanice Rich
Business Management

Warren Riley
Leadership & Change
Management

Daniel Ruiz
Project Management

Pratim Sadhukhan
Business Management

Akram Saidov
Business Management

Boburbek Saidov
Business Management

Maria Salgado
Business Management

Cheri Salthe
Leadership & Change
Management

Santiago Sanchez
Business Management

Arlene Santiago
Leadership & Change
Management

Matthew Schabowski
Business Management

Ashay Atulbhai Shah
Healthcare Management

Bekzod Shavkatov
Business Management

**Kalaiselvi Shenbaga
Manogara Pandian**
Business Management

Ruchika Shukla
Business Management

Tanya Singh
Business Management

Stephanie Sotelo
School Business Management

Uyanga Soyolt
Business Management

Erika Spiller
Healthcare Management

Erin Stage
Business Management

Eric Stanley
Business Management

Binglun Su
Digital Marketing

Ruowei Sun
Digital Marketing

Nuengruthai Teeratamtada
Business Management

Charles Jia Luen Teo
Business Management

Siew Hong Teo
Sports Management

Karthikeyan Thiyagarajan
Business Management

Amanda Thomas
Project Management

Shashi Kumar Thudi
Business Management

Aimy Tran
Leadership & Change
Management

Vaishali Tyagi
Business Management

Azamat Umarov
Business Management

Bianca Upshaw
Business Management

Kudratillo Usmonov
Business Management

Guangyuan Wang
Business Management

Qien Wang
Business Management

Shuolin Wang
Business Management

Xueqing Wang
Business Management

Ziwei Wang
Finance

Kimberly Wesley
Chief School Business Officer

Qinge Wu
Business Management

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

College of Business, continued

Courtney Wynn
Business Management

Lei Yao
Business Management

Nodirjon Zakirjonov
Business Management

Zinan Zhao
Business Management

Chenyu Xu
Business Management

Shixuan Yin
Business Management

Zhicheng Zhang
Finance

Hong Zhu
Project Management

Weihaio Yang
Business Management

Bekhzod Yuldashev
Business Management

Yuxin Zhao
Business Management

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

College of Education

Megan Bielawa
Secondary Education

Karina Garcia
Elementary Education

Kathleen Hawley
Secondary Education

Marlene Valadez
Secondary Education

Briana Daley
Secondary Education

Danielle Hawkins
Secondary Education

Eduardo Marentes
Secondary Education

Benjamin Worcester
Secondary Education



CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS

College of Graduate Studies

Don Abernathy
Special Education

John Alesch
Blended and Online Teaching
for PK-12 Educators

Michele Alexander
Psychology

Bethany Alvarez
Educational Technology:
Leadership

Adam Andresen
Clinical Mental
Health Counseling

Amy Anshell
Curriculum and Instruction

Alicia Anstine
School Leadership:
Initial Leader

Abigail Arellano
Curriculum and Instruction
with ESL Endorsement

Abigai Arias
Curriculum and Instruction

Graciela Arroyo
Clinical Mental
Health Counseling

Yara Artis
Clinical Mental
Health Counseling

Mark Aska
Educational Technology:
Leadership

Jessica Aurilio
English as a Second Language

Erica Austin
Human Services

Vianca Avila
Human Services

Ipek Aydar
Curriculum and Instruction

Gregg Bagdade
Clinical Mental
Health Counseling

Lauren Baiocchi
Differentiated Instruction

Nathen Baker
Educational Technology:
Leadership

Rebecca Bard
Curriculum and Instruction
with ESL Endorsement

Jessica Barrera
Curriculum and Instruction
with Bilingual Endorsement

Tamara Bayson
Curriculum and Instruction

Nicolette Becker
Reading Education

Ashley Beckmann
Differentiated Instruction

Andrew Beckwith
Teacher Leadership

Sarah Bell
Special Education Leadership

Suzanne Bell
Curriculum and Instruction
with ESL Endorsement

Anne Berenguer
Principal Preparation

Isaac Berrueta
Curriculum and Instruction
with Bilingual Endorsement

Francesca Bevente
Educational Technology:
Curriculum and Instruction

Jason Bhatta
Curriculum and Instruction

Derek Bialowas
School Leadership:
Initial Leader

Tricia Biedron
Educational Technology:
Curriculum and Instruction

Emily Bierbower
Curriculum and Instruction

Nicole Billon
Educational Technology:
Leadership

Michaela Binz
Curriculum and Instruction

Dan Blaskovitz
Curriculum and Instruction

Zuni Bloomer
English as a Second Language

Brandon Bolger
Principal Preparation

Kameron Bouchard
Principal Preparation

Adam Boyer
Teacher Leadership

William Bramblette
School Leadership:
Initial Leader

Beth Bravieri
Special Education Leadership

Karina Breezer
Clinical Mental Health
Counseling

Jay Bretzin
Special Education

Kyra Brown
Curriculum and Instruction
with Bilingual Endorsement

Cassiopia Brunow
Teacher Leadership

Kayla Brunswick
School Leadership: Initial
Leader

Kathryn Bryk
Reading Education

Michelle Burgett
Blended and Online Teaching
for PK-12 Educators

Mike Busca Guerrero
Curriculum and Instruction

Maria Nathania Busse
Blended and Online Teaching
for PK-12 Educators

Olga Callupe
Early Childhood Education

Christie Campbell
Grant Writing, Management
and Evaluation

Isabel Cano
Early Childhood Education

Margie Carhart
Educational Technology:
Curriculum and Instruction

Alexander Carlson
Principal Preparation

Lisa Case
Curriculum and Instruction
with ESL Endorsement

Katharine Casleton
Educational Technology:
Leadership

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Grant Writing, Management
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School Leadership

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Education Leadership

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