



Dear alumni and friends,

It is with great excitement and gratitude that I write to you today announcing the recipients of this year's **Distinguished University Awards**. These alumni and friends have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also embodied the spirit of excellence and commitment to Concordia-Chicago. The following awardees will be honored at the **Maroon & Gold Gala on Saturday, September 28th, 2024** at the beautiful **Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, IL**:

- *Dr. Kara Bratton PhD '20 – Outstanding Graduate*
- *Katrina Jurica BME '14 – GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade)*
- *Dr. Richard Fischer – Spiritus Christi*
- *Dr. Kirk Farney – One Heart*

Read more about this year's Maroon & Gold celebration in the story below.

I am also thrilled to announce the inductees into the **Hall of Fame Class of 2024**. The Concordia Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2002 to honor accomplished athlete alumni who exemplify the mission, spirit, and philosophy of Concordia and its Department of Athletics. This year's inductees have demonstrated unparalleled skill, dedication, and sportsmanship:

- *Jake Koehler BA '13 – Football*
- *Stefanie D'Anna BA '18 MA '20 - Softball*
- *Zach Bickel BA '09 - Baseball*
- *The 1968 Football Team*

Save the date to join us at the Athletic Hall of Fame banquet during Homecoming on Saturday, October 12, 2024.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more updates on these awardees, as well as upcoming registration information. Have a blessed week!

In Christ,

Jeff Hynes

University Foundation President/CEO

Sr. Vice President University Advancement

Alumni Spotlight



Trisha (Engerer) DePasquale, class of 2007

For **Trisha (Engerer) DePasquale BA '07** and her students, going on a flight to China or riding a camel through the desert isn't unusual in the classroom! In fact, every Friday is "Passport Adventure Day" for her class, where she weaves her passion for global education into the learning experience.

Trisha's dynamic, globally-inspired teaching career in early childhood education stems from her formative years at Concordia-Chicago.

"In the spring of 2007, I was the first student from CUC to student-teach at Concordia International School in Shanghai, China, where my sister and her husband taught. That experience is what shaped me and what defined me to be the teacher I am now. I taught students from 15 different countries, easily. My eyes were wide open to the world because of that experience, and being over there for the Chinese New Year helped me find ways to bring that back into my classroom when I started teaching."

Inspired by her transformative student-teaching experience in Shanghai, she created "Passport Adventure" lessons, captivating

her students with immersive learning experiences that transports them to different corners of the globe. She began by celebrating the Chinese New Year with her students, which grew into a larger-scale “trip to China” where students would “check into their flight” (the classroom) for the school day. Now, Trisha teaches young learners to value global perspectives and experiences with Passport Adventures in 19 countries! Read more about Passport Adventures on Trisha’s [website](#).

Trisha’s experiential teaching methods and travel-inspired curriculum caught the attention of educators nationwide, and she has presented at the Florida-Georgia District Educators Conference as well as the Best Practices in Ministry Conference. She offers free lessons through her website, with a special emphasis on providing resources to Lutheran Educators.

Crediting her success to CUC, she emphasizes the impact of her mentors and the faith-based community fostered throughout college.

“I loved my time at Concordia. It truly shaped me into becoming the teacher that I am now and shaped my faith too. When I look at my teaching career now, I owe it all to Concordia. Working at the Early Childhood Center on campus, beginning my freshman year, showed me how much I loved working in early childhood, and my student teaching placement really defined my future in teaching.”

In addition to discovering her calling from Christ, CUC was where Trisha met lifelong friends and made enduring memories.

“My best friends to this day are the ones that I met on move in day, freshman year. I can still remember all of us walking together on the way to freshman orientation... Living with my best friends on campus in Gross Hall and 3rd Johnny, going to prayer and praise every week, and midnight breakfasts were some of my favorite memories.”

Beginning at CUC and sparked by her student-teaching experience in China, Trisha’s passion for travel has impacted many lives and shaped her vocation from Christ. By creating these immersive learning experiences for teachers to utilize across the world, she continues to enrich countless students’ lives as a remarkable Lutheran educator.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

invites you to our signature fundraising gala

Maroon & Gold

A Million Dreams...

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, IL

Maroon & Gold 2024

Registration is now open for Concordia-Chicago's Maroon & Gold Banquet on **Saturday, September 28th**.

Maroon & Gold is Concordia University Chicago's signature fundraising event that brings the entire community together to celebrate and support scholars. We are excited to announce Maroon & Gold will be held at a new location this year - **Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, IL**.

Join alumni, faculty, staff and friends for a notable evening to recognize outstanding the following individuals who have brought honor to Concordia-Chicago while influencing future leaders.

- *Dr. Kara Bratton PhD '20 – Outstanding Graduate*
- *Katrina Jurica BME '14 – GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade)*
- *Dr. Richard Fischer – Spiritus Christi*
- *Dr. Kirk Farney – One Heart*

View sponsorship opportunities, register, and read more details by clicking the link below!

Register and Give to Scholarships



Cougar Classic Golf Outing

Concordia's Cougar Classic Golf Tournament is back! Join fellow alumni, faculty, staff, and friends on **Friday, October 11** at [White Pines Golf Club in Bensenville, IL](#) for a fun day of golf while supporting CUC Cougar Athletics.

Funds raised will further facility improvements, assist with team travel, and improve equipment options as together we promote the values of Christian Faith, the Individual, Excellence, Integrity and Service in our student-athletes.

Registration includes access to the driving range, 18 holes of golf, dinner, 2 drink tickets, a snack at the turn, and a swag bag.

Questions or interested in sponsoring this event? Contact alumni@cuchicago.edu.

Register



CUCelebrates 2024 - Thank You!

The entire University community demonstrated to the world we stand tall behind the CUC mission and the students we serve during **CUCelebrates**, Concordia-Chicago's eighth annual day of giving. **More than \$75,000 was raised to support students!**

During CUCelebrates Spirit Week, donors shared gifts supporting every area of the University and over 400 members of the CUC community participated in events. **Thank you so much!**

Continue the Celebration!



To Give Via Phone or for More Information: Call 866-448-3867 toll free or email Foundation@CUChicago.edu to impact your favorite area of the University.



Golden Reunion Celebration Weekend 2024

Registration is now open for **Golden Reunion weekend!** Alumni from the classes of 1974 and earlier are invited to join us on campus from **June 27-30** for a weekend filled with fun and fellowship.

Campus housing is available in Concordia Hall, our newest residence hall. Click below to view the schedule and register for the weekend events! We can't wait to welcome you "back home!"

Register Today



Upcoming Events

The Miracle Worker

Artists of Concordia Theatre present "The Miracle Worker" - the story of Annie Sullivan and her student, Helen Keller.

Dates: Show runs now through Saturday, April 20

Location: The Bergmann Theatre - located in the Krentz Center at Concordia University Chicago

Free tickets!

Spring Athletics: Senior Day

Celebrate and support CUC student-athletes on senior day! Sports include men's and women's lacrosse, softball, and baseball.

Date: Saturday, April 20

- *Softball: 1 p.m. vs Lakeland University*
- *Lacrosse: 2 p.m. vs Marian University*
- *Baseball: 3 p.m. vs Wisconsin Lutheran College*

Read more

Spring Music Festival

This annual favorite will feature all CUC ensembles, including Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Handbell Ensemble, Wind Symphony and all choirs in a combined work with pianos and percussion.

Date: Sunday, April 28 | 7 p.m.

Location: Geiseman Auditorium

[Read more](#)

Band/Wind Symphony Reunion Weekend

Celebrate Doc Fischer's 50th Anniversary with CUC!

We'll share memories, make music, and celebrate our beloved Doc!

Date: June 21-23

***Locations: Chapel of Our Lord / Werner Auditorium -
Concordia University Chicago***

[Read more](#)



**CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO**

Alumni Relations

