

Deans' Messages



Dr. Stanton Ullerich

From the Interim Dean

Spring has sprung and we know the Easter story. Hallelujah! He is Risen. He is Risen indeed. The lawns at Concordia University Chicago are green, sun is shining and birds are busily building their nest atop my office window's air conditioner. We're slowly returning toward normal. Masks are now optional equipment on campus. CUC will be hosting two visit days for admitted students in April, for the first time since 2019. I am looking so forward to meeting many of next fall's enrollees and their parents.

Our College of Business academic awards banquet, honoring stellar upcoming graduates, is being held at the spring semester's conclusion. **Mallory Marach** has accepted the operations director position within the College of Business. Congratulations, Mallory! Mallory was previously the College's international academic operations manager.

The LCMS Northern Illinois District convention was held on campus during spring break. It was a pleasure to meet, greet and share our College's progress with interested delegates, pastors, district staff and visitors to the convention. Some CUC faculty and staff attended as voting or advisory delegates. I met several CUC alumni in attendance and among the array of vendors and representatives of recognized service organizations. Our Lutheran heritage and doctrinal stability of Lutheranism, built upon the foundations of scripture, the truth and our rock, Jesus Christ, shall never disappoint nor fail us. In this we are certain. He is our Christian hope. We are blessed to freely serve so many in our daily lives in so many different capacities. Truth. Freedom. Vocation. That's CUC!

Elsewhere on campus, Gross Hall, my "home" for two weeks upon arriving in January, has been decommissioned and will be removed this spring. Its footprint will become green space on the campus' southeast corner. Thus the view from our windows in the College of Business will be altered in the coming months. Spring athletes, several of whom have chosen academic majors within the College of Business, are now exercising both their bodies and minds as their spring seasons begin. The conference champion men's basketball team enlivened campus' spirit just in time for the beginning of men's volleyball, softball, baseball, tennis, lacrosse and track and field competitions. In the city, it's been said that fans can enjoy the Cubs and White Sox this year too!

Selfishly, I must share that my experience teaching a face-to-face MBA course this semester has been rewarding. While serving as interim dean, I had met only a handful of CUC students when offered a chance to teach. I jumped at the opportunity. With enrollees from four countries, we're learning finance. My thanks to **Dr. Dana Sendziol**, graduate division chair, for allowing me to serve as a classroom instructor this spring. Special thanks also to **Dr. Svetlana Mitereva**, MBA/MA program leader, for completing the report and updates required for our MBA program's continuing ACBSP accreditation. A job well done.

As your interim dean, this is likely my last contribution to the College of Business newsletter. I have received assistance, advice, well wishes, support and prayers from my colleagues here in River Forest as well as team members who work remotely. All of your contributions have been greatly appreciated. There is more to be done and I look forward with great confidence to continuing progress through the coming months. CUC is a special place. The College of Business' academic offerings

meet our undergraduates' desire for relevance and employability and complement their general education excursions. Our graduate programs meet the needs of working adults and professionals wanting more, those looking to move onward, upward, and lead within their organization. The University's mission is fulfilled when students matriculate to study within the College of Business. We have enormous responsibilities as educators. We have been blessed by our Loving God. To Him be all the Glory.



Dr. Rachel Ferguson

From the Assistant Dean & Director, Free Enterprise Center

At the recent relaunch of our Business Leaders Breakfast, I shared the following thoughts on the vision of our new Free Enterprise Center. This center will serve the whole University, but is based in the College of Business. The vision of the center is to cultivate virtuous leaders who embrace the role of free enterprise in developing healthy communities.

The term cultivation comes from the word for ritual. It's the idea of habituation, the shaping of a certain disposition through repeated activity. The term virtue indicates that the disposition we want to cultivate is toward excellence, according to our nature as human beings. As a university with a Lutheran commitment, we believe that human beings have been called by God to create, to produce, to shape the world—in short, to work, from the very beginning of creation.

While Concordia-Chicago explicitly celebrates the concept of the individual and his or her infinite dignity and value, we know that individuals can only flourish in healthy communities. As the Free Enterprise Center aims to cultivate virtuous leaders here at Concordia-Chicago, we also insist that the virtuous citizen is never a lone wolf, but rather, invests thoughtfully and deeply in his or her own family, community and polity. Sometimes it feels like the work that's appreciated and praised in our society today is always in the nonprofit world. It's philanthropic work that is deemed meaningful and purposeful. And while it certainly is, we insist that the contributions and virtues of business-people in the for-profit sector are chronically under-appreciated. I'm not referring right now to their corporate support of various social causes, but to the work itself.

No amount of charity or aid—with all the good those things can do—could possibly have alleviated poverty in the massive way that global markets have done, particularly in the last 40 years. So whether they end up in the nonprofit or the for-profit sector, the Free Enterprise Center hopes to shepherd students who understand that real economic transformation requires innovation and trade by promoting the following values:

- 1) Appreciation for free markets,
- 2) The entrepreneurial mindset,
- 3) The cultivation of the virtues conducive to a free society,
- 4) The sacredness of all good work, and
- 5) The neighborhood stabilization model for poverty alleviation.

By bringing these five commitments together, we help our students appreciate the role of market exchange, entrepreneurialism and bottom-up transformation for genuine human flourishing.

Spiritual Care in Blackboard



Dr. Karen Calendo

By Dr. Karen Calendo

As we all know, Concordia University Chicago is a Christ-centered Lutheran university where we value truth, freedom and vocation. We look to prepare our students for lives of influence and service for the common

good. In saying this, the College of Business is happy to share a new addition to Blackboard. You will soon see a “Spiritual Care” tab in your Blackboard classroom. This is a campus-wide initiative. The “Spiritual Care” tab is a section that will include the following topics/links:

- Pastoral Care, Prayer Requests and Spiritual Support
- Join the services in chapel or online
- Helpful resources for your daily spiritual nourishment
- Podcasts and apps
- 24-hour online christian radio
- Learn more about our faith and grow as a Christian

When we think about the current pandemic and global conflict, we see how fragile life can be no matter our age, background, ethnicity or place in society. The Spiritual Care section of Blackboard is a place where you can reach out

“This resource can help address questions, help guide you and strengthen you in your faith.”

for prayer and guidance, and learn more about a life of faith.

Perhaps you were never raised to understand God’s love for you or possibly never embraced your Christian faith.

This resource can help address questions, help guide you and strengthen you in your faith. As followers of Christ, we have hope and confidence that God is for us and that He loves us. We see this clearly in the scripture: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” John 3: 16-17. We hope that as you study at Concordia-Chicago, you identify your vocation, grow strong in faith and understand how much you matter to God.

Business Leaders Breakfast Relaunch



College of Business alumni Paige Craig BA '99 MBA '14, Lori Solyom MBA '13, and Christian Del Aguila BA '12 with COB faculty Dr Elisabeth Dellegrazie PhD '21

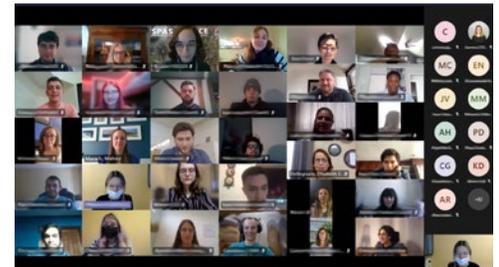
The Free Enterprise Center has relaunched CUC’s Business Leaders Breakfast. On April 1, 40 Chicago-area business-people enjoyed a delicious meal in our beautiful Academic Center for Excellence to network, to hear about goings-on at CUC, and to listen to a short presentation from a local business leader. **President Dawn** welcomed the group, and introduced the new Free Enterprise Center in the context of CUC’s commitment to Truth-Freedom-Vocation. The FEC’s director, **Rachel Ferguson**, spoke briefly about the center’s mission. Finally, **Sam Pitroda**, whose work in communications transformed India, spoke about how technology is decentralizing the way that we relate to one another, and emphasized the role of good character in the business leader.

The VIH Increases Global Competence For ALL

Dr. Elisabeth Dellegrazie, Ms. Mallory Marach, Dr. Margaret Johnson, Dr. George King, and Professor Kevin Duffy led the second annual Virtual International Hackathon (VIH), Digital Bridges to Glocalization, this February. The VIH promoted global community-based learning that brought together students (300), faculty/mentors (15), and businesses (15) from three different countries. The outcome was increased global competence through real-world international experience in a more equitable way. CUC, along with ESPAS-ESTICE (France), and Universidad Católica de Santa

Fe (Argentina) navigated learning new digital platforms, working on multicultural teams and attending international lectures. The real-world problem-solving skills that students achieved using a virtual platform taught them critical thinking and team skills that prepare them for the global marketplace. Many thanks to the students, faculty, mentors and lecturers who made this experience possible.

Dr. Dellegrazie and **Dr. Maria Luisa Gutierrez Peart** from Universidad Católica de Santa Fe will be presenting at the NAFSA International



Conference in May 2022. The lecture will focus on methods to implement a VIH. It will identify how to blend technology, innovation and partnerships to create inclusive and sustainable global competence within higher education.

COB Congratulates Recent Doctoral Dissertation Defenders

Adrian Griffin • 1/24/22 • PhD • Organizational Leadership • *How Active NBA Assistant Coaches Experience Stress, Stressors, Coping Strategies, and Interventions in a Competitive Sports Environment*

Charles Moore • 2/15/22 • EdD • Organizational Leadership • *A Phenomenological Study: How California Continuation High School Principals View Efficacy of Transformational Leadership*

John Trybus • 3/9/22 • PhD • Organizational Leadership • *Leadership through Storytelling: The Influence of Stories within Founder-Led Nonprofit Organizations*

Ashley Allen-Brown • 3/11/22 • EdD • Organizational Leadership • *Exploring Collegiate Gen Z Perceptions Regarding 21st Century Communication Skills*

Etholia Holmes • 3/14/22 • PhD • Organizational Leadership • *Women Leadership Within Nonprofit Organizations: A Case Study Inquiry Of Leadership Trials & Triumphs*

Lauren Gross • 3/16/22 • PhD • Organizational Leadership • *Recruiters’ Perceptions of Nurses with Online Degrees Versus Face-to-Face Degrees*

Erica Vonk • 3/22/22 • PhD • Organizational Leadership • *Influencing Factors of Leadership Programs on Individuals, Organizations, and Communities as Perceived by Graduates of a Small Rural and a Large Statewide Leadership Development Program*

Ann Lane • 3/24/22 • PhD • Organizational Leadership • *OK Boomer? An Inquiry into Millennial Women’s Relationship with Feminism*

Alicia Minor • 3/28/22 • EdD • Organizational Leadership • *Principal Leadership in Special Education: An Exploration of Transformational Leadership Practices and the Effects of Teacher Commitment*

Christopher Woodside • 3/30/22 • EdD • Sports Leadership • *Semester Long Leadership Development Programs – How Do They Influence Student Athlete Leadership Self-Efficacy*

Hadassah McKnight • 3/31/22 • EdD • Organizational Leadership • *The Urban Preschooler*

Christina McPeck • 3/31/22 • EdD • Organizational Leadership • *Teachers’ Perspectives on Teacher Education and Preparedness of Social Emotional Development in Preschool Children*

The COB Celebrates Our Outstanding Students

At the end of each spring semester, the College of Business honors graduating students who excelled academically and demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities.

Excellence in Academics

Graduate

Row 1: **Rebecca Anton, Justin Bjorseth, Stacey Cole,**
 Row 2: **Aaron Griffin, Usama Bin Tahir, Bartlomiej Trublowski,**
 Row 3: **Shannon Viereck**



Undergraduate

Row 1: **Kallie Appleman, Zainab Aslam, Bransen Bonnell, Georgya Borova,**
 Row 2: **Hope Calcagno, Tyler Dudley, Natalie Grady, Adam Hernandez,**
 Row 3: **Tabitha Mucci, Stephania Vicheva, Sufia Zainab, Kathryn Ziegler**



Excellence in Leadership



Left to Right: **Regan Edkin, Jalen Meeks, Tabitha Mucci, Virgilio Rodriguez, Ricardo Ruiz, Stephania Vicheva**

Scholarship Recipients

Ethical Business Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship

Justin Greenlee
Makynna Reiff

Awarded to students majoring or minoring in business. Students should be involved in extracurricular activities with an emphasis on organizational involvement. Applicants were asked to submit essays on the topic of "ethical business leadership."

Lusthoff Scholarship

Lora Haupt
Ryan McGee

Awarded to students majoring in business. Applicants were asked to submit essays addressing what distinguishes them as a College of Business student.

POVERTY, INC.

"This documentary will be required viewing for our entire team."
Philip Sansone, Executive Director of the Whole Planet Foundation

APRIL 21
6-9 P.M. **CU Learn Commons**
Christopher Center 248

Dinner will be served.

Faculty Publications and Presentations

Dr. Rachel Ferguson has had a very busy couple of months speaking at numerous locations, publishing articles and promoting her new book.

Dr. Ferguson writes, "I've been presenting at various universities and conferences on the forthcoming book, *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace*, which is out May 10.

Comments on a dust-up over raising rents: blog.acton.org/archives/122882-dave-ramsey-christian-witness-and-the-morality-of-markets.html.

I participated in a panel of four writers for Black History Month at the Online Library of Liberty: oll.libertyfund.org/page/liberty-matters-what-does-liberty-have-to-say-to-black-history#essay%204.

For the Christian Post, I expanded on what I wrote in the fall newsletter: christianpost.com/news/the-rich-are-getting-richer-the-poor-are-getting-poorer-wrong.html.

As well as this piece arguing that economic exclusion and oppression makes the economy poorer: christianpost.com/news/why-jemart-isby-is-wrong-about-the-economics-of-systemic-racism.html."

Dr. Dana Sendziol was a co-presenter at the Southwest Academy of Management Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA; March 2-4, on the subject "Teaching Management on Steroids: Using Tenets of Seamless Learning as a Lived Experience."

Farewell Dr. Blaess



Dr. Donna Blaess

Dr. Donna Blaess will be retiring at the end of this academic year. She has been a trailblazer in creating quality outcomes for our doctoral students. Through her careful guidance and mentoring, she has transformed so many lives through

her years with Concordia University Chicago and has led her students to great achievements with a mindful and gracious servant heart.

Student Spotlight



Kelly Pietrowski

Recently **Dr. Beth Dellegrazie** interviewed College of Business graduate assistant **Kelly Pietrowski**.

Tell me how you first got involved with the College of Business.

While looking for graduate school programs in my area, I was very fortunate to connect with the women's lacrosse coach from Concordia-Chicago. In the process of being recruited, he had sent me some open job listings for graduate assistantships. With several business courses under my belt and an undergraduate degree in psychology, I believed I could offer a unique perspective to CUC's College of Business. After a few Zoom meetings with the staff, I knew this was an environment that would both nurture and stimulate both my academic and personal interests.

What has surprised you most about working as a graduate assistant?

At first, I was a bit nervous about the transition from undergraduate to graduate responsibilities. I was surprised at how seamlessly I was able to make the transition to becoming a graduate assistant. Of course, this was possible with the wonderful staff I have met and worked with in the College of Business.

What do you wish other people knew about Concordia University Chicago?

We are here to help! We love to see our students thrive in their programs and find their passion in the vast world of business. If you have any questions for me, I am located in Brohm Hall in room 238!

What do you do when you aren't working at the College of Business?

You can find me on the lacrosse field, working on my studies around campus or gaming with friends in my dorm.

Do you have updates you would like to share with the College of Business faculty, staff and students?
Please send them to Catherine.Schlie@CUChicago.edu for inclusion in a future newsletter.