



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

2023

FALL  
COMMENCEMENT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16





## OUR 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.

# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

## CLASS OF 2023 FALL COMMENCEMENT

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This weekend's services are being livestreamed at [CUChicago.edu/Live](https://CUChicago.edu/Live) and will be available for on-demand viewing on the website.

***Please silence all electronic devices.*** In the unlikely event of an emergency, please take a moment to locate the exit nearest to you.

CLASS OF 2023

## DOCTORAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Friday, December 15 – 4 p.m.

### FESTIVAL PRELUDE

#### PROCESSIONAL

##### **Pomp and Circumstance March #4**

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

*The audience shall remain seated during the procession.*

- The Marshals
- The Candidates for Doctoral Degree
- The Faculty of the University
- The Board of Regents of the University
- The University Chaplain
- The Deans of the Colleges
- The Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University
- The President of the University

#### WELCOME

##### **Dr. Eli Hestermann**

Vice President for Academic Affairs and  
Chief Academic Officer

#### INVOCATION

##### **Rev. Simeon Raddatz, BA '13**

University Chaplain

#### SCRIPTURE READING

*Colossians 3:15-16*

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

##### **Dr. Russell P. Dawn**

University President

*Out of respect for each graduate, please hold your applause until the last graduate has processed across the stage.*

### 2023 GRADUATES



*For full list of Doctoral Candidates and their Dissertations, please scan QR Code to view online.*

### DOCTORAL ALUMNI RESPONSE

##### **Dr. Christiana Rennie-Varner, PhD '23**

Educational Leadership

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

##### **Emily Kober, BA '09**

Senior Director of Alumni Relations

### ALMA MATER

All Concordia-Chicago alumni are invited to stand to be recognized before the singing of the *Alma Mater* (see page 8 for music).



## **CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES**

**Dr. Russell P. Dawn**  
University President

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Simeon Raddatz, BA '13**  
University Chaplain

## **DISMISSAL**

**Dr. Eli Hestermann**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and  
Chief Academic Officer

## **RECESSIONAL**

Following the recession, light refreshments will be served for graduates and their guests in the South Gym.



## CLASS OF 2023

# BACHELOR'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, December 16 – 10 a.m.

### FESTIVAL PRELUDE

The Wind Symphony of  
Concordia University Chicago

- **Star Wars, "The Imperial March"**  
John Williams/arr. Donald Hunsberger
- **"Galop" from the Comedians**  
Dmitri Kabalevsky/arr. Daniel Mitchell
- **"March" from First Suite in E flat**  
Gustav Holst/ed. Colin Matthews

### PROCESSIONAL

- **The Sinfonians**  
Clifton Williams

*The audience shall remain seated during the procession.*

- The Marshals
- The Candidates for Bachelor's Degree
- The Faculty of the University
- The Board of Regents of the University
- The University Chaplain
- The Deans of the Colleges
- The Bachelor's Commencement Speaker
- The Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University
- The President of the University

### WELCOME

**Dr. Eli Hestermann**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer

### INVOCATION

**Rev. Simeon Raddatz, BA '13**  
University Chaplain

### SCRIPTURE READING

*Colossians 3:15-16*

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

### COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger**  
Pastor, First St Paul's Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

**Dr. Russell P. Dawn**  
University President

*Out of respect for each graduate, please hold your applause until the last graduate has processed across the stage.*

### 2023 GRADUATES



*For full list of Bachelor's Candidates, please scan QR Code to view online.*

### UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI RESPONSE

**Cynthia Damacio, BA '23**  
Social Work

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

**Emily Kober, BA '09**  
Senior Director of Alumni Relations

## ALMA MATER

All Concordia-Chicago alumni are invited to stand to be recognized before the singing of the *Alma Mater* (see page 8 for music).

## CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

**Dr. Russell P. Dawn**  
University President

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**Rev. Simeon Raddatz, BA '13**  
University Chaplain

## DISMISSAL

**Dr. Eli Hestermann**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and  
Chief Academic Officer

## RECESSIONAL

**Sine Nomine**  
Ralph Vaughan Williams-Earl Rosenberg/arr. Bruce Houseknecht

Following the recession, light refreshments will be served for graduates and their guests in the South Gym.

## BACHELOR'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY SPEAKER

**Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger**  
Pastor, First St Paul's Lutheran Church,  
Chicago, IL



Born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, Pastor Leininger attended Lutheran schools through university. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Concordia University, St. Paul (1990), majoring in theatre while completing

pre-Seminary requirements. Upon graduating he spent a year and a half working in theatre, including The Refreshment Committee, a Christian theatre company based in St. Paul.

Pastor Leininger graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1995, and spent six years at the University of Cambridge where he received an MPhil and PhD in ecclesiastical history. His book, *Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose*, applies Luther's theology of vocation to the everyday life of the Christian. He has presented across the country on this topic.

Pastor Leininger has served parishes in San Diego, Houston and Cambridge, England, and currently serves as the Pastor of First St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Chicago. He spent 21 as the University Pastor at Concordia University Chicago. At CUC, he conducted daily worship, led all the Spiritual Life activities, directed the pre-seminary program, and supported the University's church relations and development offices. His greatest joy at CUC was in serving young people, helping to shape them for ministry and service.

Pastor Leininger married the love of his life, Rachel, a 1993 CUC graduate. They have two children, Gracie and Andy.

CLASS OF 2023

## MASTER'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, December 16 – 3 p.m.

### FESTIVAL PRELUDE

#### PROCESSIONAL

##### **Pomp and Circumstance March #4**

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

*The audience shall remain seated during the procession.*

- The Marshals
- The Candidates for Master's Degree and Education Specialist
- The Faculty of the University
- The Board of Regents of the University
- The University Chaplain
- The Deans of the Colleges
- Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer
- The President of the University

#### WELCOME

##### **Dr. Eli Hestermann**

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer

#### INVOCATION

##### **Rev. Simeon Raddatz, BA '13**

University Chaplain

#### SCRIPTURE READING

*Colossians 3:15-16*

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

##### **Dr. Russell P. Dawn**

University President

*Out of respect for each graduate, please hold your applause until the last graduate has processed across the stage.*

### 2023 GRADUATES



*For full list of Master's Candidates, please scan QR Code to view online.*

### MASTER'S ALUMNI RESPONSE

##### **Roxana Claudia Bucur, MA '23**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

##### **Emily Kober, BA '09**

Senior Director of Alumni Relations

### ALMA MATER

All Concordia-Chicago alumni are invited to stand to be recognized before the singing of the *Alma Mater* (see page 8 for music).

### CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

##### **Dr. Russell P. Dawn**

University President



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Simeon Raddatz, BA '13**

University Chaplain

## **DISMISSAL**

**Dr. Eli Hestermann**

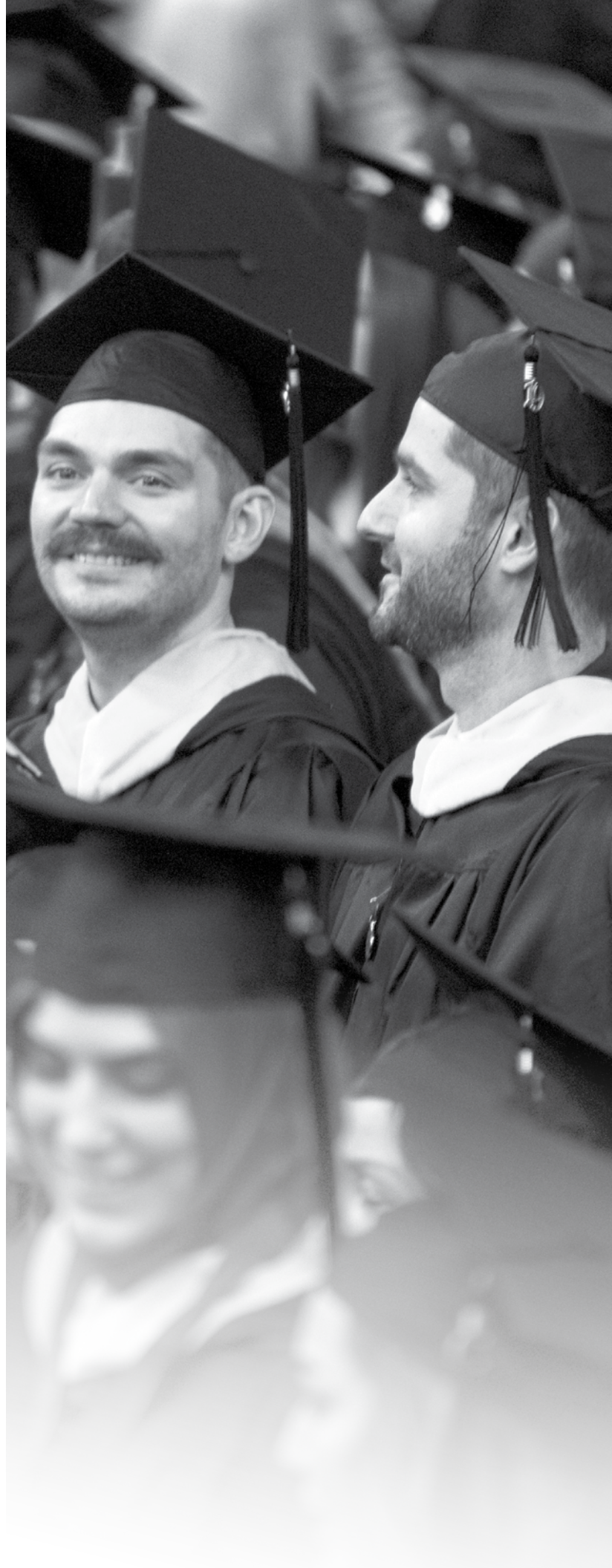
Vice President for Academic Affairs and  
Chief Academic Officer

## **RECESSIONAL**

**Rondeau**

Jean-Joseph Mouret

Following the recession, light refreshments will be served for graduates and their guests in the South Gym.





## THE ALMA MATER

Paul Manz, BS '41

Hail to thee, our Al-ma Ma-ter! Hail to thee, Ma-roon and Gold!

Here we stand, thy sons and daugh-ters, Think-ing back to days of old:

Days of joy and hap-py meet-ings, Days of friend-ship and of love.

As we stand be-fore thy Pil-lars, Hail! Con-cor-dia! Hail!



# CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

Subject to change

## SPEAKERS

### BACHELOR'S CEREMONY SPEAKER

**Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger**

Pastor, First St Paul's Lutheran  
Church, Chicago, IL

### DOCTORAL ALUMNI SPEAKER

**Dr. Christiana Rennie-Varner,  
PhD '23**

Educational Leadership

### MASTER'S ALUMNI SPEAKER

**Roxana Claudia Bucur, MA '23**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

### BACHELOR'S ALUMNI SPEAKER

**Cynthia Damacio, BA '23**

Social Work

## CHAPLAIN

**Rev. Simeon Raddatz, BA '13**

University Chaplain

## MUSICIANS

### BACHELOR'S CEREMONY MUSICIANS

**The Concordia University**

**Chicago Wind Symphony**

**Dr. Jonathan Stahlke, Conductor**

Professor of Music

**Christina Ray, BA '13**

Alma Mater Vocalist

### DOCTORAL & MASTER'S CEREMONY MUSICIANS

Ryan Berndt, Trumpet

Sarah Carrillo, Trumpet

Liz Deitemyer, French Horn

Greg Fudala, Trumpet

Anna Mayne, French Horn

Adam Moen, Trombone

Chris O'Hara, Trumpet

Thomas Stark, Trombone

Sean Whitaker, Tuba

## MARSHALS

Dr. David Bates

Dr. Mary Goetting

Dr. Paul Sims

Dr. Peggy Snowden

Prof. Jared Stiek, MA '15

Dr. Anne Thies

Dr. Mary Zaharis, PhD '14

## USHERS

Members of the University Staff  
and Alumni Volunteers

## NAME ANNOUNCERS

Dr. Jamie Kowalczyk

Dr. Charles Brown

Dr. Erin Real

## SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Central Area Interpreter  
Referral Service

## MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Mr. Rob Glinke, BA '06

Mr. Jim Kosinsky, BA '96

Mr. Ryan Skryd

## COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

**Mrs. Magdalena Adamowska,  
BA '06, MA '08**

Undergraduate Student Services

**Ms. Alyssa Banas**

Office of the Registrar

**Ms. Mary Cesar, BA '92**

Conference & Auxiliary Services

**Mr. Andrew Gallup, BA '23**

Conference & Auxiliary Services

**Mrs. Nita John**

Graduate Student Services

**Mr. Eric Matanyi**

University Marketing  
& Communications

**Mrs. Lisa Salazar**

Advancement & Alumni Relations

**Ms. Ingrid Sorenson, BA '15**

Office of the Registrar

**Ms. Rhoda Williams, BA '07,  
MA '10, MBA '12**

Graduate Student Services

**Mr. Dave Witken**

Public Safety & Physical Plant





## GUEST GUIDELINES

### HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Food and beverage is not allowed inside Geiseman Gymnasium.
- Baby strollers and walkers must be parked in designated area when not in use to prevent blocking of aisles.
- Noisemakers are not permitted.
- For the safety of all guests, we ask that you please remain in your seat until the faculty and graduates have recessed out of the Gymnasium at the end of the ceremony.
- Immediately following the recessional, we kindly ask that graduates and their guests promptly clear the Gymnasium in order to begin preparation for the next ceremony.

### PROCESSION GUIDELINES

- Please silence all electronic devices.
- Unauthorized guest presence is not permitted near the stage. Ushers will respectfully ask those not permitted in the area to return to their seats.
- Guest photography is only allowed from the seating area. Please do not stand in aisles. Flash and tripod photography is also not allowed in the Gymnasium.
- Photographers from Grad Images will take pictures of each graduate. Photos will be posted online and access codes will be emailed to graduates. For more information, please call 800-247-3435 or visit [GradImages.com](http://GradImages.com)
- Balloons and signs are not permitted inside the Gymnasium. An usher will provide guests a ticket to check items before storing in a safe location until after the ceremony.

# ACADEMIC TRADITIONS

## THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

**The Mace:** Today's academic procession traces its origin to universities of medieval Europe. The traditional mace formerly served a useful purpose as an instrument to disperse crowds of small boys and dogs that cluttered the line of march and to maintain order in unruly gatherings.

The mace evolved over time into a symbol of rulership associated with the pride of a nation's origin. Later it was adopted by universities as a symbol of the power of the academic pursuit of truth and wisdom. Carried during academic processions, the mace brings authority to ceremonial occasions symbolizing the unity of the collegiate community. The mace used today is a cross sculpted of cherry wood to represent the University's mission with the seal at its center to symbolize Christ at the core of Concordia-Chicago.

**The Gonfalons:** Once used to identify households, neighborhoods or districts in medieval times, these flags have held significant use in religious ceremonies throughout history. Today they bear the names and colors of the primary disciplines of each of the University's four colleges.

## THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

**The Gown:** The flowing gown comes from the 12th century. While originally it may have been worn as protection against the cold of unheated buildings, today it has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it covers any dress of rank or social standing. Typically black for all degrees, the gown has pointed sleeves for bachelor's degrees, long closed sleeves with a slit at the arm or wrist for master's degrees, and full-bell, double sleeves for doctoral degrees. Bachelor's and master's degree gowns have no trimming. The gown for the doctoral degree is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves, in the color

distinctive of the faculty, institution or discipline to which the degree pertains. Some gowns for doctoral degrees are in a color distinctive to the degree-granting institution.

**The Cap:** When Roman law freed the slave, he won the privilege of wearing a cap. The academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as square to symbolize the book. Doctoral caps may be four, six or eight-sided and are most often made of velvet. The color of the tassel for bachelor's degrees denotes the discipline. The tassel for the master's degree is black; the tassel for those holding a doctoral degree may be gold or the color corresponding to the hood.

**The Hood:** The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the background of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining designates the university or college from which the degree was granted.

The colors associated with the different disciplines awarded at Concordia University Chicago are:

Business: Drab  
Communication: Crimson  
Education: Light Blue  
Fine Arts: Brown  
Law: Purple  
Letters, Humanities: White  
Music: Pink  
Philosophy, Political Science: Dark Blue  
Physical Education, Sports Leadership: Sage Green  
Psychology: Gold  
Science: Golden Yellow  
Social Work, Sociology: Citron  
Theology: Scarlet

# ABOUT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Concordia University Chicago, a university of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), traces its beginnings to 1864, when Addison Teachers Seminary was dedicated and classes were begun in a three-story building in Addison, IL. Designed to educate men to become Lutheran school teachers, the seminary was chartered by Zion Lutheran Church in Addison (now in Bensenville, IL).

Shortly after the turn of the previous century, the expanding seminary had outgrown its Addison campus, and on October 12, 1913 a new facility named Concordia Teachers College in the University's present River Forest location was dedicated before crowds of more than 30,000 people.

In 1938, Concordia became a coeducational institution and, in 1957, Concordia's first graduate program in education was established. By the early 1970s, the single-purpose institution expanded its mission of educating teachers and graduates for church professions by adding a liberal arts program.

To reflect its broadened range of programs, the institution's name was changed from Concordia Teachers College to Concordia College in 1979. As more graduate programs and liberal arts majors continued to be added, the college changed its name in 1990 to Concordia University. In 2006, the University officially became known as Concordia University Chicago, reinforcing the University's presence and programs in the greater Chicagoland area and providing recognition regionally, nationally and globally.

True to its heritage, Concordia-Chicago continues to be a leader in educating teachers both for the Church and for the world. Concordia-Chicago is among those private colleges in Illinois that graduate the largest number of educators annually. The University's College of Business, College of Education, College of Health, Science & Technology, and College of Theology, Arts &

Humanities offer concentrations in a wide variety of fields at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. Professional learners also benefit from various accelerated degree offerings relevant to today's employment landscape.

For more than a decade, combined graduate and undergraduate enrollment has exceeded 5,000 students. The University now enrolls more than 1,000 doctoral students and more than 300 international students.

Since 2010, Concordia University Chicago has been named as a College of Distinction and a Christian College of Distinction in recognition of outstanding student engagement, teaching and academic excellence in undergraduate education. The University is now recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution. In addition, a number of faculty members have been named Fulbright Scholars and taken part in the related international exchange. The prestigious Golden Apple Foundation has recognized more than 30 College of Education students as part of its scholars program, and 22 alumni have received Golden Apple Teacher Awards for their exemplary work in the classroom.

In 2019, Dr. Russell Dawn was installed as the institution's 12th president. Today, he leads the University under the primary tenets of truth, freedom and vocation. To date, more than 43,000 graduates form the long line of maroon and gold alumni. With deep roots in the LCMS, vocation, faith and service remain the foundation of a Concordia University Chicago education today.











# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

## UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

### UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Dr. Russell P. Dawn**

President

**Dr. Eli Hestermann**

Vice President for Academic Affairs and  
Chief Academic Officer

**Dr. Jamie Kowalczyk**

Vice President for Academic Affairs  
of the University

**Mr. Randall Barfield**

Senior Vice President of Finance,  
Chief Financial Officer

**Mr. Jeffrey Hynes**

Senior Vice President for University Advancement,  
Foundation President and CEO

**Mrs. Kathryn Gebhardt, BA '96**

Vice President for Student Success,  
Dean of Students

**Mrs. Gwen Kanelos**

Vice President for Enrollment Management

### ACADEMIC DEANS

**Dr. Lynn Hunnicutt**

Dean, College of Business

**Dr. Maja Miskovic**

Dean, College of Education

**Dr. Suzanne Walsh**

Interim Dean, College of Health,  
Science & Technology

**Deaconess Kristin Wassilak, BA '86, MA '96**

Interim Dean, College of Theology,  
Arts & Humanities

### FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Jeffrey Hynes, President & CEO

Mrs. Susan L. Rosborough, Chair

Ms. Andrea Anderson, BA '79

Mr. Randall Barfield, CFO

Mrs. Karen (Elam) Doering, BA '78

Mr. Charles Kraft

Mr. Roger L. Krue BA '79, MA '87

Dr. Robert Libka, BA '75, MA '79, EdD '99

Mr. William Stevenson, BA '76

Ms. Audrey Stinson

Mr. Joel P. Zielke, BA '05

Dr. Dominic Salvino, Consulting Member

### BOARD OF REGENTS

Dr. Dominic Salvino, Chair

Mrs. Michelle M. Kazmierczak, JD, Vice Chair

Rev. Eric Andrae

Mr. John Blakkan

Rev. Dr. Allan Buss

Dr. Russell P. Dawn

Dr. John Krause

Mr. Christopher Krohe, BA '00

Mr. Thomas McCain

Dr. Bruce D. Schultz

Mr. Jeff Schwarz

Deaconess Jennifer Siukola

Mrs. Virginia Terrell

Mr. John Thoele, BA '92

Dr. Alison (Maas) Witte, BA '05

Rev. Matthew Zickler

Mrs. Susan L. Rosborough, Consulting Member

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms. Andrea Anderson, BA '79, Chair

Ms. Allie Back, BA '18

Mr. Marlon Booth, BA '01

Mr. Scott Bottjen, MBA '16

Mr. David Dwyer, BA '11, MBA '12

Dr. Paul Enderle, BA '93, MA '98, PhD '14

Mrs. Jahnai (Tuchel) Hughes, BA '09

Mrs. Emily (Esmail) Kober, BA '09

Mrs. Alicia (Jipp) Levitt, BA '97

Mrs. Andrea (Simpson) Lohman, BA '82

Ms. Yomara Mata, BA '14, MBA '19

Mr. Jorge Palacios, BA '19

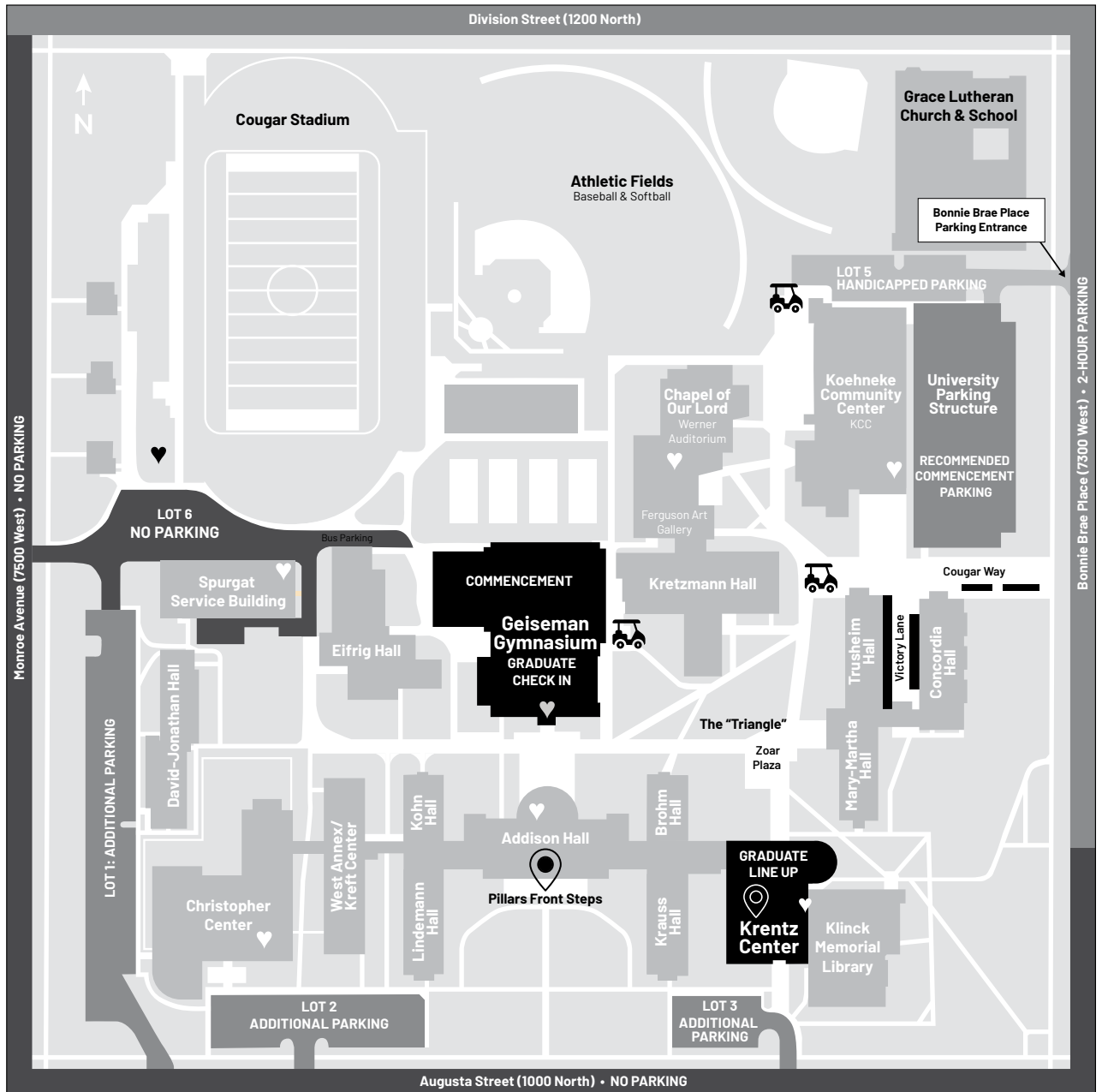
Mr. Jeff Quest, BA '98

Mr. Trip Rodgers, BA '82

Ms. Michaela Thomas, BA '12



# CAMPUS MAP



- Permitted Parking
- No Parking

- Handicapped Shuttle Stop
- Suggested Meeting & Photo Areas

- ♡ Automatic External Defibrillators AED
- ♥ AED, March-November only in this location
- ♥ AED, Geiseman Lower Level and First Floor



**STAND  
TALL.**

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO  
**160** Years  
1864-2024  
*Christ at the Center*





CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY

CHICAGO

*Christ at the Center*

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