

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Each academic year, the Concordia Chicago community is guided by a theme of the year, and I am pleased to announce that this year's theme is **"Standing Firm in the Faith."** The theme verses read:

"Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised... Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation."
(Hebrews 10:35-36, 11:1-2)

This theme encourages us Stand Tall for the mission of CUC, which is to remain steadfast in Jesus Christ, keeping Christ at the Center of all we do. Let us enter into this academic year with confidence, holding fast to God's promises, fulfilled in Jesus Christ- our solid foundation and source of strength.

Your connection to Concordia University Chicago as alumni and friends remains invaluable to us. As we embrace this year's theme, we invite you to join us for **Concordia-Chicago's opening service, inaugurating its 161st academic year, on Monday, August 26th at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Our Lord.**

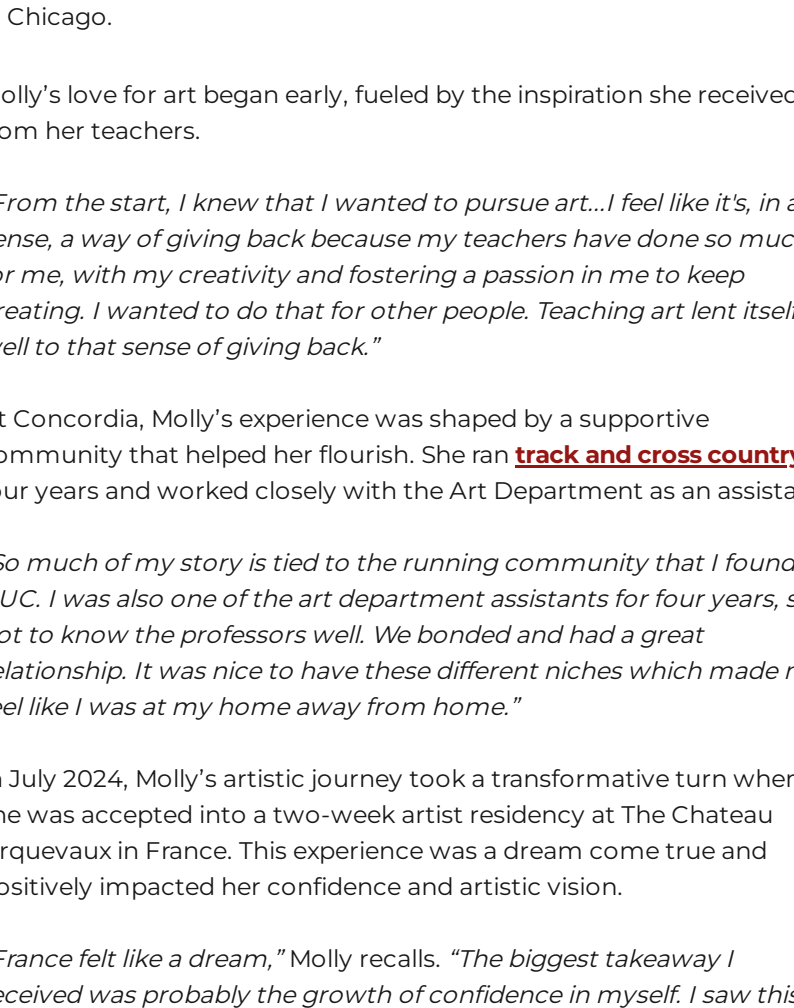
We pray that this theme of the year will guide and enrich you as you continue Standing Tall in your vocations from Christ.

Please share the stories below with family and friends, and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest alumni news and updates.

In Christ,

Jeff Hynes
University Foundation President/CEO
Sr. Vice President University Advancement

Alumni Spotlight



Molly Miklosz BA '19

This month, we are excited to spotlight **Molly Miklosz BA '19**, an alumna whose vocational journey shows deep commitment to creativity and community. From her time in the **art department at Concordia** to her recent art residency in France, Molly continues to Stand Tall for excellence as both an art teacher and independent artist in Chicago.

Molly's love for art began early, fueled by the inspiration she received from her teachers.

"From the start, I knew that I wanted to pursue art...I feel like it's, in a sense, a way of giving back because my teachers have done so much for me, with my creativity and fostering a passion in me to keep creating. I wanted to do that for other people. Teaching art lent itself well to that sense of giving back."

At Concordia, Molly's experience was shaped by a supportive community that helped her flourish. She ran **track and cross country** all four years and worked closely with the Art Department as an assistant.

"So much of my story is tied to the running community that I found at CUC. I was also one of the art department assistants for four years, so I got to know the professors well. We bonded and had a great relationship. It was nice to have these different niches which made me feel like I was at my home away from home."

In July 2024, Molly's artistic journey took a transformative turn when she was accepted into a two-week artist residency at The Chateau Orquevaux in France. This experience was a dream come true and positively impacted her confidence and artistic vision.

"France felt like a dream," Molly recalls. "The biggest takeaway I received was probably the growth of confidence in myself. I saw this side of myself that I had never seen before, this Molly that could navigate Europe by herself, be self-sufficient, and also be efficient as an artist. It made me realize that my work is something people truly enjoy."

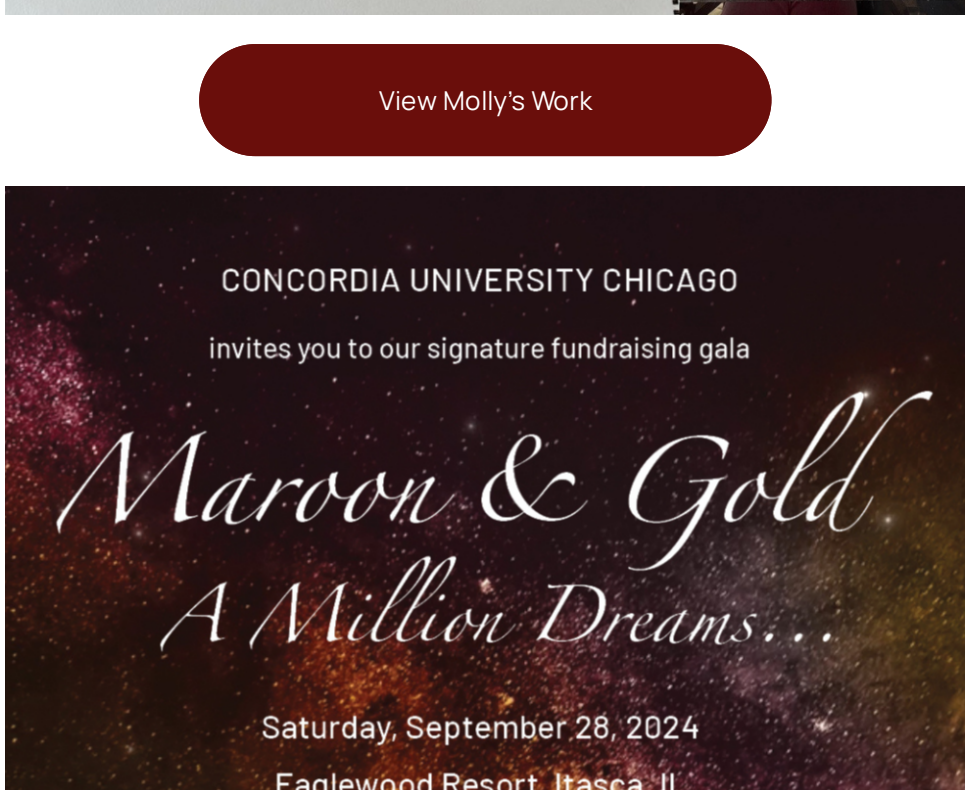
The confidence she built during the residency, combined with the time spent focusing on her art, led to a deepened sense of purpose. "Coming off of this amazing experience, I would love to have my art play a much more significant role in my life," she reflects. "It wasn't something I had fully considered before."

Upon returning to the United States, Molly resumes her role as a high school art teacher in Chicago with a renewed sense of mission.

"My students can be perfectionists in a lot of ways. I think learning that it's okay to make bad things because it only makes you better is important...I also teach in the city, and we're so close to Millennium Park and all these other amazing outdoor spaces. I want to incorporate more Plein air work into my classes. Nature was such a big component of my residency in France and why it was so peaceful, and I feel like Chicago's youth need that right now."

Molly's journey is a wonderful example of how Concordia alumni **Stand Tall** for their passions and pursue excellence. The foundation laid at Concordia continues to inspire Molly to cultivate creativity in others, making a lasting impact in her community and beyond.

Enjoy the following photos from Molly's residency in France and view Molly's work by clicking below!



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

invites you to our signature fundraising gala

Maroon & Gold
A Million Dreams...

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, IL

You're Invited! - Maroon & Gold: A Million Dreams

Join us this year at the **Maroon & Gold: A Million Dreams** gala to enjoy an amazing night celebrating CUC award-winners and raising funds for scholarships! This year, Maroon & Gold will be held at a beautiful new venue - the [Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, IL!](#)

This year's award-winners:

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

The evening will **support** with excitement, inspiration, and a few delightful surprises! **Your participation and generosity directly support student scholarships, helping students achieve their educational dreams and attend a Christ-centered university.**

We can't wait to see you there!

Register on/before Monday, September 16 requested.

Register today!

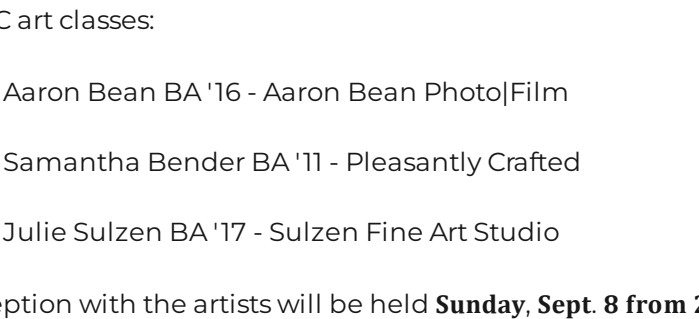
Support Maroon & Gold 2024 : Donate or Sponsor today!

Do you own a small business or work for an organization that makes donations? We would be thrilled if you would **consider donating items to be included as raffle and silent auction prizes for the 2024 Maroon & Gold Gala.**

Join over 200 influential friends of the university as we celebrate outstanding individuals who stand tall for Concordia and their vocations. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain exposure for your business while giving back to CUC!

Please fill out this short form to let us know what you or your business can donate for the event.

Donation Form



Alumni & Student Art Exhibition

Visit CUC's Ferguson Gallery to experience the latest [art exhibition](#) highlighting the work of artist alumni and current students! 🎨

The exhibition runs from **August 26 - September 28, 2024** and features 3 entrepreneurial alumni who share their art and business mindset alongside the work of current students enrolled in CUC art classes:

- Aaron Bean BA '16 - Aaron Bean Photo/Film
- Samantha Bender BA '11 - Pleasantly Crafted
- Julie Sulzen BA '17 - Sulzen Fine Art Studio

A reception with the artists will be held **Sunday, Sept. 8 from 2-4 p.m.** in the gallery, with an Artist Talk at 3 p.m. Parking and gallery admission are free!

More details

NEW TEACHER INSTITUTE

Mentoring Program



CUC's New Teacher Institute: Hosted by The Center for Christian Education

New teacher alumni, **CUC is here to support you** as you delve into the world of teaching. **The New Teacher Institute** supports educators in their 1st-3rd years of teaching and shares successful classroom strategies, so they feel confident in their new role.

Sign up today for this amazing mentorship opportunity hosted by the Center for Christian Education!

SCHEDULE

Sessions occur online, 4:30-6:30 p.m. CST on Tuesdays.

SESSION 1
September 10, 2024

SESSION 2
October 8, 2024

SESSION 3
November 18, 2024

SESSION 4
January 14, 2025

SESSION 5
March 11, 2025

SESSION 6
April 29, 2025

Register now!
Only 39 spots available!

\$99

Cost includes
six Professional Development Sessions
(12-CPEU Hours)

50% Discount for Teachers Serving in Christian Schools
(CODE: ShineBright)

HIGHLIGHTS

Understand the Why

Delve into the underlying principles and rationale behind teaching methods and classroom strategies.

Harness Skills and Strategies

Explore a range of skills and strategies, including classroom management, lesson planning and student engagement techniques.

Build Relationships

Enhance your ability to foster positive relationships with students, colleagues and the wider school community.


Apply Your Knowledge

Learn how to implement skills and strategies effectively in the classroom to enhance student learning and teacher satisfaction.

Build a Solid Foundation

Tap into a methodology rooted in the innovative work of Carol P. Parnell.

To learn more or register, please scan the QR code.



Learn more

CUC
FOOTBALL
ALUMNI DAY

Football Alumni: "Meet the Coach" Event

Calling all Football Alumni!

Join us **August 23rd after practice from 4:30-6:30 pm at Concordia Stadium** to meet the new head coach, coaching staff, and current players while mingling with fellow alumni. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how you can stay connected and support the football program at CUC!

Questions? Email alumni@cuchicago.edu



Upcoming Events

Opening Service of 161st Academic Year

Join us as we ask God's blessings upon our educational endeavors as we inaugurate the University's 161st academic year.

Date: Monday, August 26 at 11am

Location: Chapel of Our Lord

Read more

Maroon and Gold: A Million Dreams

Join us for this amazing night raising money for student scholarships and celebrating our outstanding 2024 award-winners!

Date: Saturday, September 28

Location: Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, IL

Buy tickets!

Homecoming Weekend 2024

Let's come together and "Stand Tall for CUC" for Homecoming 2024!

Join us on campus to cheer on our Cougar athletes & tailgate before the football game.

Date: Friday, October 11 - Sunday, October 13

Location: Concordia University Chicago

Register

Hall of Fame 2024

Concordia University Chicago Athletics & Alumni Relations celebrates the 20th annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Class!

Date: Saturday, October 12

Location: Geiseman Gymnasium

Tickets



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Alumni Relations

