



Dear {{first_name}},

The Lord has greatly blessed Concordia for 160 years. We are so grateful for your faithful support through your prayers, personal connections, and financial contributions.

Next week on **Thursday, March 21st**, I invite you to join our **community for CUCelebrates, Concordia-Chicago's annual day of giving!**

In this special CUCelebrates edition of Cougar Chronicles, learn ways you can help us continue to keep Christ at the Center as we strengthen the university for the future.

Share a gift to your favorite area of the university! Whether it's a gift to scholarships, athletics, or fine arts, your participation can change students' lives.

Also, this year marks **Dr. Richard Fischer's 50th anniversary at CUC**. We hope you will join us for the **reunion weekend** this June as well as support CUC music by donating to the **"\$50 for 50 CUCelebrates Challenge"** in honor of this milestone.

Our alumni spotlight this month, **Dorothy (Pralle) Burroughs BA '75**, was one of Dr. Fischer's very first students here at Concordia. Her vocational journey as a music educator is a remarkable picture of God working in and through music to spread the gospel. I encourage you to read her story and prayerfully consider ways you can support our impactful music programs here at CUC.

Please share this issue with friends and family and follow us on social media to see your generosity in action.

In Christ,

Jeff Hynes
University Foundation President/CEO



Alumni *Spotlight*

Dorothy (Pralle) Burroughs BA '75



Dorothy “Dottie” (Pralle) Burroughs’ BA '75 vocational journey is deeply intertwined with Concordia-Chicago. From a very young age, she was immersed in the university’s environment as Dottie’s father, Fred Pralle, was a theology professor at Concordia. She attended grade school at Grace Lutheran– directly next to Concordia’s campus, and she fondly recalls memories of being a “campus kid” alongside others including Meg Busse, Chris Janzow, Peter Lucht, Donna Waldschmidt, Tim & Claire Halter, and the Zeddies twins.

“We performed plays in the backyard. One summer we did The Emperor’s New Clothes, and the next summer we did A Midsummer Night’s Dream...During basketball games, we would all sit with our feet hanging over the edge of the balcony, cheering for people like Al Hermann and Stan Brassie.”

Throughout her childhood, Dottie was surrounded by music. Her mother Ruth, was a church musician and her sisters played various instruments. Dottie played the oboe primarily, and when she came back to Concordia to study chemistry, she discovered she would much rather be “memorizing music instead of formulas,” provoking a change of majors from science to

secondary music education.

Dr. Richard Fischer became Concordia's band director Dottie's senior year. He inherited a band full of soon-to-be band directors, including Dottie, Richard Rose, John Miller, Mark Eischer, Ellen Boda Miller, Paul Heinecke, Tom Powers, and Sharon Mason.

Dottie considers Dr. Fischer to be a great friend and mentor today.

"He's been so tenacious. I have such a great respect for how far he has taken himself and the band— being able to envision bigger and greater things. His faith development and his willingness to be vulnerable help elicit the most expressive music from his students and inspire the audience."

As CUC prepares to celebrate Dr. Fischer's 50th anniversary, Dottie encourages alumni to come back and reconnect for the reunion weekend.

"Just come! The opportunity to regroup will be quite wonderful."

After graduating from Concordia, Dottie's very first call was to St. John's Lutheran School in Lombard, IL where she taught 5th grade, band, music classes, and directed the youth choir. After a long and diverse career in teaching instrumental music in IL, WI, MN, and TX, she retired in 2018 from Lutheran High North in Houston, TX. She continues teaching band lessons two days a week at Memorial Lutheran School.

Music tours were one of her most cherished aspects of teaching.

"The broadening of geographic horizons is huge. The repetition of playing the same concert again and again is something unique that changes how kids listen. You're in a different acoustic space, a different configuration, different people are sitting around you, and there's a different audience every time. There are so many variables that you have to learn to deal with that make it ripe for learning. In terms of recruitment and retention, you're sharing the vision outside your walls. You can't do it better than on a tour."

Reflecting back on it all, Dottie looks to the pillars at CUC and how they Stand Tall.

"The Rev. Martin Koehneke was president my freshman year, and he would always start his commencement address with, 'My dear sons and daughters in Christ.' The sense of belonging and being accepted has followed me in my teaching. I am loved by God and have been able to link music to the Word and share that with children for nearly 50 years. The pillars for me are Love Jesus, Love Music, Love Children. It still brings me great delight."



Graduation, May 1975



Dottie and Dr. Fischer
at the Houston Area
Lutheran Schools
Honor Band concert
on 2/7/24



Dottie playing oboe
with the "West
Coast Winds"



CUCelebrates Challenges!

Invest in CUC's mission to keep Christ at the Center of higher education, Standing Tall for Truth, Freedom, and Vocation.

In all areas of the university, we aim to achieve this goal. What specific area of the university do you Stand Tall for? Prayerfully consider investing in an aspect of the university that matters most to you. Every gift makes an impact!

Read about this year's **CUCelebrates challenges** below for some ideas as to how you can make a difference in the lives of our students. Thank you for your support!



Stand Tall for Excellence – Support Music Tours

Celebrate Dr. Richard Fischer's 50th year at CUC with a \$50 (or more) gift to benefit music tours. *Stan (BA '85) and Dana (BA '85) Stigdon will match gifts dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000.*

As **Dorothy Burrough's BA '75** story exemplified, The value of the arts at Concordia University Chicago is immeasurable. Through Concordia's music ensembles, students, faculty and staff lead and participate directly in show-stopping productions on the road – bringing joy and sharing their talents for the world to see. Charitable gifts to support music tours provide students opportunities to showcase their musical talents and creativity, and gain exposure to the world around us through an active performance schedule in schools, churches, and concert halls across the globe.

Support Music Tours!



Stand Tall for Generosity – Alumni Give Back

Show your Concordia pride and support CUC's long-standing tradition of educational excellence with a faith-forward approach. **Which generation of Concordia Cougars will bring home the gold for CUC students?**

*Encourage your classmates and all other alumni from your graduating decade to give during CU Celebrates. Every gift matters, no matter the size. **The decade of the alumni with the highest percentage of participation gets bragging rights!***

Gifts to Concordia-Chicago help students receive a well-rounded understanding of their field and prepare for a life of service learning and leadership

Join the challenge!



Stand Tall for Faith - Support Future Pastors

Provide financial assistance to future ministers of the Gospel with a gift to the Timothy Award. This fund supplies scholarships to Pre-Seminary students and helps CUC guide young men in the process of discernment of where the Lord is leading them in life and ministry, while also preparing them for further studies.

Support a fellowship of young men who support and encourage each other in friendship, faith and study. Grounded in the pursuit of truth, freedom, and vocation, Concordia-Chicago's Pre-Seminary program enables the University to be consistent with its tradition and be distinctive in the American higher education landscape.

Charitable gifts to expand the Timothy Award enable future pastors to attend CUC, lowers their tuition burden, and assures academic, spiritual, and personal development grounded in the faith in the midst of uncertainty and change.

Support Future Pastors!



Stand Tall for Determination - Pile On for Athletics

Let's go 2-for-2 as we cheer on student-athletes and promote the values of perseverance, pride, and sportsmanship. **Help the Cougars enhance our facilities!**

With a commitment to sportsmanship and best effort, the Athletics Department at CUC and its student-athletes bring pride and enthusiasm to the Concordia-Chicago community. *Initial goal is to raise \$20,000 to get a new scorer's table and chairs. Once that amount is reached we pile on to raise an additional \$10,000 to give Geiseman a facelift.*

Give to Athletics!



Upcoming Events

CU Celebrates Chicago Area Alumni Happy Hour

Join us for an alumni and friends happy hour in Chicago! Enjoy games, drinks, and fellowship!

Date: Thursday, March 21 | 5-7 p.m.

Location:

Punchbowl Social (Arcade Room)

310 N Green St

Chicago, IL 60607

RSVP for free!

Wind Symphony Home Concert

The Wind Symphony, Concordia-Chicago's premier touring instrumental ensemble (Dr. Richard Fischer, conductor), will present their spring home concert.

Date: Friday, March 15 | 8 p.m.

Location: Chapel of Our Lord

[Read more](#)

Kapelle Home Concert

The Kapelle, Dr. Charles Brown, conductor, will present their home concert following their spring tour.

Date: Sunday, March 17 | 4 p.m.

Location: Chapel of Our Lord

[Read more](#)

Business Leaders Breakfast

Local business leaders are invite to join Concordia-Chicago faculty, staff and students at the spring Business Leaders Breakfast. Meet and network with colleagues from the region, enjoy a plated breakfast and gain critical knowledge during the keynote address.

Date: March 20 | 7-9:30 a.m.

Location: Christopher Center 248 (CULearn)

[Register](#)



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