

Dear Alumni and friends,

Summer break has kicked off here at Concordia, and it's shaping up to be a special season of reconnection.

Our graduation ceremonies on May 3rd and 4th were a huge success! As we watched our graduates cross the stage, we couldn't help but think about the ways in which our new alumni will *Stand Tall* in their vocations and go on to lead purposeful, faith-filled lives with *Christ at the Center*. Join us in praying for our graduates as they step into this new season of life.

I'm also excited to share that a group of CUC students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends are currently enjoying their trip in Sicily, Italy! Led by Rev. Dr. Robert Sorensen, the group is exploring ancient Greek ruins and learning about early Christianity in the region.

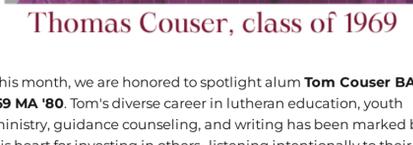
We hope you will join us back on campus this summer for our special reunion events, including a [special band/symphony reunion weekend](#) from June 21st to 23rd, celebrating [Dr. Richard Fischer's 50th anniversary at CUC](#), as well as the [Golden Alumni Reunion](#) from June 27th to 30th.

Share the following stories with family and friends, and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more CUC alumni news and event updates.

In Christ,

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

Alumni Spotlight



Thomas Couser, class of 1969

This month, we are honored to spotlight alum **Tom Couser BA '69 MA '80**. Tom's diverse career in Lutheran education, youth ministry, guidance counseling, and writing has been marked by his heart for investing in others- listening intentionally to their stories and showing them Christ's love as they navigate the uncertainties of life.

Thomas candidly shares his unconventional journey to attending Concordia to pursue Lutheran education with a minor in youth ministry. A mentor's early investment of belief and guidance set Tom on a new path.

"I was not much of a student in high school," Tom remarks. "I took a gap year before it was something people did. I was actually working as a church custodian because our church needed a janitor. We had a vicar by the name of Alan Harre who invested in me and convinced me that I could be doing more with my life. Concordia was one of the only schools that took a chance on me."

Despite initial challenges, including nearly flunking out of Concordia, Tom met his wife, Barbara (Brown) Couser BA '69, who supported and guided him throughout his college years.

"My wife really bailed me out. When we started dating sophomore year, I was so close to flunking out. But by the time I graduated, I had made Dean's List. She still edits all my stuff that I write now."

After graduation, Tom embarked on a fulfilling career in Lutheran schools as a DCE and basketball coach. His first youth ministry call was to Trinity Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau, MO, and his second was at Immanuel in Downers Grove, IL. He went on to serve at Bethlehem in West Dundee and in Dallas at Holy Cross.

His career truly came full circle when he transitioned into guidance counseling at Dallas Lutheran High School, embodying the mentorship ethos that had shaped his own life. He remains passionate about counseling and the impact genuine listening can have on young adults.

"In talking with young people today, I really want to listen, and I want to hear their story. Because, until we understand their story, we really can't have an authentic relationship with them and help them through what they're going through. And hopefully in the process they begin to see a glimpse of Jesus in me."

Tom also delved into writing, focusing on parenting, faith, and generational dynamics. His books include *"Parenting Without Guilt: Avoiding 7 Things Parents Do to Screw-Up Their Kids"* and *"Passing the Torch: Sharing Faith & Values with the Millennial Generation."* Through his writing and continued involvement in his church community at Prince of Peace in Dallas, Tom continues to encourage and guide others.

Reflecting back on it all, Tom encourages readers to embrace lifelong learning and remain rooted in their faith.

"No matter what you're doing, remember you are a child of God-- a person of grace and compassion and mercy."

Tom's story is an impactful example of how Concordia alumni *Stand Tall for Faith, keeping Christ at the Center* throughout their vocational journeys.



Congratulations, Concordia's Class of 2024!

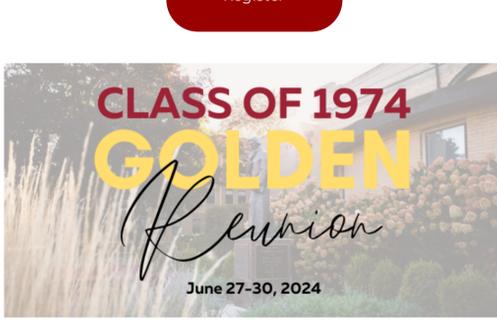
The entire Concordia community was proud to celebrate and pray for the Class of 2024 for Spring commencement weekend May 3-4!

If you know a recent grad, be sure to direct them to our [social media pages](#) and [website](#) for news, events, memories, and above all, community!

Share a gift to impact future generations of Cougar graduates by clicking the link below!

Share Your Gift Today

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



Band/Wind Symphony Alumni Weekend

Dr. Richard Fischer's impact on CUC musicians has spanned five decades and reaches far beyond River Forest, IL. Through rehearsals and concerts, students, families, alumni and friends have experienced the love of Christ and goodness of God, and they have impacted countless others through education, performance, and worship!

Join us for a reunion weekend from June 21-23, 2024 in honor of Dr. Fischer, filled with fellowship, music and fun.

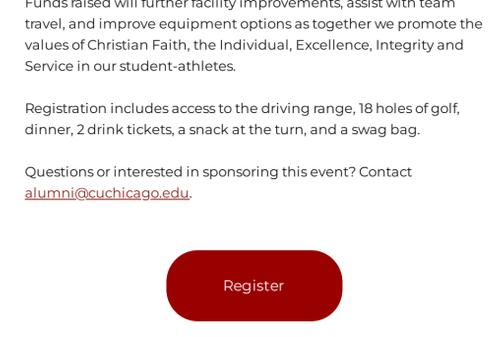
All band and wind symphony alumni are encouraged to register and take part in the practices and Sunday concert.

Read more, view schedule, and register

The entire CUC community is welcome to join the celebration by attending the [FREE reunion concert](#) celebrating Dr. Fischer's anniversary on **Sunday, June 23 at 1:30pm in the Chapel of Our Lord!**

Register below for your free ticket:

Register

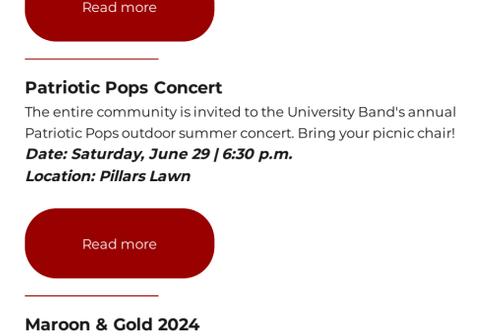


Golden Reunion Celebration Weekend 2024

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



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

Upcoming Events

Summer Art Camp at CUC

Know a high school student who'd be interested in learning about CUC's art department and programs? Register and learn more by clicking below!
Date: June 24-27 | 9 am - 12pm

Read more

Patriotic Pops Concert

The entire community is invited to the University Band's annual Patriotic Pops outdoor summer concert. Bring your picnic chair!
Date: Saturday, June 29 | 6:30 p.m.
Location: Pillars Lawn

Read more

Maroon & Gold 2024

Join us for our signature fundraising and awards gala!
Date: Saturday, September 28
Locations: Eaglewood Resort and Spa

Read more



Alumni Relations

