

Dear {{first\_name}},

Christmas is only two weeks away, and as we engage in Concordia's enduring traditions and celebrations, we are reminded of the many blessings God has given us this holiday season.

We are especially grateful for the ways our alumni have contributed to our rich history. Your enduring support and commitment to the values of Truth, Freedom, and Vocation continue to shape the future of CUC. Just as the holiday lights illuminate our campus, your generosity lights the path for future students and alumni to *Stand Tall* and lead purposeful, faith-filled lives with *Christ at the Center*.

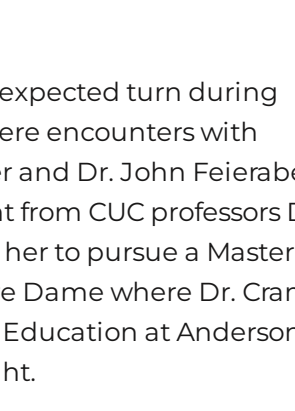
We invite you to bring the joy of the season to your family and friends by sharing the stories below. May Christ dwell in you richly this holiday season.

In Christ,

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

## Alumni Spotlight

### Emily Woock BA '08



This month we are proud to spotlight **Emily Woock BA '08**, an alum whose journey exemplifies the lasting and impactful influence of a CUC education. Graduating from the [Director of Parish Music Program](#), with a piano pedagogy certification, she discusses how CUC equipped her for a life in service to Christ and His church.

Her postgraduate journey took an unexpected turn during Lectures in Church Music in 2007, where encounters with influential musicians Dr. Craig Cramer and Dr. John Feierabend altered her trajectory. Encouragement from CUC professors Dr. Steve Wente and Jonathan Kohrs led her to pursue a Master of Sacred Music at the University of Notre Dame where Dr. Cramer taught, followed by a Master of Music Education at Anderson University where Dr. Feierabend taught.

During her studies, Woock accepted a call to Redeemer Elmhurst, where Concordia-Chicago's former president Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard was also a member. Dr. Gard encouraged her to consider a doctorate and "brought it up any chance he had." After lots of prayer and reflection, she applied to Indiana University for her doctorate and was accepted.

After completing her coursework, she was asked to teach as an adjunct professor of music here at Concordia. Reflecting back on a summer certification course she taught, Woock states, "Talk about a full circle moment! Here I was, a Teacher Trainer with the Feierabend Association of Music Education teaching my very first certification course in the chapel.... *the very place I had first met Dr. Feierabend back in 2007!* I could not stop reflecting on the many ways the Lord had blessed me through CUC and how so much of my life all connects back to my time as a student here."

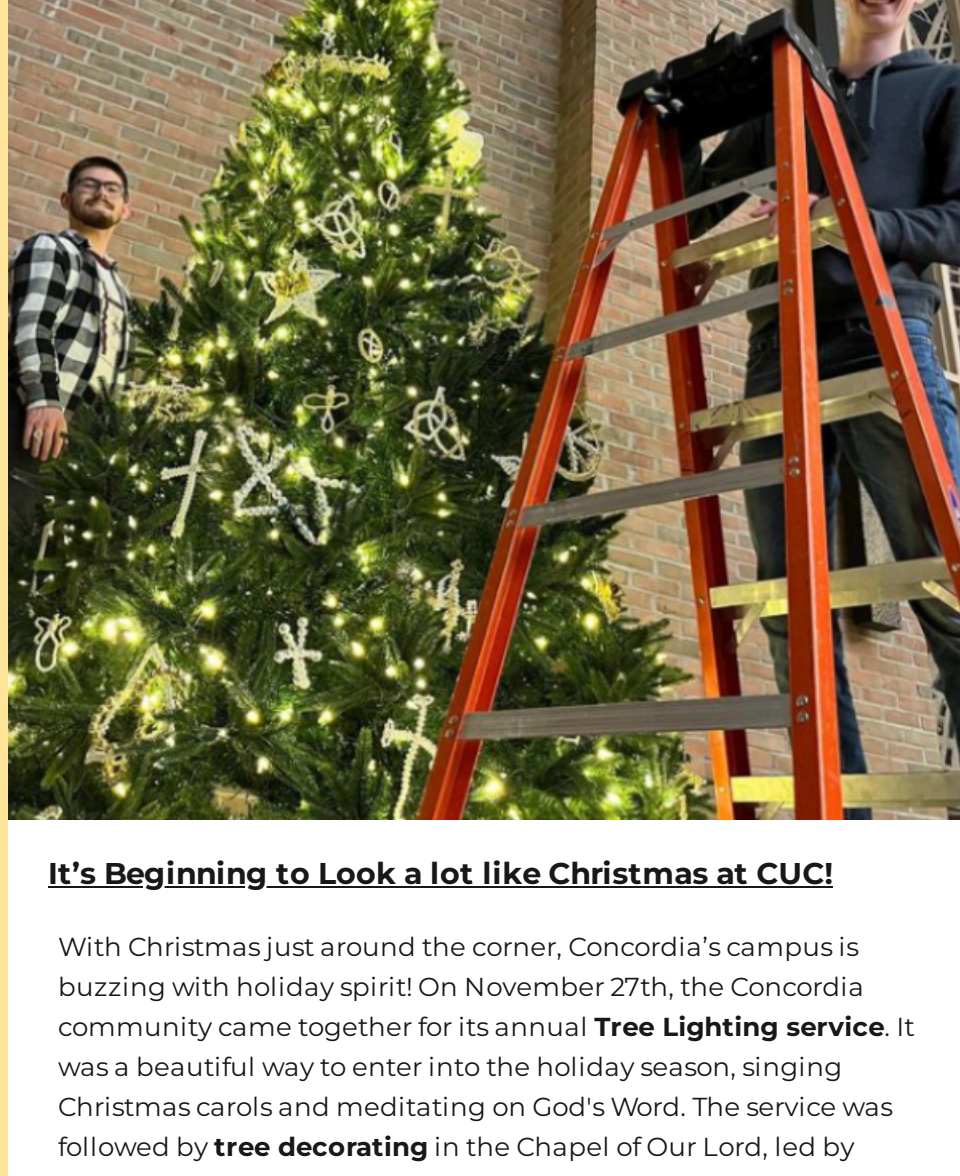
Woock is now an Instructor of Music and the Principal Organist & Worship Music Director here at Concordia, a position that "feels like home" to her.

"I love working alongside my mentors who gave so much to me when I was a student here. Taking this position felt like coming home, and I hope I can in some small way give back to the place that gave me so much in my formative years."

Woock ultimately credits her career to how Christ worked through others at Concordia to encourage her to follow her calling.

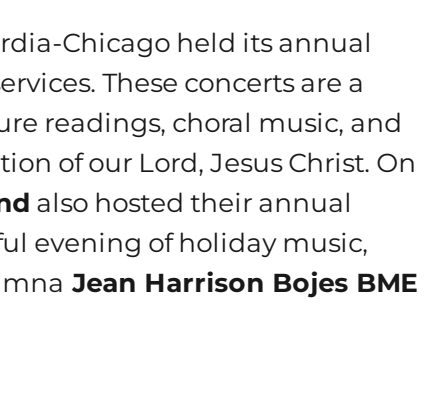
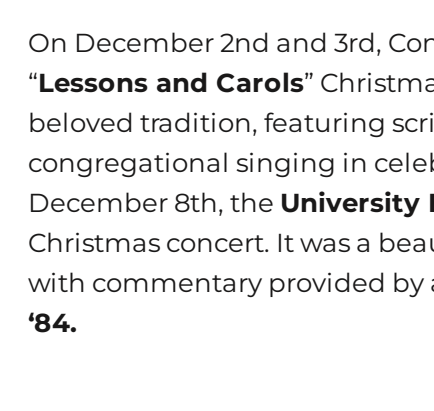
"I learned just as much about life and serving the church outside of class as I did in class. I have been blessed with many educational opportunities and wonderful professors along the way, but CUC stands out. It's special. Students and professors learn from each other, attend chapel together, share meals together, and professors do not just vanish after graduation but continue to be there to support and encourage. The CUC experience is invaluable because of the people, and for that I will always be grateful."

Support Music at CUC



### It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas at CUC!

With Christmas just around the corner, Concordia's campus is buzzing with holiday spirit! On November 27th, the Concordia community came together for its annual **Tree Lighting service**. It was a beautiful way to enter into the holiday season, singing Christmas carols and meditating on God's Word. The service was followed by **tree decorating** in the Chapel of Our Lord, led by CUC's Spiritual Life team.



On December 2nd and 3rd, Concordia-Chicago held its annual **"Lessons and Carols"** Christmas services. These concerts are a beloved tradition, featuring scripture readings, choral music, and congregational singing in celebration of our Lord, Jesus Christ. On December 8th, the **University Band** also hosted their annual Christmas concert. It was a beautiful evening of holiday music, with commentary provided by alumna **Jean Harrison Bojes BME '84**.

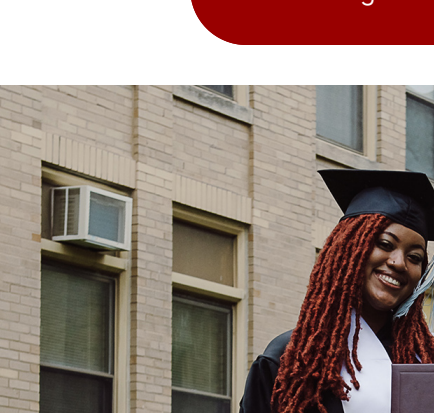


### Men's Basketball Alumni Day Recap

On December 2nd, the Alumni Association and the Cougar Athletics Department hosted its *very first Men's Basketball Alumni Day*.

The day began with the alumni joining current players for a morning shootaround, followed by a student-alumni brunch. The alumni showed their support at the Cougar's game against Wisconsin Lutheran, with a special halftime tribute to the legendary 1993 Championship Basketball Team, celebrating their 30-year legacy.

We were proud to honor and thank these former Cougar basketball players for their contributions and their enduring impact on CUC athletics.



Cougar Men's Basketball



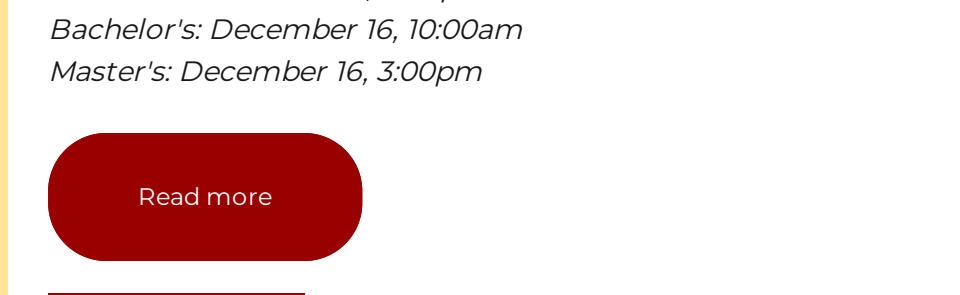
### Semester Wrap-Up

As finals week unfolds, please join us in praying for our students as they take their exams and write those final papers! We also encourage you to pray for our undergraduate, masters, and doctoral graduates who will walk the stage this weekend.

Do you have advice that you would like to share with our graduates? Please fill out the short form below, and we will share your words of wisdom on our social media pages throughout graduation weekend!

Thank you for supporting our students and our soon-to-be CUC alumni!

Share Your Advice!



## Upcoming Events

### Fall 2023 Commencement

CUC's undergraduate, masters, and doctoral ceremonies will take place this weekend in Geiseman Gymnasium.

**Dates: December 15 - 16, 2023**  
Doctoral: December 15, 4:00pm  
Bachelor's: December 16, 10:00am  
Master's: December 16, 3:00pm

Read more

### Concordia Invitational Tournament (CIT) 2024

Save the dates! This January, the Concordia Cougars will be headed to Concordia University Wisconsin for the 71st Concordia Invitational Tournament (CIT).

**Date: January 26 - 27, 2024**  
**Concordia University Wisconsin - R. John Buuck Field House**

### Cougars Connect Gathering: Chicago Bulls Game

Cheer on the Chicago Bulls with fellow alumni and current students for our next #CUCougarsConnect gathering!

**Date: January 30, 2024**  
**United Center | 7:00pm**

Buy tickets

### NADCE Conference

If you'll be attending the National Association of Directors of Christian Education Conference, stop by our booth and say hello!

**Dates: January 31 - February 2, 2024**  
**Houston, TX**

Read more