



Play Meets Product Development

Forester

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Concordia
University
Chicago

Winter 2023

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“ JUST ANOTHER RACE. TAKE A COUPLE DEEP BREATHS. TAKE IT ALL IN.”

—Steve Belanger, CUC head track & field coach, on his advice to Armstrong and Wilson, [From River Forest to USA Championships](#), p. 24



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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.

VISION Concordia University Chicago is a Christ-centered Lutheran university where truth, freedom, and vocation form students for lives of influence and service for the common good.

CORE VALUES We at Concordia University Chicago embrace these Core Values as essential to living together in a vibrant and influential Christian academic community and as productive citizens of the Church and world.

- **CHRISTIAN FAITH.** The Christian faith is an integral part of our community.
- **THE INDIVIDUAL.** As a member of God's creation, each person is unique and is blessed with inherent worth.
- **EXCELLENCE.** We strive for excellence in who we are and what we do.
- **INTEGRITY.** Our community demonstrates the accord between our beliefs and practices.
- **SERVICE.** Recognizing and addressing the needs of others is a response to God's love for us, and a reflection of God's love for them.

President's Column

For the first time in more than two years, the campus has truly felt alive this semester ... alive with the face-to-face relationships for which God created us. There's just no substitute! And, of course, Alive in Christ, as we view all we do this academic year through the lens of our theme of the year (which you can read more about on page 6).

As a Lutheran university rooted in faith, incorporating the Word into all aspects of our work has been our driving force for nearly 160 years. In today's increasingly secular culture, I believe that our honest and unrelenting dedication to our Christian principles serves as a defining feature for our university, setting it apart from so many others. To that end, I am pleased to share several new ways that CUC is moving forward in faith.

Earlier this fall, we welcomed the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS to their new, permanent home on our campus. The University and the NID are already deeply connected in our confession of the faith and in our work across the region. This

partnership, which mirrors that between other LCMS districts and their respective Concordias, serves as a renewed opportunity to further strengthen our connection with congregations, schools, and ministries in the district. We are grateful for the opportunity to build up our relationship with the NID through our shared service to our students, our communities, and the common good.

As we continue to realize the ambitious goals laid out in our current strategic plan, *Focusing Our Future 2025*, I am enthusiastic about recent advancements in our work to equip our faculty and staff to lead and thrive faithfully. In particular, we have overtly incorporated the University's Lutheran mission and identity into faculty and staff hiring processes, as well as employee development programs. We must ensure that all employees understand, support, and live out these principles in all that they do.

This fall, a small group of faculty took part in a pilot of a new professional development workshop designed to

educate CUC employees about the Christian principles that inform our mission and identity. Created and facilitated by Dr. Adam Francisco, the course examines how Lutheran doctrine and commitments intersect with educational vocations. Based on feedback from the initial participants, a final outline is being fine-tuned for the spring. We look forward to engaging all full-time faculty in this training over the next calendar year, with the goal of expanding it to our staff after that. A clear and consistent understanding of LCMS doctrine will ensure that the principles of the faith permeate our mission to serve students in these troubled times.

At the same time, our students are actively living out their faith regularly, as evidenced by their generous service to the community. The newly established Service Saturdays provide an opportunity for our future leaders to connect with and positively affect nearby communities, including Chicago's Austin neighborhood. Partnering with First Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, students have spent their weekends this semester helping local homeless populations. From serving meals and aiding with health care, to supporting those struggling with addiction, our students are on the front lines addressing challenging issues head on. This is one of the many hallmarks of a Concordia-Chicago education: answering God's call to take up our crosses in service to our neighbors. I am more confident than ever in the integrity of our University. God's Word is our foundation, and truth, freedom, and vocation are our pillars. As we serve students from many walks of life, we do so as the Church's institution. Concordia-Chicago is truly alive in Christ, loving and serving our neighbors in forgiveness and new life.



Russell Dawn, DPhil, JD
President



“ AS A LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY ROOTED IN FAITH, INCORPORATING THE WORD INTO ALL ASPECTS OF OUR WORK HAS BEEN OUR DRIVING FORCE FOR NEARLY 160 YEARS.

University Events

Winter & Spring 2023

JANUARY

- 09 Ferguson Art Gallery Exhibit:
Mary Porterfield (through Feb. 21)
- 27-28 Concordia Invitational Tournament
(Seward, NE)

FEBRUARY

- 05 Community Sing – Handel’s “Messiah”
- 07 Artists of Concordia Theatre presents
“When the Going Gets Gruff”
(touring through March 3)
- 20 Visit Day
(high school and transfer students)

MARCH

- 01 Art Alumni and Student Art Show
(through March 31)
- 03 Business Leaders Breakfast
Keynote: Dr. Anne Rathbone Bradley
- 03-12 Kapelle & Wind Symphony Tours
- 17 Wind Symphony Home Concert
- 19 Kapelle Home Concert
- 25 Admitted Student Day
- 31 University Band Concert



CUCelebrates

On Concordia-Chicago’s seventh annual day of giving, join alumni and friends for an opportunity to show the world we are 100% behind the University’s mission and its students.

Find out how to be a part of the big day at CUChicago.edu/CUCelebrates.

March 23

APRIL

- 10 Graduating Students’ Art Show
(through May 5)
- 14-20 Artists of Concordia Theatre
presents “The 25th Annual Putnam
County Spelling Bee”
- 16 Chamber Orchestra Concert
- 22 Admitted Student Day
- 24 Jazz Band Concert
- 30 Spring Music Festival

MAY

- 05-06 Spring Commencement Weekend

JUNE

- 24 Patriotic Pops Concert

For the most current schedule and full event details, visit CUChicago.edu/events.



Community Sing

After a successful inaugural event in September, Community Sing returns! Singers of all levels are welcome at this collaborative, exceptionally fun event. Join Dr. Charles Brown, the Kapelle and professional soloists to rehearse and perform Handel’s “Messiah,” Part II.

Visit CUChicago.edu/music for further details.

February 5

“ I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST. IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST WHO LIVES IN ME. AND THE LIFE I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.”

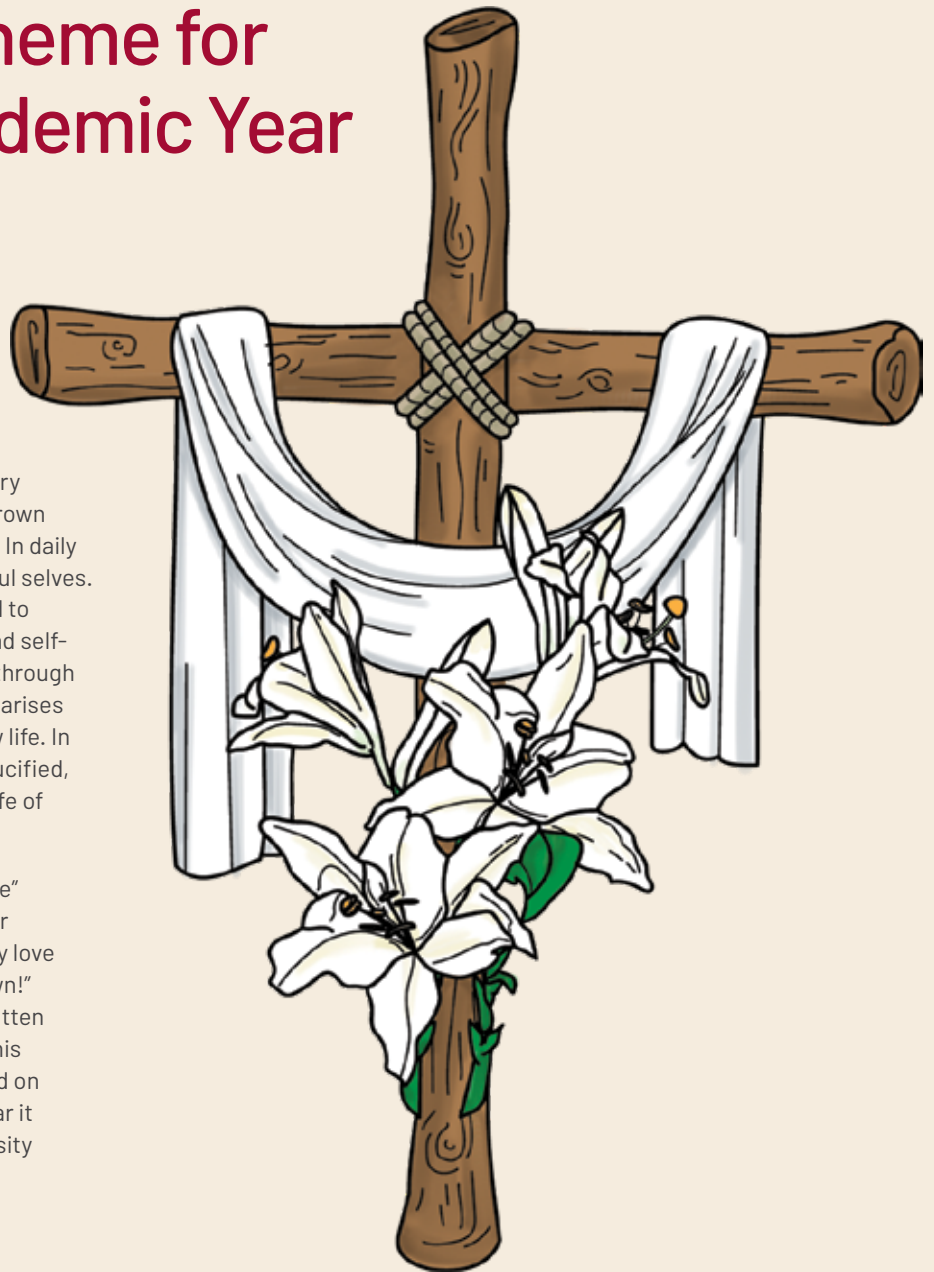
—Galatians 2:20

Alive in Christ: Theme for the 2022-23 Academic Year

By: [Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger](#), University Pastor

Every year Concordia-Chicago's academic community gathers under a single scripture passage and theme that unites us as a Christian institution. This year's theme of "Alive in Christ" from Galatians 2:20, though a positive and uplifting message, serves also as a reminder that every person has some dying to do. Through baptism, we drown our old selves, putting to death the ways of darkness. In daily repentance—turning back to God—we crucify our sinful selves. To be "Alive in Christ" by implication means to be dead to something else. We die to a life curved in upon self and self-indulgence and self-seeking ways. By the Holy Spirit through the power of the gospel, however, a new person daily arises to love and serve our neighbor in forgiveness and new life. In a profound mystery, the Living Christ himself—the crucified, risen and ascended Lord—is active within us for the life of the world.

The beautiful hymn "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love for Me" (*Lutheran Service Book 683*) conveys in a poetic prayer what St. Paul recorded in Galatians 2:20: "Oh, may Thy love possess me whole, / My joy, my treasure, and my crown!" (stz. 3). Dr. Maurice Boyer, professor of music, has written for us a moving setting of this hymn, dedicating it to his parents, Gerald († 2022) and Eleanor Boyer. Premiered on their 57th wedding anniversary, we are pleased to hear it sung throughout our 159th academic year as a university "Alive in Christ." ▲



Theme of the Year artwork for 2022-23.

CUC News

“ THE IDEA OF VOCATION AS A GIFT, NOT NECESSARILY A SET OF ANSWERS, BUT OF QUESTIONS THAT INFORM THE WAY ONE SHOWS UP IN THE WORLD, IS ONE OF THE THINGS I HOPE TO BRING TO THE COLLEGE.

—Dr. Lynn Hunnicutt, dean of the College of Business



Dr. Andrea Dinaro (far right) at Illinois State University's College of Education Hall of Fame Ceremony.

Education Professor Named to Illinois State University Hall of Fame

Illinois State University's College of Education inducted Dr. Andrea Dinaro, Concordia-Chicago professor of special education, into its Hall of Fame during their 2022 homecoming celebration. Dinaro earned both her bachelor's and doctoral degrees in special education from ISU.

After spending eight years as a classroom teacher with A.E.R.O. Special Education Cooperative, Dinaro transitioned to administration with the organization, serving as curriculum and professional development coordinator, assistive technology supervisor and behavior intervention specialist supervisor during her tenure. Following the completion of her doctorate, Dinaro joined the faculty of Concordia University Chicago where she serves as chair of the Division of Curriculum, Technology, and Inclusive Education.

While her contributions to the field of special education have garnered state, national and international attention, Dinaro believes that her biggest contribution continues to be prioritization of mentoring educators and administrators. As a part of her mentorship endeavors, Dinaro has served on numerous dissertation committees for her students, one of whom was awarded the CEC Qualitative Dissertation of the Year. Dinaro was awarded the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) Trailblazer Award in 2016, and since 2019 serves on the IAASE board.

College of Business, College of Education Name New Deans

After extensive searches, the University announced the appointment of Dr. Lynn Hunnicutt as dean of the College of Business over the summer, and Dr. Maja Miskovic as dean of the College of Education this fall.

Hunnicutt joins CUC after nearly 20 years at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) where she served as professor of economics and as department chair, faculty affairs committee chair and the inaugural director of PLU's Wild Hope Center for Vocation. She says the "idea of vocation as a gift, not necessarily a set of answers, but of questions that inform the way one shows up in the world, is one of the things I hope to bring to CUC."

For the past two decades, Miskovic has held various teaching and administrative positions at institutions of higher education. She joined Concordia-Chicago in 2013 as the Department of Research chair and has been teaching research design and qualitative research methods, as well as supervising doctoral students. She was an executive director of doctoral programs and served as an assistant and interim dean in the College of Education. She most recently served as interim dean of the College of Theology, Arts & Humanities.

LCMS Northern Illinois District Offices Relocate to Campus

Concordia University Chicago welcomed the LCMS Northern Illinois District (NID) leadership team and staff as they relocated from their offices in Hillside, IL, to the building at 1107 Monroe Ave. on the west side of campus. The two organizations remain independent, but bound together in Christ as they continue to feed the faithful, bring the gospel to a world in need and educate students of all ages.



Dr. Lynn Hunnicutt (left) will serve as the new dean of the College of Business, and Dr. Maja Miskovic (right) as the new dean of the College of Education.

"The University and the NID are already deeply connected in our confession of God's Word and in our work across the region. Concordia-Chicago is eager to strengthen our relationship with the NID in our Christ-centered service to our students and the common good," says University President Russell Dawn. "Several other districts of the LCMS already have similar partnerships with their local Concordias, and we are thankful to be blessed with this opportunity."

"Being on the CUC campus will enhance the common work we have been given in Church, our communities, and the world for the sake of Jesus and His eternal reign," says Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss, president of the NID and member of CUC's Board of Regents. "As with our congregations, schools and ministries, our partnership with the University creates an engagement in which we are 'Stronger Together.'"

Gross Hall Demolition Completed

After the deconstruction of Gross Hall wrapped up late last summer, students returning to campus in the fall were greeted with new, open green space. The building was carefully dismantled so that its materials could be salvaged for reuse elsewhere, and more than a hundred pieces of dorm furniture were donated to Humble Design, an organization that helps people emerging from homelessness (see Spring 2022 Forester).

Two large mosaics in Gross Hall's main lounge, and the Chi-Rho on the building's exterior, were saved and put into storage until a new, permanent location can be determined. The mosaics, titled "Cross Section of an Agate" and "Leaves and Branches," were created by the late Walter Martin BS '52, who served as professor of art from 1957 to 1995. The Chi-Rho was also designed by Martin, and built and installed by Corwin Will, a longtime physical plant employee at the University.

Watch an aerial time-lapse video of last summer's work at bit.ly/3Uz3byq.

Cougars' Head Team Physician Honored by University of Chicago

Dr. Sherwin Ho was named the first Tang and Frank Families Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Chicago. Dr. Ho has served as head team physician for all CUC team sports since 1991, in addition to being on the University of Chicago faculty.

He has been as dedicated to teaching as he has to surgery, having taught countless athletic trainers and students in the Concordia-Chicago training room over the

past three decades. Dr. Ho has also served as a team physician for the U.S. and China's women's national and Olympic volleyball teams, and currently is a member of the medical team for the WNBA Chicago Sky.

"It's been an honor and privilege to have served two wonderful institutions (and gridiron rivals!), the University of Chicago as a professor of orthopaedic surgery, and Concordia University Chicago as team physician, for the past 30 years," says Dr. Ho. He was also the recipient of the Concordia Community Award for Teaching in 2009 and was named to the CUC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012.

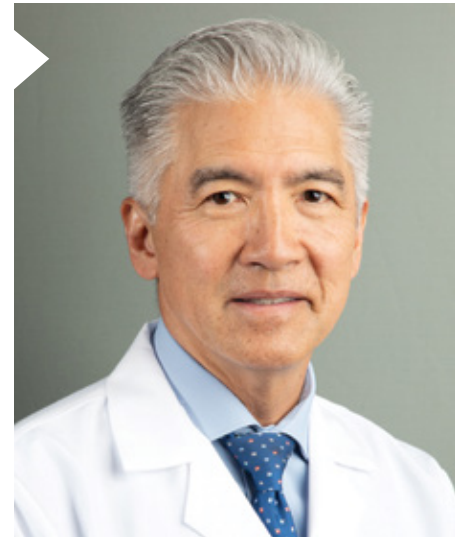


Photo provided by The University of Chicago.



The new Trailblazer Library Center, which opened on Sept. 20, 2022, includes a mural painted by **Julie Sulzen BA '17**.

University Library Receives Grant to Support First-Generation Students

The University's Klinck Memorial Library was awarded a grant of \$20,000 from the American Library Association (ALA) COVID Library Relief Fund to support first-generation undergraduate students. The University is one of just 77 libraries across the United States to receive the grant from ALA with support from Acton Family Giving.

These funds are intended to bolster library operations and services, including broadening technology access, developing collections, providing digital instruction, and staffing and expanding outreach.

"We are so grateful to the ALA and Acton Family Giving for this grant," says Liesl Cottrell, University library director. "It will support our first-generation students by creating a space and collection of resources specifically for them, including funds for future events in the fall of 2022."

In the 2022-2023 academic year, 53 percent of undergraduates at Concordia-Chicago are first-generation students, up two percentage points from the previous year. First-generation students are defined as those whose parents have not obtained a degree from a four-year college or university.

Students Earn University's Top Scholarships

Some of Concordia University Chicago's highest academic honors for undergraduates are the President's Honor Scholarship for freshmen, the President's Community College Transfer Scholarship and the Dr. Rosa J. Young Opportunity Scholarship. Students who earn these awards have shown excellence in academics and dedication to faith and vocation.

Freshman scholar

Josiah Gerlach

Hometown: Watertown, WI

Major: Music Education

Josiah hopes to one day teach music to underprivileged communities while sharing the love of Jesus. He'll no doubt take inspiration from his Concordia-Chicago professors: "My favorite thing about CUC so far is the amount of care the professors show. The faculty has incredible talents and knowledge that they take joy in sharing with their students," he says. "I am happy to take on new challenges and soak up all the knowledge and skill that the faculty so cheerfully teaches."



Rosa J. Young scholar

Mackenzie Jean-Marcoux

Hometown: Midland, MI

Major: Director of Christian Education

A senior this year, Mackenzie reflected on what she loves the most about CUC. "Everyone from faculty to staff, other students and community members come together to make this place special and enriching," she says. "My favorite place on campus is Kretzmann Hall. The combination of theology, art and music creates such a beautiful space to praise and glorify our Lord." Read more about the first-ever Rosa J. Young scholarship on page 13.

Freshman scholar

Elijah Kohlmeier

Hometown: Wauwatosa, WI

Major: Secondary Education-English

Elijah says that while the first semester of college is certainly an adjustment, it's been going well. He joined Wind Symphony as a French horn player and is enjoying the faith-building opportunities on campus. "My favorite thing about Concordia-Chicago is definitely Spiritual Life, specifically prayer offices," he says. "All the people involved are kind, interesting and fun to be around, and it's good to have some time to focus only on God and not on schoolwork or extracurriculars."





Freshman scholar

Anna Kuschel

Hometown: St. Louis, MO

Major: Journalism

When asked about her first semester at CUC, Anna says, “I am loving my classes, and have met so many amazing new friends! One of my favorite things so far has been my participation in the Wind Symphony,” in which she plays the oboe. As a high schooler, she felt motivated as a musician after hearing some of their recordings. “The Wind Symphony played a big role in why I wanted to attend Concordia-Chicago, so it is amazing to be part of it now that I am here.”

Freshman scholar

Lily Seifferlein

Hometown: Landisville, PA

Major: Strategic Communication

Lily grew up in Wisconsin but moved to Pennsylvania during sophomore year of high school, when her father accepted a pastoral call there. She credits that cross-country move with strengthening her faith and helping her discover her vocation. Lily recently declared her major in strategic communication with a minor in graphic design. “I’ve had a wonderful experience at Concordia-Chicago so far,” she says. “I have really enjoyed campus Spiritual Life—especially evening prayer offices.”



Transfer scholar

Jennifer Sosa Valle

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Major: Middle Grades Education

Jennifer started her higher education journey at Harold Washington College during the height of the pandemic. As she racked up academic accolades there, she gained confidence about taking on leadership roles and transferring to CUC. “Concordia-Chicago has been very good to me my first semester! I think my favorite aspect would have to be my professors,” she says. “They are very understanding and are willing to help when it’s needed. My life outside of school can be very chaotic, but they have been so helpful and supportive.”



Freshman scholar

Kayla Trenery

Hometown: Gilberts, IL

Major: Elementary Education

Kayla went through quite a change going from homeschool to college, but is settling in on campus. “I’ve enjoyed the social aspect of my classes and how attentive the teachers are to my learning,” she says. Her favorite thing about Concordia-Chicago is its foundation in the Lutheran faith, and being able to surround herself with fellow Christians. Looking to the future, she says, “Only God knows my path, but I try to live out my current callings the best that I can, with the help of so many amazing people here and back home.”



Alumni and Donors Alive in Christ



What a blessing to welcome our students back for Concordia University Chicago's 159th year. Students, faculty and staff came together

under our academic theme "Alive in Christ," based upon Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." We truly are Alive in Christ in all we do at the University. This semester has been full of life with classes, athletics, student activities and events galore, including a record-breaking Maroon & Gold gala and honoring record-breakers at the Athletic Hall of Fame. It is also an honor to announce the hiring of Emily Kober BA '09 as our senior director of alumni relations.

Every day that we engage our alumni, friends and donors, we ensure our students are equipped to serve their neighbors in the church, their families and the world. Concordia-Chicago is a place founded in the Word of God as our Truth, a place to grow in the Freedom of self-governance, and a place to answer God's call to Vocations of service. In the paragraphs that follow, you will read about this great service lived out by our dedicated alumni and friends as we celebrate and take pride their distinguished accomplishments. Their life example is Alive in Christ.

God's blessing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff".

Jeff Hynes

Foundation President and CEO
Vice President for University Advancement



“ WE ARE PROUD TO SEE THE UNIVERSITY'S CORE VALUES OF CHRISTIAN FAITH, THE INDIVIDUAL, EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY AND SERVICE REFLECTED DAILY IN OUR ALUMNI.”

Sixth Annual Maroon & Gold Continues Record-Setting Legacy!

By: [Maria Gedroc](#), Donor Relations and Communication Projects Manager

Maroon & Gold 2022, Concordia University Chicago's signature fundraising event to celebrate and sustain scholars, set its largest giving record on Saturday, Sept. 24. Over 200 alumni and friends gathered in Geiseman Gymnasium for a dinner celebration before the livestream broadcast began for guests viewing virtually. Mackenzie Jean-Marcoux, senior in CUC's director of Christian education program, and Carter Gledhill, a senior communications/media major, emceed the evening.

As of press time, more than \$593,094 was raised for student scholarships. Special updates shared before and throughout the evening helped spark this generous total. The first \$50,000 given was a match by Herman Meinders to grow the general scholarship fund.

Celebrating CUC scholars has been central to Maroon & Gold since the first banquet in 2017. Alumni Association Board member Alicia (Jipp) Levitt BA '97 thanked sponsors, congratulated award winners and encouraged all those in attendance to give to scholarship. After dinner, personalized video presentations celebrated this year's honorees. The Distinguished Alumni Award annually honors graduates who exemplify the core values of Concordia University Chicago and have brought credit to their alma mater by their personal accomplishment, professional achievement or humanitarian service. Uichi Kajiyama BA '98 received the Distinguished Alumni, Undergraduate award, and Constance Denninger MA '13 received the Distinguished Alumni, Graduate award.

The Spiritus Christi Award honors an individual who has performed his/her responsibilities with unusual effectiveness, influence, and with the highest quality of service to the Church at large. Concordia-Chicago was honored to

present this award to Dr. Charles Dull BS '62. The One Heart Award is drawn from the meaning of "Concordia" and celebrates an individual who embodies our core values, excels in their chosen vocation, and expands the University's impact through their association, regardless of whether they graduated from Concordia-Chicago. The inaugural One Heart Award was presented to Janet Klotz, executive director of Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation.

After announcing the new Dr. Rosa J. Young Opportunity Scholarship at last year's Maroon & Gold Mary Wise BA '65, great-niece of Dr. Young and CUC alum, surprised Mackenzie Jean-Marcoux during the broadcast by revealing her as the scholarship's first-ever recipient. The scholarship is a special collaboration between Concordia University Chicago, the LCMS Foundation and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to honor the memory and inspiration of Dr. Rosa J. Young, the first woman to be honored by the LCMS with an honorary doctorate in 1961. Her work improved education and religious instruction in the Black community and led to the founding of Concordia College in Selma, AL. The scholarship supports African-American students at Concordia University Chicago who intend to enter into church vocations in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, like Mackenzie.

Dr. Dominic Salvino, chair of Concordia University Chicago's Board of Regents, also revealed a surprise during the evening's broadcast—the Regents voted to personally contribute \$150,000 toward the Dr. Rosa J. Young Opportunity Scholarship. This incredible gift will be matched by the LCMS Foundation and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Continue the celebration all year long and donate to scholarships at CUChicago.edu/GiveNow and save the date for next year's exciting Maroon & Gold on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023. ▲



Uichi Kajiyama BA '98, Distinguished Alumni Undergraduate Award



Constance Denninger MA '13, Distinguished Alumni Graduate Award



Charles Dull BS '62, Spiritus Christi Award



Janet Klotz, One Heart Award

Athletic Hall of Fame Honors Record-Breakers

By: [Maria Gedroc](#), Donor Relations and Communication Projects Manager

Established in 2002, the Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes those individuals who best exemplify the mission, spirit and philosophy of Concordia University Chicago and its Department of Athletics. We are proud to see the University's core values of Christian faith, the individual, excellence, integrity and service reflected daily in our student-athletes and alumni. This year's award ceremony emcee, David Dwyer BA '11, MBA '12, welcomed inductees, family, friends, current coaches and a student representative from each team to the celebration. This year's inductees included: Alyssa Soulis BA '16, soccer; Jason Shambo BA '04, MBA '11, soccer; Paul Ebert BA '88, football and baseball; Kenneth Handy BA '93, (posthumously) basketball; and the 2012 football team.

CUC Athletic Director Pete Gnan had the special honor of recognizing Kayla Armstrong and Simone Wilson who marked a historic first in Cougar history by earning two 2022 NCAA Division III National Champions. Read more about Kayla and Simone on page 24.

Jeff Hynes, senior vice president for University advancement, spoke to the audience about the unique opportunity our athletes have—the ability to speak openly about our faith in Jesus Christ. He said, "In my role in the Foundation I am blessed to be part of a team that works to fund our mission. We do this by telling the Concordia-Chicago story—a story of faith and learning, with students at the center. Our faculty and staff make it a priority to ensure all students are equipped to live out their unique



*Hall of Fame Honors Record Breakers (clockwise, from left):
Alyssa Soulis BA '16, Soccer; Paul Ebert BA '88, Football and Baseball;
Dan Handy accepting on behalf of Ken Handy BA '93, Basketball;
and Jason Shambo BA '04, MBA '11, Soccer.*

“ THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME RECOGNIZES THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO BEST EXEMPLIFY THE MISSION, SPIRIT AND PHILOSOPHY OF CUC AND ITS DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS.”

vocations in the church, their families and the world. However, it would not be possible without our alumni, friends and partners. With our strategic plan, Focusing Our Future, we have big plans for the University, including enhancing our athletic programs and facilities. I hope you will join us in the months and years ahead as we seek to raise funds to renovate and build new facilities so that we can continue to offer an excellent experience for our student-athletes for generations to come.”

The evening continued with each inductee being presented to the audience and receiving their Hall of Fame ring. Congratulations to all of the Hall of Fame inductees! ▲



The 2012 Cougar football team.

New Senior Alumni Director



Emily Kober BA '09 recently assumed the role of senior director of alumni relations after the departure of Paige Craig BA '99, MBA '14 earlier this summer. The

University is grateful for Paige's many contributions over the course of her 14 years of dedicated service to Concordia University Chicago.

In addition to being a proud alumna of Concordia-Chicago, Kober has served as a philanthropy associate in the Foundation office since March 2021. She graduated with a double major in communication and graphic arts. After completing her undergraduate degree, she obtained a master's degree from Ball State University. Kober began her professional career in the development office at Lyric Opera of Chicago and then spent five years at the Chicago Humanities Festival.

"I am honored to 'return home' and serve my alma mater in this position. I look forward to connecting with our fantastic alumni in the months and years to come," she says.

Please join us in welcoming her to this extremely important role. She is thrilled to be serving her alma mater and looks forward to connecting with you, our dedicated alumni. As always, our alumni relations department is here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at Alumni@CUChicago.edu. ▲

Contact the Foundation Office and partner with us regarding alumni, athletics and many other giving opportunities at [866-448-3867](tel:866-448-3867) or email Foundation@CUChicago.edu. Meet the entire Foundation team at CUChicago.edu/Support.

Maroon & Gold

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Nada BA '98 and Dominic Salvino

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Prayer and Planting: Tree of Hope Project Takes Root

By: **Martina Reese**, Communications and Marketing Assistant

Along the south edge of campus between Lindemann Hall and Augusta Boulevard stands a small grove of young trees. The two amur maples have dropped their bright fall foliage; a few dried whirligigs still clinging to the branches quake in the breeze. The cornelian cherry dogwood, well past the season when it bears its clusters of red fruit, will burst forth with yellow blooms in late winter. Each tree is identified by a small engraved "Tree of Hope" marker, staked into the earth, indicating the date on which it was planted.

Concordia-Chicago's Tree of Hope annual planting ceremony is held on the last Friday in April, timed to coincide with Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Arbor Day. During the ceremony, attendees gather around a deep hole previously excavated by physical plant staff to receive the new tree. As people arrive, they are given a small slip of paper and pencil, on which they are invited to write down their private thoughts and hopes about ending sexual violence. While the paper is not shared with anyone, some participants report that they choose to write about a personal experience, while others express their hopes for the healing of others.

Tree of Hope is a joint project between Concordia University Chicago and Pillars Community Health, a community-based, nonprofit provider of health and social services that serves clients across the state of Illinois. Pillars Community Health has long supported the University community through awareness-building activities about domestic violence, sexual assault and unhealthy relationships,



The young trees continue to inspire hope.

as well as advocacy services for individuals affected by such violence. By working together on this initiative, the organizations hope to promote increased awareness of sexual violence through open dialogue and support of a zero-tolerance environment on campus.

"The Tree of Hope ceremony is one of several awareness and prevention activities at Concordia-Chicago," explains former CUC Title IX coordinator Kathe Heetel, who has been instrumental in organizing the ceremony from its inception. "We recognize ... that these things don't happen overnight."

Established in 2017, the program will plant a fifth tree in the spring of 2023 (planting was suspended during the pandemic). During each ceremony, a representative

from Pillars Community Health shares a reading, typically a letter or poem from a survivor of sexual violence, with the goal of conveying the often abstract idea of abuse through the real words of a human being. Those in attendance toss their folded slips of paper into the hole and the tree is lowered on top. They then spill cups of dirt into the hole, both burying the messages and positioning them as a support for future growth.

"The symbolic concept is that these paper slips of hope will strengthen the roots of the tree so it will prosper," explains Heetel. "In a similar way, we share the hope that people experiencing sexual violence will have strong 'roots' of empowerment to prosper." ▲



Plays

meets

product development

at CUC's Early Childhood Education Center

By: *Martina Reese, Communications and Marketing Assistant*

Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.

Four-year-old children cluster close, expectant. Lead teacher Catherine Arndt's keys jingle as she unlocks the door. The children peer excitedly into the dark interior of the shed in the fenced outdoor play area where the Radio Flyer wheeled toys are stored.

A girl in pink sparkly cowboy boots surveys her options. She chooses a scooter. She zips away, one leg firmly planted on the low horizontal platform, the other leg hitting the ground with regular strides. Clearly, she has done this before.

On any given day, children enrolled at Concordia-Chicago's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) experience a range of stimulating activities in a nurturing environment—literacy, art, healthy eating, rhythm and music, observing nature. Every day includes plenty of time for exuberant, active play, both indoors and outdoors. And thanks to a special, mutually beneficial partnership that has been in place for almost 20 years, many of the toys used by the Center's children for active play are donated by Radio Flyer from their innovative and iconic product line.



Radio Flyer's main office is located just northeast of CUC and is home to the World's Largest Radio Flyer Wagon.



A little boy gets ready to show off his motor skills with Radio Flyer's Classic Push & Play Walker.



A Radio Flyer engineer hard at work in the Prototype Lab.



A little girl flies around the ECEC outdoor play area with Radio Flyer's My First Big Flyer tricycle.



The ECEC can have over 200 kids enrolled at any given time, ranging from 6 weeks to 5 years old.



Two children in ECEC's infant program move and groove on Radio Flyer's Busy Buggy Ride-On cars.

The ECEC's partnership with Radio Flyer began during the tenure of former Center director Doris Knuth. Knuth, who retired in 2017, remembers her initial meeting with CEO Robert Pasin, who approached the Center about the possibility of testing the company's product prototypes in their development phases. Since the Center welcomes children from infancy to age six, it was an ideal population on which to test Radio Flyer's line.

Beginning in 2003, Radio Flyer began delivering tricycles to the ECEC and leaving them there for several weeks at a time. When the trikes were returned to the company's lab, engineers and designers were able to observe the wear and tear they showed after being ridden for many hours a day by dozens of young users, leading to design modifications that improved the products' usability and lifespans.

Thursday, 4:46 p.m.

A boy in a bright orange T-shirt steps into the shed and seizes a red molded-plastic three-wheeler called a Big Flyer. He settles onto the seat, grabs the extended handlebars with a solid two-fisted grip, and pedals away. His little feet circle furiously around the small rotation radius of the pedals. The rear wheels spin on the concrete walkway, then grab as he speeds off.

Lead teacher Arndt points to the Big Flyer as the boy in the orange T-shirt takes off. "What's really nice about the Big Flyer is you can



“By observing how kids interacted with different play features, we were able to make educated design decisions...”

—Anne Goodman, designer and research manager at Radio Flyer

extend the length of the back end,” she explains. “As kids get older the seat back adjusts to where they need it without taking the whole thing apart. It helps them use the equipment they’re comfortable with for a longer period of time.”

Radio Flyer conducts several types of product testing at the Center. Concept testing involves observing how children interact with prototypes of new product ideas to evaluate them for play value. Catherine Gruenwald has been observing the Radio Flyer partnership since assuming the position of Center director in 2019. She understands that the children at the Center present an invaluable focus group for Radio Flyer toy designers intent on discovering what children enjoy. “Recently, they brought ride-on animals that made sound and lights when touched,” Gruenwald notes. “They wanted to see where the children petted the animals naturally and if they gravitated to the spots that they thought would be popular like the nose.”

Anne Goodman, designer and research manager at Radio Flyer, led development of a new ride-on toy in 2018. “When we were developing the Busy Buggy ride-on,” Goodman remembers, “we took multiple early prototypes to Concordia-Chicago to test with kids. By observing how kids interacted with different play features, we were able to make educated design decisions on which ones to incorporate into the final design.”

Ergonomic testing studies how a product functions for a specific age range in terms of size, physical function and developmentally appropriate design. Gruenwald has witnessed numerous Radio Flyer product prototype studies at the Center. “They periodically bring in Styrofoam models for kids to sit in for measurement,” she says. “On one occasion they brought four identical black scooters that were mechanically different and had kids test them side by side.”

“Testing our products with kids is a core part of the Radio Flyer innovation process,” says Goodman. “We value our partnership with the Center to test new concepts. It ensures a wide variety of perspectives on our designs. The teachers are knowledgeable about child development and provide valuable feedback on our new product concepts, too.”

A third kind of testing, for durability, comes as a byproduct of introducing Radio Flyer products into a high-use environment. “We build our products to last and are committed to making

Get Connected with the ECEC

Attend

Concordia-Chicago’s ECEC provides a solid educational foundation for children and fosters a lifelong love of learning. In this Christ-centered environment, children from birth to age six learn and grow through project-based learning, social interaction, leadership, team discovery, physical play and expressive arts. For more information about programs and how to enroll your child in the Early Childhood Education Center, visit CUChicago.edu/ecec.

Teach

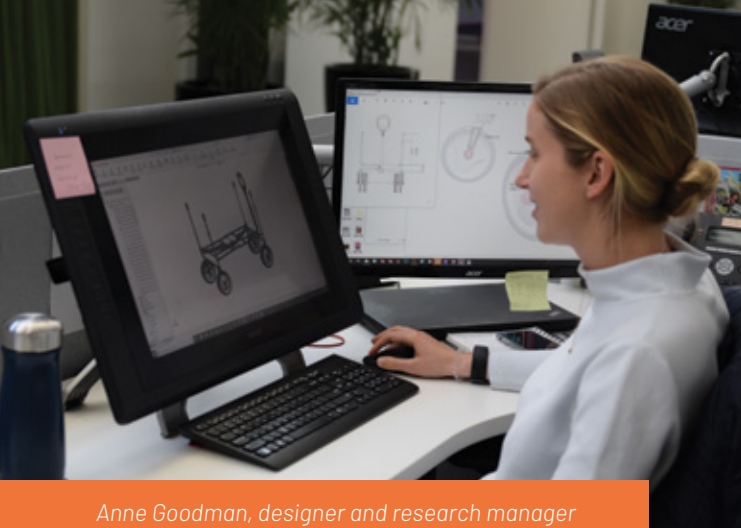
Pursue your calling as an educator with a curriculum that will prepare you to enter the classroom, the Church and the world as a leader in education. The College of Education is one of the oldest educator-preparation institutions in the nation, inspired by the University’s rich history and mission in higher education. Among our many education-specific degrees, CUC offers bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and endorsement programs in early childhood education. To learn more visit CUChicago.edu/education.

Partner

Like Radio Flyer, you too can get involved with major initiatives designed to meet the diverse and evolving needs of today’s students and community. Your partnership with CUC on these and many other projects will help students fulfill their vocation to the community and have a profound impact on the CUC campus and beyond. Contact Jeff Hynes (Jeff.Hynes@CUChicago.edu) in the Foundation Office to learn more about our initiatives and strategic plan, and opportunities for your business to partner with us. Visit CUChicago.edu/support.



Early Childhood Education Center



Anne Goodman, designer and research manager at Radio Flyer, working in CAD on new designs.

“Radio Flyer brings us little trikes, bigger bikes, things to glide on, ponies ... there’s something for all ages.”

—Jane Connolly, ECEC Teacher

products of the highest quality and safety,” says Tom Schlegel, Radio Flyer’s chief innovation officer. “We know that 10 weeks at the ECEC for a product is equivalent to a year at home because they have kids riding on things all day every day.”

Monday, 11:45 a.m.

A boy with curly hair grips the handlebars and lifts a balance bike from where it lies on the floor of the playroom closet. He steps over the body of the bike with his right leg, straddles it and takes off. Gaining speed, he strides forward, left, right, left, expertly guiding the miniature two-wheeler with no pedals.

The boy finds himself trailing a classmate on a Ziggle. The four-wheel wobble scooter streaks away, propelled in its serpentine path by a girl with high pigtails. She thumbs the handlebar bell to alert the distracted kids in her path. Expertly navigating her Ziggle, the girl fishtails past four lonely interactive spring toy horses. For the moment, all the kids are on wheels. The horses impassively watch the vortex of activity, knowing from long experience that their turn will come.

“The Radio Flyer program is really wonderful,” observes lead teacher Jane Connolly. “We have so many different age groups here at the Early Childhood Education Center. Radio Flyer brings us little trikes, bigger bikes, things to glide on, ponies ... there’s something for all ages.” Center director Gruenwald is appreciative of the many ways in which the partnership benefits the ECEC. “We have a closet and storage shed full of toys from Radio Flyer,” she says. “Radio Flyer has let us pick from their catalogue freely and has kept us stocked in large-muscle toys—everything from wagons to ride-on toys to bikes.”

Friday, 10:15 a.m.

A three-wagon convoy emerges through the automatic doors of Concordia-Chicago’s Christopher Center into the sunshine of a perfect-weather day, each wagon pulled along by a teacher or aide. A toddler, safe and secure in one of the high-sided, red molded-plastic vehicles, points at a squirrel as it scurries up a tree. Dappled light filters through the tall trees and onto Radio Flyer’s newest prototypes, which will be put to the test by the children over the coming months. ▲



Ankerberg Accepts Call to Lead Concordia-Wisconsin

In January, the University will bid farewell to Dr. Erik Ankerberg BA '92, as he accepts the call to become president of Concordia University Wisconsin & Ann Arbor. In 2020, Dr. Ankerberg was named Concordia-Chicago provost, after having served as associate vice president for academics since 2017. A proud CUC alumnus and champion of Lutheran higher education, his first placement was at Martin Luther High School in Milwaukee. From there, he served as professor of English at Concordia Wisconsin & Ann Arbor, and from 2004-2015 as chair of modern languages, director of the honors program and assistant provost at Wisconsin Lutheran College. He completed his

doctoral work at Marquette University with a PhD in renaissance literature. Prior to joining the administration of Concordia-Chicago, he served as provost/chief academic officer at Concordia University Texas.

As Concordia-Chicago provost, he was integral in leading the development of the University's strategic plan, Focusing our Future 2025, and has overseen a process to ensure that the goals within continue to be met. He is also recognized for implementing regular assessment of the University's academic programs to ensure both outstanding academic rigor and the development of the necessary student



support services. His executive leadership and dedication to missional health has helped position the University to navigate a challenging higher education landscape and thrive in a crowded marketplace. Congratulations and blessings to Erik and his wife Jennifer (Keup) BA '92 as they pursue their newest vocations within the Concordia University System! ▲



Author *Dr. Anne Rathbone Bradley* presents:

Seeking the Peace and Prosperity of the City through Business

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“ IT’S GOING TO BE THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE.”

—Kayla Armstrong



From River Forest to **USA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

By: Peter Borkowski, Athletic Communications Student Assistant

On June 21, 2022, a video posted to the Instagram accounts @cucougars and @cuchicago_tfxc showed two athletes wearing Concordia University Chicago backpacks walking into Hayward Field, the state-of-the-art track stadium at the University of Oregon.

This duo was Kayla Armstrong and Simone Wilson, two of the most decorated athletes in University history. The elite athletes had just about done it all in their careers: win national championships, set records and collect a vast array of other awards. But the next race of their careers would be the biggest one yet.

Armstrong and Wilson were in Oregon to participate in the 2022 USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships, which serves as a qualifier for team USA and is widely thought of as the top track and field meet in the world, outside of the Olympics and World Championships.

But going from River Forest, IL, with its population of around 11,000 people, to Hayward Field, which seats over 12,000 people, to compete against Olympians, professionals, and current and former

NCAA Division I athletes, doesn't happen overnight. For Armstrong and Wilson, it was a multiyear process.

Both athletes arrived at Concordia-Chicago in 2018 and made an immediate impact as freshmen. Armstrong, who went to high school 20 minutes from CUC's campus at Luther North College Prep, was named Freshman of the Meet at the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) Championships after top-five finishes in the 55, 200 and 400-meter dashes, as well as the 4 x 400 relay. She then was given her first All-American award for anchoring the relay team.

Meanwhile, Wilson's collegiate career got off to a similarly strong start, also receiving not one, but two All-American honors for her NCAA Championship runs in the 400m hurdles and 4 x 400 relay. But Wilson's road to nationals was tumultuous due to more than just the athletic challenge.

A month before the 2018 nationals, Wilson's father was diagnosed with cancer. Speaking prior to the 2022 Championships, Wilson mentioned many of the off-the-field challenges she's faced during her career and her ability to overcome them. "During our junior and senior years, we lived through a pandemic. When you add in my

ongoing challenges of dealing with depression, I still was able to navigate these life challenges and managed to finish my bachelor's degree."

Despite these roadblocks, Wilson was able to rack up the accolades during her tenure as a Cougar. NACC Female Athlete of the Year, six All-American Honors, two NCAA Division III titles in 400m hurdles, 13 NACC titles, and more school and NACC records to count. Her teammate Armstrong has a similarly impressive resume: national champion, a multitude of All-American honors, NACC Track Athlete of the Year and much more.

By the time selections for the 2022 Championships rolled around, the idea of CUC's maroon and gold being represented at this level of competition was a real possibility. "Coming into the season, that was something we were talking about, but I didn't really think it was going to happen," said Wilson.

So while Armstrong and Wilson's official invites to participate might not have been the biggest of surprises, they were no less special. When asked about it at the time of invitation, Steve Belanger, head coach of the CUC track and field team, said, "We've had this on our radar for a while now, so it wasn't something we were too surprised at; but we were absolutely excited about [it] because the level of competition that's going to be there, it's just going to be amazing."

Belanger arrived at CUC in July of 2019, so while he missed out on the first two seasons of Armstrong and Wilson's careers, he was the one to eventually deliver them news of their selection for the Championship. "Kayla started screaming. Simone was in a little disbelief," Belanger recalls about relaying the good news.

Belanger's comment about the level of competition present at the Championship was no joke. Once the day came, Wilson lined up just a few lanes away from world record holder and 2020 Olympic gold medalist Sydney McLaughlin. Meanwhile, Armstrong competed against the likes of Allyson Felix, holder of seven Olympic gold medals for track and field. But Belanger knew exactly what to tell his athletes to ease their nerves before facing off against such stacked competition: "Just another race. Take a couple deep breaths. Take it all in."

Armstrong was a little more lighthearted when asked how she would mentally prepare herself before the race. "Oh you can't. Like absolutely can't. I just gotta remember to hear the gun. That's the part I'm actually worried about. Hearing the starting gun and actually running," she said laughingly.

Once that gun went off, the duo's races went off without a hitch. In the 400m hurdles, Wilson finished seventh in her heat and 23rd overall. Then, in the 400-meter, Armstrong placed sixth in her heat and 27th overall.

But for two athletes who had been through everything from personal tragedy to a global pandemic during their careers at CUC, the mere honor of taking part in such a prestigious competition was enough for them.

"It'll be something I talk about for the rest of my life," says Wilson. Armstrong echoed the sentiment, remarking, "It's going to be the best experience of my life." ▲




“IT’LL BE SOMETHING I TALK ABOUT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.”

—Simone Wilson



Preserving Historical Treasures, Encouraging New Traditions

Center for Church Music Builds on Rich Lutheran Legacy



“Congregational song
stands at the heart
of the Lutheran
Church—Missouri
Synod music-making
tradition.”

—Michael Silhav, senior project editor at GIA Publications

By: *Martina Reese*, Communications and Marketing Assistant

On the second floor of Klinck Library, there is a spacious, peaceful, light-filled zone with an ample arrangement of tables and chairs. Visitors to the space find themselves surrounded by a remarkable collection containing thousands of worship-planning resources. This is the home of the Concordia-Chicago Center for Church Music, which exists to promote awareness of and access to resources for Christian worship.

The Center was founded in 2010, occasioned by the gift of two massive collections of works written by Carl Schalk and Richard Hillert, composers who had themselves earned bachelor's degrees from the University. Those composers eventually returned to Concordia-Chicago to serve as mentors and teachers to successive generations of students as professors in the music department.

A donation by the family of Richard Hillert brought more than 2,000 of his composition manuscripts to the University and formed the base of what was to become the Center for Church Music. A professor of music at Concordia-Chicago from 1959 to 1993, Hillert is widely respected for his prodigious output of choral motets, hymns and hymn anthems, psalm settings, liturgical music, organ works, concertatos and cantatas, as well as numerous non-liturgical compositions.

A simultaneous donation by Carl and Noel Schalk brought his American Lutheran Hymnal Collection into the new Center's holdings. Carl Schalk served on the music faculty of Concordia-Chicago from 1965 to 1993 and is known as a scholar of hymnody and composer of numerous choral anthems and more than a hundred hymn tunes, many of them found in hymnals of various denominations.

While the Center's on-campus headquarters welcomes scholars and church workers who wish to peruse the vast collection of physical manuscripts, publications and artifacts, this area comprises only a small fraction of the Center's resources. The library's reference room holds the original manuscripts of more than 20 significant church composers, reference works and recordings. The Center has published 18 books on various topics and personalities in church music, all available from their respective publishers and Amazon.

The Center serves as an invaluable source of inspiration for church workers and parish musicians who are often busy with the functional aspects of music. Often, the burden of simply running the day-to-day activities of a church makes it difficult to think beyond a 'Sunday is coming' mentality. The Center provides opportunities and resources to help those individuals conceptualize and plan more deeply for leading their long-term music programs.

In recognition that most contemporary research is done online rather than onsite, the Center has undertaken a significant initiative to scan, digitize and make available its resources for access through the Center's website. The Center's online resources are extensive and diverse. Among them are 150+



The Center for Church Music boasts a wide range of new and traditional treasures.

devotions based on hymn texts, video interviews and biographical essays on important Lutheran church musicians and liturgical artists.

Barry Bobb has been the Center's volunteer director since May 2013. Bobb is a CUC double alumnus, having earned a bachelor's degree in the director of parish music program and a master's degree in church music. In recognition of his professional achievements and service to the University, Bobb was awarded an honorary doctorate by his alma mater in May 2000.

An advisory group composed of CUC staff and church musicians from around the U.S. has propelled the Center toward fulfilling its ever-expanding mission to cherish and preserve Lutheran liturgical music while making it accessible to users around the globe both within and outside the Lutheran confession. A team of dedicated volunteers manage the collection.

Michael Silhavy is a user of the Center's resources who values its role in the preservation of a rich legacy. Silhavy is a senior project editor at GIA Publications, a Roman Catholic-affiliated publisher of sacred music. "I would venture to say that all denominations that identify themselves as liturgical experienced a great renewal

Cultivating the Next Generation of Contemporary Liturgical Innovators

In addition to preserving and disseminating the rich corpus of historical music, the Center for Church Music has established three programs to encourage new generations of contributors to the field of liturgical music.

- * The Richard Hillert Award in Student Composition is open to students at all 46 Lutheran colleges and universities across the U.S. Winners receive a \$1,000 prize, public presentation and performance at a national Lutheran Church Music conference. This biennial competition is co-sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.
- * The Schalk Scholar Program, honoring the legacy of Carl Schalk, identifies and assists emerging U.S. scholars who are undertaking significant research in the area of church music. Selected scholars are awarded a \$1,000 annual stipend and opportunities to present their work.
- * In 2020, as a part of the Center's 10th anniversary celebration, the mandate of the Center was expanded to include advocacy for the visual arts in Lutheran churches. The William Wolfram Award in Liturgical Art is a Center-sponsored biennial competition open to Lutheran college students. Natalie Grady, a recent CUC graduate in art, won the 2022 award for her linocut, "Finished, for You." Grady was presented with the \$1,000 award and certificate during the Lectures in Church Music annual event in October 2022.

Help support future scholars through a gift to the University's Foundation. Visit CUChicago.edu/support to learn more.



Everyone is welcome to use the Center for Church Music; students, staff, faculty, community members and other music enthusiasts.

starting in the mid to late 1960s," he notes. "Perhaps no other Lutheran college or university in this country was home to so many influential figures in this liturgical music renewal as Concordia-Chicago. Barry Bobb and the Center are to be commended for reaching out to these pioneers while they were still among us so that they could tell their stories."

The Center works closely with the University's music department, most notably in providing the setting and speakers for the Noel Schalk Memorial Lectures given at the annual Lectures in Church Music conference, instituted by Carl Schalk, which the music department has hosted for over 50 years. "The Center for Church Music is truly a remarkable resource for anyone interested in church music, from curious lay people to practicing musicians to serious scholars," comments Jonathan Kohrs, chair of the music department and associate professor of music. "It provides insights on the lives of a growing list of important musicians who have dedicated themselves to the music of the Church and on the musical compositions they have produced."

Rob Mikulski visited the Center to pursue onsite research during a month-long extended study leave from his position as director of music ministries at



"The Center for Church Music is truly a remarkable resource for anyone interested in church music..."

—Jonathan Kohrs, chair of the music department and associate professor of music

Zion Lutheran Church in San Antonio, TX. Once at the Center, Mikulski became engrossed by its Paul Manz archives. "This Advent," he notes, "our church's chancel choir will be singing Manz's anthem, 'E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come.' I was able to see and photograph the original manuscript of this famous piece and read the story behind the work as recalled by Paul's wife, Ruth. I plan on sharing the information I discovered with the choir who, I am sure, will find the piece even more meaningful than before, and in their singing, pass that meaning on to our congregation."

"Congregational song stands at the heart of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod music-making tradition," observes Silhavy. "By exploring the repertoire within the Center collection, composers or music directors of other traditions may better learn how to engage their congregation in song. Concordia-Chicago is much-admired for housing this remarkable collection intended to preserve, maintain and expand the tradition of giving praise to God through song."

Visit the Center website at CUChicago.edu/center-for-church-music to explore the collection for yourself. ▲



A small sampling of the original musical compositions found in the center.

Emeriti—Where Are They Now?

Dr. Manfred Boos BA '70

By: [Anna Seifert](#), Communications Associate

On a sunny September morning, Dr. Manfred Boos, distinguished professor emeritus of mathematics and former University provost, is painting the railings outside Kretzmann Hall. Those who are newer to the University may simply know him as Fred, the painter and handyman. Long-time Concordia employees and alumni remember Boos for his many prior academic roles on campus.

"It's funny because every now and then, the folks that know me will refer to me as 'Dr. Boos' instead of 'Fred,' and people say, 'Why'd you call him Dr. Boos?' And they'll explain the whole story."

Boos joined Concordia-Chicago's faculty in 1980 as a math professor, and in 2000 he was named provost, which is the University's chief academic officer. He even served as acting president from 2003-2004 between the Heider and Johnson administrations. Boos retired in 2011, but continued to teach a few classes as an adjunct professor. "And then I realized that when you're doing that, you don't have the flexibility I wanted to have in retirement," he says. "I was teaching calculus, a four-day-a-week class—so much for the vacations in the fall!"

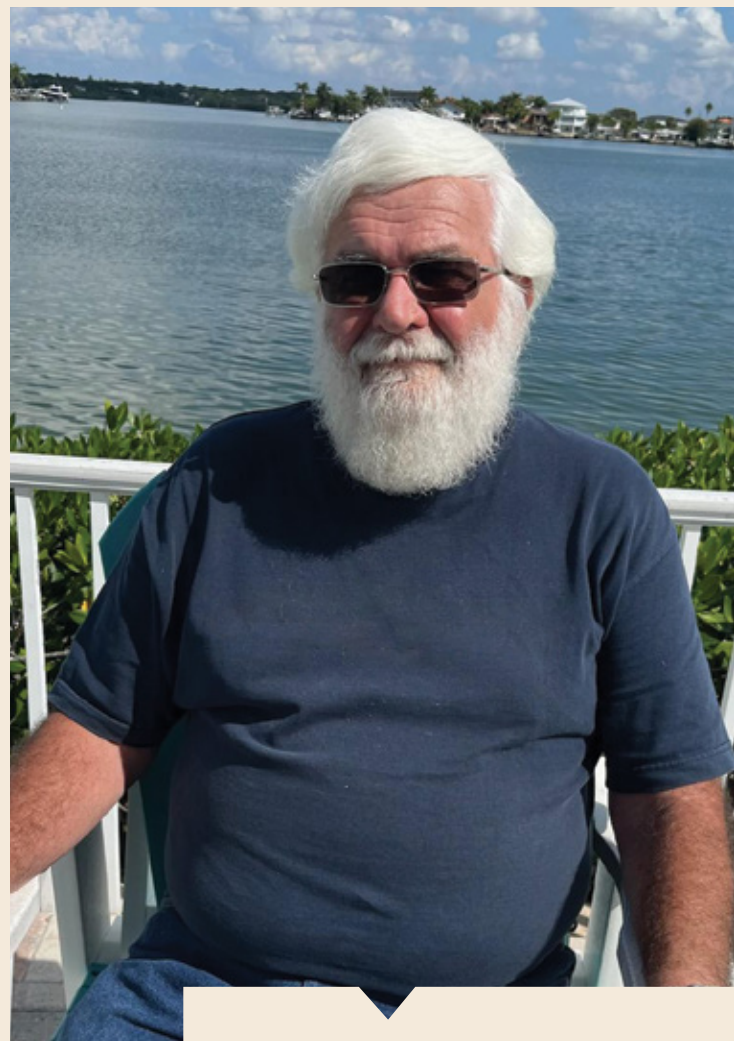
In 2016, he became a Laborer for Christ, meaning he works part time at the University, which allows him to set his own flexible schedule. "I've done painting, carpentry, helped the locksmith. I'm kind of a jack-of-all-trades where they need me. But I don't do electricity and I don't do plumbing. I leave that to the pros," he laughs.

When he's not doing odd jobs around campus, Boos is traveling all over America with his wife Sharon BA '70 ("We travel four or five times a year.") or spending time with his grandchildren ("I've got four with one more on the way."). His other hobbies include woodworking and model railroading. His love of trains extends to his ownership of two condo units made from converted railroad cabooses in Lake Geneva, WI. "Cabooses aren't big, so it's not something I'd like to spend an entire summer in," he notes. "But it's a nice, and very unique, weekend getaway."

What he misses about being a professor is working with his colleagues on the faculty—but in a way, he's found the perfect situation; one that allows him to be on campus several days a week and continue to experience CUC's vibrant campus. "That's one of the reasons I like doing this—because I do interact with folks," he says. "[Professor of music Dr.] Chuck Brown keeps reminding me that he was the first faculty member I hired when I became provost 23 years ago. He keeps jabbing me with that '23 years' part, too. He enjoys that!" ▲

““ THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I LIKE DOING THIS—BECAUSE I DO INTERACT WITH FOLKS.”

—Dr. Fred Boos



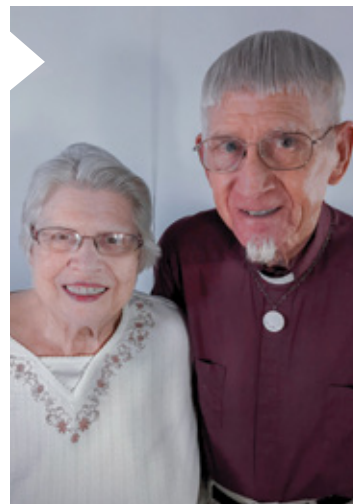
Dr. Boos enjoying retirement and some sunshine in Florida.

Winter 2023

Class Notes

1960s

Rev. James Witt BS '62 and **Beverly (Richardson) Witt BS '61** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 8, 2022. They have six children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Jim and Bev reside in Lititz, PA.



Alice Kratt Smith BA '64 (Frankenmuth, MI), **Judi Schroeder Capouch BA '64** (Arlington Heights, IL), **Audrey Buntrock Paepke BA '64** (Piedmont, SD), **Eunice Timm Miller BA '64** (Portland, OR), **Janet Socha Kasper BA '64** (Fort Worth, TX), and **Grace Petzoldt Schmit BA '64** (Mount Prospect, IL) gathered on the Oregon Coast in October 2022 to celebrate milestone birthdays. Friends forever!



Kathy Knief Winkler BA '63 retired from her career as a journalist. She and husband, Ralph, moved to a suburb of Houston, TX to be near children and grandkids; they belong to Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, TX, where their son-in-law is the minister. Her popular books for teens are available at kathleenwinkler.net.



1970s

Hollis Thoms BA '71 had his compositions *String Quartet 2* and *String Quartet 3* premiered by the Gliss String Quartet in a concert at St. John's Episcopal Church, Hagerstown, MD. Hollis' music is included in CUC's Center for Church Music collection.

Christine Geltz BA '74 had two public art installations (pictured) featured by the *Railroad Heritage Journal* in February 2022. She completed a MA in communications in 2004 at California State University-Fullerton and took up painting as a third career after selling her marketing consulting practice in 2012. Christine has served as president of Monrovia, CA's arts nonprofit for several years and is still the worship musician at First Lutheran Church in Temple City, CA, her first and only call 48 years ago.



John Heil BA '78, pictured with Jathan Koster, served as graduation speaker for the Class of 2022 at Kankakee Trinity Academy where he serves as part-time history instructor and coach in Kankakee, IL.



James Freese BA '78, MCM '79 retired June 30, 2022, after 43 years of teaching: 21 years at Mt. Calvary Lutheran School in Milwaukee, and 22 years at Concordia University Wisconsin, from where he served as professor of music. He continues as cantor at Mt. Calvary. Jim and his wife Jill live in Germantown, WI.

1980s

Ronald Bogs BA '82 celebrates 20 years as senior pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield, Houston, TX; 30 years of Ordination in the Holy Ministry; and 40 years as an LCMS church worker. Since he has been at St. Matthew, Ron has served in community roles as chaplain and shepherd of his children's Cub Scout, Boy Scout, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA troops, committee chairman of the Texas Confessional Lutherans, received nominations for President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Vice President of the Texas District.



Jim Wert BA '85 and Lisa Taylor BA '85 got married on July 8, 2022 in Estes Park, CO. Lisa is a middle school teacher at Bethlehem Lutheran School in Lakewood, CO. Jim is an assistant vice president and systems engineer for US Bank in Denver. They reside in Littleton, CO.



Friends from the Class of 1985 gathered in June to celebrate 60th birthdays including (from left) **Tim Herrmann**, **Linda (Schuemer) Christensen**, **Ron Rosignal**, **Scott Christensen**, **John O'Dell**, **Judy (Mindykowski) Rink**, **Kathy (Young) Wilharm** and **Steve Rolf**.



John Franklin BA '03 and **Rachael (Kretschmar) Franklin BA '09**, adopted their son, Julius Howard, at his birth in January 2022 and finalized the adoption in July.



Eugene Giudice BA '86 was named a fellow of the Special Libraries Association. He is chair of the SLA Legal community and is as well a published author.



1990s

Erin (Grotelueschen) Dunwell BA '92 received the Alumna of the Year Award from Lutheran High School in Indianapolis, IN at their spring 2022 graduation. Erin serves as principal of Bethany Lutheran School in Naperville, IL where she lives with her husband, Joel and their two college-age children. Erin's proud parents are **Judy (Severance) BA '66** and **David Grotelueschen BA '66**.

2000s

Ericka Smith MA '02 was appointed one of the new board members for JDRF Illinois, the local chapter of the leading global organization funding type-1 diabetes research.



Andrew Belleson BA '09 is the full-time voice over for the Frontiers league Windy City Thunderbolts in Crestwood, IL. Belleson was previously the voice of Wrigley Field as the Cubs public-address announcer.



Anthony Dodgers BA '07 and **Betsy (Karkan) BA '08, MA '18** were married Oct. 9, 2021 in Wheaton, IL. They were able to celebrate with many past and current CUC alumni, faculty and staff including **Sarah (Steiner) Hertwig BA '08** who was the matron of honor. On June 18, 2022, they welcomed son Nicholas Charles Dodgers into their family. Betsy continues to work as the director of ministry strategies in CUC's Office of Church Relations from their home in Iowa, where Anthony serves as the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

2010s

Leah Ann Childers MA '11 has been named principal of Buckeye Valley East elementary school in Ashley, OH. Childers has 15 years of teaching experience and previously served as principal of Garfield Elementary.

Michelle Ciric '11 has been appointed the new operations manager of Tsurumi America. Ciric holds 10 years of experience in distribution, warehouse and supply chain operations.

Craig Berry MA '13 currently serves as associate director of admissions at Governors State University in University Park, IL.

Michelle Howard MA '15 will be leading Buckeye West Elementary. Howard was previously the principal of George Washington Elementary school in Marion, OH.

Angela (Hennig) BA '16 and **Tim Bahr BA '17** welcomed a son, Titus, in March 2022 to their home in Milwaukee, where Tim teaches at Martin Luther High School. Proud Cougars include aunt **Michelle (Hennig) Schultz BA '20**, grandparents **Janet (Young) BA '87** and **David Bahr BA '87** and great-grandparents **Carol (Meyer) BS '58** and **Norm Young BA '56**.

Julie Sulzen BA '17 celebrated two decades as a professional artist with a new series of paintings titled "Seasoned." Her paintings were on display this summer in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago.



Terrance Hopson EdD '17 was promoted to regional vice president for the Midwest at Western Governors University-Missouri. Dr. Hopson holds more than 10 years of experience in higher education.

Rev. William Fredstrom BA '18 is the associate pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Seymour, IN. He will lead the congregation's effort to expand family life ministry and youth ministry.

2020s

Brett Stewart MA '20 was appointed as assistant principal of Urbana Elementary School. Stewart previously served as the boys' tennis team coach for Urbana High School in Urbana, IL.

Gianna Pinotti BA '21 will serve as a social work intern for Evergreen Park (IL) Community High School. Pinotti currently serves as the color guard and winter guard coach for the high school and is pursuing her graduate degree in social work at Dominican University.

Alisa Zawodny MA '22 has been appointed the new junior high dean of students of Woodridge (IL) school district 68. During her time with the district, she has served as an instructional coach and intern principal.

About Class Notes

Information listed reflects details received as of **October 2022**. The University welcomes news in the lives of our alumni. To ensure accuracy, information should be provided by the featured individual, rather than another party. Photos are welcome, whether prints or electronic files, however we do not return prints. Submission of a Class Note or image does not guarantee publication. The University reserves the right to edit submissions for style, length and content.

Submit a Class Note! *The University welcomes news in the lives of our alumni. For submission consideration, please send information and optional photos to Alumni@CUChicago.edu.*

Condolences

FACULTY & STAFF

Jonathan Cook - August 30, 2021 Community Piano Program (2019 - 2021)
Gloria (Bonnin) Hillert - March 4, 2022 Assistant Professor Biology (1959-1961)
Charlotte Hoger - January 7, 2022 Administrative Assistant to the President (1972 - 1996)
Gerhart Schmeltekopf - July 21, 2022

ALUMNI

Richard Adler BS '62 - January 24, 2022
Festus Anigbere MBA '17 - November 11, 2021
Mary (Bergdolt) Baerwolf BA '80 - January 14, 2014
Raymond Bergdolt BS '54 - April 14, 2018
Dennis Bingham BS '86 - February 9, 2022
Elizabeth (Stevenson) Bliese BA '81 - January 10, 2022
Ardella Boettcher BS '67 - May 18, 2022
Karen (Zander) Boorum BS '67 - July 6, 2022
Theodore Braun BS '66 - March 20, 2022
Ruth (Wright) Britton BA '65 - April 16, 2022
Eugene Brott BS '55 - April 5, 2022
Carol Buchholz BS '59 - April 16, 2022
Sara (Lemes) Dahms MA '10 - April 5, 2022
Marilyn Danegger HS '49, BS '54 - July 20, 2022
Constance (Dech) Davis BA '68 - May 13, 2022
Linda (Schoenleber) Dressler BA '75 - July 21, 2022
Elizabeth (Kuhlman) Druckrey BS '60 - November 18, 2020
Donald Eicholtz BS '55 - February 26, 2022
Patricia (Ringger) Ellis BA '66 - August 24, 2022
Shirley (Musall) Ellis BS '59 - February 4, 2021
Barbara (Koehneke) Ellwanger BA '63, MA '67 - December 14, 2021
Michael Filter BA '82 - April 28, 2022
Dale Fisk BS '63 - June 3, 2022
Arthur Fliege BS '60 - April 25, 2022
Kathleen Gallup BA '72, MA '81 - May 10, 2022
Kristina Giehl BA '00 - September 13, 2022
David Giesecking BA '82 - November 14, 2021
Dahlas Gregory BA '72 - October 27, 2021
Karen (Holden) Griffin BA '67 - September 11, 2022
Larry Grothaus BA '54 - October 4, 2022
Gene (Leitz) Gruetzmacher BS '63 - August 11, 2021
Elton Heimsoth BS '55 - March 2, 2022
Phyllis (Brenneke) Helmke BA '73, MA '99 - June 28, 2022
Steven Heublein BA '78 - November 29, 2018
Judith (Ressmeyer) Hinsch BA '74 - January 8, 2022
David Jording BA '66, MA '74 - March 27, 2022
Eileen (Heldt) Kaiser BA '55 - September 20, 2022
Robert Kertz BA '00 - November 13, 2017
Henry Koehler BS '64, MA '72 - July 10, 2022
Fred Krause BS '58, MA '68 - August 11, 2022
John Kupsky BS '64 - June 20, 2022
David Learman HS '50, BS '54 - February 11, 2022
Dale Loomans BS '61 - March 16, 2022
Diane (Bender) Maurer BA '74 - December 19, 2021
Norene (Werth) Mazylewski BS '62



FOR I AM SURE THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS NOR RULERS, NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD."

— Romans 8:38-39 (ESV)

Paul Melcheck BA '64 - July 29, 2017
David Mietzner BA '76 - March 1, 2022
Katherine (Garon) Miller BA '95 - September 15, 2021
Sylvia (Ziegenhagen) Monson BS '57 - July 26, 2022
Gilbert Mueller BS '56 - August 7, 2017
Katherine (Tucker) Ohmer BA '85 - March 13, 2022
Jane (Marcis) Pase BA '86 - July 14, 2022
Kenneth Pilot BA '66 - August 23, 2022
Carl Powley BS '53 - June 6, 2022
Elda (Elbert) Rolf BA '68 - March 1, 2022
Eugene Rolf BS '46 - June 27, 1988
Marilyn (Deffner) Rotermund BS '50 - October 31, 2021
Edgar Roth HS '47, BS '52, MA '63 - January 7, 2022
Mary Schadt BA '57 - August 16, 2020
Anne Schafer MA '13 - September 7, 2014
Darrell Schepmann BS '62 - April 3, 2022
Marilyn (Boock) Schmidt BS '62 - September 28, 2021
Pamela (Saville) Schroeder BA '72 - March 9, 2022
Lu (Lemke) Selmeyer BA '70 - July 12, 2022
James Spitzer BA '71 - September 7, 2022
Arlon Steinbach BA '67 - August 1, 2022
Judith Stone MA '94 - April 23, 2022
Joseph Striplin, Licensure '21 - September 11, 2021
Louis Vance BS '64 - September 11, 2022
Kari (Clarke) Weber BA '95 - June 23, 2012
Marilyn (Marquardt) Webern BS '67 - November 29, 2021
Lois (Unger) Whiteside BA '67 - September 7, 2022
Richard Wismar BS '63 - July 13, 2022



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