



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Christmas greetings from all of us here at Concordia University Chicago!

Here on campus, students, faculty, and staff joyfully prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Concordia's cherished traditions—including the annual tree lighting, Lessons and Carols, and a variety of festive activities—bring our community together in faith, reflection, and gratitude. CUC is proud to Stand Tall for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are especially grateful for the enduring support of our alumni and friends. Your generosity sustains our mission and enriches our community of faith. This Christmas season, we invite you to consider sharing the joy of the season with a special gift to Concordia University Chicago. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us continue to offer Christ-centered education that transforms lives.

[Share a gift](#)

We invite you to bring the joy of the season to your family and friends by sharing the stories below, and we pray for joy and peace to fill your hearts this holiday season.

In Christ,

Jeff Hynes

University Foundation President/CEO

Sr. Vice President University Advancement

Alumni *Spotlight*



Dr. Elisabeth Dellegrazie, PhD '21

This month, we are excited to feature our very own **Dr. Elisabeth Dellegrazie**, Assistant Dean of Faculty - Curriculum and Instruction and Ph.D alumna from the class of 2021, who has been named a **Fulbright U.S. Scholar**.

Dellegrazie will pursue her research project, "Active Learning in Teams and the Link to Transversal Skill Development" at the University of Maribor in Slovenia from October 2024 to January 2025. Watch the video below to learn more about how Dr. Dellegrazie is Standing Tall in her vocation.



CUChicago.edu



Become an Alumni Ambassador!

NEW! The offices of Alumni Relations and Admissions at Concordia University Chicago are proud to announce the development of an alumni ambassador program.

Alumni Ambassadors are an extension of the University and provide a unique way to stay connected to CUC, while also supporting our distinct Christian mission. *We are seeking graduates of any degree program to volunteer to be Alumni Ambassadors.*

For more information and to submit an application, visit CUChicago.edu/alumni or click below!

Become an Ambassador



CU on the Road

Last month, CUC hit the road and traveled to Fort Wayne, IN for the **Connections Conference**. We met alumni serving as teachers in the Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana Lutheran districts. The conference concluded with a wonderful social at The Hoppy Gnome with *over 70 alumni!*

To view more photos, visit our Facebook page. Looking ahead in 2025, we are traveling to **Phoenix at Best Practices in Ministry**, **Omaha at LWML**, and the **National Youth Gathering in New Orleans!** Stay tuned to upcoming editions of Cougar Chronicles for further details.



The Final Hurrah: CIT 2025

Since 1951, over 4,000 athletes, coaches, and cheerleaders have brought the CIT tradition to life. Next month, **January 24-25, 2025**, will mark the final Concordia Invitational Tournament, hosted by Concordia Ann Arbor. While we are sad to see this 72 year tradition come to an end, we are encouraging all Cougars to cheer on CUC in person one last time!

Don't miss it! Plan a visit to our sister institution in Ann Arbor and visit CUCougars.com/CIT for additional details.

[Read More](#)



CUC's Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy

CUC senior **Gabrielle Mintrup** was recently honored as a Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy for 2024 at a ceremony in Springfield, IL. One student from each of the four-year, degree-granting institutions in Illinois was recognized for excellence in both academics and extracurricular activities.

"Going to the ceremony in Springfield was a very fulfilling experience, as I got to meet the Student Laureates from the other universities and learn about the amazing things they are doing," she says. "I was also honored to have the chance to talk with some of Illinois' strongest leaders and learn about the powerful impacts they have had on the state. It was motivating to hear from them and be charged with the task of becoming the next generation of leaders."

Congratulations, Gabrielle!

[Read More](#)



Upcoming Events

CIT 2025

Save the dates for the final CIT where the Concordia Cougars will be headed to CUAA.

Date: January 24-25, 2025

Location: Concordia Ann Arbor

[Read more](#)

Pluralist Labs and Film Screening

Local undergrad and graduate students can apply to participate in an ideologically diverse discussion followed by the film "Undivide Us."

Date: January 15, 2025

Location: Concordia-Chicago

[Read more](#)

Best Practices in Ministry Conference

Visit our Booth at the upcoming BPM conference!

Date: February 13-15, 2025

Location: Christ Church Lutheran | Phoenix, AZ

Read more



Alumni Relations

