

THE SPECTATOR

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CUC's President Dr. Russel Dawn

Photo credit to CUC to 'About the President' page

An Interview with President Dr. Dawn

Written by Cassidy Stephenson
Newly inaugurated University President, Dr. Russell Dawn, is five months into his presidency while adjusting to the Chicago area with his family. Prior to accepting his role as the 12th President of Concordia University Chicago, Dawn was a professor of history and political thought at Concordia University Irvine (CUI) for seven years. Before his role at CUI, he was a professor of religion at Lindenwood University in the St. Louis area for three years. Dawn was a corporate lawyer before his teaching positions and completed his Doctor of Philosophy degree in the history of theology at Oxford in between that span of time of his lawyer and teaching occupations.

Dawn remarks how much he and his family love the Chicago area and the increase of accessibility to the downtown area compared to the two-hour commute from Irvine to Los Angeles. Dawn is originally from Colorado so the frigid temperatures of a Chicago winter have not bothered him.

When asked what Dawn hopes to change during his presidency at CUC, he states, "Concordia needs a little more financial stability and I want to help bring that. We have already started to lay out some new plans to help us be on a better financial footing." More importantly, Dawn wants to improve

Concordia University Chicago's academic culture. CUC's motto has remained the same for generations, it is as follows: "If you abide in My word and continue in My word, you are truly My disciples and the truth will make you free." In regards to the motto, Dawn states, "Remaining in God's word sets the foundation and everything is built on that. A part of the joy of being in an academic role is drawing students into the quest for truth."

A huge part of Concordia University Chicago's mission is to evoke a desire to serve others and their community. Another mission of CUC, according to Dawn, is to help students develop a sense of freedom. Dawn states, "Truly free people are people that govern themselves and we want students to graduate with that self-governing mindset." Dawn wishes for the motto to be taught more to students and when people think Concordia University Chicago, to think of an institution that is complete with truth, freedom, and vocation.

The biggest surprise to Dawn in his role as president is the amount of attention focused on him. It's an element that he didn't think much about but something he can get used to. Dawn looks forward to Concordia University Chicago reaching its full potential and embracing its status as the flagship for all Concordia institutions.

Eight CUC Students Inducted Into The Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society



Some of the newly inducted CUC members of Lambda Pi Eta honor society.

Photo Credit to Nicole Garza

Written by Karina Kosmala

On Monday, December 9th, 2019, eight students from the communication department at Concordia University Chicago (CUC) will be inducted as the newest members of the Lambda Pi Eta.

With 500 active chapters across the United States, the Lambda Pi Eta is the official honor society of the National Communication Association. Alpha Epsilon Psi is the chapter specific to CUC.

Professor Tom Salek helped officiate the Alpha Epsilon Psi chapter at CUC, as a way to "encourage students to strive for excellence," and giving a "specific, direct connection to other undergraduate students." The society provides a opportunity for students to network with other students, faculty, and communication professionals.

Furthermore, Professor Salek's goal is to let the honor society function as a student-run organization, allowing members to elect each other for leadership positions for the organization (such as President and Vice President). The student-run organization will work the communication department and Program Coordinator, Nicole Garza, to organize events that interest the students, such as guest

speakers.

This student-run organization will "find ways to engage in the community and outside the classroom," said Salek.

Besides the society allowing students to find sources outside of the classroom to help in their learning, students will receive honor cords at graduation, a certificate, and yearly newsletter showcasing pieces of research in the communication field. If students plan to continue their studies after graduation, they can include their membership to the organization on their resume. In addition to that, the National Communication Association published journals, and host yearly conferences to award research papers submitted on specific areas of communication (health communication, presidential communication, etc.).

Juniors and Seniors that are selected to be a part of the Alpha Epsilon Psi chapter at CUC, have to have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25, a minimum GPA of 3.25 for all communication Studies courses, and currently a student and nominated by a faculty member of the communication department. After a student is nominated, there is a one-time lifetime membership fee of \$39.95 in order to officially be a part of the society.

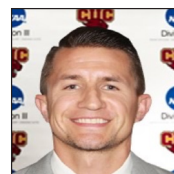
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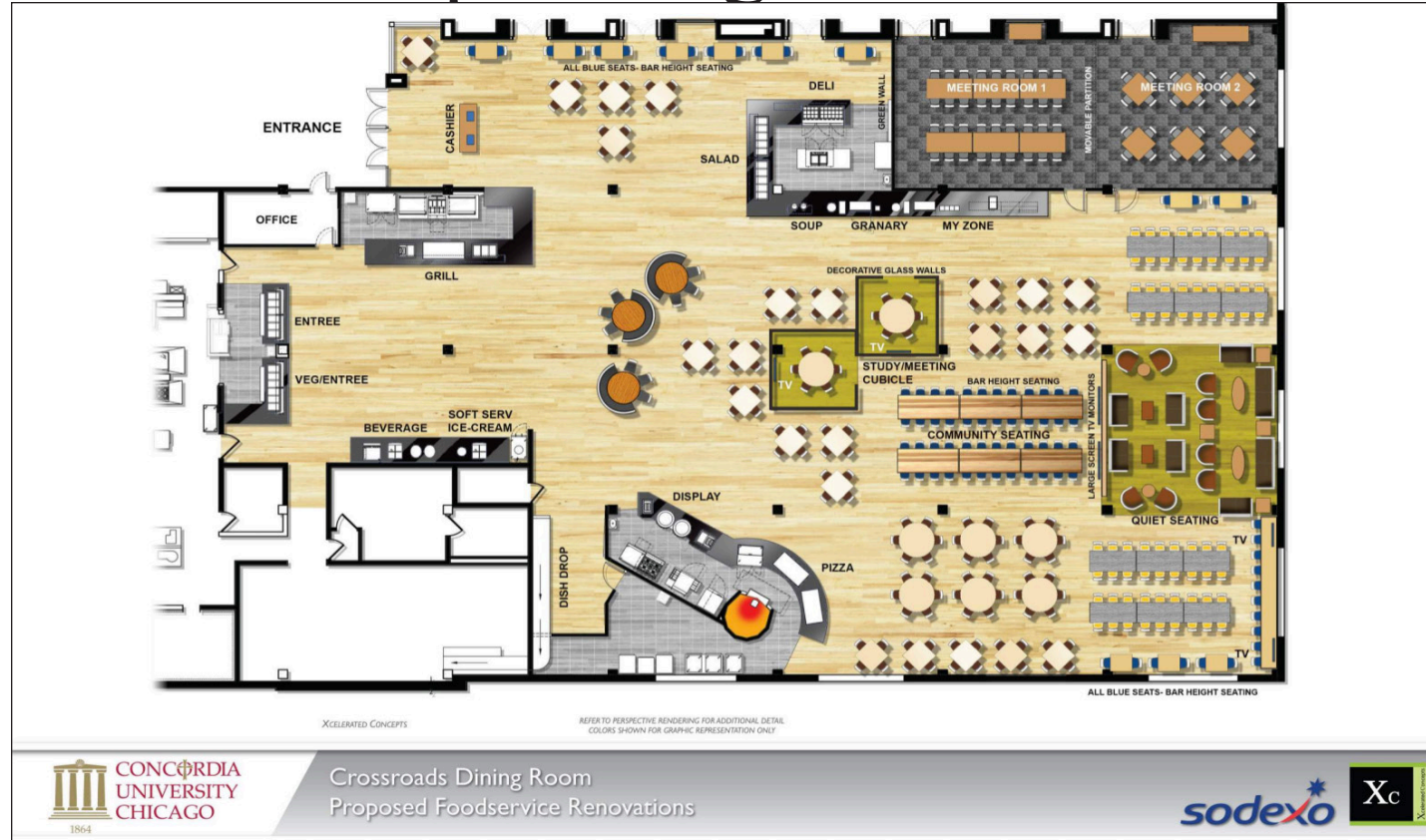
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Sodexo's Upcoming 2020-2021 Plans



Crossroads Dining Room Proposed Plans

Written by Cassidy Stephenson
Housing sent out an email on January 3rd, 2020 that explained some of Sodexo's plans for this semester and their upcoming plans for the 2020-2021 school year. This semester, the Crossroads Dining Hall will have continuous dining. This means that Crossroads will be open from 7:30am to 7pm Monday through Friday, continuously. The weekend hours will remain the same, 11a.m.- 2p.m. and 4:30p.m.- 7p.m.

Meal conversions will no longer be available for students, but you are still able to add Cougar Cash to your account if you are running out at any register or online. Sodexo

will also be adding new meal plans for the 2020- 2021 school year. You will be able to select the one you want on the Housing Application. The All Access Plan is their newest plan. This plan has unlimited meal swipes to Crossroads during their 7:30am to 7pm hours.

This plan also comes with \$200 in Cougar Cash and 10 Guest passes to swipe people into the cafeteria. Both of these are renewed each semester. The All Access Plan is \$2,101 per semester. The Cougar Meal Plan, now called the Block 225, has been upgraded to 225 meals (from 200) and \$300 Cougar Cash (previously \$225). The Maroon Plan, now called the Block

125 plan, has been upgraded to 125 meals (from 120) and \$400 Cougar Cash (from \$275). Block 225 Plan is \$1,901 per semester and Block 125 is \$1,701 per semester.

Dean Kathy Gebhardt spoke on the future plans for Sodexo such as the plans for renovating the cafeteria., "The renovation will likely begin in early April so it can be finished by August for the new academic year."

With the renovations of the cafeteria, the entrance will be moved to the south end, a special area for allergen friendly items, new flooring, different types of seating, and even cubicles for studying.

Photo obtained from Concordia University Chicago



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Editor-in-Chief:
Karina Kosmala

Design Editor:
Madison Albury

Social Media Editor:
Destiny Henschel

Reporters:
Arius Gatson
Destiny Henschel
Mattie Rametta
Cassidy Stephenson
Isaac Strand

Faculty Advisor:
Todd Hauser

Program Coordinator:
Nicole Garza

The Spectator is Concordia University Chicago's Campus Newspaper and conveys the voice of the students. First published in 1925, The Spectator has been providing information to the campus for decades. Any opinions expressed in The Spectator are not necessarily the opinions of Concordia University Chicago.

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todd.hauser@cuchicago.edu

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https://spectator.cuchicago.edu

Meet Dr. Porshe Garner: CUC Travels Abroad New Director of Academic Advising and Study Abroad

Written by Mattie Rametta

Dr. Porshe Garner is the New Director of Academic Advising and Study Abroad. She was born in Oakland, California, but was raised on the South Side of Chicago. Her bachelor's degree is in psychology with a minor in African-American studies. Her master's degree is in education policy studies as well as her Ph.D. is in education policy studies with a graduate minor in women and gender studies. Garner is an alumnus of the University of Illinois.



Dr. Porshe Garner Photo Credit to Concordia University

She has previously been an academic advisor as a graduate student. Garner was Executive Director of The Art Film Foundation (AFF) for a year. AFF is an independent art theatre that just recently closed. Garner also co-organized a collective called "Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths," "(SOLHOT)" where they create youth-serving spaces that serve middle school and high school-aged black girls like libraries and schools. They use art to mediate the celebration of black girlhood. She organizes the campaign, "Black Girl Genius Week," where they bring different artists to showcase their art as well as teach.

"Black Girl Genius Week" will be held in June in Chicago. Garner still works with this organization.

Garner has high hopes for her time at Concordia University Chicago (CUC). She plans to

strengthen our study abroad program, streamline and tighten our processes, and growing the advisors that are here. She wants to grow and improve work conditions so that all students grow and reach their professional goals and desires.

Her long term goals are to increase the number of stu-

dents who are studying abroad. She wants to increase the programming and outreach to students, where she hopes to focus on student development and to create a space for that. Garner wants to create a space where advisors have the opportunity to really get to know their students and develop them as people in order to create men and women who are equipped to lead.

Garner is excited to embark on this new journey as a community, "I am excited to be here [CUC] and I look forward to the work we will do together to make this an even better place because I am all about the next level."

Written by Casey Kuman
The Concordia University Chicago Communication Department has created many trips to Europe. They have gone to Italy three times since 2016. As a whole department, Dr. Laura Pollom, Dr. Todd Hauser, Dr. Susan Ericsson, and Dr. Tom Salek decide when and where they should travel. In May 2016, students and professors traveled to Southern Italy. In 2017, they traveled between Middle and Northern Italy, while in 2019 they traveled near Rome which is Southern Italy. Before students attend this study abroad experience, they usually need to attend an eight-week course regarding an overview of the country. Students learn about rhetoric films and art that ties everything to what they will be experiencing during their trip.

Dr. Pollom stated, "I have attended every trip our department has gone on and I love it! Everyone should have an opportunity to experience Europe."

For a trip to become approved, the department must all agree and there needs to be a minimum of ten students attending as well as a maximum of 35 students. Each

country has a different amount of funding students need to be aware of. Saving ahead and creating fundraisers is the best way to save up for a trip to Europe. The past three trips to Italy were through italylab. education. They help plan and set up an itinerary for the trip. This past May, the students and faculty stayed at The Vesuvian Institute for ten days.

"Trips usually last up between 8-10 days with all expenses included. Students only need to bring money for gifts," said Dr. Pollom.

The Vesuvian Institute is located in Castellammare di Stabia, a hotel and research center that is around the Bay of Naples area. The Institute has a dining room that provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a panoramic view of the Bay of Naples.

To travel abroad is a rewarding experience to have in a lifetime. Individuals who love to explore and learn about different cultures should definitely check out the next upcoming trip to France this coming May. Speak to Dr. Salek for details!



Study abroad poster for Peru

Photo Credits to CUC College of Business

CUC Studies in Peru

Written by Destiny Henschel
Mallory Marach, the International Programs Operational Manager at Concordia University Chicago (CUC), hopes students take the chance of exploring Peru with the College of Business.

On May 10 through May 20, 2020, the faculty of the CUC College of Business are ready to take CUC students on the trip of a lifetime. Tourist events such as Lima City, Pisac Ruins, Machu Picchu, Cusco City and more, will be able to be taken advantage of, while business encounters such as Lima Company and

Cusco Company will be happening as well.

The sequence of events begins with a required course (MGT 4300, Field Study International Business) that is one day a week and is given credit for. Overall fees will cost around \$3,600; however, the more students that register, the more the cost will decrease. The costs include airfare, ground transportation, hotel stays, eight breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, guides, admission fees, medical insurance, 24/7 emergency support, and more.

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Athlete Profile: Mateo Calle

Written by Kayla McCloud

The Concordia University Chicago (CUC) baseball team looks to make their 2020 season a continuation of their success from previous years. There are many key components that will have an impact on how this team performs, including the new coaching staff as well as the return of some key players. One of these key players includes senior Mateo Calle, who looks to end his collegiate career with a strong season.

Calle had 37 starts last season as the designated hitter (DH). During those 37 starts, he had a total of 127 at-bats where he scored 26 runs on 47 hits, including three home runs. In addition to this, Calle contributed 28 RBI's and eight stolen bases off of 12 attempts. These statistics show an improvement from the previous year where he had a total of 8 runs off of 17

at-bats and one RBI.

Calle's journey with baseball is one that is unlike many others. While most people decided upon playing sports at CUC because of their own personal choices, Calle was brought here without much knowledge of what he was getting himself into. Calle put his faith into the game and the people helping him continue to play the game and ended up in Chicago. The journey to River Forest was one that he didn't make alone, coming all the way from Colombia with two of his closest friends, all in search of a chance to play baseball.

Calle began playing baseball at seven years old in his home country of Colombia. The game quickly grew into his passion, becoming the place for him to release all of his emotions. He said that baseball has influenced his life in many ways, teaching him that not everything

in life will be successful, as well as teaching him discipline and how to be responsible.

As Calle grew older, he got involved with the organization "More Than A Game" which helped bring him and two other players from Colombia to the United States to play baseball.

Representatives of "More Than A Game" created videos of Calle, and his two teammates, Jose Mercado and Abe Paz, who both graduated from CUC last year. Then sent the videos to smaller colleges across the United States until they were picked up by a junior college in California for two years before moving to Chicago, where his sponsor lives.

Calle's sponsor, Bret Brizzolara, said that "He's so proud to be who he is; a Colombian, a Cougar". Brizzolara went on to talk about how Calle has grown the last few years and that, "he has grown more than any of the three Colombians, and

that says a LOT because all of them have grown in so many ways." There's a lot for Calle to love about the game of baseball, but being able to work on a team and see that you're going to fail more than you're going to succeed, but still come out in a positive way is something that he will always be thankful for.



"Also, the feeling of hitting a baseball is awesome!!" Calle said when asked about what his favorite part of the game is. Calle's favorite part of playing at CUC is the culture because "even though it's a Division III school we practice and play as if we're playing

at a higher level."

After graduating from CUC, Calle is hoping to stay in the baseball environment by coaching or managing a team at either a college or professional level. Be sure to catch Calle and the rest of the Cougar baseball team in the spring as they prepare to take on a tough season under their new coaching staff.

Coach Profile: Steve Kollar

Written by Arius Gatson

Steve Kollar is the head coach for men's basketball at Concordia University Chicago (CUC). Kollar was born and raised in Wheaton, IL. He attended Greenville University (formerly known as Greenville College) and transferred and went to Elmhurst College for his last three years. He majored in secondary education physical education and health while he was in school. He started his career in 2006 as a physical education and health teacher at a middle school. Shortly after, he long-termed subbed and did student teaching at the high school level, but as he started to get a full-time job, he continued to be a physical education teacher for middle schoolers while working as a coach for high schoolers. As time went on, he wanted to continue his career in sports, and he realized that coaching would create a major impact on students and their lives.

Kollar has been coaching since 2006. He started as a high school coach from 2006-2009 and has been a college-level coach. He has been coaching for 15 years and loves it like no other. Although Kollar has been interested in many sports and has a passion for football, he chose basketball because he

really has a strong passion for basketball. He knew this was the route he wanted to take, and he took it.

Kollar has always been passionate about sports. In high school, he played football, basketball, baseball, and he also has a black belt in taekwondo. In college, the only sport he played was basketball. While Kollar played sports in high school and college, he had the opportunity to have coaches to push him forward and make a difference in his life, and that's something that helped him understand the importance of the role in being a good coach. His coaches were the main reason that he wanted to pursue his career in coaching.

During our time together, Kollar

also discussed what a typical day for the team looks like during the season and during the offseason. "During the season, the team would typically start their day off



with morning lifting before classes. Around 3:30 p.m., the team would then have practice in the gym. After that, the team sometimes has a film session which only lasts 20-30 minutes. Later on, the team

has study tables. Study tables usually happen twice a week, and this is when the team gets together for about an hour or two to do homework. Off-season, on the other hand, is more individual-focused. The team has to lift four days a week, followed by skill work that happens in the open gym. Similar to when the season is in play, they also have study tables. The offsea-

son is typically the team working and building their skills on their own," stated Kollar.

Kollar described his coaching style to be, "passionate, detail-oriented, and encouraging." Kollar discussed how his goal in coaching is to push people to be the best versions of themselves as possible. As a coach, he believes that it is important to build a relationship with his team. Kollar stated, "We want them to do certain things like compete and play, but in order to achieve that, I feel that they need to know that we care about them outside of the floor. As a staff we really take time and we really invest in them to get to know them, how they are doing in the classrooms, and what's going on with their families."

Kollar chose CUC because he felt like he fit the role in what they were looking for. The importance of the program and how CUC wanted it to be structured was really important to Kollar. Another reason he chose CUC was because of the area. CUC is in a nice area and is surrounded by the Chicago area. Kollar believes the recruiting process wouldn't be so hard because of it. He's also close to home, and he's able to create relationships within the big city and be close to home.