

The Spectator

www.spectator.cuchicago.edu

Concordia University Chicago's Student-Run Newspaper

Nov 2018 Volume 97, ISSUE 3

Dr. Gard's Retirement

Written by Karina Kosmala

After five years, (and only taking 14 days off within those five years,) of always being on a tight schedule, running from meeting to meeting, and walking through campus greeting Concordia University Chicago (CUC) students, Dr. Daniel L. Gard is retiring as President of CUC at the end of the 2019 summer.

One of the reasons that Dr. Gard shared why he is retiring as President (after his five year contract has ended), said, "One is always for me, the best interest of the University (CUC). It's always, the most important thing to me, and when I say best interest of the University that means, fundamentally, the best interest of the students, now and into the future. We made tremendous progress over these last years, in facilities, with others coming, plans are laid and in motion..."

Dr. Gard never thought he would be appointed President of CUC. He served in the Navy. He was a theological professor and as a dean at the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and a parish pastor (for five years) of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mishawaka, Indiana.

He was entered into a list among 50 possible candidates for president. The Board of Regents, faculty, staff and student voices along with other factors narrowed the list down until there were three candidates left.

"I had no idea I was going to be in the final three, and at the end of that process, the Board of Regents chose, of the three, me to elect as President. When I got the phone call, my first words were, 'You've got to be kidding.' So my wife and I had to make the decision (with my wife), ... She was supportive of it, and I made the decision then to accept the call as President and so we moved here (from Fort Wayne, Indiana) within a month to begin my work," said Dr. Gard.

The responsibilities of the president of CUC or any of the Concordia Universities fall under the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church of Missouri Synod.

"The president is the academic head, administrative head, and the spiritual head of the University (CUC)... For example,

with academics, I am not the chief academic officer, Dr. John Zillman is and he serves and reports to me. He has responsibility for all academic issues at the university... I am responsible for everything from the budget of the university, to the facilities of the university, to the security of the university, to personnel and staff. In other words, everything ultimately flows to the president."

Dr. Gard said, "However, when Dr. Gard stepped into his role, he didn't know the other aspects that apply to the role as President."

"The only person who knows what it is to be University President is one who is or has been. There's always lots of surprises, things you didn't know were part of the job. Just an example with athletics and being a part of the leadership of the athletic conference, responsibility to the NCAA, National Collegiate Athletic Association, to ensure that we are in compliance always.... I didn't know anything about that, but I did have to learn it and fortunately the athletic leadership here has and keeps me well informed and they are very careful that we remain always in compliance with everything..." said Dr. Gard

During these five years, Dr. Gard helped with improving CUC's facilities, such as the residence halls, Trusheim Hall and the newly built Concordia Hall, the first new residence hall since 1969, along with the renovated and renamed West Annex as the Kreft Center. He mentioned that the upcoming plans for CUC include renovating or building a new science building, as well as improving the facilities for athletics.

As for retirement, Dr. Gard and his wife plan to move back to Fort Wayne, Indiana (where he lived with his wife for 25 years).

"I am now 12 years overdue on a book (The Concordia Commentary Series, The Concordia Publishing House), a commentary that I have to finish, so I've not



Above: The Rev. Daniel L. Gard, Ph.D.

been able to do anything since I've been here. So, I'll be writing, I have no firm commitments yet, but I'll probably teach once in a while in different places," said Dr. Gard.

He added, "I want to also let people know that even though, that I will at that point retire. I'm not retired yet, this Monty Python thing, 'I'm not dead yet.' I intend to be fully engaged. I'm not going to be a lame duck president, or something like that, but when I do move back to Indiana, this University will always be a place, I'm going to do everything I can to support. To what extent that is, will be up to the new president cause I [will] no longer be a president, there will be a new president's decision, and I respect that. But my love for this university's going to last the rest of my life. So whatever I can do, whatever that might be, I will do for this place."

Thank you for serving as our President of CUC, and we wish you the best of luck on your retirement.



Dr. Gard takes photo with a student at a spring commencement. (Photo credit cuchicago.edu)

Academic Early Warning

Written by Karina Kosmala

Academic Early Warning: a phrase that most students are familiar with and hopefully never have to personally encounter when taking any course(s) in college.

The Academic Early Warning is issued to students when a professor sees that the student is falling behind in the course. Once the professor submits the Academic Early Warning for that student, the student receives an automatic email notifying them. The team that is in charge of the Academic Early Warning System would contact the student and try to suggest ways to help them improve in their courses that will specifically work for them.

Some students associate the Academic Early Warning System with a negative connotation rather than a positive one, which Mia Garcia-Hills, the Associate Dean for Student Success, hopes to change.

"What we don't want students to think is when they get a warning that they're in trouble. We want them to feel like this is an opportunity for us to help whatever students situation may be. That it's an opportunity for us to help the students. Unfortunately, the majority of students who receive a warning don't respond and they don't ask for help, and they don't acknowledge that we emailed them. We have a whole team of people who try to help out with getting students the help that they need..." said Garcia-Hills.

One of these suggestions can include withdrawing from the course. However, an Academic Early Warning System can be issued at any time in the semester, including after the withdrawal deadline. Despite that, it doesn't mean that the student is necessarily out of options and alone in finding one.

"What we are trying to do is encourage our faculty members to say when they're submitting their warnings, 'Hey this person [would benefit] from using a peer tutor. Or this person would benefit by going to math center.' And so in my outreach to the student at that point, I'm making sure to include things like, 'this is how you can request your peer tutor,' and with that it's

continued on page 2

really easy, because they just do it online, and they can schedule it and it's based on the student's schedule and it's not based on their [peer tutor's] hours like they try to make it so the peer tutor's available to the student's when they need them..." said Garcia-Hills.

In some cases, that might not guarantee that the student will pass the course, but the student shouldn't consider it as a defining point in their life. There might be other factors in the student's life that is causing poor performance in the student's academics where counseling might help.

"I think that in doing the work with this early warning system that for those students in particular who are receiving warnings after the withdrawal deadline, that they feel the sense of 'I have no ability to control anything right now', it's really just about counseling the students. Letting them know that if they are in a situation where they know for sure, that they are going to fail a class, that failing a class isn't meaning you're failing at life...that sometimes when we fail at something it's actually one of the best learning experiences that we can have, it teaches us a lot about ourselves and just trying to help students... think about, 'ok, next semester is brand new, I get to start over again.' That's not always true with everything else that happens in your life..." said Garcia-Hills

It all starts with communication. Communicating with the Academic Early Warning System team or the professor to come up with a plan to help the student find a resource that will best work for the student.

Season Opener Exhibition Game Ends In Cougar Loss

Written by Anthony Schlott

The 2018-2019 Men's basketball season began on Tuesday, as the Concordia University Chicago Cougars traveled to Valparaiso University to take on the Crusaders. Both teams were hoping to notch one in the win column, and get the season started on the right foot.

The first half was all



Valparaiso's game. Shooting a stunning 67 percent, it was an aerial attack as the Crusaders managed to sink 23 shots, including 4 from deep, giving them a commanding 63-31 point lead when halftime finally

rolled around. On top of being able to run the court offensively, the Crusaders managed to shut the Cougars offense down, virtually making them nonexistent. Despite getting off 38 shots, CUC could only sink 11, with sophomore guard Jalen Meeks topping the scoring with only 8 points.

Halftime must have sparked something inside the Cougars, as they came out swinging to get things started. Able to cut the lead down to only 20 before the Crusaders snapped out of the slump, Meeks and the Men were electric. All good things must end, however, and the defense of the first half returned to shut the Cougars down, dropping their shooting percentage down to a rough 35 percent. Despite their tough fight at the beginning of the half, the Cougars just could not catch up the Crusaders, and the D1 team walked away with the win, as the score was 121-65 at the final buzzer.

The Cougars will have their

next game on Thursday at home versus Rockford, as they fell to Kalamazoo on Monday, 114-93.



Jaylen Meeks, number 13, looks for a pass in a game against Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) from the previous season. (Photo by Maci Killman)

Upcoming Home Games



JAN 5 (SAT)
4:15 pm
vs.
Dominican University



JAN 12 (SAT)
4:15 pm
vs.
Illinois Institute of Technology



JAN 15 (TUE)
7:00 pm
vs.
Benedictine University

Sodexo Addresses Food Allergy Concerns

Written by Katie Vazquez

In the midst of a popular food allergy inquiry pertaining to Sodexo options, Olivera Bezanovic, the general manager, had some clarification as to what is available, some current improvements to recent complaints, as well as some insight for what is to come. According to Bezanovic, there is to be a potential remodel in the year

2020 where there will be a complete section of the cafeteria dedicated to gluten free. Currently, certain options like gluten free pizza are not entirely gluten free because



Photo Credit Katie Vazquez

the ovens they use to cook the pizza are the same ovens that are contaminated with non-gluten free crust. Gluten free crust is available

with this exception, but it is to be asked for and will take about 10-15 minutes to make.

As for improvements made to recent complaints, there is now two whole cooler shelves in the Library Café dedicated to gluten free. There will also be a new option of gluten-free mac and cheese with broccoli. In the Christopher Center and The Cougar Den, students can usually find a gluten free cooler with some varied options. Specifically in the Den, Bezanovic has noted to inquire about a gluten free bread option with Subway and corn tortillas for those who wish to have a quesadilla. There are gluten-free buns for hamburgers but have yet to be advertised.

It is an ambition of hers to make sure these options are labeled so students can tell what exactly is gluten free, but until then she advises students to ask their server. As for miscellaneous food allergies, such as Eggs, Nuts, or Lactose, Bezanovic assures that all pasta used by the cafeteria does not include egg, nor do they use nuts or peanuts in anything they cook. Students allergic to lactose should find the soy milk options available. For anyone who feels they need further support in their diet or has additional specific allergies, Bezanovic is open to taking grocery lists for any needed accommodations.

Editor Daniel Hasko	Editor Karina Kosmala	Editor Maci Killman	Editor Katie Vazquez	Social Media Editor Deanna Wilson
Writer Savannah Singletary	Writer Francisco Peralta	Writer Casey Kuman	Writer AJ Schlott	

“America To Me”

Written by Francisco Peralta



Photo credit by Starz

On Thursday, October 25th, the University of Chicago’s campus hosted an event in their Logan Center for the Arts. The event was aimed to raise awareness

for better ways to have a classroom environment that offers equity and equal opportunity amongst their students, to ensure they achieve in the classroom setting and are prepared for life beyond it. This conversation was led by the America to Me group, whose mission is to spread awareness on the importance of equity in the school environment by traveling to various cities across the United States and presenting different episodes from the Starz Entertainment hit series, America to Me. This documentary series follows a group of high school students from different grade levels and their journey throughout the 2015-2016 academic year at Oak Park River Forest High School.

Within the episode, some themes that were present to the audience included: the importance of positive role models for students who don’t have one, the importance

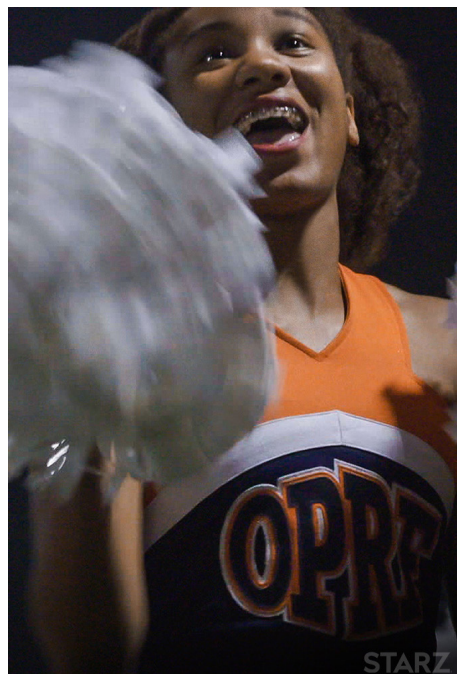


Photo credit by Starz

in awareness of academic differences students are faced with due to their background, and the importance of fostering an environment of both equality and equity, ensuring the success of all students within

the classroom. Audiences were presented with characters who, by presenting their struggles through interviews and visuals, could teach audiences who were not aware of the happenings within the classroom environment.

After the screening, there were guest speakers that shared about their experience in education and what they have noticed as either a student, classroom teacher, school official, or as a reporter within the halls of OPRF high school. Towards the end of the presentations, the America to Me organization announced that Starz was offering a 10-week free trial to individuals who were interested in presenting this program to others, so that the conversation of the importance of both equity and equality could continue beyond the walls of University of Chicago’s Logan Center for the Arts walls.

Mediating Paths of Campus Culture

Written by Casey Kuman

Concordia University Chicago’s College of Business (CUC) has a partnership with Hebei University of Economics and Business (HUEB) in Northern China for international students to learn on our campus. This program contains mainly undergraduate business students, but there are also some graduate students. All of them together make a total of 60 students on campus. Four students are also getting their PhD in education computer science. The national college exam is given to students and their scores go for admission. This exam also helps students decide which major to have once they are in college.

Once students come to America, many like to change their



Photo credit to Kun Liang-Rittling

name or go by their last name because their names may be hard to pronounce. One student named Jiabao Ren changed her name to Cecilia. Another student named Liushuai Wang changed his name to Jackson.

“I chose my name according to my favorite letters and pronunciation,” said Cecilia (Jiabao

Ren).

Student Services Manager, Ellen Newman, helps with all international students. Newman said, “This year, there is a brand new ESL program for English. It is a five week course offered in the summer, or eight week courses that begin October 22nd.”

This program helps students learn English and helps prepare them for certain classes. Many Chinese international students are taking at least 12 credit hours during eight week courses.

Kun Liang-Rittling is a Liaison for CUC’s China program and she has been here on campus for 12 years. She works with many of the international students.

“Certain students may come back for their Master of Business Administration (MBA) or their PhD in business administration (DBA). Fifty percent of students come back to finish their MBA and

20 percent come back to earn their DBA. Currently there are eight MBA students and four DBA students” said Liang-Rittling.

Every year, the Chinese student population increases and their test scores improve. Many students prefer our teaching atmosphere on campus because it is much smaller than their university in China. They have excellent academic performance and social engagement which leads them to make the Dean’s list. Several students at CUC have received this achievement their first semester.



Photo credit to Kun Liang-Rittling

Hidden Figures Series: Examining Latino Invisibility

Written by Karina Kosmala

On October 18th, 2018, Dr. Karen Cruz, assistant professor of English, presented her discussion and presentation on Latino Invisibility. Her presentation began with the possible assumption of where this notion of invisibility comes from, reading excerpts from Richard Rodriguez, the ‘famous Latino author,’ book titled, Brown. Cruz stated from the text, ‘Brown as impurity. I write of a color that is not a singular color, not a stripped recipe, not an unexpected result. I write about a race in America in hopes of undermining race in America.’

Dr. Karen Cruz stressed the racial paradigm conflict where, for some, the perception of skin color conflicts with the culture/heritage that the person is from. She continued the presentation through the analysis of how Latinas are depicted as both invisible and hypervisible. Hypervisible in terms of how they are viewed by the Anglo society, viewing Latinas, as Cruz described, “wild and exotic.” In terms of invisibility, Latinas are presented with this ill-favored attention from Anglo men, crossing the lines of undesired attitudes addressed to Latinas, claiming ‘privilege’ to women.

Encountering this attitude

of invisibility came at a young age for Dr. Cruz when she was one of the ten students selected to skip a grade unlike a fellow student who responded to this news by saying, “You’re just a girl and you’re a spic.” Alluding to the idea that a Latina can’t achieve before her counterpart does. Her mother advised her then to hide her Puerto Rican identity with a ‘Spanish’ identity, as a form of ‘protection.’ To counteract these attitudes and perceptions that foster invisibility and hypervisibility in society, Cruz advises the idea of educating others about this issue, being aware that this is prevalent whether it reading literary texts about the issues that Latinos face

and/or engaging in conversations that evolve around the issues.

Cruz stated that Judith Ortiz Kofers work, a Latina Writer, “intentionally criticizes systems of representation that both render Latinas invisible and hypervisible. In the Latin deli, Ortiz Kofers articulates la lucha, a struggle of a range of Latina characters.” According to Cruz, where Latinas are stereotyped in “a cultural framework regarding sexuality that views the Latina by the dominant Anglo society, as ‘hot tamales,’ and ‘sexual firebrands.’”

Annual Christkindlmarket Returns Downtown

Written by Katie Vazquez

Every year since 1996, Chicago has held the Christkindlmarket. A tradition that has increased with popular demand, now popping up in several locations such as Wrigleyville, Naperville, and Milwaukee. Its longest running location, since 1997, has been held at Chicago's Daley Plaza. Keep in



Unique hand-crafted and blown-glass ornaments can be found at the various ornament shops at the 2018 Christkindlmarket in downtown Chicago. (Photo by Josiah Reyes)

mind that some of the secondary locations might be missing a few vendors found at the original location. Some locations are newer than others, and the one in Wrigleyville is not participating this year due to construction.

The Market currently sells handmade German ornaments, decorations, cuisine, and alcoholic beverages. The ornament shop is a hands down place to stop and take a look around. Ornaments upon ornaments are sorted into various categories from colors, animals, and even food! There are a couple ornament shops placed at different spots throughout the market to cut down on the lines.

Some crowd favorite foods that are being served from various vendors include apple strudel, potato pancakes, and hot chocolate served in a differently designed mug each year. This year, a popular mug being sold is shaped as a snowman. The second souvenir mug to choose from is the heart shaped mug that displays the Christkindlmarket on it and the 2018 year.

It wouldn't be a German market without German beer wafting in the air! The Christkindlmarket serves imported



The 2018 snowman mug collectible, also known as "Oma" is pictured above. (Photo credit to Christkindlmarket Facebook)

beer from Germany for eight dollars a serving. Unfortunately, it does not come in a souvenir mug like the hot chocolate does, but that shouldn't stop you from trying something different!

The Christkindlmarket is no doubt a special spot to go with friends, family, or a date to get in the spirit of the holiday season and enjoy some delicious food. It is even a notable site to buy unique or sentimental gifts for Christmas. Transportation to the market is very simple. Just down Harlem is the green line that will go downtown with a very short walk to Daley Plaza if you get off at the Clark/Lake stop. For Concordia commuters, there is also the Blue Line that will stop right on Washington, the same

street as the Richard J. Daley Center. If neither of these options work, check out the stops on your nearest available CTA or Metra.



Christkindlmarket's second mug for the 2018 year is a heart shaped mug inspired by German traditions. (Photo credit to Christkindlmarket Facebook)

Free Holiday Events in Chicago

- Chicago Lincoln Park Zoo Lights
- Garfield Park Conservatory's Holiday Flower Show 'Tickled Pink'
- Winterland at Gallagher Way in Wrigleyville

Guatemala Mission Trip

Written by Casey Kuman

Concordia University Chicago will be going on a mission trip to Guatemala this upcoming May 18th to the 25th. There are up to 14 spots available for students to sign up. Applications and financial contracts need to be turned in by December 7, 2018, to Deaconess Betsy Karkan to secure your spot. It is a full week that includes the flight, housing, food, and insurance which costs \$975. Students will be traveling to communities of Guatemala City, El Rincón, Amatitlan, and Buena Vista. Throughout the trip, students

and staff will be assisting and supporting an ongoing ministry between eight Guatemalan citizens called Groundwork Guatemala. They serve people spiritually and physically. Each community starts in the morning with faith lessons and home visits. Students can also help sponsor children to help with educational needs.

Tons of donations go toward replenishing supplies, hygiene kits, and school supplies. "We help set up health clinics by giving medicines, preventative care, prenatal care,

vitamins, and thermometers," stated Deaconess Betsy Karkan.

Many people in Guatemala are nutrient deficient and lack the resources for many supplies. CUC students and many other people help sponsor many children each year. About \$20,000 is donated for these supplies. During home visits, students are introduced to a new culture, practice Spanish, and some translators help throughout visits. Many students after being there for only one week pick up many Spanish terms. Inside the house that the students and sponsors stay in, there is a craft shop with souvenirs and the money goes toward their specific needs. Also, some areas in Guatemala aren't the safest, everyone needs to make sure to never walk alone, never to carry valuables with them, and they also take a private van to different areas. Everyone only carries a Bible and water bottles when traveling throughout the trip.

CUC has gone on eight trips to Guatemala which started in 2011. The smallest group that went was nine people. Each and every year there is an increase of student sponsors and donations. There are a variety of different people that attend this mission and each team is unique. It is staff led and was first proposed by Deaconess Betsy Karkan and Pastor Jeffrey



Leininger. Karkan got involved in the planning process and said it is a great immersion experience. Karkan is a sponsor of two kids and has watched them grow. She helps with their educational and medical needs. There are 250 students in the program and many people like to mentor them. CUC students can use financial money and the entire amount will be charged to their account. It is like being charged for tuition and for classes. Some students have fundraised in the past by getting donations from their church, Go Fund Me accounts, and some have created bracelets and sold them. "Groundwork Guatemala" is a great program, and going on a mission trip to Guatemala is a special opportunity to have. To serve others spiritually and physically is an awarding experience and to share the love of God with others is very important. This week-long mission trip will give you everlasting memories. Sign up with Deaconess Betsy Karkan as soon as possible to secure your spot!

The Spectator is Concordia University Chicago's campus newspaper and conveys the voice of students. First published in 1925, The Spectator has been providing information to the campus for decades.

IF INTERESTED IN JOINING THE SPECTATOR OR WANT TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT:

TODD.HAUSER@CUCCHICAGO.EDU