

The Spectator

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Concordia University Chicago's Student-Run Newspaper

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Fiona, The Unofficial 'Official' Campus Dog

Written by Maci Killman

A familiar furry face walks the paved paths at Concordia University Chicago (CUC). Almost 10 years old this May, Fiona has seen Concordia change with new buildings, faculty, and students with each passing year. The one thing that stays the same is the happiness Fiona brings with each walk to campus.

"She [Fiona] was so small, she couldn't really go very far, a couple houses. But little by little, I think her first big walk was over to Concordia (CUC)," said Howie Japlon, Fiona's owner and husband of Mary Japlon.

Often navigating her own route when walking around campus with her owner, Fiona knows where the doors are to the buildings. There has actually only been very few buildings she's not been in on campus. "She [Fiona] used to wander into the training room. She's been in the art gallery, she's been in the campus center, she's been in the new dorm building, she's been in the old dorm building, she's been in the administration building," said Howie.

With the eagerness to approach anyone who calls her name, Fiona usually walks herself with whomever is handling her following closely behind. Mary



Pictured above is Fiona when she was a puppy. (Photo credit by Mary and Howie Japlon)

Japlon described a freshman orientation group, and how they first heard Fiona become the campus dog.

"Everytime we would go over there, she [the orientation guide] would point out to the parents 'there's our campus dog Fiona.' And at first we [Mary and Howie] would try to say, 'well she's not the campus dog but now we're like OK,' and now we just go stand with the group."

Mary described Fiona's main goal aside from receiving as much human attention as possible: to



Fiona can be seen at her happiest when walking around with something as simple as a McDonald's bag. (Photo credit by Mary and Howie Japlon)

find food. With years of experience walking across Concordia, Fiona knows where the trash cans are, where the food comes from, and where the squirrels drop the food around campus. "She'll find it, and every time at night when I'm out walking her, like she's very disappointed if she can't find something to take home. A wrapper is all she's looking for, she just wants something to carry home," said Mary.

Bringing Fiona's two goals together is something that brings joy with each walk. That is why football season is one of Fiona's favorites. "She knows when it's football season because when we go out she will hear the announcer. She'll make a beeline because she knows the canteen and burgers are going to be there," said Howie.

Some say a dog's brain has the ability to process smells 40 times greater than the human's brain. With that being said, Fiona's nose lets her know there is still one building she hasn't been in yet on campus. Students and faculty are often seen going in and out of the revolving doors with food, or smelling like food. "She really wants to go to the cougar den," Mary said, adding she thinks it's best to leave that building unexplored since it serves food.



Fiona stops to greet students walking on campus. (Photo Provided by Mary and Howie Japlon)

Where Else Does Fiona Go?

Fiona's presence extends well beyond the sidewalks of CUC. With the help of Mary and Howie, Fiona became a certified Canine Good Citizen (CGC) in the spring of 2018. Canine Good Citizen (CGC) is an American Kennel Club (AKC)



Fiona taking a photo with the women's lacrosse team in their locker room. (Photo credit by Mary and Howie Japlon)

program to reward good manners for dogs and responsible pet ownership. Canine Good Citizen (CGC) is a two part program that requires practice and evaluation before the certificate is awarded to the applicants.

Since becoming a CGC, Fiona, Mary, and Howie have been able to volunteer their time to help others. During the recent cold spell that happened in January, Fiona visited Oak Park Public Library where the homeless were staying out of the cold. "She enjoys seeing them, they enjoy seeing her," said Mary.

Aside from visiting the homeless at the Oak Park Public Library, Fiona also goes there to help read to children once a month, and she visits hospice patients on separate occasions. In addition to all of the family's volunteering, the Japlon's received a phone call after the lockdown at Concordia

University Chicago in the fall, and were asked to bring Fiona on campus, "... and we did," said Mary.

Living in close proximity to CUC for many years has allowed them to see a lot of change. One change the Japlons are not enthused about is the departure of their neighbor, Dr. Daniel L. Gard. Being neighbors has allowed their family to see him often. Mary and Howie described Dr. Gard and his wife Annette Gard, as great neighbors, nice, and very welcoming on campus.

"We've seen them all [CUC Presidents]. We've been here 30 years. By far, he's the most friendly," and "we really like him," said Mary.

As Dr. Gard will be retiring at the end of this upcoming summer, a new president will take his spot. Not before one last traditional campus appearance at graduation, where Dr. Gard is handing diplomas to new CUC graduates. For many students this may be the last opportunity to see Dr. Gard; however, for some, it may be just another opportunity to see Fiona.

"She [Fiona] usually goes to graduation. She greets everybody. Any place there is people she will park herself. Last year she walked through the building and it's like she was doing low fives to everybody," said Howie.

For many upcoming graduates, it may be the last time to pet Fiona as they depart campus for their next chapter. A reminder of the happiness that trots across campus daily, spelling out her name, is etched into a corner piece of concrete by the bell tower. Even though the Japlon's are unaware of how her name got placed there, through their smiles, they said maybe it should have been a paw print instead.



Fiona poses for a photo in front of the pillars at CUC. (Photo credit by Mary and Howie Japlon)

Communication Class Interviews Jesse Thorn

Written by Caleb Dehning

It's a rare sight to see college students willingly engaging with course material.

Sometimes it's a challenge to keep the \$100+ textbook closed for as long as possible as a semester progresses. However, sometimes students are given the opportunity to directly interact with their own coursework. As was the case with professor Todd Hauser's topics class on Journalistic Interviewing this semester. The small class of six students recently set up and conducted a phone interview with Jesse Thorn, the host of the podcast that outlined the course.



Communication students interviewed Jesse Thorn on October 26th, 2018. Jesse Thorn is the host of the podcast show, "The Turnaround with Jesse Thorn." (Photo credit to www.maximumfun.org)

These students would listen and respond to hour-long podcasts of Thorn's show called "The Turnaround", where he would sit down with professional interviewers (such as Ira Glass, Larry King, and even Jerry Springer). So on October 26, 2018, these students gathered in professor Hauser's office and spend a little over an hour asking questions to Thorn.

"I really liked how comfortable we could converse with him," says J.R. Bussard, a Communication minor, enrolled in the course. "He seemed like a really down-to-earth guy and he had some extremely relatable stories."

The topics covered by the student's questions ranged from

Thorn's experience with the various interviewers, from the podcast shows discussed in class, to advice on obtaining dream careers.

"My favorite piece of advice he gave was how we shouldn't be concerned about money when it comes to doing what we love," reflects Karina Kosmala. "He was very adamant that while we should be concerned with making ends meet, money alone should never hinder us from getting or creating the types of jobs that would make us happy in life."

"The Turnaround" with Jesse Thorn is a "Maximum Fun" studios podcast and can be subscribed to on any podcast streaming app, or downloaded from iTunes.

Robert J. Johnson Presents Artwork at the Ferguson Art Gallery

Written by Karina Kosmala

On January 20, 2019, Robert J. Johnson gave an "Artist Talk" presenting his paintings in the Ferguson Art Gallery of everyday observations (of people or of nature) that he encountered. These everyday observations were painted using oil and acrylic paints. For one art piece, he used computer images. He said, "So you can use contemporary tools, don't always think that I'm so old that you have to use a brush or the airbrush or things that we used to use back in the day."

The theme of the paintings that he presented featured restaurants as well as abstract pieces. In his paintings, he tried to capture the atmosphere of the restaurant and the employees in the restaurant, when he and a group of his friends visited a different restaurant for breakfast every Wednesday.

Whereas for the other art pieces that didn't feature restaurants, he said, "I have an impression in my mind and I start to develop it."

Robert J. Johnson is a teacher at the Chicago Public Schools, and a Director for the Bureau of Art for CPS. He mentioned that he didn't ultimately start in the art field when he started college. Johnson entered Loyola University Chicago studying philosophy; however, when his mother questioned what he was going to do with a bachelor in philosophy, he reconsidered it. He left Loyola University Chicago and stopped at the Art Institute of Chicago. That was the first time he ever visited the Art Institute and after that he mentioned that his "whole life changed."

He concluded his "Artist Talk" mentioning how to progress as a beginning artist. "I think one of the most important things is skill building that you are required to develop as a beginning artist so you could represent all these ideas that you have in some manner. The skills that I learned was drawing,

painting, sculpture, printmaking, all kinds of things. So that I'm able to represent my ideas with a number of different materials."

Robert J. Johnson's artwork can be viewed in the Ferguson Art Gallery from Jan. 14th through Feb. 23rd, 2019 and are available for purchase as well. To view Robert J. Johnson online, go to bigcrayola.info and click "Concordia University Gallery Show."



Robert J. Johnson pictured above pointing at his own artwork at a previous Ferguson Art Gallery in 2006 at Concordia University Chicago. (Photo credit bigcrayola.info)

Communication Department Becomes Live Audience Members At WGN Studios

Written by Caleb Dehning

On November 16th, the Communication Department took a group of students on a trip to the WGN-TV studios for a live-taping of the show "Man of the People". Hosted by WGN sportscaster, Pat Tomasulo, "Man of the People" is the station's newest show. Nicole Garza, the department's new program coordinator, set up the whole event, her first since starting the position last year.

"I had never done anything like this before, so it involved me hunting down different people and

making sure we had approval before I could move forward with the event," Garza stated. "You don't know how much goes into planning an outside event until you're the one scrambling to make sure everything is perfect and you're not missing anything."

The live-taping session included a post-shoot Q&A with Tomasulo as well as a tour of the WGN studios. The two groups of students

(CUC's group plus a small group from Chicago State University) got to ask questions ranging from his experience as a broadcaster, as well as a writer of the show, where he helped develop and establish. Though Garza felt the stress of making this experience for the students happen, she was able to take some time as an attendee herself.

"I think it was an amazing experience to see a behind-the-

scenes look at a show -- all the hard work put into writing and camera work, especially when the producer mentioned the tight deadlines they have. It definitely put things into perspective for me."

"Man of the People" airs every Saturday night at 10 pm CST on local WGN Television.



Cougar Basketball Closes Out Their Seasons

Written by AJ Schlott

Women's Basketball

In their final game of the season, the Concordia University Chicago (CUC) Cougars Women's basketball team honored their two senior players in their final game of the season. Seniors Kayla Horlacher and Jessica Slomcheck both looked to end on a high note as their NCAA careers had reached the end. The Cougars would not let their seniors down, as they managed to win a nail biter over the Aurora University Spartans by a score of 77-76.

The first half of this game was a domination by the Cougars. Junior Michaela Thornton had that magic touch, scoring 20 points in the first half, a career best for her. Outscoring the Spartans by a stunning margin of 31-5, the Cougars looked as if they wanted to erase any chance of the Spartans coming anywhere close to winning. Even senior Kayla Horlacher, added to the fun, drilling two very deep three point shots. She would go on to finish with a career high of 16 points in the game. With the halftime score at 50-20, the game looked like it was already wrapped up neatly.

The Spartans must have had one amazing pep talk in the lock-



er room, because their second half onslaught showed that it worked. Although the Cougars, led by Horlacher, did their best to stay in the lead, the Spartans began their gradual creep back into the game. The fourth quarter; however, was dominated by Aurora. While the second quarter was the best of the season for the Cougars, the fourth quarter proved to be one of the worst, with the women only able to tack on seven points to their narrow lead. The Spartans; however, seemed to want revenge for the first half barrage, and they put up a whopping 30 points to close out the game. With time running out, sophomore Sam Bloom hit two clutch free throws to give the Cougars a one point lead, and ultimately a game winner.

With this win, the Concordia University Chicago Cougars Women's Basketball team ended their season at 8-17 overall and with an 8-12 conference record.



(Sr) Jessica Slomcheck, Guard/Forward from Houston, TX. Majoring in Exercise Science. (Photo credit CUC Athletics)



(Sr) Kayla Horlacher, Guard, from Tinley Park, IL. Majoring in Social Work. (Photo credit CUC Athletics)

Men's Basketball

In a fitting finish to a rough season, the Concordia University Chicago (CUC) Cougars found themselves on the wrong end of a 99-88 loss against the Aurora University Spartans this past Saturday. The Cougars honored seniors Mitch Pelissier and Jamaal Turner, both of whom wrapped up their NCAA careers with CUC.

The first half was a back and forth battle, with both teams taking leads and giving them up. The Cougars offense, led by Pelissier, brought an onslaught of points, nailing key three pointers as well as locking down inside the paint. As halftime approached, it looked as if the Cougars would be headed to the locker room down by six points, but freshman Landen Gladney would see to that as he hit a buzzer beater, bringing the halftime score to 54-50 Aurora.

That shot must have shook the Spartans as they came out with

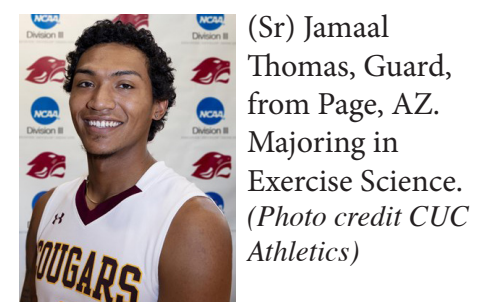
a renewed fury to kick things off in the second half. Gladney's shot must have also inspired the Cougars, as they came out just as strong, and the offensive bombardment began again. Despite bringing the score down to just a one point difference, the men in blue from Aurora would not give up. As the Cougars would get close, the Spartans would pull away, and this game of tag would continue on long towards the final minutes of the game. Ultimately, the Cougars would not be able to keep up, and one last run from the Spartans was more than enough to seal the outcome of the game.

With this loss, the Concordia University Chicago Cougars Men's Basketball Team finished the season at 6-19 overall, with a 6-14 conference record.

Thank you to all the fans for their continual support all season long, and thank you to our seniors for their dedication and contribution to the team over their years here.



(Sr) Mitchell Pelissier, Guard, from Puyallup, WA. Majoring in Sports Management. (Photo credit CUC Athletics)



(Sr) Jamaal Thomas, Guard, from Page, AZ. Majoring in Exercise Science. (Photo credit CUC Athletics)

Northwestern Mutual Looking For Interns

Written by Karina Kosmala

With internship applications deadlines due almost around the corner, Northwestern Mutual is making its presence on campus, trying to recruit Concordia University Chicago students for positions for the spring and summer semesters. Northwestern Mutual Chicago, in Rosemont, is known for sponsoring Cougar Tank competitions is looking for interns to fill financial representative positions.

On Thursday, February 7th, 2019, Sierra Poor had an informational table for Northwestern Mutual explaining the internship.

"Basically, what you will be doing is working alongside with a financial advisor, seeing how they do everything and then you would be test driving that role yourself. So you would be building, your own clients, you would be helping people with their finances, planning out their savings or anything like that," said Sierra Poor.

These internships are paid with a flexible schedule with opportunity to lead to full time positions within the company. Northwestern Mutual accepts ten students from Concordia University Chicago and

ten students from Dominican University (DU), a total of 15-20 students a semester.

Students from any major can apply, not necessarily business majors.

"As long as you're motivated, have the basic skills of time management and being organized and ready to learn," said Poor.

Poor joined Northwestern Mutual in the beginning of August and is a marketing intern for them, where she part of the recruiting process for the internships. One of the projects that she worked on include the poster for the River Forest Rivalry Cup (the CUC basketball game against DU on February 9th).

Molly Martin, the director of recruitment, and Thomas Canale, leader of the firm, can provide more information about the internships and the possibility of an interview.



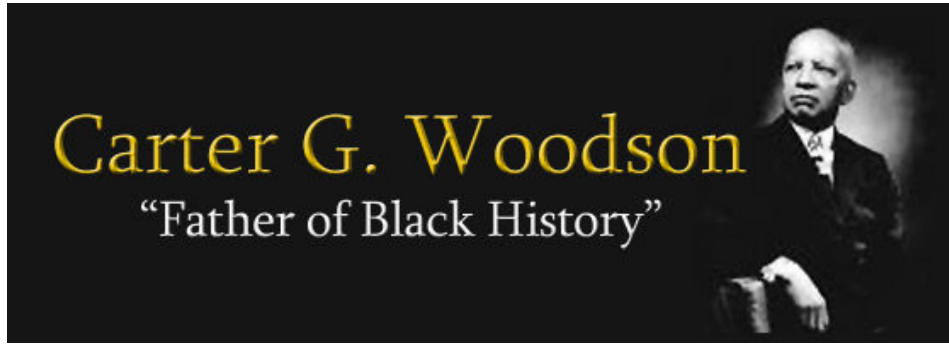
Sierra Poor, CUC student and Northwestern Mutual Financial Network Intern, pictured above, was set up in the Cougar Den on February 7th, ready to tell students about the internships at Northwestern Mutual. (Photo credit by Karina Kosmala)



CUC student and Northwestern Mutual Financial Network Intern Jorge Palacios (left), stands next to DePaul student Isaac Torres-Villa (right), to receive recognition as Top 100 College Financial Representatives and the opportunity to attend a career development event for their achievement. (Photo credit @NMChi1871 Twitter Account).

Concordia Celebrates Black History Month

Written by Savannah Singletary



Carter G. Woodson, "Father of Black History" graphic is provided by NAACP.org.

As it is well known, February is Black History Month. This is a celebration observed in North America (in February), Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (in October). What began as a way to remember important historical figures and events has expanded into so much more.

On the seventh of February in 1926, Carter G. Woodson established the second week of the month as "Negro History Week." This particular week was chosen because during this week Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass both had their birthdays (on the 12, and 14th respectively), and those of those men are large figures in the black community.

It was to no surprise that the initial try of implementing the teachings of Black American history

was not welcomed with open arms by many but gained cooperation by a few. Minus the lack of universal acceptance, Woodson claimed the event as "one of the most fortunate steps ever taken," and planned to make the celebratory week an annual thing.

Negro History Week grew in popularity in the following decades. At Kent State University in February 1969, Black History Month was first proposed, the first celebration of it occurred a year later at the same institution.

President Gerald Ford once said, "Seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black American in every area of endeavor through our history."

We as a nation now celebrate the 93rd year of Negro History week

and the 49th year of Black history Month.

Concordia University Chicago (CUC), celebrates Black History Month by introducing interactive ways for the surrounding community to immerse themselves into the culture.

Throughout the month, Black Student Union (BSU) continually shared facts about pioneers that changed the course of history from Jackie Robinson, to Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), greek life and so much more.

On February 28th, BSU held a dinner at Crossroads dining hall. A "Black History Month Celebration," as they called it.

This is the second annual dinner BSU has hosted to help show others a "taste" of black culture.

"With the small amount of African American students that we do have on campus, it is amazing to have a dinner made to celebrate our culture," sophomore Destiny Tartt states.

"If you are a student on campus, you know Concordia [CUC] does a lot of different activities to support everyone's culture, which is appreciated," added Tartt.

BSU is part of CUC's multicultural student engagement

program. CUC's purpose of programs such as Black Student Union and Latino Student Union is to coordinate programs and events such as stated above to support cultural awareness, provide leadership development and peer mentoring opportunities.

BSU holds meetings in Krentz 210 from 7:30 p.m., to 8:30 p.m. weekly. March 21st and 28th, and April 4th, 11th, and 25th are the next upcoming meetings. All are welcomed to join.



Black History Month is painted on the campus rock as a celebratory reminder to passerby in the triangle. (Photo credit Maci Killman)

Get To Know Dr. Debra Arfsten

Written by Milsy Westendorff

Dr. Debra Arfsten has been part of CUC for 15 years. She has a PhD in higher education leadership from Colorado State University. In fact, Dr. Arfsten was born and raised in Colorado, but it was the opportunity to come and teach at CUC that made her move to Chicago.

Concordia University Chicago may be small compared to other universities, but it's home to a diverse staff and faculty that have so much knowledge and are willing

to share it with others. One of those people is Dr. Debra Arfsten.

Dr. Arfsten specifically focused on servant leadership when it came to her research.

"I worked with an organization that is a Christian Organization, but it's a for profit, it's a publishing company. They had as part of their mission statement that servant leadership was part of what they do."

Basically, servant leadership is a type of leadership where the one in charge, in this case, the head of the publishing company, demonstrates

that they care about their employees. They have an interest in their employees where they focus on helping them by improving and honing their skills.

"What I wanted to do

was interview or survey everybody in the organization, which at that time was like 300 people. The owner of the company understood and practiced servant leadership. I wanted to survey everybody from the top down, all the way to people who worked in the warehouse, just to see if that concept really emulated throughout the whole organization.

It's one thing for the president of the company to say that, but it's another thing to see if people who are further down the chain really experience and practice that."

With a really interesting topic, and the support of the president, she was able to survey almost everybody at once. The president of the organization gave her time to hand out her surveys during one of the company's monthly meetings. Without this help, the whole dissertation process would've taken longer.

Dr. Arfsten was always interested in leadership, so when she took this course, she was already somewhat knowledgeable, she just



Dr. Debra Arfsten, Professor of Christian Education, has been a part of the CUC faculty for 15 years. (Photo credit to Concordia University Chicago website)

didn't know that this topic could be studied. So, she went for it and is now successful in a field that she truly enjoys.

It also helps her a lot and this type of leadership is something she tried to practice in her everyday life as a professor. Her research has also helped contribute to others' research who are also focusing on servant leadership.

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:

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