



University Club of Rockford

February 2024 Syllabus

945 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103
815.962.1730

www.uclubrockford.com

Welcome New Member:

Frances & Sergio Salinas Jennifer Furst Univ of IL Champaign/Urbana

New Wines Available

The Prisoner Red Blend \$75 Bottle

Features enticing aromas of Bing cherry, dark chocolate, clove, and roasted fig. Persistent flavors of ripe raspberry, boysenberry, pomegranate, and vanilla linger harmoniously, for a smooth and luscious finish. Pairs nicely with Chef O's Filet and Prime Rib.

Saldo – Chenin Blanc \$45 Bottle

Expected delicacy and softness in the mouthfeel are balanced by just enough acidity to refresh the palate and leave you wanting more. Pairs nicely with Chef O's Salmon or Ahi Tuna.

Wine
PAIRS NICELY
WITH GOOD
friends

Thursday, February 8th – Forbes Winter Music Series



Kelly Steward rewards us with her neo-traditional country American songs. Kelly will be performing from 6PM-8PM.

Saturday, February 10th – Pre RSO Dinner

Make reservations to join us for dinner before Romance, Poetry & Valentines at the Coronado Performing Arts Center. Indulge in an evening of pure romanticism featuring the works of four esteemed composers:

Schumann, Brahms, Mahler, and Viktor Ullman. Each composer was inspired by the art of poetry, the beauty of the human voice, and one another. Experience the stirring melodies of Brahms' Nänie, a soulful masterpiece set to the enchanting words of Friedrich Schiller, sung by the Nielsen Chorale. Let your heart be moved by 20th century composer Viktor Ullman's piano concerto, a breathtaking piece that bears the indelible mark of Gustav Mahler's genius and the poignant story of its composer's fate. Finally, let the sumptuous notes of Schumann's 4th Symphony wash over you, bringing this unforgettable evening of music to a stirring, romantic conclusion. Dinner will be available from 5PM-7PM. Reservations required.



Monday, February 12th – Forbes Winter Music Series



Join us for our Forbes Winter Music Series as we welcome back **Miles Nielsen**, 6PM-8PM. Chef O has created a special Asian Buffet for tonight! Including kung pao chicken, beef broccoli, sweet and sour pork, seafood with lobster sauce, vegetable lo-mein, fried rice, jasmine rice, house salad, ginger soy cucumber salad, peanut nappa slaw, broccoli cashew salad, eggrolls, crab ragoon, pork potsticker, teriyaki chicken skewers with peanut sauce, fresh fruit, strawberry cake and rolled cake. \$35 per person, reservations appreciated.

Tuesday, February 13th – Book Club

Join us each month for our Lunchtime Book Club with **Barb McDonald**, all are welcome. This month they will be meeting on Tuesday, February 13th. This month's book is *The Covenant of Water*.

The Covenant of Water is the long-awaited new novel by Abraham Verghese, the author of the major word-of-mouth bestseller *Cutting for Stone*, which has sold over 1.5 million copies in the United States alone and remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for over two years.

Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala's long-existing Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl—and future matriarch, known as Big Ammachi—will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants.

A shimmering evocation of a bygone India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the difficulties undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today. It is one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years.

Next Month's Books:



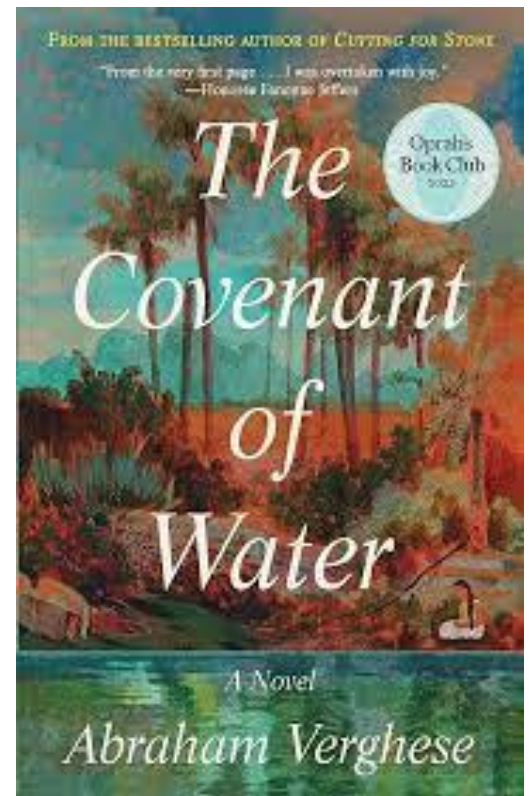
March: *Mozart Women* by Jane Glover

April: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

May: *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn

June: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

July: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver



Tuesday, February 13th – Fat Tuesday

Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras Dinner. Celebrate Mardi Gras with our annual dinner from The Big Easy. Chef O has created a special New Orleans menu of Cajun Fried Catfish, Muffaletta, Cajun Fried Shrimp, Corn Maque Choux, House Salad, Chicken and Sausage Gumbo, and King Cake. In the true spirit of Fat Tuesday, we will offer \$7 hurricanes and \$5 glasses of house wine. Reservations will keep the Witch Doctor away. Mardi Gras will be available from 5PM – 8PM with the hurricanes being poured all day. Mardi Gras takes the place of Taste of Tuesday.



Thursday, February 15th – Movie Day



Join us this month on Thursday, February 15th for Lunch and a Movie, along with Dinner and a Movie. This month we will be showing Disney's 2017 **Beauty And The Beast**. A selfish Prince is cursed to become a monster for the rest of his life, unless he learns to fall in love with a beautiful young women

he keep prisoner.

Join us for the Lunch Movie that will begin 11:45AM; please come early to place your order. Our Dinner showing will begin at 6PM; please come early for cocktails and to place your dinner order.

Thursday, February 15th & Friday February 16th – Valentine's Dinner Specials



Join us on Thursday and Friday as we celebrate Valentine's Day at the Club. Along with our monthly menu, Chef O has created three specials for you to choose from.

10-ounce Filet: Prime angus filet seasoned and grilled to medium rare, loaded baked potato, grilled asparagus, and Cabernet reduction. \$55

Bacon Wrapped Pork Medallion: Pork tenderloin medallion wrapped with applewood smoked bacon and grilled, served with garlic chive mashed, grilled asparagus and finished with an apple chutney. \$50

Dover Sole Meuniera: Lightly floured dover sole pan fried with butter, lemon and parsley served with wild rice pilaf and grilled asparagus. \$45

Thursday, February 22nd – Forbes Winter Music Series



Join us as we welcome back **Steve McClanahan**. Steve will perform his acoustic pop and rock music from 6PM-8PM. Reservations help us serve you better.

Thursday, February 29th – Two for \$39.95 Dinner

A great and affordable way to treat your friends and potential new members to the club. Enjoy a salad or soup with choice of entrée. Dinner comes with a choice of house wine (cabernet, chardonnay, pinot grigio, red blend, or rose). Upgrade your wine, \$20 off bottle price listed.



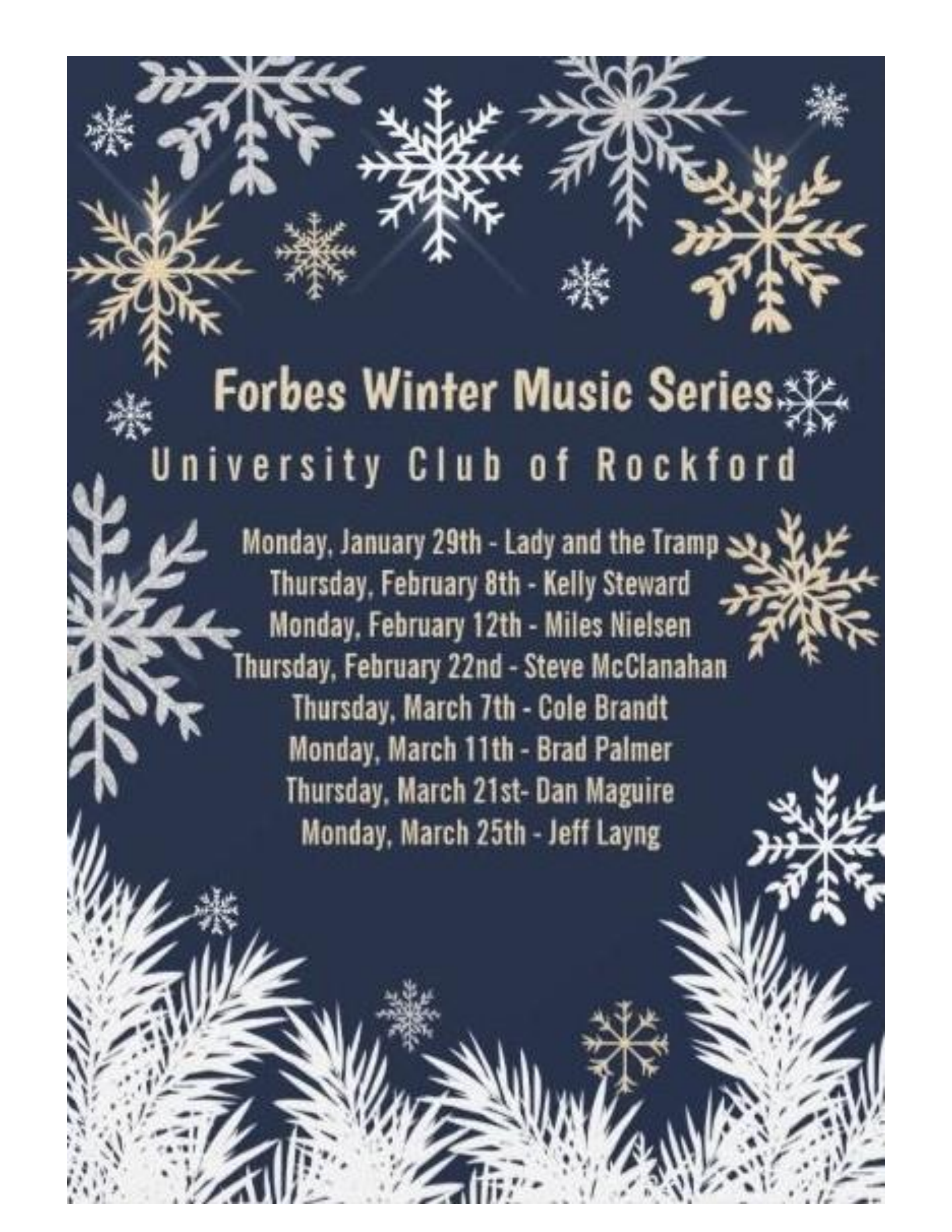
Entrée Choices:

Baked Orange Roughy: Seasoned orange roughy baked and served with drawn butter, veg du jour, and wild rice pilaf.

Roasted Vegetable Lasagna: Layers of pasta, roasted vegetables, marinara, mozzarella and parmesan, served with garlic bread.

Beef Stroganoff: Tender prime angus beef braised in herbs, garlic, wild mushrooms, red wine, finished with sour cream, and served over egg noodles.

Orange Chicken: Crispy tempura chicken tossed in house made orange sauce, served with jasmine rice, and green onion.



Forbes Winter Music Series

University Club of Rockford

Monday, January 29th - Lady and the Tramp

Thursday, February 8th - Kelly Steward

Monday, February 12th - Miles Nielsen

Thursday, February 22nd - Steve McClanahan

Thursday, March 7th - Cole Brandt

Monday, March 11th - Brad Palmer

Thursday, March 21st - Dan Maguire

Monday, March 25th - Jeff Layng



Forbes Winter Music Sponsors

Gold

Lawn Care By Walter

Sliver

**Elder and Ela Granger
Bob and Marion Guirl &
John and Mary Spindler
Tyler Smith**

Bronze

**Joe and Jeanette Geraghty
Scott Prine
Patrick's Nail Studio**

Annual Meeting Recap

President's Report – UClub Annual Meeting – January 16, 2023

Introduced the board members in attendance and thank them for their service during the past year.

Thank the staff, particularly Kelly, Juile, and O.

Thank the membership for their continued support of the club.

First, I'm sure, is the issue of management of the club. While I cannot address any personnel issues – I want to assure you that the board is dedicated to and presently working on how we manage this club going forward. We believe it was prudent not to try to handle a management change during our busy holiday season – but with the new year, board members and a newly formed HR ad hoc committee, we will begin formulating a plan starting next week.

As for the year just completed, the club had many successes and more than a few challenges – most of which will be outlined by my colleagues on the board who are part of tonight's agenda. Speaking generally, membership is relatively flat – a slow steady climb in members throughout the year was offset slightly by some attrition at year's end. Not untypical for the club, as members do not renew for a myriad of reasons. It will be one of the focuses of the board in 2024 to make a more concentrated effort at boosting membership – including, but not exclusive to, more promotion. We, of course, always welcome ideas from members and encourage you to invite your friends and business colleagues to the club.

Financially? Again, we're holding our own – special event booking was good and member support – especially during the spring and summer were strong. Particular thanks to Kelly for her work on the winter and summer music series' – nights which always prove successful. The challenges were increased food costs and maintenance of the club. All of this will be specifically outlined by Misters Guirl and Rundquist.

Scholarships remain a constant bright spot – the account is strong and we continue to support worthwhile and qualified students in their pursuit of a college education. If you have not had occasion to attend the scholarship dinner, please plan to do so this year. It will be a point of pride for you about the club and the impact we're making on young lives.

Thank you for allowing me to be your President. I have learned a lot. And while my first year had it's challenges, I believe it made me a better board member and encouraged me to work as best I can in the year ahead to make our great University Club, even better.

New Business:

Club Mortgage was paid off as of January 9, 2024!!!

\$5 Monthly Due Increase for Senior Members

\$2.50 Monthly Dues Increase for Junior, Surviving Spouse, and \$1.25 Non-Resident Members

Membership: Thank you! Thank you for continuing to support your Club. Thank you for coming for lunch, dinner, events, and booking events. Without you, the Club would not be able to grow. Please continue showing off our beautiful Club to your friends and family.

Staff: Thank you for your hard work and dedication! Without you, this Club would not be what it is today. The constant compliments from members and guests. We have the BEST staff in town! Everyone needs a little polishing up once in awhile, we will take care of that. We have been asked time and time again, how do you do it? Our response is, if we told you, we wouldn't be the best anymore.

Respect: Please remember to treat **ALL** staff kindly. They are trying their very best to make your experience at the Club each time enjoyable.

Billing: Thank you for being understanding with the new billing system. If you are still having problems, please contact Julie and she can help get you set up.

Lunch/Dinner Invoices: Please try to refrain from using Credit Cards every time you come in, it does cost the Club 3% each time, along with additional accountant time fees.

Door Code: Just a friendly reminder, the Door Code, is **your** code. Please do not give out your code to family, friends, or additional guests. We do have a buzzer that can let in guests. The Door Code is for safety reasons. Suggestion, if they would like a Door Code, please suggest they join.

Hats/Baseball Caps: Please remember that hats are to be taken off inside the Club, please remind your guests as well.

Committees: First, thank you to all of our members that have been on different committees over the past few years. It takes a village, and we have the best!!!

Looking for **new** volunteers for several committees. Please contact Kelly if you are interested. In the meantime, please feel free to email Kelly ideas.

Membership

Social

Food & Beverage

Food & Beverage: Please, introduce yourself to Chef O, we always enjoys hearing new ideas. If there is something you would like to see on the menu, please let O or Kelly know.

Social: Thank you for continuing to support the Music Series! Thank you to everyone that has sponsored a series!!! If you haven't please consider!

Thank you for supporting Movie Days, Book Club, Cubs Bus Trip, Murder Mystery Dinner, Wine Tasting Dinner, Game Nights, and More.

We are looking forward to creating more memories in 2024!

Building & Grounds: Plans for 2024 include

Develop a Capital plan with the Board

Further evaluate card room refurbishment

Continue painting the exterior of the club, repair north side stucco

Resurface the deck

Work on our river front area, there are no definite plans as of yet

Continue working on the ceiling in the dining room- noise issue

Thank You Mary Ann Smith, for her beautiful floral decorations throughout the year!!!!

Scholarship: Our Annual Process

February: Scholarship applications are sent to 10+ area high schools. Each school then selects their 3 best **merit-based** (NOT **needs-based**) applicants.

April: Typically, we review 20+ applications and select 8 students to interview. A typical interviewee is well rounded (defined as follows):

- ACT scores of 27 & higher and a class rank in the top 5%.
- Extensive school involvement (clubs, sports, music, etc.). ▪ Scholarship checks are then presented to the students.
- The scholarships are renewable each semester, as long as the student maintains a B grade point average.
- The scholarship is capped at **\$6,000.00** over the first four years of schooling.
- **PROUD TO SAY THAT WE HAVE 17 STUDENTS RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS AT THIS TIME!!!!**
- Many carry part-time jobs and/or volunteer.

May: Interviews are held, and four applicants are chosen to receive a scholarship.

June: The club hosts a barbeque awards banquet:

August: The scholarship committee hosts a golf play day at Rockford Country Club.



University Club Scholarship Letter; 2023 Fall Semester

Amanda (Mandy) Nelson; Carthage College Class of 2027

Dear University Club of Rockford Members and Scholarship Committee,

My first semester at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin has been a very unique experience for me. This semester has not only taught me a lot about myself, but it has also taught me many life skills such as responsibility and time management. Since August, college has kept me very busy. Whether I am in class or in sports practice, there is always something to keep me busy.

I am really enjoying my classes that I have been taking this semester. My schedule consists of mostly music classes and political science classes. I am currently taking weekly private lessons for flute and for piano. I love how much my professors push me to become a better player and how encouraging they are. One of my favorite things regarding my classes is having band every single day of the week. I am a part of the Concert Band, Wind Orchestra, and Philharmonic Band. The Philharmonic Band has been a new experience for me since I did not have prior experience playing with string instruments. This ensemble has been so enjoyable for me since there are a lot of solo opportunities within the pieces we play and the music is more challenging for me. Overall, classes have been going very well for me. I have maintained a 4.0 GPA this semester and I have my final exams and a jury (performance in front of a panel of music faculty professors) for flute and a jury for piano next week..

From August to November, I was a part of the football cheerleading squad. I have really enjoyed being a part of this team; we have gotten to perform various routines at football games and I have made some of my closest friends from being on this team. Since the middle of October, official practices have begun for track season. It was difficult balancing two sports at the same time, but my coaches were very understanding and helped me come up with a schedule that would allow me to do both since I really enjoy both sports. After the football season ended for cheer, I was able to become more focused on track. Last weekend, we had our first track meet! Everyone on this team is very encouraging and friendly and the coaches really want to see all of their athletes succeed. This is one of my favorite things about this team: how much of a family it is. I am really looking forward to the rest of this indoor track season and outdoor season.

During my free time, I work for my track coaches by helping with recruitment mail, moving equipment, entering meet results into a database, etc... Balancing school, sports, and a job has taught me how to manage my time well and to be responsible in communication. Coming into college I had very mixed emotions: I was excited and nervous at the same time. I was worried

about making friends and being on my own, but I was excited to start a new chapter in my life. The first month was difficult to get used to, but mid-October was when I finally started to get into a routine. One thing that has helped me get into a routine has been by staying busy. By being involved in many things, I have been able to meet so many new people. I have friends from the cheer team, the track team, classes, and band that I have gotten to know super well during my first semester.

One of my favorite things about Carthage is how each of my professors knows my name and knows about me. The class size is on the smaller side which is something that I was looking for when I was deciding on a college. This has helped my learning process during college. By building a personal relationship with my professors, I feel more engaged in the classroom and I feel more comfortable approaching my professors with questions I have regarding the course, assignments, etc... Overall, my first semester at Carthage has been so enjoyable for me. I feel like I belong here and that I am meant to be here. Every aspect of the school is perfect for me whether that be in academics, music, sports, etc... This semester has truly gone by so quickly, I cannot wait for what comes next for me here at Carthage.

Thank you again for selecting me for your generous scholarship, it is truly an honor. Your generosity has helped me greatly in being able to come to Carthage.

Sincerely,

Amanda (Mandy) Nelson

Are you involved with a Card Club, Book Club, any Club? The **University Club of Rockford** is a great place for your Club to meet. Contact Kelly with any questions.



Bits & Pieces

Is there a local organization that you support? Would you like to **host a Guest Bartender night** at the U Club for that group? It's a fun way to raise awareness and funds for that organization. Contact Kelly for more information.

Remember, you can **enjoy all your U Club favorite meals as a carryout**. Ask your server for a menu to take home. Ask about the nightly specials when calling in your orders.

A gentle reminder, **reservations mean a better dining experience** for not only you, but all our members. Reservations allow us to be better prepared and staffed to serve your dining requests. We appreciate your reservations, but, if you are on the go and drop in at the last minute, we are happy to welcome you.

Do you have a **menu item that you would like to enjoy?** Do you have **special dietary requirements?** Please let us know and we will do our best to meet your needs. Just contact Chef O with your requests.

Remember to **“like” us on Facebook** and **“follow” us on Instagram** to get updates on club happenings and lunch specials and to connect with fellow members. Find us at “U Club Rockford” on Facebook and “UClubRkfd” on Instagram.

Serving a group in your home or at your office? Let the U Club do the work for you. Contact Kelly for menu ideas and more information.

Club Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 11AM-2PM

Monday Night Dinner 5PM-8PM

Taste of Tuesday 5PM-8PM

Club will Close at 2PM on Wednesdays

Thursday Night Dinner 5PM-8PM, Remember Kids and Grandkids eat FREE from Kids' Menu with the purchase of a regularly priced entrée on Thursday nights.

Fabulous Friday Night Fish Fry 5PM-9PM