

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

OFFICE of ALUMNI RELATIONS

Summer 2018

Dear 1947 Classmates,

We are aware of two deaths of classmates since our last letter:

Iola (Bjerke) Meyer passed on December 31, 2017

Beatrice (Lundblad) Clubb passed on April 23, 2018

CAMPUS UPDATE

CLV:

The summer of 2017 continued a three-year trend of strong enrollment with over 4,580 villagers and families attending a Concordia Language Villages' program. Registration for the summer of 2018 continues that upward trend in enrollment, demonstrating the value placed on world language and culture education.

Concordia Language Villages received the largest gift in its history from Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park: \$5M to support the first phase of construction of the Korean Language Village on Turtle River Lake. The gift was given in celebration of 30 years of language and culture at Sup sogŭi Hosu, the Korean Language Village. Additionally, the Language Villages will recognize and celebrate 35 years of Sēn Lín Hú, the Chinese Language Village, with a special program prior to International Day on August 10.

Music:

- This May, the Concordia Orchestra spent two weeks on a cultural immersion trip in Greece, visiting eight cities and performing several concerts.
- The 2016 Concordia Christmas Concert "Gather Us In, O Child of Peace" earned a regional Emmy award for special event coverage. This is the second time a Concordia Christmas Concert has received the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy award.
- Dr. Rene Clausen was honored with the Weston H. Noble award for Lifetime Achievement at the 2018 ACDA Central and North Central Conference this year. Clausen is in his 32nd year at Concordia College as the conductor of The Concordia Choir.

Athletics:

- Senior Bailey Hovland broke several throwing records this year, winning the MIAC Championship and breaking the conference meet record in the hammer throw. Hovland's hammer mark qualified her for the Women's Track and Field Nationals Meet this spring.
- Brandon Zylstra '15 signed a reserve/futures deal with the Minnesota Vikings for the upcoming season, after two successful seasons with the Edmonton Eskimos. Zylstra caught 100 passes for a league-best 1687 yards in 2017.
- Head tennis coach Joseph Murrey was named 2018 MIAC Coach of the Year after leading the team to the conference postseason for the first time since 2011.

- Becca O'Shurak has been hired as the first female head coach of women's soccer. O'Shurak has previously served as assistant coach at Youngstown State and Tennessee Tech University.
- Chad Johnson was named the Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation. He is only the second athlete from the MIAC to receive the honor. This honor is in addition to his MIAC All Conference Awards (3 years) and the 2017 MIAC MVP Award he received earlier this year.
- Rachel Bergeson has accepted the offer to serve as Concordia's athletic director. Rachel has served as the interim athletic director since April. Prior to that role she was deputy athletics director, the senior woman administrator, and compliance officer for Concordia and also served as interim athletic director during the 2016-17 athletic season. Before taking on her role as the top women's administrator in the athletic department, Bergeson was the assistant coach for the Cobber women's basketball team from 2007-11.

Other Updates:

- Concordia has been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation in honor of former Mellon Foundation president Earl Lewis '78. This grant will be used for faculty development, scholarships for diverse students, program support for the Office of Diversity and support for the National Book Awards. This grant is in addition to the \$800,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation the college received earlier this year to support PEAK and diversity initiatives across campus.
- Rachel Schaefer '18 was named a Fulbright Scholar and will be working at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia next year.
- This past fall, Concordia College launched the RISE Campaign, a comprehensive fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$150,000,000 by December 2019. These funds will be used to support three pillars of the Concordia experience: integrative learning, inclusive learning, and innovative learning. For more information, head to www.riseforconcordia.com
- The Department of Chemistry celebrated 100 years in early March (Chemistry has been at Concordia 102 years, but the event was postponed until the completion of the new Integrated Science Center). The day-long celebration included talks from chemistry alumni from across the country, a career networking event for students and a banquet in the evening with Robert Homann, Professor Emeritus and Past Dean of the College, as the keynote speaker.
- Over spring break, 130 students served out the mission of the college all over the country, participating in 8 volunteer opportunities including: Habitat for Humanity Trips to Louisiana, Florida and the Carolinas, a hurricane relief trip to Dallas, Justice Journey Trips to New Orleans and El Paso, and High Impact Leadership Trips to Milwaukee and Pittsburgh.

Alumni Awards:

The National Alumni Board voted on the 2018 Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. To learn more about each award, visit Cord.edu/alumniawards.

2018 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

Charles Beck '48

Dr. Richard Sibley '67

Darnell Carter '75

Claudia Swendseid '78

2018 Sent Forth Recipients

Dr. Tammy Frisby '99

Arday Ardayfio '02

Fundraising Update:

An impressive number shows up when we talk about fundraising success: Our class has given a total of **\$1,239,857.30** in outright gifts since our graduation. This year there were a total of 2 donors with 22% participation, which raised \$600.00. I believe that this is a number we can be proud of. Thank you to all who participated in this great effort.