

**July 2019**

***To the Wonderful Class of 1954...***

Greetings from your Cobber “roots” found in what was once a corn field!

It is time to celebrate our 65<sup>th</sup> reunion at Homecoming! We hope that you’ll be able to join us. Come and share stories, be inspired, and enjoy good food and fellowship. The dates are October 11 – 13, 2019. Here is what we have planned for the weekend:

**Friday, October 11**

- 9:50 a.m. Homecoming Chapel – Centrum, Knutson Campus Center
- 3:30 p.m. Coffee and Fellowship for the Class of 1954 in the Hoff Lounge, Knutson Campus Center  
(on the second floor across from the Lee Chapel (use stairs or elevator))
- 5:30 p.m. Pre-Banquet Social Hour – Atrium, Knutson Campus Center
- 6:30 p.m. Homecoming Banquet – recognizing this year’s Alumni Achievement recipients: **Dr. Paul Brandvik ’59, Dr. Kristi Ferguson ’71, Rev. Ann Svernugnsen ’77 and Dr. Thomas Samuelson ’81** – Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

**Saturday, October 12**

- 8:30 a.m. Class of 1954 Reunion Breakfast – Jones C/D, Knutson Campus Center
- 11:00 a.m. Parade down 8<sup>th</sup> Street
- 1:00 p.m. Football game versus Gustavus
- 4:00 p.m. Golden Cobber Gathering (1968 and before) – Birkeland Alumni Lounge, Offutt Concourse
- 6:30 p.m. Homecoming Concert – Memorial Auditorium

**Sunday, October 13**

- 10:30 a.m. All Campus Worship

If you aren’t able to attend, we encourage you to send a note that we can share with those in attendance. Email it to **richlyle1932@gmail.com** or drop in the mail it to Karen Carlson, Office of Alumni Relations, Concordia College, 901 8<sup>th</sup> Street South, Moorhead, MN 56562.

For those attending the Homecoming Banquet, we’ll be seated by class. If you’d like to sit by a specific classmate, please indicate that on your registration.

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Congratulations to classmate LaVern Nornes and his wife, Lois ’56. They are the 2019 recipients of Concordia’s “Called to Serve” award. They spent their lives dedicated to the Lutheran faith. LaVern was a high school biology teacher, a driver’s education instructor and a high school hockey coach. Lois, a retired public school music teacher, was also director of music and senior choir director at their church. They’ve been active in Meals on Wheels, and as members of C400 and the National Alumni Board, among others. They received several awards from the college for their generous gifts and sponsor, in part, the Nornes Lectureship in neuroscience.

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Since our last homecoming we join in mourning and missing classmates: **Bonnie (Logue) Haugen, Barbara (Burd) Kahldahl, Millard Lee, Maria (Peterson) Lund, Ralph Thrane, Palmer Vaadeland, Arlene Wick.**

Take comfort that your loved one is in God's loving presence now and forever.

(Please let the college know of any other losses we may have missed. Thank you.)

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## **Campus Updates**

### **Music**

-Dr. René Clausen announced that he will retire following the 2019-20 academic year, concluding his service as professor of music and conductor of The Concordia Choir. Clausen is a leader in choral music as both a conductor and a composer. He is the artistic director of the Concordia Christmas Concerts. In addition to composing arrangements and original pieces for Concordia ensembles, he has written dozens of commissioned compositions including "MEMORIAL" and "Crying for a Dream" for the American Choral Directors Association. Clausen was also commissioned by Concordia to create a major work in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The work is titled "The Passion of Jesus Christ" and premiered at Orchestra Hall in 2017. President William Craft noted in an announcement to the Concordia community that throughout his work at the college Clausen has lived the mission of The Concordia Choir "to uphold a sacred choral tradition through the uncompromising and unrelenting collaborative pursuit of musical integrity and spiritual expression."

-The Concordia Choir completed a highly successful tour through the Pacific Northwest in March. The tour featured concerts in Washington, Oregon, Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota. The Choir also had engagements with ten high school choirs, as well as The Choir of the West at Pacific Lutheran University and a collaboration concert with The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists at the Ordway in St. Paul. Work is now being done to plan the Choir's 2020 tour to the Southeast United States. Updates and more information can be found at [www.TheConcordiaChoir.org](http://www.TheConcordiaChoir.org).

-The Concordia Orchestra completed a very successful fall domestic tour with performances in Appleton, Wausau and Chippewa Falls in Wisconsin and Roseville, Sartell and Brainerd in Minnesota. Repertoire included *Symphony No. 3* by Florence Price, *Scheherazade* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and *Concerto for Trombone* by Jim Pugh, which featured Concordia Professor of Low Brass Dr. Nathaniel Dickey on trombone. Also joining the tour was guest conductor Christoph Rehli-Fankhauser, professor of conducting at the Lucerne University of Music in Switzerland.

-The Concordia Band was invited to perform at both the Minnesota Music Educators Association Mid-Winter Clinic in Minneapolis and the North Dakota Music Educators Association Conference in Bismarck. In addition, the band was also invited to be the featured collegiate band at the Westman Honour Band concert at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. As part of their annual domestic tour, the band performed a joint concert with the Encore Wind Ensemble in St. Paul, MN as well as concerts in St. Anthony Village, Albany and Staples-Motley, all in Minnesota. The band is in the beginning stages of planning their international tour to Spain in May of 2020.

## **Cobber Athletics**

- In the spring of 2018, Concordia had only one team – women's basketball – with a female head coach. Fast forward one year, and with the hiring of new volleyball head coach Faith Dooley, the Cobbers now have 5 additional female head coaches mentoring student/athletes. Dooley, who was an All-American at the University of North Dakota, joins women's golf head coach Kari Weidner-Ceniceros, Maureen Greiner of women's hockey, Rebecca O'Shurak from women's soccer and NDSU All-American Laura Januszewski who coaches both the men's and women's cross country teams. The rise of female head coaches was recognized by University of Minnesota's Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport in their 2018-19 coaching report card that cited Concordia as the top college in the MIAC for the increase in female head coaches over the past year.

- Concordia men's track and field junior Matt Bye, Moorhead, won the heptathlon at this winter's MIAC Indoor Championship Meet and went on to finish 11th in the event at the NCAA National Indoor Meet held in Boston, Mass. Bye won the MIAC title with the second highest point total in school history.

- The Cobber men's hockey team earned its seventh consecutive berth in the MIAC playoffs this season. Concordia finished conference play with nine league wins which was the most since the 2013 season. Sophomore forward Tyler Bossert, Fargo, led the MIAC in scoring and went on to earn All-American Second Team honors to become the ninth All-American in program history.

## **Other News**

-Concordia's outstanding tradition of preparing students for medical school is now available to those who have completed an undergraduate degree. This intensive, 1 year program is designed for highly motivated individuals with excellent academic records, who have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year institution, but lack most or all of the prerequisite science courses needed for admission to medical school. Our program is ideal for career changers, and individuals deciding later in their academic journey, to pursue a career in medicine.

-Concordia sent 12 members to the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET) at the University of Alabama, where 60 colleges and universities from across the United States competed for top honors. Concordia was one of only a few smaller colleges that placed in the top 15, which is dominated by larger research institutions.

-The Center for Student Success has a new home in the Normandy. The beautifully renovated space is open and light making for an inviting space for students. The center includes academic support, Orientation and First-Year Transition Programming, the Peer Mentor program, and the Diversity Coordinator for Student Support Services.

- More than 300 students presented their posters or spoke at concurrent sessions during Concordia's 2019 Celebration of Student Scholarship (COSS) on April 10. Some students participated in multiple presentations. New at this year's COSS was an art display with printmaking pieces and two sessions presented in Spanish. "Our goal is to keep building on the diversity of research," says Krys Strand, director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity and coordinator of the Celebration of Student Scholarship.

A dinner was held April 4 to celebrate the naming of Dr. Dan Biebighauser as holder of The Sigurd and Pauline Prestegaard Mundhjeld Endowed Chair of Mathematics. Biebighauser is a 2002 graduate of Concordia and

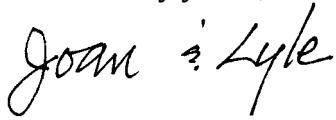
joined the faculty in 2006. The holder of the Mundhjeld chair is to be a person who has provided exemplary service in teaching and scholarship in the field of mathematics and who is known and respected in the field. All of the past holders of the Mundhjeld Endowed Chair were present. Past holders include Dr. Bill Tomhave, Dr. James L. Forde, Dr. Alexander Sze and Dr. Gerald A. Heuer '51.

Thanks for this chance to visit.

Remember the famous "last words" of Lawrence Welk:

"Keep a song in your heart."

Concordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan & Lyle". The script is cursive and fluid, with the ampersand being a simple loop.

Joan and Lyle Rich

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