



Dear Classmates of 1957,

Statistically speaking 84.095 of class letters start with....”Has another year gone by?” Or, “Here it is again, time for a class letter, and it seems that I just wrote one.” Or, “It seems like only a few months ago that I was meeting my new roommate in Brown Hall.”

This class letter for the class of 1957 will start with, “Are you still alive? So am I. Aren’t you glad? So am I. Are you coming to homecoming? So am I.”

I guess I could leave it with that, but I had the pleasure this summer of meeting with President Craft to ask him what he would like me to tell you. Let me first tell you that he values us! I was very impressed with the amount of time he had taken to prepare for our meeting, and the amount of time that he set aside in his schedule for his meeting with me. It is clear that we are important to Concordia. Our school really does need us! And he knows what the college needs from us.....money for scholarships! The college needs us to help keep Concordia affordable for the eighteen-year-olds from your town, from your neighborhood, and from your family.

I came away from the hour’s meeting feeling that we don’t have to be concerned about where Concordia will be in 20 years. There is already a plan for the next 20 years, and I know it can’t and shouldn’t be the Concordia where we earned our degree. I am confident, however that it will still be a place with memories we will love and students with more love, service, and talents than we ever dreamed of having.

The leadership has it all planned out. We don’t need to worry about whether Concordia is positioning itself so it can keep up with other institutions. We are ahead of them. I came away from meeting with a confidence and trust in the leadership of President Craft and his leadership team that makes me proud to be a Cobber and excited to still be alive to watch what happens.

So, I come back to why Dr. Craft and Concordia needs us to help students with their college tuition. Why is college so expensive? (And it's not going to get any cheaper.) Let's confess that we've raised our children and now they raised our grandchildren to expect and demand more conveniences and services from life that we ever dreamed of having at college. That's on us. We wanted them to have that, and it's a cost that will be there for generations. But Dr. Craft pointed out another item that is raising the price of a college degree.....technology.

I always thought that technology permitted people to work more quickly, efficiently and effectively. It does, but it comes with a high cost. The technology which Concordia now uses in its administration of the college takes 100 student tuitions to pay for every year. That does not include the technology the college uses to assist in the day-to-day teaching and learning. These are costs that we never had face. Technology is effective and efficient, but it is not cheaper.

We have our own personal experience with the cost of technology in the cars we own. Compare the cost of the first car you bought after graduation with the car you drive now. Look at what we pay for the upgrade in technology in our 2018 model. That's part of what is happening in colleges.

So, what is our immediate challenge? What's the latest on enrollment for this fall of 2019? As of July 94.4 percent of last year's juniors are returning as seniors. Eighty-seven and percent of last year's sophomores will be returning as juniors, and 75.8 percent of last year's freshmen class will be returning as sophomores. Who will replace last year's graduating seniors? Five-hundred Twenty-nine have declared their intent to be here as freshmen this fall. Most of them are able to come only because of the scholarship money you gave to Concordia last year. Now we start working on helping support the Cobbers of the academic year 2020 to 2021 with scholarship money.

So we are back to what President Craft needs from us. Education has gotten expensive. Concordia knows how it is going to meet the future. Concordia is ready for educating Cobbers for the next twenty years.....if 18 to 21-year-olds can still finance the cost. Every college faces the same problem.

By law, through our state taxes, we will be helping the state schools with the same problem, their increasing costs. With our voluntary annual cash gift for scholarships, we will be helping Concordia meet its increasing costs. That will be more fun! The governor of your state will not give you an hour of his/her time to explain to us how important we are to the state colleges, and how he/she needs our

continued help... now more than ever before. President Craft did, and you are, and we will help with tuition!

For other news we have classmates who have died since our last homecoming.....

If you would like more details, I will have the entire obituary available for the five classmates who have died this past year at our homecoming coffee.

Reverend Jim Kloster died October 28, 2018 after 52 years of ministry. He served ELCA parishes in Brandon, MN; Chicago, IL; Chaffee, ND; Embden, ND; and Mandan, ND. He moved to Fargo and continued his ministry as a chaplain for 11 years at the Veteran's Hospital. He married Midge Sunde in 1971, and they had four children.

Gene O. Wuflestad died July 20, 2018. He taught school in Newfolden, Wolverton, and Barnesville before moving to California. He worked in the Corona-Norco School District for 18 years, first as a teacher and later as a school administrator. He and his wife of almost 67 years, D. Helen, had four children.

Tom Stevens died in his home in Rochester, MN March 8, 2019. Tom and his wife Judy raised two sons in Fargo and Casselton, ND. He worked at the Village Family Service Center in Fargo as a marriage and family therapist. As his health declined, he and Judy moved to Rochester to be closer to Mayo Clinic.

Marilyn Adell Keel of Waconia, MN, formerly of Cambridge, MN passed away on March 24. She graduated with a degree in elementary education and later became a reading specialist. She taught in Starbuck, Hibbing, Alexandria, Braham and Cambridge, MN.

Eunice Prosser Mushel died May 20, 2019 in White Bear Lake, MN. She grew up in Greenbush, MN and returned to teach there. She met her husband, Harold, also a teacher. They both taught in Greenbush, Columbia Heights, and New Brighton MN. They had four children.

In other news from classmates.....

I received the following note to share with all of you from Beverly Bergh Bremesth (4520 Quinwood Lane North in Plymouth, Minnesota 55442). She writes, "Lowell and I still live in Plymouth and our family lives nearby. We celebrated our 60th anniversary in June. We've enjoyed a lot of travel, especially cruises. The last one included the Holy Land and Egypt. Concordia was a great

life choice and one of my fondest memories we the Frosh Frolics show we put on which included your army skit. We had big talented cast. Arnie Johnson, Orville Stenerson, and I were really proud of the results.

Lowell has also extended an invitation to all of us to a special event during homecoming honoring Vi, who died the spring of 2018 from cancer. On Homecoming Sunday, October 13th, Lowell is inviting us to a dedication of an art collection in Vi (Shannon's) honor. It will take place from 11:45 to 12:00 in the lobby of the Barry Auditorium in the Offut School of Business. Two of the art pieces are by classmates Abner Jonas and two by our classmate, Kathleen Ristinen '57.

Lowell also shares with us in his note that he was married to Gladys Johnson on April 11, 2019. They are living at Ridge Point Senior Apartments in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

For those of you who are coming back for homecoming this fall and do not expect to be involved in the football game or other activities on Saturday afternoon, our class will again have a coffee and cookie get-to-gather. We have been invited to join with the Golden Cobbers in the Birkeland Lounge area of the Gym. The cost is \$5 and it will be open from 1:30 to 5:30. Come and share a short period of memory-laden conversation and old-timers relaxation during a busy weekend.

Your classmate,

Clark

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