Class of 1960 Letter for 2019

It was one of those rare winters this year when all of the schools including Concordia were forced to cancel classes more than once. This past winter reminded me of winters long ago when we were very young and growing up in the Midwest.

Despite the cold and snow, many good and productive things were happening at Concordia. The enthusiasm of the students was a pleasure to see whenever we had an occasion to attend some of the events.

My husband and I were happy to be able to attend the home concert of the Concordia Choir upon their return from a tour to the western U.S.A Later, we attended a Concordia theater show (A Grand Night for Singing) It was presented by a small group of singers backed by a small orchestra. They acted and sang many of our favorite songs from popular musicals like “Some Enchanted Evening” and “If I loved you”

A new experience for me was taking part in a program called SALT: Students and Alumni Linked Together. We gathered at the Ylvisaker Library on a Saturday morning to make birthday cards and bags with birthday supplies to be delivered to shelters and other places where children were living who would not otherwise have a birthday celebration. At a previous meeting, SALT made blankets to give away. It was a great opportunity to sit and chat with these students to hear about their studies and their goals of becoming those people who go out into the world to make a difference where they live. It gave me a new sense of confidence that we have great young people to be future leaders.

It is no secret that many of us have reached the age of being labeled “Octogenarians”. We may not like to hear the word but we better be pleased that we reached this goal. Thanks to all who sent a bit of news about their “Birthday Bash” or “Not”. We certainly would like to hear from more of you. If you wish to have a class letter….Please sent some bit of news!!

2019 Campus Update

President Craft spoke recently to a group at the college and reports that the college is strong and people like you have responded to give the necessary funds to meet that goal.

Concordia Language Villages
Summer 2018 was a busy one for Concordia Language Villages. We had over 4700 villagers and families from all over the world attend immersion programs at our Turtle River Lake sites just north of Bemidji and at other leased camps in northern Minnesota. This strong enrollment demonstrates the value families are placing on world language and culture education.

Thanks to a generous gift of $5 million from the Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park, soon will begin the first construction of Sup sogüi Hosu, the Korean Language Village, on Turtle River Lake. The first Village to be built was Skogfjorden, the Norwegian Language Village, and that happened 50 years ago this summer. A special event to commemorate this milestone will be held on July 13. Sjölunden the Swedish Language Village, celebrates its 45th summer with a midsommar event on August 3. International Days are July 5 and August 9 where we will also celebrate 50 years of offering four-week high school credit sessions.

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 observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation he wrote “The Passion of Jesus Christ” which was 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 Concordia Orchestra completed a successful fall tour with performances in in Wisconsin and 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.

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. 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 citing Concordia as the top college in the MIAC for the increase in female head coaches over the past year.

Sadly we report that Jessica Rahman, our head basketball coach for that past 16 years has resigned and retired. For 13 of those 16 years her teams had made it to the MIAC finals and she was the coach of the year during 2009 and 2014.

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.

2019 Alumni Achievement Recipients

Dr. Paul Brandvik ’59, professor emeritus of music at Bemidji State University, served as director of choral activities for 31 years.

Dr. Kristi Ferguson ’71, is professor emeritus of General Internal Medicine and served as director, Office of Consultation and Research in Medical Education at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Dr. Thomas Samuelson ’81, a board-certified ophthalmologist, is a founding partner and attending surgeon at Minnesota Eye Consultants, P.A., Minneapolis. He’s also an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota and on the faculty of Hennepin County Medical
Center. He has written numerous articles and given more than 600 presentations around the world.

*Rev. Ann Svennungsen ’77* is the bishop of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod, the first female bishop to serve in any of the ELCA’s six Minnesota synods. She served as a parish pastor prior to serving as president and CEO of The Fund for Theological Education and then as president of Texas Lutheran University.

### 2019 Sent Forth Recipients

*Betsy Grams ’98*, co-founder and executive director of Cycle Health, is a 1998 Concordia graduate. CycleHealth was founded in 2014 to equip kids to power their own wellness.

*Matthew Culloton ’98*, founding Artistic Director of The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists, is a 1998 Concordia graduate and earned a master’s and a doctorate from the University of Minnesota. He is Choirmaster at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn., an adjunct faculty member at the University of Saint Thomas.

### 2019 Called to Serve Recipients

*LaVern ’54 and Lois (Austin) ’56 Nornes* have 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, Transfiguration Lutheran. In addition to their involvement with the church, LaVern and Lois have been active in Meals on Wheels and Feed My Starving Children, among others. At Concordia they’ve been members of C400, the National Alumni Board and various committees and volunteer activities. They’ve received several awards from the college for their generous gifts and sponsor, in part, the Nornes Lectureship.

*Gayle (Carpenter) Denny ’76* has served as the executive director of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association since 1999. She previously worked in congregationally based early childhood center management and taught pre-K through college in a variety of public and private schools. She is a current board member of the Council for American Private Education (CAPE). She has devoted her life to being a member of the ELCA, and has served as a musician and choir member for various churches. Throughout her life, she has maintained her commitment to educating others, and serving both the church and her community.

### Class Notes

I was delighted that so many of our classmates have written back with news about their eightieth birthdays and more which are all below:

**Darlene Martinson Ross:** Now that we are 81, I am tempted to claim dyslexia and be 18 again, as I actually do remember being 18 in those days when we waited to be 21 in order to vote for JFK. Best wishes to all of the ‘60s.

**Ben Hahn:** I moved to Minneapolis in 2016. I am now 86 and had to get close to my 5 girls. I have 12 grandchildren, which are the joy of my life. I look forward to seeing you at our 60th class reunion.
James Ulness: I've been living during the Winter months (mid October - mid May) in Mesa, AZ since 2004. Before that I lived in Fair Oaks, CA for 6 years. To escape the AZ heat I head up to Minnesota for the Summer months. I love it here, and I love it there. Best of both worlds! I have been teaching at Rio Salado College's Life-Long-Learning Center during the Winter Term for the past 11 years. I really enjoy that.

Ann (Mobraten) Terhark: Greetings to my fellow ’60 classmates! That 80 age mark has given me permission to cut out a few activities and relax a bit more. I still do pulpit supply in a neighboring congregation and a few other community duties. My health is still (thankfully!) quite good. Would love to hear from classmates.

Patricia (Rice) Brunner: I celebrated my 80th birthday in October in Yokohama on the last day of a cruise from Seattle to Japan. My husband Karl and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in July at a large family reunion in Oregon, including several relatives who are also Concordia grads. I’ve lived in Seattle since I graduated from Concordia. In 1993, I retired from a career as an avionics systems designer and since then Karl and I have traveled extensively all over the world. We’ve had a wonderful life.

Duane Davis: Oh, yes! I am sure many of us recently celebrated the big 80. I was shocked by a large family surprise party, followed two days later by a very large surprise party with many friends and family. It was all total surprise for my wife and I. In spite of senior health issues, I am doing well and enjoying life. God is good! Karen and I are blessed with a growing family. There are six great grandchildren, three very young boys and three (two boys and a girl) by marriage. In July, we are expecting identical twin girls! We are excited and feeling very blessed. For several years, we have been wintering in Surprise, Arizona and occasionally running into Cobbers we know. As many of our contemporaries we are getting serious about down-sizing. Where there is love, there also is God.

Nancy (Gullickson) Olson: Is there anything more fantastic than being well at 81? We are still living in California. My husband Arv is still working and loves it! I am mostly involved with organizations and keep involved in that way! Unfortunately, most of my good friends have left this world! Our son Dan & his wife Rose are still living in the Twin Cities and all their children all have college degrees. We are enjoying life and thankful to be walking and driving!. We will be in Minnesota in July — in the Twin Cities and then on to Fertile.

Carl ’60 and Mary (Grover) Scheie ’60: We are both well and still residing at our Arizona Home in Gold Canyon. We have had so many guests this winter, as our son Danny performed at Arizona Theatre Company this winter. Many of his relatives flew here to see him, and to enjoy our Arizona weather.

In March we took a trip to Hong Kong, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore. We really educated ourselves about this part of the world. Travel is still a passion, both domestically and abroad. Since our sons live in New York, California, and Ohio, we travel to those destinations frequently. Our seven grandkids live in Michigan, Washington D.C., and Ohio, so that adds more destinations. We are also very lucky to have three precious little Great-Grandchildren too. They have all been to visit us recently.

Since 1995 we have owned a cottage in Northern Wisconsin (near Minocqua), and have spent summers there since we retired in 2001. Just last summer we purchased a small home in a Del Webb Community in Huntley, IL (suburban Chicago). We plan to gradually transition from the lake home to our suburban home. (We lived and worked in suburban Chicago for almost 30 years prior to retiring, and that is where our kids grew up.)
**Tom Wolhowe:** My son graduated from Concordia in 1986 and granddaughter Grace graduated last Sunday. Three generations of Cobber ‘hoopsters’. Next year will be 50 years in Staples, MN, and I love 'Pickleball.'

**David A. Oas:** I graduated with Shirley Bervig, my first wife, and friends Don and Marjorie Shiftlit. I retired as a Professor Emeritus at Southern Oregon University in 1997, but continued as a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist before retiring in 2009. My research area was Aging and Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease. During the 1970s I was the director and producer of a short film in California called “Raspberry Heaven.” To all the Concordia Choir members— ‘I miss all of you and our glorious travels together.’

**Sid Sheggeby:** Lee Ann and I currently live in Sioux Falls, SD, still enjoying retirement and are in relatively good health for being 80 years of age! In celebration of my 80th, our family will be gathering in the Black Hills of SD for a week in September culminated by the annual Buffalo Round Up near Custer. Currently, we are in the process of selling our home in Sioux Falls, SD and will be moving to Sun City in Georgetown, Texas (near our youngest daughter, Pam, in Austin, TX). I continue to be thankful for our many blessings, good health and my years at Concordia.

**Luther Abrahamson** writes about a book that was written about the 1958 choir tour: It is called “A Musical Odyssey.” "A Musical Odyssey" was a labour of love, and mostly love. You can purchase multiple copies of the book (with a discount from our publisher, Mary Nilsen marynilsen@me.com. Luther writes that if you buy five or more copies, they are $10.00 each plus postage at www.Zionpublishing.org. One can also go to Amazon and search for "Musical Odyssey Concordia.”

**Joan (Jonas) Enger:** My 80th birthday, which seems so long ago now, was a family celebration on a weekend in January 2018 in Billings Montana. John is only 5 weeks older than me so it was a double celebration. Since that time, we have been blessed with a 2nd great granddaughter. We have 3 daughters and 9 grandchildren and the two great grandchildren. The fall of 2018 was a little traumatic when I had double bypass heart surgery on November 7th and a stroke 3 days later. The stroke took away some of my peripheral vision to the left but I can be thankful that I can still read. Neither John or I drive now so we are dependent on an organization in Cody Wyoming called Hands to Help and also our middle daughter and her husband, who are here in Powell on weekends. We are trusting our Lord to keep us going as long as possible. A song we sing often is ~ "One Day at a Time Sweet Jesus ~ That's All We're Asking from You . . ." Since February 2017 I have lost my two brothers who were also Concordia graduates. Abner Jonas died that month in Athens, Ohio and Allen Jonas passed away a year later in February 2018 in Bluefield, Virginia.

**Ronald M. Mathsen:** I did my advanced study in mathematics at the University of Nebraska, and then spent two years at the University of Alberta in Edmonton followed by two years at NDSU in Fargo, North Dakota! Later we moved to Thong Shan University in The Peoples Republic of China, staying there for 2 years, before finally moving to Great Falls, Montana. We have enjoyed the symphony orchestra there as well as the women’s choir. I have been happily involved with an organization called Citizens for Clean Energy.

**Bev (Bergstad) Kennedy:** Rosie Kvale Tarum and I were roommates and have been in touch all of these years. When I turned 40, she called me to tease a bit because she is a few months younger than I am. So when she also turned 40 I called her to tell her that I was happy that she had caught up with me. We have been doing this now for 41 years! Plus, we meet for our Reunions and share a motel room and talk all night just like we used to do. We both love to get together and at this point are both
still able to drive to Minnesota for the Reunions. Rosie lives in Great Falls, Montana and I live in Broken Bow, Nebraska.

Known obituaries for our class

**Ronald Anselm Luoma, 80**, of Maryville, TN, formerly of Moose Lake, MN, passed away at home on February 27th, 2019, after a brief illness. He was born in Itasca County, MN on August 23rd, 1938 to Anselm and Saima (Antilla) Luoma and lived most of his 80 years in Minnesota. After receiving a degree in Education from Concordia College, he taught 6th grade in Glencoe. He returned to Mankato State to become an elementary school principal, and completed his lifelong career in education as a superintendent of schools. Ron was a devoted husband to Carol (Lidburg Carlson) for nearly 33 years.

**Paul Aanond Knutson Age 80 of Mpls, MN** died peacefully from complications from pneumonia on Feb. 13th, 2019. Preceded in death by parents, and brother (John). Survived by his wife, Mary; daughters, Siri (Dan) & Maja (Cara); & grandchildren, Anastasia, Derek; sister, Martha; and many extended family members. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Arbor Day Foundation, Save the Boundary Waters, Alzheimer's Disease Research. Memorial service to celebrate Paul's life on Sat. March 9th, 2019, 1pm, at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 5025 Knox Ave. S. Mpls., MN. Paul was a teacher and lifetime learner and received his doctorate at the age of 73 from the University of Minnesota in Physics Education

**Sonja Ann (Lewis) Swanson, 80**, of Mankato, MN, passed away on Saturday, May 26, 2018, Sonja was born in Mankato, MN. She graduated from Pemberton High School and attended Concordia College. While at Concordia, Sonja sang in the choir and majored in Music Education. After graduation, she moved to Granite Falls, MN, to teach music. It was there she met and married Arlo Swanson. Together, they lived in many places including Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan before moving back to Pemberton, MN. After going back to school to get her Elementary Education degree, Sonja became a beloved substitute teacher, known for bringing her guitar and singing with students. She then went on to teach full-time for both the elementary and middle schools in the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District.

**Carole J. (Olson) Amb, 80**, of Mayville, ND, died Monday, July 9, 2018, at the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, ND. Carole was born May 29, 1938, in Williston, ND, to Arvid and Minda (Hexom) Olson. Carole attended a rural country school through elementary school, and graduated from Williston High School in 1956. Following graduation in 1960 she found her first teaching position in a small one room Hauge country school south of Grenora, ND, and she taught in many schools in Williams County for 10 years before marrying Carl Amb on June 19, 1971. The couple moved to a farm near Portland, ND, where Carole helped raise their children, Greg and Lisa.
Marilyn A. (Wigesland) Bronken, Fargo, ND died Wednesday, May 22, 2019. She was born February 13, 1933 in Twin Valley, MN to Arnold and Mabel Wigesland. She graduated from Twin Valley High School and Concordia College in Moorhead. She married David Bronken in 1962 and they made their home in Fargo, ND. David died in 1989.

Marilyn worked as a Medical Technologist in the Fargo Clinic Laboratory (now known as Sanford Medical Center) until her retirement. She was the Laboratory Manager for her last 27 years of employment there. Marilyn was a member of the North Dakota Society for Medical Technologists and was named North Dakota Medical Technologist of the year in 1981. She was a longtime member of First Lutheran Church in Fargo. Following her retirement she volunteered at First Lutheran Church in the office and in the gift shop at Sanford Medical Center.

Dr. James L. Danielson, “Jim Dandy,” passed away peacefully at his home in Moorhead, MN, on September 20, 2018. He had recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Jim was born on May 6, 1938, in Lake Bronson, MN. Jim got his undergraduate degree from Concordia College, Moorhead, and his Ph. D. from the University of Minnesota. From 1967 he taught Political Science at North Texas State University. Starting in 1988 he finished his teaching career at Minnesota State, Moorhead. Jim loved singing in the Fargo-Moorhead Master Chorale.

Deaths of classmates since Jan 2018 include:

Paul Oium - Jan. 2018
Raymond Berg - Dec, 2018
Kay (Worden) Erickson - April 2018

FINALLY

As regards our giving for Concordia’s advancement; there were but 76 of us that donated for a total giving of $850,240. For your information there are still 282 of us still living. Such means only 27% of us that are privileged to remain and live help ensure Concordia to continue deliver quality Christ-centered education. Thanks to each and every one of you for such good generosity. We alums are a huge portion of what enables Concordia to grow and deliver.

Again we have a responsibility to encourage high school students to consider a Concordia education to advance their life’s hopes and dreams. And —- Don’t forget October 11-13 Homecoming 2019. Come back to campus, even though it is not our reunion year !!!!!

Soli Deo Gloria! – To God alone be the glory!

Marjorie Gjevre, Class Agent 1960