Dear Fellow Classmates of 1964!

Can you believe that another year has gone by since I last wrote the class letter? That means that it is time for your dose of news from the Class of 1964. Now these letters are coming electronically so all you have to do is sit at the computer and open the letter. I continue to live in Little Falls, Minnesota, keep up the activities of the school that I taught in for over 32 years.

**Concordia Updates:**

Here are some things that have happened on campus since the last letter.

- Dr. Edward Antonio has been hired as Concordia’s inaugural Chief Diversity Officer. He is an experienced teacher and prolific scholar of religion.

- Jeff Bretherton has accepted the position as the first full-time Athletic Director in the history of Concordia College. He takes over for the interim athletic director Rachel Bergeson, who served since head men’s basketball coach Rich Glas stepped down in the spring of 2016.

- Amena Chaudhry was hired this spring as the Diversity Coordinator for Student Services at Concordia College. Amena brings extensive experience in partnering and collaborating with people from varying backgrounds. As the Diversity Coordinator for Student Support Services, Amena will provide direct support and assistance to students from traditionally underrepresented and marginalized backgrounds. She will also work with student groups and provide training to promote skill development and partner with various campus departments on initiatives promoting student success and an inclusive campus environment.

- Science buildings are being renovated, and they are opening their doors this fall.

- The Concordia Language Villages continues to welcome over 9,800 program participants annually.

- The music department has been busy. Dr. Rene Clausen composed an oratorio-length composition “The Passion of Jesus Christ” and was commissioned to observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This was presented in Minneapolis at Orchestra Hall and in Memorial Auditorium. This was presented by the 4000 musicians of the Concordia voice faculty, choirs and orchestra. This brought audience members closer to powerful scenes from Christ’s procession into Jerusalem through the crucifixion.

- The Concordia Choir went to Germany and Austria in May of 2017.
In May 2018, the Orchestra is planning a cultural and performance tour to Greece. But before they take that trip, they will be performing a musical score to the original 1931 Black and White movie Frankenstein at the Fargo Theater on October 17th.

Concordia junior wrestler Adam Presler (Sioux Falls, S.D.) became the first student-athlete in the history of all Concordia athletics to win the prestigious NCAA Elite 90 Award as the athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average at the NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championships. Presler is a Mathematics Education major who has a perfect 4.00 grade point average. Presler won 26 matches this past year and qualified for the NCAA Championship Meet.

Senior women’s track and field athlete Emma Peterson (Benson, Minn) became the first Cobber to win the same two events at the MIAC Indoor and Outdoor Championship Meets. Peterson broke the conference record in both the high jump and triple jump at the conference indoor meet and then won the same two events at the outdoor meet – and broke the league mark in outdoor triple jump as well. She went on to earn All-American honors at the NCAA National Indoor Meet.

Concordia men’s basketball coach Rich Glas retired as the head coach. In 2017 Glas became a member of the elite group of coaches who have won 600 games in a career while coaching (LLEd Program) will see its official launch.

The Annual Class Challenge

The Concordia Annual Fund allows the college to meet emerging needs, explore new opportunities and respond to unexpected challenges. The gift you give today supports work of the college immediately, funding areas of scholarships and financial aid, academic programs, institutional operations and services. For the challenge, this past year our participation was 26.12% participation and gave $107,056.01. Our class has given $22,953,107.07 since graduation. Thanks to all that donated over this past year.

Lost Classmates
Some of our classmates have wandered away from the college. If you know where any of these classmates are please let the college or me know where they are. I also have a big list of those who started with us but did not finish at Concordia.

Jeanenne (Guenthner) Bennett  
Kathleen (Boomer) Brown  
Elaine (Turnwall) Bruer  
Coralie (Christianson) Bryant  
Bruce Carlson  
Ronald B. Christiansen  
Ronald H. Christianson  
Theodore D. Coonrod  
Sandra (Sundvold) Fox  
Ardis M. Johnson  
Rosalie (Gutknecht) Jones  
Judith (Pochardt) Loken  
Mark K. Loken  
Gene I Ness  
Harold D. Pedersen  
Denise (Sather) Reuther  
Corliss R. (Miller) Sutliff  
Enikoe Viker  
Maren Woie
Class Notes

These are the things that I was looking for in catching up with our classmates. We can always use more information. Thanks to those who sent me information. I really enjoyed reading the ones that I received.

- Edward Arnass – Most of my will be the same as before where I mentioned going on several mission trips to Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and the Ukraine which have all been very rewarding as we ministered to people who were Muslims. Other examples were orphanages, schools, Medical University, on the streets, inn home meetings, church meetings, & hospitals, just to name a few situations where we ministered in those countries. In this country, the airplane has been a valuable asset in ministry. For me in our country in 26 states including Alaska to the Eskimos and Aleutian Indians as well as in 4 Canadian Provinces at various times. At this point I have been privileged to fly as co-pilot in my friends 8 passenger business jet Still blessed to be flying and ministering at 75 yrs. of age.

- Kathryn Benson – Was privileged to travel with Concordia’s Concert Choir on their tour to Germany and Austria. The sights, sounds and students made for a most memorable time.

- Keith Bangs – I officially retired after 52 years of coaching at the high school level. Jane and I thoroughly enjoy spending time with our 6 kids and 14 grandchildren and attending their activities. In addition, we enjoy planning and guiding motor coach tours for our Owatonna Community Education Program, traveling to Palm Springs and Mesa in the winter and playing golf.

- Karen Ebner Brinkman – I finally retired from my practice as a Psychologist after 20 years. I am experiencing some health issues and need to focus on that going forward. My husband Richard and I are still in Windom. We are active in our church, Bethany Lutheran in Bergen, MN. We have three grandchildren and we enjoy spending some time with them when they are here. Richard loves to tend to his flower gardens in our yard – so beautiful when all the flowers bloom.

- Ron Christiansen – Still happy, healthy, thankful to The Creator. And painting…. 

- Judith Johnson Hellie – It has been a tough year. On Father’s Day, 2016 my husband Ted was in the ER with a pulled muscle. Routine x-ray show’d something in his lungs. By September 3 he was gone with cancer in several places in his body. Went directly from his funeral to my mother’s hospital bed and she Died at 98 on November 3. Been learning a new normal and continue teaching confirmation people ask me how I am, my answer is always the same, “I choose to be okay.” Faith and family become more important as time passes.

- Jerry Larson – Our recent travels have included Scotland, Cuba, Costal Cruise from Jacksonville to Charleston, AZ and oil fields of ND.

- Gayle Moore-Morrans – I was able to attend a bit of Concordia’s Homecoming in October 2016 with my daughter, Gwynne Johannesson Rasen (’99) and granddaughter Eva Louise from Asbygda, Norway who were in North America on a whirlwind 10-day visit where we caught up with relatives and friends in Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba. I bought 3-year-old Eva Louise a child’s cheerleading costume at the Cobber bookstore and taught her a Cobber cheer that I helped lead back in 1960-62. At present (June 2017) I am preparing for a
month’s trip to Norway to see Gwynne’s family, get reacquainted with my son-in-law Jorgen Rasen (99) and 6-year-old grandson Gustav Sebastian and welcome new-born Annabelle Mari, born May 3rd. We are planning a huge baptismal celebration with family and friends coming in from all over Norway and from Germany. Happy times!

- Olaf Storaasli – In ’16-’17 we traveled to Europe 4x to review High Performance Computing (HPC) Projects: EU HQ-Brussels, Int’lHPC Conference- Frankfurt, Belfast & Berlin (2mos in Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden (Conf), Denmark & Norway. Also traveled and spent some time in Trondheim, UK (London), Belfast, and Edinburgh. Also went to MN (Mom is 97) & Utah HPC Conf. Highlights were 2 weeks at a family wedding in Estonia, Russian Cruise, and relatives in Sweden & Norway. My Concordia Norsk roommate, Elnar Lunde drove us to an upscale resort just before our election. A veteran NRK anchorman, he interviewed us on our election, shocked I’d predict a Trump win. We spent the day catching up on our days since Concordia. At home in Oak Ridge, TN we exercise cycling 20k along the Clinch river & and swimming 5k each week. Life is good after Concordia, NASA & ORNL.

- James Torske – June 12th, 2017 was the 50th anniversary of my admission by the Montana Supreme Court to practice law in Montana. My law office has been, and still is, located in Hardin, Montana.

- Bonnie Zimmer – One day in May these three, Caryl Nelson, Roselyn Solberg Tolo and Bonnie Chelstrom Zimmer, roommates, Class of ’64, woke up in Paris…the beginning of a weeklong Viking trip on the river Seine from Paris to Normandy. The purpose of the trip? The beginning of celebrating their 75th year! Life is good!

- Dan Quello – Is an author and pastor. He just finished his book “Can I Still Believe in Heaven?” … What Every Heart Longs to Know. It is published by Deep River Books. The book is an overview of humankind’s thinking about an afterlife and how our thinking about it has changed as our worldview has changed. In writing about it has changed as our worldview has changed. In writing about our evolving views about heaven, I have sought to be honest, informative and hopeful. Dan takes a sensitive approach, understanding that these beliefs are sacred for many of us. There is a contact page at the end of the book, and I would love to hear feedback from any classmates who choose to do so. Dan makes his home in Portland, Oregon with his wife Jacque. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Dan is an avid outdoorsman and he enjoys lawn tennis, biking and skiing. Jacque and Dan spent many years restoring their 115-year-old Victorian farmhouse. In 1994 National Trust Magazine awarded them the prestigious Great American Home Award.

One of the hardest things to write is the information about the loss of a classmate, but we are blessed by memories of them. Fortunately, we have lost only 1 classmate since I wrote the letter last summer.

- Mona M. Becker, nee Mona Getz lost her life on Mar 11, 2017. I did not receive any other information on Mona.
One further thing: How many of you belong to the Loyal Cobber Program? There are 4 things you need to do as being a loyal Cobber is about staying involved. The 4 things are:

- **Connect:** Stay informed and update your information online or by phone
- **Engage:** Get involved by volunteering to host an event or participate in an event.
- **Support:** Make an impact by giving to student scholarships and campus projects
- **Share:** Show your cobber pride (Cord.edu/social and Cord.edu/org) Interact on social media using #cordmn, to show off your alma mater swag and tell future Cobbers about your Concordia experience.

I hope all of you have a restful fall and a good rest of 2017. As homecomings are in the air. Remember that we will be celebrating our 55th class reunion two years from now in 2019. Hope to see you there.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Mary Larson, Class Agent