

Class of 1967 Letter

Hello Class of 1967,

Last fall we celebrated our 55th Concordia graduation and this summer we celebrate our 60th high school graduation – ouch!! Almost 60 years ago, Prexy Joe Knutson welcomed us to Concordia. Benny Benson sent this photo he took in the Knutson Center during our 55th reunion weekend.



While Covid continues to impact our lives, it is refreshing to see its impact diminish the restrictions on travels and activities.

This year the class letter and the Concordia updates are presented as separate sections which makes each of our efforts easier. The first section is the class of 1967 update and is followed by the update from Concordia. The class letter this year includes photos from our 55th reunion and a brief description of the memorable homecoming weekend activities; updates and photos that were received from classmates (we would like to receive more updates from classmates for next year's letter); a list of classmates who have passed away; and information about this year's recipient of the Class of 1967 student scholarship.

Class of 1967 Celebrated our 55th Reunion at Homecoming

Thirty-six classmates and spouses made the trip back to Concordia and participated in the traditional homecoming weekend activities as well as the reunion activities. Two reunion events were planned for the class of 1967: an informal get-together at the Marriott Courtyard south of the campus and a Saturday morning breakfast in the Knutson Center where Dr. Terry Brandt, Vice President for Advancement, provided an update on Concordia Now (Headwinds and Tailwinds).



The photos from the Saturday breakfast with everyone having a great time visiting.

Class of 1967 Letter

Ron Letnes posted the following Facebook commentary that perfectly described the magnificent Homecoming Concert performance by the band, orchestra and choir:



“The Music Department is in great shape! It must be noted, that in all our times hearing the groups, we have never heard and seen such audience appreciation as for the band's performance of John Mackey's "Wine-Dark Sea: Symphony for Band". Loooong standing applause, shouts of "Bravo!" and hoots of affirmation! It was a "Wow!" The technical challenges and syncopation, plus a screen visual telling the story of Odysseus, were a stunning musical treat! This is not to take away anything from the orchestra and choir. Excellent! It was refreshing

to hear the choir perform an arrangement by Adam Podd of Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'". Another "Wow!" Who would have thought it possible, from guitar to SATB choir! Bob would have been pleased!”

Please Make a Pledge to the Class of 1967 Legacy Scholarship Fund

During our 50th reunion giving campaign, classmates made a 5-year pledge to contribute toward Class of 1967 Legacy Scholarships worth \$5,000 per student. Those class pledges expired 2022. **We are requesting new five-year pledges from classmates to renew our efforts toward this worthy cause. Three of our classmates have joined together to match up to \$5,000 of the total amount of pledges received!** With your gifts and the match, our class will raise \$10,000 which results in doubling our legacy scholarships from the Class of '67 per year! We encourage you to consider a contribution to this worthy cause. Please contact the Advancement Office to make your pledge by phone (218-299-4000) or email (elunak@cord.edu).

This year, the Class of 1967 Legacy Scholarship recipient is Patience Kollie, from Champlin Park High School, MN.



I am honored to be the recipient of the Class of 1967 Scholarship and am grateful for the support of my fellow alumni. I grew up in a big town, Dakar, Senegal, but my nationality is and will always be Liberian. Being Liberian has helped me develop a passion for giving back to my community, because our history is so rich yet so unknown.

At Concordia, I am pursuing a double major in Business Management and French. My other college activities include being a mentee in our Hollstadt Women in Leadership Mentoring Program, Vice-President of the Black Student Union, and

Class of 1967 Letter

Student Intern at the Offutt School of Business. In my free time, I enjoy indulging in my creative side through drawing and reading self-help books. Some of my recent reads include "The Defining Decades of Your 20's" and "Atomic Habits". I am also a fan of anime and love to watch it in my downtime. Thank you for the opportunity to share a bit about myself.

Class Updates

David Anderson: My wife, Siri, and I really enjoyed the 55th reunion. Three things stand out. The Friday night casual get-together at the hotel was great. Lots of old friends to meet and chat with. The Saturday morning breakfast was good. I liked the update on the college, and finally we won the football game. All in all, it was a great weekend.

Since then, much of our time has been spent getting ready for return to our winter home in Thailand. Just after Thanksgiving, we started our trip that takes us halfway around the world. Things were a little quiet here in December, but as the number of tourists increased and more business opened, post-covid, it seemed more like previous years. At Christmas, the weather was about 80 in the day with a nice cool breeze in the evenings. The city put on a great fireworks display for New Year's. Since then, we have been to a number of really nice restaurants, two wine tastings Thai style, and a really good polo match to raise funds for charity. In April, we will return to the U.S. by ship from Australia to Seattle and then by plane to Washington DC. 22 days with five stops, should be great.

Dikka (Moan) Ballantine: Singing in choir at church when possible; heading up the Lutheran World Relief quilting at church; praying at church and at home; walking around, especially the Fremont area; enjoying many aspects of life with Ken; gardening our rocks, roots and clay hillside with many tubs, raised beds and carrot chairs; figuring out something and then finding another way to do the thing in God's creative world; meeting new folks along with being with friends and communicating with family and friends. Life is full; thank you, God.



Benny Benson: I had a great time at the Concordia 55th class reunion and enjoyed sharing experiences with many classmates. Thanks to all who organized this. I especially enjoyed the positive feel of the students I interacted with during the weekend. I think that is why my nephew Jake decided to go there.

Jo and I look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary in June. We have been blessed to have our immediate family located near us in the Twin Cities. My older son, Frank, is busy upgrading their new home. His wife, April, works as a nurse in the heart unit at North Memorial Hospital. My youngest son, Rob, teaches math



Class of 1967 Letter

at Chaska High School. His wife substitutes at my grandkids' Minnetonka school where my grandson, Levi, and granddaughter, Lina, are in the Chinese immersion program and athletics (Levi - swimming, baseball and Lina - gymnastics and softball.) More importantly, they are growing in their faith and joy of what God has done for them. I enjoy God's gift of music by singing solos at church, funerals, weddings and other occasions. I also enjoy using God's gift of expression by lay reading at church. This year, I surprised my grandkids by stepping out of the pews and singing O Holy Night at a Christmas Eve service.

James Buhr: The highlight of the year for Sharon and me was a bicycle trip to Catalonia in northern Spain with the Concordia Alumni in early June. We spent a week in Paris just because we enjoy it so much, then met the Crafts and the group in Barcelona. We knew that since Girona is a common spot to train for the Tour de France, an e-bike would be a necessity. (Bill Craft doesn't know that yet and did fine!!). I was able to do it, but Sharon pretty much wasn't able. Great fun nevertheless. We will certainly miss the Crafts. The rest of the summer and fall was mostly spent on politics (not much fun in North Dakota). And we've had to help family in Minneapolis so much that last summer we got a small place in Uptown so we can come and go at will. Valley City is still home.

Mark Budd: My retirement calendar got more crowded this last year as we started to move out of the pandemic. My measure of this is fewer rounds of golf. Gita and I took a vacation trip to Ireland in August that included watching a Big Ten Football game in Dublin where Northwestern beat Nebraska. I took trips back to Minnesota and Iowa to visit family as well as high school and college friends that included fishing, golf and lots of visiting. I continue to be on our Washington DC condo board and my volunteer activities at the Foggy Bottom West End Village expanded to becoming a board member.

Anita (Johnson) Duder: Have I mentioned that we got a puppy in fall of 2021? What were we thinking!? His name is Oscar and he's our fourth Boston Terrier, but very different from our previous three. Other than that, we've mostly stayed close to home. Despite having been vaxed and boosted to the max, I had a very mild case of Covid last September just as I was about to get the most recent booster. Thankfully, John did not get infected. Last summer he had a shunt inserted into his brain to drain excess spinal fluid that was putting pressure on the ventricles of his brain causing problems with balance and walking (which have now improved). I still enjoy getting together with friends for coffee, lunch, knitting and needlepoint, and keep busy with all the outside work year around. Nothing exciting to report, but life is good.

Suzanne (Madison) Ehrlichmann: Living in Southern California, close to son Aaron's and daughter Miriam's families helping with grandchildren. Unable to worship in person or sing in our beloved choirs (Covid-19) for the last two years. Since retiring in 2012 from jobs in St. Louis, MO, my husband, Jim, and I spend summers (May through September) at the "Madison family compound" on Flathead Lake near Elmo Montana, enjoying gardening, exercising, etc. in the great Big Sky country!

Class of 1967 Letter

Ed Langsdorf: Jan and I are retired and have been living in Sun City, AZ since December of 2015. This past summer we went on a Viking River Cruise on the Rhine and Moselle rivers with stops along the way from Zurich to Paris. We also visited our daughter, Lisa, and family in Salem, OR, and our son, Danny, and family in the Philadelphia area where he is on the football coaching staff at Temple University. I play golf and get together regularly with former Cobber classmate, Neal Jeppson (class of '68) and wife Linda (Helstrom, class of '69).



Joanne (Flaa) Larson: I'm getting used to the rhythms of life in Colorado Springs after moving here two years ago. It took longer to get settled due to supply chain issues but now this feels like home to me. I continue with my business and life coaching practice as well as taking a boatload of online classes, a habit developed during the pandemic. Family activities take up much of my free time. Eldest granddaughter, Joanna, was married this summer, an event involving much fun, excitement and rich family time. Good health, productive work balanced with adequate downtime and the ability to set my own schedule and make new friends keep me going. Life is good.

Ron and Linda (Rolfstrud) Letnes: Our church is short a pastor so Ron is volunteering to preach, teach, sing, and organize. He continues to advocate for gun violence prevention laws, much work done online. Linda continues her lighter volunteer work teaching immigrants to speak, read, and write English. Since everything is volunteer, we take lots of vacations - 39 days in Europe (independently) last summer, Florida and the Caribbean this winter, to be followed in March by a return to Europe to soak up sun in Portugal on Madeira Island. We will celebrate 56 years of marriage in April at a resort in Mexico with friends. An inspiring memory for us is the Concordia Homecoming Concert shared with classmates. The experience was sheer magic!

Warren Liebenow: While still practicing covid distancing guidelines for the past year-and-a-half, I was hospitalized four times for a variety of medical issues. I also had outpatient therapy treatments that took me to the hospital often four days a week for a number of issues including a broken ankle. Needless to say, I was happy to see 2022 come to a close along with most of the medical issues. I am resuming weekly life drawing sessions that allow me to get out of the house as well as hone my drafting and creative skills.

Kathy (Jacobs) Morton: Since I retired, I am still traveling and teaching adults regarding primitive rug hooking. I also sell my designs and have a website that features these designs: www.oakridgecottagerugs.com.

Paul Olson: Over the past several years I have served in several Interim Pastoral positions helping congregations through the Call Process and assisting others in getting financial stability through Capital Campaigns and Stewardship efforts. In addition, I fully retired in 2020 just at the start of the pandemic and Evelyn and I relocated to Glen Ellyn,

Class of 1967 Letter

IL - a near western suburb of Chicago in May of 2020. We renovated the house we purchased and have continued to enjoy the spring through fall gardens and landscaping that we have done and continue to do. During a vacancy of pastoral staff in the congregation to which we belong, I have been leading a weekly Bible Study and on very occasional times leading worship. The golf courses in the area regularly entice me to play which I have continued to enjoy along with bike riding, both for exercise and for enjoyment.



Dianne (Andresen) Shotwell: The most significant change in the past year was the death of my husband, Bob, on Oct 18, 2022 from COPD. For some time now our oldest daughter has been living with us and taking great care of us and now taking care of me. We had known for a couple of years that he was dying. I miss him.

We had several visits from our children (four daughters and families). We also built a 12x14 shed in our backyard. I picked out the materials and used Menard's "Design It" to get it done. They delivered all the parts (nothing preassembled) and we built it from scratch. We had some great help, mostly from family.

My daughter, Heather, and I will be travelling to Belton, Texas to visit my youngest daughter, Kim, her husband, Josh, and four of our grandchildren. Our oldest grandson, Bailey, will be graduating from Texas A&M and will be commissioned the same day by the Army. Shortly thereafter, his sister, Brianna, will graduate from high school. Then it's back to Minnesota to try to figure out some sort of routine for my life.

Camille (Meyer) Wainwright: The following is a shortened version of Camille's update written by her husband Dave '66. You can access the entire letter by [CLICKING HERE](#).

On June 25, 2022 (our 55th anniversary), we boarded a British Airways flight to London Heathrow with our 16-year-old granddaughter, Veronica, who we were taking on a two-week cruise around the British Isles. As we taxied toward the takeoff, Camille, on my left, was suddenly unresponsive, staring out into space, not answering questions. I immediately got the attention of a flight attendant, saying "I think my wife has had a stroke"; she made a call to any physician on board. He determined that her right side was paralyzed and she had lost the ability to speak. Within seconds, the flight crew made a series of timely and excellent decisions. The pilot turned the plane around and headed back to the terminal. By the time we got back to the gate, the EMT team had arrived, did a quick series of tests, and got her into a wheelchair and off the plane. The EMTs moved Camille very quickly through the Logan terminal to the waiting ambulance. I rode along, with lights flashing, as the ambulance drove quickly to the Massachusetts General Hospital Emergency Room. Their team immediately went into action, attaching EKG leads, taking vitals, interviewing me, and preparing her for a CAT scan. They had the results in 15 minutes and determined she needed the "clot buster" medication. This

Class of 1967 Letter

was injected within about an hour of her stroke event. I asked the doctor how long it would take to go into effect; he felt we should see improvement within 1-2 days.

She seemed to hear and understand but couldn't speak a word. Finally, she mimed writing on paper so we got her a pencil and index card. She wrote a few words that I couldn't decipher with her left hand; she's right-handed. For the next hour we hoped and prayed the clot would dissolve or break up so blood flow could return to the damaged area of the brain. The 2nd CAT scan (24 hours after the first one) showed that the clot had been broken up and the particles were gone or dispersed. She was released on Wednesday (June 29), we spent a few days at our son's house, and flew home to Florida on Saturday, July 2. She's doing well, and the physicians say she had no restrictions.

God bless the British Air flight crew, the EMT squad, the ambulance personnel, the Massachusetts General Hospital ER crew, the neurologists and Neuro ICU team, the therapists, and our Boston family for getting her back to square one. They were all terrific!!!

Contact Lost with Classmates

We are down to the following 13 unfound classmates who graduated with us in 1967. Suzanne (Madison) Ehrlichmann, provided the above update, indicates she is not lost, and would we please remove her from the "lost list"! If you have contact information or know of somebody who may know "the missing", please let us know.

Robert H. Albright	Nancy K. (Highum) Boe
Charles R. Anderson	Donna L. (Myhr) Denzin
Susan E. (Dimmitt) McGuire	M. Prudence (Parsons) Jones
Richard L. Eggen	Gloria F. (Philipp) Blazina
Roberta W. (Groth) Mackay	Leslie A. (Robinson) Hartley
Sandra L. (Halloran) Tegethoff	Zona M. (Torgrude) Poppenhagen
Thomas W. Hanson	

Recently Identified Class of 1967 Obituaries

The following is a list of classmate deaths reported by classmates or by family to Concordia since our 2021 class letter. There are names on this list who died years earlier and were only recently reported to the Concordia alumni office. Starting with our 50th reunion book we have made an effort to identify and communicate all classmates who have passed away even if their deaths occurred in previous years.

Darrel Hestedalen passed away Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at his home in Fargo under the care of his family and Hospice of the Red River Valley. After graduating from Concordia, he and his wife, Cheeri, taught in Elgin, ND and he coached football and basketball, that included a championship season. In 1974, they moved to Apple Valley, MN, in order for Darrel to attend Northwestern College of Chiropractic and that same year, daughter

Class of 1967 Letter

Kirsten was born. Upon completion of his Doctor of Chiropractic degree, they moved to Dickinson, ND, to establish his practice and that same year, son Jans joined the family. Darrel furthered his education by achieving diplomas in applied kinesiology and in acupuncture. He also specialized in nutrition as part of his patient care.

Darrel enjoyed the outdoors with camping, hunting, and Boundary Waters canoe trips. He was also actively involved with Boy Scouts for several years as Jans obtained his Eagle Scout. He was a skilled shortstop and switch-hitter for men's softball leagues for many years and rarely missed a match, meet, or game of Kirsten's or Jans'. Darrel logged thousands of miles, both on his bicycle and his Goldwing. A favorite excursion was biking to Medora (from Dickinson) and then biking "the loop" in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. He also participated in biking across North Dakota during the state's centennial.

Darrel faithfully served as usher, council member, class facilitator, and other positions at churches throughout his life. He also served on the Concordia National Alumni Board until a few years ago. His worldview and daily life exhibited his walk with the Lord.

Jim Nestingen died December 31, 2022 of a heart attack while at home in Roseville, MN. His obituary is on the internet as well as many tributes, quotes, and presentations he has made over the years. Two paragraphs from his obituary are included below. They highlight his profession, contributions and who he was as a person.

He was a Norwegian-American child of the prairie, born of a storytelling tradition that he lived out throughout his life, doing so with joy, skill, and a fair dose of humor. In his profession as a pastor, author, speaker, teacher and Professor of Church History at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, as well as with his family and friends, he enjoyed nothing more than trading stories and laughter – with a rare off-color joke thrown in.

The central story of his life was his belief in Christ's promise that through the grace of God we, though by nature sinful, confess, are forgiven and welcomed into new and eternal life. It is this story that inspired a life of study, teaching, scholarship, and service, following his father, Joyce Nestingen, and father-in-law, Olaf K. Storaasli. In this vocation, he took great joy in the colleagues, friends, trouble-makers, and sinners that he met, and with whom he shared a common faith.

Almon C. "Bo" Bock passed away December 12, 2022 in Buffalo, Minnesota.

Carolyn Heuer Tonneson died December 1, 2022, after a short and difficult battle with cancer. In last year's class letter, she wrote about her trip to Kenya in 2019 to volunteer at a Women's Center and a primary school in Mombasa and founded a nonprofit, Peter's Hope, to help educate children and empower women. Carolyn loved many things: traveling, reading, music and the arts, her church, her nonprofit, and most of all—her family. Carolyn just plain loved life and tried to live each day with a positive attitude. She gives credit to the Divine for each and every opportunity she had to touch the lives of other people.

Berta (Wurm) Anstrom passed away on August 24, 2022 at her home. She married John Anstrom on August 3, 1968. Shortly after their first son was born, they moved to

Class of 1967 Letter

John's paternal great-grandfather's homestead in Painted Woods Township, southwest of Wilton, ND. During this time Berta furthered her education graduating from NDSU in 1980 and the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1996.

John and Berta moved to Fargo in 1997 where Berta practiced law and later was an appeals referee for Job Service ND.

Frank B. Porten from Grand Rapids, MN passed away April 26, 2022.

Linda (Torvik) Jacobson passed away May 27, 2020 in Eugene, Oregon.

Mary Lynne Dittbrenner passed away June 10, 2019 in Manassas, Virginia.

Ethelyn A. (Brandli) Odell passed away April 26, 2017 in Rochester, Minnesota.

Agness R. (Syltie) Johnson passed away September 21, 2015.

William P. Weisbrod passed away September 8, 2014 in rural Sebeka, MN. Bill was very talented in sports and received many awards in football, baseball and basketball. He was recruited to play football at Concordia. He graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Business Management and a Minor in Political Science. After college Bill traveled as a Bank Examiner for a few years. Then he took a job as a Loan Officer at the First National Bank of Sebeka MN.

In 1989 he retired from the bank to become a full-time Rancher. Bill raised and enjoyed spending time with his three daughters. He also enjoyed participating in several area boards including church, township, Sebeka School, Leaf River Ag and many more. Bill also enjoyed devoting his time to the Nimrod Church, spending every morning with the coffee crew, golfing and watching the Minnesota Twins and Vikings.

Dorothy M. (Richardson) Hamilton passed away June 1, 2012.

In Conclusion

As co-class agents, Joanne Larson and Mark Budd want to thank all who have contributed updates and photos to this year's class letter. We look forward to getting updates from you for the next class letter.

Finally, given the nature of a collective letter such as this, some light editing is required for clarity and consistency. Wherever edits occurred, we worked diligently to retain the spirit of the expression.