Warm greetings from your 50th Reunion Committee Co-chairpersons, Hjordis Dommer Halvorson and Claudia Wallin Hagen. Fifty years is indeed worthy of celebration! We are so glad to invite you to the Concordia campus for Homecoming Week—October 10-13, 2019 to celebrate together. Our Committee has been working hard to make this the best Homecoming ever for the Class of 1969.

In our planning for the reunion, the Committee contacted our classmates, asking each person to send in a brief bio of the last 50 years. The result of this is the “50th Reunion Memory Book,” which should have arrived at your home within the last few weeks at no cost to you. We extend our deep appreciation to our classmates who generously donated funds for the printing and postage and to over 180 classmates who contributed their stories. The Reunion Memory Book also includes pictures from our years at Concordia, biographies of our professors emeriti, a timeline of current events during our college years, and a memorial section for our deceased classmates. Already we are hearing from classmates that they are enjoying the book, and we hope the book will inspire each of you to cherish the memories, reach out to classmates, and join us at the 50th Reunion in October.

• If you have not received the Reunion Memory Book, please contact Monica Stensland in the Alumni Relations office at mstensla@cord.edu or 218-299-3454.

• There have been several hotels in the Fargo-Moorhead booked for Homecoming. Make sure you request the rate for Concordia College Homecoming 50th Reunion. We encourage you to book your reservation as soon as possible. Hotel information is included at the end of this letter. Concordia has listed a few hotels online.

• Join us for the reunion reception that starts on Thursday, October 11 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Hjemkomst Heritage Center, 202 First Avenue North, Moorhead. If you haven’t registered, you can do so then, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged. You can register by going to concordiacollege.edu/1969reunion.

Finally, we would like to thank Judy Madson Becker for her many years of writing our class letter. When you see her at the Reunion, please personally thank her for her hard work. We are looking for a volunteer who can take over for Judy. If you’re interested, please let one of the Committee Members know.

Looking forward to seeing you in October,

Claudia and Hjordis
Thursday, October 10

5 - 8:30 p.m. 50th Reunion Kickoff Reception and Registration, Hjemkomst Center
Appetizers/cash bar, casual, a time of reminiscing, storytelling and connecting with classmates.

Friday, October 11

9:50 a.m. Homecoming Chapel, Centrum, Knutson Campus Center

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Registration, Atrium Alcove, Knutson Campus Center

12:30 - 2 p.m. 50th Reunion Luncheon with Dr. Craft, Centrum, Knutson Campus Center
Remarks from Dr. William J. Craft. Time to find out what’s happening on CC Campus. Emeritus Professors invited for lunch with an opportunity to visit. Special music by Concordia classmates.

2:10 - Tour of Integrated Science Center for 50th Reunion
Meet in Knutson Campus Center

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Homecoming Pre-Banquet Reception, Atrium, Knutson Campus Center.
Mingling and cash bar.

6:30 p.m. Homecoming Banquet, Centrum, Knutson Campus Center. Seated by class.

7:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. All Class Reunion, Courtyard by Marriott. Join fellow alumni after the banquet for a relaxing night of fellowship and fun!

8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Band, Orchestra & Choir All Class Reunion, Courtyard by Marriott

Saturday, October 12

8 - 10 a.m. 50th Reunion Breakfast with Dr. Dovre, Centrum, Knutson Campus Center
Remarks from Dr. Paul Dovre. Special music and memorial time led by 1969 classmates.

10 - 10:15 a.m. 50th Reunion Class Members Photo

11 a.m. Homecoming Parade, 8th Street (by McDonald’s for line up) Join the fun. Walk or ride.

12 p.m. Tailgating with Classmates, Jake Christiansen Stadium

1 p.m. Football Game, Jake Christiansen Stadium
Concordia vs. Gustavus

5:30 p.m. Athletic Hall of Fame Reception, Barry Auditorium, Grant Center
6:30 p.m. Homecoming Concert, Memorial Auditorium

8:30 - 12 midnight, All Reunion Classes Gathering, Knutson Center Centrum. Appetizers/cash bar.

Sunday, October 13

10:30 a.m. All-Campus Worship

Campus Update

Concordia Language Villages

During Summer 2018 the Concordia Language Villages welcomed over 4700 villagers and families. They came from all over the world to attended Concordia language immersion programs, demonstrating the value families are placing on world language and culture education.

50th year celebrations: The first Village to be built was Skogfjorden, the Norwegian Language Village, which happened 50 years ago. A special event to commemorate this milestone will be held on July 13. International Days on July 5 and August 9 celebrate 50 years of offering four-week high school credit sessions. Sjölunden the Swedish Language Village, celebrates its 45th summer on August 3.

Thanks to a generous gift of $5 million from the Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park, we will soon begin the first phase of construction of Sup sogûi Hosu, the Korean Language Village, on Turtle River Lake.

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. 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 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.

The Concordia Band was invited to perform at the Minnesota Music Educators Association Mid-Winter Clinic in Minneapolis, the North Dakota Music Educators Association Conference in Bismarck, and the Westman Honour Band concert at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. They performed throughout Minnesota during their annual domestic tour.

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.

New Hires

Concordia added two new leaders in the Career Center this year. Kris Olson joined the College as the new Director of the Career Center in October 2018. Jill Wenger was hired in the role of Assistant Director of the Career Center in March 2019.

Katie Nystuen was hired as our Health Services Coordinator this year. Part of her role is to guide students in making choices regarding their healthcare needs and connecting them to the many quality providers in our community.

Dallas Fossum joined Concordia as the new Director for Facilities Management in March.

Dr. Jill Abbott was appointed Deputy to the President at Concordia College, effective June 3, 2019.

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, one-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. 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, beautifully renovated space in the Normandy. 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.

A dinner was held April 4 to celebrate the naming of Dr. Dan Biebighauser ‘02 as holder of The Sigurd and Pauline Prestegaard Mundhjeld Endowed Chair of Mathematics. Biebighauser, a 2002 graduate of Concordia, 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, including, Dr. Bill Tomhave, Dr. James L. Forde, Dr. Alexander Sze and Dr. Gerald A. Heuer ’51.

**Alumni Awards:**
The National Alumni Board voted on the 2019 Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. To learn more about each award, visit [www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition/](http://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition/).

**2019 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients**
Dr. Paul Brandvik ’59
Dr. Kristi Ferguson ’71
Dr. Thomas Samuelson ’81
The Rev. Ann Svennungsen ’77

**2019 Sent Forth Recipients**
Betsy Grams ’98
Matthew Culloton ’98

**2019 Called to Serve Recipients**
LaVern ’54 and Lois (Austin) ’56 Nornes
Gayle (Carpenter) Denny ’76