Hello fellow ’71 alums!

Here’s hoping this finds you well and enjoying a relaxing, enriching summer!

Another busy school year has come to a successful close at Concordia. The college continues to meet in innovative ways the challenges of a small, private college dedicated to the liberal arts. Students, faculty, staff and alums continue to contribute to the energy and growth of this beloved institution.

In last year’s letter, you read about a new capital campaign called RISE, which had as its goal to raise $150,000,000 by December 2019. You may be aware that the campaign ended about eight months early, having surpassed the goal by over seven million dollars!

On a related note, the class of ’71 had 21% participation in fundraising endeavors and contributed $54,571.38. Since graduation our class has given a total of $1,452,400.36. The college appreciates our generosity.

Here are some updates from the past year at Concordia:

> Concordia’s outstanding tradition of preparing students for medical school is now available to highly motivated individuals who have earned a bachelor’s degree from an accredited four year institution, but lack most or all of the prerequisite sciences needed for admission to medical school. The program is ideal for career changers and individuals deciding later in their academic journey or pursue a career in medicine.

> Concordia sent twelve members to the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament at the University of Alabama, where the school was one of only a few smaller colleges that placed in the top fifteen, which was dominated by larger research institutions.

> The Normandy is the new home of the Center for Student Success, which includes academic support services, orientation and first-year transition programming, the peer mentor program and the diversity coordinator for Student Support Services.

> On April 10, more than 300 students presented posters or spoke during the 2019 Celebration of Student Scholarship. “Our goal is to keep building on the diversity of research,” said Krys Strand, Director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity.

> Dr. Dan Biebighauser, ’02, was named the holder of the Sigurd and Pauline Prestegaard Mundhjeld Endowed Chair of Mathematics.

> Dr. Rene Clausen has announced that he will retire following the 2019-2020 academic year. President William Craft noted 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.”

> Musical groups at Concordia continued their tradition of sharing their talents outside the F-M area, with the choir bringing the Christmas concert to the Twin Cities’ Orchestra hall and later touring the Pacific Northwest. The orchestra completed a successful tour which took them to various cities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. In addition to their domestic tour, the band accepted invitations to perform for music educators in Minneapolis and Bismarck, as well as being the featured collegiate band at the Westman Honour Band concert at Brandon University in Manitoba.

> One year ago, in the spring of 2018, Concordia had only one team--women’s basketball--with a female head coach. With the hiring of new volleyball head coach Faith Dooley, the Cobbers now have *five* additional female head coaches and have been recognized by the University of Minnesota’s Tucker
Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport as the top college in the MIAC for the increase in female head coaches over the past year.

> Matt Bye, junior from Moorhead, won the heptathlon at this winter’s MIAC indoor track and field championship and went on to finish eleventh in the event at the NCAA national indoor meet held in Boston.

> The Cobber men's hockey team earned its seventh consecutive berth in the MIAC playoffs this season. They finished conference play with nine league wins, which was the most since the 2013 season.

> Concordia Language Villages had a very busy summer in 2018, hosting over 4700 villagers and families at their various sites. This summer marks the 50th anniversary of the Norwegian village Skogfjorden, the first permanent language village to be built at Turtle River Lake and a special observation of the event is planned for July 13.

> One of our own classmates will be honored with the Alumni Achievement Award this fall at homecoming! Kristi (Martinson) Ferguson is professor emeritus of general internal medicine and served as director of the Office of Consultation and Research in Medical Education at the Iowa Carver College of Medicine, where she greatly influenced the development, implementation and evaluation of the curriculum.

Other award winners are listed below. To learn more about each award, visit www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition.

**2019 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients**

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<th>Dr. Paul Brandvik ’59</th>
<th>Dr. Kristi Ferguson ’71</th>
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<td>Rev. Ann Svennungsen ’77</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas Samuelson ’81</td>
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**Sent Forth Award Recipients**

| Betsy Grams ’98 | Matthew Culloton ’98 |

> And now, the updates from our class. Thanks to everyone who submitted a personal update. In the interests of space, some of the updates have been condensed; it seems that as we retire and cut back on work, we end up getting busier and busier! Here, in no particular order, is what's new with us:

**Kristi (Martinson) Ferguson** was named a Concordia Alumni Achievement Award winner. As was reported earlier in this class letter, she is professor emeritus of general internal medicine and has served as the director of the Office of Consultation and Research in Medical Education at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, where she greatly influenced the development, implementation and evaluation of the curriculum. The award will be presented this fall at the homecoming banquet.

**Eric Graham**, after serving for several years as a pastor, returned to school and became a psychologist. He was employed as a director of psychology at a State of Minnesota facility until his retirement. He and his wife will soon celebrate their 59th anniversary. They have two sons and two grandsons and have traveled to Canada, Europe and Great Britain.

**Jon Marsden** and his wife, Sue, have six children and ten grandchildren. They are semi-retired, working part-time as staff pastors at River Heights Vineyard Church in Inver Grove Heights, MN, a church which they planted 28 years ago. John loves his family, his church family and sports--especially “the amazing Minnesota Twins!”
Wayne Skaff serves as the executive pastor of Northgate Church in Ramsey, MN and enjoys traveling and his grandkids. He left on June 19 for his 46th trip to the Holy Land, this time taking his five grandchildren, their parents and his wife, Arlene. He has tours to the Holy Land booked through 2022.

Barbara Yergens retired in the fall of 2015 and now spends part of most afternoons visiting her 99-year old mother, May Bredeson, of Campus Information, who resides at Eventide Nursing Home in Moorhead. When not visiting her mother, she enjoys her favorite hobby of knitting.

Ralph Tellefsen has been retired from Delta Airlines for nine years. He and his wife, Julie (Okland ’74), live in Ham Lake, MN and are blessed with fourteen grandchildren, good health and a lot of travel.

John Matthews will be retiring from ELCA pastoral ministry in August after 44 years. He will continue to teach religion part-time at Augsburg University. He and Patty will travel to visit their kids and grandkids. He will also continue to serve on the board of the International Bonhoeffer Society--English Language Section.

Marge Berg has spent her time since retiring from teaching four years ago traveling with her husband, Chuck, in their fifth wheel to a different Habitat for Humanity build each winter. They enjoy kayaking, hiking and biking in national parks along the way. They are presently in Norway for the adventure of Marge's dreams. At home they enjoy their church and lake activities with their five grandchildren.

Kathy German is a full professor teaching students to make films and other media in the media, journalism and film department at Miami University in Oxford, OH. This summer she will be finishing a book on World War II home-front advertising. She wrote a previous book on government media recruitment of African-Americans to serve in the military during World War II. In her spare time she paints, raises dairy goats and works with a local animal rescue group.

Pat Torgeson and his wife, Cynthia (Sillers ’70) decided it was time to downsize and built and moved into a patio home in West Fargo this spring. He reports that they find life both busy and enjoyable as they arrange their new home, entertain company, visit family, complete the details of his mother’s estate, take daily walks and the “general events of retirement.”

Pat Schmitz Odden Seeley is now retired after having taught German in MN and WI, and getting a master’s in education. In ’97 she earned a second master’s, this one in industrial engineering, which led to jobs in the engineering and ergonomics fields. She has traveled several times to German-speaking countries, as well as Ireland, Italy, China and to Norway to visit relatives. She enjoys working out, doing triathlons, attending book clubs and discussion groups, knitting, babysitting her grandkids, volunteering, playing piano, singing in choral groups and attending theater and concerts. Following the death of her second husband three years ago, she moved back to her hometown of Minneapolis from Sedona, AZ.

Carolyn Wilson Vincent lives with her husband in Victoria, BC since 1981. Prior to that she lived in the Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia. She is retired from teaching and loves to travel and volunteer with her husband. Their longest volunteering stint was one year in Tanzania, where she was partnered with the Ministry of Education. They have managed to explore 64 countries so far, with their most recent trip being to Borneo and their next to Japan. When not traveling, she volunteers at the Royal British Columbia Museum. She would love to hear from fellow Cobbers and occasionally gets back to Minnesota to visit.

Mark Peterson has found his way back to Minnesota, living with his family in his boyhood home in Minneapolis, after 24 years working as a pastoral care manager in a large St. Petersburg, FL hospital. He is working part-time doing programming for a Methodist retreat center near Annandale and teaching pastoral care to members who want to visit on behalf of their congregations. He and his wife, Janice, have three sons: Paul, is in grad school in NJ, Daniel is at CSU in Ft. Collins, CO and Ben is about to
start his first year at UW-Madison School of Engineering. He fills his spare time with photography, boating and projects around the house.

**Deb Root Buchholz** is retired from education and has embarked on a new career as babysitter for the world’s cutest grandbaby. She and Steve ('69) enjoy traveling, having just gotten back from a river cruise on the Rhine and will be cruising the fjords of Norway and up into the Arctic Circle in later this summer. They live in Plymouth, MN.

>On a sadder note, we have learned of the deaths of four of our classmates in the past year: Larry Correll, of Frederick County, VA, passed away in October; Joyanne (Tufte) Killeen (Woodbury, MN) died in January, as did Philip Mattson, who was living in California at the time, and Craig Olson, of Moorhead.

In closing, it is hard to believe that 48 years have gone by since we left Concordia. In many ways it seems like just yesterday. We have seen a lot of changes since graduation, but one thing remains the same: Concordia still is committed to “influence the affairs of the world by sending out into society thoughtful and informed men and women dedicated to the Christian life.”

Soli Deo Gloria

Deb Buchholz
Class of ’71