

Greeting to all Cobbers of '76.

I want to start by thanking Paul Peterson for authoring these class letters over the last several years. I enjoyed opening them to catch up on the latest from the college and from you. I offered to take on this responsibility at our 40th reunion last fall. It seemed something that I could do from afar, but to do it well I am going to need your help.

Paul often gave his impressions of the changes taking place on campus, seeing a new building go up, or one we knew being renovated. I can't offer that kind of eye witness, as when we were "sent forth" I landed in Ohio. My trips back to Moorhead are relatively few, so to keep sharing that changing face of the college I am going to require your eyes. Drop me a note and tell me what you see and experience.

Those away from Moorhead can do the same. Paul told me I'd have some of your stories, as you send them to the college for inclusion in this letter they would be forwarded to me. Well so far I have heard from exactly none of you. So obviously we can only see a great increase in those notes in the future. I can't wait to hear what is happening in your life as we enter that stage when the news will be of retirements, life after retirement, travels and grandchildren. Send those notes my direction and I'll pass them along to our classmates.

Did you know we have a dedicated Facebook page? It is underutilized, but a great place to share those stories in real time. It is titled "Concordia College Class of 1976". Look it up and "like" it, then post the news from your life. I'm going to practice what I preach and add a photo from my "writing desk" of the day. Check it out to find out where I am.

Fortunately the college is helpful in keeping us up to date on what's happening on campus. Here is a little of what has changed and is changing.

NEW FACES

Dr. Edward Antonio has been hired as Concordia's inaugural Chief Diversity Officer. He will begin his service on August 1st of this year. Dr. Antonio earned his BA, Masters and Ph.D. from universities in England and Scotland, the later from the University of Cambridge. He is an experienced teacher and prolific scholar of religion, theology, and issues of diversity and inclusion in global societies.

Jeff Bretherton has accepted the position as the first full-time Athletic Director in the history of the college. Bretherton has experience in Division III athletics and the MIAC conference. He brings financial acumen to the position as well. He was Senior Development Officer and assistant football coach at St. John's University from 1996 - 2003. He also served as the Director of Development for the Heart of the Rockies Initiative in Missoula, Montana, where he guided the development efforts for capital and capacity building projects totaling \$34 million.

Amena Chaudhry was hired this spring as the Diversity Coordinator for Student Support Services at Concordia. Most recently she worked as a Restorative Justice Facilitator for Lutheran Social Services and the Clay County Attorney's Office. 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.

SUSTAINABILITY

On April 11th President Craft signed the *Integrated Climate Commitment*. This aligns us with over 600 American colleges and universities in the Climate Leadership Network. Dr. Kenneth Foster, chair of the president's sustainability council says, "Signing... will commit us to measuring what we are doing so we can take stock of where we're at in a multi-step plan; eventually to get to carbon neutrality." I am looking forward to updates on this plan, as new generations of Cobbers are equipped with new tools to go into the world and be difference makers.

SCIENCE

We remember when the "new" science building was built on campus, replacing the WWII barrack buildings that housed those departments. If you were on campus for last year's 40th you saw the construction activity around the science center. The Integrated Science Center is on budget and on track to open for the start of classes this fall.

That will be just in time for the college to put to use the National Science Foundation award of a \$960,000 grant through the *Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM)* program. Dr. Mark Jensen, Chemistry, will lead the program which includes \$576,000 for scholarships. The Concordia College *FOCUS* program (Fostering Opportunities for Community,

Understanding and Success) has been created to assist in expansion of the STEM workforce by implementing strategies to attract, retain, and prepare academically talented, low-income students interested in STEM careers. Two cohorts of 12 students will be supported by \$6,000/year each in *S-STEM* scholarship assistance and additional funding for programming to support their success.

MUSIC

On April 8 and 9 a new oratorio-length composition written by Dr. Rene' Clausen, "The Passion of Jesus Christ," was premiered in Minneapolis (April 8) at Orchestra Hall and on campus (April 9) in Memorial Auditorium. Commissioned to observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the hour long composition utilized 400 musicians of the Concordia voice faculty, choirs and orchestra. It brought audience members closer to powerful scenes from Christ's procession into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the trial before Pilate and the crucifixion. In addition to telling the story of the Passion, music and text reveal moments when major figures struggle with the motivation and implication of their actions.

Student ensembles have been on tour, or are planning tours. The choir toured Germany and Austria in May to observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the 125th anniversary of Concordia College.

The orchestra is planning a cultural and performance tour of Greece in May of 2018. This fall (late October and early November) they will be touring Minnesota and Iowa. Watch for details in cord.edu/orchestratour.

The Concordia Band is planning for a tour in February 2018 to North Dakota and Montana. Details will be available at cord.edu/bandtour.

ATHLETICS

Way to go Cobber fans! For the second straight year you earned yourselves a Top 10 attendance finish for Division III football. An average of 4,951 enthusiastic Cobbers filled the stands for each of the 5 home games, placing us #6 in the national attendance charts.

Some individual awards for our athletes included junior wrestler Adam Presler (Sioux Falls, SD). He became the first student athlete in the history of Concordia 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. A Mathematics major, Presler has a perfect 4.0 GPA. This past year he won 26 matches and qualified for the NCAA Championship Meet.

Senior women's track and field athlete Emma Peterson (Benson, MN) became the first Cobber to win the same two events at the MIAC Indoor and Outdoor Championship Meets. She broke conference records in both the high jump and the triple jump at the indoor meet, and then went on to win the same events at the outdoor Championships, where she also broke the outdoor triple jump mark. Peterson went on to earn All-American honors at the NCAA National Indoor Meet.

Cobber basketball witnessed a changing of the guard last year with the retirement of head coach Rick Glas, who led the team for 37 years. He is being replaced by Grant Hemmingsen who for the last four years has been the team's assistant coach. A graduate of Augsburg College Hemmingsen coached at Kentucky Wesleyan, a NCAA Division II school, as an assistant.

NEW ROLES ON CAMPUS

Dr. Ernest Simmons concludes his distinguished service as Director of the Dovre Center for Faith and Learning this academic year. He will continue as a member of the Religion faculty at Concordia.

Dr. Larry Papenfuss, who served as Co-Director of the center this year will succeed him, effective September 1st. Papenfuss will work with faculty and staff colleagues to construct a renewed plan for the Dovre Center in light of the ongoing work of the college's strategic plan. In his role as Director, he will collaborate with the Office of Ministry, the Forum for Faith and Life, and the Lorentzen Center for Faith and Work to review and revise their particular goals in light of the ongoing work of the college's strategic plan. Dr. Papenfuss's exceptional union of faculty, administrative, and fundraising experience will enable us to build on the groundbreaking work of Dr. Simmons and to define and sustain the future scholarly, spiritual, and communal work of the Dovre Center in the life and mission of Concordia College.

Effective July 1st Dr. Lisa Sethre-Hofstra will become Concordia's Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life. Dr. Sethre-Hofstra has served Concordia for 21 years, most recently as Associate Dean of the College and Professor of Psychology. She will become a member of the college

cabinet and report directly to the president, and retaining her appointment as a member of the Concordia faculty.

NEW VENTURES

Concordia continues to evolve and innovate to respond to the needs of this generations of “sent forth servants”. During the 2017-2018 academic year, various individuals have been working on the upcoming launch of several new ventures initiatives. Dr. Cynthia Carver, Chair, Division of Professional Services and Communication Studies Professor, continues to serve as a coordinator for this work. Watch for these initiatives to be launched in the spring and fall of 2017.

Executive Education: This new venture will provide executive short courses to mid-to upper-level and “rising star” managers, as well as self-employed professionals. Courses will be taught by instructors from both academic and industry sectors.

Chartered Market Technician (CMT0 Test Prep — CMTs practice technical analysis of investment risk in portfolio management settings: The Market Technician Association (MTA) credentials its members through a three-tiered testing model. CMT test prep outline courses, taught by industry professionals, will provide an interactive test prep to prepare for these difficult exams.

Graduate Programming: In the fall of 2017 the college will launch a new combined Master’s/Internship program in Dietetics Leadership. Additionally, a program for accelerated teacher licensure (the CALLEd program) will see its official launch.

ALUMNI AWARDS

The National Alumni Board voted on the Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Service Awards. Learn more about these awards by visiting cord.edu/alumniawards.

The National Alumni Board encourages you to nominate a fellow alumnus/na for our **Called to Serve Award**. This award is conferred upon alumni who have demonstrated notable commitment to the mission of the college through lifelong service to their faith communities, education, arts or other not-for-profit activities. Alumni of any year are eligible for this award. The nomination forms for all our alumni forms can be found on our website at <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni-donors/awards-recognition/nominate/>.

2017 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients:

Karen Armstrong-Friedrich '63

Alan Carlson '61

Philip Noss '61

Mary (Sorenson) Ranum '78

2017 Sent Forth Recipients

Meelad Dawlaty '04

Susan (Webb) Yackee '97

Loyal Cobber, a program of the National Alumni Board

Cord.edu/loyal Cobber

What does a lifelong Cobber look like?

Being a part of the Cobber Alumni network is about staying involved and giving back to future students, feeling connected and proudly sharing it with those around you. When you do something in all four of these categories, let us know and we'll send you an exclusive Loyal Cobber gift!

CONNECT: Stay informed (cord.edu/classnotes or 218.299.3743).

Update your information online or by phone to now to see what's happening among alumni and with the college.

ENGAGE: Get involved (cord.edu/engage). Provide meaningful experiences for students and participate in alumni events, programs and teams.

SUPPORT: Make an impact (cord.edu/give or cobbersgive.org) Give to student scholarships and campus projects to ensure educational enrichment for current and future Cobbers.

SHARE: Show your Cobber Pride (cord.edu/social and cord.edu/refer). Interact on social media using #cordmn, show off your alma mater swag and tell future Cobbers about your Concordia experience.

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 the work of the college immediately, funding areas of scholarship and financial aid, academic programs, institutional operations and student services.

This past year our class gave \$40,005.24. The 128 contributing classmates represents 26.28% of our total class. Since we walked across the stage in Memorial Auditorium our class has contributed \$ 1246640.03 in outright gifts. THANK YOU!

And once again, don't forget to drop me a note telling me what's new with you. I'll share it in the next Class letter. Send the information to the Alumni office and let them know you are part of the class of '76, they will forward your news to me. Better yet, share it right now on *Concordia College Class of 1976* Facebook page. Head there right now to see where I'm sitting and thinking of all of you while I write these notes.

Why not make plans now to come to campus for Homecoming? If not this fall, then for our next "big" year, #45 which is only 4 years away! I hope to see you then.

With Cobber pride,
Sherman Bishop
'76 Class Agent

P.S. Here is a list of missing alumni from our class. If you have any means to contact them, please do and ask them to call (218)299.3734 or email (alumni@cord.edu) the Alumni Relations Office to update their contact information!

Brekken, Julie	Lundborg, Leslie K.
Cross, Paula B.	McAninch, Debra L.
Currie, Robert L.	Messerli, Brad J.
Drake, Cherilyn A.	Miller, Joel D.
Forbes, Diana K.	Mireault, Joseph R.
Fossum, Jewel R.	Moline, Valerie D.
Haugen, Jean M.	Quinn, Patricia A.
Hayen, Debra K.	Roe, Magne A.
Johnson, Frances J.	Romano, Ardele R.
Johnson, Peter J.	Stark, Richard B.
Johnson, Stephen H.	Tollefson, Blair T.
Kaye, Scott H.	Verchota, Robert P.
Knutson, Laurel J.	Lee, Forrest