

August 2019

CLASS OF 1980

2019 Class Letter



CLASS AGENT

We're still looking for a 1980 Class Agent. It doesn't take a huge amount of time and since I work in Alumni Relations, I'd be happy to assist you. Please let me know if you'd like to volunteer.

40TH REUNION

As you know, we celebrate our 40th Class Reunion in 2020. Mark your calendar for Oct. 2 - 4, 2020. We're starting to organize a reunion team so let me know if you're interested.

ALUMNI TRAVEL

Interested in alumni global travel? We're headed to Germany and Lutherland, Scotland, Switzerland/Austria/the Czech Republic, Vietnam and Cambodia, Germany and France and Norway. Check our website for more details:
concordiacollege.edu/alumni/

HELLO CLASS OF 1980

It has been an exciting year, both on campus and in our personal lives. I'm excited to share with you news from Concordia and updates from several classmates. Can you believe that we're all in our 60s now?! Wow! How did that happen? Some of us are even retired and moving on to new adventures. I hope you enjoy reading all the news!

Karen (Natwick) Carlson '80



Campus Updates

What's Happening on Campus these days?

1

STUDENT SUCCESS IS THE NORM(ANDY)

The Center for Student Success has a new home in the Normandy (where we used to get burgers and fries). The beautifully renovated space is open and full of light, making for an inviting space for students. The center includes academic support, Orientation and First-Year Transition Programming.





FORENSICS TEAM GOES TO NATIONALS

Concordia sent one debate pair to the National Debate Tournament and 12 speech team members to the American Forensic Association Individual Events Tournament this year. Congratulations speakers!

3 COACH LIKE A GIRL

In the spring of 2018, Concordia had only one team - women's basketball - with a female coach.

Fast forward one year, the Cobbers now have 5 additional female head coaches mentoring student/athletes in hockey, cross country, soccer, volleyball, and golf. This spring, Jessica Rahman, head basketball coach, retired and we welcomed Kim Wagers as our new head coach this summer.

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.



WELCOME TO
CONCORDIA



KIM WAGERS
HEAD COACH
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



CELEBRATION OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

4

More than 300 students presented their posters or spoke at concurrent session during Concordia's 2019 Celebration of Student Scholarship (COSS) on April 10. Some students participated in multiple presentations. New at this year's COSS was an art display with printmaking pieces and two session presented in Spanish. "Our goal is to keep building on the diversity of research," says Krys Strand, director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity and coordinator of the Celebration of Student Scholarship.



5

DR. CLAUSEN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

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 has served as the visionary leader of the choral program at Concordia over thirty years. To say farewell to Dr. Clausen and thank him for his years of service, a reunion is planned at Homecoming for current and past choir members. Those who participate will have the opportunity to close out the Homecoming Concert with the performance of 3 scores. See our website for more details at ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/Homecoming



CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES CELEBRATES BIG THIS YEAR



Thanks to a generous gift of \$5 million from the Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park, Concordia Language Villages will soon begin the first phase of construction of Sup Sogui Hosu, the Korean Language Village, on Turtle River Lake. The first Village to built was Skogfjorden, the Norwegian Language Village, and that happened 50 years ago this summer. A special event to commemorate this milestone was held on July 13. Sjölundén the Swedish Language Village, celebrated its 45th summer with a midsommar event on August 3. The Villages are also celebrating 50 years of offering four-week high school credit sessions this summer.

NEW HIRES AT THE CAREER CENTER

Concordia added two critical new leaders in the Career Center this year. Kris Olson joined the College as the new Director of the Career in October 2018, and Jill Wenger, was hired in the role of Assistant Director of the Career Center in March 2019. The College is excited about the direction Kris and Jill are leading the Career Center and can't wait to see what changes Kris, Jill and their team can bring.



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HEALTH SERVICES

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. Though direct care is not the focus of the Health Services Office, she is First Aid, CPR and AED certified, can assist with triage and referral to an appropriate medical facility should an urgent situation arise, and is a Mental Health First Aid trainer. One of her goals is to be more proactive and holistic regarding health and wellness programming on campus.

DR. B NAMED ENDOWED CHAIR OF MATH

9


A dinner was held April 4 to celebrate the naming of Dr. Dan Biebighauser as holder of The sigurd and Pauline Prestegaard Mundhjeld Endowed Chair of Mathematics. Biebighauser is a 2002 graduate of Concordia and joined the faculty in 2006. The holder of the Mundheld 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.



RISE CAMPAIGN



On April 30th, Concordia wrapped up the RISE Campaign, a \$150, 000,000 campaign that began in 2011. In total, the campaign brought in over \$157,000,000 from nearly 19,000 donors from May 2, 2011 to April 30, 2019. The campaign wrapped up eight months earlier than expected and surpassed the goal with flying colors. Some of the highlights of this campaign were the renovations of the Integrated Science Center, millions for student scholarships, and the creation of new programming, like the Center for Diversity.



BY THE NUMBERS

37

MILLION DOLLARS ADDED
TO THE ENDOWMENT

23

MILLION DOLLARS FOR
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

45

MILLION DOLLARS IN
CAPITAL PROJECTS

25

MILLION DOLLARS GIVEN
BY FACULTY/STAFF

CLASS UPDATES



Kellian Clink writes "Since the last I communicated, I was promoted to Full Professor and have made more trips to England. Little by little, I will be familiar with most of the coastline. I've presented at history conferences and library conferences and kayaked a lot and read a ton of books and helped a million students! I am looking forward to our 40th reunion!"

Scott and Kathy (Tuft) Ofsdahl are now officially retired! Kathy served 20 years as a dental hygienist and Scott served 30 years active duty as an Air Force Chaplain. They are now enjoying retirement in the San Antonio Texas area.

Julie (Hendrickson) Chandler is still living in rural Nova Scotia in a small town called Yarmouth. She and her husband live in a little house overlooking the harbour. Two years ago, their oldest son and his wife moved back to Yarmouth with their 3 daughters and they live right across the harbour from Julie and Jim. They are very happy to have son, daughter-in-law and granddaughters living so close to them. Julie still practices geriatric medicine and Jim is a psychiatrist who primarily takes care of children with psychiatric problems.

Dan Belgum is currently serving as pastor of First Lutheran Church in Morris, Minnesota, where he has served since December 2, 2017. He is also an avid birder and wilderness canoe enthusiast.

Bret Jacobson recently retired from the Department of Defense. He continues to sit on some corporate boards and travels quite a bit since he has a son living in Germany.

Susan (Shaver) Kahler writes "Life is busy. My parents keep me busy. We moved them twice in 7 months. Each time required additional down sizing, There are some highlights for the year. First is the arrival of our first grandchild. It more wonderful than I ever imagined. The second highlight was an Alaskan cruise. It was very beautiful. I hope to plan a cruise in the future. As far as daily activities, I direct the handbells at Newport Lutheran and sing in the church choir. I enjoy gardening and quilting in my spare time.

Robert Clark, husband of 30 years to **Sigrid Bey Clark** passed away unexpectedly on December 2, 2018. She is grateful for the 30 years, her church and her family and friends that have been helping her put one foot ahead of the other. *Our prayers go out to Sigrid for the loss of her husband.*



Tim Carlson reports that in mid-2019, he retired from working as an internal auditor; a role he performed for over 25 years with various companies. In July 2019, he and his wife, Jill '82, purchased a home in Laguna Vista, Texas at the South Padre Island Golf Community. It is a short 15 minute drive to having their "toes in the sand" on the Island.

Jill has one year left before her retirement so so she is splitting time between their new home in Texas and St. Louis, Missouri. Tim is exploring options to teach English as a second language, both locally in Texas and online. He became certified in anticipation of teaching during his retirement years.



Rev. Lynnae Joy (Johnson) Landin is starting a new job in September as Church Musician/Organist in Lycksele, Lappland, Sweden. A part-time position as hospital chaplain/assistant pastor in the Lycksele Lutheran Church will also be part of her new job. She is still the volunteer pastor of a small congregation in Rusksele, Lappland, Sweden which is part of The Uniting Church of Sweden, formerly the mission Covenant denomination.

Paul Olson reported that his wife, **Nancy (Wettlaufer) Olson** retired from teaching in the Bottineau, North Dakota Public Schools after 23 years as the instrumental music teacher and department chair.



MaryAnn (Waaen) Anderson and her husband **Loren '67** recently concluded their time as co-chairs for “Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA”. They were in Milwaukee for the Church wide Assembly in August to announce the successful completion of the campaign. The goal was \$198 million with over \$250 million

raised for leader development, global outreach and hunger. Dr Richard Torgerson '65 and Steph and Steve Smith '90, and Rev. Don Haven '72 served on the campaign stirring committee. Christina Jackson Skelton '87 Director of Mission Advancement for the ELCA provided the staff leadership for the effort. Congratulations to the the entire team!



Karen (Natwick) Carlson Our youngest, **Alec**, graduated from California Lutheran University in May, so we did a road trip to sunny California. We also spent some time with our good friends in the Pasadena area, where we had lived for over 25 years.

Renee Boomgaarden is a clinical psychologist in Dickinson, ND, where she has lived for 30 years. Renee is happily married to another psychologist, and they have two children who graduated from Concordia. Currently, she is president of the North Dakota State Board of Psychologist Examiners, and works at a community mental health center.



Ann (Larson) Beck serves on Concordia's National Alumni Board. It is great to be able to see her at least 3 times a year. She recently hosted a corn feed in Duluth with fellow Cobbers Dave Uselman '06 and Jeff Cadwell '89.

Anne Retzlaff went back to school in 2015 to be a psychiatric nurse practitioner. She has a nice private practice in the Bay Area near San Francisco. Anne keeps busy by belonging to three health clubs where she lifts weights and does zumba, yoga, and cardio. She is looking forward to seeing many of you at the reunion in 2020.



Mary (Olson) Younggren writes "This was my 3rd visit to Norway, with wonderful family times! We started in Bergen and stayed on the Island of Stord at Raunholm, where my grandfather is from, and lived in the "gamle huset," the "old house," where he was born! I traveled with 2 cousins, and an Aunt and Uncle. Uncle Dave got to meet his 1st cousins, and we had a

wonderful family event with LOTS of food! Our next week, we went north to explore Alesund, Geiranger, and on to the Lofoten Islands, ending in Oslo with cousins. Jeg hadde en fint reise og jeg å gleder meg til domme tilbake Norge!"

Please keep **Rebecca (Rice) Tetlie** in your prayers. She contracted a MRCA staph infection and double pneumonia at the end of a 10 day trip to Costa Rica with her husband, Alden at the beginning of August. She was in critical condition in a hospital in San José, for at least a couple weeks and then moved to a hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It is very

fortunate that Alden is a physician and recognized that something was seriously wrong and was able to get her from a small clinic to a good hospital in San José. She is now recovering in the Twin Cities.

Also, please remember classmate **Jim Reinhart** in your prayers. He continues to be homeless in Texas and is struggling with some serious health issues.

I am sad to report that one of our classmates, **Catherine Ridge** from Golden Valley, Minnesota, passed away on September 20, 2019 after a 15 month battle with cancer. She is survived by her brother Mark (Anita) Ridge; nephews Jason, Kolter and Jared Ridge and niece Alicia Ridge. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

CONCORDIA 2018-19





Thank you for your generous support of Concordia and its students! In the past few years, the College has continued to surpass fundraising goals and create new opportunities for students, including the completion of the Integrated Science Center and student scholarships.

This past year, our class had 17.16% participation and gave \$39,687.82. Since graduation, our class has given \$1,380,760.37 in outright gifts. **THANK YOU!**

