June 13, 2017

Dear Class of ’82:

35 years have come (and gone) since we walked across that stage in Memorial Auditorium and shook hands with President Dovre while wearing our snappy cloth-over-cardboard square caps and gowns.

35 years!? How can that be?

Seriously, where has the time gone? Here are some clues as to what we’ve been up to:

Parenting: Many of your own children are now in college and/or already alumni of their respective colleges.

Grandparenting: Some of you are enjoying one of life’s great experiences: grandparenthood.

Parenting, Part II: Many of us are experiencing “role-reversal” by taking on caretaking responsibilities for our own parents, as their minds and bodies begin to diminish.

Work/Careers: Others of you are retiring (or contemplating retirement) from long, successful professional careers and are planning for the next steps in your life adventure.

Our middle-aged selves are truly experiencing the full “Circle of Life.”

Concordia College’s campus and the City of Moorhead have changed greatly since we arrived there circa 1978. Nearly all the homes in Moorhead along the river are gone (including my own childhood home) due to the extensive flooding in the 1990s and 2000s. A few years ago, my daughter and I were at Concordia’s Homecoming. It was a beautiful day. After the football game, I said to her “Sarah, let’s drive by and take a look at Dad’s old house.” So we did. We drove down the block only to discover every single house was gone and all that was left was an empty lot. Seeing the look on my face, the intuitive young lady asked, “Dad, do you need a moment?” I really did.

The transformation of Concordia’s campus is simply amazing. The new science building should be completed by the time we gather for Homecoming and our 35th reunion in late September. Over the years, many of you have seen new campus landmarks like the Bell Tower, the beautiful new food service building, the Olson Forum connected to the field house, and the very impressive addition to “East Complex” called the Offutt School of Business. If it has been more than 5 years since you were last on campus, I strongly encourage you to come to Moorhead for Homecoming, as you will be very impressed by the beautification of Cobberland. Here is a campus update from the college:
New Hires

- **Dr. Edward Antonio** has been hired as Concordia’s inaugural Chief Diversity Officer. Dr. Antonio earned a bachelor’s degree from the Council of National Academic Awards in London, a master’s degree from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland and his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge. Dr. Antonio is an experienced teacher and prolific scholar of religion, theology, and issues of diversity and inclusion in global societies. Dr. Antonio will begin his service on August 1, 2017.

- **Jeff Bretherton** has accepted the position as the first full-time Athletic Director in the history of Concordia College. Bretherton takes over for interim athletic director Rachel Bergeson, who served since head men’s basketball coach Rich Glas stepped down in the spring of 2016. Bretherton has experience in Division III athletics and the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and also brings financial acumen to the position. He was a Senior Development Officer and assistant football coach at St. John’s University from 1996-2003, helping the Johnnies win the NCAA Division III national championship in 2003. He has also served as the Director of Development for the Heart of the Rockies Initiative in Missoula, Mont., 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 College. Amena has worked most recently as a Restorative Justice Facilitator for Lutheran Social Services and the Clay County Attorney’s Office. Amena brings extensive experience in partnering and collaborating with people from varying backgrounds. As the Diversity Coordinator for Student Support Services, 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.

Science

- The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Concordia College 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, with additional funding for programming to support their success.
As many of you know, the science buildings are in the process of being renovated. The Integrated Science Center is on budget and on track to open for the start of classes in fall 2017. Work is being carried out at an amazing pace with about 150 workers on site each day. Finish work (painting, flooring, etc.) is already underway in many parts of the complex. Faculty and staff will begin to move into their new spaces later this summer. Various planning teams are currently hard at work orchestrating this undertaking.

Sustainability

On April 11, Concordia College joined more than 600 American colleges and universities in the Climate Leadership Network when President Craft signed the Integrated Climate Commitment. That network includes many of our ELCA sister institutions, as well as regional public institutions. Signing the Integrated Climate Commitment is an important step in realizing the Concordia College Vision for Sustainability. “Signing the climate commitment commits us to developing a climate action plan, which will have clear benchmarks and goals, and clear strategies for reaching them,” says Dr. Kenneth Foster, chair of the president’s Sustainability Council. “It will commit us to measure what we’re doing so we can take stock of where we’re at in a multi-step plan; eventually, to get to carbon neutrality.”

Concordia Language Villages

Concordia Language Villages continues to welcome over 9,800 program participants annually. The summers of 2015 and 2016 marked two of the best years of summer program enrollment since 2008.

During 2016, the Language Villages celebrated the 50th anniversary of the acquisition of the Turtle River Lake property near Bemidji, Minn. This partnership with the Bemidji area has resulted in a $6.3M annual impact on the local economy. More than $3M has been donated to the Language Villages since 1966 by Bemidji-area individuals, businesses and foundations. Concordia Language Villages accounts for over 1,000 arrivals and departures to and from the Bemidji Regional Airport each year.

Music

The premiere of Dr. René Clausen's "The Passion of Jesus Christ", a new, oratorio-length composition written by Dr. René Clausen and commissioned to observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, took place on April 8 in Minneapolis at Orchestra Hall and April 9 on campus in Memorial Auditorium. The hour-long composition, performed by the 400 musicians of the Concordia voice faculty, choirs and orchestra, 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.

- The Concordia Choir toured Germany and Austria in May 2017 to observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and celebrate the 125th anniversary of Concordia College.
- The Concordia Orchestra will be performing a musical score to the original 1931 Black & White movie Frankenstein at the Fargo Theater on October 17.
- In May 2018, the Orchestra is planning a cultural and performance tour to Greece.
- The Concordia Orchestra is planning a tour in late October/early November 2017 to Minnesota and Iowa. Watch for details at Cord.edu/orchestratour.
- The Concordia Band is planning a tour in February 2018 to North Dakota and Montana. Watch for details at Cord.edu/bandtour.

**Cobber Athletics**

- The Cobber football team finished in the Top 10 in attendance in Division III for the 10th straight year. Concordia averaged 4,951 fans for their five home games in 2016 (the second most in program history) and finished sixth in the nation in attendance per game for the second straight year.
- Concordia junior wrestler Adam Presler (Sioux Falls, S.D.) became the first student-athlete in the history of all Concordia athletics 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. Presler is a Mathematics Education major at Concordia and has a perfect 4.00 grade point average. Presler won 26 matches this past year and qualified for the NCAA Championship Meet.
- Senior women’s track and field athlete Emma Peterson (Benson, Minn.) became the first Cobber to win the same two events at the MIAC Indoor and Outdoor Championship Meets. Peterson broke the conference record in both the high jump and triple jump at the conference indoor meet and then won the same two events at the outdoor meet – and broke the league mark in the outdoor triple jump as well. Peterson went on to earn All-American honors at the NCAA National Indoor Meet.
- Concordia men’s basketball coach Rich Glas retired after 37 years as a college head coach. In 2017, Glas, who coached the Cobbers for nine years, became a member of the elite group of coaches who have won 600 games in a career. Glas also coached in over 1,000 games during his career.
- Grant Hemmingsen was named to succeed Glas as head coach of the Cobbers. Hemmingsen has been the team’s full-time assistant coach for four years. He came to Concordia after being an assistant at NCAA Division II school Kentucky Wesleyan. Hemmingsen played his college basketball at Augsburg College.
• The Cobber women’s track and field team finished third at the MIAC Outdoor Meet. It was the sixth straight season that Concordia has been in the Top 3 at the conference outdoor meet and the 28th consecutive year they have placed in the Top 5. The Cobbers won five of the eight field events at the 2017 MIAC Outdoor Meet.

New Roles
• **Dr. Ernest Simmons** will conclude 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 of Concordia College. **Dr. Larry Papenfuss** served as Co-Director of the Dovre Center this year and will succeed Dr. Simmons as the Center’s Director, effective September 1, 2017. As Director, 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 1, 2017, **Dr. Lisa Sethre-Hofstad** will become Concordia’s Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life. Now in her 21st year of service at Concordia, Dr. Sethre-Hofstad is currently Associate Dean of the College and Professor of Psychology. She will become a member of the college cabinet, reporting directly to the president, and retaining her appointment as a member of the Concordia faculty.

New Ventures
• 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 Programs and Communication Studies Professor, continues to serve as a coordinator for this work. Several new endeavors are being launched spring and fall of 2017:
  o 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.
  o Chartered Market Technician (CMT) 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 online 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 2016 Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. To learn more about each award, visit Cord.edu/alumniawards.

2017 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients
Karan Armstrong-Friedrich ’63 Dr. Allan Carlson ’61
Dr. Philip Noss ’61 Mary (Sorenson) Ranum ’78

2017 Sent Forth Recipients
Susan (Webb) Yackee ’97
Meelad Dawlaty ’04

Cobbers for Cobbers: Your Gifts at Work
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 work of the college immediately, funding areas of scholarships and financial aid, academic programs, institutional operations and student services.

This past year, our class had 17.46% participation and gave $42,465.43. Since graduation, our class has given $1,118,372.27 in outright gifts. THANK YOU!
Now for some class notes. My wife, Mary (’85), and our 3 children are going through some of the life transitions I mentioned. Our oldest son has graduated from St. Olaf College and is gainfully employed and living in Uptown Minneapolis. Our daughter is a senior at St. Olaf. As of August, we will become “empty-nesters” as our youngest son goes off to college at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management.

Now in my 33rd year of practicing law at Meshbesher & Spence, I am currently serving as president of the law firm.

This year, I have had the great pleasure of receiving many updates from our classmates, including the following:

**Leif Wallin:** After 30 years in the business world, Leif decided to live his life by the advice of the old Monty Python adage: “And now, for something completely different!” He quit his corporate job and went to work for the Minneapolis school district as a substitute teacher and also as an education assistant in the Special Ed program. Leif is definitely experiencing a new set of challenges, but enjoying them and looking forward to sharing his new experiences with classmates at Homecoming.

**Craig Davenport:** Craig is employed at All Saints Lutheran Church in Spokane, Washington, as well as the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) for Spokane County. In his spare time, Craig enjoys the study of the Anglo-Saxon language and taking courses in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

**Dr. Kathi (Winegar) Tunheim and Robert Tunheim:** Ever the slacker and under-achiever (not!), Kathi was granted the honor of being named a “Thrivent Fellow” by the ELCA college and university network. Kathi is currently serving as Special Assistant to the President for Strategy at Gustavus Adolphus College. Bob is embracing his Scandinavian heritage with his recent appointment to the Norway House board of directors. He also serves as Chair of the Orono School Board.

**Dr. Eric Lund:** Eric is a professor of mathematics at Bemidji State University, where he has worked since 1990. Eric’s wife, Danae, is a psychologist with Sanford Health. They have 3 children.

**Christine Bellefeuille and Ted Olson:** Chris and Ted have had several big changes in their lives. First, they sold and moved out of their house in Plymouth where all 3 of their children grew up and they relocated to Bayport, MN, the beautiful small town along the St. Croix River. Chris also accepted a call to become the lead minister at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater. Ted continues to work for The Nature Conservancy. Starting in April, Ted began an incredible
odyssey, by hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, starting near the U.S./Mexican border and he hopes to reach Canada by fall.

**Jane Armstrong:** Jane is enjoying the ability to use her Concordia minor in library science as a technical services clerk at the Great River Regional Library in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

**The Hon. Rodney Hanson and Deb (Van Pelt) Hanson:** Rod and Deb are enjoying their empty-nest existence in Willmar, Minnesota. They look for any excuse to make the drive from Willmar to the Twin Cities, where they inevitably show up on the doorstep of the house in which grandson, Marek, lives. After 30+ years of being the only male in the very female dominated Hanson household, Grandpa Rod is enjoying male bonding with Marek.

**James Ross:** James is the owner of Lake Superior Legal Services in Duluth, Minnesota.

**Jolene Ana (Klyve) Beckel:** Jolene is employed as a paraprofessional with the Mankato Area School District #77.

**HOMECOMING: 9/29 - 10/1**

1. Make your hotel reservation. Now.
2. Reunion breakfast is at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 30th.
3. Saturday night gathering is at Courtyard by Marriott.

Very truly yours,

Mark D. Streed
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