

Greetings, classmates!

I admit, when started writing this letter, I struggled regarding what to put in the intro? I'm not the wittiest of writers, so I turned to Google. I typed in "funny inspirational quotes for college class letters." Shockingly enough, nothing matched that search, but I did land on some graduation-related quotes. While it's been quite some time since WE graduated, I got a kick of these, and hope you do too.

- If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito. *Bette Reese*
- We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars. *Oscar Wilde*
- Follow your passion, stay true to yourself, never follow someone else's path... unless you're in the woods and you're lost and you see a path... then, by all means, you should follow that. *Ellen DeGeneres*
- The unfortunate, yet truly exciting things about your life, is that there is no core curriculum. The entire place is elective. *Jon Stewart*
- You will never have more energy or enthusiasm, hair, or brain cells than you have today. *Tom and Ray Magliozzi*
- I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed. *Michael Jordan*

#### UPDATES FROM THE CLASS OF 1986



**Andrea (Sylvie) Wallace** – I live on the North Fork of Long Island, New York. I work as the Marketing Representative in the field calling on referring doctors for Dr. Eric Donnenfeld, Ophthalmologist in Garden City, New York representing the LASIK side of his practice. Dr. Donnenfeld was recently named as one of the top 100 Ophthalmologists in the world and recently has been named by the National Keratoconus Foundation as their surgeon of the year.

My daughter Elyssa Wallace, is a University of Oklahoma graduate in Film and Fine Arts. She is working towards a Master of Fine Arts Degree. She is engaged to be married to Ashten Duncan on September 28, 2018. He is entering his third year of medical school at the University of Oklahoma.

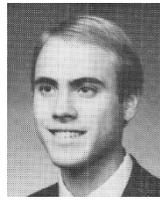


**Carolyn Kramer** – The Kramer Steinwand family is well. I'm still with the United States Tennis Association, as Director of Schools and Tennis Service Rep. Jonathan is still at Concordia in the English department and also works with campus environment and sustainability initiatives. Our son Gabriel graduates from Gustavus Adolphus College in June and will be going to the graduate school of pharmacy at the U of M in Minneapolis. Our daughter Anna will be a junior at Augustana in Sioux Falls and is majoring in Econ and Business and more, she loves academia and is looking at the possibility of law school. Our little fluffy rescue dogs Toby and Teddy keep us laughing and smiling and enjoying walks. We downsized and are enjoying our little house right across the river and woods in Moorhead, loving the simplicity, house and yard projects, and lots of wildlife.

**Bjorn Berge** – Married, four children. Lives in Strasbourg, France. Norwegian diplomat. Currently Director General / Secretary to the Committee of Ministers in the Council of Europe – which encompasses 47 European countries and was established after WWII to promote and protect human rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe. Gives lectures and holds seminars on public speaking and speech writing, and published two years ago a book analyzing the Norwegian Prime Minister’s New Year Speeches, 1946-2016.



**Ann (Schomburg) Sneiders** – Alex (husband) and I are healthy and working at Mayo Clinic Health System - Owatonna, MN. We have gotten into photography and go on regular photo treks to great places like Tanzania and Croatia. We have a daughter applying to medical schools and a son still figuring out his direction in life. Would love to catch up with old friends!



**Cheryl (Roskoph) & Mark Astrup** – We live in Cold Spring, MN. Mark is pastor of Peace Lutheran Church / Cold Spring, MN. Cheryl is a paraprofessional teacher and brailist at Cold Spring Elementary. We enjoy serving our community and spending time outdoors biking, kayaking, swimming and walking. Our son, Adam, is a jazz studies major at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Co. Our daughter,

Rachel, is a 4th grade teacher in Prior Lake, MN.



**Cindy Eyer Fenoglio** – This has been an eventful year. After living in San Diego for over 20 years, we decided it was time to retire and where better than on the beach a few miles south in Rosarito, Mexico. We travel to obscure parts of the world checking off countries as a sort of hobby, and even found time to marry my best friend, John, last December. Enjoying every moment.



**Becky (Kelly) Keran** is serving as the Chairman of the Board for the Minnesota Society of CPAs in the current year, and as a member of AICPA Council for a three-year term.



**Mike Berthelsen** – 2nd of 3 boys graduated this spring from St Olaf. Was able to visit Norway and Denmark last summer for the first time. Wish we were going again this summer! Almost 25 years now working at the U of MN - now in my 4th different job as VP for University Services (i.e. campus operations).



**Shaine Rasmussen** – On Saturday, June 2nd, I earned my Masters in Education from Brandman University -Modesto, California campus.



**Greg Gardner** published his second novel, Firestorm this past year. It is the second in his Jon Wells cyber-espionage series. He also taught computer technologies at Wayzata High School, in Plymouth, MN.

**Laura (Sanders) Van Winkle** – My husband, Rip, and I split our time between our lake cabin near Alexandria, MN and our home in Newark, DE. We have a daughter, Kira, who is now a Junior at Concordia majoring in French & Int'l Business. Our son, Anders, is a software developer with Amazon Web Services in Boston. I continue to work part time for a small SAP consulting shop and my husband still works as a software developer at ExxonMobil. We look forward to visiting our daughter in France next spring when she is there on her semester abroad. I'm still in search of the right challenge for this chapter of my life with an empty nest and flexible part time work schedule; hoping I find it this year! :)

**Bonnie (Myhre) Wasberg** – We are blessed to be in ministry at Living Word in Marshall MN while Kelly is a both a pastor and a chaplain in the National Guard. Bonnie is a FCS teacher in Lakeview Schools. Our children Annalise 23 is working as a Family Services & Activities Director, Sadie May attends Hamline University in St. Paul for her third year, and Karter is a Senior at Marshall Public schools.



**Jan (Wibe) & Mike Hoganson** – No big news here... we continue to live and teach in beautiful Detroit Lakes (Mike teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade; Jan 1<sup>st</sup> grade)! The rule of 90 is not too far away for us. We just celebrated the birth of our fifth grandchild (Jack 4, Ella 3, Adley 2, Greta 1, Isaac 2 weeks)! With the Grandchildren taking more of our time Mike gave up coaching, but is reffing Football and Basketball to stay involved.



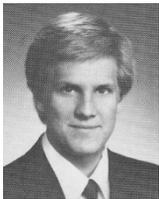
**Steve Wammer** – I was named Head Softball Coach at Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin last fall & just completed my first season here.



**Sara (Buenting) Beekie** – I have been married to Raj Beekie (ACCORD class of 1988) for the past 30 years. Raj is a professor at St. Mary's University. We have 3 children: Sarita, Rajee and Mohan. Sarita is an inventory analyst for Target Corporation (she graduated from Oberlin College in 2015). Rajee is at New York University working on his doctorate in Mathematics (he graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2017). Mohan will be graduating from Highland Park Senior High School this week and will be attending the University of Minnesota where he hopes to major in Chemical Engineering. I work at Christ Lutheran Church in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. We have been living in St. Paul for the past 24 years.



**Sarah Larsen Tade** is going on 5 years serving as Lead Pastor of American Lutheran Church of Windom, MN. She and Noel's son Yanick has completed his freshman year as a Cobber, and loves Concordia! Son Isaac is equally happy at Augsburg University, and daughter Eliana, high school senior is pursuing her own path among the liberal arts colleges. Stay tuned!



**Brian Jordahl** – Our two boys graduated from college and are beginning their careers, our daughter just finished her freshman year of college, and Diane and I are celebrating our 25th anniversary with a trip to visit Rome, Switzerland and Norway this summer. We plan to see Jordahl Mountain in Norway!

**Matt Lemke** – Topeka, KS is still home to the 6 Lemke family members. Kelly, our oldest, is now off to University of Nebraska – Omaha to play soccer after shattering almost every goalkeeping record in the state of Kansas. With 3 other kids (Taryn – 14, Madison and Luke – both 12), days are short and active with swim, music, basketball and soccer. My wife, Lyn, is the rock of our family who keeps us all loved, organized and together as much as we can. I couldn't have found a better partner in life.



**Lisa K. Johnson** – I moved to Portland, OR last fall, after many years in San Francisco. I'm working as the Director of Finance for Sustainable Restaurant Group, a sushi restaurant group that uses only sustainably sourced fish. Loving being back in the Pacific Northwest!



**Stuart Stangeland** – Been in Springfield, MO since 2000, currently COO of Mercy Clinic, daughter has two kids girl and a boy ages 4 and 2. Have one son hopefully finishing his Master's in biomedical engineering at the U this fall, and the youngest one year left for a Master's in Accounting at the University of Arkansas. Go Cobbers.

**William Yelle** – My daughter Deborah graduated from high school with honors and is heading off to Florida Southern in August 2018



**Christopher Carlson** – Not much new with us, except that our son David did a gap year with YWAM in New Zealand.



**Kathy Freije Thompson** – I am in my 27<sup>th</sup> year of working at Thomson Reuters (the former West Publishing) in Eagan, MN. Last September, I changed positions within the company and I am now managing 22 attorney editors who create editorial enhancements to case law for Westlaw, an online legal product. In June, my husband and I biked 100 miles of the Mesabi Trail on the Iron Range with President Craft, his wife, and twenty-three other Cobber alums and friends. We had a great time!

**Russ Winkels** – Worked for Perham School District for the past 23 years. Started as the Technology coordinator currently the Facilities Director. Opening new High school in Fall of 2018. Wife Sheila is a FACS instructor at Wadena schools. Nicholas (22) also lives in Perham and currently working with Lawn irrigation systems. Ben (18) will be attending Ridgewater College in Willmar, MN. Johanna (16) currently a junior at Perham High School.



**Carrie (Johnson) Haug** – Things are status quo, and at this point in life, that's a very positive thing! Come fall, we'll have a senior and a sophomore in college – Abbie/St. Olaf and Parker/ Concordia. Life is good!

## **REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATE**

**Douglas J. Lafontaine** – July 22, 1964-March 5, 2018. Douglas John LaFontaine, 53, of Eden Prairie, MN, formerly Minot, ND, passed away on Monday March 5, 2018, at his home in Eden Prairie. Doug was born on July 22, 1964, in Minot, to David and Margaret (Ulberg) Lafontaine. He was raised in Minot and graduated from Minot High School in 1982. He attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and graduated with a Business Administration degree in 1986. Doug was employed in various capacities in financial services organizations in the Twin Cities. Doug loved spending time with his family and friends. He was passionate about many things and appreciated the finer things in life, including art, classical music, red wine, a good steak, and cigars. He was an avid follower of Minnesota sports and Formula 1 racing. Doug enjoyed riding his motorcycle, spending time outdoors, playing foosball with his son, and always getting the best deal. He loved traveling, and recently returned from a Caribbean cruise with his partner, Jodi. Doug is survived by: his mother, Margaret Lafontaine; son Phillip (Brittney) Lafontaine; partner, Jodi Raehsler; sisters Dana (Warren) Ekblad and Debra (Roger) Glick; brothers Daniel (Laurie) Lafontaine, Don (Jennifer) Lafontaine, and Dean (Michelle Racine) Lafontaine; and many beloved nieces and nephews. Doug was preceded in death by: his father, D.F. David Lafontaine.

## **UPDATES FROM THE COLLEGE – SUMMER 2018**

### **Concordia Language Villages**

The summer of 2017 continued a three-year trend of strong enrollment with over 4,580 villagers and families attending a CLV program. Registration for the summer of 2018 continues that upward trend in enrollment, demonstrating the value placed on world language and culture education.

Concordia Language Villages received the largest gift in its history from Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park: \$5M to support the first phase of construction of the Korean Language Village on Turtle River Lake. The gift was given in celebration of 30 years of language and culture at Sup sogŭi Hosu, the Korean Language Village. Additionally, the Language Villages will recognize and celebrate 35 years of Sēn Lín Hú, the Chinese Language Village, with a special program prior to International Day on Aug. 10.

### **Music**

- In May, the Concordia Orchestra spent two weeks on a cultural immersion trip in Greece, visiting eight cities and performing several concerts.
- The 2016 Concordia Christmas Concert “Gather Us In, O Child of Peace” earned a regional Emmy award for special event coverage. This is the second time a Concordia Christmas Concert has received the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy award.
- Dr. Rene Clausen was honored with the Weston H. Noble award for Lifetime Achievement at the 2018 ACDA Central and North Central Conference this year. Clausen is in his 32<sup>nd</sup> year at Concordia College as conductor of The Concordia Choir.

### **Athletics**

- Rachel Bergeson has accepted the offer to serve as Concordia’s athletic director. Rachel has served as the interim athletic director since April. Prior to that role she was deputy athletics director, the senior woman administrator, and compliance officer for Concordia and also served as interim athletic director during the 2016-17 athletic season. Before taking on her role as the

top women's administrator in the athletic department, Bergeson was the assistant coach for the Cobber women's basketball team from 2007-11.

- Senior Bailey Hovland broke several throwing records this year, winning the MIAC Championship and breaking the conference meet record in the hammer throw. Hovland's hammer mark qualified her for the Women's Track and Field Nationals Meet this spring.
- Brandon Zylstra '15 signed a reserve/futures deal with the Minnesota Vikings for the upcoming season, after two successful seasons with the Edmonton Eskimos. Zylstra caught 100 passes for a league-best 1,687 yards in 2017.
- Head tennis coach Joseph Murrey was named 2018 MIAC Coach of the Year after leading the men's team to the conference postseason for the first time since 2011.
- Becca O'Shurak has been hired as the first female head coach of women's soccer. O'Shurak previously served as assistant coach at Youngstown State and Tennessee Tech University.
- Chad Johnson was named the Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation. He is the second athlete from the MIAC to receive the honor. This honor is in addition to his MIAC All Conference Awards (3 years) and the 2017 MIAC MVP Award he received earlier this year.

### **Other Updates**

- Concordia has been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation in honor of former Mellon Foundation president Earl Lewis '78. The grant will be used for faculty development, scholarships for diverse students, program support for the Office of Diversity, and support for the National Book Awards. This grant is in addition to the \$800,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation the college received earlier this year to support PEAK and diversity initiatives across campus.
- Rachel Schaefer '18 was named a Fulbright Scholar and will be working at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia next year.
- This past fall, Concordia College launched the RISE Campaign, a comprehensive fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$150,000,000 by December 2019. Funds will be used to support three pillars of the Concordia experience: integrative learning, inclusive learning, and innovative learning. More information can be found at [www.riseforconcordia.com](http://www.riseforconcordia.com)
- The Department of Chemistry celebrated 100 years in early March (Chemistry has been at Concordia 102 years; the event was postponed until completion of the new Integrated Science Center). The day-long celebration included talks from chemistry alumni from across the country, a career networking event for students, and a banquet with Robert Homann, Professor Emeritus and Past Dean of the College, as the keynote speaker.
- Over spring break, 130 students served out the mission of the college all over the country, participating in volunteer opportunities including: Habitat for Humanity Trips to Louisiana, Florida and the Carolinas, a hurricane relief trip to Dallas, Justice Journey Trips to New Orleans and El Paso, and High Impact Leadership Trips to Milwaukee and Pittsburgh.

### **Alumni Awards**

The National Alumni Board voted on the 2018 Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. To learn more about each award, visit [Cord.edu/alumniawards](http://Cord.edu/alumniawards).

2018 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

Charles Beck '48

Dr. Richard Sibley '67

Darnell Carter '75

Claudia Swendseid '78

2018 Sent Forth Recipients

Dr. Tammy Frisby '99

Arday Ardayfio '02

**Fundraising Update**

Thank you, classmates, for the financial contributions that you've made to Concordia.

- This past year, our class gave almost \$30,000; 15% of us contributed
- Since graduation, the class of 1986 has given \$806,000 in outright gifts.

In the past few years, Concordia has continued to surpass fundraising goals. Because of you, the college has created new opportunities for students via the completion of the Integrated Science Center and student scholarships.

All my best to everyone!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Carrie (Johnson) Haug  
carrie\_haug@yahoo.com