

Greetings Class of '87! I hope you are doing well and loving life.

I have enjoyed reconnecting with you through this class letter which I volunteered to write once I knew there were others sharing the duties of a Class Agent. So my thanks to Joni & Chris Bonnell for their partnership as Class Agents.

As I was reading through the updates that many of you sent -- thank you for those -- it made me nostalgic to think of our college days, then our graduation, and how we were sent out not only to make our way in the world, but to make a difference.

True to our alma mater's mission, we have been "influencing the affairs of the world" as "thoughtful and informed men and women" for an amazing 31 years.

You can send any future updates to me at [MarkJohnsonCord87@outlook.com](mailto:MarkJohnsonCord87@outlook.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy this update from our alma mater and your classmates.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Mark L. Johnson  
Class Agent

### **CLASSMATE UPDATES** (Keep your updates coming!)

**Kim Agre** writes, "Dave and I moved to Glenwood, MN during the summer of 2017. We're both graduates of the class of 1987."

**Sarah Altenburg** has no updates to share at this time. Just a "hello!"

**Richard Borge** writes that he is still living in Brooklyn NY and working as a self employed illustrator, animator and educator. My work appears regularly in publications such as the Wall St Journal, NY Times and Harvard Business Review.

He also teaches part time at Pratt Institute, School of the Visual Arts, and Fashion Institute of Technology. He makes it back to Minnesota every summer for a family lake house visit.

See and read about his work at [richardborge.com](http://richardborge.com)

**Tom Eide** has a new job as Director of Field Service / CFO for Dept of Human Services, State of North Dakota.

**Kathi Hoylo** writes, "I work for the Fargo Public Library. My husband, Brian Kartenson, and I live in Moorhead. Our oldest son goes to UM Duluth, our younger son is a senior at Moorhead high school."

**Mark L. Johnson.** This past December marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination. Currently, I serve as pastor of First Lutheran Church in Ottumwa, Iowa (the home town of Radar O'Reilly and Tom Arnold). Sarah and I have a daughter in high school and a son in grade school.

**Katie (Klaustermeier) Olson Wolff** took a new job November 1 with SimplyThick as Customer Management and Accounting. Will be hosting a foreign exchange student from Iceland for the 2018-19 school year through AFS Intercultural Programs.

**Gina Sandgren** says her kids are grown, one in filmmaking at SCAD in Savannah, GA, one seeking employment using her Spanish and International studies degree! Selling the house and moving to a condo downtown Fargo....longing for an Urban, "less is more" experience! My time is full with serving as Treasurer with one of our companies and culture director for another. In my free time I love to travel and ponder travel, teach meditation, do yoga, and lend time to arts and advocacy orgs (social justice theatre, animal rescue, Narrative 4, African Soul American Heart)! My cup is full when I'm with my family around the dinner table and with my girlfriends sipping wine:)

**Julie (Hannemann) Smith** was widowed in 2016. She is now engaged to Ted A. Lacksonen. Julie has been teaching music at the same school for 31 years in Arizona, where she raised two daughters.

## **CAMPUS UPDATES**

### **CLV:**

The summer of 2017 continued a three-year trend of strong enrollment with over 4,580 villagers and families attending a Concordia Language Villages' 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 August 10.

### **Music:**

- This 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 the conductor of The Concordia Choir.

### **Athletics:**

- 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 1687 yards in 2017.
- Head tennis coach Joseph Murrey was named 2018 MIAC Coach of the Year after leading the 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 has 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 only 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. This 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. These funds will be used to support three pillars of the Concordia experience: integrative learning, inclusive learning, and innovative learning. For more information, head to [www.riseforconcordia.com](http://www.riseforconcordia.com)
- The Department of Chemistry celebrated 100 years in early March (Chemistry has been at Concordia 102 years, but the event was postponed until the 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 in the evening 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 8 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:**

Concordia continues to have fundraising success due to generous supporters in each class. In the past few years, Concordia has continued to surpass fundraising goals and can create new opportunities for students, including the completion of the Integrated Science Center and student scholarships.

This past year, our class had 16.63% participation and gave \$23,750.25. Since graduation, our class has given \$741,162.13 in outright gifts.

THANK YOU!