June 2019

Classmates,

I write this year from the shores of Lake Washington as I attend a summer conference with my spouse and family. From here my daughters and I will depart on an adventure to a few of the National Parks of the western US; can’t wait!

As always, I hope this letter finds you and your family well and with summer plans of your own to enjoy and remember for years to come.

This is also my last alumni letter; I have decided to resign as your alumni representative. I have enjoyed to time I served but am ready to pass the baton onto another/others.

So, let the alumni office know if you are interested in being the class representative. You are responsible for writing the class letter, coordinating with the school reunions and maintaining the Facebook group.

If you have a heart for the mission of Concordia, interest in the lives of our classmates, enjoy communicating electronically, like to plan and host events this position would be a good fit; give it some thought.

CAMPUS UPDATES

The Center for Student Success has a new home in the Normandy. The beautifully renovated space is open and light making for an inviting space for students. The center includes academic support, Orientation and First-Year Transition Programming, the Peer Mentor program, and the Diversity Coordinator for Student Support Services.

Concordia’s outstanding tradition of preparing students for medical school is now available to those who have completed an undergraduate degree. This intensive, 1-year program is designed for highly motivated individuals with excellent academic records, who have earned a bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year institution, but lack most or all of the prerequisite science courses needed for admission to medical school. Our program is ideal for career changers, and
individuals deciding later in their academic journey, to pursue a career in medicine.

ATHLETICS

In the spring of 2018, Concordia had only one team – women’s basketball – with a female head coach. Fast forward one year, and with the hiring of new volleyball head coach Faith Dooley, the Cobbers now have 5 additional female head coaches mentoring student/athletes.

Concordia men’s track and field junior Matt Bye, Moorhead, won the heptathlon at this winter’s MIAC Indoor Championship Meet and went on to finish 11th in the event at the NCAA National Indoor Meet held in Boston, Mass. Bye won the MIAC title with the second highest point total in school history.

The Cobber men’s hockey team earned its seventh consecutive berth in the MIAC playoffs this season. Concordia finished conference play with nine league wins which was the most since the 2013 season. Sophomore forward Tyler Bossert, Fargo, led the MIAC in scoring and went on to earn All-American Second Team honors to become the ninth All-American in program history.

MUSIC

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 is a leader in choral music as both a conductor and a composer. He is the artistic director of the Concordia Christmas Concerts. President William Craft noted in an announcement to the Concordia community that throughout his work at the college Clausen has lived the mission of The Concordia Choir “to uphold a sacred choral tradition through the uncompromising and unrelenting collaborative pursuit of musical integrity and spiritual expression.”

Tours:

- The Concordia Choir completed a highly successful tour through the Pacific Northwest in March.
- The Concordia Orchestra completed a very successful fall domestic tour through WI & MN.
- As part of their annual domestic tour, The Concordia Band performed a joint concert with the Encore Wind Ensemble in St. Paul, MN as well as concerts in St. Anthony Village, Albany and...
Staples-Motley, all in Minnesota. The band is in the beginning stages of planning their international tour to Spain in May of 2020.

LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Summer 2018 was a busy one for Concordia Language Villages. Over 4700 villagers and families from all over the world attend immersion programs at Turtle River Lake sites just north of Bemidji and at other leased camps in northern Minnesota. This strong enrollment demonstrates the value families are placing on world language and culture education.

Thanks to a generous gift of $5 million from the Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park, the first phase of construction of Sup sogŭi Hosu, the Korean Language Village, on Turtle River Lake will begin.

CORN FEEDS

Below is the link to dates and locations of the Cobber Corn Feeds this summer; a great way to connect with alumni across the generations.

https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/corn-feeds

FACEBOOK PAGE: Concordia College Class 1992

Let your fellow classmates celebrate with you by posting your accomplishments, family updates, personal achievements, current interactions with the college or memories. Thanks to all who have contributed.

GIVING

This past year, our class had 15% participation and gave $18,000. Our lifetime giving is $402,000; THANK YOU!

As we begin to reach the age where thoughts of retirement and our financial planning becomes a bit more concrete perhaps consider where a gift/s to Concordia may fit.
LET OTHERS KNOW

As you interact with college seeking young adults through church, your children, other organizations... Tell them about Concordia, encourage them to visit the campus, and share your memories—keep the mission going.

Have a blessed summer. Wear sunscreen. Stay safe. Create Memories.

With gratitude,

Liza Okan
Class of 1992 Rep