Hello Class of 1994!

25 years..... Seriously?! Pure craziness! It seems like we were just jamming out to the Gear Daddies on Olin Hill at Cornstock and here we are! While it's hard to believe, many Cobber classmates have KIDS old enough to do that now! The good news is we all haven't aged a bit! #dilusional

I was asked to help in writing our class letter at the end of June, now it's September... I'm positive I'm not alone in having time escape me. No doubt, it's a crazy busy time of life for everyone, wouldn't change it for the world, and I'm looking forward to reconnecting and celebrating great beginnings from our days together as Cobbers!

I spent a little time on Facebook this morning trying to grow our class page. It's super simple to get connected and then invite those that you're connected with to join too. Growth of 84% followers in a few hours - not bad! Let's make this page interactive - share pics, stories, and mini reunions - even if they've happened at Target! I've LOVED finding and getting to 'see' and chat with classmates via social media and making connections that may have otherwise been missed be it socially, geographically or in business. Heaven knows the force is strong w Cobbers! Time certainly marches on, but what a gift knowing such precious lasting friendships developed out of just 4 years of our lives at Concordia!

Connect on Facebook @ Concordia College Moorhead, MN Class of 1994

25th Reunion Information
There is a ton of stuff going on around campus! Specific events for our class so far:

**Friday, Oct 11:**
- Casual meet up at Drekker Brewery – 8 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct 12:**
- 8:00am – Breakfast in the Integrated Science Center (ISC) 201; $16
- 11:00am - Parade - We will walk in the parade as a class - details TBD
- 1:00pm - Cobbers vs. Gustavus
- 6:30pm - Homecoming Concert (including Concordia Choir reunion honoring Dr. Rene Clausen's last year conducting, $10, register online!)
- 8:30pm – Evening Gathering in the Knutson Campus Center (KCC); $18

You can find a full schedule of Homecoming events at [https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/homecoming/schedule/](https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/homecoming/schedule/)

If you are planning to attend, please take a few minutes to register [https://concordiacollege.regfox.com/2019registration](https://concordiacollege.regfox.com/2019registration)
Concordia Homecoming site has some hotel rooms at Holiday Inn - but availability around the Fargo Moorhead area.

**Class Giving: Cobbers for Cobbers**
This past year, our class had 13% participation and gave just over $35,000. Our lifetime giving is $387,000; THANK YOU! Fiscal giving year runs May-April. Please consider making a donation in any amount now as you think about attending Homecoming. Our target participation percentage for this year is 25%

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.

**Campus Updates:**

**Concordia Language Villages:** Thanks to a generous gift of $5 million from the Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park, we will soon begin the first phase of construction of *Sup sogūi Hosu*, the Korean Language Village, on Turtle River Lake. The first Village to be built was *Skogfjorden*, the Norwegian Language Village, and that happened 50 years ago this summer.

**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.

**Sports:** 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. Dooley, who was an All-American at the University of North Dakota, joins women’s golf head coach Kari Weidner-Ceniceros, Maureen Greiner of women’s hockey, Rebecca O’Shurak from women’s soccer and NDSU All-American Laura Januszewski who coaches both the men’s and women’s cross country teams. 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.

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.
Other News:
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.

Concordia sent 12 members to the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET) at the University of Alabama, where 60 colleges and universities from across the United States competed for top honors. Concordia was one of only a few smaller colleges that placed in the top 15, which is dominated by larger research institutions.

Lost Cobbers
If you have contact information for any of these classmates, please reach out to ask if they’d like to be found!
Hege Balk, Mark Barglof, Lina Braadland, Cami Brusseau, Craig Dickenson, James Donahue, Bjorg Farstad Eriksson, Grethe Smaland Hummelvoll, Jay Johnson, Sarah Kettelkamp, Ramila Liyanage, Elizabeth Raymond Nelson, Irene Olsoy, Aliza Patell, Lisa Roppe Quandahl, Erik Rehwaldt, John Renneke, Tore Smedstad, Tonje Nohr Smedstad, Cari Steil, Per Straete, Martha Young

Applause, Accomplishments, Moments and Cobber Love

Rev. Erica Jo Magnus Koser from Mankato, MN was recently awarded the Jean Audrey Powers Award for Healing A Broken World for the breakfast/ shelter ministry she runs in the MN Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. "We feed a hot breakfast to about 100 people each morning and facilitate a rotating shelter from October- April. Seeds for this ministry were planted way back in nursing school at Concordia as we worked with Churches United for the Homeless!"

Kari (Ronning) Hoien – married to ’92 grad Tim Hoien for almost 20 years. They live in Somerset, WI with their 4 boys age Birk 11, Lars 13, Sten 16, Soren 17. Kari pursued a graduate degree with Education Technology from Pepperdine in Malibu, CA. She owns and runs a software consulting, training, and helpdesk business providing software support and training for large companies like HealthPartners as well as smaller companies. Kari also has a blog TechSafety4Kids.com that educates parents around the topics of parenting
in the digital age sharing resources about app ratings, screen time and general technology safety and awareness tips.

**William Polley** is now the Vice President for Administrative Services and Associate Professor of Economics for Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL

**Kari Hamnes Ross, Angie Nolte Schultz, and Kristi Aune Wilts** all had daughters graduate from Concordia this past May! It was so fun for them to have their own children create their personal Concordia story! Kristi Aune Wilts is also with the same employer, 25 years strong with Aon Benfield!

**Ryan Bemis and Kristin (Smith) Bemis** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by taking a 2-week vacation to Greece and Italy.

**Kirstin (Rootham) Carlson**, is still teaching middle school band full time at Fargo Public Schools/Ben Franklin Middle School but her husband, Todd Carlson and Kirstin are owners/operators of a new music venue TAK Music Venue in Dilworth, MN. This is an all age’s concert venue and event center. They’ve had over 70 events since our grand opening in January which featured local band Post Traumatic Funk Syndrome. Everything from chamber groups to country groups from Nashville, TN to heavy metal groups from the Twin Cities. Their goal is to be accessible to ALL music genres and open to all ages so even our youngest music lovers can enjoy great local and national musicians. They’ve also had graduation parties, class reunions and weddings booked in the center. If interested, you can learn more from their website [TAKMUSICVENUE.com](http://TAKMUSICVENUE.com) and from our social media pages.

**Carleen Matts** and a friend published a book! #EXTRAOrdinary is a love letter to our fellow Women in the Middle of Life, our sisters who find themselves wondering what’s up with the brain fog, the ten extra pounds, and the ornery grey hairs that seemed to show up overnight. We may not be part of the younger generation, but we Women in the Middle aren’t done! Nope! We have stories to tell and important things to SAY that come from the wisdom of experience. If you are one of us (or know and love one of us), this book is definitely for you! Available on Carleen’s blog: [https://getupandtryagain.wpcomstaging.com/product/extraordinary-ride-the-waves-and-share-your-story/](https://getupandtryagain.wpcomstaging.com/product/extraordinary-ride-the-waves-and-share-your-story/)

**Katie Kabes** is in her 25th year of teaching elementary music. Currently teaching K-5 at Dover-Eyota elementary in Rochester and lives with her husband Randy. Life is good!
**Scott Anseth** and his wife Kari live in Eden Prairie with their 3 girls, Ashley 15, Katie 15, and Grace 12. Scott works for Twin Cities Orthopedics.

**Janet J. Krings** lives in Hawkins, WI and is retired. She is active in her home church congregation, belongs to a local writers group, and is reorganizing her family homestead where she resides.

**Colleen Molden Aaberg and Patrick Aaberg** left corporate America and have built their own travel design firm and so appreciate all of our Cobber clients! We are independent within a large regional firm, Acendas. 20 months into working together and still standing! We specialize in Alaska, Hawaii and International travel, specifically all things beach and European adventures. Celebrating 22 years this week, and live in Eden Prairie, MN. Kids: Lily 17; Sam 15; and Finn 10.

**Susan (Epp) Rhyan** and her husband, Jeremy, have been married for 14 years. Susan has a stepdaughter Olivia, age 15 and two boys Gunnar and Garrett, ages 13 and 9. She is a physician assistant in Dermatology for the past 19 years, presently employed at The Iowa Clinic in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Scott Verkuilen, son of **Terri Trickle ’94** and Drew Sandberg and **Mark Verkuilen ’94** is a senior at Moorhead High School this year. Scott was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma stage 1 this summer. Prognosis is very good for this strong amazing kiddo, but of course prayers and love are always welcome! Follow Scott's journey on Caring Bridge under Scott Verkuilen.

We look forward to seeing you in October at Concordia!

Colleen Aaberg
Scott Anseth
Kristi Wilts

1994 Interim Class Agents