

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Greetings Class of 1995

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying these beautiful days leading up to the holiday season. My name is Ariana Porter and I am a junior at Concordia College. I am an Elementary Education major with a coaching minor. I am originally from Warren, Minnesota and it was a wonderful place to grow up. On campus I have worked in the Alumni Relations office as a student worker, taking many registrations for Concordia events and activities and currently working on class letters. I hope that you look back at your Concordia years fondly because students who attend Concordia today still love this school just as much as you did.

Ariana Porter '19

We remember classmates that have passed away in the last year:

Misty Claassen, April 30, 2016

Here is a little update on what's been happening around campus. Enjoy!

CAMPUS UPDATE – Fall 2017

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 began 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 recently finished being renovated. The Integrated Science Center was completed in time for the start of classes in fall 2017. Faculty and staff successfully moved into their new spaces late in the summer.

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

ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org

- 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 performed 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 completed a tour in late October/early November 2017 to Minnesota and Iowa.
- 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 has succeeded 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 Lorentzsen 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** became 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:
 - 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.
 - 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: This fall the college launched 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	Allan Carlson '61
Philip Noss '61	Mary (Sorenson) Ranum '78

2017 Sent Forth Recipients

Susan (Webb) Yackee '97
Meelad Dawlaty '04

Loyal Cobber, a program of the National Alumni Board ConcordiaCollege.edu/loyalcobber

What does a lifelong Cobber look like?

Being a part of the Cobber Alumni Network is about staying involved and giving back to future students, feeling connected and proudly sharing it with those around you. When

you do something in all four of these categories, let us know and we'll send you an exclusive Loyal Cobber gift!

CONNECT: Stay Informed (Cord.edu/classnotes or 218.299.3743)

Update your information online or by phone to know what's happening among alumni and with the college.

ENGAGE: Get Involved (Cord.edu/engage)

Provide meaningful experiences for students and participate in alumni events, programs and teams.

SUPPORT: Make an Impact (Cord.edu/give or Cobbersgive.org)

Give to student scholarships and campus projects to ensure educational enrichment for current and future Cobbers.

SHARE: Show Your Cobber Pride (Cord.edu/social and Cord.edu/refer)

Interact on social media using #cordmn, show off your alma mater swag and tell future Cobbers about your Concordia experience.

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 16.02% participation and gave \$35,311.22. Since graduation, our class has given \$304,377.41 in outright gifts. THANK YOU!