Greetings class of 1986!

To all who were able to make it to last year’s 30th reunion, thank you! Many classmates traveled long distances, had to do a lot of planning to get away, and had to spend money on food, hotels, etc. I appreciate the effort and am thankful for the time together.

After asking classmates for information for this year’s letter, I received a heartfelt email from one of our classmates that made me pause. The main message was that not everyone has cheery, upbeat news to relay. Point well taken. Moving forward, I’ll be tailoring my communication, to encourage sharing of all types of news – good, bad and otherwise. Support from classmates can have such a positive and long-lasting impact.

30th REUNION THANKS & GIFT GIVING

• Again, hearty thanks to the reunion team – Shelly (Lee) Haaland, Karen (Wickstrom) Leighton, Heidi (Skaalure) Sneltjes, Sue (Daly) Gibson, Lisa (Swanson) West for their work in putting together a great weekend. I feel lucky to have worked with these classmates!
• In honor of our 30th reunion, we set a goal of raising $30,000 and 30% participation. We exceeded the goal, raising almost $39,000 with only 20 percent participation! Thank you to the team of classmates that helped with this effort – The reunion team, along with Carolyn Kramer, Julie Lovin, Darla (Haugen) Krause, Lana Siewert-Olson, Rachel (Hanson) Curtiss, Ann (Rimmereid) Jacobson, Michelle Brady and Kathy Freije Thompson.
• Since graduation, our class has given $776,538.13 in outright gifts. On behalf of the college, THANK YOU!
• If you feel moved to make a gift, please go to ConcordiaCollege.edu/reuniongiving. Your contribution 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.

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Here’s the latest from the class of 1986. (Please know that the majority of information below was received this past summer, so some dates/timing may be a bit off.)

Kris Erickson Eipperle – Last summer I enjoyed hosting a mini reunion with Social Work classmates Joy Zimmerman and Faye Gronewold Kesselmayer. The years just melted away. In October I married Kevin Eipperle. Five months earlier we enjoyed a fabulous pre-honeymoon, touring southern Norway and Iceland through the Vesterheim. A highlight in Norway was spending time with a distant relative and seeing the island community of my great great grandparents. (For anyone planning to marry, having a simple, tiny wedding and a big trip is the way to do it!)
Janet (Allen) Gruenberg – Last Mother’s Day our youngest daughter, Charlotte, graduated from University of Kentucky and joined her big sister, Gretchen, working at Big Ass Fans in Lexington, KY. If you have never heard of them, google them and check out their website. They make amazing, award winning products. Scott and I are fully enjoying an empty nest and our girls being off the payroll. :) We will be celebrating 30 years of wedded bliss this June by taking a trip to Italy in the fall. Following both of our careers, our nine moves all over the country have sure made it fun and interesting. We landed in Louisville just over 12 years ago and love it; it is much like many mid-western cities except around Derby when the southern hospitality carpets are rolled out.

Joyce (Jacobson) Cole – I was married to Jerry Cole on 12/31/2016. Jerry and I have known each other since we were 12 and lost touch after high school until 6 years ago. Cobbers were well represented as my roomates, Carma Hegle Feigal, Jayne Myers Jacobson and Laurie Nygaard Francello shared their musical talents during the ceremony. I have added 3 amazing adult bonus kids to my life! I am still with U.S. Bank as a Learning and Development Manager in Corporate Trust.

Becky (Kelly) Keran – Becky (Kelly) Keran lives in the Twin Cities with her husband Tim and two sons Peter (sophomore at NDSU) and Sam (heading to UMD in the fall). She works as Executive Director of Accounting at HealthFitness Corporation. She was recently named the chair-elect of the Minnesota Society of CPAs, and will serve as chair starting in April 2018.

Mike Berthelsen – Living in Northfield, all 3 sons attending St. Olaf (I tried!) Approaching 24 years at the U of MN and am in my 4th different job - this one an interim role as VP for U Services - the operational parts of the place. Riding the bus 3 hours a day (to and from work). My own traveling office.

Jeanie (Collins) Manson – I’m the Protestant Chaplain at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Peace and love!

Andrea (Syltie) Wallace – I live on the North Fork of Long Island, New York. I work in Garden City, NY as the Professional Relations Manager for Dr. Eric Donnenfeld and TLC LASER EYE CENTER. My daughter Elyssa is graduating in May with honors from the University of Oklahoma.
**Roberta Wentworth** – I started working for Holden Village in January. I'm the Downlake Lead and my main responsibility is running their Bed & Breakfast just north of Chelan, WA. Holden Village is a remote Lutheran Retreat Center in the North Cascades accessible only by a 2 hour ferry up Lake Chelan and a 10 mile trip on a school bus. Check out www.HoldenVillage.org to learn more.

**Ann (Schomburg) Sneiders** – My husband, Alex, and I are living in Owatonna, MN, and are physicians at Mayo Clinic Health System - Owatonna. Our 2 kids are both in college, but neither went to Concordia :(. Alex and I have gotten into photography and go on several photo treks every year. Last year we went to Tanzania and Spain. This year is Croatia.

**Kristi (Fingalson) Lovold** – I will be finishing my 31st year of teaching in the Becker School District. I teach a few sections 5th gr. music and then I have a 6th gr. choir, 7th gr. choir, 8th grade girls choir and an 8th gr. boys choir. My daughter, Hannah, is a senior and my son, Kevin, is a sophomore at the Monticello High School. Last summer my husband and I took both our kids to Norway!

**Tom Raedeke** – Professor of Sport/Exercise Psychology and Graduate Program Director-Department of Kinesiology at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

**Claye Metelmann** – I continue to live in the Boston area and work in the investment management industry. Currently, I am the content director for Wellington Management’s marketing team. My wife, Mary Pederson, (a North Dakota native and Moorhead State grad I met in Cambridge) is the HR director for Belmont Public Schools. Our oldest, Solvay, is finishing her first year at St. Olaf, where she is a psych and social work major and swims on the Ole team. Our high school junior, Linnea, rows crew for Arlington/Belmont club team and plays French horn. Our 8th grader, Tor, swims for Charles River Aquatics and participates in model UN. Last summer, for our “last hurrah family vacation” (i.e., before tuition payments hit), we rented a Volvo wagon and did a 2-week tour through highlights of Norway and Sweden.

**Cindy (Miller) Eyer** – This is a phase of my life that is predominantly spent on kids in college and world travel. John and I travel the world in an adventuresome way. In the past decade, we have been to 90+ countries and have 15 more scheduled for the upcoming year, including a visit to the last of the seven continents. Out of the current 197 countries, John has been to 145 and I am trying to catch up with a count of 103. Let's just say we are on the 'unusual list' of countries, and the common places will happen when we 'get old'. Life is good and we enjoy the nuances of each country, meeting wonderful
people in the process. It is a time of making the most out of life...sailing the seas, riding the trains, flying the skies, and enjoying time with the locals. We are truly blessed.

Lisa (Swanson) West – I just celebrated my 5th year at Securian Financial Group as the Manager of Learning & Development and loving it. John and I will celebrate our 23rd anniversary in July -- and our sons are doing well - Connor (20) is finishing up his sophomore year at Concordia and Thomas (11) will start middle school (6th grade) in the fall. We love to spend time at our cabin where we relax, golf, play cards and board games, and enjoy hosting friends and family.

Mike and Jan (Wibe) Hoganson still live and teach in beautiful Detroit Lakes. Retirement is not too far away. Looking forward to grandchild #4 coming this month!

Carolyn Kramer – I'm still with the United States Tennis Association, working as Director of Schools and Tennis Service Representative. Dream job! My hubby Jonathan Steinwand (class of '87) and I are now empty-nesters, as our son is a junior at Gustavus Adolphus and our daughter is a freshman at Augustana in Sioux Falls. Our two white fluffy rescue dogs keep us active and laughing!

Kathy (Gussiaas) Reynolds – After spending almost 30 years with Cargill my husband recently started with Johnsonville Sausage. We are moving to Mequon, WI in June and would love to connect with any cobbers in that area. We have a 12 year old daughter and excited to start this new chapter in our lives.

Barbara (Kelly) Geatches – I left the DC area in 2008 and have been living in Northern Idaho since then (I'm in Rathdrum which is near Coeur d'Alene). I'm married (22 years), 3 kids (2 of which are still at home), and 4 dogs. I work from home with a natural skincare company. Looking forward to spending the summer camping, kayaking, and hanging at the pool.

Patty (Payton) Skroch is still married to Gary, living in Maple Grove in the same house of 26 years, son Hayden is at UW-Stout, and Patty is still a health coach, helping people who want to make changes in their lives for long term health and happiness. Life is still great!
Lana Siewert-Olson – Old roomies Lana Siewert-Olson and Pam (Gibson) Melchert (and husbands) are traveling to Colombia, South America this summer. Mud baths, coffee plantations, beach time, they may never come back!

John Riewer – Physical Education Teacher (K-9); Head Coach: Cross Country - Boys Basketball - Girls Softball; Pine River-Backus School District, Minnesota; Married to wife Kim (31 Years); Kids (4): Jolene, Aaron, Malerie, and Jordan; Grand Kids: (4) Eli, Ruthie, Camilla, and Juliette; Hobbies in Summer: Watch ball games and golf. Go Cobbers!

Lisa K. Johnson – I just moved to Portland Oregon! I moved to the Pacific Northwest after graduating from Concordia, then moved to Colorado and later, California, so it feels like coming back home. The trees are in bloom and the green is so bad it hurts my eyes, and a good way! I am loving running the trails in Forest Park, and discovering new friends and connecting with relatives who have also moved here. Loved seeing fellow classmates at the reunion last October!!!

Caren Roberts-Frenzel is a cataloguer and manager in the entertainment memorabilia department of Bonhams Auctioneers in Los Angeles. She has two children, Rita and Johnny, ages 22 and 20.

Paula Johnson – Living in Dallas, TX. Working as a Human Resource Advisor for Aon (global insurance broker) for the last 22 years. Love to visit Minnesota, where I still have family, in the summertime; otherwise loving Texas.

Sue Anderson Smerud and Pete Smerud – Pete Smerud, Director of Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland MN. His wife Sue Anderson Smerud 86’ works for Tettegouche State Park.

Gerhard Lob – I live in Locarno (Italian part of Switzerland), working as a freelance journalist and correspondent for newspapers, radio and online. Children grown up. Travelling to California this fall.

Matt Lemke – The Lemke’s are living in Topeka, KS, a good place to raise a family. My wife, Lyn, and I have been married 18 years and have 4 children – Kelly, 17, Taryn, 12, Luke and Madison, both 10. Our lives are filled with kids activities and enjoying each other. I have worked for Payless ShoeSource for 29
years in various capacities. Presently lead a sales team that works with businesses who need specific type of footwear for their employees.

**Terri (Martinson) Elton** – As the years unfold, each year seems to bring new adventures. This year our oldest daughter, Jordan, is getting married (August wedding) and I had the privilege of writing a book with a Jewish Rabbi. *Leading Congregations and Nonprofits in a Connected World: Platforms, People, and Purpose* was published this past December.

**Neil Mueller** – Neil is teaching at Central Michigan University and performing with the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra. 2 kids in college and one a junior in high school. Once the last one graduates high school, we will sell our house in OH and only commute within the state of Michigan.

**Dave Milbrandt** – For the past 23 years I have been at Fairview Lakes in Wyoming, MN where I am an ED physician, ED Director, and the Vice President of Medical Affairs for the hospital. I also hold Fairview system roles of overseeing the community hospitalist providers and urgent care providers. I have been married for 13 years to Dr Kellie Kershisnik, and we have a 10 year old son named Max. He enjoys baseball, cub scouts, and anything with a screen. We live in Grant, MN which is between White Bear Lake and Stillwater. We have a cabin in Hayward, Wisconsin and a condo on Rum Point in Grand Cayman. We try to get to these places as often as we can as it sure beats working. We enjoy analytic geometry, intergalactic travel, and famous French politicians....or not. We do enjoy travel, sports, and family.....just like everyone else.

**Richard Hinz** and Andrea Cummings ('87) celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this June. Richard has worked as a Maricopa County Superior Court Commissioner for the past three years, assigned to the family court bench. Andrea represents the civil division of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in probate and elections cases. Their oldest son, Connor, graduates this spring from Arizona State University with a degree in aviation. Their youngest son, Aidan, is just completing seventh grade. They had the good fortune of spending their past Christmas holiday with family in Kenmare, Ireland.

**Curt Neukircher** – I've been working at Boston Scientific Maple Grove MN for almost 30 years including acquisitions. I live with my wife Denise and three kids in Brooklyn Park Minnesota. Love to travel to the Rockies annually and go camping whenever we can.

**Dave Vandersteen** – 2017 was a tough year for our family with the death of my father-in-law and multiple family related difficulties with our adult children. Grateful for the prayers and support of our friends and classmates! My youngest daughter, Elyse, graduates from HS in a few weeks and will become...... an Auggie. As will my son Micah who is transferring there for his junior year. Our eldest daughter Melissa is engaged and plans on a wedding in 2018. I gotta start saving money......! I continue to teach abroad with mission work in Da Nang and Thanh Hoa Vietnam, Liberia Africa and Ulan Bataar Mongolia. I received an honorary doctorate from the Hospital for Women and Children in Ulan Baatar in the fall
2016 while I was teaching and performing medical mission work there. Children’s Surgery International give me a very nice award for Exemplary Service for my work around the globe.

Christopher Carlson – I am enjoying 20 years of marriage to Kim, our son David’s last year of high school, caring for aging parents, volunteering at a clinic for immigrants, prayer for and travels to Israel.

Erin (Horning) Stuefen – I currently reside in Northfield and work in Cannon Falls as an administrative assistant for a major sign production company. I was unfortunately widowed 3 1/2 years ago. About a year after my husband passed away I decided to participate in one of Concordia’s travel programs for alumni - the trip to Greece in September, 2014 and had a wonderful time and it was a great healing adventure!

Deanna Edwards – I am still living in Moorhead, MN and working at Arby’s restaurant. I hope to attend two high school graduations soon, for my niece Tahlia and nephew Noah. The Moorhead Arby’s restaurant recently received a top rating when we were evaluated, which means we are recertified to become a training restaurant where new general managers and assistant managers can be trained for other Arby’s restaurants in the region. I was one of the team that worked together to accomplish a store and a staff that was up to the high level of excellence required to pass.

Barbara (Nudell) Whelan – My husband Doug and I continue to live in Grafton, with our daughter Grace who is graduating in May. She has been accepted at Concordia for the Fall 2017 – and will be living in Hoyum! We are proud and excited for her to begin this new journey in her life.

Kelly (Engen) Yelle – I have resided in Florida the past 12 years. My husband and I both work at Parrish Medical Center. I just started a new position as a Care Transitional Coordinator with LHCGroup and am still apart of Parrish. My oldest daughter is 17 in 11th grade and my son is 15 in 9th grade. They love Lacrosse and have enjoyed band. They volunteer with the church’s youth group with kids in grade 1st to 4th. My parents moved to Florida and live in my neighborhood. We are blessed to have both sets of parents nearby and two of my nieces.
Jackie (Dotson) Mitchell – My husband, Jim, and I have now lived in Fort Myers, Florida, longer than I lived in Minnesota (31 years!). I continue to work as a Family Law paralegal at Henderson Franklin Starnes & Holt, PA and have done so since 1992. Jim works as a Senior VP as the Public Finance Director for a Florida based bank. Our son, Charlie, just completed his sophomore year at Florida Gulf Coast University. We are traveling to Alaska in July with our extended family (13 family members).

Barb (Ketcham) Middleton – I am a high school librarian working at the American International School of Johannesburg in South Africa. We are in our 12th year of working at overseas schools as educators having been in Taipei, Taiwan and Barcelona, Spain before here.

Shekinah Samaya-Thomas (aka Joan Granander) – I continue to live in Oakland CA with my husband Chris. We WELCOME both contact (via Facebook) and visitors! We just had a Cobber reunion with some long-time friends who were visiting the area and it was AWESOME to see them! Biggest news is that I "cleared" my CA State Career Technical Education (C.T.E) Teaching Credential in January 2017, meaning that now both my CA Adult Education AND C.T.E credentials are now "permanent" credentials. I continue to teach part time at Hayward Center for Careers and Education (Hayward Adult School) in Hayward CA. I provide a variety of Adult Education (Basic Ed and GED topics), Career and Work Skills development, Language Development, Digital and Medical technology courses. And - upon fully healing from this latest health set back - am looking forward to returning to MN this July for a family visit, along with visiting many of the nation's National Parks between Oakland and Detroit, our final eastern destination. We're visiting Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Mt. Rushmore, Chicago, Arches/Canyonlands/Capital Reef/Bryce Canyon NP's, along with the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, and will spend some time in Las Vegas near my birthday at the end of July. We hope to see many friends and family on the journey!

Wendy (Johnson) Malgouyres – André and I will be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary on July 25th this year… 30 years of a beautiful life in Aix-en-Provence, France, teaching English to students of all ages and organizing high school exchanges for our students with colleagues in Canada and the U.S. (Massachusetts, Minnesota, California…). Our lovely daughter, Lucy-Mei is 15 ½ and an avid Irish Dancer/horserider. I continue to teach English to 6th, 7th and 9th graders at the Collège du Sacré Cœur in Aix, the school where I had worked as a French Teaching intern for Concordia in 1986 and where I had met André, who is nearing the end of his career as a school Principal in Marseille. I make it back to N.D./Minn. at least once a year (but never in October for Homecoming…sorry!), as well as travel to either Boston, MA or Sonoma, CA every spring with my students. Living in Southern France also means having a steady flow of friends and family who come to visit, which is delightful! Greetings to all of you 1986 Cobber classmates, whom I rarely see but often think about!
**Jill Sailer** – I’m still in the Health Information Department at West River Health Services in Hettinger, ND. My work is enjoyable, but I always look forward to computer upgrades at work and at home. I play the organ and piano for Hettinger Lutheran. I’m also on the Board of the Dakota Concert Series. I used to think about living in a big city, but now I’m happy to be in the town that I grew up in. I would like to travel more often, but maybe I’ll save that for retirement.

**Carrie (Johnson) Haug** – This past year was filled with a range of emotions. My mother-in-law passed away after a somewhat brief illness; my husband became the proud owner of a coronary artery stent; we became empty nesters (we now have a Cobber – Parker is a freshman, and an Ole – Abbie is a junior); and I’m in my third year of learning a new health care business line as system-wide director of medical staff services for Essentia Health.

**REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATE**

**Paul Scott Morlock** – Paul, 52, passed away Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016, at Sanford Palliative Care in Fargo, ND, with his loving family and friends by his side.

Paul was born May 31, 1964, to Carl and Della Mae (Fischer) Morlock in Moorhead, MN. After graduating from Moorhead High School, where he played football and wrestled, he attended Concordia College where he had a successful wrestling career. Upon graduation, he started a career in sales, including Cass-Clay Creamery for twenty-one years, RDO, and Simpson Strong-Tie.

Paul married the love of his life, Jean Ecklund, on June 15, 1984. Due to Paul’s great love of cold winters and wanting his children to be Spuds, they stayed in Moorhead and raised their four children, Cassandra, Brett, Chase, and Lance. He loved hunting, fishing, attending all Spud sporting and theater events (Once a Spud, always a Spud) and Bison football games. He enjoyed socializing with fellow neighbors and family with the champagne of beers, Miller High Life Lite. Paul always drank Lite beer because he was “watching his figure”.

Paul was loved for his big heart and his willingness to help and be there for anyone. He loved to tease and joke and his smart-aleck retorts always brought a smile to everyone’s face. Paul was very excited to know he was going to be a grandfather in the spring.

Paul is survived by his wife of thirty-two years, Jean; children, Cassandra (Zachary) Remple, Eden Prairie, MN, Brett (fiancée, Ceceli Bonitto), Chase, and Lance, all Moorhead; mother, Della Mae Morlock; father-in-law, Eugene Ecklund; brothers, Gregg (Barb) Morlock, and Dean (Julie) Morlock; brothers and sisters-in-law, Steven (Catherine) Ecklund, Kathleen (David) Rheault, Anne (Jim) Fiala, Mark (Susie) Ecklund, James (Celeste) Ecklund, Denise (John) Silva, and Mary Beth Ecklund; aunts, uncle, many cousins, nieces and nephews; and loving dog, Beau.

Paul was preceded in death by his father, Carl; mother-in-law, Dorothy Ecklund; and brother-in-law, Scott Ecklund.
UPDATES FROM THE COLLEGE

CAMPUS UPDATE – SUMMER 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. He is an experienced teacher and prolific scholar of religion, theology, and issues of diversity and inclusion in global societies. Dr. Antonio began his service in August.

- **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.

- The science buildings were renovated; the Integrated Science Center opened this fall.

Sustainability

- In April, 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

- The language villages 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.
- In 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. Clausen and commissioned to observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, took place in April in Minneapolis at Orchestra Hall and on campus in the 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.
- This fall/winter, the Concordia Orchestra performed a musical score to the original 1931 Black & White movie Frankenstein at the Fargo Theater, and toured Minnesota and Iowa. In May 2018, a cultural and performance tour is planned to Greece. Watch for details at Cord.edu/orchestratour.
- 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 succeeded Dr. Simmons as the Center’s Director. 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.

• In July, **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 launched in 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: In fall 2017, 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.

DO YOU HAVE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THESE ‘86ERS?
Elizabeth Aabye Kara Abrahamson
Vidar Birkeland Helen Chan
Kari Eide Kimberly Gullickson
Julie Hanson Maria Hernandez
Jacqueline Jensen-Robideau
Kimberly Jondahl Carla Kocher
Thomas Lamphere Tore Naerland
James Ridge Amy Riopel
Mara Sanderson Scott Schultz
Joseph Smith Stuart Stangeland
Abdulhamid Turkomani Elizabeth Wahldick
All my best to everyone!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Carrie (Johnson) Haug
carrie_haug@yahoo.com