

Greetings, Class of 1997!

I hope that the summer months have been treating each of you well, and that you're making every effort to spend quality time with family and friends. This year has given my family its share of joy and sorrow, and both serve as reminders about the preciousness of time. I know many of you are also having those peaks and valleys, and I pray the moments before you are filled with blessing.

One of the highlights of the past year was being able to spend time with many of you at our 20-year reunion last October. It was so great to catch up, remember good times, and connect after many years. Those of us in attendance are hoping the turnout for our 25-year reunion will be even better, so start clearing your calendars now!

In the meantime, make sure you mark your calendars for Homecoming 2018, which is scheduled for September 28-30. It's a great opportunity to connect with other Cobbers and explore the changes taking place at CC!

### **CAMPUS "KERNELS" 2018**

#### Concordia Language Villages:

The summer of 2017 demonstrated the value placed on world language and culture education with over 4,580 villagers and families attending a Concordia Language Villages' program. CLV also 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 sogüi Hosu, the Korean Language Village.)

#### 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 and qualifying 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.
- 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.

#### 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, 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

### **1997 GIVING**

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 14.41% participation and gave \$19,053. Since graduation, our class has given \$312,644 in outright gifts. THANK YOU!

### CLASS UPDATES

*You can also keep the Class of 1997 in the loop by liking our Facebook page (Concordia College – Class of 1997) and posting your news and photos. There’s even a few photos from our Homecoming reunion! It’s such a joy being able to see where your lives are taking each of you; please continue to share those messages!*

- Lisa (Melkert) Fiala is now the Executive Director of Red Caboose Child Care Center, Inc., in Madison, WI.
- Dr. Jennifer Ness-Myers is now an Assistant Professor of Biology at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA.

### WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

According to the Alumni Office, there are still a few missing Cobbers out there. If you have any information about these classmates, please contact the Alumni Office at (800) 699-9020 or [alumni@cord.edu](mailto:alumni@cord.edu).

Christopher Allen	Kristin Halvorsen	Ryan Kruse	Kathryn Olson	Angela Schultz
Jayne Becker	Bonnie Hardegree	Sarah Larson	Scott Olson	Danielle Specht
Melisa Castro	Ryan Hess	Adam Lucas	Birgit Oppelt	Cheryl Tieskotter
Chelsey Erbaugh	Erik Hunziker	Melissa Maristuen	Joshua Perry	Corey Weber
Laura Ferrington	Eva Jenssen	Jennifer Mlynek	Anne Peterson	Michelle Wermerskirchen
Trisha Gorecki	Ryan Johnson	Lisa Newman	Stephanie Sargent	Andrew Whiteman
Jiahe Gu	Issa Kass	Kirstin Nickerson	Chanda Scherer	Kirsten Winters

Again, I hope that life is treating you kindly and that peace, health, and blessings abound for you and yours.

Soli Deo Gloria,



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