

July 26, 2019

Dear Class of 2002,

It seems as if the years are flying by more quickly each year. Hard to believe our 15 year reunion was almost 2 years ago, it's been 17 years since we walked across that stage at graduation, and a lot of us will be turning 40 in the next year. I hope this letter finds everyone well and having a great 2019! It's been a busy one at Cobber-ville

Classmates in Cobber news: - our classmate **Dr. Dan Biebighauser** was featured in a News & Notes article on April 13, 2019. Check out the article here:

<https://www.concordiacollege.edu/news/details/biebighauser-named-endowed-chair-in-mathematics/>



A dinner was held April 4 to celebrate the naming of **Dr. Dan Biebighauser** as holder of The Sigurd and Pauline Prestegaard Mundhjeld Endowed Chair of Mathematics. Biebighauser is a 2002 graduate of Concordia and joined the faculty in 2006. The holder of the Mundhjeld chair is to be a person who has provided exemplary service in teaching and scholarship in the field of mathematics and who is known and respected in the field. All of the past holders of the Mundhjeld Endowed Chair were present. Past holders include Dr. Bill Tomhave, Dr. James L. Forde, Dr. Alexander Sze and Dr. Gerald A. Heuer '51.

Updates from Concordia:

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. In addition to composing arrangements and original pieces for Concordia ensembles, he has written dozens of

commissioned compositions including "MEMORIAL" and "Crying for a Dream" for the American Choral Directors Association. Clausen was also commissioned by Concordia to create a major work in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The work is titled "The Passion of Jesus Christ" and premiered at Orchestra Hall in 2017. 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."

- The Concordia Choir completed a highly successful tour through the Pacific Northwest in March. The tour featured concerts in Washington, Oregon, Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Next year, the Choir will tour the Southeast United States. Updates and more information can be found at www.TheConcordiaChoir.org.
- The Concordia Orchestra completed a fall domestic tour with performances in Appleton, Wausau and Chippewa Falls in Wisconsin and Roseville, Sartell and Brainerd in Minnesota. Also joining the tour was guest conductor Christoph Rehli-Fankhauser, professor of conducting at the Lucerne University of Music in Switzerland.
- The Concordia Band was invited to perform at both the Minnesota Music Educators Association Mid-Winter Clinic in Minneapolis and the North Dakota Music Educators Association Conference in Bismarck. In addition, the band was also invited to be the featured collegiate band at the Westman Honour Band concert at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. The band is in the beginning stages of planning their international tour to Spain in May of 2020.

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. 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.
- 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.

Other Concordia News:

- This year Concordia honors 15 retirees with a total combined 346 years of service. Honored retirees are Dr. Francisco Cabello-Cobo, world languages and cultures, 18 years; Jane Linde Capistran, music, 17 years; Lois Cogdill, Student Development and Campus Life, 26 years; Dr. Susan Cordes-Green, psychology, 30 years; Florene Culp, Concordia Language Villages, 15 years; Dr. Dawn Duncan, English, 25 years; Dennis Duncan, Information Technology Services, 24 years; Scott Ellingson, Career Center, 40 years; Wayne Flack, Facilities Management, 12 years; Brenna Grund, Dining Services, 13 years; Elaine Johnson, Admission, 27 years; Tracey Moorhead, President's Office, 30 years; Jessica Rahman, athletics, 16 years; Dr. Barbara Witteman, education, 24 years; and Dr. Xueqi Zeng, mathematics, 29 years. You can read more about each retiree here:
<https://www.concordiacollege.edu/news/details/concordia-recognizes-retirees/>



- 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. The 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.

Alumni Awards: Did you know that The National Alumni Board presents 3 different awards to alumni each year? The Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. To

learn more about each award or to submit nominations, visit www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition/

Fundraising Update:

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 11.16% participation (49 donors) and gave \$6,900+. Since graduation, our class has given \$79,600+ in outright gifts. THANK YOU!

Class Notes: the fun part of the letter. Thank you to the classmates who sent updates

Kristi (Tramp) Steinmann and her husband Ted welcomed a baby girl Zelig Margaret in March 2018. Zelig joins big sister Inga and the family resides in Moorhead, Minn.

Lindsay Matts-Benson and her husband Kent welcomed Henrik in October 2018. Big sister Leta is overjoyed with the family's addition and the family resides in Roseville, Minn. Lindsay was invited to give the preconference workshop at LOEX - a national library instruction conference on accessibility in online library instruction. She also presented research on active learning and student engagement in library instruction at the Libraries Performance Measurement Conference in Aberystwyth, Wales.

Mark Egge recently took a role as Associate Vice President of Development at Hamline University in St. Paul! Excited to be back in higher ed!

Brad and Martha (Olson) Ragan welcomed baby boy Parker Samuel to the family, joining big sister and big brother in September 2018. In November, Martha accepted a position with The Sisters of St. Mary's of Oregon at Maryville Nursing Home as the Director of Social Services.

Ed Arntson took command of 3-187 Infantry Battalion in 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY in July 2019. They have lived in Virginia Beach, VA for the last two years while he worked on the Joint Staff. Separately, in what's kind of a cool story, Ed is stationed in Virginia Beach with Commander Brian Kesselring (Class of 2000), who is commanding an F-18 Squadron in the Navy. With such a small school, that's got to be pretty rare!

Alicia Sutliff-Benusis welcomed her daughter Chloe Sutliff Benusis on March 12, 2019.

Andrea (Jensen) Williams welcomed baby boy Broderick John in January 2019. He joins big sister Katherine.

Anna (Peterson) Thomas and her husband Kevin celebrated the birth of their 3rd child, Evelyn Charlotte, on April 15, 2019. Evelyn joins big sister Cora and big brother Anderson.

Laura (Hintermeyer) Ajibero and her husband Oloruntoba welcomed baby boy Oluwayanmife Joseph on December 15, 2018. The family resides in Bloomington, Minn.

Dr. Amanda (Hasatd) Thompson became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties on July 1, 2019.

Jennica Date was promoted to Sr. Data Manager at Women's Foundation of Minnesota in June.

Jamie Rosencrans moved to Denver, CO and started a new job working in International Marketing for Medtronic.

Courtney (Bagge) Mackall and her husband Jim '95 welcomed their first child James Steven on January 19, 2019.



Evan Kuhn and his wife Liz celebrated the birth of their son Blake William on November 19, 2018.



In Memorial:

Bowne, Louise Mary of Vadnais Heights, MN passed away January 8, 2019 in Pueblo, Colorado. She was 39 years old. Louise was born in Missoula, Montana, on July 27, 1979, to Louis and Kathleen (Kathy) Bowne. She moved to Columbia Falls, Montana as a teenager and graduated from Columbia Falls High School. She forever thought of Columbia Falls and Montana as home. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Spanish, Russian, and International Relations from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She worked as a Senior Supply Chain Specialist for Ecolab in St. Paul, Minnesota. She enjoyed working with her coworkers. She spent a year abroad in Castellon de la Plana, Spain during her junior year of high school and a semester in St. Petersburg, Russia during college. She enjoyed travelling and spending

time with her family. She enjoyed camping with her friend, Chris, around Duluth, Minnesota. She loved her nephews and enjoyed spoiling them with gifts Louise is survived by her cat, Carma; her father, Louis, sister Emily Sell, brother-in-law Andrew and two nephews Steven and Jacob of Pueblo; aunt Mary Lou Riedy, and friend H. Joan Bruggink, of Wisconsin; uncle Gary, aunt Lisa and three cousins, of North Carolina; and Grandmother, Donna Bowne of Colorado Springs. She is also survived by her host families in Castellon de la Plans, Spain; and St. Petersburg, Russia; as well as numerous friends. Louise was preceded in death by her mother, Kathy, grandmother, Ida Riedy, and grandfather, Robert Bowne. Memorials may be made to: Camp Marshall, in the Episcopal Diocese of Montana ([campmarshallmontana.org/...](http://campmarshallmontana.org/)), Concordia College, Moorhead, MN (concordiacollege.edu/giving/), an animal shelter in your area, or a charity of one's choosing. A celebration of life will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 11, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Avenue, St. Paul with a reception to follow the service.

Remember, we have our class FB page where we can stay connected throughout the year. I'll be posting events monthly to this page. Please feel free to share photos and updates for our classmate here as well: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/10350150208>. If you haven't joined the group yet, please join!!

All class letters will now be delivered electronically and can be viewed at www.concordiacollege.edu/classletters

Til next year,

Kiaja (Morgenthaler) Klabo
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