

Class of 2007 | Class Letter 2019

While you're relaxing on your summer vacations, hanging out at your weekend BBQs, and lounging at the lake, we're bringing you some easy reading with everything happening at Concordia and with your classmates. That's right, it's time for this year's class letter!

First off, a huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated to Concordia this year. The Class of 2007 contributed \$12,413.44, which goes to support current students and advancing Concordia initiatives. Since graduating, our class has contributed \$67,707.57. What awesome generosity to our alma mater.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Corn Feeds

Corn feeds are happening all around the country again this summer. You can find all the locations and details at: <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/corn-feeds/>. Be sure to check for one happening near you.

Homecoming

As you schedule out your time this year, keep in mind that Concordia's Homecoming is October 10-13, 2019. Classes with graduating years ending in 4 and 9 have reunions, but all are welcome to come back to connect with other Cobbers and explore the campus! For a full schedule of events and to register, visit <https://www.ConcordiaCollege.edu/Homecoming>

LOST LIST

We have a quite a few classmates that the alumni office needs current contact information. If you know an email address or other contact info for any of these classmates, or linked to them on social media, be sure to reach out and encourage them to update their information at cord.edu/classnotes.

Line Soby Andresen

Emily Aubrey (Lenz)

Joanna Berringer

Danielle Bungarden

Vanessa Bolte

Laura Braithwaite

Britta Emmel

Jennifer Christenson

Rebecca Ek

William Erlandson

Caroline Fogel

Alycia Gades

Stephanie Gnojek

Laurel Grandinetti

Christine Herwig

Kimberly Hutchens (Asche)

Erika Johnson

Jordy Kamerling

Stein Larsstuen

Jennifer Lowrey

Kimberly Lund

David Lund

Aaslaug Misund

Jennifer Mueller

Fortunate Mugove

Nicoletta Neddermeyer

Airi Nogami

Mari Odegaard

Lisa Olsen (Kott)

Vijay Orilall

Abigail Palacios (Devries)

Jenna Perrin

Joseph Pofert

Heather Priessler

Anupama Ranawana

Anne Roningen

Natalie Schenck

Holger Schumann

Heather Schuster

Sajin Shrestha

Ryan Smith

Katherine Stuke

Sarah Ulschmid

Lance Vilhauer

Celine Visdeloup

Katie Williams

CONNECT WITH CLASSMATES

Concordia College Class of 2007 Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/cobbers2007/>

Concordia College Facebook @concordiacollege

Concordia College Instagram @concordia_mn

Concordia College Twitter @Concordia_MN

These days everyone is keeping up to date by checking out instagram stories or scrolling Facebook, but we want to also use this letter as a chance to shout out some of the great times, accomplishments, and milestones over the year of the Class of 2007, and give you the latest of what's been happening on campus. So, when you're posting those social media updates, be sure to head over to cord.edu/classnotes and let us know what you've been up to. New job? Got Hitched? Finished Grad school? Welcomed a new little bundle of joy? Awesome! We want to hear about it! Have a picture of the momentous occasion? Even better! We're light on updates this year, but we're predicting a turnaround for 2020.

That's a wrap on the 2019 Class Letter! Go Cobbers! (Or Roll Cobbs as the kids are saying now)

Sarah Guzman (Cobb) & Dawn Damschen (Livingston), 2007 Class Agents

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CLASSMATE UPDATES

A few highlights from the last year:

Bailee Kaehler

Phenix Grace Kaehler made her debut in this world on 12/12/2018, after hanging on tight to her cozy home in mom's belly for a week past her due date. She has brought so much joy to Bailee and Cliff and extended family! Big Congrats to the Kaehler family!!

Ingrid Gylland (Olson)

Ingrid and Jens Gylland welcomed baby boy Lars Karsten Gylland to the world on October 26, 2018. Just in time to be the cutest little pumpkin for Halloween. Congrats Gylland family!!

CAMPUS UPDATES

Concordia Language Villages

-Summer 2018 was a busy one for Concordia Language Villages. We had over 4700 villagers and families from all over the world attend immersion programs at our Turtle River Lake sites just north of Bemidji and at other leased camps in northern Minnesota. This strong enrollment demonstrates the value families are placing on world language and culture education.

-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 sogŭi 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. A special event to commemorate this milestone was held on July 13. Sjölundén the Swedish Language Village, celebrates its 45th summer with a midsommar event on August 3.

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. Work is now being done to plan the Choir’s 2020 tour to the Southeast United States. Updates and more information can be found at www.TheConcordiaChoir.org.

-The Concordia Orchestra completed a very successful fall domestic tour with performances in Appleton, Wausau and Chippewa Falls in Wisconsin and Roseville, Sartell and Brainerd in Minnesota. Repertoire included Symphony No. 3 by Florence Price, Scheherazade by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and Concerto for Trombone by Jim Pugh, which featured Concordia Professor of Low Brass Dr. Nathaniel Dickey on trombone. 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.

Cobber 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.

New Hires

-Concordia added two critical new leaders in the Career Center this year. Kris Olson joined the College as the new Director of the Career Center in October 2018. Jill Wenger, a Barnesville native, was hired in the role of Assistant Director of the Career Center in March 2019.

-Katie Nystuen was hired as our Health Services Coordinator this year. Part of her role is to guide students in making choices regarding their healthcare needs, and connecting them to the many quality providers in our community. Though direct care is not the focus of the Health Services Office, she is First Aid, CPR and AED certified, and can assist with triage and referral to an appropriate medical facility should an urgent situation arise, as can our Public Safety Office. One of her goals is to be more proactive and holistic regarding health and wellness programming on campus.

-Dallas Fossum joined Concordia as the new Director for Facilities Management in March. Dallas is an experienced director of facilities management and has, with his teams, completed more than \$50 million in renovations, new constructions, infrastructure, and deferred maintenance.

-Dr. Jill Abbott has been appointed Deputy to the President at Concordia College, effective June 3, 2019. Dr. Abbott will serve as a member of the college cabinet and will continue the good work of her predecessor Tracey Moorhead as liaison to our Board of Regents. As Deputy to the President, she will work to ensure the fulfillment of the new college plan following its affirmation by the Board of Regents, to represent the college in building strong local and regional partnerships for mutual success, and to position Concordia as mission driven institution of national significance.

Alumni Awards:

The National Alumni Board voted on the 2019 Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. To learn more about each award, visit www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition/.

2019 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

- Dr. Paul Brandvik '59, professor emeritus of music at Bemidji State University, served as director of choral activities for 31 years. Brandvik received several awards, guest conducted more than 100 festivals and workshops in 16 states and abroad, and composed, edited or arranged more than 50 works.

- Dr. Kristi Ferguson '71, is professor emeritus of General Internal Medicine and served as director, Office of Consultation and Research in Medical Education at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She spent her entire career at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine where she has greatly influenced the development, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum.
- Dr. Thomas Samuelson '81, a board-certified ophthalmologist, is a founding partner and attending surgeon at Minnesota Eye Consultants, P.A., Minneapolis. He's also an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota and on the faculty of Hennepin County Medical Center. He has received several awards and has been named to America's Top Doctors each year since 2002. He has written numerous articles and given more than 600 presentations around the world.
- A 1977 Concordia graduate, the Rev. Ann Svennungsen is the bishop of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod, the first female bishop to serve in any of the ELCA's six Minnesota synods. She served as a parish pastor prior to serving as president and CEO of The Fund for Theological Education and then as president of Texas Lutheran University. Svennungsen, a well-respected theologian and speaker, is published in numerous journals, and is invited to lecture, preach, and provide keynote and commencement addresses.

2019 Sent Forth Recipients

- Betsy Grams '98, co-founder and executive director of Cycle Health, is a 1998 Concordia graduate. CycleHealth was founded in 2014 to equip kids to power their own wellness. CycleHealth's programs are based on adventure and self-directed goal attainment, and are prescribed by pediatricians in more than 50 Twin Cities clinics through an innovative platform called Sweat Rx.
- Matthew Culloton '98, Matthew Culloton, founding Artistic Director of The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists, is a 1998 Concordia graduate and earned a master's and a doctorate from the University of Minnesota. He is Choirmaster at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn., an adjunct faculty member at the University of Saint Thomas and composer. Culloton received the VocalEssence/ACDA of Minnesota Creative Programming Award (2003) and MN ACDA Outstanding Young Choral Conductor of the Year Award (2004).