

June 2018

Greetings Class of 2008!

Wishing you all a happy summer, and a happy 10 year graduation anniversary! It's been a decade since our time at Concordia, and the countdown is on to celebrate during Homecoming. Make sure to save the date; September 28-30 we will be Maroon. Gold. Cobber Bold!

Campus has changed so much since we were students, and more recently Concordia has had these exciting 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
- 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 from across the country, 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.

It's our 10th Reunion Year and we have already started planning great events for the weekend of Sept. 28-30. The committee has been hard at work putting together our breakfast at the Offutt School of Business, and our evening gathering at Dave's Southside Tap. We hope to see you back to help us celebrate this important milestone!

Our reunion is also a time to come together as a class to make a difference in the life of the college. Our reunion team set a goal of \$5000 and 10% participation from our class. We're excited about the opportunity to give back and hope that you'll join us by giving a gift of any size in honor of our 10th reunion. You can make your gift at ConcordiaCollege.edu/reuniongiving

What's new with our class? Well...

Hannah Burchill is the PR Manager at the City of St. Paul- Planning and Economic Development Division.

Daniel Cahoon married his wife, Hannah. He is a Latin Teacher at Mandan Public Schools.

Berit (Christensen) Dockter began a position as Account Executive- Scientific and Regulatory Manager at the Kellen Company in Washington DC.

Liz (Carlson) Eisert was promoted to the Contact Center Communications Manager at US Bank in April.

Corene (Knutson) Freeman and her husband Tyler Freeman ('07) welcomed a baby boy on April 12, 2017 named Baxter Elliot.

Jennifer (Petersen) Gullickson: My husband and I adopted our first child, Ryker, born in March, 2017! We celebrated his official adoption or "Gotcha Day" on August 10, 2017! We are loving every minute with him - he is such a blessing!

Christine (Schaefer) Hamilton can now be addressed as Dr. Christine Hamilton. She earned her PhD in Classics from The Ohio State University on August 6, 2017.

Gabriel Hertler and his wife Asha (Saari) (2009) are beginning their fifth year of living and working in Brookings, SD as employees of South Dakota State University. They are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Adler Jacob William Hertler in April 2018.

Katie (Hedberg) Hutton welcomed a baby boy, William, on April 11, 2017. She lives in Fargo with her husband, Adam.

Dr. Amanda (Halverson) Johnson is a Nurse Practitioner at Sanford Health, and received the Mark Blaufuss "Golden Tomato" Pediatric Teacher of the Year Award - Fargo Campus from UND Medical School. She welcomed baby boy Brayden, who joined his older sister Ava.

Chad Johnson and his wife Jacki welcomed a baby girl, Sophie. In May 2017 Chad began a position as Donor Relation Director for the Salvation Army.

Erin (Telander) Johnson is the Clinical Nurse Leader at the Fargo VA Health System. She also earned an MS, CNL from South Dakota State University.

Christine (Pershke) Jorissen and her husband welcomed baby Harper Joy in July 2017. Christine earned a degree in Addiction Counseling from University of Jamestown, and is an Activity Therapist at North Dakota State Hospital.

Zack Kenz is a Scientist at DILIsym Services in North Carolina.

Rev Cassandra Lamb is excited to announce that her daughter Mirjam Jo was born on March 8, 2018.

Heather (Langseth) Marcella and her husband Joe had baby Callie in June 2017. She joined older brothers Leo and Luke. Heather earned her Master's in Nurse Anesthesia from St. Mary's University and is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at Plains Anesthesia.

Rose (Flagg) Maanum paints, sews and dabbles in the arts through pop up events and maker's exchanges (aka - fandom themed craft swaps). Rose is a Director for HandsOn Twin Cities, where she negotiates corporate volunteer engagement contracts and finds balance between excel spreadsheets and field work. When Rose isn't working or creating, she enjoys traveling with the Accountant and her wee Nessie, follow LochandSea on IG for a glimpse into these nerdy adventures! **Scott Maanum** enjoys golfing as much as possible and traveling anywhere and everywhere. He recently transitioned internally within the Toro Company from SEC Reporting to International Operations. Scott's wife is writing this update and has no idea what Scott actually does for work, so his nickname, the Accountant, will have to summarize his role within this glamorous position. If you ever seek golf travel tips, connect with Scott as he is checking off bucket list courses throughout the world! Scott and Rose have been married since November 2011, enjoy fixing up their 1950's pink-oven-time-capsule home, and working on training and new tricks with pets Gibbs and Buffy.

Dr. Kyle Maxwell-Doherty received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Arizona in May of this year.

Kalli (Peterson) Murphy and her husband Brett became parents to Lydia Carol on March 15, 2018.

Amanda (Simon) Smith and **Joshua Smith** had a baby boy, Milo, on April 10, 2017. Amanda is an Enrollment Counselor at Capella University.

Dustin & Heidi Weege welcomed Maria Grace Weege on August 7th, 2017 as they became a family of 5 with Derek & Levi.

Jessica (Lipinski) Westby welcomed baby boy Tatum Arnold, who joins big sisters Olivia and Cora. In March Jessica began a position as Clinical Supervisor at Lutheran Social Services of MN.

Rachel Wippert began a position as the Center Supervisor at Biolife Plasma Services in West Fargo.

Andrea (Gustafson) Wood had baby Savannah Eileen on May 23, 2017, joining big brother Mason.

Christa (Nimlos) Zirbes: Our daughter Freya was born on January 25, and I was promoted to HR Coordinator on May 21 this year. 2018 has been an eventful year so far!

Thank you again for all of your updates! I can't wait for our class to catch up in person come September at our breakfast and evening gatherings. Stay tuned for registration details that will be emailed, as well as updates posted to our Concordia College Class of 2008 Updates Facebook group.

Wishing you all the best! Soli deo Gloria!

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