

Concordia College Class of 2012

2018 Class Letter



Well hello there!

It's hard to believe it's almost been a year since the Class of 2012 gathered for your 5 year reunion last fall, but it's been a great year. Exciting things have happened both on campus and in the lives of your classmates, and we're excited to share that information with you all this year. While your class may not have a reunion for a few more years, we want you to stay connected and keep in touch.

You can always check out www.cord.edu/alumni for upcoming events and news, and make sure you follow the Concordia Alumni channels on Facebook and Twitter for the most up to date information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 218.299.3734 and we'd be happy to help in any way we can.

Here's to another year of adventure, Class of 2012!

- The Office of Alumni Relations

Top 10 Updates from Campus

There are a smattering of exciting changes which have taken place, or are coming down the pike, at Concordia. There are too many things to effectively capture in this section of the letter and still hold your attention, so we've taken the liberty of creating a "Top 10" highlight reel for you all. Enjoy:

1.

PLEASE EXCUSE MY INTRUSION:

Bruce Vieweg has officially retired as Concordia's Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Bruce joined the Cobber community in 2007. His fondness for performing art on campus and his eternal optimism will truly be missed.

CAMPAIGN KICK OFF

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

2.

3.

GREAT CHEMISTRY

The Department of Chemistry celebrated 100 years in early March. The day-long celebration at the new Integrated Science Center included talks from chemistry alumni from across the country, a career networking event for students and banquet in the evening with Robert Homann, Professor Emeritus and Past Dean of the College, as the keynote speaker.

GRAND SLAM

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.

4.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

Chad Johnson'18 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. This honor is in addition to his MIAC All Conference Awards (3 years) and the 2017 MIAC MVP Award he received earlier this year.

5.

6.

GOALS

Becca O'Shurak has been hired as the first female head coach of women's soccer. O'Shurak has previously served as assistant coach at Youngstown State and Tennessee Tech University.

CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Concordia Language Villages received the largest gift in its history from Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park: \$5M to support the first phase of construction of a new Korean Language Village on Turtle River Lake. The gift was given in celebration of 30 years of language and culture at Sup sogŭi Hosu, the Korean Language Village. Additionally, the Language Villages will recognize and celebrate 35 years of Sēn Lín Hú, the Chinese Language Village, with a special program prior to International Day in August

7.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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.

8.

9.

LET'S LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

This May, the Concordia Orchestra spent two weeks on a cultural immersion trip in Greece, visiting eight cities and performing in several countries.

The 2016 Concordia Christmas Concert "Gather Us in, O Child of Peace" earned a regional Emmy Award for the special event coverage. This is the second time a Concordia Christmas Concert has received the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Award.

Dr. Rene Clausen was also 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 32nd year at Concordia as the conductor of The Concordia Choir.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

This year's Alumni Achievement Award recipients include: Charles Beck '48, Dr. Richard Sibley '67, Darnell Carter '75, and Claudia Swendseid '78

This year's Send Forth Recipients include: Dr. Tammy Frisby '99, Array Ardayfio '02.

10.

For more information on what's going on at the college, check out the college's website www.concordiacollege.edu, follow the college on social media, and answer those phone calls from the 218.299 number during the year.

Giving to Concordia, ctd.

In the Fall of 2016, Concordia launched it's first ever Young Alumni Leadership Giving Society, named the GOLD Givers Society. Members earn certain perks: such as 20% off at Bookstore, early access to Christmas Concert tickets, free Homecoming football ticket, etc.



**Monthly contribution:
\$20/month**

**2 members from
Class of 2012**

BECOME A MEMBER [HERE](#)

2017-18 GIVING

This year, we'd like to challenge your class to grow your giving and continue setting an example for other young classes. We hope you'll consider supporting the college in whatever way you feel. Some options are student scholarships, the new Science building, music ensembles, athletics teams, and many more.

Make your gift now: www.cord.edu/give

38 DONORS

\$1705 DOLLARS

**LIFETIME GIVING:
\$7649**

Ways to Stay Engaged

Each year, we want to help our class continue to stay engaged and grow with the life of the college. There are several ways to keep connected—here are just a few. If you have questions about any of these opportunities, reach out to any of us and we'd be happy to help connect you to the right people.

VOLUNTEER TO BE A MENTOR

Help current students with their job search, career questions and preparedness for the real world.



HELP RECRUIT NEW STUDENTS

The Admissions Office is always looking for help getting new students to look at Concordia. Help 'em out!

JOIN AN ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Office of Alumni Relations is dedicated to engaging young alumni and encouraging them to be active in the life of the college. We have launched a new initiative: Young Alumni Engagement Committees in both the Twin Cities and Fargo-Moorhead. These committees meet periodically throughout the year to plan and develop events and ideas to connect Cobbers from the last ten years together. If you're interested in learning more about these groups and would like to be a part of this amazing work, please contact Matt Dymoke at mdymoke@cord.edu

CHECK OUT OUR YOUNG ALUMNI WEBSITE

We have a special site just to keep young alumni engaged and connected! Check it out: www.cord.edu/youngalumni

Events Coming to a City Near You

Each year, there are several events that connect Cobbers of all ages, and we want you to be a part of them. Here are some of the premiere events we want you to join us for this year.

August 1st: Cobber Night at the RedHawks

August 3rd-5th: Young Alumni Nostalgia Tour

August 12th: Twin Cities Corn Feed (Maple Grove)

August 19th: Twin Cities Corn Feed (Eagan)

August 22nd: Moorhead Corn Feed

August 25th: Young Alumni Day at the Minnesota State Fair

August 26th: Move In Day

September 29th: Young Alumni Breakfast at Micks Office

November 30th-December 2nd Moorhead Christmas Concerts

December 6th: Minneapolis Christmas Concerts

For more events, check out www.cord.edu/youngalumni



Cobber Corn Feeds Schedule:

www.cord.edu/cornfeeds

Homecoming Weekend

September 27-30

www.cord.edu/homecoming

Individual Updates 2018

Kelly (Pflaum) Raines and her husband Marcus welcomed a baby girl, Holly, into the family in December 2017.

Kayla Jo (Forsman) Sigdahl married Ryan Sigdahl in July 2015 and the couple welcomed a baby boy, Benson, in January 2018.

Estelle (Richard) Hickman married her husband Blake in July 2017. Estelle is a Sr. Marketing and Public Relations Specialist at Gopher State One Call in Mendota Heights.

Vanessa (Liming) Summers married Kellen '13 in June 2015. After graduating with her Master of Social Work from University of Nebraska, Omaha, she started working as a Therapist at the Child Saving Institute.

Ethan Vogel married his wife Katie in July 2017. He works as a Legislative Representative for AFSCME Council 5 in St. Paul.

Nathan Olsen married Tiffany (Krogstad) '05 in May 2015. Since 2015, Nathan has worked as a Purchasing Agent at Integrity Windows and Doors in Fargo.



That's all, folks!

Thanks to all who submitted updates for the 2018 Class Letter! If major life changes come your way throughout the next year (moving to a new address, starting a new job, getting engaged or married, having a baby, etc.), please fill out the online form for updating your information so we can stay informed about what's going on and keep you up to date.

[Click Here to Update Your Information Now](#)



**Thanks for
another
great year!**

**We'll see
you soon!**