

Concordia College Class of 2014

2018 Class Letter



Well hello there!

It's hard to believe we've been out of college longer than we were in college, and the last four years have gone by pretty quickly. However fast the years have flown by, it's great to stay connected to our Cobber Class of 2014 family.

Included in this letter you will find updates on the college, special events to mark on your calendars, personal updates from our classmates, and information that will help you stay up to date with everything in between.

Our alumni adventure is just beginning, and we hope you're still as excited as ever to head down this road with us. If you have questions, need information, or would like to learn more about how to be engaged as an alum, please reach out to one of us and we'd be happy to help!



Soli Deo Gloria!

Mikka Langmo, Tanner Dockendorf, and Matt Dymoke
2014 Class Agents

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.

8.

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.

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

First off, a huge “thank you” to EVERYONE who donated to the college this past year. We continue to hold our own as the class with the greatest lifetime (i.e. since graduation) giving total since 2011, so we all deserve a pat on the back. This year we had a total of 62 donors from our class, which is awesome! We did decrease slightly from last year, but our overall donation value increased, so all’s well that ends well. Having said that...it would be great to see that number keep climbing, so I encourage you all to throw a few bucks toward Concordia at some point next year ;)

If you’re looking for a fun way to get involved in donation, we encourage you to look into being a Gold Giver. Basically, it’s a gradient giving program where you give a set monthly donation correlating to the number of years out from graduation we are. This year, our class can give \$10/month and their gift qualifies. This program comes with some fun perks such as a sign up gift (including a piece of Concordia-branded drink ware), a lifetime 20% discount at the Cobber Bookstore, and a personalized Christmas card from the Craft’s every year; pretty neat, huh? More info on how to sign up can be found on the next page.

Here are some quick stats on 2014’s giving:

TOTAL DONORS: 62	CLASS PERCENTAGE: 11%	TOTAL DOLLARS: \$3,774
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LIFETIME IMPACT: \$11,386

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:
\$10/month**

**13 members from
Class of 2014**

BECOME A MEMBER [HERE](#)

2018-19 GOALS:

This year, we'd like to challenge our class to grow our 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

80 DONORS

\$4000 DOLLARS

17 GOLD GIVERS

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

Tanner Dockendorf moved to Minneapolis this spring and started working as a Senior Manager of Business Development at Lonza Pharma & Biotech

Kaia (Miller) Chambers graduated with her Masters in Education from South Dakota State University and is excited to be moving back to the Twin Cities with her husband, Tanner

Audrey Benson and Matthew Glogoza were married June 2018 and are moving to Minneapolis for Matt's medical residency at Abbott Northwestern

Kristi Hoppert works for Scheels in Fargo as a print advertising graphic artist, which includes everything from catalogs to postcards to ads in the local paper.

Sarah Brock graduated from Des Moines University in Iowa as a Physician's Assistant in Spring 2018.

Chris Kenney started working at the Lyric Opera of Chicago this spring after performing in The Barber of Seville as Figaro at the Kennedy Center.

Kara (Shugren) Eastlund continues to work with the Adults Adopting Special Kids program through Catholic Charities and was recently promoted to program director.

Jieun Park currently works at Adidas and is in charge of Sports Marketing of the Reebok Brand.



Christie Gleason, Tansy Wells, Brianne Lisson, Rebecca Easler, Sarah Brock and Erica Jossund celebrate years of friendship this spring.

Individual Updates 2018

Jacob Erickson graduated from Pacific University College of Optometry this spring. He and his wife Alli (Thull) are moving to Albert Lea, MN as he begins his career as an optometrist at Shopko.

Casey (Peroutky) and Jacob Amos got married last summer and moved to NYC. Jacob is working at Applied Academics and Casey recently accepted a teaching job at The Windward School on the Upper East Side.

Maureen Wieland is currently teaching at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN and is working towards her PhD in Public Relations and Environmental Policy.

Alex Benzagala is living in Fort Dodge, Iowa and working as a News and Sports Director at a local radio station.

Alexandra Williams married her husband Griffin last summer, moved to Chicagoland and continued teaching high school math. This fall, she will teach middle school math.

Rachael Molenaar recently graduated from Augsburg University with a Masters in Social Work and started working as Interim Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Coordinator at Ramsey County in St. Paul

Jenn (Paquette) Ellis and her husband welcomed a baby girl in October named Aubrey Czarina, and now she's happily a stay at home mom while her husband works at the Cass County Jail.

Christie Gleason now serves as the Resource Development Manager for the United Way of Cass Clay.

Christina Cauble graduated from Augsburg University with her MBA last summer and now works as a Nursing Home Administrator at Ebenezer in Minneapolis.

Leland Johnson is working at Mediture in the Twin Cities as a Reporting Analyst.

Miranda Jensen graduated from Vermont Law School with a JD + a certificate in International and Comparative Law.

Emily Wood graduated from Mitchell Hamline School of Law last May and has been clerking for Judge Michael Thompson in Minnesota's 8th District, specifically in Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties.

Individual Updates 2018



Levi Bachmeier, Matt Dymoke, and Emma and John Connell celebrate the wedding of Jordan Elton and Barry Foster in August 2017.

Jordan Elton got married in August 2017 and calls Minneapolis home. She graduated from the Humphrey School with her Masters of Public Policy this spring and is the Deputy Digital Director for Senator Tina Smith's campaign.

Calvin Ziegler and Samantha Lohse will be married in July and are moving to St. Louis Park, MN. Sam graduated from Pacific University College of Optometry in May and is now an optometrist in Maple Grove. Calvin works for Minnesota United FC.

Emily Donovan spent the last few years in Philadelphia working in community development and public health. She graduated this May from UNC with her Masters of Public Health and will be moving to DC to conduct tobacco policy research with the Truth Initiative.

Amy Evans graduated from the University of Minnesota with her Doctorate of Physical Therapy last year and is working at North Memorial Health Hospital.

Jess Scherr graduated from Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine and moved to Idaho to start working as a veterinarian at South Fork Animal Clinic.

Bria Dimke wrapped up her rookie season dancing for the Milwaukee Bucks in June 2017 and moved to Munich Germany, attending graduate school at Ludwig Maximilian University and studying Psychology and Learning Sciences.

Benjamin Hjelen moved back to Norway and finished his Masters of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Molde University. He's working at Accenture and will begin working as a SAP consultant in Oslo this summer.

Individual Updates 2018



Thea Gessler, Erin Gingrich, Regan Whitney Meyer, Rachel Honz, Emilie Bowman and Erin Twohy having a Cobber Reunion Camping Trip.

Thea Gessler is starting her third year in the Genetics and Genomics graduate program at Iowa State University, where she is studying the basis of temperature-dependent sex determination in the painted turtle.

Shannon Burton graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy and will be starting a job as a community pharmacist in Minneapolis this summer.

Mitch Campion married his wife Setarah, graduated with his Masters in Electrical Engineering from NDSU and works as an Electrical Engineer at United Technologies Aerospace Systems

Blaire Larson and her husband Brandon moved to Wahpeton, ND last spring. Blaire works as at Cargill as an Accounting Lead and Brandon works as a chef at The Wilkin in Breckenridge.

Jordan Posch works at SixSpeed, an advertising agency in Minneapolis as an account manager. On the side, he speaks at universities for marketing/PR clubs and gives advice to current college students.

Caitlin Daggett will be marrying Chris Rackliffe this June. They live in Eden Prairie, MN and Caitlin works as a physical therapist at Aurora on France, a transitional care unit in Edina.

Jen Schroeder works at the Central Visitors Bureau in St. Cloud as the Information Specialist. In her spare time, she coaches speech at Ricori High School and participates in local theatre and choral ensembles.

Kari (Neutzling) Phillips graduated from Mayo Medical School in May and matched for pediatrics residency at Mayo Clinic. Austin Phillips is pursuing his MBA through Augsburg University and will complete that in August 2018.



Matt Dymoke, Nick Bainer, Teresa Hatfield, Tanner Dockendorf, Sam Lohse, Calvin Ziegler, Kirsten Lande, Leah Becklund and Emily Wood (plus friends) enjoying a beautiful night at the St. Paul Saints!

Individual Updates 2018



Cobbers Mitchell Peery and Kaia (Miller) Chambers celebrating the wedding of fellow 2014 graduate Tiffany (Sieu) Gruman this spring.

Tiffany (Sieu) Gruman married Tom in April 2018. The couple lives in Denver, CO and she will pursue a masters degree in Software Engineering beginning this fall at Regis University.

Megan Rossman graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy this spring.

Jenna Rosvold currently teaches Spanish at the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury, MN. She's pursuing a M. Ed. in Learning Design and Technology from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. On June 22nd, she's marrying Tim Babb.

Sarah Biessener moved home to the Twin Cities this winter and began working at Regions Hospital in St. Paul as a RN doing labor and delivery. Previously, she was a labor and delivery nurse at Sanford in Fargo.

Mollie Lackmann has been teaching 2nd grade at Robert Asp Elementary in Moorhead since graduation. She's working on her masters in education, and just married Michael Moen in June.

Aleida Porter currently works at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia as an application coordinator. She's also working on her Masters of Science in Health Informatics, and recently got engaged and will be getting married next summer.

Andrea Jarvis just finished her 4th year of teaching at Centennial Elementary in Fargo. She recently got engaged to Adam Sullivan and will be getting married next summer. She's also working on her masters degree through St. Kate's with hopes of completing this winter.

Katrina Wolfe graduated from medical school at Creighton University in Nebraska this spring and moved to Madison, WI for her internal medicine residency.

Individual Updates 2018

Presley Wanner graduated from UND with his Masters in Forensic Psychology in December 2017. He's currently working as a Behavioral Health Specialist at Luther Hall as well as at Benson Psychological Services.

Katie Jensen has been teaching 4th grade in Moorhead since graduation. She finished grad school at MSUM with her Masters in Literacy Curriculum and Instruction and will be getting married this September.

Hillary Brink worked at Eide Bailly LLP for nearly 4 years before transitioning to the accounting department as a Controller at West Acres Development, LLP. She got married in 2015 and has 2 little girls—3 years and 19 months.

Amber Stavig graduated from Mitchell Hamline School of Law in 2017 and works at Riverview Law Office in St. Cloud, MN.

Tony Sang graduated from Stanford University with a MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2017.

Rachel Vosberg currently works as an Account Manager at Thomson Reuters in the Twin Cities. She's engaged to Peter Hvidston '13 and will be getting married in February 2019.

Amanda Pignato has been working at Fairview Ridges in Burnsville for the last year and a half as a float nurse. This September, she'll be marrying Nathan Bailey.

Alexandra Johnson completed her 4th year of teaching, most recently in Mendota Heights, MN. She adopted her dog Jack in 2017 and it's been an adventure ever since!



Amanda Pignato and Emily Anderson visiting the Sanford Children's Hospital Room sponsored by Concordia Dance Marathon.

Individual Updates 2018



Dozens of Cobbers celebrating the wedding of Kristin Remick '14 and Logan Block '16 at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp last summer.

Kristin Remick married Logan Block '16 in August 2017 near Flathead, MT. The couple lives in Rochester and Kristin teaches 6th grade in Stewartville, MN.

Kate (Gearman) and Mark Whiting got married in July 2017 and currently live in Detroit Lakes. Kate graduated from UND in May 2017 with her Masters of Occupational Therapy and works as an OT in DL, and Mark just finished his 4th year teaching third grade.

Matt Dymoke continues to work at Concordia College, recently transitioning to the Office of Alumni Relations. He's also working on his Masters of Leadership through Northeastern University in Boston.

Levi Bachmeier continues working as a policy advisor to North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum. He recently got engaged to Rachel Baughman and will be getting married next summer.

Ben Tamm works as an Insurance Producer for Insurance Warehouse in Minneapolis. Most recently, he completed his campaign as 2018 Man of the Year Candidate with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, raising over \$945,000 as a class in 10 weeks.

Nick Bainer recently moved to St. Paul, MN and continues to work for Fast Enterprises as an Implementation Consultant.

Steph Siefert graduated with her Doctorate of Chiropractic and Masters in Sports Science and Rehabilitation from Logan University in December 2017. She's living in Zeeland, MI and will be getting married July, 2018.

Carly Grandner just finished up her 4th year teaching at Hawley High School and her 1st year being a dog mom. This summer, she'll start her Master of Arts in Vocal Music Education at St. Thomas, splitting time between Fargo and Minneapolis, two cities she loves.



Levi Bachmeier, Jordan Elton, Matt Dymoke and Austin Keller celebrate the wedding of fellow 2014 grads Emma Connell and John Stelter in Minneapolis last June.

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!**