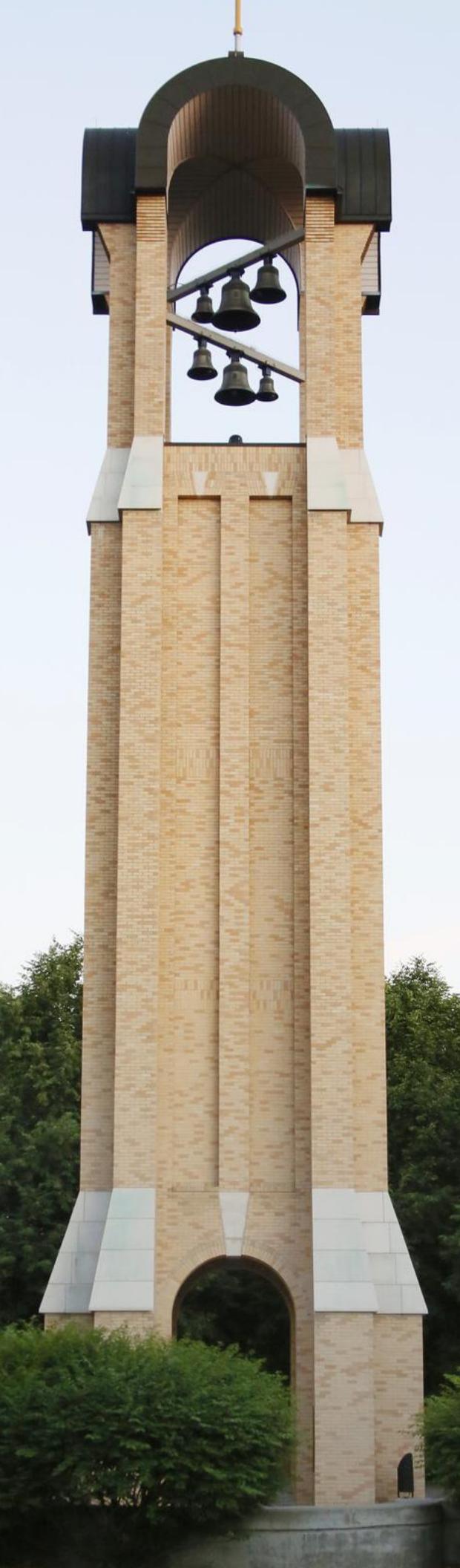


Concordia College Class of 2019 Class Letter

Summer 2019 | Issue 1

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 
- Introduction.....2
 - Updates from the College....3
 - Updates from Classmates....7
 - Important Dates....25



a note from your class agent

Hello class of 2019!

I can't believe it has been over two months since we walked across the stage in Memorial Auditorium to receive our diplomas and officially ended our time as students at Concordia. The transition into a new chapter in life has begun and I truly hope each and every one of you are doing well and enjoying life wherever your journey has taken you.

You might be asking yourself what is a class letter and a class agent? Well, the Office of Alumni Relations asks someone from each graduating class to be a representative to write the class letter (which is a compilation of updates from you all and updates from the college each year), help plan reunions, and be a source to communicate between the college and the class. If you would like to join me in being a class agent for the class of 2019, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

If your information changes or you want to submit a class note (to be included next year), let the college know by filling out the "Update my information" form on the website.

If you haven't yet, join our class of 2019 [Facebook Page](#), the Cobber Young Alumni Facebook page, and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@cord.edu.

Roll Cobbs!
Anna Buan

UPDATES FROM CONCORDIA

Language Villages

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 sogüi 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 will be held on July 13. Sjölundenthe Swedish Language Village, celebrates its 45thsummer with a midsommarevent on August 3. International Days are July 5 and August 9 where we will also celebrate 50 years of offering four-week high school credit sessions.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- As part of their annual domestic tour, the Concordia Band performed a joint concert with the Encore Wind Ensemble in St. Paul, MN as well as concerts in St. Anthony Village, Albany and Staples-Motley, all in Minnesota.

UPDATES FROM CONCORDIA

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.
- 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.
- Dallas Fossum joined Concordia as the new Director for Facilities Management in March.
- 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.
- Dr. Jill Abbott has been appointed Deputy to the President at Concordia College, effective June 3, 2019. As Deputy to the President, she will work with me 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.

UPDATES FROM CONCORDIA

Other News

- 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. Our 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

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.

UPDATES FROM CONCORDIA

Alumni Awards

2019 Sent Forth Award 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).



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Jena Vander Broek

I have been the Director of Guest Services at Joy Ranch, part of Lutherans Outdoors of South Dakota, which operates as both a summer camp and an event + retreat center in the fall, winter and spring months! We provide camping opportunities for all ages and abilities, and it has been an absolute blast so far. I've been loving my role and the many connections I've made through it. I'm enjoying South Dakota, but excited to make more Minnesota connections when I begin working for my Masters Degree this fall (online) in Luther Seminary's Leadership and Innovation for Ministry program! I'm definitely missing the Cobber community, but excited about the connections I have yet to make in these upcoming months! Hope you are all also doing well!

Brittney MacKenzie

I got married on May 11 and have moved to Winnipeg to live with my husband. Currently, I am applying for immigrant status in Canada so I can start looking for a job here.



Michaela Myhrer

Job hunting (I'm finally closing in on one!), selling flooring, and getting engaged!!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES



Emily Walker

Since graduation, I have been searching for a teaching position near my hometown of Yukon, Oklahoma. After months of searching, I just accepted my dream job as assistant choir director at Wylie High School in Wylie, Texas. I'm going to have 380 students in my program and I could not be more excited! As for what's next as soon as my boyfriend finds a job we will be relocating either to Wylie or to Plano/Dallas. I miss Concordia, but I finally get to do what I've been working on for the last 7 years!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Jennie Reinan

I'm interning this summer in Systems and Health Information Management at Apple Valley Medical Clinic while actively looking for jobs in the Cities!

Alexis Melby

Moved to Baxter after graduation, eagerly waiting to begin teaching in Pequot Lakes this fall!

Lauren Arnold

Working at Jade Presents!

Allison Ross

I am teaching at Twin Cities International School as a 6th grade social studies teacher! Go Camels!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Natalie Fiedler

I recently accepted a job at Blue Tree Music Education, and I have been establishing my singer-songwriter career here in Minneapolis starting with forming my backing band and booking our first gigs. I am also teaching at the Girls Rock n Roll Retreat for my sixth year in a row this summer.



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Katlyn Dykhoff

After graduating in December 2018 I started a job with Hubbard Broadcasting as a Multi-Media Specialist. I help various different companies with advertising and it's been quite the experience! I also just moved in to a new house with my boyfriend who is a 2017 Cobber! We are currently enjoying decorating our new home and spending time together with our dog Quintus!

Leah Olson

I have been waitressing at Paradiso in Fargo. This September I will be moving to Spain where I will be teaching English for 9 months.

Rachel Rosson

I have started my career as a nurse in the Cardiac and Intermediate Care Unit at Essentia in Fargo!

Christian Belz

After graduation, I vacationed in Sweden for 10 days and am now searching for a museum job in the Cities and working towards obtaining my real estate license!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Anna Buan

In June I was able to go on an Alaskan Cruise where the highlight was seeing so many glaciers! In the beginning of July I accepted a position as an Event Coordinator at Ewald Consulting in St. Paul!

Hannah Voigt

Since graduation, I have been working at the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District as a summer technology assistant. This is my fifth summer working with the district's technology staff to manage and troubleshoot the 1-1 student and staff devices. I am thrilled to begin teaching 5th-grade in the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District at Mississippi Heights Elementary this fall.

Lauren Richardson

In August I am moving to Zhuhai, China for a year to work at the United International College in their public relations and media department!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Tedi Ramberg

Accepted a job as a 6/7 grade Language Arts Teacher in Little Falls, MN and a JV Volleyball Coaching position in Brainerd, MN.

Nicole Johannes

Studying for NCLEX and passing boards to become an RN and got a job at the hospital. Spending as much free time camping as possible.

Lisa Neumann

Working as a tennis instructor at Tennis and Life Camps in St. Peter, Minnesota.

McKenna Wegner

This summer I started Grad school at North Dakota State University!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Laura LeGare

Traveling to visit friends, celebrate weddings, and preparing to go to the University of Notre Dame in a few short weeks!

McKayle Carter

In September I'll be heading to Germany on a Fulbright grant. I'll be there for a year working in a high school and middle school in Bavaria as an English teacher and cultural ambassador. I'll be in the Nuremberg area, so my hope is to enroll in Grad school part time and to volunteer with local organizations that help out with the refugee population. This has been my dream since Freshman year, and I can't wait to see what this experience has in store for me! For the mean time

I've been living in the FM area and working at Lakeshirts in Detroit Lakes as a graphic designer. My hope is to enjoy the rest of my summer by the lake with family, friends, and my boyfriend Kenny Hoversten ('20).



Kyle Ronsberg

Got a job and got married!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Chris Cartwright

I started my job as the Marketing Associate for Theater Latté Da, a professional theatre company in Minneapolis. I love it!

Hailey Glewwe

Since graduation, I have moved to Duluth, MN and started my full-time job as a Researcher with the Behavioral Medicine Laboratories at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Duluth. I'm currently working on a quit smoking study with human participants, investigating the effects of marijuana use and stress on smoking cessation. In my spare time, I've been exploring Duluth and have definitely gotten used to the "lake life" here!

Bailyn Walz

I have been an administration intern for the past seven weeks.

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Annika Tureson

I've been working as a clinical research intern in the Critical Care Research Center at Regions Hospital in St. Paul.



Ellen Clusiau

Preparing to go to US Navy Officer Development School in August!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Danny Houseman

I've started a job as a Marketing Coordinator at a Fintech company called Solutran.

Leia Milton

I've been a camp counselor for ages anywhere in between kindergarten through high school. I also recently received my placement for College Possible; I'll be working in Washington Magnet school in St. Paul at the end of August!

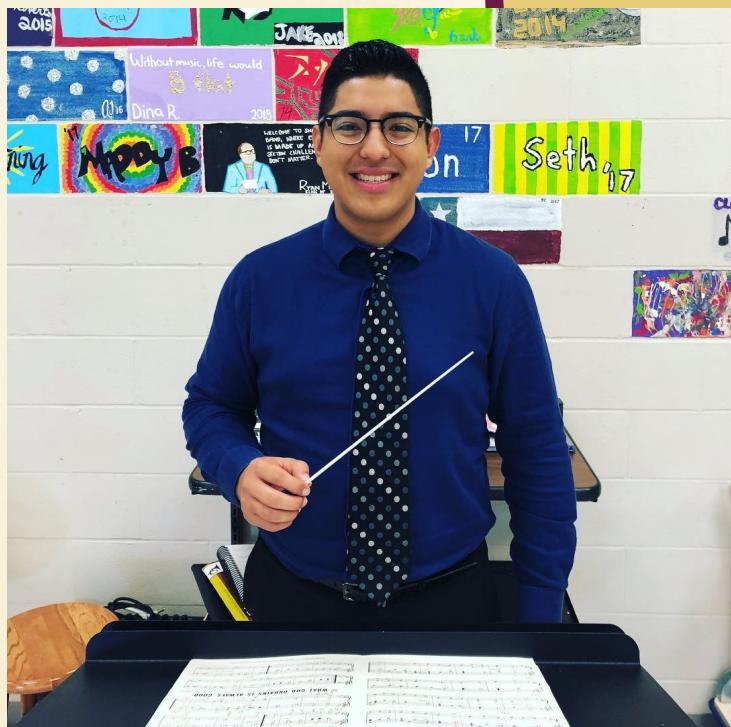
Jonathan Immel

I have moved to Fargo, accepted a full-time job with Stoneridge Software, and continued continued to perform music in the community.

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Rafael Silva

Got a job teaching band in Crosby-Ironton,
and will be living in Brainerd!



Kennedy Niska

I moved to Crosby, a community in the heart of Minnesota, at the end of May. I am working at a couple of new local businesses downtown before I begin teaching K-6 music in the fall at the area elementary school. It's really cool that I get to meet all sorts of locals and visitors alike each day in this booming tourist community!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Hannah Gunderson

Since graduation, I have moved to Duluth with my fiancé, Cody (another 2019 Concordia Grad). I will be starting pharmacy school at UMD this fall. Cody and I will be getting married June 2020!



Erin Eidsness

I just finished tutoring girls from the MaaSAE Girl's Lutheran School in Tanzania Africa. Also in a short 4 weeks, I will be moving to Grand Forks where I will be attending medical school.

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Kendra Johnson

Working full time at Eyecare Associates for a gap year before hopefully going to Medical School. Just got back from a 18 day trip across Europe and planning my wedding, which is in January.



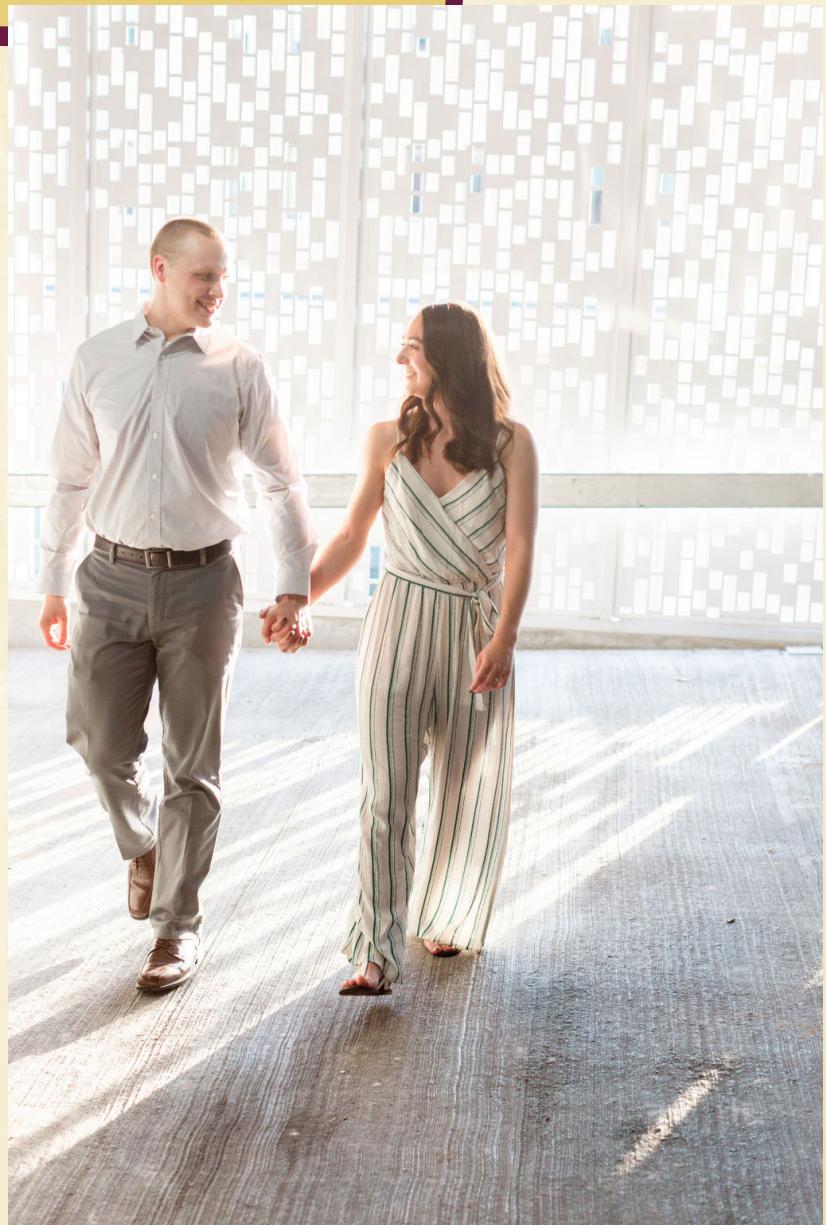
Katie Heyer

After graduation I moved home to Detroit Lakes where I have been working as a nanny. When I'm not nannying I've been working part-time as a barista at Roasted, a local coffee shop. In August I will be moving to Hilo, Hawaii where I will be attending the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo! I could not be more excited to start this new adventure!!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Mitch Gullickson

I am working at Fargo Center for Dermatology as a medical intern for the upcoming year. Also, I will be getting married to the coolest Cobber around (@emmagjesdahl) in December!



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES



Jake Hanson

After graduating from Concordia in May with my B.A. degree in Neuroscience and Psychology honors, I soon after accepted a position at the University of Minnesota. I work as a Clinical Research Coordinator in a research lab in the department of Neurosurgery at the Medical School focusing on Parkinson's Disease and Epilepsy. I started at the beginning of June, after making the move to Minneapolis, and am loving it so far! As of right now, it is just the PI and I, so it is a lot of dedicated work to start, but will very much be worth it as we progress into the future. I not only get to apply the skills I learned from working in a research lab at Concordia to this job, but I also get to interact with patients, and observe various brain surgery procedures, so it's the perfect gap year experience! After making the move to Minneapolis, I also proposed to Sarah Strand ('18) and we are very excited to live out the next chapter of our lives in the Twin Cities area. While it is no Concordia, I truly am loving being a gopher! #rollcobbs #skiumah

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Alexis Anderson

This summer has been all about traveling and spending time with family and friends! In May, I visited Finland, Sweden, and Denmark with my parents. A highlight of the trip was spending a few days on Öland, the island of my Swedish ancestors; we spent our days exploring the towns of Hulterstad, Stenåsa, Brunneby, and Skärlöv and spent our nights at the Melby Ör Inn, a renovated farmhouse from the 1800s. After (partially) recovering from jet lag, I made my way to Boston, Massachusetts to explore my future home away from home. I fell in love with the city and I cannot wait to begin my combined master's degree and dietetic internship through Tuft's University and Tuft's Medical Center in August! From there, I traveled to Orlando, Florida with one of my closest friends from high school to experience Disney World and Universal Studios. Aside from traveling, I have been cooking and baking, reading, spending time outside, catching up with friends, and preparing for an upcoming garage sale. After a wonderful four years at Concordia College, I am looking forward to my next adventure: graduate school.



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES



Melinda Schwarz

Since graduating from Concordia in May, I moved into an amazing house with Rachel Rosson, Hannah Lindgren and Tressa Reuter in West Fargo!

I studied for (and passed!) my nursing boards and began my job at Essentia Health in Fargo on the Maternal Child floor as a Pediatrics and Postpartum nurse! It's challenging dealing with sick kiddos but it is so rewarding to make them smile when I can! I'm sorry excited to try this adulting thing and can't wait to see what this next year has in store! Soli Deo Gloria!

SAVE THE DATE



Summer Sporting Events

Cobber Night at the RedHawks: July 30

Cobber Nught at the Twins: August 8

Cobber Corn Feeds

Twin Cities: July 28, August 4, August 11

Moorhead: August 21

A full list of Corn Feeds can be found at
www.cord.edu/cornfeeds



Homecoming

October 10-13

Registration is now open!

www.cord.edu/homecoming