



CLASS LETTER

CONCORDIA COLLEGE, MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA



Concordia's Memorial Auditorium slated for \$2.5M in upgrades

A planned \$2.5 million renovation of Memorial Auditorium that includes two new wood courts, upgraded seating, new lighting, and technology modernization is slated to be finished by September.

For generations, Memorial has served as the heart of Concordia College, where student-athletes learn resilience and leadership, musicians find their voice in worship and performance, and students and families mark milestones from first-year welcomes to commencement.

Since it opened in 1952, the building has undergone many changes and improvements, elevating milestone moments for thousands of students, alumni, and community members.

The current plan for enhancements includes branding that showcases the traditions of the many Cobber teams, ensembles, and groups who have called the building home, state-of-the-art divider curtains that allow more flexibility for maximized usage of the space, new video scoreboards, and updated infrastructure.



Cobber Kate Syverson '05 named program director of healthcare leadership



Cobber Kate Syverson '05 is bringing her experience in social work and healthcare management to her new role as program director and assistant professor of healthcare leadership at Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions.

"It's been fun to be back on campus," Syverson said. "The energy and momentum on campus is palpable, and the opportunity to be a part of this is really exciting."

Syverson earned her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Minnesota. She has 20 years of experience working for Sanford Health in a variety of roles, including as director of quality and safety, and director of operations for multiple subspecialty clinics. She taught at Minot State, North Dakota State, and the University of North Dakota School of Medicine.

She credited her own Concordia education and the curiosity it instills in students for preparing her to lead in the healthcare field.

Concordia names Erica Johnsrud '10 as new alumni director



Concordia College has named Erica Johnsrud '10 as its next director of alumni and family engagement. She brings with her more than a decade of leadership in nonprofit development, community engagement, corporate learning, and mission-driven programming.

Johnsrud graduated from Concordia with degrees in communication studies and sociology, and her professional path includes more than 10 years with Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Red River Valley, public-facing brand and community relations work with Dale Carnegie Training and, most recently, leadership in learning and development at RDO Equipment Co.

"As a Concordia alumna, I experienced firsthand the lifelong power of connection that this community creates," Johnsrud said. "I am honored to activate and expand the Concordia network and am so excited to join the campus community in being a cheerleader for all Cobbers of every generation!"

Concordia names lab after groundbreaking health physicist alum E.O. Wollan

In honor of his groundbreaking work in health physics and foundational discoveries in neutron scattering, Concordia College has named an introductory physics laboratory after alumnus Dr. E.O. Wollan.

Wollan was recruited to work on the Manhattan Project by Enrico Fermi and Nobel laureate Arthur Compton, and established the protocols for measuring and controlling radiation during the startup of the first controlled nuclear chain reaction.

If Nobel Prizes could be awarded posthumously, Wollan would likely have been recognized with one in 1994, when his research collaborator, Dr. Clifford Shull, received the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Concordia dedicated the lab with a ceremony attended by Wollan's son and fellow physicist John Wollan and his wife Barbara, daughter Katheryn Wollan Aagard, and granddaughters Martha and Lynn Aagard.

Concordia alumni John Ahlquist '63, Ben Larson '63, and Jerry Ostenson '62 reflected on Wollan's work and shared how it intersected with their own professional paths. John Wollan spoke about his father's legacy, and both Concordia President Colin Irvine and Provost Susan Larson celebrated Wollan's impact.

Concordia named a top 5 college in Minnesota; highest ranked in region

Concordia College has been named one of the top five colleges in Minnesota in a new ranking from the personal finance website WalletHub, which compared institutions on 30 key measures of academic quality, cost, campus experience, and student outcomes.

Based on WalletHub's Best Colleges and Universities data, Concordia is also the highest-ranked institution within a 200-mile radius of the Fargo-Moorhead area.

"We are honored by this recognition," President Colin Irvine said. "It reflects what our students experience every day, a top-tier education grounded in values with a global perspective, supported by dedicated faculty, and focused on preparing graduates for meaningful lives and careers."

Celebrating Norwegian connections: President Irvine meets with King of Norway

Concordia College President Colin Irvine was among six U.S. college presidents invited to Oslo for a celebration marking 100 years of educational cooperation between Norway and the United States.

The ceremony, held at the Fanehallen of Akershus Fortress and hosted by the Norway-American Association, gathered leaders from institutions founded by Norwegian immigrants: Concordia College, Augsburg University, Augustana University, Luther College, Pacific Lutheran University, and St. Olaf College.

In his remarks, Irvine, who lived in Norway as a Fulbright Roving Scholar, reflected on personal and professional connections.

"Our ties to Norway are not abstract — they are tangible, personal, and profound," he said. "They are lived every day through our alumni, through our faculty, and through our enduring partnerships with Norwegian institutions. They are reaffirmed with every new exchange of students and ideas, with every shared discovery, with every story passed down of hospitality, wonder, and learning."

About 20 Concordia alumni living in Norway joined the celebration.



NEW IN ACADEMICS

MAJORS

Biochemistry
Economics
Biosciences Major with a Pharmacy Concentration
Business Major with a Sports Management Concentration

MINORS

Criminal Justice
Musical Theatre Performance
International Business
Economics
Sustainability in Business

DEGREES

Master of Social Work
Accelerated Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics 4+1 Program
Accelerated Master of Science in Business Analytics 4+1 Program
Accelerated Pharmacy 3+4 Program
Accelerated Engineering 3+3 Program
Accelerated Pharmacy 3+3 Program

CERTIFICATES

Entrepreneurial Mindset
Instrumental Conducting

Global Travel

Itching to travel? You're not alone! If you're seeking meaningful experiences in incredible destinations, consider joining one of our group tours, designed for Concordia alumni, family, and friends.

We offer discovery, connection, and adventure with an educational twist. Immerse yourself in new cultures, explore historic landmarks, or delve into the natural world with expert faculty leaders!

Where do you want to go next?

See our upcoming adventures:

ConcordiaCollege.edu/Alumni/Global-Travel

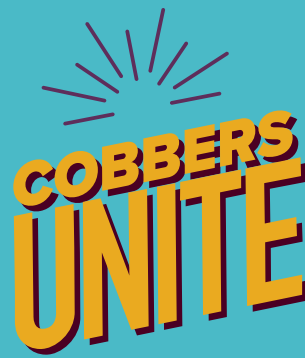




Corn feed season is around the corner!

We will continue the tradition of alumni hosting corn feeds in the summer and hope to see you!

ConcordiaCollege.edu/CornFeeds



Make an impact for student scholarships!

Save the date for Giving Day, Nov. 19.

SEPT. 12

Get ready for a fun-filled day of music, games, and campus traditions — Cobber style!



ConcordiaCollege.edu/CobberFest



CONCORDIA COLLEGE HOMECOMING

OCT. 9-11, 2026

Concordia's Homecoming events include something for everyone. Bring your family, join old friends, and make new memories on campus this fall. Watch for updates at

ConcordiaCollege.edu/Homecoming



SAVE THE DATE for the 100th CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Moorhead: Dec. 4-6, 2026

Minneapolis: Dec. 10, 2026

Stay tuned in 2026 for special Centennial Christmas Concert opportunities, including an online video recording of the Moorhead concerts!

ConcordiaChristmas.com



COBBERS CONNECT

YOUR NEW HOME FOR ALL THINGS COBBER ALUMNI!

Access your secure login via Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, or email, and join our online community to reconnect today!

Sign in at Alumni.cord.edu

CONCORDIA ALUMNI AWARDS

2025 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD the college's highest honor, is conferred upon alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and service to others. For graduates of 20 years or more, the AAA is reserved for alumni at the pinnacle of their vocational lives.



The Rev. Michael Housholder '86

Led Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, Iowa, for 24 years, growing it into a 16,000-member congregation, championing community outreach, global mission efforts, and faith-driven service.



Dr. Patricia (Vold) Pepper '86

Retired U.S. Navy captain, physician, and medical educator, has trained hundreds of residents and contributed to groundbreaking diabetes research. A leader in military medicine and humanitarian efforts.



Stephanie Lundquist '98

Executive vice president and chief human resources officer at Cargill, overseeing HR strategy for 155,000 employees globally, and a Concordia Board of Regents member.



Dr. Kevin Urdahl '87

Leading physician-scientist whose research on tuberculosis has transformed our understanding of immunity and vaccine development, and a professor at the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital.

2025 CALLED TO SERVE AWARD is conferred upon alumni who have demonstrated notable commitment to the mission of the college through lifelong service to their faith communities, education, arts, or other not-for-profit activities. Alumni of any year are eligible.



**Bonnie (Schon) '69 and
Roger '69 Neugebauer**

Founded a magazine, Exchange, and the World Forum Foundation, helping revolutionize early childhood education and allowing for greater communication between educators.



Peter Smerud '86

Raised more than \$20 million as executive director of Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, expanding programs and leading the first renovation project to achieve full Living Building certification. Helped establish Minnesota's Outdoor School For All Act in 2025.

2025 SENT FORTH AWARD is conferred upon young alumni who have distinguished themselves early on in their careers and service to others. For graduates of less than 20 years, this award is reserved for alumni who have shown vocational precociousness.



Dustin White '05

Visionary leader, analytics expert, and entrepreneur. Visa's GM of risk and identity solutions, he drives strategic advancements to prevent financial crime. As a philanthropist, he supports Unseen, combating human trafficking.



Andrea (Hydukovich) Stordahl '05

Revitalized McIntosh, Minnesota, by transforming vacant buildings into thriving businesses and community spaces, through Minnesota Rust and McIntosh Properties LLC, fostering entrepreneurship and smalltown renewal.

2025 JOHN S. PIERCE AMBASSADORSHIP AWARD

is given to an individual who exemplifies what it means to be a Cobber—someone whose dedication has enriched the life and work of Concordia and who is deeply committed to advancing the mission of the college.



Linda (Hoag) Dorn '90

Dedicated Concordia advocate, serving as a class agent, reunion chair, National Alumni Board member, and Twin Cities CORD committee leader. Helped organize alumni events, mentored students, and supported career networking opportunities.

2025 SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD honors those whose actions go above and beyond ordinary expectations — who embody leadership, service, integrity, and spirit in ways that positively impact the college community and beyond.



Eric Johnson '82

Served Concordia College for nearly 20 years in the Advancement Division, most recently as director of Alumni Relations. Strengthened traditions such as Homecoming, Family Weekend, and Move-In Day, and launched the SALT (Students and Alumni Linked Together) program.

Nominations Always Open

To read more about these recipients or to nominate deserving alumni, go to
ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition