



Class Letter

SPRING 2022

CLASS OF 1954

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

CAMPUS UPDATES



President Craft to Retire

President Craft announced his upcoming retirement at the end of his second presidential term, on June 30, 2023. The Board of Regents has already started seeking Concordia's next president with a presidential search committee and national consulting firm.

New Executive Director for Faith and Learning

Dr. Michael Chan will be welcomed in June 2022 as the new Executive Director for Faith and Learning. He will direct the Lorentzsen and Dovre Centers, guide Concordia's interfaith relationships, and oversee the work of Campus Ministry.



Learn. Work. Lead.

A Concordia College education is rooted in college's deep commitment to providing a transformational experience for every one of our students. Development has continued on our academic framework through **Three Schools, One College**:

- Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions
- Offutt School of Business
- School of Arts and Sciences

Concordia will begin renovation in the summer of 2022 on the Sanford Clinic building adjacent to campus to provide expanded laboratory, classroom, and centralized office space for its freshly named Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions. The project will include a nursing simulation lab and a human performance lab. It will be a remarkable advancement to the program.

Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas '75 named new dean of Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions

Dr. Halaas brings more than four decades of research, teaching, program development and administrative experience to Concordia. She grew up in the Fargo-Moorhead area and is a 1975 graduate of Concordia. Dr. Halaas will assume the role on July 1, 2022.



Advancing the Mission | Cobber Ambassador Program

A new initiative was officially launched to invigorate the unique network and relationships among alumni, friends, and students of Concordia College. Cobber Ambassadors are people who care about the students and mission, believe in the college, and help spread the word about Concordia's life-changing education.



Learn more or sign up to become an Ambassador at ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/cobber-ambassador-program

Giving Update

We can pay forward the generous scholarships we received as students by supporting this new generation of Cobbers. Together, we help ensure that a Concordia education is possible for every student.



In 2021, more than 5,000 people came together to raise **\$2.6+ million** for The Cobber Fund, which helps provide scholarships for students, and we have to say, this new generation of students.

THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLASS THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN GIVING!

The class of 1954 can truly make a difference in the lives of current students.

Learn more or give online at ConcordiaCollege.edu/giving

Travel the World with Concordia



Each year, the Alumni Relations Office offers opportunities for alumni and the Concordia family to partake in global travel experiences led by our in-house experts. From wine tastings in the French countryside, participating in Northern Spain's rich culture from the seat of your bicycle, or traveling as a companion to our top vocal and instrumental ensembles as they share their music with the world, there's an excursion catered to every interest.

Explore the trips at ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/global-travel



News & Notes

Stay up to date on news throughout the year and subscribe to our weekly email newsletter.

ConcordiaCollege.edu/news/news-and-notes

COVID Response/Planning



We continue to monitor guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC to keep our campus as healthy as possible amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Students, faculty, and staff are updated regularly and encouraged to engage in risk-reducing practices to prioritize in-person learning and working through the academic year.

Around Campus

- Renovation was completed in Christiansen Recital Hall to provide a higher quality and more modern experience for students and guests
- A gas firepit was installed near the 8th Street entrance of the Knutson Campus Center
- An Indoor Performance Center for golf was added in Olson Forum using the latest simulator technology to provide year-round training for the men's and women's golf programs
- Olson Forum's workout balcony will be expanded this summer



Concordia Recognized for Women in Coaching

The University of Minnesota's Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport gave Concordia an "A" grade on its 2020-21 report card. The college was highlighted for having female head coaches for 70% of its women's sports. Concordia was the only MIAC school to receive an "A" grade in the report. Compliments to Athletic Director Rachel Bergeson for her leadership.

Homecoming

100 Years of Homecoming was celebrated in October 2021.

The college was happy to successfully welcome back over 700 alumni and friends to partake in this strong Cobber tradition.

We look forward to celebrating with YOU **October 7-9, 2022!**

Watch for updates at **ConcordiaCollege.edu/homecoming**



Corn Feed Season is around the corner!

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

Updates can be found at
ConcordiaCollege.edu/cornfeeds

Alumni Awards

Concordia has three categories of awards presented each year.

- **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.
- **The 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.
- **The Alumni Achievement Award (AAA)**, 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 life.

2021 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients



Fay Ferguson '73

Co-CEO Burrell
Communications
Group



Dr. Gwen (Wagstrom) Halaas '75

Vice chancellor for Academic
Affairs and professor,
Washington State University
Health Sciences



Harold D. Pope '77

Senior counsel at
Dykema Gossett, PLLC



Dr. Corey Teigen '86

Vascular and interventional
radiologist, researcher, and
developer, and Chief Scientific
Officer, Penumbra, Inc.

2021 Sent Forth Recipients



Stephen Letnes '00

Founder, Executive Director
Able Artist Foundation



Judge Jade Rosenfeldt '05

Clay County Courthouse
Seventh Judicial District

Nominations Always Open

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

To the wonderful Cobber Class of 1954 – Spring 2022

Greetings from Moorhead! Last year Joan and I moved to our new home at Eventide Living Center in Moorhead across from Concordia's campus. On March 2, 2021, my beautiful bride of 67 years, went home to heaven. I am so thankful for all the wonderful years that we had together. I am also grateful to have been surrounded by family and good friends through this past year.



Only one person sent a note in this year. Gustav (Gus) Stangeland from Richardson, Texas wrote to say that since the years are going by and we are pushing 90 years, he wanted some contact information for a few of his Concordia friends. The Alumni Office sent him some information, but if you would like to connect with Gus, contact me and I can give you his information.

Thanks to all of you who support our Class of 1954 Special Challenges Endowed Scholarship Fund. Our student recipient this year is Antonio Lyons, a freshman from Fargo, North Dakota, majoring in physics and minoring in computer science and math. He sent us a very nice thank you note that reads:

I would like to thank you for investing in my future with the Special Challenges Class of 1954 Endowment Fund. I would not be able to go to college without a major scholarship like the one that you provided me. It is incredibly reassuring to know that there are people like you who are willing to invest in people like me. We all have something to offer and we all need people like you to invest in us because we can't invest in ourselves without the help of others. I have a disability call Arthrogryposis. It prevents me from doing jobs that require physical labor so I would not have been able to work at a job that requires physical labor to pay off my student loans. I just want to finish off by letting you know that you are making a huge difference in my life and I intend to make full use of the opportunity that you are giving me so that I can help other people in the future, just like you are helping me.

- Antonio Lyons '25.

Major: Physics

Minors: Computer Science and Math





**Classmates who have passed away in the last year.
Our hearts go out to their families and all who remember them.**

Stein, Earl A.
Bartz, Solveig A.
Puffert, Miriam J.
Aarestad, Everett A.
Kaldahl, David H.
Ness, Anders B.
Eliason, Morton A.
Rich, Joan C.
Anderson, John R.
Bethel, Sally A.
Sandoz, Nancy A.

An Irish Celtic blessing:

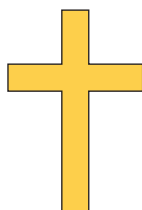
As you go on your way, God goes before you to show you the way...behind you to encourage you... beside you to befriend you ... above you to watch over you ... and within you to give you peace.

Cordially,

Lyle Rich '54

The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be.

PAUL VALÉRY



We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18



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