



Class Letter

SPRING 2022

CLASS OF 1955

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.

cobbersgive

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 1955 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



Co-CEO Burrell
Communications
Group

Fay Ferguson '73



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

Dr. Gwen (Wagstrom) Halaas '75



Senior counsel at
Dykema Gossett, PLLC

Harold D. Pope '77



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

Dr. Corey Teigen '86

2021 Sent Forth Recipients



Founder, Executive Director
Able Artist Foundation

Stephen Letnes '00



Clay County Courthouse
Seventh Judicial District

Judge Jade Rosenfeldt '05

Nominations Always Open

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

Greetings to the Classmates of '55!



I'm **Jean (Lovdokken) Iverson** and I'm your class agent.

After 56 years of marriage, my husband, LeRoy, passed away in 2018.

I have three sons, Paul professor at University College of London, David, a high school physics teacher in Boise, Idaho and Eric with Thomson-Reuters in Eagan, Minnesota. LeRoy and I retired to Decorah, Iowa in 1964. Decorah is a wonderful place to live in -home of Luther College and Vesterheim Museum.

Also, in the class of '55 was my brother Ogden Lee Lovdokken who was a Lutheran pastor in Springfield Oregon. He passed away in 2018. He and Mary Ann (Lien) Lovdokken had four children, John and Patti in Oregon and Judy in Colorado. Kristi is deceased. They have 3 grandchildren.

Class Updates

Helen (Greeli) Swenson was married to **Lundell Swenson** also a '55 grad. They moved to Bismarck, North Dakota in 1957. Her husband, Dell, passed away in 2009. They have four children, Crystal and Camilla Cobbers of '85 and '89, sons Tom and Tim are NDSU grads, and seven grandchildren. For 18 years she substituted and tutored in Simle Junior High. Helen is active in her church. She was a Sunday School Supt. for 10 years. and sings in the choir. She got involved in genealogy writing a small family history in Miss Mauseth's freshman English class. She has had three family history books published and has done extensive travel. Hellen is grateful to God for a wonderful life of service.

Dan Albright is living in senior apartment building in Champlin, Minnesota, he moved there in 2015 to be near his two kids. His health is very good. On Wednesdays he plays the piano for a sing-a-long.

Nyla (Finney) Carlson has been in Las Vegas since 1973 after having world- wide moves wither Air Force Pilot husband. Nyla's daughter's lake home in Detroit Lakes, MN is now the gathering place for her 5 children, 16 grands and 15 greats. When the Carlson's moved to Las Vegas, they helped grow a new Lutheran church from 10 families to over 3,000 members. In 2017 Nyla was in the choir that was invited to Germany to perform "The Footsteps of Martin Luther". They sang in wonderful churches. In 2019 they performed in Carnegie Hall. Lots of things keep Nyla busy; church, family and military.

Hello, I am **Richard Erickson**, retired pastor and Nursing Home Administrator. My wife, Mavis, a RN and I have been married 65 years. We have four children and nine grandchildren. Our oldest now taking early retire of the four, Ann is married living near Kenyon, MN and has three children, she is partly retired social worker. Next is Paul a psychiatrist in the VA now taking early retirement. Rita is Occupational Therapist in Des Moines, two sons Bruce works in Department of Welfare in St. Paul and has two sons. Mavis and I now live at 7500 York Co-op in Edina, MN

Lois Foss writes, "I retired from teaching at Moorhead Technical College in 1995 after teaching several years. My husband, Roger, passed away in 1992. I have two sons, David and Jonathon. David is CEO of Jack Henry corporation and lives his wife Bonnie in Coppell, Texas. Jonathan is a radiologist at Bloomington Radiology Group in Bloomington, Illinois. He and his wife, Jane, live in Bloomington. I have five grandchildren. I have a home in Sun City West and return to Moorhead for the summer months. I am still playing golf and am fortunate to be in good health. I Have good memories of good friends I met at Concordia so many years ago."

Kenneth Saeger writes,

"Class of 1955,

After graduating from Concordia I began teaching class subjects and advising the yearbook at the high school level at Strandburg, South Dakota for 12 years. After my 12 years, I heard the school was going to close in a year because of declining enrollment so I resigned. I then went to Corona, SD where I was for 16 years teaching at the high school level until that school too closed because of declining enrollment. While at Corona I was the advisor of the school yearbook and newspaper during which time I received the Founders Award, which is given each year to one journalism advisor for outstanding work in journalism. While at Corona our yearbook and paper was receiving All State awards each year to the point where we had three consecutive Sweepstake awards which was a state record. We received this award because we had more points each of those three years on the paper and yearbook than any other school in the state of South Dakota of all size in enrollment. I was on the State Journalism board when that award was discontinued for which I have no idea why this coveted award was discontinued.

After the closing of Corona School, we had our home in Milbank and choosing to keep Milbank as our hometown, I worked at a newspaper shop running the printing press and working in the layout dept. for a few years. I had worked a year at a newspaper shop after high school graduation to earn money for college, so printing was not totally new. I very much enjoyed all of my teaching years and was not ready to get out of teaching but with our home in Milbank it was our choice to stay here.

In my years after graduation from Concordia I had very close contact with some of my Concordia friends up to the time of their death and I am still in contact with one of my college friends who was a professor at a Pennsylvania University.

Cont'd

I met my wife, DeLoris, who was a third grade teacher in Milbank where I had been making my home. We were married in 1966 and we are making our home in Milbank. We have no children, but we have had some pretty special pets. We did have five exchange students from Germany, Netherlands, Finland and two from Switzerland. We also had one out of state student for two years who wanted to attend a different school. We still keep in contact with them.

One of the things we do to keep busy is volunteering our time working at the Orphan Grain Train which this branch started in Milbank in 2005 but has its headquarters in Norfolk, Nebraska. Our branch has grown so much that it overwhelms us how much we get that is useful to others. This is an organization that collects used clothing, shoes, quilts, toys, basic medical supplies for recovery and some other things. The clothing sent to Norfolk must be clean and wearable. The supplies are packed in boxes for summer and winter and what it is and who would be using it. Since our branch began, we added on to our building to pack Mercy Meals which is a balanced meal for people in need of food. All of what is packed is sent to where it is needed, in this country and abroad. We also accept monetary donations for use in areas where supplies need to be purchased. My wife and my duties include washing, cleaning and sorting shoes.

We also attend MARTA which is an organization for retired teachers once a month.

We are members of the Missouri Lutheran Church in Milbank where we are active in our church and feel it is very important to attend church services and bible class regularly and helping with church work when we can. I taught Sunday School at our church for 25 years and narrated our church service for the Sunday radio broadcast for 40 years and also was a church elder. My wife, besides being the president of the Ladies Aid, worked with the students Confirmation banners also taught at our church pre-school for 14 years. Both of us played in our church hand bell choir for nearly twenty years.

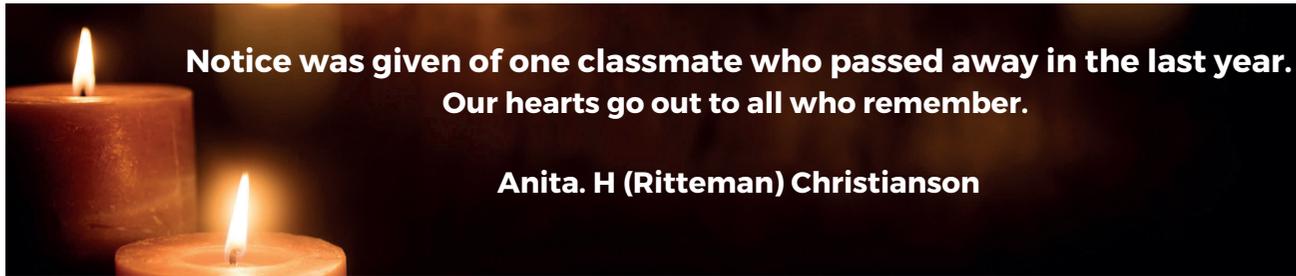
In closing, I want to say I enjoyed my years at Concordia very much and have many good memories. Hello to all of you and if you want to contact me, my e-mail is krdmsaeger@itcmilbank.com or Kenneth Saeger, 911 South Seventh Street, Milbank, SD 57252 or telephone me at 605-432-6413. Hope to hear from you and Best Wishes to you."



If you know any classmate listed below please help to update their information by contacting the Alumni Office. Email to alumni@cord.edu or call 218.299.3734 or by going to ConcordiaCollege.edu/classnotes We would love to update their records. Thank you if you've already done so.

Berg, Alf
Blickensderfer, Margaret L.
Broome, William G.
Davis, James A.
Erickson, Gerald G.
Fischer, Sally
Hauge, James
Kvamme, Conrad H.
Larsen, William J.
Moll, Walter A.

Niclai, Janice
Olsen, Lois
Perdue, Carol J.
Sanders, Gail
Schoustrup Thomsen, Uni
Snyder, Mary Ann B.
Stone, F E.
Thompson, Dorothy
Thompson, James L.



901 8th St S | Moorhead, MN 56562 | 218.299.4000