



Class Letter

MARCH 2022

CLASS OF 1957

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Dear Classmates of 1957,

I have decided that this is one letter you are going to get that doesn't make reference to the Covid virus... Or the flu. (Oops, I just did, didn't I?) Now, wasn't that somewhat refreshing almost not hearing about the pandemic?

I am still doing it, and I enjoy it. What? Writing to you about Concordia. I do it because I am the lucky one. I am still "local," and my ties to and feelings for our college are constantly being refreshed. I hope I can pass that same feeling of satisfaction and admiration along to those of you who aren't living nearby. I love Concordia more than I did in 1957, and I am so much prouder of it than I was then.

So, I was looking forward to telling you about enrollment and whether the lowered tuition attracted more students the way they hoped. I was also interested in finding out whether the gift of two semesters of free tuition given to graduating seniors who had missed out on the complete Concordia experience because of the virus bought them back for more. Then something happened that filled my heart, and I just had to share it with you.

Samantha, a senior at Concordia, visited me. She has gotten to be a special friend. We have adopted one another. She is my adopted Concordia granddaughter, and I am her adopted Concordia grandpa. We met on the telephone during her junior year in the fall of 2020. She was a one of the student callers from the Advancement Office. She might have called you, too. We were both excited to talk about Concordia, and we turned what was supposed to be a five-minute phone call into an hour. (I have it on good authority that if anyone from the class of 1957 wants to talk longer, they are happy to oblige!)

Her parents live in Western South Dakota. Her mother is a travel agent for AAA and her dad is a self-employed mechanic. She has one brother still in high school. She is the first one in her family to get a four-year college degree.

She is such an excited and loyal Cobber, but without your help, she would never have been able to come to Concordia. She is here because she was awarded the Presidential Scholarship. That's the big one that pays for almost all of tuition. She also has other scholarships and grants that cover nearly any other cost that is charged to her Concordia account... tuition, housing, dining... for four years (as long she remains a top student.)

The scholarship doesn't pay for all of Samantha's expenses, so she works extra jobs to pay those costs. As I wrote, she has been a student phonathon caller for three years. She is so effective at what she did that in her second year she became a Student Philanthropy Intern. After that training, she was promoted to be a Calling Team Manager. This year she was promoted again to be a Student Outreach and Development Manager. I include this to show what additional kinds of education Concordia offers ambitious students.

In addition to her responsibilities for the phonathon, Samantha has worked three additional jobs this year. She was a childcare aid in the Cobber Kids preschool. She is a paid section leader for the Christ with King Lutheran Church choir. She is a Direct Support Professional working for Creative Care for Reaching Independence and enriches the lives of two homebound, handicapped adults as a companion ten hours per week.

She has worked summers at Coburn's and Applebee's. Last summer she worked with young children as a recreation assistant in her hometown recreation center. But, there's more. With all of the jobs she has to help her finance college even with the Presidential Scholarship, she hasn't wanted to miss out on the "Concordia experience." That is the feeling of community that I have come to value more and more since graduation.

Samantha has learned to love the Concordia community. While at Concordia, she has been involved in theater and music activities. She has sung in Kantorei (Concordia's choir for first year students), the Chapel Choir, and during her junior and senior years has sung soprano with the Concert Choir. She has been director and manager of the Cobbertones a cappella choir for three years.



She is majoring in psychology at Concordia and minoring in music. She will also have a speech, language, and hearing sciences minor from Moorhead State University to prepare her for a future master's degree in speech therapy.

Samantha graduates this spring. Her family is coming from Belle Fourche for graduation, and her Concordia Grandpa is going to celebrate with them. She is ready to reluctantly leave. She has earned the \$4,000 she pays for the concert choir tour to Italy this summer; has met another Cobber she wants to marry; and, as I told you, will be going to graduate school for a degree in speech therapy.

She doesn't know whose dollars she has received to help her graduate as a Cobber. She thinks it is probably yours. So, I hope you are also proud of Samantha and feel her love for Concordia. I know you did, if you were lucky enough to be called by her on one of the phonathons during her years here.

In 2021 more than 5,000 of us came together to raise \$2.6+ million for the Cobber Fund.



Samantha and others like her thank you, but that money came in and went out. So, now we will need to do it again.

Be on the lookout for the Cobbers Give campaign March 7 -18.

A generous alum will add an additional \$100 to each of our gifts to The Cobber Fund.

cobbersgive

Next year, Concordia will find other students just like Samantha who need and deserve our help. There are a lot of them! I wish you were here to meet them and see for yourself what a good investment our gift is. If you just can't come to campus to do that, I will tell them about you and your help. Keep it coming. There will be Cobbers who need us next year.

I will always keep in touch with Samantha. Maybe you can adopt a Concordia "grand Cobber," too. The answer is always "no," if you don't ask.

Next year, I will invest in another adopted grandchild, but I will never replace Samantha. She will be driving though Fargo-Moorhead every time she goes home to South Dakota. She will stop to see me.

When you get called from a female student Cobber this March, ask her if she is Samantha. If not, ask her to say "hi" to Samantha, and ask her to tell you about herself. You will feel so good about making your own friendship with a young Cobber. If a young man calls you, ask him to say "hi" to Samantha, too. They will all know her.

Well, that's my letter to you. Maybe next time I will have another story to tell that will make you very pleased with the students we help come to Concordia. This time I just had to tell you about Samantha. I am so proud of her.

Keep reading for more updates from Concordia.

Your classmate,

Clark Tufte

P.S. Here's something that is sobering. Want to feel old? Want to wonder why our advice is not sought after as often as we want to give it? If our class of 1957 were to be invited to come to celebrate graduation with this spring's class of 2022 and share with them the meanings of life, it would be as if we would have invited the Concordia class of 1892 to come to be with us at our graduation in 1957 to give us advice on how to conquer the future. Would that have impressed us?

Another P.S. Do you have your 2022 calendar handy?
The dates for Homecoming are October 7 - 9.
Maybe you can meet your caller?
Watch for upcoming CornFeeds or other events!

Homecoming 2022
October 7-9



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

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 Lorentzen 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. There are four areas of focus in which you can choose to participate:

- Referring and recruiting new students
- Connecting with current students
- Engaging our community
- Communicating our mission

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



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

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 THE CLASS OF '57 THAT PARTICIPATED IN GIVING!

Be on the lookout for the Cobbers Give campaign **March 7-18**; a generous alum will add an additional \$100 to each of our gifts to The Cobber Fund. The class of 1957 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

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



If you know any of the classmates listed below, please ask them to update their information by going to ConcordiaCollege.edu/classnotes

Send an email to alumni@cord.edu or call 218.299.3734

We would love to update their records.

Thank you if you've already done so.

Ruth (Ljungren) Anderson
H.O Berg
Donald L. Brandt
Robert Brovick
L.B. Campbell
Janice (Moum) Cook
Richard Bryburgh
Marion Elton
Muriel (Larson) Gray
Connie (Hintz) Gunderson
Welma Hanson
Jack Hellerud
Thelma Johnson
Marilyn Knutson
Lowell D. Larson
Norma Larson
Rosemarie Larson

Myron Leverson
Robert Mathews
Gerald Nelson
Robert Nothelfer
Joan (Anderson) Overvold
Janie (Anderson) Peccia
Eline Peterson
Roger Peterson
John Rasmussen
Gloria Rudolph
Marion (Hausten) Schumacher
Joan (Opgrande) Sedgwick
Arlene (Volden) Seeman
Joyce (Erickson) Snapp
Donald Week
Audrey (Vikan) Woods
Garth Zieman



We Remember

Classmates who have passed away in 2021

Richard Mathison, Shirley (Koepp) Simonson
Norma (Thoen) Megrund, Beatrice (Leraas) DeFrance
LaVerne (Stromstad) Sondrol, James Skjonsby
Elva (Anderson) Bergseid, Eldon Kratzke