



Class Letter

FEBRUARY 2022

CLASS OF 1975

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Welcome Class of 1975 to the Year of the Tiger. Specifically, the “Water Tiger” which will bring a **confident and authoritative energy** to all. Tigers are aggressive, tenacious, ambitious, competitive, and strong. Tigers are also known to be generous to their loved ones.

First of all, a big THANK YOU to everyone who made it back for the 45th reunion. Although it was a smaller than normal gathering, it was great. Many friendships were reunited and new friendships evolved. Conversations definitely have changed from “how is your job and kids” to “how is retirement and your grandkids”. Hopefully the next reunion for our class will be back on the regular schedule, which should be in 2025. The BIG 50. Wow, hard to believe. Some pictures of the reunion below.



Giving Update

A big thank you to everyone from the Class of '75 who made a gift to Concordia during 2021. In 2021, more than 5,000 people came together to raise \$2.6+ million for The Cobber Fund. We can pay forward the generous scholarships we received as students by continued support for the new generation of Cobbers. Together we help make sure a Concordia education is possible for every student.

Be on the lookout for the *Cobbers Give* campaign March 7-18; a generous alum will *an additional \$100 to each of our gifts* to the Cobber Fund. Our Class of '75 can truly make a difference in the lives of current students.

Homecoming 2022

Homecoming 2022 is set for **October 7-9**. More information will be coming later. If you did not make it back last year (or even if you did), try to schedule it for this coming year. Homecoming at Concordia is always a special time with the concerts, parade, football game and other athletic contests played over the weekend. Watch for updates online at ConcordiaCollege.edu/homecoming

Class Member Updates

Jon Carlson, Blaine, Minnesota retired in January of 2020. Jon and his wife, Kim, have two daughters. Jill is a 2006 alumni.

Nadine Mandt resides in Perham, Minnesota.

Sheldon Waskosky, Savage, MN. is working as a Latino Liaison for Candidates and Recruitment for Eurasia. Their work supports getting the Scripture to Bibleless people throughout the world.

Gary Olson is currently living in Aurora, IL.

Joe and Gwen Brott have moved from beautiful Montana (after 41 years) to Perham, MN. It is amazing the influence your kids and grandkids have on you once you are retired. Our three Cobber "kids", their Cobber spouses and eight grandchildren (ages seven months-11 years) live in Minnesota.

Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas who was honored on campus last fall with the Alumni Achievement Award has been named as the new dean of the Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions at Concordia. This will mark a return home and she will assume the role July 1, 2022.

Lost Loved Ones

The Alumni Office received information on 10 alumni who passed away in 2021.

Lynn Ronsberg; Janet (Gallagher) Middlebrook; Dennis Meyer; Debra Bottjen; John T. Carlson; Michael J. Fibrantz; Jerine (Elofson) Pearson; William C. Schardin; Sue (Coulter) Monson; Leslie S. Dergan.

Cobbers Unaccounted for

There are approximately 57 Cobbers who the Alumni Office do not have contact information. If you know of any Cobber classmates that have not received the class letter email, or other information from Concordia, possibly they are one of the 57. Gwen and I have the list, as well as the alumni office. Encourage them to contact us or the alumni office to update their contact info.

Gwen and I hope this class letter finds you warm, well, and loving life. *Soli Deo Gloria*



-Joe & Gwen Brott

He is still watching over us!!!

Campus Updates



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

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.

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

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 in athletics.

Alumni Awards

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



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.



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