



Class Letter

SPRING 2022

CLASS OF 1977

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 1977 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, Classmates of '77!

I hope that this finds you healthy and hopeful in the midst of so very much happening within our world.



Earlier this year I agreed to help out as the Class Agent for our Concordia College Class of 1977. Steve Johnson has held this role for as long as I can remember and we thank him for all his efforts to keep us connected through these many years. Though I have no intention of imitating Steve's level of commitment by taking on this role for the next 45 years (!), I did agree to fill in on an interim basis and, hopefully, work with others to help Cobber Alumni stay connected/reconnected with both the college and with one another.

Though I have to admit that I have used my calculator several times to verify, it is true that this year will be our **45th Year Reunion!** We will be celebrating this milestone at Homecoming (October 7-9, 2022). We hope that you would consider attending the Homecoming and Reunion events. A committee is being formed to plan and orchestrate our reunion festivities. If you would like to help with these efforts, please contact me (**pamla.langley@gmail.com**) or Karen Carlson at the Alumni Office as soon as possible. Also, if you have photos, stories, memories or information that you think would be fun for us to include in our class history as we reminisce with one another, please share it with us. We plan to meet in the next weeks to get things rolling.

As you can see from other parts of this newsletter, Concordia continues to grow and change as it strives to "send forth informed" individuals who positively influence the world. There are many exciting initiatives and opportunities open to the Cobbers of today!

I look forward to the opportunity to come together to celebrate-not only the special gifts that our time at Concordia College gave us, but also the unique paths that have been taken as we were "sent forth" to live lives that have been rich and varied. Please stay tuned for more information regarding our 45th reunion as we get closer to October.

Until then, may you be well, work for justice, seek peace and live in hope.

Pam

Pam Potter Langley

Thank you to the following classmates for sending the updates about their lives. Please know that you can send updates at any time to the Alumni Office and we will share them in the next letter. Remember that you don't have to have a major life event to let us know something about yourself!

Kim (Lindgren) Ranstrom

“We (husband Doyle Ranstrom, Class of 1973) have a home in Big Sky, MT and a home in Oro Valley, AZ. Usually Fall & Spring are spent in AZ and Summer & Winter in Big Sky. During COVID 2020-21 we were in AZ September-May. Our daughter (Courtney, Class of 2002) lives in Portland w/ her family. Our son (Morgan) lives in Minneapolis w/his family. We spend all our travel time going between Minneapolis and Portland to spend as much time with our four grandchildren, ages 7 mo. - 7 yrs. “

Roger Gomoll (North Oaks, MN)

“I earned a Master of Music degree in tuba performance at the University of Minnesota in June 2021, funded with the help of Minnesota’s Senior Citizen Education Program.”

Larry Morris (Richland, WA)

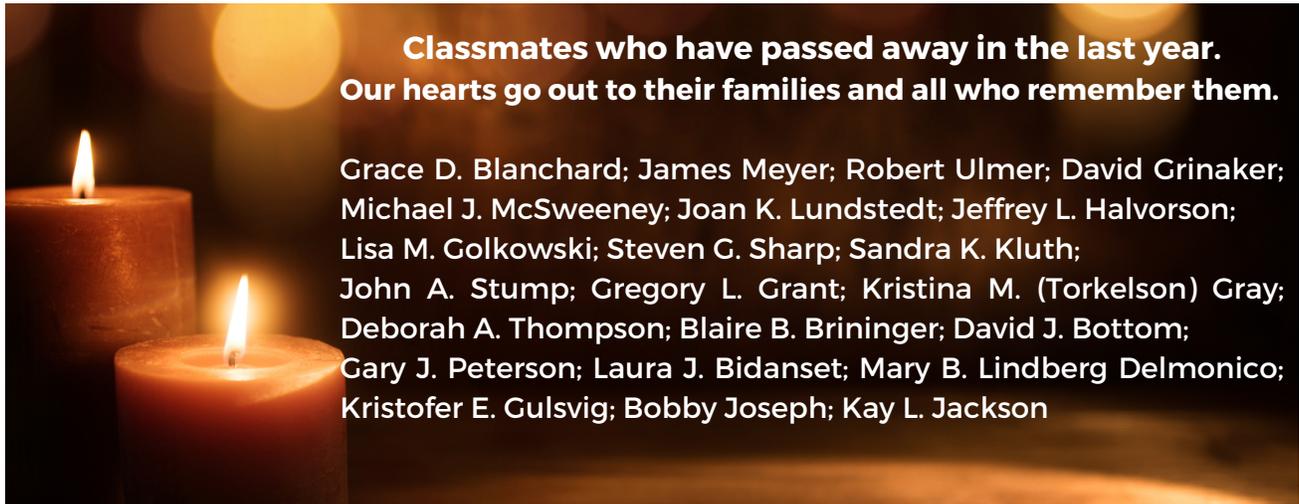
“I have published a book, [A Beautiful And Painful Journey: One Man’s Embrace Of Caregiving.](#)”





If you have kept in touch with any of these classmates, please invite them to share in reconnection. It is never too late and it would be great to have as many as possible attend or contribute their stories to our reunion efforts.

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|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Anderson, Palmer W. | Hartmann, Lynn L. | Nichols, Daniel L. | Strand, Lloyd O. |
| Banniettis, Constance A. | Heikkila, Kurt E. | Nutter, James D. | Swenson, John D. |
| Berg, Mary E. | Hinton, Bernice | Ous, Jeffrey D. | Taylor, Ronald C. |
| Bird, Teresa | Hove, David | Passanante, Richard C. | Temple, Duane C. |
| Carnegie, Linda D. | Jaakkola, Craig C. | Petry, Gregory J. | Torkelson, Jim A. |
| Chase, Ann G. | Kleist, Julie A. | Risch, Dorinne A. | |
| Coates, Frederick J. | Luther, Steven W. | Rowell, Woodrow | |
| Cox, Robin L. | McFadden, Deborah E. | Schermerhorn-Kindley, JoDee E. | |
| Dahl, Mark S. | McIntosh, Patric | Shields, William G. | |
| DeYoung, Siri N. | McNabney, Richard L. | Smith, Bruce B. | Wambheim, David H. |
| Graham, Bertrand M. | Mickelson, Clifford A. | Smith, Cheryl A. | Wilwand, Daniel M. |
| Gruenewald, Lucia | Morris, Larry P. | Smith, Jocelyn L. | |
| Hackenmiller, Sue A. | Nelson, Cynthia L. | Sorbo, Thomas C. | |
| Hamblin, Randall S. | Nelson, Sally K. | Stoyke, Diane | |
| | Ness, Steven P. | Stoyko, Diane | |



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

Grace D. Blanchard; James Meyer; Robert Ulmer; David Grinaker;
Michael J. McSweeney; Joan K. Lundstedt; Jeffrey L. Halvorson;
Lisa M. Golkowski; Steven G. Sharp; Sandra K. Kluth;
John A. Stump; Gregory L. Grant; Kristina M. (Torkelson) Gray;
Deborah A. Thompson; Blaire B. Brininger; David J. Bottom;
Gary J. Peterson; Laura J. Bidanset; Mary B. Lindberg Delmonico;
Kristofer E. Gulsvig; Bobby Joseph; Kay L. Jackson



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