



Class Letter

FEB/MAR 2022

CLASS OF 1979

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

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.

The logo for "cobbersgive" is set against a dark maroon background. The word "cobbers" is in white lowercase letters, and "give" is in yellow lowercase letters.

In 2021, more than 5,000 people came together to raise **\$2.6+ million** for The Cobber Fund.

THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLASS WHO MADE A GIFT IN 2021!

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 1979 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

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

Message from Class Agent and Class Member Updates



Hello, 1979'ers!

We're in the throes of the "bleak mid-winter" here in Minnesota. Then again, I remember months of mid-winter in Moorhead, back when temps were below zero for weeks. Now with global warming, current students don't know hardship! (I know, I sound just like our parents, "We had to walk five miles to school, uphill both ways, and fifty below zero..." Sheesh, what have I turned into?!)

It appears that COVID has been our New Normal for almost two years, so we're used to it by now. The campus is open and students are learning and studying just like always. That in-person learning certainly makes for the most meaningful education. Some of my fondest learning memories happened in music practice rooms, while getting snacks at the Normandy, and in dorm discussions. It's not always the classroom where the education occurs.

Have any of you taken on child-care duty or tutoring school agers? Several folks in my neighborhood are helping out their children by caring for the grandkids and supervising remote learning. That's certainly been a challenge for many. In my case, my Millennial son has moved home from Chicago and is working remotely for his Chicago employer. While it's fun enough to have him around, I don't think he expected that he'd be hanging with Mom and Dad well after college was over. Life is kind of "on hold" for that generation, too.

So, who has retired? I didn't get very many classmate updates this time, but I suspect life has changed for a lot of us. In the past year, many of us hit Medicare age when health insurance premiums dropped. (Yea!) Next up is Social Security, if not done already. For those of you still working, I trust it's in a job you love and you're finding joy and satisfaction there. At least I am getting the sense that people who are still working are finally starting to get fairer wages for the work they do. That seems to be the good side of the inflation that we are all seeing.

Speaking of working, you'll note in the Campus Updates that Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas '75 was named new dean of the Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions. You read that right: Class of 1975 Cobber. While most of us are winding down, a woman four years older than we are is taking on a new role. That surely demonstrates a passion and love for what you're doing, don't you think?

Here's what I heard from classmates this go 'round.



James Doherty is a partner at the boutique health law firm Pecore & Doherty, LLC in Columbia, Maryland and adjunct professor of law teaching Health Care Law & Policy at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in Baltimore. Wife Margaret is a retired staff attorney from the Legal Aid Bureau of Maryland and daughter Alice is studying Theater Arts at the University of Iowa.

Scott Hove says: I continue to serve as the Executive Pastor of Good Samaritan Lutheran Church in Las Vegas. ([www.good Sam Lv.com](http://www.goodSamLv.com)) We have lived in the Las Vegas valley basically since 1992 with one short stint in Illinois. No, we don't live in a casino we actually are in a real house. Our son, Parker, is in his first year of high school. (Yes, my wife is much younger than me.) Unlike many of you I can't afford to retire yet and so far, the church has not kicked me out!

Paul Rykken writes: In October of 2021, I was honored as an inductee to the West Fargo High School Hall of Fame (alumni category, class of 1975). I retired from full-time history teaching after 41 years in June of 2020. Since the fall of 2020, I have been working as a lecturer in First Nations History through UW-Green Bay's Dual-Access Virtual Academy. I am still coaching high school distance runners in both fall and spring as well.

Jan Gravseth of Denver CO was married in July. She is now known as Jan Kirkman. Congrats!

Another marriage! **Cyndy Wassman** was married recently and moved from Reno NV to Fort Worth TX. She's now known as Cyndy Matland.

Blessings to you all until we meet again.

Dawn (Schoepke) Hill

Cobbers79@yahoo.com



We Remember

We lost two classmates over the past year, I'm sorry to report.

Barbara Harrison of Shoreview, MN in July. She is survived by her husband, Joel Face, and two children. Her obituary brought a smile when it said, "She was a proud Cobber and wore her class ring for years." Read more here:

<https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000399038/>

Heidi Hagstrom of Cokato, MN in November. Heidi's life had a vibrant second career when she became ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 2018. Read more here:

<https://www.nujournal.com/obituaries/2021/11/30/heidi-jo-hagstrom/>



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.

Brenda Ackerson
Shellee Allsop
Vienna (Inebiri) Atikpa
Randy Beck
Dawn (Malquist) Bernier
Mary (Palazzari) Bronson
Roxanne Connell
Jake Delger
Karin Fierke
Victor Galfano
Mary Hamilton
Sonya Haugen
Mary (Morris) Heitzig
Katherine Jako
Brett Johnson
Mark A. Jones
Michael M. Jones
Kathryn Kaldor
Fred Karlisch
Brian Kines
Mark Kline
Debra Kopp

Paul T. Larson Paul
Ludtke Mary Marsh Jane
McElevy Curt Miller
Carol Munding Ike
Okosun Nancy O'Leary
Lee E. Olson Robert B.
Olson Rueben Porter
Richard Reeves
Susan (Reinhardt) Riebe
Ellen (Haugen) Roose
Charles Salami
David L. Smith
Julie (Bergstrom) Starks
Susan (Bragge) Swenson
Paul Swisher
Judy Torgerson
Patricia (Knight) Unruh

Marcia Vanlaningham
Lazarus Zawaira



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