

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

CLASS OF





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 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.

New Dean of Sanford Heimarck School of Health

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.

Learn. Work. Lead.

A Concordia College education is rooted in the college's deep commitment to providing a transformational experience for every one of our students through learning, working and leadership. 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.

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 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 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 on campus near the 8th Street entrance to 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.

Homecoming

100 Years of Homecoming was celebrated on campus in October 2021. The college was happy to successfully welcome back over 700 alumni and friends to celebrate 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 with 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 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



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.

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 1980 can truly make a difference in the lives of current students. Learn more of give online at ConcordiaCollege.edu/giving.



CLASS MEMBER UPDATES:

Freda Myhrwold

Since I retired early in 2019, I have had the privilege of being a full time caregiver for my 92 year old mother. I am also working part time as Worship Leader at Nativity Lutheran Church in St. Anthony, MN.

I travel whenever possible, most recently to the Dominican Republic and will be taking a trip to Alaska in March to see the Northern Lights.

Marlys Escobar (Kirkeby)

Eight grandchildren, Not yet retired.

Cindy Nelson (Thompson)



Cindy (Thompson) Nelson retired in August after 40 years as director of children's ministries at Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. In October the congregation honored her with a reception and program—and a Charles Beck woodcut print. She continues to work part-time as secretary in the church office and does occasional free-lance editing and writing.

Kellian Clink

My life has been the same as it ever was. I still love the students I work with in my capacity as librarian. I still kayak a lot in the summer out at Lake Washington, a 10 minute drive from my house. It's kept out there. I haven't been to England for a couple of years, but I've booked a place in Scarborough this May and will travel there and then Penzance and the Scilly Isles. I paid off my house! I'm healthy and my cats are healthy and I still am in love with my 100+ year old house, my job, the walk to work. All is calm and all is well!

Regina McCombs

Hey, Tim -- Here's a class note! I'm not sure if I ever submitted that I'm now teaching at the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the U, but I've been there almost four years. But the newsier news is that I organized, helped judge and hung a photo exhibit titled, "Documenting a Reckoning: The Murder of George Floyd," which is at the U's Andersen Library until March 4, then opens at the Mill City Museum in downtown Minneapolis on March 17 and runs through June 5 there. Thanks!

Regina

Miriam Youngquist-Thurow (Youngquist)

After figuring out the new "normal," I continue to be the Environmental Education Director at the Agape Center for Environmental Education (ACE Ed). ACE Ed is part of Agape-Kure Beach Ministries with two sites: one near Raleigh (my primary place) and Kure Beach, North Carolina. Pre-pandemic, ACE Ed was serving about 6,000 students each year with school field trips. In 2022, field trips are beginning to return, and - along with my staff - we have initiated programming to expand beyond school field trips. Seniors, pre-school, and home-school programming is underway. It's a lot of work, but very rewarding! I have the best job in the world - I get to play with kids in the woods!

In other news: I've joined the grandparent club. It's great! Kaden is 3, Cameron is 5 months old. Grandparenting is not over-rated!

As I write this update, my husband Randy & I are enjoying a vacation centered in Tucson, AZ.

So far, we've logged 68 miles of hiking treks with one week of vacation to go.

So... job, grand-kids, and fun trip — I think that covers the general update request. Looking forward to reading updates from everyone else.

Steve Tjeltveit

Here's a brief update from me. Retired almost a year ago and since then have been to 18 state and national parks and have increased the number of days spent skiing and volunteering. Let me know your favorite park and maybe I'll see you at one soon. Steve Tjeltveit

Barb Sorensen

Hello, Tim - I recently completed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Information Officer training from Texas A&M University. The training was called "FEMA PIO Training: Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident." Thank you,
Barb Sorensen

Lynn Wagner



Brice and Shirley (Howe) Erickson

A quick update from us:

Brice and Shirley (Howe) Erickson have lived in Eagan, MN for the past 33 years. Brice took early retirement from 3M in 2019 after a 29 year career there as a chemist. For the 2021-22 academic year, Brice accepted a one year appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Chemistry Department at St. Olaf College, and has been teaching courses in general chemistry, analytical chemistry, environmental chemistry, and forensics.

Ann Christensen (Engebretson)

We are happy and well! We have had a year filled with real estate activity. Both of our kids bought homes in 2021 after long searches and many offers. We were thrilled when they both had closing dates last spring. A long time consuming process! Hubby Kurt is still a realtor and was very helpful.

We celebrated our 40th Anniversary in Dec.2021 and had kids home for Christmas and celebrating our anniversary. In January 2022, we cruised to the Mexican Riviera to celebrate some more! The ship was 30% full and we felt very pampered!

I am retired from teaching and have been tutoring elementary kids. I'm also a part of John Maxwell's leadership team, independently working with leadership development in schools, churches, and small businesses.

Looking forward to getting back to more vocal music groups this year and planning more trips. Visiting family in Arizona and Washington DC trips are planned. Bucket list trip to Norway is in the works.

Kurt is busy with real estate and also plays trumpet in a number of jazz groups. It's great to be in the audience when I can.

Be well, Cobbers!

Phillip Swan

Hi TIm, Here's a quick update . . .

Cantala (LU Women's Choir), is one of the choirs that I conduct at Lawrence University. They have had great success over the past several years, receiving invitations to perform for one state, three regional, and two national American Choral Directors Association conferences. On Friday, February 18th, Cantala performed for a fourth regional conference at the Midwestern ACDA Conference in Chicago at the Harris Theater. Their 25-minute program, Hope Awakened, will be performed again on Friday, February 25th at 8:00 pm in the Lawrence Memorial Chapel in Appleton, WI. The concert will be livestreamed

at: <https://www.lawrence.edu/conservatory/ensembles/webcasts> OR archived for later viewing

at: <https://www.lawrence.edu/conservatory/ensembles/webcasts/library>

Dan Wik, MD

Dan Wik, MD filed for 2022 US Congress in Nebraska's 3rd Congressional District. Dr. Wik won the 2016 Democratic Primary but lost to 7 time Republican incumbent. Dr. Wik lost the 2020 Senate Primary. Dr. Wik is CEO of MYPAINDOC and runs 4 pain practices in Norfolk, Columbus, Fremont, and Grand Island, Nebraska.

Becky Rice Tetlie

Tim, Thanks so much for coordinating the class of 1980 update. It must be a bit of a challenge to get people to share what's going on.

Here's my update:

Hi Everyone!

I've been enjoying retirement and am now a year and a half into it. After my life threatening bout with double pneumonia causing septic shock, Alden and I live in deep gratitude every day. Last week, my husband Alden went through successful prostate cancer surgery. Again, we are so thankful for skilled doctors and excellent medical care!

Realizing our precious gift of health we are anxious to pursue a retirement dream of exploring more National Parks. After having been BWCA campers for years, we are diving into trailer camping to give us a bit more shelter. We bought a solar powered small Escape trailer made in British Columbia to help with our dream.

Owen (4) and Alice (2), our grandkids bring great joy into our lives and we hope to do some camping together with the whole family. Remote volunteer activities and playing our string instruments for church events have kept us busy during these extended months of CoVid surges.

Karen (Natwick) Carlson



Hi Tim, Here is my class update:

After a year of hosting virtual events in Alumni Relations, we were able to hold some in-person corn feeds last summer. We traveled to Brainerd, Park Rapids, Litchfield, and the Twin Cities.

Kristi (Knutson) Quitney '80, Kris (Bergquist) Haugo '80, Julie Rick '81 and their spouses host the Litchfield Corn Feed every year and they always do a wonderful job. The photo is from the

Brainerd area corn feed which was held at a Cobber owned brewery, Roadhouse, in Nisswa with Jim Mark '53, his wife, Darlene, host Helene Danielson '96 and me.

Michael Thoreson



Hi Tim! How are you? It's hard to believe it's been 42 years.

Big news is my painting "Quiescence" got accepted into the 155th Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society that runs April 11-30 at the Salmagundi Club in New York. It is quite an honor. I uploaded an image of the painting via the form online.

I also serve as Vice President and supervised 2 online international exhibitions for the Northwest Watercolor Society (based in the Seattle area). Come June, I am slated to become this group's President for a term of 2 years.

My youngest got married to a wonderful man so as I said on the form, I got to experience the joys and stresses of being father of the bride.

All the best,
Mike

Sara Preus



After 12 years teaching in Shanghai, I am ready to retire! I have absolutely loved living in this dynamic city, full of history, diversity and beautiful skyscrapers. Just think, I started at one Concordia and finished my educational career at another Concordia: Concordia International School Shanghai. I have spent 24 years in Asia and am now ready to kick back and discover the US. Our girls are college graduates and my husband is already retired. (Pictured: Hannah; Sara; Bekah)

Jeffery Gaustad

I was planning to retire from my pastoral ministry position at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tacoma, but God had other plans. In mid-September I began serving as chaplain of the eliseo community (formerly Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community) in Tacoma, Washington (check us out at www.eliseo.org)

Eric Hunt

I signed up for Medicare last month along with most of you.

Wendy Abrahamson (Nehmer)

Am now a Level II coach in the ELCA, continue as well as a Spiritual Director.

Debra Butler (Ornberg)

Retired pastor and educator.



I am sad to report that four of our classmates passed away since our last class letter:

Larson, Cindy R. on December 19, 2020
Oliver, David E. on March 24, 2021
Thomas, Katherine A. on April 27, 2021
Engebretson, Thomas C. on October 13, 2021



Like the roommates we had in college who “disappeared without a trace” to the library and we wondered if we would ever see them again, we have some former classmates with whom we have lost touch. It would be nice if they were found once again so we can include them in future communications about Concordia. If you know the whereabouts of these “lost” classmates, please have them contact the Alumni Relations Department at Concordia so we can mark them “found” once again. P. 218.299.4335

LOST & FOUND:

Jean B. Anderson
Laura A. Brunsman
Dickison, Susan A.
Garbett, Guy C.
Gormley, Mary C
Griffith, Susan L. (Gilbertson)
Gwiazdon, Wendy M.

Karen L. Anderson
Brunsvold, David A.
Finbraaten, Sandra K.
Garnas, Deborah L.
Graetzer, Mike H.
Gronseth, Timothy L.
Hagberg, Amy S. (Hammond)

Hayes Elston, Charlene L. (Hayes)
Jacobson, Thomas A.
Jensen, Debra L.
Johnson, Susan E
Kramer, Laura S.
Melquist, Elaine L.
Mittelstaedt, Joel A.
Naylor, Kaviah A.
Nelson, Sue E.
Ness, Debra J.
Orji, David A.
Quist, Carol R. (Lefsrud)
Sauer, David P.
Stivers, Bobette M.
Tonnessen, Anne M.

Hegre, Kathryn E.
Jastorff-Russell, Lauri L. (Jastorff)
Johnson, Brenda J.
Jones, Derrick W.
Mathre, Mark P.
Meyer, Marcia M. (Brauer)
Muir, Star A.
Nellermoe, Paul K.
Nelson, Theodore E.
Noble, Teresa S.
Peterson, Karen J. (Allen)
Rockwell, Michelle A.
Sorenson, Kevin N.
Thorsten, Marie A.
West, T Steven

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR HOMECOMING!



We look forward to celebrating with you **October 7-9, 2022!**
Watch for updates at ConcordiaCollege.edu/homecoming

UNTIL NEXT TIME!!

My wife, Jill (1981) and I are retired and making our home in the South Padre Island, Texas area. As I started to write this Class Letter earlier in the week, I was interrupted many times ... to play golf in mid-70 degree weather with Jill. We live in a "golf course community", so we just jump on the golf cart and head to the tee box. "Why did it take so long to retire?" I find myself asking that question often as we enjoy the breeze off the Gulf of Mexico, and enjoy sunsets from our patio like the one below. Let's stay in touch through our Class Page on Facebook! Concordia College Class of 1980. You can find it here: www.facebook.com/groups/124260914251531

Until next time,



Timothy Carlson





