



Class Letter

MARCH 2022

CLASS OF 1986

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Greetings, Class of '86!

Thanks to all who participated (in-person and virtually) in our 35th class reunion! COVID caused our numbers to be lower than normal, but a fierce and wonderful group gathered in October. I can't give big enough thanks and props to committee members Sue (Daly) Gibson, Shelly (Lee) Haaland, Karen (Wickstrom) Leighton, Heidi (Skaalure) Sneltjes and Lisa (Swanson) West – the planning went on for months, and the results were fantastic! Many thanks also go out to Craig Sneltjes who helped with the technical aspects of the event, and Steve Wammer and Matt Lemke who were our breakfast emcees and Ann (Rimmereid) Jacobson for the lovely invocation – terrific work all around!

If you haven't already, please consider joining (or at least checking out) our Facebook page – Concordia College, Class of 1986. The Oct. 4 posts includes links to reunion photos, and a video. If you scroll through posts, you'll see some live posts featuring Mick's Office, the parade and the breakfast.

During the reunion, one of our own, Dr. Corey Teigen, was honored as a recipient of a 2021 Alumni Achievement Award. Here's information from the program – "Dr. Corey Teigen, a board certified vascular and interventional radiologist, researcher, and developer, is chief scientific officer for Penumbra, Inc. He received his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, did his radiology residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and completed his fellowship at the Miami Cardiac and Vascular Institute. He served as chair of Interventional Radiology at Sanford Health, Fargo, N.D., for 25 years. Teigen has been involved in the development of multiple interventional devices." Congrats!



Mark Your Calendars

The planning committee is hoping that you will think about marking your calendars for **October 2026** – our 40th class reunion! Our intent, between now and then, is to focus on getting the word out to as many classmates as possible.



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.

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 1986 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

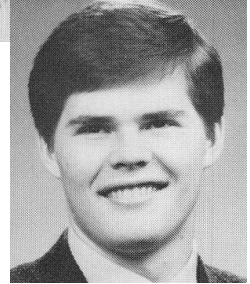
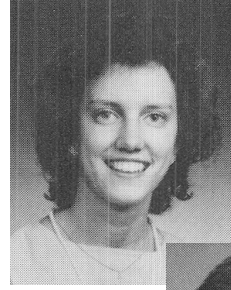
To read more about these recipients or to nominate a deserving alumni, go to
ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition

Class Member Updates



Bonnie (Myhre) & Kelly Wasberg

We are well as Kelly began a position with AVERA Hospital and National Guard as a Chaplain and I am continuing with teaching Family Consumer Science in Cottonwood MN at Lakeview for 7-12 grade. Loving it so much. Karter 21 at NDSU, Sadie May graduated from Hamline University and applying for research in Neuro Science, Annalise is employed at Pillars of Highland Park as Dimensions Manager. Blessings to you! Peace, Bonnie

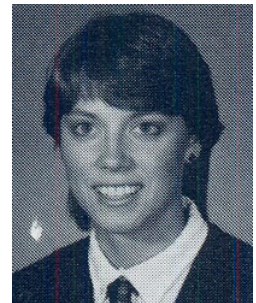


Carman (Burns) Mills

Currently work as the Executive Director of Montevideo HRA managing Parkview Tower, a 58-unit low-income apartment building. Volunteer by teaching 7th and 8th grade confirmation and by working with Montevideo Fiesta Days.

Peg (Aiken) Martin

I'm now retired physical therapist in Rice Lake Wisconsin. Married Roger Martin ('82). We have a 28 y.o. daughter who is a Marriage and Family therapist in Des Moines. We loved raising her in Iowa and now enjoy living in NW Wisconsin, traveling, curling, snowshoeing, hiking and cruising on the pontoon with a lovely beverage, and chatting with friends. My husband and I own Cabin Coffee - Rice Lake. If anyone comes through the area, please stop and say hello.



Rachel (Peterson) Gerhartz

Our daughter Alea was married to Brock Kolander on Oct. 2, 2021.

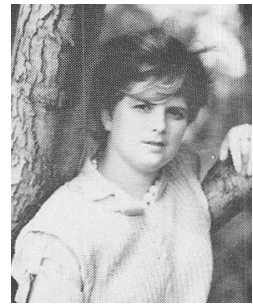


Sue (Carlson) Traxler

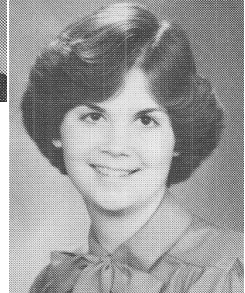
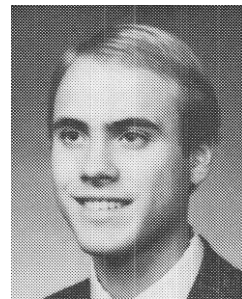
I retired from teaching in June of 2021 after 34 years of service to Stillwater Public Schools in Stillwater, Minnesota.

**Michele Thomaier**

I am in the process of writing a illustrated children's story based on Thea historical character on Nova Scotias Oak Island. I am actually working with the staff and owners on the island. They are connected to History Channels Curse of Oak Island TV show. The release of the book is due in the spring. I never believed that I would ever make any use of my history degree from Concordia but at 61 years I am. On another note I was awarded Cass County Democratic Person of the year this December.

**Mark Astrup & Cheryl (Roskopf) Astrup**

We live in Cold Spring, MN. Cheryl works as an Americorp Reading Corp specialist at Cold Spring Elementary. Mark accepted a new call to be interim pastor of Zion Lutheran / Litchfield, MN, recently resigning his call as pastor of Peace Lutheran / Cold Spring where he had served since 2012. "On firm foundation grounded...": we are grateful for our Concordia education and friends.

**Patty (Payton) Skroch**

Gary and Patty are enjoying retirement, grateful for our health and that of our family. We are also celebrating our son starting his professional career with a technology consulting firm. We are looking forward to getting him settled into his own place soon and then relocating to a retirement home on a lake up north. More to come as we break ground soon!!



Paul Aaron Hanson

Entering my ninth year as President of the Sanford Health Sioux Falls market. Sioux Falls is booming as a community and that success has carried over to our organization. The issues we face are similar to what I'm assuming many of you are experiencing, we need more workers. Certainly a challenging time. I continue to be busy with a number of state and local boards, including the: South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations - Chair of the Board, Forward Sioux Falls - Co-Chairman, South Dakota State Chamber - Board of Director, University of South Dakota Foundation - Board of Director, Augustana Special Task Force on D1 Athletics - Executive Committee Member, Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce - Chair Elect, South Dakota Chapter of American College of Healthcare Executives - 2021 Senior Leadership Award, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra - Board of Director, City of Sioux Falls - The Link Center Board of Director, and Sanford Health Sioux Falls market - Board of Director.

My wife Paige and I have enjoyed the opportunity to see many parts of the world over the past several years and are looking to do more of that as Covid restrictions are eased. I don't have any immediate plans for retirement, but we have built a home in the Phoenix, AZ area and have enjoyed long weekends and some holidays there. Nice getting out of the winter elements of South Dakota! If life wasn't crazy enough when we built in AZ, we decided to build a new home in Sioux Falls as well. It was surprisingly an enjoyable experience and we are pleased with the outcome of both homes.

Our children are doing very well. My daughter Cass is an educator in the Grand Forks, North Dakota school system and she and her husband are the proud parents of two very busy boys, Isaac (10) and Sam (8). Daughter Kari is enjoying life in Tampa Bay, Florida and is working for Centene as a Senior Project Manager. My son Matthew is working for a venture capitalist group in the Tempe, Arizona area as the Director of Finance, and last but not least, our son Michael is enjoying a "gap" year prior to beginning law school on the east coast.

Wishing all of you health and wellness for 2022!

**Jill Sailer**

Activity in my town of Hettinger, ND is slow. I'm finding time to catch up on reading and craft projects. I work four days a week at West River Health Services in Health Information Management. I'm finding time to help my parents with their chores. Have a good year Class of '86!

Janet (Allen) Gruenberg

After a year's delay, we were able to celebrate our oldest daughter's wedding in August. It was so much fun and well worth the wait. We have also dipped our toes back into travel and have visited Mexico and the DR in the past year. We can't wait to get back to Europe.



I just made a job change to our parent organization, Cancer Support Community, to become the Senior Director of Strategic Growth. I am working to expand our network of partners around North America as well as expanding the reach of our existing partners. In case you haven't heard of us, we are a non-profit focused on bringing social and emotional support to individuals impacted by cancer. For anyone who lives in the Twin Cities, Gilda's Club is a part of our organization. In keeping with the changes COVID has brought us all, I am able to work 100% remotely so no move to Washington, DC was required. I hope you are all healthy and well!

Stacy (Gilchrist) Lear

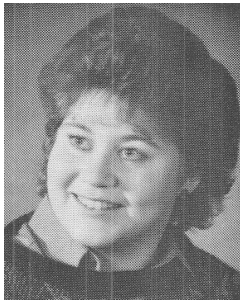
2021 was an eventful year for me and my family. I retired from the Federal Government having worked in contracts and finance for the Defense Health Agency. My retirement was bittersweet. I so enjoyed working with all my colleagues, many of them for my entire (almost 21 year) government career, including my supervisor.

Along with retiring, my husband Dave (already retired since 2015) and I searched for and bought a new house. We had lived in Springfield, VA (near Washington, DC) since we married in 1988 but the traffic congestion became tiresome. We looked both in Albuquerque, NM and around the Winchester, VA area. While we both absolutely love NM, with COVID we couldn't fly out to look in person, so we did everything virtually. We had a great realtor who was very patient with us. But, in the end it was just too hard. So, we finally found a place in Lake Frederick, VA, about 1 ¼ hours from our old house west on I-66, south of Winchester, VA. The community has a lake, hence the name, managed by the Virginia Wildlife so there is ample opportunity for Dave to go fishing.



Our son John (30) is a Physicist working at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) in Dahlgren, VA. His big news is that he and his girlfriend Emely got engaged this year! As Emely is in graduate school the wedding is planned for fall 2023.

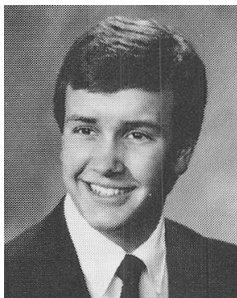
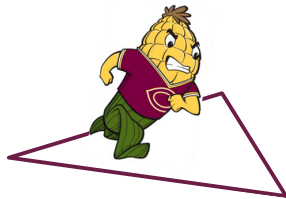
My parents are still living in Moorhead, MN and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2021. We had planned to visit last year but thought better of it due to COVID. So, we're hoping to get there in 2022.

**Joyce (Jacobson) Cole**

This past year, I started a new position with ProPharma Group as their Training and Development Manager, Americas. I am adjusting to working remotely on a permanent basis. While Covid kept us from large gatherings, we did a lot of kayaking and started a DIY Bathroom renovation that will never end. On New Year's Eve my husband and I celebrated our 5th anniversary skiing and snowshoeing in Michigan. Finally, we learned we are joining the grandparent club in April 2022.

Lana Siewert-Olson

This last year brought great news and challenging news. We are now grandparents to Henrik; this photo is of him eating his first food, asparagus. 😊 Our company, Ideal Printers, was cyberattacked – it was a painful experience, but we lived through it.

**Mike Lee**

Hello my Cobber Friends!! Things around the Lee house are good. I retired from fulltime work in June. I still run a wood working business that makes one-off custom pieces. Keep an eye out for "The Gray Haired Craftsman" in the spring. (grayhairedcraftsman.com) My wife is the literacy coordinator for our local school district. She missed out on the educators "Rule of 90" so she heads to the salt mines every day.

My daughter just got engaged to a young man from the Morris area. They both live and work in our small town of Cottonwood. My son works at Action Manufacturing, my previous employer, and lives in Marshall. He really enjoys the process of marketing the Action Trackchair (an army tank like wheel chair) and the positive impact it has on the customers. I truly feel blessed to be able to see my kids weekly. Not sure if they feel the same way??

Since my retirement, I spend a lot of time in the woods where I hunted and trapped from September thru December. The freezers are full, my hides are tanned and my soul is happy. Now I am back at home and undergoing "Sawdust Therapy" daily. I hope that you are all doing well!! We are now the rough age of our parents when we were in college. Just think about that!! Stay Healthy, Stay Strong, and Stay Happy!!!

Carol Demuth

Carol was blessed to marry Kevin Lunde and to gain an amazing family! She's now a grateful mom of a wonderful son & daughter, has a terrific son-in-law and an adorable 5 year old grandson! She always hoped and prayed for a large happy family and God answered those prayers abundantly!

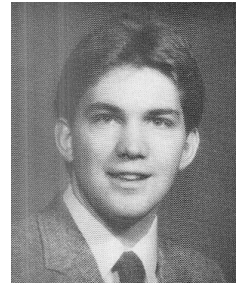
Not only do all of Kevin's super siblings live locally, but his dear deceased wife's family has enthusiastically welcomed her as well! She is surrounded with loving family! Carol continues to work at Navistar as Senior Manager of Global Trade Compliance & Due Diligence.

Eric Swendsrud

General Contracting is booming for me. Covid has done nothing but increase the amount of home remodeling projects. We are empty nesters now! My oldest two daughters are happily married and my youngest moved out and got her own apartment in Minneapolis. Michelle and I are loving having the home to ourselves. It was an adjustment at first but I definitely can get used to this. We spend a lot of time with our 3-year-old grandson and 1-year-old granddaughter. They live over in Robbinsdale and it makes an easy trip over from Fridley. God is good and I am very grateful!

Greg Gardner

I completed my first full year as a full time cyber security instructor teaching ethical hacking and network defense. I was honored to be selected as Best New cyber Instructor in North America for EC-Council in 2021, and I was named employee of the year for 2021 at ACI Learning.

**Bruce D Chambers**

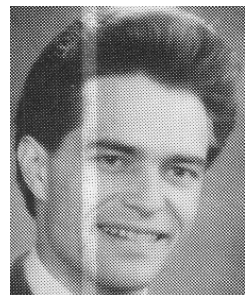
In February I started as a Legal Office Assistant with the Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Labor and Industries Division, Seattle section.

Deanna Edwards

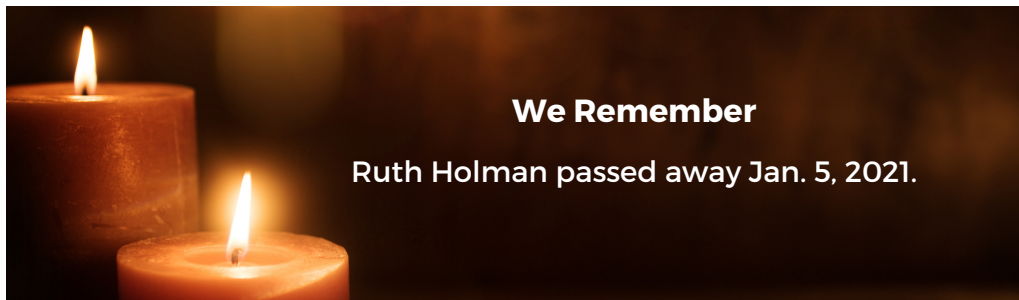
I started a new job as a team member at Culver's in Fargo, ND in May 2021.

**Dan Ankerfelt**

Dan Ankerfelt is currently driving School bus in the Richfield, Minnesota area as well as serving as visitation & confirmation pastor at Diamond Lake Lutheran- Minneapolis. Dan is also tuning pianos on the side and hopes to become a registered piano technician into retirement.



Ann (Schomburg) Sneiders – Hi All, Our daughter managed to get married in between Michigan's mask mandates last fall. It was wonderful and stressful all at the same time, as I'm sure many of you understand. Aside from that event, I've been staying close to home and updating the house, which involves frequent trips to Lowes – probably far more than should be necessary, but that's how house projects seem to go, right? I'm going to need a larger tool chest soon and my son is loving that. My pediatric practice is staying busy with more illnesses this year, thanks to no masks in schools and the ongoing pandemic, but still less illness than most years. Work guidelines for quarantines, masks, goggles, gowns, where to see patients, when to see patients, etc, seem to change daily. Hopefully we will glimpse a light at the end of the tunnel soon. Take care and stay safe!



Soli Deo Gloria!



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