



Class Letter

FEB/MAR 2022

CLASS OF 1989

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

It's not time to escape. It's time to engage.

The recent Superbowl commercial with Matthew McConaughey spoofs Elon Musk and other billionaires for their extravagant lifestyles, but it also makes a good point. Our lives and our work are in our homes and communities. However overwhelming the world can seem to be some days I hope that each of you is making time for whatever is most important in your life.

Concordia College continues to evolve with the changing times.

Concordia Leads: The Plan for 2030 highlights the goals of Transformational Learning, Excellence through Diversity, Wholeness and Health of the Community, and a strong Financial Foundation. I would encourage you to take a few moments to read a summary of the plan by clicking this [Strategic Plan](https://concordia-www.s3.amazonaws.com/files/resources/strategicplan-2.pdf) link or copy/paste into your browser <https://concordia-www.s3.amazonaws.com/files/resources/strategicplan-2.pdf>

A few of the major changes coming out of the strategic plan include the tuition reset in 2020 that lowered tuition by more than 35% to clarify the direct cost of attendance and to showcase the value of a Concordia education.

The Three Schools, One College initiative organizes the academic program into three major categories, leaning into opportunities to partner with businesses in the community to provide students an opportunity to learn through doing. They are named

- 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 has recently been named the first dean of the Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions. Dr. Halaas was also honored in 2021 with the Alumni Achievement Award. She will assume the role July 1, 2022.

And the most recent initiative hopes to engage our cadre of 32,000 alumni. The Cobber Ambassador program provides an opportunity for alumni to engage directly with the affairs of the current life of the college and its students.

The Cobber Ambassador program has four main focus areas:

- Referring and recruiting new students
- Connecting with current students
- Engaging our community
- Communicating our mission

Whether you are a in a profession looking for qualified employees, you are proud of your Concordia tradition, or you know young people who are planning to go to college soon, I hope you will take time to join me as a Cobber Ambassador.

Advancing the Mission | Cobber Ambassador Program

Learn more or sign up to become an Ambassador at ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/cobber-ambassador-program



In October I began my term as President of the National Alumni Association. It has been an honor to serve on the Alumni Board, and being President I also get to serve as a non-voting member on the Board of Regents. I will tell you that brings a whole new perspective to understanding the operation of the college. With President Craft's announced retirement in July 2023, the search of the next Presidential of Concordia College has begun. I am fortunate to have been included as a member of that committee and I look forward to the work ahead.



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.

It is going to be a busy couple of years at Concordia. Keep reading below for more campus and class member news. Please watch for updates on social media and through other College updates. I will do my best to cross post important updates on the Class of 1989 Concordia College Facebook page so please join if you are not already a member.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111177342307102>

Wishing you all a wonderful 2022, hope to see you at a Concordia event soon!

Soli deo Gloria.

- Jeff Cadwell, Class Agent

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.



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 displayed in white and yellow text on a dark maroon rectangular background. The word "cobbers" is in white, and "give" is in yellow.

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 1989 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

Class Member Updates



Jeff and Sue Cadwell - moved to Park Rapids when Jeff got a new job as County Administrator for Hubbard County. We are enjoying all of the recreational opportunities that the Heartland Lakes area has to offer and enjoy being closer to friends and family.

Yvette Zeece - accepted a full-time teaching position with Spring Lake Park High School as an EBD Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. I am enrolled in my Master of Arts in Special Education at St. Thomas. When I am all finished I will have my ABS in Special Education.

Mark Peterson - successfully completed his eighth marathon in Des Moines last October, posting a time of 3:44:56, and running a negative split (meaning the 2nd half was faster than the first half).

Pete Fuglestad - retired from Stillwater Middle School science one year ago after a 26-year career. Empty nester now with a son at Century College and daughter at Northwestern University MN. I am a cancer survivor and am in remission and all is well for my health. I miss the fun years and Concordia... although retirement is fun too! :)



Peer J. Svenkerud - as of May 1st 2021 I took on the position as rector/president of Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences. The University has about 16,000 students and 1,300 employees.





Julie Lamont - took a new job with Baylor Scott & White Institute for Rehabilitation in Central Scheduling. Moving to Argyle, TX in April 2022, depending when you send this I will have already moved. We have one daughter at OU and second daughter to attend this fall. We traveled to Deer Valley, Utah this past summer to raft, hike and relax.



Mike Knutson - Jackie (Mack '88) and I moved from Portland, OR to Soldotna, Alaska in the fall of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are enjoying the outdoors, including quite a bit of cross-country skiing!



Paul Bummer and Jeannie Nagore - are enjoying the retired life! Spending summers in Montana, and winters in Arizona. We enjoy spending time in the great outdoors, and hunting with our two Springer Spaniel puppies (Ruger, and Toby) which are quite the bird hunting duo. We are living life and thanking God for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us.

Jeff Johnson - after 20 years in government, politics and law, I moved on last year to the nonprofit world as Executive Director/CEO of Can Do Canines. We're a 32-year-old organization that raises and trains assistance dogs for children and adults with disabilities. We're the largest such organization in the Midwest and one of the largest in the world. I wouldn't trade my political experiences for anything, but this has been an awesome change for me.

Lisa (Gunderson) Tonder - has been a statistician with Medtronic, Inc for 30 years and has been recently promoted to Distinguished Statistician in the Neuromodulation business. She is working on a video that talks about what it is like to have a career in Clinical Research. If you have anyone interested in a career in clinical research, you can send the e-mail address to lisa.tonder@medtronic.com and she can get you the zoom link when it is ready. Pre-covid she brought students and professors from the Concordia Math and Neuroscience departments to Medtronic to learn about clinical research, visit with staff, and get a facility tour.

Photo shared by Janine Munneke Johnson - six '89 Cobbers gathered in Colorado: Tami Jenks Kreitinger, Tammy Schjenken Anderson, Sue Wahlberg Grafstrom, Janine Munneke Johnson, Andrea Olson, and Sondi Lee Johnson



Sarah Banks - is a Child Protection Specialist at Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services, Willmar, MN. Our family loves to travel to Florida. We enjoy spending time with family & friends. We also enjoy DIY projects around our home and yard.



Reid Stedje, Amy (1990)
Nicole 6/96
Allison 3/99

Heidi Gjengdahl - added another Cobber to the family as daughter Annika became a freshman at Concordia in the fall of 2021. Her twin is a freshman nearby at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Brian Glynn - has been a School psychologist in Northern MN for 30 years and is nearing retirement.

Kelly (Frank) Johnson - recently retired in July 2021 from Sidney Public Schools. I was a teacher for 19 years and the middle school principal for the last 13 years.



Terri Ellingson Cheney - started working for one of my professional heroes, Michael Allen! I'm officially a Learning Experience Designer at Allen Interactions. I also took my first "real" vacation (not attached to work or study) since a family trip in high school. Husband Lloyd and I spent a glorious Christmas in Hawaii

Rhonda Kalvig - Ken Kalvig ('90) passed away unexpectedly from a massive stroke on May 23, 2021 at Logan Health. He is survived by his loving wife, Rhonda ('89) and their three children all of Kalispell, MT. Ken was owner and practicing attorney of Kalvig Law Firm, P.C. at the time of his death.



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.

Godfrey Achaw
Trude Andersen
Astrid Bartvedt
Erik Bergh
Darryl Carpenter
Timothy Christensen
Amy Christianson
Kari (Haugen) Gabree
David Hagen
Rochelle (Sprunk) Henderson
Vincent Hermanson
Timothy Ingersoll
Debra Jagow
Cynthia (Hinrichs) Kessler
Colette Knutson

Lisa (Braaten) Leick
Thi Nguyen
Line Nilssen
Peter Nitschke
Mark R. Olson
John Pokrzywinski
Craig Price
Susan Rasmussen
Elsa Ressel
Eric Reynolds
Angela Ricci
Andrew K. Roberts
Anne Rostad
Sharon (Engberg) Staton



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