



Class Letter

MARCH 2022

CLASS OF 1993

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.

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 1993 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

Hello Class of 1993 friends!



Once again, I sit down to write our class letter under the duress of having received a nastygram from the alumni department 'reminding' me that it's past due. I wanted to explain to them that I've simply been too busy, but.....well.....that would be a lie.

I mean, I have a career and stuff like everyone else, but I'm not sure that trying to get through all the episodes of 'Inventing Anna' on Netflix or listening to Air Supply albums in our music room at night really qualifies as 'busy'. I appreciate all of you that sent updates.....it really helps in putting the letter together. I'm going to kick things off right away by sharing my significant life update—I get to park in the garage!! We have a three stall garage, and since our four kids started driving, I have been banished to the driveway. The garage lineup has included my wife's Subaru (I'm told that's non-negotiable) and some combination of kids' cars and my 2000 Ford Ranger that I mostly use for hauling grass in the summer. There have been glimpses of hope for getting an inside parking space, but we've had some boomerang kids over the past few years that have taken turns occupying it. Being a dad, I guess I've always agreed to this because....well.....that's what dads do. As of last Wednesday, my older daughter moved out (again) and my youngest is still at college, so I have assumed possession of the garage door opener!! Anyway, when I was at Concordia from 1989-1993 and you had asked me what ambitions I had for when I was 51 years old, 'parking inside' might not have seemed like I was exactly shooting for the stars, but at this point, I'm really grateful to not have to scrape windows in the morning. It turns out some of you have much more significant and exciting updates....

Updates from Classmates

Sarah (Kakac) Fisher; Horace, ND sent the following update, "I am a CNA at Sanford Health. My husband is a realtor for Park Co Realtors. We are busy with our children and 3 grandchildren. We lost a son in 2018 and started a foundation **CROSSES FOR CAMERON**. We speak to any group about organ donation and his gift of life. We also created the Garden of Healing by the Scheels arena. It is a place where everyone can come to find healing from all kinds of loss and to honor those who have survived a life trauma or just to reflect on health and healing. Life is busy but thankful for Gods Blessings"

For more Garden of Healing information:

701-729-8283

info@gardenofhealingfargo.com



Greg Heinecke; Rogers, MN says, “Logan Heinecke (Class of 2021) graduated from Concordia in the spring and is working for Allianz while Carlie Heinecke (Class of 2023) is junior and on the track team. Karin is an account service manager for United Health Group, and I am Spectrum Middle School's principal, a charter school in Elk River, MN.”

Julie (Johnson) Erlandsen; Carver, MN, sent this update, “I completed Graduate School through Concordia University. Now I have a K-12 Literacy endorsement. I also Waterskied every month of the year in MN!”



Tanya (Stafsholt) Miller; Park Rapids, MN, reports, “I have an empty nest now, so I decided to go back to school! My daughter Emma is at UND studying international business. My other daughter, Anna, is in France for a year, as an au pair. She has a great family with two beautiful little girls to take care of. I am looking forward to visiting her once school gets out in June.

I am still teaching high school English at Park Rapids High School. I am also the head speech coach, and we are gearing up for the season. Actually, I just brought my team to Concordia for a speech clinic with Dr. Najla Amundson and some of the Cobber speech team and faculty! It was great fun to be back on campus! I spent a lot of time in the black box and mainstage theatres, and I was brought back to those days as soon as I walked in the building. It still smells the same! I found a couple of old yearbooks while I was there and showed some of my kids. They said that the hairstyles back then were "fluffy!" haha!



I am currently a Dragon (again!) I decided to get a doctorate in Educational Leadership. I have completed my first semester, which was hard, but not impossible, so I guess I will survive.

Being on campus sure brought back a lot of good memories. Thanks to all of you who contributed to those golden moments!”

Ann (Schroeder) Taylor; Crawfordsville, IN, sent this update, "I'm now Senior Associate Dean of the College at Wabash College in addition to being a Chemistry Professor there."

Finally, **Karl Carlson;** West Bismarck, ND, has the following update, "Along with the excitement of getting to finally park in the garage, some secondary events that happened with our family this year include our son's wedding and older daughter's engagement"



Sadly, I have to report on the passing of our 1993 classmate **John Waller** on September 11, 2021. If you knew John or are in contact with his family, please support them in whatever way possible. News like this always catches me a little off guard and reminds me of how important it is to connect with the important people in our lives.



Please reach out to the college or me (kc@bis.midco.net, 701-471-9164) with any updates or just to chat. I'd love to hear from you. We have a significant reunion (30 years????) coming up quickly in 2023, I hope many of you will plan to come back to campus so we can talk about all the great memories from the past and complain about our current ailments.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Karl Carlson



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