Class Letter

MARCH 2022 | CLASS OF 1996 | 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**

A CENTURY TOGETHER
STRONGER THAN EVER
100 YEARS OF 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!

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 1996 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

Greetings Class of 1996

Your class is currently without a class agent and we'd love help finding one! Class agents aim to keep classmates connected to each other and the college. To accomplish this, agents write the annual class letter, forward any stories and updates received from classmates to the alumni office, assist in special events and activities, and work with the reunion planning committee during their reunion years. If you are curious about the details please contact Karen Carlson at carlsonk@cord.edu

The updates we received

Jeffrey Bipes: Jeff is now a Vice President in IT working for Johnson Brothers, and wife, Kristy is an EL teacher working at Mounds View Schools. They live in Shoreview and have three children Leila (2007), Marit (2009), and Noelle (2012).

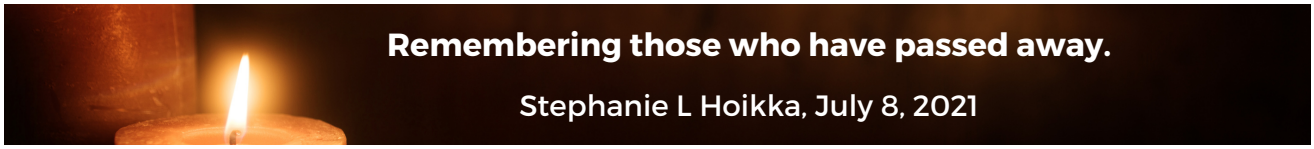
Gregory Hausler: I've had an employment change to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 569 in San Diego, CA.

Liesl Bell-Fleming: I live in Shakopee with husband, Christopher and have two children Samuel Bell (2006) and Noah Bell (2008). We welcomed our first grandchild, a boy, Barret Alexander Fleming in December 2021. (pictured)

HELP US LOCATE

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.

Aune, Gudrun E.
Bartelt, Rebecca K.
Berg, Peder B.
Bieberly, Johanna M.
Byars, Christopher D.
Childs, Andrew C.
Dicken, Lisa R.
Dinu, Adriana
Droneck, Scott R.
Harmon, Amber Lea
Hummelvoll, Rune A.
Johnson, Leah D.
Johnson, S L.
Johnson, Shaun L.
Keseric, Nikola
Magana, Edna I.
Maras, Stephanie J.
Myrhaug, Hanne G.
Nelson, David D.
Nelson, Mark A.
Rembacz, Jodie E.
Rosenberg, Reidun
Ruhl, Susanne C.
Rupsis, Kimberly R.
Shaffer, Michelle D.
Smaagaard, Krysta L.
Smedstad Strommen, Inger H.
Solhaug, Erik T.
Solvie, Chad M.
Stene, Eirik M.
Tangen Weaver, Sonya K.
Toni, Conrad C.
Veselovskaya, Elizabeth
Voldner, Alexandra E.
Waaler, Unn-Helen
Wadhams, Robert B.
Waldman, Kirsten J.
Walsh, William T.
Wiechers, Silke M.
Wright, Traci N.
Yndestad, Tamra S.



Remembering those who have passed away.

Stephanie L Hoikka, July 8, 2021

CONCORDIA COLLEGE
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA
901 8th St S | Moorhead, MN 56562 | 218.299.4000