



Greetings!

Wow folks, how is it already time for another class update? 2021 seems to have flown by and been another year of continual adjustments yet it appears that we're finally getting back to a sense of normalcy in most parts of the country. It's great to see people once again gathering as families, communities, in schools and activities. May this coming year be one where you and your families are able to find goodness and joy wherever possible. Personally, this year has been off to an extremely jam-packed start, full of competing priorities with work, family life, kids' sports, and homestead chores that never seem to end. Wishing you all a wonderful year ahead and that you find some enjoyment reading the updates about Concordia, our classmates, and related matters that follow.

Campus Updates & Happenings

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.

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

Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas 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.



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.



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

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 and "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.

The Concordia Choir

2022 will once again allow for the tour schedule to resume! This year it will cover the Southwest United States, over the course of 17-days taking them through California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, as well as five concerts across Minnesota. This will be the first tour concert with 1998 classmate Dr. Michael Culloton as conductor. More information can be found by visiting: ConcordiaCollege.edu/ChoirTour



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.

Homecoming this year will be **October 7-9, 2022**. Watch for updates at ConcordiaCollege.edu/homecoming

As an important reminder, Homecoming in 2023 will mark our **25th reunion!** Be sure to pencil homecoming into your calendars now as it's sure to be a very distinct celebration and a special time to reconnect for us all. Anyone wishing to help with Homecoming please reach out to me!



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



Class Updates

Our classmates continue to have new and exciting happenings going on. See a couple of fun updates below!

Shana Heinricy is now the Director of Marketing and Communications at KensieMae.

Congratulations Shana! Incredible news!



Andrea (Roers) Ranstrom started a new job as Human Resources Manager for Growth Operators in Minneapolis.

Great update! You'll do fantastic things!

Lost classmates!

It's great to see how close many of us have stayed over the years and share with each other many of these get-togethers and events via digital media. However, Concordia records show they have lost touch with some of our 1998 classmates. If you see someone you know in the list below, please reach out to Concordia or me with their contact information. Alternatively, you can also just encourage them to update their information on the web concordiacollege.edu/alumni/class-notes/. **We would really love to reconnect with all our lost classmates and make sure that all are invited to our 25th reunion next year!**

Nader Abdou
Ravi Asthana
Anthony Athmann
Marsha Berger
Caid Calloway
Daniel Crary
Angela Flaaten
Amy (Zierden) Haw

Amund Honningstad
Todd Hull
Amy Johansen
Nicole Jones
Heidi (Engesser) Lee
Ann Kristin Marthinsen
Maria Melville
Sarah Miller

Jana Murphy
Karey Nienaber
Kerry Nistler
Jaynie Rude
Rachael (Selfridge) Sjostrom
Tanya Taylor
Angela Varriano

Our Giving

The generous giving by Concordia Alumni continues to be so very amazing!

cobbersgive

We can pay forward the generous scholarships we received as students by supporting this new generation of Cobbers. Together we help make sure 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*.

Another awesome thing in place is our **Class of 1998 Legacy Scholarship**. Thus far we have had one student awardee and are half-way to awarding a second \$5,000 scholarship. When making gifts to Concordia, if you'd like to designate specific support for this effort, just add a note in the description line or memo section of a check, **"Class of 1998 Legacy Scholarship"**. This can be applied to recurring donations, and when made before April 30th goes toward the Fall award. Together we can have another significant impact for a student.

Here's a highlight from our inaugural student recipient:



"Thank you for the generosity of the Class of 1998 Legacy Scholarship. My experience at Concordia College has been great. I have only heard great things about this school, and so far, I am finding out that this is true. Last year for hockey we lost in the first round of play-offs, so as a team we are hoping to get past the first round this year.

I am currently accepted into the nursing program here at Concordia I am enjoying it. Some of the classes are getting hard and stressful but I guess that's what college is for. I just decided earlier this week that I will be working towards a nutrition minor, so that's kind of exciting.

*Thanks again for the scholarship,
Michael Johnson '22
Thief River Falls, MN
Major – Nursing
Minor – Nutrition"*



THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLASS WHO MADE A GIFT!

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 '98 can truly make a difference in the lives of current students.

Final Thoughts

I truly hope that all of you and your families have a most wonderful year ahead. Keep exemplifying what being a Cobber means, going forth and continuing to serve. Cobbers truly make a difference in this world for so many that are touched by our network. Please consider becoming a Concordia Ambassador, hosting a Corn Feed, participating in S.A.L.T. (Students + Alumni Linked Together), or just making a phone call to someone to reconnect.

Should you wish to help with our Class communications, Facebook group administration, or next year's reunion planning and event, don't hesitate to get in touch with me, or the Alumni office!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Seth G. Thomas
Concordia Class Agent, 1998
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