2001 Cobbers

CLASSMATE NEWS
LOYAL COBBERS
COLLEGE UPDATE

2019 ANNUAL LETTER

Do you know where this photo was taken?
If so, email me at sknathangmail.com to win happy mail!
Another academic year has passed and our beloved alma mater continues as a dynamic institution, posted to send young people into the world as leaders. There’s no way to encapsulate all that happened over the last 12 months into a single letter, so I’ll share a few highlights.

I know there are many concert choir members and fans in our class. So I wanted to make sure you all heard that Dr. René Clausen announced that he will retire following the 2019-20 academic year. If he was influential in your Concordia journey, I have no doubt he’d enjoy a note of appreciation in this final year.

If there was any doubt that the future is female: last years Concordia had only one team – women’s basketball – with a female head coach. Today, with the hiring of new volleyball head coach Faith Dooley, the Cobbers now have 5 additional female head coaches mentoring student/athletes. The rise of female head coaches was recognized by University of Minnesota’s Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport in their 2018-19 coaching report card that cited Concordia as the top college in the MIAC for the increase in female head coaches over the past year. #RollCobbs
I remember many a late night studying in the Normandy eating french fries. Well now, the Center for Student Success has a new home in the Normandy. The beautifully renovated space is open and light making for an inviting space for students. The center includes academic support, Orientation and First-Year Transition Programming, the Peer Mentor program, and the Diversity Coordinator for Student Support Services.

Mark your summer calendar ASAP! Corn feeds are happening all around the country again this summer. You can find all the locations and details at: https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/corn-feeds/

Here’s some useful news for a young professional in your life: Concordia’s outstanding tradition of preparing students for medical school is now available to those who have completed an undergraduate degree. This intensive, 1 year program is designed for highly motivated individuals with excellent academic records, who have earned a bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year institution, but lack most or all of the prerequisite science courses needed for admission to medical school. Our program is ideal for career changers, and individuals deciding later in their academic journey, to pursue a career in medicine. #themoreyouknow
Elisabeth Cherland was hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Gustavus Adolphus College starting in September of 2019. She will conduct the Choir of Christ Chapel, the Lucia Singers, and teach choral methods, conducting, and other music courses. Elisabeth will move to St. Peter, MN with her husband Kent Narum (also class of 2001) and their two sons Elijah (11) and Leif (8). She is looking forward to returning to Minnesota and being a part of the Lutheran choral tradition at one of Concordia’s sister colleges. Way to go, Dr. Cherland!

On January 1st this year Kevin Kaiser started a new role as Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church in Minong, WI.

Emily Rankin is the Deputy Headmaster at the The English College in Prague, Czech Republic. She was named the Regional Lead of @WomenEdCzech, an organization based out of the UK. She and her spouse welcomed Ilona to their family last year.

Beth (Karsky) Haglin writes: I finally used all three teaching licenses that our education department required us to get (K, Elem Ed, and a Middle School licensure). I am now in my second year of teaching 7th/8th Grade Math at Maple Lake High School. I am thankful for all the opportunities I have had because of my varied licensure!


Kyla (Rasmussen) Sikorski is living life in Germany. Her husband is an Active Duty Army Officer and brought the family to Stuttgart the summer of 2017. Since then Kyla has her first paying job since the year she left Active Duty herself. She is the Office Administrator for the Special Education Department at her daughter’s elementary school. She is a Girl Scout Leader for both of her daughters’ troops. She’s also been very active costuming for the local community theatre. The show she was the head Costume Designer for “Madagascar, A Musical Adventure Jr.” is up for a TOPPERS award (European Community Theatre Tony Awards). Kyla is also cast onstage for the first time in 22 years, as an ensemble member for “Mamma Mia!”

Dijon (Duncan) Davis is the Associate Director of Marketing at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana, IL.
THANKS to our 51 classmates who made philanthropic contributions to the college in the last year. Your gifts equaled $18,582.75 which was deployed to help students through scholarship support. Since graduating, our class has given a total of $168,170.72. How cool is that? What an amazing impact we continue to have on generations of Cobbers. I hope you’ll join me in making a gift this year.

Stay in touch with your classmates and get updates from yours truly by joining and following our class Facebook group. https://www.facebook.com/groups/143839649021975/

Seriously, FB groups are pretty much where it’s at these days. :)

Here’s to another year of living the mission,
Sarah Nathan

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