

CLASS OF 2003 - WINTER 2022



Future Cobber...who knows?

This kiddo experienced his very first Concordia Corn Feed last summer. The company was awesome and the sweet corn was on point. But I forgot to bring my dental floss (again)...and he got himself stuck on top of the playground equipment. Being a parent is fun.

The last time I wrote, I had mentioned that my time on the National Alumni Board was coming to an end. I ended up being wrong.

I'm now vice president of the Board (Vice President Cheney, yes...I know). The National Alumni Board gathers on campus three weekends each year and does committee-based work virtually in between those meetings. That means I get a lot of information about what's happening at Concordia. A lot.

Here's what I'm most excited about right now: Cobber Ambassador Program. [Read more here.](#) 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. That's all of YOU. Please join me in becoming a Cobber Ambassador.

And, it's easier than ever to refer a future Cobber. Do you want Concordia on your child's short list? How about someone you know from the community? A neighbor? A student? [Click here](#) to refer a Cobber today. I believe you receive a complimentary gift, too.

Finally, here's some new and exciting news. Classmate Cory Hepola has just been named to receive Concordia's 2022 Sent Forth Award. Cory is the host of WCCO's radio show "Hey, It's Cory Hepola." He is a former television news anchor, winning two Emmy Awards for Outstanding TV Anchor.



Congratulations, Cory!

With that, here are your 2022 updates – from classmates and from campus.

Cornfully yours,

Liz (Maiers) Cheney

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Class Agent, Class Giving Representative and National Alumni Board Vice President



CLASS ‘KERNELS’

- **Tonia (Busse) Bryant** is Manager of Regulatory Affairs for medical device company SunTech Medical, Inc., located in Morrisville, NC.
- **Kindra Hall** wrote and published another book. *Choose your Story, Change your Life* was released in January 2022.
- **Annie Jacobsen** completed a fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at the University of Minnesota and is now a practicing Hematologist and Oncologist with HealthPartners in St. Paul and Stillwater, MN.
- **Jennifer (Rian) Kleinjung** and Sean Kleinjung welcomed a son, Lucas Alexander Skarin Kleinjung, into the world in August 2021.



- **Kateri Mancini** and Michael Gallagher, along with their four children, welcomed another blessed addition, Francis Daniel Gallagher-Mancini, to their family in March 2021 (pictured at left in his complimentary Lil' Niblet shirt).

- **Kari (Osmondson) Patnode** and Derek Patnode welcomed a child, Zepherin Patnode, to the world in April 2021.

- **Emily Skoblik-Diallo** (pictured below) and Samballa Diallo welcomed Tapa Elliot Skoblik Diallo to the world in October 2021.



Remember to submit your life updates for our next letter. New job, child, career accomplishment, degree, milestone event and more.

If you're excited about it, submit it [here](#).

The fall of 2023 will be our **20-year reunion**. Well that sure went fast.

The dates for Homecoming 2023 aren't set yet, but I hope you'll keep it in mind.

Come home and see what's changed on campus and off. Enjoy a meal at Dining Services. Hit up the Cobber Bookstore for some new gear. Visit with professors. Hang out at Mick's Office and eat a greasy burger.

Homecoming is more fun with friends, so start the conversation now and make it a weekend!

CONCORDIA 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 begun the work of 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 Lorentzen 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 was 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.



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 take any opportunity that reduces risk to prioritize in-person learning and working as we have been able to continue for the 2021-2022 academic year.

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 more superior and modern experience for students and guests
- A gas firepit was installed on campus near the 8th St entrance to Knutson Campus Center
- An Indoor Performance Center for Golf was added in Olson Forum using the latest simulator technology providing year-round training for the men's and women's golf programs
- This summer an expansion will take place in Olson Forum of the exercise balcony



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

Giving Update

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.

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 2003 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

2021 Sent Forth Award

Recognizes young alumni who have distinguished themselves early on in their careers and service to others. For graduates of less than 20 years, the Sent Forth Award is reserved for alumni who have shown vocational precociousness.



Judge Jade
Rosenfeldt '05
Clay County
Courthouse
Seventh Judicial
District



Stephen Letnes '00
Founder, Executive
Director
Able Artist
Foundation

2021 Alumni Achievement Award

The college's highest honor for alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and service to others. The AAA is reserved for alumni at the pinnacle of their vocational life.



Fay Ferguson '73
Co-CEO
Burrell
Communications
Group



Dr. Gwen
(Wagstrom) Halaas
'75
Vice chancellor for
Academic Affairs
and professor
Washington State
University Health
Sciences



Harold D. Pope '77
Senior counsel
Dykema Gossett,
PLLC



Dr. Corey Teigen
'86
Chief Scientific
Officer
Penumbra, Inc.
Vascular and
interventional
radiologist,
researcher and
developer

Read more and nominate deserving alumni at
ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition

