

SUMMER 2018



15 years? 15 years!

It's true. 15 years have passed since we graduated from Concordia. Where has life taken you in those 15 years?

Let's catch up with each other at our 15-year reunion happening this fall. Plan on coming back to your Concordia home September 28-30, 2018.

Several (amazing) classmates are working to plan our reunion activities and spread the word with our networks. Here is what we know so far about our class-specific activities:

Saturday, Sept. 29:

- Breakfast gathering at the brand new Integrated Science Center, Room 301 – an exclusive sneak-peek at this new classroom in the heart of campus, with a comfy and cozy twist!
- Campus tour – our time on campus represents a rare time at Concordia, during which no major capital improvement projects occurred. This tour is for our class only, so we can hear the new Concordia story and 'pitch' for prospective students and see new facilities.
- Evening gathering at [Wild Terra Cider House](#) in Fargo.

Of course, there are alumni-wide activities throughout the weekend as well, like the parade, football game, worship services and more.

Now...I'll be honest. Homecoming wasn't really a 'thing' for me when I was a student. But through my involvement on the National Alumni Board, I've now experienced Homecoming through the alumni lens. And it's pretty great. There is something special, maybe even magical, about coming back and tooling around campus, checking out the new buildings and feeling that Cobber pride all over again.

Come home, Class of 2003. Join us the last weekend in September and let's catch up!

Liz (Maiers) Cheney, liz.cheney@hotmail.com
Class Agent and National Alumni Board Member



CLASS "KERNELS"

- **Gretchen (Wester) Blakeney** and husband Bill Blakeney welcomed a baby boy, Cormac Wester, on May 26, 2015. Cormac joins siblings Ruby Anne and William Jasper.
- **Lisa (Waldrup) Erickson** and husband Nick Erickson welcomed a baby girl, Julia Erickson, on June 17, 2017. Julia joins big sister Elizabeth, both pictured at right.
- **Jim Farnsworth** is now Mechanical Engineering Team Leader at Hypertherm, Inc. in New Brighton, MN.
- **Rachel (Clarens) Farnsworth** passed away at the age of 36 after a short, 4-month battle with liver cancer. Rachel leaves behind her husband Jim and four young children. You can read her full obituary [here](#).
- **Annie Jacobsen, MD**, is now Hematology/Oncology Fellow at the University of Minnesota.
- **Alison (Blake) Jones** and husband Aaron Jones welcomed a baby boy, Shepherd Patrick, on August 16, 2016.
- **Jennifer (Rian) Kleinjung** married Sean Kleinjung on April 29, 2017.
- **Honorary Classmate Mark J. Lindquist** continues to dazzle crowds with his voice and will be singing the National Anthem at five NFL games this coming season, including Thursday Night Football for the Pittsburgh Steelers (Nov. 8) and Bears vs. Lions at Soldier Field in Chicago on Veteran's Day for their Salute to Service game. And, he continues his motivational speaking at about 100 corporate conferences annually.
- **Marija Reiff** is now Assistant Professor of English at American University of Sharjah. In addition, she received a PhD in English from the University of Iowa on May 10, 2018.
- **Amanda (Storm) Schuster** is now Vice President of Advancement at the Women's Foundation of Minnesota in Minneapolis.
- **Emily Skoblik-Diallo** married Samballa Diallo on August 12, 2016. Emily is Business Development and Sponsorship Manager at Next Avenue – Twin Cities PBS in St. Paul. She also recently served as Arts and Entertainment Speaker Curator for TEDxMinneapolis.
- **Elizabeth (Wolf) Smith** and husband Christopher Smith welcomed a baby boy, Alexander Logan, on November 25, 2017.
- **Tally (McEvers) Tinjum**, pictured at right with her dissertation chair Dr. Barbara St. Pierre-Schneider, received a PhD in nursing from the University of Nevada Las Vegas on May 13, 2017.



THINKING BACK 5 YEARS...



Our 10-year reunion breakfast event – we had a full room!



Club 26 “The Raggedys” at our evening gathering



A quick visit to Park Region Hall



Our breakfast event

Our 15-Year Reunion Team includes the following amazing Cobbers. And...there's always room for more! Contact me at liz.cheney@hotmail.com to learn more.

- Andrew Atchison
- Michelle (Latt) Atchison
- Melissa (Stenehjem) Buchhop
- Liz (Maiers) Cheney
- Nathan Gossai
- Mikal Kenfield
- Candace Knight
- Katrina “Kit” (Hageman) Metcalf
- Salome (Hammond) Okoh
- Treavor Peterson
- Steve Sjoberg
- Megan Zayic

CONCORDIA NEWS

[Check out this video update](#) from President Craft to hear the latest and greatest Concordia news.

Concordia Language Villages:

The summer of 2017 continued a three-year trend of strong enrollment, with over 4,580 villagers and families attending a Concordia Language Villages' program. Registration for the summer of 2018 continues that upward trend in enrollment, demonstrating the value placed on world language and culture education.

CLV received the largest gift in its history from Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park: \$5 million to support the first phase of construction of the Korean Language Village on Turtle River Lake. The gift was given in celebration of 30 years of language and culture at Sup sogŭi Hosu, the Korean Language Village. Additionally, the Language Villages will recognize and celebrate 35 years of Sēn Lín Hú, the Chinese Language Village, with a special program prior to International Day on August 10.

Music:

- In May, the Concordia Orchestra spent two weeks on a cultural immersion trip in Greece, visiting eight cities and performing several concerts.
- The 2016 Concordia Christmas Concert "Gather Us In, O Child of Peace" earned a regional Emmy award for special event coverage. This is the second time a Concordia Christmas Concert has received the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy award.
- Dr. Rene Clausen was honored with the Weston H. Noble Award for Lifetime Achievement at the 2018 ACDA Central and North Central Conference this year. Clausen is in his 32nd year at Concordia College as the conductor of The Concordia Choir.

Athletics:

- Senior Bailey Hovland broke several throwing records this year, winning the MIAC Championship and breaking the conference meet record in the hammer throw. Hovland's hammer mark qualified her for the Women's Track and Field Nationals Meet this spring.
- Brandon Zylstra '15 signed a reserve/futures deal with the Minnesota Vikings for the upcoming season, after two successful seasons with the Edmonton Eskimos. Zylstra caught 100 passes for a league-best 1,687 yards in 2017.
- Head Tennis Coach Joseph Murrey was named 2018 MIAC Coach of the Year after leading the team to the conference postseason for the first time since 2011.
- Becca O'Shurak has been hired as the first female head coach of women's soccer. O'Shurak has previously served as assistant coach at Youngstown State and Tennessee Tech University.
- Chad Johnson was named the Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation. He is only the second athlete from the MIAC to receive the honor. This honor is in addition to his MIAC All-Conference Awards (3 years) and the 2017 MIAC MVP Award he received earlier this year.

- Rachel Bergeson has accepted the offer to serve as Concordia's athletic director. Rachel has served as the interim athletic director since April. Prior to that role she was deputy athletics director, the senior woman administrator, and compliance officer for Concordia and also served as interim athletic director during the 2016-17 athletic season. Before taking on her role as the top women's administrator in the athletic department, Bergeson was the assistant coach for the Cobber women's basketball team from 2007-11.

Other Updates:

- Concordia has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation in honor of former Mellon Foundation president Earl Lewis '78. This grant will be used for faculty development, scholarships for diverse students, program support for the Office of Diversity and support for the National Book Awards. This grant is in addition to the \$800,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation the college received earlier this year to support PEAK and diversity initiatives across campus.
- Rachel Schaefer '18 was named a Fulbright Scholar and will be working at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia next year.
- This past fall, Concordia College launched the RISE Campaign, a comprehensive fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$150 million by December 2019. These funds will be used to support three pillars of the Concordia experience: integrative learning, inclusive learning, and innovative learning. For more information, head to www.riseforconcordia.com.
- The Department of Chemistry celebrated 100 years in early March (Chemistry has been at Concordia 102 years, but the event was postponed until the completion of the new Integrated Science Center). The day-long celebration included talks from chemistry alumni from across the country, a career networking event for students and a banquet in the evening with Robert Homann, Professor Emeritus and Past Dean of the College.
- Over spring break, 130 students served out the mission of the college all over the country, participating in eight volunteer opportunities including: Habitat for Humanity trips to Louisiana, Florida and the Carolinas, a hurricane relief trip to Dallas, Justice Journey trips to New Orleans and El Paso, and High Impact Leadership trips to Milwaukee and Pittsburgh.



A Gift In Honor of Our Reunion:

Concordia continues to be an incredible higher education institution thanks in large part to generous supporters in each class. Your gifts create new opportunities for students, like state-of-the art learning environments at the Integrated Science Center and student scholarships.

This past year, our class had 9.03 percent participation and made gifts totaling \$12,332. And since graduation, support from our class exceeds \$90,000.

This year, as part of our reunion, we think we can do more. We set a goal in honor of our 15-year class reunion to increase our giving participation to 15 percent. Your gift of any size matters. Visit ConcordiaCollege.edu/reuniongiving, find our class and make your gift today.

I hope you will come home for our reunion Sept. 28-30.

I hope you will make a gift this year.

And, I hope you find a way to reconnect with your warm and fuzzy Cobber memories.

