I took this photo while I was on campus last fall for Homecoming and our 15-year reunion. And the banner didn’t lie…it was a great day to be a Cobber indeed.

A special thanks to the classmates that joined me in planning our reunion activities and helping to spread the word, including:

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

We were a small but mighty crowd that weekend, and the award for best dressed went to Brian Treece, who broke out his vintage SA gear for the breakfast event. Well played, Brian. Well played. Here he is, pictured with wife Brenda Boden.

One of our goals was to achieve 15 percent participation (in our class giving) during this reunion year. While we fell a little short, we did increase from 9.03 to 11.6 percent. Thank you to all who supported Concordia with a gift! Total gifts from our class now exceed $97,624.

Well, if you didn’t make it home last fall, the invitation always stands. Come home anytime. This year’s Homecoming is October 11-13, and there are always fun things to keep you busy.

Liz (Maiers) Cheney
liz.cheney@hotmail.com
Class Agent and National Alumni Board Member
• Haley Berry (front row on the left—with colleagues while taking a break during a volunteering shift at the Denver Rescue Mission) is VP of Client Service and Co-founder of Rule4 in Boulder, CO, a boutique firm that specializes in cybersecurity for AI/machine learning and big data environments, industrial Internet of Things, biomed, site reliability engineering, strategic technology planning, cybersecurity effectiveness and automation. In her role, she is spearheading the company’s certification as a B Corporation (placing people before profit and being held to the highest verified standards of transparency, accountability and social and environmental performance).

• Elizabeth (Sorenson) Brotten was named an Equity Partner at Foley & Mansfield, PLLP, in Minneapolis, MN. She was also elected to the law firm’s executive committee, which serves as managing body that oversees administrative, business and strategic functions for the firm’s 16 offices and 180+ attorneys nationwide. She devotes her practice to defending high-risk product liability and toxic tort cases, as well as commercial disputes.

• Rev. Robert Franek (pictured at right) became Interim Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Rockford, IL.

• Kindra (McGrane) Hall has written Stories That Stick: How Storytelling Can Captivate Customers, Influence Audiences and Transform Your Business (pre-orders available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bam! and Indie Bound).

• Annie Jacobsen, MD is Hematology and Oncology Fellow at University of Minnesota and received the Distinguished Resident Teaching Award from the University of Minnesota Medical School.

• Alison (Blake) Jones and husband Aaron Jones welcomed a baby boy, Porter Jones, on August 26, 2018. Porter joins big brother Shepherd Jones.

• Tammy (Noggle) Krogstad and husband Gary Krogstad welcomed a baby boy, Grayson Krogstad, on September 21, 2017.

• Kateri Mancini, MA is Director of Social Concerns at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud, MN. And, she and husband Michael Gallagher welcomed a baby boy, Gabriel Michael Gallagher-Mancini, on October 28, 2018. Gabriel joins siblings Adrian, Lilly and Layla.

• Timothy M. Schroeder and wife Michelle Schroeder welcomed a baby boy, Brayden T. Schroeder, on July 17, 2018.

• Steve Sjoberg is Manager of Communications and Public Relations at Cass County Electric Cooperative in Fargo, ND.
Concordia News

Concordia Language Villages
Summer 2018 was a busy one, with over 4,700 villagers and families from all over the world attending immersion programs at the Turtle River Lake sites just north of Bemidji and at other leased camps in northern Minnesota. This strong enrollment demonstrates the value families are placing on world language and culture education.

Thanks to a generous gift of $5 million from the Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park, the first phase of construction will begin of Sup sogŭi Hosu, the Korean Language Village, on Turtle River Lake.

The first Village built was Skogfjorden, the Norwegian Language Village, and that happened 50 years ago this summer. A special event to commemorate this milestone will be held on July 13. Sjölunden, the Swedish Language Village, celebrates its 45th summer with a midsommar event on August 3.

Music

Dr. René Clausen (pictured at left) announced he will retire following the 2019-20 academic year, concluding his service as professor of music and conductor of The Concordia Choir. Clausen is a leader in choral music as both a conductor and composer. He is the artistic director of the Concordia Christmas Concerts. In addition to composing arrangements and original pieces for Concordia ensembles, he has written dozens of commissioned compositions.

The Concordia Choir completed a highly successful tour through the Pacific Northwest in March. The Choir also had engagements with ten high school choirs, as well as The Choir of the West at Pacific Lutheran University and a collaboration concert with The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists at the Ordway in St. Paul.

The Concordia Orchestra completed a successful domestic tour with performances in Appleton, Wausau and Chippewa Falls in Wisconsin and Roseville, Sartell and Brainerd in Minnesota.

The Concordia Band was invited to perform at both the Minnesota Music Educators Association Mid-Winter Clinic in Minneapolis and the North Dakota Music Educators Association Conference in Bismarck. In addition, the band was invited to be the featured collegiate band at the Westman Honour Band concert at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. The band is in the beginning stages of planning its international tour to Spain in May of 2020.
Cobber Athletics
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 2018-2019 coaching report card, citing Concordia as the top college in the MIAC for the increase in female head coaches over the past year. Female head coaches include: Faith Dooley (volleyball), Kari Weidner-Ceniceros (women’s golf), Maureen Greiner (women’s hockey), Rebecca O’Shurak (women’s soccer) and Laura Januszewski (men’s and women’s cross country).

Concordia men’s track and field junior Matt Bye, Moorhead, won the heptathlon at this winter’s MIAC Indoor Championship Meet and went on to finish 11th in the event at nationals. Bye won the MIAC title with the second highest point total in school history.

The Cobber men’s hockey team earned its seventh consecutive berth in the MIAC playoffs this season. Concordia finished conference play with nine league wins, the most since the 2013 season. Sophomore forward Tyler Bossert, Fargo, led the MIAC in scoring and went on to earn All-American Second Team honors to become the ninth All-American in program history.

Other News
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.

The Center for Student Success (pictured at right) has a new home in what we called the Normandy. The center includes academic support, Orientation and First-Year Transition Programming, the Peer Mentor program and the Diversity Coordinator for Student Support Services.

More than 300 students presented their posters or spoke at concurrent sessions during Concordia’s 2019 Celebration of Student Scholarship (COSS). New this year were an art display with printmaking pieces and two sessions presented in Spanish.

A dinner was held April 4 to celebrate the naming of Dr. Dan Biebighauser as holder of The Sigurd and Pauline Prestegaard Mundhjeld Endowed Chair of Mathematics, recognizing his exemplary service in teaching and scholarship. Biebighauser is a 2002 graduate of Concordia and joined the faculty in 2006. Past holders of the honor include Dr. Bill Tomhave, Dr. James L. Forde, Dr. Alexander Sze and Dr. Gerald A. Heuer ’51.