



Class Letter

SPRING 2022

CLASS OF 2005

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

CAMPUS 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 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 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 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.



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

Giving Update

We can pay forward the generous scholarships we received as students by supporting this new generation of Cobbers.

Together, we help ensure that 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, which helps provide scholarships for students, and we have to say, this new generation of students.

THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLASS THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN GIVING!

The class of 2005 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



News & Notes

Stay up to date on news throughout the year and subscribe to our weekly email newsletter.

ConcordiaCollege.edu/news/news-and-notes

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 engage in risk-reducing practices to prioritize in-person learning and working through the academic year.

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 near the 8th Street entrance of the 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 an "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.

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**



Corn Feed Season is around the corner!

We will continue the tradition of hosting corn feeds in the summer and hope to see you!

Updates can be found at
ConcordiaCollege.edu/cornfeeds

Alumni Awards

Concordia has three categories of awards presented each year.

- **Called to Serve Award** is conferred upon alumni who have demonstrated notable commitment to the mission of the college through lifelong service to their faith communities, education, arts or other not-for-profit activities. Alumni of any year are eligible.
- **The Sent Forth Award** is conferred upon young alumni who have distinguished themselves early on in their careers and service to others. For graduates of less than 20 years, this award is reserved for alumni who have shown vocational precociousness.
- **The Alumni Achievement Award (AAA)**, the college's highest honor, is conferred upon alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and service to others. For graduates of 20 years or more, the AAA is reserved for alumni at the pinnacle of their vocational life.

2021 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients



Co-CEO Burrell
Communications
Group

Fay Ferguson '73



Vice chancellor for Academic
Affairs and professor,
Washington State University
Health Sciences

Dr. Gwen (Wagstrom) Halaas '75



Senior counsel at
Dykema Gossett, PLLC

Harold D. Pope '77



Vascular and interventional
radiologist, researcher, and
developer, and Chief Scientific
Officer, Penumbra, Inc.

Dr. Corey Teigen '86

2021 Sent Forth Recipients



Founder, Executive Director
Able Artist Foundation

Stephen Letnes '00



Clay County Courthouse
Seventh Judicial District

Judge Jade Rosenfeldt '05

Nominations Always Open

To read more about these recipients or to nominate a deserving alumni, go to
ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition

Class Updates from the Alumni Office

Sarah Olson

We (husband Dustin & I) began the adoption process in the fall of 2017 and were chosen by our birth mother in December 2020. Our daughter Genevieve was born on January 1, 2021. We are loving life as a family of three!

Benjamin Nylander

Living in Jordan, MN with spouse Heather and four children Alyvia (2013), Tenly (2015), Meyla (2017) and Griffynn (2020).

Patrick Amundson

I was selected for both promotion to Commander and selection for Commodities Manager, Defense Logistics Agency, Philadelphia. Our (Emily & my) son, Tiernan, born in England, celebrated his 1st birthday.

Solveig Notsch

Solveig is currently working in Kelliher Minnesota at Kelliher school as a mental health practitioner, teaching children skills to manage mental health symptoms. Solveig also has her own photography business (Solview Photography) and continues to enjoy photographing everything around her. She and her husband Mark celebrated their 6th wedding anniversary this August and continue to work on improving their farm and taking care of their many animals in Blackduck, Minnesota.

Lori (Knapp) Kettner

This year has been a double wedding season for tailoring! It has been such an exciting season; people who had already planned to wed in 2021 and people who had to wait a year due to Covid closures. I work for the best people!

My family has been busy as well! Jacob (16) is making great progress on his swim team and Ben (9) is entering his 3rd year of guitar lessons. My husband Matt is our hero! He is entering his 21st year with Bobcat Company. He helps the boys get to all their important events since I cannot (low vision prohibits me from driving a vehicle). We've enjoyed completing house projects together this year, my favorite being the installation of a gorgeous antique newel post and new railing in our entry ways open stairwell.

I am So Eager to pole vault in this springs Alumni Track Meet!! I am almost 44. Life is good!

Catherine (Jones) Robello

Living in Bodega, CA with husband, Gilbert, and son Mason born March 3, 2021.

Katie (Cordell) Weaver

Living in Plainfield, IN with husband James ('05). Received my Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Notre Dame July 2021.

Meredith (Stromborg) Wagner

I am an associate professor and chair in the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Exercise Science at Concordia. I also direct the combined Dietetic Internship and Master of Science in Nutrition.

My husband, Andrew, is a Clinical Informatics Specialist at Sanford Health in Fargo.

Our son, Collin, began kindergarten this year at Oak Grove Lutheran Elementary.

Our daughter, Moira, is enjoying pre-school at Bright Futures in West Fargo.

We have enjoyed spending time with family and friends at Pelican Lake, participating in our son's Cub Scout activities, and spending time together as a family.

Kelly (Havig) Smith

We are living in Dillon, MT. I work for the hospital here and my husband is an electrician. My daughters are about to turn 10. I had the chance to meet up with my freshman roommate Jennifer (St. John) Chastek for a few days, who I had not seen since graduation!!! Also, found out that my good friend/running buddy, is an alum! In southwest MT, this is a crazy coincidence!

**Erin (Kuehl) Doll**

We (Tony & I) added baby Rory to our family in January 2021! He joins his big brother Bode who turns 3 in March 2022.

Sonja (Olson) Dewing

Living in Inver Grove Heights, MN with spouse Adam and two children, Sarah (2018) and Jane (2021).

**Jennifer (Matz) Hass**

Living in Moorhead, MN and have two children Jackson (2013) and Jordyn (2016).



If you know any classmate listed below please help to update their information by contacting the Alumni Office. Email to alumni@cord.edu or call 218.299.3734 or by going to ConcordiaCollege.edu/classnotes We would love to update their records. Thank you if you've already done so.

Anderson, Ann M.
Atitsogbui, Stephanie A.
Bakke, April D.
Beyer, Natalie A.
Buelow, Anna M.
Dilger, Jeffrey E.
Donlan, Mary K.
Fugleberg, Angela F.
Gebrekidan, Hagos G.
Gullings, Kyle S.
Harden, Danielle M.
Hartzell, Charity R.
Haugard, Sonja
Haughton, Joseph M.

Honebrink, Gail A.
Jorgenson, Nicole R.
Keller, Keziah L.
Kelly, Jason P.
LeVesque, Christopher T.
Logan, Sarah K.
Lundgren, Carole M.
McNelly, Brian M.
Moen, Kristin M.
Niezel, Peggy
Noel, Harmonijoie
Olson, Sonja J.
Orekoya, Toluwalope
Peterson, Tracy H.

Richardson, Suntell F.
Rivard, Andrea A.
Ronken, Kelly L.
Sackey, Beauclerc A.
Samson, Matthew D.
Solum, Laura A.
Son, Irina S.
Turner, Emily K.



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