

Dear Class of 2005,

If you take away anything from this year's class letter, take away this – NEXT YEAR IS OUR 15 YEAR REUNION! I hope that many of you will mark your calendar and plan to attend Homecoming in 2020. And, if you'd like to help organize events for our reunion class, please email me at [emeyerco@gmail.com](mailto:emeyerco@gmail.com).

As I think about our 15 year reunion, I often get nostalgic about my college days – sometimes I even look back at those first Facebook memories I posted during our senior year. A lot has changed, and we've all grown in our lives (and I don't just mean in our waistlines)... Our class is lucky to have technology that's allowed us to stay connected, even as we moved, married, traveled, started families, gotten jobs and promotions – whatever your life has brought you since you walked across the graduation stage. Even though we've read one another's social media posts, and hit those like and love buttons, I challenge you to make connections and share your updates face-to-face at Homecoming next year.

Even though many of us have stayed connected over the years, Concordia has lost touch with some of our 2005 classmates, if you see someone you know in the list below, please reach out to Concordia or me with their contact information. We'd love to reconnect with all of our **lost classmates** and have everyone invited to our reunion next year.

Anderson, Ann M.	Atitsogbui, Stephanie A.	Bakke, April D.
Beyer, Natalie A.	Borah, Ann M.	Buelow, Anna M.
Dilger, Jeffrey E.	Donlan, Mary K.	Gebrekidan, Hagos G.
Gullings, Kyle S.	Hartzell, Charity R.	Haugard, Sonja
Haughton, Joseph M.	Heald, Brian M.	Honebrink, Gail A.
Jorgenson, Nicole R.	Keller, Keziah L.	Kelly, Jason P.
Logan, Sarah K.	Lundgren, Carole M.	Moen, Kristin M.
Niezel, Peggy	Noel, Harmonijoie	Orekoya, Toluwalope
Peterson, Tracy H.	Rivard, Andrea A.	Ronken, Kelly L.
Sackey, Beauclerc A.	Samson, Matthew D.	Solum, Laura A.
Son, Irina S.	Turner, Emily K.	

I'm pleased that so many of you reached out this year and stayed connected with Concordia and with your 2005 classmates! If you have a class update, Concordia and I would LOVE to hear from you! To submit your update, visit: [cord.edu/classnotes](http://cord.edu/classnotes). And without further ado, our most recent class updates are:

Wesley Russell Hughes was born to **Derek Hughes ('05)** and his wife Krysten Edwards. Westley joins big brothers Jonah and Elliot.

On January 13, 2018, **Erin Fitzgerald ('05)** married Michael Dobozy. Shortly after their marriage, in February, Erin was promoted to Attorney Advisor at the Federal Communications Commission. Congratulations on both, Erin!

**Tracy (Williams) Parks ('05)** and her husband Robert welcomed a baby boy, Gavin Parks, on April 10, 2018.

Erik Arthun ('04) and **Mallory (Graham) Arthun ('05)** welcomed their son, Oskar Graham Arthun, on April 19, 2018.

**Natasha (Saxton) Smith ('05)** and her husband, Dan, welcomed a baby boy, Kane, on August 1, 2018. He weighed 6 lbs 4 oz and was 20" long.

**Millicent Goodermont ('05)** became an Account Representative with the Hertz Corporation in March. Congrats on your new position.

**Briana (Johnson) Villegas ('05)** married Alejandro Villegas on December 20, 2018. The couple welcomed their son, Bjørn Villegas, in July of the previous year. Their family currently resides in Montana.

**Angie (Gradin) Fogel ('05)** and her husband Jon Fogel had a baby girl, Edie Kaye Fogel, on February 13, 2019.

Our last class note is a difficult one. This past year, on December 5, 2018 one of our classmates, **Kimberly Ann Winnege**, passed away. Many of our classmates will remember Kim for her outgoing personality, her love and acceptance of all, her extraordinary writing talents, her creativity, and so much more. Kim was a beautiful soul and bright spot in our class – she will be forever missed. Please give your prayers and support to her family and friends who were closest to her.

Not only does our class have a lot going on, but so does Concordia. Here's a little bit about what's happening on campus this summer:

### Music

-Dr. René Clausen announced that 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 a 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 including "MEMORIAL" and "Crying for a Dream" for the American Choral Directors Association. Clausen was also commissioned by Concordia to create a major work in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The work is titled "The Passion of Jesus Christ" and premiered at Orchestra Hall in 2017. President William Craft noted in an announcement to the Concordia community that throughout his work at the college Clausen has lived the mission of The Concordia Choir "to uphold a sacred choral tradition through the uncompromising and unrelenting collaborative pursuit of musical integrity and spiritual expression."

-The Concordia Choir completed a highly successful tour through the Pacific Northwest in March. The tour featured concerts in Washington, Oregon, Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota. 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. Work is now being done to plan the Choir's 2020 tour to the Southeast United States. Updates and more information can be found at [www.TheConcordiaChoir.org](http://www.TheConcordiaChoir.org).

-The Concordia Orchestra completed a very successful fall domestic tour with performances in Appleton, Wausau and Chippewa Falls in Wisconsin and Roseville, Sartell and Brainerd in Minnesota. Repertoire included *Symphony No. 3* by Florence Price, *Scheherazade* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and *Concerto for Trombone* by Jim Pugh, which featured Concordia Professor of Low Brass Dr. Nathaniel Dickey on trombone. Also joining the tour was guest conductor Christoph Rehli-Fankhauser, professor of conducting at the Lucerne University of Music in Switzerland.

-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 also invited to be the featured collegiate band at the Westman Honour Band concert at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. As part of their annual domestic tour, the band performed a joint concert with the Encore Wind Ensemble in St. Paul, MN as well as concerts in St. Anthony Village, Albany and Staples-Motley, all in Minnesota. The band is in the beginning stages of planning their international tour to Spain in May of 2020.

### Cobber Athletics

- In the spring of 2018, Concordia had only one team – women's basketball – with a female head coach. Fast forward one year, and with the hiring of new volleyball head coach Faith Dooley, the Cobbers now have 5 additional female head coaches mentoring student/athletes. Dooley, who was an All-American at the University of North Dakota, joins women's golf head coach Kari Weidner-Ceniceros, Maureen Greiner of women's hockey, Rebecca O'Shurak from women's soccer and NDSU All-American Laura Januszewski who coaches both the men's and women's cross country teams. 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.

- 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 the NCAA National Indoor Meet held in Boston, Mass. 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 which was 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, one 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.

-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.

### Fundraising Update

Concordia continues to have fundraising success due to generous supporters in each class. In the past few years, Concordia has continued to surpass fundraising goals which has created new opportunities for students.

This past year, our class had 12.42% participation and gave \$12,039.57. Since graduation, our class has given \$97,251.78 in outright gifts. As we look to our reunion next year, I hope more of you will consider making a reunion gift to the college. THANK YOU to all who've donated in the past, this year and who are making plans to donate in the future.

Lastly, I truly hope to see many of you at our reunion in 2020 during Concordia's Homecoming. Please reach out to me, if you'd like to be involved in the planning process. I'm excited to connect with you.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Erica (Hall) Meyer ('05)