



Class Letter

MARCH 2022

CLASS OF 2007

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Dear Concordia College Class of 2007,

This year is our 15-year reunion!! 15 years! Can you believe it? 15 years ago, we were looking ahead to our future with hope, goals and life ambitions. I hope that you have reached some of your goals, made pivots when necessary and still hold hope for many more wonderful years, because we are still young! (How many more years until we are 40?)

I have had the privilege of visiting Concordia a few times a year as an Alumni Board member and it has evolved significantly from the college we attended. Just like us, it's getting better with age. There are many improvements to campus and the academic offerings. Concordia now boasts several new beautiful buildings, reduced tuition as well as 3 schools in one College: School of Health Professions, School of Arts and Sciences and School of Business. The curriculum has also transitioned to advancing deep discussions about diversity and encouraging students to get involved. There are many other updates from Concordia that are mentioned in this letter.

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

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

If you have not been back for a while, or since graduation, make the plans to do it this fall. Although there are lots of changes, the Cobber air will bring back a nostalgic feeling that lets you jump back into college life....just as long as it's not jumping into Prexy's Pond. Who would ever do that, right?!

This fall for homecoming we will be taking part in several events. There's the Saturday parade, a class breakfast and a celebration Saturday night! Please keep your eyes peeled for event details through email, cord.edu/homecoming and Facebook!

And, to add to the nostalgia, we need your help. For the weekend events we'll be putting together a picture wall. Please send any pictures you would like included - they can be from college days or what you're up to now! You can send the pictures to s.ashleyguzman@gmail.com. We are so excited to see you and to welcome you home to Cobber Country! Can't join for Homecoming? Still send pictures!

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.

The logo for 'cobbersgive' is displayed on a dark purple rectangular background. The word 'cobbers' is in white lowercase letters, and 'give' is in yellow lowercase letters.

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 2007 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

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



Updates from Classmates

There are also some updates from our classmates. We love hearing about the milestones in your lives, so keep the updates coming.

- Congratulations to **Joshua Boss** who married Amanda Boss on 9/5/2020
- **Corene Freeman** (Knutson) and husband Tyler Freeman welcomed their daughter Valerie Ruth on 2.12.2021. They also have a son, Baxter born 4.12.2017



We would also like to take a moment to honor our Cobber classmate that has passed in 2020, **Justin Wreede**. May his family find peace and love during this time of sorrow. Our thoughts continued to be with former classmates **Christie (Brink) Englemann** and **Leanne (White) Miller**. This has been a tough season for many, losing loved ones and having to be apart from family and friends. We're excited to be able to get back together this fall.



We hope to see you all at Homecoming, it will be a great celebration!

Sincerely,

Sarah (Cobb) Guzman
And Dawn (Livingston) Damschen



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