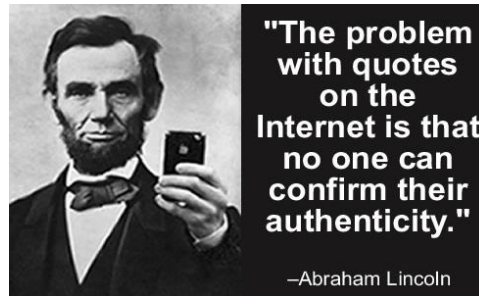




Greetings!

Hello everyone! Hope you all had another great year. The time, as always, is flying by. Thanks to those of you who provided your updates. I enjoy catching up with you guys each year. ☺

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.” – Abraham Lincoln* (*maybe? ☺)



Class Updates

- **Katrina (Corcoran) Holman** “The last year has been an opportunity for job-related travel, living first in Indiana, then Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and now Long Island, New York. Nicholas' job has taken us, and now baby James to places that have often been stereotyped, and its let us stay long enough to dig beneath the stereotypes to appreciate how unique these places and people are while still being unified in their willingness to live out the daily push for a better world. Nicholas is an apprentice electrical lineman, currently finishing up hours requirements for the journeyman lineman certification exam, and Katrina is taking this time to focus on living a more environmentally sustainable life as a housewife and a mother.”
- **Whitney (Derks) Mitchell** “Just shy of a year after relocating to Helena, MT, Joe and Whitney welcomed a healthy baby boy into their family. Archer Derks Mitchell is the first child of Joe and Whitney and is a happy, social little guy. Whitney continues to work as an Event Marketing Manager for Dynamic Communities, and enjoys being back in her home state. After 6 years with State Farm, Joe opened his own State Farm agency in Helena. We have both enjoyed reaching out and meeting Concordia alum living and working in Helena and have enjoyed the relationships we developed as a result.”
- **Amber (Sperling) Benoit** “Life is busy but great. Not much has changed since I last wrote. When my husband and I aren't busy working, you can find us camping or traveling with family, walking our dog, watching football, or trying new craft beers.”
- **David Bowman** “Lucas Martin Bowman was born on 4/14/18 to David and Trisha (Deblizen) Bowman ('09). He was 5 lbs 3 oz and 5.5 weeks early. Lucas stayed in the hospital for 27 days, but is now at home – healthy and happy!”



- **Michael Larson** “Michael, business graduate in 2011, worked in a business in the Fargo/Moorhead area and in the fall of 2013, moved to Ely to work for a company, Kondos, who manufactured camping and sled dog equipment. In 2014 he bought the business, moved it from its wilderness/garage situation to a building in the heart of Ely. He increased employees, provided retail opportunities to the public and has both a local and worldwide clientele including countries such as South Africa, Spain and Greenland. He is active in church and local activities including community orchestra ... These Concordia graduates have made a tremendous difference here in Ely and Concordia should feel proud to know that they are sending out talented and well trained people who not only do an outstanding job in their chosen fields but serve the community in countless ways. We sometimes think that the graduates will do their best when they are in the big cities but here they are making a difference in a city of under 4000, Ely.” – shared by Joan Larson to President Craft in a letter honoring three Concordia graduates in the town of Ely, MN
- **Britney Barnett** “After graduation I completed three amazing terms of service with AmeriCorps with the Montana Conservation Corps. Since 2015, I’ve continued to be a Youth Program Coordinator for the organization, engaging young adults in hands on conservation projects on our public lands in the west.”
- **Rachel Boyer** is now the Deputy Press Secretary of Sierra Club.
- **Katie (Gallup) Crawford** and her husband welcomed a baby boy, Miles Arlye Crawford, born Jan 10, 2018.
- **Jessica (Stuhr) Lehmann** and her husband welcomed a baby girl, Cecelia Lehmann, born Nov 8, 2017.
- **Jonathan Dove** and **Megan (Braaten) Dove** welcomed a baby boy, Jonathan Lynell Dove, born May 12, 2017.
- **Daidre Vaala-Logeais** married John Logeais on June 27, 2015. They welcomed their baby girl, Brynlee Madison, on July 7, 2017.
- **Christina Kirchner** received her Master of Arts degree for Journalism and Mass Communication: Concentration Health and Medical Journalism from the University of Georgia – Athens in May 2017. She is currently working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a Health Communications Specialist in Atlanta, GA.
- **Kirsten (Longbella) Waverek** is the owner of Studio West Homes in West Fargo, ND.
- **Kayla (Goetz) Anderson** “I’m still working in corporate relocation within the HR department at the Bobcat HQ in West Fargo. The past year was very eventful for my husband (Michael) and me. We got to travel to Europe twice (May and Nov. 2017) in conjunction with business trips of Michael’s, and during our vacation time we visited 7 different countries during those two trips (France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland). I’d been to Italy before during a Concordia Exploration Seminar my junior year, but it was my first time in all the other countries. I was able to work remotely during the days he was tied up with business, which was a nice perk of working with such a global population in my job. We also enjoyed a few days of skiing in Red Lodge with my family the week after Christmas, which was fun despite me having a really bad cold the entire time. We celebrated our first wedding anniversary at the



beginning of March with an extended weekend in the Cities to attend the FamilyLife Weekend to Remember marriage conference being held in downtown Minneapolis on the weekend of our anniversary. It was a good way to bring our first year of marriage to a close and kick off the next year well. Near the end of April, we closed on the purchase of our first house, in south West Fargo, and we moved in over Memorial Day weekend. In May I ran my 4th full marathon here in Fargo, and Michael was also promoted to Chief Engineer at his company, leading the engineering team. Between those things and the house purchase and moving, it's been a very busy spring for us and we are hoping to do some relaxing this summer."

- **Jaynie (Herbranson) Halvorson** It is with sadness that I share news of our classmate's passing. I have included her obituary:

Jaynie Halvorson, 28, died on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 in an automobile accident near Rollag, MN. Funeral services will be 11:00 AM, Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Barnesville High School with Rev. Jim Greene officiating. Burial will follow in Rollag Lutheran Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 9-11 AM, Saturday at the high school. Jaynie Renee Herbranson was born on June 9, 1989 to Dave and Joanne (Krabbenhoft) Herbranson in Fargo, ND. She was baptized and confirmed at Rollag Lutheran Church. She attended Atkinson Elementary School and graduated from Barnesville High School in 2007. In high school, Jaynie was involved in everything; volleyball, basketball, track, band, FFA, National Honor Society, Renaissance, Student Council, to name a few. Jaynie was involved in the community, where she was active at Rollag Lutheran Church, taught Sunday school, 4-H, Town and Country Softball to name a few. Following high school graduation, she attended Concordia College in Moorhead. She played basketball in college. She was united in marriage to Justin Earl Halvorson on July 27, 2012 at Rollag Lutheran Church. Jaynie went onto St. Kate's in the Twin Cities to obtain her Masters in Occupational Therapy. Jaynie worked for the Lake Agassiz Special Education Cooperative in many area schools including Barnesville, Hawley, Ulen, and Lake Park as an Occupational Therapist. She has coached girls' basketball, seventh grade boys' basketball, volleyball, track and speed and strength. Jaynie left an impact on everyone she met. Jaynie is survived by her husband Justin, 6 month old son Hoyt, parents Dave and Joanne Herbranson, Rollag, sisters: Laura (Paul) Anderson, Erica (Jordan) Zillmer, Nicole Herbranson, and two brothers Mason Herbranson and Simon Pender, Grandma Anna Herbranson, Grandma Betty Krabbenhoft, father and mother-in-law, John and Deanne Halvorson, sister-in-law Breanna (Jake Anderson) Halvorson, nieces and nephews Thomas, Will, and Henry Anderson and Alexis Halvorson. Jaynie was preceded in death by two grandpas: Duaine "Shorty" Krabbenhoft and Ted Herbranson. In lieu of flowers, memorials will be designated to a scholarship fund for Hoyt.

Lost List

This is a list of our classmates that the alumni office has lost touch with – they don't have contact info or know where they are or what they're up to! If you happen to be friends with any of them, please encourage them to update their information at cord.edu/classnotes ☺

Jordan Bense
Jihane Bousfiha
Philip Bruckbauer
Jessica Cary

Kibiru Ejigu
Joshua Ellens
Brittany Essig
Kate Hendrickson

Tyson Hill
Kelly Hofer
Megan Ireland
George Jacobson



Hannah Kennealy
Elisa Lange
Schanna Lawinger
Kirsten Longbella
Laura Marquardt
Rachel Mertens
Katherine Murnion
Tyler Nelson

Emma Noll
Megan Peterson
Megan Price
Emily Riihiluoma
Masaki Sato
Melissa Shoemaker
Gertrude Sommerfeld
Hanna Stevens

Rachel Sudermann
Amanda Svoboda
Shing Ho Tang
Brock Tostenson
Bethany Wager
Andreas Wolf
Mary Zeh

Homecoming

Celebrate Homecoming this year **September 24–30, 2018!**

Another fun new event coming up – the **Young Alumni Nostalgia Tour!** August 3-5, 2018
Spend the weekend on campus in a residence hall and enjoy games, Hands for Change, night at Mick's, and more! Cost is \$60 per person – check out the Facebook event and register now!

Social Media



Concordia College Class of 2011 facebook.com/groups/CobberClass2011/

Concordia College Alumni @CobberAlumni

Concordia College Young Alumni facebook.com/groups/2057143081235980/

Concordia College Facebook @concordiacollege

Concordia College Instagram @concordia_mn

Concordia College Twitter @Concordia_MN

Campus Updates

CLV:

- 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.
- Concordia Language Villages received the largest gift in its history from Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park: \$5M 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:

- This 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 1687 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 \$1,000,000 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 \$150,000,000 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, as the keynote speaker.
- Over spring break, 130 students served out the mission of the college all over the country, participating in 8 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.

Alumni Awards:

The National Alumni Board voted on the 2018 Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. To learn more about each award, visit Cord.edu/alumniawards.

2018 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

Charles Beck '48
Darnell Carter '75

Dr. Richard Sibley '67
Claudia Swendseid '78

2018 Sent Forth Recipients

Dr. Tammy Frisby '99

Arday Ardayfio '02

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 and can create new opportunities for students, including the completion of the Integrated Science Center and student scholarships.

This past year, our class had 6.18% participation and gave \$3,332.19. Since graduation, our class has given \$14,156.67 in outright gifts.

THANK YOU!



Until next time,

Amber Benoit

Amber (Sperling) Benoit