

Hey Class of 2012!

10 YEARS!! Can you believe it!? I hope that you've all had a wonderful past year and stayed healthy and happy! I look forward to us all getting together this Fall to celebrate the accomplishments and experiences we've had since graduating.

I will be in touch with more information on our Reunion. In the meantime, if you are interested in helping to plan or have ideas on what we could do, where we should go, how you want to celebrate – please reach out to me!



Take a moment to catch up with your class Cobbers below and read about what's going on around campus. I know it's much appreciated from the Alumni Office to hear from everyone, so remember that you can update your information at anytime at cord.edu/classnotes. Roll Cobbs!

CLASS UPDATES

Michelle (Opsahl) Anderson & Andrew Anderson – We gave birth to our second daughter in September 29, 2021, Allison Jo Anderson. She weighed 7lbs 15oz & 20 in long.



Amber (Chevalier) Plambeck – My husband and I have been married for 2 and half years. Our son is 16 months old as of January 2022. We are enjoying our new home in Fargo, and our 5 year old chocolate lab loves the backyard. I am working as a laboratory technician at North Dakota State University.



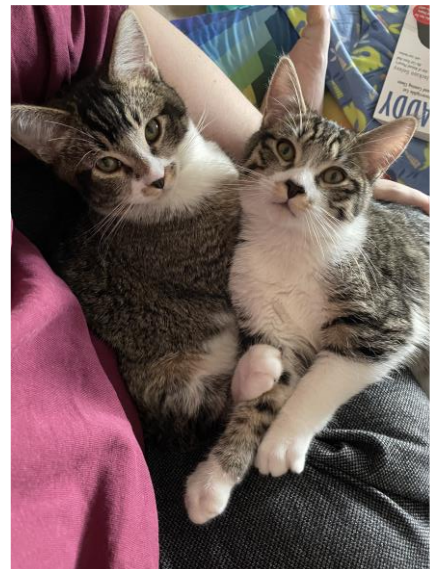
Anne (Jepson) Larson – We welcomed our third son, Johnathan David (J.D.) in April. I also switched jobs in September and am now the case manager at Mahnommen Health Center.

Jordan Lutz – Nicole and I welcomed our first child, Emmett William, on March 2nd, 2021. As such, our year has been filled with all manor of first experiences. We particularly love how he is already developing an affinity for books. We are fortunate for continued work through the gauntlet that is COVID - I serve as Sustainability Projects Manager at Bemidji State University and Nicole teaches kindergarten.

Amanda (May) Devine – On October 18th, we welcomed the newest addition to the Devine Family, Milo Lee.



Amanda (Delaney) Stolz - I finally got my dream job as a middle school band and orchestra director. My husband also was able to finally get a job in his field after dealing with Covid-related job search difficulties as the world shut down for two years. Stress is still quite high, though, with Covid all around, schools closing down again, concerts being scheduled and rescheduled with the possibility of distance learning, and losing our 15 year old cat back in November. On a happier note, though, we were able to welcome two handsome little kittens into our lives right before Christmas.



Britt Vander Eyk – When I look back at this past year, I can't help but be thankful for a year of fun, experiences and great memories! A few highlights: I traveled to Orange Beach, AL with a wonderful group of ladies, celebrated my Golden Birthday, enjoyed watching family and friends get married, became a Godmother, ran the Twin Cities 10 mile run (which was an amazing route!), and enjoyed time with family and friends near and far. I'm fortunate to have lots to look forward to this year – including running my first 26.2 miles in the Fargo Marathon in May! I hope to see many of you at the 10 year reunion!



Erin (Hencley) Gazich - I am working as a Nurse Practitioner in the Neuro ICU at United Hospital, going on 4 years there! My husband, Andrew works with pacemaker patients at Medtronic. We love our new addition, Madelyn Marie, who was born in May 2021!



Logan & Heather (Franzen) Rutten - Logan recently earned a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction with an Emphasis in Curriculum and Supervision and a Doctoral Minor in Educational Theory and Policy at the Pennsylvania State University. He is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar with the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education Initiative at Penn State where he designs and researches inquiry-based professional learning for educators addressing difficult topics in their classrooms, schools, and communities.

Heather was recently promoted to graduate student services in the School of Global Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the Pennsylvania State University. She also continues to show paintings in art exhibits across the United States (upcoming: Cult of Meow V at Gristle Art Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, September 2021).

Estelle (Richard) Hickman – Our family still lives in Cottage Grove, MN. Estelle changed career paths in 2019 and now works as a Senior Engineering Specialist for the State of Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety. She specializes in auditing pipeline operations and investigates pipeline incidents throughout the state. We are hoping to build a new home in the near-future. Our 2 year old daughter, Isla, keeps us laughing and busy with swimming lessons and gymnastics.



Alison Hall – Can't believe it's been ten years since graduation! Since then, I taught at various schools, 4th and 5th grade. I loved teaching but also have always had a passion for health & fitness. I got my personal training certification, and am currently working on my corrective exercise certification as well. I am now the Fitness Manager at Basecamp Fitness in Edina where I teach 15-20 classes a week and run the fitness side of the studio! I just got engaged on New Years Day and am now planning a wedding with my fiancé, Hunter, who is also a personal trainer! We are moving to the Portland, Maine area in May and are ready for a new adventure on the east coast!



Ashley (Dahl) Gilbertson – We welcomed our son, Evan in August of 2021. I also completed my Masters of Teaching English to Students of Other Languages (MATESOL) degree from Hamline University in December of 2021.

Elise (Tweten) Pokel – I'm currently serving as pastor at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis, MN. My husband, Andy, is a music teacher at Minnesota Transitions Academy. Our son, Fred, just turned 2. He's sassy and sweet! The more words he learns, the more he outsmarts us at every turn.



Ryan Fellman – I am currently in my first year of the doctoral program in choral conducting at Michigan State University. This past May I graduated from Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY with a Masters in choral conducting.



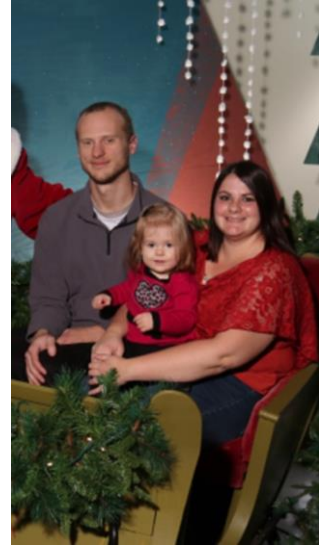
Janna Erickson - I graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and started a veterinary internship in Rhode Island. I intend to continue a career in emergency veterinary medicine.



Jordan (Marken) Sawicki - My family and I have just been trying to keep up with a one and a half year old who brings us so much joy! We still live in Detroit Lakes. My husband, Mitch, works for JDP Automation in Fargo and I recently scaled back to part-time teaching math online in order to be home with Hayden more.



Laura Kowatch Shypkowski - We've been living a quiet life since COVID hit and Liara was born. I (Laura) am on year four of teaching 6th grade Language Arts at Discovery Middle School (Fargo).



Sarah (Nick) Brenner – Corey ('11) and Sarah Brenner got married August 28, 2021.

Brianne (Thompson) O'Neill – This past year Bryce and I officially became Mr. & Mrs. O'Neill!



Lauren (Wingert) Rice - This year we gave birth to our first son, Jaxtyn. We call him Jax.



Gregory Clark - Corian ('11) and I moved to Fargo this year, along with our four cats: Minerva, Lucy, Edith, and Jean-Ralphio. The move from West Fargo was only a few short miles, but if you ask the cats, it was quite the grueling and traumatic journey.

Corian is in her second year as an elementary school librarian, which has been an exciting change for her, after being a classroom teacher for so many years.

I'm going on five years working for Sanford Health in their data analytics department.

Allison Pieri - Hi Cobbers!! Life has been a crazy ride since graduation but here is the latest news! My fiancé (Alex, non-Cobber but a huge fan of Kernel) and I are getting married this coming June. We have been working on gutting and remodeling our home in Bloomington, MN over the past four years and it has definitely been an adventure! We are looking forward to making it back up to campus this coming fall!



Denna (Francischetti) Stavig - Denna and Levi ('11) Stavig got married in Cordova, Alaska, where we currently live.



Andrew Eilola - In 2019 I was hired to be the Bradley University Director of Forensics which is still my job today. I competed on the speech team at Concordia and it was a life-changing experience that helped set me on a path toward my dream job. During the pandemic I adopted two cats, Mango & Kissa, and became a homeowner in Peoria, IL. I'm also hoping to graduate with a PhD in Health Communication from George Mason University later this year. I have many fond memories of my time as a Cobber. I hope everyone is happy and healthy!

Congratulations to all these Cobbers on their celebrations this past year!!

GIVING UPDATE

We can pay forward the generous scholarships we received as students by supporting this new generation of Cobbers. Together we help make sure 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*. **THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLASS WHO MADE A GIFT!**

Be on the lookout for the *Cobbers Give* campaign March 7-18; a generous alum will *add an additional \$100 to each of our gifts* to The Cobber Fund. The class of 2012 can truly make a difference in the lives of current students. Learn more of give online at ConcordiaCollege.edu/giving.

LOST LIST

The following is a list of classmates the alumni office doesn't have contact information for. If you know an email address or other contact info for any of these classmates, please encourage them to update their information at cord.edu/classnotes.

Brittany Anderson
Tarin Beireis
Brandy Crews
Zachary Deffinbaugh
Philip Nelson
Amanda Paulson
Anna (Dearth) Rice
Lee Shults
Skyler Vilt

Nathalie Fida Lassang
Angela Foreman
Katelyn Foster
Frank Grabanski
Yannick Ngongang Petnkeu
Kelsay Peterson
Felicia Schons
Ashley Stahowik

Demetria Hickson
Gerardo Leon-Aguliar
Krystal Mondor
Thomas Mammen
Edward O'Byrn
Jaclyn (Grefsrud) Porto
Shane Sessions
Taras Starheim

HOMECOMING 2022

Celebrate our 10 Year Reunion & Homecoming this Fall –October 7-9, 2022

For more details, visit: <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/homecoming/>

If you are interested in serving on the reunion planning team, please email bavandereyk@gmail.com!

CONNECT WITH CLASSMATES

Stay connected with your class and college!

Concordia College Class of 2012 facebook.com/groups/672653856115896

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

2022 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 as the new Executive Director for Faith and Learning. He will direct the Lorentzsen 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 the college's deep commitment to providing a transformational experience for every one of our students through learning, working and leadership. 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.

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

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 become an Ambassador at **ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/cobber-ambassador-program**

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 on campus near the 8th Street entrance to 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 and "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 in athletics.

Homecoming

100 Years of Homecoming was celebrated on campus in October 2021. The college was happy to successfully welcome back over 700 alumni and friends to celebrate 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 with the tradition of hosting corn feeds in the summer and hope to see you!

Updates can be found at **ConcordiaCollege.edu/cornfeeds**

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**

New Dean of Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions Announced

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.

News & Notes

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

ConcordiaCollege.edu/news/news-and-notes

Alumni Awards cont. on next page...



Alumni Awards

2021 Alumni Achievement Award

Fay Ferguson '73
Co-CEO Burrell
Communications
Group



Dr. Gwen (Wagstrom) Halaas '75
Vice chancellor for Academic Affairs
and professor Washington State
University Health Sciences



Harold D. Pope '77
Senior counsel at
Dykema Gossett, PLLC



Dr. Corey Teigen '86
Chief Scientific Officer
Penumbra, Inc.
Vascular and interventional
radiologist, researcher and
developer

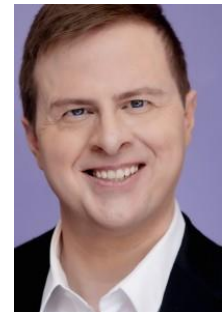


2021 Sent Forth Award

Judge Jade Rosenfeldt '05
Clay County Courthouse
Seventh Judicial District



Stephen Letnes '00
Founder, Executive Director
Able Artist Foundation



Nominations Always Open

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

See you all soon I hope!!

Britt Vander Eyk
2012 Class Agent