



Class Letter

SPRING 2022

CLASS OF 2015

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 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 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 2015 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

Chris Rackliffe

I continue to work for C.H. Robinson Worldwide as an HR Technology Analyst focused on recruiting. This past year I implemented a recruiting platform for our Oceania Talent Acquisition division and am working on doing the same for India and Sri Lanka Talent Acquisition.

I also volunteer my time through work as the Best Prep Coordinator at C.H. Robinson. Best Prep pairs a local high school with C.H. Robinson and then I recruit mentors (employees) at C.H. Robinson to talk to the high schoolers about their careers and professional experience. I also take as many volunteer opportunities as I can get to talk to high schoolers about college and planning for career opportunities.

During COVID besides caring for Theo and learning how to be parents, we continue to have a lot of fun with our golden doodle Bergin! I am planning on running my first marathon this year, and doing my third Olympic distance triathlon.



Steven and Megan (Donovan) Dotzler
7th year (of 8) of MDPHD program at Mayo Clinic. Finished PhD in cardiac gene therapy on 6/15/21, the day after our son Merlin James Dotzler was born. Back in clinical rotations for medical school and starting to plan for residency applications!

Sam and Abby (Berglund) Barney
Living in Danville, PA and have two children Henry (2018) and Franklin (2021)

Lynnea Eckhoff

I started a new job with Sanford Health in January of 2021 and relocated to Fargo with my two cats, Gatsby and Daisy.



Kristen (Solbrack) Wreede

Our first child, Chloe, was born May 2021.



Jake Krogstad and Marta Fitzer

Marta and I are currently living in St. Paul while I am finishing up my final year of medical school at the University of Minnesota and set to graduate May 2022. I will find out where I will be matching into a general surgery residency this March and we are expecting our first child this coming April! Marta is currently working as a Graphic Designer for a company based out of Eden Prairie but with the coming excitement who knows where 2022 will take us!



Paige (Olson) Albrecht

Nate ('13) and I welcomed our first baby, Caden, and have been navigating parenthood. Meanwhile, both of us working full-time jobs.

Jack Yakowicz

Living in Moorhead, MN.

Christine (Kuisle) Devitt

Living in Hopkins, MN with husband Adam ('16).

Ashley (Robideau) Getzloff

We (Casey and I) purchased a house, adopted a puppy, and I started graduate school.

Katharine Spencer

Living in Chicago with long time partner, Evan Higgins ('13). Working as a business analyst and fleet manager for a floral wholesale company.

Conor Roche

Got married August 14, 2021. Expecting a new member of the family August 23, 2022. Stacey got a job teaching nursing. Conor is halfway through his surgical residency.



Michael Chambers

Married in 2020 to Nate and we bought a house. Adopted a greyhound named Olive in 2021.

Katie (Ahlstrom) Dukatz

Tom and I had a busy 2021! In late February, we closed on our first home that we built in Centerville, MN. We also welcomed our first child on April 11th – about three months earlier than expected, just 25 weeks and 6 days into my pregnancy. He spent a few months in the NICU and was finally able to come home after 104 days in July. Cameron is growing well and so curious! Tom still works at Traveler’s Insurance, and I work at Real Chemistry (formerly W2O Group), a healthcare marketing agency – we’ve both been remote since March of 2020.



Jamil Maleki

Our family started out the year in West Fargo, then sold our house and moved to Boise, Idaho shortly after my daughter (Saoirse) turned one. We now moved back to West Fargo! I stay at home with my daughter currently and my husband works at Sanford in the nuclear medicine department.

Quinn Maroney-Hernandez

Quinn is children and couple's therapist and Jared ('14) is in nursing research. We have made the leap into foster parenting and welcomed a newborn in to our lives, who was born July 2021 and is the light of our lives! We have a home in South Minneapolis and love our little corner of the world.



Jess (Wagner) Flint

Enjoying married life with Anthony and children Jameson (6) and Noah (3).



Erin Bjerke

I live in Fargo and work at a Lutheran church in town as the office secretary and children's ministry director. In the fall of 2020 I started taking online classes from Luther Seminary in St. Paul for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. I'm excited to immediately use what I learn! In my spare time I've been spending a lot of time with family, including my niece and nephew. I also like to sew and crochet, and practice Taekwondo! I started doing Taekwondo when I was a freshman at Concordia, and now, by the time you read this, I will have earned my 2nd degree blackbelt.



Taylor (Wrege) Williamson

Our optometry practice opened a new location in October this year after several delays. It has been crazy and keeps us busy! Living in Senoia, GA.

Cassandra Konz

We are expecting our first child in May!



Hayley (Thull) Bouressa

My husband Andy and I are so grateful to have made a home in Breckenridge, Minnesota. After teaching music in a couple of places, I found a great gig teaching middle school and high school choir for the Cowboys and Cowgirls. Andy was able to finish a degree in HVAC at the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton and works for a company out of Hankinson, North Dakota. We really do love it in this community and are looking forward to our daughters attending school here. Emily (3) has a few favorite things to do including swimming at the Breckenridge Family Aquatic Center, seeing the animals at Chahinkapa Zoo, biking around the two towns, and attending preschool. Marcy (under 1) prefers crawling, climbing stairs, chewing on toys, and smacking things. I love working with my students and, despite the pandemic, our ensembles are improving all the time. Teaching is not for the faint of heart but I do find it very rewarding. I most certainly feel that Concordia set me up for success in my career. A special shout-out to Dr. Nash for her excellent voice coaching and Dr. Haberman for his support in finding me a school that I really love to teach at.

Erin Thompson

I am teaching 7th Grade Language Arts in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. I graduated with my Masters of Education from St. Mary's University in the spring of 2020 and now I am working on getting my Reading License through SCSU. School is all my life is!

Shelby (Rolfhus) Nordmann

I recently graduated from medical school and started my family medicine residency at Idaho State University's rural training track with the goal of providing full spectrum medical care from delivering babies to hospice in a rural area someday soon!

My husband and I will be celebrating our 6th wedding anniversary this February and we've spent most of our small amount of free time this year hiking and camping out West.

Kelsey Seppelt

Living in Maplewood, MN

Madeleine Howey

Living in Fargo, ND

Anna (Saxon) Carlson

Living in Missoula, MT



Mari Johanna Christianson

2021 brought a lot of positive life events despite the chaotic state of the world. My partner of 7 years, Benjamin, and I got engaged and will get married September 2022. I also had my first solo gallery show at Koplín Del Río in Seattle. The show was well received and sold well. Among the sales were three oil paintings to the Port of Seattle; they will become part of the permanent collection at SeaTac Airport. Make sure to look out for them the next time that you fly into or out of Seattle!



Theo and Bekah (Wright) Betting

Theo: Working at Mayo as a radiology resident.
Bekah: Working as a wedding videographer and SAHM. We welcomed our second baby, Emmett, in December with our first, Ellery, born in 2019.



Steph (Hodgson) Sawrey

My husband, Chase, our son and I recently moved to Ada to be closer to family and my husband's new job. We welcomed our first baby, Kai, in June of last year. He is beautiful and a ginger just like his dad.



Zach and Katie (Englund) Biggar

Zach and I welcomed our first baby, Gracyn in May 2021! We are still teaching at Detroit Lakes Public Schools, and love creating our new memories has a family.



Mitch and Rochelle (Hickerson) Boser

We sold our house in St. Cloud and bought our home in Elk River. Mitch and I got married in September 2021.



Mariah (Lardy) Hall

New baby!! Jackson (13) and I welcomed Palmer Rae into our family on December 26, 2021. She is such a sweetheart, and big brother Luka has been taking his new role with big strides. We are so blessed!

Rachel Pishtek

In the beginning of 2021, our offer was accepted to purchase our home in south Fargo. A few months later, our son, Harrison, was born in March. At the top of 2022, I accepted the position of Director of Development for SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions).



Kjersten (Bratvold) Schaffran

My husband, Matthew and I live in Andover, MN and have two children, Mark (2018) and Clara (2020),

Dillon (Bengtson) Larson

Matthew and I live in Brainer, MN with our son, Holden (18 mos). I've been focusing on growing my business with Edward Jones and growing our family.

Joshua Dauner

The pandemic has been hard on everyone. Everyone has had vastly different experiences over the course of the last few years - but no one is the same.

My wife (Rebakah Mann Dauner '14) and I are dramatically shifting our mindsets about work, and the work/life balance we want to achieve. Rebekah has been teaching for 7 years and is considering taking a year off to recuperate. She also considering moving down to a specialist position that would require less of her on a daily basis.

I've been working as a therapist since 2018 at a local non-product mental health agency treating trauma victims. In October 2021, I left that position. I took 3 months off and focused on me. I'm now transitioning to a role as an online therapist, working from home - something I found I quite enjoy. I'm also pursuing a new venture on the side: freelance copywriting.

Our overall hope is to do work that pays the bills, but that doesn't deplete us mentally, physically, and emotionally. We will be expanding our family in the near future and want to work to live instead of live to work.

Aaron Larkin

In August 2021 I got engaged. In April 2021 I started a new job with The Ember Alliance - a CO based non-profit focused on implementing prescribed fire, teaching entry level fire classes, and making communities more resilient to wildfire.

Channing Bendtsen

Moved in with my girlfriend!! And have been working for a great organization for about 9 months.

Isaac Lovdahl

I am currently a doctoral student in choral conducting at North Dakota State University where I direct the campus tenor-bass ensemble and teaching ear training. I also serve as the director of music at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN. My amazing wife, Katie Beedy ('18), works as a storyteller/content strategist for TellWell (a storytelling/marketing agency founded by fellow Cobber, Max Kringen).

Exciting recent news:

During the summer of 2021 I was selected as the winner of the prestigious Yale Glee Club Emerging Composer Competition. The piece that was selected for the prize was premiered in November. I have been fortunate enough to have had some significant success in the area of choral composition since graduation, and I'm hoping to keep that ball rolling! With five premieres of my music taking place this Spring (2022), this is the most premieres I've ever had in a six-month period. Life is weird, but really really good!!



Kelly Knutson

In 2021, my partner, Gavin, and I got married and bought our first house together. Professionally, I was promoted and now serve as the Director for the Coalition of the Delaware River Watershed.



Sam Sprunger

Ellie and I celebrated the addition of Harvey in to our life. I was elected Master of Northeast-Winslow Lewis Masonic Lodge.

Chase and Courtney Nelson

Courtney and I are still living out on our farm in Amenia, ND. I'm enjoying the farm life and Courtney is a pre-K teacher at Northern Cass! Our daughters had their second birthday on January 15th! We celebrated with a fiesta themed birthday!

In addition to farming and teaching we are planning our third annual Aronia Berry Harvest Festival! We'd love for you all to be a part of it! The event is free, we have musicians, artisan vendors, food trucks, drink vendors, yard games, and of course aronia bushes! Come out for a fun time and see the aronia harvester all the way from Poland as we celebrate harvest and the power of the aronia berry!

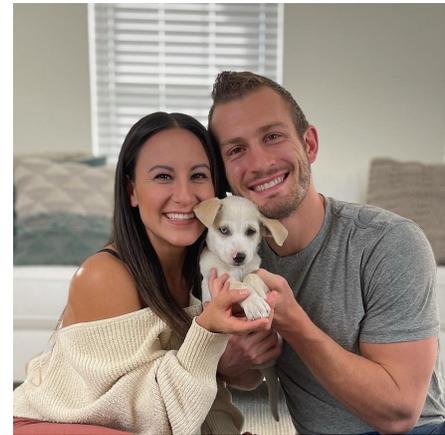


Nick and Laura (Prosinski) Leen

Laura and I have been in Denver, CO since the summer of 2021 after having spent the last three years in the San Francisco Bay area. We work as nurses, Laura in orthopedics and I in cardio-thoracic intensive care, for the University of Colorado at Anschutz Medical Center in Aurora, CO. I just completed a three year commitment as a Captain in the Nurse Corps of the active duty US Air Force. We got married in 2019! Roll Cobbs!

Domenic Fraboni

The last year was a big one! My wife, Jennifer, and I started working completely together online for her business, The Mobility Method LLC. My technical role is COO, but I essentially manage all of the business backend. We have had an amazing year of business growth and are working on developing an app and platform to reach as many people as possible with accessible, online health information.



After getting married, we packed up our apartment in Marina Del Rey, CA and traveled around the country a bit for about 5 months. Got to see about every coast and area of the country before we settled back into our new home in Corona, CA that we bought about 5 minutes down the road from Jen's parents!

The past few months have been filled with holidays, putting our home together, settling into the new space, getting and training a new fur baby (Kai), and learning that we will be expecting a baby later this year!!

Super exciting stuff. Always missing my MN and Cobber family but excited too see updates on you all as well!

Shannon Goetz

I'm working as an actuary in Minneapolis. After 9 years of studying and taking actuarial exams, I finally passed my last exam! This is a great milestone and I look forward to having more free time for family and hobbies now.



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.

Collins, Austin S.	Kostik, Jacob P.	Olson, Johanna M.	Sippola, McKinzie J.
Giroux, Parker E.	Krause, Lindsay J.	Pinkerton, Elliott	Sternhagen, Elizabeth C.
Goss, Mark A.	Larkin, Aaron J.	Saintal, Delson	Stillwell, Lucas D.
Jones, Josh A.	McLean, Alexander C.	Schmitz, Bessie J.	Sulik, Abigail J.
Kitcher, Valerie D.	Munyana, Pamela	Seifert, Nathaniel J.	Sullins, Shawnee L.
Koester, Molly A.	Netz, Taylor J.	Shivega, Winnie G.	Suter, Karen A.



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