

Winter 2022
Issue 1

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CONCORDIA COLLEGE

CLASS LETTER

Class of 2021



HELLO FROM YOUR CLASS AGENTS

Hello class of 2021!

We hope you are all enjoying life post-grad. This last year was not what most of us expected but we hope the transition to life outside of undergrad has been less hectic and that you are enjoying wherever life has taken you. Our time at Concordia was one to remember, and the memories and friendships we created will always bring us back to Concordia.

For some context, the Office of Alumni Relations has class agents to help communicate updates from the college and our classmates to stay in touch. This letter is the first letter of many with updates we've collected over the year from our fellow Cobbers and some information on what is going on at Concordia. If you have any updates or have new contact information, we'd love to hear from you. You can fill out the "Update my information" form on the Concordia website. You can also stay up to date by following the Concordia Class of 2021 and the Cobber Young Alumni Facebook pages. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@cord.edu. We can't wait to see you all on campus soon!

We wish you luck on your next adventure! Roll Cobbs!
Erin Grabinger & Avery Hovland
2021 Class Agents

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 Additions to the Administration

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.

Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas '75 was named the 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.

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.

CAMPUS UPDATES

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

CAMPUS UPDATES

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

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. Thank you to the members of our class who made a gift in 2021! 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 2021 can truly make a difference in the lives of current students. Learn more of 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 newsletter. ConcordiaCollege.edu/news/news-and-notes

Alumni Awards

To read about this year's recipients or to nominate a deserving alumni go to ConcordiaCollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Logan Thoennes

We just moved into our first house and get married in 54 days (as of writing this!) We also start our first (mine) and second (Jessica's) years of teaching in the next couple of weeks!



Amy (Simon) Ott

After graduation in May, I started working at an Element Materials laboratory in Bloomington, MN as an associate engineer. I test electronic systems for the aerospace and defense industry.

Sammy Strootman

I moved to Seattle, WA in September 2021 to start my MLIS (Master of Library and Information Science) degree at the University of Washington. I'm currently working part time at the University's Gallagher Law Library while studying to become an academic librarian.



Gabe Evenson

I am currently in the process of applying for grad schools and looking for a career in the field of graphic design as well as continue to produce art in my studio.

Riley Erlandson

After graduation in May, I spent the summer working at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center in New Jersey! It was so fun to work with campers again, despite different needs after months of isolation in the pandemic. After a lovely time celebrating Liesl Francisco's wedding, my partner Henri and I moved out to New Haven, Connecticut where I started my first semester studying Ethics/Religion and Ecology at Yale Divinity School. We've really been enjoying it out here and have met lots of wonderful people. I'm loving the challenging courses and have learned a lot already. We'll be out here for at least another year and a half pending study and work plans. I hope everyone is doing well and am excited to read your updates!



Tiffani Rasmussen

I worked as a assistant Menards manager for a few months after graduating. I got a job as a nurse aide at Sanford Children's clinic in October, and have been loving it since. My boyfriend and I bought a house in Moorhead and have been remodeling it throughout the summer and winter. I am studying up to take the MCAT this summer and hopefully start applying to schools this coming summer.

Claire Holland

This past year, I moved to Minneapolis, MN. I am attending the University of MN School of Public Health-Twin Cities for my Masters in Healthcare Administration (MHA). Besides being a student, I serve as a graduate assistant and volunteer at a free local clinic in Minneapolis. When I am not busy with school work, I enjoy trying new restaurants in the Twin Cities with my friend and roommate Greta Seljevold '21, visiting family, and spending time with my friends in the MHA program. I greatly enjoy living in the Twin Cities and look forward to completing my MHA degree in May of 2023. Ski U Mah and Roll Cobbs!



Sydney Stock

Since graduating I moved to Minneapolis for a couple months over the summer until I got a phone call from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offering me a position with GreenCorps AT Concordia. I now am serving as Concordia's GreenCorps member, seated within the Office of Community Engagement and the Office of Sustainability. So happy to be back and continue the sustainability work I was doing as a student.

Ingrid Jacobson

Completing my first year of my Master of Public Health, and working at the Minnesota Department of Health in the foodborne epidemiology unit.



Mitzi Probst

After graduation, I moved a few blocks away to a rental house. I then spent the summer working as a Nurse Aid at Sanford Hospital. In the early days of the summer, I was accepted to University of Alabama for a graduate program in chemistry. After much consideration, I decided it was time to branch out and BREW outside of the Midwest, so that August I stuffed everything I owned into two cars and moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

I am in the process of earning my PhD in Biochemistry and hope to get more into research this semester. Grad school has been super fun. It was an exciting journey going from Roll Cobbs to Roll Tide.

Caitlin Jones

I moved out of my parents' house with 2 of the 3 cats and I am just grinding at my work from home desk job!

Melanie Knealing

I got a job as an activities coordinator at Crest View Senior Communities, a nursing home in Columbia Heights, MN. Between the two locations I work at, there are six different facilities: three memory care facilities; two independent living; one assisted living; and one around-the-clock care center. At Crest View, we give out monthly activities calendars with things like Wii bowling, arts and crafts, scrabble, and weekly bingo days.



Elise Whitehead

I accepted a position as a Field Guide at Pacific Quest in Hawaii after graduation. I have recently accepted a position as the Program Director at Upper Missouri Ministries and will be moving to Epping, ND soon to start work.

Erin Grabinger

This summer I moved across the state to Duluth with my friends and fellow '21 grads, Maggie Mattson and Liv Overby. I got a job at Head of the Lakes United Way where I get to work with amazing people while fundraising, event planning, and spreading the word about the incredible work non-profits are doing in the community! I've been loving the chance to explore and experience this beautiful new city with old friends!



Chloe Crabtree

After graduation, I started working as a Project Manager with Livewire Entertainment in Fargo. This has led me to traveling across the Midwest, and even to Texas, to setup and run corporate level events - though most of my role is client interaction and coordination across teams.

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Avery Hovland

This summer I moved to Bloomington, MN and started working at Boulay in Eden Prairie in the Tax department. I have loved getting to explore the Twin Cities and meeting new people.



Makayla Moen

I am in my first year of teaching K-5 Elementary Music in Montevideo, MN! My students and I have had a blast singing songs, playing instruments, and dancing to Just Dance videos. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy having game nights with my co-workers, playing in the pep band at basketball games, playing in Willmar's community band, giving guitar and ukulele lessons, and visiting friends who live close by.

Katie Ohren

In the Fall of 2021 I moved to Dubuque, IA to attend Wartburg Theological Seminary. I am in my first year as a residential MDiv. Student! This summer I will be completing a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education in the University of Iowa health care system in Iowa City.

Thanks for
reading!
Until next year,



Roll Cobbs!