Dear Concordia Class of 1978

This may be the first Concordia class letter written by a group of your classmates. As you may know, we don’t currently have a class agent (we are taking volunteers if you are interested!), so the reunion planning committee (Kathy Lindquist, Patty Gulsvig, Claudia Swendseid, Linda Jaeger, John Hertsgaard and Stan Mork) has taken on the task of updating you on news from our class and is also using this year’s letter to provide you with some details on our homecoming 40th reunion plans. We hope you will be joining us in Moorhead for our reunion on September 28-30, 2018. Our committee has set a goal of getting at least 100 of you back for the reunion, so please plan to attend.

Reunion News

Let’s start with some information on the reunion plans. There are many activities going on at Homecoming and you can see the entire reunion schedule by going to the Concordia homecoming webpage (CLICK HERE), but here are some 40th reunion activities you will want to know about.

On Friday night, there will be an All Alumni Gathering at the Radisson hotel in downtown Fargo. This will be a great place to meet up with your fellow Class of 1978 members to start the reunion weekend.

Our 40th Reunion Breakfast and Program will be held on Saturday morning in the Birkeland Alumni lounge at 8 a.m. You’ll have an opportunity to connect with your classmates and hear from everyone on what they are currently up to. We also plan to have Concordia representatives there to provide a brief update on what’s happening at the college. If we get enough photos from you recalling your college days, the homecoming committee will help put together a slide show for the event. So please send any scanned photos from 40 years ago to Karen Carlson in the alumni office (carlsonk@cord.edu).

Saturday night, the Class of 78 Reunion Party will be held at the Knutson Center on campus starting right after the Homecoming Concert. To answer the question all of you are asking - yes, cocktails are allowed now at campus events, so there will be a cash bar. Each reunion year will have their own designated “gathering place” at this event.

Other noteworthy activities include campus tours of the new science center and reunions of individual campus organizations you may have been part of during college. These are just a few examples of the many fun and engaging activities available to you during homecoming. Make your plans to come back to Concordia to make this the best reunion ever!

We have a Class of 1978 Facebook page that we created about 10 years ago that we have brought back to life for this reunion year. About 75 people are still members of this group and if you aren’t a member you can join it by searching Facebook for “Concordia College Moorhead Class of 1978” and receive updates about the reunion plans.

Our reunion is also a time to come together as a class to make a difference in the life of the college. To match up with our 40th reunion, we’ve set a goal of raising $40,000 in gifts to Concordia. However, an even bigger goal is what we are really looking for is to increase our giving participation to 20%. We encourage all of you to consider the opportunity to give back and hope that you’ll join us by giving a gift of any size in honor of our 40th reunion. You can make your gift at www.ConcordiaCollege.edu/reuniongiving.
**Class Notes**

Reunions are a great way to find out what your former classmates are up to. Each of us on the reunion committee are providing you with an update on our lives.

An update from Kathy Romsdahl Lindquist: Life has been busy and full these past months. We were blessed with a new grandson March 15 in Fargo, followed by our youngest son's wedding March 24 in San Antonio, TX. Then in May another grandson arrived on the 17th in MPLS to our daughter and her husband bringing our total to 5 grandchildren! On May 19th, we hosted a reception in Fargo for our son and his TX bride which was extremely fun. Lots to celebrate! When I'm not on a complete high from the aforementioned, I stay busy teaching piano lessons on a part time basis, direct a children's choir at Trinity in MHD, sing in the Fargo Moorhead Choral Artists, play French horn in our church brass group and do part time daycare for grandchildren. I'm excited for our upcoming 40th class reunion and hope to see many classmates there.

Patty (Nelson) Gulsvig lives in Moorhead, Minnesota with her husband Kris ('77). I teach in the Department of Education at Concordia so I haven’t gone too far since graduation! I will be half-time for the next three years, which will be a nice transition to retirement. We have two adult children and a granddaughter who live on the east and west coasts, and so have done a fine job of supporting the airline industry with visits back and forth from Minnesota.

Claudia Swendseid lives near Stillwater, Minnesota with her husband Clark Thurn (UND graduate) where we’ve lived since 1992. Claudia retired in March 2017 after a 30+ year career at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis where she practiced the art of management and became an expert in the U.S. payment system. From majors in English, Religion and the Humanities to payment system expert and innovator – who knew? Now she spends her time volunteering in her community – notably with her faith community, Trinity Lutheran Church Stillwater (quite a few other Cobbers there!) and at Solid Ground – a White Bear Lake based social service organization whose mission is to end homelessness in Ramsey and Washington counties. She also has more time for long held passions including reading, studying theology, local politics, spending time with family and friends, and hiking God's glorious world nearby and far afield. Life is blessed.

Linda (Aune) Jaeger lives in Argusville, ND (15 miles north of Fargo) with her husband Kevin. We are empty-nesters as of recent as our youngest son lives in Fargo with a couple of roommates. Our oldest son is married, and he and his wife live in Moorhead and have been blessed us with 3 awesome grandchildren whom we are fortunate to see often. Being a grandparent is the best part of our lives! I have been a social worker in the Fargo area for the past 40 years. Currently I work at Southeast Human Service Center as the Regional Supervisor for County Services overseeing Child Protection, Foster Care and Adoption. I love my work and plan to continue in the field as long as possible. In addition I began teaching as an Adjunct Instructor for Concordia, MSUM and MState in their social work departments back in 2006 and continue to teach one or two night classes per semester rotating semesters and campuses. I truly enjoy the students and I say it is my "fun job" as the students are terrific! Music and singing has been an important part of my life and I am involved in worship, cantoring and special
music at our church (First Lutheran - Fargo) as well as other faith communities and events. I am looking forward to our 40th Reunion this fall and reconnecting with friends whom I have not seen for years.

John Hertsgaard continues to live in Kindred, ND and is still a working stiff. I am the President & CEO of SpaceAge Synthetics in Fargo and also participate in the family farm. My daughter and her family now reside on the farm. My wife Jean passed away unexpectedly last November. We are fortunate to have three married children and seven wonderful grandchildren. The grandkids are young enough to still think I am fun. Most summer weekends are spent at our lake cabin near Pelican Rapids, MN.

Stan Mork lives in Northfield, Minnesota with his wife Carrie (non-Cobber but still a good person 😊😊). We moved to Northfield in 2013, when I retired from my full-time gig as a Partner in the Technology Consulting practice at RSM McGladrey. I still work a little more than half time as the President of an IT trade association, The Information Technology Alliance, and I also have a couple of other clients that I do some small consulting projects for every year. We like to spend our summers at our lake place on Roberds Lake in Faribault and are looking forward to starting to spend more of our winters in warm climates, although we haven’t found our perfect snowbird location yet.

Concordia News Updates

Here is a rundown of some of the news from campus:

Alumni News:

The National Alumni Board voted on the 2018 Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. This year’s awards include one of our classmates, Claudia Swendseid, who is a recipient of a 2018 Alumni Achievement Award. To learn more about each award, visit Cord.edu/alumniawards.

2018 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients
Charles Beck ’48
Darnell Carter ’75
Claudia Swendseid ’78

2018 Sent Forth Recipients
Dr. Tammy Frisby ’99
Arday Ardayfio ’02

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.

**Concordia Language Villages**

- 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 S

**Academics and other News**

- 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](http://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.

One Last Plug to Attend our 40th Reunion

We hope you enjoyed hearing a bit more about what’s going on at Concordia. We really would like to see you at our reunion this fall, so if you have any questions about what is going to be happening, feel free to reach out to any of us. We also hope you will make a special 40th Reunion gift to Concordia to continue to support the mission of the college.

See you in Moorhead in late September!

Your 40th Reunion Committee

Kathy (Romsdahl) Lindquist
Patty (Nelson) Gulsvig
Claudia Swenseid
Linda Jaeger
John Hertsgaard
Stan Mork