

Dear Class of 1999,

Well, I am finally getting around to writing to you all. The old "Snail Mail" seems hard to do in this digital age. When was the last time you wrote a letter?

I have thought about writing this letter throughout the summer and what all I would like to say, and what you would all like to hear. There have not been many notes sent my way, other than a few baby announcements, job changes, title updates, and a couple wedding announcements. I was thinking about putting them all in here, but I remembered that Concordia typically keeps track of those and they all come out in the Concordia Magazine and then we can look under our Class of 1999 spot in the back. So, I'll keep this letter a little shorter, I guess. I would like instead, to focus on the whole class. So, here I go.

We're all diving into our 40s. Yep. I said that out loud. Forty seems to be all about finding a balance, in almost everything. A balance between work and family. A balance between real human contact and our phones. A balance between what we know and what we don't.

Many in our class have experienced loss. Loss of a grandparent, loss of a parent, loss of a child, loss of a friend or sibling, loss of a marriage. But, we have also preserved in our good old 40s. We have tried to remember our grandparents/parents/children and what they meant to us. We have celebrated with family and friends to remember, planted a tree or flower, kept their memory and stories alive on Facebook, and maybe even cleaned out some of those old school friends and family photos and photo albums. We have gained the knowledge that life can be short and we really should live each day as a special gift. We have remarried, blended and adopted our families, we have been able to start new, start fresh, and start over. We have gone back to the 80s and remembered what it was like with no phones and challenged ourselves, our kids, and maybe even our siblings or parents, to try it for just one day! Like we did.

Our classmates are doing amazing things with their lives! We have writers, teachers (preschool, elementary, high school, and college), directors, moms, dads, caretakers, nurses, artists, actors, principals, small business owners, business leaders, political representatives, psychologists, social workers, doctors, and so much more! We have classmates living abroad, traveling, seeing the world, and others who are living the stay-at-home-life. We have classmates in front of the camera and behind the camera, whether in Hollywood, NY, MN, or ND, or maybe even just for a new FB profile picture. : ) I truly believe that we are all out in the world making a difference. Remember the Mission Statement? "*The purpose of Concordia College is to influence the affairs of the world by sending into society thoughtful and informed men and women dedicated to the Christian life.*" Yep! I think we're all doing okay!

I hope that this letter finds you healthy and happy. I hope that when you think of your time at Concordia, that you remember it fondly. (Yes, I just used that word, I'm old.) And I hope that when there is talk of get togethers or reunions, that you make an effort to attend and so that you can be reunited with friends of a time long ago. And maybe, as we get older and think about giving back, I hope you put Concordia on your list : ) Next year will be a REUNION YEAR! If you're interested in helping, let me know!

Find your Corn Feed: <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni-donors/news-and-events/corn-feeds/>

Soli Deo Gloria,

Tanya (Eid) Streifel '99

## **CAMPUS UPDATE – SUMMER 2018**

### **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 32<sup>nd</sup> 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](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.

#### **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](http://Cord.edu/alumniawards).

#### **2018 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients**

Charles Beck '48	Dr. Richard Sibley '67
Darnell Carter '75	Claudia Swendseid '78

#### **2018 Sent Forth Recipients**

Dr. Tammy Frisby '99	Arday Ardayfio '02
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#### **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 9.8% participation and gave \$13,311.00. Since graduation, our class has given \$180,284.00 in outright gifts. THANK YOU!