Concordia Class of 2006 Letter

Hey Class of 2006!

It’s me, Laura Caroon, a classmate of yours you probably don’t remember (no worries) who got a little ambitious and decided to take over this year’s class letter. No one else was writing it, so I couldn’t just let you guys go a whole year without an update!

So here I am, an afternoon coffee in hand like any basic aging millennial (look it up – you’re one too) in my office at Concordia (now you know how I got sucked into this why I volunteered) reminiscing about all that free time I had in college to hang out with my friends in DS, watch movies on DVD, and play endless hours of Mario Kart.

Now my “free” time is filled with equally cool things like grocery shopping, watching Paw Patrol and doing endless hours of laundry. Does that sound familiar?

It’s hard to believe it’s been 12 years since graduation, and a lot has happened for our classmates this year! If you have done something awesome (like had a baby, moved to a new place, scored a new job, won an award, got a new degree, caught all the Pokémon, etc…) please send the Alumni Relations Office a note (cord.edu/classnotes) so we can all read about what cool thing you did in the next letter!

Class Updates

Jessica Burgstahler married Andrew Gottenborg on September 3, 2016. They now live in Bloomington, MN. Jessica continues to work at the MPLS VA Medical Center as a dietitian & he works at Southwest News Media out of Savage, MN.

Megan Oswald was married Nov 25, 2017, to Joe Pike (a dreaded Gustie) in Duluth, MN. They now live in Eden Prairie, MN.

Bethany (Meier) Tollefson added a baby girl, Leah Renae, to the two rambunctious boys her and her husband James already had.
**Natasha Zimmerman** runs a consulting firm, Asha Center (www.asha.center), that helps organizations harness the power of their millennial workforce. They focus on creating a positive, energetic culture, developing self-awareness, and fostering a sense of belonging. This fall, she’ll be starting her PhD in Organizational Behavior at University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.

**Chastity Odden Heide** was named North Dakota Secondary School Counselor of the Year by the North Dakota School Counselor. Mrs. Odden Heide has been with West Fargo Public Schools since 2010 when she started as a counselor at West Fargo High School.
Mrs. Odden Heide was highly recommended for the award by both her colleagues and her students. She is credited with being not only a leader in her district, but also an innovator within her school. This is apparent through her work with her counseling department; they have implemented several programs, including crisis-response protocol, student needs assessments, suicide prevention training, counseling program evaluation tools, and school-wide community service projects. She is described by others as passionate, humble, a moral compass, data-driven, professional, and compassionate, and thus incredibly deserving of the award.

**JoAnne Harris** orchestrated and conducted the score for *City of Lies* (starring Johnny Depp and Forest Whitaker, in theaters Sept. 7). Her score to short film Mal de Ojo can be heard on HBONow and HBOGo. She has been enjoying dipping a toe into the concert band world, recently workshopping a new piece with the Grand Street Community Band in Brooklyn, NY. She would love to connect with Cobbers whose band programs might be interested in premiering grade 3 works! [www.joanneharriscomposer.com](http://www.joanneharriscomposer.com)

![image](image_url)

**Karla (Solum) Wolford** married Lucas Wolford on October 28th, 2017 in Captiva, Florida.
It is with regret that I share news of the passing of two classmates: Paul R. Bisbey and Joshua S. Dietz.

Lost List

This is a list of our classmates that the Alumni Office has lost touch with. If you happen to be friends with any of them, please encourage them to update their information at cord.edu/classnotes.

Lindsay Benson  Tyler Bormann  Tamara Bruggeman  Tamunosako Cline
Alison Crouch   Anna Gaukerud  Anne Gniewitz  Amanda Hanson
Natalie Hanson  Jessica Harris  Rebecca Hauff  Amy Hilde
Jenna Johnson   Jesse Johnson  Nicole Kiewel  Jeanine Kuschel
Brianna Larson  Jonathan Lewis  Brittanee Lincoln  Connie Linnertz
Justin Moen     Laura Morlock  Gregory Moss  Nazia Mukri
Maren Murray    Divyashwori Pradhan Lee Rahrliens  Aimee Saaf
Lynn Sallah     Avishek Sharma  Leeza Sharma  Mizuho Shimura
Kaia Slevin     Eric Sorum       Martin Stahl  Melanie Sturlaugson
Ellen Suurmeyer Bethany Thompson  Susan Walhberg  Roberta Warner
Sonja Weinbuch  Laura Wojtalewicz  Darin TenBruggencate

Have you moved?
If you’ve moved recently and haven’t updated the Alumni Office, please fill out the form cord.edu/classnotes so you can keep receiving your alumni magazine, and other updates from Concordia.

**Is Concordia still sending emails to your Hotmail account?**

It might be time to update your email address as well. Email is the best way for the college to get you information about what’s new at Concordia, what your class is up to, and keep you connected. So, please make sure we’re sending emails to an account you actually check. cord.edu/classnotes

**Homecoming**

Even though it’s not a big reunion year, you’re still invited to join us for Homecoming! Celebrate with us September 28-30, 2018!

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**Social Media**

Are you following Concordia on social? You really should be.

Concordia College Class of 2006 facebook.com/groups/781677758533284/
Concordia College Alumni Twitter @CobberAlumni
NEW! Concordia College Young Alumni facebook.com/groups/2057143081235980/
Concordia College Facebook @concordiacollege
Concordia College Instagram @concordia_mn
Concordia College Twitter @Concordia_MN
Campus Updates

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 sogūi Hosu, the Korean Language Village. Additionally, the Language Villages will recognize and celebrate 35 years of Sên 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. René 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.

- 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
- 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.

2018 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

- Charles Beck ’48
- Darnell Carter ’75
• Dr. Richard Sibley ’67
• Claudia Swendseid ’78

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

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 8.22% participation and gave $2,298.53. Since graduation, our class has given $31,899.65 in outright gifts.

THANK YOU!

See you next year

That’s all from me, so thanks for reading and keep sending in those Class Notes!

Laura (Espedal) Caroon
Concordia Class of 2006