Concordia President Meets Class Agent
Concordia President, Dr. William Kraft, met with Paul Peterson, Class Agent for the Class of 1976, during homecoming last October. During this meeting, Dr. Kraft stressed the importance of having all Cobber alumni stay connected to the college. Dr. Kraft stated that Concordia’s success is directly related to the loyalty and support received from the alumni. He also wanted Mr. Peterson to wish a happy 60th birthday to all of the Cobbers from the class of 1976.

Concordia Class of 1976 Turns 60
The Cobbers from the Class of ’76 had a very busy year celebrating a major milestone birthday. Several reports about wild birthday parties being held by several of these Cobbers are now beginning to surface. Fortunately the definition of "wild" has changed considerably for people who have reached the age of 60. The hope is that this group of Cobbers can celebrate many more happy and healthy birthdays.
Concordia Homecoming is October 10 - 12, 2014
All Cobber alumni are encouraged to come back to campus and enjoy the festivities that are scheduled during this year's homecoming weekend. A new all-class reunion gathering, at the Courtyard Marriott in Moorhead, was added to the homecoming schedule last year on Friday night and was a huge success. The schedule for this year's homecoming calls for another all-class reunion to be held on Friday night October 10th at the same location. Now every year is a reunion year for all Cobber alumni. One 1976 Cobber who attended this party last year said, "I'm much more popular at Homecoming than I ever was when I was a student at Concordia".

Concordia Utilizes Social Media
Concordia understands the value of using Social Media to stay connected to current students, future students and all alumni. Concordia offers the following social media options to use: Facebook, Foursquare, Flickr, Tumblr, Twitter, Instagram, Storify, LinkedIn, Pinterest and several blogs. Visit the Concordia website to gain access to all of these social media applications (ConcordiaCollege.edu/news-media/social-media-hub). The Cobber class of '76 can be followed on Facebook at "Concordia College Class of 1976". Classmates are encouraged to post information and pictures on this site. There is also a Facebook page titled "Concordia College Alumni" that is set up for all Cobber Alumni. For those alumni who live in the Twin Cities, a separate Facebook page exists as "Concordia College Alumni Twin Cities".

Classmate Enters Concordia Athletic Hall of Fame
Darwin Kreft, Cobber class of '76, was officially inducted into Concordia's Athletic Hall of Fame at an awards banquet held during homecoming last year. Darwin was awarded this honor for his outstanding play on the Cobber basketball team. He led the MIAC in rebounding his junior and senior year, was an all-conference player both years and averaged 18 points and 10 rebounds a game for his career. Teammates Mark Askerooth '76 and Paul Peterson '76 were at the banquet to congratulate Darwin.
B SECTION

Active Year at Concordia

MUSIC
- The Concordia Orchestra completed an historic tour of the Holy Land in May 2014. They shared two concert performances with members of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music orchestra, one in Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Jerusalem.
- The Concordia Choir will tour the southeastern United States from February 21st through March 8th, 2015 during its National Tour.
- The Concordia Band completed a spring tour in February 2014 through Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Preparation for Tour 2015 is under way, which will take them to the Pacific Northwest February 1st to 8th.

ATHLETICS
- On May 5, 2014, the Concordia baseball field was named in honor of 36-year Head Coach Bucky Burgau, who is stepping down at the end of the 2014 season. Chris Coste ('00 Cobber grad), winner of a World Series ring with the Philadelphia Phillie, will take over the head coaching position while Bucky will move into an assistant role. Burgau is the all-time winningest coach in MIAC baseball history. He is the first coach in the history of the MIAC to earn his 700th career win and has the 12th most wins in all of NCAA Division III.
- The "Update the Jake Project" has reached completion. The venture included new FieldTurf for the football and baseball fields, paved parking lots, football stadium upgrades and a new Multi-Sports Locker Room. The official dedication for all of these updates and facilities will be at this year's Homecoming 2014.

CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES
- This summer Concordia will be dedicating the new Swedish library during the midsummer celebration on August 3, 2014.
- The structure of International Day, to be held on both July 4th and August 8th this summer, has been reinvigorated and will include a focus on welcoming home alumni at a reception that will be held during the afternoon on both days.
- The Russian Language Village will be celebrating its 50th anniversary during the summer of 2015.
- Concordia Language Villages will have owned The Turtle River Lake site for 50 years in the summer of 2015.
SUSTAINABILITY
The Concordia campus continues to be committed to becoming ecologically literate by doing what we can within our own footprint to protect and preserve the earth.

- **Example #1** - Fifty percent of Concordia's electricity is provided by renewable energy that comes from hydroelectric power that is generated from dams along the Missouri River and from wind power that is acquired from turbines in Rugby, N.D., Worthington, MN, Marshall, MN and Odin, MN.

- **Example #2** - Concordia Dining Services limits food waste by sending produce trimmings to Jones Science Center for animal consumption, providing trayless dining in Anderson Commons and donating overproduced food to the Great Plains Food Bank.

ALUMNI AWARDS
Each year the Concordia National Alumni Board selects the recipients of Concordia's two alumni awards titled the "Alumni Achievement Award" and the "Sent Forth Award".

The "Alumni Achievement Award" is presented at the homecoming banquet each year to four Cobber alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and service to others, thereby honoring the college.

The "Sent Forth Award" is presented at the Senior Banquet during Commencement Weekend to two Cobber alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and service to others within 20 years of their graduation date.

The following Alumni Achievement Award Recipients will be honored at this year's homecoming banquet on October 10, 2014 - A. John Ahlquist '63, Sandra Cartie '82, Dr. Roger Leopold '62, Dr. Vernon Tolo '64.

The following "Sent Forth Award" recipients were honored this past May during commencement weekend: Roxana Saberi '97, Richard Sommer '00.

LOYAL COBBER PROGRAM
Do you bleed Concordia maroon and gold? Are you wearing your Cobber ring? If so, then you might be what Concordia is now calling a "Loyal Cobber". A true "Loyal Cobber" can now claim a nice prize from Concordia by completing the four steps of the program and reporting it to "Concordia.edu/loyalcobber".

Step 1: **CONNECT** - Stay connected and informed by verifying and/or updating your contact information with Concordia either online or by phone.
Step 2: **ENGAGE** - Get involved by volunteering, mentoring or participating in church and community activities.
Step 3: **SUPPORT** - Give a donation to Concordia of any size each year or support student scholarships at Cord.edu/give.
Step 4: **SHARE** - Wear your Cobber gear or interact with Concordia on social media by using #cordmn.
COBBERS FOR COBBERS
The Concordia Annual Fund is an integral part of the overall fund raising program for the college. It provides vital student scholarship support for the current fiscal year. All Cobber alumni are encouraged to join the Annual Fund in this fund raising work, as together we strengthen the tradition of giving at Concordia to support the students and enhance excellence at the college. Cobber alumni should try to instill the tradition of Cobbers supporting Cobbers to their fellow classmates, so that we "pay it forward" to the next round of students and to ensure that future Cobbers have access to the Concordia experience.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS & NOTES
- National Recognition: Concordia's commitment to Interfaith dialogue.
- Big Change: Intervisitation is a thing of the past starting in Fall 2014.
- Big Day: In 2016 Concordia will celebrate its 125th Anniversary.

C SECTION

Classmates Enjoy Life at 60
Mark Askerooth
I live with my wife Karen in Luverne, ND and I'm currently a Regional Supervisor for Hail Claims at ADMCRS.

Mark Broman
Life is very busy. My second daughter graduated from college over Memorial day weekend and moved home. I am looking forward to watching my 16-year old son play Lacrosse this summer on the East coast on the select team, “Team Minnesota”. Hopefully I will have time to relax up north at the “Lake” for a few weekends. Enjoy your summer everyone.

Kevin & Ellyn (Kohler) Brolsma
I would really like to hear what's going on with everybody. For my wife Ellyn '76 and I, our family continues to grow. In the last 12 months we have doubled our grandchild population going from 3 to 6. My political views seem to have moved from Republican to Libertarian and my favorite reading materials are anything relating to the TRUE history of the USA, our US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. I also count myself as one of the MORE THAN 50% of the Illinois population who would rather live in another state. While I miss Minnesota, the politics there are probably not much more to my liking. We are considering Indiana.

John Cornelius
After working for Sunnyside School District for 33 years, I continue to enjoy my semi- retirement from teaching special education. I do substitute teach 5 days a month or so, mostly in resource rooms. Patrice and I also enjoy spending time with our five year old granddaughter, and look forward to the arrival of our second granddaughter in July. This spring we were able to travel to New York for our nephew's wedding, and are currently planning a summer trip to Minnesota and Florida. God is good... all the time. All the time.... God is good.
Chris Ann Cuppett
When I attended Concordia, I majored in music and speech communications. Presently I am working for Pioneer 90.1, KSRQ, FM, Public Radio in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. I'm a mid-morning announcer on an alternative radio station, and I interview local personalities for a program called "Community Voices." I also work as a disc jockey for an oldies station, Pioneer 90.1 Classic HD3, which is connected to Pioneer 90.1. These stations can be heard on a personal computer or a smart phone by going to radionorthland.org or by using a TuneIn Ap. It has been gratifying to find out that people have heard me on the air in Mexico, France, and the Philippines. I'm having more fun at 60 than I've ever had in my whole life. I still work as a liturgist at Redeemer Lutheran Church, but that is volunteer work now. My sister and I live in downtown Thief River Falls, Minnesota, in a cute little yellow house with two dogs and two cats.

Gayle (Carpenter) Denny
I grew up in Lake Park, Minnesota, and left the area right after December '76 graduation. I did an extra semester at the University of Minnesota to obtain Vocational Certification (some 500 level classes that Concordia didn't offer) for my teaching degree and then went back to Concordia to graduate, explaining the December graduation. I moved to San Diego, California after graduation and was there for 3 years; then moved to Everett, Washington where I lived for 24 years; and moved to Arizona 10 1/2 years ago. I don't have any particularly "fun facts" - I'm a bit of a workaholic. But I can tell you a little bit about myself. After some years of teaching as well as some years of business administration, for the past 15 years, I have served as Executive Director of ELCA Schools and Learning Centers - our office is an arm of the Congregational & Synodical Mission unit of ELCA Church wide, which serves the 1600+ ELCA congregations who sponsor weekday high schools, elementary schools and early childhood programs. I live and work from a home office in Goodyear, Arizona, a suburb in the West Valley area of Phoenix. I am married to Mike Denny, who is retired and from Everett, Washington. I have a son, Joshua Daniels, 31, who lives here in Phoenix and is in medical supply sales. I have a step-daughter, Erika Heer, who lives in the Seattle area and is a Human Resources Director for a large company there. She is married and has two children who we love dearly and visit often. I am a life-long church musician; although with my crazy work travel schedule, I am kind of a "hit and miss" church musician, filling in as keyboardist when I am able and singing in the church choir when I'm in town. I still have two nieces in Minnesota - one in Detroit Lakes and one in Deer Creek - who I try to get up and see once a year. I get to Minneapolis a few times a year for work, so still maintain the Minnesota connections. I do give a gift each year to Concordia's Annual Fund, and would encourage classmates to do so as well.

Naomi (Thompsen) Franek
Hi classmates! After Paul's desperate plea for news I feel obligated to share my fascinating Franek facts:

- I majored in Social Work, not Biology, as stated in the yearbook.
- I played on the volleyball team for 4 years, though I wasn't a P.E. major.
- When I wear my class ring I'm most often asked if I was a music major (no).
- My husband went to NDSU, majored in business and became a social worker.
- Our two children are in their 30's, employed and pay their own car insurance.

I'm currently the "administrative assistant" for St. Mark's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Fargo which truly has been the most challenging, but rewarding job I've had so far. My job description goes far beyond newsletters and bulletins. Worship planning, catching bats, and praying over the boiler adds variety to the day. My husband, Stan, and I were instrumental in starting a local chapter here in Fargo-Moorhead of ReconcilingWorks (formerly Lutherans Concerned). We advocate for the support and full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the church. Our church is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation and has been since 1991. Contact me for more information. Lastly, I have a suggestion about our class raising money for Concordia: POPCORN. I propose that you business majors out there get busy and figure out a way to market Concordia Popcorn so we can order it throughout the year: Made in America. Helps local industry. It's healthy. It's cheap. Could be organic. Sold in recyclable containers. "Corn" theme. It's a winner.

Pam Hammond
In June I traveled with the Zumbro Lutheran Choir of Rochester (and my mother and my aunt), to England and Ireland. It was a remarkable trip. Highlights for me were visiting Cambridge and hearing the King’s College Choir at Vespers, seeing the Queen and royals on parade, and, of course, music and worship in marvelous, inspiring spaces. The other highlight of my year was the birth of my granddaughter, Dorothy.

Jon Lamphier
It was a year ago this month I told our class about our classmate Lee Warner's ('76) brain cancer surgery and to date, (drum roll.....cymbal crash) there are NO SIGNS of cancer in any subsequent scans in the last 12 months! Praise the Lord and pass the word! Lee's been playing and teaching drum lessons like a fiend at his new 'digs' in Carpenter Music Center in Reno and actively playing drums in several bands in the area. He's exploring a return to morning radio announcer at a class rock station KOZZ in Reno, or working for a lucrative print shop in town, but Doug Ernst ('76) (my other senior roommate) and I agree, Lee's passion for drumming and being a licensed wedding minister offer more flexibility that may win out. Lee's got an energy level, even I, had a tough time keeping up with but it's refreshing to say he's doing quite well.

Doug Ernst is the keeper of his castle in the Twin Cities with a son graduating June 7th and heading to college and a younger daughter still in high school while his wife Bev Benson makes a run for a judicial seat in Hennepin County. Doug has become a quintessential history 're-enactor' at various events at The Landing along the Mississippi River in Shakopee and doing free lance writing on the side. He will also dawn a wool uniform to partake in a vintage baseball league where rules are few, the umpire is a stern woman on the sidelines and bare hands catch those fly balls!

As for me, retirement is exactly what they say. It's all about finishing projects and items on a bucket list that started 30 years before! Between winter projects and recovering from my daughter’s wedding last July, I found myself in a Defensive Driving class (to get the insurance discount), Big Band and Community band rehearsals and concerts, golf, car shows and taking youngsters 8 to 18 years of age for their very first plane ride. As a Flight Leader for the Experimental Aircraft Association or EAA, the 'Young Eagles' program gives kids a chance to experience the joy of flight. I have flown over 100 kids with me since I joined the program several years ago. The smiles say it all. Even more if they decide to make aviation a career! That's all from this neck of the woods. Enjoy your summer everyone!
Marlys (Huseby) Lien
I was promoted to Adult Services Manager at the Council Bluffs Public Library in August 2013...in charge of Reference, Circulation and Adult Programming in Iowa.

John Lund
I've been teaching adult English as a Second language to immigrants and refugees for the past 8 years. This new role has followed a career in the newspaper business, where I was advertising manager and then publisher of the Stillwater (Minnesota) Evening Gazette. At Concordia, I pole vaulted on the track team and have continued with that sport as an adult. Last year I set a new Minnesota 60-64 age-group record, clearing 10' 6". This summer I plan to compete in the Minnesota Senior Olympics meet, which will qualify me to participate next year in the National Senior Games. My brothers and I go to Moorhead in January for the Concordia Alumni Track meet, but are continually disappointed at the lack of former track team members of any year. To all, I say, "C'mon! Give it a try!"

Randi (Harrisville) Lundell, Ph.D.
I'm still working as the IBP Dept. Administrator/MNPI Grants Manager in the Medical School at the U of MN. I sing soprano with the Minnesota Chorale and have completed several German translations in my spare time. I have three adorable grandchildren, and my husband Brad & I have five talented daughters between us.

Randall Molmen (News Release)
Currently a Professor of computer science at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, OH. On May 1, 2014 Randall was presented the Exemplary Teacher Award at Baldwin University's honors award ceremony. The award is co-sponsored by The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. It recognizes a faculty member who exhibits excellence in teaching, civility and concern for students and colleagues, commitment to value centered education and service to students, the institution and community. Randall is currently the chair of BW's Core Curriculum Committee and is the faculty adviser to the University's Longboard Club.

Wendy Poffenberger-Turner
Well, I guess I've joined the ranks of fully retired. The first two weeks of nothing on the agenda hasn't been too bad☺. My son gets married in July to a Midwestern teacher (couldn't have chosen better myself!). I'm spending August and September in Minnesota and then will celebrate my 60th (can that be true?) on a 9-day wine tour of Northern Italy and a 16-day trans-Atlantic cruise back to Florida in time for Thanksgiving. I'm not sure when I had time to work.

Janelle Sanda
A bunch of us who lived together on 3rd floor East Complex our freshman year will be getting together this June for our 10th annual reunion.

Julie (Wiklund) Skare
After a 31-year career at Procter & Gamble I retired in late 2012. I'm currently doing some consulting in toxicology as well as volunteer work with the Interfaith Hospitality Network, hosting families at local churches and with the Independent Transportation Network of Greater Cincinnati, driving for the elderly and sight-impaired. I am taking courses at the University of Cincinnati working toward a certificate in Religious
Studies. In my spare time I do Jazzercise and yoga, which I love. To mark our 60th birthdays this year, my husband and I are taking a trip to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

**Fred Sternhagen**
I continue to teach and lead the Cobber speech and debate teams at Concordia. It's a satisfying career, but being on campus every single day doesn't make one's own college years seem very far away! I'm really interested in learning if anyone knows what Guy Taylor is doing?....haven't heard from him in years.

**Jolene Beckman-Sternhagen**
I continue to teach in the West Fargo Schools in the elementary gifted program. When someone calls for money for Concordia and asks when I was on campus last, I have to explain I live 8 blocks away! While Fred and I were undergraduates, we didn't follow sports much (my apologies to those of you who worked hard during those years as student athletes!). However, as empty nesters, we have turned into Concordia basketball fans. Go Cobbers!

**Bob Verchota**
Here is my "Fun Fact" - Working for Allina Health Regina Hospital in Hastings, MN. My wife Gwen received a PhD in Nursing from U of Wisconsin Milwaukee and daughter Katie received a BA from St. Benedict's in Collegeville on the same weekend in May 2014. My son Bobby is finishing his junior of year high school. Still living the dream.

**Carol (Westbrook) Weber**
I am living in Duncanville, Texas and have been teaching Latin and Pre-Algebra at a private Christian school for the last 13 years. My 5 children are grown and I have 6 wonderful grandchildren. I am embarking on a trip to Ann Arbor, Michigan this week for my son, Micah's wedding on June 7th. Hence the delay in answering you (combined with the last week of school here). My son, Micah is currently working on his PhD in Heliophysics (Study of the sun). I have not been back to Concordia since 2006 when I brought my youngest son for a tour of campus. A four-year full scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas swayed his decision not to attend Concordia. I would love to come back for Homecoming sometime but October is a difficult time for a teacher to take time off.

**Concordia Searches for Missing '76 Cobbers**
The Concordia Alumni Office does not have any contact information for some members of the Cobber class of 1976. Cobber alumni are encouraged to provide the alumni office with any contact information they may have for the classmates listed below:

Janet Brammer, Cynthia (Mason) Cambron, Heather (Olson) Collins, Paula Cross, Harlan Desschene, Cherilyn Drake, Shannon (Newton) Ellefson, Jewel (Randall) Fossum, Diana (McNabney) Forbes, June (Dale) Fuller, Bruce Georgeson, Phillip Hanson, Mary Haugen, Debra (Grothe) Hayden, Frances Johnson, Patricia (Niemeyer) Johnson, Peter Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Scott Kaye, Anne LaRose, Forrest (Nordbotn) Lee, David Lund, Ronald Lund, Janice (Steidel) Lundborg, Patricia Martinson, Debra McAninch, Brad Messerli, Joel Miller, Joeseph Mireault, Valerie Moline, Bradley Munson, Margaret (Wedeking) Nelson, Peggy Nelson, Brian Olson, Thomas Olson, Charles Pearson, Alice Peterson, Linda Plessner, Patricia (Dinicola) Quinn, Ona (Vinje) Richards, Magne Roe, Ardele (Hanson) Romano, Brian Rossow, Douglas Schmidt, Richard Stark, Victoria Soli, Alicia (Hamar) Vogt, Dean Watne
Class of '76 Participates in the Class Challenge
The final results are in for the annual class challenge. The numbers for the class of '76 are as follows:

- Potential Donors: 432
- Number of Donors: 114
- Participation %: 26.39%
- Dollar Amt - 2013: $31,454 (#37 out of 78 classes)
- Total Dollars (All years): $617,740

In Memorium - Class of '76
The Concordia Alumni office has been notified that the following Cobbers from the class of '76 have passed away. Any additions to this list should be sent to the Concordia alumni office.


EDITORIAL SECTION

Paul's Prattle
I had the opportunity to spend some time with the "Sent Forth Award" recipients, Roxana Saberi '97 and Rich Sommer '00. They both have lived very interesting lives and it was great talking with them about all their experiences. Roxana told her story about being arrested in Iran and accused of being a spy in 2009. These false charges resulted in Roxana being forced to spend 100 days in an Iranian prison. After listening to her story I decided to read the book she wrote about this very difficult experience and I highly recommend it. It's titled "Between Two Worlds - My Life and Captivity in Iran". It's an incredible story that fortunately does have a happy ending. Roxana currently lives in New York City and works as a reporter for the Al Jazeera America TV network.

On a much lighter note, Rich Sommer had some great stories about what life is like being an actor on a television show that is currently very popular. Rich has played the role of Harry Crane for the last 6 years on the hit show titled "Mad Men". Rich lives in Hollywood and has had guest appearances on several other television shows. Rich said his big break was getting a part in the movie titled "The Devil Wears Prada"(2006) where he had the opportunity to work with the legendary Meryl Streep.
I represented the Concordia Alumni Board at a meeting with a group of incoming freshman during orientation week last August and had great time talking with the students about what it means to join the Cobber family....COBBERS FOR COBBERS!

I will again make my yearly plea to everyone in our class....PLEASE consider making the trip back to campus for this year's homecoming festivities. Now that Concordia will be sponsoring an all-class reunion every year, there is no need to wait for our official 40 year class reunion. As a member of the Concordia National Alumni Board I march in the homecoming parade each year and I hereby officially invite everyone in our class to attend this year's parade. I promise to throw all of you plenty of candy!

Here is my 'FUN FACT" for this year: During my days playing on the Cobber basketball team I made the statement to my teammates that I would still be playing basketball when I was 60 years old. A statement like that of course sounded ridiculous to a bunch of my 20-year old teammates at the time, and I must say I didn't really believe it either. However, I'm happy to report that my body has held together well enough so that I am able to still be playing basketball at the age of 60. The even better news is that I get to play basketball with my 60-year old former Cobber teammate and now Concordia Hall of Famer, Darwin Kreft, every
Sunday night at Osseo High School. Just to make sure that the proclamation I made in 1976 officially came true, Darwin and I played basketball together on my 60th birthday.

A big thank you goes out to those who took the time to send me an update. I received 20 responses this year which is a new record for our class. Records are made to be broken so start getting your updates ready for the next letter. Have a great year!

Paul

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