

# GOLD GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE



**Colton Dabrowski '18**

**Majors/Minor:** French, Chinese; English

**Current Job:** Strategic Partnerships Manager  
at ALTIDO, Bulgaria

## What did Concordia mean to you as a student?

Concordia was a safe space for me to explore new interests and challenge myself to learn about what really motivates me in life.

## What does Concordia mean to you now?

Concordia was a launching pad, and I'm thankful for the international opportunities possible there. From working with international students and studying abroad, I was well-prepared for my Peace Corps role in Vanuatu and for my move to Bulgaria as well.

## Did you have a defining moment at Concordia that helped shape you as a person?

When the Concordia administration decided to cut several language programs in 2016, I organized a protest, plastering the campus with posters. I've never been one who quietly accepts things that outrage me, and I'll always be one to challenge authority when I see injustice. I'm happy that Concordia has reinstated the French and German programs after restructuring so students can learn to BREW beyond the anglophone world.

## Do you have any favorite Concordia memories you'd like to share?

I'd say watching "Family Feud" reruns in the Maize at all hours of the day/night and midnight Perkins pie runs.

## Did you have a mentor at Concordia who was influential during your time at college?

Dr. Rawson is definitely my Conco mom, and she was also one of my most challenging professors. She's really good at knowing what students are capable of and pushing them to get there. When I lived in Vanuatu, she even mailed me some "homework" (a 700-page biography) to make sure I kept up with my French. We still catch up whenever we can.

## Do you remember a favorite assignment as a student? Why was it enjoyable? Did you build skills while working on it that transfer to your current work?

In Chinese, one project was "Anything you want to research, as long as you speak Chinese for 15 minutes." I took the opportunity to study Vanuatu because I was moving there after graduation, and I already needed to learn more — so why not learn it in Chinese? I use this method to approach interdisciplinary/interdepartmental topics at work in innovative ways to keep myself motivated.

## How did your time at Concordia prepare you for your current work?

Concordia does a good job of exposing students to all different disciplines and perspectives, so students understand how everything is connected. My current role requires me to work with entirely different companies and design ways to work together. I oversee the departmental impacts of our strategic partnerships — from guest relations and operations to finance and marketing. Each decision has a butterfly effect across the whole company.

## If you could say one thing to your past college self, what would you say?

I'd tell him to say "No" more often. Be less involved in groups and jobs, and more involved with people. Relationships are more valuable than resumes.

## What advice do you have for future Cobbers?

Don't get stuck in the future — take time to appreciate today. Not every moment of every day needs to be focused on improving your resume or getting ahead in your career. So take a nap, go to Mick's, or binge-watch that Netflix series. Your emotional and mental health is more important than any grade, certificate, or paycheck.