

FEB. 2021

1968 CLASS LETTER



MESSAGE FROM SHARON

It's exciting to be a Cobber, even though we have graduated over 50 years ago! That's still hard to believe. President William Craft and the Board of Regents continue to lead Concordia to new heights. One area of excitement is that Concordia recently announced three changes to be implemented in the Fall of 2021; I'll detail that in the next section on college news.

A few years ago the college made a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) by hiring a Diversity Officer, establishing a Diversity Council, and identifying action steps in Concordia's strategic plan (<https://www.concordiacollege.edu/about/president/concordia-leads/>). It is heartening to know that this year the Board of Regents made a recommitment to DEI.

And a couple of years ago Concordia joined a number of other colleges and made the Climate Commitment. By signing the commitment, the college has pledged to reduce carbon emissions and work with local partners to increase the community's ability to adapt and flourish in the face of climate change.

All of these actions show the dedication Concordia has to its students, the community and society as a whole. These are only a couple of reasons I'm proud to be a Concordia alum!

I hope that each of you and your families have been safe and well in this time of COVID-19.

Best wishes and stay well!

Sharon Muir Buhr

WHAT'S INSIDE

- College News & Awards
- Giving Update
- News from Classmates
- Coming Events & Opportunities



Campus Update 2021

Concordia recently announced three changes to be implemented in Fall 2021: the launch of a new pricing structure for tuition, a change to its academic framework by establishing a schools model within the college, and the introduction of the Cobber Flex Year.

Beginning in Fall 2021, the price for annual tuition will be \$27,500, which is more than \$15,000 lower than current tuition – a reduction of over 35%. The change in the college's pricing model will benefit continuing students as well. Historically, students have seen an average annual tuition increase of 4% or about \$1,700 annually.



In the upcoming year, the increase in the out-of-pocket tuition costs for continuing students will be limited to \$800 and no more than \$1,000 for 2022-23 and 2023-24.

To further prepare students, Concordia implemented an academic reorganization to clearly name three schools. Under the new academic model, Concordia introduced the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Health Professions. These two new schools join the Offutt School of Business to encompass all areas of the college. The new schools model resulted in the appointment of two new deans. Dr. George Connell is serving as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Cynthia Carver is dean of the School of Health Professions. As school deans, Connell and Carver join Christopher Mason, who was appointed dean of the Offutt School of Business in January 2020.

Concordia also established a Cobber Flex Year option. The Flex Year option offers current students and those enrolling in Fall 2021 two tuition-free semesters of study beyond their anticipated graduation date. The Cobber Flex Year allows students whose college experience has been affected by the pandemic expanded possibilities to learn in ways they find most compelling.

In the midst of a pandemic, Concordia continued its work to support the vitality of our faith and learning mission. In March 2020, as the realities of COVID-19 swept the nation, Concordia transitioned to distance learning. Concordia was able to transition back to campus for the fall 2020 semester. In-person instruction and residential living were offered with modifications to academic and campus life. Each teaching space was measured to determine appropriate occupancy and classes were held in larger spaces when necessary. In addition, some classes were offered as a hybrid approach and virtual learning attendance was available for those who could not meet in-person.



MUSIC: The Concordia Christmas Concert with more than 425 student musicians and eight ensembles was just as beautiful and meaningful as ever this year, even though it was performed virtually. The new conductor of The Concordia Choir and artistic director of the Concordia Christmas Concerts, Dr. Michael Culloton '98 succeeded Dr. Rene Clausen who retired last year after 34 years of service.

ATHLETICS: In February, Concordia began intercollegiate competition for the winter athletics teams. While spectators are not allowed at the competitions, Concordia is offering live streams of the competitions. The links can be accessed on Cobber Athletics. You can also click on this link: <https://concordiamn.prestosports.com/sports/index/2020-21/liveeventswinter2021>.

Concordia is working hard to keep athletes and those around them safe by following these protocols:

- Testing: All teams (student-athletes, coaches, managers) are being tested 2x/week. The NCAA does not require this amount of testing for some sports. However, Concordia athletics believes this additional testing helps mitigate risk even for those teams who are not in-season but are still conducting strength and conditioning workouts. Winter teams in-season who are categorized as high-risk transmission sports are tested 3x/week beginning a week before competition.

- Physical Distancing: Whenever athletes are not engaged in competition play, they will be physically distanced during the competition. (Example: sitting on the bench)

- Practice pods: Student athletes are in designated pods with teammates which limits the number of contacts.

- Shortened Season: The season is shortened for all winter sports teams. Contests will be managed differently to follow sport-specific COVID-19 protocols set up by the NCAA, MIAC and Concordia.

- Travel: Specific plans for team travel have been created and vetted through Emergency Response Team.

OFFUTT SCHOOL of BUSINESS: In January 2020, Chris Mason '84 was appointed dean of the Offutt School of Business (OSB). Mason earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Concordia and an MBA from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. An associate professor of finance, Mason led the development of the school's finance program. He is also a founding member of the Global Leadership Council at the OSB, the group that envisioned the business school, and has served as the school's interim director since 2018.

The Offutt School of Business has also hired 3 new faculty/staff in the past year. Darin Stromstad was hired last February to serve as Assistant Director of Special Projects and Career Services. He works closely with our Alumni Relations Office on the student/alumni mentoring programs for business students. Darin worked in Concordia's Global Studies Department for over 13 years prior to his new position. Anna Benson '19 was hired to serve as the Marketing Coordinator for the business school. She was a business student while at Concordia.

Bree Langemo was hired in 2019 and is now full-time as Assistant Professor of Law and Entrepreneurship and Director, Entrepreneurship Center. Bree is an accountant and attorney with significant higher education experience as a faculty, chair, and dean. Her higher education pathway intersected with entrepreneurship when she combined her passion for student success with the empowerment of entrepreneurial thinking and acting to enable students to succeed.

At the Offutt School of Business, entrepreneurship is more than business creation and small business management. It's a mindset that cultivates the creativity, problem solving, and collaborative skills needed to succeed in any work environment. To develop entrepreneurial skills, the Offutt School of Business offers the Entrepreneurial Mindset Certificate and entrepreneurship minor to students of all disciplines. The Entrepreneurial Mindset Certificate compliments any major and requires no prerequisites.



ALUMNI AWARDS

2020 Sent Forth Award Recipients



Cmdr. Brian Kesselring '00



Tara (Stueber) Wilson '06

2020 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients



Robert Johnson '71



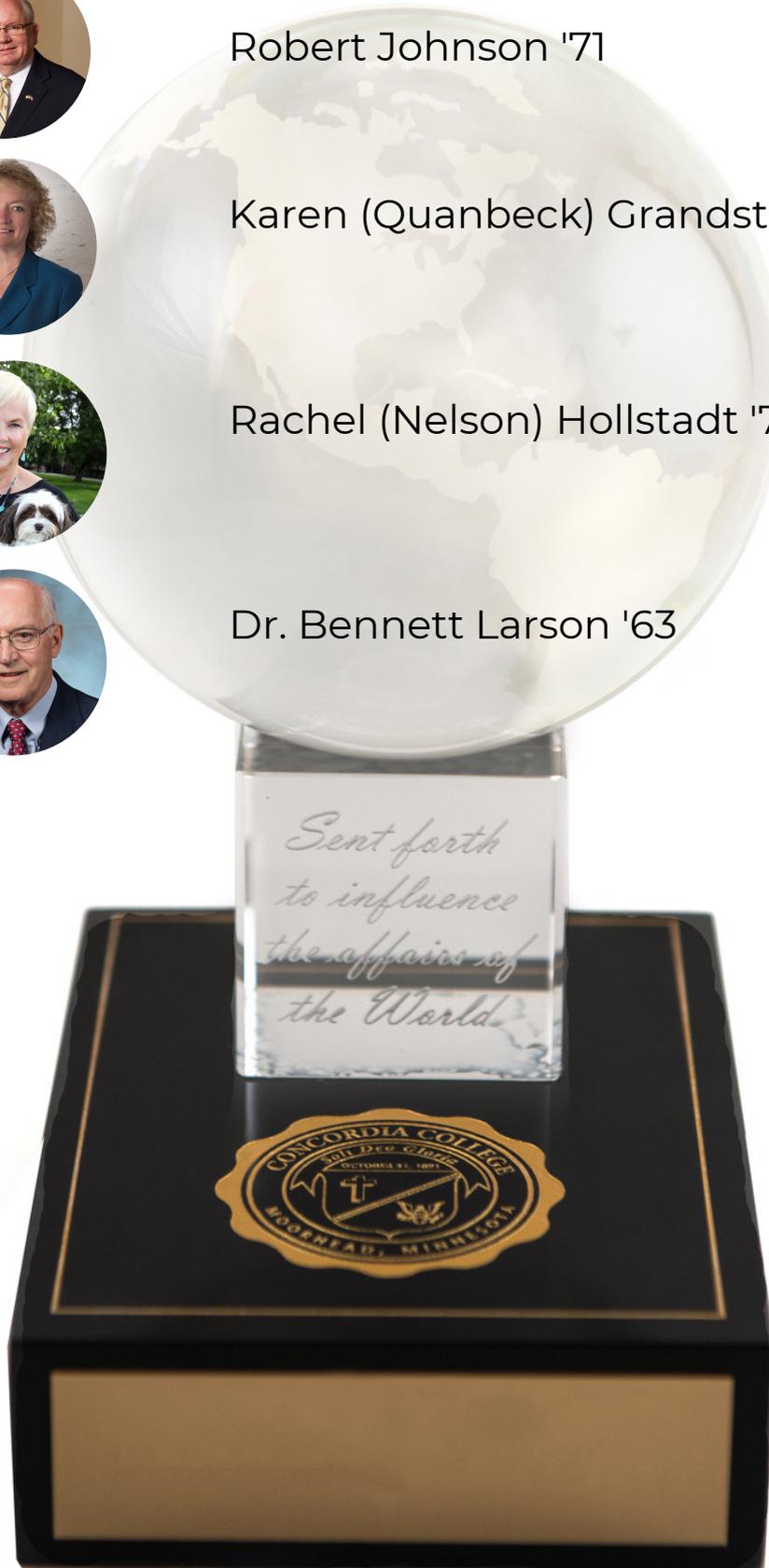
Karen (Quanbeck) Grandstrand '77



Rachel (Nelson) Hollstadt '70



Dr. Bennett Larson '63



To read the bios of the 2020 AAA and Sent Forth Award Recipients or if you would like to nominate a deserving Alum, please go to ConcordiaCollege.edu/AlumniAwards

GIVING UPDATE

In a year like none other, the generosity of alumni like us has helped propel the college forward while supporting the students it serves. A few of the highlights from this year include:

- More than \$2.1 million was raised for The Cobber Fund for scholarships and support to help make sure a Concordia education is possible for every one of our students.
- During the start of the pandemic, \$59,000 was raised for emergency funding for food, transportation, and other critical needs.
- This fall, 841 Cobber fans gave \$87,890 to make sure our athletes have the resources they need to compete despite COVID-19.
- This holiday season, 1,809 virtual Christmas Concert attendees donated \$68,552 in honor of this Concordia tradition and our student musicians.
- In just ONE day, donors fully funded the Cobber Food Pantry.



Thank you to those who have already given this year! Be on the lookout for the “CobbersGive” Fund-the-Need campaign in March - you are sure to find an area of campus that aligns with your passions. The class of 1968 can truly make a difference in the lives of current Cobbers!

What area of campus will you champion with your gift to the Cobber Fund?

 ORIENTATION	 SCHOLARSHIPS	 SUSTAINABILITY	 CAREER READINESS
 AREA OF GREATEST NEED	 STUDENT LEADERSHIP	 STUDENT CARE AND SUPPORT	 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Between March 8-19, your gift of any size to The Cobber Fund will unlock an additional \$100 for student scholarships – up to \$50,000!*

*Thank you to an anonymous alum for providing the generous match.

Together we are preparing Cobbers to lead and serve in a world that needs them. During the challenges of COVID-19, your generosity is needed more than ever.

Learn more or give early at ConcordiaCollege.edu/cobbersgive

CLASS UPDATES

Ted Dewald

I had a great talk with classmate Ted Dewald a few weeks ago. He's semi-retired as a pastor; still doing funerals and the occasional wedding. Ted also finds volunteer work very rewarding. He volunteers in the surgical unit at Gunderson Hospital in Lacrosse, taking the family back to see their family member that is having surgery before and then after the surgery. His most exciting news is that he and his wife Marlene Strand Dewald will soon be grandparents (a granddaughter) for the second time.

George Halvorson

I have been chairing the kid commission for the state of California and working on six fun boards in health care. He founded the Institute for InterGroup Understanding (<https://www.intergroupinstitute.org>) to help reduce InterGroup conflict and stress in America. As George states, "it seems to be the right agenda at the right time because we have so much inter group anger in America right now. We are calling for Peace and Honesty as goals and strategies. The website also has a couple of pieces that offer scientific evidence for the existence of God. Peace and be well. A Cobber tradition blessing."

Louise (Lommen) Evenson

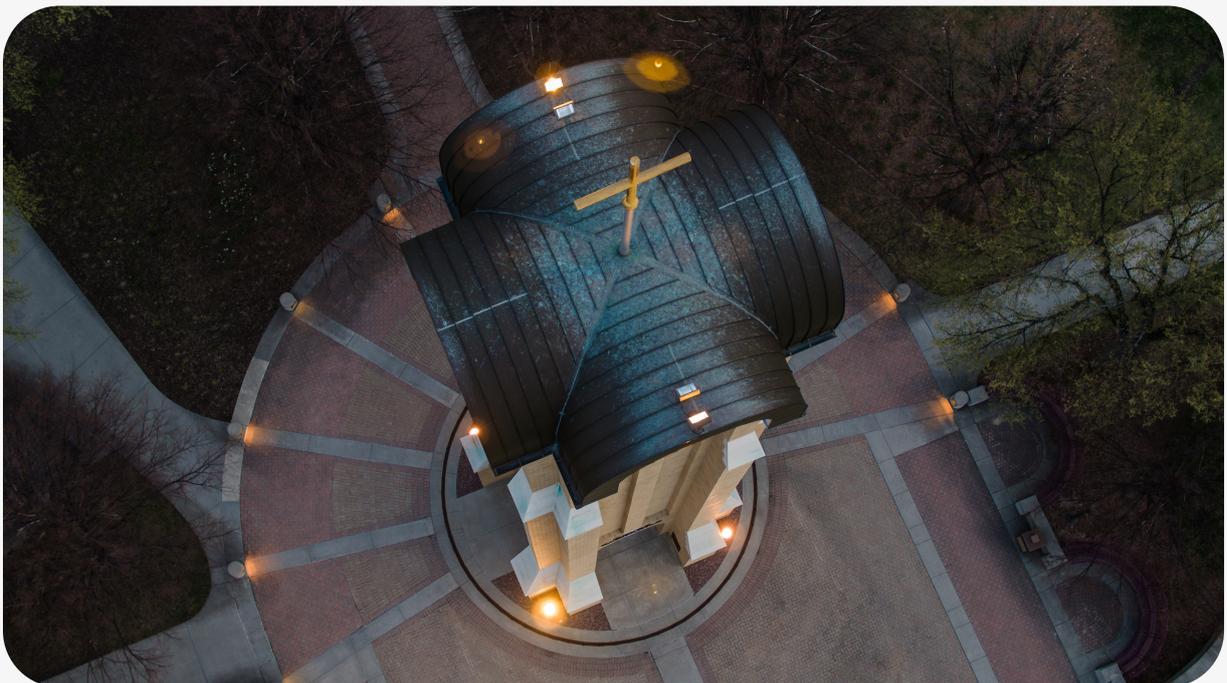
My senior year Concordia roommate, Louise Lommen Evenson, recently emailed that she continues her service on the Lutheran World Relief/Corus International board, completing her 9th year. Louise notes that her husband, Paul Evenson, has finally retired (for the 3rd time) and she thinks it will stick! Paul is now volunteering in the position of board chair of the Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center (<https://spiritinthedesert.org/>). Check it out...it's a beautiful place.

Lois (Haugen) Myran

In October 2020 I retired from my most recent work with The National Center/Westat based in Rockville, MD. In this position I worked with States and Regional Centers to enhance the quality of instruction, close achievement gaps, and improve educational outcomes for all students, through capacity-building services and products, with key education stakeholders to leverage expertise and resources and, ultimately, maximize results. Previously, I worked with Academic Development Institute, ND State Department of Education, and the Dickinson Public Schools as a Curriculum Director, principal, and teacher. We have three children living in MN and CO and six grandchildren ranging in age from 7 to 17. Travel is of prime interest with trips to Cuba, Guatemala, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, France and the UK for starters.

Marlene (Strand) Dewald

2020 and 2021 have been remarkable, memorable and concerning years in so many ways. We are now in the process of having our COVID-19 vaccines and feel very thankful for that. Hopefully there will be much improvement in the pandemic with more and more people being vaccinated. The biggest news in our family is the arrival of a new baby granddaughter on February 1, 2021. Her name is Sawyer Rose, and she is a precious miracle! I have already spent several days with her. Holding a sleeping baby in your arms has to release many endorphins and be good for the soul. What a blessing she is, and we are very thankful!



Homecoming 2021

Make plans to attend Oct. 1-3.
Watch our website for updates.
ConcordiaCollege.edu/homecoming



Join the Concordia Book Club!

Connect with fellow Cobber alumni, faculty/staff, current students, and current/former parents to read and discuss a variety of fiction novels. To join the group search *Concordia College Fiction Book Club*.

Host a Corn Feed in your area!

Gather area alumni to strengthen relationships between alumni, parents, and students. Reach out to Marah Moy at mmoy@cord.edu if you are interested in hosting. Costs up to \$200 are reimbursed.



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WE REMEMBER

John B. Hovland passed 2/13/2020
John L. Knutson passed 8/31/2019



HELP US LOCATE

If you know any of the 1968 Alumni below, please ask them to update their information by going to concordiacollege.edu/classnotes or send an email to alumni@cord.edu. We would love to update their records.

William E. Brathwaite

Linda A. Hogenson

Kenneth W. Holmes

Roger E. Johnson

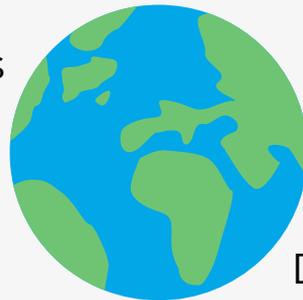
Lyle E. Kivisto

Robert J. Lupient

John D. Matthewson

John A. Nygaard

Mary Ellen (Olson) Ohnstad



Ernest E. Peitso

Janet K. Pekney

Jane (Bruskrud) Roark

Mary Ann Sedey

Kenneth L. Sheldahl

Diane (Marten) Siebrecht

Thomas E. Sullivan

Janis G. Thorkelsson

George D. White



Alumni can send in life updates throughout the year.
Go to: www.ConcordiaCollege.edu/ClassNotes