

Greetings Class of 1975

What a year!!!! Gwen and I truly hope that all of you have been able to push through 2019 and into 2020 with the many restrictions and changes our society has had to endure. As with all of you, we pray that 2021 is on an upswing and the pandemic will settle down. With this being said, Concordia College has continued to excel during these troubled times.

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.

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 1975 can truly make a difference in the lives of current Cobbers!

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 school’s model within the college, and the introduction of the Cobber Flex Year.

Homecoming 2021

Homecoming 2021 is in the planning stages. The dates are October 1-3, 2021. Set your calendar now. Only time will tell how the week (weekend) will be organized. The Class of 1975 will plan to have its reunion this fall. We will keep you posted for all details.

Tentative plans for homecoming 2021 are below.

1. [Hotel Reservations | Concordia College](https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/homecoming/hotel-reservations/)

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Hotel Reservations. Hotel Reservations. Planning for **Homecoming 2021** is just beginning. ... Call 701.232.7363. Cobber **Homecoming**. Join us Oct. **1-3 for Homecoming 2021**.

2. [Schedule | Concordia College](https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/homecoming/schedule/)

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Class Updates:

Nadine Mandt: Five years ago, I moved back into my childhood home in Perham, MN to help my 98-year-old mother. She is now in assisted living.

David Aschenbeck: After a 40-year career (and raising a family) in Ohio, my wife and I returned to MN in 2016. Final retirement started with 2020.... just in time for living with COVID-19!

Sheldon Peter Waskosky: We got busier with Zoom: finished teaching an Intro to Linguistics class online was more work than in person and many more Zoom meetings than we would not have been able to make had they been in person. It is such a blessing!

David Wilson: I (Dave) retired August 2019 from 40 years as a dentist in private practice in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Sonja (Rauk) '75 continues to give piano lessons and volunteer organizing for church and community along with playing in and directing bell choirs. We enjoy seeing our 9 grandchildren when we can!

Joe and Gwen Brott: Joe retired in 2018 after 42 years in the education world. Gwen (Gormley) retired in 2019 after spending many years as a Social Worker, Drug and Alcohol Counselor, and a Hospice Social Worker. We both love retirement. After 40 years in the Big Sky (God's) Country, we recently sold our home in Montana and will be moving to Perham, Minnesota in March. We need to be closer to our kids and seven (plus one on the way) grandkids.

Soli Deo Gloria

Joe and Gwen

