

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

CLASS OF





CAMPUS UPDATES:

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.



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 1980 can truly make a difference in the lives of current Cobbers!



CLASS MEMEBER UPDATES:

Ms Kellian Clink



I have started serving on the Blue Earth County Social Services Task Force and am being trained to be a Board Member of the Minnesota Area Agency on Aging. I continue as a librarian and professor at Minnesota State University Mankato. Since I could hike the coast of England this past year I did hike the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/sakatah/index.html near my home in Mankato. It truly sings, lots of frogs in lots of ponds and I must say I have an increased appreciation of the beauty near me now than previously. I presented virtually at the Pacific Northwest Library Association on homelessness in public libraries. I also presented virtually at the Northern Great Plains History Conference about the Rondo Neighborhood Celebration. I feel very blessed to be in good health and that I am by nature a solitudinous kind of bear, so the relative social free life wasn't a burden. My garden was spectacular this year, although I would say if you plant some milkweed to help the monarch butterflies, you do end up with rather a LOT of milkweed in a hurry.

Ms Dala Hynek (Peerson)

My husband of 35 years will be retiring this April. I have retired from teaching Deaf and hard of hearing students last year (so grateful I'm not teaching during COVID) but I am virtually interpreting for a Deaf middle school student. We were blessed with a third grandchild and the marriage of our second son. Our only daughter, Elise, is in her second year at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA.

Rev. Dr. Wendy Abrahamson (Nehmer)

Graduated from Drew Theological School with a Doctor of Ministry Degree. Thesis title: Be Still and Know that I am God: Parish as Spiritual Life Center.

Steve Tjeltveit



We've had a couple of big changes in 2021 so far becoming empty nesters as our youngest daughter moved to Seattle in early January to be near her older sister and continue her working at great bakeries. Then at the end of February I'll be entering the expanding list of retirees working on finding a ROMEO group in South Mpls (Retired Old

Men Exercising outside or Eating Out). Looking forward to more travel including my version of God's Country (Red Lodge, Montana for those of you non-native to that great state) and exploring more volunteer activities and perhaps merging these two passions as well.

Mary Schultz - 1980

Mary Beth retired two years ago after more than 30 years of teaching and coaching. Together with my husband, we had a hand in coaching more than 70 teams during our tenure! We have seven grandchildren and hope to do more traveling in the years ahead.

Candace Nordine (Roed)

I began as the office manager at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville MN in August, working with Pastor Andy Smith (Class of 1987).

Kyle (Class of 1981) continues as CEO at the Northfield Retirement Community

Miriam Bunge (Knudson)

Greetings! The year of 2020 has been a very difficult year for our country and world. As an ELCA Pastor, I began the year serving as a supply pastor once a month at St. Paul Lutheran/ Church/ East Lansing. This ministry came to an abrupt halt for me in March, because of COVID -19. I have continued to serve actively on the Racial Justice Team and Kids Hope USA (mentoring) at University Lutheran Church/E Lansing, where I am a member and my husband Gary is the Lead Pastor.

Gary and I love camping in our trailer, which took us to Door County, WI and Brown County St. Park, IN. We love visiting our son Luke, his wife Chelsea (married on 9/21/19) and their Samoyed dog Yeti, who are living in MNPLS, MN. Luke is a Data Scientist for Polaris and Chelsea is an Attorney for Jones Day. Gary and I also love camping in our trailer, which took us to Door County, WI and to Brown County State Park, IN last summer.

My great hope and prayer include healing and justice for our country and world. God's Peace to all!

Karen (Natwick) Carlson



What a crazy year it has been! Most of the past year, I've been working from home. The dog has loved it more than anyone. Our son started working remotely too so he was home from West Coast 4 times this past year. Our daughters live in a condo 2 blocks up the street from us, so we have spent lots of time with them too. Concordia staff had a 3-week furlough during the summer. Spending so much time at home, I went overboard on my gardens, planting 6 flower beds and 48 flowerpots. It was all fun until the fall when I had to clean them up. We took a couple hiking trips this fall. In October, we met a friend from Colorado in the Black Hills for 5 days. Over Thanksgiving, we drove with our 2 daughters to North Lake Tahoe to visit our son who lives in Incline Village. It was a wonderful week of family time and enjoying the beautiful scenery.

I am sad to report that two of our classmates passed away since our last class letter.
Charles S. Olson on March 5, 2020 and Catherine A. Ridge on September 20, 2019.





Like the roommates we had in college who “disappeared without a trace” to the library and we wondered if we would ever see them again, we have some former classmates with whom we have lost touch. It would be nice if they were found once again so we can include them in future communications about Concordia. If you know the whereabouts of these “lost” classmates, please have them contact the Alumni Relations Department at Concordia so we can mark them “found” once again. P. 218.299.4335

LOST & FOUND:

Jean B. Anderson
Laura A. Brunsman
Dickison, Susan A.
Garbett, Guy C.
Gormley, Mary C
Griffith, Susan L. (Gilbertson)
Gwiazdon, Wendy M.

Karen L. Anderson
Brunsvold, David A.
Finbraaten, Sandra K.
Garnas, Deborah L.
Graetzer, Mike H.
Gronseth, Timothy L.
Hagberg, Amy S. (Hammond)

Hayes Elston, Charlene L. (Hayes)
Jacobson, Thomas A.
Jensen, Debra L.
Johnson, Susan E
Kramer, Laura S.
Melquist, Elaine L.
Mittelstaedt, Joel A.
Naylor, Kaviah A.
Nelson, Sue E.
Ness, Debra J.
Orji, David A.
Quist, Carol R. (Lefsrud)
Sauer, David P.
Stivers, Bobette M.
Thorsten, Marie A.
Walker, Roger W.

Hegre, Kathryn E.
Jastorff-Russell, Lauri L. (Jastorff)
Johnson, Brenda J.
Jones, Derrick W.
Mathre, Mark P.
Meyer, Marcia M. (Brauer)
Muir, Star A.
Nellermoe, Paul K.
Nelson, Theodore E.
Noble, Teresa S.
Peterson, Karen J. (Allen)
Rockwell, Michelle A.
Sorenson, Kevin N.
Thomas, Katherine A. (Meyer)
Tonnessen, Anne M.
West, T Steven

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR HOMECOMING!



September 30 – October 3, 2021 will mark our “rescheduled” Homecoming and Class Reunion. Details are still in the planning stage, but mark your calendar now..... and plan to attend and get “caught up” in person with our classmates from 1980.

UNTIL NEXT TIME!!

My wife, Jill (1981) and I are now retired and making our home in the South Padre Island, Texas area. As I write this on February 8, 2021, it is 77 degrees outside ... and we played 18 holes of golf this morning. THAT is a far cry from when we all woke up in the morning, looked out the window as we got ready for class and saw snow being driven by 40 mph winds! Yes, the "good old days" are great.... But I'll take today's weather in Texas as I look at these campus photographs and remember those great times of days past! Let's stay in touch through our Class Page on Facebook! Concordia College Class of 1980. You can find it here:
www.facebook.com/groups/124260914251531

*Until next time,
Timothy Carlson*





