

FEB. 2021

1981 CLASS LETTER



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.





CLASS UPDATES

Mary (Hennen) Anderson

This past year, I took a break from work and moved to Port St Lucie, Florida, on the Atlantic Coast, with my dog Lucy. Our oldest, Sam, moved to San Diego in March, where he runs an online business. Henry lives in NYC and works playing music and in restaurants (none of which were too easy to do this past year). Our youngest, Claire, received her master's in nursing in August and is (as of December 2020) giving people the COVID vaccine at a NYC hospital. Curtis and I are no longer married but on good terms. Curtis is a teacher at a charter school in Queens, NY. He says kids are really sick of zoom school. I am pondering my future. I worked for 30 years in the NYC criminal legal system, and I was weary of seeing so many poor people with mental health problems and so many young black and brown folks get caught up in the system. I'm thinking of teaching English to middle or high schoolers.

Suzanne (Rice) Benidt

I retired after serving 34 years as an ELCA pastor. Enjoying life at my lake home near Sisseton, SD. 2 sons still live at home. See the other 3 and their spouses often, as well as my 2 grandsons.

Kaia (Twait) Bergeson

I retired from teaching Family & Consumer Science at YME in Granite Falls after 36 years in June of 2019. I now teach FACS online students through the CTE program at the MRVED in Montevideo. My husband Bruce retired from his High School Principal job at Montevideo in June of 2018. He is now the Director of area CTE programs at the MRVED in Montevideo. We enjoy lake time, traveling, golfing and spending time with our kids and 5 grandchildren.



Jodi (Larsen) Bonnette

My husband and I have spent the past 36 years teaching abroad. We started our overseas teaching career in Saudi Arabia and then moved to Japan and finally to Singapore, where we currently live. In all those years we have always returned to the US during the summer to reunite with our family, friends and our home country. Not being able to return home this past summer was heartbreaking, especially since two of our children live in the US. Singapore is an incredibly safe place to be. The country immediately responded to Covid and shut it down. As the country began to open strict rules were put into action and everyone abides by those rules. Everyone wears a mask and contact tracing and temperature taking became the norm. In Singapore it is a crime not to follow the law so everyone does. Because of this swift action, we were able to return to school in August and have been teaching in person since then. (of course with masks and safe distancing measures). Although I am grateful to be in Singapore, it has been heart wrenching to see the enormous covid numbers in the US. I pray the vaccine distribution is swift and we become the global community we have always been.

Julie (Benson) McCarlson

Hello fellow Cobbers! Overall, our family has been serving the Lord as we can, with Covid literally in the air! We all sheltered in place, some from our SD home, some from their homes; some worked from home, some worked from our SD home, some continued to work as usual. Homeschooling the grands has always been the plan, so the families continued school at home. Both of our fathers lived on their home farm places, so both families did not have to work with a care facility, but...as well as family caring for each of them, outside care was needed, also...coming into the home and helping as able. We all were thankful to the Lord we could care for the Fathers in their homes, and even though we did not encounter the struggles of those living in care facilities, there were struggles of other kinds. Mike's father, of 99 years, passed on in July 2020. We had a Covid funeral: a walk through visitation, and immediate family only at Tabor Church, live streamed, and others socially distanced, masked, during the graveside military service. My father is still living; we were able to celebrate his 90th birthday outside with immediate family only October 2020, and a birthday card shower over his actual birthday this January 2021! Church life has been different for each of our families, as we each attend different churches in our different areas/states. But Tabor Lutheran Church (AFLC), with Mike as our pastor, has been blessed with audio messages emailed out to the congregation (Lenten and Sunday worship from our home) and a few of the technologically advanced congregants put Zoom together, so we started Zooming our in person worship last May, following a variety of Covid protocols. As we were in our new building here in Webster for only 5 months before the pandemic took hold in March, we continued to work on various projects within and without our building. As it is an old Shopko building, there is plenty of room to stay socially distanced while working. We are so thankful for the willing hands of so many of the members. We miss our fellowship and gathering times, and as everyone else, events look different, but we honor God in which ever way we can! I pray His nearness and blessings on each of you!

We are thankful to Him we can meet on Sunday mornings and for mid-week prayer/Bible study as we are able. We are thankful for our lay leaders! After Mike's father passed on in July, Mike felt like he could take the time to start checking out his own physical needs, and went to the doctor...long story short...he was diagnosed with colorectal cancer in August 2020. It has been a whirl wind of weeks with chemo/radiation treatments, all sorts of scans and labs and ivs and surgery and healing and sickness and ostomy and a port for the second round of chemo...with infusion and pump at home...and family and friends praying and praying and praying as each day unfolds...God is with us...Emmanuel! I studied at Concordia to be a teacher! And after about 17 years since graduation, I had my first Kindergarten room (after years of subbing and raising our family, music all a part of it, and a few other odd jobs)! I taught Kindergarten in Webster SD for 17 years (still raising our family, music being a major part of our lives, seeing them graduate and go on to further schooling, some married, grandchildren.) As various situations arose, the Lord directed me to turn in my full time teaching career, for a part time substitute teaching job, home care life, caring for elderly parents with my husband, and work with our farm business. And somewhere in there I became a pastor's wife ~ smiling! And thanking the Lord! It all has been good - He is good! Life can be a struggle and painful, but God is with us! We remember Him for His past works, we lean on Him for our todays, and we trust Him with our future. We cannot trust humans, or the government . We must be still and know that He is God!



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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Homecoming 2021

Make plans to attend Homecoming Oct. 1-3.

Watch our website for updates.

ConcordiaCollege.edu/homecoming



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 1981 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

WE REMEMBER

Jeffrey Rye passed 6/24/2020
Eugene Powers passed 1/17/2020



HELP US LOCATE

If you know any of the 1981 graduates 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.

Mahammed Basha

Therese Behm

Michael Borstad

Louis Braxton

Oyvind Brisa

Craig DeJong

Anne Denys

Ellen (Goplen) Doele

Marcia (Sarsten) Elaschuk

Daniel Erickson

Sarah (Johnson) Erickson

Melissa (Swisher) Henrichsen

Cori Johnson

John Moore

Terry Nyquist

Julie Scarbrough

David Sedivec

Douglas Sell

John Simmons

Karen St. Clair

Mervin Weberg



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

ALUMNI AWARDS

2020 Sent Forth Award Recipients



Cmdr. Brian Kesselring '00



Tara (Stueber) Wilson '06

2020 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients



Robert Johnson '71



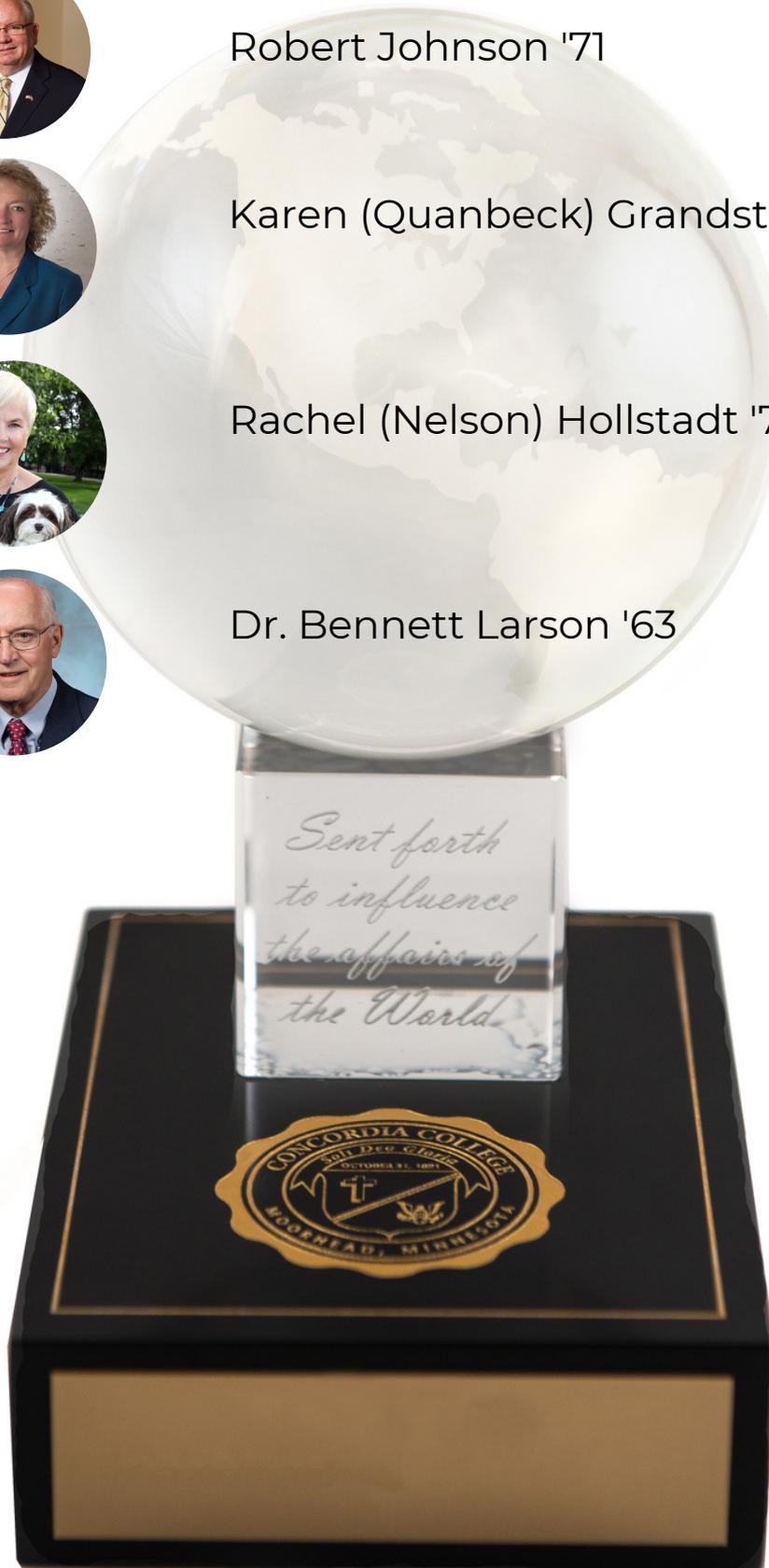
Karen (Quanbeck) Grandstrand '77



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