



MOORHEAD MINNESOTA

# CONCORDIA COLLEGE

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## Class of '87

Newsletter March, 2021

We pray you are all well, classmates!

Can you believe this spring it will have been 34 years since we graduated? Sometimes it feels like just yesterday that we were living in dorm rooms, eating in the cafeteria, and running to and from class. Where does time go?

Looking back on 2020 (and even into 2021), I am sure we can collectively say that it has been quite a strange year! However, as Cobbers, we know one thing is true and that no matter our circumstances, we can loudly proclaim "Soli Deo Gloria!"

Blessings to you all,  
Joni & Chris Bonnell

# '87 Class News

It is with a heavy heart  
that we mourn the  
passing of:

Cassia A. Drake  
Jill (Burdick)Tiffany  
Lori (Carpenter) Walstrom  
Kara Abrahamson '86

## **Please Send Updates!**

It would be wonderful if  
you would share your  
life's news for upcoming  
newsletters!

Email:

[jonibonnell@gmail.com](mailto:jonibonnell@gmail.com)

If you know where the  
following people are,  
please let us know.

Blakstad, Maren  
Chan, Kwei-Fa  
Clark, Ron L.  
Forkner, Jonathan E.  
Fornes Drop, Guri J.  
Fornes  
Johnson, Kirsten Marit  
Kelley, Peter D.  
Kessler, Darren R.  
Kjellesvig, Connie M.  
Lambert, Peter A.  
Larsen, Mark D.  
Nara, Charles M.  
Overman, Denise R.  
Pence, Charles R.  
Plucker, Rochell K.  
Schwarzlander, Suzanne M.  
Sharp, John K.  
Smedas, Ellen M.  
Johnstad  
Sollom, Richard A.  
Strand, Don M.  
Stushnoff, Shawna M.  
Taallerud, Mary Sue  
Taallerud  
Watts, Stacy C.  
Weir, Margaret H.  
Wenck, Christine M.  
Jahn

# Campus News

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 need
- 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 “Cobbers Give” Fund-the-Need campaign in March -you are sure to find an area of campus that aligns with your passions. The class of 1987 can truly make a difference in the lives of current Cobbers!



# 1987 Class Facebook Group

Did you all know we have a Facebook group called Concordia College, Class of 1987? It was started a while ago, but how fun it will be to grow the page and interact again!

For those on Facebook, please join the group and keep us updated with your life events, stories from college, and photos!

If you're not on Facebook but would still like to get updates, let me know other ways you'd like to stay in the loop.



[Click to the group](#)