

Class of 1994

I hope this class letter finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. Certainly, the last year has been significantly different than any other in the 26 years since leaving Concordia. This year has provided time for us to think about where we are from and maybe where we are going in the future. In 1994, I thought being sent off to influence the affairs of the world was a call to do great things. Now I realize that influencing the affairs of the world can, and should be, the simple acts of kindness we can perform everyday.

Homecoming 2021

Class Giving:

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 1994 can truly make a difference in the lives of current Cobbers!

I wanted to add a personal note here. In 2020 a close friend of ours Mitch McInnis (Class of 1995) passed away. Peter Schultz, Todd Lee and I decided that we wanted to create a scholarship at Concordia in his memory, so that those who knew and cared about him had a way to honor him and help others as they chase their dreams. If you knew Mitch and wish to participate, the advancement office has a brochure regarding the scholarship. Peter eloquently ~~stated~~ ^{described} the purpose of the scholarship this way.....” Our hope is that future honorees will see this support as both a confirmation of their own individual journeys and as an affirmation that there are fellow travelers in the world who believe in their dreams.”

This has been a very meaningful way for me to connect with old friends and the college again. If any of you are interested in doing this for someone I would be happy to help in anyway possible.

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 school 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.

Missing Cobblers:

These 94 Cobblers are lost to follow up:

Hege (Skalstad) Balk, Mark Barglof, Lina Braadland, Camino Brusseau, Craig Dickenson, James Donahue, Bjorg Farstad Ericsson, Christina Givans, Grethe (Smaland) Hummelvoll, Jay Johnson, Sarah Kettelkamp, Ramila Liyanage, Elizabeth (Raymond) Nelson, Irene Olsoy, Aliza Patell, Lisa (Roppe) Quandahl, Erik Rehwaltdt, John Renneke, Jon "Bad Moon" Rysdam, Tonje (Nohr) Smedstad, Cari Steil and Per Straete

Cobbers we lost in 2020:

Kaia (Nelson) Wilkinson 3/26/2020.

Here is a link to the obituary: <https://www.midwestfuneralservices.com/obituary/kaia-wilkinson>

Cobbers Out There Crushing It:

If you're reading this, then you are crushing it!!!!

David Ingala: David move to Louisville, KY to start a new job as Technical Supervisor of the COVID-19 Laboratory at NuLease Medical Solution.

Ronald Blair: Realized a dream 20 years in the making when he pulled up stake and moved to Kona, Hawaii. After 2 weeks in quarantine, he found a place to call home. In January of 2021 Ronald will start a new job with the Hawaii State Judiciary as a Technology Specialist.

Tammy (Strandberg) Hemmah: Tammy has been working as a school psychologist for 21 years at the Area Special Education Cooperative in East Grand Forks, MN. She is also the theater director for the Fertile-Beltrami High School. Tammy's husband, Jon, works for Sanford Health in Thief River Falls. Tammy and Jon have 3 children: a college student, a high school senior and an eighth grader. Most of their time is spent at baseball, softball, football or basketballs games.

Anna (Raske) Runestad: Ann and her husband Eric Runestad (1993) moved to Northfield, MN over the summer. Eric is Vice President and Treasurer at Carleton College. Anna is a Parent Educator teaching ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) in Fairbault, MN

Erica (Magnus) Koser: Erica was appointed as Pastor of Community Connection/Co-Director at Connections Shelter in Mankato, MN. Connections is an emergency homeless shelter that Erica helped start four years ago.

John Tufte: John finished a book entitled, "High-Impact Educators: How graduates describe their best teachers." It will be available in May 2021 and is published by Roman and Littlefield.

Erin Pietsch: Erin is the RN Clinical Coordinator for the Cardiology Clinic at Essential Health in Fargo, ND. Erin's husband, John, works for John Deere in Valley City, ND. Matthew their oldest son is a senior at Concordia University in St. Paul. Matthew is studying exercise science and plays baseball for the Golden Bears. Erin and John's daughter, Reagan is a freshman at Arizona State University. Erin and John are adjusting to being empty nesters!

Karen Patel Guerndt: Karen and her husband Rick bought a new house and added a puppy to their family. Karen celebrated her 18th year as a licensed realtor in Minnesota. Karen has owned her own real estate company for 16 years. She has acquired several specialty designations including ABR, GRI and CRS. Karen says she loves selling in the Duluth area.

That is all for this years class letter. Next year maybe we will try adding some pictures and different fonts (**Ooooh, Ahhhh**). This year I have reconnected with several of my friends from Concordia in a more meaningful way. I always leave these conversations refreshed and renewed. We went to school with many dynamic men and women who are out doing great things on both large and small scales. We can't connect in the Centrum anymore or at Mick's but if you're interested there is this:

Connect on Facebook @ **Concordia College Moorhead, MN Class of 1994**

Until Next Year.....
Soli Deo Gloria

Scott Anseth
Colleen Aaberg
Kristi Wilts