

## CLASS OF 2003 - WINTER 2021



The first Friday of every month is Cobber Pride Friday. It's when alumni can display our love for Concordia by posting Cobberific photos on social media (#cordmn). So it's a nice excuse to wear the gear I've amassed during my time on the National Alumni Board, which (sadly) is ending this fall.

Normally a four-year term, board members were offered a one-year extension, thanks to COVID-19 and the challenges it presented. I count myself lucky for the extra time.

If you are ever asked to serve, I encourage you to say, "YES!" Be the voice of our alumni. Ask hard questions and offer solutions. Be extra hands during large campus events, such as Homecoming. Make Concordia even better through your talent.

Perhaps best of all has been the peek behind the curtain—the firsthand information and experiences of Concordia today. It's different, friends. And it's the same. I still get that same feeling when I step onto campus and head to the bookstore. When I walk through Knutson. When I cross 8<sup>th</sup> Street on foot.

I think we know that Concordia is doing impactful work to influence the affairs of the world. And the world needs more Cobbers in it.

So here's the class letter (that was abrupt). I've kept it short and sweet because I know my own attention span these days.

Thanks, Class of 2003, for being awesome Cobbers.

Liz (Maiers) Cheney

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Class Agent, Class Giving Representative and National Alumni Board Member



## CLASS "KERNELS"

- **Sarah Anderson** is ending her call as associate pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Blaine, MN, and transitioning to serve at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota as donor stewardship and event specialist.
- **Liz (Maiers) Cheney** was promoted to Vice President of Philanthropy at Southwest Initiative Foundation, where she has spent 17 years in fundraising. She welcomed 40 with open

arms, like many of you. Distance-learning with a kindergartner was challenging this past fall but so interesting; kindergarten has changed a lot since we were five.

- **Sarah (Russell) Karlgaard** started a new job as general counsel for Vital Images, Inc., a Canon group company in Minnetonka, MN.
- **Noah Longo**: After 16 years on the coasts (4 years in New York City acting in off-Broadway and regional theatre and 12 years in Los Angeles acting in national commercials, films and television shows), he decided to pivot and went back to school to be a paralegal. After school, he worked in civil litigation helping represent employee rights and justice. He moved back to Minneapolis in 2019, lives with 3-legged cat named Mr. Billups and has been working as a patent paralegal in intellectual property at Fish & Richardson P.C.
- **Aubrey (Gold) Sakaguchi (pictured at right)**: Like so many, her family has been working and schooling from home. Kids are rocking their online academy program as third and fifth graders. She welcomed 40 with no party, thanks to COVID. Regardless, she found one live half marathon in Oregon and ran her very first 13.1 race to celebrate being alive, healthy and so grateful for another day!
- **Megan Zayic**: Still doing what she loves and working in radio as an on-air personality in Fargo, ND, for the past seven years at the New Country Station BOB 95 FM; she also serves as its production director. With more time on her hands as of late, she has been busying herself renovating her condo. And being a music lover, she marked off a couple of bucket-list concert venues in the last few years, including a concert at the Grand Ole Opry and Red Rocks Ampitheatre in Colorado. She stays busy in the Fargo-Moorhead community serving on several nonprofit boards, was a Big Sister, has helped United Way of Cass Clay and has hosted the annual FM Wine and Dine for The Village Family Service Center.



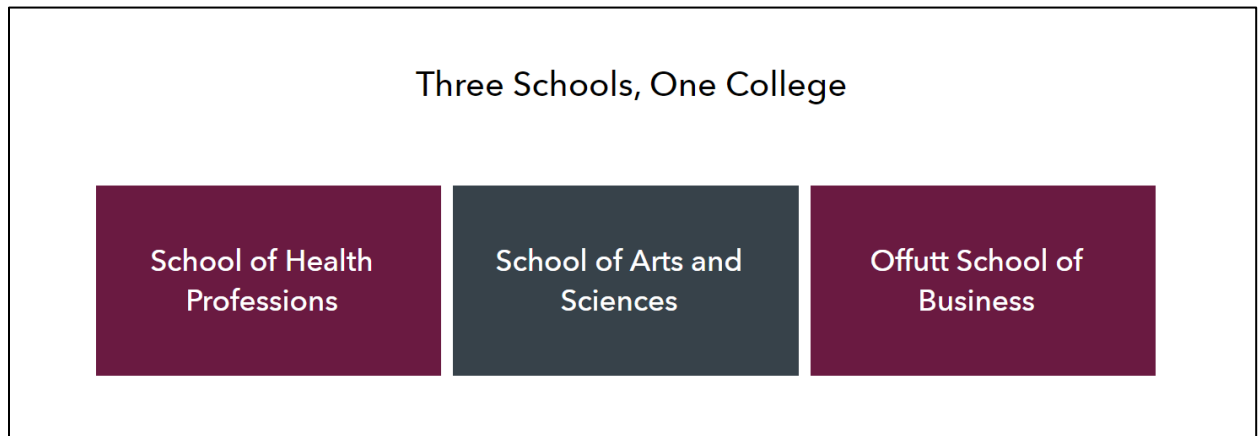
## CONCORDIA NEWS

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.

- 1) 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 percent. [Here's a short video.](#)

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 percent 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.

- 2) 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.

- 3) 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.

## COVID Updates

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:

- In just ONE day, donors fully funded the Cobber Food Pantry for students in need.
- 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.



Thank you to those who have already given this year.

Our gifts matter, Class of 2003.

Be on the lookout for the “Cobbers Give” campaign in March. I’ve heard there is some kind of matching opportunity, and you are sure to find an area of campus that aligns with your passions.

## Still Want More Good News?

Check out the annual report at this [link](#).

