

Dear Class of 2005,

My greatest wish, hope and prayer is that this class letter finds you, your family, and your friends safe and well.

The last time I sat down to write our class letter, I couldn't comprehend all the changes 2020 would bring. We missed our 15 year reunion for the safety of current Cobbers and for ourselves. But, the celebration was just delayed! You voted on our class Facebook page (Concordia College Class of 2005) that you wanted to connect and have a reunion in 2021. MARK YOUR CALENDARS for September 30 – October 3, 2021. We will gather on the Concordia campus for a reunion breakfast, parade, and an evening event as we reconnect. If you'd like to help organize events for our 15 year (plus one!) reunion, please email me at [emeyerco@gmail.com](mailto:emeyerco@gmail.com).

When I heard that our reunion was going to be canceled last year, I still felt drawn to campus. After quarantining for several weeks, my husband, Jason, and I packed up our two 15-year-old pugs and our truck and drove from Colorado Springs to Moorhead for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We stayed with family, who'd also quarantined, and we enjoyed biking through Fargo, walking the (at the time, empty) Cobber campus, and seeing the area growth and changes – my favorite being some of the amazing new (to me) breweries. If you haven't been to the Fargo-Moorhead area since our 10-year reunion, you will be amazed at the changes to the area and to campus! I can't wait to go back again this year for our reunion.

Through all of the social distancing, virtual meetings, online interactions that Covid-19 has mandated, I have a deeper appreciation for staying connected with the people who've touched my life – past and present. I look forward with connecting with all of you. (I also miss hugs, so be prepared for me to give out some of those at all our reunion celebrations.)

Even though many of us have stayed connected over the years, Concordia has lost touch with some of our 2005 classmates. If you see someone you know in the list below, please reach out to Concordia or me with their contact information. We'd love to reconnect with all of our **lost classmates** and have everyone invited to our reunion next year.

Anderson, Ann  
Atitsogbui, Stephanie  
Bakke, April  
Beyer, Natalie  
Borah, Ann  
Buelow, Anna  
Dilger, Jeffrey  
Donlan, Mary  
Fugleberg, Angela  
Gebrekidan, Hagos

Harden, Danielle  
Hartzell, Charity  
Haugard, Sonja  
Haughton, Joseph  
Honebrink, Gail  
Jorgenson, Nicole  
Keller, Keziah  
Kelly, Jason  
LeVesque, Christopher  
Logan, Sarah

Lundgren, Carole  
Moen, Kristin  
Niezel, Peggy  
Noel, Harmonijoie  
Olson, Sonja  
Orekoya, Toluwalope  
Peterson, Tracy  
Richardson, Suntell  
Rivard, Andrea  
Ronken, Kelly

Sackey, Beauclerc  
Samson, Matthew

Solum, Laura  
Son, Irina S.

Turner, Emily

I'm pleased that so many of you reached out this year and stayed connected with Concordia and with your 2005 classmates! If you have a class update, Concordia and I would LOVE to hear from you! To submit your update, visit: [cord.edu/classnotes](http://cord.edu/classnotes). And without further ado, our most recent class updates are:

**Christopher Kueffler** and his wife, Kaia Kueffler ('06), are celebrating the birth of a son, Edison Michael Kueffler, who was born on January 26, 2021.

**Erin (Fitzgerald) Dobozy** and her husband, Mike Dobozy, welcomed a baby girl, Eleanor Claire Dobozy, on November 2, 2020. (Eleanor is pictured right.)

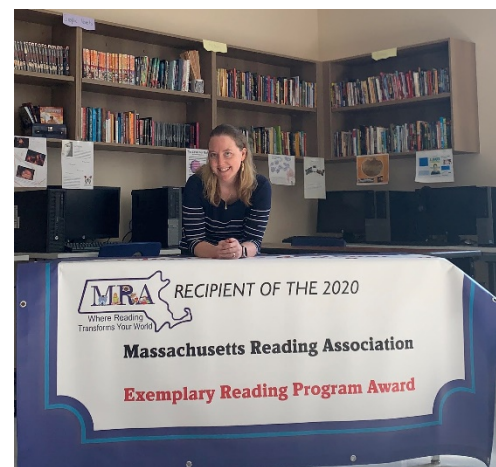


**LCDR Patrick Amundson** was selected for assignment with the Royal Navy for a three year tour in United Kingdom. While there, their family welcomed a son, Tiernan! They have also been enjoying adventuring around their new England home. (Patrick and his family are pictured left.)



**Dr. Michelle Urberg** left ProQuest and started a new job as a consultant with Maverick Publishing Specialists. Michelle and her husband, Lee Baugh, also welcomed a baby in 2019. Their little girl will be 2 in April!

On March 14, 2020, **Shantel (Seemann) Schonour** received an Exemplary Reading Program Award from Massachusetts Reading Association! (Shantel is pictured right.)



I always get excited when classmates send in photos of them connecting, so keep sending them in! Here are some Connected Cobbers:

Nicole (Breuer) Lommel and Elizabeth (Brown) Werness (Pictured right.)



Vicky (Tschann) Soltis and Karin Olson Held, both 2005 graduates, at a scrapbook retreat in 2019. (Pictured left.)

Adam Campbell, Mike Hanson and Kyle Halliday (Pictured right). Adam, Mike and Kyle hunt every year with Jacob and John Odermann (06) of Belfield, ND for a memorial scholarship fundraiser hunt for their brother Mike Odermann.





I'm so sorry to report that this past year, on November 1, 2020, one of our classmates, **Ryan Johnk** passed away after a battle with cancer. Ryan grew up a Moorhead Spud and graduated in 2001. He attended Concordia College for a year before transferring to Concordia University in Seward, NE, graduating with a degree in Psychology in 2005. Ryan is survived by his wife, Theresa; children, Chloe and Hayden. Please give your prayers and support to her family and friends who were closest to him.

#### Campus Update:

Not only does our class have a lot going on, but so does Concordia. Here's a little bit about what's happening on campus:

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 2005 can truly make a difference in the lives of current Cobbers!

Lastly, I truly hope to see many of you at our reunion in 2021 during Concordia’s Homecoming. Please reach out to me, if you’d like to be involved in the planning process. I’m excited to connect with you.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Erica (Hall) Meyer (‘05)