

FEB. 2021

2008 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.





Want to be a Class Agent?

We are looking for a class agent for your class. As a Class Agent, your primary role is to keep your class connected: connected to the college, connected to each other, and connected to the mission of Concordia. programming.

If you are interested and want to know more, please reach out to Karen Carlson at carlsonk@cord.edu or 218-299-4335



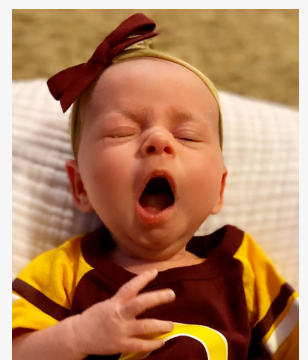
CLASS UPDATES

Rev. Cassandra Lamb

On the first day of 2021, I began a new call as the campus pastor at the University Lutheran Center on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. I am so excited to recall my days in campus ministry at Concordia and spend my time with college students. I have also purchased my first home and have relocated to Brookings with my toddler daughter, Mirjam.

Ashley (Bergen) Scocchera

My husband Nick and I welcomed our baby girl Ellianna Drew on Sept 18, 2020!

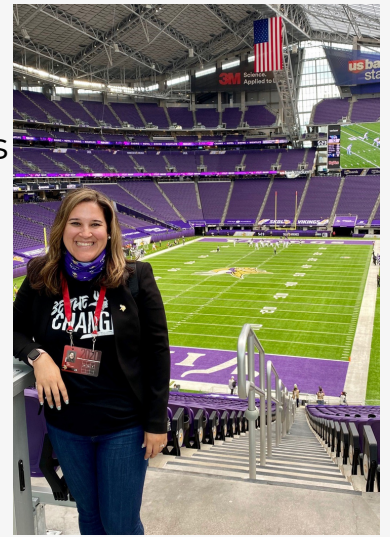


Lisa (Dahlen) Steffens

My husband Russ and I welcomed our second child, Owen Matthew, on October 7, 2019. He joins big sister Sadie.

Jessica Resa

This past year, I got my dream job working for the Minnesota Vikings in their Partnership Activations group. While it wasn't the season I expected, I can't believe I get to work for MY team, and it's a fantastic organization that I'm so proud to be a part of. In other exciting news, I will also be getting married this fall (Sept, 2021) to Matthew Jones, a fellow Cobber grad ('04).



Kirsten (Kahler) Stoutland

Married David Stoutland at Lake Carlos State Park in October.

Rachel (Wagner) Rodel

I finally finished my medical training in 2019 and I am working as a maternal-fetal medicine physician at Sanford taking care of patients with high risk pregnancies. I live in Sioux Falls, SD with my family!

Michelle (Bar) Richards

This October our family was blessed to welcome our third son Micah, joining older brothers Caleb (6) and Isaac (3). Michelle and husband Jason started in on the challenge of distance-learning kindergarten and continued to work on house projects. Michelle continues to work as a family physician at CHC of Snohomish County in Edmonds.



Christopher Marc Hoffman

Christopher has been working full time in NYC as a Production Manager and Sound Designer for award winning tap dance company Dorrance Dance. Christopher toured/performed internationally, Broadway, and was able to participate in some of the first creative residencies inside a bubble allowing artists to be able to return to the stage for the first time since the shutdown. Christopher has also been working alongside artists at Lincoln Center, City Center, and beyond to mix and record audio for live streams, and live performances outdoors during the pandemic. Along with managing a home studio, Christopher and his partner Carly have been fostering dogs and staying active in our neighborhood community to support the arts, artists, and local businesses.

Amelia Jordan

Amelia took advantage of WFH and advanced her career with a move to another company, enrolling in an MBA program, and working on her physical fitness. She continues to excel in



professional sales with plans to move into Product Management in the agrochemical industry. She looks forward to the vaccine so she can get back to jiu-jitsu, the movies, and spending time with her family.

Kyle Svennungsen

In August of 2019, we moved to Bratislava, Slovakia after accepting a call from the Global Mission Unit of the ELCA. I serve as Pastor of the Bratislava International Church, where I supervise a seminary intern as well. In addition to the work of the congregation, I teach religion courses (in English) at the Evanjelicke lyceum v Bratislava (Lutheran High School of Bratislava).



Anna Svennungsen (maiden name: Meier) is very much my partner in this work, leading a women's ministry group and Sunday school on a regular basis. Not to mention the full-time work of parenting two boys! Even though most of our experience here has been online (worship & school life), we are grateful to serve the people of God in this place! And we are especially grateful and excited for the next addition to our family, arriving in February 2021!

Kelly (Nervick) Bacon

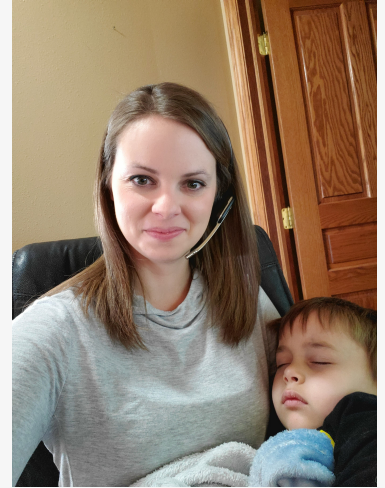
Hello dear class of 2008! We hope this finds well, healthy, and brings some additional connection and a bit of extra happiness wherever life currently finds you. We still live in Lakeview, Oregon, and despite an absolutely



wacky year, we have grown in grace and love as a family. Our boys, Aaron and Erick, finished out 1st grade and pre-K remotely and we did our best to add in fun science, music, and art challenges to keep them engaged, motivated, and continuing the love of learning. Over this year we found lots of time to adventure together which included snowshoeing, monster trucks, gardening, swimming, fishing, running away from wildfires, camping, hiking, and even a trip to the coast (a first for the kids). We are grateful to live in a location that has allowed our boys to return to in-person school full time. They are loving every single day of it! Amidst the victories and challenges of this past year, I have had the privilege of remotely helping a friend's church with music, sing with a local cover band on occasion, teach my boys piano, and grow my business as a Norwex consultant. My husband, Jaime, continues to work as a corrections officer but is in process of making a shift to state police as well as tackling a degree in business management and cyber security. We are thankful that in good times and even in times of uncertainty and continual changes we have the love, hope, joy, and the faithfulness of Jesus to lean into. Cheers to 2021!

Elizabeth (Carlson) Eisert

Moving to work from home last March was an adjustment for our whole family. I needed to adapt and learn how to be a full-time employee while taking on the duties of teacher and stay-at-home parent. Attached is a photo of me at my home "office" while holding my napping son. Finals week at Concordia prepared me well for being a multi-tasker extraordinaire!



Dr. Stacy (Lukes) Shrestha

2020 has been the year of career advancements and outdoor activities. Binam Shrestha took on a supervisor position with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and has been especially busy working with his team to ensure that Minnesotans facing job loss during the pandemic still have access to health care and insurance. Stacy Shrestha is a nurse practitioner in a private medical clinic and works primarily with older adults. Her practice is carefully following MDH and CDC health guidelines to keep patients safe, as well as staying up to date on treatment and advancements regarding COVID-19 because of their work with a vulnerable population. The whole family has been busy outside, particularly with cycling. Stacy biked 730 miles in May as part of a challenge, and Binam rode 200 miles in a single day on his bicycle. Our daughters Sabrina (9) and Sonia (5) continue to enjoy developing their swimming accomplishments and are adapting well to distance learning for this school year.



Homecoming 2021

Make plans to attend Homecoming Oct. 1-3.

Watch our website for updates.

ConcordiaCollege.edu/homecoming



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.



Little Niblet T-shirt

Concordia celebrates the birth of future Cobbers! If you have a new addition (ages 0-2) to your family, we will send you a free "Little Niblet" 18-month T-shirt. Request one at [Concordia College.edu/ClassNotes](https://ConcordiaCollege.edu/ClassNotes)

ENGAGE

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 2008 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

HELP US LOCATE

If you know any of the 2008 graduates below, please ask them to update their information by going to concordiacollege.edu/classnotes or email alumni@cord.edu.

We would love to update their records.

Cassandra Alvarez

Nicholas Arneson

Orgil Batsaikhan

Catherine Berg

Sarah Bonstrom

Kayla Bowers

Kristen Broesder

Erin Douglass

John Fraki

Tessa Grevle

Tara Hall

April Hoover

Anamaria (Borza) Huang



Nicholas Huseby

Elizabeth Johnson

Kelsey Johnson

Kohei Kameda

Kirby Markowsky

Laura Markstrom

Audrey Meyer

Rebecca Oelfke

John Schroeder

Christine Schultz

Brandon Town

Lucas Wagner

Kalani Weerasinghe



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