

2009 CLASS LETTER

February 2021

CAMPUS UPDATE



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 \$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.

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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 model resulted in the appointments 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. 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 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.

CLASS UPDATES

EMILY (SCHWICHTENBERG) KAREL

This last year, our family worked through the pandemic leaning on babysitters, family, and friends to help with our kids. Working as a school nutrition director my job never stopped. We continued to have meals available for children in the community. We have made the decision to leave the Grand Forks community after the 2020-2021 school year and relocate to Fargo. I will become a stay at home mom for now, and my husband's commute will be cut in half. If the pandemic taught us anything, it is that we want to spend more time together as a family and be more available to our children.

JAKE WINCHESTER

MARRIED TO ALUMNA CRISTINA (MORRIS) WINCHESTER



Hey! We, like many others during 2020, have been staying at home for the majority of the year while we do our best to help with the pandemic. Cristina continues to work for UCHealth as a charge nurse and a house supervisor, which has been very busy this year. I've been working from home as a mental health counselor since April of 2020. Video and audio counseling presents its own challenges, but we have been fortunate to be able to continue to work. Our mini-Schnauzer "Archie" continues to think he's the star of the show at home and he'd be right. We've had a chance to do some yard and home renovations over the past year and Archie is satisfied with our progress. We are hoping for some return to normalcy later this year. We would love to see you all soon at a future homecoming. Soli Deo Gloria!

RACHAEL (ROSENFELDT) SPRIGGS

What an interesting year 2020 was. Shortly after the world shut down in March, we welcomed baby #3. It was interesting to navigate life with a newborn during the pandemic. I am in my tenth year of teaching first grade at Oak Grove in Fargo. We have been



fortunate to be in school all day, everyday, all year! My two oldest kids both are in school at OG, it's fun to have them with me. My husband and I are enjoying the busyness of having young kids. We are loving the mild winter and being able to spend more time outdoors. Lots of time for ice skating and sledding.

KELLY MEYERS



Our family has been relaxing at home a lot over the last year or so with COVID-19. My husband, Anthony, took a four month leave of absence from his job at Delta which was both difficult and a blessing to have him home with us.

Through Target I have been able to work from home since March which has given us some flexibility as well. We just bought a new home in Lakeville and moved in February. Overall we are just blessed to be employed and in good health.

BECKY (BJORGAARD) OLSON

In 2020, we expanded our chicken flock and our garden. We also purchased an incubator and have had many science lessons for all of us on hatching eggs. Our last project in self-sufficiency was that learned to home can our own produce. Kelly continues to work as a public safety officer at Concordia and I am embarking on my fifth year as a licensed home childcare provider. The older kiddos are in 4th and 2nd grades and the youngest will start pre-K this fall. Always an adventure!

KERA (HALVORSON) BESKIN

I work at the American Academy of Pediatrics as a program manager as I have since graduated with dual master's degrees (MPH, MBA) in 2018. In February of 2020, my husband, Jon, and I purchased our first home, a small 2-bedroom condo near Chicago's Wrigley Field. In



May 2020, we celebrated our 5th wedding anniversary. Despite the pandemic, 2020 has been filled with snuggling our cat, hiking new trails, walking outdoors with friends, and chatting via online meetings, which makes friends who live far away feel near. I hope all is well with all those Cobbers who read this update.

MARIN (MOOBERRY) KOWAL



We welcomed our third daughter, Annabel Jannalee Kowal, on July 13, 2020!

NATHAN LARSEN

Hello Class of '09! This past year has been unlike any other, but we've been grateful for our health, our safety, and hope for the future. There have been silver linings, including our exploration of the state we love, but most of all, we're thankful for the addition to our family coming this May!

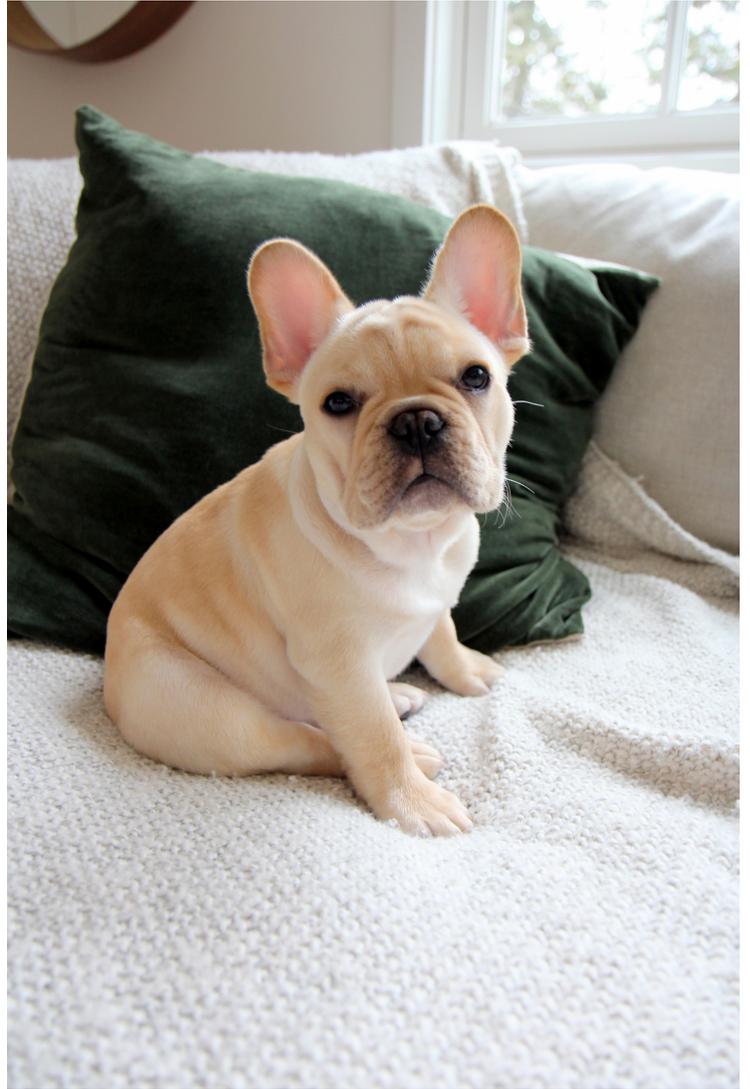


MEGAN MYRDAL

While my 2020 was quite boring and uneventful, I need to start by saying how incredibly blessed I am. I stayed healthy and employed this whole year, which feels like the best we can ask for from this dumpster year! A few small updates: I started a new job with the NDSU Foundation in late 2019 and now work as a Director of Development for the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources. Before the pandemic I was loving life on the road and traveling to meet alumni across the country, but Zoom and phone calls are sufficing for the time being; I can't wait to start traveling again! We celebrated Food of the North's (a Fargo-Moorhead nonprofit I helped to found) fifth birthday this summer. It's crazy to think that's still going strong five years later! I also took up many new pandemic activities: hiking (first backpacking trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park; so cool), biking (quadrupled my miles from previous years), Peloton (obsessed), sourdough bread baking (didn't everyone?), numerous home/yard remodel projects (if you need a garden fence, call me), and countless Netflix series. Hope you've all stayed healthy and are looking forward to a better 2021! Roll Cobbs!

LEAH ARKELIN

Hello and hoping this finds you happy and healthy. This past year I was inspired by our fellow Cobber, Mollie (Miller) Knowles, and got licensed for real estate as a side hustle. It has been fun reconnecting with some of you through this avenue, and I hope to catch up with more of you in the future. A few other updates: our beloved French Bulldog, Russell, passed this spring and we recently welcomed our new puppy, Oscar, into our family. Andy traded his Target Store Director role in for a job as the Minneapolis Field Operations Manager of Peloton which has been an inspiring company to be a part of, especially during this time. And last but not least, I am in denial that Isla will be in Kindergarten this fall. Didn't we just graduate college? Ha! Take care and please feel free to reach out to me at: leah@thebprexperience.com if you ever want to talk through your real estate goals. Looking forward to reading your updates! :)



LISA MARQUARDT

Since my last update, I started a new job at Illuminate Education as the Lead Trainer for our FastBridge product. There, I develop content for our independent contractors to train educators on how to use our product solution, and I deliver some training sessions as well. I also met the love of my life, Kim, and we are getting married in October 2021. It's been an exciting few years, and our future together is even more exciting.

DR. LAURA (MEGORDEN) WALKER

I am a board certified podiatrist, working in a private practice in Santa Maria, CA.

MELISSA SHUGARMAN

while 2022 was a bad year globally, it was a great year for me personally. A few highlights: in January I got engaged under the bell tower (cliche? yes, but it was also perfect), I took a last minute work trip to Singapore in February (like, 24-hours to prepare last minute), I started a new job at the University of Minnesota in May and moved to St. Paul in June, and I worked as an election judge in November.

DR. SARAH (WALKER) LIVESAY

we had a baby, Gordon Dean, born in February (with the palindromic birthdate 02-02-2020)! He goes by Gordy and he is a delight. He joined baby sister, Josephine (Josie), who has just turned four. I started a new job as a Senior Compliance Coordinator for University of Iowa Health Care in November.



MEGAN LUEBKE

At the beginning of last year, I started a new job as the Customer Experience Manager at an 83,000 square foot sports complex in Denver. When we temporarily shut down in March due to COVID-19, I moved home to Minnesota for three months to spend time with family. Our gym reopened in June and we've been successfully - and safely - running ever since. I teach 7 to 8 fitness classes a week, and I'm probably in better shape than I



was in college! I've been able to cross a few things off my bucket list this year including ziplining through the Royal Gorge and hiking in Moab, UT. In August 2020, I was elected the youngest President of the Up with People International Alumni Association; a performing arts nonprofit that I toured with after college. Oh! And I'm now one of your Class Agents! You can reach me at meluebke@gmail.com.

ROBYN (GOODWIN) HENDRICKSON

Over the last year our family has enjoyed spending time together, mostly at home! We have stayed busy with board games and lots of outdoor fun. And we definitely cannot forget the exciting time we have had with distance learning!! In November 2019, I became manager of a Walgreens and



have had an exciting year navigating through the pandemic and the exciting retail and pharmacy culture right now especially as we begin to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine in long-term care facilities.

KELLY MCGANNON

Although this year has had many hard times for us all, my now husband and I have made the most of what we can. We decided to tie the knot by eloping in New Zealand in March during a cruise we did with my parents and his parents. We managed to get through it right before the world went into lockdown. My husband got to work from home during the lockdown and fortunately for me, the animals at the zoo still needed to be looked after. I was repurposed as an Australian Natives keeper. The lockdown gave me the



opportunity to move more into the Zookeeping side of the things and because of it, I am now a Birds Keepers as well as still doing tours and encounters. The Zoo is now running pretty much as normal, but us keepers/guides are still sporting our masks when needed. My husband decided to change careers and just got accepted into the fire department and starts fireman training in February. We also welcomed a new fur baby into our lives. Alinta is a very timid dingo-cross and needed a gentle friend to live with. Our border collie was a great fit for her. We love her to bits and she is fitting in well with the family!

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 student.
- 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 ensure Cobber 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 2009 can truly make a difference in the lives of current Cobbers!

