

**CLASS**

**OF**

**2017**

# GREETING

Class of 2017,

We have heard it a million different ways, but 2020 was a year none of us saw coming. It presented challenges personally, professionally, locally, and globally. Thank you to our fellow classmates who were on the frontlines of the pandemic each and every day: Healthcare workers, teachers, child care providers, farmers, critical retail, and social service workers - we thank you.

As we all continue to navigate these unprecedented times, we hope you find peace in your community of friends, family, and faith. We are stronger together, safely of course.

Sincerely,

*Grace Ulven & Hayley Ahrndt*

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# 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 schools model resulted in the appointment of two new deans. Dr. George Connells 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.

# CAMPUS UPDATES

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.

# CLASS UPDATES

Molly Couillard (Aga) - This past year was full of excitement! I married the love of my life, Darren, in April and we are expecting our first child this May! I am now a Kindergarten/First Grade combination teacher in a suburb of Phoenix, Arizona. We have been enjoying exploring new places in our travel trailer; we are up to 17 new states as of this summer.

Evan Camrud- I got married to the love of my life! Kira Rahn (also class of 2017) and I were married at a COVID-safe wedding on September 5. It was the best day of our lives!

Jade Johnson (Haseltine) - 2020 was a crazy year! Started a new job at Bold Orange on January 2nd, 2020 as a Project Manager. Then got engaged to the love of my life on leap day. Bought our first home together in July. Ended the year tying the knot in September. Truly blessed to be able to use this time to reconnect with family and friends and enjoy married life.

If you haven't already please join our Class of 2017 Facebook page where Grace and I post about Concordia related news and events.

Check it out at <https://bit.ly/2NOLZQb>. If you have any questions or want to provide an update to the college on where you are at or what you are doing, please visit: <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/classnotes/>