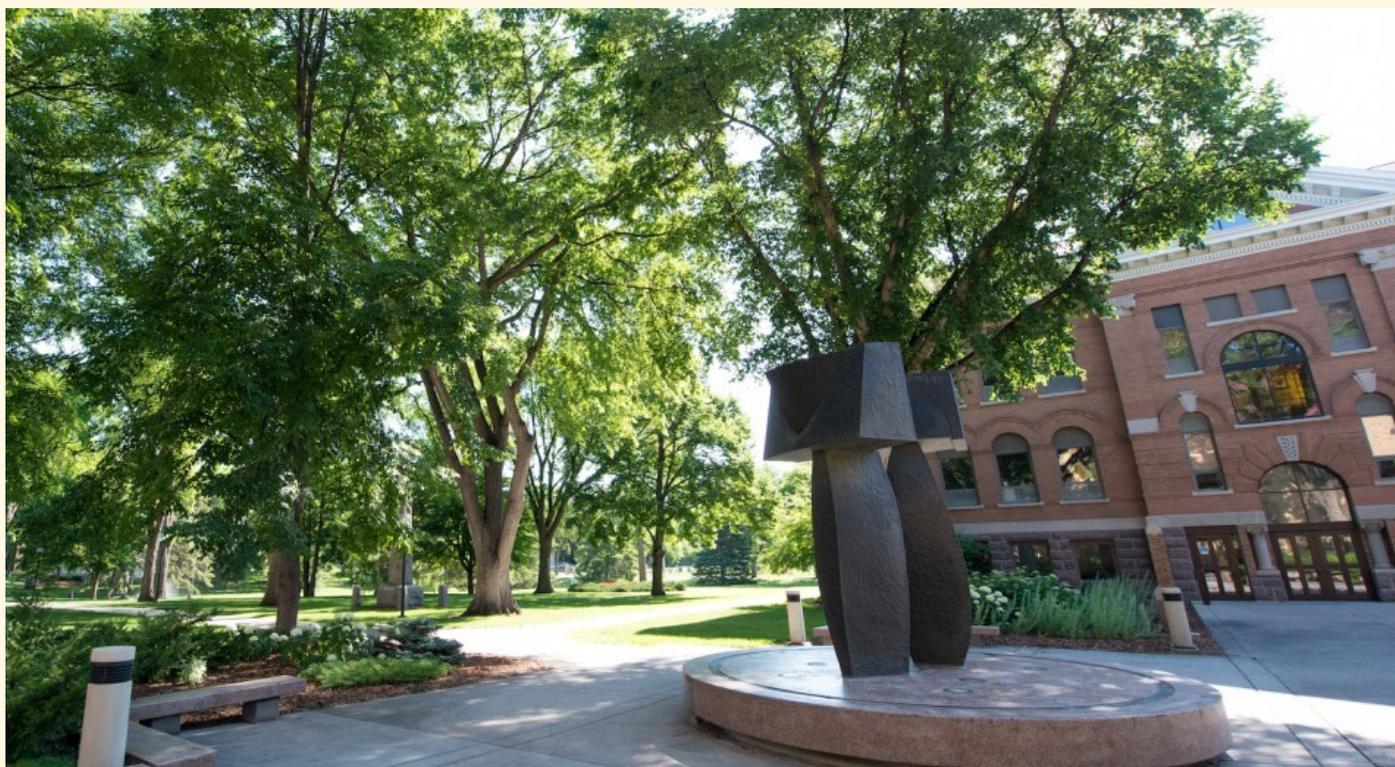


THE CLASS OF 2018'S

CLASS LETTER

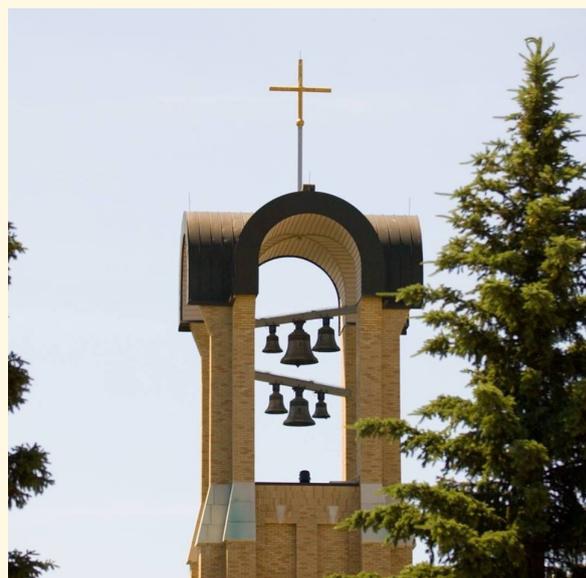


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HELLO!

"Hope this email finds you well"

How the email found me:



Greetings, Class of 2018!

I think it's safe to say 2020 was a difficult year, and although 2021 has allowed us glimpses of hope, life still feels a little off-beat. During this time of social isolation, I could really go for a busy chicken nugget dinner night in DS and catching up with all of you. It all seems so long ago!

I am sending you all the sincerest wishes of health and happiness. Living through this moment in history isn't easy, so don't forget to lean on one another and keep in touch!

Your class agent,
- Corinne Burrell



UPDATES FROM CONCORDIA

- ◆ "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."



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

I continue to teach at the Twin Cities German Immersion School in St. Paul, where this past spring, I was re-elected to serve on our Board of Directors as a teacher board member and chair our Governance Committee. After ending the school year in distance learning, I moved to Northeast Minneapolis and continued to coach track & field. I returned to teaching but in a hybrid model and in distance learning this fall and right before Christmas, I adopted my 11-month-old GSP mix, Juneau! At the end of January, I was blessed to be given the opportunity to be vaccinated in the pilot program for educators and I'm now looking forward to some in-person learning before reaching summer break after what can only be described as a very unique school year!

- Emily Albers

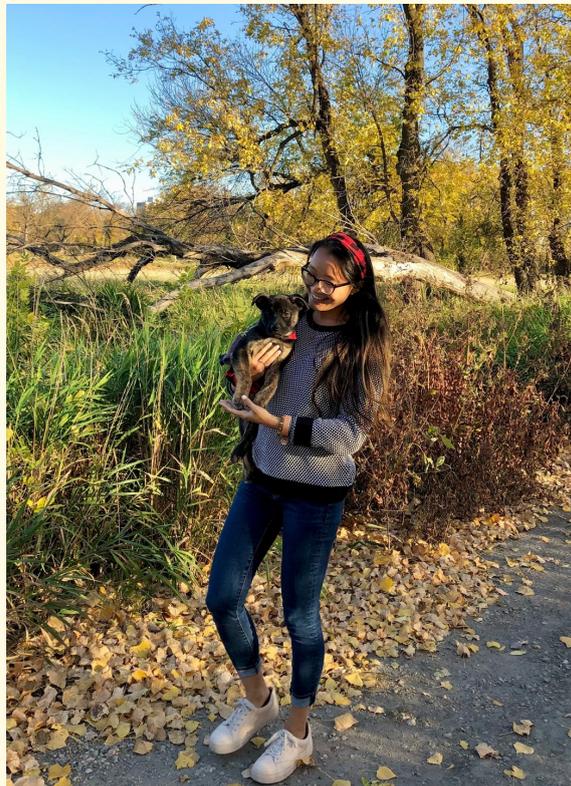




UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Last fall I began the Master of Library & Information Science program at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, where I also work in Alumni Relations! We've been working from home since March, and adjusting to an online classroom and workspace has been a learning curve, but also rewarding! Although I miss getting together with my friends all the time, we keep in touch virtually, and my beloved cat, Louisa May, has been spending lots of quality time with me this past year (I think I appreciate that more than her lol). I've also been spending lots of time with my parents up in Moorhead (who rescued a sweet puppy in September [pictured]!), and am in the process of buying a house in the Twin Cities -- I can't wait to make it my own and have visitors over hopefully soon!

- Corinne Burrell





UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Hi friends! I've been busy since I graduated from Concordia. I have mainly been working in EMS and I went back to school to get my paramedic degree. Working on an ambulance is definitely not what I thought I'd be doing after 3.5 years at Concordia, but I sure do enjoy it! This year we are moving to Wisconsin and getting married! Here's to 2021!

- McKenzy Diehl





UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

What a roller coaster of a year! But feeling super grateful for my good fortune in all of it.

I was actually laid off last January pre-pandemic, and luckily it led me to landing a really exciting opportunity to work in user behavior at Branch, a fintech startup where I live in downtown Minneapolis. I started the first week of lockdown and I'm itching to finally work at the office in 2021!

- Kayla Dostal

This past year I made a life change and moved to Seattle, WA in June and started a new job as an RN in Medical Oncology at the University of Washington Medical Center in July. I figured I wasn't busy enough already and started a Per Diem Hospice RN position with Providence Hospice and Home Care of Snohomish County based up in Everett, WA. I'm lucky to have amazing coworkers and patients in both roles who have made my job and transition to the area worth it! It's hard being away from friends and family but with technology it feels like I'm still back in Fargo-Moorhead. When not working, I've enjoyed (safely) exploring Seattle and the surrounding area. I can't wait to see what this upcoming year brings for myself as I continue to grow in my professional roles and continue to explore the community I call home now!

- Micah Ferden



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

I am in my third year of doctoral studies in the Psychology Department at West Virginia University. This year, we worked countless hours from home, did lots of hiking and camping, I spent time masked up with my clients at an early intervention autism treatment clinic, and we adopted a sweet new pup!

- Kacey Finch





UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

I work for the Moorhead Public School district as a second grade teacher! I am also marrying 2016 Cobber grad Alex Sandahl on July 31st of this year. Big things in store for 2021!

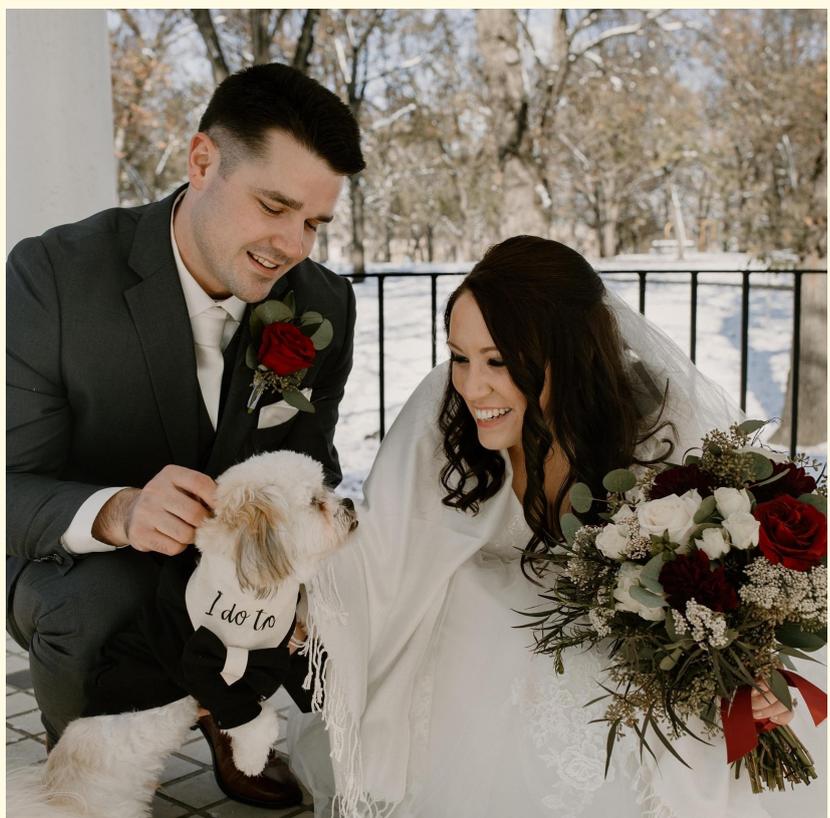
- Olivia Hanson



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

I currently live in Moorhead, MN with my husband, Tanner, and our adorable puppy, Wally! Since graduating in December 2017, I have been working as a contractor for Microsoft in Fargo. My current role is a Senior Program Manager on a Global Service team where I primarily focus on business and communications management for the United States, Canada, and Latin America. 2020 was a big year for us to say the least, while it was full of ups and downs there were still a lot of positives! My husband and I bought our first house in January 2020, only a few blocks away from Concordia! Like most, in March, I fully transitioned to working from home due to the pandemic and have been ever since. Only about a month into quarantine, we decided we needed a puppy to truly make our house feel like home and Wally joined our little family in April. All of this while planning a wedding... in a pandemic. After planning, and replanning, and then replanning some more, we got married on October 24, 2020. It was the most perfect snowy fall day in Downtown Fargo and we were so lucky to be able to have loved ones safely in attendance! Following our wedding we went on a covid-safe honeymoon road trip to Colorado where we enjoyed lots of breweries, scenery, and hiking! This year we're looking forward to less stress and finishing up a few projects on our home!

- Paige Hennen





UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES



For a year spent mostly at home, it actually was a pretty big one for me! I got to start off the year with one of my dream vacations. Fellow Cobber, Kathryn Erickson '16, went to Walt Disney World and ran our first ever 5K. The next few months were full of puzzles and walks in my neighborhood. I started Grad School at MSUM for Educational Leadership and am glad to be back in school. Then in September, I traded my horns for my corn hat and started a new job in the Alumni Relations office! It's been a great journey so far. This year, you can still find me working on grad school things, doing puzzles, and trying to get outside when it's not 20 below zero.

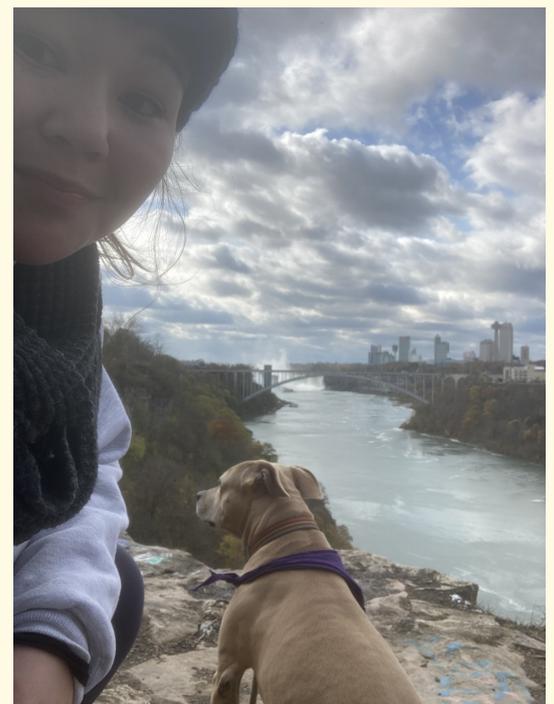
- Marah Moy



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

2020 gave me some of the biggest challenges I have had to overcome as of yet. There were many changes, home/apt moves, the addition of a second job, many relationship shifts and countless worries over the unknown. When I was at what seemed to be my rock bottom, I decided to turn those lemons into lemonade - this year I tried my hand at my first ever solo road trip. I was a bit nervous, especially with a lot of my family telling me single young women should not under any circumstances travel alone. I brushed aside my grandma's old school thinking, put my leave application in at work, and took off with my doggo Scarlet. I was on a search for reconnecting with myself, nature and my spirituality. Whatever 2020 had taken from me, I needed to get it back. This is one of the most freeing, eye opening, cathartic (yes I do semi enjoy driving, be it 24 hours straight or 4 – 8 hour shifts, is very much doable for me – I just need some good music, podcast episodes and of course MPR) and soul searching experience I have done so far. To make matters better, Scarlet loved the experience as well. She loves car rides – especially when she can sit up next to mom and get endless pets. She also climbed a mountain, saw the ocean for the first time, and met so many friends at the dog parks along the way. We traveled close to 6 thousand miles in 28 day and it was a complete blast. Do what scares you and what others say you can't do. Even if you are at rock bottom, the only way to get out is to start climbing – and it isn't always up the ladder others throw down to you. Listen to your heart and mind and find what is going to get you - not only up the ladder - but doing so in a way that will leave you the least unscathed and with the most vibrancy and confidence to keep on truckin' when you do climb out.

- Melanie Olson





UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES



In February 2020, I started a new job as Program Director of Shetek Lutheran Ministries in Slayton, MN! It's been such a joy and a chaotic year. We ran five weeks of summer programming with no cases!

I'm in the final year of my Masters program and anticipate ordination as a Deacon in the ELCA later this year. If you told me a year ago I'd be here, I would've laughed, but I wouldn't want to be anywhere else!

- Amanda Randall



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

I currently live in Madison, WI with my partner who recently moved from the Fargo-Moorhead area. We love Madison and being near the water! I am completing my second year in the Counseling Psychology Master's program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and hope to graduate in May 2021. Shifting to online schooling and seeing clients via Telehealth has been challenging but affirming of my goals to become a bilingual psychologist and work with underserved populations. I have been in the process of interviewing for Counseling Psychology PhD programs this month and I look forward to hopefully beginning a PhD program during Fall 2021 wherever I may end up!

- Natalie Rivera





UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

My fiancé Jacob Hanson
(‘19) and I adopted our
puppy, Hallie!
- Sarah Strand

