

Concordia College Class of 2019 Class Letter

Winter 2021 | Issue 2

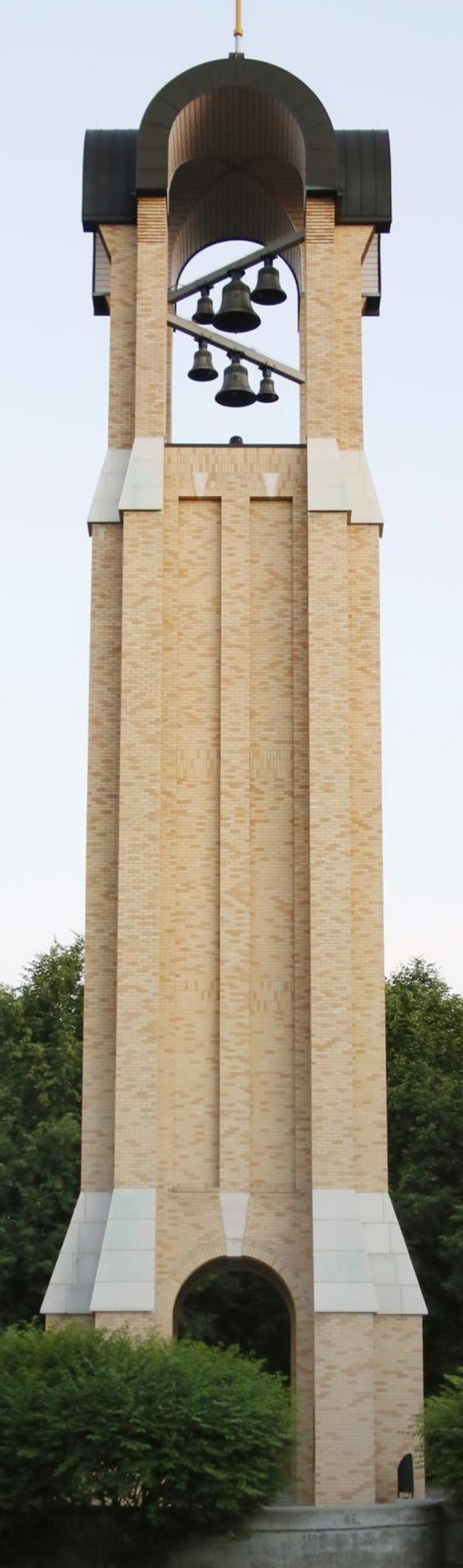
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a note from your class agent

Hello class of 2019!

Wow, what a year and half it has been since the last class letter! In May it will be two years since we graduated from Concordia and to say it has looked different than anyone expected would be an understatement. From the updates submitted, it sounds like it has been a big year for a lot of you and exciting changes are ahead.

Read on to find out how campus and current Cobbers have adapted to the pandemic as well as updates from classmates.

If your information (address, name, email) changes or you want to submit an update to be included next year, let the college know by filling out the "Update my information" form on the website.

If you haven't yet, join our class of 2019 [Facebook Page](#), the Cobber Young Alumni Facebook page, and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@cord.edu.

I wish you all good health and hope that you have a great year ahead!

Roll Cobbs!
Anna Buan

UPDATES FROM CONCORDIA

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 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 CONCORDIA

Lost List

This is a list of our classmates that the alumni office has lost touch with. They don't have contact info or know where they are or what they're up to! If you happen to be friends with any of them, please encourage them to update their information at: <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/class-notes/>

- Allison A. Bergman
- Aviskar Giri
- Bo C. Gronseth
- Andrew C. Nissen
- Chisolum E. Nkenke
- Rehema Silas

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Kennedy Niska

In fall 2020 I began teaching K-4 music in Breckenridge, Minnesota. I work with a great team and am excited for what the future holds!

Matthew Carson

Since graduating from Concordia in 2019 I went on to the University of Iowa where I am a Candidate for a Master of Health Administration as I complete my final semester. I also worked with the MHA program to be able to begin an Administrative Fellowship in January at Central Maine Healthcare in Lewiston, Maine while taking my final classes through Iowa.

Jennie Reinan

This year I got my dream job at a company called Bind Benefits! I'm still living at home while I save up to buy a house sometime in the next year. :)

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES



Natalie Fideler

Covid-19 has been a nightmare, but I have moved into a cozy house with my girlfriend and our dog, and we are getting by! I'm teaching private music lessons for drums, guitar, piano, and voice via videos chat and preparing to record my next studio album! I miss the community of Concordia now more than ever as life in the "real world" has been restricted to my covid "pod" of socialization. Can't wait until I can play a LEGIT gig again!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES



Brianna Gruenberg

I am super excited to have received a job with an organization that I became very passionate about during my time at Concordia! On June 1st, I started my job at Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity in Moorhead, MN as the Volunteer and Family Services Coordinator. During my time as a Cobber, I went on three Habitat Collegiate Challenge Spring Break trips and I was part of the board. For those Cobber Alumni that are still living in the Fargo/Moorhead Area or come back to visit, please contact me if you are interested in volunteering with our local affiliate - either on a build, in the ReStore, or serving on a committee. I would LOVE to engage more Cobbers with our mission!

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Rachel Rosson

I've been continuing living in Fargo/Moorhead and just recently got a new job at Sanford Home Care in Fargo after previously working on the cardiac unit at Essentia Hospital. Fun fact, I was a student intern at Sanford Home Care two years ago and have returned as an RN. I love it there so far!

Connor Poland

I was between jobs for a good portion of the year (mostly due to Covid-19) and found work as a waiter at a local Denny's. After doing that for a while I happened upon a job posting which I was hired for, and now I am the new Concordia Post Office manager.

Anna Buan

In September I moved into an apartment in Saint Louis Park, MN! My job changed drastically last March when everything shut down - I am now working on virtual conferences and events instead of traveling and putting them on in-person. Grateful to still be working, but definitely feel the Zoom and screen fatigue that I'm sure most of you feel as well.

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Abby Kruse

This last year has, quite frankly, been relatively uneventful. I continued into my second year teaching at Sheyenne High School in West Fargo as an English teacher. Doing a whole mix of online learning, hybrid, and now full-time in person class has been the weirdest part, but my students' greatness make up for the stress. Outside of school, I've been living with Ethan Linder ('20 grad) in Fargo. We've been trying to make the best of quarantine living by playing Minecraft like 8-year-olds, watching a ton of movies, ordering takeout, and cooking new foods. We're hopeful to get back to road trip travel soon though--look out Hoover Dam! Here we come! ...well, eventually!



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Raelin Kronenberg

I am in my second year of graduate school at the University of Missouri studying natural resources and agroforestry (integrated tree, crop, and livestock systems). This past year, I helped with outreach at conferences, continued to edit the Green Horizons Newsletter, and now serve as the president for the Agroforestry and Forestry Graduate Student Association.

I have been keeping busy and on top of that, welcomed a new puppy to the family! Timber is a Australian Cattle Dog mix and is one of the most energetic and playful pups I've ever met. We have explored many hiking trails and conservation areas together. I am learning about the fun foraging opportunities in the state such as morel mushrooms, pawpaws, and persimmons (and all the local coffee shops....) Also, I have been really enjoying the mild winters compared to Fargo-Moorhead!

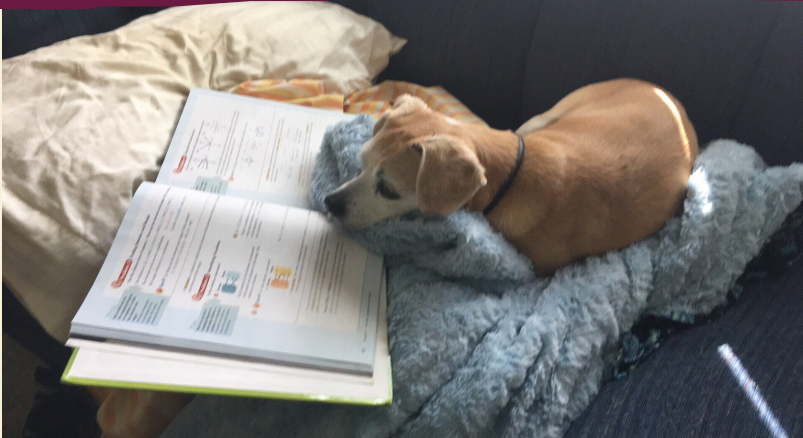
Here is to another good year in Columbia Missouri!



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Jennifer Gravelle

I am the math teacher at an alternative high school program with Richfield Public Schools. This past year I have been navigating online teaching. My dog has enjoyed having me home even though now she has to help with some of the lesson planning. :)



Jane Nolan

This year, I adopted an adorable cat, survived a pandemic, became a gardener, and completed my graduate coursework for my Master's degree! Wishing health and safety for all Cobbers.

UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Hailey Glewwe

It's safe to say that it's been a wild year for everyone! Though we've spent the majority of 2020 staying home to keep everyone safe, I still have a few life updates from this year. Early in 2020, I bought a house in Minneapolis and joined Dr. Gordon Smith's lab as a researcher in the Department of Neuroscience at the University of Minnesota. My partner Cedar, and I adopted a second dog—a corgi puppy named Moose. We also bought a bus and renovated it into a camper van to stay busy. So far with the bus, we've been able to take socially distanced trips to Duluth with our dogs, to Denver, CO, and to Arches National Park.

Despite being a difficult year, we've persisted, advocated for social justice, attended protests, volunteered in our community, and took care of each other.



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Kayli McIntyre

I became the full time Education Manager at Lyric Arts Theater in Anoka, MN.

I created and implemented new virtual programming to accommodate our families in the pandemic. I have sincerely loved getting to know the students both inside our immediate community and from around the country. Along with managing teacher, students, and programming I also teach theater workshops.

This past fall, I moved to St. Louis Park, MN and live with a fellow Cobber.



UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES



Annika Tureson

In the past year, I have been working as a Clinical Research Assistant at Regions Hospital in St Paul, MN. In June of 2020, I began working on a number of COVID clinical trials in the inpatient setting. It has been such an incredible learning experience to work alongside clinicians by exploring different treatment options for COVID-19 patients. I look forward to going to work everyday because I know that I am making a difference in the lives of my patients and helping to fight this horrible disease.

While 2020 was a tough year, there were some bright spots. In February, I traveled to Pignon, Haiti with fellow Cobbers on a medical mission trip with the Haiti Eye Mission. We performed hundreds of restorative eye surgeries, along with providing eye screenings and eyeglass dispensing. In December, I received the long-awaited COVID vaccine and shortly after I received the wonderful news of my acceptance to the University of MN School of Medicine. I am looking forward to starting this new chapter of education in the fall of 2021.