



Facilitating parent  
connections  
with students &  
the learning community



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, NEBRASKA

# The Concordia Link

## Why a Lutheran Christian University?

Brian L. Friedrich  
President

Is there a difference? Perhaps a better question is: what is the difference?

When prospective students & their families visit campus and I have the opportunity to address them I share our three core commitments: community, calling and Christ. In reality they cannot be separated. To be fulfilled effectively they must be integrated into the fiber & fabric of a student's experience.

On the one hand it could be argued that these are inputs and if these are the inputs what are the outputs? It is a fair question.

A few years ago the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America (LECNA) commissioned a study that compared the experiences of public university graduates with the experiences of Lutheran college and university graduates. The results were

powerful and demonstrate several profound and significant outputs that differentiate Lutheran higher education. The study determined Lutheran colleges and universities were far more effective than large public universities at:

- Actively involving students in the classroom.
- Creating interaction with faculty.
- Engaging students in experiential (hands-on) learning.
- Generating participation and leadership in co-curricular activities.
- Integrating faith and values throughout the college experience.

While the first four findings are important, the fifth finding is the *most* important. At Lutheran colleges and universities, at Concordia University, Nebraska faith and life come together for students. They come together because Jesus Christ is at the heart and core of what we do each



day. Students are reminded daily about the God who loves them so much He sent His one and only Son to live, die and rise so they might have the forgiveness of sins, the promise of God's abundance for tomorrow and hope for all eternity.

There are fundamental differences! The ultimate difference, however, is the benefit a Lutheran Christian university provides in the faith development of students as they prepare to serve and lead in church and world.

Thank you for sharing your student with us! Please know our core commitments will not change!

## Seasonal Student Issues

There's a seasonal ebb and flow when it comes to student issues. Here are a few things your student may be experiencing this month:

- Difficulty getting into study mode
- Things become routine...school finally becomes home
- Missing family and friends at home, and friends who did not return to school
- Cliques become stronger within residence

hall communities, student organizations and in classes

- Cabin fever & burnout
- Pressures to figure out living plans for next year as the room assignment process draws near
- Vocational choice/

internship search causes anxiety

- Spring break planning underway

"Copyright 2009 PaperClip Communications.  
[www.Paperclip.com](http://www.Paperclip.com)"

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
do it all for the glory of God.  
1 Corinthians 10:31

## “They want to hear of Jesus, the author & perfecter of our faith.”

*Ryan Matthias*  
*Campus Pastor*

As a campus pastor, I think you realize the desperate nature of every day. In the parish, I know each day is important with people, but many times I have decades with people. In the university, I get four years. Every day is an opportunity to touch lives, heal with forgiveness, and, well, just hang out and be a friend.

Relationships are at the forefront of every student’s mind. These four years mold friendships that will last a lifetime. For some, they will find the person they will marry. For others, they will find faithful professors whom they will contact when they have questions. For the campus pas-

tor, I need only introduce or strengthen their relationship with the God who took on flesh and walked among us.

This is a daunting task. Thrown into a chaotic world, the students need to prioritize their lives. Studies, extracurricular activities, friends, relationships, faith—all these things are developed on this campus, and many times in this order of importance. My calling is to reverse these *at times*. I know it sounds strange that “studies” would come last on the list, but in a messy world, the undeniable truth of the reality of Christ is just what is needed to prepare our students to rely upon.

So the students come to me, with backpacks on their shoulders and weights on their hearts. “My boyfriend broke

up with me,” I hear. “Maybe you don’t need a boyfriend now,” I say, “Fortunately, you still have the King.” Sometimes they come with great joys. “I got an A!” they exclaim. “Phenomenal,” I reply and smile and laugh for a time. “Add a cross behind the A and then you get perfection!”

They come in droves. I never knew I would be so popular. But at the end of the day, they really aren’t coming to see me. They want to hear of Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. They want to be still for a time. They want a word of encouragement from the Word. They want someone to listen. They want Jesus.

That is my calling. I am blessed.

## Living On-Campus Offers Opportunities to Develop Life Skills

*Chara Sype*  
*Assistant Director of Student Life*

Concordia University Nebraska is listed as a tier 1 school in US News and World Report, consistently boasts impressive statistics for collegiate student athletes, and provides national and international opportunities for students in areas of music, speech and debate. The list of accolades could continue, but arguably one of the most important facets of a Concordia University education is the opportunity students have to live in a unique community.

Currently we have approximately 730 students who call the campus of Concordia University, Nebraska “home.” They eat, sleep, work, study and play here, all while developing relationships with peers from across the nation and beyond. Time is precious, and Concordia is committed to being a campus where in-



*Concordia’s Chamber Choir*

tentional emphasis is placed on people spending time in community.

Students living on campus have the opportunity to live on a hall with 18-22 other students of the same gender. For the most part, each student shares a room with one other person, sometimes someone they know well, sometimes someone they met when they arrived. It takes courage to learn how to respect a shared space and compromise in decisions that will affect

both roommates! Our students live with Resident Assistants (RAs) who are Christian leaders and are often called upon to navigate the rocky path of these relationships with their residents. Our professional Student Life staff continues to work in partnership with student leaders to train and mentor them as they guide their residents.

Living on campus is unique and worthwhile. Studies show there is a correlation between higher academic performance and higher levels of social satisfaction among students living in residential college situations. Lessons learned about life on Concordia’s campus, cross over into valuable skills students use during their lifetime in the family and workplace. We enjoy providing an environment beneficial for not only book learning, but life learning while being committed to Christian principles.

## Committee Asks for Thoughts on Hall Visitation Hours

*Melanie Heggemeier*  
Junior, Fairport, NY  
Student Senate, Vice President

Concordia prides itself in its close campus community. For many students, this is what attracted them here. In light of this community, and as a representative of Student Senate, I am asking you to consider residence hall visitation hours.

This semester Student Senate formed a committee with the purpose of evaluating current residence hall visitation hours. These are the times in which members of the opposite sex are permitted on a residence floor. The current policy is:

Residence Hall Visitation hours:  
+Sun-Thurs: 12 noon-10:30 p.m.  
+Fri-Sat: 12 noon-12 midnight

Lounge Co-Ed Visitation hours:  
+Open 24 hours: Dorcas, Esther, Jonathan, Ruth AB, Ruth BC, Schuelke and Strieter  
+8 a.m.-2:30 a.m. David Hall Core

Some students have expressed satisfaction with the established hall visitation hours saying it gives them boundaries; others have expressed dissatisfaction. In response, Student Senate has formed a committee to survey students and recommend any proposed changes to the Administration.

As an additional step in this process, our committee would like your input, as a parent and/or guardian. Below is a link to a short survey designed specifically for you that should take no longer than a few minutes. Thank you for your input and God's blessings.

<http://tinyurl.com/reshallhours>



*2008-09 Senate Officers*

## The Hookah Hook

Hookahs, or water pipes, that are popular in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central and South Asia, are now finding a place among students in the United States. A recent study at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine—the first random sample study of U.S. students focused on hookah smoking—found that 41% of the 647 students surveyed had smoked tobacco from a hookah. And 78.8% of that group thought hookah smoking was less addictive than cigarettes.

In the same study, 39.6% of students had smoked cigarettes at least once. And 35.4% of students who smoked tobacco in a hookah had never smoked cigarettes.

That has researchers concerned.

“I think that’s a key finding,” Dr. Brian Primack, lead author of the study and an assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics at Pitt’s

medical school, told the *Chicago Sun-Times* (9/7/08). “There’s an overlap in a lot of people (who have smoked both) but there were over a third of the people smoking water pipes who would otherwise have never touched a cigarette...”

(Hookahs) are reaching a group of young people who otherwise would have been nicotine- and tobacco-naive... We don’t really know what the implication of that is. Some people might say that it wouldn’t make a difference: Somebody who is exposed to a few water pipe sessions, that might not change their risk of later using tobacco products. But I think there are a lot of researchers who would be concerned and say that even intermittent exposure at this age to nicotine and tobacco will increase their likelihood of becoming addicted to nicotine and continuing to the same.”

Shisha, the hookah tobacco that is often flavored with molasses, dried fruit or honey, is often thought to be less harmful than cigarette tobacco. This isn’t the case, according to the American Cancer Society. On its website, it says, “Hookahs are marketed as being a safe alternative to cigarettes. This claim is false. The water does not filter out many of the toxins. In fact, hookah smoke has been shown to contain concentrations of toxins, such as carbon monoxide, nicotine, ‘tar’ and heavy metals, that are as high or higher than are seen with cigarette smoke.”



Source: *Chicago Sun-Times*, 9/7/08; American Cancer Society, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

“Copyright 2008 PaperClip Communications. [www.Paperclip.com](http://www.Paperclip.com)”

# Concordia Will Raise Tuition 2.5 Percent

By Melissa Lee  
Courtesy of Lincoln Journal Star  
Wednesday, February 4, 2009

With the recession struggles of families weighing on their minds, leaders of Concordia University, Nebraska on Wednesday announced a tuition increase for 2009-2010 that will be the lowest in nearly two decades.

Tuition at the private Christian university in Seward will rise 2.5 percent next year, the smallest increase since 1989. Overall costs — including room and board and a standard technology fee — will rise just 3 percent.

The move is designed to help ease the financial burdens on families during a difficult recession, the university said. “We really understand what a challenging time it is for students and their families,” Concordia President Brian Friedrich said. “Our goal is to make education affordable, and that’s something we felt very strongly about.”

This academic year, full-time undergraduate tuition costs \$20,580. Next year, that will rise to \$21,100. Total costs will rise from \$25,980 this year to \$26,770.

The small increase will help generate a bit more revenue for Concordia — which, like most colleges and universities across the country, has watched the value of its endowment drop and is facing cuts because of the recession — but won’t put the school’s budget woes on students’ backs, Friedrich said.

“It sends the message that students are our top priority,” he said.

Concordia’s commitment to financial aid, he said, will remain strong. The university distributes more than \$19 million in aid annually, and 99 percent of

undergraduates receive some sort of aid. In fact, because of an increase in private giving to some academic programs, some students’ aid packages will swell next year, meaning they won’t see a cost increase at all, Friedrich said.

Of course, not handing down a large tuition increase likely means Concordia won’t be able to do all it had hoped to in the coming year.

Cuts may loom, though Friedrich said nothing’s finalized yet. The university also has instituted a hiring freeze, reduced overtime pay, eliminated a handful of adjunct faculty positions and worked to improve administrative efficiency, he said.

And the small tuition increase isn’t the only example of Concordia looking out for its own: From January to June of this year, Concordia employees are taking pay cuts in an effort to spare the campus from future layoffs.

Faculty took a 3 percent pay cut, executive-level employees a 5 percent cut and Friedrich himself a 7 percent cut.

It’s too early to say whether the university still might be forced to lay off employees later in the year, Friedrich said, or whether the pay cuts will be extended beyond June.

But the salary reductions reflect the Concordia community’s conviction the entire campus should share equally in times of financial difficulty, he said.

“I think that said, ‘We are in this together,’” he said. “Our purpose here is to provide the very best Christian higher education that we can.

“Personally, there may be some sacrifices ... But God always provides.”

**Feb. 19, 2009**  
Pre-Career Fair, Cattle Conf Rm

**Feb. 20, 2009**  
Movie Night, Rivoli Theatre

**Feb. 22, 2009**  
FCA-Rapha House-TLEC 115

**Feb. 23, 2009**  
Women’s BB vs. Dana  
Men’s BB vs. Dana

**Feb. 26, 2009**  
Career Fair, Cattle Conf Rm  
Graduate Fair, Cattle Conf Rm

**Feb. 27, 2009**  
Music of J.S. Bach Concert-Heine

**Feb. 26-28, 2009**  
Theatre, *Still Life with Iris*, Weller

**Mar. 3, 2009**  
3rd Quarter Ends

**Mar. 4, 2009**  
4th quarter begins  
Health Fair, Cattle Conf Rm  
Baseball vs NE Wesleyan, 4pm

**Mar. 6, 2009**  
Baseball vs York College, 5pm

**Mar. 9-13, 2009**  
Spring Break

**Mar. 17, 2009**  
Baseball vs Bellevue Univ, 3pm

**Mar. 20, 2009**  
The Improvables, Studio Theatre  
Bowling, Seward Bowl  
Softball vs Dordt, 5pm

**Mar. 21, 2009**  
Baseball vs Sioux Falls, 1pm  
Softball vs Northwestern, 1pm

**Mar. 22, 2009**  
Concordia Art Faculty Exhibition  
Baseball vs Mt Marty, 1pm



C O N C O R D I A U N I V E R S I T Y  
N E B R A S K A

## Division of Student Services

800 North Columbia Ave.

Seward, Nebraska 68434

402.643.7231

Editor: Mary Oldenburg, Director of Student Activities/Student Life Education

Facilitating parent connections with students & the learning community