Chapter 9

IMAGINING THE FUTURE: CSP AT 150
WHO WILL BE CONCORDIA’S STUDENTS, AND WHERE WILL THEY COME FROM?

Concordia students will be from everywhere, and from many different countries, which makes the school get more ideas about the world.

– Abdullah Alroheem ’18

I think [we’ll be] more diverse. Even more programs, more students. From where I stand, I’d like to see us feel like we have even more of a global perspective. It went from hardly anything from when I started [in 2008], to now it has grown so significantly. I would love in 2043 for people to say, “There was a time [in the past] that we weren’t so interconnected with the world at Concordia?” Like for that to blow their minds away. Also for the students here to feel like they have the world at their fingertips, or the community at their fingertips, at any given moment—that would be my hope for Concordia.

– Kelly Matthias
Director of CALL Center

There will be no certain type of student from any specific region. We will have a large variety of students from different races, backgrounds and regions of the world.

– Stacie LeTexier ’18

We will have robots and students in classrooms learning, barely being able to tell a human from a robot.

– Desmond Hudnall, student

I hope Concordia will be a place for learning for ages 16 to 100, and from the US and abroad. Our international students enrich the experience at Concordia.

– Elizabeth Coleman
Human Resources office

I see students being young children, senior citizens, and everyone in between who wants to take a course, even if not for credit toward a degree. And students could be from anywhere around the world, including prisons, hospitals, hospice, schools, or workplace conference rooms.

– Rose Osterbauer ’18

I really like how diverse our campus is and, just based on demographics, I think it will only continue to become more diverse. I don’t know that there is a way to predict where [foreign and international students] would be coming from at that point; numbers-wise I would still expect that those countries in the world with larger populations are going to be still there. As long as our programs stay affordable the way they are, I would expect that [the numbers] would grow quite a bit more than what we’ve seen.

– Tiffanie Loeb-Schneider
Director of International Student Services

After a first chapter spent looking back to the early 1990s, we then embarked on a journey through the past twenty-five years of Concordia’s history. Along the way, we learned how dynamic, visionary leaders developed innovative ideas that helped transform CSP into the university it is today, in 2018. From new structures and programs to state of the art technology and a bold approach to affordability, the Concordia community has witnessed plenty of changes in the years since 1993. And who among those on campus in 1993 could have imagined even one of these changes? Yet here we are.

Which brings us to this final chapter, featuring a look ahead—to the year 2043, when Concordia will celebrate 150 years of existence. How do members of the campus community envision that future? During 2017 and early 2018, nearly 200 people—students, alumni, faculty, staff and retirees—responded to a set of questions that asked them to close their eyes and imagine CSP@150. Their ideas form the body of this chapter. In addition, several students from Art and Graphic Design provided visual clues to the year 2043. Enjoy what are, I believe, some interesting thoughts and concepts. Then, when you’re finished, close your eyes and imagine your vision of CSP@150.
I think we’re going to continue to be innovative and we’re going to continue to be cutting edge and we’re going to continue to thrive … We’re going to continue to look to the future and say, we can be part of the solution, whatever the problems are.

– Lonn Maly ’81
Dean of College of Education and Science

I think there will be micro credentials; specific majors will slowly decrease. This will allow students to have mini degrees in their choice of topic. Students will still be allowed to choose to have a bachelor’s degree in their choice of major, but I think many students will want the advantage of micro credentials, to graduate early with a variety of degrees.

– Claire Lammers, student

The great challenge of higher education in the twenty-first century is again separating the market imperatives from the educational imperatives and, while I am all for making things as convenient for students as possible, there is a point at which we have to say no, that’s not in your best long term educational interests. So having those conversations I think is essential to our ongoing identity. By the same token, the market goes where the market goes, and one cannot ignore that.

– Paul Hillmer ’82
Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Students will come to class, but the classrooms will resemble the subject being taught. Students will do lots of in-class activities. Lots of hands-on experiences and less lecturing. Concordia will offer NASA programs, vet programs and all current programs. Concordia will teach its students to deal with real-life situations and how to take care of things in life that you’ll run into.

– Molly Meyers, student

I think for universities like Concordia over the next 10-15 years, the challenge is going to be, if we don’t add more value than the commoditization of credits filled, then the prediction of half the universities not being around … will hold true. … Because remember, the choices coming down aren’t just going to be other competitors. The fear of the marketplace going forward [is that] Google and some of these others are going to create universities that are going to create technical knowledge in a matter of days, not months, not years. … So how do we compete in an age in which information is the commodity, not necessarily knowledge?

– Craig Lien
Associate Dean of College of Business & Technology

Programs will be very different. If you want to work with animals, like be a vet, Concordia will have a separate building for that with animals in it. If you want to be a teacher, there will be a building with different ages of kids to work with. A dentist building, to practice on people.

– Ellie Gess, student
In the year 2043, Elon Musk will be President of Mars, Oprah's face will replace Jefferson's on Mt. Rushmore, and Concordia University might look like this.
Higher ed is going to be delivered in a whole lot of different ways that I can’t even imagine. ... Knowledge transmission from one person that has knowledge to a person that doesn’t have the knowledge is going to be completely different, I’m sure. It might be a microchip that gives you all the knowledge you’ll ever need. The whole internet will be on one microchip, implanted in the palm of your hand. It’s really, how do you use that information to the betterment of humankind. Things will change dramatically.

– Lonn Maly ‘81
Dean of College of Education and Science

Probably more technology used, maybe tablets used like notebooks, no paper copies of things. Maybe more technology type majors will be offered, more environmental science subjects. Probably weird robotics courses, because the world will be taken over by robots then, I bet.

– Alanna Pleasants, student

Research shows that a majority of the jobs in 2030 will be those that aren’t currently in existence. This means teaching and learning must change, and will likely be self-paced and individually tailored.

– Milissa Becker
Director of Human Resources

The majority of teaching is going to take place online. The requirement of having a uniform [semester] start and end date will fade. Students will have access to all the class material online, and this will allow them to have the option to sail through the entire semester’s worth of classes in a few weeks. If students choose to stay on campus and have a professor teach them in person, the material given will be completely on technology such as iPads or a new system on learning strictly for school.

– Claire Lammers, student

I think there still will be face-to-face components, but even within the traditional classroom there will be more online components. And I think we will have more competency based education. My hope is that we are able to partner with elementary and high schools, colleges, and employers, and that we all work together, versus the current system that is a little bit more segmented.

– Kimberly Craig ’18 EdD
Vice President of Enrollment Management

The teacher wouldn’t have to come to class. We would all have advanced screens installed in each classroom showing a digital 3D effect of the teacher. Holograms everywhere, explaining specific important things.

– Desmond Hudnall, student

No textbooks might be an innovation. That might be one step forward. I think the cohort model has staying value to a certain degree, because I think people value connection. I think the web conferencing will get more dynamic; I think we need to get more creative in that. The whole threaded discussion thing might be gone. We have to find more dynamic ways to connect people to content.

– Steve Manderscheid
Chair of Human Resources Management

Concordia will utilize faculty and staff to deliver on even a more personalized form of learning, and we will continue to evolve around our Christian ethos. I would hope that we will find out what it means to be a Lutheran Christian university. ... I think and hope that it will be a Christ-centered approach where people will say, like Jesus, we can allow people of different perspectives to voice their opinion and honor who they are as a person and find out who they uniquely are, made in the image of Jesus. That’s my hope.

– Joel Schuessler ’83
Associate Professor of IT Management

GABE SCHMIDT
Graphic Design Post-Baccalaureate Studies, class of 2018.
We will add E-sports and wrestling, also swimming and diving. There will be an off-campus arena that houses all fall and winter sports. This arena will be used not only by CSP, but by the Twins Cities community as well.

– Eric Johnson
Men’s Basketball Assistant Coach

I imagine Video Gaming, and within that would be many different variations; for instance we’ll have Video Sports, which would include the traditional sports we currently have. These games would be played by individuals in a gaming room on campus against students from another campus, in their gaming room. There would be no travel involved, all done via the internet or whatever may take the internet’s place. I could see arenas for laser tag or a more advanced version of the game being built, and teams traveling to play each other in sanctioned competitions.

– Bob Bartel
Softball Head Coach

All current sports will still be intact, fully funded and competing yearly for national championships. There will be additions of sports that use virtual reality that players can play from their homes throughout the world.

– Jon Medlo ’00
Football Assistant Coach

With the growing awareness and science around how concussions and impact collisions affect football players, I seriously wonder how that will alter youth participation in the sport and how that will affect the higher levels of competition in the sport. And more specifically, where the Division II level and Concordia will fit in that equation.

– Josh Deer ’04, MA ’09
Assistant Athletic Director for Communications

CSP will own the Holiday gas station at the corner of Hamline and Marshall, and that will be a new student center and wellness center. We will buy up a couple of lots on Marshall, west of our new weight room facility, for a new aquatics and hockey arena.

– Brady Starkey
Volleyball Head Coach
The campus will have zip lines to go from the Gangelhoff Center to Holst and Luther Halls, so you don’t have to walk. The buildings will be built with huge glass windows, and the Dining Hall will deliver to your room.

– Ellie Gess, student

I think Concordia will be an intra-city university. We might have pockets elsewhere, satellite campuses I guess is one way to describe it. I actually think we should have some satellite campuses in other states—again, that’s a growth opportunity piece—and probably some abroad. … But definitely scaling. But I don’t think Concordia has to leave its roots in any way; I think all it does is just expand its opportunity.

– Eric LaMott, Provost and COO

The campus will be bigger and buildings will have more floors. There will also be tunnels so students don’t have to walk outside.

– Peyton Holmes, student

Campus buildings will be replaced as they age by new ones with more floors, to take advantage of our space. At least ten stories. I could see some buildings being used for employee living space, employees who then wouldn’t need to commute in what I’m guessing will be much worse traffic congestion.

– Bob Bartel
Softball Head Coach

Who knows? I think clearly without some sort of earth shattering change, which I don’t foresee, it’s going to be much more online and co-work driven. It’s going to be much leaner in the number of tenure track faculty it employs. Whether it even has campus is an open question, although I think it is difficult for me to envision a college or university that has a coherent identity that doesn’t have a campus.

– Paul Hillmer ‘82
Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences

I think there’s always going to be some desire for brick and mortar, but if the trajectory of higher ed continues as it is, it might be that it is in partnerships with many other schools. Not unlike the [law school] partnership of Hamline [University] and William Mitchell. … Eventually schools might all have to cluster together, maybe around programs and expertise, but colleges and universities will have to consolidate to survive.

– Carol Klemppa ’98, MA ’02
Term Faculty of Business Leadership