

## Concordia College in New York Closes

BY THOMAS PRESNALL

**O**N JANUARY 28TH, 2021, Concordia College New York (CCNY) issued a statement saying that it will be closing its doors for the final time. This statement was made jointly with neighboring Iona College, which is set to take over Concordia's Bronxville campus and is helping put plans in place to ensure that students of CCNY are able continue their education without too much change.

Concordia President John A. Nunes said in a statement put in an article by CCNY that, "Students were and continue to be our priority throughout the prayerful and painstaking decision-making process... This outcome brings deep pain to all of us who care for Concordia, and in whose hearts Concordia will always live." In that same article, it was revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic worsened the financial problems that the school was already dealing with.

Thankfully, Iona College is stepping up in a big way to help the students of Concordia College by offering them a way to continue their education. There is always a shock that comes after an announcement like this where students are forced to wonder and worry about where they will go next year. Iona College will hopefully put many of those worries to rest as they help with the transition process.

No doubt, news of the school's closure was met with waves of sadness from both current students and alumni alike. College is a major part of life for many where students make friends and memories that they will remember forever, and after 140 years, there will be many who will miss the school.

In an Instagram post put out by Concordia, many of the comments were from students who attended Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, which similarly shut its doors at the end of its spring semester in 2020. The former students of CU Portland made it very clear to the heart-broken students of CCNY: they are not alone.

This story means a lot to me personally because I was one of those students who was affected by the closing of CU Portland. The shock, the heart-break, the worry and fear are all natural feelings to have. There is no way to prepare to hear news of this magnitude, and it affects students at all levels. First-year students looked forward to spending the next four years with the friends they made, and seniors who dedicated so many years to a school they love so much in pursuit of a degree. Hopefully, the students of CCNY will find success wherever they decide to continue their education and never forget the great memories they made.

## Concordia University Nebraska Announces New President

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

**S**CHOOLS IN THE Concordia University system have seen a bit of shifting around of presidential offices these past few years. It started with the departure of Concordia University, St. Paul's former president, Rev. Dr. Tom Ries. Dr. Eric LaMott served as interim president in the following days before former president of Concordia University Nebraska, Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, was officialized into the role. President Friedrich's acceptance of this call both opened and closed a hole at the same time. Since January 1st, 2020, Rev. Russ Sommerfeld has served as interim president, and now will be finishing at the beginning of August when Dr. Bernard Bull begins his tenure as president of the institution.

Concordia University Wisconsin saw Dr. Bull earn a bachelor's degree in education, history, and theology in 1994. It was also here that he took on various leadership roles, some of which include vice provost for curriculum and academic innovation, chief innovation officer, assistant vice president of academics, and associate professor of education. Following his undergraduate education, he received his master's degree in curriculum and instruction at Concordia University, Chicago, in 1997, and then an additional Master in Liberal Studies from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2005. Dr. Bull earned his Doctorate of Education in instructional technology at Northern Illinois University in 2007.

Dr. Bull has recently been serving as president at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont, since late 2018. The school had been struggling financially and was threatened with the removal of accreditation by the New England Commission of Higher Education shortly before his arrival. This means that the university would not be eligible for federal financial aid, and with college tuition prices being so high, it would be unimaginably difficult trying to get students enrolled. Not to mention, many small colleges in Vermont have been struggling with enrollment. Some of which had also lost accreditation and were essentially forced to close due to much of the schools' financial support coming from tuition payments. Under Dr. Bull's leadership, the school reorganized its finances and other issues and was successfully reaccredited in 2020, and they also had an increase in enrollment.

Dr. Bull holds many accomplishments and experiences at Goddard and other learning institutions. Additionally, his clear leadership and organization skills will no doubt be a benefit to the school and to the Concordia University system as a whole. Now, more than ever, the system must maintain effective leadership and innovation as multiple schools in the system have closed down within the past few years. But with God (and a few brains), anything is possible.

## Forgotten Wallet found in Antarctica after 53 Years

BY ERIKA SOUKUP

**I**N 1967, A SAN DIEGO man who was a Navy meteorologist was assigned to Antarctica as a part of "Operation Deep Freeze." There, for thirteen months, his only luxury was a martini every day after work and a once-a-week call with his wife, Wilma.

Paul Grisham enlisted in the Navy in 1948 and became a weather technician, and he later became a weather forecaster. His job took him to stations in Guam, Hawaii, and Japan. He also served twice on aircraft carriers in the Pacific Ocean. He also worked on the USS Bennington for four years and on the USS Hancock for two during the Vietnam War. According to "The San Diego Union-Tribune," when Grisham was assigned duty in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze, where the Navy provided logistical support to civilian scientists on the frozen continent.

Grisham, after fifty-three years, had his wallet returned to him, which held memories and mementos of his time in Antarctica. The wallet contained his Navy ID card; driver license; a pocket reference card on what to do during atomic, biological, and chemical attacks; a beer ration punch card; a tax withholding statement; and receipts for money orders sent to his wife.

The wallet was found in 2014 behind a locker in the building at McMurdo Station on Antarctica's Ross Island during a demolition. To get the wallet returned to its rightful owner, it took not just emails, Facebook messages, and letters, but also a group of amateur sleuths. Bruce McKee, Stephen Decato, and his daughter Sarah Lindbergh (Decato's daughter) were a major part of the team's effort in finding Grisham. The wallet was the third lost Navy item the trio had recently returned to different families. The first success happened when Decato discovered a Navy ID bracelet for sale in a shop window and decided to buy it to return it to the family and proper owner. When Decato's former boss heard of this success, he sent down two wallets. The trio then got in contact with the Naval Weather Service Association, which Grisham is a member of (the second wallet was returned to the family of the man).

After 53 years, Grisham said he can't even remember losing his wallet on the continent he calls "The Ice," but he's grateful for the efforts that enabled its return.