

# THE BULLETIN

*A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University*



**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## Gaukler Family Wellness Center opens to acclaim

20 years of laptops ♦ King '86 named NDUS CIO ♦ Homecoming awards



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**Welcome to the *Bulletin!***

*The Bulletin* is published in spring, summer and fall by the Valley City State University Alumni Association.

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**Cover Story**

**4 Gaukler Family Wellness Center opens**

*The Gaukler Family Wellness Center opened its doors Oct. 1, and students, faculty and staff—along with members of the greater Valley City/Barnes County community—are all enjoying the new facility located across 8th Ave. from the Bubble. Read what users think about the shared fitness and wellness complex—the new home of VCSU's Kinesiology and Human Performance Department—and view photos of this great addition to campus and Valley City.*



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**7 Celebrating 20 years as a laptop university**

*President Mason formally recognized the 20 year anniversary of VCSU as a laptop university at a reception Sept. 12. The impact of providing students and faculty with their own machines—VCSU was the second school in the nation to do so in 1996—is immeasurable; it has shaped the culture of technological competence and innovation on the campus we know today.*



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**10 Alumni honored at annual Homecoming breakfast award ceremony**

*A host of awards—Certificates of Merit, the Young Alumni Achievement Award, the Alumni Service Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award—were given to deserving alumni at the Alumni Honors Breakfast on Homecoming Saturday.*



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**13 King '86 named CIO of NDUS**

*Darin King '86 is the new chief information officer for the North Dakota University System (NDUS). Chris Erickson, NDUS public affairs manager, put together this Q&A about King's new responsibilities in the every-changing IT field.*

**15 VCSU retains U.S. News ranking as No. 1 public regional college in Midwest**

*Valley City State University has retained its No. 1 ranking among public regional colleges in the Midwest according to the 2017 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. VCSU previously held the No. 1 ranking in 2016, 2013 and 2012. This also marks the 19th consecutive year that VCSU has been ranked a U.S. News "Best College."*

*Photo credits: cover, pp. 4–6—Steve Voit  
p. 24—Jenni Lou Russi*



## Distinctively VCSU!

President Tisa Mason, Ed.D., CAE

I hope you join me in bursting with pride as you peruse this issue of *The Bulletin*. So many good things are happening at VCSU:

- ◆ Our record enrollment—again!
- ◆ Named a U.S. News “Best College” for the 19th consecutive year
- ◆ 20 years as a laptop campus—fully embracing our campus innovation value and putting it to work to advance the teaching and learning experience.
- ◆ New facilities: a gazebo, heat plant, and the opening of the Gaukler Family Health, Wellness, and Physical Education Center.

In fact, our good fortune reminds me of the saying: “The harder you work, the luckier you get.” Indeed it took the collective hard work and commitment of many to get so lucky! To me some of the luckiest days of the year are celebrated with traditions: convocation, commencement, and homecoming.

Homecoming provides us with an extra-special opportunity to recognize

our alumni through our award programs. Celebrating their success is very important to us; in fact, if you pay special attention to our mission, our work with our students is not really measured by their success while they are students. Our mission is about preparing our students to be leaders, educators, and engaged citizens. Thus the true measure of our success is how our alumni live their lives after they graduate—how they serve their professions and their communities.

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*To me some of the luckiest days of the year are celebrated with traditions: convocation, commencement, and homecoming.*

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I loved meeting our 2016 award winners at homecoming. I hope you too share my pride as you read about your fellow Vikings. As you will see, their accomplishments and generosity are truly inspiring and their impact profound. During the celebrations the stories of their contributions, in large part rooted in the strong relationships developed

at VCSU, were recounted over and over again. It was at that moment I wholeheartedly believed we were the luckiest university in the world! I am so thankful for how each of you is making a difference in our world. Thank you for helping your alma mater live a charmed life.

*Happy Holidays*  
From the faculty and staff at  
**Valley City State University**



### *Alumni Association Get-Togethers Winter 2016-17*

**You are invited to stop by, enjoy some complimentary appetizers, spend time reminiscing and catching up with other alumni, and find out what is new at VCSU!**

Please put these dates on your calendars, and if you are in the area, please join us (and bring other alumni with you). All socials are from 5:30–7:30 p.m.

*An RSVP is requested. Please contact Kim Hesch at 800-532-8641 ext. 7403 or [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu).*

**January 20** .....VCSU @ Fargo Force (see ad on p. 14 for details)

**February 21** .....VCSU Tuesday Social in Bismarck (location to be determined)

**March 21** .....VCSU Tuesday Social in Fargo (Green Mill)

**April 18** .....VCSU Tuesday Social in Jamestown (location to be determined)

**Watch for more VCSU events on our Facebook page or at [alumni.vcsu.edu](http://alumni.vcsu.edu).**

# leave a Legacy for V-500 at VCSU



The VCSU Foundation Leave a Legacy program is designed to encourage alumni and friends who have supported the university while they were living to continue to have an impact on VCSU after the time of their death. They can do so with a charitable bequest, which can be in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, life insurance, or a percentage of their estate. More often than not, attractive tax benefits are associated with such a bequest.

**For further information on the Leave a Legacy program, contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7217 or email Larry Robinson, executive director of university advancement, at [larry.robinson@vcsu.edu](mailto:larry.robinson@vcsu.edu).**



## Some Things Change...Great Places Only Get Better

Greta (Trader) Delparte '06, Alumni Association President

Growing up I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. Our basement was transformed into a small classroom with chairs of stuffed animals who listened while I read aloud and had to be given spelling tests.

As I grew older and it became time to make a decision on where to attend college, it was never a question. My parents, grandparents, and other relatives had always attended Valley City State, and since I wanted to be a teacher, VCSU was the most logical choice. Each family member shared with me their fond memories of when they attended, and it is through these stories that I realized just how "my VCSU" has changed over the years.

VCSU has always been known as a teacher's college. When it first opened in 1890, it only had 22 students and was meeting in the local high school. The townspeople raised

money to purchase the campus and secured a leader to guide the college. Its purpose was to "give instruction in the Science and Art of Teaching to prepare teachers."

I found it very interesting that they were able to have a school right on campus for teachers to practice teaching kindergarten through high school at the on-campus Model School. My uncle, Bill Trader, attended "College High," as it was called, and can tell you about the small class sizes and teachers learning alongside their students.

From 2002-06 while I was attending VCSU, we were known for being a laptop university. We were

a leader in the nation as only the second university at the time to implement universal computer access for faculty and students by providing laptops for everyone.

I had little knowledge of the computer before attending VCSU. I enjoyed being able to communicate with professors, students, and research electronically. Campus housing was changing also during this time. With the demand for students desiring to live on campus, we began remodeling residence halls into suites where men and women could live next door.

Now as I visit the campus not as a student, but as an alumna, I look at all the wonderful changes I see, and I am proud to be a Viking.

We have a beautiful football field to enjoy, a state of the art science building, a gorgeous gazebo for host-

ing events, and an amazing health complex through a partnership with the city.

We no longer are only reaching "College High" students; we are training teachers all over the nation to be leaders. We are expanding our degrees in many areas and continue to guide our students to become master teachers who will grow and succeed, and in turn, send more of their students to VCSU.

Some things change over the years, but great places only get better. Look at all the wonderful improvements we have made over the years. I can't wait to see what the future holds for VCSU. Go Vikings!

*We no longer are only reaching "College High" students; we are training teachers all over the nation to be leaders. We are expanding our degrees in many areas and continue to guide our students to become master teachers who will grow and succeed, and in turn, send more of their students to VCSU.*

### 2016-17 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

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**ex officio**

**Wesley Wintch, ex officio**



## My Will

Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement

I have a will. Two months ago I couldn't say that. It took the death of a close friend to wake me up. Now I am wondering why I procrastinated so long.

Let me tell you about my will. My will reflects my wishes. Instead of the courts appointing an executor (personal representative) of my estate, my sons will handle this, and without

bond. My will makes provisions for my family members in a way that statutes would not do. My will establishes a trust to benefit my spouse and reduce estate taxes.

My will lets me disburse money to my children and grandchildren in an orderly and prolonged manner. My will identifies several charities to receive special bequests. In short, my will allocates my assets according to my wishes.

My will is a legal valid document. I went to an attorney who specializes in estate planning. She knew the right questions to ask and the best way to accomplish my goals. I was tempted to take a shortcut and use one of those documents that you can purchase at a stationery store. I even thought of sitting down and writing out my will on a piece of paper, a sort of do-it-yourself project. I am thankful that I did not fall into that trap. After all, why do a will and wonder for the rest of your life if it is a valid document?

My will is up to date. This is because I only recently created it, and it

reflects my current situation. But life never stays the same. Within a few years, new estate laws may come into play. Family members may develop different needs. The composition of my estate may change. As my attorney advised, "An out of date will could be as harmful as no will at all."

My will can be amended. It is not set in concrete. I can change it easily, either by a codicil or by simply having it redrafted. The important thing is that I have a valid will in place—now.

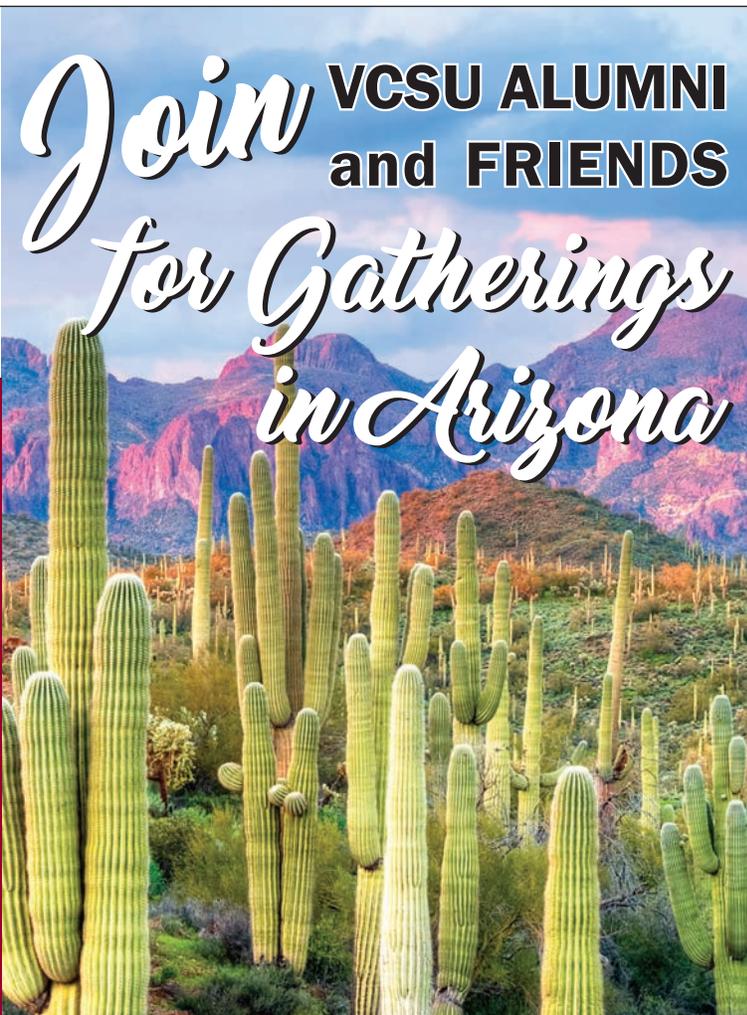
My will is safely stored in the safety deposit box at my bank. I have a copy of the document at home. I also made certain that my personal representatives know

*I now have the peace of mind of knowing exactly what will happen. It took a little time and some money, but it was well worth the effort.*

how to find my will.

Above and beyond all, my will offers me peace of mind. For years, I worried about what would happen if I died without a will. I now have the peace of mind of knowing exactly what will happen. It took a little time and some money, but it was well worth the effort.

If you do not have a current valid will in place, we encourage you to make plans today to address this very important matter. Contact us at the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203 or visit us on the web at [alumni.vcsu.edu](http://alumni.vcsu.edu), and we will send you our free "Will Planning Kit." This kit will provide you with valuable information about next steps; you, too, will feel better knowing you've begun this vital task.



### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017 — SURPRISE, ARIZ.

#### No-Host Luncheon @ 11:30 a.m.

Coco's Bakery Restaurant  
9801 West Bell Road  
Surprise, Ariz.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017 — MESA, ARIZ.

#### Social & Luncheon

The Terrace Green at Viewpoint Golf Resort  
650 North Hawes Road  
Mesa, Ariz.

#### Alumni Social & Luncheon — \$15 per person

11 a.m. — Reunion Social  
12 noon — Luncheon  
1 p.m. — Program

Bring a friend! These events are not restricted to VCSU alumni.

For more information, or to be added to the Arizona mailing list, please call the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203!



# GAUKLER FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER OPENS

After much anticipation fueled by construction webcam views, in-progress tours and a prominent location, the Gaukler Family Wellness, Health and Physical Education Center opened its doors to the public Oct. 1.

The Wellness Center—a joint project of partners Valley City Parks and Recreation Department, the Sheyenne Valley Community Foundation and VCSU—offers members of the greater Valley City community an outstanding new facility.

Included in the facility, located on 8th Ave. directly across from W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse, are:

- a cardiovascular fitness area (with ellipticals, treadmills, stepmills, stationary bikes, rowers, and more)
- free-weight area
- multi-sport courts
- a walking track
- a swimming pool
- men's, women's and family locker rooms
- a playground
- a coffee/smoothie bar

Fitness classes are offered, and on-site child-care is available.

The Wellness Center also houses the classrooms, labs and offices for VCSU's Department of Kinesiology and Human Performance, which includes programs in athletic training, health education, physical education, exercise physiology, sport management, strength and conditioning, and wellness studies.

An added bonus for students—and alumni, too—comes in the form of employment opportunities at the Wellness Center.

Membership for current VCSU students is included in student fees. VCSU faculty and staff, along with all Valley City/Barnes County residents, are eligible for membership.

Additional information—including membership rates, hours, class offerings and more—can be found online on the VCSU website at [www.vcsu.edu/wellnesscenter](http://www.vcsu.edu/wellnesscenter) or the Valley City Parks and Recreation website at [www.vcparks.com](http://www.vcparks.com), or stop by the Wellness Center at 733 8th Ave. SW for a firsthand tour.



*"With the opening of the Gaukler Family Wellness Center earlier this month, I found myself transitioning from my in-home workouts to working out at the Wellness Center. And what a joy it has been—not because of the all*

*the newness and the magnificence of the facility—but because of the people.*

*"I smile a lot more than I would have home alone. I have a lot of fun walking through the beautiful facility and connecting with people: a prospective student touring with her family, a church friend on the elliptical machine next to mine, a student waving from the basketball court as I walk the track, and a colleague helping to answer some my questions comparing notes on wellness classes we might enjoy.*

*"Social connection and interdependence are important elements of our lives as human beings. We are profoundly shaped by our social environment. Community matters."*

**TISA MASON**  
PRESIDENT





*"Working at the Wellness Center is giving me valuable experience in my field, and I also get to see lots of familiar faces. I get to do a little bit of everything, and it's a fun environment. The 5:30 a.m. cycling class I teach is full—that says something about this place!"*

**BAILEY GOOLSBY '16**  
PERSONAL TRAINER,  
FITNESS INSTRUCTOR



*"You see everyone here—from babies to 75-year-olds and beyond. People are in awe when they first come in, and then they're amazed to discover something new they didn't know about. This is what I want to do and where I want to be."*

**AARON HECK '15**  
AQUATICS MANAGER



*"The Wellness Center is a great place for students to exercise with friends. There's not only the machines and the weights, but you constantly see people playing basketball or running around the track—which is great when you want to get a short run in but it's too cold outside! Everything about it looks good, and it will definitely push more students to attend VCSU."*

**OSCAR SUNIGA**  
JUNIOR, HEMET, CALIF.



*"My family uses the Wellness Center just as I hoped we would. My husband goes to lift and ride bike at 5 a.m.; I have started yoga classes; and our boys—ages 2 and 4—beg to go with us. They love the play area, and I can't wait to take them there regularly during the winter when they need to burn off energy.*



*"How amazing it is to see so many members of our community there, and be able to visit with people you might not get a chance to see otherwise. I'm really impressed.*

*"The Wellness Center is also an incredible asset to have for recruiting prospective students. It's the new, shiny thing teenagers want to see. Having a campus visit at the Wellness Center leaves families with that 'wow factor' I didn't even realize we were missing before."*

**KALEEN PETERSON**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,  
ENROLLMENT SERVICES

*"I use the Wellness Center almost every day—at least five days a week anyway—and I love the variety of machines and options that are available. Instead of going for a run every day I have far more options for what I can do now. The people who work there have been great at helping anyone who wants to get a pass, and I can't wait to try the classes that they offer. I only wish they were open later!"*

**JORDAN BUSHAW**  
SENIOR, BISMARCK, N.D.



*"The new Gaukler Family Wellness, Health and Physical Education Center has been a godsend for the rapidly growing programs in the Department of Kinesiology and Human Performance.*

*"Several years ago, our programs were home to approximately 90 students. This fall that number has risen to over 150 students. The program growth had us bursting at the seams at our former home in Graichen Gym.*

*"Here our students continue to be taught by top-notch instructors, and they also have their learning enhanced by working with state-of-the-art equipment.*

*"In addition, the Wellness Center has provided new opportunities for students in the department to engage with community members. A sharing arrangement like we have benefits both parties, and we're so excited to be part of this new facility and these new opportunities."*



**DIANE BURR**  
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY AND  
HUMAN PERFORMANCE



# Celebrating 20 years as a Laptop University

On Monday, Sept. 12, President Mason hosted a reception in the Student Center lounge recognizing the 20th anniversary of VCSU becoming a laptop campus.

In the fall of 1996, VCSU became the first laptop computer university in the state—and the second in the nation—by issuing notebook computers to all full-time students and faculty. (In fact, faculty had received their machines in the previous spring semester to prepare for the fall student implementation.)



The first shipment of ThinkPad notebooks arrived in 1996. Pictured are (l to r) O'Neil Oppegaard (facilities staff), Don Schaack (facilities staff), Joe McKenna '86 (facilities staff), President Ellen Chaffee, Mark Helmowski '96 (IT student worker), Mike Nix '96 (technology service desk), Jonathan Stenslie '97 (IT student worker) and George Rauch (network administrator).

Valley City State University had a strong interest in technology prior to the 1996 laptop initiative—in 1990 the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education gave VCSU a mission designation to be a leader in the application of instructional technology—but that institutional commitment cemented laptops and the requisite technology and training to support them into the framework of the ubiquitous technological culture experienced everyday on campus now.

Below is a timeline featuring a few of the many accomplishments tied to the laptop initiative:

- **1996:** VCSU becomes the first university in North Dakota—as well as the first teacher preparation institution in the United States—to implement a universal laptop initiative.
- **1997:** VCSU is recognized by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) as one of the nation's leaders in preparing future teachers for the 21st century classroom.
- **2002:** VCSU receives the Distinguished Achievement Award from the International Society for Technology in Education in recognition of exemplary models of integration of National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) into the VCSU elementary education programs.
- **2009:** VCSU begins providing Apple MacBooks for education to augment the PC environment because teachers in local school districts are using Macs.
- **2013:** The university adopts two platforms—PC and Mac—based on major, with departments selecting either the PC or Mac largely on the basis of industry use in the respective postgraduate fields.

- **2015:** Faculty begin a concerted effort to replace textbooks with OER (Open Educational Resources)—free online resources—in General Education classes, a task easier done with universal laptops. In two semesters, the effort saves students collectively close to \$290,000 and provides for more engaged teaching and learning.

The first machine in 1996 was an IBM ThinkPad 701CS with 720MB hard drive featuring a 75Mhz processor and 12MB RAM, along with a 1.44MB floppy drive. Its most memorable feature was its unique, fold-out “butterfly” keyboard.

The machine used today is either an HP Elitebook 840 G2 with a 2.7Ghz processor, 8GB RAM and a 256GB solid state drive, or a MacBook Air with a 2.7Ghz processor, 8GB RAM and a 256GB solid state drive.

From 1996 to 2016, data storage available to each user has increased over 1,250 fold.

In 1996, VCSU had eight modernized classrooms with large-screen projection systems. Today on campus, there are 53 classrooms and 9 meeting rooms with permanent audio and video projection equipment; that's nearly all of the university's classrooms, labs and medium-to-large meeting spaces.

According to Joe Tykwinski, chief information officer, the laptop program remains viable 20 years later for three reasons: “Security is better when everyone on a network has professional security tools, the program provides equitable computing access—there are no ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’—and faculty can depend on every student having a functioning laptop with the right software.”

The laptop program is reviewed every six years. A recent survey of students, faculty and staff overwhelmingly affirmed the program as it stands; the next review is scheduled in 2018 for possible changes in 2019.

“We are very proud of our laptop initiative,” says President Tisa Mason. “The use of technology has transformed the traditional classroom into a vibrant multi-sensory learning environment through use of on-demand internet resources, rich audio-visual presentations, threaded discussions, and much more.”



CIO Joe Tykwinski spoke on the history of VCSU's laptop initiative at the Sept. 12 20th anniversary reception.

## Homecoming Weekend 2016

Homecoming weekend kicked off with the traditional ice cream social in McFarland Hall Friday afternoon, Sept. 23. The event, held in the Soroos-Bruhn Alumni Center, drew many alumni and friends, including several of the Viking Hall of Fame inductees and Alumni Honors Breakfast award-winners.

That evening in the Student Center, six former Vikings were inducted into the Hall of Fame, with a reception and banquet preceding the ceremony. Emotions ran deep throughout an evening filled with stories, laughter and gratitude.

The Alumni Honors Breakfast was held Saturday morning, also in the Student Center, with a host of alumni receiving honors, including Certificates of Merit and Young Alumni Achievement, Distinguished Alumni and Alumni Service awards. (See pp. 10-12.)

Also on Saturday morning, baseball and softball veterans gathered to play alumni games at Charlie Brown Field and the Softball Complex, and the annual homecoming parade down Central Avenue was a little more special this year with the VCSU event combined with the Valley City Hi-Liners homecoming parade, which had been rained out Friday afternoon.

The Viking football team rolled over Waldorf 36-7 at Shelley Ellig Field in the afternoon. The Viking volleyball squad, which had dropped a match to a nationally ranked Bellevue University team Friday night, came back to beat Presentation College at Graichen Gym early Saturday evening.

A postgame social and a student/alumni dance—both held at the Valley City Town & Country Club—brought the celebratory weekend to a close.



▲ Six Vikings were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in the Student Center Sept. 23, including (l to r) Leroy Anderson '66, Lori (Johnson) Pederson '96, Lloyd Joseph '92, Kendall Railing '93 and Kathy (Mans) Nielsen '93. Dwayne Smith '97 was unable to attend the event.



## Scholarship Dinner brings students, donors together

The annual VCSU Scholarship Dinner was held on Wednesday, Oct. 5, with over 80 in attendance.

The VCSU Foundation has approximately 250 endowed and memorial scholarships that recognize those who built the foundation of our university. The dinner provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations who have established named scholarships to meet the students who were awarded their scholarships. The dinner also provides a time for student scholarship recipients to say thank you in person to their scholarship donors.

Anyone interested in establishing a scholarship may contact the Office of Advancement at 800-532-8641, ext. 37203, for more information.

- 1) James Buhr, Taylor Lentz (Schmitz-Muir-McLaren-Buhr Scholarship), and Sharon Buhr
- 2) David Gazeley (Matt Edland Scholarship), Jacob Edland and MaryLou Haskell
- 3) Marcia Foss '72, Hannah Gress (P.L. Foss Memorial Music Scholarship) and Cheryl (Foss) Rowekamp '68
- 4) Arlene Burchill, Preston Teske (Nyle and Arlene Burchill Scholarship) and Nyle Burchill
- 5) Alex Askerooth (Ole and Mary Finstad Memorial Theatre Scholarship), Kathy and Mark Finstad, and Logan Olesen (James and Elsie Ostrem Memorial Scholarship)
- 6) Monika Browne (Aaron Sours Scholarship) and Nancy Sours



## Alumni and friends gather for socializing

Groups of VCSU alumni and friends met to socialize and interact with university staff at several events this summer. The photographs here capture alumni and staff enjoying a cruise on the Missouri River near Bismarck aboard the Lewis and Clark Riverboat on the evening of July 14, along with alumni baseball fans attending the Fargo-Moorhead Redhawks game at Newman Outdoor Field on Aug. 10.



## Alumni honored at annual Homecoming breakfast award ceremony

The Alumni Association held its annual Alumni Honors Breakfast in the Student Center cafeteria on Saturday morning, Sept. 24, 2016. The various awards and their recipients follow.

### *Certificates of Merit awarded to eight alumni*

The Valley City State University Alumni Association honored eight alumni with the Certificate of Merit award. The Certificate of Merit was established by the VCSU Alumni Association to recognize alumni for service, accomplishments or other noteworthy honors. This year's alumni honorees, along with their accomplishments and accolades, are listed below.



(l to r) Tricia (Brandt) Lebahn '98, Amy (Ashley) Neal '96, Sarah (Baertsch) Lutz '05, Richard Swanson '66, Timothy Jacobson '76 and James Trett '79

### *Ruth (Langemo) Steen '45*

Ruth is retired and lives in Moorhead, Minn.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ Coached and taught at Halstad, Minn., for 23 years
- ◆ Started the Girls Athletic Association and considered the "First Woman of Sports"
- ◆ The Ruth Steen Athletic Award was begun and awarded to the school's top female athlete, 1993
- ◆ Norman County West gym named "Ruth Steen Gymnasium," 2015

### *Richard Swanson '66*

Richard lives in Richville, Minn., and is a claims specialist with Producers Ag Insurance Group, Inc.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ Outstanding Biology Teacher in North Dakota, 1972
- ◆ Outstanding Young Teacher of North Dakota Runner-up, 1972
- ◆ Outstanding Young Educator of West Fargo, 1972
- ◆ Outstanding Young Men of America, 1973
- ◆ INA Rookie Adjuster of the Year (North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota), 1976
- ◆ Golden Torch Award for Contributing to WFEA & Education, 1978
- ◆ Presidential Award in Excellence in Science Teaching, 1988
- ◆ Golden Apple Award for Service in Education, 1991
- ◆ Who's Who in Education, 1998

### *Timothy Jacobson '76*

Tim is an administrator at Mapleton (N.D.) Public Schools.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ Coach of the Year in Boys' Basketball, 1997
- ◆ Coach of the Year in Girls' Basketball, 1985, 2007, 2014 and 2015

### *Dale Hogie '78*

Dale is superintendent of Lake Park Audubon Public Schools in Lake Park, Minn.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ Minnesota Region IV Superintendent of the Year, 2016

### *James Trett '79*

James is a social studies and driver education teacher with the Sioux Falls (S.D.) School District.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ South Dakota Boys Basketball Coach of the Year, 1990
- ◆ Nominated twice for Boys Basketball National Coach of the Year

## Amy (Ashley) Neal '96

Amy teaches kindergarten in the Minot (N.D.) Public Schools.

### Honors & Awards

- Minot Education Association Teacher of the Year, 2015
- North Dakota Teacher of the Year, 2016

## Tricia (Brandt) Lebahn '98

Tricia teaches grades 4-12 general music, band and choir at LaMoure (N.D.) Public Schools.

### Honors & Awards

- LaMoure High School Pep Band awarded LaMoure Chamber's "Organization of the Year" Award, 2010
- LaMoure High School Choir received "North Dakota Governor's Award," 2011
- Nominated for the NDMEA Music Educator of the Year Award, 2013
- Guest conductor for the Barnes County Music Festival Choir, 2014
- National Federation State High School (NFHS) Outstanding Music Educator Award, 2015
- Nominated for NDMEA Music Educator of the Year Award, 2016

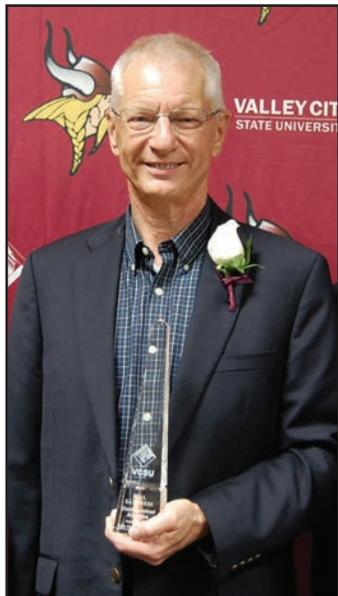
## Sarah (Baertsch) Lutz '05

Sarah is a third-grade teacher with the Stanley County School District in Fort Pierre, S.D.

### Honors & Awards

- Stanley County School District Teacher of the Year, 2016
- ESA 6 Region Teacher of the Year, 2016
- South Dakota Teacher of the Year, 2016

## Sandness '76 receives Distinguished Alumni Award



Paul Sandness, a 1976 graduate of Valley City State University, received the VCSU Distinguished Alumni Award. Sandness is the 59th recipient of the award.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was adopted by the VCSU Alumni Association to recognize alumni/alumnae who have achieved prominence in their chosen field of endeavor. The nominee must have received national or international recognition and must have been identified as an expert in the individual's chosen field.

Sandness earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1979.

In 1980, Sandness began his career with Montana Dakota Utilities. MDU, founded as an electric utility in 1924, has operations in more than 40 states; it provides value-added natural

resource products and related services essential to energy and transportation infrastructure.

He held various positions with increasing responsibility within MDU over the years, retiring in January after serving as the general counsel and corporate secretary of MDU Resources Group, a position he held since 2004, with offices in Bismarck, N.D. He also served on MDU's manage-

ment policy committee, was a director of the company's subsidiaries and corporate governance officer, ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Sandness is married to Patty (Herzberg) Sandness '77. The couple have two sons, a grandson and a granddaughter.

An honor student at VCSU, Sandness was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, a student center night manager, executive secretary of the North Dakota Student Association, and president of the VCSU Student Senate in 1974-75. He was a member of the TKE fraternity and participated in Theatre. In 1975, Sandness was selected as a Viking Pilot.

In 2014, Sandness was the keynote speaker at the VCSU Spring Commencement Exercise.

When asked what being a VCSU graduate meant to him, he said, "It means I received a first-rate education in a nurturing environment that helped prepare me for my career."

## Schall '99 honored with Young Alumni Achievement Award



Cory Schall '99, elementary science teacher in Oakes (N.D.) Public Schools, received the VCSU Young Alumni Achievement Award at the Homecoming Alumni Honors Breakfast.

The Young Alumni Achievement Award was established in 2012 to recognize VCSU's more recent, outstanding alumni as they embark on their chosen paths and strive for greatness. The award is presented to recognize future leaders under the age of 40 based on the criteria of demonstrated achievement in chosen career, demonstrated leadership and commitment to service of others.

Cory Schall holds a VCSU Bachelor of Science Degree in education. He is currently working toward a Master's Degree in education administration at North Dakota State University.

In addition to teaching elementary science for grades four through six, Schall is the Oakes head wrestling coach, junior high football coach, Legion baseball coach and pee-wee wrestling coach.

In 2006 and 2009, Schall was named the North Dakota Class B Wrestling Coach of the Year and received the VCSU Alumni Association's Certificate of Merit in 2009. During his coaching career, Schall has coached 25 Class B State individual wrestling champions and 67 Class B individual wrestling place-winners. His teams were Class B Wrestling State Champions in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Anna Sell, Oakes Elementary principal, stated in her nomination letter that "Cory is one of those 'rare gems' who would do anything or everything to help someone in need. He volunteers his time to the school, community, and even across the state in various roles and responsibilities. He spends countless hours of his own time to maintain the American Legion baseball field in Oakes; he opens up our gym/weight room for our athletes early in the morning and asks nothing in return; whenever he is approached by others to help better a situation or condition, he will never turn them down. He serves as a role model to our young students,

**Alumni Honors, cont'd. on p. 12**

**Alumni Honors, cont'd. from p. 11**

especially our young boys who can observe him as a moral, ethical, kind, loving, family-oriented man. I would trust Cory with any task or challenge and know that it will be done over and above my expectations.”

“I am very proud of the educational experiences that I obtained through VCSU,” said Schall. “I have many lifelong friends I still interact with through teaching and coaching.”

**Svenningsen-Hesch '91 receives Alumni Service Award**

Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91 received the Alumni Service Award at the annual Alumni Honors Breakfast.

The Alumni Service Award was adopted by the VCSU Alumni Association to recognize alumni or university friends who have attained exceptional achievement in their careers and have made significant contributions to the university through dedicated service, promotion, financial support or other efforts. Svenningsen-Hesch is the 13th recipient of the Alumni Service Award.

A 1991 graduate of VCSU, Svenning-Hesch earned a Bachelor of Education degree in business education and computer science. She has been a member of the VCSU staff for the last 20 years; she currently serves as assistant director for advancement in the Foundation and Alumni Office.

Svenningsen-Hesch has served on both the Jefferson and Washington Elementary schools PTO, including serving as president for three years. She has served on the board of the Barnes County United Way, the VCSU V-500 board of directors, and the Christian Education Committee at Epworth United Methodist Church.

She received a Viking Pilot Award as a student at VCSU in 1989, and she was recognized as the VCSU Staff Member of the Quarter in 2013.

Svenningsen-Hesch's nomination recommended her as a hard worker who has a passion for VCSU and takes pride in what she does. It read, in part, “She is always willing to take on additional responsibilities, work extra hours, and pitch in to get the job done. Kim has exemplified the concept of service in every way.”

A special memory for Svenningsen-Hesch involved VCSU's centennial celebration. “I was fortunate to be a Homecoming co-chair in 1989 when the university was celebrating 100 years,” she said. “It was fun planning extra events and working with the Alumni Office. It taught me what being a graduate of VCSU and being a Viking was all about!”



EBC fraternity alumni to present the 21st annual concert

# We're In the Christmas Mood

featuring the Big Band sounds of the 18-piece EBC Orchestra, along with several vocal soloists and ensembles.

**December 10, 2016 ♦ 7:30 p.m.\***

**Vangstad Auditorium**

*\*One performance only*

*Open to the public free of charge; no tickets are required, but attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Barnes County Food Pantry.*



## King '86 named CIO of NDUS

*This interview with Darin King '86 was first published on the North Dakota University System (NDUS) blog, [blog.ndus.edu](http://blog.ndus.edu), as "Q & A with CIO Darin King" in July 2016. It was written by Chris Erickson, NDUS public affairs manager, and is reprinted here with permission.*

This summer Darin King '86 was named chief information officer (CIO) for the North Dakota University System. Previously, King had served as deputy CIO since November 2013. In that role, he was responsible for the day-to-day operational leadership of the enterprise systems and services delivered to the 11 institutions of the NDUS.

King began his career in educational technology as a high school mathematics and computer science teacher in Minot and Grand Forks. In 1995, he was hired as the first network services coordinator for the Grand Forks Public Schools (GFPS) and led the effort to bring internet access into the classrooms of the district. King became the GFPS district technology director in 1997 and led the district through a rapid expansion of educational technology resources and systems. In 2012, he became the director of the North Dakota Educational Technology Council and provided leadership for all North Dakota K-12 educational technology, including EduTech and the North Dakota Center for Distance Education.

King is a graduate of Valley City State University and the University of North Dakota (UND). He is a Valley City native and a 20-plus year resident of Grand Forks with a wife and two children. His wife, Deb, is the program director of the radiologic technology program at Northland College in East Grand Forks. His son, Sam, coaches football at UND; his daughter-in-law Chelsea is a teacher for the Grand Forks Public Schools; and his daughter, McKenna, is a senior at UND.



### *How long have you been with IT and what brought you here to NDUS CTS?*

I have been working in IT for over 20 years. I thought the opportunity to work for the NDUS would be fun and challenging.

### *How do you plan on approaching your responsibilities within the position?*

After serving as the Deputy CIO for the past few years, I have had the opportunity to work daily with Lisa Feldner [former NDUS CIO, now NDUS chief of staff and vice chancellor for information technology and institutional research]. This has prepared me to understand the position, get to know the people and the processes involved with the CIO position.

### *Describe your leadership style.*

It is impossible for a single person to know everything, so it is important to be collaborative and open to discussion and input. I believe that good leaders need to use different leadership styles based on the situation. Collaborative, democratic, authoritarian, etc. are all styles that might be needed based on the situation.

### *What do you feel are some of your greatest accomplishments?*

Staying married for 30 years (and counting) and raising my kids to be good adults. Professionally, I would have to say helping the Grand Forks Public Schools during the crazy five years of recovery after the Grand Forks flood of 1997.

### *What are the goals that you have while here?*

We have many opportunities and challenges ahead based on the priorities of the SBHE and legislative mandates. It is critical that we focus our energy and resources on the priorities that directly support the strategic objectives of the SBHE.

### *What do you feel are your greatest strengths and experiences that you bring to this role?*

I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to work with many great people in both IT and executive leadership positions over the past 20-plus years. These experiences and relationships help me every day both personally and professionally. I am a pretty good communicator and like working with people to solve problems and get things done.

### *What are you most excited about?*

Everything! I am excited to continue working with the smart and capable people in CTS and NDUS institutions.

### *Are there any changes you aim to seek to implement?*

Change is constant in IT. We have made some changes in the past few years, and it is likely that we will continue to make changes as new opportunities arise.



## Freshman honor society recognized for growth

The VCSU chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta has received the Delta Award from the National Council of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for First-Year Students.

The Delta Award recognizes those chapters whose membership increased dramatically in the past year. At its April 3, 2016, ceremony, the VCSU chapter initiated 34 new members, a 31 percent increase in membership over the previous year's initiate class.

Alpha Lambda Delta is a national honor society for students who have

maintained a 3.5 or higher GPA and who rank in the top 20 percent of their class during their first year or term of higher education. The society encourages superior academic achievement among students during their first year of study.

Margaret Dahlberg, vice president for academic affairs, serves as faculty advisor for Alpha Lambda Delta; Kaleen Peterson, assistant director for enrollment services, is administrative advisor for the group.



The VCSU Alumni Association invites you to join alumni and friends at Scheels Arena for a **FARGO FORCE HOCKEY GAME.**

We have reserved the North Club Lounge for **FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017**

**COST = \$20 per person (includes reserved ticket for seating in the North Club Lounge area, food and fun!)**

**SOCIAL STARTS AT 6:00 PM • GAME TIME: 7:05 PM**

**Come out and join your fellow VCSU supporters to cheer on the Fargo Force!**

**Please RSVP to reserve your tickets—there are only a limited number available on a first come, first served basis!**

**Call 701-845-7203 to reserve yours today!**

## VCSU hosts Envision 2030 Pillar Discussion on liberal arts

President Tisa Mason hosted the NDUS Envision 2030 Pillar Discussion: Liberal Arts and the Humanities on Thursday, Oct. 6, in the VCSU Student Center.

The event continued the discussion that began as a breakout session at

the North Dakota University System's Envision 2030 education summit held in Bismarck on May 23, 2016.

The future of liberal arts and humanities education in North Dakota was discussed. Tom Isern, professor of history and university distinguished professor of history at North Dakota State University, helped define the liberal arts for the assemblage, and VCSU's Lee Kruger, associate professor of language and literature, and Anthony Dutton, associate professor and social science department chair, provided comments from their experience as educators.

A document, "Employer Priorities for Most Important College Learning Outcomes," from the LEAP project of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, was distributed and figured into the discussion.

About 30 individuals attended the discussion in person or via call-in technology. Other participants included state senators Carolyn Nelson and Larry Robinson; NDUS chancellor Mark Hagerott, NDSU president Dean Bresciani, University of Jamestown president Robert Badal; Mike Jacobs of the Grand Forks Herald; and representatives from UND, Mayville State, VCSU and Valley City Public Schools.



## Zander researches dragonfly distribution

Hayden Zander, a Valley City State University junior from Killdeer, N.D., spent the summer conducting research with VCSU biology professor Andre DeLorme, Ph.D.

Zander's research involved documenting the distribution of dragonfly species in North Dakota in an attempt to determine the impact of climate change.

One of the main concerns about global climate change is its impact on the geographic distribution of species. Dragonfly species distributions have been shown to be especially sensitive to climate change. It is predicted that southern species may expand northward and northern species may have their distributions greatly decreased by warming temperatures.

Since current distributions of dragonflies in North Dakota are not well known, Zander traveled throughout the state collecting and documenting species to help benchmark their distribution.

Zander conducted his research under the auspices of the Center for Regional Climate Studies (CRCS) at the University of North Dakota. VCSU is an associated institution of the CRCS.

His research was funded by a grant award from the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) pilot program of the North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Zander was one of five North Dakota university students selected for an



REU grant this summer.

North Dakota EPSCoR is a federal- and state-funded program designed to improve the ability of university and college researchers to compete more effectively for federal, regional and private research grants in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics.

## Squash harvest benefits food bank

VCSU students and area volunteers harvested more than 65,000 pounds of produce on a farm owned by Dan Faust on Thursday, Sept. 29, in the sixth year of an annual community service project.

The efforts of about 215 VCSU students—freshmen enrolled in the Learning to Live, Living to Learn (L2L) class, along with their upper-class mentors—will benefit those in North Dakota served by the Great Plains Food Bank.

According to Nancy Carriveau, food resource manager for Great Plains Food Bank, the squash, corn, tomatoes and cucumbers harvested that day—almost two double-stacked semi-loads—will provide the equivalent of 54,343 meals.

The students, along with community volunteers organized by Faust, picked produce and loaded it onto semi-trailers for the Great Plains Food Bank, which transports the produce to food shelters and community pantries for use by those in need throughout the state.



## VCSU named No. 1 public regional college in Midwest again



Valley City State University has retained its No. 1 ranking among public regional colleges in the Midwest according to the 2017 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings.

VCSU was the No. 1 ranked public regional college in the Midwest in the 2016 rankings, and also in the 2012 and 2013 rankings. The university was ranked No. 2 in the 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2015 rankings.

This marks the 19th consecutive year that VCSU has been ranked a U.S. News "Best College."

"The No. 1 ranking among our peer institutions is a reflection of the good things we have going at Valley City State," said VCSU President Tisa Mason. "The tenet that a VCSU education is special runs strong and deep throughout the history of the university, and the consistent top rankings we've received over the years affirm that belief. Our faculty and staff strive for excellence on a daily basis, and the high quality and great value our students and their families receive here is a direct result of that hard work."

The U.S. News rankings are based on a number of criteria, including graduation rate performance, first-year student retention, class sizes, academic profiles of entering freshmen, admission acceptance rates, faculty resources, financial resources and support, graduation rate performance, alumni giving rates, and academic excellence assessments by administrators at peer institutions.

The "Regional Colleges in the Midwest" rankings include 80 colleges and universities, with 14 public institutions, in 12 states: North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.

The U.S. News rankings can be found online at [colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges](http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges). The rankings can also be found in the 2017 U.S. News Best Colleges guidebook.



## Strength and conditioning receives NSCA recognition

VCSU's strength and conditioning concentration in the Exercise Science and Sport Management program has been named an Education Recognition Program by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

The NSCA Education Recognition Program (ERP) recognizes regionally accredited academic institutions for their educational programs that have met, and continue to meet, educational guidelines recommended by the NSCA.

ERP recognitions are good for three years and schools are eligible for renewal following this three-year period. To meet the requirements, VCSU must provide required content in courses such as Human Anatomy and Physiology, Exercise Physiology, Kinesiology/Biomechanics, Sports Nutrition, Scientific Principles of Strength and Conditioning, Resistance Training and Conditioning, Exercise Technique/Exercise Prescription, and Program Design as Related to Strength and Conditioning.

The strength and conditioning concentration in the Exercise Science and Sport Management program at VCSU is one of several majors available in the Department of Kinesiology and Human Performance. The department moved to its new home in the Gaukler Family Wellness, Health and Physical Education Center in October.



## VCSU sets enrollment record

Valley City State University has set an enrollment record with a headcount of 1,452 students for Fall 2016, surpassing the previous high mark of 1,422 set in Fall 2015.

VCSU's Fall 2016 graduate enrollment headcount of 157 ties the record set in Fall 2011.

"We're proud to see our numbers increase," said VCSU President Tisa Mason. "More and more students are choosing to pursue a VCSU education because they recognize the quality of our academic offerings and the value we provide for their investment. I commend our faculty and staff for the work they do to make us a top choice for students and their families."

Part of VCSU's growth is due to increases in its first-to-second-year retention rate each of the last four years. In addition, a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree program has been added to the VCSU graduate offerings to complement a Master's in Education degree program.

The university has also begun offering three-year bachelor's degree programs in business administration, elementary education, English education, mathematics education and professional communication. To help keep college affordable, VCSU faculty are increasingly using free OER (Open Educational Resources) in place of textbooks in many of their courses.

## Gazebo named for Pedersen '40

VCSU hosted a ribbon-cutting for its new gazebo on Saturday morning, Sept. 17. Remarks were presented by President Tisa Mason; Larry Robinson, executive director of the VCSU Foundation; Katelyn Willer, Student Senate secretary; and alumnus Allen Pedersen '40, the 100-year-old lead donor for the project.

Hulda Pearce of Valley City, who served as VCSU librarian in 1963–64, added a significant gift and her support to the construction effort, and the VCSU Student Senate also contributed toward the gazebo.

Pearce was represented at the ceremony by her daughter, Margaret Dahlberg, VCSU vice president for academic affairs, and her family.

It was announced at the ribbon-cutting that the structure would be named the "Allen Pedersen Gazebo." Pedersen, who grew up south of Valley City, now lives in an assisted-living facility in Crookston, Minn.

The structure—28 feet in diameter and 23 feet high, with a 9-foot ceiling—was built in Arthur, Ill., by an Amish construction crew. The crew reassembled the prefabricated components in Valley City in July.

Valley City firms Hi-Line Electric, Wick Construction and Pine Country Nursery also contributed to the project.

Complete with Wi-Fi, the gazebo has already become a popular community gathering spot on campus.





## New heat plant taking shape

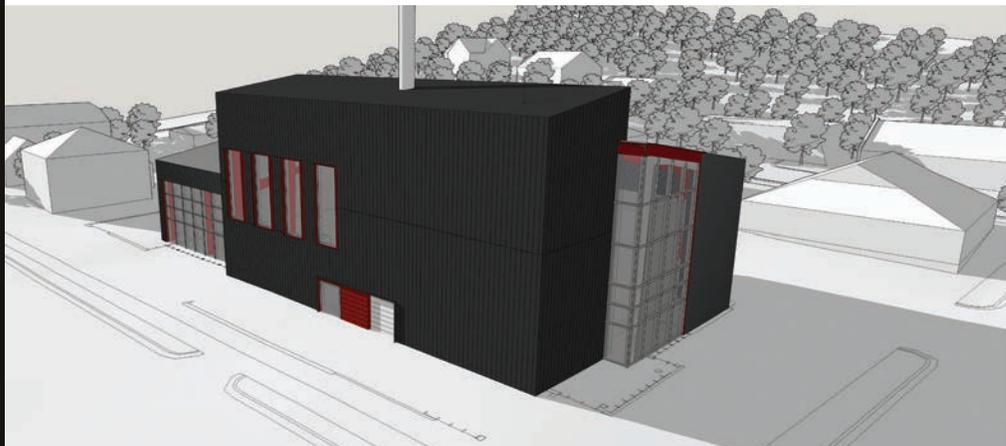
Construction on the new VCSU heat plant continues on a site east of Rhoades Science Center. Funded by an appropriation received from the North Dakota Legislature in its 2015 session, the \$13.9 million steam plant facility will replace an outdated facility, constructed in 1910, which houses three antiquated boilers.

The new plant will feature two boilers, one coal-fired and the other natural gas. Much of the large equipment has been set, including the boilers, the coal storage hopper and the baghouse, the air pollution control device on the coal-fired boiler.

Construction of the building around the equipment began in late October and should be complete in about two months, with finish work to follow.

Crossover from the old plant to the new will be accomplished by mid to late winter, with the plant fully operational for the 2017-18 heating season. Demolition of the old plant will be done over the summer.

The new plant was designed by JLG Architects and Obermiller Nelson Engineering, with McGough Construction serving as general contractor.



# ALUMNI OFFICE SEEKS HOMECOMING BUTTONS

The VCSU Foundation and Alumni Office is looking to complete their collection of Homecoming buttons. We are planning to display them in the Soroos-Bruhn Alumni Room. Please check your mementos of your time at VCSU and considering donating your Homecoming buttons to us. We are missing the following buttons:

- 1927
- 1930
- 1932-52
- 1954
- 1959
- 1962
- 1999
- 2003

For more information, contact Kim Hesch at [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu) or 701-845-7403.



## MAT provides a master's degree and a path to teaching

Valley City State University has begun a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program as way to meet the teacher shortage and provide graduates with higher salary.

The MAT program complements VCSU's 10-year-old Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree program with concentrations that focus on providing current teachers an advanced education with a technology focus.

The university has also been offering undergraduate, postbaccalaureate teacher preparation for a number of years through clinical practice/transition to teaching programs. Recently, the State Board of Higher Education approved the new MAT program at VCSU to prepare new teachers while earning their advanced degree.

The number of people making the transition to teaching from other career fields is increasing, and the MAT program provides an entry-level, professional degree that

will move them more quickly into a higher pay scale. Individuals can earn a teaching degree and a license to teach in one of 12 secondary education majors through the MAT program.

In many cases, graduates in non-teaching fields already have the required content coursework and can complete the master's degree with very few, if any, additional requirements within their major. The core MAT coursework is offered year-round and completely online to make it accessible for candidates.

One alumnus pursuing an MAT degree at VCSU is Josue Hernandez '15 of Northwood, N.D.

Josue earned a B.S. in fisheries and wildlife (with a fisheries focus) in his undergraduate career and has experience working with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. But a year working as an ELL

paraprofessional at Red River High School in Grand Forks, N.D., convinced him that he wanted to teach.

Knowing that his wife, Karlie (Thompson) Hernandez '15, had received stellar teacher preparation as an elementary education major at VCSU—coupled with his own positive experience and relationships with VCSU faculty and staff—helped motivate Josue to enroll in VCSU's new MAT program this fall.

"I already knew that VCSU provides a first-rate education," says Josue, "and the MAT offers me the opportunity to earn a teaching degree in two years while working full-time."

Through the addition of the MAT, VCSU has more options to earn your teaching degree than ever before. For more information, contact the VCSU Graduate Studies Office at [graduate@vcsu.edu](mailto:graduate@vcsu.edu) or 701-845-7303. Change your career and become a teacher today!

*Josue Hernandez '15 worked at VCSU's Prairie Waters Education and Research Center during his undergraduate career. Here he assists a participant with her walleye catch during the "Fishin' Around the Prairie Waters" summer camp.*



## V-500 scholarship support: Our students need you

*Jeremy Wiebe '08, assistant director  
of annual giving*

The school year is well underway. In fact, it's almost half over. Our new students have settled into their new roles of independence, responsibility and opportunity. In early October, Valley City State University boasted record enrollment with 1,452 students, and retention rates are at an all-time high! As most of our student body would say, "OMG!"

While there are a number of factors that contribute to this success, I believe there is one resounding reason for VCSU's success: *you!* You—our alumni and friends—have continued to step to the plate for this institution, and it shows.

In 2015-16, the VCSU Foundation awarded \$1.25 million to our deserving students. Think about that for a second. That's \$1.25 million less in student loan debt to repay. It's more than a million reasons why our students are able to focus in the classroom instead of worrying how they will cover their tuition bill. This is no small dollar amount, and it is big reason why you are making a difference at Valley City State University.

Moving forward, we will be offering renewable scholarships to incoming freshmen starting in the 2016-17 academic year. What does this mean for our students? Instead of receiving a V-500 scholarship for one year only, that same scholarship will be renewed over all four years the student attends VCSU as long as a specific GPA is maintained.

While this is great news, it is no easy task to support that effort. Although it's almost a cliché, we need your help now more than ever.

You can help us reach this goal by going to [alumni.vcsu.edu/donate](http://alumni.vcsu.edu/donate) and making a tax-deductible donation, you can help us reach this goal. Join me in supporting this cause by making a one-time or recurring donation.

Help our students attain the bright future they deserve. You can be a Difference Maker at VCSU.



## V-500 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT *Isaiah Contreras*

My name is Isaiah Contreras. I graduated from Chaparral High School in Chaparral, N.M. I have enjoyed working as a lifeguard at a local water park as well as helping my parents with starting a farm.

Receiving the V-500 scholarship has been such an amazing gift to me. It was overwhelming to know that alumni and the local community that I plan to be a part of are so willing to invest in me as a student! The scholarship not only means a reduced burden on me and my family, but it also it feels as if I am valued greatly!

At Valley City State University, I intend on pursuing a degree in business education. I enjoyed my teacher cadet experience at a local elementary school with the kindergarten class that I was a part of all year. In addition to assisting in the classroom, I spent significant time studying and preparing for the national competition for Business Professionals of America, which took place in Boston this year. It was a great experience!

It is difficult to say what I will do after college graduation, but I would like to keep my options open. I know I love sports, so coaching may be a possibility. I also enjoy learning about new businesses, and I am a natural "out of the box" thinker so perhaps something entrepreneurial may be in my future.



## *V-500 Recognition Banquet scheduled for Dec. 10*

*The V-500 Recognition Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the VCSU cafeteria. All V-500 donors will be invited to attend the celebratory banquet, and all V-500 donors who have given or pledged at least \$250 since last year's banquet will receive two complimentary tickets to the banquet. The V-500 Banquet is a wonderful time to recognize all donors, especially our new and renewed members. Those who have reached a lifetime-giving milestone also receive special recognition.*

*If you are not a current member, you can receive complimentary tickets by joining V-500 before Monday, Nov 28. If you are a V-500 member, expect to receive your invitation the last week of November. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.*

*Following the meal and banquet, you are invited to Vangstad Auditorium where you'll have reserved seats for the EBC "We're In the Christmas Mood" show. This is a heartwarming evening that will surely get you in the Christmas mood!*



# INSIDE ATHLETICS

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/vcsuvikings](http://www.facebook.com/vcsuvikings)  
Twitter: @vcsuvikings  
Instagram: vcsuvikings  
Website: [www.vcsuvikings.com](http://www.vcsuvikings.com)

Mark Potts, sports information director

## A family affair

Back in October I had the pleasure of taking a signing picture for a high school senior who had just made the life-changing decision to continue her education and athletic career at Valley City State University.

During the course of our conversation, I learned that both her parents were former student-athletes at VCSU. It's a story that we hear often on campus and reflects well on VCSU and our athletic department. Former student-athletes enjoyed it here and spoke well enough about VCSU that their children chose to follow in their footsteps.

A quick look at our current rosters shows many student-athletes who have strong family connections to VCSU and Viking athletics. Perhaps it's no more apparent than on the baseball team, which features six players whose fathers played baseball at VCSU for former coach Jim Dew.

Current Vikings Brady Anderson, Ryan Sand, Brady Smith, Brian Fike, Brayden Sand and Jesse Johnson are all continuing a family legacy of Viking baseball, while a few other Viking baseball players have parents who were VCSU student-athletes in other sports.

It's a cool talking point for the program—which I'm sure leads to plenty of memorable stories when the families get together at games—and

undoubtedly leads to stories and comparisons when current head coach Casey Olney talks with Coach Dew. So the next time you're watching Viking baseball, and the names and faces seem oddly familiar, now you know why!

With budget cuts hitting state institutions recently, we've been talking a lot in our athletic department about how we can absorb some cuts but still maintain or improve the quality of our student-athlete experience. Student-athletes who have a good experience at VCSU are more likely to become involved and active alumni. If our family ties in sports like baseball are any indication, we've done a good job of this in the past, and we're striving to continue this going forward.

One other note from the October signing photo shoot: While the mother was open to her daughter attending whichever school was the best fit, the mother—remember, a former Viking—said her happiest day of the recruiting process was when her daughter called the University of Jamestown—the Jimmies—and told them “no.” I think it's safe to say our rivalry stands the test of time.



ALUMNI BASEBALL GAME



ALUMNI SOFTBALL GAME



Dennis Gonzalez

## Gonzalez leads XC campaign

Valley City State junior Dennis Gonzalez ended the season with an all-conference finish at the NSAA Championships, highlighting the 2016 cross country campaign at VCSU.

A native of Riverside, Calif., Gonzalez quickly became the top Viking runner this season. He ran a career-best race on Oct. 22 at the Mt. Marty Invite, finishing fourth of 103 runners and recording the fastest time at VCSU since the cross country program was reinstated in 2010.

At the NSAA championships, Gonzalez placed 10th overall in the men's 8K race, nabbing all-conference honors with a time of 27:00.97.

The VCSU men and women both finished sixth of six teams at the meet. Orin Rambow finished in 19th place for the Viking men, and Daniel Machado placed 35th in the 54-person field.

The Viking women were led by junior Geneva Espinoza, who finished in 23rd place overall in the women's 5K race. Kauna Hansen was 34th in the 41-person women's field.

VCSU head coach Chris Johnson was pleased with the progress his squad made throughout the season, which was marked with consistent personal records by VCSU runners.

"Although a few setbacks caused us to not fulfill our potential at the conference meet," he said, "the future is bright for this program."

## Volleyball finishes season strong

The Valley City State volleyball team finished the 2016 season strong as they won five of the last eight matches—including three straight by sweep—to finish in fourth place in the North Star Athletic Association.

The Vikings finished the season with a 12-22 overall record and a 7-9 mark in conference play. VCSU was seeded No. 4 for the NSAA Conference Tournament and defeated No. 5 Dickinson State in dramatic fashion during the quarterfinal round. VCSU trailed 14-9 in the decisive fifth set, but scored seven straight points to rally for victory.

The Vikings' season came to an end in the semifinals where they lost to Viterbo University, which was the No. 3-ranked team in the country.

Highlights from the season included the postseason victory, sweeping a pair of matches against Mayville State University, and posting a 3-1 record during the Clarke University Tournament in September. The Vikings swept Mayville State in Mayville, the first road victory over the Comets since 2011.

Valley City State's season was also marked by several close losses. VCSU was a frustrating 2-8 in matches that went to five games, and six of those eight losses in the fifth set came by just two points.

Freshman Taylor Sharp made an immediate impact for the Vikings as she led the team in kills and points. Another newcomer, junior transfer Megan Johnson, was a key contribu-

tor as an outside hitter. Sophomore Clarissa Olson, a native of Valley City, took a big step forward this season as she became one of the Vikings' top hitters and led the team in hitting percentage.

While VCSU is set to return many key players next season, the Vikings will say good-bye to four seniors who played big roles on this year's squad: libero Jaycee George, who led the team in digs; setter Taylor Balkan, who led the team in assists; middle blocker Nicolette Bloomer, who led the team in blocks; and defensive specialist Darrien Cantelo, one of the emotional leaders on the team.



Jaycee George

## Heinitz, Rall, Wiebe garner titles in fall golf

A pair of team titles and three individual titles highlighted VCSU's 2016 fall golf season.

The Viking men won both the Blue Hawk Invite on Sept. 8 in Dickinson, N.D., and the Cougar Invite on Sept. 22 in Morris, Minn. Kyle Wiebe, Cameron Rall and Nicole Heinitz all won individual titles throughout the season as well.

VCSU's men's team shot a modern-day school record with a team score of 291 during the first round of the Blue Hawk Invite. It was the lowest team round at VCSU since the golf program was reinstated in 2009.

That tournament in Dickinson also produced a pair of individual champions. Kyle Wiebe won the men's title with a 36-hole score of 143—just one over par. Nicole Heinitz won the women's

title in Dickinson with a 36-hole total of 172, two shots better than second place.

On Sept. 22, the Viking men topped a field of 11 teams to win the 18-hole Cougar Invite for the third consecutive year. Individually, VCSU freshman Cameron Rall shot a 1-under par round of 70 to win the medalist honors.

VCSU played six tournaments during the fall season, including the NSAA Fall Championships in Albert Lea, Minn. The NSAA Conference Championships consists of 36 holes played in the fall and 36 holes played in the spring. Through the first 36 holes, the VCSU men are in third place and the women are in fifth.

VCSU will likely play two or three more tournaments in the spring along with the NSAA Spring Championships.



Cameron Rall



Nicole Heinitz



Kyle Wiebe

## Basketball previews: Returning squad for women, new coaches for men

The 2016-17 basketball season is shaping up to be a season of change for the Viking men and a season of consistency for the Viking women.

On the men's side, VCSU features a completely brand new coaching staff while the Viking women added just two new faces to a host of returning players this season.

### VCSU Women's Preview

The Viking women enter the 2016-17 season with high expectations after finishing 18-10 last year and graduating just two seniors.

Last season the Viking roster was full of new faces, but that is far from the case this year. The Vikings have a roster of 12, which consists of 10 returners and only two newcomers.

"We are further ahead at this point in the season on both sides of the ball," said head coach Jill DeVries. "The girls came back ready which has allowed us to move along quicker."

Upperclass leadership will be provided by senior guards Georgia Williams, Nisja Bass, and Sara Schwanke, along with junior guard Lexi Lennon. All three seniors joined the VCSU roster as transfers, whereas Lennon has been a part of the team for four years, including one redshirt season.

"They've all done a good job of leading in different ways," said DeVries. "Some lead vocally and others by example. They are all great at teaching their teammates and good at being models on and off the court."

Sophomore Alli Vandal has played a big role for the Vikings in the early season as well, and the Vikings will feature good depth inside with sophomore centers Mackenzie Huber, Kaitlin Connor and Nya Chakin all returning. Guards Paige Meyer and Hannah Schlecht are back as well, adding depth in the back court.

Along with the Viking returners there are two new faces on the VCSU bench this season: junior Kennedy Henningsgard and freshman Annie Swenson. Henningsgard is a transfer from Lake Region State College, where she was an NJCAA Division I All-American.

VCSU opened the season Oct. 21 with a home game against Brandon University. The Vikings begin their 16-game conference schedule on Dec. 2. VCSU was picked to finish third in the North Star Athletic Association Preseason Coaches' Poll.

### VCSU Men's Preview



Ellwood Ellenson

For the first time in more than 10 years, Valley City State's bench has a new look with Ryan Montgomery taking over as head coach of the Vikings.

Montgomery was announced as the 21st head coach in program history on Aug. 4, 2016. Montgomery previously served as assistant

coach at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minn., since 2010. He replaces Jeff Kaminsky, who coached VCSU for the past 11 seasons.

Montgomery filled out his coaching staff with the addition of Karl Sorby as assistant coach. Sorby, a VCSU alumnus and a former student coach for the Vikings, most recently worked as a graduate assistant coach for the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D.

On the court, VCSU will have a familiar but different feel than last year. The Vikings will be led by a pair of upperclass returning starters from its 2015-16 national tournament team.

Headlining the returners is 6'5" forward Jayden Ferguson, back for his junior season at VCSU after putting up sparkling numbers his first two seasons. Ferguson was named honorable mention All-American and first-team all-conference last season after scoring 16.9 points per game and shooting 51 percent from the field. Ferguson has reached 1,000 career points in his first two seasons.

Also returning after starting 32 games last season is 6'8" center Ellwood Ellenson. The senior will anchor the Vikings inside this season after averaging 4.8 points, 5.4 rebounds and 1.0 blocks per game last year.

A handful of other returners on this year's squad saw time last year as well: junior guard Rashad Satahoo (5.2 ppg, 30 made threes), junior guard Alex Quist (1.2 ppg), junior forward Chase Carpenter (1.5 ppg) and sophomore forward Jason Ralph.

The Vikings have also added several new faces, including two who are seeing significant minutes early in the season: 6'5" junior forward Austin Dunbar and 6'4" freshman forward Denzel Kennedy.

VCSU went 22-11 last season, won a share of the North Star Athletic Association regular season championships and advanced to the second round of the national tournament for just the second time in school history.

The Vikings lost several key players from that squad and are picked to finish fifth in the North Star Athletic Association Preseason Coaches' Poll.

VCSU opened the 2016-17 season on Oct. 15, one of five home games the Vikings played in October. Conference play begins Dec. 2 at Mayville State.



Lexi Lennon

## 2016-17 VIKING BASKETBALL

Visit [vcsuvikings.com](http://vcsuvikings.com),  
to view the latest schedules  
for all sports.

Home games in **bold**.  
All times are Central Time.  
\*NSAA conference game

DATE	W/M	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 30	M	@ Concordia College (Minn.)	7 p.m.
Nov. 22	M	@ Minot State University	7 p.m.
Nov. 23	W	@ MSU-Moorhead (exhibition)	7 p.m.
<b>Nov. 25</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Crown College</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
Dec. 2	W/M	@ Mayville State*	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	W/M	@ Presentation College*	3/5 p.m.
<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>vs. Concordia-Moorhead</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 9</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Dakota State*</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 10</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Bellevue University*</b>	<b>6/8 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 16</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Viterbo University*</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
Dec. 19-20	M	@ Phoenix NAIA Shootout, Phoenix, Ariz.	
Dec. 19	M	vs. Montana Tech	10 a.m.
Dec. 20	M	vs. Rocky Mountain College	1 p.m.
Dec. 29-30	W	Keiser Classic, West Palm Beach, Fla.	
Dec. 29	W	vs. Point College (Ga.)	TBA
Dec. 30	W	vs. Ana Maria (Mass.)	TBA
Dec. 30	M	@ Concordia College (Minn.)	7 p.m.
Jan. 7	W/M	@ University of Jamestown*	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Jan. 13	W/M	@ Waldorf University*	5:30/7:30 p.m.
<b>Jan. 16</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Dickinson State*</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
Jan. 20	W/M	@ Dickinson State*	6:30/8:30 p.m.
<b>Jan. 27</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Mayville State*</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 28</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Waldorf University*</b>	<b>3/5 p.m.</b>
Feb. 3	W/M	@ Viterbo University*	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	W/M	@ Bellevue University*	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	W/M	@ Dakota State*	3/5 p.m.
<b>Feb. 17</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Presentation College*</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 18</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. University of Jamestown*</b>	<b>3/5 p.m.</b>
Feb. 22-26	W	NSAA Tournament	TBA
Feb. 23-27	M	NSAA Tournament	TBA
March 8-14	W/M	NAIA Tournament	TBA

## Grid highlights include career marks

The 2016 football season was one of milestone achievements for Valley City State University. Viking head coach Dennis McCulloch, senior linebacker Nicholas McBeain and senior quarterback Kurtis Walls all set new career records during the season.

VCSU's 41-22 win over No. 19-ranked Dakota State University on Oct. 15 was the 117th win in McCulloch's Viking career, making him the all-time winningest coach in program history. The victory moved him past legendary VCSU coach Jim Dew who compiled a 116-65-2 record from 1974-93.

"The end zone celebration was a little sweeter that day for a lot of reasons," said McCulloch. "To be able to celebrate the record with a

bunch of guys that mean a lot to me was very special. Reaching a milestone like this takes more than just one guy. I've been blessed with a lot of great coaches, players and alumni who have helped support this program. This gives me another chance to say 'thank you' to all the players, coaches and alumni who have been involved with our program and helped us through the years."

McCulloch is in his 20th season leading the Vikings and has now posted 119 career wins. He has led VCSU to six conference championships, has been voted conference Coach of the Year six times and has guided the Vikings to four NAIA play-off appearances. McCulloch's staff has featured great coaching continuity

with linebackers coach Dave Rausch in his 30th season and assistant head coach Gregg Horner in his 23rd season.

Between Dew, Steve LeGrand and McCulloch, Viking football has needed just three head coaches since 1974—a span of 43 seasons. During that time, the Vikings have excelled with a .606 winning percentage, 15 conference championships and eight national playoff appearances.

"Coach Dew truly established the foundation of Viking football and allowed us to continue to build a strong program," said McCulloch. "When you look back at the things that he did with

very limited resources, and still found a way to develop a tradition of winning, it is hard to compare my success with his."

Between the sidelines, Viking football seniors Nicholas McBeain and Kurtis Walls have also rewritten the school record book.

McBeain became the school's all-time tackling leader on Oct. 15 after recording his 377th career tackle, breaking the record of 376 held by Kevin Strang, who played from 2007-10. McBeain finishes his career with 446 tackles—becoming the first Viking ever to top 400 career tackles—and also broke the VCSU single-season record with 188 tackles in 2016. The previous season record of 167 tackles was set by Ivan Thorpe in 1980.

At the quarterback position, Walls has broken almost every major career passing record in school history. Walls set new school records with 692 completions, 1,229 attempts, 8,675 passing yards and 87 passing touchdowns. Those top the old records of 563 completions (Jeremy Peschel, 1998-2001), 1,027 attempts (Jason Beilke, 2004-08), 7,751 yards (Peschel) and 70 touchdowns (Peschel).

Valley City State University posted a 4-2 record in the North Star Athletic Association this season and finished with a 6-4 overall record. VCSU ended the season on a high note Nov. 10, rallying to score the final 17 points in a 17-13 road victory over No. 14-ranked Southeastern University (Fla.).



▲ Dennis McCulloch



Nicholas McBeain ►



Kurtis Walls ►

## Godel '02 sets the stage



When Phil Godel graduated from VCSU with a major in English education and a minor in communication, speech and theatre in 2002, he probably didn't expect to return to his alma mater as a technical director. In fact, when he interviewed for the position in August 2013, he clearly stated that his technical experience in theatre was limited. "Phil said that he wanted to learn—and that's what convinced me that he was perfect for our small program," says Jenni Lou Russi, VCSU theatre director. "Our program is very unique with nontraditional spaces for theatre," she says, "so we're constantly learning and creating new ways to produce theatre here at VCSU. Phil's willingness to learn has proved to be a terrific asset for us. He's a great role model for our students!"

Alumni who don't know Godel would probably recognize him from his work as an actor. He's most often recognized for his work as a member of LineBenders, a professional improv troupe, and a Share House commercial. Godel can also be seen in the "noodling" commercial submitted for the Doritos Super Bowl ad competition, which has been aired internationally, and keeps busy with his work at Midwest Communications, Froggy 99.9.

Godel recently responded to the following questions about his time as a student at VCSU.

### *What was your most memorable class?*

Astronomy, with Dr. Stickler. He was such a fun teacher, and I've always been intrigued by the stars. I also really enjoyed the Science-Fiction/Fantasy Literature class with Julee Russell. I'd already read all of the books, but it was great to discuss a beloved form of literature with other fans.

### *Which professor do you remember most, and why?*

Dr. Kelly. He encouraged me to act and be on stage, and now I can't imagine life without performing in some way or another.

### *How is the campus different from when you were here?*

A lot of physical changes and improvements. I lived in Kolstoe when it was an all-male dorm. I miss the trees by the parking lot though.

### *How are the students different from when you were here?*

Phones and technology have become a larger part of everybody's life. It's interesting how you could be in a room now with a lot of students and nobody is talking to anybody because they are so engrossed in their phones.

### *How are the professors different from when you were here?*

Not much different, but technology has become an even more prevalent tool now than it was when I was a student, especially with Blackboard and so much stuff online.

### *What was your first job after graduation?*

I was already working for the Open Door Center, so I became full-time with them, but I also started substitute teaching that fall.

### *What would your current self tell your former self about how to succeed as a student on campus?*

Probably to make sure to get enough sleep. You gotta recharge that battery to help you focus and learn. That and invest some money in Apple... it'll help with student loans in the future.

### *What would you like other young alumni to know about campus and opportunities as alumni?*

It is actually quite fun to be back and to work in the same area where I spent so much time as a student. Even if you don't get involved or get a job at VCSU, come visit now and again and see how things have changed and how much has stayed the same.

### *What would you like other alumni to know about you?*

I feel extremely blessed to be able to enjoy what I do. Although I'm constantly busy, most of the time my work doesn't feel like work. It's important to enjoy what you do, even if you aren't going to make a lot of money doing it.



## Students, faculty exhibit at NDUS visual arts exhibition

VCSU was well represented in the Faculty and Student Visual Arts Exhibition held at the University of North Dakota in conjunction with "Outrage," the 2016 North Dakota University System Arts and Humanities Summit held at UND on Sept. 29.

The exhibition—which ran in the Colonel Eugene E. Myers Art Gallery in the Hughes Fine Arts Center from Sept. 16 through Oct. 28—included works from students and faculty from throughout the NDUS institutions.

VCSU exhibitors included works by Karri Dieken, assistant professor of art; Brock Drenth, adjunct; and students Megan Fuller, Cassy Gilbertson, Kaylee Johnson, Megan Trautman and Brenna Winter.

Pictured is one of Johnson's works.

## VCSU musicians collaborate on CD



(l to r) John LeTellier, Geraldine Ong, Nicholaus Meyers

Three VCSU assistant professors of music—Nicholaus Meyers, Geraldine Ong and John LeTellier—collaborated on “Stepping Away,” a CD of Meyers’s compositions for solo piano.

The CD features eight pieces composed by Meyers and performed by pianist Ong. LeTellier served as audio engineer for the project.

The tracks for the CD were laid down at a May 13, 2016, session in Froemke Auditorium of Foss Hall, and artwork for the CD cover and package was designed by VCSU alumna Shannon Hone ’15.

Available on Amazon, CD Baby and Spotify, the CD was released following a recital of Meyers’s compositions in Froemke on Sept. 19. The recital included presentations by Meyers, Ong and LeTellier, along with performances by Ong, a student instrumental ensemble, and Meyers and Jason Laczkoski, VCSU instructor of music.

2016–17

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC EVENTS

Nov. 19	Samantha Hintz, Senior Recital.....	3:00 pm
	<i>Froemke</i>	
Dec. 1	Christmas at St. Catherine’s .....	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	Instrumental Concert .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad</i>	
Dec. 3	CSA Ensembles Concert .....	3:00 p.m.
	<i>Nazarene Church</i>	
Dec. 6	General Student Recital.....	11:00 a.m.
	<i>Froemke</i>	
Jan. 14	Solo Song Symposium .....	9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad</i>	
Jan. 27	Opera Ensemble Night .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad</i>	
Feb. 10	Music Major Day.....	All Day
Feb. 10	Tara VonHagen and Farren Rowan, .....	7:30 p.m.
	Piano Recital	
	<i>Froemke</i>	
Feb. 13	Victoria Hammel, Farren Rowan Recital .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Froemke</i>	
Feb. 18	Single Reed Day .....	All Day
	<i>Froemke</i>	
Feb. 25	NDFMC Festival .....	All Day
	<i>Froemke</i>	
March 3	Choir Concert.....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad</i>	
March 4	Piano Day .....	All Day
	<i>Froemke</i>	
March 4	Guest Artist Jennifer Hayghe, Piano.....	5:00 p.m.
	<i>Froemke</i>	
March 6	Nicholaus Meyers, Percussion Recital .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Froemke</i>	
March 7	General Student Recital.....	11:00 a.m.
March 9	Instrumental Concert .....	12:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad</i>	
March 13	Region 2 Vocal Contest .....	All Day
March 28	General Student Recital.....	7:30 p.m.
April 3	Jason Laczkoski, Saxophone Recital .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Froemke</i>	
April 7	Ashley Boe, Senior Recital.....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Froemke</i>	
April 8	Jennifer Riemann, Janessa Van Bruggen.....	3:00 p.m.
	Senior Recital	
	<i>Froemke</i>	
April 11	General Student Recital.....	11:00 a.m.
	<i>Froemke</i>	
April 12	Region 2 Instrumental Contest.....	All Day
April 29	Instrumental Concert .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad</i>	
May 2	General Student Recital.....	11:00 a.m.
	<i>Froemke</i>	
May 4	Composition Concert .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Froemke</i>	
May 5	Choir Concert.....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Epworth Church</i>	

## 2017 VCSU Theatre Productions

*Almost, Maine* ♦ February 10–12, 16–18

Student Director Showcase ♦ April 6–8



LIKE **VCSU Theatre** on Facebook for more events and updates!

## Vikings on the Move

### 1960s

**Larry Lynne '62, '68** is in his 19th year of retirement after having served as a teacher and elementary school principal for 35 years in the Williston (N.D.) School District. He has owned and operated an antique store since 1999. He and his wife, Lila, have two sons: Paul, a pharmacy manager for Cigna, lives in Phoenix, Ariz.; and Aaron, a professor of microbiology at Sam Houston University in Huntsville, Texas. The Lynnes have three grandchildren; McKenzie, David, and Audrey. Larry still maintains a friendship with his freshman year roommate at VCSTC, **Larry Woodwick '62**, after 57 years!



**Charles Zick '64** was one of three educators inducted into the Grand Forks (N.D.) Public Schools Teachers Hall of Fame at a ceremony held Sunday, Oct. 16, at the Red River High School Theater. Zick served as elementary teacher and principal at Eielson, Ben Franklin, Twining, Lake

Agassiz and Kelly elementary schools from 1964 to 2005. He spent the last 19 years of his career as principal of J. Nelson Kelly Elementary. One of the teachers used “committed, caring, focused and loyal” as words to describe him, adding that “Mr. Zick focused his entire career on what was best for students.” Another colleague wrote, “He totally supported the teachers who worked in his building. I appreciated his unfailing support.” In 2001, Zick received the “Friend of Guidance and Counseling Award” from the North Dakota Counseling Association. Charles and his wife, **Colleen (Bryngelson) '64**, have lived in Grand Forks since graduating from VCSU in 1964.

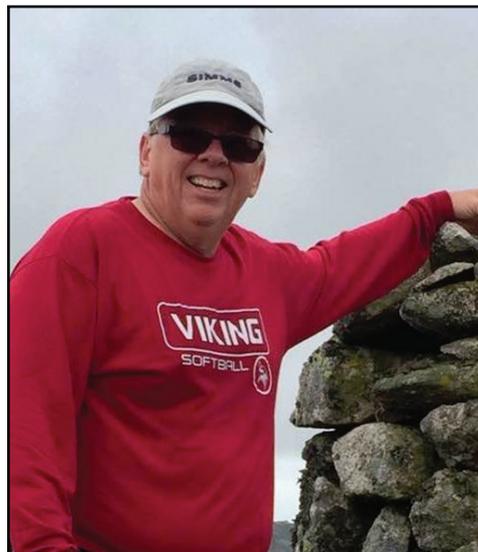
**Carol (Meier) Baillie '67** retired in 2011 after 52 years of teaching. She has been substitute teaching since then. Carol and her husband, Dan, have been married for 50 years. They have two married daughters, two grandsons, a step-granddaughter and a step-grandson.

### 1970s

► **Peder Gjovik '77** traveled to Norway this summer to visit the ancestral homes of the Gjovik and Marchus (Markhus) clans in southern Norway. Pete, along with his wife, Gail (Marchus) Gjovik, and their son, Erik, and his wife, Emily, spent two weeks traveling and visiting family and new friends. The photo is from the top of Knaben Kniben (Knaben Point), the iconic mountain overlooking the farm valley where Peder’s mother was born and raised. (Viking softball was represented well!)



▲ **Border to Border/U.S. Highway 93 trip by VCSU alumni and friends.** A group of VCSU alumni and friends took their second memorable group trip in 2016. They traveled Route 66 on their “Border to Border/U.S. Highway 93 Trip” mostly on Harley Davidson motorcycles with some in convertibles as well. The group visited a host of national parks and monuments, including Canada’s Jasper and Banff, and Glacier, Craters of the Moon, Grand Teton, and Yellowstone in the United States. The trip also included rides through the Bitterroot, Salmon, and Snake river valleys as well as the Sawtooth, Grand Teton, and Big Horn mountains. The adventurous travelers included: (front, l to r) **Craig Sturlaugson '70**, Phil Sturlaugson, **John Otto '68**, (back) John Hanzul, Dennis Lively, Randy Libak, **Bruce Thompson '75**, **Scott Sturlaugson '74** and **Jeff Thompson '75**.



### 1980s/1990s

▲ **Cory '89 and Kristi (Tait) Anderson '93** are pictured with their children, Brady, who plays baseball for the VCSU Vikings, and Kadie, who plays softball for the Vikings. Cory is the commissioner of the North Star Athletic Association, the conference in which VCSU athletics participate.

**Brad Cruff '86** has been elected president of the North Dakota Judge’s Association for the 2016-2017 year.

### 2000s

**Laine Hanson '15** teaches in western North Dakota. In September, she captured the state championship in ladies breakaway roping at the North Dakota Rodeo Association year-end finals.

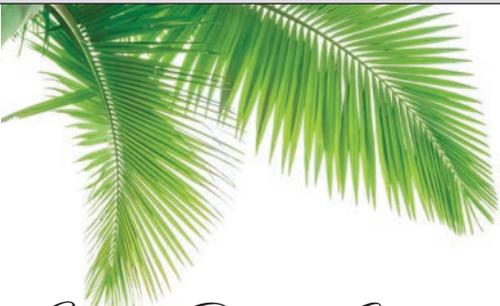
**Aurissa Martens '15** is a physical education teacher and volleyball coach at North Pole, Alaska. She is in her first year as head coach.

## In Remembrance

Buell Lewis '43, Phoenix, Ariz.  
Marlys (Euscher) Dick, Lisbon, N.D.  
Georgia (Andre) Seidlitz '49, Corvallis, Ore.  
Helen Fritchie '51, Harvey, N.D.  
Roland Peterson '51, Carrington, N.D.  
Alice (Haseleu) Lebahn '57, Valley City  
Keith Keidel '58, Mandan, N.D.  
George Wieland '61, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Frank Koch '64, Bismarck, N.D.  
Glen Rude '64, Bottineau, N.D.  
Mikal Simonson '69, Valley City  
Thomas Kempel '69, Barnesville, Minn.  
Bonnie (Odenbach) Temple '71, Rutland, N.D.  
Marvin Haugen '72, Casselton, N.D.  
Robert Schatz '72, Devils Lake, N.D.  
Robert Schimming '73, Fergus Falls, Minn.  
Janice (Buchholz) Mitchell '78, Dupree, S.D.  
Peter Martin '80, Scottsdale, Ariz.  
Julie VenHuizen '90, Linton, N.D.  
Herbert Nyberg, Loretto, Minn.  
Ruth Rydquist, Fargo, N.D.

### Former Faculty & Staff

Norman Mills, Oslo, Norway



## North Dakota Suncoast Association Luncheon

**Jay Morgan '69** and his wife, Louise Anna, would like to extend an invitation to all Valley City State University alumni and friends who live, winter or plan to vacation in the Sarasota, Fla., area in February to the 53rd annual North Dakota Suncoast Association Luncheon.

The luncheon will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. with a social hour and luncheon at noon at the River Wilderness Golf and Country Club, 1-75 at exit 224 (Highway 301), in Parrish, Fla.

The day's activities include entertainment, door prizes, 50/50 and silent auction.

**If you are interested in attending, please contact Jay Morgan at 941-378-4444 for more information.**

## HELP US LOCATE THESE LOST ALUMNI

If you know the address of any of these individuals, please contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 1-800-532-8641 ext. 37203 or email [alumni@vcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vcsu.edu).

### 1990

Thomas Brogden  
Rhonda Denbow  
Kimberly Hansen  
James Heapy  
Melody (Burkle) Mittleider  
Joellen Pahl

### 1991

Barbara (Remore) Bakken  
Paulo Costa  
Lisa (Holmgren) Keilman  
Melissa Kramer  
Sheila (Johnson) Nelson  
Marvin Olson  
Penny (Anderson) Pekarski  
Frank Peterson  
Lena Throlson

### 1992

Donna Casey  
Kevin Gietz  
Randall Hanson  
Tamera Henderson  
Leslie Iverson  
Natalie (Heyd) Loomis  
Michael Morris  
Melonie Ramsey  
Cathy (Plum) Rienstra  
Ronald Schumacher  
Robyn (Hinrichs) Wallis

### 1993

Theodore Brown  
Monserrat (Cordova) Cabrera  
Angela Clark  
Lisa Gaden  
Robert Greenwood  
Lynn Johnson  
Jodi (Sitte) Johnson  
Timothy Kramer  
Joyce McClafin  
D'Lisa Mitchell  
Correna (Jensen) Perry  
Sarah Sander  
Lisa (Hoggarth) Smith  
Andrew Smith  
Theresa Thompson

### 1994

Kraig Hickel  
Wendy Hornberger  
Michele (Wentz) Isaacson  
Darragh (Wicks) Killilea  
Susan (Ihry) Kylo  
Karen Mauch  
Stacy Miller  
Kelly Ranisate  
Troy Wittenburg  
**1995**  
James Anderson  
Steven Busche  
Robin (Wood) Collins  
Shannon Corbett  
Michael Hoffmann

Wade Long  
Michael Mostad  
Cara Peters  
Geoffrey Santiago  
Derek Thompson

### 1996

Ernest Clark  
Cameron Croy  
William Engel  
Colin Hogue  
Marlyn Keller  
C. Kyle  
Carol Ley  
Lisa Mikkelson  
Douglas Skarp  
Andrew Werkman

### 1997

Clayton Blueshield  
Ardell (McDonald) Blueshield  
Bryan Carlson  
Kevin Dauphinais  
Daren Fech  
Donna (Kastet-McCann)  
Fontaine  
Gregory Franck  
Christopher Grainger  
Jennifer (Malsam) Hilborn  
Cassandra (Coit) Knutson  
Jacqueline Petersen  
Paula (Schultz) Petersen  
Kathleen Wilde



# IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

*Don't get caught  
unprepared.*

Consider a **Year-End Gift** to the Valley City State University Foundation now and take advantage of tax savings when you prepare your 2016 income taxes.

**Gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to qualify for 2016 tax purposes.**

# Just Married



1



4



5



2



6



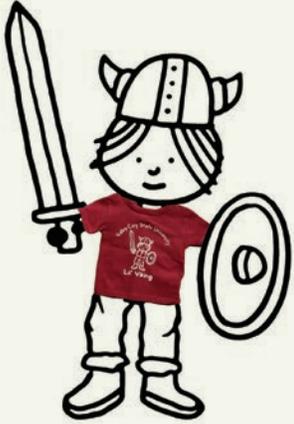
3



7

1. **Alexis Klingenberg '10** and Travis Perry were married on June 4, 2016. The couple resides in Belgrade, Mont.
2. **Kayla Geske '13** and **Kevin Murphy '13** were married June 4, 2016. Kevin is entering his fourth season as the offensive line coach as Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), and Kayla works for Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota as an enrollment specialist in the underwriting department. She also takes gameday photos at MSUM football games.
3. **Wendy Eszlinger '15** and **Michael Bichler '15** were married July 30, 2016. They have moved back to their hometown of Ashley, N.D., where Wendy teaches English in grades 7–12, and Michael is working at Northern Plains.
4. **Alison Sorensen '11** and Cory Rodin were married in Valley City on July 23, 2016.
5. **Jane Pettit '12** and Kasey Castor were married on Aug. 20, 2016. Kasey is in the the U.S. Air Force and is stationed at Minot (N.D.) Air Force Base.
6. **Lindsay Lagodinski '14** and **Colby Forsgren '13** were married July 16, 2016.
7. **Allyson Suhr '16** and Drew Dockter were married Sept. 24, 2016.

- 
- Maria Krogen and  
**Eric Spooner '07**.....April 30, 2016
- Kelsey Wilhelm '11** and  
 Mike Dragosavich.....June 18, 2016
- Kelsey Oppegard and  
**Dusty Slaamod '14**.....June 18, 2016
- Sierra Murphy '15** and  
 Nick Austin.....July 9, 2016
- Melissa Pederson '15** and  
 Nathan Cook.....September 17, 2016
- Rachel Shannon and  
**Anthony Williams '12** ..September 17, 2016
- Mindy Hollinshead '10** and  
 Tyler Hahn.....October 15, 2016
- Misty Olds '08** and  
 Brandon Hokana .....October 22, 2016



# Lil' Vikings

Have you had an addition to your family within the last six months? We want to know!

Contact Kim Hesch at [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu) to receive a free t-shirt for your new Lil' Viking. Please be sure to tell us your baby's name and birthdate. After you have received your baby's Lil' Viking shirt, send us your baby's photo so we can include it in the next issue of *The Bulletin*. Email the photo to [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu).



**Grayson Charles Pierce**

September 16, 2016  
10 pounds 2 ounces,  
22.5 inches  
Travis '12 and Breanna (Brock) Pierce



**Bridger Michael Swanson**

December 26, 2015  
9 pounds 2 ounces, 20  
1/4 inches  
Joins brother Brecken  
Ashley and Matt '06  
Swanson



**Simon Andrew Wagner**

July 19, 2016  
7 pounds 8 ounces,  
20 inches  
Sam '09 and  
Kirci (Phillips) '13 Wagner



**Marshall Peter Aakre**

October 24, 2015  
8 pounds 2 ounces,  
19.5 inches  
Joins big sister Charlotte  
Nathan '06 and Brittany  
Aakre



**Jack Alexander Kirk**

May 12, 2016  
Joins big brother Jon  
Karen (Rawlings) '06 and  
Darren Kirk



**Kennedy Lyn Neville**

February 2, 2016  
6 pounds 9 ounces,  
19 inches  
Joins big sister Addison  
Rae  
Clinton '11 and Miranda  
(Beier) '11 Neville



## RECOMMEND A FUTURE VIKING!

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY?**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Your Information: Name \_\_\_\_\_

VCSU Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: VCSU ALUMNI OFFICE, 101 COLLEGE ST. SW, VALLEY CITY, ND 58072**



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PERMIT NO. 1159

**Valley City State University**  
Alumni Association  
101 College Street SW  
Valley City, ND 58072

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PARENTS: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives at this address, please contact the Alumni Office with an updated address at alumni@vcsu.edu or 701.845.7203. Thank you for your help in keeping our records current.

