

# THE BULLETIN

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



## **SBHE selects LaFave as VCSU's 14th president**

**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Record Fall Enrollment ♦ Hidden Gem of Midwest ♦ Homecoming 2018



DEPARTMENTS

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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 'You can call me Al': LaFave selected as 14th president of VCSU**

After a nationwide search with 50 candidates, the State Board of Higher Education selected Alan LaFave, D.M.A., as VCSU's 14th president. LaFave worked his way up through the music faculty ranks to become dean of fine arts and then provost and vice president for academic affairs of his alma mater, Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. Learn more about this clarinet-playing, motorcycle-riding family man and college administrator who will soon lead VCSU into its next chapter.



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**8 Diane Burr: A veteran—and champion—of online teaching**

Diane Burr, professor and chair of the VCSU Kinesiology and Human Performance Department, has taught at VCSU for nearly 30 years. For two-thirds of her time here, she's been teaching online classes. Read what she has to say about that practice and what she thinks of it.



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**10 Homecoming 2018**

The beauty of traditions like Homecoming at a place like Valley City State is that even though things have changed, there's a familiarity to returning to one's campus roots. Students celebrated all week long, and a mid-week snowstorm didn't stop alumni and friends from joining in the fun over the weekend. Check out a photo spread that captures some of the spirit of the week's celebration.



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**12 Alumni recognized at Honors Breakfast**

The annual Alumni Association Honors Breakfast was held Saturday morning of Homecoming. Read more about Distinguished Alumni Award winner Kirsten Baesler M.Ed. '10, Young Alumni Award winners Megan (Schmidt) Zarbano '08 and Matthew Johnson '01, and Certificate of Merit awardees Peder Gjovik '77, Mark R. Hanson '86, Joan (Leichtman) Heckaman '67, Marcia (Knutson) Pritchert '91, Clark Williams '64, Heather L. (Schmit) Woods '03 M.Ed. '12, and Sheila (Lindeman) Zinke '80.



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Cover: President-elect Alan LaFave poses with Don Morton, chair of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, shortly after LaFave was announced as VCSU's next president.



## Presidential candidates validate our strengths

Margaret Dahlberg, Ph.D., Interim President

During the week of Sept. 10, VCSU hosted five presidential candidates, all interested in becoming the 14th VCSU president. While ultimately only one candidate—Alan LaFave—was chosen as our next president by the State Board on Thursday, Sept. 27, we found all of their visits informative because they helped us see ourselves from the outside. Here's what we learned from the candidates:

First, they were impressed by our enrollment growth over the past few years, especially at a time when high school senior classes are shrinking. What are we doing, they wondered, to keep achieving record enrollments? The

best answer, I think, can be found in our constant efforts to collaborate with other entities like the public schools, the development corporation, and two-year campuses across the state, along with a focus on our current students, to assure both their retention and success.

All of them commented on our upbeat campus culture. In the midst of budget challenges and several years with no raises, they were expecting to hear complaints at staff and faculty meetings. Instead, they heard us say, "Here's what we're doing, and here's the next thing." Our culture is focused forward, on quality and innovation, not mired in negativity.

With the recent budget reductions, they expected to see financial challenges, and several even sent our financial information to their campus experts, to determine whether what they saw is accurate: VCSU is financially solid, with strong financial ratings and reserves. This is

also impressive—we have met financial constraints with creativity and compromise, making good decisions that have kept us solidly in the black.

The candidates found our students both informed and engaged in the process, and they were complimentary about the thoughtful questions the students asked. They were impressed by the interest our students

showed in interacting with them during the student-candidate interviews.

Since we had student guides walk each candidate from one meeting to the next throughout the day, the candidates also had opportunities to visit individually with students, who did an impressive

job of showcasing the VCSU student body.

VCSU's vision states that we are an innovative university, and our visitors confirmed that indeed this is true. They were impressed by our efforts to collaborate, try new techniques, and respond to changes in the workforce with altered curricula, new programs, and professional development.

At VCSU, we are learning-centered, innovative, student-focused, collaborative, and engaged. These are our core values, the qualities we attempt to embody in daily work, planning, and decision-making. It's reassuring to know that the outside perspectives from these presidential candidates indicate that we are both "talking the talk and walking the walk" in keeping our focus on the success of our students and our university.

### *VCSU Vision*

*As an innovative university, we deliver distinctive, learner-centered experiences.*

# VCSU ALUMNI SOCIALS AND EVENTS

You are invited to stop by, enjoy some complimentary appetizers, spend time reminiscing and catching up with other alumni, and meet Alan LaFave, our new president!

Please help us spread the word; invite a fellow alumnus with you to the social! For more information and to RSVP, please contact Kim Hesch at 800-532-8641 x37403

The VCSU Alumni Association will be hosting the following alumni socials!

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>January 23</b>    | Alumni Social – Valley City Valley City Town & Country Club<br>5:30–7:30 p.m. |
| <b>February 1– 2</b> | Arizona activities:<br>See page 3 for schedule of events                      |
| <b>February 12</b>   | Alumni Social – Fargo Crooked Pint Ale House<br>5:30–7:30 p.m.                |
| <b>March 26</b>      | Alumni Social – Bismarck Location TBD<br>5:30–7:30 p.m.                       |
| <b>April 24</b>      | Alumni Social – Jamestown Sabir's Buffalo Grill<br>5:30–7:30 p.m.             |

# 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).**



## Ways to pay it forward: Phone-a-thon and Giving Hearts Day

**Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91, Assistant Director for University Advancement and Alumni Relations**

November provides us an occasion to reflect on opportunities in our lives to give thanks. As we look forward to the holidays, I encourage you to reflect on the things you are most thankful for in your life and consider paying it forward. This might mean practicing a random act of kindness, making a donation to those in need at your local food bank, or sponsoring a child's holiday wishes by picking up a gift tag at your Annual Giving Tree. I would also encourage you to consider giving in support of our students at VCSU.

There are many ways you can give back to your alma mater. Our area of greatest need is our Annual Fund/Phone-a-thon. The Phone-a-thon supports scholarships, The Bulletin, reunion/social events, homecoming and the alumni awards programs. **By supporting our Phone-a-thon you are investing in your alma mater.** The amount you are able to give may vary, and the areas you choose to support may change. But your commitment to giving every year provides the sustainable base of support that allows your gift to make a difference. Donations of any amount increase Valley City State's alumni participation rate, an important and impactful number that will help strengthen the university's national rankings and recognition.

Our Phone-a-thon officially kicks off after the first of the year, but if you are needing some year-end deductions, please consider donating early to the Phone-a-thon as part of your year-end giving plan.

The VCSU Foundation will also be part of Giving Hearts Day this coming Valentine's Day, February 14, 2019. Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour online give-

a-thon that has dramatically increased fundraising success for charities in North Dakota and western Minnesota. In 2018, more than \$13 million was raised for nonprofits to improve lives in the region through Giving Hearts Day.

This one-day, online event is the biggest charitable giving day of the year in North Dakota. So, on February 14, we ask that you visit [impactgiveback.org](http://impactgiveback.org) online, search for "Valley City State University," and donate. Donations that VCSU receives through Giving Hearts Day are applied to our Phone-a-thon.

(Giving Hearts Day is hosted by the Dakota Medical Foundation, the Impact Foundation, and the Alex Stern Family Foundation.)

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to everyone who made it back to campus to celebrate Homecoming. It was a pleasure being able to recognize our alumni for their accomplishments at the annual Alumni Honors Breakfast, along with catching up and reminiscing during our other homecoming activities. If you missed the opportunity to come back, don't worry; there are still plenty of occasions for you to engage with your alma mater as we continue our outreach. Please see page 1 for a list of alumni socials and activities we've scheduled in the months to come. We will be adding events, too, so check our website, [vcsualumni.org](http://vcsualumni.org), for the latest schedule.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, but if our paths don't cross, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

As always, it's a great day to be a Viking!

### 2018–19 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

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## Our success is no accident: Thank you Dr. Dahlberg, welcome President LaFave

Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement

As we move toward the close of calendar year 2018, it is a good time to reflect on another successful year here on the campus of Valley City State University. Although the year has been challenging—operating with a very tight budget and the departure of former president Tisa Mason—the university has not only endured the challenges but has moved forward in a position of strength.

Under the leadership of Interim President Margaret Dahlberg, we have had another very successful year on all fronts! Dr. Dahlberg, who twice has served as our interim president, set the bar high as we began our search for a new president last winter. In her words, “This is not the time to sit back, but rather we must move forward and continue our tradition of innovation, best practices, and service to our students and the state of North Dakota.” We have done that and so much more. Consider the following achievements under the leadership of Interim President Dahlberg this past year:

- VCSU realized an all-time-record enrollment of 1,547 students this fall, up from 1,522 in 2017.
- The VCSU Foundation provided an all-time record scholarship allocation of \$1.623 million for 2018–19, up from \$1.425 million last year.

- The track renovation at Lokken Stadium is nearing completion, with just the permeable running surface to be added in the spring and the majority of fundraising for the \$1.2 million project complete.
- Valley City State University was recognized as a “Best College” for the 21st consecutive year by U.S. News and World Report.
- The VCSU Foundation realized significant growth in its asset base, approaching \$15 million.
- Valley City State University has been named as one of 25 college and universities on a list of “Hidden Gems of the Midwest” from the Online Schools Center, which says

“These Midwest regional gems represent some of the finest colleges in America that are often overlooked.”

The success we have realized is no accident. That success

takes leadership, commitment from our faculty and staff, and support from our alumni, friends, and the business community.

We thank Dr. Dahlberg for her service and leadership as our interim president, and we look forward to the arrival of Alan LaFave as our 14th president in mid-December. We welcome Dr. LaFave and his family to Valley City State University!

*The success we have realized is no accident.  
That success takes leadership, commitment from our  
faculty and staff, and support from our alumni, friends,  
and the business community.*

Join **VCSU ALUMNI**  
and **FRIENDS**  
for Gatherings  
in Arizona

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019 — PEORIA, ARIZONA

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

The Links Neighborhood Grill  
18823 North Country Club Parkway  
Peoria, Arizona

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019 — MESA, ARIZONA

#### Golf and Luncheon

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

#### Alumni & Friends Golf — \$28 per person

(9 holes of golf)  
Golf with Alan LaFave, our new president  
8 a.m. Registration  
8:30 a.m. Tee-off

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

11 a.m. — Reunion Social  
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! To RSVP contact Kim Hesch at 701-845-7403 or kim.hesch@vcsu.edu.

‘You can  
call me

Al



## LaFave selected as 14th president of VCSU

*On Sept. 27, 2018, after a nationwide search over 6 months with 50 applicants, 12 distance interviews, campus visits by 5 candidates, and 2 finalist interviews, the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education selected Alan LaFave, D.M.A., as the next president of Valley City State University. Currently serving as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., LaFave will begin his VCSU presidency in mid-December.*

*Here's a profile that tells us a little more about the man who will become our 14th president.*

### **The Beginning**

In his interview on campus, the down-to-earth Alan LaFave was quick to quote Paul Simon, letting everyone know “You can call me Al.” That touch of humility perhaps springs from his small-town upbringing in Onida, S.D. (population 650 or so now, maybe 200 more than that when he was growing up there).

According to LaFave, family life in Onida definitely helped shape his values. He learned the notion of service by helping his parents—father Lonnie and his mother Irene (known to many as “Soogie”)—with the family business, LaFave TV and Appliance. Outstanding service was what kept customers coming back, and responding to service calls, regardless of the time of day, helped keep the business afloat.

His father ran the place, and “All of us kids worked there, and Mom did the books and accounts receivable,” recounts LaFave, the oldest

of four children, who worked at the store from junior high through high school, along with some summers during college.

### **The Music Student and Teacher**

College for Al was Northern State in Aberdeen, a few hours and change northeast of Onida. LaFave was recruited there by Lon Sweet, dean of the Northern State School of Fine Arts and a renowned band director in the Midwest. Now an accomplished clarinetist, LaFave benefited from Sweet’s mentorship and earned a bachelor’s degree in instrumental and vocal music, aiming to be a band director. “After three years at Aberdeen Central High School in that role,” says LaFave, “I was fortunate to be accepted into the highly respected master’s program at Arizona State University.”

Hearing a performance by Robert Spring, the Arizona State

faculty member considered among the world's preeminent clarinetists and clarinet teachers, inspired LaFave to pursue a performance degree, in fact, two degrees—both a master's and a doctorate in clarinet performance. But it took two auditions with Spring—the first a lesson and an assessment of LaFave's clarinet ability, and the second a week later when he had practiced enough to address “the laundry list of items” that Spring had noted in the first—before he was accepted into the program.

LaFave's move from high school music director to graduate student to college instructor took him from South Dakota to Arizona and ultimately back home to Northern State and Aberdeen, where he joined the faculty at his alma mater in 1991 and worked his way up through the ranks as instructor, assistant professor and professor of music—teaching, recruiting, directing bands (and managing their travel), and establishing a clarinet studio.

### University Administrator

LaFave loves playing music—he continues to practice and perform on the clarinet, playing his favorite jazz swing and the solo literature from the classical and romantic eras—but he also became a highly effective administrator along the way. For that, he respectfully recognizes his mentors.

“Mr. Sweet and Dr. Spring provided the inspiration for me to always do my best and, no matter what, make a positive contribution to the ensemble, school or organization,” explains LaFave. “As I moved through my career in higher education, several opportunities for advancement presented themselves to me, and it was a very natural progression and transition from teaching—especially as it relates to ensemble and departmental leadership—into administration. I've always wanted to ‘make a difference’ and felt that administration would provide those opportunities.”

Those opportunities for advancement in administration came in an upward trajectory as Northern's music department chair (1994–97), associate dean of the School of Fine Arts (1997–2000), and dean of the School of Fine Arts (2000–15). In 2015, LaFave left his formal music teaching role behind with his appointment as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Northern State.

As provost, the chief academic officer, LaFave oversees the council of deans and provides leadership in a host of areas that impact academic quality and student success, including, but not limited to, enrollment, recruitment, retention, general education, curriculum, online courses and programs, the honors program, international programs,

budgets, program productivity review, facilities, scheduling, and, of course, faculty and all the considerations thereto, including workload and evaluation.

His career path and those responsibilities have helped LaFave develop the values and skill set to take the next step in his career in higher education—the VCSU presidency. “I am strongly committed to student success, achievement, retention and access,” he says. “I have a deep appreciation for students and faculty, and sincerely enjoy working collaboratively with colleagues. I also believe I can continue to enhance the important relationship between the university, community, alumni and stakeholders.”

LaFave is proud of his work at Northern and his role in the university's success; he believes “that Northern is a better and stronger institution than when I began in 1991.” But he's quick to add, “This has been a team effort. I've had the opportunity to work with many outstanding faculty, staff and administrators

over the years who continue to uphold quality as paramount to success.”

Some of his most satisfying contributions have come in the field of fine arts, of course. “The visibility and reputation of the fine arts at Northern is among the strongest in the region,” says LaFave, “and my work with helping realize the completion of the \$14 million renovation and addition to the Johnson Fine Arts Center was very gratifying.”

### Family

For most of his journey, the 56-year-old LaFave has been accompanied by Kari, his wife and partner for more than three decades. Kari and Al met in marching band at Northern State, and the couple married in 1985. She holds a bachelor's degree in business with an accounting emphasis and has worked for the Great Lakes Higher Education Corp., a student loan guarantee agency, for the past 25 years.

The LaFaves have two daughters, Lexi and



(above) This holiday family shot includes son-in law Logan Fahnhorst, his wife Ashley Fahnhorst (nee LaFave), Kari, Al, and Lexi. Ashley and Logan live in Fargo.



(left) The LaFaves are a volleyball family, and here's a photo taken at daughter Lexi's Senior Night at Aberdeen Central on Oct. 30. From left to right, it's Kari, Al, Lexi, and Ashley.

(opposite page) Al LaFave rode motorbikes in his youth with his brother, but now his taste in bikes has moved to Harley road machines. This photo shows Al with his old bike; he has since upgraded to a cardinal-red Harley to better fit in at VCSU!



**Alan D. LaFave, D.M.A.**

### Education

- D.M.A., Clarinet Performance, Arizona State University (ASU), Tempe, Arizona, 1998
- M.M., Clarinet Performance, ASU, 1989
- B.M.E., Instrumental/Vocal Music, Northern State College, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 1985

### Administrative Experience

- Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Northern State University (NSU), Aberdeen, South Dakota (2015–present)
- Dean, School of Fine Arts, NSU (2000–15)
- Interim Dean, Graduate and Extended Studies, NSU (2002–03)
- Associate Dean, School of Fine Arts, NSU (1997–2000)
- Department Chair, Music, NSU (1994–97)

### Teaching Experience

- Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor of Music, NSU (1991–2015)
- Instructor of Music, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D. (1990–91)
- Instructor of Music, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Ariz. (1989–90)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. (1989–90)
- Director of Bands, Aberdeen Central High School, Aberdeen, S.D. (1985–88)

Ashley. A senior at Aberdeen Central High School, Lexi is a middle hitter on the Golden Eagles volleyball team and is also active in choir.

Her older sister Ashley, a Northern graduate with a degree in elementary education, also shares a passion for volleyball; she's the co-head coach at Kindred (N.D.) High School, where she's also assistant girls basketball coach. Ashley and her husband, Logan Fahnhorst, live in Fargo. Logan, a CPA, works as a senior audit associate with Eide Bailly, and Ashley commutes to Kindred, where she teaches first grade in the elementary school in addition to her coaching responsibilities.

### Relaxation

Kari and Al spend much of their time supporting their daughters, attending concerts, games and tournaments. When Kari gets a chance, she also enjoys genealogy, crafting and planting mums.

Al continues to pursue his passion for music, guest conducting and adjudicating when the occasion arises, and performing a few times a year. "I performed 'The Shepherd on the Rock,' a Schubert trio for soprano, clarinet and piano, as part of Northern's faculty potpourri recital this fall," he says, "and I still perform at almost every Jazz Swing Dance, trying my best to impersonate Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Woody Herman." He also plays saxophone "and even some tuba!"

Along with his brother, Al used to ride enduro motorbikes on the hills and in the ditches around home in Onida, and his teenage passion for motorcycles has been rekindled recently. "My work with the Rushmore Music Camp coincides exactly with the Sturgis rally in the Black Hills, so I've become enthralled by the beautiful Harley-Davidson bikes. Several of my good friends ride, and they helped ignite and support the interest. I purchased my first Harley last spring and have put many miles on it. I really enjoy the fresh air and solitude of riding!"

LaFave also enjoys golf but given that he only gets out a few times a year, he admits his play is "nothing to write home about." Although he enjoys flying and has made good progress toward a private pilot license, that will get put on hold for a while until he has time to finish.

A Northern State Wolves supporter and a sports fan in general, it won't be a tough switch for LaFave to start cheering for the VCSU Vikings; he's already a fan of both the Minnesota and Kindred Vikings, and along with Kari and Ashley, he caught the VCSU homecoming victory over Waldorf this October.

### The VCSU Presidency

Since the announcement of LaFave's selection as VCSU president, he's received numerous emails and notes of congratulations. "The campus and community have been extremely

welcoming, and that is so appreciated,” says LaFave. He’ll start the new job on Dec. 17.

Working with the leadership team, LaFave plans to continue the university’s focus on student success and quality programs, while increasing retention rates and maintaining the institution’s very positive reputation. “I look forward to working with campus and community constituents to increase scholarship opportunities to help make degree attainment more affordable,” he says. “I understand the important relationship VCSU and the entire Valley City region enjoy, and I hope to enhance that relationship by looking at ways we can work together to make the region stronger, educationally and economically.”

In her Sept. 24 column, VCSU Interim President Margaret Dahlberg wrote about the presidential search and the comments from the pool of five semi-finalist candidates, including LaFave, who visited campus the week of Sept. 10. She heard the candidates validate the university’s strengths: our engaged students, an upbeat campus culture, a collaborative and innovative spirit, and a solid financial position, among others.

“At VCSU, we are learning-centered, innovative, student-focused, collaborative, and engaged,” wrote Dahlberg. “These are our core values, the qualities we attempt to embody in daily work, planning, and decision-making. It’s reassuring to know that the outside perspectives from these presidential candidates indicate that we are both ‘talking the talk and walking the walk’ in keeping our focus on the success of our students and our university.”

“Walking the walk” for LaFave will mean following the path set in the last four decades by his VCSU presidential predecessors Charles House, Ellen Chaffee, Steve Shirley, and Tisa Mason, along with Dahlberg, who’s carried the university through two stints as interim.

That group has set the bar high, and now we welcome Al LaFave, and his family, as he leads us into our next chapter.

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*(right) An accomplished clarinetist, Alan LaFave still finds time to practice and relishes the opportunity to perform. Here he’s pictured at a recital at Arizona State University, where he earned his master’s and doctorate in clarinet performance.*



*(below) The LaFaves are already cheering on the VCSU Vikings! Al, wife Kari and daughter Ashley attended the Viking Homecoming victory over Waldorf Oct. 13, where they met up with Jill DeVries (left), VCSU athletic director.*



# Diane Burr

## A veteran—and champion—of online teaching

Diane Burr never imagined her academic life at Valley City State University would evolve to the point where she would be teaching her course load online, but that's where she's at. This fall, Burr, professor and chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Human Performance, teaches four fully online courses and team teaches one hybrid course, where she does the online component and a department colleague, Sharon Bratrud, handles the face-to-face portions of the course.

After completing a master's degree in secondary education at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota, in 1981, Burr joined VCSU as a coach and faculty member in the physical education department. After more than two decades of coaching, which included volleyball, softball, women's tennis, and track and field along the way, she stepped down as head volleyball coach after the 2003 season.

It was somewhere in those early years of the 2000s that Burr began teaching online. She'd been hooked on technology for a while—"I remember calling my sister and sharing how excited I was to be logged in to a library in Cairo, Egypt, sitting at my computer in Graichen Gym; I was amazed!"—but it was necessity that really drove the process of putting HPE classes online.

"We only had three faculty members, and teaching a course that was part of the general education requirements for all students on campus was a huge undertaking," Burr says. "We didn't have the staff, the physical space, or the logistics with scheduling to make it work. We needed to commit to teaching this general education course online."

Burr and her faculty colleagues also aimed to serve the students better from a content

standpoint. "We wanted to make sure our students in the department had the full complement of health classes to go with the physical education offerings," she says. "We made a conscious effort to put health classes online to provide better preparation for the students." She also notes that the flexibility of the online courses also aided the students, many of whom were athletes with practices, games and travel who benefited by being able to do the online work at their convenience. Offering online courses in the summer also added flexibility for students.

The notion of serving those general education requirements online persists today. Burr's HPER 100 course, Concepts of Fitness and Wellness, serves VCSU's geographically diverse student body, as distance education students in the university's online music, technology education, and Wyoming elementary education programs all find themselves in the course, along with members of VCSU's resident student population.

Blackboard, the learning management system used at VCSU, provides the software platform for Burr's online teaching, but she augments that by putting a variety of other software to work, including Microsoft Sway for video recordings—she uses 10 to 15 minute lectures—and VoiceThread so students can ask questions and/or share comments with classmates in their own voice.

"I'm a firm believer in having students hear the voice of the instructor," says Burr, but she shies away from being a "talking head" in her videos. "That's just a matter of personal preference," she says, "but I do add animations and humor to try to keep students engaged."

These days, an instructor or an institution

could just go out and buy an online course, or a whole catalog of courses, for that matter. But that notion doesn't sit well with Burr. "Students choose Valley City State because they want a personal education," she says. "We hire faculty to develop face-to-face content to meet students' needs, and we want to develop our own content for online, too." At VCSU, students know their professors, their courses are not taught by TAs (teaching assistants), and in Burr's words, "They don't want to be taught by a publishing house."

It's not just the course content, either; it's also about reference material. Rather than using textbooks, Burr relies on OER (Open Educational Resources) and original writing for the majority of her courses. This saves her students money, and it allows her to come up with the mix of content that maintains student engagement.

"In online, you're still the content expert, but that's not the biggest battle," says Burr. "That comes in designing the course, making it fluid, sensible and consistent."

Although always challenging, Burr excels at this task. In 2014, she received national recognition from Blackboard, which recognized her and the Introduction to Physical Education course she designed and taught with its Catalyst Award for Exemplary Course, which recognizes "faculty and course designers... who develop exciting and innovative courses that represent the very best in technology and learning."

Another challenge for Burr as an online instructor involves the various technologies she puts to work in her courses: "If you're going to use it, you'd better know how to fix it," she says. "There's lots of self-reliance."

## ONLINE AND TECHNOLOGY TIMELINE

VCSU

1990

State Board of Higher Education mandates VCSU play a statewide leadership role in the effective use of instructional technology

1993

- Center for Innovation and Instruction established on VCSU campus to support North Dakota educators at all levels
- VCSU faculty and staff form Committee for Innovation and Technology in Education to chart path

1995

Committee for Innovation and Technology in Education completes VCSU Technology Plan

1996

VCSU becomes a laptop campus, the second institution in the nation (and first in North Dakota) to issue laptops to students and faculty

1998

VCSU receives U.S. Department of Education Title III grant to develop a model online program in Technology Education and begin online education

2001

First students graduate from the online Technology Education program

The feeling of always being on call for her students can be taxing to online instructors such as Burr. “I try to lay out some boundaries in terms of when I’m not available and when students can expect to hear back from me,” she says, “but there’s a notion that I’m always available when students leave a message or send an email. And I do want to help them succeed.”

For the students, much of online learning is about flexibility: taking courses regardless of where they are geographically located, not having to worry about class offerings that clash because they’re offered at the same time as something else they want or need, or being able to pick something up online when the complementary face-to-face offering doesn’t fall in the semester sequence they need to stay on track.

Weighing the advantages against the challenges, Burr comes down firmly as an advocate for online teaching and learning. “I need to be ultra-prepared for everything, but at the same time, I can be more responsive, more nimble in regard to student needs,” she says, “and the content is more accessible.”

Burr still has work to do. She wants to make the content even more accessible, develop podcast lectures, and do more work with closed-captioning on video. None of it comes easy; in her words, “online is a lot of work.”

But because Burr is committed to her teaching, committed to her students, she will continue to champion online and explore its capabilities because she sees it as a large part, and a very effective part, of the teaching and learning climate at VCSU. “I believe in the online environment,” says Burr. “At VCSU, it’s not just our history, our present, or our future—it’s part of our culture. It’s who we are.”



## Online education at VCSU

VCSU’s rich heritage in educational technology supported pioneering efforts in teaching online, and in 2001 the first students in the VCSU online technology education program, its first online program, received degrees. Since then, the university’s online programs have continued to grow.

Online undergraduate degrees are now offered in 12 programs: business education, business process integration management, career and technical education, communication, English, English education, history, history education, music, social science, social science education, and technology education. Online courses are offered in other disciplines as well. In 2017-18, VCSU offered 136 unique online undergraduate courses (in 177 course sections) with an average class size of 15 taught by 36 full-time and 18 part-time faculty.

Two graduate degrees offer seven completely online programs: the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, and six concentrations in the Master of Arts in Education (M.Ed.): elementary education, English education, library and information technology, teaching and technology, teaching English language learners, and technology education. In the graduate school in 2017-18, VCSU offered 56 unique online graduate courses with an average class size of 12 taught by 22 full-time and 9 part-time faculty.

A number of undergraduate minor programs, and undergraduate and graduate certificate programs, are also offered online.

All told, a little more than 25 percent of VCSU’s 2018 fall enrollment came exclusively in online courses. The breakdown includes 255 undergraduates (16 percent of the 1,547 total enrollment) and 141 graduate students (9 percent of total).

### 2004

VCSU receives National Science Foundation grant to develop online Master of Education courses in Technology Education

### 2005

Online Master of Education degree (M.Ed.) approved by State Board of Higher Education for Teaching and Technology, and Technology Education concentrations

### 2007

- First students graduate from VCSU M.Ed. program
- Library and Information Technology concentration added to M.Ed. program

### 2008

VCSU enters MOU with National Center for Technological Literacy at Museum of Science, Boston, for collaboration in online STEM Education

### 2013

Elementary Education and English Education concentrations added to M.Ed. program

### 2016

Online Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program added to graduate offerings to help meet teacher licensure needs

### 2017

First students graduate from VCSU MAT program

## Homecoming 2018

The annual Bill Osmon Fun Run on the afternoon of Monday, Oct. 8, kicked off a week of spirited events for Homecoming 2018, and later that evening Carter Buelow and Kadie Anderson were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.

An early-season snowstorm dumped more than 15 inches of snow on Valley City on Wednesday, causing classes and campus to close that day, but it didn't put a damper on the celebrations. A pep rally Thursday morning in Vangstad Auditorium featured guest speaker Josh Kasowski '05, who fired up the crowd by sharing his keys to success.

Alumni were invited to dine with students in the cafeteria for the noon meal Friday, and the Foundation Office and Alumni Association hosted an ice cream social that afternoon in the Alumni Room in McFarland. That evening Stacy Fitterer '90, Jed Klein '85, Tracy (Baily) McGillis '97 and Jeff Volk were inducted into the Viking Athletic Hall of Fame at a dinner ceremony held in the cafeteria.

The annual Alumni Association Honors Breakfast was held in the cafeteria Saturday morning, Oct. 13, with a host of alumni receiving awards (see p. 12). The homecoming parade down Central Avenue followed at 10:30 a.m., and after that alumni and friends filled the tailgating area outside Lokken Stadium for pregame revelry before the Viking football squad dispatched the Waldorf Warriors 24-21. A postgame celebration was held at the Eagles Club, with a student-alumni dance there in the evening capping off the weeklong celebration.



(middle row, l to r) Viking quarterback Jalen Pfeifer carries the ball in the Homecoming victory over Waldorf.



Football coaches Dennis McCulloch (left) and Dave Rausch pose with former coach Jim Dew (right) at the post-game social at the Eagles Club.



The Viking Booster Board had some fun with beards at the pre-game tailgate gathering they hosted outside Lokken Stadium.

Mitchell Silkman and Grace Miller were the men's and women's winners of the 36th annual Bill Osmon Fun Run.

VCSU friends, tennis mates and fans Paige Fettig '18 and Katie Clark display Viking Pride at the Homecoming game.





(top row, l to r) Homecoming King Carter Beulow and Queen Kadie Anderson were crowned Monday evening, Oct. 8.

The VCSU Viking float carried alumni award winners and faculty, staff and family members.



(clockwise, from top left:) Stacy Fitterer, Jed Klein, Tracy (Bailey) McGillis and Jeff Volk were inducted into the Viking Hall of Fame. The inductees are pictured with their presenters, former coaches Jim Dew and Diane Burr.

(bottom) The VCSU Athletic Band, directed by Jerrold Heide, marched in the Homecoming parade down Central Avenue.



# Alumni recognized at Honors Breakfast

On Saturday morning, Oct. 13, the Valley City State University Alumni Association held its annual Alumni Honors Breakfast in the Student Center cafeteria.

Seven alumni were honored with the Certificate of Merit award, including Knut Peder Gjovik '77, Mark R. Hanson '86, Joan (Leichtman) Heckaman '67, Marcia (Knutson) Pritchert '91, Clark Williams '64, Heather L. (Schmit) Woods '03 M.Ed. '12, and Sheila (Lindeman) Zinke '80.

Megan R. (Schmidt) Zarbano '08 and Matthew C. Johnson '01 each received the Young Alumni Achievement Award, and Kirsten Baesler M.Ed. '10 was recognized as the 60th recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

## Johnson, Zarbano recognized with Young Alumni Achievement Award

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 leaders under the age of 40 based on the criteria of demonstrated achievement in their chosen career, and demonstrated leadership and commitment to service of others. Our recipients this year are presented below.



### **MATTHEW C. JOHNSON '01**

Matthew C. Johnson is a 2001 graduate of Valley City State University. He received his Master's in Education from Northwest Missouri State University in 2004.

Johnson is currently a sales representative for Fundraising University. Other positions Johnson has held include instructor and associate head coach at Northwest Missouri State University. In addition, during the summers of 2009-17, Johnson was the manager/director of baseball operations for the St. Joseph Mustangs.

Under Johnson's reign as manager, the Mustangs compiled a 321-156 record with five regular season North Division Championships and five MINK League Championships in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2017. Under Johnson's tutelage, St. Joseph became a destination for collegiate players looking to experience a professional atmosphere and a fan base consistently in the top 10 of summer leagues across the country.

A former assistant baseball coach at Northwest Missouri State, Johnson arrived at the St. Joseph Mustangs after four years of professional baseball experience in the independent leagues. Johnson played two seasons in the Northern League for the Fargo-Moorhead Red-Hawks and the Allentown Ambassadors, and one season with the Washington Wild Things in the Frontier League as a catcher. He finished his career as a relief pitcher for the St. Joseph Blacksnakes of the American Association.

Prior to his professional career, he was a

four-year starter at Valley City State University. During his college career, he earned three All-Conference honors, one All-Region honor and one All-American honor, along with being named Dakota Athletic Conference Most Valuable Senior.

When asked what being a graduate of VCSU means to him, Johnson commented, "There is a sense of pride every time I tell someone that I graduated from Valley City State University. The campus was always inviting, and the family atmosphere made me feel right at home from the first moment I stepped on campus and every time I come back to visit."

Special memories include the relationships that Johnson had with his coaches and professors, which he enjoys to this day, and meeting his wife, Brenda (Meyers) Johnson '02, while at VCSU. Matthew and Brenda have two children, Jase (13) and Brynlee (10).



Megan R. (Schmidt) '08 and Tony Zarbano

### **MEGAN R. (SCHMIDT) ZARBANO '08**

Megan (Schmidt) Zarbano received her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Valley City State University in 2008 and recently completed the Retail Management Certification Program from Ball State University.

She is the president/owner of Handy Hardware & Rental in Valley City.

Zarbano started working at the hardware store at the age of 16 and within weeks was closing the store. She continued working at the store while attending VCSU and earning her degree. Within eight months of graduating from VCSU, the owner of the hardware store decided to retire, and Megan, 23 at the time, along with her husband, Tony, purchased it and named it Handy Hardware & Rental. Since taking over they have expanded the building and reset the aisles to make the store easier to shop. Through these updates, the store sales increased, and the store ranks No. 4 in total paint sales among all of United Hardware's Valspar paint sales. Zarbano was recently named

the Young Retailer of the Year by the North American Retail Hardware Association.

Other awards and honors include the Distinguished Achievement Award from Valspar Corp. and serving on the United Hardware Distributing Co. board of directors.

Zarbano is involved in the Valley City Rotary Club and many community activities throughout the year. She contributes to both our V-500 and Century Club Scholarship programs by donating items to our VCSU Scholarship Auction. In addition, she has donated pallets of water to be used and sold in the concession stands with proceeds going to the athletic department.

When asked what being a graduate of VCSU means to her, Zarbano replied, "Being a graduate of VCSU has solidified my feeling of community in Valley City. Even though I was born and raised in the City of Bridges, my passion for the community didn't truly develop until I was a student at VCSU. We took field trips and did service projects, getting involved in different aspects of the community. I was able to do projects and activities that related to my actual position as manager at the hardware store. Through the small class sizes and individualized attention from professors, I felt they sincerely wanted to see me succeed. Having their support and encouragement gave me the confidence to pursue my dream of owning a retail business. I'm proud to be part of the legacy; choosing to attend VCSU kept me grounded and enhanced my roots in my community".

Special memories include the lifelong friends she met while attending VCSU; it's also where she met her husband, Tony. He was not a student of VCSU, but his off-campus roommate was. Tony's roommate dragged him to a Wednesday night VCSU dance. As he walked in the door to the Eagles, she recognized him as a customer from the hardware store. She didn't really know him but decided that it would be her mission to meet him. She walked up next to him and gently kicked him in the rear and walked away. Of course, he followed her, and they were inseparable for the rest of the night. Twelve-plus years later they're still married and share in the joy of parenting two little boys. If it wasn't for VCSU, they may have never developed past a customer relationship.

## Baesler receives Distinguished Alumni 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.



### **KIRSTEN BAESLER, M.ED. '10**

Kirsten Baesler has been selected by the Valley City State University Alumni Board of Directors to become the 60th recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Baesler, a native of Flasher, N.D., holds two associate degrees from Bismarck State College, a bachelor's degree in education from Minot State University, and

a master's degree in education and library information technology from Valley City State University.

Baesler's lifelong passion for education has inspired her entire adult career—she has spent 22 years working for Bismarck Public Schools as a library assistant, technology integration specialist, library media specialist, and assistant principal. Baesler is currently serving as state superintendent with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Baesler has served as southwest regional director for the North Dakota School Boards Association and as governor-appointed member of the North Dakota Educational Technology Council. She has more than a decade of experience working with North Dakota's state legislators and congressional delegates on public education policy.

When asked to share a special memory of her time at VCSU, Baesler replied, "I established lifelong friendships during my time tak-

ing summer classes at VCSU from 1999-2001 to earn my library media credential, and when I went on to be part of Valley City State's first online master's degree group in education and information technology. As the first group of educators to go through this visionary program, we developed strong bonds that have lasted to this day. I was attending class while still working full-time and parenting my sons full-time, sometimes even driving back to Mandan during summer classes to watch their baseball games. There were times I would wonder why I was continuing my education—and then I would remember I was surrounded by people who were facing similar challenges, and we had VCSU staff and faculty who were so committed to assisting us and helping us reach our goals. I'll never forget that, and I am forever grateful. In my current role, I often tell young people, 'Luck is where preparation meets opportunity.' Thank you, Valley City State University, for preparing me so well! I am very proud to be a Viking!"

## Alumni honored with Certificate of Merit award

The Valley City State University Alumni Association honored seven alumni with the Certificate of Merit award. The Certificate of Merit was established by the VCSU Alumni Association to recognize alumni for service, accomplishments and other noteworthy honors.

This year's alumni honorees, listed with their accomplishments and accolades, include the following:

### **KNUT PEDER GJOVIK '77**

Peder currently chairs the Department of Technology at Valley City State University and is co-director of the Don Mугan CTE Leadership Center.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- 2014 ITEEA Emerging Leader
- 2016 ITEEA Leader to Watch
- 2016 Distinguished Technology Educator Professional (DTE)
- 2017 NDACTE Teacher Educator of the Year
- 2018 ACTE Region V Teacher of the Year
- 2018 ACTE National Teacher of the Year

### **MARK HANSON '86**

Mark continued his education at the University of North Dakota, receiving a Juris Doctor degree in 1989. He currently is a shareholder/partner and member of the board of directors of Nilles Law Firm.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- Listed by Chambers USA in the top tier of commercial litigation lawyers in North Dakota
- Listed by Best Lawyers in America for work in commercial litigation
- Selected as a "Super Lawyer" since 2007 in the areas of business litigation, civil litigation and personal injury defense
- Past member and chair of the Ethics Committee for the State Bar Association of North Dakota (SBAND)

- 2002 Outstanding Chair Award, SBAND Ethics Committee
- Past secretary-treasurer for the SBAND Board of Governors
- Former member of the SBAND Joint Committee on Attorney Standards
- Current board member, First Lutheran Church Foundation

### **JOAN (LEICHTMAN) HECKAMAN '67**

Joan, a retired educator, serves in the North Dakota Legislature as state senator for District 23. She is the current North Dakota Senate Minority Leader, the first woman to hold this position in North Dakota.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- 2013 NDECA (North Dakota Early Childhood Advocates) Children's Champion
- 2015 North Dakota Association for Career & Technical Education Legislator of the Year
- 2015 North Dakota Autism Spectrum Disorder Advocacy Coalition Legislator of the Year

### **MARCIA (KNUTSON) PRITCHERT '91**

Marcia is the financial aid director at Valley City State University.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- 1991 VCSU Award of Excellence
- 2012 NDASFAA President's Award
- 2017 VCSU Staff Member of the Quarter

### **CLARK WILLIAMS '64**

Clark taught high school English and social studies at Wahpeton High School for 17 years, followed by serving 16 years as high school prin-



Certificate of Merit Awardees (l to r): Heather (Schmit) Woods '03, M.ED. '12, Marcia (Knutson) Pritchert '91, Mark Hanson '86, Clark Williams '64, Sheila (Lindeman) Zinke '80, Joan (Leichtman) Heckaman '67, and Peder Gjovik '77

cipal. Clark also has served in the North Dakota House of Representatives for District 25.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- 1974 Outstanding Secondary Educator of America
- 1975 Outstanding Young Educator Award given by Wahpeton Jaycees
- 2013 Department of Career & Technical Educators Legislator of the Year

### **HEATHER (SCHMIT) WOODS '03, M.ED. '12**

Heather is an English and language arts teacher in the Wahpeton Public Schools.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- 2007 EDC Speech Coach of the Year
- 2007 NCTE Leadership Development Award
- 2017 Teacher of the Year Award from North Dakota Council of Teachers of English

### **SHEILA (LINDEMAN) ZINKE '80**

Sheila is the vocal music director for grades 7-12 at Valley City Public Schools.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- 2006-09 Served as North Dakota American Choir Directors Association President
- 2018 North Dakota American Choir Directors Association Choir Director of the Year



## Governor Burgum, Lt. Governor Sanford visit campus

North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum and Lieutenant Governor Brent Sanford visited the Valley City State University campus on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

The governor and lieutenant governor toured campus and saw the Valley City floodwall protection, met with students and faculty in both the education and fisheries and wildlife science programs, held an open forum with faculty and staff, and met with the VCSU administrative leadership team.

Students were able to share firsthand their experiences in innovative VCSU academic programs, and faculty and staff had the opportunity to share their concerns regarding higher education funding and governance in North Dakota.

“We’re very appreciative of the time the governor and lieutenant governor devoted to Valley City State,” said Margaret Dahlberg, Ph.D., VCSU interim president. “We constantly strive to improve our students’ educational experience, and we’re thankful for the opportunity to showcase our success to the state’s executive leaders.”



## VCSU sets enrollment record with 1,547 students

Valley City State University has set enrollment records with a total headcount of 1,547 students and an undergraduate headcount of 1,404 students, according to the official Fall Term 2018 figures released by the university.

The total enrollment figure of 1,547 exceeds the previous record of 1,522 set in Fall 2017, while the undergraduate mark of 1,404 surpasses the previous record of 1,372, also set in Fall 2017.

“We constantly look for ways to innovate and improve the educational experience our students enjoy, and we’re continuously refining

our efforts to help them succeed,” said Margaret Dahlberg, Ph.D., VCSU interim president. “Strategic growth doesn’t happen by accident—it takes dedication and commitment—and I applaud the community for these achievements that come from working together.”

Valley City State University was recently ranked third among Midwest public regional colleges in the 2019 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings; the university has been ranked in the top three Midwest public regional colleges each year since 2010. VCSU has been named a U.S. News “Best College” for 21

consecutive years.

Founded as a teacher’s college in 1890, VCSU now offers degrees in a wide variety of academic disciplines while continuing to excel in teacher preparation. Two online graduate programs in education—a Master of Education and a Master of Arts in Teaching—complement the undergraduate program. Students may complete bachelor’s degrees in three years in a number of programs, and faculty engage students with free Open Educational Resources in place of textbooks throughout the curriculum.



## VCSU named a ‘Hidden Gem of Midwest’

Valley City State University has been recognized as one of 25 college and universities on the “Hidden Gems of the Midwest” list by the Online Schools Center.

In describing the colleges and universities included on the list, the editors of Online Schools Center had this to say: “These midwest regional gems represent some of the finest colleges in America that are often overlooked. Students at each one of these schools cherish their experiences and exit their academic institutions with well-defined skills in their department, strong networking connections, and invaluable

memories.”

VCSU was cited in particular for its teacher preparation programs: “VCSU supports one of the best departments for elementary education in America. The well-accredited programs offer undergraduate and graduate students numerous endorsements and certification preparation programs that develop some of the strongest teachers in the nation.”

The “Hidden Gems of the Midwest” list can be found online at [www.onlineschoolscenter.com/hidden-gems-midwest](http://www.onlineschoolscenter.com/hidden-gems-midwest).

## VCSU Foundation provides record \$1.623 million scholarship allocation

The VCSU Foundation has allocated an all-time record \$1.623 million for scholarship support of VCSU students in 2018–19.

The record allocation represents a \$198,000 increase (nearly 14 percent) over the 2017-18 allocation of \$1.425 million. “The foundation’s ability to fund scholarships at this level is a key

factor in attracting students to campus and growing and maintaining enrollment,” said Larry Robinson, VCSU executive director of university advancement. “This large investment by the institution also helps minimize student debt load, an important consideration as our graduates enter the work world or go on to graduate school.”

The Foundation Office works closely with the VCSU Enrollment Services and Financial Aid offices in securing and distributing scholarship dollars to students. The foundation relies on active annual giving campaigns and income from an asset base of nearly \$15 million to fund its support of student scholarships.

## VCSU ranked 3rd among Midwest public regional colleges by U.S. News

Valley City State University has been ranked third among Midwest public regional colleges in the 2019 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. VCSU has now been named a U.S. News “Best College” for 21 consecutive years, and the university has been ranked in the top three Midwest public regional colleges each year since 2010.

“We’re pleased to once again be ranked among the top public schools in the region,” said Margaret Dahlberg, Ph.D., VCSU interim president. “Our faculty, staff, alumni and

friends take great pride in the institution, and we work together with our students to provide them a first-rate education. More than two decades as a ‘Best College’ speaks to the big picture: the community’s sustained commitment to creating distinctive, learner-centered experiences.”

U.S. News ranks schools based on a number of criteria, including peer assessment, first-year retention rates, predicted and actual graduation rates, class sizes, student-faculty ratio, students’ ACT/SAT test scores, percentage of first-year stu-

dents in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class, and alumni giving rate.

Eighty colleges and university, including 13 public institutions, are included in the U.S. News “Regional Colleges in the Midwest” category. The region includes 12 states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

The U.S. News rankings can be found in the “Best Colleges 2019” guidebook and online at [www.usnews.com/best-colleges](http://www.usnews.com/best-colleges).

## Ross named NDACTE Teacher Educator of Year



Rick Ross, VCSU associate professor of career and technical education, was named the North Dakota Association of Career and Technical Educators (NDACTE) Teacher Educator of the Year at the NDACTE annual conference held Aug.

6–8 at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Bismarck.

The Teacher Educator of the Year award recognizes teacher educators who have demonstrated innovation in teacher education, leadership in improving CTE, and commitment to preparing teachers to deliver high-quality CTE programs.

Ross has served Valley City State University for the past 24 years. Through his work as the CTE coordinator, he recognized a need and opportunity to expand the course offerings that had originally been offered as one week, intensive, on-campus workshops. Due to his work, VCSU is now delivering online courses to CTE

distance students across the United States.

Ross has also developed degree options that allow transferable coursework in technical specialty areas to count toward the bachelor’s degree. This allows VCSU to accept technical coursework from two-year college partners in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and across the United States.

Ross holds a master of science degree in educational administration from North Dakota State University and bachelor’s degrees in business administration and business education from Minot State University.

**JUNE 18–JUNE 29, 2020**

**DETAILS AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/2JC2NWB](https://bit.ly/2JC2NWB)**

# Join VCSU students and professors on a trip to EASTERN EUROPE IN JUNE 2020!

Urban Environments and Culture in Eastern Europe with VCSU students and professors Steven King, Anthony Dutton and Luis da Vinha

Alumni and friends are invited to join VCSU students and professors on a tour of Eastern Europe, including Budapest, Krakow, Auschwitz, Prague and Vienna.

*Hungarian Parliament Building on the Danube River, Budapest*



## Annual Scholarship Dinner Held in October

The annual VCSU Scholarship Dinner was held on Monday, Oct. 1, with over 90 in attendance. The dinner provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations who have established named scholarships to meet the students who were awarded their scholarships and provides a time for student scholarship recipients to say thank you.

The VCSU Foundation has approximately 250 endowed and memorial scholarships that recognize those who built the foundation of our university. Those interested in establishing a scholarship may contact the Foundation Office at 800-532-8641, ext. 37203, for more information.



Bob and Bonnie Burchill with Connor Entzi (Burchill Family Scholarship)



Lynn Holcomb and Allison Vandal (Linda and Lynn Holcomb Scholarship)



Nancy King and Joshua McKnight (Bob King Viking Football Scholarship)



Kylie Erickson (Stephanie Dockter Memorial Scholarship) and Stephen Dockter '72

# Time IS RUNNING OUT FOR YEAR-END GIVING

Consider the many ways you can enjoy tax and income benefits and help further V-500 Scholarships.

### *Gifts of Cash or Property*

If you are looking for a way to support V-500 scholarships this year, a gift of cash or your property may be the easiest gift you can make.

### *Charitable Bequest*

Maybe you are not able to make a gift right now, but would like to help in the future. The way to make a future gift is through a bequest made in your will or trust.



**701-845-7203 ♦ [vcsualumni.org](http://vcsualumni.org)**



**FOUNDATION ♦ ALUMNI  
VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY**



# ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S CORNER

## JILL DEVRIES



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All-American Clarissa Olson is carving out her legacy at VCSU in her final season for the Viking volleyball team, while women's basketball kicks into high gear chasing an NSAA championship and sixth trip to the NAIA national tourney. So now is a great time to remember those trailblazers who paved the way for future female student-athletes to don the cardinal and blue.

This winter, Valley City State University will celebrate 50 years of continuous intercollegiate women's athletics at the school. Fifty years is an important milestone, one that must be embraced and applauded, and we'll do so with a 50-year celebration Feb. 15-16 in Valley City.

The average Valley City State fan may not realize just how far women's athletics at VCSU has traveled the past five decades. Read the timeline at right, and also join us in February as we walk down memory lane and launch into the future of women's athletics at VCSU.

The history of women's athletics at Valley City State dates back to the early 1900s, but the opportunity for the Vi-Queens to compete in intercollegiate athletics began in February 1970, when Marie Dunlap coached an eager squad of 14 basketball players to an 0-4 record. The next year, the Vi-Queens went 9-1 and placed second at the state tournament. Freshman Ann Grooters led the team in scoring at 22 points per game.

That same spring, Coach Dunlap assembled the first competitive fastpitch softball team; that team played three games and finished 2-1. In the fall of 1970, Alice Allmaras became the first volleyball coach at VCSU and led the team to a 6-4 record. And as they say, the rest is history.

In April 1972 VCSU joined the Minn-Kota Conference along with UND, NDSU, Concordia, Moorhead State, Bemidji State, Mayville State, and Minnesota-Morris. This allowed the women to compete for a conference title as well as a state title.

Track and field began in the spring of 1976 as Coach Terry Anderson had four athletes—Vicki Bassingwaite, Lou Ann Claymore, Lucy Challey, and Pam Nagel—place in the regional meet.

Gymnastics, introduced to campus in 1968 by Professor Darleen Hartman, started its first competitive season in 1976-77. The squad extended its schedule in 1977-78 to 12 meets and finished fourth in state that year. In 1988-89, gymnastics was dropped as an NAIA sport; that was the last year of collegiate competition for VCSU.

Coach Ann Koller organized and coached the first VCSU women's golf team and VCSU women's tennis team in 1979. Her 1979 and 1980 volleyball teams were also back-to-back Minn-Kota champions.

There are a lot of highlights in the 50 years of women's athletics at Valley City State University. I don't have room to name them all, but I would like to say that I'm thankful the Vi-Queens became the Vikings at some point in our history.

We invite you to celebrate and help us gain better insight into how we got here by attending the 50th anniversary celebration Feb. 15-16, 2019. We look forward to you joining us and sharing your stories and memories throughout the weekend. What a great opportunity to get together with past teammates and friends.

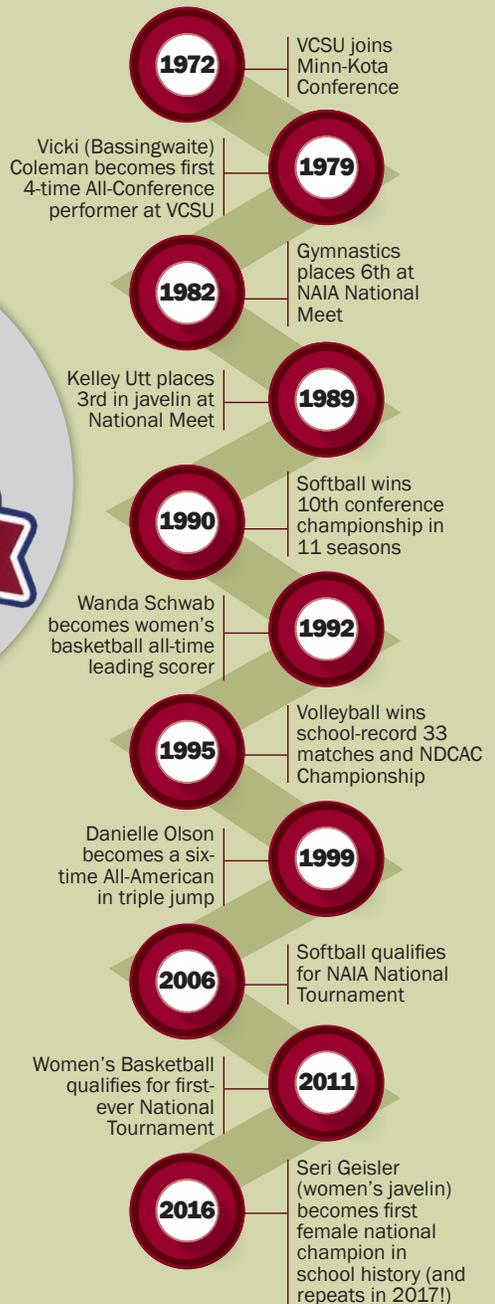
This celebration weekend, sponsored by the VCSU Athletic Department along with the Foundation and Alumni Office, will feature several events.

- All-Athlete/Coach Social: Friday, Feb. 15, Valley City Eagles Club, 6-8 p.m. (cash bar)
- Luncheon/Program: Saturday, Feb. 16, VCSU Cafeteria, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (\$20/ticket)
- Campus/Facility tours of VCSU: Saturday, Feb. 16, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Women's Basketball vs. Mayville State: 3 p.m., Recognition of all former athletes/coaches at halftime
- Post-game alumni reunions: TBD

Please join us for a fantastic weekend celebrating 50 years of women's athletics at VCSU! You can RSVP (not necessary, but helpful) at [www.vcsuvikings.com/50](http://www.vcsuvikings.com/50). For more information, contact me at 701-845-7160 or [jill.devries@vcsu.edu](mailto:jill.devries@vcsu.edu).



## VCSU Women's Athletics: Milestones by Era



## Women's Basketball Preview



Hannah Schlecht

The Viking women are looking to make it three straight national tournament appearances this year and have high hopes of capturing the program's first regular season conference title since the 1991-92 season.

Valley City State is the preseason favorite to win the North Star Athletic Association, according to the NSAA preseason coaches' poll.

Valley City State finished second in the NSAA regular season standings last season and then went on to win the NSAA Tournament, defeating rival University of Jamestown in the title game. The Vikings advanced to the NAIA National Tournament for the second straight season.

Head coach Vanessa Keeler-Johnson is in her second year at VCSU after leading the Vikings to a 25-5 overall record and a 13-3 mark in conference play this past season.

The Vikings graduated three seniors from last year's squad: Lexi Lennon, Kennedy Henningsgard and Paige Meyer.

This year's team is senior heavy with five Vikings playing their final year of collegiate basketball. Seniors Hannah Schlecht, Alli Vandal and Kaitlin Connor are all in their fourth year in the program. Senior Kate Williams is in her second season as a Viking, and new transfer Dierra Diegel is play-



Alli Vandal

ing her final season of college ball in Valley City.

The Vikings enter the season with 15 players on the roster, including 14 from North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

Through a tough non-conference schedule during the first two weeks of the season, Valley City State had a 2-3 overall record which included a 67-55 win at the University of Jamestown. VCSU also had an exhibition win against NCAA Division II school Minot State University.

## Men's Basketball Preview

Valley City State's men feature a revamped roster this season after the graduation of six seniors from last year's squad. VCSU's 16-man roster has six returners and 10 new faces. The only senior on this year's team is Christian Kvilvang, who transferred from the University of Jamestown to play his final season at VCSU.



Christian Kvilvang

The top four scorers from last year's team—who combined to score 45 points per game—all graduated, leaving plenty of opportunities for players to step up into new roles this season.

VCSU does bring back solid experience with junior Denzel Kennedy and sophomores Jake Skelly, Hunter McCalla and Logan Nelson all playing significant minutes last season. Along with Kvilvang, the Vikings also added five other transfers to the program: Alex Weston, Drew Thielges, Chris Morgan, Michael Cornelious and Connor Entzi. Fourteen of VCSU's 16 players are from North Dakota and Minnesota.



Logan Nelson

Valley City State was picked to finish sixth in the North Star Athletic Association preseason coaches' poll. Through the first three weeks of the season, the Vikings had a 1-3 overall record and had posted an exhibition win over NCAA Division II school Bemidji State.

The Vikings are entering their third season under head coach Ryan Montgomery's leadership. VCSU posted a 14-16 overall record and went 7-9 in the North Star Athletic Association last season.

## Cross country women place 2nd, men 3rd in conference, 3 to nationals

Three Vikings qualified for the NAIA National Championships, and both VCSU cross country teams finished in the top three of the North Star Athletic Association during the 2018 season.

The Viking women placed second overall at the NSAA Championships in early November and had two finishers in the Top 10.

Senior Grace Miller led the Vikings with a second-place individual finish, completing the 5K course in a time of 19:11. Teammate Allyssa Weitkum was not too far behind, placing sixth with a time of 19:56. Both Miller and Weitkum earned spots at the NAIA National Championships in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The top four individuals not on the winning team advanced to nationals. Miller and Weitkum were both also named all-conference.

On the men's side, Valley City State took third place at the conference meet and also had two runners in the Top 10. Riley Roy-Lagasse completed the men's 8K course in 27 minutes, 8 seconds to place fourth overall and advance to the NAIA National Championships. Viking senior Dylan Olson raced his way to a ninth-place finish in a time of 27:34. Both

Roy-Lagasse and Olson earned all-conference honors by finishing in the Top 10.

This was the second straight season that both Viking teams finished in the Top 3 at the conference championships. The three national qualifiers is the most since 2015, when VCSU also had three individuals compete at nationals.



## Olson leads volleyball to 4th-place NSAA finish



Autumn Johnson

Leah Ruter

The Valley City State volleyball team finished the season with a 15-15 overall record, taking fourth in the North Star Athletic Association and advancing to the semifinals of the NSAA Conference Tournament.

The Vikings earned the No. 4 seed for the postseason after going 7-7 in regular season conference play. VCSU defeated Mayville State in the opening round of the NSAA Tournament, but lost to top seed Viterbo University in the semifinals.

Highlights from the season included rallying from a 2-0 deficit for a five-set win at Presentation College and taking the NAIA No. 7-ranked team, Viterbo University, to five sets in late October.

After starting the season 1-6, the Vikings won six matches in a row, matching the program's longest winning streak since the 2008 season. The Vikings were in almost every match during the season. Of Valley City State's seven conference losses, four of those came in the fifth set. VCSU went 3-4 in five-set conference matches.

The Vikings graduate four seniors from this year's squad, including middle Clarissa Olson, right side Autumn Johnson, setter Leah Ruter and libero Hailie Wilds. All four played significant roles for the Vikings throughout their careers.

Olson was named 1st Team All-Conference for the third straight season. She set a new VCSU single-season record with her .346 hitting percentage this year, breaking the old record of .331 set by Cindy Thielen in 1988. Olson also leaves VCSU with the career hitting percentage record of .320, breaking the old record of .309 also held by Thielen. Sophomore outside hitter Paige Benson earned 2nd Team All-Conference, and Steve Rindfleisch was named the NSAA Assistant Coach of the Year.

Other milestones from the season included Ruter reaching 1,000 career assists and Wilds recording her 1,000th career dig, both marks coming in VCSU's five-set victory at Presentation College.



Clarissa Olson

## Football finishes strong, places second in NSAA



Jake Peterson

Valley City State's football team finished the 2018 season with a 6-4 overall record and a second-place finish in the North Star Athletic Association.

Highlights of the season included back-to-back shutouts, a thrilling Homecoming win over Waldorf University, and a big road win at Presentation College to finish off the season. The Vikings posted a 5-2 record in conference play, finishing a game back of Dickinson State in the NSAA standings.

The Vikings were in the hunt for the conference championship until the final day of the season, winning four of the last five games. That stretch included a 27-16 come-from-behind win at Dakota State; a 24-21 Homecoming victory against Waldorf, with junior Landon Arredondo kicking the winning field goal in the final seconds; a 31-26 loss at eventual conference champion Dickinson State; a 36-14 victory at Mayville State to retain the Mayor's Cup; and a 49-21 season-ending victory at Presentation College.

Earlier in the season, the Vikings recorded back-to-back shutouts in 48-0 and 37-0 wins against Minnesota-Morris and Mayville State.

"We fell short on some of our ultimate goals, but I am extremely proud of the way this team battled to the end," said head coach Dennis McCulloch. "We won four out of our last five games and were battling for a conference championship until the final day of the season."

This year's team featured a large class of 13 seniors who played big roles for the Vikings over the last few seasons. The 2018 Vikings featured seven

defensive seniors, including six starters. They helped VCSU's defense rank No. 8 in the nation in rushing defense, allowing just 103 rushing yards per game. Buoyed by the two shutouts, the Vikings allowed just 19.6 points per game, which ranked 19th in the nation.

Junior linebacker Arron Martin led the team with 88 tackles. Senior Tyler Masat, a defensive lineman, had 54 tackles and seven tackles for loss. Junior Andrew Hanretty had a team-high five interceptions, while senior Hunter Slemmons had 5.5 sacks and 12 tackles for loss.

Offensively, junior running back Louis Quinones had another big season with 1,051 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns. Quinones totaled 174 all-purpose yards per game, which ranked fourth in the nation.

Junior receiver Jake Peterson caught 53 passes for 815 yards and 12 touchdowns, all of which were team highs and placed him among the Top 25 receivers in the NAIA. Sophomore quarterback Jalen Pfeifer had

an impressive year as well, averaging 212 passing yards per game.

He threw 16 touchdowns with just two interceptions, and also



Arron Martin



Tyler Masat



Louis Quinones

rushed for six touchdowns.

Fourteen Vikings players earned All-Conference honors, with four more earning honorable mention:

- **1st Team Offense:** JohnL Jones, OL
- **1st Team Defense:** Tyler Masat, DL; Hunter Slemmons, DL; Austin Erickson, DL; Arron Martin, LB; Travon Smith, DB
- **1st Team Special Teams:** Landon Arredondo, K; Louis Quinones, Returner
- **2nd Team Offense:** Louis Quinones, RB; Dahlton Wasankari, OL; Jake Peterson, WR
- **2nd Team Defense:** Darius Graves, DL; Riley Fredrickson, LB; Andrew Hanretty, DB
- **2nd Team Special Teams:** Marc Wagner, P
- **Honorable Mention:** Jalen Pfeifer, QB; Tyler Ukestad, WR; Gavin Kolden, DB; Sal Avila, LB

## Lentz leads golfers in fall season

Valley City State's golf teams won three team titles and four individual titles during the fall portion of their schedule.

The Viking men won three out of the five tournaments they played in this fall, which included victories at events hosted by the University of Jamestown, Minnesota-Morris, and South Dakota School of Mines.

At the season-opening University of Jamestown Invitational, the VCSU men shot a 2-under team total of 286, the lowest round in recent program history.

Valley City State's golfers also won four individual titles during the season, including three by senior Jared Lentz. Casey Julson won the Cougar Invite hosted by Minnesota-Morris with a 2-under round of 69. Lentz shot a 4-under round of 68 to win the season opener at the Jamestown Country Club. He added two more victories at the Jamestown Fall Classic and the School of Mines Invitational.



Casey Julson

The Viking women also competed in five tournaments. Their top finish was fourth place at the season-opener hosted by Jamestown. Individually, Jocelyn Braunberger had a second-place finish at the South Dakota School of Mines Invitational.

Valley City State will continue its season during the spring, concluding with the NSAA Conference Championships in late April.



Jocelyn Braunberger



Jared Lentz

## Spring Sports Schedule

### BASKETBALL

MEN'S DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 1	@ Mayville State*	5 p.m.
<b>Dec. 3</b>	<b>Oak Hills Christian College</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Dec. 15	@ University of Jamestown	4 p.m.
Dec. 29	@ Mount Marty College	4 p.m.
Jan. 4	@ Waldorf University*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	@ Viterbo University*	5 p.m.
<b>Jan. 11</b>	<b>Dakota State*</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 13</b>	<b>Bellevue University*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
Jan. 18	@ Dickinson State*	8:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	@ Presentation College*	5 p.m.
<b>Jan. 25</b>	<b>Presentation College*</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 26</b>	<b>Dickinson State*</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
Feb. 1	@ Bellevue University*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	@ Dakota State*	5 p.m.
<b>Feb. 5</b>	<b>Trinity Bible College</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 8</b>	<b>Viterbo University*</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 9</b>	<b>Waldorf University*</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 13</b>	<b>Dakota Wesleyan</b>	<b>8 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 16</b>	<b>Mayville State*</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
Feb. 21-24	NSAA Tournament	
March 6-12	NAIA National Tournament	

WOMEN'S DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 1	@ Mayville State*	3 p.m.
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>University of Jamestown</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
Dec. 28-29	@ Menlo College Classic	
Dec. 28	Menlo College	4 p.m.
Dec. 29	Our Lady of the Lake	4 p.m.
Jan. 4	@ Waldorf University*	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	@ Viterbo University*	3 p.m.
<b>Jan. 11</b>	<b>Dakota State*</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 13</b>	<b>Bellevue University*</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 15</b>	<b>Oak Hills Christian College</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
Jan. 18	@ Dickinson State*	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	@ Presentation College*	3 p.m.
<b>Jan. 25</b>	<b>Presentation College*</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 26</b>	<b>Dickinson State*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
Feb. 1	@ Bellevue University*	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	@ Dakota State*	3 p.m.
<b>Feb. 8</b>	<b>Viterbo University*</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 9</b>	<b>Waldorf University*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 13</b>	<b>Dakota Wesleyan</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 16</b>	<b>Mayville State*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
Feb. 20-24	NSAA Tournament	
March 6-12	NAIA National Tournament	

### TRACK & FIELD

DATE	EVENT	Location
<i>Indoor Season</i>		
Dec. 7	NDSU Dakota Classic	Fargo, N.D.
Jan. 12	Thundering Herd Classic	Fargo, N.D.
Jan. 18	SDSU DII Invitational	Brookings, S.D.
Jan. 19	Cobber Invitational	Moorhead, Minn.
Feb. 26	UND Indoor Open	Grand Forks, N.D.
Feb. 1-2	NDSU Bison Open	Fargo, N.D.
Feb. 8-9	SDSU Indoor Classic	Brookings, S.D.
Feb. 16	NSAA Indoor Championships	Brookings, S.D.
Feb. 28-March 2	NAIA Indoor Championships	Brookings, S.D.
<i>Outdoor Season</i>		
March 15-16	UNC Jerry Quiller Classic	Boulder, Colo.
April 6	Ashton May Invitational	La Crosse, Wis.
April 12-13	Sioux City Relays	Sioux City, Iowa
April 18	Northern State Twilight Meet	Aberdeen, S.D.
April 27	MSUM Ron Masanz Classic	Moorhead, Minn.
May 9-10	NSAA Outdoor Championships	Dickinson, N.D.
May 23-25	NAIA Outdoor Championships	Gulf Shores, Ala.

### BASEBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
March 2	@ Mount Marty College (DH)	1 p.m.
March 3	@ Mount Marty College (DH)	12 p.m.
March 11-15	Spring Break Trip, Tucson, Ariz.	
March 23	@ Dakota State University* (DH)	1 p.m.
March 24	@ Dakota State University* (DH)	12 p.m.
March 30	@ Graceland (Iowa) (DH)	1 p.m.
March 31	@ Graceland (Iowa) (DH)	12 p.m.
April 3	@ Minnesota-Morris (DH)	2 p.m.
<b>April 6</b>	<b>Bellevue University* (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Bellevue University* (DH)</b>	<b>12 p.m.</b>
April 9	@ Mayville State* (DH)	2 p.m.
April 13	@ Viterbo University* (DH)	1 p.m.
April 14	@ Viterbo University* (DH)	12 p.m.
April 16	@ North Dakota State University	6:30 p.m.
<b>April 19</b>	<b>Waldorf University* (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>Waldorf University* (DH)</b>	<b>12 p.m.</b>
April 22	@ Presentation College	2 p.m.
April 24	@ Mayville State* (DH)	2 p.m.
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Presentation College* (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>Presentation College* (DH)</b>	<b>12 p.m.</b>
<b>April 30</b>	<b>Mayville State</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
May 2-5	NSAA Tournament @ TBD	TBD
May 13-16	NAIA Opening Round @ TBD	TBD
May 24-31	NAIA World Series @ Lewiston, Idaho	

DH=doubleheader

### SOFTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Feb. 8-9, 15-16	Presentation College Dome Tournament, Aberdeen, S.D.	
Feb. 23-24	Minot State University Dome Tournament, Minot, N.D.	
March 9-17	Spring Break Trip, Tucson, Ariz.	
March 23	@ Dakota State University* (DH)	1 p.m.
March 24	@ Dakota State University* (DH)	1 p.m.
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Dickinson State University* (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Dickinson State University* (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>April 6</b>	<b>Bellevue University* (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Bellevue University* (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
April 10	@ Mayville State University* (DH)	3 p.m.
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Viterbo University* (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Viterbo University* (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
April 19	@ Waldorf University* (DH)	1 p.m.
April 20	@ Waldorf University* (DH)	1 p.m.
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Mayville State University* (DH)</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
April 27	@ Presentation College* (DH)	1 p.m.
April 28	@ Presentation College* (DH)	1 p.m.
May 2-6	NSAA Tournament @ TBD	TBD
May 13-15	NAIA Opening Round @ TBD	
May 23-29	NAIA World Series @ Springfield, Mo.	

DH=doubleheader

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

## Vikings On The Move



**Kyle Bauer '93** lives in Baxter, Minn., and is the CEO of Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, a regional healthcare system located in the Brainerd Lakes area. Kyle and his wife have a son and two daughters, ages 17, 15 and 13.

**Amy (Stowman) '94** and **Pete Kvien '95** will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary this April. Amy is a reading and math specialist at Red Trail Elementary in Mandan. Pete has served as a fireman with the City of Bismarck

for the last 23 years. They have been blessed with two girls: Emily, 16, and Anika, 13. VCSU is a big part of their lives. Pete and Amy would like to thank all the teachers, coaches and VCSU supporters who made them who they are today. Go Vikes!



**Wayne Steiner '96** left the Architectural Drafting Department of North Dakota State College of Science on Dec. 20, 2011, after nearly 25 years of teaching at NDSCS and at the Southeast Region Career and Technology Center in Wahpeton. He worked in the architecture field for the RLE Group for two years and then moved to a part-time basis. In March 2013, he went back to teaching construction technology at Southeast Region Career and Technology Center. His classes are starting their 50th

house project. The Construction Technology Program was recognized by the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education's "2018 Director's Award of Excellence" for trade, industry and technical programs. In April 2018, Wayne received the North Dakota Knights of Columbus "Knight of the Year" award. One of the first graduates at VCSU with a technology education major, Wayne thanks David Melgaard for his hard work as an advisor.

**Wes Anderson '97** began his connection to VCSU 25 years ago. Wes was a member of Joe Stickler's astronomy class that was in the second year of constructing the Medicine Wheel, still going strong 25 years later. In 2019, Wes will also be starting his 25th year with the VCSU Planetarium, having joined Eileen Starr's planetarium science class the spring of 1994. After her retirement, Wes was hired to teach the class beginning in the fall semester of 2002. Wes's employment with the Barnes County Historical Society as museum curator started in July 1997; he's in his 21st year there now.



**Patrick Metzger '06** left teaching after 10-plus years and started his own online health and wellness coaching business—Synergy Strength and Nutrition ([www.synergystrengthnutrition.com](http://www.synergystrengthnutrition.com)). He provides an all-encompassing approach to health and wellness for busy parents and professionals looking to get back on track. He also provides workplace wellness programs for businesses looking to bring a healthier wellness culture to employees through online and on-site visits.

**Eric Weaver M.Ed. '07** was in the first class to graduate from VCSU's online technology master's program. He is currently teaching 6th grade at Carl Ben Eielson in the Fargo Public Schools. Eric and his wife, Sara, have five children; Maggie, Charley, Gibb, Emory, and Annie. Eric has recently started a business, Heavy D Driving School, which provides driver education in Minnesota and North Dakota.

## Music Department Calendar

Dec. 6.....	Christmas at St. Catherine's Choral Concert .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>St. Catherine's Church</i>	
Dec. 8.....	Community School of the Arts Recital .....	10 a.m.
	<i>Froemke Auditorium, Foss Hall</i>	
Jan. 25 .....	Opera Ensemble.....	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26 .....	Opera Ensemble.....	3 p.m.
Feb. 15.....	Rochelle Van Bruggen, Senior Recital .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad Auditorium</i>	
Feb. 19.....	General Student Recital No. 1 .....	11 a.m.
	<i>Froemke Auditorium, Foss Hall</i>	
Feb. 22.....	Choral Concert .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad Auditorium</i>	
Feb. 23.....	North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs Festival .....	All Day
	<i>Froemke Auditorium, Foss Hall</i>	
March 1.....	Instrumental Concert.....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad Auditorium</i>	
March 5.....	General Student Recital No. 2 .....	11 a.m.
March 26 ...	General Student Recital No. 3 .....	11 a.m.
April 26 .....	"Broadway Bound" .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Froemke Auditorium, Foss Hall</i>	
April 16.....	General Student Recital No. 4 .....	11 a.m.
	<i>Froemke Auditorium, Foss Hall</i>	
April 25 .....	Instrumental Concert.....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad Auditorium</i>	
April 29 .....	Composition Recital .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Froemke Auditorium, Foss Hall</i>	
April 30 .....	General Student Recital .....	11 a.m.
May 3 .....	Choral Concert .....	7:30 p.m.
	<i>Vangstad Auditorium</i>	
May 11.....	Community School of the Arts Recital .....	10 a.m.
	<i>Froemke Auditorium, Foss Hall</i>	

For a complete up-to-date list of events please visit  
[music.vcsu.edu](http://music.vcsu.edu)



**Megan (Floerke) '10** and **John Jacob '08** built a house on a small lake north of Sauk Centre, Minn., where they live with their son, Daxton (3). Megan is a business educator at Alexandria Area High School, and John is director of commercial construction for Nor-Son Construction.

**Ashley (Paquin) M.Ed. '15** and **Clay Johnson '10** both teach in Pembina, N.D. Ashley is a high school social studies teacher. Clay has been teaching in Pembina since 2013; he previously taught in Dunseith, N.D., from 2010–12.



**Miranda (Beier) '11** and **Clint Neville '11** accepted teaching jobs in Martin, S.D., after the birth of their son, Grayson Eli, on May 12, 2018. They have two older daughters, Addison and Kennedy.

**Brooke (Jodsaas) '13** and **Calvin Kraft '11** live in Enderlin, N.D. Brooke teaches junior and senior high English, and also serves as yearbook advisor and one-act play coach. Calvin is the athletic director, head basketball coach, and physical education and history teacher. They have one daughter, Harlyn, born May 19, 2018.



**Jane Pettit-Castor '12** and her wife, Kasey, got transferred to a base in the United Kingdom, so they now call RAF Lakenheath, England, home.



Friends for 40 years! **Joan (Kapaun) Halland '77** shared this photo of a summer reunion with the girls from McCoy Hall. Pictured are (front, l to r) **Lori (Murie) Bybee '83**, **Beth (Kenna) Leuidal**, **Judy (Johnson) Berg '94**; and (back) **Candace (Murie) Hochalter '77**, **Halland**, **Barb (Woehl) Weigel**, **Robyn (Klauss) Samuelson '78**, **Susan (Schmidt) Quittschriber**.



A family vacation to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan turned into a VCSU reunion for **Chandra (Bakkegard)** and **Kendall Railing '93** of Fargo when they bumped into **Barbara (Harju) Keily '57** from Chetek, Wis. The Railing family was visiting with another member of Keily's tour group from Wisconsin; overhearing that they were from North Dakota, Keily let the Railings know that she was a Valley City State alumna. Kendall told her that he was also a VCSU alumnus and that his wife was from Valley City; after they compared notes, it turns out that Kendall had lived in the same house with his roommates that Keily had lived in almost four decades earlier when she attended VCSU. Says Kendall, "We had a wonderful trip and made many memories as a family in the UP; this encounter with Barbara was definitely one of them for me. Go Vikings!"



**Rebekah DePesa '13** and **Tori Enstad '16** have teamed up to coach volleyball at Barnes County North. They are looking forward to the growth their team shows.

**Casie (Antony) Monson '14** was married to Dwight Monson in June 2016, and they reside in Buffalo, Minn. Casie is a 7th grade STEM teacher in Monticello, Minn.

**Jenna (McDowell) Anderson '15** married Alan Anderson on July 11, 2015. Jenna is a middle school social studies and homeroom teacher; she is also the head volleyball coach in Forman, N.D. On Feb. 1, 2018, they had a baby boy, Gunther Ray.

**Amy Venn '17** accepted a position as editor of the Walsh County Record in Grafton after finishing her bachelor's degree (major: communications/journalism, minor: marketing) in May 2017. After nine months at that position, she received an offer from the McLean County Independent in Garrison for their open editor position. Amy accepted the offer and moved closer to home and family. She has been in Garrison since Sept. 6, 2018, with her significant other, who took a promotion with Morton Buildings in Minot. Amy's passion is newspapers, journalism and bringing back a level of trustworthiness that she feels has been lost in new age media. She is proud to be a VCSU alumna and still sports her Viking gear!

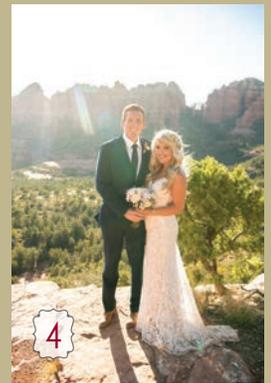
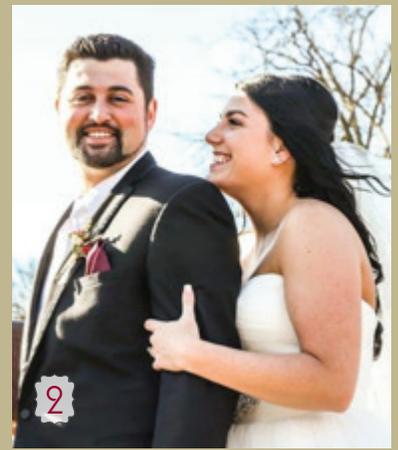
**Austin Berg '18** is currently in the management program for Enterprise Rent-a-Car in Fargo. He is hoping to run his own branch in the near future and make a difference in his community.

**Dillon Thomas '18** and fiancé **Tiffani Velure '18** have moved to Fargo to further pursue their careers. Tiffani works at Prairie St. John's Hospital as a paraprofessional helping children in need of assistance. Dillon is a human resource assistant for the Fargo VA Health Care System. They plan to marry in October 2019 and are looking forward to their next chapter together.

# Just Married

1. **Cassie Fick '15** and Mike Werlinger were married Sept. 8, 2018, in Valley City. Cassie is a fifth grade teacher at Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock Public School and is currently enrolled at VCSU for her master's in elementary education. She will graduate in the spring of 2019. Cassie and Mike reside in Linton, N.D., where Mike works in sales for Saylor Implement. Go Vikings!
2. Brook Bresson and **Mason Mikulecky '14** were married on Oct. 20, 2017. They now live in Fargo, where Mason works at Fabricators Unlimited as the solid surface customer representative. Mason and Brook recently had a baby girl, Evelyn.
3. **Aaron Duske '14** was united in marriage with Jami Reinke on Sept. 29, 2018. Fellow basketball teammate Mike York '11 was in attendance! Aaron is currently teaching K-2nd grade PE at Eagle Ridge Academy in Eden Prairie. He is the girls JV volleyball coach and this year is the boys varsity basketball coach!
4. **Kayleen Anselment '15** and Tyler Marthaler were married June 22, 2018, in Sedona, Ariz.
5. **Rachel Hummel '16** and **Josh Tovar '16** were married on August 10, 2018.
6. **Hanah Cunningham '15** and Ryan McDaniel were married April 14, 2018, in Maui, Hawaii. Hanah and Ryan live in Powell, Wyo., where Hanah has worked as a land contract analyst for Legacy Reserves Operating for three years.
7. **Katherine Gertholz '16** and Alex Bitter were married Aug. 11, 2018, at Sabir's in Valley City. They currently live in Baxter, Minn., and will soon be moving to Brainerd. Katherine works in activities at the Good Samaritan Society in Brainerd, and Alex is an engineer-in-training at Widseth Smith Nolting in Baxter.
8. Natalie Ley and **Aaron Heck '15** were married July 25, 2018. Aaron works for Valley City Parks and Recreation at the Gaukler Family Wellness Center. He has been on the Valley City Fire Department for six years and was recently voted on to the rescue squad. He is also in his eighth year as assistant football coach at Valley City High School. Aaron and Natalie had their third child in November.

- 
- Cassandra Reidburn '18** and **Tyson Eli '15**, July 28, 2018  
**Hilary Kulczewski '14** and Erik Flatt, August 25, 2018  
**Jasmin Yerbich '17** and Bradly Clemens, September 1, 2018  
**Vanessa Caine '15** and Daniel Pollard, September 9, 2018  
**Kristin Migler** and **Matt Sorenson '13**, September 15, 2018  
**Ashley Manley '15** and Thomas Kellogg, September 22, 2018  
**JoLynn Gregoryk '17** and **Taylor Lentz '17**, September 29, 2018  
**Samantha Logan '06** and Tate Johnston, September 29, 2018





## LMHS Viking Pride

Litchville-Marion High School staff recently showed off their VCSU Viking Pride! Pictured are (clockwise from lower center) **Stephanie McCann '18**, **Kris (McCarthy) Piehl**, **Tyler Thielges '17**, **Nicole (Gendreau) Olson '00**, **Valerie (Peterson) Johnson '66**, **Jessica (Carlbom) Kuska '15**, **Dave Handt '81** and **Tyler Lee '08**.

## In Remembrance

**Beatrice (Grotte) Horne '48**, Excelsior, Minn.  
**Grace (Wohlwend) Askerooth '56**, Wahpeton, N.D.  
**Beverly (Savage) Nelson '56**, Bismarck, N.D.  
**Earl Kinzler '57**, Novi, Mich.  
**Janice (Dagman) Sedivec '57**, West Fargo, N.D.  
**Delton Hesse '59**, Gresham, Ore.  
**Duane Schmitz '64**, Dent, Minn.  
**Grant Archer '75**, Williston, N.D.  
**Mark Nordeen '76**, Bismarck, N.D.  
**Tracy (Podoll) Ulmer '83**, Fullerton, N.D.  
**Kenneth Quam '93**, Milnor, N.D.

### Former Faculty & Staff

**Margaret "Peggy" (Neys) Wieland**, age 82, of Dazey, N.D., died Sept. 26, 2018. A 1958 graduate of Valley City State, Peggy served the university in two stints as a librarian. Raised on a farm near Pingree, she worked the fields with her father and very much enjoyed farm life. After graduating from high school, Peggy entered Valley City State Teachers College. After her first year of studies, she taught school for a year in a one-room school in Fried, N.D., to fulfill a scholarship requirement. Peggy then returned to VCSTC and graduated in 1958, earning an education degree with majors in math and English and minors in health and physical education. During her summer breaks, she earned a master's degree in library science at Denver University, and upon completion of the degree, she returned to Valley City State and served as library director in 1962-63. Peggy then married Jack Wieland '61, and with her husband, she returned to farm life, raising nine children (all of whom attended VCSU). She returned to the VCSU library in 1984 until her retirement in 2007. Peggy is survived by two sisters, two brothers, and her children—sons Bill '86, Bob '94, Joe '98, and Louis '01, and daughters Naomi '89, Joanne '89, Mary '95, Carol '99, and Kathleen (who attended VCSU but earned her degree elsewhere)—along with a host of grandchildren.

## 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).

### 1995

James Anderson  
 Robin (Wood) Collins  
 Shannon Corbett  
 Michael Hoffmann  
 Wade Long  
 Cynthia Lute  
 Karmelle Medwid  
 Tracey Miller  
 Michael Mostad  
 Cara Peters  
 Geoffrey Santiago  
 Derek Thompson

### 1996

Ernest Clark  
 Cameron Croy  
 William Engel  
 Mark Helmsowski  
 Colin Hogue  
 Marlyn Keller  
 C. Kyle  
 Carol Ley

Lisa Mikkelson  
 Douglas Skarp  
 Robert Suko  
 Andrew Werkman

### 1997

Allison (Magnus) Bey  
 Ardell (McDonald)  
 Blueshield  
 Clayton Blueshield  
 Edward Brownshield  
 Bryan Carlson  
 Kevin Dauphinais  
 Daren Fech  
 Donna (Kastet-  
 McCann) Fontaine  
 Gregory Franck  
 Christopher Grainger  
 Jennifer (Malsam)  
 Hilborn  
 Cassandra (Coit)  
 Knutson  
 Paula (Schultz) Petersen

Jacqueline Petersen  
 Shane Steffes  
 Linda Thorn  
 Kathleen Wilde  
 Jill Zander

### 1998

Susan (Sherman) Clancy  
 Jason Cofer  
 William Cossette  
 Neil Daniels  
 Candace Danzey  
 Kelly Dyck  
 Angela Fessler  
 Robert Hanson  
 John Lulay  
 Charles Messall  
 Amie (Rhinhart) Olson  
 Sandra Olzweski  
 Penny (Keller) Redman  
 Samantha (Carter)  
 Richards  
 Daryl Van Hale

### 1999

Raimey Cayer  
 Victoria Chipoka  
 Vernon Davis  
 Bradley Kappel  
 Aaron Knutson  
 Carlton Linton  
 Stephanie (Perleberg)  
 Merrick  
 Dean Sproule  
 Laura (Voigt) Sproule

### 2000

Carol Anderson  
 Jana Buckner  
 Oscar Elizalde Grajeda  
 Tennille (Albertson)  
 Esch  
 Elizabeth Hauge  
 Aaron Huck  
 Todd Klusmann  
 Alyssa Martin  
 Ryan McGough

Nicole Mehus-Jensen  
 Kimberley Millar  
 Anne Smith  
 Travis Strobel  
 Laurel Valentine

### 2001

Jeffery Aarts  
 Dean Bosch  
 Melissa Carter  
 Deana (Bertges)  
 Cohagen  
 Chere Fuchs  
 Lucas Gudmestad  
 Kate Keating  
 Gary Leingang  
 Susan (Slone) Opp  
 Tessa (Rohrbach)  
 Perchinsky  
 Jill Ritchie  
 Cameron Scott  
 Tracy (Bouret) Vargas  
 Sergei Vasilyev

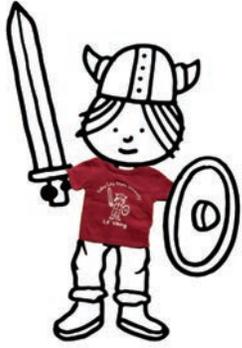
Joni Wieck  
 Lindsey Wilson

### 2002

Anna Barcis  
 Ellie Broman  
 Kimberly (Hehn)  
 Gooding  
 Alison Kohler  
 Luis Martinez  
 Marilyn Nelson  
 Martha Nieman  
 Matthew North

### 2003

Heather Curtis  
 Erin (Maitland) Draper  
 Eric Erickson  
 Alicia (Simonsen)  
 Godel  
 Kristina Hanson  
 Gyebi Kwarteng  
 Dana Lattimore



# 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).



**Harlyn Kraft**  
May 19, 2017  
6 pounds 1 ounce, 19 inches  
Brooke (Jodsaas) '13 and Calvin Kraft '11



**Hudson Michael Rogers**  
March 27, 2018  
8 pounds 4 ounces, 21 1/2 inches  
Joins sister Graecyn (6) Nicole and Derrick Rogers '08



**Mia Rose Nielsen**  
August 19, 2018  
8 pounds 4 ounces, 20 1/2 inches  
Joins sister Lux Amanda (McKay)\* and Nick Nielsen '07  
\* 2011 graduate of DCB nursing program on VCSU campus



**Garrett Wayne Hokana**  
February 19, 2018  
7 pounds 4 ounces, 20 inches  
Misty (Olds) '08 and Brandon Hokana



**Truett Michael Bichler**  
April 17, 2018  
7 pounds 10 ounces, 21 1/2 inches  
Wendy (Eszlinger) '15 and Michael Bichler '15



**Gentry Askegaard**  
February 1, 2018  
7 pounds 2 ounces  
Grandparents: Tammy and Stephen Dockter '72



**Jorie Lila Wald**  
June 19, 2018  
7 pounds 5 ounces, 20 3/4 inches  
Joins siblings Jameson (7) and Jase (5) Megan (Nodland) '07 and Mike Wald



**Gunther Ray Anderson**  
February 1, 2018  
8 pounds 10 ounces, 20 inches  
Jenna (McDowell) '15 and Alan Anderson



**Dreyken Dockter**  
December 23, 2017  
10 pounds 2 ounces  
Grandparents: Tammy and Stephen Dockter '72



**Grayson Eli Neville**  
May 12, 2018  
7 pounds 6 ounces, 21 1/2 inches  
Joins sisters Addison Rae and Kennedy Lyn Miranda (Beier) '11 and Clint Neville '11

## 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.



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