



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

THE BULLETIN

A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University

ISSUE 071658 | AUGUST 2021



A Legacy of Education

VCSU alumnus Dr. Allen Burgad to lead the Department of Education

Reflections from former Department Chair Dr. Larry Grooters

THE BULLETIN

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FEATURE STORY

Dr. Grooters and Dr. Burgad reflect on VCSU's education program

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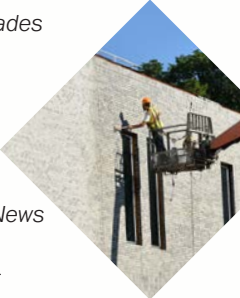
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Softball team hits it out of the park

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Cover: Photo of Dr. Grooters and Dr. Burgad by Kayla Elston



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Celebrating Students, Faculty Staff and Supporters

President Alan LaFave, D.M.A.

Our Viking family has had special moments for reflection and celebration during the past few weeks.



Recently, we gathered to recognize employees for years of service and special achievements at our annual employee recognition and retirement dinner.

More than 115 individuals were recognized for various awards. Those receiving recognition were responsible for an impressive 1,115 total years of service to VCSU! The eight retirees, as a group, represented 209 years of service!

We also had the opportunity to celebrate another annual tradition on May 21, 2021 – the VCSU Scholarship Auction at the Eagles Club in Valley City. The success of the auction was tremendous, and

resulted in the largest amount in auction history raised for student scholarships! We extend our deepest thanks to all who attended, donated items or services, participated in the silent auction, or participated by bidding and purchasing items in the live auction.

Our campus celebrated this month as we welcomed a new Dean for our School of Education to continue our legacy of inspiring teachers for North Dakota and beyond. Dr. Allen Burgad, a former VCSU student-athlete and alumnus, assumed his role in early June after previously serving as assistant superintendent for West Fargo Public Schools. We are lucky to have his expertise and happy that he has returned to VCSU.

Dr. Burgad will inherit a top-ranked elementary education program, according to rankings released by Study.com.

At last count, we have 1,438 alumni serving as licensed teachers, administrators and education

1,438

VCSU alumni serve as teachers, administrators and educational professionals in North Dakota

professionals at 336 schools and education units in 157 North Dakota communities. The impact our teachers have is astounding.

I'm also happy to report that VCSU students reported the highest level, or tied for the highest level of satisfaction, in each category in a recent NDUS system-wide report.

Students are our top priority. They must continue to be in order for us to be a successful university in the days and years ahead. We have outstanding faculty, staff, coaches and employees who are committed to student success and understand students are the reason we do this important work.

Go Vikings!

You, Your IRA, and the Valley City State University Foundation

Creative and Effective Financial Planning

- Establish a Life Estate of \$1,000,000 payable to the VCSU Foundation.
- Using your required annual minimum distributions, make annual payments of \$100,000 to the VCSU Foundation to honor the Life Estate Pledge Agreement.
- Take advantage of related tax implications.
- At the time of your death, the balance of the Life Estate is payable to the VCSU Foundation.

As always, we recommend you consult with your Tax Accountant to determine the impact on your personal tax situation.

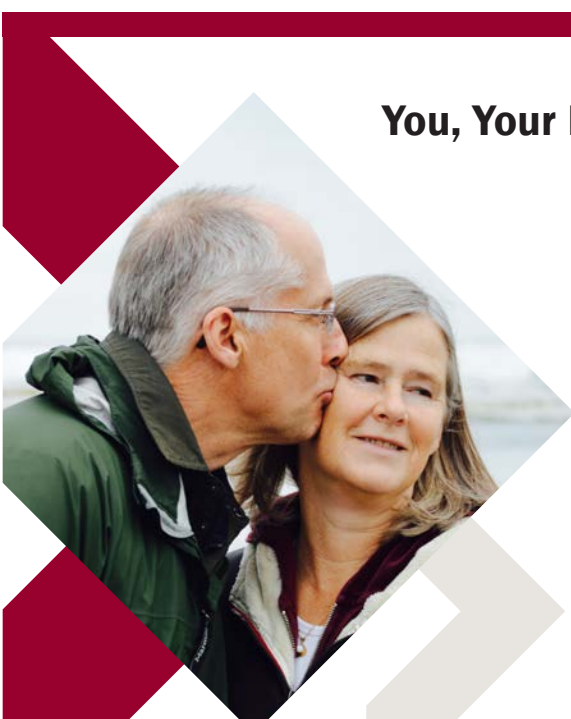
***Match your contribution on a 2-1 basis with the North Dakota Challenge Grant program.**



FOUNDATION ♦ ALUMNI
VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY



Contact the VCSU Foundation office for more information.
701.845.7203 | vcsugift.org



Better Together!

Kim Svenningsen-Hesch, '91

Asst. Director for University Advancement and Alumni Relations

Every spring we host the VCSU Scholarship Auction to raise scholarship dollars. This year, after not being able to hold it last spring, it was definitely the event of the season!

We are so thankful that we were able to have the fundraiser in May at the Valley City Eagles Club.

The scholarship auction is the single biggest event our office coordinates to generate scholarship dollars for the VCSU Foundation. Scholarships are vital to VCSU's success, and all proceeds from the auction go directly to V-500 and Century Club scholarships.

One change we made due to COVID was having a virtual silent auction. This gave alumni and friends, unable to attend, the opportunity to bid on certificates and VCSU-themed items.

Tickets to the auction sold out and more than 400 supporters attended the event. We are so grateful for the generous attendees who donated



more than \$100,000. This was a record for our event!

The VCSU Auction Committee thanks everyone who attended the Scholarship Auction, bought tickets, and donated items. We had another successful auction thanks to these folks' generosity.

Looking forward, don't forget that Homecoming festivities are scheduled October 1st and 2nd. Whether it's been one, five or 50 years since you last set foot on campus, I hope you will help us celebrate in all of our activities and events we have planned for Homecoming (See p. 20 for a complete schedule). It will be a trip down memory lane for some. For our younger alumni, you'll get a taste of what life was like in the "good ol' days" at VCSU.

Valley City State is very proud of its alumni, and we look forward to welcoming you home as we gather to celebrate!



ABOVE: Back Row l to r: Mitchell Silkman (Waite Park, Minn), Josh McKnight (New Rockford), Hunter Sand (Pekin), Jocelyn Braunberger (Rolette), Alex Sell (West Fargo), Sydney Soulis (Jamestown), Macey Kvilvang (Cando), Marshaun Jones (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Keaton Kvilvang (Cando), and Dustin Kasowski (Ayr). Front Row l to r: Maren Horner (Valley City), Bailey Heinert (Jamestown), Megan Billadeau (Bismarck), Clara Wieland (Dazey), Janessa Berrios (Watertown, S.D.), and Hannah Aberle (Valley City).

RIGHT: Erica (Bunn) Buchholz '10 showing off her rowing skills.



2021-2022 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

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Zach McBeain '15

FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE

Dave Bass '77

VICE PRESIDENT

Kendra Krueger '12

PAST PRESIDENT

Paul Keidel '86

BOARD MEMBERS

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Wendy (Reidman) Hogue '85

Robert Keller '89

Nicholas Lee '16

Paul Leier '85

Stacy Wendel-Monilaws '02

Tristan Ross '08

William Tyrrell '83

Brianna (Johnson) Walsh '16

2020-2021 VCSU Foundation Board of Directors

CHAIR

Mary Simonson

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Matt Pedersen

TREASURER

Jeff Nathan

SECRETARY

Dave Bass '77

BOARD MEMBERS

Ken Astrup '73

Kirsten Baesler, M.Ed. '10

Bob Bergan '82

DuWayne Bott '58

Ray Braun

Mark Finstad

George Gaukler '62

Gigi Goven

Dick Gulmon

Robert Horne '59

Dee Jensen '66

Josh Kasowski '05

Karsten Melgaard '03

Phillip Mueller '68

Mark Richman '74

Paul Sandness '76

Jerry A. Topp '74

Cory Anderson '89, *ex officio*

Alan LaFave, *ex officio*

Wesley Wintch, *ex officio*

Growth Over Time

The VCSU Foundation was founded in 1996. Robinson, left, was the first Executive Director of the Foundation. The asset base has grown significantly. The annual scholarship allocation has grown to a total of \$1,860,000.



Anderson to Lead Foundation Office

Cory Anderson, '89 to Lead University Advancement and Alumni Relations

The effort to engage alumni of Valley City State University has been led for the past 25 years by Larry Robinson, '71.

Starting July 1, things started to look a little different.

Cory Anderson, '89 has been selected to lead the VCSU Foundation Office. Anderson joined the staff a year ago as the Director of Development and Major Gifts.

"Cory is no stranger," Robinson said. "He grew up in McVile, N.D. and graduated from VCSU in 1989."

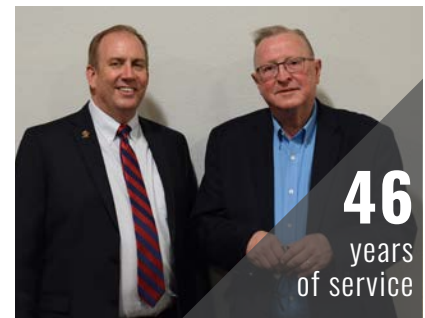
Anderson was active in football and baseball. He returned to VCSU for nearly 20 years working in the Enrollment Services Office and as assistant football coach and head baseball coach. Previously, Anderson was the commissioner of the North Star Athletic Association. He is married to Kristi (Tait) '93, and

they have two grown children, Brady and Kadie '19.

"Cory brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise to the position," Robinson said.

"We are excited to have Cory take on this new responsibility," he added. "Cory will be joining a very competent staff of Kim Hesch and Loree Morehouse. Kim and Loree are both VCSU alumni and have served with distinction in the Foundation Office for many years. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with both of them and have been very proud of their work and many accomplishments. They have been key members of our team and a big part of the success we have enjoyed over the years. The Foundation will be in good hands."

Cory, Kim and Loree, will be leading a strong and growing



Foundation built on successes over many years.

"I'm excited to continue to help support the hard work and engage our many volunteers, the Foundation Board of Directors, the V-500 Board of Directors, the Booster Board, the Alumni Association Board of Directors and our many donors," Anderson said.

To read more about Larry Robinson's new role, see Robinson to Lead Campaign on Page 6.



Continuing the Tradition of Excellence in Education

Dr. Alan Burgad prepares to lead VCSU's Department of Education. Dr. Larry Grooters shares his insights with the new campus leader.

The leading elementary education program in the nation has a new leader, but he is no stranger to Valley City State University.

Dr. Alan Burgad, '89, is taking the reigns of the education department to lead it into the future.

He is stepping into big shoes filled by many others, including his former college professor Dr. Larry "Buck" Grooters, '57.

"I knew him as a student before I knew him professionally; he is fantastic," Grooters said of Burgad.





"You can tell by the way he presents himself and what he knows about education; he is cut out of the same mold."

Grooters and Burgad met on campus to reminisce over the strides the education program has made and where it is headed.

DECADES OF PROGRESS

Grooters returned to VCSU in 1963 to teach Physical Education and coach under Bill Osmon. After 20 years he moved into the teacher education program and in 1982 was named chair of the Division of Education.

He led that department for a quarter of a century through numerous, visionary changes while remaining a force to be reckoned with in the classroom.

Dr. Allen Burgad remembers one of his first interactions with Dr. Grooters well. He and his fiancé happened to be taking the same class from Dr. Grooters in the late 1980s. One weekend, the couple had important plans.

"We actually got married over the weekend and came back on Monday," Burgad said. When Dr. Grooters asked the couple what they did over the weekend, they informed him of their nuptials.

"He couldn't believe we were back in class and we told him, 'That's how much we respect your class. We don't dare miss it,'" Burgad said laughing.

Since that time, Grooters has retired and Burgad has taught and served as an administrator in multiple schools including West Fargo, Stanley, Northern Cass, Napoleon, and Powder River County School District in Broadus, Montana.

When Burgad moved from Northern Cass, a smaller district, to one of the largest school districts in West Fargo as assistant superintendent, Dr. Grooters' son, Greg, was there to help him along. Dr. Greg Grooters '82, was the principal at Sheyenne High School, a large high school in the West Fargo school district.

Now, as the leader of VCSU's education department, he is poised to help educators prepare for the future.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

"I'm honored and humbled to lead this department," Burgad said. "There were quite a few people that had a great impact on me. The impact professors and faculty members like Dr. Grooters had on me, I felt compelled to come back and help others to have the opportunity to become educators."

In the school setting, Burgad witnessed the ever expanding legacy of VCSU's education department first hand by witnessing alumni teach and mentor.

"Our classroom teachers in the field are great," he said. "They are always willing to take on new young individuals and take them for field experience."

Burgad also noted the ever changing dynamics in the field of education.



Forward Together

VCSU, in partnership with supporters, is preparing for the future through the new Forward Together Capital Campaign.

Focusing on the Future

VCSU's focus on innovation, leadership, and best practices has been a hallmark of this institution. Ensuring the next generation of learners has access to a high-quality learning environment is the focus of the Forward Together campaign.



Larry Robinson '71 to Lead Effort to Move VCSU into the Future

I am so excited to announce that I will be taking on full time responsibilities with VCSU's Capital Campaign, Forward Together.

This is the first Capital Campaign in the history of Valley City State University. It is an exciting time at VCSU with all-time record enrollment growth and national recognition. I am convinced that this is our day and this is our time.

I am convinced that this is our day and this is our time.

I have the privilege of working with George Gaukler, Capital Campaign Chairperson, VCSU President Al LaFave, and our Campaign Task Force comprised of Dave Bass, Dick Gulmon, Phil Mueller, Ray Braun, Jill DeVries, Bob Bergan, Dennis McCulloch, and Cory Anderson.



The future is ours to create today!

For more information about how you can support this effort call Robinson at 701-845-7217.

Campaign Officially Launched



More than 100 people were present on Wednesday, July 21, in the Bubble to witness the official launch and announcement of gifts to date for VCSU's Forward Together campaign. The event included remarks from Dr. Alan LaFave, Athletic Director Jill DeVries and many other supporters of the campaign. Forward Together was launched in late 2020 and will raise more than \$25 million to support upgraded facilities for students, scholarships and other campus improvements.



BURGAD - Continued from Page 5

"Education is changing. There's no doubt about it and technology is one of the drivers and innovators of that," he said. "Students are learning differently now than they were a few decades ago."

Being aware of the changes in technology and in the classroom is important, but it all comes back to having strong faculty and strategic processes in place, Burgad explained.

"It's so important to involve the faculty in the design of a program," Burgad said.

Faculty in the education program have been recognized for leading the way locally, statewide and nationally. Earlier this year, VCSU was listed as having the top ranked elementary education program in the nation according to Study.com.

Although VCSU has a strong reputation, it is important that students going out into the field and working in school districts are prepared and excited to teach.

"People like Dr. Grooters and others built such a strong program," Burgad said. "Keeping the strong relationships that have been built with school districts is going to be a very important piece of our success."

Maintaining and building upon success is important, Burgad said, but at the end of the day it all boils down to relationships.

He knew that as a student, and even more so now as an administrator.

"I remember the kindness," Burgad said of his time as a student at VCSU. "Dr. Grooters made everyone feel comfortable and put you at ease in his classroom. You just enjoyed going to class."

Donors Recognized for Commitments to Valley City State

On Monday, June 14, the Valley City State University Foundation honored its donors who over the last two years have reached a new level of giving. The Foundation was unable to hold the event in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The event was held on the campus of Valley City State University in the Student Center cafeteria. This year's Recognition Luncheon drew over 100 attendees. Individuals and businesses were recognized for their continued support to the university through donations, volunteerism, and other efforts.

"...We could not succeed in our mission without their critical support. They epitomize the idea that we all row this ship."

During the luncheon, attendees heard campus updates from Mary Simonson, Foundation Board Chair, VCSU President Alan LaFave and Larry Robinson, executive director of the VCSU Foundation.

"We are so fortunate to have such wonderful supporters," LaFave said. "These donors have continued to show their commitment to our students and campus community. We could not succeed in our mission without their critical support. They epitomize the idea that we all row this ship."

Footbridge Level (top): President LaFave, Ray Braun and Mary Simonson

Legacy Society (second from top): President LaFave, John Hill and Mary Simonson

Legacy Society (third from top): President LaFave and Ray Braun

Gold Level (fourth from top): Back Row, from left: Gene and Noreen Smestad, Paul Sandness and President LaFave. Front Row, from left: Joseph Stickler, Dee Jensen, Matt Pedersen and Patricia Sandness.

Regent Level (bottom): Back Row, from left: Barry Lentz, President LaFave, Dave Carlsrud, Hilde van Gijssel, Jill DeVries, Wade Hesch, Dave Zeller, Bruce Babcock, Phillip Mueller and George Berger.

Front Row, from left: Pauline Lentz, Susan Carlsrud, Coleen Asche, Judy Ringdahl, Kim Svenningsen-Hesch, Karyn Babcock and Darlene Mueller.





Pedersen recognized for Service to Campus Community

During the Foundation's annual recognition event, the VCSU honored volunteers and supporters who have gone over and above for the University.

President LaFave recognized VCSU Foundation board member Matt Pedersen with the President's Distinguished Service Award. This special award is presented to individuals, not necessarily alumni, recognized for their strong support of the programs and goals of Valley City State University.

"Individuals like Matt help keep this University moving and growing every single day," LaFave said. "We appreciate all of the time, effort and energy given by our dedicated board members like Matt."

Donors recognized for reaching a new level of giving in the past two years

(July 2019 to June 2021)

Footbridge Level (\$500,000–\$999,999)

Ray Braun

Diamond Level (\$100,000–\$249,999)

Bergan Enterprises –
The Bob Bergan Family

Legacy Society

Ray Braun
John and Diane* Hill
Tisa and Bill Mason

* Deceased

Gold Level (\$50,000–\$99,999)

Bridge City Dentistry –
Ross & Caron Berg and
Josh & Tessa Lagein
George and Cindy* Berger
First Community Credit Union
Dee Jensen
Matthew and Jen Pedersen
Paul and Patricia Sandness
Gene and Noreen Smestad
Joseph Stickler and Diana Skroch

Regents Level (\$25,000–\$49,999)

Colleen and Ardean Aafedt
Coleen and Rick Asche
George and Cindy* Berger
Bruce and Karyn Babcock
Dave and Susan Carlsrud
Bill and Terry* Corwin
Jill and Holly DeVries
Jim and Paulette Dew
Wade and Kim Hesch
Robert* and Pauline Lentz
Phillip and Darlene Mueller
Dr. J. Dennis Nelson
Gerald* and Judy Ringdahl
Glen and Sharon Schmalz
Hilde E. van Gijssel
Dave Zeller



Your Gift Matched Your Impact Extended

Submit gift by **December 1, 2022** to increase your impact.

**JOIN THOSE WHO
HAVE ACCEPTED
THE CHALLENGE!**



Ray Braun - Valley City, N.D.



Judy Ringdahl - Oakes, N.D.



Gigi Goven, M.D. - Valley City, N.D.

“

This community and this university mean a lot to me.
It is a great feeling to be able to give something back.

– Ray Braun

”

NORTH DAKOTA CHALLENGE FUND MATCHING GRANT

The 2021 North Dakota legislature has again created a program to match funds donated to Valley City State University. VCSU has been allocated up to \$700,000 of matching dollars if the University can raise \$1,400,000 in private donations. The funds enhance more than 225 scholarship endowment funds.

Matching dollar pledges are allowed over a seven year period. Leveraging a portion of an estate to receive matching dollars is also available.

With a minimum \$5,000 endowment gift to VCSU through the VCSU Foundation, you may benefit from a North Dakota income tax credit equal to 40% of the charitable gift AND also qualify for your donation to be matched \$1 for every \$2 you give.

YOUR GIFT AMOUNT	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
State Match	\$2,500	\$12,500	\$25,000
TOTAL GIFT TO VCSU	\$7,500	\$37,500	\$75,000

NORTH DAKOTA ENDOWMENT GIFT CREDIT

The endowment credit allows individuals, businesses and financial institutions to give more, and have a greater impact on the state's quality of life. An endowment is a fund with the principal invested and remains intact in perpetuity. Only the interest is used to fund the scholarship allocation.

An individual may receive a 40% tax credit for contributions of \$5,000 or more (lump sum or aggregate in one year) to a qualified North Dakota endowment.

YOUR GIFT AMOUNT	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
N.D. State Income Tax Credit (40%)	-\$2,000	-\$10,000	-\$20,000
NET COST TO YOU	\$3,000	\$15,000	\$30,000

Your charitable gift can cost less and do more than ever before thanks to the North Dakota tax credit and challenge fund matching grant program! Please consider making a gift today. As always, this information is provided for educational purposes only. Please consult your own attorney, accountant or financial adviser for advice on your individual situation.

Learn more by emailing
alumni@vcsu.edu or
 calling (701) 845-7203.

Visit VCSUAlumni.org



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

**CHALLENGE
GRANT**

Golf Scramble Winners

1ST CHAMPIONSHIP

From left, Dick Gulmon, Ben Jacobson, Collin Hoss '20 and Mark Hoss won the annual Viking Scramble Golf Tournament.



1ST VIKING FLIGHT

From left, Wayne Little Eagle, JoDee Haugrud, Megan Haugrud and Joel Haugrud won the Viking Flight.



2ND CHAMPIONSHIP

From left, Derrick Rogers '08, Jared Lentz '19, Trevor Justesen '15 and Travis Ingstad took second place at the Vikings Scramble.



Sommerfeld Family Establish the Peggy Lee Music Scholarship

Myron '62 and Jenneice '67 Sommerfeld and their daughter Bonnie have established an endowment for student scholarships. The scholarship will be known as the Peggy Lee Music Scholarship.

Peggy Lee, one of North Dakota's treasures, was an American jazz and popular music singer, songwriter, composer, and actress over a career that spanned seven decades. She was born and raised in Wimbledon, N.D., and would have been 101 years old in May. Lee sang on Valley City's KOVC radio and had her first performance at the Valley City Eagles Club on New Year's Eve in 1936. The Barnes County Historical Museum is planning a fundraiser in September in her honor.

This scholarship will be awarded to students who are music majors and show an interest in jazz and the standards of the "Great American Song Book".

Employee Recognition



Teacher of the Year

Dr. Steven King (Right) was honored as the VCSU Teacher of the Year for 2020. Dr. Kevin Murphy was named the Teacher of the Year in 2021.



Student Advocates

Dr. Kelly LaFramboise, Director for Diversity and Inclusion, (Left) and Betty Tykwinski, Director of Health Services, (right) were honored as the VCSU Student Advocates for 2021. The Athletic Training Staff was also presented with this award by the Student Senate.



Faculty Excellence

Multiple faculty were recognized for excellence in their area of instruction. Pictured, from left: Angela Williams, Kenton Sandfoss, President LaFave, Angela Mircsov and Timothy Michaelson.

Honoring Retirees

The eight retirees honored during the recognition supper, as a group, represented 209 years of service to Valley City State University.



Preston Bush

25 years



Irene Groth

37 years



Rhonda Fairfield '09

40 years



Knut Peder Gjovik, '77

14 years



Gary Thompson

33 years



Ralph Hooper

41 years



5
years
of service

Employees recognized for years
of service during the evening
banquet contributed a total of

1,115
YEARS TO VCSU



10
years
of service



15
years
of service



20
years
of service



30
years
of service



25
years
of service



35
years
of service



40
years
of service

Fine Arts Calendar



Fall > 2021

Friday, Oct. 1

Ployhar Honor Band | All Day | Vangstad

Tuesday, Oct. 5

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | Froemke

Friday, Oct. 8

Fall Choral Showcase | 7:30 p.m. | Vangstad

Tuesday, Oct. 19

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | Froemke

Saturday, Oct. 23

Music Teachers National Assn. | All Day | Foss Hall

Tuesday, Nov. 2

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | Froemke

Friday, Nov. 5

Music Faculty Recital | 7:30 p.m. | Froemke

Saturday, Nov. 6

Solo Song Symposium | All Day | Vangstad

Tuesday, Nov 16

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | Froemke

Friday, Nov. 19

Fall Instrumental Concert | 7:30 p.m. | Vangstad

Tuesday, Nov 30

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | Froemke

Thursday, Dec. 2

Christmas at St. Catherine's | 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 2

EDC Music Contest | Fine Arts Performance Hall

Saturday Dec. 11

EBC Alumni "We're in the Christmas Mood" | Vangstad

Saturday, Dec. 11

CSA Recital | 10 a.m. | Froemke

Spring > 2022

Friday, Feb. 18

Instrumental Concert | 7:30 p.m. | Performance Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 22

General Student Recital | 11 a.m.

Friday, March 4

Mid-Winter Choral Concert | 7:30 p.m. | Performance Hall

Tuesday, March 8

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | TBA

Monday, March 14

Region 2 Vocal Contest | Fine Arts Building

Tuesday, March 22

General Student Recital | 11 a.m.

Thursday, March 31

Region 2 Instrumental Contest | Fine Arts Building

Tuesday, April 5

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | TBA

Wednesday, April 6

Region 5 Music Contest | Fine Arts Building

Friday, April 8

Music Faculty Recital | 7:30 p.m. | Performance Hall

Tuesday, April 19

General Student Recital | 11 a.m.

Friday, April 29

Spring Instrumental Concert | 7:30 p.m. | Performance Hall

Friday, May 6

Spring Choral Showcase | 7:30 p.m. | Performance Hall

Saturday, May 14

CSA Recital | 1 p.m. | Performance Hall

For a complete calendar visit [VCSU.edu](https://www.vcsu.edu)

Center for the Arts Update

Building Set to Open by January 2022

Dry weather has helped construction efforts on the \$32 million Center for the Arts progress quickly throughout the summer.

Construction began in the summer of 2020 and is set to be completed by December 2021.

The building includes musical performance and practice spaces, a ceramics lab, studios for recording, producing, painting, printmaking, drawing, a digital photography studio, digital design lab and a woodshop. It will also include an art gallery.



Progressing construction on the Center for the Arts

AT A GLANCE

Building the New Center for the Arts

IN THE
PERFORMANCE HALL
ALONE



40 - 12" thick wall panels
weighing 2,682,600 lbs.

IN THE
WHOLE BUILDING



8 acres
of sheetrock



11.74
miles
of electrical
conduit



851
light
fixtures



242
tons
of steel



65,000
hours
worked as of
June 25, 2021



I N S I D E ATHLETICS

vcsuvikings.com



vcsuvikings

Jill DeVries Athletic Director

We are the Vikings – a successful NAIA athletics program that does more with less than perhaps any program in the country.



We all know that athletics plays many important roles on campus. Attending games, tailgating and celebrating championships are integral to the “traditional” college experience our students seek, and supporting the Vikings builds community and camaraderie among students, faculty, alumni and the local community.

Successful athletics also promotes the University to the state and region. And the Vikings have certainly been doing their part—winning conference titles, qualifying for national tournaments and meets, and celebrating individual

successes by earning All-American and All-Conference status.

We’ve embarked on our first ever capital campaign at VCSU and the majority is for athletic facility upgrades.

Upgrades to our training and competition facilities will allow us to continue to recruit and retain the most talented student athletes and carry the VCSU Vikings banner to even greater heights. We seek your financial support to meet our goal to Engage, Educate and Elevate the next generation of VCSU Vikings.

Alumni continue to share their stories about their VCSU education and experience with me. It is the place where they made lifelong connections with friends, faculty and staff; where they learned to think beyond themselves; and where they were encouraged to question and stretch their minds and hearts to reach their full potential.

The ambitions in Viking athletics will always outpace VCSU’s resources. Our commitment to

setting high athletic and academic standards of excellence, being a leader in providing opportunity at a price that is affordable, and our faculty and staff’s commitment to innovation in teaching and learning, means we must rely on a combined passion for public education with a spirit of philanthropy.

In our current weight room there is a sign that says “Nobody rides this Viking ship. We All Row.”

The responsibility of “We All Row” is never ending – but it should not be intimidating. It requires only the values, the talent, the generosity, and the vision for VCSU that we have always had. And, collectively, I believe we can reach our goal and build the much-needed addition to the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse.

I invite you to join us in our vision and promise to the next generation of VCSU Vikings. Why? Because we wouldn’t be where we are today without the support that matches the determination, talent and ambition we’ve seen for decades at VCSU.



2019
Ag Bowl Win

VCSU Ag Bowl set for Aug. 26

Valley City State University and First Community Credit Union are teaming up to present the 3rd Annual VCSU Ag Bowl on Thursday, Aug. 26.

The event is planned around VCSU’s season-opening football game against rival University of Jamestown.

Ag Bowl festivities, presented by First Community Credit Union, will start at 5 p.m. with a free meal, pre-game tailgating and numerous fun activities.

At 7 p.m., the VCSU football team kicks off the 2021 season against University of Jamestown in the annual Paint Bucket rivalry game. Tickets for the game are available at the stadium: \$8 for adults and \$4 for students. All Ag Bowl sponsors also have free tickets to give away to their customers.

AG BOWL - Continued on Page 17

2021

FOOTBALL

SCHEDULE

Aug. 26
U. of Jamestown
7 p.m.

Sept. 4
@ Concordia
1 p.m.

Sept. 18
Waldorf*
1 p.m.

Sept. 25
@ Iowa
Wesleyan*
1 p.m.



Oct. 2
Mayville State*
2 p.m.

Oct. 9
@ Presentation*
6 p.m.

Oct. 16
@ Dakota State*
4 p.m.

Oct. 23
Dickinson State*
3 p.m.

Oct. 30
@ Waldorf*
1 p.m.

Nov. 6
Dakota State*
2 p.m.

Nov. 20
NAIA Playoffs
1st Round

* Conference Game



Softball Wins 2nd Straight Conference Championship

The Vikings rolled through the 2021 North Star Athletic Association regular season with a dominating 25-2 conference record to claim the title.

The Vikings held a 17-game win streak heading into the postseason and were ranked as high as No. 26 in the NAIA Top 25 Coaches' Poll. VCSU fell to Dickinson State in the NSAA Tournament Championship and was not selected for an at-large bid to the NAIA National Tournament despite its 35-7 overall record.



Valley City State swept the major postseason conference awards as Mark Mattson was named Coach of the Year, senior Emily Smith was selected as Pitcher of the Year, and freshman Makenzee Stone was named Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year.

Emily Smith was also named Honorable Mention All-American after going 21-3 in the circle with three no-hitters, nine shutouts and a 1.21 ERA. Smith set two new school records with 67 career wins and 601 career strikeouts. She finished the season with 228 strikeouts in 145 innings and averaged 11 strikeouts per game. Smith

also topped the national rankings after holding opponents to a .122 batting average.

Makenzee Stone was named NSAA Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year after leading the North Star with a .444 batting average. She also held a .690 slugging percentage and a .500 on-base percentage. The freshman from Blaine, Minn. totaled 56 hits, 10 doubles, three triples and five home runs this season. She scored 40 runs and drove in 36 for the Vikings this season.

Valley City State totaled nine All-Conference selections and two NSAA Gold Glove recipients in 2021.

SOFTBALL - Continued on Page 19

AG BOWL - Continued from Page 16

The VCSU Ag Bowl is a way to recognize and honor those that work in or with the agriculture industry – an important part of the Barnes County and North Dakota economy.

“This event is a small way for us to say ‘thank you’ to farming families and members of the ag industry,” said DeVries. “Agriculture is such a huge part of our economy and our local culture, and we’re excited to partner with First Community Credit Union to once again celebrate and promote it with our 3rd annual Ag Bowl.”

SPORTS RECAP



Co



Odegard

Two All-Americans for Viking Track & Field

Valley City State's Zachary Co and Kyle Odegard both finished Top 5 in the nation during the outdoor track and field season, earning NAIA All-American honors.

Odegard, a junior from Lisbon, N.D., placed third in men's javelin at the NAIA National Championships, recording a top throw of 61.97 meters (203 feet, 3 inches). It is the third straight season that Odegard has earned All-American after placing seventh, fourth and now third in the nation during his first three years at VCSU.

Co, a junior from El Paso, Texas, set a new school record in men's shot put as he placed fifth at the NAIA National Championships. His top throw of 17.54 meters (57 feet, 6.5 inches) broke the old school record (17.35 meters) held by Darien Moore.

The Viking track and field team won five individual conference championships during the outdoor season. Odegard and senior Peyton Halverson won the men's and women's javelin titles; Co won men's shot put; senior Allyssa Weitkum closed out her career with a conference title in the 3,000 meter steeplechase; and sophomore Brooke Malsom won the long jump title.

Malsom (100 meters, 200 meters) and Weitkum (3,000 steeplechase) also set new school records during the season.

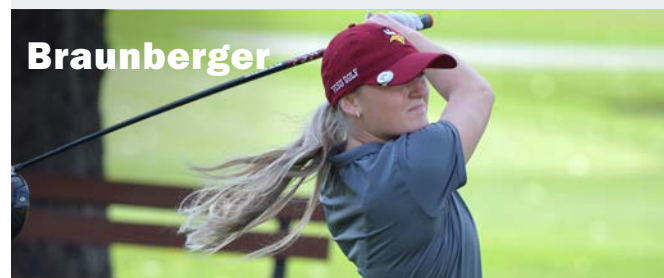
Two Vikings earn All-Conference in golf

Jocelyn Braunberger and Rory Gentzkow both earned Honorable Mention All-Conference for the Viking golf teams this spring.

Braunberger placed 10th at the NSAA Women's Golf Championships, and Gentzkow placed 14th in the men's tournament.

Braunberger won four individual medalist honors during the 2020-21 season and had five Top 5 finishes. Gentzkow was runner-up at two tournaments this season and finished with seven Top 5 finishes.

As a team, VCSU's women won two events. Both the Viking men and women placed fifth out of six teams at the NSAA Championships.



Braunberger

Viking baseball team smashes home run record

Valley City State's baseball team went on a power barrage during the 2021 season, smashing the school record with 80 home runs over 49 games.

The Vikings finished the season with a 23-26 overall record and went 14-9 in conference play to finish third in the North Star Athletic Association standings. VCSU's season came to an end on day three of the NSAA Conference Tournament.

Valley City State's 80 total home runs broke the old school record of 56 home runs set back in 1988. This year's power surge was punctuated on Senior Day

when the Vikings hit 12 home runs in a doubleheader sweep of Presentation College. Senior Jorun Hamre broke the individual season home run record as well, going deep 18 times during the 2021 season. The old school record of 14 was held by Bryan Swaenepoel (2001) and Stacy Fitterer (1989).

Shortstop David Demeter (14 home runs) and outfielder Dustin Mertz (10) both reached double-digit home runs this season as well, and 14 different players contributed to the record total.

Hamre was named NSAA Co-Player of the Year and earned Honorable Mention All-American



after his record-setting season. He batted .362 with 18 home runs and 51 RBIs. He ranked eighth in the nation in home runs per game.

Hamre, Mertz and outfielder JT Reed were named 1st Team All-Conference, while Demeter, outfielder Gedeon Ellis and pitcher Phillip Almanza were named 2nd Team All-Conference. Pitchers William Hlady and Tyler Kliniske earned Honorable Mention All-Conference.

2021 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

<p>Aug. 23 @ U. of Mary (Exhibition) 7 p.m.</p> <p>Aug. 27-28 @ Firestorm Tournament Phoenix</p> <p>Sept. 2-3 @ Bellevue Tournament - Omaha</p> <p>Sept. 10-11 @ Dickinson State Crossover</p> <p>Sept. 15 @ Dickinson State* 7 p.m.</p> <p>Sept. 17 @ U. of Jamestown 7 p.m.</p> <p>Sept. 19 Briar Cliff 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Sept. 24 Waldorf* 7 p.m.</p> <p>Sept. 25 Viterbo* TBA</p> <p>Sept. 26 Morningside 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Oct. 2 @ Bellevue* 2 p.m.</p> <p>Oct. 3 @ Dakota State*</p> <p>Oct. 6 Mayville State* 7 p.m.</p> <p>Oct. 9 Presentation* 3 p.m.</p> <p>Oct. 12 Dickinson State* 7 p.m.</p> <p>Oct. 13 @ Concordia 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Oct. 18 U. of Jamestown 7 p.m.</p> <p>Oct. 22 Bellevue University* 6 p.m.</p> <p>Oct. 23 Dakota State* TBA</p> <p>Oct. 29 @ Waldorf* 7 p.m.</p> <p>Oct. 30 @ Viterbo* TBA</p> <p>Nov. 3 @ Mayville State* 7 p.m.</p> <p>Nov. 6 @ Presentation* TBA</p> <p>Nov. 12-13 NSAA Championships</p>
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* Conference Match

SOFTBALL - Continued from Page 17

First Team All-Conference selections include Emily Smith, Amber Stewart, Makenzee Stone, Riley Perryman, Jessica Husband, Autumn Perry, and Marissa Hawkins. Earning Second Team All-Conference were Joelle Aiello and Anne-Elise Gest, and Aiello and Stone each earned an NSAA Gold Glove award. Aiello also set a new school record, becoming the all-time hits leader with 238 career hits.

The Vikings finished the season ranking in the Top 10 in several categories nationally, including RBIs per game (7.024), runs per game (7.738), slugging percentage (.567), opponent batting average (.186), batting average (.360), home runs per game (1.048), doubles per game (1.976) and fielding percentage (.970).



- VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY - HOMECOMING 2021

The VCSU Alumni Association invites you to join alumni and friends of VCSU for many of the activities we have planned for Homecoming this year!

> SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

39th Annual Bill Osmon Fun Run | 4 p.m. | Lokken Stadium

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

Alumni Welcome Back Ice Cream Social | 2:30 p.m. | Student Center

Campus Tours | 3 p.m. | Student Center

Hall of Fame Social | 5 p.m. | Valley City Eagles

Hall of Fame Banquet & Ceremony | 6 p.m. | Valley City Eagles

Banquet tickets (\$20 each) are available by contacting the VCSU Foundation at 701-845-7403.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Alumni Honors Breakfast | 8:30 a.m. | Student Center

Tickets for the breakfast will be available at the door and are \$10 each.

VCSU Bookstore Open | 8 a.m. – noon | Student Center

Homecoming Parade | 10:30 a.m. | Central Avenue

Viking Tailgating | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Lokken Stadium

Vikings vs. Mayville State University | 2 p.m. | Shelly Ellig Field

Postgame and All-Alumni Social | 5 p.m. | Valley City Eagles

No charge to attend this event. (There will be a taco bar set up for attendees and a no-host bar.)

College Student and Alumni Dance | 9 p.m. | Valley City Eagles

> HOF INDUCTEES

2020-2021

Jeff Pederson '83

FOOTBALL

Teri (Loe) Cresap '86

SOFTBALL/WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Kyle Bauer '93

GOLF

Matt Johnson '94

GOLF

Mike Tenuto '76

FOOTBALL

Tom Klapp '05

BASEBALL

Men's Golf Teams

1990-1991

> HONORED ALUMNI

2020-2021

Young Alumni Achievement Awards

Mary Burchill '03

Brady Larson '04

Matthew Nielson '06 M.Ed. '17

Mark Rerick '01

Alumni Service Awards

Loree (Meyer) Morehouse '89

Doug Schindele '87

Bill Tyrell '83

Certificate of Merit Recipients

Stephen "Doc" Dockter '72

Justin Klein '04

Abbey Kochel '05

Michael Lentz '88

Dianne Moser '73

Bruce Scheie '71

Kim (Rehovsky) Schneider '80

Larry Wicks '66



For up-to-date schedules and more information, visit VCSU.edu/homecoming or call 701-845-7203.



2021 Spring Commencement



Vikings on the Move

CLASS OF 1958

Elvie (Johnson) Jones '58 is retired. Her granddaughter-in-law to be, **Hailey Kallenbach '18** is a teacher in Fessenden, N.D.

Darlene (Popp) Zabel '58 lost her husband, **Vinton Zabel '58**, in May 2021. He had contacted COVID in December, 2020, and lost his battle in May. He had been in education for 36 years.

CLASS OF 1960 & 1961

Dick '61 and **Marj (Smith) '60 Stiles** will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 28. They have three children, two boys and one daughter. Dick was a three sport athlete at VCSU and Marj was a cheerleader for football and basketball. For the past 50 years they lived in Estacada, Oregon.

CLASS OF 1963

Curtis Ghylin '63 and his wife, Betty, moved to Sauk Rapids in 1973 and have been there ever since. Curtis retired from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities in 2003 and has kept busy in the St. Cloud area volunteering at places like the Veterans Administration Health Care System hospital. Their three children and their families all live in Minnesota and all have undergraduate degrees from St. Cloud State University. As he gets older, he is reminded of the importance of a college (university) like VCSU that gave a young man from Wing, N.D., an opportunity to earn a degree. Thanks to Valley City State.

Janice (Hendrickson) Van De Kerckhove '63 taught in Hope and Grand Forks before she earned her B.S. at Central Missouri State in Warrensburg. The following years, until she retired after 36 years in East Grand Forks in 2008, she had the privilege of teaching in Missouri and Wisconsin. She substitute taught two years in Boulder, Colo., where the bilingual school was her favorite. Since retiring, she subbed 10 years in Fargo at Discovery Middle School and Davies High School. While living in Grand Forks, she had close ties with UND for supervising student teachers and being employed at UND's Child Evaluation and Treatment Program for two summers. She earned her Masters of Education by taking courses evenings and summers. Janice enjoyed being part

of her son's music education and music career. Steve performs and gives lessons in Colorado Springs. His daughter, Zoe, is her only grandchild. Every day she's thankful for the caring, well-educated people where her education began. VCSC was a great place for a North Dakota farm girl!

CLASS OF 1964

Bob Bender '64 says his summer has been very interesting so far. COVID has taken its toll; Bob has had his shots and has not gotten COVID, but human contact is disguised behind masks and distance. His plans to return to North Dakota are on hold for now. Bob has hit the 81 milestone and is amazed at that feat. He says life is good and he stays busy gardening, checking out the fishing hole and trying to keep the brain active.

Gary Frandson '64 and his wife, Mary, are retired and live in Marshall, Minn. They spend their winters in Maricopa, Ariz. Gary retired from Southwest Minnesota State University after teaching in the business education department for 40 years. Mary taught elementary education for 30 years.

Roland '64 and **Carol (Leetun) '64 Penfield** are enjoying retirement from teaching. Roland has been retired 25 years while Carol has enjoyed 20. They live in Staples, Minn., and have a cabin on Rush Lake near Perham and spend time in Texas during the winter months. Rollie enjoys golf and hunting. They are both healthy and enjoying life. Rollie and Carol have two grandkids in Brainerd which they actively follow.

CLASS OF 1966

Harry '66 and **Vera (Ringsaker) '61 Grammond** are enjoying retirement in Grey Eagle, Minn., where they have lived since 1967. They would enjoy hearing from their VCSU friends.

John '66 and **Verna (Triebold) '66 Manstrom** celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on June 17. John retired after 30 years with Delta Air Lines. Verna retired from teaching and book store owner; her passion now is tennis. Their daughter and son-in-law and three grandchildren live close to them in Atlanta and Carolina. The two oldest grandchildren will be a senior and freshman at USC in Columbia, S.C.



Pat (Landsberger) Stein '66 retired on May 20, 2021, after 55 years of teaching. She noted "retirement doesn't seem real yet as school is out for the summer. Fall will be the time when retirement sinks in. I

know I won't be home the first day of school as I live across the street from school."

CLASS OF 1968

Phil Mueller '68 is proud to have his granddaughter, Grace Mueller, attend VCSU this fall. She is also a recipient of the McCready Scholarship!

Bill Vossler '68 has been a full-time freelance writer for 39 years and has published more than 3,800 articles in 248 magazines, along with 16 books, and is just finishing his memoirs of growing up in Wishek, N.D. tentatively titled *Young Once Only: The Search for My Father, and the Meaning of Life*, and will publish it in mid-to-late 2021.

CLASS OF 1970

Lora (South) (Beck) Cain '70 retired from teaching Grades K-2 in 2011. After their son graduated from high school in 2013, she and her husband, Bill, and their children moved to south central Pennsylvania. Lora helps her husband with his business, LAZERDAZ, doing lazer engraving and sublimation projects and attending various craft shows. Their youngest son will be a junior in high school this fall; he also studies computer programming at the adjoining technology center. Lora and Bill recently took a short trip to Parris Island, S.C., to attend their older son's graduation from marine corps boot camp.

Mary (Herding) Tehle '59 and **'70** is enjoying retirement and travel. She is glad the lockdown and pandemic is easing up.

CLASS OF 1971

David '71 and **Connie (Schmidt) '72 Challey** are retired and live on Lake Elsie, Hankinson, N.D. They are neighbors with **Bruce '76** and **Cyndi (Levi) '77 Stein** and **Al '71** and **Gisela (Kohn) '71 Cruchet** and are all living the retired good life. They invite you to stop and say hi when they are not fishing, golfing and pontooning. Some adult drinks are consumed on Friday evening in Challey's garage.

CLASS OF 1972

Carol (Strand) Foth '72 and her husband, Larry, celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 12, 2021. They have lived in Valley City for 46 of those 50 years and have no intention of leaving the beautiful town of Valley City. Due to conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, they will be having their actual celebration in the fall of 2021.

CLASS OF 1975

Brenton Higdem '75 moved to Milnor, N.D., and taught music following graduation. He left teaching and moved to Bismarck where he re-entered the military and went to the University of Mary to receive his nursing degree. Brenton worked for a few years at St. Alexius and Med Center One in Bismarck. He was recruited to Pine Bluff, Arkansas to assist in setting up the open heart surgery program. Following his nursing degree he was commissioned in the U.S. Army Reserve and when he moved to Arkansas he was appointed as the commander of a field hospital. His unit was activated for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Upon returning home, Brenton received his Master's from the University of Mary in 1994 and moved from Pine Bluff to Little Rock where he took part in a research of an individual that had open heart surgery. Brenton later became the supervisor of the cardiology department of the Central Arkansas Veterans Hospital Service. He was deployed to Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in February of 2003 and returned in April of 2004. He was initially stationed in Germany and later back and forth from Germany to the United States at Walter Reed Hospital. In 2006, Brenton retired from the U.S. Army with 39.5 years of military service. He began attending Emory Theological Seminary in Georgia for the ministry and in 2011 was appointed to his first church in Little Rock. He retired in 2020. Since then he has been working part time as an associate pastor and believes that this will be his last year. Brenton is married to his beautiful wife of 28 years and they have four children and six grandchildren. He thinks of his years at VCSC and loves the time and fellowship he had while he was there. "Thank you for the good and some not so smooth times, and they will continue to live within me forever."

CLASS OF 1976

Jerry Reinisch '76 and his wife, Laurie, reside in Bismarck, N.D. Laurie retired after 43 years at Sanford ICU and is loving retirement. Jerry is a fish & wildlife biologist with USFWS Ecological Services.

Debby (Meier) Miedema lives in Sarasota, FL as does **Darryl Miedema '76**. Although divorced, they remain good friends and share great times with their two married children

who also live in Sarasota. Debby started in the insurance business in Valley City. After leaving, Debby started her own insurance sales and marketing company back in 1986. The company has grown to do business in almost all states and of which, her son has become her partner. She loves Florida but does enjoy returning to North Dakota for summer breaks.

CLASS OF 1977

Joan (Kapaun) Halland '77 has officially retired from Kindred High School! Cheers to her! Joan was an English teacher for over 40 years; she also coached JV and JH GBB; coached boys and girls track, and was an assistant for the one-act play. She was the English department chair and served on several committees while she was at the school. For most of her teaching career, Joan worked continually in the English curriculum area. She and her husband, Steve, live in Kindred; their daughter **Erin Halland '05** works at the Open Door Center in Valley City and she (and her boyfriend) live in Marion, N.D. Joan has just been elected to the Kindred School board for a two year term, and she is fairly excited about that new venture in her life.

Brenda (Cole) Lang '77 is enjoying retirement and spending time watching grandkids grow. She says life is good.

CLASS OF 1979

Donn '79 and Kristi (Froeber) Frahm '80 are both retired, Donn in October 2020 from Farmers Union Insurance after almost 41 years with the company and Kristi in 2014 after teaching high school English for 30 years. Donn and Kristi moved to Alexandria, Minn., in the fall of 2020 to be closer to family. Their daughter, Whitney, is married to Brice Anderson. They have two children, ages 3 and 5, and live in Shoreview, Minn. Their son, Kendall, lives in Aberdeen, S.D., and is engaged to be married in 2022.

Holly (Werner) Holinka '79 retired in May after teaching 42 years at South Heart, N.D. It was the first and only teaching job Holly has had. She has taught generations of families including children, their children and even their grandchildren. Some of her former students are even her fellow teachers.

Jim Trett '79 and his wife Jennifer have three grown children. David, 41, lives in Nashville and owns and operates several coffee shops called the Red Bicycle. He invites you to stop in for some great goodies and would love to see some former Vikings. Lindsey, 31, lives in Edina and is doing great, and Justin, 27, lives in Fort Collins and works at Scheels. Jim is in his 43rd year teaching at Sioux Falls Washington and Jennifer is in her 29th year at Wells Fargo. They have two grandchildren,

Olivia, 11, and Jackson, just born, in Nashville. Jim says "VCSU we love the red and blue. If in Sioux Falls give us a call."

CLASS OF 1980

Richard Henry '80 started his teacher retirement in June of 2020 at the same place he started his teaching career in August of 1980. After 40 years of teaching science and coaching track and cross country at Larimore (N.D.) High School, it was time to relax. Richard and Heidi have four boys, three grandsons, two step-grandkids, and their first granddaughter was born the end of August. Even with COVID rules, they managed a little traveling over the past year and hope to do more this year.

CLASS OF 1982

Joan (Batesole) John '82 is still in the radio business where she has been for 37 years. She enjoys her job. Joan recently lost her husband of nearly 40 years. She enjoys time at the lake and her cat, Disney!

CLASS OF 1984

Cindy (Larson) Running '84 and her husband, Randy, live in Wilmington, Ohio, where they raised their three sons. She worked in the Clinton-Massie School District as a teacher, athletic director and principal for the past 20+ years. Cindy hopes to retire in a year.

CLASS OF 1992



Tim Goetz '92 and his wife, Carla, live in the twin cities where Tim works as a real estate agent. When not working, they love to travel and explore new areas. They always love hearing from fellow Vikings on Facebook. Go Vikings!

CLASS OF 1998

Max Miranda '98 retired from law enforcement on March 1, 2021 and his career came to an end after 23 years of dedicated service! He is now a behavior redirector with Albuquerque Public Schools. His wife is a registered nurse for the New Mexico Department of Health. They have two children, son Jacob is a senior at Sandia High School and possibly a future Viking, and daughter Jayden is a sophomore at Sandia High School and competes in gymnastics for Albuquerque Gymnastics School.

CLASS OF 2005



Shaun Willams '05 moved to Oklahoma City and started a career in the Oil & Gas Industry working for the largest drilling company in the US. He met his wife, Amber, in 2009 in Oklahoma

City and they were married in 2011. They made multiple moves to Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, The Kingdom of Bahrain, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma. They were blessed with two daughters, Etta Cline, 7, and Basie Marin (now 5 years old). In 2018, the family relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area and Williams started with Abbott Laboratories, a Cardiovascular Medical Device Manufacturing Facility. Williams helped grow the Mitra-Clip Product line, the world's first transcatheter mitral valve repair (TMVr) therapy. More than 100,000 patients worldwide have been treated with MitraClip therapy. In March of 2021, Williams moved to Indianapolis, Indiana with Abbott. The family loves to travel, meet new friends, and play with their GoldenDoodle named Moose. Williams has also coached and competed in Crossfit for the last 10 years! Go Vikings!

CLASS OF 2006

Greta (Trader) Schweitzer '06, M.Ed. '11 and Luke Schweitzer were married Oct. 18th, 2019 in Dickinson, N.D. They welcomed their first child Benedict Keith Schweitzer on May 24, 2020. Greta teaches for Dickinson Public Schools and worked as the online first grade teacher for the district. In the fall of 2021, she will be moving to first grade at Lincoln Elementary in Dickinson. Luke recently opened a coffee shop in Dickinson called Market Press Coffee Company. Luke and Greta are expecting their second child, a little girl, in September 2021.

CLASS OF 2007

Lacey Anderson '07 and Timothy Blaufuss were married Oct. 3, 2020. Lacey is a behavioral health therapist on the Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit and Timothy is a pediatric gastroenterologist, both at Sanford. They reside in Fargo, N.D. with their basset hound, Gus.

CLASS OF 2008



Derrick Bopp '08 accepted a job in Valley City in July of 2019 as the director of the Sheyenne Valley Area Career and Technology Center. Derrick took over this position from his father, **Jeff**

Bopp '99, who was the previous director. In the summer of 2020, Derrick and his family moved to Valley City from Arthur, N.D. and in January of 2021 Derrick's wife, Rachel, accepted a position at VCSU as the administrative and assessment assistant for the School of Education. Derrick and Rachel have two kids- (Twins!) Brody and Victory who turned 8 years old in July and will be in the 3rd grade this fall. Derrick and Rachel bought a house in January located south on the Kathryn road and are currently renovating the property and hope to move into it this summer. Attached is a picture of the Bopp family on their Arizona trip this last February.

CLASS OF 2010

Clay '10 and Ashley (Paquin) M.Ed. '15 Johnson made the move to Northwood, N.D. Clay is the principal at Dakota Prairie High School in Petersburg and Ashley is the 8-12 English teacher in Northwood. They have two children, Maudie (4) and Jack (2).

Jessica Magnuson M.Ed. '10 was named the Fargo Public Schools 2021 Teacher of the Year.

CLASS OF 2011

Abigail (Tews) Koropatnicki '11 and her husband, Ryan, live outside of Jamestown, N.D. Abigail is employed with Jamestown Public Schools as a Title I teacher at Roosevelt Elementary; she has been in this position going on 10 years. She is very proud to have graduated from VCSU and be a part of a great tradition! She and Ryan have been married for six years and they have four daughters, Adylan (10), Evylan (6), Emersyn (3) and Cicely (3). Again, very proud to be a VIKING!!

CLASS OF 2012



Taylor Nelson '12 lives in Elk River, Minn., with his wife, Traci, and two children, Gunnar (3) and Georgia (8 months). Taylor teaches 2nd grade in Ramsey, Minn. at Brookside Elementary.

Jessica (Hall) Schuler '12 was the very first online music degree student at VCSU. She went on to earn a masters in clarinet performance from Northwestern State University in 2014. She currently works for VCSU as the online music coordinator. Jessica and her family currently live in Omaha, Neb., but are moving back to Shreveport, La., this summer. Her husband is a major in the Air Force. They have three kids; Catherine is 6 and going into first grade, James is 4 and going into pre-K, and Charlotte is 8 weeks.

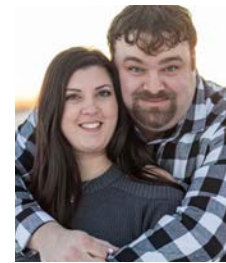
CLASS OF 2013

Cy '13 and Ali (Jenson) '11 Kirsch moved back to N.D. in 2019 after spending several years around Dallas, Texas. They now live in Fargo with their three children. Cy is a software engineer at Bushel, and Ali teaches elementary music in Moorhead ISD.

CLASS OF 2014

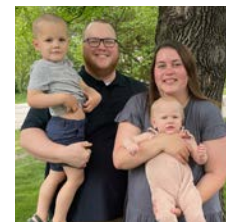
Pauline Schmidt '14 and her husband live in Jamestown and Pauline works from home. Pauline and her husband were in Minot for almost a year where she was a supervisor at the post office. After long hours and being unappreciated she found the WFH position and they moved closer to their grandchild.

CLASS OF 2015



Stephanie Fettig '15 taught 4th grade for four years then took a break for a year. She is currently teaching kindergarten readiness at the YMCA in Bismarck and is loving it! Their

smiling faces and sweet innocence brings Stephanie to work everyday. Stephanie is excited to be getting married in October.



Aerika (Wald) Trappen '15 is currently living in Wahpeton, N.D., with her husband, Sam, son, Jett (3), and daughter, June (1). Aerika teaches kindergarten at

Fairmount Public School and is working on her Masters through VCSU online. She loves being a VCSU alum and student at the same time!

CLASS OF 2018

Lexi Lennon '18 is a business operations associate at Microsoft in Fargo, N.D.

Continuing the Connection

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.



1970

James Field
Diane (Peterson) Huffman

1986

Janette Erickson
Kristi (Kramlich) Kuball
Joni (Thornton) Nelson
Shannon Rose
Joel Strom

1987

Steven Barreth
Todd Goolsbey
LeRoy Robinson
Elizabeth Schmitt
Renee (Huschka) Wilson

1988

Lee Finsson
Susan Larson
Lisa (White) Nelson
Beth Sorenson
Kim (Schuh) Wendel
Walter Winkler

1989

Olivia Matthews
David Schlecht
Mark Wilson

1990

Thomas Brogden
Rhonda Denbow
James Heapy
Sheri Hoyt
Kevin Peterson

1991

Barbara (Remore) Bakken
Paulo Costa
Rick Ebel
Lisa (Holmgren) Keilman
Melissa Kramer
Sheila (Johnson) Nelson
Marvin Olson
Frank Peterson
Kyla Smyle
Susan (Kruger) Strang

1992

Carla Burchill
Donna Casey
Kevin Gietz
Randall Hanson
Tamera Henderson
Leslie Iverson
Donna (Curtis) Jorgenson

Laura Komrosky
Natalie (Heyd) Loomis
Michael Morris
Melonie Ramsey
Cathy (Plum) Rienstra
Ronald Schumacher
Robyn (Hinrichs) Wallis

1994

Becky Habeck
Miriam Hanson
Kraig Hickel
Wendy Hornberger
Michele (Wentz) Isaacson
Sheri (Posein) Kapp
Darragh Killilea Wicks
Susan (Ihry) Kylo
Karen Mauch
Stacy Miller
Kelly Ranisate

CLASS OF 2019



Alyssa (Breuer) Pesicka '19 just completed her first year of teaching 2nd grade at Red Trail Elementary in Mandan, N.D. She has been married for three years to her husband, CJ. They have a son, Braxtyn, who turned 1 in July. Alyssa and CJ just bought a house in Mandan in December and love every minute of it.

CLASS OF 2020



Chelsy Filbert '20 accepted a teaching job in Roseau, Minn., and will be living in Warroad, Minn. This was the only job she applied to! She will be teaching 8th grade and 12th grade English. She has lots of family in the area, so she is excited that she will be living so close to them. Chelsy and her cats, Owen and Howie, are very excited for this new chapter!

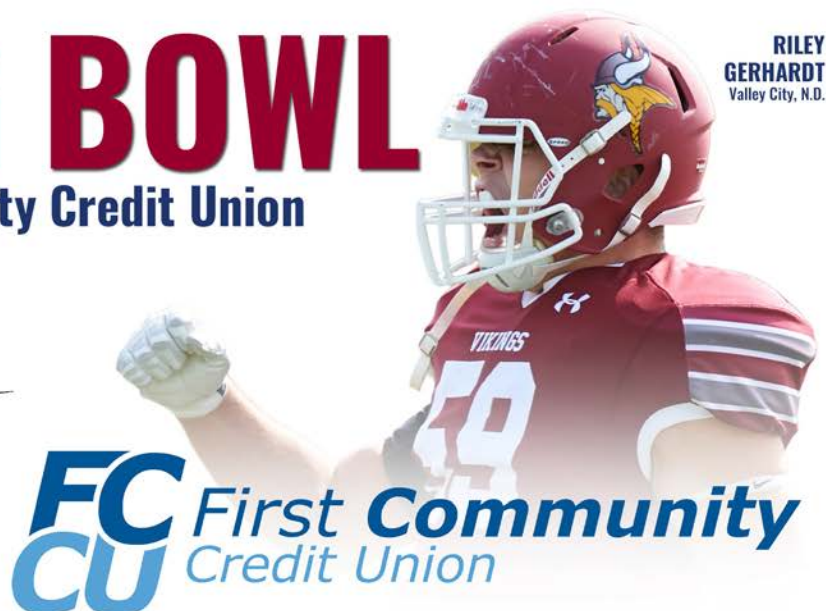
VCSU AG BOWL

presented by **First Community Credit Union**

THURSDAY, AUG. 26



VCSU LOKKEN STADIUM



FC **First Community**
CU **Credit Union**

In Remembrance

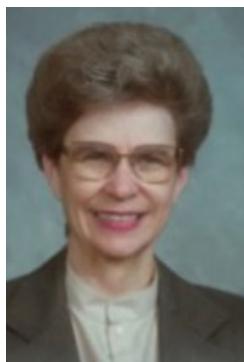
Arlie Anundson, Valley City
Jeff Burchill, Valley City
Edna (Carlson) Neibauer '37, Mentor, Minn.
William Kuether, Minneapolis, Minn.
Keith Jongeward, Minot, N.D.
IlaVey (Schmeck) Kickertz '47, Alice, N.D.
Carolyn (Cockle) Kolstoe '47, Grand Forks, N.D.
Iris (Goeschel) McFee '49, San Antonio, Texas
Ronald Munkeby '50, Valley City
Luella (Hofmann) Hawley '51, West Fargo, N.D.
DuWayne Syverson '51, Bemidji, Minn.
Doris (Dewald) Hagel, Hazen, N.D.
Kathleen (Bruns) Winter '55, Valley City
Janice Thompson '58, Mandan, N.D.
Vinton Zabel '58, Mesa, Ariz.
Clarice (Strand) Giesler '61, Boise, Idaho
Leon Pytlik '62, Valley City
Jerdis (Buttke) Cerney '63 and '78, Minneapolis, Minn.
Beverly (LaPlant) Kelly '63, Glendive, Mont.
Clarence Reuer '63, Ada, Minn.
Johanna (Mitzel) Sanders '64, Napoleon, N.D.
Judith (Van Duyn) Lee '64, Devils Lake, N.D.
Kent Nord '65, Moorhead, Minn.

JoAnne L. Schmitt '65, San Diego, Calif.
Sheryal (Poehls) Mittleider '66, Page, N.D.
Sandra Maisel, Parma, Idaho
Larry Przybycien '69, Spanish Fork, Utah
John Mosal '70, Sun City West, Ariz.
Roger Pommerer '71, Bismarck, N.D.
Dorothy (Channing) Vaselka '72, North Port, Fla.
Karen (Dreher) Monson '73, Valley City, N.D.
Gary Lisowski '74, Manitowoc, Wisc.
Susan (Kalmbach) Johnson '75, Jamestown, N.D.
Charlotte (Winter) McKay '82, Valley City
Mark Ertelt, Valley City
Lori (Wang) Youngdahl '95, Clearwater, Minn.
Kevin Staub '96, Bismarck, N.D.
Henry "Hank" Bruns, Valley City
Ellen Martin, Dallas, Texas
Clayton Velure, Valley City
Grant Zwick, Valley City

Former Faculty & Staff

Barbara (Jansen) Berg '55, Valley City

Barb Berg, '55 - Business Education 1978-1997



Barbara Blanche Berg, 85, of Valley City, N.D., passed away on April 26, 2021. Barbara was born on January 6, 1935 in Valley City to William and Dorothy (McKinnon) Jansen. Barbara attended school in Sanborn. She attended Valley City Teachers College and received her teaching degree. While attending college, she was active in the Drama Club and a member of the Philomathian Sorority. She married Milton Berg on August 7, 1955 at Our

Savior's Lutheran Church in Valley City. They moved to Grand Forks. While Milton finished his medical degree, Barbara taught physical education at Red Lake Falls, Minn. The couple moved to Winston Salem, N.C., for two years, as Dr. Berg completed his residency. They returned to North Dakota and lived in Tioga from 1960-1963 and returned to Valley City, where they made their home. Her husband passed away in 1971.

Barbara taught Business classes at Valley City State University from 1978 until her retirement in 1997. While teaching, she was an active member in Phi Beta Delta.

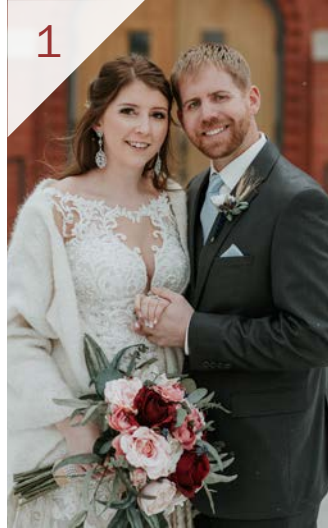
**Her big heart, smile, warmth, compassion,
and love for people will be greatly missed.**

She was a lifelong member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Barbara was a person of strong faith and attended adult bible studies, was the Sunday School Choir Director and coordinator of Bible School for many years. She loved to sing and play the piano, along with gardening, baking, cooking, painting, golfing, bridge, and spending time with her children and grandchildren. During the summer evenings, she often sat outside on the patio visiting with friends. Barbara was in a couple of bridge clubs and a member of the Eagles, Elks, VFW, and Country Club. She loved having coffee and visiting with people. Her big heart, smile, warmth, compassion, and love for people will be greatly missed.

Just Married

Send us your wedding photo so we can include it in the next issue of the **Bulletin**. Email the photo and a short description to kim.hesch@vcsu.edu.

1 - Caitlyn Broden '16 and Justin Miller were married February 27th 2021.



2 - Jenna (Wisk) Weiland '16 married Cameron Weiland on July 11, 2020 in Bemidji, Minn. They recently had a baby boy on May 13th, 2021. They live in Parker, Colo. where Jenna teaches at Lemna Academy.



3 - Kelsey (Gaukler) '17 and **Zach Nelson '17** were married in July 2020 and just welcomed their second child, Reese Cynthia, on May 22, 2021. Their son, Leo Michael David, will be 2 in August this year. They just recently moved into their second home this past May. They both work at Hankinson Public School. Kelsey is the librarian and speech coach and Zach is a science teacher and the assistant girls basketball coach, assistant football coach, and coaches baseball in the spring and summer.



4 - Lacey Johnson '18 and Tucker Prante were married Feb 20, 2021. Lacey has been working in her local Wyoming elementary school in various positions. Most recently, she was in primary special education which set her on her next path. Lacey will be working on her Master's Degree in Special Education in just a few weeks. Tucker serves in the U.S Airforce as an aircraft mechanic.



5 - Brooke (Breckheimer) '18 and Amanda Mears, were married June 11, 2021.

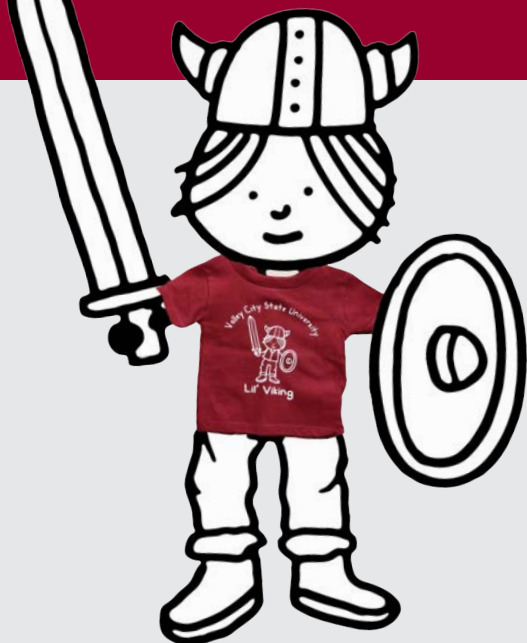


Not Pictured

Jennifer Burchill & **Ben Sorenson '16**, May 28, 2021

Marie Winans & **Trevor Goerts '15**, June 12, 2021

Becky Wik '16 and **Josh Hansana '16**, July 24, 2021



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 to receive a free t-shirt for your new Lil' Viking. Include your baby's name and birthdate. After you have your Lil' Viking shirt, send a photo to kim.hesch@vcsu.edu so we can include it in the next issue of the **Bulletin**.



Ada Sophie Olsen Bina

February 10, 2021
8 lbs, 6 oz., 19 in.

Big sister: Briana (7)
Stephanie Bina '08 and
Martin Olsen '08



Gus William Zorn

December 14, 2020
8 lbs, 11 oz., 21 ½ in.

Big brother Jack, sisters
Grace (6) and Madelyn (4)
Sarah (Dahl) '05 and
Rodd Zorn



Jocelyn Gloria O'Day

June 8, 2020
7 lbs, 15 oz., 20 in.

Jessica (Trautman) '09
and John O'Day



Samuel Russell Pettit

October 29, 2019
7 lbs, 7 oz., 20 ½ in.

Siblings: Jonathan III (6) and
Lucas (4)
Jonathan (J.J.) Jr. '10 and
Kimberly Pettit



Charlotte Louise Schufletowski

August 1, 2020
8 lbs, 15 oz., 21 ½ in.

Jason '08 and
Callie Schufletowski



Ari Rose Dechant

May 18, 2020
8 lbs, 4 oz., 20 ½ in.

Big brother: Drey (2)
Amanda (Brown) '11 &
Damon Dechant





Rowen Patrick Rogers

March 2nd, 2021
8 lbs, 13 oz., 21 ¼ in

Patrick '13 and Kelly Rogers



Marshall Karlgaard

October 2, 2020
9 lbs, 22 in.

Matt '10 &
Megan Karlgaard



Jayda Mae Wald

January 18, 2021
8 lbs, 5 oz.

Siblings: Jameson (10),
Jase (8), and Jorie (2)

Megan (Nodland) '08 and
Mike Wald



Aria Cait Kirsch

March 8, 2021
9 lbs, 8 oz., 21 ½ in.

Sister Madison and
brother Josiah

Cy '12 and Ali (Jenson)
Kirsch '11



Benedict Keith Schweitzer

May 24, 2020
2 lbs, 11.9 oz., 15 ¾ in.

Greta (Trader) '06, '11 and
Luke Schweitzer



Harlyn Virginia Denny

November 18, 2020
6 lbs, 14 oz., 19 in.

Krista (Briss) '14, M.Ed. '19
and Justin Denny



Valerie Ruth Freeman

February 12, 2021
7 lbs, 20 ½ in.

Big brother: Baxter (4)

Corene M.Ed. '19 and
Tyler Freeman



Payton Fae Malinich

February 9th, 2021
6 lbs, 15 oz., 20 in.

Clayton '16 and
Samantha (Nalley) '15
Malinich





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

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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.



This fun run and cruise is open to anyone wanting to ride their motorcycle or drive their classic car.

**SEPTEMBER
25**

Registration - Lokken Stadium
11-11:45 a.m.

Cruise Starting at 12 noon

\$25/entry | First 5 registrations free

STOPS INCLUDE

- Sheyenne Saloon (Kathryn)
- Rusty Spur (Litchville)
- J&L's Bar & Grill (Sanborn)

There will be prizes given out at each stop. A meal will be provided at our final stop at J&L's Bar and Grill in Sanborn.

All proceeds raised will be donated to the V-500 Scholarship program which funds academic scholarships at Valley City State University.