



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

THE BULLETIN

A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University

ISSUE 071666 | APRIL 2024



Leading Through Service

Dr. Erin Klingenberg and Larry Robinson have filled many roles at VCSU. Their lives of service during the past 40 years have impacted numerous students. As they prepare to hand the reins over, Robinson and Klingenberg reflect on changes in higher education, the state of North Dakota and their hopes for future Vikings. - PAGE 7

THE BULLETIN

ISSUE 071666 | APRIL 2024



3



6



15



20



9

A Life of
SERVICE



24

2024 Inductees
HALL OF FAME

Features

- Page 1 *A Message from President LaFave*
- Page 2 *A Message from the Foundation Director*
- Page 3 *VCSU News*
- Page 9 *Feature Story*
- Page 14 *Alumni Corner*
- Page 22 *Viking Athletics Highlights*
- Page 28 *Just Married*
- Page 29 *Lil' Vikings*
- Page 30 *Vikings on the Move*
- Page 33 *In Remembrance*

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

Learn more at vcsualumni.org

1-800-532-8641 EXT 7203

Acknowledgments

Cory Anderson '89
701-845-7216
Executive Director for Advancement
cory.anderson@vcsu.edu

Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91
701-845-7403
Asst. Director for Advancement
kim.hesch@vcsu.edu

Loree Morehouse '89
701-845-7203
Data Processing and Research
loree.morehouse@vcsu.edu

Larry Robinson '71
701-845-7217
Capital Campaign Director
larry.robinson@vcsu.edu

Dennis McCulloch
701-845-7425
Athletic Director
dennis.mcculloch@vcsu.edu

Steve Olson '88
701-845-7162
Director for Athletic Development and Game Management
steven.c.olson@vcsu.edu

Mark Potts
701-845-7228
Sports Information Director
mark.m.potts@vcsu.edu

Kayla Elston
701-845-7362
Graphic Designer
kayla.elston@vcsu.edu

Tammy Jo A. Taft
701-845-7227
Director for Marketing and Communications
tammyjo.taft@vcsu.edu

Success and Spring Semester Advancements

President Alan LaFave, D.M.A.

It has been a busy and successful spring semester on the VCSU campus! From hosting more than 1,200 high school students for the EDC music contest and DECA emerging leaders workshop, to bringing 40 employers on campus for a career fair and setting another enrollment record, we have had much to celebrate.

Enrollment is an important driver of continued success and stability but is also an indicator of the trust students and families are placing in the educational opportunities, attention to affordability, and career attainment made possible with a degree from VCSU. Spring 2024 enrollment numbers recently released confirm this. We are pleased to report record spring enrollments with 1,747 total students.

I'm so proud of our faculty and staff who continue to provide quality experiences for every student at



LaFave

VCSU. Their work has made this forward momentum possible.

Another quality indicator was recently reinforced with the release of the 2024 US News and World Report Best Online Programs. VCSU was recognized for having one of the best online bachelor's programs in the nation. Additionally, our online master's in education program was the only regional public institution in North Dakota included in the rankings. Our continued success and growth depend on meeting students where they are. By providing high-quality, affordable programs to students when and where they need them is one of the advantages and conveniences of our online offerings.

You may ask, do these ratings matter? The answer is YES! Just as fall enrollments have continued to set records, our spring enrollment headcount has increased by 35% since 2015! This is a unique upward trend that many universities are simply not experiencing in today's higher education landscape. We are so fortunate to have outstanding support from our community,

friends and alumni who provide outstanding scholarship support.

Speaking of scholarship support, VCSU has always been an affordable option, but this spring we recommitted to that idea with the Viking Promise. As you may know, many neighboring schools and the state of Minnesota are finding ways to ensure college is affordable. We have always worked hard to keep tuition and fee costs low, and our donors have been exceptional in their support of students, making VCSU one of the most affordable high-quality education options in the state.

The Viking Promise matches what we have always done with a promise that students from ND, MN, SD, WUE and MSEP states who are full Pell eligible will have full-time tuition (12-13 credits) covered at VCSU for the '24-'25 school year.

This is just another step we are taking to help families navigate post-secondary education options. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Go Vikings.



Support VCSU students through the 29th Annual Scholarship Auction

Next steps

- Download the Handbid app and create an account
- Search for our auction "VCSU Scholarship Auction 2024"

Bidding on the silent auction starts Monday, April 22 at 12 NOON and ends Friday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Please contact our office at 701-845-7203 with any questions regarding the Handbid App.



Embracing the 'Campaign for You': A Call for Alumni Participation

Cory Anderson '89

Executive Director for University Advancement

I hope this message finds you well and thriving in your respective endeavors. As the Foundation Director, it is both an honor and a privilege to connect with our esteemed alumni community. Today, I want to share a perspective that goes beyond the usual updates and news but delves into something more personal – the importance of taking part in what I like to call the 'Campaign for You.'

Our university has a rich history of producing exceptional individuals who go on to make significant contributions to society. The journey doesn't end with graduation; instead, it transforms into a lifelong connection with a shared alma mater. The 'Campaign for You' is a call to action for each and every one of you to actively engage in the continued growth and success of our university community.

But what exactly is the 'Campaign for You'? It's a commitment to investing in your own legacy by contributing your time, expertise, and resources back to the institution that played a crucial role in shaping who you are today. It's about recognizing that your achievements are intertwined with the success of the university, and as proud alumni, you have the power to make a lasting impact.

Participation in the 'Campaign for You' takes many forms. It could be mentoring current students, sharing your professional experiences, or providing financial support to scholarships and programs that empower the next generation of leaders. Your involvement contributes to the vibrant tapestry of our university, ensuring that future graduates have the same opportunities and resources that you

once benefited from.

Alumni engagement is not just a one-way street; it's a reciprocal relationship that enriches both the individual and the institution. As you give back, you also gain a sense of fulfillment, connection, and pride in being part of a community that extends far beyond the campus walls.

I encourage you to reflect on your own journey and the pivotal role our university played in shaping your path. The 'Campaign for You' is an invitation to celebrate that journey and pay it forward. Your unique experiences, insights, and successes are valuable assets that can inspire and guide the next generation.

Shining a spotlight on the achievements and positive actions of our alumni is a fantastic way to inspire and celebrate the success within our community. Below are links launching a dedicated section in our alumni bulletin to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of our graduates.

The 'Campaign for You' is a rallying cry for collective action, a reminder that our shared commitment to excellence extends far beyond graduation day. I look forward to witnessing the incredible impact we can achieve when our alumni community embraces this call to participate in something greater than ourselves.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I am excited to embark on this journey with each and every one of you.



Anderson

2023–2024 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Zach McBeain '15

FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE

Dave Bass '77

VICE PRESIDENT

Kendra Krueger '12

PAST PRESIDENT

Paul Keidel '86

BOARD MEMBERS

Paige Fettig '18

Wendy (Reidman) Hogue '85

Robert Keller '89

Nicholas Lee '16 MAT '21

Paul Leier '85

Stacy Wendel-Monilaws '02

Tristan Ross '08

William Tyrrell '83

Brianna (Johnson) Walsh '16

2023–2024 VCSU Foundation Board of Directors

CHAIR

Jeff Nathan

VICE CHAIR

Matt Pedersen

TREASURER

Liz (Nelson) Ryerson '10

SECRETARY

Dave Bass '77

BOARD MEMBERS

Ken Astrup '73

Kirsten Baesler M.Ed. '10

Bob Bergan '82

DuWayne Bott '58

Mark Finstad

George Gaukler '62

Gigi Goven

Robert Horne '59

Dee Jensen '66

Josh Kasowski '05

Matt Klabo '05

Ryan Leroux '99

Karsten Melgaard '03

Mark Richman '74

Larry Robinson '71

Paul Sandness '76

Cory Anderson '89, ex officio

Alan LaFave, ex officio

Erica Buchholz, ex officio

CELEBRATE
SUCCESS



SHARE YOUR EXCITING NEWS WITH VCSU

In every corner of the world, our alumni are making waves, creating impact, and embodying the spirit of excellence instilled in them during their time at VCSU.

MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



HONOR THOSE WHO GIVE SO MUCH

Share the philanthropic efforts of a VCSU alumni whose commitment to giving back has resulted in a positive impact. Help us thank their dedication.



VCSU Sets Spring Enrollment Record

Headcount of 1,747 students paired with highest FTE during spring semester in school history

Valley City State University has set another enrollment record with 1,747 total students enrolled for Spring 2024. This includes 1,628 undergraduate students and 119 graduate students.

The semester also set a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) record at 1,148 FTE. The FTE increased from spring 2023 to spring 2024 by six percent. There was a total of 68 new students (freshmen and transfer students) enrolled at VCSU in the spring of 2024.

“We are thrilled to welcome so many new students into the Viking family. Enrollment growth is just one of the exciting developments at VCSU,” President Alan LaFave said. “From the updates to McCarthy Hall, to our multiple rankings for excellence and affordability, it’s clear that students and families recognize the outstanding quality, value and career opportunities associated with a degree from VCSU.”

“Our campus community is moving forward and growing in ways that will benefit current and future generations,” LaFave said. “Our faculty continue to invest their time and efforts to providing the highest-quality, accessible education for every student. Our staff have done a superb job supporting all aspects of our campus. I’m also grateful to our Viking alumni, supporters and community that help support students through scholarships, internships and in many high-impact ways.”

“Enrollment growth is the result of the continued support and hard work of many, and we are grateful to have a supportive, thriving campus and community to call home,” LaFave said.

VCSU’s spring semester headcount has increased by 35% since 2015. Likewise, fall enrollment at VCSU has continued to set records.

“VCSU’s programs continue to ensure our students find success and help meet workforce needs after graduation,” Mr. Larry Brooks, Vice President for Academic Affairs, said. “We offer a wide variety of programs and it is an exciting time to be a part of VCSU.”

VCSU Students Prepare for National DECA

Five VCSU students will represent VCSU during the 2024 International Career Development Conference Competition in Austin, TX, in April. Kiara Radke and Chloe Anderson placed first in Entertainment Team Decision-Making. Matt Belgarde placed first in Restaurant & Food Services. Sarah Monilaws placed second in Hotel and Lodging, and Jalynn Anderson placed second in Restaurant & Food Services.

VCSU Hosts Marketplace for Kids

Classes of a different kind were in session at VCSU on Thursday, Jan. 4. Instead of the regular enrollees, the campus was full of almost 400 third to eighth-grade students from area schools including Washington Elementary, Barnes County North, Central Cass, Maple Valley, Milnor and Litchville-Marion.



V-500
SUPPORTING STUDENTS
SINCE 1972

“I am very grateful to receive this scholarship as it will go towards my future career. I chose VCSU because it was close to home and very affordable. The people were welcoming and helpful when it came to making my decision.”

Benét Fronk
Jamestown, N.D.



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT VCSU STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS?



GIVE ONLINE: Fast, easy and secure. Use our online form at give.vcsu.edu to make your gift of choice or scan the QR code below.



MAIL YOUR GIFT to the VCSU Foundation at 101 College St SW Valley City, ND 58072 or call our office at 701-845-7203 to make a donation over the phone.

Your gift, no matter the size, can make all the difference. In supporting student scholarships, you are creating a lasting impact.

VCSU Continues to Deliver Affordability with Viking Promise

Valley City State University (VCSU) announced a renewed pledge that ensures tuition is affordable for any student interested in earning an undergraduate degree.

The Viking Promise is a continuous effort from VCSU to alleviate the cost of tuition through financial aid and scholarship support. Currently, 95% of ND, MN, SD, WUE, and MSEP students who are Pell eligible have their tuition fully covered thanks to the combination of financial aid, scholarship dollars, and talent-based awards. Students from these states

who are full Pell eligible will have full-time tuition (12-13 credits) covered at VCSU for the '24-'25 school year.

In addition to FAFSA-related aid, VCSU offers the most attractive and significant scholarship program in ND. This ensures students have the ability to earn a degree at an affordable cost for their college career. These scholarships, partnered with financial aid, currently help 89% of partial Pell grant recipients reach full tuition coverage.

“We want every student to have the chance to earn a meaningful degree,” President Alan LaFave said. “We are committed to helping students navigate college with our Viking Promise. We have one of the lowest tuition rates in the state of North Dakota and it’s exciting to see what financial aid and generous donor support can do to impact our students.”

“We provide strong financial support for our students and will continue to do so,” Executive Director of the VCSU Foundation Cory Anderson said. “This is only possible through the support and generosity of our alumni and friends of VCSU.”

In efforts to keep higher education affordable, VCSU’s tuition rate for the 2024-2025 academic year will not increase for any student. The full-time tuition rate for North Dakota residents is locked in at \$6,619 a year.

Students living on campus can also access the Stay-and-Save Program that locks in the housing rate they paid as a first-year student through their graduation. The Stay-and-Save Program ensures students can budget for other costs associated with pursuing a degree.





VCSU Receives Frank Murray Leadership Recognition from CAEP

VCSU was recognized for Leadership in Continuous Improvement by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). CAEP awarded the 2023 Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement to 21 educator preparation programs in 15 states and the United Arab Emirates. Winning schools provided evidence and data trends to achieve accreditation with no stipulations or areas for improvement.

“Once again our School of Education continues to stand out as one of the top teacher-educator programs in the nation,” President Alan LaFave said. “Last year, our faculty and program were recognized as having no areas of concern and given full re-accreditation by CAEP. This is a significant achievement and reflects the high quality of our program.”

CAEP has accredited 541 educator preparation providers in 43 states. The organization focuses on advancing equity and excellence through evidence-based accreditation.

“CAEP completed accreditation visits to 96 education preparation providers in 2023. VCSU appreciates being listed among the 21 institutions receiving the Frank Murray Recognition for Continuous Improvement. Our faculty prioritize helping every teacher candidate succeed in their content area, and this award reiterates the high-quality instruction and experience we offer,” Dean of the VCSU School of Education Allen Burgad said. “Our focus on instruction and authentic field experiences helps our students become successful educators.”

The Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement is named after the founding President of the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). CAEP was created by the consolidation of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and TEAC.



VCSU Recognized for Best Online Programs

U.S. News and World Reports ranks VCSU for Best Online Bachelor's and Master's in Education Programs

VCSU has been ranked again by U.S. News and World Report as having one of the Best Online Bachelor's Programs. VCSU was also recognized for having one of the Best Online Master's in Education programs.

VCSU was the only regional public university in North Dakota ranked as having a Best Online Master's in Education Program. VCSU was also the second-ranked North Dakota institution for online Bachelor's programs.

Faculty at VCSU are experts at delivering coursework via multiple formats and have regular and thorough quality and content reviews.

President Alan LaFave said, “VCSU's unwavering commitment to academic success is reflected in these rankings. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to providing our students with a valuable, affordable education that is competitive in today's world.”

The U.S. News and World Report rankings are based on a variety of factors, such as student engagement, faculty credentials, and services and technologies.



Connecting Across Generations & States

President Alan LaFave made a special stop at Webster Elementary in Mesa, AZ, in February. The class wrote a letter asking about North Dakota and the university experience, and between visits with alumni in Arizona, LaFave was able to spend some time talking about VCSU and the Viking family.

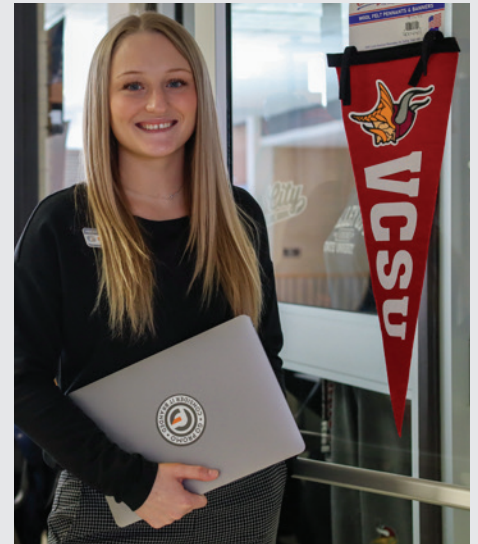
2023 Winter Commencement

Valley City State University celebrated Winter Commencement Thursday, Dec. 14, in Vangstad Auditorium. 133 students earned their degrees this summer or fall, including 101 undergraduate recipients and 32 graduate students. 19 students were recognized for completing their bachelor's degree in three years.

"Graduates, I hope you have done this for yourself and that you are finding your purpose," student speaker Cora Potts said. "Be proud of yourself, of the challenges you have faced and conquered, for your future and for your dreams. We did it. We will forever be Vikings."



Alumni Anecdotes



Jocey Braunberger '22

Jocey Braunberger was back on campus in February, not as a student, but as an employer with GoPromo during the annual Career and Internship Expo.

"We have only been out in Bismarck for two years, but we're growing," she said of GoPromo.

Braunberger graduated with a business administration degree and minor in marketing. She works out of the Bismarck office for the promotional materials company and enjoys partnering with customers on branding projects.

Hired in 2022 after doing an internship with GoPromo, Braunberger is enjoying getting to know her clients and helping connect them with new products or ideas.

"I like sales and the internship was a great way to give me an idea of what this type of work was like," she explained. "You don't really know what it entails until you are actually in the role. It was really awesome to be actually working with real clients."



Nearly 100% of 2022-2023 VCSU Graduates Report Being Employed or Pursuing Further Education

Valley City State University (VCSU) announced that 98% of all reporting graduates earning their degree in the 2022-2023 school year are either employed or continuing their education.

Of all reporting graduates earning an education degree, 62% are employed in North Dakota. The remainder are working or pursuing additional degrees in 19 different states from South Dakota to Florida to Alaska. The data was released as a part of the annual VCSU First Destination Report.

“Our graduates’ success in their desired career fields shows the continued value of a VCSU degree,” President Alan LaFave said. “The experiences students have at VCSU help prepare them for a fulfilling and productive career. Many go on to be important members in our North Dakota communities, and we are happy to support our state by offering affordable educational opportunities that lead to the success of communities and individuals.”

“As I have worked through my first year of teaching, I can confidently say that VCSU helped prepare me to be a successful, well-prepared, and effective teacher in so many ways,” Spring 2023 Elementary Education graduate Mariah Topp said. “One of the strongest pieces of the VCSU Education Program is the amount of hands-on teaching experiences. Teaching is a profession that improves with practice, and I was provided with a large amount of exposure through hands-on experiences and mentorship from seasoned educators I observed.”

Alumni earning undergraduate degrees in other areas (non-education) reported 98% employment or continuing education status. Of all reporting non-education graduates, 70% employed indicated they are employed in North Dakota, and 52% of graduates continuing their education are enrolled in a North Dakota school. During that same timeframe, 32 students completed internships with a variety of businesses and organizations.

“Double majoring in psychology and human services provided me with the background knowledge I needed to pursue a

Master’s degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling,” Kasen Anderson, Human Services and Psychology Graduate, said. “After interning with the Abused Persons Outreach Center and the Community Green Dot program, I felt even more prepared for my future. I will forever be thankful for my time at VCSU, the people I met, and the opportunities I had and continue to have because of my time there.”

One hundred percent of reporting graduates that earned a Master’s degree indicated they were gainfully employed, 74% of them in North Dakota.

“Our graduate programs help individuals expand their horizons through education,” said Dr. James Boe, Dean of Graduate Studies. “With graduate programs for those in education and a Master of Science in Business Information Systems, the programs we offer have helped many people achieve their career goals.”

“When I decided to make the change from being a stay-at-home mother of three children to pursue a career in teaching, I was excited but also overwhelmed. I felt well equipped in my subject area but ill equipped in my knowledge of structuring a classroom environment. Each of my classes in the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program at Valley City State University added pieces to the puzzle that I was missing,” recent graduate Cherise Pfaff said. “My professors were engaging and actively involved in my success. I began teaching as I was completing my degree, which allowed me to implement the strategies I was learning in real time. By the end of the program, I had all the information I needed to be an effective teacher. Through this program and my experiences in my own classroom, I have fallen in love with teaching and plan to continue for years to come.”

The First Destination Report is published by the VCSU Career Services Department. It is developed following the standards of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).

EDUCATION GRADUATES IN 2022 AND 2023



98% of reporting graduates are employed or continuing their education.



62% of graduates are employed in N.D. The remaining are working across 19 different states.



Graduates are serving in 36 different school districts across the state of N.D.



100%
of graduates that
earned their Master’s
degree reported being
employed.

74%
of them in N.D.



DECADES OF EXPERIENCE

Lives of Service

Dr. Erin Klingenberg and Larry Robinson '71 have served the students and university for more than 80 years combined. As they approach retirement, they reflect on the value of relationships and how that focus has continued to be the center of the flywheel of campus life at VCSU.

The people of VCSU are a special group that inspire loyalty. This trait is clearly demonstrated by two of the most recognizable faces on campus, Larry Robinson and Dr. Erin Klingenberg. Combined, they have served the university for more than 80 years. Their tenure at VCSU has seen seven university presidents at the helm, the addition of laptops for every student, numerous remodeling projects and the construction of the new Center for the Arts.

Both will be turning the page this summer and moving into retired life, but before they hand the reins over to new leadership, they sat down to reflect on changes in higher education, their experiences and some of the friends and family who have been along for the ride.

Connecting People Across North Dakota

One of Larry Robinson's most notable strengths is his ability to connect with people. As a North Dakota Senator for more than 30 years, he built numerous relationships with constituents, communities and other legislators.



Robinson

As a staff member at VCSU, his connections with students, faculty, staff and alumni that spans almost 50 years. Robinson's service and dedication to connecting people will be recognized as the newly-constructed \$32 million Center for the Arts will bear his name.

"This is a befitting honor in recognition of his extensive contributions to our campus, community and state at the conclusion of his 49-year career at Valley City State University. His career, achievements, and legacy are worthy of this recognition," President Alan LaFave said.

Robinson's life's work of connecting people started as one of five brothers in Tappen, N.D. As a high schooler, he found a mentor in his band teacher and VCSU graduate Myron Sommerfeld '62. Sommerfeld planted the seed of a lifetime and Robinson first arrived on campus 56 years ago. One of his first memories is how imposing and intimidating the clock tower seemed.

Continued on page 10.



Staff of the VCSU Newspaper including Robinson in the back center.



Robinson speaking at a honors breakfast.



Robinson and President Dr. Ellen Chaffee.



Throwing candy during a Homecoming parade.

Continued from page 9.

“So much has changed here in terms of the physical campus and the academic programming,” he said. “One thing that has remained constant is our focus on students. We have always been a school that if you fall down, someone will pick you up.”

Professors like Thilda Vangstad '29 and Larry "Buck" Grooters '57 helped lift Robinson up when he needed it the most. That support launched him into life on campus and he joined the EBCs, the student education association, marching band and the newspaper and yearbook staff. The yearbook put him in contact with another student doing her work study hours, Mary Lee Haugland '71.



Buck Grooters, left, with Kim Hesch, President Alan LaFave and Robinson.

“This place hasn’t been a job for me, it’s really been my life,” – Larry Robinson

“Little did I know that I was going to end up the Editor-in-Chief of the paper and she had to listen to me,” Robinson said of his future wife. “That was the last time she ever listened to me,” he added with a laugh.

After graduation, the Robinsons got married and were both offered jobs in Warwick, N.D. One day the VCSU dean of students stopped by Warwick and asked Robinson if he would be interested in running the Student Center. Phil Mueller '68, was serving as the director of the Student Center, but was taking a similar job in Montana. VCSU needed the right person. That person was Larry Robinson.



Robinson in the Student Center after he returned to campus as the director for that building.

Robinson answered the call and he and Mary Lee returned to their alma mater in 1975. What started as a job running the Student Center morphed multiple times into a wide range

of activities from scrubbing floors, managing the swimming pool and being the hall director in Mythaler Hall.

“I didn’t get any sleep that year,” Robinson said. His time in the Student Center and housing morphed into other responsibilities and in 1996, Dr. Ellen Chaffee hired him to direct the VCSU Foundation.

“He is a friend maker and friend raiser,” Chaffee said. “His authenticity cannot be underestimated. I would say his signature characteristic is loyalty. Robinson’s dedication to VCSU, work ethic, enthusiasm and communication skills helped lead the Foundation to success,” she said.

In the 1980s, state coffers were tight and Robinson had concerns about efforts to slash budgets. He thought about running for the Legislature in 1986 and lost by 17 votes to two popular incumbents. Quitting is not on Robinson’s resume, so in two years, he

ran again and was first elected to the North Dakota Senate.

His work ethic and enthusiasm led the way and eventually he helped convince Phil Mueller to run along with him on the District 24 democratic ticket. The pair served together, in separate chambers, for 14 years.

“Larry has a healthy understanding of the issues, but also the way people work,” Mueller said. “He finds the right people and has a way of working with them to solve real problems. He could find the people that could help, and then convince them to help.”

Robinson was never afraid to stand up and speak his mind, fellow legislator and VCSU alum Sen. Joan (Leichtman) Heckaman '67 said. “He had the knowledge and was accepted by both sides of the aisle,” she said. “He was good at making sure amendments were brought forward in committee to make a bill the best piece of legislation he could,” she said. “The world would be so much better if we had more Larry and Mary Lee’s in our lives.”

Left: Robinson, left, stands with fellow District 24 legislators Phil Mueller, center, and Ralph Metcalf.



Bottom: Robinson, center, after being honored with a Difference Maker award from the Registrar and Financial Aid offices on campus.





Robinson, back center, and Klingenberg, third row from bottom far right, stand with other faculty and staff on the steps of McFarland Hall in May of 2008.



Robinson, right, pictured with former North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple, front center.

His years in Bismarck had profound and wide-spread impacts for the entire state. In 2005, Robinson sponsored a bill to offer treatment for individuals using methamphetamine. The bill successfully passed and established a 20-bed facility in 2006 named the Robinson Recovery Center. Two years later, Robinson helped find a way to fund a new Veteran's Home in Lisbon.

Between sessions, in February 2009, Mary Lee (Peterson) Nielson '79 was serving as mayor of Valley City. The community was staring down a fear-inducing flood forecast. Nielson knew Robinson as the director of the Foundation but had never worked with him in his role as a lawmaker. Sandbags, volunteers, planning and luck helped the floodwaters pass with minimal damage, but Robinson and Nielson began working closely together to find a solution to the serious risk floodwaters posed to the entire community. Robinson helped other leaders see flood protection was a regional problem for the Sheyenne Valley.

"When we were working on permanent flood protection, we were working together as a community," Nielson said. "Larry was always working to help everyone get what they needed. It wasn't just Valley City that he was looking out for either. He was good for the entire Sheyenne Valley."

That approach was something current mayor Dave Carlsrud appreciates about Robinson's approach as well. When flood protection efforts progressed enough to place Foss Hall on the wrong side of a permanent flood wall, Robinson had marshaled enough support to fund a new Center for the Arts to house all art and music classes on campus.

"He had people from every corner of the state working to help support Valley City State," Carlsrud said. The bill passed and the Center for the Arts was built. Within months, it will bear the name of one of its staunchest cowboy-boot sporting supporters."

"This place hasn't been a job for me, it's really been my life," Robinson said.

Continued on page 12.



Center for the Arts Officially Renamed to Honor Larry J. Robinson



The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education officially approved naming the Center for the Arts the Larry Robinson Center for the Arts. The \$32 million building was officially opened in the spring of 2022 and is the home of all art and music courses at VCSU.



Robinson stands with numerous former North Dakota legislators during the ribbon cutting event for the Center for the Arts in 2022.



Far left: Klingenberg, back row second from right, and the VCSU volleyball team.

Left: Klingenberg calling bingo numbers as part of an activity for students.

Continued from page 11.

BUILDING DECADES OF RELATIONSHIPS



Klingenberg

Across the hall from Robinson's office in McFarland Hall is the Vice President for Student Affairs, Erin Klingenberg. Similar to Robinson, Klingenberg has spent more than 30 years developing a wide variety of relationships and impacting a large swath of students, alumni, peers and coworkers with her approach, kindness and work ethic.

Klingenberg grew up in Cando, N.D., and competed in every sport offered from running hurdles to shooting hoops and playing volleyball. She attended Jamestown College and continued her athletic career. During her time there, she was a member of the first women's softball team at the college.

Her education degree landed her a teaching job in Butte, N.D. She said she would never go back to school, but three years later her husband Mel was going to graduate school at UND and she jumped into the Physical Education masters degree program with a minor in counseling.

Mel had an opportunity to teach and coach at Newburg High School and Erin started as a coach and faculty member at NDSU Bottineau, now known as Dakota College at Bottineau. As their family grew, the Klingenbergs took a leap of faith and took jobs in Valley City, Mel at the High School and Erin as a softball and volleyball coach and faculty member at VCSU to fill a one-year leave of absence. The fall of 1991, Klingenberg was hired as the Director for Counseling

Services & Student Activities. This began her duties among many different responsibilities with the Counseling Services being the constant throughout.

Since that move, she has spent decades building strong, meaningful connections with students, faculty, staff, community members, and friends.

Dr. Alan Olson '84, professor of education, started on campus the same week Klingenberg arrived. The pair both coached, taught and often interacted as they helped students navigate college.

"She is a great role model as a learner," Olson said, adding that Klingenberg's empathy, listening and kind heart made her an excellent supporter of students. "She is great at working with students and faculty and is a really good counselor. People feel comfortable coming to see her because she will meet them where they are at. You can just see that she was positive for so many people."

After working at VCSU for a handful of years, Klingenberg finished her master's degree in counseling and was hired to provide counseling services and lead student activities. One of the students on her activities board was Kari Stricklin '92. They got to know each other at various events, and when Stricklin graduated, she stayed in touch. When she was hired to run the student center and direct student activities, Klingenberg was someone she could always count on to listen and stick by her side.

"She has always been a great resource at work, but also a great friend in life," Stricklin said. "She is someone you can always count on being in your corner. She's not the loudest person in the group, but she is dependable and very observant."

Klingenberg's ability to connect, see the unseen and support others has impacted many, including Stricklin.



Left: Klingenberg, middle, stands with Dr. Alan Olson, left, and President Alan LaFave.

"I hope I have been able to be a model for students but also for my children and grandchildren." – Dr. Erin Klingenberg



The Klingenberg family after commencement ceremonies.



Klingenberg, right, with other staff being honored.



Klingenberg, fourth from left, with other members of Student Affairs.

“Sometimes she can recognize something before you even recognize it,” Stricklin explained. “She is very perceptive and she is a colleague, friend but more like family. I know she would do anything for me and in return, I would do the same for her.”

Through her career at VCSU, Klingenberg often relied on her counseling skills to help her coworkers and students succeed. She decided to enhance those skills and jumped on the chance to pursue her Ph.D. when approached by one of her former graduate school professors.

She earned her Ph.D., and eventually was hired as the Vice President for Student Affairs. Klingenberg credits her professional success to the strong support of her family.

“They are my foundation,” she said. “I hope I have been able to be a model for students but also for my children and grandchildren.”

As she approaches retirement, Klingenberg is proud of her work in Student Affairs and appreciates how the campus community rallies around students during this pivotal time in their lives.

“I really appreciate the opportunity given to me by President LaFave to allow me to lead the Student Affairs team. Our directors are some of the most competent, wonderful people that I have ever worked with on a team. As a team, we moved Student Affairs forward and increase the awareness of how this area fits into higher education in a big way,” she said. “Students spend most of their time out of the classroom, and a strong Student Affairs team plays a critical role in their success.”

She also reflected on the increasing importance of counseling in the university setting. Receiving counseling services is more



Kari Stricklin, right, and Erin Klingenberg, left, during a school event at the golf course.

accepted than ever before and families have an expectation that counseling services are available.

“I’ve always said that asking for help is a sign of strength,” she explained. “I always tell clients and students that you could do this alone, but the beauty is you don’t have to.”

Her work has helped numerous students at VCSU to thrive and succeed at a critical time in life. In addition to her counseling work, Klingenberg is proud of the robust and highly-skilled counseling team that exists at VCSU today.

“I think our counseling is solid here. What we have is a real gem,” she said. “There are a lot of campuses that do not have services as readily available as ours. We are planting seeds. I have had a student come back and tell me that because they came to counseling, they are alive today. Can you have any better compliment than that?”



ALUMNI CORNER

Kim Svenningsen-Hesch, '91
Asst. Director for University Advancement and Alumni Relations



Svenningsen-Hesch

Hello Fellow Vikings!
The annual Phone-a-thon kicked off in February. Again, this year the Viking Volleyball team helped the Foundation office call our alumni. Gifts received from the Phone-a-thon are used to support alumni reunions, The Bulletin

which is published three times a year, recognition events, homecoming activities, and scholarships. Your contribution to the Phone-a-thon helps make these events and programs a success. The nice thing is it's just once a year!

If you didn't have an opportunity to visit with one of our students during our Phone-a-thon, it's not too late to donate. By supporting the Phone-a-thon you are investing in your alma mater. The amount you are able to give may vary but your commitment to giving every year has helped the University with record enrollment and to gain national recognition! Use the envelope enclosed in this issue of The Bulletin or donate online by using the QR code below.

I am excited to share that our staff has added a section to the Foundation & Alumni website titled "Alumni Spotlight." This section of our website provides an opportunity for VCSU alumni to share their VCSU story and post-graduation career

experiences and successes with prospective students and the greater VCSU community. These stories will also be featured on our social media channels, the myVCSU app, as well as in our printed materials. We would love for you to participate! To help us develop content, we ask you to complete a questionnaire that we will use to create the alumni spotlight. Tell us about your accomplishments, professional journey and your special interests! We thank you in advance for your contribution. The questionnaire can be found at vcsualumni.org and click on Alumni Spotlight or scan the QR code at the bottom. Help us tell your story!

In addition, if you know of someone we should be spotlighting, just send us an email at alumni@vcsu.edu and we'll do the follow-up!

Finally, this is a friendly reminder as we plan for Homecoming activities. We are still collecting nominations for our various alumni awards (Certificate of Merit, Alumni Service, Young Alumni Achievement and Distinguished Alumni Award). To find out more information about each of these awards please visit our website at vcsualumni.org and choose Awards & Recognition. From here you can see the descriptions of the awards and make nominations. We want to celebrate our alumni and their successes – make a nomination today!

As always, It's a great day to be a viking!

DONATE TO THE
PHONE-A-THON



HELP US TELL
YOUR STORY



MAKE AN AWARDS
NOMINATION



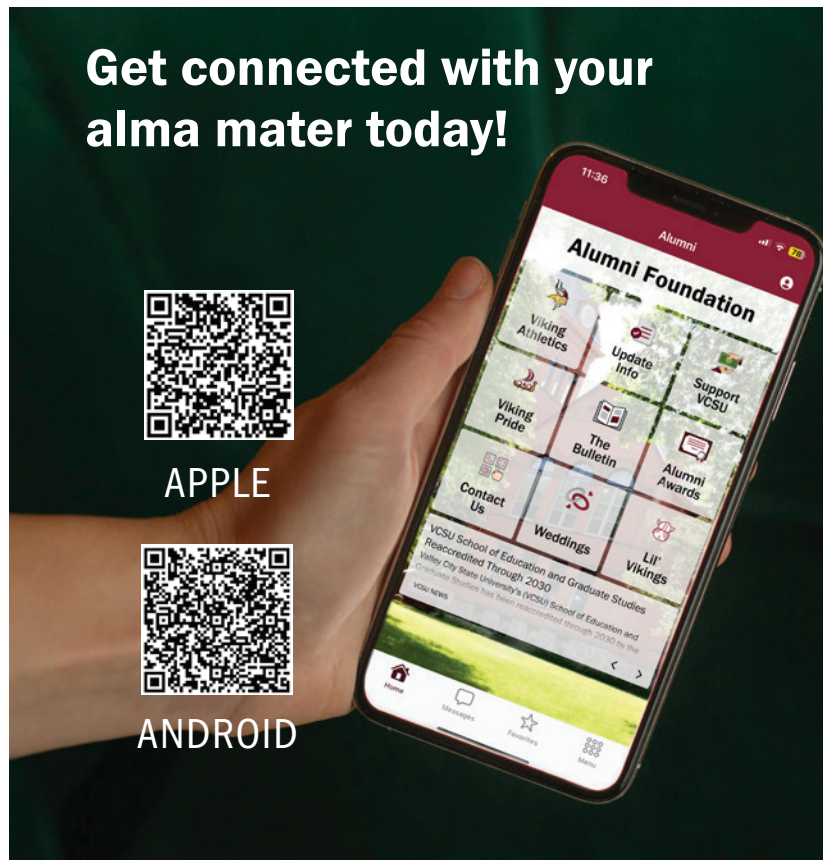
Get connected with your alma mater today!



APPLE



ANDROID



ARIZONA SOCIALS



PEORIA, AZ GATHERING

L to R: Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91, Alan LaFave, Glen Engle '61, Linda (Sander) '70 & Bob '68 McKenzie, and Cory Anderson '89.

The VCSU Foundation and Alumni office hosted its annual socials in Arizona the first weekend in February. Staff from the Foundation and Alumni office along with President Alan LaFave and his wife Kari were in attendance.

The socials included lunch and a short program from President LaFave who gave the group of attendees updates on our campus. Highlights includes enrollment growth, scholarship allocations and capital campaign.

If you are an Arizona snowbird and would like to be part of our mailing list for the Arizona socials, please send your contact information to alumni@vcsu.edu.

Our staff is planning on making some additions to our activities in Arizona next February. Please watch the July and December issues for more information and how you can participate!



YOUNG ALUMNI GATHERING

Back Row L to R: James Fischer, Thomas '15 & Sierra (Even) '15 Cortez and Cory Anderson '89.

Front Row L to R: Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91, Sharla (Huston) Fisher and Kristi (Tait) Anderson '93 holding Shaelynn Mitchel Cortez.



MESA, AZ GATHERING

Back Row L to R: Ed Pung '75, Kenneth Wendt '76, Larry Rosenow '66, Alan LaFave, Bob Horne '59, James and Sharla (Huston) Fisher, Judy Mathias, Curt Olson '62, Dale Hillstrom '69, Mark Richman '74, Dennis Nathan, Jeff Bopp '99, Jim Vandrovec '74, Joe Welder '67, Harvey Schilling '61, Bill Schaller '74, Rod Olin '71, Kristi (Tait) '93 & Cory Anderson '89.

Front Row L to R: Kari LaFave, Dianne (Roseth) Horne '60, Leorna Olson, Dee (Isensee) Hillstrom '69, Carole (Jenson) Richman '74, JoAnn Nathan, Deb (Hill) Bopp '77, RaeAnn (Rolshoven) Vandrovec '75, Bernadette Wolf, and Carol Schaller.



Art Through Carpentry

Meet VCSU Alumni and campus carpenter, Ryan Boll '00.

by Sierra Crocker

In many offices across campus this fall you could find small pieces of wood with distinct VCSU Viking heads emblazoned on the varnished surface. These 247 beautiful hand-crafted ornaments are made from vintage wood paneling from the original construction of VCSU's campus by Ryan Boll, campus carpenter and VCSU alumni.

Boll's passion for woodworking and carpentry was what brought him to VCSU in the 90's. He initially enrolled with the simple goal of getting a degree. But dreams can take on different shapes and Boll found his interests drawing him closer to the arts. This self-proclaimed "McCarthy third-floor nerd" got his start in the arts building sets for the theater department to pad his GPA while earning his degree. From there, he got to know other students in the art department; the very next semester he joined the Art Department as a fine arts major. He later graduated with two degrees: A degree in fine arts he earned as an undergrad in 2000 and a second degree in art education he later earned in 2007 when his combined passions for woodworking and education lead him to becoming a shop teacher.

After earning his second-degree, Boll's path had a few interesting curves. He worked with the ceramics program in the old art facilities on campus. Then in 2022, VCSU restructured some positions within facilities and Boll's dream job opened. He immediately applied to be the carpenter on campus and it has been a whirlwind of work ever since.

Ever-humble, Ryan claims he only "drills holes here and there," but evidence of his work can be seen all over campus. When he isn't running around fulfilling work orders on the clock, he is still doing his favorite thing: "making stuff." As a woodworker, Ryan's personal projects mostly include wood carvings done with his home CNC machine, but he also delves into the world of metal work, leather work, and fur hat crafting. Ryan brings his art to craft fairs to sell but he's just as likely to gift his smaller pieces, like the VCSU wood ornaments, to his pals and the community on campus.

When asked if Ryan still uses the skills he learned as an art student in both his professional and personal work, he replied, "In art, they

don't teach you how to draw, or paint, or sculpt. You can either do that or you can't. What they really teach you is how to learn and how to solve problems. I use that every day." The most important thing he learned was, "I learned how to learn."

Learning how to learn goes beyond the classroom, Boll explained. A student learns from every experience, every relationship, every moment, "The experiences you have are what you learn from, whether you know it or not," he said. "It isn't something you sign up for- it just happens. The fun is in the engagement. That'll stay with you for the rest of your life."

Campus carpenter and artist, Ryan Boll is a lifelong Viking. His work on campus is many years in the making and shouldn't go unrecognized. So, if you're still making your way towards learning how to learn, don't hesitate to stop and say hello.

"You're only here for a little bit, but these experiences will always be here." – Ryan Boll

SAVE THE DATE

Peggy Lee Day
June 14, 2024
Valley City, ND

Celebrate Barnes County's own Peggy Lee in Valley City during Rally in the Valley. Learn more about her music and radio career and how it started in Valley City!



COME SEE THE FIRST EVER Alumni Art Exhibition

Show Dates: May – June 2024

Art Reception: June 10, 2024, 3 – 6 p.m.

Gallery Hours: M-F 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.



VCSU NIGHT AT THE F-M REDHAWKS GAME!

The VCSU Alumni Association invites you to join alumni and friends at Newman Outdoor field for an F-M RedHawks baseball game on Wednesday, **August 14**. It will be Valley City State University night at the game. We will have booths set-up on the concourse with giveaways, current students will be singing the National Anthem and we get to throw out the first pitch!

COST \$20 PER PERSON

- INCLUDES
- Reserved Game ticket in Section B
 - All-you-can-eat picnic including hot dogs and pulled pork served with potato salad, potato chips, pop and water.



6:02 PM GATES OPEN | SOCIAL HOUR AND PICNIC

7:02 PM GAME TIME

PLEASE RSVP. Call 701-845-7203 by July 21 to reserve your tickets.



Phone-a-Thon & Giving Hearts Day

The VCSU Alumni Association's annual Phone-A-Thon, one of our major activities each academic year, allows our alumni to show their Viking Pride in supporting our university. Donations allow us to stay in touch with alumni in several important ways, including publication of The Bulletin, hosting socials and reunions, sponsoring alumni award programs and supporting programs on the campus of Valley City State University. The Phone-A-Thon also provides scholarship support to our current students attending VCSU.

By supporting the annual Phone-A-Thon, you can help VCSU achieve the strategic initiatives underway that move VCSU forward.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the 2024 Alumni Phone-A-Thon. The following list includes cash donations and payment on pledges received as of March 11, 2024.

If you haven't made your donation, there is still time! Send your contribution today or find us on the web at www.vcsualumni.org and click on the "Make a Gift Online" button. We accept Visa, Discover and MasterCard, or if you prefer, call the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203. Thank you for your continued support.

♥ Indicates the donor gave on Giving Hearts Day

\$1,000 - \$4,999

♥Judith J. Allmaras
♥Kirby Brier
Carol J. Current
Charles F. Goff
Robert L. Gross
♥Barry & Kristi Lentz
♥Perry & Sandi Piatz
Kurt D. Rasmussen
♥Megan R. Zarbano

\$500 - \$999

DuWayne T. Bott
♥Erica & Casey Buchholz
♥Dave & Sue Carlsrud
♥Casey & Tallie Colville
Michael & Patricia Conlon
Linda J. Costain
Susan & Chuck German
James D. & Mary A. Kielely
♥KLJ Engineering LLC
♥Deborah L. Kruschwitz-List
David B. Larson
Julie P. Leer
Ronald Litsey
Tom McCarty
♥Leon & LuJane Opdahl
Jerome Reidman

♥William J. Schaller
♥Barbara C. Schlecht
Mary Schradick
Robert & Marjorie Sogn
Patta J. Stroh
Gloria D. Thompson
Bill & Michele Trader
♥Lisa A. Udem
♥Charles M. Wagner
Donna & Melvin Wendel
♥James L. Westra
♥Scott A. Winkler

\$250 - \$499

Kay M. Albrecht
Myron Buchholz
♥Marlys M. Christ
♥Climate Control Inc.
♥Frank & Dianne Conlon
Marjorie A. Fabre
♥Steven & Mary Fike
Bryan & Karla Gerhardt
Matthew J. Gilbertson
Joan M. Heckaman
♥Kim & Wade Hesch
♥Barbara Silletto Hoch
Gary & Janet Kaeding
DelRay & Carlotta Kessler
Dianne & Leslie Koll
♥Brady A. Larson
Daniel Loibl
Janell L. Madsen
Robert & Linda McKenzie
Ken D. Murack
♥Douglas & Bethany Murch
Steve & Mary Lee Nielson
Pat Nielson
John & Muriel Otto
♥Richard L. Rogers
Dawn Rose
Gary & Joanne Schafer
Douglas & Jane Schindele
♥John & Kaye Seibel
Kevin & Jennifer Sortland
Delton & Lori Steele
♥Dennis & Betty Steele
Greg A. Stemen
♥Tri-County Insurance & Leasing
Marlene M. Young

\$100 - \$249

♥John & Bonnie Allickson
Carol J. Anderson
♥Cory & Kristi Anderson
Peter B. Anderson
♥Terry & Julie Anderson
♥Coleen & Rick Asche
♥Ken & Linda Astrup
Brandon & Alicia Bata
Boyd R. Berg
Rich & Leigh Berg
♥George Berger
♥Dallas B. Berntson
♥LaRayne A. Betlach
Michael T. Bishop
♥Stan & Linda Bjornstad
Kathleen R. Boe
♥Jeff & Deb Bopp
Scott & Arlene Botner
Linda L. Bouton
♥Kevin W. Bratland
♥John & Maria Braun

R. Mark Brown
♥Robert & Faye Bubach
♥Allen & Lee Ann Burgad
♥James & Judy Burt
Mike & Kelly Callahan
Kari L. Chitty
Chuck & Jerrilyn Coghlan
William & Catherine Coghlan
♥Dean N. Collette
Brad & Angie Cruff
Michael C. Cruff
Floyce Cummings
Arlen H. Curtis
Vern W. Davis
Leland & Dianne Decker
♥Beau & Hannah Diegel
♥Marlyn D. Domek
Jerald T. Enstad
Jeff L. Evenson
Arnold F. Falk
Cheryl & Michael Fenno
Lorraine Fornes
Carolyn L. Freeman
♥Teresa R. Garrahy
Jaci L. Gately
Richard W. Gehrke
Gary R. Gemar
Curtis & Betty Ghylin
David K. Gjerdevig
Tom & Tara Glandt
Judi C. Gleeson
Owen D. Graupe
♥Robert L. Green
Richard & Arlyss Grosz
Steven L. Guenther
Mike & JoAnn Haddican
Jeff Hafner
Steve & Jacqueline Hallsten
Rickie & Mary Halvorson
♥Jeff & Neva Hamre
♥David & Tamara Hanson
♥Colleen G. Hare
♥Klaas Hellinga
♥Jody Henjum
♥Jerry & LaWanna Hieb
Nathaniel G. Hill
♥Dale & Deloris Hillstrom
♥Chad & Erica Hjelmstad
Jack W. Hoffmann
Robert P. Hoffner
Jacqueline A. Hofmann
♥Wendy M. Hogue
♥Ronald & Rebecca Holten
♥Teah M. Homsey-Pray
Ashley & Nick Horner
♥Kirsten & Roger Huschka
Russ & Jean Jacobsen
♥Scott & Erin Jepsen
David A. Johnson
♥Jody L. Johnson
Melvin & Judy Karch
David J. Katzenmeyer
Terry & Sandra Kemmer
♥Mariann I. Kessler
Mary K. Kiefert
Thomas & Connie Kirchoffner
♥Peggy D. Kleingartner
Todd & Kristi Kohler
♥Trenton & Chelsea Kosel
Tim & Barb Kraft
♥Erik & Susan Kringlie
♥Joe & Bonnie Kroeber

Mary Lou Krogh
 Tilford & Mary Kroshus
 ♥Kendra L. Krueger
 Lee & Elizabeth Kruger
 ♥Pete & Amy Kvien
 ♥Chris & Trina Kvilvang
 ♥Pamela G. Laffen
 Tom & Kathy Langemo
 Nicole M. Larson
 Nicholas & Kaitlen Lee
 Ruth M. Lee
 ♥Dwight & Penny Leier
 Susan M. Lemm
 ♥Nancy & Arnie Leno
 Dean E. Lerud
 Gary P. Lillie
 Dianne D. Loberg
 ♥Thomas P. Lorenz
 ♥Myron & Creeta Luttschwager
 Faye R. Matson
 Dr. Sharon McCarriar
 Janeice V. McConnell
 Teresa McDonough
 Tracy & Corey McGillis
 Ruth N. McMillan
 ♥Patrick & Carissa Metzger
 Brian & Janet Midthun
 ♥John & Donna Mikkelsen
 Verna V. Moos
 ♥Loree & Michael Morehouse
 Janet L. Morris
 ♥Paul A. Morth
 Curry G. Mund
 Raymond C. Murdock
 Joan K. Noeske
 ♥Curtis & Lorna Olson
 ♥Michael & Diane Opdahl
 ♥Orson L. Opheim
 Joyce M. Owsley
 Perralina F. Palm
 ♥Lakken D. Paulsrud
 ♥Dean & Betty Pedersen
 Peggy J. Pedersen
 ♥Brittany M. Peschel
 Albert H. Peterson
 ♥Eileen L. Peterson
 ♥Douglas L. Pieske
 ♥Marcia L. Pritchert
 Ross Pritchert
 ♥John & Janell Quinlan
 ♥Scott & Brenda Radloff
 ♥Roger & Joy Rand
 Michael R. Ranum
 ♥Gary D. Rath
 Raymond L. Reinhart
 ♥Jodi R. Renner
 ♥Mark & Carole Richman
 ♥Dave & Patti Rickford
 Thomas & Gwendolyn Riederer
 ♥Larry & Mary Lee Robinson
 Walter & Jayne Robinson
 ♥Vernon Rohde
 ♥Larry G. Rosenow
 ♥Tristan J. Ross
 Senator David Rust
 ♥Lavonne M. Ryberg
 Lois A. Scheveck
 ♥Robert Schlotman
 Richard & Carol Schmidt
 Allen & Marie Schuldt
 Donald H. Schuler
 ♥Kathleen E. Seavert

Debra L. Sillerud
 ♥Robert J. Stack
 Del Stein
 Michael & Holly Stromsodt
 ♥Darwin & Jackie Subart
 Velette M. Svenkesen
 Carmen E. Svenningsen
 ♥John & Virginia Svenningsen
 Toni Swanberg
 Marian J. Swingdoff
 ♥Gary & Bea Tait
 Betty R. Terriere
 Hubert N. Thoreson
 Kevin B. Thorsness
 Arlen & Astrid Thorstenson
 ♥Kaye L. Topp
 ♥Hank & Sandra Toring
 ♥Matthew D. Trapp
 Larry H. Ukestad
 ♥Elizabeth A. Udem
 Jim & Rae Ann Vandrovec
 Joseph & Barbara Vandrovec
 Donald J. Veit
 Warren & Brenda Ventsch
 ♥Valerie Vogel
 Colleen J. Vosburg
 Linda J. Wagner
 Barbara & Dan Waldock
 Joe & Karen Walker
 Todd & Marsha Weber
 Kimberly A. Werlinger
 Renee S. Wert
 ♥Chad & Sheri Wetch
 Michael J. Wieland
 Robert & Kristi Wieland
 David Winarski
 ♥James & Lucy Wire
 Lois Wilke Woelfel
 Cathy M. Wollitz
 Larry & Karen Woodwick
 Marilyn & Michael Worner
 Jeff A. York
 Lynn D. Zacharias
 ♥Laurie M. Zacher
 ♥Deborah J. Zaun
 ♥Charles & Colleen Zick
 Delmar D. Zimmerman

\$50 - \$99

Keith S. Andersen
 Tony T. Aukland
 ♥Kirsten K. Baesler
 Jolene R. Baltrusch
 Lee & Janice Beattie
 ♥Jan & Alice Beauchman
 Tim & Lorilyn Beck
 ♥Patricia A. Beil
 Janet G. Bergum
 Don E. Bigwood
 Corey & Beverly Bjertness
 Lacey R. Blaufuss
 ♥William & Bridget Blunck
 ♥Duane W. Bock
 Fred & Judy Bott
 ♥Kent & Carol Braunberger
 Rodney & Jill Breuer
 ♥Larry J. Brooks
 Bob & Rosalyn Bruhschwein
 ♥Karen M. Bueling
 ♥Todd & Teresa Christiansen
 ♥Ken & Karen Christianson
 Jeffrey W. Colemer

♥Sheila D. Cummings
 Sheila Czapiewski
 Gary & Bonnie Daub
 ♥Andre & Marla DeLorme
 ♥Joe Deutsch
 Nancy M. Deutsch
 Janice M. Diemert
 ♥Gordon M. Dovre
 ♥Susan E. Dyrness
 ♥Allan & Jan Eggert
 Don & Bev Enger
 ♥Laurie L. Erickson
 ♥Michael & Beverly Even
 Dan & Rhonda Fairfield
 Deanne R. Fedje
 Ken & Susan Fiechtner
 Mark & Cindy Fitzner
 Steven & Rhonda Fode
 Sharon Ford
 Winton A. Forsberg
 James A. Freeman
 ♥Patricia L. Freese
 Scott C. George
 Lisa Gillett
 Kay M. Glynn
 Stuart J. Good
 Dick & Debra Gulmon
 ♥Leslie A. Haas
 Lyle L. Halvorson
 Terry & Pamela Hansen
 ♥Denise Hanson
 ♥Jason C. Hanson
 ♥Richard D. Hanson
 ♥Sheryl Hanson
 Shirley A. Hanson
 ♥Curtis G. Heise
 Lisa J. Held
 Alisha A. Henderson
 Duane & Candis Hoffmeyer
 ♥Larry A. Holmstrom
 Ronald & Annamae Holzworth
 ♥Robert & Deanne Horne
 Daniel R. Hornung
 John E. Hovda
 ♥Tadd & Nancy Huber
 Rachel M. Hummel
 Tami S. Hunt
 Linda M. Jacobson
 ♥Haley & Nathan Jenrich
 Merle E. Johnson
 Linda A. Jordre
 Susan M. Jorgenson
 Elaine A. Just
 William M. Kelley
 Douglas & Ann Kelly
 Joseph G. Kern
 Terrance M. Kirchoffner
 ♥Jody L. Klier
 Mel & Erin Klingenberg
 James & Judith Knauss
 ♥Kathy M. Kopf
 ♥Dianne L. Kuch
 Carol A. Lapolla
 Jennifer & Josh Larson
 ♥Russ & Pat Larson
 ♥Terry & Lenore Lebahn
 Susan E. Lemley
 Ryan M. LeNoue
 ♥Mike & Kathy Lentz
 Doris Ann J. Linder
 ♥Myron P. Loberg
 ♥Kelly A. Lund

Gladwin A. Lynne
 Jana K. Martin
 Lawrence L. Maslowski
 Louise Max
 Laura J. McLean
 Steve L. McMonagle
 ♥Roxane F. Meidinger
 ♥David & Beverly Melgaard
 Edward C. Mickelson
 Dan Mimnaugh
 ♥William & Janice Mimnaugh
 ♥John & Stacy Monilaws
 Jay W. Morgan
 ♥Ryan D. Moss
 Phillip & Darlene Mueller
 ♥Carol S. Nelson
 ♥Margie R. Nelson
 Nick W. Nielsen
 ♥Ken N. Nordquist
 ♥Charlene D. Oehlke
 ♥Rodney & Joan Oksendahl
 ♥Rod & Judy Olin
 ♥Al & Trisa Olson
 Curt A. Olson
 Joan E. Olson
 Nancy L. Otterson
 Daniel & Patricia Parrish
 Robert & Beverly Pearson
 Jeanette C. Persons
 Jean M. Peterson
 Larry Peterson & Lois Steer
 Tony N. Piccalo
 Kris & Jeff Piehl
 Jean M. Piper Burton
 Heidi Plesuk
 ♥Robert J. Powell
 Ariel L. Quick
 ♥Amy & Andrew Richter
 Brian T. Ringdahl
 Gary & Cindy Rufsvold
 ♥Gerald & Ardell Saar
 ♥Scott & Traci Sand
 Beverly A. Schaack
 Dan & Marion Schlecht
 ♥Jacob & Megan Schlecht
 Martin J. Schmidt
 ♥Janet E. Schultz
 Patricia L. Smith
 Eric A. Spooner
 John M. Stearns
 ♥Jonathan M. Stenslie
 Larry M. Strand
 Gloria Stricker
 Robert & Donna Stringer
 Steve & Kristel Strittmatter
 ♥Teather Sundstrom
 ♥Oscar Suniga
 ♥Delores C. Tracy
 ♥Robert & LuAnn Tschaekofske
 ♥Richard & Marilyn Twete
 ♥Joe & Betty Tykwinski
 James & Nedra Van Duyn
 ♥Edward Van Hal
 Kaylee M. Vareberg
 Everett & Miriam Vogel
 Jeffrey Volk
 ♥Pamela J. Walcker
 Carol S. Walz
 Kathryn J. Warren
 ♥Tony & Susan Wendel
 ♥Neil & Laurel Westby
 ♥Patricia D. Whipple

♥Jim & LouVay White
 Gary L. Whiteman
 Mark A. Wieland
 Donald & Marilyn Wilke
 Jay & Sally Wilkins
 Alan L. Worrel
 ♥David & Rhondalyn Wyum
 ♥Chad & Tracey Zaun
 ♥Timothy J. Ziemba

Under \$50

♥LeRoy & Edna Anderson
 M. Jane Anderson
 Rick D. Anderson
 ♥Marilyn J. Baumann
 ♥Keith Baumgartner
 Ellen M. Berg
 Douglas A. Bertsch
 ♥Gay M. Blazek
 Derek & Laura Bruns
 ♥Lisa Carlson
 David G. Challey
 ♥Sonja L. Christensen
 ♥Kyle & Melissa Christianson
 Debra H. Christopherson
 ♥Duane Coates
 ♥Ira E. Compton III
 ♥Karen R. Crooks
 ♥Marlys A. Davis
 John P. Dewey
 Lynn M. Dewitz
 ♥Mackenzie J. Dietz
 Breanna Dunn
 Gene A. Edwards
 Joe & Elaine Felchle
 ♥Emily Fenster
 ♥Paige H. Fettig
 ♥Deb Feuerherm
 ♥Janice M. Fiebiger
 Jo & Rick Fitzner
 ♥Marcia J. Foss
 Kevin M. Froeber
 Gary M. Garman
 ♥Barbara A. Gendreau
 ♥Penny & Randy Gengler
 Robert Gilbert

Sandra K. Goeller
 ♥Gigi Goven, M.D.
 Dianne K. Graff
 Gordon & Rose Greer
 JoAnn Gregory
 ♥Garry & Kerry Gregoryk
 Harriet Greuel
 Joan & Steven Halland
 Troy A. Hanson
 Daryl & Becky Heise
 Gregory A. Heitkamp
 Meggen Y. Henke
 ♥Taylor A. Henningsgard
 Brenda L. Hill
 ♥Ray W. Hinsch
 ♥Janet I. Hird
 Laura J. Hirvela
 Thomas C. Holiday
 ♥Duane & Rose Hovland
 John & Rebecca Huber
 Ronald L. Humphrey
 ♥Jennifer E. Hunt
 Carol A. Jacobson
 Debbie Jensen
 ♥Joan P. John
 ♥Nathan & Nicole Johnson
 ♥Patricia M. Johnson
 Lorell & Renae Jungling
 ♥Tammy Katuin
 Robert J. Keller
 Lindsey E. Kiecker Snyder
 ♥Alan M. Klefstad
 ♥Mike & Deb Kohler
 Patricia A. Korf
 Donna Krisch
 ♥Phyllis M. Kupitz
 Lori A. Kuzel
 Richard L. Langdeaux
 Sarah & Justin Larsen
 Duane J. Leier
 ♥Letha E. Lewis
 Ardis A. Libak
 Lowell I. Linder
 Maynard & Rita Loibl
 Dustin & Melissa Maasjo
 ♥Connie MacKenzie

♥Peggie R. MacKenzie
 Steven S. Meyer
 Kathy B. Michael
 Kathryn H. Mikwold
 Brenda R. Mitzel
 Jeanine M. Moffitt
 Patricia A. Moore
 ♥Virginia A. Moran
 ♥Naomi & Michael Muscha
 Eva J. Myers
 Robert G. Nielsen
 ♥Anne M. Nyberg
 ♥Cara L. Olson
 Vicki J. Olson
 Kaye M. Omdahl
 Jack & Bonita Paulson
 ♥Susan K. Paulson
 ♥Tammi S. Paulson
 ♥Lynn R. Pedersen
 ♥Jolean M. Pederson
 Larrett A. Peterson
 Jonathan M. Pettit
 ♥Mark & Cora Potts
 ♥Jane T. Radig
 ♥Scott & Lynn Rerick
 ♥Florene L. Rogne
 ♥Shirley D. Ruud
 ♥Kimberly Scheer
 Donna J. Scherr
 Leo & JoAnn Schmidt
 ♥Heidi M. Schneider
 ♥Terry A. Schock
 Becky & Darrell Schroeder
 ♥Toni L. Seidel
 Wayne C. Shustrom
 Janet Simon
 ♥David A. Smith
 ♥Heather & Brandon Solberg
 JoAnn D. Spickler
 Rocky & Sue Stack
 Bruce & Cyndi Stein
 ♥Dean & Charlene Stenson
 Carlyn A. Stevens
 Kyle & Eileen Stewart
 Thomas S. Stingl
 Barbara A. Stockstad

♥Kari A. Stricklin
 Boyd & Kathy Sussex
 ♥Jerry & Susan Syverson
 Elaine K. Theisen
 Jeff Thompson
 ♥Susan & Wayne Triska
 Jim & Becky Ukestad
 ♥Lacey & Jeremy Udem
 Jessie B. Urlaub
 Carolyn Utke
 ♥Kay S. Vinje
 Jill K. Vote
 ♥Cindy K. Waagen
 Wendy J. Waleri
 Beverly A. Weigel
 Rhonda J. Weigelt
 ♥Kenneth P. Weshnevski
 Theodore W. Wieser
 ♥Annette M. Willis
 ♥Lorraine A. Wooten
 Stuart E. Wyum
 ♥Tracie & Ryan Zaun

These donors gave on Giving Hearts Day to other VCSU Funds.

♥Harrison Duran
 ♥Arnold Falk
 ♥Mike & Peg Ferrel
 ♥Andrew Gill
 ♥Gregg & Kathleen Horner
 ♥David & Erin Klein
 ♥Elaine Kluck
 ♥Roger & Kim Lipetzky
 ♥Isaac & Katie Olson
 ♥Roger Rieger
 ♥John Schonert
 ♥Tyler & Emma Tufte
 ♥Charles & Colleen Zick



**THANK YOU FOR
 MAKING GIVING
 HEARTS DAY A
 SUCCESS!**

260 Donors
 \$34,530 Raised



SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming

September 16-21, 2024

The VCSU Alumni Association invites you to join alumni and friends of VCSU for many of the activities we have planned for Homecoming this fall. These are just a few of the events planned. Watch our website at vcsualumni.org as we add more events.

Monday, September 16

42nd Annual Bill Osmon Fun Run	4 p.m.	Lokken Stadium
--------------------------------	--------	----------------

Friday, September 20

Alumni Welcome Back Ice Cream Social	1:30 p.m.	Student Center - Upper Lounge
VCSU Bookstore Open	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Student Center
Campus Tours	2 p.m.	Student Center
Homecoming Parade with VCHS	4 p.m.	Central Avenue
Hall of Fame Social	5 p.m.	Valley City Eagles
Hall of Fame Banquet & Ceremony	6 p.m.	Valley City Eagles

Saturday, September 21

Alumni Honors Breakfast	8:30 a.m.	Student Center Cafeteria
VCSU Bookstore Open	8 a.m. - noon	Student Center
Viking Tailgating	1 - 4 p.m.	Lokken Stadium
Vikings vs. Dakota State University	4 p.m.	Shelly Ellig Field
Postgame and All-Alumni Social	7 p.m.	Valley City Eagles
College Student and Alumni Dance	9 p.m.	Valley City Eagles

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



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.

2008

Michael Fox
 Krista (Anderson) Hulderman
 Cody Johnson
 Riley Klassen
 Andrew Kuester
 Tessa (Ham) Nelson
 Andrea Smith
 Monica Townsend
 Alexander Wheel

2009

Megan Anderson
 Kelly Harrington
 Daniel Hill
 Rachel (Wilson) Hill
 Kristine Krall
 Erin (Ottinger) Low
 Christina Moreno
 Yusuke Oikawa
 Karissa (Fahlman) Peterson
 Mary Varner Zimmerman

2010

Nolan Bucklin
 Eva Dusolier
 Timothy Eppen
 Luke Jones
 Leonard Kjelland
 Stephanie Kosman
 Courtney (Roberts) Montgomery
 Nicole Nelson
 Marineo Toslluku
 Lisa (Paille') Wheel

2011

Willie Ard III
 Samantha (Carlson) Ashburn
 Matthew Borgford
 Caitlin (Bonnstetter) Burckhard



I N S I D E ATHLETICS

vcsuvikings.com



vcsuvikings

Forward Momentum: The Coming Years Promise

Dennis McCulloch, Athletic Director

It is an important time in Viking Athletics. Many schools will tell you that, but for us, that statement rings very true right now as we undergo a conference affiliation change and position ourselves for the future.

Our current conference – the North Star Athletic Association (NSAA) – will be dissolving after the 2024-25 season. Our options as we look to move forward are staying in the NAIA and join the Frontier Conference for the 2025-26 season – for which they have extended an invitation – or look at changing our national affiliation to NCAA DII or DIII. There are challenges & opportunities with all three options, and we are currently working on a decision that will be the best for all our athletic programs for the next 20 years and beyond.

We have hired a consultant to evaluate VCSU and Viking Athletics for its viability to move to NCAA DII. That process with the consultant began this winter and we will have answers this spring. In the meantime, we will proceed with finding a conference home and continue to have conversations with other like institutions that can help us move forward.

No matter what direction we decide to go, we will continue to invest in our athletic department to enhance scholarships, facilities, and staffing. The coming years promise to be exciting as we push our athletic department forward in different ways.

- We continue moving closer towards breaking ground on a multi-purpose indoor practice



McCulloch

facility, which will be a gamechanger for many of our programs and the success of our current capital campaign.

- Last summer, we started to enhance the inside of the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse with minor renovations, and we're expecting to complete a major paint job this summer that will give a new look and feel inside the Bubble.
- Our golf program has expanded and improved its indoor training facility, and earlier this month opened it up to the public for a virtual golf scramble on their simulator.
- We are in the process of building a new press box at the football & track stadium, which will be in place for fall of 2024.
- Replacement of our current football turf, which is 12 years old, and new visitor bleachers are also on the horizon with initial money committed from campus and fundraising efforts ongoing.
- Softball has renovated its outdoor batting cage, which was out of commission for a few years, and we've added a press box and new signage to the field.
- The Valley City Baseball Association (VCBA) completed a new clubhouse at Charlie Brown Baseball Field last year, which our college team has access to. The VCBA also built a new larger batting cage at the field in 2022.

I trust as we move forward you will continue to see our progress and stay involved with our programs.

Go Vikings!

2023-2024 SEASON RECAP

BASKETBALL

Women's Basketball

The Valley City State women's basketball team finished the season with a 13-14 overall record and a 7-5 mark in conference play. The Vikings earned a No. 3 seed for the NSAA Postseason and fell to No. 6 Dickinson State in the conference tournament quarterfinals.

Ashlyn Diemert was named 1st Team All-Conference while JayCee Richter and Hailey Roberts each earned an Honorable Mention All-Conference nod. Elyse Hebrink was named VCSU's Champion of Character.

Diemert was named 1st Team All-Conference after leading the Viking squad with 15.8 points per game on the season and 20.3 points per game in conference play. Diemert poured in a career-best 37 points – just one point off the VCSU single-game scoring record – in a home win over Viterbo University on Feb. 9.

Richter was named Honorable Mention All-Conference and averaged 10.6 points and 6.7 rebounds per game on the season. Richter scored a career-best 31 points while going 13-for-14 from the field on Jan. 17 against Mayville State.

Roberts earned Honorable Mention All-Conference, averaging 11 points per game overall and 12.7 points per game in conference action. She averaged nearly 2 steals per game as well. Roberts scored a career-high 34 points in a home victory over Waldorf University on Feb. 10.

The Vikings graduate just one senior in Adriana Torres, who scored her 1,000 career point during the season and finished her Viking career with 1,197 points (14th in VCSU history) and 641 rebounds (6th).



Diemert



Torres



Olange

Men's Basketball

The Valley City State men's basketball team finished the 2023-24 season with an 11-16 overall record this season and a 3-9 mark in conference play. The Vikings placed 7th in the North Star standings and ended its season at Mayville State in the NSAA Tournament quarterfinal round.

VCSU's Cleveland Bedgood was named 2nd Team All-Conference after leading the conference in scoring this season. The senior averaged 19.3 points per game overall and 21 points per game in conference play. He scored a career-high 46 points against Viterbo University on Jan. 26. That was the third highest single-game total in VCSU history and the most by a Viking in the last 50 years.

Lamar Grayson added 12.5 points per game while shooting 51 percent from the field, and Odier Olange averaged 9.7 points per game while shooting 54 percent overall. VCSU junior Hunter Lyman was named VCSU's Champion of Character which recognizes players who represent the NAIA's five core values.



Bedgood

HALL OF FAME



Valley City State University will induct five individuals and one team into the Vikings Athletic Hall of Fame this fall.

The Class of 2024 includes Erin Maitland '03, Cara Miller '02, Brent Miller '02, Darin Walters '02, Amanda Brown '11 and the 2010-11 Women's Basketball Team.

All will officially be inducted into the Vikings Hall of Fame at a banquet on Friday, Sept. 20, during VCSU Homecoming Weekend. For tickets or more information about the induction ceremony, please contact the VCSU Alumni Office at 701-845-7203.



Erin Maitland '03

Lenore, Manitoba
Softball/Volleyball,
1999-02

Erin Maitland
was a 4-time All-

Conference selection as a Viking softball player. She was named All-Conference after a strong freshman season in 1999 and continued to earn that honor for each of the next three seasons. She primarily played infield, but also pitched for the Vikings. During her senior season in 2002, Maitland batted .346 with 23 runs scored, 12 extra-base hits and 21 RBI. She struck out just six times in her 127 at bats. As a junior she batted .348 with 15 extra-base hits and 25 RBIs. She was also a two-time NAIA Scholar-Athlete.



Cara Miller '02

Brandon, Manitoba
Softball, 2000-02

Cara Miller earned
three straight
All-Conference

selections on the softball diamond from 2000 to 2002. She excelled as both a hitter and pitcher for the Vikings. During her senior season, she set a school record with a dominating 1.06 ERA in 131 innings. She pitched 17 complete games that season, had three shutouts and struck out 199 batters. As a hitter, she batted .375 in her senior season and scored 31 runs. She was nearly as dominant as a junior, batting .385 at the plate while also picking up 15 pitching wins and posting a 1.66 ERA and 205 strikeouts in 140 innings.



Brent Miller '02

Fargo, N.D.
Football, 1998-2001

Miller excelled
as a defensive
lineman for the

VCSU football team, earning three straight All-Conference selections from 1999 to 2001. He totaled 32 sacks and 54 tackles for loss over those three seasons, including 12 sacks as a senior. Miller was named Honorable Mention All-American as a senior in 2001. His 32 career sacks ranks third in Viking history and his 54 TFL ranks him 2nd. He had at least 30 tackles in all four seasons as a Viking and finished with 194 career stops.



Darin Walters '02

Wahpeton, N.D.
Football, 1997-2000

A dominant offense lineman, Darin Walters helped anchor a strong VCSU offensive line during his time as a Viking. He earned Honorable Mention All-Conference as a sophomore in 1998, and then was selected 1st Team All-Conference as both a junior and senior. Walters achieved nationwide respect and was named Honorable Mention All-American after his senior season, during which VCSU averaged 32 points per game, posted a 9-2 overall record and advanced to the NAIA national playoffs.



Amanda Brown '11


Limon, Colo.
Women's Basketball, 2007-11

Amanda Brown was a solid all-around player from day one on campus and blossomed into an Honorable Mention All-American as a senior, helping to lead the VCSU women's basketball team to its first ever national tournament appearance. Brown averaged double-digit scoring in each of her last three seasons and finished her Viking career with 1,297 points, ranking 9th in school history. She also ranks 11th in rebounds (571), 9th in assists (233) and 6th all-time in steals (156). She earned two All-Conference selections, including 1st Team All-Conference and Honorable Mention All-American in 2011. Brown was also a two-time NAIA scholar-athlete.

2010-11 VCSU Women's Basketball

Under the guidance of head coach Jill DeVries, the 2010-11 VCSU women's basketball team set a school record with 23 wins, won the Dakota Athletic Conference Postseason Tournament and qualified for the NAIA National Tournament for the first time in program history. The Vikings finished the season with a 23-9 overall record and a 10-4 mark in conference play, earning the No. 2 seed for the postseason. VCSU opened the conference tournament beating Mayville State 67-64 in the quarterfinals and Minot State 71-66 in the semifinals. The championship was played against rival Jamestown in front of a raucous crowd at VCSU's W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse. Caitlyn Wojahn, Kristin Bearstail, Amanda Brown and Brittany Lehner all scored double figures in the championship game as VCSU won 74-69. The Vikings would lose a close 71-65 game to Sterling College in the first round of nationals. Brown was named 1st Team All-DAC and Honorable Mention All-American. Wojahn earned 3rd Team All-DAC honors. Bearstail (12.5 ppg) and Brown (12.3 ppg) were the team's leading scorers. The Vikings also ranked No. 2 nationally in academics, posting a 3.69 team GPA.





Viking Volleyball enjoys historic season

The Valley City State volleyball team opened the 2023 season with a new coaching staff and finished with a trip to the final site of the NAIA Volleyball Championships in Sioux City, Iowa, for the first time in program history.

First-year head coach Michelle Meiklejohn led the Vikings to a 23-11 overall record this fall, coming off an 11-17 record in 2022. VCSU's 23 wins is its most since the 1998 season when the Vikings won 25 matches.

VCSU took notable wins over four nationally ranked teams, including a home sweep over defending national champion University of Jamestown – its first win over the Jimmies since 2011. The Vikings finished the conference season in second place with an 8-4 NSAA record and were one of three NSAA teams to advance to the NAIA Volleyball Championships.


VCSU's first ever national tournament match came at Central Methodist University in the NAIA Opening Round. The Vikings won that match 3-1 and advanced to NAIA Pool Play as one of the final 24 teams remaining. Valley City State's season ended in

pool play as they loss to a pair of Top 12 programs, dropping matches to No. 3 Eastern Oregon and No. 11 Montana Tech.


Viking junior Sadie Hansen earned the North Star Athletic Association Setter of the Year award and was named NAIA 3rd Team All-American. Hansen, along with teammates Bailey Nelson and Danielle Hagler were each named 1st Team All-Conference while Morgan Freije earned 2nd Team All-Conference.

As a team, VCSU held NAIA Top 10 rankings in digs per set (6th), kills per set (6th) and assists per set (9th). The Vikings also made history in the VCSU record books, posting several Top 10 marks as a team and individuals. Nelson hit 1,500 career kills and finishes her career 4th in Viking history. Hansen reached 3,000 career assists during the season and is currently 2nd in school history.


VCSU graduates senior hitters Bailey Nelson and Mardi Scutchings but returns a core of its starters for next season.



Nelson



Hagler



Hansen

Peraza places 4th at nationals

Viking sophomore Jaiden Peraza earned All-American honors in high jump to highlight the 2024 indoor track and field season at VCSU.

Peraza cleared 2.05 meters (6 feet, 8.75 inches) at the NAIA National Championships on March 1 as he took home fourth place out of 30 competitors from around the nation. It was Peraza's first career All-American honor. He also qualified for nationals in the long jump competition, during which he placed 18th out of 25 competitors with his top mark of 6.84 meters (22 feet, 5.25 inches).

Peraza's performances at the national meet highlighted the indoor track season, which also included three individual conference titles and 11 All-Conference performances by the Vikings.

Peraza won conference titles in the high jump and long jump, and Viking sophomore Cameron Champagnie took home the title in the men's triple jump during the conference meet in Brookings, S.D.

"The team came together and had an outstanding time at the conference meet," said VCSU head coach Laquone Robinson. "The outcomes demonstrated that, and many athletes stepped up. I'm eager to find out what lies ahead for them."

As a team, the Viking men scored 80 total points and finished third out of six teams. The Viking women scored 78 team points and placed fourth out of six teams. Peraza was named the men's Field MVP of the Meet after racking up 28 points in the jumping events. Along with his two titles, he also placed second in the triple jump for a trio of All-Conference honors.

The Viking men had six All-Conference finishes (Top 3), all of which came in the jumping events.

Valley City State's men swept the Top 3 spots in the long jump. Peraza picked up the individual title and was followed by Champagnie in second place and Aaron Cutshall in third. In triple jump, Champagnie won the title and Peraza placed second. In the high jump, Peraza won the individual title.

VCSU's women tallied five All-Conference finishes. Jasmine Barnes placed second in the 5,000 meters and third in the 3,000 meters. Karly Just took home a third-place finish in the 5,000 meters. Freshman Emma Muggli had a pair of All-Conference finishes, taking third in both the pentathlon and triple jump.



Peraza

Baseball and Softball Update

The VCSU baseball and softball seasons are underway, with both teams making road trips to southern states since early March. For the latest news, scores and photos from our spring sports, visit our website: www.vcsuivikings.com.



Just Married

Send us your wedding photo so we can include it in the next issue of **The Bulletin**. Email the photo and short description to alumni@vcsu.edu or scan the QR code and fill out the Weddings Form.



1 – Jessica Halvorson '12 and Zachery Scherer were married December 30, 2023. They live in Horace, N.D.

2 – Samantha Walters and **Ken Terry '20** were married November 11, 2023.

3 – Chelsea Benedict '17 and **Carson Rieniets '22** were married September 30, 2023 in Valley City.

4 – Jake Rambow '17 and **Taylor Balkan '18** were married on September 30, 2023. Jake is currently a Wetland Specialist for the DNR in Glenwood, Minn. and Taylor is enjoying her second year as a School Counselor at Lakeland Elementary in Willmar, Minn.

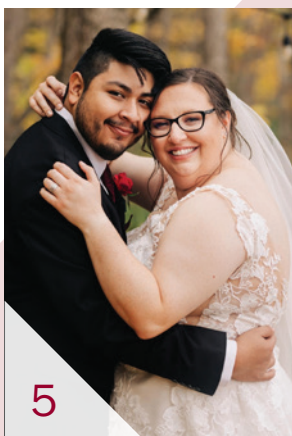


5 – Emma Maguire '20 and **Alex Mejia '21** were married September 23, 2023 at The Meadows on Lind in Detroit Lakes, Minn. They relocated to the Detroit Lakes area in 2021 where Emma works in HR at Lakeshirts and Alex works at Wells Fargo. They are both coaching and staying involved in the community in various ways.

6 – Callie Gullickson '21 and Bayle Bertch were married on October 14, 2023. Callie graduated from VCSU with an Elementary Education degree. She is the Kindergarten teacher at Elgin-New Leipzig Public School. Bayle graduated from NDCS with a Farm Management degree and is working on the family farm and ranch.

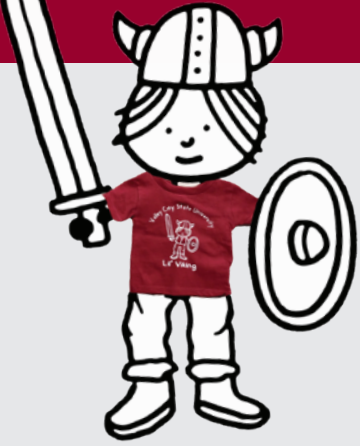
CORRECTION FROM THE LAST EDITION:

7 – Nicole Heinitz '18 and Brian Degenstein were married July 8, 2023. Nicole is in her 6th year of teaching and her 2nd year at Watford City Middle School.



Not Pictured

Kelli Moore '19 & Daniel Vatnsdal, September 23, 2023



Lil' Vikings

Have you had an addition to your family?

Share your good news with the Viking family!



Contact Kim Hesch at kim.hesch@vcsu.edu or scan the QR code and fill out the form to receive a free t-shirt for your new Lil' Viking. Include your baby's name and birth date. 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**.



Owen James Houdek

May 31, 2023
8 lbs. 1 oz., 21 ½ in.
Thomas '16 and
Tori (Enstad) '16 Houdek



Sophia Celeste Diegel

August 3, 2023
9 lbs. 5 oz. 20 ¾ in.
Beau '16 & Hannah (Schlecht) '19
Diegel
Grandparents: Nathan & Barb
(Bunn) '92 Schlect
Great Grandparent: George Bunn '64



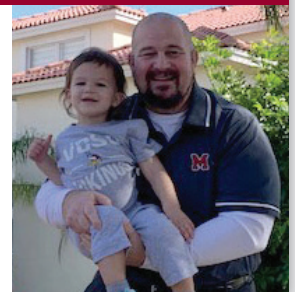
Harper Ferguson

October 15, 2022
8 lbs. 5 oz., 20 ½ in.
Jayden '18 and Emma Ferguson



Colton Anthony May

February 2, 2022
7 lbs. 4 oz., 19 ¼ in.
Kenny May '94 and Jeiny
Ramirez



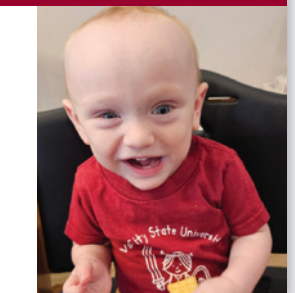
Luca Michael Pignatello

May 4, 2023
8 lb. 5 oz., 22 ½ in.
Sarah (Hulslander) Pignatello
'21



Gideon Samuel Williams

August 21, 2022
2 lbs. 3 oz.
Anthony '12 & Rachel
Williams



Arwyn John Bommersbach

October 18, 2022
7 lbs. 7 oz.
Siblings: Ainsley (7) & Aoife (4)
Adam '12 and Kristine (Dammel)
'13 Bommersbach



Clara Schlecht

September 16, 2023
7 lbs. 10 oz., 21 in.
Sibling: Matthew Schlecht (3)
Jacob '17 & Megan (Olson) '17
Schlecht
Grandparents: Nathan & Barb
(Bunn) '92 Schlect
Great Grandparent: George Bunn '64



CLASS OF 1970s

Colleen (Marquart) Vosburg '71 and her husband, Al, send their greetings. They are still hailing from Bozeman, Mont., "Big Sky Country"! They are both retired from careers in teaching and furniture sales. They welcome any Viking visitors (contact: cjvosburg@earthlink.net and alvosburg@earthlink.net)

Sue (Holmes) German '73 was inducted into the Oakes Public School Hall of Fame on September 18, 2023. Sue is a 1973 graduate of VCSU with a Composite Major-Minor in Music Education. She taught in Lisbon, Fullerton Elementary, Dickey Central High School, and retired as band director from the Oakes Public School after fifteen years there. The Oakes High School Concert Band was the North Dakota Governor's Band in 2011-12. She continues her involvement in music education as a substitute teacher, regional and state judge for NDHSAA, and supporter of the local music department in many ways. Sue and Chuck live in Ludden, N.D., and are very involved in the lives of their children and grandchildren.

Ken Fiechtner '74 has owned K F. Insurance, Inc. in Glenfield, N.D. since 1990.

Kathy (Shape) '74 and Boyd Sussex '75 greet all their VCSU friends. They hope everyone is healthy. Boyd is doing well after having his knee and hip replaced. They continue to cheer on the VCSU Vikings and are grateful to help support the teams.

Joe Vandrovec '74 retired from MicroCrystal of the Swatch Group at the end of 2022 after 22 years as regional sales manager. He has 3 grandkids with more on the way. He says "life is good".

Barbara Stockstad '75 retired May 26, 2023, and is enjoying it thoroughly!

Kay (Haugen) Omdahl '77 and her husband, Neil, are still living in Rogers, N.D. and will celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary in June. Last October they welcomed their seventh grandchild, Auri Noelle, and they say she is a sweetheart!

David Katzenmeyer '78 is still enjoying retirement and the gift of time to spend with family and friends. He sends his best wishes to VCSU and congratulations on all the recent improvements and successes. David loves the new Center for the Arts building.

Beth (Holm) Udem BS-Ed '79 and M. Ed. '09 retired from Barnes County North in May of 2023. She worked for the district for 43 years and taught dual credit /early entry English for VCSU. She and her husband, Steve, still live in Leal. They enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, gardening and traveling by bike during the summer.

Lisa (Monroe) Williams '78 retired after 27 seasons with the Denver Broncos as the Executive Assistant to the Owner, President/CEO and General Counsel. Lisa and her husband, Blake, moved from Denver to Hot Springs, Ariz., to enjoy retirement on Lake Hamilton.

CLASS OF 1980s

Diane (Winter) Graff '82 and her husband continue to work on their tiny home in Missouri. They spend more time down there being grandma and papa. Diane still has her wedding business in Valley City so her days at home are always full.

Kevin Froeber '83 will be retiring after the 2023-24 school year. Kevin will have spent 41 years teaching and coaching, including the past 35 years at West Fargo Public Schools. Kevin and his wife, Michele, will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on May 1. They have 2 sons, David (23) and Michael (20).

Robert Hoffner '84 took a job at Raleigh St. Gertrude following graduation where he also coached track, cross country (they had two all-state xc runners) and assistant basketball. In 1986, with the desire to continue his running career he took a job at Winter Park Ski Resort in Colo. to train at high altitude; during this time, he met some great friends from all over the world and had a great experience. It was also during these years '88 and '89 that he was able to train at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. By the fall of 1990, Bobby took a job at the ND State Hospital as an Activity Therapist in the adolescent unit and was able to reunite with his friend **Arnie Falk '82** and helped out as a volunteer coach with his track athletes. Bobby taught and coached in Jud, N.D. from 1992 until it closed in 1994. After the Jud school closed, he took a job coaching and teaching at Four Winds HS in Fort Totten, N.D. where he met his girlfriend, Wanda Bullinger, and they have been together ever since. They purchased a small farmstead near Esmond and he was blessed with the opportunity to be involved in helping raise Wanda's two young children; Colton is now married and has two young boys that are a real treat, he is an electrician in Mandan, McKenzie is also married and is a nurse in Bemidji, Minn. Bobby later took a job at Maddock HS where he had the pleasure to coach with his mentor and VCSU grad, **Dwight Leier '68**. Bobby coached football three years and track two years under Dwight and took over the track & football programs in 2003. He continued to coach football to 2010. He still coaches track & field which is a Benson County Co-Op. They have been blessed with some great athletes over the years; the girls teams have won three state championships, 4 times state runner-up and a third place finish. Over the years since 1983, Bobby worked summer concrete work and in 2015 he took over the business, which is now called Esmond Crete. Bobby no longer runs, but the concrete work keeps him fit. He plans to teach, coach, and work concrete for a few more years. He often

Continued on Page 32

reflects on his days at VCSU and is very thankful for his education from VCSU. He would also like to thank all of his instructors and coaches at VCSU and give a shout out to his old friends and teammates from the glory days.

Laurel (Ploium) Westby '84 is retiring in May after teaching for 40 years. Laurel and husband, Neil, have three children. Their oldest daughter, Mallory got married in February of 2024. Son, **Scott '15**, is getting married in June, 2024. Laurel and Neil have one granddaughter, Sutton, who is two.

Deb (Nielsen) Feuerherm '89 is the office manager for the VCSU athletic department.

CLASS OF 1990s

Ellen (Musgrave) Berg '91 and her husband, Don, are expecting their eighth great-grandchild in May 2024. Their family keeps growing. Ellen had spinal surgery for a herniated disk in December 2023. They had spent three full days of canning and lifting the heavy water bath kettle which resulted in a disk pressing against the nerve in her back. Ellen had to wait four long months for surgery. She was happy it happened when they were not planning on going anywhere. Don learned how to cook and kept them fed.

Teresa (Luthi) McDonough '94 will be finishing her 2 1/2 year tour as Battle Watch Commander at Space Command in Colorado Springs this summer and will return to the ND Air National Guard as the Director of Staff for Air.

CLASS OF 2010s



Tresa (Didier) Cruff '10 was named Barnes County North Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to her on this wonderful recognition! Tresa is pictured with her husband, **Bud Cruff '10**.

Jess (Tykwinski) Stowman '10 has been named Partner at GoPromo, a custom apparel and promotional products business with offices in West Fargo and Bismarck, N.D. As Partner/Director of Accounting and Human Resources, Stowman will have an even bigger role in shaping the future of GoPromo, while continuing to handle the fiscal health for the ever-growing business, along with heading the Human Resources department.



Derek '14 and Summer (Romine) '15 Burchill live in Valley City, N.D. They have two children, Eleanor (4) and John (2). Derek is the CFO at the family business, Enterprise Sales Co. Summer is in her seventh year as the 7th-9th grade School Counselor at the Jr./Sr. High in Valley City. Both enjoy living in Valley City and being active members of the community.

Shelby Hartman '15 recently graduated from the University of North Dakota in collaboration with Bismarck Public Schools' cohort model with her Masters Degree in Teaching & Leadership. Shelby looks forward to where this new degree & leadership skills will take her.



Stephanie (Fettig) Ripplinger '15 and her husband, Dylan, had their first baby girl, Charli, in October of 2022. They bought a house and moved to Stephanie's hometown, Napoleon, in November of 2022. Stephanie went back into teaching, first by subbing till the end of the school year in 2023 and is now teaching third grade.

Orin Rambow '19 graduated in December of 2023 with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Northwestern Health Sciences University in Minneapolis and is now practicing in Barrie, Ontario, Canada.

Jonathan Tyre '19 earned his Doctor of Physical Therapy from UND. Jon has wanted to be a physical therapist since high school when he saw what an impact physical therapists can have on the patients they interact with. He recently joined Mobility Plus Rehabilitation in Lisbon, N.D.



In Remembrance

Helen (Hofmann) Doeling '41, Jamestown, N.D.
Howard Langemo, Valley City, N.D.
Amy (Nelson) Strasser '46, Underwood, N.D.
Esther (Pearson) Larson '47, Devils Lake, N.D.
Deloris (Gohner) Schroeder, Edgeley, N.D.
Eunice (Pera) Hafemeister '48, Minneapolis, Minn.
Dorothy (Mullen) Puhr '49, Danville, Ill.
Lois (Maetzold) Isakson '50, Mesa, Ariz.
Howard Oppegard '50, Valley City
Richard Schoeler '51, Mesa, Ariz.
Melvin Withnell '51, Pueblo, Colo.
Vernette (Schultz) Neva, Kensal, N.D.
Janet (Martin) Peckham '55, Saint Louis, MO
Jeanne (Mack) Phillippe '55, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Janet (Hanna) Schwalbe '55, Anoka, Minn.
Donald Schultz '55, Gainesville, GA
Dennis Linstaedt '57, Pelican Rapids, Minn.
Howard Murray '57, Moorhead, Minn.
Julie (Seavert) Nelson '57, De Moines, Iowa
June (Johns) Aldrich '59, Bismarck, N.D.
Judith (Thompson) Koppelman '62, Bloomington, Minn.
James Goldesberry '63, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Suzanne (Jakes) Steidl '64, Aberdeen, S.D.
Gertrude (Lang) Learn, Bismarck, N.D.
John Marshall '65, Mount Horeb, Wisc.
Marlys (Wawers) Miller, New London, Minn.
Charles Jacobson '67, Valley City
Connie (Fogderud) Peterson '70, Maple Lake, Minn.
Carl Schellenberg '72, Sheffield, Ohio
Connie (Schmidt) Challey '72, Hankinson, N.D.
Dale E. Nelson, Valley City
Vivian (Sundre) Hamre '74, Lisbon, N.D.
Patricia (Sanderson) Bayley '78, Valley City
Shawn Slaby '79, Jamestown, N.D.
Randy Kottsick '80, Grand Forks, N.D.
Gregory Bohrer, Bismarck, N.D.
Verlee (Skoglund) Heinze '88, Fargo, N.D.
Anna Oppegard '90, Peoria, Ariz.
Jason Thielges '02, Fargo, N.D.
Derrick Rader, Lisbon, N.D.

Ruth "Elaine" Beyer, Valley City
Lowell Busching, Valley City
Sonja Horner, Dent, Minn.

Howard Langemo



Howard Warren Langemo was born on January 7, 1926 on the Halvor Langemo and Ida (Maasjo) Langemo family farm home near Fingal, ND. He started grade school at the age of five, attending a one room school in Norma Township. He went on to graduate from Valley City High School in 1942.

That fall he enrolled at Valley City

State Teachers College. Late in 1945 he was drafted and inducted into the U.S. Army at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He later became a rock climbing instructor at Fort Carson, Colorado. Howard entered North Dakota Agricultural College in 1947, later earning his degree. On November 21, 1948 Howard married the love of his life, Marlys Jean Burgeson at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Howard and Marlys raised three sons, David, Daniel, and John.

Howard began a teaching career in Valley City as a Veterans Farm Training Instructor. In 1955 he embarked on a 35-year very successful career with State Farm Insurance. He truly embodied the State Farm "Good Neighbor" by being very active in numerous church and

community boards and functions. Howard was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City. He was a seventy-three year active Kiwanis Club member. Howard enjoyed his projects at the Barnes County Museum and his time at VCSU athletic events. He was an avid wood worker making beautiful doll houses, wood wagons, Viking ships, along with thousands of Christmas ornaments which were joyfully given to others. Bridge and cribbage card games, Sudoku and crossword puzzles were other favorite past times. Over his entire life he enjoyed staying close to his loving Heavenly Father through Bible studies. He had a great sense of humor, articulate with words, humble, kind, caring, served others with joy, always looking out for others before himself. He loved having time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren!

Howard is survived by his sons David (Laura), Daniel (Jeri) and John (Sonia), 8 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and his 13 brothers and sisters: Marie, Martha, Peter, Inga, Arthur, Henry, Edwin, Erven, Herman, Walter, Lillian, Leone, and Ruth.



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARGO, ND
PERMIT NO. 1159

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

ELECTRONIC 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.



Know a high school junior
or senior who could be a
future Viking?
VCSU.edu/visit

