



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

THE BULLETIN

A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University

ISSUE 071665 | NOVEMBER 2023



50 Years of Showing off the Stars

VCSU is home to the only planetarium in the state of North Dakota and this fall, the space and equipment celebrated half of a century of displaying our part of the universe. During that time, it's become clear that the planetarium offers more than just indoor star-gazing. The planetarium offers a glimpse into distant lands, unreachable planets, and provides a unique opportunity for students to blend science, art and other educational disciplines. - PAGE 7

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Learn more at vcsualumni.org

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Positive Growth this Fall

President Alan LaFave, D.M.A.

Fall semester has been an exciting time here at VCSU. Our campus continues to see the results of the efforts of faculty, staff and community in making VCSU such a special and outstanding place.



Once again, we have been recognized in the U.S. News and World Report rankings. For the third consecutive year we ranked as the top public regional college in North Dakota and placed second among public regional colleges in the Midwest. We were also ranked as a Best Value School, a top performer on Social Mobility, and a Best College for Veterans. This year marks the 26th consecutive year we've been included in these rankings.

As you likely know, our Fall 2023 enrollment has surpassed all previous records and exceeds 1,700 students for the first time in our history. With 1,754 students enrolled this fall, we continue to grow. We were the only four-year regional institution in ND to show growth in both headcount and FTE this fall. Our FTE of 1,112 is the highest it has been in the past three years and the third highest in our history. We welcomed 310 new students, including freshmen and transfers. Our high school dual credit numbers increased by 37 students from 395 to 432, and our NDSU collaborative elementary education program grew by 9 students from 106 to 115.

These numbers help illustrate the importance of the overall enrollment picture and the many different types of students that contribute to our campus. This energy and momentum would not have happened without a concerted effort on the part of our entire faculty and staff, and I extend thanks and appreciation to all!

We were pleased and honored to host the October 2023 meeting of the ND Legislative Interim Higher Education committee. They were on campus Oct. 10-11. Their visit included a tour of VCSU and a variety of topics and presentations from the North Dakota University System, Valley City State University, Mayville State University, and Department of Public Instruction.

Two of the topics discussed at their meeting included teacher shortages and graduation trends in teacher education programs. I'm very pleased to report that VCSU continues to lead in these efforts, with 151 education graduates this past year and more than 1,500 alumni teaching throughout North Dakota.

To continue growing the education workforce, VCSU has been hosting "Tomorrow's Teacher Education Visit Days." The visit days are tailored for students considering or wanting to learn more about becoming a teacher. Prospective students meet and interact with our faculty, staff, and students in the School of Education at VCSU.

As always, we welcome you to visit campus. We appreciate and thank the entire community for your support of VCSU. Go Vikings!

VCSU Fall Quick Facts

1,754

students enrolled this fall semester

310

new students welcomed

1,112

third highest FTE in VCSU history

115

students in the VCSU at NDSU El. Ed program

432

dual credit students

More than

1,500

Alumni teaching in North Dakota

In 2024

See WWII History In Person

Travel with VCSU through Europe
Explore WWII and the Liberation of France



VCSU would like to invite alumni and friends to join us on a nine-day trip to Europe. The trip includes a visit to the War Room in London, the Imperial War Museum, a ferry trip across the English Channel to the Beaches of Normandy, the town of Caen, Paris, along with many other sites. For more information contact Dr. King at steven.king@vcsu.edu.



Finding Your Fit

Transforming Lives, One Gift at a Time

Cory Anderson, '89
Executive Director for University Advancement

This past fiscal year was another historic one of fundraising for our University and our Foundation because of the generous contributions from our donors. This milestone speaks to the loyalty and charity of graduates and friends like you.

Private support for Valley City State University is critically important every



Anderson

single year. Your gifts enable VCSU to provide student scholarships, to enrich our facilities, and to increase our University's engagement with the community. You recognize that your investments are enabling us to transform lives—to have an enduring impact on people.

We are here to help you find your fit with giving. When the attitude of gratitude for VCSU strikes, we want you to understand your options on where your giving fits in with both your goals and our mission.

Here is a breakdown of our most popular donor fits for giving to VCSU:

The Annual Fund: Give today, impact today. Annual fund dollars from cash donations and pledges are flexible and immediately available for what matters most – affordable student learning. Each year, we focus our efforts on V-500 merit based scholarships, talent based fine arts and athletic scholarships as well as Friends of the University programs in various student interest areas. VCSU ranks exceedingly well for best return on investment and is a highly accredited institution. As a valued supporter, you can take pride in these accomplishments.

The Challenge Grant and Endowed Scholarship Fund: Without a significant endowment, it is a challenge to offer support for academic and extracurricular life without increasing tuition. The feature that distinguishes an endowed scholarship from other types of donations is that the gift is preserved so that it will last indefinitely. Typically, the scholarship honors a donor's loved one or the donor him/herself. When an endowed scholarship is established, the money is invested. VCSU will never withdraw any of the principal. Only the interest earned is used to fund the scholarship. This makes an endowed scholarship a permanent gift. An added bonus to endowed scholarships is the current availability of the ND Challenge Grant Matching fund program. This program makes your gift go further by matching \$1 for every \$2 you give.

The Campaign for Valley City State University: In a monumental effort to propel VCSU into the future, we are nearing the end of our first-ever capital campaign. *Forward Together: The Campaign for Valley City State University* is an all-hands-on-deck project, requiring ample planning and is our way of ensuring continued service to our students by providing them with updated campus buildings and athletic facility enhancements. VCSU's mission to provide our students the best possible experience in the classroom and in competition continues, but we have outgrown our athletic and student activity facilities. In addition, we must also seize the opportunity to repurpose one of our storied buildings for our flagship teacher education program. Your support of this mission will provide the necessary resources to keep VCSU viable and self-sustaining while also shaping our future. As you can see, our aim is high every year. If you have an affinity for VCSU and a capacity for any sized gift – please consider helping us move forward while increasing the value of your diploma at the same time. We grow so that we have more to give. When we experience the power of sincere and selfless contribution, we experience life's deepest joy of true fulfillment. The secret to living is giving!

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*Indicates someone who passed away during 2022-23 year.

2nd Successful Summer Vikes on Central

For a second year in a row, the VCSU Vikings celebrated with the Valley City community. The 2023 incoming freshman class, with current students, athletic teams, staff, faculty, and VCSU Viking family members met at the footbridge and walked as a group, led by the VCSU athletic band. The event featured live music, a dunk tank, fireworks, shopping and food vendors. The event was coordinated by the Summer Nights on Central Committee and included many participating local businesses and community members.



Watch the video of us walking from campus to the event.





CLOCKTOWER UPGRADE

The iconic clocktower got a facelift this summer with three new acrylic faces replacing the glass ones originally installed.

VCSU enrolls more than 1,700 for first time in history

1,754 students enrolled reflects 20 years of growth at VCSU

A record 1,754 students in total enrolled at VCSU this fall. This includes 1,628 undergraduate students, the most in school history. Of those students, 310 are new undergraduate students including freshmen and transfers. The school’s full-time equivalent (FTE) also increased as compared to prior years, another measure of growth.

“Our fall enrollment reflects the steady growth and stability we have cultivated at VCSU. With growing enrollment and important projects like the renovation of McCarthy Hall on the horizon, VCSU’s upward trajectory is noticeable,” President Alan LaFave said. “We’re happy to share our good news and excited to have new Vikings on campus at such a pivotal time.”

“It’s clear students, both current and prospective, recognize the strength of a VCSU degree by enrolling and trusting us with their education and future” LaFave said. “This growth is not possible without our faculty and staff

creating an environment that helps students excel and working hard to match the needs of an ever-changing educational landscape.”

“Our academic offerings are poised to meet the current critical and up-and-coming needs of our state. Our many partnerships and academic agreements with colleges across the state help ensure we’re doing our part to fill gaps in the workforce,” said Larry Brooks, Vice President of Academic Affairs. “I’m pleased to see so many students taking the opportunity to pursue an education at VCSU.”

Compared to last year, VCSU has 96 more students enrolled this fall and 20 more full-time students.

“With growth propelling many programs forward, VCSU continues to be recognized as a great academic investment. Our accreditation and generous scholarship programs are an essential part of our mission to provide quality education and experiences to our students,” said Dr. LaFave.

VCSU Welcomes Interim Higher Education Committee to Campus

The Interim Higher Education Committee of the North Dakota Legislature conducted their meeting on Oct. 10–11, at Valley City State University (VCSU).

Committee members from across the state toured campus and conducted their meeting in the new Center for the Arts. President Alan LaFave, Dr. Allen Burgad, Dr. Nick Galt, Larry Brooks, Cory Anderson and Larry Robinson presented to the Committee on behalf of VCSU.

Burgad focused on various efforts at VCSU to recruit, support and graduate successful teacher candidates to help address the ongoing teacher shortage issues in the state.





Alumni Anecdotes



VCSU ranked high by U.S. News and World Report

26th consecutive year VCSU has been ranked

Valley City State University (VCSU) has been ranked as the top regional public college in North Dakota for the third consecutive year by U.S. News and World Report.

VCSU has been ranked for 26 consecutive years. This year, VCSU was also ranked as a Best Value School, a Top Performer on Social Mobility, and a Best College for Veterans.

“We are proud to offer a high-quality experience for every student that calls VCSU home,” VCSU President Alan LaFave said. “Our top-notch faculty and staff have created an environment that helps every student excel, and this external rating confirms those efforts are successful. We are grateful to everyone in the community, our alumni, and beyond who has supported VCSU and helped continue our tradition of excellence.”

“I’m extremely excited to see that we continue to be a Best Value School,” LaFave said. “VCSU has made deliberate, sustainable

efforts to keep the cost of an education affordable for students and families. This year we have frozen tuition, housing rates are locked at the first-year rate for any student staying on campus multiple years, and we have reduced our technology fee in the last five years. This is a priority for our campus as we continue to work toward greater student success.”

“We have excellent faculty committed to helping students succeed every day,” Vice President for Academic Affairs Larry Brooks said. “This ranking is another affirmation that a degree from VCSU is a mark of quality. It’s great to see the efforts we have been making to keep education high-quality and affordable have been recognized.”

VCSU was ranked No. 2 in the Midwest category of public regional colleges. The Midwest region includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas.

Capt. Bryan Niewind '04

Capt. Bryan Niewind, North Dakota Highway Patrol, was given the Zezula Award – “One Who Helps” from ND Governor Doug Burgum for responding with professional aid in times of great stress and tragedy, including in the aftermath of officer-involved shootings in Fargo in 2022 and 2023, as well as his efforts to support and enhance Vision Zero with new traffic safety strategies.

“We continue to be impressed by the exceptional work and new and innovative ways in which members of Team North Dakota are making a positive difference in the lives of our citizens,” Burgum said.

“Nearly 1,000 nominations were received this year from individuals highlighting the accomplishments and outstanding work of their fellow team members. We are deeply grateful for the award recipients and all Team ND members for their dedication to our citizens and their tireless efforts as they deliver on our shared purpose to Empower People, Improve Lives and Inspire Success.”

Family, Friends, and Former Students, to Recognize the late Linda Holcomb

The Valley City State University community lost an educational icon in 2018 with the passing of Linda Holcomb.

Her family, friends and former students, have decided to recognize her by naming a special room in McCarthy Hall (College High Building) in Linda's memory.

The special room will be named Linda's Literacy Library.

The timing of their decision is perfect. McCarthy Hall will be undergoing a \$13,500,000 renovation beginning in the Spring of 2024. The building will become VCSU's School of Education, Graduate Studies and Technology Education.

Linda was a 1962 graduate of Valley City High School and a 1966 graduate of VCSU. She had a special place in her heart for teaching, especially Kindergarten teachers, and their students. Linda loved children's literature. She began her teaching career in the Valley City Public Schools. She then had a long and successful career teaching in the Education Department at VCSU starting in 1979.

Linda retired in 2006 but continued supervising student teachers for many more years. For Linda, teaching was not a job, it was a life. She was a natural teacher. She loved her students, and her students loved her. She not only possessed outstanding teaching skills, but absolutely shined with her dynamic personal skills as well. She cared and it showed. Linda touched the lives of thousands of students over the course of



her career. She instilled in her students the very best of what teaching is all about.

"Linda was a pillar that worked to build VCSU's education programs into what they are today." According to Dr. Allen Burgad, Dean of VCSU's School of Education. "Linda and her colleagues set a high standard that resulted in VCSU having a nationally-recognized department."

Linda Holcomb epitomized the very best of what teaching is all about. It is only fitting that we embrace this opportunity to memorialize someone who has meant so much to so many. The Planning Committee asks that you give serious consideration to supporting this effort to recognize Linda and prepare future VCSU teachers to be outstanding reading instructors. Contributions are being accepted toward this cause and the committee has established a designated giving level.

The Giving-Honor Roll will include those contributions of \$1,000 or more. All contributions will be recognized on a Giving Wall in the facility entitled VCSU Education Alumni Supporting Reading Teachers. We hope you will consider supporting this important effort and have your name listed on this recognition wall for Linda.



Pledges will be accepted and payable over a three-year time period. All contributions should be sent to:

VCSU Foundation Office
101 College St.
Valley City, N.D. 58072
Attention: Linda Holcomb Recognition

Please direct any questions to the VCSU Foundation Office at:
701-845-7203
email: alumni@vcsu.edu

McCarthy Hall Renovation to Begin in 2024

The transformation of McCarthy Hall into the home for VCSU's School of Education, Graduate Studies and Technology Education will begin in 2024 as the Forward Together Capital Campaign continues to progress. A contractor will be selected in early 2024 and construction on the building is expected to begin in March 2024, according to VCSU President Alan LaFave.

"Our hope is we will continue to see strong support for this project as it becomes a reality throughout the next year," LaFave said. "There are many ways alumni or supporters of education can become involved including becoming a part of

the Capital Campaign."

Construction is expected to take a year to complete and will transform the space into a dedicated home for VCSU's School of Education, Graduate Studies and Technology Education. The old College High will be transformed into a space for collaborative learning, faculty offices, study areas and classrooms similar to what education students will encounter when taking their first steps as teachers in the workforce.

"This is an exciting time for our campus and we are thrilled to get this renovation underway," LaFave said.

Celebrating 50 years of exploring the universe

Seeing Beyond the Stars

As the VCSU Planetarium celebrates the facility's 50th anniversary, faculty, staff and students reflect on how the unique space has changed their perspective and equipped them to explore and understand the world.

Tucked up on the third floor of the L.D. Rhoades Science Center is the only place in North Dakota to see the stars clearly in December in 70 degree temperatures.

This fall the VCSU Planetarium celebrated 50 years in operation. This unique part of campus was created after \$1 million was invested in building a new Science and Mathematics building. \$62,000 of that cost was designated for a state-of-the-art Spitz Laboratories planetarium system.

Groundbreaking in 1972 for the new Math and Science building. Dr. Charles Walker is second from left in the front row.



In 1972 and 1973, the dream began to take shape. The third floor classrooms were finished. Workers assembled a 500 pound aluminum tubing into a dome frame and lined it with vinyl. It was placed as the ceiling in a classroom. Below the

dome, a unique mechanical structure with a hole-filled sphere on one end was mounted in the center of the room. With the lights off, the room became a small, vivid version of the night sky.

The classroom was to be used to teach astronomy, but also incorporate other disciplines including literature, music, social studies, math, and drama, Chair of the Math and Science Department in 1973 Dr. Charles Walker said at the time. In an article in the Times Record, he voiced his hope that the space would be used for "teaching and learning in many vocations," and for the community.

Dreams became a reality and the planetarium has been the vehicle audiences have used to walk through the universe, 50 people at a time.



The planetarium dome as it was being constructed in the L.D. Rhoades Science Center in 1973. The aluminum tube frame was covered with metal sheeting for displaying the stars.

Continued on page 8.

Guided by Starr

Wes Anderson '97 was a first year student 20 years after the planetarium was built.

As a history major, he wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life. His advisor signed him up for an astronomy class with Joe Stickler. He found the intersection of the stars, the way they shaped history, and the impact on society fascinating. His interest led him to Eileen Starr.

Starr had recently created a unique planetarium class that focused on students using their skills to write and produce shows and then show them using the planetarium. She wanted students to learn how to use the equipment.

"She encouraged my interest in this stuff," Anderson said of Starr. "She needed someone local to run the place when she was gone, so she took me under her wing." Anderson laughed as he explained how he was part of Starr's "master plan." Anderson loved continuing to learn about the history of civilizations and their relation to the stars, but he also loved working with the actual machine. "I like all kinds of old technology," Anderson said.

Anderson graduated and continued to help with shows and keeping the machinery running smoothly. When Starr retired

in 2002, Anderson became the next director. This fall, he welcomed students, friends, faculty, alumni and the community back to the space to celebrate the 50th anniversary. Throughout his life, he has been a member of all of those groups.

"I have made a lot of very good friends here and we have had a lot of fun up here," he said. "Sitting in the planetarium and looking at the stars is pretty cool."



Eileen Starr with Wes Anderson



Aaron Sours '02, back left, pictured with Wes Anderson, Eileen Starr and Bonnie Ranum at the opening of the show "Zoo in the Sky."

A Memorial Scholarship exists in Sours' honor dedicated to providing scholarships to sponsor students in the Planetarium Science class at VCSU. Sours worked at the Planetarium with Anderson and Starr.



Wes Anderson working on the planetarium in 1995.



Fall 2004 Planetarium Science Class from left: Austin Lang '05, Brenda Weber '06, Amanda Snyder, Troy Worm '05, Amber Hopewell, Christina Pederson

Crafting shows through collaboration

One of those friends is Brenda Jarski-Weber '06. Originally from Wimbledon, Jarski-Weber began her studies in Bottineau but developed an interest in taking a Mycology class. She discussed taking that class with Dr. Hilde van Gijssel and "next thing I knew I was signed up for classes and getting ready for a botany field trip."

She needed one more credit to be full time and that led her to the Planetarium Science course.

"I always loved being a part of the planetarium," she said. "Putting on shows was always fun, especially when kids were in the planetarium for the first time." Hearing students exclaim as the lights went down and the stars came out was "very satisfying and entertaining."

She collaborated with other students for months to develop and premiere the show Native American Night.

"I was so satisfied to see months of work come to completion," Jarski-Weber said. Part of that satisfaction was the fact that it required close collaboration with others.

"I worked as a wildlife field biologist for many years and generally worked alone," she explained. "Being a part of the Planetarium was a great lesson in working on give and take and compromise."

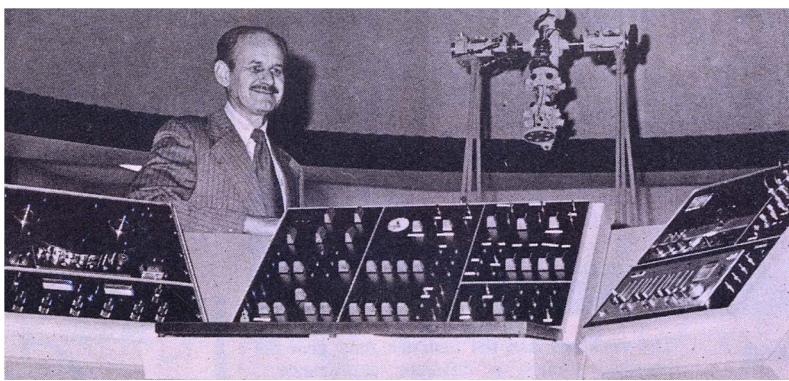
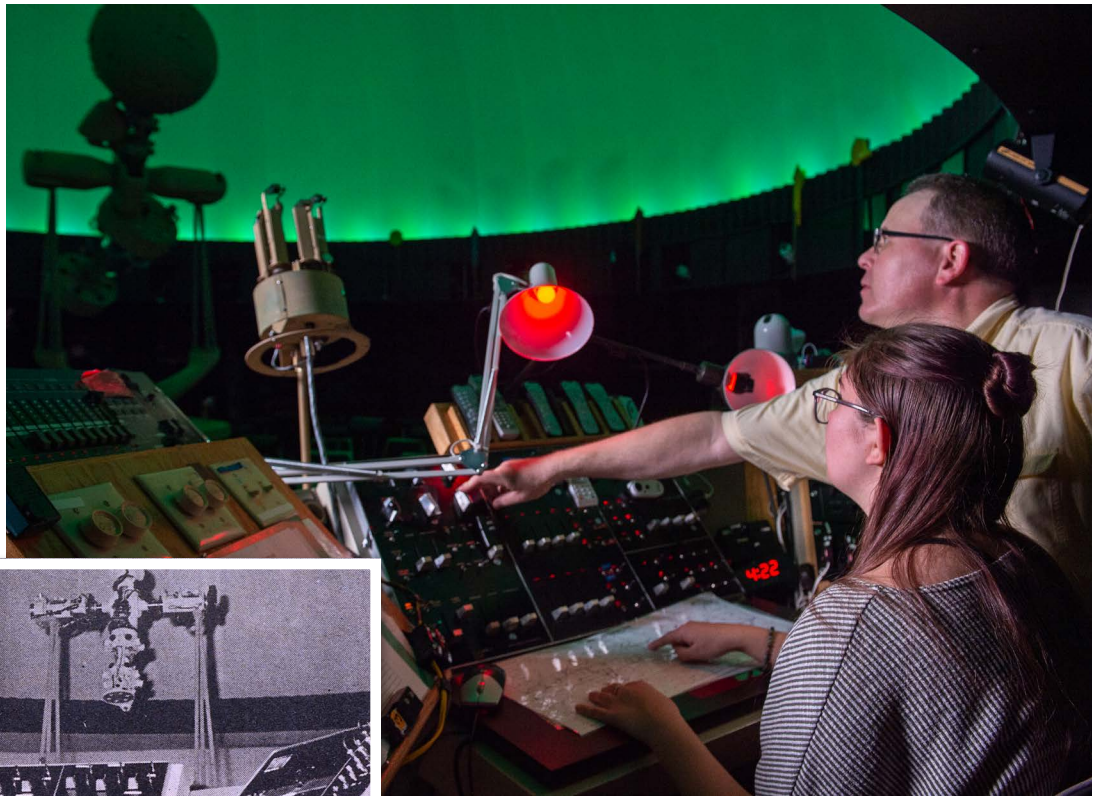
Working with a team was also something Burke Tagney '13 enjoyed as a student in Planetarium Science. Tagney has been using skills he learned in Anderson's class throughout his career, including in his current position as the IT Coordinator for Midwest Financial Partners. He originally came to VCSU from Montana to play baseball and study business. His path led him to add a theater minor and that connection landed him in the planetarium. Tagney helped produce a show and eventually began spending free time working with Anderson on the shows and productions. Tagney took Planetarium Science for two years.

"We were working on the show Finding Polaris, technically Finding Polaris II," he said. The group wrote the show together and used equipment in the music department to record the audio files. "It was maybe a little more of an entertaining show. "That was my first experience and it ended up being an absolute blast."



Burke Tagney '13

Wes Anderson, right, helps current Planetarium Science student Syd Schmidt display part of a show on the vinyl dome. Schmidt is one of three students taking the course this fall. The students operated the planetarium for monthly shows and are currently working on completing and producing a show started by a previous class of students.



Dr. Leonhardt Gunsch, a professor at VCSU, works with the Spitz Laboratories planetarium machine and console that was installed in 1973 for \$62,000. The equipment is operating almost exactly as it was installed 50 years ago, other than the new digital projector and laptops used during parts of the planetarium shows.

Tagney said that developing the show was one of his only experiences doing voice over work, something which he thoroughly enjoyed. He also enjoyed getting to work with the Spitz system that powers the star display.

The technology in the planetarium was state-of-the-art when it was installed 50 years ago. The machine is virtually unchanged to this day through the maintenance skills of people like Anderson and students he teaches. Although the planetarium now uses PowerPoint instead of actual slide decks, much is unchanged. The machine brings analog lights to life in a digital world.

"I think this gave me a good taste of the real world," he explained. "I love some of that older technology. There is a nostalgia factor, but also, some things just work. I work in technology now and sometimes there are so many hands in the cookie jar that may think they know what is better and want to redesign everything. But here is this piece of equipment that was ridiculously expensive at the time and I think the idea is that we can keep this thing going. It does what it was designed to do and does it really well."

"It's not at a point where it is taking away from the experience, but it is the experience," Tagney said. "There is something about having this big, physical machine right in the middle of the room. Then it goes dark and boom, it's projecting everything from that machine. It becomes more of a character itself."

Seeing the other side of the world

This fall, students Clayton Bleick, Syd Schmidt and Jasmine Barnes have continued the work of Tagney, Jarski-Weber and dozens of students who came before. The trio have been working to finish one of the shows that an earlier class started, but didn't have time to complete production.

"Currently we are writing scripts. Then we are planning to record them and edit the audio," Bleick, of New Salem, explained. As an audio production major, Bleick and his classmates show how Planetarium Science course continues to be a place where music, science and creativity intersect.

Bleick's favorite part of the course has been getting to use the Planetarium and understand how it works.

"It's very accurate and you can turn it on and see what it looks like on the other side of the world," he said. "It's fascinating to think about this is what it would look like if I was in Australia, or the Arctic."

Classmate Jasmine Barnes of Redwood Falls, MN, is no stranger to the science building. As a Health Science major with two minors in psychology and chemistry, her class load has been heavy and challenging. Working in the Planetarium Science class has brought a different kind of fun to her fall schedule. She enjoys the hands-on nature of the course work and how Anderson has encouraged them to take their time crafting a good show.

Barnes said stopping by the planetarium for a weekend show is a great way to get a perspective about earth and the things that really matter.

"I think even if you are not interested in the stars, it is neat to see the machinery," she said. "It's cool to see that our school has something unique like this."

Skills for Life

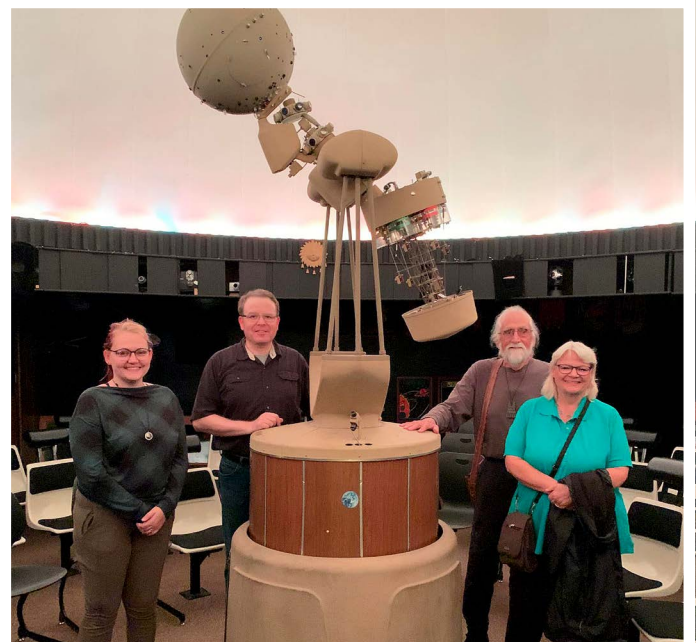
Not only is the facility unique, the class Planetarium Science is a one-of-a-kind, according to Anderson. When Starr created the class in 1992, as far as Anderson can tell, it is the only class where students learn how to operate the machine.

Saralynn Dobler was of those students that learned how to operate the Spitz machine. Dobler came back to campus for the 50th anniversary last summer to see a planetarium show and catch up with Anderson.

Dobler was always interested in the stars, even before her parents got her a telescope for her 10th birthday. She jumped right into the planetarium course her first year at VCSU and enjoyed creating and presenting shows. She helped craft a show about the solar system. Dobler eventually transferred to the only other nearby school with a planetarium and started working at that facility as well.

Now, as a graphic designer, Dobler said the things she learned at the planetarium have helped her in her career and life.

“Talking about something that I love gave me the confidence to speak in front of an audience. Designing shows and understanding what people liked helped me become a better graphic designer,” she said. In addition, the planetarium offers a perspective that helps expand perspectives. “There’s nothing else like a planetarium, You always learn something new, even if you have seen the show 100 times like I have. I think introducing kids to space is important.”



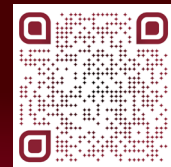
Saralynn Dobler, left, returned to the planetarium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the facility during Homecoming Week. Alice Beauchman '73, right, former administrative assistant for the Science Department also returned for the show. Beauchman assisted in promoting and organizing planetarium shows for decades and worked with multiple planetarium directors. Also pictured are current director Wes Anderson, back left, and professor emeritus and former astronomy teacher Dr. Joe Stickler, back right.



Molly Fritz '22 (or as her students call her, Scientist Fritz), teaches at Lincoln Elementary in Jamestown. Fritz took Planetarium Science while at VCSU and recently made star charts for the ceiling of her classroom.

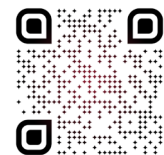
Support the VCSU Planetarium

www.vcsualumni.org/donation-pages/planetarium.html



Catch the next Planetarium Show

www.facebook.com/VCSUPlanetarium



VCSU FINE ARTS 2023-2024 CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2023

Saturday, Dec. 2
Winter Choral Concert
Performance Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 a.m.
Non-Major Student Recital
Performance Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m.
General Student Recital
Performance Hall

JANUARY 2024

Friday, Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Music Faculty Recital
Performance Hall

FEBRUARY 2024

Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 11 a.m.
General Student Recital
Performance Hall

Tuesday, March 12 at 11 a.m.
General Student Recital
Performance Hall

Tuesday, March 26 at 11 a.m.
General Student Recital
Performance Hall

Saturday, April 20 at 3 p.m.
Tanner Douville, Sr. Recital
Performance Hall

GALLERY SHOWS

Nov 13 – Dec 1
Alayna Proctor Senior
Exhibition

Dec 4 – Feb 9
Faculty/Staff Art Show

Feb 16 – March 15
High School Art Show

March 25 to April 19
AIDS Quilt Show

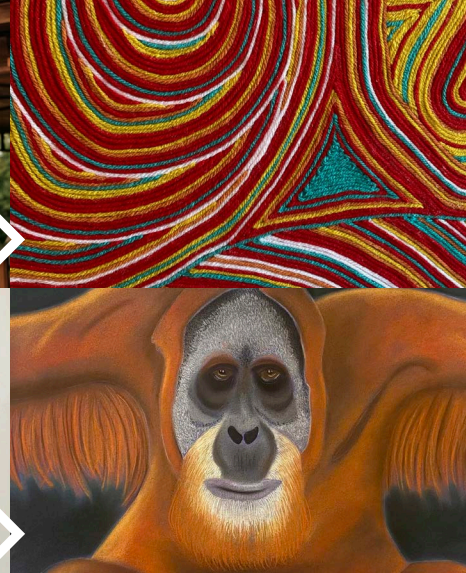
April 22 to May 3
Juried Art Show



Kay Yturalde
Introspection



Alayna Proctor
Extinction is Forever



Fall Senior Art Exhibitions

Two talented art students displayed artwork in the VCSU Center for the Arts Gallery this fall to complete their senior capstones.

Introspection, Kay Yturalde's capstone exhibit explored her subconscious and emotions to process life experiences. Yturalde engaged material to create 3D sculptures that allowed her to express her thoughts and feelings.

Extinction is Forever, Alayna Proctor's capstone exhibit, featured soft pastel drawings and mini felted sculptures that explore the theme of endangered animals and the issues of climate change, habitat loss, and pollution.

Watch their artist talks and exhibition recaps on the VCSU Youtube Channel or the VCSU Art Department Facebook page.

CALL TO ALUMNI ARTISTS

Alumni Art Show

Submit 1 to 2 pieces of your artwork to be on display in the CFA Art Gallery from May – June 2024

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



- All items must be received between April 1 – April 30 to be included.
- Drop off the artwork at the CFA or mail it to:

CFA Art Gallery
Attn: Angela Mirscov
306 Viking Dr
Valley City, ND 58072

- Questions? Contact:
vcuartgallery@vcsu.edu

ALUMNI CORNER

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



Svenningsen-Hesch

On behalf of the over 12,500 alumni of this great institution, it is my pleasure to send you greetings from the Valley City State University Alumni Association. The association exists to help our alumni and by extension, the University itself, succeed.

The world gets more complicated with every passing day. We get involved with our families and work and suddenly we've lost touch with those outside that close circle. The Alumni Association can help you stay connected to those friends and to the variety of resources available here through our MyVCSU app, websites and social media. Our VCSU Foundation webpage, vcsualumni.org, is specifically designed to support you as you pursue your post-academic life and career. We also have information regarding giving options as you consider planned giving or other gift options at vcsugift.org.

Our VCSU alumni family currently has alumni in all 50 of the United States and in 15 countries. Of our 12,300 alumni, more than 7,000 live in North Dakota with another 2,000 living in Minnesota. Throughout the year we hold VCSU Tuesday Socials across North Dakota, host events in sunny Arizona for our snowbirds, and welcome HOME alumni at Homecoming. These activities are a way for our staff

to reconnect with alumni along with sharing campus news and updates. This summer VCSU and the Foundation sponsored a Fargo-Moorhead Redhawks baseball game. This event has become a favorite of many of our alumni to attend. We had over 170 attend our pregame picnic and enjoy the game. Please join us for activities in your area – we would love to see you.

At the same time, I would challenge you to think of ways you can give back to the University to whatever degree you are comfortable. And I do not mean just monetarily, though that is, of course, always welcome. There are many ways to give back, from career and academic mentoring to volunteering time on one of our boards, to simply attending academic and social events. And let's not forget athletics. Rooting for the Vikings in whatever sports appeal to you is always a fun and exciting time and a great way to connect and reconnect with old friends. As you will find, giving back has another benefit: it feels good.

So, thank you for being a Viking. I encourage you to explore all that we have to offer to stay connected and make yourself and VCSU stronger. And if you should find yourself in the area, please do not hesitate to stop by McFarland Hall, Office 212 for a visit. The staff here will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have and fill you in on what is happening around the campus.



Above: 4 generations and spouses attend our Nome Social.

Back row: Megan (Olson) '17 holding Clara Schlect & Jacob Schlect '17, Beau '16 and Hannah (Schlect) '19 Diegel holding Sophia Diegel

Front row: Nathan Schlect, George Bunn '64 and Barb (Bunn) Schlect '92 with grandson Matthew Schlect.



Alumni Honored

Eight Alumni were selected to be honored during the annual Homecoming Activities on Saturday, September 23. An all-alumni Honors Breakfast was held at the VCSU Student Center. The Honors Breakfast provides the VCSU Alumni Association with an opportunity to present fellow alumni with Certificate of Merit, Young Alumni Achievement, and Distinguished Alumni awards.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Recognizes Valley City State University alumni/alumnae who have achieved prominence in their chosen field of endeavor. The nominee must have received national or international recognition and must have been identified as an expert in the individual's chosen field.



Distinguished Alumni Award: Zach McBeain '15, President of the VCSU Alumni Board of Directors, Andre DeLorme '79 and VCSU President Alan LaFave.

DR. ANDRE DELORME '79

Dr. Andre DeLorme was selected by the Valley City State University Alumni Board of Directors to become the 62nd recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. DeLorme earned his Bachelor's degree with a major in Biology and Chemistry in 1979 from Valley City State University. In 1982 he received his Master's degree from Bemidji State University and followed with a Doctorate in 1998 from the University of Minnesota.

While DeLorme spent a few short years teaching at the high school level, he returned to the Department of Science at VCSU in 1996. DeLorme taught many science classes and later served as the Chair of the Department. He was instrumental in establishing the Fisheries & Wildlife and Health Science majors.

As Professor to the Department of Science, DeLorme wrote a grant to fund the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center. The center provides education and research opportunities for teachers, students and professionals. Over 21,000 students have attended workshops or summer camps at Prairie Waters.

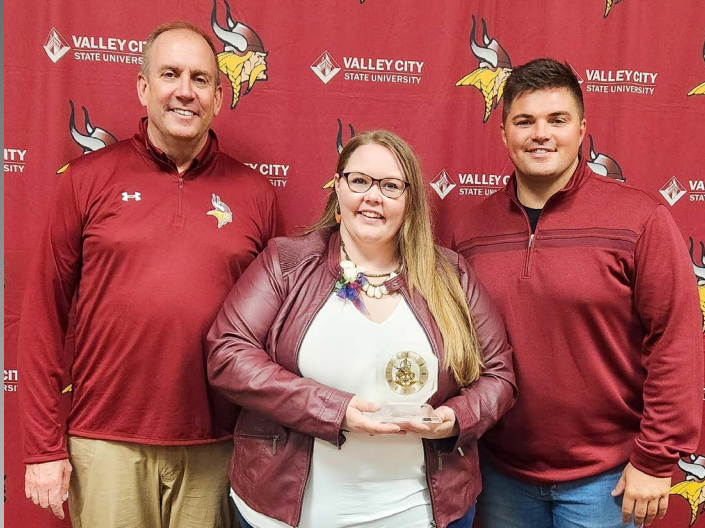
Dr. DeLorme was the leading force in setting up the Macroinvertebrate Lab in the Rhoades Science Center. It employs VCSU students to conduct research projects for the ND Department of Environmental Quality, the Army Corp., Forestry Services, etc. He has VCSU students working in the lab over summers and during the school year often taking these students to national conferences

to present papers on their research.

"Dr. DeLorme quietly works behind the scenes," stated Alice Beauchman '73, "he does not look for attention, he works hard and accomplishes a great deal."

When asked what does being a graduate of VCSU mean to you DeLorme responded, "When I think back to my time at VCSU as a student and later a professor the word that best describes my experience is opportunity. As a student I was able to take part in many different activities from playing sports to being in concert band and taking drum lessons. It gave me the opportunity to meet a wide variety of people and have a variety of experiences. As a faculty member the administration was always supportive of my ideas and endeavors. Although funding may have not been available, they supported me by providing lab space and encouragement. This gave me the opportunity to pursue my goals of providing undergraduate research opportunities and starting the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center."

Dr. DeLorme retired from teaching this past spring, receiving Professor Emeritus status at VCSU. He continues as the Director of the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center, which moved this summer from Kathryn to the Valley City National Fish Hatchery. DeLorme lives in Valley City with his wife Marla. They have two grown children Marc and Marie.



Young Alumni Achievement Award: VCSU President Alan LaFave, Kendra Krueger '12, and Zach McBeain '15, President of the VCSU Alumni Board of Directors.



Young Alumni Achievement Award: Tristan Ross '08 and VCSU President Alan LaFave.

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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

KENDRA KRUEGER '12

Kendra earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science from VCSU. She is currently the Senior Field Advocacy Operations Manager for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). Prior to her time with the ACS she worked for the American Heart Association and Jamestown Chamber of Commerce.

While attending VCSU, Kendra was Student Senate President and represented VCSU at the ND Student Association meetings at the State Capitol which she says launched professional connections she has across the region and country still to this day.

Kendra has been honored with the ACS CAN Silver Award (2022), ACS CAN Presidents Award Winner (2021, 2022), the American Heart Association Hero Award (2017), Giving Hearts Day Rising Star Award (2017), Administrative Award of Excellence (2015) and the Midwest Affiliate Best Year Ever Star Performer (2015). In the Fall of 2022, she received the ACS CAN Field Grassroots Professional of the Year award for her outstanding work in grassroots organizing in support of the mission to make cancer a national priority.

When asking Kendra what graduating from VCSU means to her, she said "I wholeheartedly believe that VCSU student organizations, resident halls, and my internship in Valley City was where I built lifelong friendships and began to build a strong foundation for my career. It was not only a place to study, but a place that built interpersonal skills and flourished with opportunities to be a student leader, which I am unsure I would have been afforded in so many different ways, to such a high level at another university."

Kendra finds herself filled with appreciation for everyone she encountered along the way and her time spent at "Home".

TRISTAN ROSS '08

Tristan graduated from Valley City State University in 2008 with a double major in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems. Tristan is currently employed by Marcus Theatres of Fargo and serves as the General Manager of the Century Cinema Theatre.

Tristan received the Ben Marcus Humanitarian All-Star Award (2014), Ben Marcus Humanitarian of the Year award (2015), and Marcus Theatres Core Leadership Believe Achiever Award (2022). The Ben Marcus Humanitarian Award recognizes associates who have gone above and beyond in their volunteering for others.

Tristan serves on the planning committee for the ND Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Walks, raising money for suicide prevention programs. Dr. Katie Woehl, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs & Professor of Psychology at VCSU stated, "Tristan Ross plays a critical role in our local suicide prevention and awareness efforts through his work with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). As the co-chair of the Valley City Out of the Darkness Walk, I am incredibly grateful for Tristan's enthusiasm and assistance. It can easily become overwhelming to be doing this difficult work in a rural area, but Tristan is always looking for ways to help; he makes trips to Valley City to talk to members of our community, to help at our Valley City event, and to bring suicide awareness programming to schools, businesses and other groups in our area. His passion for the cause and determination to do the work well are admirable and very much appreciated."

Tristan said it is hard to pick any particular memory during his time with the university. He was involved in a multitude of student organizations that allowed him to make a difference for many fellow students. Tristan said, "I think the memories that I really cherish is how I have kept in touch with many students that I met during my time at VCSU and seeing how much their life has developed since our time together."



Certificate of Merit: VCSU President Alan LaFave, Gary Rufsvold '68, Megan (Nodland) Wald '08, Jerica (Buckman) Smith '14 M.Ed. '21, Stacy Wendel-Monilaws '02, Kelsey (Wilhelm) Dragosavich '11 and Zach McBeain '15, President of the VCSU Alumni Board of Directors.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARDS

The Certificate of Merit was established to recognize alumni for accomplishments, service or other noteworthy honors. This year's alumni honorees, listed with their accomplishments and accolades, include the following:

KELSEY (WILHELM) DRAGOSAVICH '11

Kelsey is the Director of Bands and Music Department Chair at Fargo North High School.

- 2023 Jazz Educator of the Year by the ND National Band Association
- Six Time Fargo Public Schools Teacher of the Year Nominee

GARY L. RUFVOLD '68

Gary retired in 2021 from the Academy of Holy Angels where he served as the Development Director.

- 1978 Region Athletic Director of the Year
- 2006-07 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year
- 2023 St. Joseph Award from the Academy of Holy Angels

JERICA (BUCKMAN) SMITH '14 M.Ed. '21

Jerica is a 6th grade teacher at South Heart Elementary School. She also serves as the junior high girls' basketball coach and Future City advisor. Jerica is currently pursuing a Masters in Leadership through UND and plans to graduate in December of 2024.

- 2022 Innovative ND Award for Frontline Education by Governor Doug Burgum
- 2021, 2022 Funding the Future Grant Recipient

MEGAN (NODLAND) WALD '08

Megan teaches business for Linton Public Schools.

- 2022 Emmons County Teacher of the Year
- ND Teacher of the Year, Quarter finalist
- 2012 Outstanding New CTE Teacher in Business

STACY WENDEL-MONILAWS '02

Stacy is the owner of Fresh Alternative Fundraising, LLC. She is also the owner and coach of Valley City's All-American Taekwondo.

- Distinguished Fundraising Dealership Award
- Top Growth in Sales
- Spark Plug Award



Kenneth and Elenora Coghlan Family Scholarship: Linda Day, Bill Coghlan '67, Cassie Boelke, and Maureen (Coghlan) Woodbury '80.

Scholarship Dinner



Dacotah Bank Scholarship: Liz (Nelson) Ryerson '10, Aiden Jacobson, Madelynn Langemo & Crystal (Herr) Nehlich '98.

Our annual scholarship dinner was held on Monday, September 25, 2023 at the Valley City Eagles. There were 90 attendees this year. The dinner provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations who have established named scholarships to meet the students who are awarded their scholarships. This is also a time for students to say "Thank You" to their scholarship donors and learn more about why the scholarship was established. The VCSU Foundation has over 250 Endowed and Memorial Scholarships that pay honor or memorialize those folks who built the foundation of our university.



Dr. Alvin E. Horne Memorial Scholarship: Ava Wille & Bob Horne '59.



Lentz Family Scholarship: Makenzee Stone, Mike Lentz '88 & Erik Peterson

Anyone interested in establishing a scholarship and or taking advantage of the North Dakota Challenge Grant Program (see page 25) can contact the Foundation Office at 800-532-8641 ext. 37203 for more information.



David Melgaard Business Scholarship: Beve Melgaard, Jaycee Andel, Ellie Rush & Dave Melgaard.



Gerald Norberg and Dean Hall Elementary Education Scholarship: Robert Hall, Samantha Nelson & Joan Hall.

2023

HOMECOMING

Valley City State University kicked off homecoming festivities on Monday, Sept. 18, with the 41st Annual Bill Osmon Color Run and Walk at Lokken Stadium. Coronation was in the Center for the Arts (CFA) where Derek Bear and Joplin Fink were crowned homecoming king and queen. The week was filled with fun for the students with games, activities and dress up days. Both volleyball and football played Mayville State, winning both events. Alumni were honored at the Hall of Fame Banquet and Ceremony and the Honors Breakfast.



Alumni Anecdotes



Michael McNeff '04

RUGBY — Michael McNeff, who has been in the Rugby School District for 12 years has been named North Dakota's Superintendent of the Year. The award is part of the First Student, Core Bridge and AASA Superintendent of the Year Program, recognizing outstanding leaders in public education.

McNeff now will be forwarded to compete for the honor of National Superintendent of the Year. According to a release from the NDASA, McNeff will receive recognition alongside fellow finalists at the National Conference on Education in San Antonio, Texas, in February and in Washington D.C. in December.

He earned his bachelor's degree in social science education at Valley City State University, where he also played football. He earned a master's degree in educational leadership at UND. He completed his doctorate degree in 2014.



I N S I D E ATHLETICS

vcsuvikings.com



JayCee Richter



Bailey Nelson

Volleyball Making National Noise



Coach
Meiklejohn

Meiklejohn. The Vikings started with a 20-6 overall record through Oct. 24 and have been receiving votes in the NAIA Top 25 Coaches' Poll.

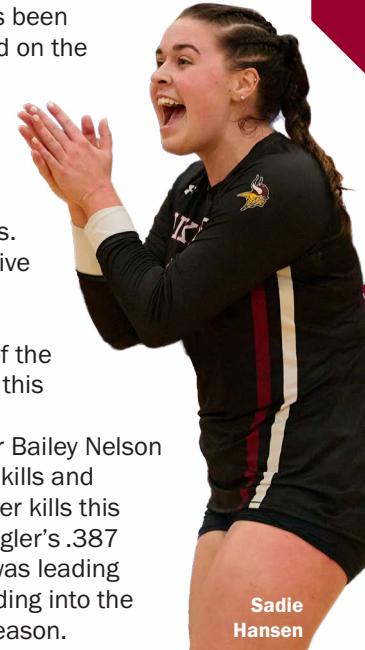
VCSU has earned its recognition on the national scale, ranking Top 10 in the nation with its offense. The Vikings picked up a critical win over No. 15 Bellevue on the road, and then defeated No. 12 Jamestown for the first time since 2011 with a 3-0 sweep at home.

The Valley City State volleyball team is off to its best start since the 1998 season under first year head coach Michelle

Sadie Hansen has been an anchor all-around on the Viking squad, ranking Top 10 in the nation in assists per set while also reaching 3,000 career assists. The Oakes, N.D. native has totaled seven North Star Athletic Association Setter of the Week awards so far this season.

Offensively, senior Bailey Nelson leads the Vikings in kills and reached 1,400 career kills this season. Danielle Hagler's .387 attack percentage was leading the conference heading into the final weeks of the season.

VCSU will compete at the NAIA National Tournament, which begins Nov. 18. For the latest results and news, visit www.vcsuvikings.com.



Sadie
Hansen



Karly
Just

Cross Country Making Strides

The Viking Cross Country teams have competed at four meets through Oct. 25 and will wrap up the season Nov. 3 at the NSAA Championships.

The Vikings had eight runners record collegiate-best times during a meet at Jamestown on Oct. 6.

VCSU has a few runners that are in contention to qualify for the NAIA National Championships. In track and field, both Jasmine Barnes and Karly Just are in line to qualify for the NAIA Marathon.



Football Wins Back Paint Bucket

The Paint Bucket returned to Valley City this fall as the VCSU football team defeated rival Jamestown 23-15 during the season opener. In front of nearly 3,000 fans under the lights of VCSU's Lokken Stadium, the Vikings took the lead with 13 points in the third quarter and then let the defense finish off the victory in the fourth quarter.

Valley City State now leads the all-time series against Jamestown 65-54-5 dating back to 1909. The teams started playing for the Paint Bucket traveling trophy in 1961. Valley City State

now leads the Paint Bucket series 44-32.

That win jumpstarted VCSU's season as the Vikings had posted a 5-2 overall record and a 4-1 mark in conference play through Oct. 25. A thrilling double-overtime victory against Mayville State punctuated VCSU's Homecoming weekend, and senior defensive end Riley Gerhardt set new career records this season in both sacks (35.5) and tackles for loss (55.5). For the latest scores and news about the football season, visit www.vcsuivikings.com



2023 Hall of Fame

Valley City State University inducted five individuals and one team into the VCSU Vikings Hall of Fame on Sept. 22 during a ceremony at the Valley City Eagles Club.

From left: Aaron Kramlich, Travis Lester '07, Joe Maresh '07, Megan (Floerke) Jacob '10 and Heidi (Larson) Backstrom '10 were all inducted into the Vikings Hall of Fame as individuals. The 2005 Football Team was also inducted. The Paint Bucket traveling trophy was also commemorated into the Hall of Fame, symbolizing the historic Viking-Jimmie football rivalry that dates back to 1909.



Read more about the inductees at www.vcsuivikings.com/halloffame



VCSU Golf Goes Low

VCSU's golf teams competed in seven tournaments this fall including four 18-hole tournaments, two 36-hole tournaments and one 54-hole tournament.

VCSU's men won a dual against Mayville State on Sept. 5 at Maple River Golf Club, and the Viking women won the 18-hole Spartan Invite on Sept. 8 after besting Jamestown by seven strokes to take the team title.

Individually, the fall season was highlighted by several career-low scores at its own VCSU Fall Invite played Sept. 18-19 at CrossRoads Golf Club in Carrington, N.D.

The VCSU women carded its best 36-hole score since at least 2014 with a 680 (338-342) to finish in second place at the tournament. Sydney Carlson's 77 paced four individuals who posted career-lows in the opening round and then set a new career-best with a 76 in the final round. Carlson's 153 tournament score is a best by a Viking women's golfer since at least 2014.

The Viking men carded a tournament-low score since the 2019-20 season with a 303 in the opening round paced by Wyatt Meisch's career-best 1-over-par 73. The Viking men followed up with a 309 to finish the tournament with a 612 team score and finish fourth of eight teams. Grant Inniger's 147 (74-73) was a 36-hole best as a Viking.

VCSU will resume its season in the spring. The NCAA Championships will take place April 29-30, 2024 at the LaCrosse Country Club in La Crosse, Wis.



Wyatt Meisch



Sydney Carlson

Baseball Starts a New Era



Coach DeMaria

Valley City State University baseball began a new era this fall as head coach Alec DeMaria took over the program for his first season. The Vikings played six countable games during the fall season, posting a 3-3 overall record.

"Our program has taken

some positive steps this fall," said DeMaria, who was named head coach of the Vikings on June 23. "With two of our losses coming in extra innings, we felt we could have done better but we are still seeing many positive trends."

VCSU's pitching impressed during the fall, with starters Hunter Magnuson and Christopher Dietrich putting up good numbers. Magnuson had a 2.05 ERA and struck out 31 batters over 22 innings, while Dietrich posted a 1.98 ERA and 16 strikeouts in 13.2 innings.

Returning All-Conference catcher Jaden Babiuk stayed hot at the plate with a .308 batting average and three doubles, and true freshman third baseman Anthony Madsen impressed at the plate with four extra base hits, six RBIs and a .296 average.

The Vikings defeated Mayville State twice, split a doubleheader with Dickinson State and lost two games to Jamestown. Two of VCSU's losses came in extra innings – a 14-inning game against Dickinson State and a 12-inning game against Jamestown. The Vikings resume their season in February with trips to Kansas City, Missouri, (Feb. 24-25) and Orlando, Florida, (Feb. 28-March 10).



Magnuson

2023-24 VCSU BASKETBALL

Upcoming Home Games

ALL ATHLETICS NEWS
AT VCSUVIKINGS.COM



VCSU ATHLETICS IS ON YOUTUBE

DEC. 30
Women and Men vs.
University of Jamestown
2 and 4 p.m.

DEC. 31
Women vs.
Dakota Wesleyan
3 p.m.

JAN. 12
Women and Men vs.
Dakota State*
5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

JAN. 13
Women and Men vs.
Bellevue*
3 and 5 p.m.

JAN. 17
Women and Men vs.
Mayville State*
5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

JAN. 31
Women and Men vs.
Dickinson State*
5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

FEB. 9
Women and Men vs.
Viterbo*
5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

FEB. 10
Women and Men vs.
Waldorf*
3 and 5 p.m.

*Conference Games



Book your stay at the

Historic President's House Guest Inn

Located on the beautiful campus of Valley City State University



Available for Special Events

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Family Gatherings | Retreats

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(kitchen available, prices do not include tax)
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\$150 entire home per night
\$750 entire home per seven-day week

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to book your stay.

Just Married

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



1



2



3



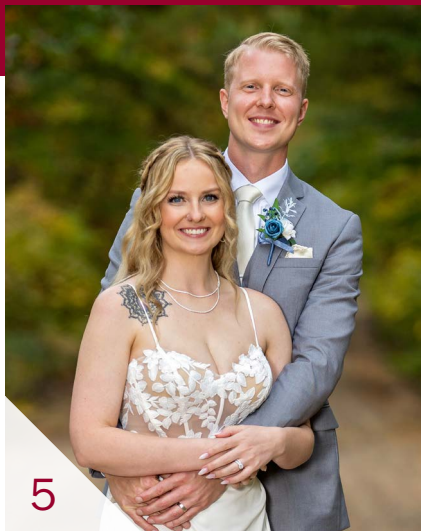
4

1 - Paula (Twamley) Heinze '90 says It seems like only yesteryear that she stepped off campus into the amazing world of children and teaching. Her life has certainly been full with 3 children, foster children, 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grands. She is fortunate the little ones all live in the Phoenix area. Following the death of her husband, Jim Heinze in 2015, she moved to Arizona. In 2023, she married Manuel Rodriguez, her best friend and dance partner. Together they enjoy a lot of the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Diamondbacks. Life is good.

2 - Staci Dreyer and Adam Larson '14 were married October 14, 2023. Adam is a full-time firefighter for the Grand Forks Fire Department. Staci just recently started working as an assistant professor of Biology at VCSU this fall.

3 - Dayna Czeck '15 and Branden Hosier were married July 8, 2023 in Little Falls, Minn. The couple resides in central Minnesota where Dayna is a 3rd Grade Teacher at St. Francis Elementary School, and Branden is the Finance Manager at Viking Land Harley Davidson.

4 - 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.



5



6



7



8



9



10

5 - Kelli Moore '19 and Daniel Vatnsdal were married September 23, 2023

6 - Tyler Ukestad '19 and Sarah Horlocker were married June 30, 2023.

7 - Benjamin (BJ) Whitmore '20 and M.Ed '22 and Amanda Nelson were wed on May 12th, 2023 and celebrated with family and friends at their home on September 3rd in Wahpeton. They enjoy traveling together and gardening. BJ is a culinary instructor at NDSCS in Wahpeton, and Amanda is the CFSS consultation services director at Accra Care, a Minn. based home health care agency.

8 - Macey Kvilvang '21 and Josh Babicz were married July 8th, 2023 in Valley City, N.D.

9 - Ellie Winter '21 and Alex Fodness were married August 5th, 2023.

10 - Paige Ballard '22 and Sean Rice were married October 7, 2023. They moved to Forest Lake, Minn., and Paige started teaching first grade at Linwood Elementary. She says it is such a fun, little school. They even have a school Forest available whenever they want to visit! Paige and Sean adopted a dog over the summer, Gonzo; he's a sleepy, snuggly little guy!



11



12

11 - Hannah Jarovski '22 and Jaxen Bratcher were married July 1, 2023. Hannah graduated from the NDSU/VCSU Elementary Education program where she also received her kindergarten endorsement. She currently teaches 5th grade in Buxton, N.D. Jaxen is a 3rd year law student at UND.



13



14

12 - Lauren Roscoe '22 and Chase Pederson were married in New Rockford, N.D. on August 5. They currently live in Carrington, N.D. where Lauren teaches kindergarten at Carrington Elementary School.

13 - Kierra Freih '22 and Luke Sandy were married on August 12th, 2023. Kierra graduated from VCSU with a degree in elementary education. She is in her second year of teaching kindergarten in West Fargo. Luke graduated from UND with a degree in engineering and works at Case Engineering. Kierra and Luke are in the process of building a home in Fargo. They enjoy spending time with family and watching the Minnesota Vikings!



15



16

14 - Caylyn Makoff '23 and Ben Carter were married July 1st, 2023 in Hankinson, N.D. They recently moved to Grand Forks, where Caylyn is a special education teacher for grades K-5.

15 - Dahlia Diegel '23 and Jason Hamilton were married August 5, 2023.

16 - Kadie Anderson '19 and **Kurtis Walls '18** were married June 21, 2023 in Cancun. Both teach in Linton, N.D. where Kurtis is the head football coach and Kadie is the head volleyball coach.

Not Pictured

Hannah Felchle '23 & Shayden Luna, April 29, 2023

Jen Wettstein '15 & **Jake Olsen '13**, July 7, 2023

Megan Lien & **Aaron Burgad '14**, July 8, 2023

Emma Maguire '20 & **Alexander Mejia '21**, September 23, 2023

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.



1998

Jason Cofer
Neil Daniels
Kelly Dyck
Angela Fessler
Robert Hanson
Amie (Rhinhart) Olson
Penny (Keller) Redman
Daryl Van Hale

1999

Darren Bishop
Victoria Chipoka
Babette (Patton) Cuadrado
Boriana (Krasteva) Huck
Aaron Knutson
Dean Sproule
Laura (Voigt) Sproule

2000

Carol Anderson
Julia Devonish
Oscar Elizalde Grajeda
Danielle (Schmidt) Irving
Margaret (Tanata) Manley
Alyssa Martin
Kimberley Millar
Trevor Smith
Anne Smith

2001

Gary Leingang
Tracy (Bouret) Vargas
Joni Wieck

2002

Anna Barcis
Julia Beck
Kelly (Libner) Harris
Nancy Harty
Bryan Kirby
Alison Kohler
Luis Martinez
Matthew Mutcheson
Matthew North
Scott Peterson
Stephen Schmitz

2003

Erin (Maitland) Draper
Eric Erickson
Melanie Grosgebauer
Kristina Hanson
Anthony Hines
Gyebi Kwarteng
Dana Lattimore
Elizabeth (Kiecker) Mathern

Amanda (Keller) Morris
Mandi (Chipoka) Munowenyu
Joseph Munowenyu
Nathan Penner
Marlene (Linell) Thompson
Natacha (Boucard) Zephyrin

2004

Christopher Church
Candie (Schroeder) Hellwig
Jonathan Kleinke
Harold Lang
Diana (Filler) Vetsch

2005

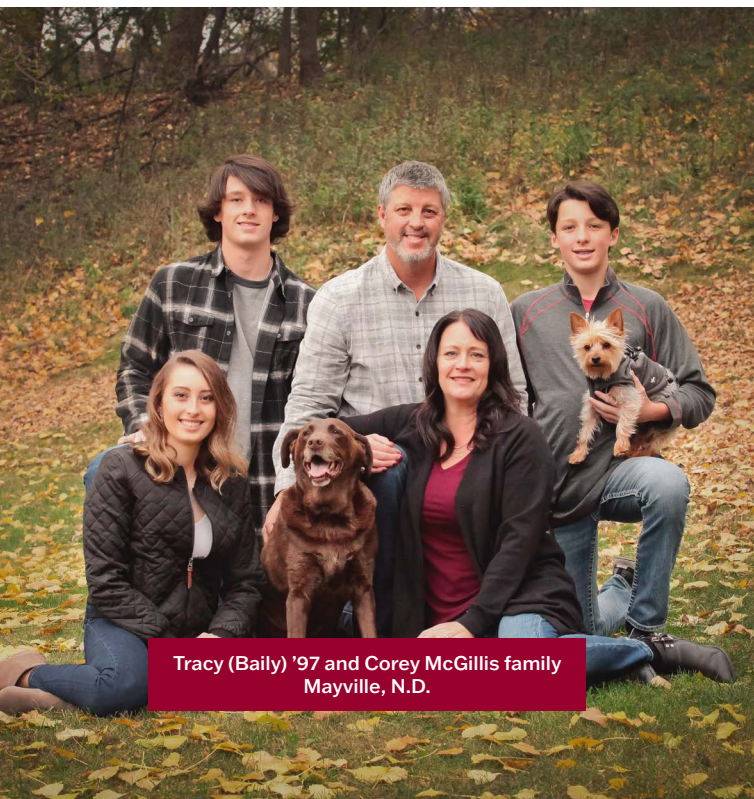
Terrance Allen
Kinsey (Coles) Essler
David Fleming
Amanda Hanson
Nicolle James
Bryce McLean
Sheila Sutherland

2006

Man Chu
Michael Dietz
Jon Dunlop
Kathryn Grueneich
Jonathan Hanson
Melie Ilogu
Deric Ingram
Elizabeth (Dosland) Kleinke
William LaVoi
Jenifer (Wollman) Peterson
Jacquelin (Zimmerman)
Shekore
Sarah (Fehr) Stewart
Dena (Muri) Wells

2007

Kimberly Bilokreli
Sheena (Hamilton) Blanchard
Skye Braun
Drew Calanchie
Michelle Castillo
Jamie Flath
Jeremy Hulderman
Jenna (Poeppel) Jewett
Dawn (Sandbeck) Ransom



Tracy (Baily) '97 and Corey McGillis family
Mayville, N.D.

Multiply your gift with the Challenge Grant

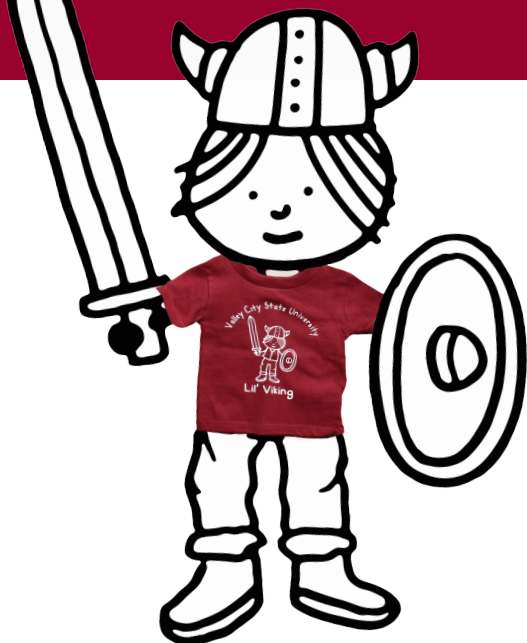


Submit gift by December 1, 2024 to make every dollar given go twice as far.

NORTH DAKOTA CHALLENGE FUND MAKES YOUR GIFT GO FURTHER

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

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



Lil' Vikings

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

Contact Kim Hesch at kim.hesch@vcsu.edu to receive a free t-shirt for your new Lil' Viking. Include your baby's name and 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**.



Roman Jeffrey Buchholz

March 18, 2023
7 lbs. 2 oz., 19.5 in.

Siblings: Lily & Micah

Erica (Bunn) '10 &
Casey Buchholz



Thaddeus James Olson

July 25, 2022
7 lbs. 3 oz., 20.5 in.

Sibling: Theo (4)

Katie (Paulson) '13 & Isaac
Olson '12

Grandparents: Alan '84 &
Trisa Olson



Everett Jon Hanson

November 14, 2022
7 lbs. 9 oz., 20 in.

Jessica (Ronning) '20 &
Thor Hanson

Grandparents: Teri (Cisinski)
'89 & Paul Ronning



Brody Lowell Pederson

May 18, 2023
8 lbs. 2 oz., 21 in.

Sibling: Archer (4)

Amanda (DeKrey) '10 &
Zachary Pederson



Kyson William Nordland

March 11, 2023
7 lbs. 4 oz., 20.5 in.

Sara (Stanley) '16 &
McKenzie Nordland



Harper Leone Werlinger

April 5, 2023
7 lbs. 7 oz., 19.5 in.

Sibling: Dawson (3 ½)

Cassandra (Fick) '15, M.Ed. '19
& Mike Werlinger





Scarlett Rae Parlato

February 25, 2023
7 lbs. 12 oz., 20.5 in.

Sibling: Hadlee (10)
 Jessica (Moritz) '14 &
 Troy Parlato




Ava Jean Fahnhorst

May 3, 2023
6 lbs. 5 oz., 19.25 in.

Ashley and Logan Fahnhorst
 Grandparents: Alan and Kari
 LaFave, Valley City




Scarlett Quinn Trosen

June 24, 2022
4 lbs. 10 oz., 18 in.

Elisabeth (Rzaszutak) '12 &
 Nathan Trosen




Kennedy Bearerger

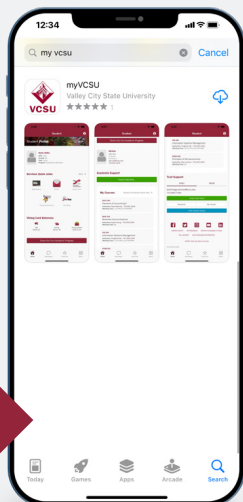
August 22, 2023
8 lbs. 10 oz., 21 in.

Parent: Taylor Bearerger '20
 Grandparents: Justin '06 & Tricia
 (Garrahy) Bearerger '01
 Great Grandparents: Jerome &
 Teresa (Hannig) Garrahy '81

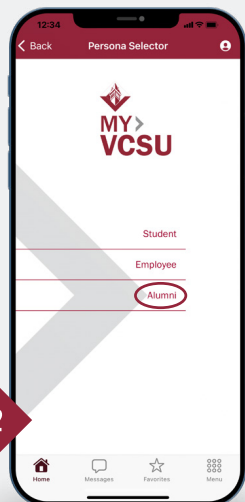


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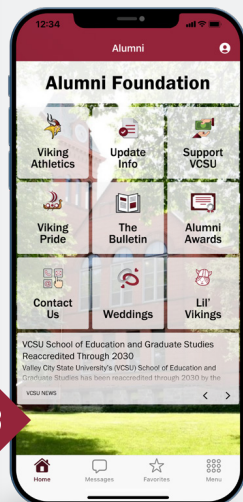
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boys. They also got new sweatshirts to show their support of the Vikings. Beckham and Bodhi were born in January to Janis' and husband, Brent's, twin

daughter, Kylie, and her husband John. Janis says being a grandparent is the best job ever!

CLASS OF 1980s

Sharon (Sperle) '80 and **Kevin Horsager '78** reside in Reiles Acres, N.D. After 42 ½ years at NDSU, Kevin retired in June 2022. Sharon is on year 37 with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Fargo, N.D. They have five children Blaine (Amy), Bridget (Justin), Cole (Jill), Austin and Ali. They have 12 grandchildren Hunter and Ingrid - belong to Blaine and Amy; Jackson, Carson, Emerson, Benson and Ashlyn - belong to Bridget and Justin; Sawyer and Knox - belong to Cole and Jill; Oakley and Beckett - belong to Austin; Brynlee - belongs to Ali.

Elden Paczkowski '81 says "hi" to all of the VCSU alumni. Wait, who is Elden Paczkowski? It's SPOCK! Elden and his wife, Amy, live in Lakeville, Minn. They have two boys, Dominic and Christopher and are grandparents of two boys, Sam and Miles. They are Dominic and his wife, Laura's, kids. Chris and his wife, Kenna, are expecting their first baby in March. Elden misses those college days and says it was great to see the 1980 football team when they were honored at the football game. TKE ONCE TKE TWICE!

Brad Webster '83 retired in 2015 as a school superintendent and moved to Rapid City, S.D. He and his wife, KayLyn, enjoy traveling, outdoor activities and spending time with family. Brad has two children and 9 grandchildren.

Carol (Laschkewitsch) Simmers '84 is forever thankful for her time at VCSC, completing an elementary degree in 1984 while raising four little boys and farming. Fast forward to a wonderful teaching career in Bismarck, N.D., she is now retired with 10 grandchildren and about to celebrate their 47th anniversary. Carol notes what a difference VCSC (VCSU) has made in her life!

Camile (Rinehart) Brandt '88 loved her years at VCSU, Since graduation, she has taught elementary, special education, early childhood, and Montessori education. Camille received her masters degree and her doctorate and has served in higher-ed almost 20 years; she taught at MSUM in Moorhead, and is currently an associate professor at Bemidji State. In 2007, Camille and her husband cofounded Children's Montessori in Fargo where they serve over 100 young scholars with an incredible team of talented teachers and assistants. She has thoroughly enjoyed her career in education and

is so proud to be an educator who started off at VCSU! She and her husband love spending time with their four children and their spouses and their grandchildren. Go Vikings!

Dawn (Kro) Wold '89 has been working for the Fargo Adult Learning Center for the past 12 years, first as a GED teacher for nine years and the past three years as an EL teacher for new Americans and she absolutely LOVES it! She learns just as much from them and their cultures. While Dawn and her husband, Bob, don't have grandkids yet, they added to their family in July, a 3rd puppy, Axel. He's a five month old chocolate lab and has added a little more life to their household play fighting with Zoey and Max, their other two dogs. Their two daughters Tiffanie 31, and Jordan 28, live in West Fargo too and visit them quite often. Dawn says life is good; let's hope this winter is much nicer to us all.

CLASS OF 1990s

John '93 and **Leah (Ptacek) Miller '93** moved to Springville, Calif. in 2021. John is a high school teacher at Citrus High School and Leah is a speech language pathologist for Porterville Unified School District Preschools. They say, "thank you VCSU for everything!"



Lisa (Hoggarth) Smith '93 recently completed her Master's Degree in Administration and Curriculum Supervision at the University of Oklahoma. She is currently teaching 6th grade at Northmoor Elementary School in Moore, Okla., as well as serving as night school principal at Vista Night School in Moore, Okla.



Kristi (Hetland) Molina '94 lives in Gretna, Neb., with her husband Dario, and teaches Spanish in Lincoln, Neb.. Kristi plans to retire in

a couple of years. In her free time, she loves learning languages and then going abroad to practice and use them. The picture is of her step-daughter's quinceañera party this past October.

Curt Olson '96 M.Ed. '08 is in his 25th year of teaching 7th and 10th grade history at Underwood Public School in Underwood, Minn. Curt and his wife, Stephanie, have a son, Daxton, and a dog, Maddie.

CLASS OF 2000s

Kalyn (Utt) Botz '00 has been married for 21 years to Chris Botz. They have two children: Hayden Botz currently attending VCSU and studying Exercise Science and Brooklyn Botz who is a sophomore at Valley City High School. Kalyn is currently in her 15th year teaching at Sheyenne Valley Area Career and Technology Center as a transition/work experience coordinator for Valley City High School and all of the surrounding rural schools. She has been an educator in various roles for over 23 years and loves the community of Valley City. Kalyn also runs the Community Closet, which provides free clothing to all ages; she has been blessed to do this for more than seven years.



Mark '06 and Cathy (Bernhagen) Nielson '07 M.Ed. '20 have moved to Willmar, Minn. where Cathy is a 6th grade ELA teacher at Willmar Middle School. Mark separated from the Air Force after 16 years of service as a navigator and pilot; he is now flying for Delta Airlines. Their girls, Anika (8th grade) and Lily (6th grade) are enjoying

running cross country at their new school and living on a hobby farm.

Mike Wieland '08 is busy with harvest and staying active on the electronic end of it too. He also helps keep up with church software.

Lana Fornes M.Ed. '09 formerly an instructor in the Department of Technology at VCSU – came out of retirement early in 2020 to work as a consultant with Gearen Henson Training + Consulting. Because of the pandemic, colleges and universities were quickly moving their face-to-face classes online. She was contacted by Gearen Henson because of her experience with teaching online and developing online curriculum for the Department of Technology and the STEM Education Certificate programs at the undergrad and graduate levels. Through Gearen Henson, Lana was able to mentor college instructors in converting courses to the online environment, developing engaging content for students in their courses - including hands-on elements, and developing and using traditional and non-traditional forms of student assessment. This work has also provided interesting challenges in helping traditional face-to-face instructors fully use the tools available to them in Zoom, their learning management systems, and other software applications for engaging with students face-to-face in real time online and in online collaborative groups for class projects.

Kimberly Souba '09 says it has been a great year where she was able to write and publish her third book, Flight of the Butterfly. It is a children's book about a butterfly

who wants to fly but needs to overcome her fear to trust that she can do it. Her other books include From Death to New Life: The Transformation of a Soul, which is a compilation of poetry published in 2020, and her first children's book, A Caterpillar's Journey, about a caterpillar who wants to become a butterfly published in 2021. 100% of the proceeds from her books go to organizations that help children and women who have experienced abuse of any kind. Kimberly currently left the classroom and works full-time as the director of religious education and serves as a middle school youth ministry coordinator. She plans to go back to school in January to get a degree in Communications from VCSU.



CLASS OF 2010s

Ira Compton '10 is in his 14th year as a teacher in the Williston Basin #7 School District. His content area is technology and engineering at the middle school level. This year he is teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at the Williston Central Campus School. Ira still enjoys hunting in the fall for waterfowl and deer. Gardening has become a newer hobby of his in the last four years. Ira enjoys making fresh garden salsa for friends, co-workers, etc. Teaching is still remaining a career path he enjoys!



Abby (Rittenhouse) '11 and Mike York '11 live in Woodbury, Minn. Their two girls are ages 10 and 4 (5 in Feb.). Harper, the oldest, is following in mom and dad's foot steps, playing basketball and doing very well. Abby is a marketing and community engagement manager for Minnesota's largest non-profit mental health services organization. Mike is in sales for S.W. Anderson.

Aaron Heck '15 is currently employed with the Valley City Public Schools as the HAC, Hanna Field and grounds manager. He has been a part of the varsity football coaching staff for 12 seasons and on the Valley City Fire Department and Barnes County Rescue Squad for 12 years. Aaron is also a part of the Dive Rescue Squad as well.



Tarra (Miller) White '15

taught two years in Castlewood, S.D. While she still lives in Castlewood, she commutes to Tiospa Zina Tribal School in Agency Village for six years now, where she is currently teaching first grade. Tarra married Lance White in 2017 and they have two kids, Cali who is 4 and Luka who is 2.



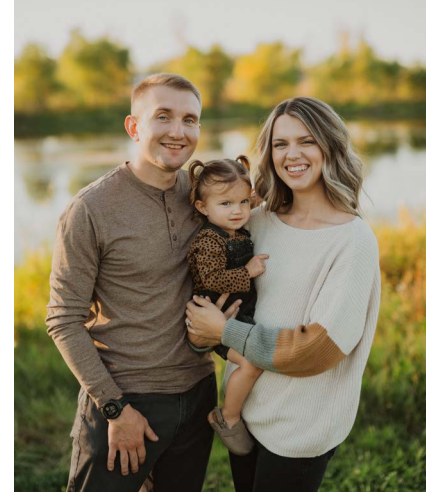
Jawuan Pugh '17 is living in Edmond, Okla. with his fiancé, Carlee Turner, and their dog Otis. He is currently working for United Services Automobile Associated (USAA) as a senior injury auto claims adjuster. Carlee is in medical school and currently doing her rotations. Jawuan and Carlee will be getting married in April of 2024.



Courtney (Carlson) Steinolfson '17 and her family reside in Steele, N.D. Courtney and her husband, Dillon, were married in 2021 and they welcomed their son, Hayes, in 2022. Courtney teaches special education in the elementary school and driver's education in the summer. She also coaches elementary volleyball and helps run various camps in the summertime.



Lindsey (McMaster) '18 M.Ed. '22 and **Jordan Rau '18** live in Bismarck, N.D. and are both actively teaching; Jordan teaches health at Mandan Middle School and Lindsey teaches science at Bismarck High. They had a daughter, Lydia, in November 2021.



Mackenzie Dietz '19 is celebrating five years as a librarian and technology director in Fessenden, N.D. Recently, she was selected to work in Amazon Future Engineer Teacher Ambassador Program. Only 50 teachers were selected from across the nation for this opportunity with the ultimate goal of equality for all in computer science.

Ryan Moss '19 moved to Kulm, N.D. in May and is the client service coordinator for Service Dogs for America located in Jud, N.D.

CLASS OF 2020s

Holly (Zirnhelt) Reinsel '20 and husband, Elliot, celebrated their 2 year anniversary in July. They live outside of Forman, N.D., where she is a high school math teacher at Sargent Central Public School. This is her second year teaching there and it is going really well.

Diamond (Pike-Altorfer) Stram '20 is beginning her fourth year of teaching; she is now teaching kindergarten in Wahpeton. Though she never thought she would teach kindergarten, she loves it! Diamond and husband, Chris, welcomed their second child in 2021, and bought their first home in the summer of 2023. Diamond is also currently working on her Masters of Education at MSUM.



Shay (Stewart) Statz '21 is currently teaching Title 1 at Bottineau High School. In March of 2022, she had a daughter, Channing Maevhl Statz.

In Remembrance

Myrna (Lindstrom) McGregor '42, Valley City
Robert Muhs Sr. '49, Dickey, N.D.
Leo Ehli '50, Fargo, N.D.
Lorraine (Sortland) Miedema '50, Chanhassen, Minn.
Roman Ertelt '52, Phoenix, Ariz.
Arlene (Olson) Berntson '56, Valley City
Judith (Stock) Einarson '56, Bismarck, N.D.
Mari Ann (McDonald) Peterson '57, Carrington, N.D.
Mary (Fornes) Thompson '57, Valley City
Werner Veil '57, Forman, N.D.
Roger E. Nelson '58, Little Falls, Minn.
Jessie (Nielson) Buehler '60, Klamath Falls, Ore.
Donald Sullivan '61, Albert Lea, Minn.
William Svenkesen, Waterford, Mich.
Lawrence Schwahn '63, Buffalo, Minn.
Duane Zwinger '64, Fargo, N.D.
Carolyn (Berge) Rebnolz '65, The Villages, Flor.
Daniel Mack '66, Fessenden, N.D.
Michael W. Ranum '67, Henning, Minn.
Gwen (Berger) Arnold '68, Saint Cloud, Minn.
Theodore Binstock '68, Belfield, N.D.
Clarence Flemmer '68, Sioux Falls, S.D.
David J. Johnson '68, Minneapolis, Minn.

Delores (Bennetto) Baltrusch '69, Harvey, N.D.
Peter Becherl '69, Montrose, Colo.
Marvin Erhardt '69, Bismarck, N.D.
Deborah (Dorr) Schott '72, Alfred, N.D.
Victor Gruber '75, West Fargo, N.D.
Ronald Stricker '75, Elk River, Minn.
Mavis (Anderson) Coen '77, Fargo, N.D.
Randy Betsinger '78, Holmen, Wisc.
Peter Thompson '82, Olympia, Wash.
Paul Kronebusch '87, Saint Michael, Minn.
LeRoy Robinson '87, Denver, Colo.
Sandra (Haskins) Schmitz '88, Vergas, Minn.

Evelyn Peter, Valley City
Diane Schilling, Bismarck, N.D.
Mary Simonson, Valley City

Former Faculty & Staff

August 31, 2023 – Ellen Kienitz, Valley City
August 10, 2023 – Carl Peter 60, Valley City

Carl Peter – Registrar 1970–1999



Carl William Peter was born to Walter and Myrtle (Mortenson) Peter, Sr. near Parshall, N.D. on September 29, 1937. His parents moved to the Page, N.D. area where he attended a rural school. Carl was stricken with bulbar polio in August of 1946. He was in an iron lung for two and a half weeks after which he was totally paralyzed. He was at

St. Luke's Hospital receiving Sister Kenny Treatment and physical therapy until July. Upon returning home, he started using crutches so he could attend rural school. When the rural school closed, he attended the Anne Carlson School in Jamestown, N.D. for one year. He then completed his elementary and high school in Page, graduating Salutatorian of his class. By then, he could walk short distances without crutches.

He went on to continue his education at Valley City State College, completing a Composite Major in Business Education and a Major in Geography with a certificate in Driver's Education in August of 1960. Following graduation, he taught in McClusky, N.D. and then in Page. During his time in Page, he began his Master's in Education Degree in

Business Education, completing it in August of 1971 from UND.

The summer after leaving McClusky, he met Evelyn Jean Neuharth. They were married March 27, 1964, in McClusky. In January 1965, son, Damon, was born in Valley City, N.D. Daughter, Beth, was born in 1966 in Valley City.

Carl accepted a one-year teaching position at Valley City State University the fall of 1970. Daughter, Karla joined the family that October. The following year, he became the Assistant Registrar and held that position for 13 years. He then became the Registrar and retired in 1999.

He was diagnosed as having Post-Polio Syndrome. This resulted in weakening of the muscles and reversing all the progress he'd made. Eventually, he required the use of a power chair.

Carl was very active in the Valley City Church of the Nazarene. He held positions of Sunday School teacher, church board member, church treasurer, and internet web master. He was a supporter of many VCSU initiatives, Farm Rescue, and numerous charitable organizations. He enjoyed watching his favorite teams: the Minnesota Vikings, Green Bay Packers and Minnesota Twins.

Mary Simonson – Adjunct 1984–1987



Mary Elizabeth Simonson (Paulson) was born on Nov. 18, 1946, in Valley City, N.D. to Hon. William L. “Bill” Paulson and Jane E. “Betty” Paulson (Graves) the younger sister to brother Hon. John T. “Jack” Paulson. She graduated from Valley City High School and earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of

California-Berkeley.

After marrying Hon. Mikal J. Simonson on May 30, 1970, she would go on to earn her master’s degree from the University of North Dakota. Following social work in Fort Yates and Valley City, Mary became the Executive Director of the Open Door Center in Valley City, a position she would hold for 41 years until her retirement on June 30, 2023.

Mary enjoyed working. Her clients, co-workers and the daily and long-term planning and interaction in providing high-quality care for those who were developmentally disabled or impacted by a traumatic brain injury were her passion. Through various avenues, Mary strived to provide for the clients of the Open Door Center and improve their lives, garnering unique and groundbreaking work opportunities and public interaction for those under the organization’s care throughout her tenure.

She is a member of the North Dakota Special Olympics

Hall of Fame, president of the VCSU Foundation, past president and member of Valley City Rotary, and an active member of All Saints’ Episcopal Church.

When not at work, Mary was an avid golfer, a great cook, and enjoyed spending time at her lake cabin in Detroit Lakes, Minn., or at her condominium in Destin, Fla., especially when surrounded by family or joined by friends for extended stays at either destination. She loved the holiday season and was a huge fan of Christmas carols and decorating ahead of family gatherings during that time of year.

An early riser, she often prepared fresh caramel rolls and cinnamon buns for the rest of the family who would wake up several hours later, often working in a trip to the grocery store or a nearby Wal-Mart (her favorite shopping destination) ahead of dawn to make sure everyone had what they needed to start their day.

Mary died surrounded by family and friends on Aug.3, 2023. She is survived by her sons, Nicholas Simonson (Angela Sersha) of Bismarck, N.D. and Mikal Benjamin “Ben” Simonson (Mira McLain) of Valley City, N.D., and three grandchildren, Alexander “A.J.” and Jackson Simonson of Bismarck, and Soulvie Simonson of Valley City. She was preceded in death by her parents and by her husband.

Ellen Kienitz – Librarian 1949–1987



Ellen Helen Clara Kienitz was born December 19, 1921, to William Kienitz and Emma (Grager) Kienitz on a farm in Rose Hill Township of Foster County, North Dakota.

She was baptized on January 18, 1922, at their home. She was confirmed on July 19, 1936, at St. Johns in Bordulac, ND. Her chosen

confirmation Bible verse is Luke 11:28, “Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.”

Ellen attended Rose Hill #2, grades 1-6, then Bordulac, grades 7-12, graduating high school in 1937. In 1939, she graduated from Dakota Business College in Fargo, ND.

In 1941, Ellen worked in Detroit Lakes, MN at Mitchell Chevrolet for 1 year; then worked for Kernkamp Ford in Valley City, ND for 7 years. In 1949, she began working for the Valley City State University in the presidential office and later the college library, where she stayed employed for 38 years, retiring in 1987.

Ellen was actively involved in the St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Valley City, ND where she taught Sunday School and started the church’s first library; she was active in Ladies’ Aid and Alter Guild where she changed paraments for communion.

Ellen enjoyed many hobbies, including crocheting, canning, freezing, baking muffins and cookies, word puzzles, reading, playing bridge, and gardening; Ellen was an original charter member of the Valley City Garden Club. She and her parents spent many hours fishing with her cousins Eric and Ella Groskreutz, as well as Uncle Avolt and Aunt Leisetta Grager.

Ellen leaves behind cousins Loretta Baumbach, Louise (Jerome) Glimm, Ray (Marlene) Grager, Inez Bubolz; as well as many friends, including her special friend, Joan Noeske. She was preceded in death by several cousins, her grandparents, and parents.

Ellen Kienitz, died at the age of 101, on Thursday, August 31, 2023, while in the care of CHI Health at Home Hospice at St. Raphael’s Nursing Home in Valley City, ND.



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SAVE THE DATE: 29th Annual VCSU Scholarship Auction Friday, April 26, 2024

Last year we raised over \$115,000 in scholarships at this one-night event. Help us continue growing the auction by giving serious consideration in making a donation to the auction.

Popular items include:

- Tools
- Artwork
- Outdoor / Summer items
- Gift Certificates for food or Experience Packages
- Tickets for Concerts or Sporting Events
- Condo Stays
- Donation of Cash for Committee to purchase an item

All auction donors receive recognition in our auction program. Call the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203 or contact kim.hesch@vcsu.edu for more information.

