



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

THE BULLETIN

A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University

ISSUE 071660 | APRIL 2022



Delivering Exceptional Experiences

The Center for the Arts is open for classes and students participating in art or music have a new place to call home. – PAGE 6



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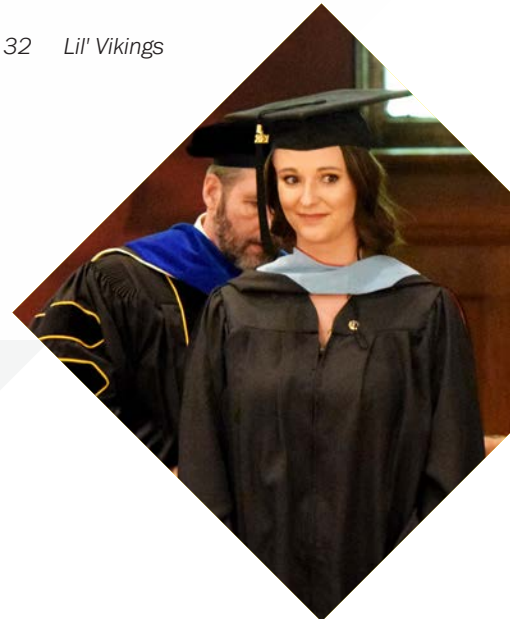
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Acknowledgments

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

Jill DeVries

701-845-7160

Athletic Director
jill.devries@vcsu.edu

Mark Potts

701-845-7228

Sports Information Director
mark.m.potts@vcsu.edu

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

Tammy Jo A. Taft

701-845-7227

Marketing and Communications
Director
tammyjo.taft@vcsu.edu

Growth and Planning for the Future

President Alan LaFave, D.M.A.

In all the years I've been involved with higher education, the spring semester seems to fly by in such a hurry.



This has been especially true this semester in managing to pack meaningful and important campus activities into a shortened calendar, all while enduring the challenges of mother nature. I'd like to address a couple of high points.

Alumni and Arizona – February began with an opportunity to visit with alumni and friends of VCSU in Arizona. We were happy to be able to re-engage with this tradition since we were unable to do so last year due to Covid travel and gathering restrictions. We met with more than 50 folks in the Peoria and Mesa areas. It was a wonderful time to reconnect, to hear stories and understand what an important role VCSU played, and continues to play, in many of their lives.

Arts – It was an action-packed first week of activity in the new

Center for the Arts with the first-ever art show opening on Feb. 16. The gallery featured the work of VCSU faculty and staff. The first concert performance on Feb. 18 in the new concert hall featured the talents of our instrumental students and ensembles.

It was a proud and inspiring week of activity for these folks, and a wonderful exhibition of talent. We thank the faculty, staff and students for the preparation and success of both events. If you haven't had a chance to see the new facilities, gallery space and concert hall, we invite you to put it on your "to do" list for the near future. I think you'll be impressed!

In addition to these exciting activities, we also saw another semester of strong enrollment. We welcomed the largest number of students for spring semester ever this year.

Maintaining a stable enrollment in these challenging times is a tribute to our students, faculty, staff and community. At VCSU we have seen increasing enrollments, counter to the national trend. In a Jan. 13 article, *The Chronicle*

of Higher Education reported that undergraduate enrollments declined in every sector. Public 4-year institutions reported a 3.8% decrease in fall enrollment from the previous year. While we maintain our excellent undergraduate enrollment numbers, our graduate enrollment increased by nearly 20% this past fall.

Our commitment to provide top-notch facilities is part of planning for the future at VCSU. Our capital campaign is off to a wonderful start with more than \$5.3 million in current pledges and gifts to help ensure the future success of the institution.

Our success is only achieved through the continued support of our alumni, community, state and nation.

It is my sincere hope that you are able to come to campus in the near future and experience the Center for the Arts. Hear a musical performance or pause for reflection in the art gallery. It is an awe-inspiring place and we are so proud to have it as part of our historic campus.

Go Vikings!

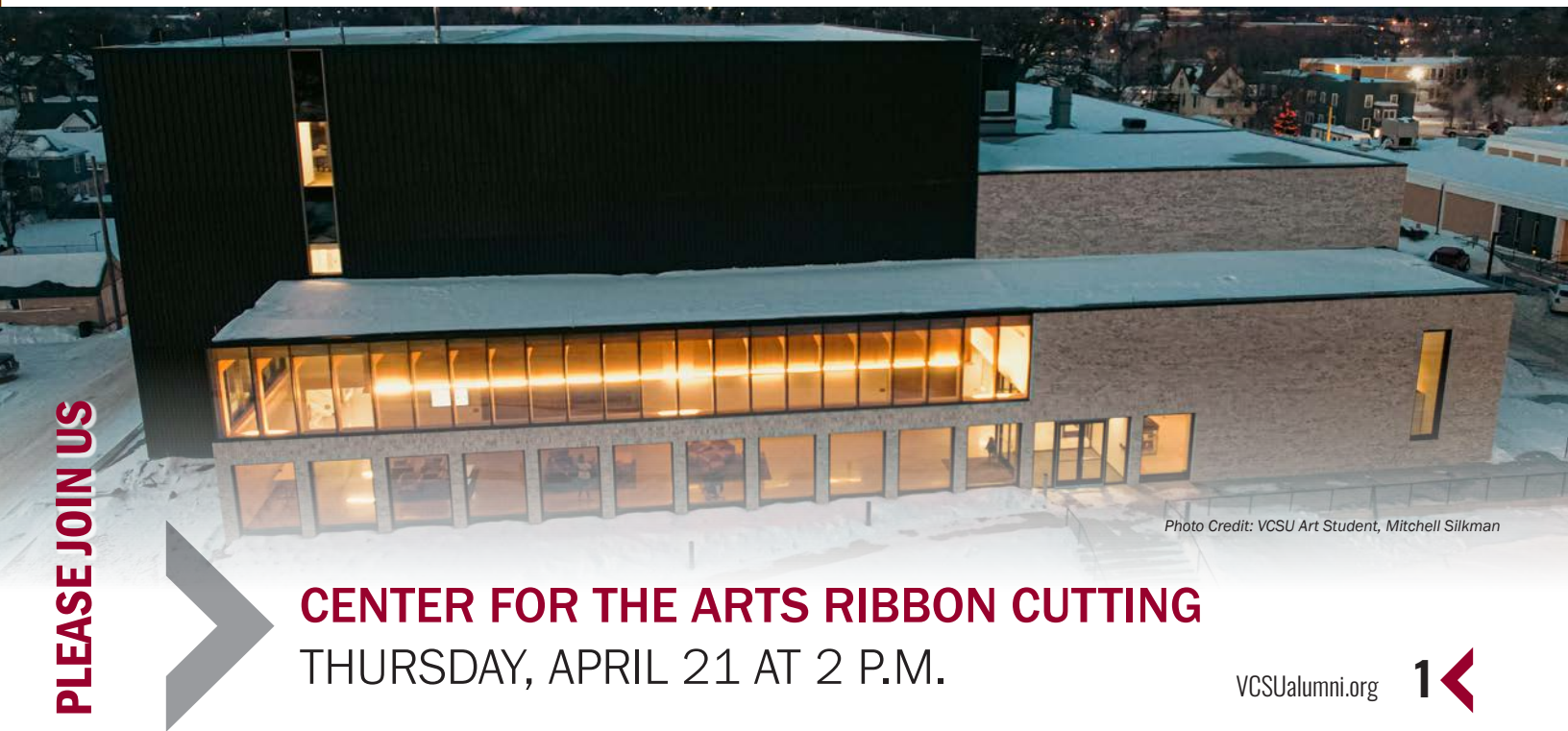


Photo Credit: VCSU Art Student, Mitchell Silkman

PLEASE JOIN US

CENTER FOR THE ARTS RIBBON CUTTING
THURSDAY, APRIL 21 AT 2 P.M.

VCSUalumni.org



A Time to Celebrate

Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91

Asst. Director for University Advancement and Alumni Relations

On behalf of the VCSU Foundation & Alumni office and the Alumni Board of Directors we encourage you to check out our online community at www.vcsualumni.org!



The mission for the VCSU Alumni Association is to enhance the relationship between Valley City State University and all of its alumni. We inspire lifelong loyalty and pride through programs, activities, and events for those that are forever Vikings. As your representatives, we are constantly seeking meaningful ways to embrace your needs and unite our efforts in the name of Valley City State University.

Through our website you can find ways to get involved with the Alumni Association, get the latest campus news, find out about upcoming alumni activities, learn more about our awards & recognition programs, update your address and find ways to give.

Wherever you are, at whatever stage of life you are in, we want to hear from you. Send us an update for our "Vikings on the Move" section of the Bulletin. This can be done by filling out the online form on the website or by

emailing alumni@vcsu.edu. The Alumni Board of Directors and I encourage you to share and use this site as one way to maintain your personal connection to the university.

I urge you to become an active alum and share in the exciting activities and opportunities we have to offer. There are a variety of ways you can show appreciation and play a part in VCSU's continued success. This includes attending events, cheering for our teams, staying connected to each other and the university, and of course, offering your time and gifts to help VCSU students. Don't forget to show your Viking Pride at home, school, your office and by wearing your favorite VCSU gear. (Check out the VCSU Bookstore at www.bookstore.edu and click on "Merchandise")

We are excited about the direction and future of the VCSU Alumni Association and look forward to serving and sharing information with you throughout the year.

Go Vikings!

P.S. We have a limited number of Viking Desk Flags available! If you would like one, please email kim.hesch@vcsu.edu. We had a lot of fun mailing these out to all of our alumni that are teaching in North Dakota K-12 Schools, seen below!



Top: Shelby Hartman '15, Bismarck Public Schools

Top Right: David Gazeley '17, Griggs County Central Public Schools

Bottom Right: Kourtney Hintz '21, Hazen High School

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Keep Meeting the Challenge

Cory Anderson '89
Executive Director for University Advancement

Greetings from the Foundation Office at Valley City State University.



In 2013 North Dakota legislators created the North Dakota Challenge Fund Matching Grant Program. Once funding applications are approved, the North Dakota University System Office disburses the funds to our campus by allocating \$1 for every \$2 raised through private donors.

So, how are we doing? The answer is very well, thanks to our alumni and friends — the donors for this program — who are completely and highly motivated by the state's commitment to support philanthropy. They have a great affinity for this institution, as well as great respect for the impact it made

on their lives and the opportunities they have had because of their time as a Valley City State student or friend. Their attitude of gratitude is amazing.

The VCSU Foundation is using the Challenge Grant fund to enhance the scholarship program at Valley City State University. Since 2013, 97 unique donors have contributed more than \$7 million through the Challenge Grant, which was matched with over \$3.5 million from the state of North Dakota.

That movement alone provided more than 85 new scholarship endowment funds bringing us to over 260 endowed scholarships at VCSU. The decision of how these funds are allocated as scholarships is also determined by the donor.

Thanks to the Challenge Grant, our donors are willing to stretch themselves to have even more of an impact in partnership with the state of North Dakota. And when you have alumni,

friends, corporations, and others who care so much about VCSU that they are willing to give of their time, their talent and their treasures, that really can lift our institution.

At that pivotal point in a young student's life, our alumni and friends are there to invest in the next generation. This is why Valley City State is a place that changes lives. We get to see that investment happening and coming together.

We have worked diligently to inspire big thinking and bold ideas on behalf of VCSU. Taking the challenge has allowed us to have the most attractive and significant scholarship program in the region...making VCSU not only the best institution to attend, but the most affordable.

Be Well and GO VIKINGS!



Your Gift Matched Your Impact Extended

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



Gerald and Cindy Urlaub
West Fargo, N.D.

NORTH DAKOTA CHALLENGE FUND MATCHING GRANT

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

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

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

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

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

You, Your IRA and the *Forward Together* Capital Campaign

Larry Robinson '71
Capital Campaign Director

The Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is a very popular savings program for millions of Americans. It is a



structured retirement tool that provides additional financial security at the time of retirement.

The goal of building a retirement portfolio is to provide income when you stop working. You should start taking withdrawals when you need income, provided you have a strategy in place to keep your assets from depleting. Most financial advisors will suggest as a “best practice” not to take more than 5% in a given year, but your personal income may vary. Some investors may be positioned not to need income from their portfolio until well into their retirement.

It is important to understand that IRA Accounts are subject to RMD's (Required Minimum Distributions). RMD's are legally mandated

withdrawals that begin to affect an IRA once the investor turns 72 years of age or 70 ½ if they reached 70 ½ in 2019.

The exciting benefit of an IRA is that Congress has enacted legislation to provide for a permanent IRA Rollover. The provisions of this legislation allow you to roll over up to \$100,000 annually to a charity of your choice, tax free. Yes, tax free. To qualify, the funds must be transferred directly to our foundation.

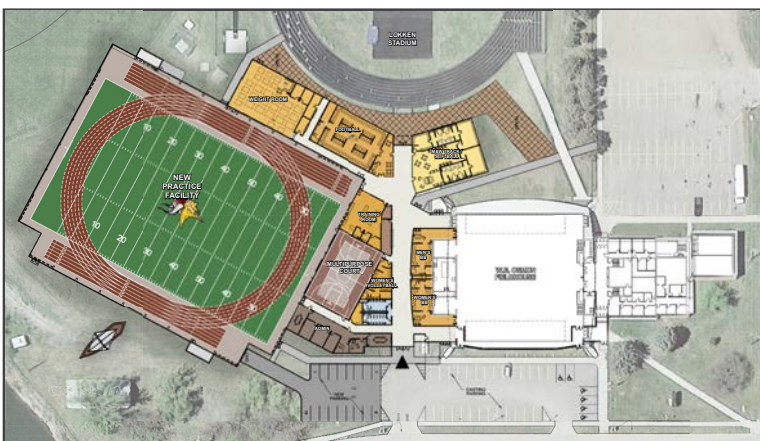
For example, you could elect to make a pledge to VCSU's Capital Campaign and use your RMD from your IRA, to make the annual payments on the pledge. Should you pass away prior to all the pledges payments having been made, the balance of the pledge can be made from your estate. This is an actual example of a gift made to our Capital Campaign by a friend/donor to the university. In this case, the donor elected to make a pledge to the Capital Campaign of \$1,000,000 from an IRA. The donor set the pledge payments to be made from his RMD in his IRA at \$100,000 annually. The payments

will continue over a 5 year time period. Should the donor pass away in the interim, the balance of the pledges due will be transferred to the Capital Campaign account.

Needless to say, the above scenario is exciting. This donor is being very creative and generous. He is in fact, creating the future today! This gift will touch the lives of future generations of students here at VCSU. It will be a gift that keeps on giving. His legacy is clearly in place!

As the Director of VCSU's Capital Campaign, *Forward Together*, I encourage you give serious consideration to supporting our campaign. Every gift, big or small, is critical to the success of this campaign. I have had the honor of serving on the staff of our university since 1975, and I am also a 1971 graduate of VCSU. I assure you that this campaign is based on actual needs and not wants. It is my firm belief “that this is our time.” Join me as we move *Forward Together*!

Please direct questions regarding VCSU's Capital Campaign to the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203.



VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY
ATHLETIC COMPLEX
VALLEY CITY, ND

ICON
ARCHITECTURE
A001

The \$25 million *Forward Together* capital campaign represents an opportunity for VCSU and Valley City to set itself apart. We believe in boldly pursuing all endeavors that include growth and providing the best educational experience for students. Athletics is an important component of student opportunity at VCSU.

– VCSU Athletic Director Jill DeVries

Learn more about supporting VCSU's first-ever Capital Campaign.

www.vcsu.edu/ForwardTogether

*Forward
Together*

Thank You

*to our generous donors who have supported
the Forward Together capital campaign.*



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CENTER FOR THE ARTS

From Essential to Inspiration

How the New Center for the Arts is Transforming Student Experiences at Valley City State University

What started as an idea at Valley City State University has become a reality.

The Center for the Arts building is open for classes, and students participating in art or music have a new place to call home.

"The students are very comfortable in the classrooms, happy and excited," President Alan LaFave said. "We wanted to provide a space that would be welcoming and help our faculty deliver the highest possible educational experiences. We wanted to create a venue that could be used by the community. We needed a hub for cutting-edge technology and

innovation for our students."

The new space achieves those goals, LaFave said.

The building not only enhances the student experience now but will generate a place for music and arts programs to thrive and grow.

"I see it becoming a beehive of activity," he said. "This can be a place for developing skills that help students improve their craft, whether it's visual arts or performing arts. It will inspire creative activity."

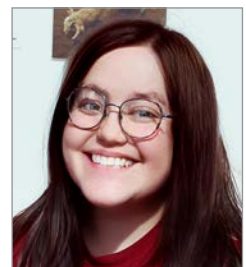
Freshman music education major Jayden Moser agreed.

"There are so many new opportunities as a musician here,"

the Jamestown, N.D., student said. "I can do a lot more in this building, and it is just amazing."

Moser said she appreciates the ability to adjust the acoustic tuning in many of the rooms and having identified spaces to practice and improve.

"I love spending my time here," she said smiling. "I am here all of the time because the environment is very



Jayden Moser

welcoming. It is just a really great place to be."

Providing a welcoming and inspiring space was one of the main goals for the center.

"The Center for the Arts is not only a beautiful, spectacular facility, it's also very practical and usable," LaFave said. "The classrooms are flexible spaces that can be used for many different types of educational experiences."

Incorporating flexible classrooms with natural light was a priority for Angela Mircsov, art department chair.

"We focused on having natural light for creating artworks" she said. "We wanted to design safe, clean studios to teach students in the most professional way possible."

VCSU has students working with 2D, 3D, 4D and digital works. Creating art in the new space has been inspiring, Mircsov said.

"Ceramics and other classes have natural light and it creates an openness for the students to create," she said. "The printmaking studio has presses, and a beautiful view of campus."

There is also dedicated space for three upcoming seniors to focus on their creative works and develop materials for their senior art show.

"Having the proper lighting and room to create helps our students learn differently," Mircsov said. "I am hoping students will take inspiration from this space and other departments and community members see all the possibilities of collaborating with our disciplines."

Junior art education major Nicole Hurt said creating in the new building has been a great experience.

"There is more room to breathe," the Hillsboro, N.D., student said. "It's nice to have a space to do my work and overall it's been great."

Hurt said she spends the majority of her time in the digital design and computer lab. She also has access to the senior studio as she begins preparing materials for her art show.



Nicole Hurt

Continued on page 8



The Art Gallery opened in February with the Faculty and Staff Show.

"I see it becoming a beehive of activity. This can be a place for developing skills that help students improve their craft... It will inspire creative activity."

– VCSU President Alan LaFave



Artwork on display in the Art Gallery.



Creative student printmaking in the new space.



Ensemble playing in the lobby of the new Center for the Arts during the opening of the Art Gallery.

Continued from page 7

This building just feels different," Hurt said. "It's more open and welcoming. It is nice to have a place to call our own."

Hurt's classmate Mitchell Silkman of Waite Park, Minn., agreed that the space feels different.

"This is a place for us, as a university, to act on the numerous opportunities we have at our fingertips," the senior said. "This is a place where stagnate ideas can become a reality."

Silkman also utilizes the senior art studio space. He is preparing for a senior art show this spring.

"The space feels much different. We have more space physically and mentally for creative minds to flourish," Silkman said.

Watching students flourish in the warmth of the new building has been inspiring for Jerrold Heide, music department chair.

The practice rooms are comfortable and students are spending more time in the building.

"We have more students scheduling practice room time, and we are seeing an increase of collaboration between students as well," he said.

Also, students can perform in places with full control over the acoustical elements of the room.

"We can control the sound in rehearsal spaces so it matches the performance spaces perfectly," Heide said. "It removes the need for last-minute adjustment and allows us to do more and engage students to their full potential."

In mid-February, Heide conducted the first ensemble concert in the Performance Hall.

"It's the perfect size," he said. "It's large enough to meet the capacity needs, but small enough to maintain the intimate feel with a crowd in the hall. You can feel the intensity from the applause and that makes a performance more interactive," Heide said.

Music faculty have been utilizing the acoustically-designed practice rooms, larger areas for group practice, choral hall and band room.

Practicing in a room that is very similar to the performance venue allows instructors and performers the chance to focus on the music and not the logistics.

"With the Center for the Arts, the Performance Hall is unparalleled in our region. The quality of the facility and the capacity for growth allow us to expand the number of students participating in music, but also the quality of music we create."

"The building creates a sense of positivity and confidence that is noticeable," Heide said. "This building allows the focus to shift to what is possible."

Music student and elementary education major Tanner Douville of Twin Valley, Minn., said he feels more confident in his musical abilities because of the Center for the Arts.

"With the new instruments and practice rooms it is easier to feel more confident in myself and the music department," the sophomore said. Douville said he spends most of his time in the practice rooms or social areas of the building and really enjoys spaces to collaborate.

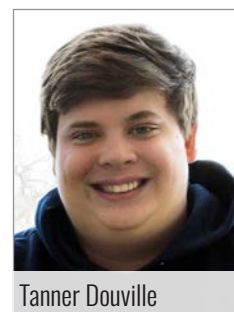
"I feel like I have more of a connection with my fellow classmates," he said. "We all have more space to breathe."

The move into the new building began in earnest in January of this year.

Through fall semester last year, music students were primarily found at Foss Hall and art students worked in various lab and art spaces in McCarthy Hall.



Mitchell Silkman



Tanner Douville

Fine Arts Calendar

Spring > 2022

March 31–April 14

Mitchell Silkman Senior Show

Tuesday, April 5

Region 5 Music Contest | All Day | CFA Performance Hall

Thursday, April 7

Mitchell Silkman Artist Reception | 2:30-4:30 p.m. | CFA Art Gallery

Friday, April 8

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

Saturday, April 9

Hope Cleveland, Sr. Recital | TBD | CFA Performance Hall

Tuesday, April 12

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | CFA - Recital Hall

Tuesday, April 19

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | CFA - Recital Hall

Saturday, April 23

Opera Ensemble Dinner & Showcase

5 p.m. Dinner | 7 p.m. Show | CFA Performance Hall

In 2009 and 2011, floods prompted the building of new flood protection systems in Valley City, and Foss Hall was on the wrong side of the flood wall.

Work to build a new Center for the Arts was underway for years but finally became a reality on May 2, 2019.

Gov. Doug Burgum signed Senate Bill No. 2297, providing \$32 million for the new space. In less than two months, construction had started and the building process was underway.

"There was a lot of external support that came from a practical point of view." LaFave said.

Any flood impact, even a small one, could greatly damage expensive music equipment like grand pianos, electronics and instruments.

It was essential to replace the space Foss Hall provided.

"The process to make this a reality was very collaborative," LaFave said. "It took a lot of effort from a lot of people, and I could not be more proud of being a part of that process."

Now, with the building in use and spaces being filled with arts and music, LaFave said he is enthusiastic about the future.

"I'm most excited about what this means for our future," LaFave said. "The growth, collaboration and opportunities the CFA will provide are tremendous."



Al speaking during the opening of the Art Gallery.



Rachel Baker utilizing the new practice room space.

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 2021 Alumni Phone-A-Thon. The following list includes cash donations and payment on pledges received as of Feb. 28, 2022. 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

\$5,000 +

♥Valley City Eagles Aerie 2192

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Gregory M. Graham
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\$500 - \$999

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♥DuWayne T. Bott
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**Thank you for
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 Hearts Day a
 success!**

**264 Donors
 \$31,890 Raised**



Arizona Socials

Staff from the VCSU Foundation and Alumni office along with President LaFave held events in Arizona for VCSU Alumni and friends the weekend of Feb. 4 and 5. On Friday, Feb. 4, alumni gathered in Peoria for a luncheon. Then on Saturday, Feb. 5, a social and luncheon was held in Mesa. Events included a short program from President LaFave on campus updates and the *Forward Together* campaign.

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

Back row l to r: President LaFave, Ronnie Olson, Howard Rasmusson '71, Jerry Topp '74, Dan Parrish '65, Dave Koschney '71, and Dwight Leier '68.

Front row l to r: Kari LaFave, Mary (Hanson) Koeplin '70, Olive (Berntson) Rasmusson '70, Marie (Vining) Topp '74, Pat (Sheldon) Parrish '67, Linda (Olson) Koschney '72, and Penny (Tetrault) Leier '69.



Back row l to r: John Ovrebo '66, Mark Richman '74, Ed Pung '75, President LaFave, Cory Anderson '89, Dale Hillstrom '69, Rod Olin '74, Nyle Burchill and Don Lemnus '58.

Front row l to r: Carole (Jensen) Richman '74, Kari LaFave, Kristi (Tait) Anderson '93, Dee (Isensee) Hillstrom '69, Judy Mathias, Arlene Burchill, and Jane Lemnus.



Back row l to r: Terry Dunphy '68, John Hill '73, President LaFave, Kenneth Wendt '76, Brad Rice '75, Steve Rice '75, Larry Hodgson '69, Bob Horne '59, Doyle Plecity '69, Bill Schaller '74, Leland Decker '68.

Front row l to r: Jan Bitz, Kari LaFave, Kristi (Tait) Anderson '93, Georgia (Vaughn) Rice '75, Kay Rice, Glenna Hodgson, DeAnne (Roseth) Horne '60, Dianne (Hogness) Decker '67, and Carol Schaller.



Alumni Anecdotes



Anne Volk '03

is an English teacher at Legacy High School in Bismarck. Teaching and VCSU run in her blood! Fun facts - her grandfather was a professor at VCSU and her great grandmother attended VCSC when it was a Normal School in the early 1920s.

"I knew I wanted to be a teacher, and it turns out that some of the best teachers I had graduated from VCSU," Volk said. "The truth of the matter is: if you want to go into education in the state of North Dakota, your best choice is VCSU!"



Erin Edinger '14

has been hired as the Director for Residence Life at VCSU. Edinger has moved back to campus and leads all aspects of residence life for students on campus.

"My favorite part of my job is hands-down the students I get to work with, she said. "The change and growth students experience during their time in college is incredible to witness and be part of."



Valley City State University Successfully Reaccredited by the Higher Learning Commission

VCSU "Healthy, Forward-Looking Culture" Noted by the Review Team

Valley City State University (VCSU) has officially been reaccredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

The accreditation follows a comprehensive evaluation by the HLC that included a review of VCSU policies, procedures and documents. The process also included an in-person, on-campus visit with HLC officials late last year. The review found strong educational, governance and cultural components present at VCSU. The next HLC accreditation site visit will be during the 2031-32 school year.

"The HLC accreditation process provides a comprehensive review of the entire campus and assures quality by verifying that we meet standards and are engaged in continuous improvement," VCSU President Alan LaFave said. "This validates the trust HLC has in our faculty and staff to continue providing the best educational experiences possible. This is a proud moment for our entire institution."

Every core component listed by the HLC was met during the reaccreditation process.

"Our faculty and staff did a great job in preparing materials for this review. Their work highlights the many advances we have made at VCSU academically and on campus," Margaret Dahlberg, Vice President of Academic Affairs, said. "This accreditation shows that we continue to offer quality educational opportunities in line with our mission and purpose."

Two areas of note are the efforts made to better utilize assessment when making critical decisions and the shared governance structures present on campus.

"VCSU has met all of the Criteria for Accreditation and has a healthy, forward-looking culture that uses evidence of institutional and program effectiveness to inform decisions and to make improvements," the HLC report states.

2021 Winter Commencement

Winter commencement was held Thursday, Dec. 16, in Vangstad Auditorium. With this commencement, VCSU will have conferred 27,038 undergraduate degrees and 529 master's degrees.

Speakers included master's student Nick Lee, faculty member Rachelle Hunt, President Alan LaFave and State Board of Higher Education member Jeffrey Volk.

127 students received degrees. This included the awarding of 99 bachelor's degrees and 28 master's degrees. 23 of the individuals receiving master's degrees were awarded a Master of Education. Five were awarded a Master of Arts in Teaching.

"We are so pleased to have excellent students receiving their degrees, and we wish them the best as they head off to be a part of the workforce," VCSU President Alan LaFave said. "These students have left their mark on our institution, and we will be proud to call them alumni."



VCSU Announces First Master of Science Degree in Business Information Systems

Valley City State University (VCSU) officially launched the institution's first Master of Science graduate degree in Business Information Systems.

"This degree came about through collaboration, hard work and cooperation of folks from our campus and the community of Valley City," President Alan LaFave said. "We are very excited about this opportunity. This is another step in expanding and growing our graduate offerings."

The Master of Science graduate degree is open to anyone with an undergraduate degree, regardless of area of study.

"I'm really excited about this degree program. This new program gives us an opportunity to expand our offerings more and serve the businesses around the region," James Boe, Dean of Graduate Studies, said.

"This also allows us to offer a new program for our undergraduate students in computer and information systems," Boe said. "Once they graduate they will have

the opportunity to get their advanced degree and enter the workforce with a masters degree."

Interested individuals are not required to come to the program with computer programming experience. Anyone who is interested has access to training opportunities to fully prepare for the program of study.

"We are excited to start offering our fully online coursework for this program in the summer of 2022," Sue Pfeifer, chair of the Computer Systems and Software Engineering Department said.

"This master of science degree is a collaboration between business communication, software engineering



and computer information systems. We will also be using software like SAP and Salesforce so people will have the opportunity to become even more employable by the time they graduate."

7th Consecutive Spring Enrollment Record at VCSU

Total headcount of 1,660 students for spring semester

Valley City State University (VCSU) has set a spring enrollment record for the seventh consecutive year with 1,660 total students enrolled. This includes 1,509 undergraduate students and 151 graduate students.

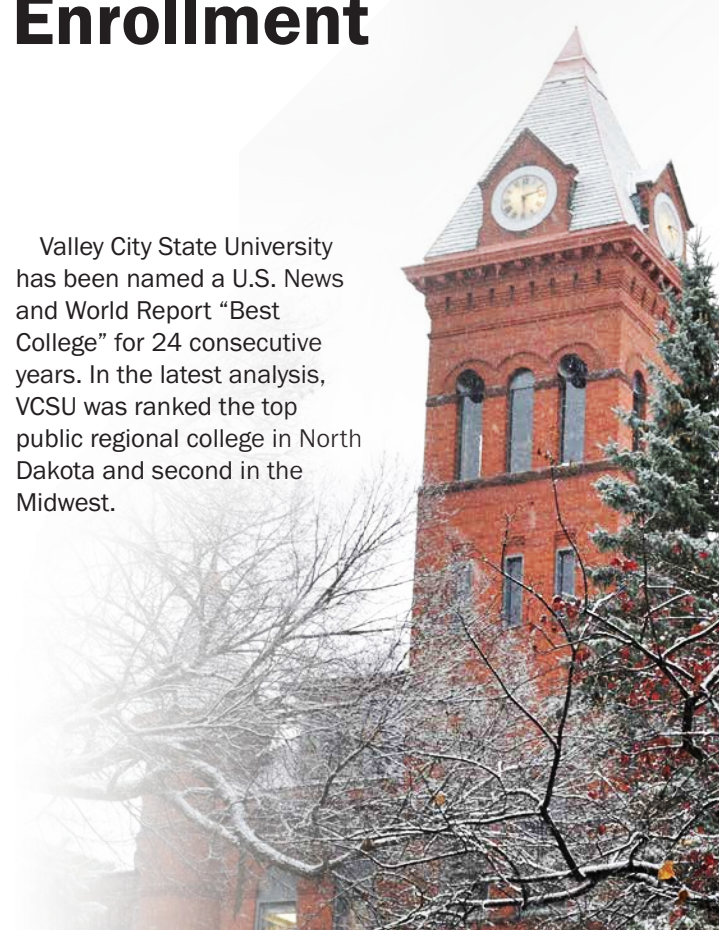
In the past 10 years, enrollment has increased by more than 350 students. Last spring there were 1,632 students enrolled.

"We are happy to welcome the largest group of students in our history to spring semester,"

said President Alan LaFave. "Growing enrollment is a testament to the hard work of our faculty and staff to provide high-quality experiences every day. We are grateful for the continued trust students and families place in VCSU."

Over the past decade, VCSU's total headcount in the spring semester has increased by 27 percent. Likewise, fall enrollment at VCSU has increased for the past nine years.

Valley City State University has been named a U.S. News and World Report "Best College" for 24 consecutive years. In the latest analysis, VCSU was ranked the top public regional college in North Dakota and second in the Midwest.



VCSU online programs ranked among best by U.S News and World Report

Ranked 2nd in North Dakota for Online Master's and Bachelor's Programs



Valley City State University's (VCSU) online master's in education and bachelor's degree

programs have been recognized by U.S. News and World Report in its Best Online Programs rankings.

VCSU was ranked second in North Dakota in both master's and bachelor's online programs. Factors considered in the rankings include student engagement, services and technologies available to students, faculty credentials and training, as well as expert opinion on the academic quality of programs. Student excellence is also considered for schools offering online master's degree programs.

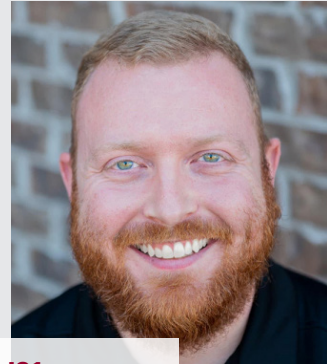
"We continue to develop and offer a wide variety of degrees in dynamic ways that help students become future leaders," President Alan LaFave said. "We are a technology-driven school, and this nationwide ranking reaffirms the high-quality educational experiences our students receive in the classroom and online."

VCSU's new Master of Science degree in Business Information Systems launched in 2022, and is intended to meet workforce needs in the community and statewide. This degree track is currently offered exclusively online.

The VCSU Master of Education (M.Ed.) program offers six concentrations: elementary education, English education, library and information technologies, teaching English language learners, teaching and technology and technology education. The university also offers a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program, designed to help individuals with degrees in non-teaching fields earn teaching licenses.

Online bachelor's programs at VCSU include business education, business process integration management, career and technical education, communication, elementary education, English, English education, history, history education, management, math education, music, social science, social science education and technology education.

Alumni Anecdotes



Devin Anderson '21

is an instructor at Tulsa Tech in Oklahoma. He is a motorcycle and power products teacher. Anderson said his degree at VCSU allowed him more opportunities to advance in the school he works at.

"I am so grateful that VCSU was able to accept what I already had done in college and in life and help me achieve a bachelor's degree," he said.



Zzyzx Brown '21

has been hired as the Automotive Technologies and Welding Teacher at Gering High School. Brown finished his degree online while working full-time to support his family.

"Valley City State University has hands down been the best college experience I have had through my journey. VCSU is a college of the people, and they are there to make sure you can complete your degree and become the best person you can be in your community and career," Brown said. "I am so thankful for all their help!"

STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR NATIONALS



VCSU DECA chapter members Gina Burtness, Jennifer Keller, Ryan Orner and Kiara Radke competed at the North Dakota Collegiate DECA Competition held in Fargo on Feb. 13. Burtness, Keller and Radke qualified for DECA's Competitive Events Program International Career Development Conference (ICDC) to be held in Baltimore, MD, April 9-12.



I N S I D E ATHLETICS

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VIKINGS HALL OF FAME 2022

Introducing the new Coaches Hall of Fame and the Inaugural Class of Inductees

27 VCSU alumni will receive the Osmon Icon Award during a ceremony on Friday, June 10, in Valley City. The Coaches Hall of Fame is a new addition at VCSU and will honor Viking alumni who went on to successful and influential coaching careers. The inaugural class includes alumni from five different decades spanning 67 years who coached nine different sports at the collegiate and high school level. It includes national champions and numerous national coach of the year honorees.

Inductees into the VCSU Coaches Hall of Fame receive the Osmon Icon Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated a commitment of excellence in the field of coaching through their careers. The award is named in honor of Viking Icon Coach Bill Osmon. Coach Osmon's teams won 24 conference championships in four different sports making him the all-time winningest coach in Valley City State history while providing dedication and influential service during his tenure at Valley City State.

Please join us in congratulating our 2022 Class and make plans to attend the induction ceremony in June. Make it a Valley City weekend and sign up to play in our annual VCSU Viking Golf Scramble on Saturday, June 11.

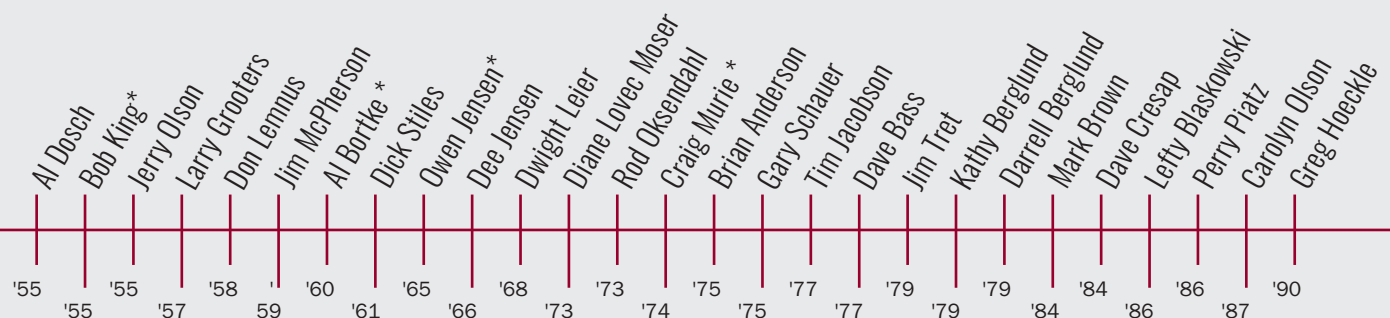
Five individuals and one team to be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year

The Class of 2022 includes Molly (Anderson) Welstad '03, Loni (Hall) Thilmoney '07, Josh Kasowski '05, Matt Johnson '01, Karalea (Morris) Hoyano '07 and the 2006 softball team.

All will officially be inducted into the Vikings Hall of Fame during Homecoming on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022. For tickets or more information about the Hall of Fame ceremony, contact the VCSU Alumni Office at 701-845-7203.

Hoyano and the 2006 softball team were previously announced as inductees in 2020, but their official induction was delayed until this year due to travel restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more about the inductees on the following page.

2022 COACHES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



*awarded posthumously

VIKINGS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2006 Softball Team

The 2006 VCSU softball team won the Region III Tournament and advanced to the NAIA World Series for just the second time in program history.

The Vikings compiled a 36-19 overall record. The Vikings shined brightest in the postseason, taking second in the Dakota Athletic Conference Postseason Tournament before sweeping through the Region III Tournament with a 4-0 record and earning their spot at the NAIA World Series. Pitching and defense carried the Vikings as they outscored their Region III opponents 9-3 over those four games, including two 1-0 victories. VCSU then went 1-3 in pool play at the NAIA World Series in Decatur, Ala. VCSU finished the season with a combined 1.68 team ERA and 17 shutouts. Karalea Morris threw two no-hitters and one perfect game, while Alana Purvis recorded two no-hitters. Morris was named All-American and Region III Tournament MVP. Morris, Kelli Unrein and Ruby Garza were named all-conference.

The 36 wins was one of more than a dozen team and individual school records set by the team. Individuals from the 2006 team still hold current school records for home runs (Kelli Unrein, 15), stolen bases (Jackie O'Neill, 49) and strikeouts (Karalea Morris, 340). Team members included RaeAnne Cote, Karalea Morris, Katie Cavallaro, Ruby Garza, Charla Bick, Alisha Sackman, Jackie O'Neill, Molly Schultz, Alana Purvis, Kelli Unrein, Kelli Baumgartner, Tara Coates, Sadie Smith, Amanda Bryson, Carling Beninger, Jennifer Thorson, Jessica Ruzicki and Lara Loomis. Chad Slyter was head coach, and Christy Capner was assistant coach. Student assistants were Jenni Crom and Josh Plecity.



Molly (Anderson) Welstad '03

Watford City, N.D.
Women's Basketball, 2000-02

Anderson transferred to VCSU prior to her junior season in 2000-01 and went on to score 1,029

points in just two years with the VCSU women's basketball team. Anderson made an immediate impact on the program and earned 1st Team All-Conference in both 2001 and 2002. A sharp-shooting guard from Watford City, Anderson made 176 career 3-pointers (2nd all-time at VCSU) and dished out 272 career assists (4.5/game). She scored a school record 536 points during the 2001-02 season and averaged 17.4 points per game during her Viking career. Her 91 3-pointers during the 2001-02 season still stands as a school record.



Loni (Hall) Thilmony '07

Parshall, N.D.
Women's Basketball, 2004-07

Loni Hall was a four-year impact player for the VCSU women's basketball team, leaving her mark as the school's all-time leading

rebounder and one of the best post players in history. Hall was named the Dacotah Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year in 2004 and went on to earn All-Conference honors each of the next three seasons. She was also named All-American once during her career and earned an Academic All-American award as a senior. Hall finished her Viking career with 1,626 points, ranking second all-time at VCSU. She currently holds school records for career rebounds (855) and free throws made (423).



Josh Kasowski '05

Valley City, N.D.
Football, 2000-04

Josh Kasowski racked up 346 career tackles as a fierce linebacker on the

Valley City State football team from 2000 to 2004. A native of Valley City, Kasowski excelled on the hometown team and finished his career as the school's all-time leading tackler. Kasowski had 155 tackles and 13 tackles for loss as a senior, ranking second in the nation with 15.5 tackles per game. He also topped 100 tackles as a junior, recording a team-high 123 stops. He was a two-time All-Conference selection and was named 1st Team All-American in 2004. Kasowski's 346 tackles currently rank him third in VCSU history. He also finished his career with 26 tackles for loss, 11.5 sacks and six forced fumbles. He played immediately as a freshman, recording 17 tackles on VCSU's conference championship team in 2000.



Matt Johnson '01

Sawyer, N.D.
Baseball, 1997-2000

Johnson was a three-time All-Conference selection and was named the North

Dakota Collegiate Athletic Conference Most Valuable Senior, excelling as a standout catcher and hitter during his Viking baseball career. A native of Sawyer, N.D., Johnson tallied a .354 career batting average and a .428 on-base percentage during his four years at VCSU. He hit 14 home runs and collected 90 RBIs. He earned All-Conference in 1997, 1998 and 2000, and he was named NDCAC Most Valuable Senior, Honorable Mention All-

American and NAIA Scholar-Athlete after his senior season in 2000. Johnson batted .362 as a senior with 34 RBI, eight home runs and a .622 slugging percentage.



Karalea (Morris) Hoyano '07

White Rock, British Columbia
Softball, 2005-06

Hoyano was a two-time all-conference selection as a pitcher and was named

honorable mention All-American after her senior season in 2006. A native of White Rock, B.C., Hoyano transferred to VCSU before her junior season in 2005. During her Viking career, Hoyano pitched 361.2 innings and compiled a 1.99 career ERA. She finished her two years at VCSU with 490 strikeouts, 48 complete games, 14 shutouts, two no-hitters and one perfect game. She posted a 22-10 record with a 1.56 ERA and a school-record 340 strikeouts during her senior season, leading the Vikings to the Region III Championship and an appearance at the NAIA World Series. Hoyano was named MVP of the Region III Tournament after pitching all of the Vikings' 28 innings in a dominating performance. She started the tournament with a no-hitter and allowed just one earned run over four games.



Basketball Season Recap



Highly Successful Season for Men's Basketball

The Valley City State men's basketball team won 18 games and advanced to the North Star Athletic Association Final Four during a highly successful 2021-22 season.

The Vikings finished the year with an 18-11 overall record and went 8-6 in conference play as they earned the No. 3 seed for the NSAA Postseason Tournament. The Vikings defeated in-state rival Dickinson State in the first round of the playoffs, advancing to the NSAA Final Four in Watertown, S.D. VCSU's season came to an end in the semifinals of the conference tournament, dropping a 72-66 game to eventual champion Bellevue University.

Two VCSU seniors – Connor Entzi and Kevin Schramm – scored their 1,000th career point during the season, becoming part of a group of just 20 Vikings who have accomplished that feat in program history.

Schramm was named 1st Team All-Conference for the second consecutive season, averaging 12 points and five rebounds per game. He was also named NSAA Player of the Week twice. Senior Chris Thompson was named Honorable Mention All-Conference after averaging 8 points, 3 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.5 steals per game. Entzi was named VCSU's Champion of Character – someone who best represents the NAIA's five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership.

Schramm, Thompson, Entzi and senior guard Jalen Addison – who scored 12 points per game this year – wrapped up their Viking careers, which included 37 team wins over the past two seasons.

The Vikings sported a deep roster during the 2021-22 season with 10 players averaging more than 5 points per game. Junior Hunter Sand also earned an NSAA Player of the Week award after scoring 31 points in a victory against Presentation College.



Women's Basketball Finishes 3rd in NSAA Standings

The Valley City State women's basketball team concluded the 2022 season with a 10-15 overall record and went 7-7 in conference play to earn a No. 3 seed for the NSAA Tournament. The No. 3 Vikings hosted No. 6 Bellevue in the opening round of the tournament at the Bubble. The Bruins defeated the Vikings 62-51 to advance to the NSAA Final Four.

Following the regular season, four VCSU women's basketball players earned conference recognition. Ashlyn Diemert, a freshman guard from West Fargo, N.D., was named NSAA Freshman of the Year. Diemert averaged 10.4 points per game and totaled 38 assists and 24 steals on the season. She scored a career-best 21 points on Feb. 5 at Viterbo.

Adriana Torres, a junior guard from Pelican Rapids, Minn., was named Second Team All-Conference. Torres averaged 12.9 points/game and totaled 35 assists on the season. She scored her career-high 25 points in a win over Waldorf on Feb. 4.

Taryn Dieterle, a junior forward from Valley City, was named Honorable Mention All-Conference. She averaged 10.1 points and 7.3 rebounds/game. Dieterle grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds twice this season and hit a pair of game-winning shots in the final seconds during games against Dickinson State and Bellevue.

Allie Critchley, a junior guard from Dilworth, Minn., was named a Champion of Character, which is presented to the student-athlete who best exemplifies the five core values of the NAIA Champions of Character program: respect, integrity, servant leadership, sportsmanship and responsibility.

See more at vcsuvikings.com

2022 Indoor Track & Field Recap

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Valley City State University (VCSU) athletes won three conference championships, set or tied five school records, and had 13 All-Conference performances during the NSAA Indoor Track & Field Championships contested Feb. 20 in Brookings, S.D.

Zachary Co (shot put), JT Reed (60 meters) and Brooke Malsom (long jump) all won individual conference titles for the Vikings, and both Valley City State teams finished in fourth place out of seven team at the North Star Athletic Association conference championships.

VCSU head coach Laquone Robinson was proud of VCSU's accomplishments on the day, with numerous athletes competing at their highest level yet this season.

"Hands down, this was the best meet I've been a part of since joining Valley City State," said Robinson. "Going into this meet, we were clear that each athlete had a job to do; to focus on themselves and perform their personal best. When each individual focused on themselves in their moment, it allowed our team to rise as a whole. They competed at their highest level today, and it was so much fun to be a part of."

Sprinter and jumper Brooke Malsom had a day to remember as she was named both the NSAA's Most Valuable Athlete and the Field Athlete of the Year. Malsom won a conference title in the long jump, placed second in the triple jump and set new school records in both the 60 and 200 meter races. In her four events, Malsom finished with four Top 4 finishes – including three All-Conference performances. She became the first woman in VCSU history to go below 8 seconds in the 60 meter dash, and she shattered the school record in the 200 meters with a time of 25.83 seconds – nearly a second faster than the old record of 26.70 seconds set by Kerri Turnbough in 2002.

On the mens' side, JT Reed won a conference title in the 60 meter dash and tied his school record with a time of 6.96 seconds. Zachary Co won his third straight conference title in the shot put and added another All-Conference performance with a third place in the weight throw. Co has now won five individual conference titles and has won the last three NSAA



indoor shot put titles. He competed in both shotput and weight throw at the NAIA Indoor National Championships and placed 8th in shot put to earn All-American honors.

Other All-Conference (Top 3) performances came from Taylor Sargent (60 hurdles and pentathlon), Hannah Gordon (shot put and weight throw), Sadie Hansen (shot put), Clay Kummer (60 hurdles) and Noah Rolfe (mile run).

During the 2022 indoor season, the Vikings set school records in nine different events.

VCSU will start the outdoor season in late March. Valley City State University will host the 2022 NSAA Outdoor Conference Championships on May 12-13 at VCSU's John & Diane Hill Track & Field Complex.



Join Us for Food and Fun at a F-M RedHawks Game!

Wednesday, August 3, the VCSU Alumni Association invites you to join alumni and friends at Newman Outdoor field for a F-M RedHawks baseball game with a reserved ticket and a picnic prior to the game.

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.

GATES OPEN AT 6:02 P.M.

SOCIAL HOUR AND PICNIC: 6:02 PM

GAME TIME: 7:02PM

PLEASE RSVP. Call 701-845-7203 by July 22 to reserve your tickets.

Spring Sports Quick Hits

The spring sports season is already underway at Valley City State, which both the baseball and softball teams are more than a dozen games into their respective seasons. And for the first time since 2014, the Valley City State track & field teams will host a home meet. The Vikings are set to host a meet in April and then will host the NSAA Conference Championships in May.

Softball Starts 7-5

The Viking softball team opened the 2022 season in February with games at the Minot Dome and Presentation College Dome. VCSU has started the season with a 7-5 record and won its last four games. The Viking softball team picked up two notable wins over rival University of Jamestown.

The Vikings were picked to finish second in the 2022 NSAA Softball Coaches' Preseason poll and received one first place vote in the poll. VCSU returns most of its starters from the 2021 season including six All-Conference selections and two Gold Glove recipients.



VCSU's Joelle Lamontagne and Jessica Husband were named NSAA Players of the Week on Feb. 21, after a 4-0 weekend at the PC Dome.

VCSU travels to Tucson, Ariz. for 11 games March 9-16 before kicking off the conference season on March 26. VCSU hosts its conference opener against 2021 NSAA Tournament Champion Dickinson

State. The Vikings will play a 51-game schedule in 2022, including 28 conference contests. The NSAA conference tournament will be played in Watertown, S.D., on May 5-8.

Track and Field Hosting NSAA Championships

Coming off a successful indoor season, the VCSU track and field teams will have a busy spring with nine outdoor meets currently on the schedule.

The outdoor season culminates with the NSAA Outdoor Conference Championships, which will be hosted by Valley City State University at the recently reconstructed John & Diane Hill Track & Field Complex in Valley City.

VCSU is also scheduled to host a meet in April – the first home meet for VCSU since the 2014 season.



Golf Season Begins March 28

The Valley City State golf teams will take to the course March 28 for their first meet of the spring season. The Vikings are scheduled to play four meets this spring, culminating with the NSAA Championships, April 25-26 in Albert Lea, Minn.

Baseball goes 6-2 in Fall Games

The Viking Baseball team has been ramping up for a busy month of March. The Vikings are scheduled to play 18 games on the road during the month of March, including four games at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, and seven games in Tucson, Ariz.

Valley City State enters the spring schedule with a 6-2 overall record after playing eight games during the fall season. It was VCSU's most successful fall since the team started playing fall baseball back in 2013.

Valley City State was picked to finish third in the NSAA Baseball Preseason Coaches' Poll behind Bellevue University and Mayville State. The Vikings return the bulk of their lineup from last year's team that went 23-26 overall and finished third in the NSAA with a 14-9 conference record. That lineup hit a school-record 80 home runs, including a single-season record of 18 by graduating senior Jorun Hamre.

Infielder David Demeter is back after hitting 14 home runs and 48 RBIs last season, while outfielder/catcher Dustin Mertz is coming off a freshman season that saw him hit .405 with 10 home runs and 22 extra-base hits. Speedster JT Reed swiped 22 bases last season while batting .303 with seven home runs and 35 RBIs. They'll help anchor what should once again be a strong batting order.

"The offensive lineup should be very good again," said head coach Casey Olney. "Losing Jorun is a significant loss, but

pretty much everybody else that was a big factor in our lineup is back. So it's a very experienced lineup and we're adding a few new pieces to it as well that should make it a little more dynamic."

On the mound, veteran arms Reed Butz, William Hlady and Chase Feller will be expected to anchor VCSU's pitching rotation. The trio totaled five wins and pitched 44 of VCSU's 61 innings during the fall season.

The NSAA Baseball Tournament will be played May 6-9 in Forest City, Iowa.



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.



1999

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

2000

Carol Anderson
Jana Buckner
Julia Devonish
Oscar Elizalde Grajeda
Todd Klusmann
Alyssa Martin
Ryan McGough
Nicole Mehus - Jensen
Kimberley Millar
Anne Smith
Trevor Smith
Travis Strobel
Laurel Valentine

2001

Cynthia (Anderson) Andren
Dean Bosch
Melissa Carter
Deana (Bertges) Cohagen
Chere Fuchs
Lucas Gudmestad
Kate Keating
Denise Landman
Gary Leingang
Susan (Slone) Opp
Jill Ritchie
Tracy (Bouret) Vargas
Sergei Vasilyev
Joni Wieck
Lindsey Wilson

2002

Aaron Anderson
Anna Barcis
Julia Beck
Ellie Broman
Kimberly (Hehn) Gooding
Miranda (Karczeuski) Keller
Alison Kohler

2002 continued

Luis Martinez
Matthew Mutcheson
Marilyn Nelson
Martha Nieman
Matthew North
Scott Peterson

2003

Heather Curtis
Erin (Maitland) Draper
Eric Erickson
Alicia (Simonsen) Godel
Kristina Hanson
Anthony Hines
Gyebi Kwarteng
Dana Lattimore
Elizabeth (Kiecker) Mathern
Amanda (Keller) Morris
Rebecca Otteson
Nathan Penner
Marlene (Linell) Thompson
Justin Wieseler
Natacha (Boucard) Zephyrin

2004

Candie (Schroeder) Hellwig
Jonathan Kleinke
Harold Lang
Martina Miteva
Diana (Filler) Vetsch
Jamie Wutzke

2005

Terrance Allen
David Fleming
Amanda Hanson
Nicolle James
Natalie Koch
Taylor Lutzwick
Ivie Matthews
Bryce McLean
Christina Richter
Sheila Sutherland
Hilary Woods

SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming

September 16-17, 2022



Boyd '75 and Kathy (Shape) Sussex '74 have been retired from teaching at Milbank High School for 4 years and are loving the freedom to do whatever they want. You could say they are living the "good life". They spend a lot of time with their son's (**Jackson '08**) family in Grand Forks. Their grandkids, Baker (6) and Lauren (4) keep them happily busy! Boyd has enjoyed being re-connected with college buddies and Tau Sigs.

Randy Hall '75 has taught in Gwinner (4 yrs), Napoleon (17 yrs), and Washburn (26 yrs) and still teaches after retiring in 2019. Randy served two terms as President of the North Dakota Music Educators and was Music Educator of the Year in 2009 and selected to the NDMEA Hall of Fame in 2013. He is married to Gwen and they have three children (Jesslyn, Courtney and Cameron) and two grandchildren (Kane and Brooke Austin).

Dan Mimnaugh '75 retired as the Camp Director at the Elks Camp Grassick after more than 40 years of service. Mimnaugh started as a counselor in 1973 and became program Director in 1980 after he graduated from VCSU. Mimnaugh was born and raised in Valley City and said he is now "back where I started from." He has been spending time with his grandchildren, fishing and relaxing.



Bob '76 and Michele (Neurauter) '75 Green between them had over 60 years in education. Bob was a double major in history & physical education and coaching and a driver education credential. Michele received her Associate of Arts- Business and Medical Secretary Degree. They have taught in McVille, Finley, Milnor and Hillsboro N.D. They have also taught in Bellingham, Minn. and Veblen, S.D. In May of 2018, they retired after 21 years of teaching in Hillsboro and moved back to Valley City. They bought a "Mom and Pop" house on 6th St NE. They had no children because of Michele's "heart condition" but had countless number of fur babies in their 45 years of lovely marriage.

Michele was a "fighter" in life. She fought her heart condition since her sophomore year of high school and had three major heart procedures, with the last one taking place at the University Of Minnesota Heart Center in Feb. of 2019 which Michele had all three valves replaced in one operation! Michele had fought retention of fluid most of her adult life and passed away on October 20th, 2021. Bob continues to live in VC. He invites anyone going through Valley to please stop in or call if you have his number or go to Brothers III, turn north to 3rd St, turn east and look for the "Green" colored house!



Doyle Plecity '76 and his wife, Sharon, moved to Devils Lake where they fish and work as independent adjusters for 4 months. In October, they travel to Sun City West, Ariz., and spend the winters there. Doyle retired

from teaching at West Fargo Public Schools in 2016 and is loving the retired life. He loves spending time with family and watching his grandsons involved in a variety of sports.

Jerry Reinisch '76 and his wife, Laurie, continue to reside in Bismarck, N.D. Laurie recently retired from 43 years at Sanford ICU. Jerry continues to work for USFWS as a Fish & Wildlife Biologist with Ecological Services. They enjoy time spent with three grandchildren.

Mike Hangaard '77 taught at Washburn for a year following graduation then decided to go see the world and spent 20 years in the US Navy retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. Mike used his Navy experience in the electronics field for the next few years and fully retired in 2018. Mike got together with a few teammates and frat brothers this past homecoming. His biggest thrill was getting their 1976 offensive line together that opened the way for their running back, Buck Kasowski, to garner the rushing and scoring titles that year; **Jim Ukestad '78, Jerry Holinka '79, Dave Olson '79, Brendan Hagarty '77, Dave Katzenmeyer '78**. Pictured are friends of 45 years; **Jeff**



Mathison '76, Tim Daniels '75, Mike Hangaard '77.

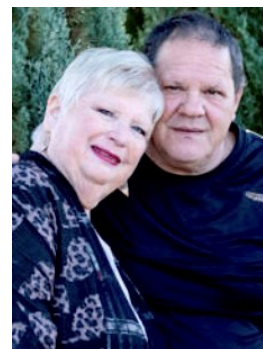
David Katzenmeyer '78 had a great time reconnecting with teammates and friends at the 2021 Homecoming celebration. David noted, VCSU seems to be doing well with many new improvements on campus. David is enjoying retirement more everyday. Go Vikings!

G. Michael '79 and Diane (McCommon) '75 Opdahl reside in Fargo. Diane is retired and enjoys life as a full-time grandma to seven grandkids. Mike works full-time at Bell Bank as a desktop support specialist.

Jim Trett '79 and his wife, Jennifer, are living in Sioux Falls, S.D., putting the finishing touches on their careers. Jim is retiring after this school year and Jennifer is retiring after one more year at Wells Fargo. Jennifer has been at Wells Fargo for over 30 years and Jim is completing his 43rd year in education and 33 years as a head basketball coach. Their plans are to move to Wisconsin. Their son, David, is in Nashville operating the best coffee shop in the land called the Red Bicycle. David and Marsha just had a baby boy, Jackson, and a girl is on the way. Daughter, Lindsey, is in Edina, Minn. and is a manager at Nissan-Walser and doing great. Son and daughter-in-law, Justin and Paige, are in Fort Collins. Justin is a manager at Scheels and Paige is a manager at Target. Their granddaughter, Olivia, is 12 and in the 6th grade and doing great. Jim hopes all of you in North Dakota are staying warm. "VCSU we love the Red and Blue."

CLASS OF 1980s

Brian Midthun '80 was inducted into the 2022 North Dakota High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



Julie (Johnson) Haase '81 from Glenfield, N.D., now lives in sunny San Tan Valley, Ariz. Julie, a former elementary teacher in Finley-Sharon, then Kulm, N.D., is now a professional

artist and furniture flipper. She teaches art classes at her home. Julie lost her first husband, **LeRoy Haase '78** in 2016 and married Gino Schmid in 2020. She is an animal lover and has 5 dogs, 2 cats, 2 rescue burros and 1 bird. Julie says "please stop by when in Arizona for a visit."

Elden Paczkowski '81 is living in Lakeville, Minn. with his wife, Amy. Elden has 2 boys, Dominic and Christopher, and both of them live in the cities. Elden is also a grandpa of 2 boys, Sam, 21 months, and Miles, 1 month. He returned to Valley City and went to the football game which honored the 1980 football team and said it was great to see everyone. They didn't make him go out and spell, Vikings, on the field so he was happy for that. Elden says "hi" to all his TKE fraternity brothers and all the friends he made at Valley. Live long and prosper!

Diane (Winter) Graff '82 is continuing to enjoy retirement from teaching. She is busy planning weddings for others, and spending time with the grandkids!



Cindy (Weispenning) Kleven '86 lives in Jamestown with her husband, John. Cindy just completed her 35th year working as a certified coding specialist for Jamestown Regional Medical Center. They have a son, Aaron, who is a junior at NDSU.

Cyndi (Fort) Bissen '87 retired on July 30th. After 28 years in academia at the University of Florida and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in administration. Her oldest son retired after 25 years in the Navy as a Senior Chief in the submarine corp. Cyndi is just traveling in her camper seeing the USA now.

Mary Halvorson '89 is in her 33rd year of teaching and it has been a great year. She moved closer to home and is currently in her 2nd year of teaching K-6 Title I at Lakota Elementary.

CLASS OF 1990'S

Steve Gulseth '92 and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 25 years and live in Omaha, Neb. They have three kids: Claire (25), has graduated college and is working in Minneapolis, Cody (22), will graduate with an engineering degree this spring and then enter the Army as a second Lieutenant and Chrissy (19), is in college at UNL. Steve made the move a year ago to be a full time real estate professional renting and flipping houses.

Duane Yliniemi '92 was recently promoted to general manager for Greenstone Systems, a Cultura Technologies business, which provides commodity handling and processing solutions to agribusinesses like ag cooperatives, grain elevators, processors and ag retailers. Duey and his wife, Lisa, currently reside in Alpharetta, Ga. and spend time at their lake home near Perham, Minn.

Kathy (Mans) '93 and Kyle Nielsen call Billings, Mont. home. They created a business from the ground up called Grains of Montana Bakery. Kyle initially wanted to do something more with the grain from their family farm and decided in 2005 to create a bakery to produce Grains of Montana Restaurant which moved them to Billings from Nashua. They started out by baking out of the back of the restaurant and then grew the bakery into its own facility in 2009. They closed and sold the restaurant in March of 2020 to completely focus on the bakery which now provides product to US Foods and City Brew, a coffee house chain.



The best part of this is that their three grown children, Kylie, Reece and Devin, work in the bakery with them and are now a large part of the success. The attached picture is from their oldest daughter's wedding in October of 2021.

Sharon (Hoffman) Hoyt '94 has been married to her husband, Bobby, for 27 years. They ranch and farm near McHenry, N.D. with their two children, **Joslyn '21**, who recently graduated from VCSU with an Elementary Ed degree and Early Childhood endorsement; and Cassidy who is currently a VCSU student working towards an English Ed/Communications degree. Sharon teaches preK and music at Midkota Elementary School.

Barbara (Lohre) Leiseth '96 is a proud Valley City State Alumni. Her undergrad degree was in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood Education and she graduated Summa Cum Laude. Barbara says VCSU prepared her to do her job well and instilled a lifelong love of learning. She went on to earn a masters in Curriculum and Instruction and a PhD in K-12 Administration and Leadership. Currently, Barbara is taking six credits at the University of Wyoming.

Barbara serves as an elementary principal in Cheyenne, Wyo. where her staff often serve as hosts to VCSU student teachers thanks to the VCSU online programs. Barbara and her husband of more than 40 years, have four grown children, four grandchildren, two dogs, and several horses. Their family enjoys spending time together camping, fishing, hunting, and hiking on the prairies of South Dakota and in the mountains of Wyoming. She is grateful for the cutting edge education and the resulting employment opportunities provided by Valley City State University. GO VIKINGS!



CLASS OF 2010s



Ashley (Gierke) Horner '12 and her husband Nicholas as well as their two children Alexis (May 2018) and Rowan (January 2022) are residents of Valley City. After graduating from VCSU, Ashley

went on to UND School of Medicine and Health Science to pursue her doctor of medicine degree. She graduated as an MD in 2017 and finished her residency training to become a family physician in 2020. She has been practicing at Sanford Health in Valley City since finishing her training.

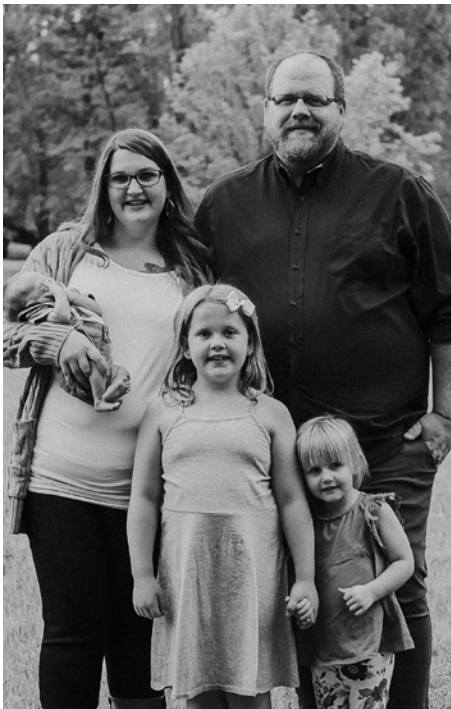
Jen (Soland) Moore '13 currently teaches 1st Grade at Horace Elementary School. Jen and her husband welcomed their first child, Cole, in August 2021. He is a very alert and busy little boy!



Alumni Anecdotes

Carole Del Vecchio '14 was just recently promoted to Assistant Professor at Goodwin University in East Hartford, Connecticut. She works in their Advanced Manufacturing Center teaching welding and fabrication technologies, CNC plasma cutting, and math for machinists. Carol says her team is inspiring and the students are great. She loves her job and wants to thank VCSU.

Vanessa (Caine) Pollard '15 and her family reside in Jamestown where her husband is employed as a sergeant at the Stutsman County Correctional Center and Vanessa is employed at South Central Human Service as a behavior modification specialist. Their first daughter was born in 2014 while Vanessa was attending VCSU and she watched Vanessa walk across the stage at graduation in 2015, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Vanessa and her husband were married in August of 2017 and they added their second daughter to the mix in July 2018. Her family just added their third child in August making them a family of 5, pictured below.



Amy (Venn) Efta '17 is a year-round aviary-primate zookeeper at Roosevelt Park Zoo in Minot. While it's a bit of a departure from her communications/journalism studies at VCSU, her bachelor degree continues to open doors. Amy's education has provided a strong foundation to build a life full of knowledge and opportunities and she is forever proud to be a Viking!



Kelsey (Gaukler) '17 and Zach Nelson '17 have 2 children: daughter, Reese, 9 months, and son, Leo, who will be three in August. They both teach at Hankinson Public School. Kelsey is the librarian and teaches an English and yearbook

class. She is also the yearbook and prom advisor, speech coach and one of the drama directors. Zach teaches science and is one of the varsity football coaches and the girls' basketball assistant coach. Zach and Kelsey celebrated a late honeymoon in November of 2021 in Costa Rica.

CLASS OF 2020s



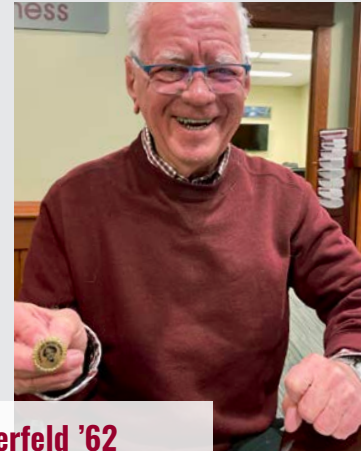
Madeline (Breen) Braun '21 is a first year 3rd grade teacher at Nativity Elementary School in Fargo, N.D. She has a wonderful husband and a beautiful 6-month-old daughter.

Gary-Alan Hopkins '21 went on to Boston University's M.S. in Applied Business Analytics program following graduation from VCSU. He adopted two new fur babies, Eli and Louka. Currently, he is still living in Toledo, Ohio.



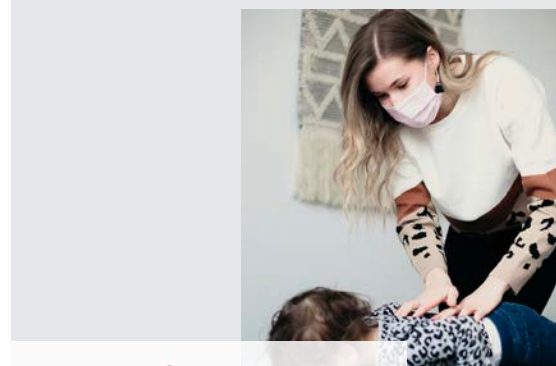
Adrienne Rodlund '21 continues to live in Valley City and works at Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone (Previously Barnes County Social Services). Adrienne lives with her long-time boyfriend (who

she actually met in the Sodexo dining hall 5 years ago), **Brady Matheny '20**, and they have two beautiful cats.



Myron Sommerfeld '62

is coordinating tributes to singer Peggy Lee. He has also coordinated a scholarship for VCSU students in her honor. There will be an event in her honor this June featuring a concert and ice cream social at Valley City State University. Sommerfeld said Lee's life story is inspiring and he hopes to inspire others by recognizing her work as a pioneer in the music industry.



Dr. Jaycee George '17

has opened Willow Creek Chiropractic in Claresholm, Alberta. George's family lives a few blocks away.

"The people I met in Valley were so kind to me and nice to me that I will remember and appreciate them forever," George said, adding, "I hope I can now provide that same experience for my patients."

George finished her education at Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, Minn. and her doctorate in three and a half years by also attending during summer months.

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

1 - Alyssa Beeson and Garrett Berg '21 got married in May of 2020, but only had a small ceremony at first due to COVID-19. Once things settled down with COVID-19, they had their big reception in 2021. After graduating in May of 2021 with a bachelors degree in computer science, Garrett got a job in Casselton, N.D. as an IT technician at Maple River Grain & Agronomy. They have moved to Fargo and love that there is always something to do especially since both of them were raised in small towns.



3

2 - Elisabeth Rzaszutak '12 and Nathan Trosen were married Sept. 11, 2021 in Carrington, N.D. They live in West Fargo where Elisabeth teaches 3rd grade at Brooks Harbor Elementary and Nathan works for Farstad Oil.

3 - Whitney Benscoter '17 and Austin Richter '18 were married July 24, 2021 and were able to celebrate with many VCSU alumni! They live in Detroit Lakes, Minn. and work in the Detroit Lakes Public School District.



4



5



6



7

4 - Virginia Zenzen & Burke Tagney '13, were married Sept. 25, 2021 on a perfect fall day, with many VCSU Alum in attendance! They live and work in St. Cloud, Minn. Burke is an IT Coordinator at Midwest Financial Partners and Virginia is in compliance and operations at Kensington Bank. They are both very involved with the St. Cloud Rotaract Service Club and meeting with friends downtown. They're looking forward to buying a house and starting a family in the next few years!

5 - Kaia Lunde M.Ed. '18 & Andrew Berggren were married Oct. 3, 2021. Kaia says "he is a wonderful Jesus-loving man. He is hard-working, patient, thoughtful, and goofy. Together we make a good team and I am thankful he was well worth the wait and all the prayers for the last 11 years!" Kaia teaches elementary 3-5 grade English Learners in Grand Forks. Later this year, she will be moving to Fargo to join her husband and is looking forward to living with her husband full time, not just on the weekends. She is also looking forward to getting involved in their community and Cultivate Church.

6 - Allyson Drees M.Ed. '20 and Scott Hovda met in Apr. of 2018 while Allyson was a student in the master's program. Despite going weeks at a time without seeing each other due to keeping up with studies, Scott proposed in December 2020, and the couple was married July 31st, 2021 in Grand Forks, N.D. The couple currently lives in Lake Park, Minn. Allyson is currently a Library Media Specialist at Carl Ben Eilesen Middle School in Fargo, N.D. and Scott works at the Air National Guard in Fargo, N.D.

7 - Stacey Juntunen '99 and Nick Bach were married in July of 2021. They met 38 years ago and dated in high school for a year. They met back up at the lake after 33 years of not seeing each other and after a year, got married on the very same beach where it all started. Stacey is in her 12th year teaching (23rd total) at East Grand Forks Senior High as the band director. Stacey and Nick live in East Grand Forks, Minn.

Not Pictured

Jenna Bernhardt '21 & Bradyn Burgad, July 17, 2021
MaKenna Hudson '21 & Brandon Sandvik, October 23, 2021
 Kelsey Schumacher & **Ross Pritchert '15**, November 21, 2021
Thressa Piatz '20 & **Jonah Wolla '20**, February 12, 2022

In Remembrance

Vivian Kuipers '41, Bismarck, N.D.
Eve (Stillman) Reddick Rogers '42, Stanwood, Wash.
Ward Wilkins '50, Anoka, Minn.
Henry Galloway '51, Wyoming, Minn.
Pauline (Elston) Lentz '51, Valley City
Elaine (Bohn) Machacek '51, Mesa, Ariz.
Colleen "Coke" (Erickson) Aafedt '52, Williston, N.D.
Marlys (Thoen) Johnson '52, Minneapolis, Minn.
Marilyn (Arneson) Mortensen, Mount Vernon, Iowa
Manfred Drugan, Fargo, N.D.
Wendell Gillund '54, Naples, Fla.
Betty (Gale) Kreidlkamp '54, Valley City
William Lydell '55, Minneapolis, Minn.
Rev. Robert Herrmann-Keeling '58, Middletown, Conn.
Lowell Peterson '58, Valley City
Eldon Greij '59, Holland, Mich.
Willis Heupel '59, Great Falls, Mont.
Violet (Olson) '59, Forman, N.D.
Howard Gusaas '60, Great Falls, Mont.
Kenneth Lettenmaier '60, Moorhead, Minn.
Robert Neva '60, Fargo, N.D.
Foster "Ray" Hager '61, Washburn, N.D.
Kathleen (Kleingartner) Kinzler '61, Loudon, Tenn.
Ann Marie (Anderson) Hager '62, Washburn, N.D.
Ronald Mikkelson '62, Lewiston, Idaho
Gary Gussette '64, Wimbledon, N.D.
Donald Leadbetter '65, Ottawa, Kan.
Patricia (Hand) Enstad '65, McVillie, N.D.

Merrily (Hyde) Henne '65, Ottertail, Minn.
Ronald Smedshammer '65, Detroit Lakes, Minn.
John DesRoches '66, Anoka, Minn.
Roger Grammond '66, Madison, Minn.
Ronald Parfit '69, Bowman, N.D.
James R. Peterson '70, Valley City
John Schneider '70, Mesa, Ariz.
LaVerne (Gohner) Yetterboe '71, Phoenix, Ariz.
Gordon Anderson '72, Bismarck, N.D.
Marlene (Richter) Bischoff '72, Valley City
Bruce Smith, Ponsford, Minn.
Carroll Lalum '73, Minnewaukan, N.D.
Mary (Miller) Feist '74, Bismarck, N.D.
Michele (Neurauter) Green '75, Valley City
Gregory Johnson '75, Carrington, N.D.
Larry Boschee '77, Zeeland, N.D.
Kevin Yeager '79, Harshaw, Wis.
Donna Fraase '81, Fargo, N.D.
Todd Goolsbey '87, Milnor, N.D.
Donald Fiebiger '00, Valley City
Richard Dietrich, Valley City
Jane Huber, Dilworth, Minn.
Doreen Saylor, Valley City
Marge Saylor, Valley City
Terry Ukestad, Jamestown, N.D.

Former Faculty & Staff

Susan Rock, Washington Island, Wis.
Preston Bush, Valley City

Preston Bush - Department of Mathematics 1994–2019

Preston James Bush was born January 9, 1948 in Nebraska to James and Virginia Bush. He attended school in Hastings, Nebraska. He went on to attend college at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he attained his Bachelor of Science degree. He went on and received his Masters of Science degree from Boston College and received his Ph.D. from Northeastern University, Boston. Preston was a mathematics professor at VCSU from 1994 to 2019.



He enjoyed table tennis, astronomy, GO and chess. Preston also loved music.

He died Monday, January 10, at CHI Mercy Health, Valley City.

Preston is survived by his daughter Naomi Bush (Jordan Brown), Toronto, Canada; step-mother Lucille Bush, step-sister Beverly Warden and step-brother Eddie (Sandra) Robertson all of Golfspport, Mississippi. He is also survived by his close friends and Valley City family – Troy and Alicia Rykowski, Ashley Rykowski, Jayden Rykowski, Jake Jacobson and Kaedyn Jacobson.

Susan Rock - Department of Mathematics

Susan Rock, 84 of Washington Island, Wisconsin died on November 14, 2021. Susan is survived by her son Michael McCauley and his son Dean McCauley, and by her daughter Kathryn Love and her husband Jack. She is also survived by her brother John Rock, his wife Betty, and their extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frances (Haluza) Rock and Theodore Rock.



Susan was born and raised in Cedar Rapids Iowa, graduating from Wilson High School in 1955. She attended Iowa State Teachers College (now University of Northern Iowa), earning a Bachelor's Degree in 1959 and a Master's Degree a year later, both in Math Education.

After earning her degrees, her first teaching job was at Grinnell High School in Grinnell, Iowa. After teaching math in Grinnell for two years, she taught math for a year at Dike High School in Dike, Iowa. In 1963 she moved to Crystal Lake, Illinois to teach math at Cary-Grove High School. After a year, she took time off to start a family with then husband, Harry McCauley. After the birth of her two children, she returned to teaching in 1967, this time at Crystal Lake High School (now Crystal Lake Central). In 1978 she moved to Crystal Lake South High School

where she was on the original faculty who opened the new school. Susan had been a Campfire Girl in her youth, and for a few years served as a leader for her daughter's Campfire Girls group. As her family grew up, they went on numerous road trips to all parts of the country. This included, among others, a trip across the American southwest and up the coast of California, as well as a trip to the East Coast for the Bicentennial year.

During these years, her family began spending summers on Washington Island. She became very interested in wildlife through programs at the Art and Nature Center. During the summers she worked briefly at the Art and Nature Center before becoming the Naturalist at Rock Island State Park, a position she held for many years.

In the late 1980's she began work on a doctoral degree in math education at The University of Wisconsin-Madison, and earned her Ph.D. in 1992. While working on her Ph.D. she supervised student teachers, something she would continue to do as a professor at The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and later at Valley City State University in North Dakota. Teaching was a life-long passion that continued into her retirement as a math tutor.

Susan retired to Washington Island where she became very involved in the community and made lasting friendships.

Wendell D. Gillund '54 - Distinguished Alum

Naples, Florida - Wendell D. Gillund, age 89, passed away on January 1, 2022. He is survived by his wife of seventy years, Kathleen (Kitty), three daughters Linda Nolin, LeAnn Davidson, and Wendy Gillund, six grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. Preceding Wendell in death were his parents, Clara and Roy Gillund; brother, Dr. RC Gillund; and infant daughter, Kathleen.



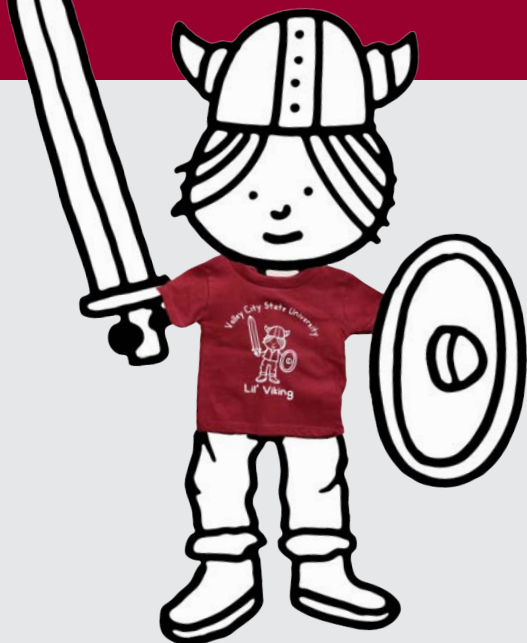
Wendell received a B.S. in Chemistry and Math from Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota. He also earned a M.S. in Chemistry from North Dakota State University and an Executive M.B.A. from Columbia University.

Starting as a chemist with Sherwin-Williams, he rose to the rank of Group Vice-President. Following that he took the position as the president of Myer Industry. Then purchased and managed Meier Inc., a wholesale distributor of industrial equipment.

In 1982 Wendell was honored by his alma mater as alumnus of the year and was the commencement speaker. He loved to golf and was a member of the Royal Poinciana Golf Club. He was a Silver Life Master Bridge player and loved the game and his partners.

Wendell was a serious person, dedicated to providing for his family, worked to succeed, and competed to win. He was a man of faith and was a lifetime member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Side note: Wendell Gillund was a speaker at the dedication of the Rhoades Science Center (he thought very highly of L.D. Rhoades).



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 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**.



Annabel Rose Krueger

May 25, 2021
8 lbs., 21 ¾ in.

Margaret Wilson '11 and
Seth Krueger



Luka Francis White

April 6, 2021
8 lbs., 2 oz., 21 ¼ in.

Big sister Cali
Tarra (Miller) '15 and
Lance White



Joel Matthias Messer

September 7, 2021
8 lbs., 4 oz., 21 in.

Siblings: Matilda (9), Roland
(7), Eliza (5), and Otto (3)

Justin '06 and Ashley
(Swensen) '06 Messer



Madison Marie Lee

July 22, 2021
7 lbs., 11 oz., 20 in.

Half-Siblings: Ayden (14)
and Leia (8)

Tara Eschbach '12 and
Jared Lee



Hannah Helen Nagle

November 13, 2020
5 lbs., 4 oz., 19 in.

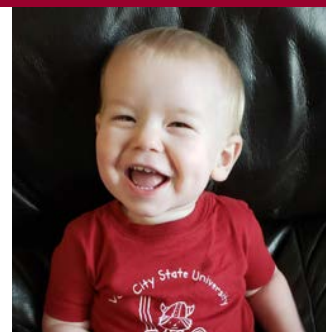
Angie (Johnson) '13 and
Rob Nagle



Thomas Jonathan Murphy

June 23, 2020
8 lbs., 4 oz., 21 in.

Joins big brother Rorke (2)
Kevin '13 and Kayla (Geske)
'13 Murphy





Kaitryn JoAnn Axtman

August 27, 2021
7 lbs., 3 oz., 19 1/2 in.

Siblings: Finleigh and
Jamison

Matthew '07 and Alison
Donnelly Axtman



Lainey Ann Kohler

September 2, 2021
7 lbs. 7 oz., 20 1/2 in.

Joining big (half) sisters
Peyton and Paisley

Janna (Strege) '15 and
Derek Kohler



Micah Dean Buchholz

November 4, 2020
8 lbs. 4 oz., 21 in.

Big Sister: Lily

Erica (Bunn) '10 and
Casey Buchholz



Zeanna Nyx

October 23, 2020
8 lbs. 13 oz., 20 in.

Jasmine Nyx '12



Brynn Odden-Lemar & Harper Odden-Lemar

Brynn Odden-Lemar
April 15, 2021
6 lbs., 1 oz.

Harper Odden-Lemar
April 15, 2021
6 lbs., 9 oz.

Zach Odden-Lemar and Abby Yliniemi

Grandparents: Duey '92 and Lisa Yliniemi



Chase Darren Droog & Brantley Benny Joe Droog

Chase Darren Droog
June 29, 2021
4 lbs., 9 oz., 17.8 in.

Brantley Benny Joe Droog
June 29, 2021
4 lbs., 9 oz., 17.32 in.

Tiann (Schell) '18 and Alex Droog





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