



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

THE BULLETIN

A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University

ISSUE 071659 | NOVEMBER 2021



Alumni Help Nature take Center Stage

VCSU Alumnus Jim Job captured the first ever 4K video of a ruffed grouse performing a “drum display” in North Dakota for ND Game and Fish. Job is one of the numerous VCSU Fisheries and Wildlife graduates out in the field researching, working with, promoting and protecting natural resources. Read More - PAGE 6

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Cover: Photo by Jim Job '10



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Learn more at vcsualumni.org

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A visit from the Higher Learning Commission

President Alan LaFave, D.M.A.

Greetings from VCSU! The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) was formed in 1895 as the North Central Association.



This is a voluntary association of diverse institutions with a common purpose: the continuing improvement of higher education. The HLC is one of six regional accreditors in the United States. Its mission is to “advance the common good through quality assurance of higher education as the leader in equitable, transformative and trusted accreditation in the service of students and member institutions.”

VCSU is part of the open pathway review process, which occurs in a ten-year cycle. The cycle includes an assurance review in year four, a quality initiative in years five

through nine and a comprehensive evaluation in year ten.

Our on-site evaluation as part of the comprehensive evaluation took place on campus Sept. 20–21. Before the visit, we submitted a comprehensive assurance argument addressing five different criteria. These criteria are the standards of quality by which HLC determines whether an institution merits accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation.

- Criterion 1. Mission
- Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
- Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support
- Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
- Criterion 5. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

VCSU prepared for this review in a thorough and thoughtful manner with input and guidance from the entire campus community. Faculty, staff and student participation

provided critically important details and information for the report. Our campus community also met with the HLC visit team during open forums on campus.

We had excellent participation in the open forums, and the writing team and criterion chairs for the assurance argument did a tremendous job in gathering data, preparing our documents, and leading the university through this process. Special thanks to Dr. Margaret Dahlberg, Dr. Katie Woehl, Dr. Anthony Dutton, Emily Dafoe, Dr. Kerry Gregoryk and Dr. Jamie Wirth.

During the exit interview, the HLC site visit team identified several strengths at VCSU. They noted our strong sense of community, reputation of the institution, strong state support, active engagement of the State Board of Higher Education, data-driven decision making, successful navigation of COVID-19, and strong shared governance. We will not receive our final written report for several weeks, but we are thankful to all for their participation and feedback.

Once we receive our written report, we will be providing another update on our path toward re-accreditation with the HLC.

Go Vikings!

“Accreditation” is review of the quality of higher education institutions and programs. In the United States, accreditation is a major way that students, families, government officials, and the press know that an institution or program provides a quality education.

— Council for Higher Education Accreditation



COMING IN APRIL

Watch for details coming soon.

A Time to Celebrate

Kim Svenningsen-Hesch, '91

Asst. Director for University Advancement and Alumni Relations

As an alumna of Valley City State University, I could not be prouder of the University's accomplishments. Every year, as we welcome new students to VCSU and attend Commencement, we are reminded of the legacy left by alumni.



celebrate 40 years (a year late due to COVID-19) since the 1980 football team won the conference championship. The football team finished with a perfect record of 6-0 and an overall season record of 10-1. This team was the first North Dakota NDCAC team to win

a national playoff game. Players came back for a social, tailgating before the football game and then cheering on the current Viking football team.

The VCSU alumni board hosted its second annual car and motorcycle cruise at the end of September. It was a fun day visiting the communities of Kathryn, Litchville and Sanborn.

The month of October brought alumni back for Homecoming activities. Thank you to everyone for attending our events. We loved seeing everyone back after not being able to host homecoming last fall.

Please let our office know if you would like to host a reunion or have an idea for an event. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2022!

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

The VCSU Foundation and Alumni Office is a liaison between alumni and the university and provides opportunities for alumni to stay connected with their alma mater.

We encourage VCSU alumni to keep their contact information updated so we can share news, events and networking opportunities. We also look forward to helping facilitate reunions, homecoming and other events.

Over the summer and fall we had several groups get together for reunions.

This summer, our Philomathian alumni from the early and late 80's reunited to reminisce and catch up with their fellow sorority sisters. The Tau Sigs also gathered at the annual Pig Roast hosted by fellow fraternity brother, George Berger, in late August.

In September, the 1980 VCSU Football Team had a reunion to

Photos from: Philo's gathering, 1980 Viking Football Team, Tau Sigs gathering and VCSU Alumni Cruise.



2021-2022 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

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Hope Happens When Rising Tides Lift Our Ships

Cory Anderson, '89

Executive Director for University Advancement

I have always considered a college campus to be synonymous with hope. Often that hope is in full focus, other times it



is not as clear and just a feeling of expectation of a certain outcome.

It is awesome to have a front row seat at this amazing University and witness how hope helps define what we want for our future college students and then hear the narrative of how past alumni shaped their lives when they reunite with others on the campus.

Hope happened 40 years ago when a group of young Vikings became the first football team in history to win an NAIA playoff game. This past September they reunited again to reminisce and celebrate what the gift of hope has brought them.

To see the group pick up where they left off the last time they were

together speaks volumes to the power of what the VCSU campus and community can do.

Hope happened 25 years ago when VCSU took its boldest step to date, opting to become the second university in the country to issue laptop computers to students and faculty. The initiative has evolved over that time when our faculty began replacing some textbooks with free open educational resources (OERs) for general education classes. Those efforts have saved students countless out-of-pocket dollars and help provide opportunities for more dynamic learning.

Hope happened 10 years ago with an aggressive shift in strategy. This spurred a growth mindset and risk-taking to move our campus to the next level. A new science center was built, the first on-campus construction in 40 years.

A revitalized scholarship program became an important contributing factor of nine consecutive years of enrollment growth due to a major

donation. The first turf athletic field, a renovated running track and by the end of this year, a ribbon cutting on the Center for the Arts. We have become a state jewel, both attractive and significant to the state of North Dakota.

The people, initiatives and projects of the last 40 years all began with hope that came aboard different boats that raised the tide enough to lift our ship.

Today our ship has embarked again on a bold capital campaign to ensure continued service to our students by providing them again with hope, of updated campus buildings, athletic facilities, and scholarship enhancements. What VCSU can do in the next 40 years depends upon what we do right now.

Let's talk about all the ways you can influence hope for this amazing University. Be the difference between what is and what can be — Be a Viking!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Take advantage of tax savings through a gift to the VCSU Foundation.

Consider a **Year-End Gift** to the Valley City State University Foundation now and take advantage of tax savings when you prepare your 2021 income taxes.

Gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to qualify for 2021 tax purposes.

Visit vcsualumni.org for more information.

Forward Together – VCSU's Capital Campaign Progressing

Larry Robinson '71
Capital Campaign Director

VCSU's first ever Capital Campaign is making good progress.

Every day, we are moving a bit closer to our goal. It is an exciting

time! Our team is fortunate to have George Gaukler '62 as the Capital Campaign Chairperson. Gaukler is a long-term supporter of the university, a member of the VCSU Foundation Board of Directors, and a Valley City businessman. Gaukler is joined on the Campaign Task Force by Ray Braun, Bob Bergan, Dennis McCulloch, Jill DeVries, Cory Anderson, Dave Bass, Dick Gulmon, Phil Mueller, and VCSU President Alan LaFave.

The Foundation Board of Directors announced in February of 2020 that the university would move forward with its first ever Capital Campaign. Later that year, the Campaign Task Force began their solicitation efforts, contacting Alumni and Friends of the university asking



for their support of this important effort.

The committee established priorities including: the renovation of the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse (The Bubble) and a major addition to the facility. The Bubble was built in 1960. At the time, there were 111 athletes and seven coaches in the facility. Today, there are 28 coaches and 285 athletes. More than 100 VCSU athletes do not have a locker.

The campaign includes plans to renovate McCarthy Hall, the former College High School and Industrial Arts facility, into VCSU's School of Education.

It is only natural that the former Lab School become the home of VCSU's nationally recognized School of Education.

The campaign will also result in the update of VCSU's Memorial Student Center and growing the scholarship program to respond to growing enrollment and ongoing increases in the cost of education.

In total, the campaign hopes to raise \$25M to respond to the priorities identified by the capital campaign planning committee.

The committee encourages everyone to give serious consideration to supporting this effort. This campaign will position VCSU for the next 50 years. The priorities identified are actual needs and not wants. We are in fact, **Building the Future Today.**

"We invite you to join us in this exciting effort to enhance the educational opportunities at Valley City State University," Committee Chair Gaukler said. "The projects identified in this campaign are critical for the university to respond to the significant increase in enrollment and to compete in a globalized society. We need you to invest in our team so we can move Forward Together."

If you are interested in receiving informational materials about the campaign, please contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203. Campaign contributions are tax deductible. The Campaign Committee allows pledges to be paid over a year time period.

JOIN VCSU ALUMNI & FRIENDS FOR GATHERINGS IN ARIZONA

For more information or to be added to the Arizona mailing list, please call the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203.

To RSVP, contact Kim Hesch at 701-845-7403 or kim.hesch@vcsu.edu.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022 — PEORIA, ARIZONA

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

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022 – MESA, ARIZONA

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

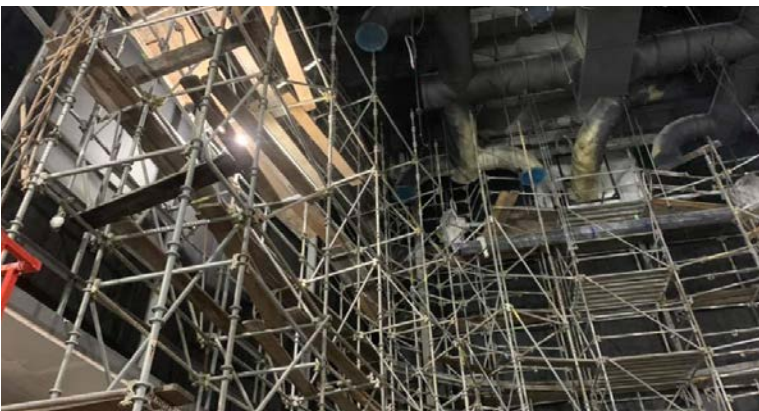
Alumni Social & Luncheon — \$15 per person

11:00 a.m. — Reunion Social
12 noon — Luncheon
1:00 p.m. — Program

Bring a friend! These events are not restricted to VCSU alumni.

Center for the Arts

Construction on the Center for the Arts is progressing. The front steps have been poured and the rooms are nearing completion. The main performance hall has been painted and is being prepared for seating and lighting.



Fine Arts Calendar

Fall 2021

Tuesday, Nov. 30

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | Froemke

Thursday, Dec. 2

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

Thursday, Dec. 2

EDC Music Contest | Froemke

Saturday Dec. 11

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

Saturday, Dec. 11

CSA Recital | 10 a.m. | Froemke

Spring 2022

Friday, Feb. 18

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

Tuesday, Feb. 22

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | TBA

Friday, March 4

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

Tuesday, March 8

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | TBA

Monday, March 14

Region 2 Vocal Contest | Fine Arts Building

Tuesday, March 22

General Student Recital | 11 a.m.

Thursday, March 31

Region 2 Instrumental Contest | Fine Arts Building

Tuesday, April 5

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | TBA

Wednesday, April 6

Region 5 Music Contest | Fine Arts Building

Friday, April 8

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

Tuesday, April 19

General Student Recital | 11 a.m. | TBA

Friday, April 29

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

Friday, May 6

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

Saturday, May 14

CSA Recital | 1 p.m. | Performance Hall | TBA

For a complete calendar visit
vcu.edu



VCSU student Victoria Christensen learns various techniques in Mammalogy class.

Building more than a Fisheries and Wildlife Program

Dr. Bob Anderson came to Valley City State University in 2005 to build a Fisheries and Wildlife Program. Now his students are researching, protecting and managing critical parts of our ecosystems and landscape.

Photo credits: Jerilyn Beckman, Jim Job '10 and others courtesy of Amy (Doll) Gebhard '14, Kyle McLean '11, John Lindstrom '11 and Ben Holen '18.

When Bob Anderson was hired at Valley City State in 2005, he had a straightforward objective: build a Fisheries and Wildlife program.

“When I first came, there were zero students in the program,” he said. “It didn’t officially exist until the fall of 2006.”

Now, students across the nation come to VCSU to get a Bachelor’s degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Science with three concentrations available: Wildlife, Fisheries, and/or Conservation Law Enforcement.

Anderson built curriculum, marketed the program and had eleven students the next year.

“The program was designed to include many hands-on field experiences, resulting in the program growing fairly quickly,” Anderson said.

Dr. Casey Williams was hired in 2011 to specialize in fisheries and the program continued to grow, recently reaching 70 students. The goal is to grow to 100.

Anderson and Williams take pride in helping connect students with internships and ensuring their resumes

are strong.

“We work closely with students to help them find internships in the summer,” Anderson said. “Each summer we have 50 students in internships working for all sorts of natural resource agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Dakota Game and Fish, Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl.”

There is a need for individuals to fill jobs related to conservation biology, but also jobs that are tied to law enforcement, environmental consulting related to wind farm and oil development and general natural resource management.

“When students first enter the major, most are not aware of the diversity of jobs available. When they graduate, they are prepared to become natural resource professionals. It is very rewarding for me to see our graduates become biologists, land managers, game wardens, environmental consultants, park rangers and

farm bill biologists, among other positions. By the time they graduate many have developed specialized interests in areas they didn't know existed just a few years earlier, and often continue their education in graduate school," said Anderson.

VCSU Fisheries and Wildlife graduates like Jim Job '10 are prepared for it all.

FOLLOWING HIS DREAM

From the age of 5, Job knew he wanted to be a game warden. That dream came true after he graduated from Valley City State and then the Law Enforcement Academy.

He viewed the job from a customer service perspective.

"I wanted to educate as much as I could, especially the kids," Job said. "I wanted their first game warden experience to be a positive one."

In 2016, he was honored as North Dakota's Wildlife Officer of the Year.

That dedication and willingness to teach has now landed him within North Dakota Game and Fish as an outreach biologist.

He teaches anyone who will listen about the wonders of nature in North Dakota.

Words from Bob Anderson continue to help him succeed professionally, especially when he is a radio show guest and a caller has a very specific question.

"One of the biggest things that Bob told us is that you don't remember everything from college but you learn where to look for that information in college," Job said. "There are times on the radio show, times when I don't know the answer, but I can go back and get the answer for them."

Job loves his work, and continues to see more people take an active interest in the natural environment.

"Most people in North Dakota enjoy the outdoors whether you know it or not," he said. "It could be as simple as planting flowers outside that help honeybees and many other things."

Although not everyone is cut out for doctorate level studies focusing on Fisheries and Wildlife, Job encourages everyone to learn a few small things about the world around them.

"Be more aware of your surroundings and ask questions," he said. "Questions like, 'What kind of bird is that,' go through your head and knowing the answer can make a walk or any outdoor activity more enjoyable."

Awareness and perseverance helped Job recently capture a ruffed grouse performing a unique "drum display" in 4K video in the state for North Dakota Game and Fish.

Job had already been to the spot where he knew a male ruffed grouse frequented. He had already set up blinds and cameras, but every time the little bird would jump out of sight of the lens before starting his performance.

Then one cold morning, Job got lucky.

As the sun broke through the trees overhead, the bird started to perform, and the video is magic.



Jim Job teaching future generations how to fish.

Kyle McLean with a bug net near Theodore Roosevelt National Park.



Dr. Bob Anderson, right, watches students work with mammals during Mammalogy class on campus this fall.



Job is just one of many VCSU Fisheries and Wildlife graduates working every day in the field to research, protect, manage and promote various species of plants, wildlife, fishes and more. The graduates are doing remarkably different things, but they all started in the same classes with Anderson and Williams at VCSU.

Fisheries Continued - Page 8

FINDING HER WAY

Amy (Doll) Gebhard '14 always knew she wanted to go to VCSU.

"Isn't it every little girl's dream to be a doctor or a vet," she said laughing. "I knew I wanted to work with animals from a very young age."

As she started studying animals through the Fisheries and Wildlife Program and completing internships, she realized her passion was in fisheries.

She spent summer months working for North Dakota Game and Fish, Texas Parks and Wildlife and with the Prairie Waters Research Center. After graduation she landed a graduate position at Tennessee Tech University, researching banded sculpin, a freshwater fish.

Then she was hired as a resource biologist with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks in 2017 and in 2019 was promoted to a fisheries biologist where she continues that work today.

"We have four reservoirs on the Missouri River in the state and I work with two of them," she explained. Gebhard said her time at VCSU prepared her well for her current position.

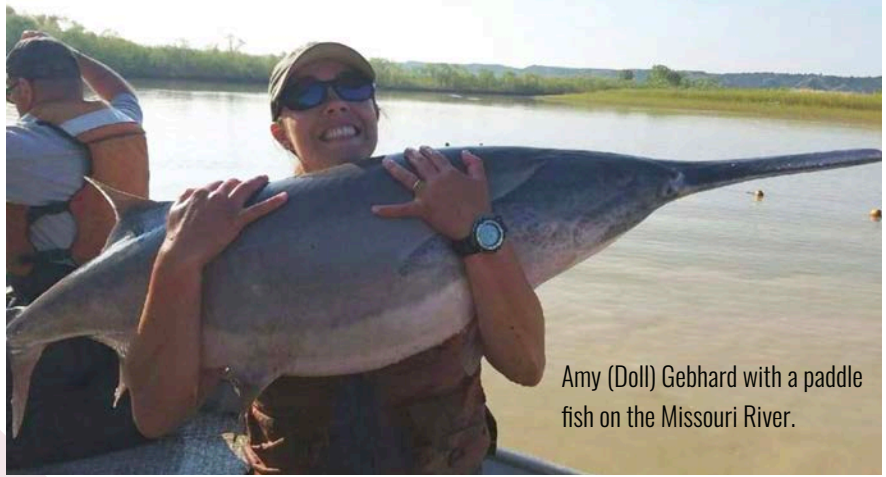
"Valley City does a very good job in the fisheries and wildlife program making sure kids have the hands on experience they need," she said. "That prepared me for internships and future jobs."

Kyle McLean '11 couldn't agree more.

"The focus is on mentoring and preparing students not only to have the academic knowledge base to be a professional, but to outline the steps needed to end up where you want to end up," McLean said of the Fisheries and Wildlife program. "You could become a scientist, or be on the ground managing a landscape."

McLean transferred to VCSU from Jamestown specifically for the program. As a kid, he was always interested in the outdoors and collected various field guides.

His schooling, along with his love of field guides landed him a very specific job. The Northern Prairie



Amy (Doll) Gebhard with a paddle fish on the Missouri River.

Wildlife Research Center needed someone to survey how many frogs were present.

McLean had a pretty good handle on frog calls, as he would listen to old CDs connected to field guides about frog species. So he spent time in a truck, driving a 14-mile loop listening for frog calls to determine how many frogs were in the area.

That work led to years of management and research work. Last January he earned his doctorate from NDSU and is now a research ecologist with the Research Center.

"My goal is to conduct research that provides management and policy agencies with a scientific understanding of the climate or land use factors that help maintain biodiversity," McLean said. "It's a balancing act."

Finding that balance between stakeholders, the resources, development and other interests is important, and complex, and McLean enjoys it.

MAKING THE CONNECTION

John Lindstrom '11 knows that balancing act well. The Minnesota-grown football talent first came to VCSU to play football. But a broken foot left him focusing on his studies and getting very involved with the program.

During the summer months he was able to get seasonal internships like many other students studying under Anderson and Williams. His

first placement was with Fish and Wildlife in Minnesota, and the doors kept opening.

He spent time looking for birds near Kulm, North Dakota and meeting with landowners north of Medina about conservation easements.

But Lindstrom's love was always waterfowl, specifically ducks.

"I identified early on that ducks are my passion, they are still my passion," he said. His post-graduation path took him to graduate school researching ducks migrating just north of the Kentucky border. Now he is working to restore, preserve and improve habitat for waterfowl through Ducks Unlimited as a regional biologist in central Minnesota.

Every year, his heart brings him back to Valley City. For the past 12 years he and a group of friends and family have returned to North Dakota to enjoy duck hunting season.

He credits Anderson and Williams for turning VCSU into a hub for training individuals in conservation work or for graduate school.

FROM INTERN TO STOPPING INVASIVE SPECIES

It only took Ben Holen '18 a few conversations with Anderson and Williams to decide to become a VCSU Viking.

The Bismarck, North Dakota graduate always knew he wanted to go into conservation. He grew

up hunting and fishing, but was not totally certain what studying the topic meant.

“Right away Bob Anderson teaches Introduction to Fisheries and Wildlife Techniques,” Holen said. “I knew then it was the right profession for me.”

He worked as an intern for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and for a similar agency in Idaho and then did trout restoration in Utah.

Eventually he applied to come back home and was picked up as a biologist for Game and Fish working with Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS).

Now, as the statewide coordinator for this effort, he is one of the main individuals helping stop the spread of species like zebra mussels.

“The ANS fight is big. It’s important to have people out on the landscape to inspect watercraft, and to get the word out there,” Holen said. “We are a very small agency in general and we work to recruit other partners to help with this.”

The importance of building relationships and partnerships is one of the many takeaways he had as a VCSU student. Lindstrom

John Lindstrom, right, showing a Ducks Unlimited supporter restored wetlands in Minnesota.



Ben Holen, VCSU graduate and North Dakota’s Aquatic Nuisance Species coordinator, sprays a boat down to prevent the spread of zebra mussels.



agreed. “It’s such a small, close and tight-knit campus,” Lindstrom said. “Everyone knows everyone and that is what conservation is too.”

On the Road

VCSU Fisheries and Wildlife alumnus Ethen Preston '16 competed in the Bassmaster Open on Grand Lake near Grove, Oklahoma. He placed 59th and ended the season in the top 25% of all competitors. Preston also hands out information about VCSU's Fisheries and Wildlife Program.



Alumni Honored

Fifteen alumni were honored during the Valley City State University Alumni Association 2021 Homecoming celebration Oct. 1 and 2.

The All Alumni Honors Breakfast was held Saturday, Oct. 2 at the VCSU Student Center. During the breakfast the VCSU Alumni Association presented fellow alumni with Certificate of Merit, Alumni Service, and Young Alumni Achievement awards.



Alumni Service Award: Loree Morehouse '89 pictured with VCSU Alumni Board President Zach McBeain '15, and VCSU President LaFave.

Alumni Service Awards

The Alumni Service Award was created to recognize alumni or university friends who have attained exceptional achievement in their careers and have made significant contributions to the University through dedicated service, promotion, financial support or other efforts.

Loree (Meyer) Morehouse '89

Loree taught math and science at Windom Area High School for two years before returning to Valley City to work as the Office Manager, then Area Manager, for Concrete Dakota for 13 years.

In 2008, Loree joined the VCSU Foundation and Alumni Staff as Data Processor and Research Coordinator.

Loree on a daily basis goes above and beyond to fulfill her duties. The pride she shows in her work is beyond words.

Larry Robinson said, "We are very fortunate to have Loree as a member of our team. She goes out of her way to provide outstanding service to our alumni, campus community, and the general public."

Loree serves on the V-500 Board of Directors as the Presidential Designee, and has received the campus Difference Maker Award. She has also served on Staff Senate.

Loree lives in Valley City with her husband, Mike. They have five grown children.

Bill Tyrrell '83 & Doug Schindele '87

Bill and Doug are great examples of what it means to "Be a Viking". The two developed a plan to start the Viking Football Impact Fund. These scholarships are awarded to the top players each year. This fund would not have happened without their leadership and commitment to VCSU and Viking Football.

Bill and Doug shared their thoughts and ideas with Viking Football and the VCSU Foundation leading to the Impact Fund becoming a reality.

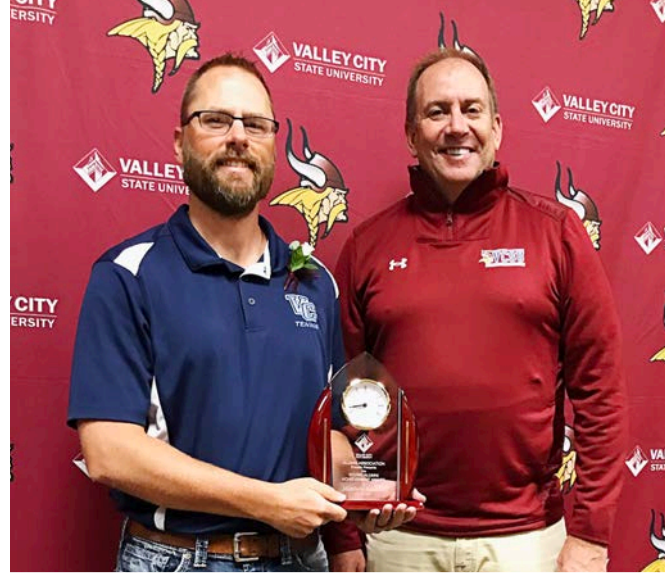
"I feel very lucky to have these guys be a part of our program and they have truly impacted Viking Football's past, present, and future," Coach Dennis McCulloch said. "They have made a mark that will never be erased."

Bill graduated from VCSU in 1983 and is owner of Rumors Sports Bar in Grand Forks.

Doug, a 1987 graduate, farms in the Stephen, Minn. area.



Young Alumni Achievement Award: Mark Rerick '02, Mary Burchill '03, and Brady Larson '04



Young Alumni Achievement Award:
Matt Nielson '06 M.Ed. '17 with VCSU President LaFave

Four Recognized with Young Alumni Achievement Award

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

Mary (Weshnevski) Burchill '03

Mary has mentored and provided internships for VCSU students that are interested in the counseling field along with being a regular speaker for multiple Psychology courses at VCSU.

Mary is dually licensed in North Dakota as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and Licensed Addiction Counselor. Mary opened Inspire Counseling to provide services to Valley City, and the surrounding area.

In 2016, Mary received the Outstanding Chapter Public Relations Award from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. She has co-chaired the Out of Darkness walk from 2017 until the present time.

Mary provides counseling services for children, adolescents, and adults at her private practice. She is very caring, understanding, and wants people to reach their goals.

Brady Larson '04

Brady is highly respected by North Dakota legislators on both sides of the aisle. He is professional and articulate in his responsibilities with the ND Legislative Council.

Brady received his Business Administration degree from VCSU in 2004 with concentrations in accounting and finance. He has been the Assistant Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor for the North Dakota Legislative Council in Bismarck since 2013. Brady is also a Certified Public Accountant.

While attending VCSU Brady served as the Student Senate President, was involved in student activities, and interned in the VCSU Business Office.

Matt Nielson '06 M.Ed. '17

Matt received the VCPS Teacher of the Year in April of 2020. "Matt has a passion and desire to meet every student's individual needs in his classroom. He goes above and beyond the call of duty to create lessons that are engaging, fun and innovative. Matt is also very concerned about each student's social and emotional well-being," his colleagues wrote in their nomination. "He cares deeply about each of his students and is committed to helping them achieve success in the class and all throughout the school."

Matt has a Bachelor's and Master's degree from VCSU. He is a science teacher at Valley City High School and recent ND Teacher of the Year finalist. Matt served in the North Dakota National Guard for 19 years, taking a year and a half off of college when he was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mark Rerick '01

In 2019, Mark received the Bruce D. Whitehead Distinguished Service Award from the NIAAA. He is a member of the VCSU Viking Hall of Fame, a Certificate of Merit recipient and was recognized as Class A Athletic Director of the Year. Mark has been published more than 30 times nationally.

Mark serves as the Director for Athletics with the Grand Forks Public Schools. He is also the current president with the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) and Vice-chair for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) publications committee.

He was previously Assistant Principal/Activities Director at Dickinson High School and Teacher/Coach/Activities Director for Hillsboro High School.



Certificate of Merit Award: Justin Klein, Stephen "Doc" Dockter, Kim Schneider, Bruce Scheie, and Mike Lentz

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:

Stephen "Doc" Dockter '72

Doc is a retired Postmaster of 33 years and lives in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

- Founder of the Stephanie Dockter Memorial Scholarship at VCSU
- Federal Employee of the Year – 1985
- ND Lieutenant Governor Award – 1986
- US Postal Service ND/SD Plant Manager Award 1985, 1988, 1991, 1992
- Big Brother Program Volunteer for 20 years
- Adopt a Grandparent Program for 5 years
- Boys and Girls Program Volunteer 2019 – present

Justin Klein '04

Justin teaches 5th & 6th grade physical education at Central Middle School in Devils Lake, N.D. and is the head girls' basketball coach.

- ND Class A Girls Basketball Coach of the Year – 2019, 2020
- EDC Girls Basketball Coach of the Year – 2018, 2019, 2020
- ND Sportscasters Female Coach of the Year – 2019, 2020

Dianne (Lovec) Moser '73

Diane is a retired teacher and coach of 41 years at Tongue River High School in Dayton, Wyo.

- Wyoming Coaches Association Hall of Fame – 1994
- National Coaches Association Hall of Fame – 2004
- Overall Record for Girls Basketball with 718 Wins and 212 Losses
- 34 State Tournament Appearances
- 9 State Championships

Bruce Scheie '71

Bruce is a retired educator and coach. He has also been active in officiating football, basketball, and baseball. His retirement plans include golfing and enjoying his grand kids.

- Girls Basketball District 1 Coach of the Year 1985, 1986, 1988
- Girls Basketball Region 1 Coach of the Year 1986, 1987
- NDAPSSA Female High School Coach of the Year – 1982
- ND Girls Basketball Coach of the Year – 1986
- Lions All-Star Coach – 1983

Abbey Kochel '05

Abbey is a 7th grade geography teacher at Billings Public Schools in Billings, Mont.

- Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award Honoring the Montana History Teacher of the Year – 2019–2020

Kim (Rehovsky) Schneider '80

Kim is retired and lives in Canton, S.D. She has been a long-term sub, a preschool teacher at the YMCA in Bismarck as well as the Methodist Church in Canton, S.D.

- Mentored numerous students/athletes along with working many years with special needs kids.
- Coached the cross-country team in Canton to qualify for state.

Michael Lentz '88

Mike currently lives in Valley City where he is the Valley City Park District Superintendent of Parks and Buildings.

- Founded the Valley City Youth Thunder Football program in 2000
- Director of the program and has coached the 5th and 6th graders for 21 years

Larry Wicks '66

Larry is currently mentoring for the State Education Association in Minnesota

- 13 years as a field representative for the Minnesota Education Association
- 4 years as the Executive Director for the Wyoming Education Association
- 20 years as the Executive Director for the Minnesota Education Association
- 5 years as Executive Director for the Ohio Education Association

Homecoming 2021

The 39th Annual Bill Osmon Fun Run kicked off VCSU Homecoming week on Monday, Sept. 27. Osmon's granddaughters attended the event.

On Monday night, Garret Fettig and Allie Critchley were crowned king and queen of Homecoming festivities.

Alumni were welcomed back with an ice cream social. Following the social, there was a Hall of Fame Social at the Valley City Eagles Club followed by the banquet and ceremony honoring inductees.

Saturday morning started with the Alumni Honors Breakfast in the Student Center. The homecoming parade down Central Avenue followed. Leading up to the big football game, there was Viking Tailgating at Lokken Stadium. VCSU Football took on Mayville State University winning 49-0 at Shelly Ellig Field. Afterwards, a post-game All Alumni & Friends Social took place at the Valley City Eagles Club with a college student and alumni dance that lasted into the night.



See a complete gallery at vcsu.edu/homecoming



Bob King Viking Football Scholarship: Avery Thorsgard, Nancy King and Samuel Rieger

Scholarship Dinner



Steven D. Welken Memorial Scholarship: Taylor Sargent, Jocelyn Braunberger, Delores Welken, Millisa Kukowski and Hannah Dockter

The annual scholarship dinner was held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at the Valley City Eagles. There were over 125 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.



Valley City Lions Club Scholarship: Dennis Nathan and Dale Skalicky



Don Lemnus Scholarship: Don Lemnus '58, Emily Hatlewick and Jane Lemnus

Anyone interested in establishing a scholarship and or taking advantage of the North Dakota Challenge Grant Program (see page 15) can contact the Foundation Office at 800-532-8641 ext. 37203 for more information.



Lentz Family Scholarship: Angeline Gannon, Hunter Sand, Pauline '51 and Barry '75 Lentz



Jeff and Teresa Nathan Scholarship: Jeff Nathan with Rebekah Krueger



Your Gift Matched Your Impact Extended

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

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



Ray Braun - Valley City, N.D.



Judy Ringdahl - Oakes, N.D.



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

“

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

– Ray Braun

”

NORTH DAKOTA CHALLENGE FUND MATCHING GRANT

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

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

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

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

NORTH DAKOTA ENDOWMENT GIFT CREDIT

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

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

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

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

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



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

**CHALLENGE
GRANT**

VCSU Enrollment Grows for 9th Consecutive Year

Headcount has increased 24% in the past decade

Valley City State University (VCSU) enrolled 1,686 students this fall, registering the most students in the school's history in a fall semester. Fall enrollment has grown for nine consecutive years.

The 1,686 count of students includes a record-breaking 163 students in graduate studies. Graduate program enrollment increased by 20% this year.

"The continued growth of our student body is a testament to the quality of the educational experience we provide," VCSU President Dr. Alan LaFave said. "Our faculty and staff strive to offer the best possible experience. That dedication shows as more

individuals choose to become a part of our Viking family."

"We place student success at the heart of our mission and that, combined with our Forward Together capital campaign and rankings as a U.S. News Best College, continue to propel us forward," LaFave said.

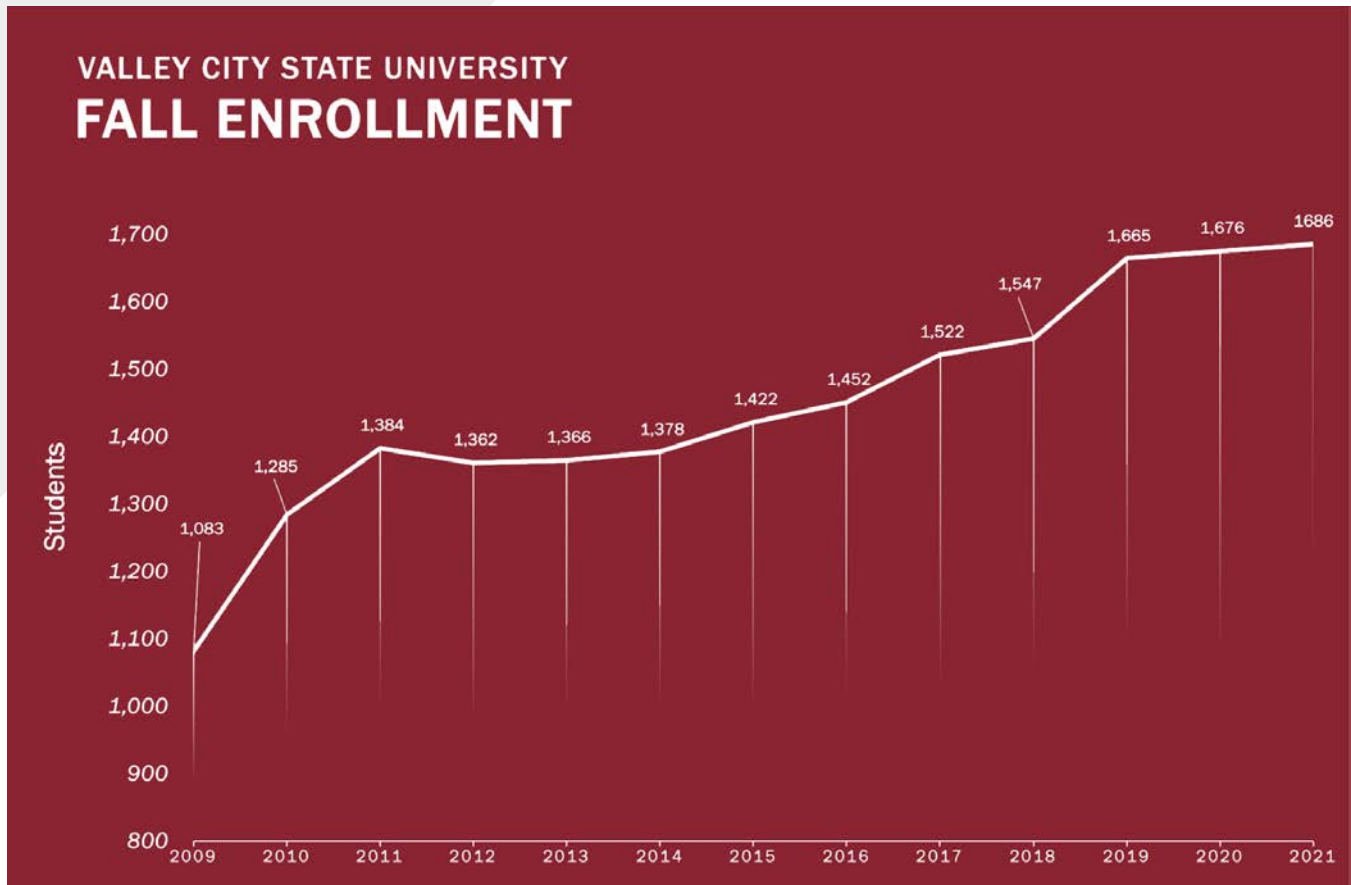
"Students, and their families continue to trust VCSU with their future. Their choice makes it clear that a degree from VCSU carries strong credentials," LaFave said. "Our success is the result of years of support from our community, state and alumni."

"We are particularly pleased with the strong growth in our graduate studies. This area aligns



with our strategic focus to provide programs supporting teachers in North Dakota," LaFave said. "We have developed multiple programs, including the Rural School Partner Benefit Program and Master of Arts in Teaching, to match our educational opportunities with the needs of our state's workforce."

Dr. James Boe, Dean of Graduate Studies, said, "We are seeing increased interest in our Graduate Studies programs, and we are continuously developing courses and curriculum to meet the needs of our future students."



VCSU selected as top public regional college in North Dakota by U.S. News and World Report

24th consecutive year VCSU has been ranked by the publication



“We are so pleased to be nationally recognized for our commitment to quality educational experiences,” VCSU President Alan LaFave said. “VCSU has been listed as one of the top colleges in the Midwest for 24 years running, and we are proud to continue that tradition.”

The report is based on retention, peer reviews, graduate rates, measures of student excellence, alumni giving rates and the educational expenditure per

student.

“These rankings speak to the hard work our faculty, staff and students put in every day,” LaFave added. “We know our programs are strong and seeing them recognized nationally affirms that knowledge. This could not happen without the continued support of our wonderful alumni and the Valley City community. Working together to move our campus forward has certainly put our institution at the top of the list for educational options.”

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.



North Dakota Legislature Interim Higher Education Committee visits campus



Members of the North Dakota Legislature met on campus to hear an update about the North Dakota University System and to tour VCSU.



I N S I D E
ATHLETICS

vcsuvikings.com



You, Our Home Court & Field Advantage

Jill Devries, Athletic Director



Research shows that a positive environment at sporting events has a direct and dramatic effect on teams and spectators alike. We've experienced that first-hand this year with great atmospheres at our home football and volleyball games this fall.

The excitement induced during pre-game tailgating and at Lokken Stadium for home football games has had a positive effect on patronage, willingness to recommend to

others and overall satisfaction of our student-athletes and fans alike. The positive word-of-mouth has made tailgating at Viking football a place to be on Saturdays.

Our Century Club Booster Board and Foundation staff have again outdone themselves by providing food and an enhanced atmosphere for each home game. Our Athletic Band "brings it" every game providing energy with their music, chants and cheers. I can't say enough about our game management staff, concessions, gate staff and facilities staff who make it look easy on Saturday afternoons. We appreciate you!

The acoustics in Graichen Gym provide a home court advantage and exhilarating atmosphere for everyone in attendance. Our fans have helped VCSU volleyball come together and instilled Viking pride, raising our expectations of effort, hard work, and success. There is no doubt that our fans and the atmosphere have played a role in the team's success. Our volleyball team is 5-2 in home conference matches this year!

Viking friends and family, you have made our student-athletes feel at home, inspired them to perform at their best, allowed them to connect with alumni and teammates, and strengthened their identity and role at VCSU.

We look forward to seeing you at the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse for basketball games this winter. Wear your Viking gear proudly as you become our home court advantage!

WOMEN'S & MEN'S BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	WOMEN	MEN
Nov. 27	@ University of Jamestown	1 p.m.	3 p.m.
Nov. 29	Minot State University	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	@ Dickinson State*	4 p.m.	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	University of Maine at Fort Kent		TBA
Dec. 12	Oak Hills Christian College	5 p.m.	7 p.m.
Dec. 29	University of Jamestown	6 p.m.	
Jan. 7	Dakota State*	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Bellevue University*	3 p.m.	5 p.m.
Jan. 14	@ Viterbo University*	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ Waldorf University*	3 p.m.	5 p.m.
Jan. 21	Mayville State*	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Presentation College*	3 p.m.	5 p.m.
Jan. 28	@ Presentation College*	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	@ Mayville State*	3 p.m.	5 p.m.
Feb. 4	Waldorf University*	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Viterbo University*	3 p.m.	5 p.m.
Feb. 11	@ Bellevue University*	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ Dakota State*	3 p.m.	5 p.m.
Feb. 18	Dickinson State*	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22-27	NSAA Postseason Tournament		
March 11-12	NAIA Opening Round - Campus Sites		
March 17-22	NAIA National Tournament - Sioux City, Iowa		
	MEN: Kansas City, Mo.		



Viking Basketball Starts New Season

Viking Women look to take step forward

The Valley City State women's basketball team has been selected to finish sixth in the North Star Athletic Association as voted on by the eight head coaches in the conference.

The Vikings tied for fifth place in the conference standings last season with a 6-8 conference record and finished with an 8-13 record overall. Head coach Vanessa Johnson begins her fifth season leading the VCSU women's basketball team and assistant Taylor Henningsgard is back for her second season.

Valley City State's Allie Critchley and Adriana Torres return as key contributors from last season. Critchley, a 5-foot-6 guard, averaged 28 minutes, 4.6 points and 3.7 rebounds last season while totaling 51 assists and 22 steals.

Torres, a 5-foot-10 guard, averaged 29 minutes, 10.4 points and 5.5 rebounds per game.

The Vikings also return senior Emma Nielsen and junior Taryn Dieterle who saw significant playing time last season. New faces joining the Vikings this year include transfers Hailey Roberts, Allie Negen and Bayli Heap, and freshmen Katie Johnson and Ashlyn Diemert.

The Vikings tip off the season in early November and begin conference play on Dec. 4 at Dickinson State. The remainder of conference play will be in January and February.



VCSU Men picked to win NSAA

The Valley City State men's basketball team enters the 2021-22 season as the favorite to win the North Star Athletic Association conference title.

After posting a 19-7 record last season, the Vikings are picked first in this year's NSAA Preseason Coaches' Poll. The Vikings return everyone that saw significant minutes on last year's team. VCSU featured a balanced attack with 11 different players averaging more than 12 minutes per game and seven players scoring at least seven points per game.

Kevin Schramm was named 1st Team All-Conference and Honorable Mention All-American last year, while Chris Thompson was named the NSAA Defensive Player of the Year. Jalen Addison is also back after being named 2nd Team All-Conference, along with Connor Entzi who earned Honorable Mention All-Conference. They highlight a Viking roster that has nine seniors for the 2021-22 season.

VCSU head coach Ryan Montgomery has also added a pair of transfers to the already deep roster. Junior transfers Duoth Gach and Uhana Ochan were previously teammates at North Dakota State College of Science. Ochan played last year at Francis Marion University, an NCAA Division II school.

Montgomery is in his sixth season as head coach of the Vikings. He is assisted this year by Tim Wagner, who is in his first season with the Vikings. The Vikings started the season in late October. The bulk of conference play will be in January and February.



See all Athletics News at [VCSUVikings.com](https://www.vcsuathletics.com)

Fall Sports Find Success

Football sets records during 2021 season

Valley City State's football team experienced the highs and lows of college football during the 2021 season. The Vikings won their first six games – including a 24-7 win over rival Jamestown – as they climbed as high as No. 15 in the NAIA Football Coaches' Top 25 Poll.

The season hit a speed bump though when the Vikings suffered an upset loss at Dakota State and then dropped a hard-fought 14-7 game against eventual conference champion Dickinson State. The Vikings regrouped with a win at Waldorf and had a 7-2 overall record entering the final game of the season in early November.

The win over Waldorf was the 150th of his career for VCSU head coach Dennis McCulloch, who is the all-time wins leader at VCSU and ranks sixth among active NAIA coaches. It's an accomplishment shared by assistant head coach Gregg Horner and linebackers coach Dave Rausch who have both coached with McCulloch for all 150 wins.

Individually, VCSU players set or tied several records during the season. Senior quarterback Jalen Pfeifer became the all-time passing leader in school history as he surpassed 9,000 career passing yards during the season. He also set school records for completions, total touchdowns accounted for (passing and rushing) and passing attempts.

Defensively, Jahidi West tied a school record with three interceptions in a single game, and Riley Gerhardt tied the single-game sacks record with three in a victory against Mayville State.

Team highlights of the season included a 24-7 win over Jamestown in the 3rd Annual VCSU Ag Bowl. The Vikings retained control of the Paint Bucket traveling trophy and are now 9-1 against the Jimmies over the last 10 games. The Vikings defeated Concordia College-Moorhead 35-32 on the road, tying the game with a touchdown in the final minute and then winning on a last-second field goal by kicker Nico Magana.

VCSU's defense had a shutout in a 49-0 Homecoming victory against Mayville State. The Viking defense ranked Top 10 nationally in several categories – including points allowed and interceptions.

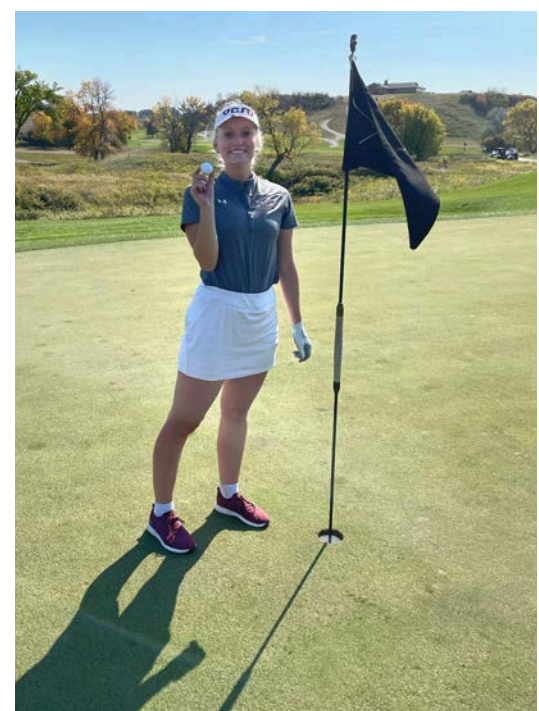
Haugrud ace highlights Fall golf season

Valley City State golf teams had success on the course in the first season under head coach Clay Mannie. Junior Hayley Shanks led the Viking women and earned medalist honors at the Spartan Invite at Pebble Lake Golf Course in Fergus Falls, Minn. She carded a career-best 160 (82-80) to take first place by two strokes.

Shanks and senior Jocelyn Braunberger each finished in the Top 10 at the UMary Fall Invite hosted at Hawktree Golf Club in Bismarck, and VCSU junior Megan Haugrud also carded a hole-in-one at the UMary Fall Invite. It is believed to be the first hole-in-one in competition since reinstating the VCSU golf program in 2009. Haugrud scored the ace on the 113-yard hole 8 using a 9-iron.

On the men's side, sophomore Rory Gentzkow led the team with two Top-5 finishes this season. The LaMoure, N.D. native fired a one-under-par 71 during the UMary Fall Invite – his first career round under par.

The Vikings played four tournaments this fall and will resume the season in the spring.





Baseball posts 6-2 record during fall season

The Valley City State baseball team had its best fall season in recent history, posting a 6-2 record during eight countable games in September and October.

The Vikings defeated rival University of Jamestown twice during the fall, including a 24-4 blowout victory at Jamestown. The Vikings also split a pair of games with Mayville State and had a 3-1 record against Dickinson State.

Drew Nixon led the team with a .407 batting average and a .630 slugging percentage as he hit two home runs and drove in six RBIs. David Demeter and JT Reed also both homered twice, and Ryan Reynolds hit .385 with six RBIs.

On the mound, Demeter pitched four scoreless innings in the closer role as he posted a 0.00 ERA and picked up four saves. Reed Butz was 2-0 with a 2.66 ERA and 29 strikeouts in 21 innings. That included 13 strikeouts in six innings during a 4-3 win against Jamestown. Chase Feller also picked up two wins on the mound.

VCSU Baseball will resume its season in early March with its annual spring trip to Tucson, Ariz.

Cross Country competes at 5 meets

The VCSU cross country teams raced at five meets during its fall season, wrapping up with the NSAA Conference Championships in early November.

Jasmine Barnes led the Viking women at each meet, while Jayden Wheeling and Noah Rolfe each had top finishes for VCSU's men. The conference meet was upcoming when this issue of the Bulletin went to print.

Hall of Fame



Valley City State University inducted six individuals and two teams in the Vikings Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming weekend.

Kyle Bauer '93, Matt Johnson '94, Mike Tenuto '76, Jeff Pederson '83, Teri (Loe) Cresap '86 and Tom Klapp '05 were inducted during a ceremony at the Valley City Eagles Club. The 1990 and 1991 men's golf teams were added as team inductees.



Volleyball plays well down the stretch

Viking Volleyball has enjoyed a successful conference season under second-year head coach Brigitte Greywater, getting off to its best start in the North Star Athletic Association since the 2018-19 season.

After starting the year with a 2-9 overall record, the Vikings have turned it on in conference play with an 8-4 record entering the final weekend of conference play. VCSU's only conference losses have come against teams (Viterbo & Bellevue) that are ranked in the Top 10 nationally. VCSU will be the No. 3 or No. 4 seed for the postseason held in Watertown, S.D. on Nov. 12-13.

Senior libero Kallene Klever recorded her 1000th career dig on Oct. 12 in a five-set victory over Dickinson State. She was also named NSAA Defender of the Week twice this season, averaging 4.6 digs per set.

Freshman setter Sadie Hansen earned her first NAIA National Setter of the Week award on Oct. 12 after posting 14 assists per set in a pair of conference sweeps over Mayville State and Presentation College. She has averaged nine assists per set on the season and totaled 14 double-doubles.

Senior outside hitter Katie Juarez has solidified herself as one of the Top 10 Viking attackers in VCSU history. She reached 972 career kills on Oct. 30 at Viterbo to rank 9th all-time in the Viking record book.

Vikings on the Move >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Submit your latest news to
alumni@vcsu.edu

CLASS OF 1959 & 1960

Bob '59 and **Deanne (Roseth) Horne '60** grieve the loss of their middle son, David, who died very unexpectedly May 22, 2021, of a massive heart attack at age 58½. He leaves behind his widow, Dr. Shelley Horne, who does scientific research at NDSU, and only child, Torina/Tyler, a sophomore at Concordia College. Following his freshman year at VCSU, he earned his BS and MA in physics and computer science from UND. David served almost 30 years with distinction as an Interactive Systems Analyst for the UND Aerospace School. He drove to Grand Forks every day from their home in Fargo. He was a wonderful son, husband, father and friend who will be missed by many.

CLASS OF 1964

Diane (Kusler) Larson '64 was featured in the Wall Street Journal and the Delta Sky magazine in 2020 as a Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award recipient as a retired educator.

CLASS OF 1980

Myron Buchholz '80 wrote; "Back in 1977 or '78, when taking a geography class from the great Leo Reinbold, the topic of urban development came up. Leo referred to houses built since the 60's as '20th Century Drab', something I've never forgotten because I've always lived in one. He was especially critical of the 'back deck' replacing a front porch, leading to a loss of awareness one has of neighbors and neighborhood activity. Leap forward to 2013 when my late wife and I decided to improve our 70's house in our 70's neighborhood, like Leo said, and add a front porch. During construction people frequently stopped to talk about front porch memories and Leo's wisdom came shining through again. One conversation told of a daughter's move into a house in Duluth

with a front porch, and how she immediately made plans to close it in. After living there for a couple weeks, with all the interactions, the front porch stayed open. When our porch was finished the same phenomenon began. A morning cup of coffee frequently meant greeting passersby that I would never see from the back yard; even a smile and a wave helps build community. I lost my wife Janet to liver cancer and after a few years started dating a woman who was heavily involved in the area music scene. I like to joke that the front porch looks like a stage and she responded, 'Let's put a band on that stage', and together we hatched the idea of the Mission Drive Street Party. We've had food, music and dancing in the street in front of the house for four years in a row, and generally get close to 100 people. During Covid we consulted the thesaurus and changed 'social distance' to 'Cordial Orbit' because it sounded better. The next one is July 10, 2022 from 4 to 8 pm. If you're near Eau Claire, Wisconsin, find Mission Drive, and you'll find a great party. It's hard to believe that any of this would've happened had I not put a front porch on my '20th Century Drab' house. Thanks Leo."



Josef Cannon

has four feature films he is starring in; "Debt Collector 2" currently showing on NETFLIX, "White Elephant" just wrapped in Georgia starring opposite Bruce Willis, Michael Rooker, John Malkovich and Olga Kurylenko, "Paul's Promise"

period piece filmed in New Mexico and releasing later this fall based on a true story and book starring opposite Dean Cain and "Hell Hath No Fury" a WWII movie shot in France which hits the theaters this November 5th.

CLASS OF 1987



Brenda (Johnston) Gripenot '87 bought this sweatshirt for her nephew who was born in 1982 when Brenda was a freshman. It survived Brenda's three children, another nephew and a

grandson born in 2013. This is Marty Tonjes born June 17, 2021. He made Brenda miss the Philo reunion this past summer.

CLASS OF 2009



Lucy Wagner is very proud of her two graduates from VCSU; they celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary September 11. They met while attending

VCSU; **Sam Wagner** is a graduate of 2009 and **Kirci (Phillips) Wagner** followed in 2013. Sam works for Dakota Resource Council and Kirci is a music teacher at Davies High School in Fargo. They live in Casselton, N.D. with two children, Molly 8 and Simon 5.

57th Annual North Dakota Suncoast Luncheon in Florida

The luncheon will be held at "our" River Wilderness Country Club, Parrish, Fla., on **Saturday, February 26, 2022.**

Social hour – 10:30 a.m.

Luncheon and Program – 12 noon Everyone chooses from a menu and pays there.

Please join us! **CALL JAY MORGAN, 941-378-4444, FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

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.



1995

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

1996

Ernest Clark
Cameron Croy
William Engel
Mark Helmowski
Colin Hogue
Marlyn Keller
C. Kyle
Carol Ley
Lisa Mikkelson
Douglas Skarp
Allan Stenehjelm
Robert Suko
Andrew Werkman

1997

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

Linda Thorn
Barbara Vondell-Kreil
Kathleen Wilde
Jill Zander

1998

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

SIMPLE WAYS TO GIVE BACK

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



PLEDGE: A pledge of \$1,500 or \$3,000 over four years provides a scholarship in that value for a deserving student. You choose the frequency of fulfilling your pledge.



RECURRING GIFT: Monthly gifts, spread out over the year, make a BIG impact and are a convenient, affordable, and flexible way of supporting VCSU.



ONE TIME GIFT: Cash, gifts of grain, commodities, marketable stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares have an immediate impact on VCSU and for you. Contact the Foundation office if this is your preference.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT VCSU STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS?



GIVE ONLINE: fast, easy and secure. Use our online form at give.vcsu.edu to make your gift of choice.



MAIL YOUR GIFT: give by check or credit card using the enclosed form. Choose your frequency of payment and return to our office.

V-500 SUPPORTING STUDENTS SINCE 1972

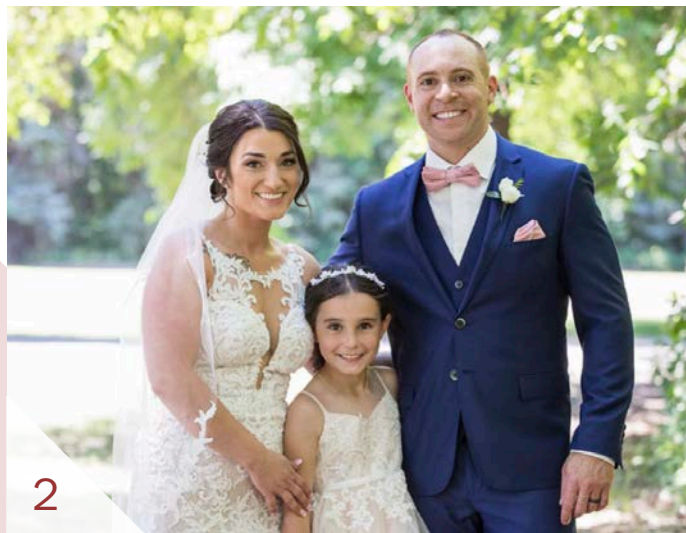


“My VCSU scholarship was a big factor when choosing a school. It has lessened the financial burden and allows me to focus on pursuing a business degree.”

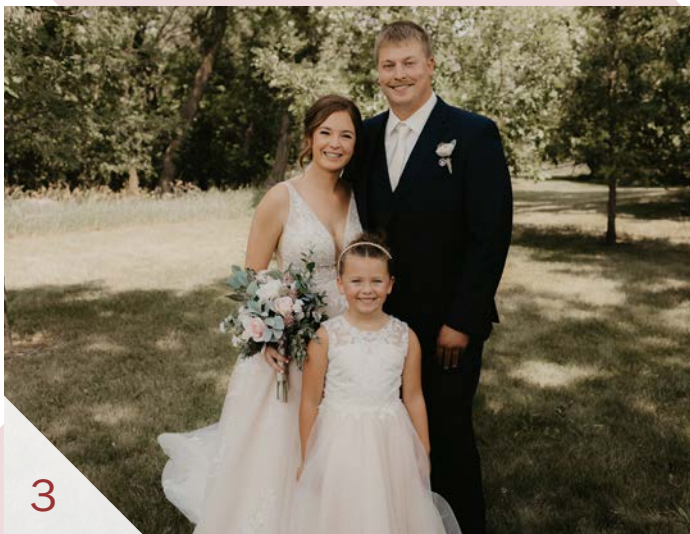
Taryn Dieterle,
Valley City, N.D.

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 - Meghan McCulloch '13 and Tony Scheen '14 were married on July 23, 2021, on the beautiful VCSU campus. They currently live in Valley City where Meghan is working for The Kid's Therapy Center and Tony is serving his country in a year long overseas deployment with the ND Army National Guard.



2 - Jessica Moritz '14 and Troy Parlato were married June 12, 2021, in Hatton, N.D. In December 2020, Troy and Jessica purchased a home in Grand Forks where they reside with Jessica's bonus daughter and 2 dogs. Jessica received her B.S. degree majoring in psychology from VCSU and in 2016 received her Masters in School Counseling from Northern State University. She is in her 6th year of counseling and in February, 2019, was awarded the Outstanding New Professional Award at the ND Counselor's Association Conference.

3 - Michaela Scherr '16 and Chris Lemna were married July 24, 2021. Michaela gained a daughter, Audrey.

4 - Caitlin Killeen and Nicholas McBeain '17 were married August 13, 2020.



5



6



7



8

5 - Cailyn McCauley and Logan Olesen '17 were married on August 21, 2020. Logan is a science teacher at STMA High School in St. Michael, Minn. He is the head middle school football coach and the strength and conditioning coach for the high school girls hockey team. Logan and his wife just completed their master's degrees in Differentiated Instruction. They live in Monticello, Minn. with their three amazing dogs.

6 - Taylor Sharp '19 and Bradyn Sand '20 were married August 14, 2021. Bradyn and Taylor met on the very first night of college in 2016 in Snoeyenbos Hall, and have been together for 5 years. Taylor graduated in December of 2019 with a degree in elementary education, and Bradyn graduated in May of 2020 with a degree in business administration. Currently, Taylor teaches 2nd grade at Dakota Prairie Public Schools and Bradyn is a loan officer at Farmers and Merchants Bank of N.D. They reside in McVillie, N.D. with their dog, Sadie.

7 - Holly Zirnelt '20 and Elliot Reinsel were married on July 24, 2021 at Stiklestad Lodge in Fort Ransom. They live outside of Valley City with their dog, Turbo.

8 - Kylie Erickson '21 and Robert Sickels were married June 6, 2021. Kylie wrote, "God has been so wonderful to us in this new season of life that we've started together up in Grand Forks, as we further our education at the University of North Dakota. We're beyond excited to see what the future holds, and so grateful for all the love and support VCSU has shown us during this time of transition!"

Not Pictured

- Danielle Taylor '18** & Austin Grundtner, May 14, 2021
- Madison Trowbridge & **Marlen Meester '21**, May 23, 2021
- Alyssa Beeson & **Garret Berg '21**, June 11, 2021
- Tonya Van Dyke** & Brandon Hovland, June 26, 2021
- Amanda Bryson '08** & Brian Grebliunas, July 17, 2021
- Allison Baasch '15** & Braden Wenaas, July 23, 2021
- Abbigail Burch & **Nathan DeMarais '20**, August 27, 2021
- Lorrae Nieves & **Dan Ingebrand '18**, August 28, 2021
- Stephanie Fettig '15** & Dylan Ripplinger, October 9, 2021

In Remembrance

Wilbur Bolt, Dilworth, Minn.
Harriet (Noltimier) Ottinger '47, Augusta, Ga.
Howard Wergeland '48, Detroit Lakes, Minn.
Marcella (Swanke) Richman '55, Valley City, N.D.
Floyd Boschee '56, Sun City, Ariz.
Marlys (Knutson) Boschee, Sun City, Ariz.
Dale Olson, Saint Paul, Minn.
Wendell Kopperud '60, Jamestown, N.D.
Lila (Hougen) Gienger '63, Jamestown, N.D.
Melvin Salberg '64, Mesa, Ariz.
Phyllis (Smith) Singer '65, Valley City
Linda (Sowden) Skogen '67, Alexandria, Minn.
Jean Bass-Aune '68, Plymouth, Minn.
Frederick "Rick" Snarr '68, Edwards, IL
Barbara (Moore) Swanson '69, West Fargo, N.D.
Wesley Rich Jr. '70, Lawton, Okla.
Linda (Harrington) '72, Underwood, N.D.
Gregory Nelson '74, West Fargo, N.D.
Jerry Starkey '74, S Lake Tahoe, Calif.
Candace (Andersen) Cox '76, Ramona, Calif.

Dorothy Heyerdahl) Lommen '76, Brookings, S.D.
Kathleen "Kap" (Brisben) Weinmann '76, Harvey, N.D.
Dixie (Kupitz) Claymore '78, Alexandria, Minn.
Seven Beilke '80, Fargo, N.D.
Jerry Oppegard '91, Valley City
Kyle Bauer '93, Baxter, Minn.
Jane (Speyers) Hammer '97, Kathryn, N.D.
Mary (Batchelder) Engle '00, Rogers, N.D.
Jacob Mertes '10, Libby, Mont.
Joshua Tovar '16, El Paso, Texas
Clara Christ, Jamestown, N.D.
Gale "Buzz" Eggert, Valley City
Oscar Lauzon, Grand Forks, N.D.
Dale Olson, Saint Paul, Minn.
Clarabelle Sipe, Ada, Minn.

Former Faculty & Staff

Jane (Speyers) Hammer '97, Kathryn, N.D.
John Paulson Sr., Valley City
Willis Wagar '71, Valley City

Willis Wagar '71 - Buildings and Grounds Supervisor 1971-1995

Willis Wagar, Valley City, ND passed away Monday, Sept. 13, 2021 at Sanford Health Fargo, N.D.



Willis Franklin Wagar was born Aug. 31, 1936 at home in rural Inkster, N.D. to Raymond and Myrtle (Toppin) Wagar. He graduated from Inkster High School in 1954 as valedictorian. From 1955-1957 Willis was in the service as a civilian officer and served in the Civilian Work Program at the Grafton State Hospital. After the service in July 1957 he moved to Valley City and began selling Watkins products until the fall of 1959.

On October 4, 1958 Willis was united in marriage to Mary Jewel Benson in Valley City. In 1959, they

moved to a farmstead near Grygla, Minn. He contracted with the forest service to cut spruce and poplar and manned the Linder Fire Tower. He also farmed.

In March of 1963, the Wagar family moved back to Valley City and worked for Benson Nursery. In the fall of 1963, Willis also began working at the boiler plant at VCSU and continued with Benson Nursery. He began college classes in 1965 and graduated in 1971. Willis was then hired at VCSU as the buildings and grounds supervisor until his retirement in 1995.

In 1988, Willis and Mary bought Fritchies Greenhouse and Nursery with their son James and his wife Eydie Wagar which they sold in March 2005.

Willis was actively involved in the ministry at the Southwest Bible Chapel in Valley City. He was

a member of Kiwanis, Gideon's International, a 4-H leader and Toastmaster's.

Willis is survived by his wife; children Jacquelyn (Tom) Ueland, Ulen, MN, Joel (Faye) Wagar, Rochester, MN, James (Eydie) Wagar, Valley City, Jennifer (Ewald) Horst, South Range, WI and Jon (Patty) Wagar, Valley City; 26 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. Willis is also survived by his siblings Donald (Joyce) Wagar, Willmar, MN, Doris Johnson, Omaha, NE, Myrna Ferris, Cedar Rapids, IA, Lois (Greg) Koehn, Lushton, NE, Jeannene Goerke, Valley City, Lee (Holly) Wagar, Owasso, OK, Beverly (Harold) Roeding, Allison, IA.

Willis was preceded in death by his parents; step brother David Evenson; grandson Christopher Wagar; son-in-law Wayne Vleck and brothers in law Robert Johnson and Jim Ferris.

John Paulson, Sr. - Custodian & Groundskeeper 1971–1995

John Ronald Paulson, Sr. was born on Nov. 2, 1943 to Paul and Gertrude Paulson of Britt, Iowa.

On Nov. 30, 1963, he married the love of his life, Janet Kay Curley.

Since the time he could 'hold a pitchfork,' which happens early on farms, John started working. The move to North Dakota was a result of his work, actually: John worked for a custom combining operation run by Bob Holland. He and his wife of nine years lived in Iowa at that time, but when they saw North Dakota on the custom combining journey, they fell in love with the beautiful state and moved north!

John was then offered a job at Skogen Farms working for Melvin and Ardell Skogen (later, for Allan and Janelle Skogen as the farm was passed down the generations). He loved what he did and never quit until he was done with a field for the night. He worked for the Skogens for close to 17 years.

After working with his close friend Ron Davies doing payload work and grading township roads, he then got a job at VCSU in the student center as a night custodian, his wife working at the college also. Shortly after that, the



groundskeeper position opened up and that was John's dream job! He kept campus beautiful for 23 years until he and his wife Jan both retired. He could never sit idle, so after retirement, he worked at Epworth United Methodist Church as the janitor and later in the same position at Bridgeview Estates.

John died at Mercy Hospital on September 27, 2021 surrounded by his loved ones and the amazing nurses of second floor. He is survived by two sons: John (Kelly) Paulson, Glyndon, MN and Shawn (Teresa) Paulson, Moorhead, MN; two daughters: Holly (Micheal) Olauson of Valley City and Louetta (David) Hanson of Wilmington, NC. Grandchildren, John (Jess) Paulson, Michael (Cassie) Bengson, Alyssa (John) Burger, Dallas, Austen, Brandon and Shawna Paulson, Jacob (Kiersten) Olauson, Chelsey (Austin) Schaefer, Braeden Olauson, Hope and Jaden Hanson. His brother Roger (Lynn) Paulson of Mokelumme Hill, CA, and numerous nieces and nephews. Three great grandchildren, Elsa Paulson, Gracie Bengson, Grace Olauson and one more to be born in January.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife of 47 years, and a sister, Maxine Hernandez.

Jane Hammer '97 - Department of Computer Systems & Software Engineering 1996–2019

Jane Louise Hammer was born on Oct. 26, 1955, in Linton, ND, to John (Jack) and Louise Speyers. She attended elementary and high school in Napoleon, ND, graduating in 1974.

She married Myron Hammer May 29, 1976, in Streeter, ND.

She was continuously involved with education either by being a student or a teacher. She achieved a Bachelor of Science degree from both North Dakota State University and Valley City State University. She later obtained a master's degree from the University of Mary.

Jane was the first woman agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor in the state of ND. She taught high school Vocational Agriculture in LaMoure from 1977–1979. She then taught Vocational Agriculture in Tioga from 1979–1983.

Myron and Jane moved to rural Kathryn, ND, in 1983 after Myron took over the family farm. She taught Adult Farm Management at the Vo-Tech Center in Valley City, and Vocational Agriculture at North Central High School until she was hired at Valley City State University in 1996 as an adjunct teacher. After receiving her master's degree, she was a full-time assistant professor at VCSU for the



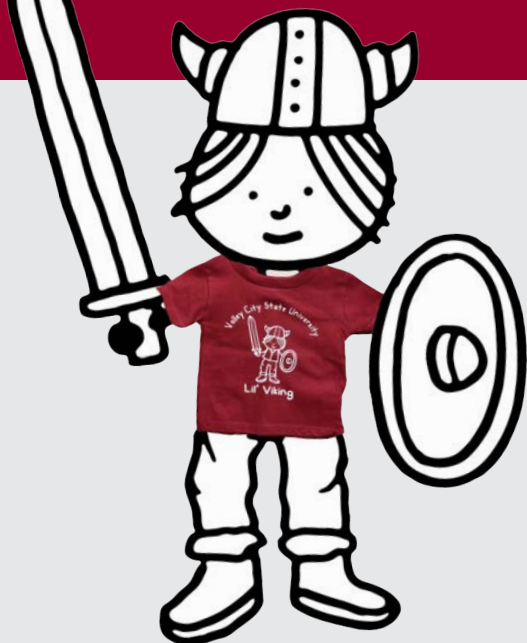
Department of Computer Systems and Software Engineering from 1998 until her retirement in 2019.

Myron and Jane were foster parents and helped raise numerous children. They became especially close to one child who lived with them several years, Allie (Mike) Thoreson, Kathryn. In 1986, they welcomed the birth of their daughter, Jessinta (Lee) Widdel, Minot.

Even though Jane was small, the impact she left on this world and the people in it was huge. She was giving, feisty, stubborn, and so very much loved. Her focus was to educate and help others any way she could. Jane would often say, "One day at a time", Matthew 6:34, when comforting those who were hurt or stressed. The hole left in the hearts of those who know and love her is large, so per her advice, "One day at a time."

Including her daughters, she is survived by her husband, Myron; four grandchildren: Orin, Bia, Etta, and Jents; sisters Jennie (Charles) Rousu, Fargo, Marie (Bill) Hallock, Jamestown, Carol Altman, Wichita, KS; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers William Hazer, Antone Speyers and John Loehrer, sisters Deloris Meade and Norma Thomas.

Jane died Oct. 6, 2021 at the age of 65 at Sanford Hospital in Fargo.



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**.



Stella May Sczepanski

May 9, 2021
8 lbs, 8 oz., 20 in.

Siblings: Jacob(9), Avery(7)
Simon(6)

Barrett '07 and Katie
Sczepanski



Luka Francis White

April 6, 2021
8 lbs, 2 oz., 21 ¼ in.

Big brother Jack, sisters
Grace (6) and Madelyn (4)

Tarra (Miller) '15 and
Lance White



Ila Pat Anderson

December 22, 2020
6 lbs, 12 oz., 20 in.

Brady and Kara Anderson

Grandparents: Cory '89 and
Kristi (Tait) '93 Anderson &
Steve '93 and Mary (Enstad)
'92 Fike



Merak Kayann Duttenhefer

August 3, 2021
9 lbs, 4.5 oz., 21 ¼ in.

Siblings: Liam Joseph
Duttenhefer (2 years old)

Joey '13 and Kya
Duttenhefer



Tatum Lee Weiland

May 13, 2021
7 lbs, 5 oz., 21 in.

Jenna (Wisk) '16 and
Cameron Weiland

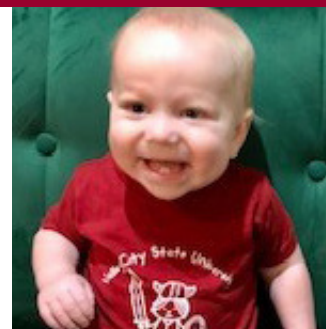


Kellen Jerome Kosel

August 19, 2020
8 lbs, 20 ½ in.

Big brother: Theodore Kosel
Trent '11 and Chelsea
(Hageman) Kosel

Grandparents: Todd '85 and
Loni '85 (Hovel) Kosel





Henry Robert Lentz

September 6, 2020
7 lbs, 12 oz., 21 ½ in.

Cameron '13 and Haley
Lentz

Mike '88 and Kathy
(Burchill) Lentz M.Ed. '07



Olivia Joy Ingberg

May 1, 2021
8 lbs, 21 in.

Big sister: Selah (6)

Elisa (Ailie) '12 and Devlan
Ingberg



Ivory Mercy Alexander

November 29, 2020
7 lbs, 9 oz., 21 in.

Siblings: Scarlet and Everett

Hope (Keysor) '07 and
Loren '06 Alexander



Malcolm David Tiberius Phares-Heigaard

August 6, 2020
8 lbs

Sisters: Scarlett and
Penelope

Danielle (Phares) '09 and
Allen Heigaard



Sophie Agnes Schindele

October 17, 2020
6 lbs, 1 oz., 18 ½ in.

Evan '15 and Autumn
Schindele

Grandparents: Doug '87 and
Jane '86 (Sinclair) Schindele



Bella Marie Haut

May 26, 2021
5 lbs, 10 oz., 19 ¾ in.

Adam '15 and Jessica
(Puhr) '16 Haut



Dalton Eugene McBeain

April 29, 2021
6 lbs, 11 oz., 18 in.

Nicholas '17 and Caitlin
McBeain

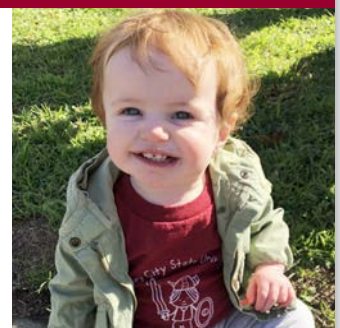


Birdie Mae Beckman

October 12, 2020
7 lbs, 8 oz., 19 ½ in.

Sister: Hattie

Brady and Jerilyn (Bruns)
'15 Beckman





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Know a high school junior
or senior who could be a
future Viking?

VCSU.edu/visit

