

# THE BULLETIN

*A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University*



## The sky is no limit for Duke Johnson '91

**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

127th Spring Commencement ♦ Employee Recognition Dinner ♦ Concert Choir Tours Italy



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**Welcome to the *Bulletin!***

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

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**Cover Story**

**4 The sky is no limit for Duke Johnson '91**

*Durand “Duke” Johnson serves as associate director of one of the top planetariums in the nation – Clark Planetarium in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Fingal, N.D., native honed his passions for astronomy and photography at VCSU, and he’s put both of them to work in building his career.*



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**7 \$32 million Communication and Fine Arts Building funded by legislature**

*VCSU is the beneficiary of the 2019 North Dakota Legislature’s appropriation to fund a new fine arts and communication structure on campus . The new building will replace Foss Hall, which sits on the wrong side of permanent flood protection, and bring the Art, Music and Communication Arts departments into one facility.*



7

**8 127th spring commencement held May 11 in fieldhouse**

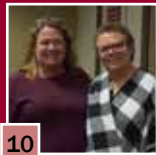
*President Alan LaFave presided at his first VCSU commencement, with more than 320 candidates for degrees this time around. LaFave was joined on the podium by SBHE member Daniel Traynor, student speaker Marc Wagner and faculty speaker Emily Fenster.*



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**10 Employee Recognition Dinner honors faculty, staff achievements**

*Faculty and staff gathered in the cafeteria May 9 for the annual Employee Recognition Dinner. Recognition was given for years of service, tenure and promotion, faculty excellence, and more, including the Student Senate awards for Teacher of the Year and Student Advocates.*



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**12 VCSU Foundation holds Recognition Luncheon**

*On June 10, more than 90 individuals gathered for the VCSU Foundation’s annual Recognition Luncheon, which recognizes the university’s top donors and those who have reached new levels of giving to the institution.*

*Cover: The Hi-Line Bridge in Valley City at sunset (photo: Durand “Duke” Johnson '91)*



## Forward together: Building on a tradition of excellence

Alan D. LaFave, D.M.A., President

Summer has slipped away, and by the time you read this, fall semester classes will have begun. I know that it seemed like time moved quickly before, but now that I'm a university president, it seems to be traveling at warp speed. Thankfully, we're moving ahead on the right track, and I can't tell you enough about how welcoming you all have been to me and my family, and how excited I am to serve as president of Valley City State University!

When I interviewed for the VCSU presidency, one of the most consistent and overriding comments I heard from campus and community constituents was that the university enjoyed great support from alumni, friends, and the Valley City/Barnes County community, along with a reminder about the importance of sustaining and nurturing these key relationships. I have found this to be very true, and I am thankful for it.

We're grateful for the support of our alumni and friends and their donations of time, talent and treasure. The VCSU Foundation's record \$1.723 million student scholarship allocation for 2019-20 could not happen without the financial support of alumni and friends. They also "vote with their feet" by attending our annual events such as the Scholarship Auction, the Viking Scramble and VCSU night at the RedHawks.

I'm also pleased to report that the working relationships the university enjoys with Valley City and other area schools, the city and county commissions, the Valley City-Barnes County Economic Development Corporation, and other local and regional organizations, all the way up to state legislators and administrators, are robust and healthy. These strong relationships helped immensely in the legislative session, and the positive results for VCSU coming out of the session demonstrate their important value.

The direct beneficiary of these relationships and the results are our students, but the opportunity for open dialogue, sharing of ideas and strategies, and working together helps all these groups succeed. In the words

of a former mentor with a naval background, "A rising tide lifts all boats!"

This May we received the momentous news that capped off the legislative session: Governor Burgum's signature on Senate Bill 2297 finalized the Senate and House funding for our new \$32 million communication and fine arts building to replace Foss Hall.

Here's where we are with the new arts building:

- A campus committee comprising students, faculty, and staff has been meeting with the HGA architects and design team to make important decisions on space needs and design, keeping in mind future program needs to encourage and allow for enrollment growth.
- JE Dunn Construction has recently been selected to serve as construction manager at risk (CMAR) for the project.
- Site preparation work, including soil survey samples, will begin this fall.
- Ground breaking will take place in the spring of 2020.

We look forward to bringing art, communication arts, and music together under one roof, and we thank all those who helped make this happen for VCSU and North Dakota.

I hope you will be able to join us on campus this fall when we combine Homecoming and presidential inauguration festivities into one big celebration at the end of September. As we plan for the Sept. 27 inauguration, some campus folks have been calling this my special day, but in my mind, it's the institution that is special, and it's my privilege to lead it.

Although we will take the time to celebrate this fall, we'll also be working on annual strategic goals that the Cabinet and I are now finalizing as we head into the new academic year. Those goals are very specific, but I assure you that they will fit into the big picture of providing the best academic, athletic and cocurricular opportunities for our students, all the while embracing change and adhering to our tradition of excellence.

Go Vikings!



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

### THE INAUGURATION OF Dr. Alan D. LaFave

The Fourteenth President of Valley City State University

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

10:00 A.M. ♦ W.E. OSMON FIELDHOUSE

[www.vcsu.edu/inauguration](http://www.vcsu.edu/inauguration)

**FORWARD TOGETHER**  
BUILDING ON A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

# leave a *Legacy* for V-500 at VCSU



The VCSU Foundation Leave a Legacy program is designed to encourage alumni and friends who have supported the university while they were living to continue to have an impact on VCSU after the time of their death. They can do so with a charitable bequest, which can be in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, life insurance, or a percentage of their estate. More often than not, attractive tax benefits are associated with such a bequest.

**For further information on the Leave a Legacy program, contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7217 or email Larry Robinson, executive director of university advancement, at [larry.robinson@vcsu.edu](mailto:larry.robinson@vcsu.edu).**



## Five ways for you to 'Grab an Oar' and stay connected with your alma mater

**Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91, Assistant Director for University Advancement and Alumni Relations**

The spirit of college is in the air as we prepare for students to return to campus, football rivalries gearing up, and tailgates to attend. College is where many of us have made lifelong connections. For many of our alumni we lose those close bonds as we start our families and pursue our careers. Here are five ways for you to 'Grab an Oar' to stay connected with VCSU.

- 1. Visit Campus:** Return for Homecoming and renew old friendships. Take a stroll through the campus you once commanded and reflect on your best memories: studying at the library, hanging out at the Student Center or checking out your old dorm to see how much better students now have it. Homecoming 2019 is September 27–28; see p. 11 for the schedule.
- 2. Attend our Reunions/Socials:** The VCSU Alumni Association hosts a number of alumni events across the state of North Dakota. We also host our annual activities in Arizona every February. If you are interested in hosting an alumni event in your area, please let us know!
- 3. Attend an Athletic Event:** There's something special about the camaraderie of college sporting events. Cheering for a common cause, watching your classmates compete against a rival college and tailgating before the game make up some of the best memories you have. While you may no longer fit in the student section, that doesn't mean you can't head to a game—even after graduating. Gather your friends and relive those adrenaline-filled hours while you cheer on the Vikings! If you've moved away, check online at [www.vcsuvikings.com](http://www.vcsuvikings.com) to see if VCSU is playing at a local college. (And if you can't get to the game, remember that most athletic events are streamed online.)
- 4. Refer a Student:** As a former Viking, you know firsthand what it was like to be a student at

VCSU. The benefits of attending a smaller college where you knew your professors (often they were even your advisors), could participate in numerous activities, and were known as an individual and not as a number hopefully left a lasting impression on you.

We are now asking you to help share that experience with others. Do you know of a high school junior or senior who you think should consider becoming a Viking? If so, we would love to hear about them. It is impossible for us to know the names of all high school students, so we have to rely on direct mail, college fairs and ACT name acquisition to identify potential future students. However, we feel the best way to get in touch with a student is to hear about them from others. We still believe in recruiting students the old-fashioned way, with personal attention, care, and concern for them as individuals. Give our Enrollment Services Office a call at 800-532-8641.

- 5. Donate:** Please consider a gift to the VCSU Foundation for the annual Phone-a-thon or one of our scholarship programs (V-500 or Century Club)!

Gifts made through the Phone-a-thon help support scholarships and other Alumni Association initiatives, including The Bulletin, reunion events and alumni award programs. By supporting our Phone-a-thon, you are investing in your alma mater. Whether you are able to give \$10 or \$10,000, your gift will make a difference. Donations of any amount increase Valley City State's alumni participation rate, an important and impactful number that will help strengthen the University's national rankings and recognition.

As we kick off another academic year, 'Grab an Oar' and reconnect with VCSU. We look forward to welcoming you home.

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## North Dakota Legislature renews Challenge Grant Program

Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement

The 2019 North Dakota Legislature has renewed the popular Challenge Grant Program. As a result of this legislative action, the VCSU Foundation has been allocated a total of \$700,000 to be matched on a 2-1 basis for endowed scholarships. We therefore have to raise \$1,400,000 in private dollars to access the \$700,000. Under this exciting program, folks can contribute to an existing Endowed Scholarship fund or create a new Endowed Scholarship for a loved one, coach, or a former faculty or staff member.

The Challenge Grant Program works very well in partnership with the North Dakota Endowment Tax Credit Program. For North Dakota residents, this program makes it possible for individuals to

give more through their contributions and have a greater impact on the quality of life in North Dakota. An individual may receive a tax credit for contributions of \$5,000 or more to a qualified North Dakota Endowment.

Time is of essence to qualify for the Challenge Grant Program. The deadline for us to apply the state match to your gift is December 1, 2020, or until all matching funds have been committed.

**NOTE:** More information on the Challenge Grant Program can be found on p. 13. Should you have further questions, please contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203.



### NEW SIGNAGE WELCOMES

*visitors and alumni*

Two new signs were installed this summer to welcome folks to campus.

Travelers heading north down the hill from Winter Show Road on 4th Avenue SW are now greeted by a large “Welcome to Valley City State University” sign on the retaining wall for the parking lot on the former site of Lions Court, kitty-corner from McCoy Hall.

On the north end of the walk bridge, just off the intersection of Central Avenue and 4th Street SW, a new “Welcome Alumni” sign can be found. Funded by the Alumni Board, this new iteration provides a fresh update to a previous sign with a similar message.

WELCOME TO

VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

The sky is no limit for

# DUKE JOHNSON '91



Given that he grew up on a farm near Fingal, N.D., went to college at Valley City State University 20 minutes away, and after graduation took a job as a math and science teacher

an hour from home, it wouldn't be a reach to think that Durand "Duke" Johnson '91 could still be teaching in Jamestown.

But Duke, as he's been known to everyone since second grade, reached for the stars by pursuing an interest in astronomy, and now he serves as associate director at one of the top planetariums in the nation, Clark Planetarium in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The career path that Duke took to his current position went like this: He followed up a year teaching in the Jamestown Public Schools with a year-long astronomy internship at Buehler Planetarium in Davie, Fla., and then joined SciWorks Science Center (now Kaleideum North) in Winston-Salem, N.C., as director of education, programs and planetarium. While in North Carolina, Duke also served as an adjunct astronomy professor at both Forsyth Technical Community College and Surry Community College.

In 2003 Duke became director of education at Clark Planetarium and about four years later took on added responsibilities for exhibits; he became the planetarium's associate director in 2017. Along the way he earned a master's degree in space science from the University of North Dakota to add to his VCSU bachelor's degree in math and chemistry with a physics minor.

In his role now at Clark Planetarium, Duke still manages the exhibits and education mission, but that simple phrase doesn't do justice to the work he's taken on.

In the last five years, Duke has led a \$4 million exhibit and building renovation project, including writing and administering the \$2 million

exhibit renovation, all the while "working with architects, engineers, designers and planetarium staff to achieve a shared vision." He was very much hands-on in developing the new exhibits — participating in the design, testing, and prototyping — and also writing copy for them and evaluating their performance.

In addition to viewing planetarium shows and seeing IMAX movies, Clark patrons have plenty of hands-on experiences to choose from. Organized using the categories of Earth, Near Earth, and the Solar System and Beyond, the exhibits aim "to deliver innovative science experiences that drive curiosity and learning."

Visitors can step into a tornado, make a volcano or an earthquake, defend the earth from asteroids, pilot a lunar lander, fire solar flares at Earth, control an auroral display, and compare masses of stars and black holes. In the most immersive part of the planetarium, visitors can stand on Io, Jupiter's closest moon, and experience a close-up view of the biggest planet (Jupiter is more than 11 times larger than earth). And that's just a sampling of what's available in the planetarium's 10,000 square feet of exhibits, all free to visitors.

By restructuring staff, Duke was also able to create an exhibit development team to create the interactive software experiences in house, and by selling that software to other museums, the planetarium has been able to develop another revenue stream.

In addition to the informal role the exhibits play in educating the public and making space approachable, Duke also coordinates a formal education program for teachers. Over the last 15 years, he estimates that the planetarium has provided 3-hour workshops to about 250 teachers a year. "Through these workshops and materials provided to over 4,000 teachers," says Duke, "we have leveraged their work to provide tens of thousands of hours of improved instruction to Utah students."



Apart from his museum work, Duke enjoys the time he's able to spend with his family. He and his wife, Marsha (Walen) Johnson '93, have two sons, James (age 8) and Kevin (4), and the family enjoys hiking and outdoor activities. STEM education plays a role in family life, too; Duke says, "I have been working with my kids to help them understand how to fix toys, understand their world and seek solutions to problems."

Duke and Marsha met at VCSU; that also came when Duke was reaching for the stars: "I enjoyed checking out the telescope and trying to take astrophotos of planets and nebulae. It was great experience, even though my photography results were less than stellar. One attempt resulted in me meeting my future wife, through behind-the-scenes collaboration between Alice Beauchman and Joe Stickler, so that was good."

The couple work together on an online photography business, Desert Skies Photography, which has taken them to some of the most beautiful places on the planet. Duke serves as the main photographer and Marsha manages the business side and also serves as



*(Opposite page top) The Milky Way over the Colorado River, just below Dead Horse Point State Park, Utah. (Opposite page inset) Durand "Duke" Johnson '91. (Top right) Aurora over the Hi-Line Bridge, Valley City, November 2014. (Inset) Marsha, Kevin and James Johnson. (Bottom right) Canis Major and the Milky Way over the Ghost Panel of the Great Gallery, Canyonlands National Park, Utah, March 2015.*

“The Mule,” the nickname she’s given herself after carrying equipment, food and water on their photographic travels.

As Duke tells it, “As digital photography quickly advanced around 2004, I started pursuing that art at a new level. It required mastering both the camera and processing as I worked to improve my skills and take images that few other people were trying to capture. As equipment and software further improved by 2008, I made many pilgrimages to our national parks to photograph iconic features with the Milky Way and developed a technique for capturing both a sharp sky and sharp foreground, which is made more complicated since the stars continue to move overhead due to the rotation of the earth.”

With their sons in the picture these days, they’ve intentionally stepped back marketing their photographic work several notches, but they’ve amassed an inventory of amazing photography viewable (and for sale) on their website, [www.desertskiesphotography.com](http://www.desertskiesphotography.com), with some of their newer work on a Facebook page, “Desert Skies Photography.”

The aurora borealis, also known as Northern Lights, have been a particular focus of Duke’s photography.

On self-funded expeditions with two colleagues who blogged the events, Duke has traveled to inhospitable places to capture a remarkable series of images. “I photographed the Northern Lights with standard camera setups and then with a fisheye lens so that I could do time lapse of the aurora,” says Duke. “Assembling all these frames together and blending with a special processing has allowed me to amass over 60 minutes of Aurora from Yellowknife in the Northwest Territory where temperatures were between -30 and -40 degrees Fahrenheit (which presented many problems), half a dozen locations in Norway and several locations in Iceland. The special blending of images makes it look as though the aurora is happening in real time.”

Duke has put that footage to use in the dome theatre at the planetarium. “All this footage has been used to give live interactive lectures in the planetarium dome,” he says, “since I know that few people will actually be able to make the journey themselves. A few people have even come back and told me that they have made the trip themselves after being inspired to undertake the journey by coming to one of my programs.”

His own journey from Fingal to Salt Lake City via Valley City State University has been remarkable, and Duke gives credit to his roots.

“While growing up, I always felt that I had to do my best. It was important to make every effort to learn and do as much as possible at a high level.

This showed in my school career, sports, my participation in 4-H, and my career at VCSU, where I was named outstanding student in the Math and Science Department before graduating.”

At VCSU, Alice Beuchman, retired photography instructor, was a strong influence in Duke’s developing interest in photography. “Alice’s easy manner and style made that experience a lot of fun,” he says. “I think that I spent three or four times more hours in the photo lab than most students just because it was so much fun and because I could experiment with different processing techniques.”

Duke’s advisor at VCSU was English professor Dick Betting. “I very much enjoyed his dry sense of humor as it somewhat matched my own,” says Duke.

Joe Stickler, now professor emeritus of chemistry, also contributed to Duke’s success: “Dr. Stickler may have been the toughest instructor I had. I had to work incredibly hard to earn good grades in his classes. Work had to be well formulated and very thorough with great attention being paid to the details. From him, I learned the importance of rigor.”

Stickler has served as a reference for Duke over time; what does he think of his former student? “Durand has a wonderful blend of intelligence, work ethic, and ambition that marks him for success. He also has a unique presence that comes from a blend of confidence, enthusiasm, and humor. Mix these two blends together and you get a very interesting person. ...His high level of interest in the world around him is one of his greatest assets.”

Marsha, Duke, and their sons get back to Valley City and Glenfield, N.D. (Marsha’s hometown) when they have a chance. The boys “love visiting Grandma Liz in Valley City and their Grandma Carol on the farm near Glenfield,” says Marsha. Duke likes to fish when he comes back, and reconnecting with farm life and his VCSU experience is important to him, too — it’s a big part of who he is.

“The combination of my life as a farm kid and the rigor of coursework at VCSU showed me that great results are possible if you just learn how to do things properly and maintain attention to detail,” says Duke. “It really does make a difference to ‘sweat the small stuff.’ I have always wanted to go further and do more and do it better.”

Duke has gone far in his field; he’s reached for the stars and found them in his planetarium work and in his photography. The expression may be “the sky is the limit,” but for Duke Johnson, the sky is not the limit, it’s a world of possibility.



Geminid Meteor Shower over Balanced Rock in Arches National Park, Utah (five-hour composite)



Aurora over a tent, Vee Lake, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada (-40 Fahrenheit)



# \$32 million Communication and Fine Arts Building funded by legislature

When Governor Doug Burgum signed Senate Bill No. 2297 on May 2, he finalized the North Dakota Legislature's funding of a new Communication and Fine Arts Building at Valley City State University.

The \$32 million funding for the new building at VCSU came as part of a bonding bill for higher education capital projects. The VCSU Communication and Fine Arts Building will replace Foss Hall, which now stands behind a floodwall built to protect Valley City.

"I want to thank the legislature, the governor, the state board and the system office for their support of our fine arts building project," said VCSU President Alan D. LaFave. "This project has been years in the making, and there's great joy on campus and the community knowing that the building will become a reality."

The floods of 2009 and 2011 brought home the need for permanent flood protection for Valley City and emphasized the perilous perch of Foss Hall on the banks of the Sheyenne River. Situated too close to the river to allow construction of the floodwall between the building and river, Foss now sits on the wrong side of the floodwall constructed in the first phase of Valley City's permanent flood protection project.

The North Dakota University System (NDUS) has recognized the need to replace Foss Hall for several years, and VCSU's plan to build a Communication and Fine Arts Building was the No. 1 system capital project priority heading into the 2015 North Dakota legislative session. That year the legislature approved contingency funding of \$25.8 million for the new building, based on state revenues reaching an economic trigger. Unfortunately, an economic downturn meant that the trigger level was never reached, and the next legislative session in 2017 resulted in cuts to state spending, including higher education, and no capital projects for the system.

In 2019, the fate of Foss Hall once again lay in the hands of North Dakota legislators and the governor. Still the No. 1 NDUS capital project heading into the legislative session, the Communication and Fine Arts Building received strong support from the legislature with Senate Bill No. 2297 passing in the Senate 46-0 and in the House 74-17. When the governor's signature made it official, there was much celebration among the VCSU faithful.

The proposed Communication and Fine Arts Building, to be built west of the Student Center, will replace Foss Hall and consolidate the VCSU art and music programs in one facility, along with the communication program. The Art, Music and Communication Arts departments — comprising five majors, five minors and four certificate programs — will share the building, synergistically strengthening an atmosphere of inspiration, collaboration and innovation.

Every student completing the general education program at VCSU will take at least two courses (six credits) in this building, giving all freshmen on campus access to modern classroom facilities and increased exposure to the arts.

"We're so excited about the prospects of a new building for all students at VCSU," said President LaFave, "and we'll look forward to bringing the art, music and communication programs together under one roof."

In addition to removing the threat of flooding, the new building will alleviate deficiencies in Foss Hall, providing proper climate control to protect and preserve expensive instruments, ADA accessibility with an elevator running between floors, and appropriate acoustics in performance and practice spaces. Razing Foss Hall will also realize a deferred maintenance savings of \$2.5 million.

The music portion of the new building, "designed for students, tuned for sound, and built with the latest acoustics will be a boon for recruiting," said Christopher Redfearn, chair of the VCSU Music Department.

Having a new building will "provide a facility commensurate with the needs of our talented students and help attract prospective students," said President LaFave. "This will add so much to our campus and community as a showcase for the arts and a learning laboratory for our students. Thanks to all who played a role in making this happen for VCSU and North Dakota."

A campus committee is currently working with the HGA architectural firm on the design of the building. Site preparation will begin this fall, with groundbreaking to kick off construction in spring 2020.



## 127th spring commencement held May 11 in fieldhouse

Valley City State University held its 127th commencement exercises at W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse on Saturday, May 11.

More than 320 students were degree candidates, including 38 candidates for the Master of Education degree, 7 candidates for the Master of Arts in Teaching degree, 169 candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Education degree, 6 candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree, 102 candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree, and 2 candidates for the Bachelor of University Studies degree.

In addition, 18 students from Dakota College at Bottineau completing DCB nursing programs on the VCSU campus were recognized at commencement. This group included 7 candidates for the Associate Degree in Nursing and 11 candidates for the Certificate in Practical Nursing. Special recognition was given to those graduating with academic honors, along with 22 undergraduates who completed their VCSU degrees in less than four years.

Presiding at the ceremony was President Alan LaFave, participating in his first VCSU commencement after joining the university in mid-December after serving as provost at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. In his remarks, President LaFave spoke of the joy and excitement he felt leading the university and acknowledged the warm welcome he had received in Valley City, drawing laughs from the audience when he recounted that a VCSU alumnus had sent him a note that said “Welcome to the better Dakota.”

President LaFave quoted fellow South Dakotan Tom Brokaw, retired news anchor and author of “The Greatest Generation,” who had said in a

commencement address, “You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as a ticket to a good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative — think of it as your ticket to change the world.”

In his remarks, President LaFave stated, “...The student body at VCSU is involved and active, and you have all contributed to the culture and success of our university. This is indeed a special place and one that will fill your heart and mind with lifelong cherished memories....You have truly made a difference for VCSU, and we hope we have done the same for you.”

Closing advice for the graduates from President LaFave came via a Dr. Seuss quote from “The Cat in the Hat” — “Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind.” The president concluded his remarks with his signature phrase, “Go Vikings!”

Daniel Traynor, J.D., a member of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education and an attorney from Devils Lake, brought greetings from the board. Traynor noted that both of his grandmothers attended and received degrees (in 1913 and 1915) from what was then Valley City Normal School before women could vote in the United States and North Dakota.

Traynor recognized that commencement came at a good time, with VCSU coming out of the legislative session with a budget increase, a new building, and a raise for faculty and staff. He thanked District 24 legislators Larry Robinson, Dwight Kiefert and Daniel Johnston for their work in the session and gave Robinson special mention, noting that he was admired by members of both political parties for his legislative work. “A university education...is about giving graduates...a look into a



Marc Wagner gave the undergraduate reflection at spring commencement 2019.



(above) President Alan La Fave congratulates a graduate as SBHE member Daniel Traynor looks on. (inset) Graduate Darius Graves with football coaches and mentors Dennis McCulloch and Gregg Horner. (right) Graduate Clarissa Olson with her parents, Trisa and Al Olson '84, professor of education.





(top left) VCSU at NDSU elementary education graduates with faculty members Joan Klein and Yvonne Cannon. (top right) Graduates of the Dakota College at Bottineau nursing program on the VCSU campus. (bottom left) Graduate Harley Mairs of Stirum, N.D. (bottom right) The mortarboards proclaim that these two graduates are good to go with their exit buddy strategy. (inset) Graduates Jared Lentz and Dustin Miller.

larger world and what it means to be involved in a community and be an engaged citizen,” said Traynor, and he congratulated the graduates on a job well done.

Presenting the undergraduate reflection was Marc Wagner, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in physical education and health education with a focus on special education, along with a coaching certificate. Wagner served as president of the VCSU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and as a captain on the football team; he was twice named a Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete.

In thinking about his time at VCSU, Wagner said, “The lessons I learned about things like time management, organization, discipline and life in general have undoubtedly shaped me and pushed me to be the person that I am today.” He credited his Viking football coaches, Coach Mac and Coach Horner, in providing him with pieces of advice that helped him at VCSU.

From Coach Dennis McCulloch came the notion of investment and the realization for Wagner that he needed to put more of himself into his pursuits. “I invested in the things that mattered most in my life — I invested in myself, my family, my friends, my teammates, the game of football, and my relationships as a whole,” said Wagner. “When I invested...I started to grow.”

And from the whiteboard of Coach Gregg Horner came the words “Be where your feet are.” Said Wagner, “When you find yourself battling uncertainty in this life, take some time to be present — be where your feet are.”

In closing, Wagner thanked the VCSU community for his many opportunities on campus, and encouraged the assembly to “Never forget that we all row!”

Emily Fenster, Ph.D., presented the faculty reflection. Associate professor in the VCSU Social Science Department, Fenster was recognized as “Teacher of the Year” by the VCSU Student Senate this spring.

Fenster talked of the different academic hats she wears at VCSU — she teaches sociology, gerontology and human services — and shared insights gained from her studies in the different disciplines.

From sociology, she said, “We gain a better understanding of the world when we step outside...our own experiences.” From gerontology, she suggested that we need to expect the unexpected and plan for it. Fenster posed questions for self-reflection as we grow older: “What kind of person do you want to be, and how do you want to be remembered?” From the human services perspective, her suggestion was “Consider how you want to be treated by others and what you can do to help others,” and she gave the advice “Take care of yourself.”

In summarizing her remarks to the graduates, Fenster said, “Focus on what you can control. Seek help from and provide encouragement to others. Consider how you can do your best every single day.”

Music throughout the commencement ceremony was provided by the VCSU Concert Band and Brass Ensemble, both directed by Jerrold Heide.



It's two thumbs up for master's graduate Jennifer Kolesar as she's hooded by graduate faculty James Boe and Julee Russell.

## Employee Recognition Dinner honors faculty, staff achievements

The annual Employee Recognition Dinner was held May 9 in the Student Center cafeteria. At the event, select faculty and staff were recognized for their contributions and achievements, including years of service, annual awards, and individual accomplishments.

### Years of Service Recognition

- 25 years of service — Preston Bush, Jane Hammer, Gregg Horner, Dennis McCulloch
- 20 years of service — Jill DeVries, CJ Kotta, Brad Mills, Patti Rickford, Charlene Stenson, Kari Stricklin, Shannon Van Horn
- 15 years of service — Louis Wieland
- 10 years of service — Richard Clark, Rachelle Hunt, Jackie Owen, Jenni Lou Russi, Jodi Shorma
- 5 years of service — Scott Anderson, Brian Bakke, Megan Banderet, Sharon Bratrud, Luis da Vinha, Brock Drenth, Aleisha Kiser, Nicole Kneeland, Kevin Knight, Jason Kremer, Adam Longmore, Russell Marker, Amber Olson, Steve Rindfleisch, Jody Schnaidt, Lynette Stephens, Rebecca Sundstrom, Linda Trzruc, Angela Williams

### Retirements

- Pat Egeberg, director for student health services/worksite wellness coordinator
- Tilmer Gienger, facilities building security
- Jane Hammer, assistant professor of computer systems and software engineering
- Ronald Holten, associate professor of technology
- Gilbert Kuipers, associate professor of science
- Dennis Triebold, heat plant operator

### 2019 Faculty Excellence Awards

- Senior Faculty — Joan Aus, associate professor of education
- Junior Faculty — Kevin Murphy, assistant professor of science
- Adjunct Special Appointment — Robin Allebach, instructor in music

### Faculty Awarded Tenure and Promotion for 2019-20

(new rank listed)

- Amber Aberle, assistant professor in education
- Emily Fenster, associate professor of social science
- Rachelle Hunt, associate professor of kinesiology and human performance
- Brenda Tyre, associate professor of business

### Faculty Awarded Promotion for 2019-20

(new rank listed)

- Sarah Milner, associate professor of kinesiology and human performance
- Jonna Ziniel, associate professor of communication arts

### Student Senate Awards

*Student Advocate*

- Jackie Owen, learning services coordinator/disabilities support services
- Tammy Peterson, Sodexo food service director

*Teacher of the Year*

- Emily Fenster, assistant professor of social science

### Completion of Degrees and Professional Certification

- Amber Aberle, instructor, School of Education and Graduate Studies, doctorate in education
- Debra Dramstad, technology services IT support specialist, CompTIA A+ certification
- Steve Rindfleisch, assistant volleyball coach, master's degree in education



Recognized for 20 years of service to VCSU were (l to r) Jill DeVries, Shannon VanHorn, Charlene Stenson, Patti Rickford, Brad Mills and Kari Stricklin. (Not pictured: CJ Kotta)



Recognized for 25 years of service to Valley City State University at the 2019 Employee Recognition Dinner were (l to r) Jane Hammer, Dennis McCulloch, Preston Bush and Gregg Horner.

### Staff Employee of the Quarter

- Brian Bakke, facilities building operations manager
- Rick Clark, facilities services
- Ben Ferguson, library systems specialist
- Tyler Tufte, applications developer

### "The Difference Maker" Award

- Jerilyn Beckman, digital content specialist
- Keith Biggers, facilities services
- William Blunck, network administrator
- Margaret Dahlberg, interim president/vice president for academic affairs
- Erik Kringlie, director of data centers and virtualization
- Loree Morehouse, foundation data processing and research coordinator
- Mike Nix, director for technology service desk
- Lonny Scheer, systems administrator
- Kari Stricklin, director for student center/student activities

### Facilities Services Anchor Award

- Ryan Ellis
- Tilmer Gienger
- Becky Heise
- Darryl Heiser
- Kevin Knight
- Jamie Thebo



Recipients of 2019 Student Advocate Award from Staff Senate were Tammy Peterson (left) and Jackie Owen.



Receiving tenure and promotion were faculty members (l to r) Amber Aberle, Emily Fenster and Brenda Tyre. Also honored but not pictured was Rachelle Hunt.



Faculty Excellence Awards were given to (l to r) Robin Allebach, Kevin Murphy and Joan Aus.

# Valley City State University

# HOMECOMING 2019



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

For up-to-date schedules and more information, visit [www.vcsualumni.org](http://www.vcsualumni.org) or call 701-845-7203.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

37th Annual Bill Osmon Fun Run ..... 4 p.m. ....Lokken Stadium

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Inauguration Recital featuring President LaFave..... 7 p.m. .... Froemke Auditorium

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Inauguration of our 14th President – Dr. Alan LaFave ..... 10 a.m. .... W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse

Inauguration Reception ..... 11:30 a.m. .... Epworth Methodist Church

Alumni Welcome Back Ice Cream Social ..... 2:30 p.m. .... Student Center Lounge  
*Join us for an ice cream social. This informal get together will allow you to renew acquaintances and reminisce.*

Campus Tours..... 3 p.m. .... Student Center Lounge

Hall of Fame Social ..... 5 p.m. ....Valley City Eagles Club  
*Alumni and friends are invited to stop by the Valley City Eagles Club and socialize with the Hall of Fame inductees.*

Hall of Fame Banquet & Ceremony..... 6 p.m. ....Valley City Eagles Club  
*Banquet tickets (\$20 each) are available by contacting the VCSU Foundation at 701-845-7403.*

Transit Authority Concert ..... 8 p.m. ....Campus Green  
*This Chicago tribute band will be playing in honor of President LaFave's inauguration. Join us for music, dancing and fellowship.*

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Alumni Honors Breakfast..... 8:30 a.m. .... Student Center Cafeteria  
*The Alumni Honors breakfast provides the VCSU Alumni Association with an opportunity to present the Distinguished Alumnus, Alumni Service and Certificate of Merit Awards. Tickets for the breakfast will be available at the door and are \$10 each.*

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

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

First Annual VCSU Alumni Motorcycle/Classic Car Cruise..... 11 a.m..... see page 15

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

Football: Vikings vs. Dakota State University ..... 2 p.m. ....Shelly Ellig Field

Postgame and All-Alumni Social..... 5 p.m. ....Valley City Eagles  
*This social is open to all VCSU alumni and friends to enjoy an opportunity to socialize and reminisce. No charge to attend this event. (There will be a taco bar set up for attendees and a no-host bar.)*

College Student and Alumni Dance ..... 9 p.m. ....Valley City Eagles  
*The dance is open to all alumni, friends and college students. No charge to attend.*

For up-to-date schedules and more information, visit [www.vcsualumni.org](http://www.vcsualumni.org) or call 701-845-7203.

## HOF INDUCTEES

**DONNA (BADER) YOUNG '83**  
Gymnastics

**MIKE JEWETT**  
Men's Basketball

**MARK NORDEEN '76**  
Football/Baseball

**DAVE OLSON '79**  
Football

**AMY (OTTINGER) KITCHING '83**  
Gymnastics

**1971-72 & 1972-73**  
**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS**

**1974-75 & 1975-76**  
**MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS**

**1980-81 & 1981-82**  
**GYMNASTICS TEAMS**

## HONORED ALUMNI

**MEL MCNEA '78**  
Distinguished Alumni Award

**GEORGE BERGER '75**  
Alumni Service Award

**TODD '82 AND TERESA (PRITCHARD) '80**  
**CHRISTIENSEN**  
Alumni Service Award

### CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENTS

Galen Brantley '98

Kevin Bratland '90

Dave Griffin '80

Scott King '81

Rhonda (Schneekloth) Nudell '92

Wayne Steiner '97

## Annual luncheon held for retired faculty and staff

The annual luncheon for retired faculty and staff was held July 10 in the Student Center Skoal Room. Margaret Dahlberg, vice president for academic affairs, provided an update on campus happenings, and Jamie Wirth and Gary Ketterling from VCSU's Great Plains STEM Education Center provided an overview of the center and a look at this summer's Middle School STEM Academy.

*Pictured are (front, l to r) John Keller '55, Connie Reed, Betty Gibbons, Ellen Kienitz, Margaret Dahlberg; (back) Al Siebert, Larry Grooters '57, Gilbert Kuipers, Roger Rand, Jim Dew, Kay Kringlie '66, Jim Crawford, Marcia Foss '72, Dick Betting, Ellen Chaffee, Bob Bruhschwein, Joan Noeske '62, Glen Schmalz '76, Connie Pederson '91, Dave Melgaard, Mylo Falstad and Sara Hagen.*



## Join VCSU students, faculty on tour of Eastern Europe



*Hungarian Parliament on the Danube River in Budapest*

VCSU social science professors Steven King, Anthony Dutton and Luis da Vinha will be leading a tour of Eastern Europe from June 18-29, 2020.

Alumni and friends of the college are invited to join the tour leaders and 15 VCSU students who have enrolled in the tour — “Urban Environments and Culture in Eastern Europe” — thus far.

The 12-day trip itinerary will take participants to Budapest, Krakow, Auschwitz, Prague and Vienna. Highlights include a boat cruise on the Danube River in Budapest, Wawel Cathedral in Krakow, a sightseeing tour of Prague and Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna.

Accommodations, daily breakfasts, expert local guides, ground transportation and round-trip airfare are all included. (The group will fly out of Fargo, but if you prefer to fly from an airport closer to your home, that can be arranged.)

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with current students, rekindle your VCSU ties, and explore Eastern Europe with a friendly (and scholarly!) group.

For costs and other information, visit [www.efcollegestudytours.com/professors-trip/2182393MX](http://www.efcollegestudytours.com/professors-trip/2182393MX). If you have any questions, please email Professor King at [steven.king@vcsu.edu](mailto:steven.king@vcsu.edu).



*“We support our favorite alma mater and are grateful for the excellent preparation to teach and for those we met on campus, many who remain lifelong friends. We treasure our happy memories of VCSU, first as students in the late 1950s and then as faculty in the 1970s. We give to partially repay the support we received and urge other alumni to also ‘pay it forward’ so you too have the good feeling of helping future Vikings!”*

*– Deanne (Roseth) '60 and Bob Horne '59, Fargo*



## WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

An endowment is a special fund in which the principal is invested in perpetuity and never used. The interest earnings support the annual scholarship allocation. Endowments are an excellent way to honor or memorialize a loved one, teacher, coach or your family.

***The VCSU Foundation requires a minimum investment of \$10,500 to establish an endowment.***

Donors can invest the funds all at one time, or make periodic contributions to the fund until such time that the \$10,500 minimum is met. Once the fund is established, contributions to the fund can continue into the future.

# ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!

**Deadline: December 1, 2020**

## NORTH DAKOTA CHALLENGE FUND MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

The 2019 North Dakota legislators have once again created the North Dakota Challenge Fund Matching Grant Program. VCSU has been allocated up to \$700,000 of matching dollars if we can raise \$1,400,000 in private dollars. The VCSU Foundation is using this program to enhance more than 225 scholarship endowment funds.

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

With a minimum \$5,000 endowment gift to Valley City State University 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 dollar for every \$2 dollars you give.

## NORTH DAKOTA ENDOWMENT GIFT CREDIT

The endowment credit makes it possible for individuals, businesses and financial institutions to give more, and through their contributions, have a greater impact on the state's quality of life. An endowment is a fund in which the principal is 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
<b>NET COST TO YOU</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

As you can see, 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 contacting the VCSU Foundation at [alumni@vcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vcsu.edu) or (701) 845-7203.**

*We accept the challenge!*



Mark & Kathy Finstad  
Erskine, Minn.

*We challenge you!*



Phil '68 & Darlene (Elston) '69 Mueller  
Valley City, N.D.

*Join us in the challenge!*



Paul '76 & Patricia (Herzberg) '77 Sandness  
Bismarck, N.D.



**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Valley City State University Foundation  
101 College Street SW  
Valley City, ND 58072

Phone: 701 845 7203 • Fax: 701 845 7464  
Toll Free: 800 532 8641 x37203  
[www.vcsualumni.org](http://www.vcsualumni.org)

## VCSU Foundation holds Recognition Luncheon

On Monday, June 10, the Valley City State University Foundation honored its donors who over the last year have reached a new level of giving. Held on campus in the Student Center cafeteria, this year's Recognition Luncheon drew 90 attendees. Individuals and businesses were recognized for their continued support to the university through donations, volunteerism and other efforts.

During the luncheon attendees heard campus updates from VCSU President Alan LaFave and Larry Robinson, executive director of the VCSU Foundation. "We are forever thankful and appreciative for the tremendous support we receive from our alumni and friends," commented Robinson. "They continually give of their time, talent and treasure. The investment they are making in our students and university is paying big dividends."

The following donors were recognized for reaching a new level of giving over the past year (7/1/18- 6/30/19):

**Clocktower II Level (\$2,000,000–\$2,999,999)**

George and Audrey Gaukler  
Ken\* and Kit\* Shimota

**Clocktower I Level (\$1,000,000–\$1,999,999)**

John and Diane\* Hill

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

Wilma Nelson\*

**Platinum Level (\$250,000–\$499,999)**

Ethel I. Anderson\*

**Diamond Level (\$100,000–\$249,999)**

Dr. Gigi M. Goven  
Alex Stern Family Foundation

**Gold Level (\$50,000–\$99,999)**

Dave and Patty Bass  
Larry and Mary Lee Robinson  
Star Enterprises, Inc., A Division of Strata Corporation

**Regents Level (\$25,000–\$49,999)**

Darrell and Joan\* Bowman  
Bob\* and Nancy King  
Chris and Trina Kvilvang, Nodak Mutual Insurance  
Jay and Marilyn Matthews  
Tracy and Corey McGillis  
William R. Tyrrell

\*Deceased



(front, l to r) Nancy King, Gigi Goven, Dave Bass '77, Mary Lee (Haugland) Robinson '71 and Trina (Elsperger) Kvilvang '96. (back) William R. Tyrrell '83, George Gaukler '62, Alan LaFave, Chris Kvilvang '93, Larry Robinson '71, Tracy (Baily) McGillis '97



1ST ANNUAL VCSU ALUMNI

# MOTORCYCLE/CAR CRUISE



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

## STOPS INCLUDE

- Ashtabula Crossing
- Punky's Bar (Dazey)
- J&L's Bar & Grill (Sanborn)

There will be snacks and prizes given out at each stop. The cruise will end at Lokken Stadium where you will join VCSU supporters in the tailgating festivities and lunch.

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

# SEPTEMBER 28

Registration - VCSU Walkbridge (southside)  
10:00-10:45 a.m.

Cruise Starting at 11 a.m.

\$20/entry | First 5 registrations free

First 75 participants to receive  
an official VCSU Homecoming bandana!

To preregister, call the VCSU Alumni/Foundation at 701-845-7203 or email: [alumni@vcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vcsu.edu)



**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S  
CORNER  
JILL DEVRIES**



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/vcsuvikings](http://www.facebook.com/vcsuvikings)  
 Twitter: @vcsuvikings  
 Instagram: vcsuvikings  
 Website: [www.vcsuvikings.com](http://www.vcsuvikings.com)

What a tremendous spring for VCSU Viking Athletics! The softball team went 54-5 and qualified for the 2019 NAIA World Series, the third time in program history. We had seven track and field athletes compete at the NAIA outdoor track meet in Gulf Shores, Ala., with two All-American performances. VCSU won the inaugural North Star Athletic Association Commissioner's Cup recognizing the best overall department in 2018-19. And, 63 of our student-athletes earned NSAA Scholar-Athlete for spring semester.

Spring was fast and furious, because Mother Nature made it so short and the VCSU Viking success on and off the links/track/diamonds was fantastic!

"So, what do you do all summer?" I'm often asked. "Do you have it off?" The answer is NO! We hosted over 1,000 elementary, junior and senior high school athletes at our summer camps.

Summer 2019 has been full of hiring new staff, facility upgrades, and planning for what promises to be a fantastic fall of Viking Athletics! High water raises all boats, and #WeAllRow is more than a tagline at Valley City State University!

We said goodbye to our own Jamie Paurus (head golf coach) who passed unexpectedly in early June. Our department, campus and Valley

City community are still mourning his loss. We said goodbye to Coach Mike Mook, head softball coach, who left for a NCAA DII opportunity. We said goodbye to longtime assistant volleyball coach, Steve Rindfleisch, who advanced to NCAA D1 UND as an assistant coach.

We welcome Mark and Barbara Mattson and their family to the Viking family as our new softball staff. We hired VCSU alumna Taylor Balken as our new assistant volleyball coach. And, we hired Kari Bodine as our head golf coach/assistant SID.

The John and Diane Hill Track Complex was completed in July. We installed new stadium seating at Lokken Stadium as well in July. The upgrades to our facilities will also include more storage, new fencing, and branding wind screens. We are in the middle of planning our second annual Ag Bowl, the Viking football opener slated for August 29 versus longtime rival the University of Jamestown Jimmies, as well as our Century Club membership drive.

We believe in the value of VCSU Viking Athletics, and the experience we provide our student-athletes is important to us. Your continued support is also very important to us. We look forward to catching you at a game this fall, winter, and spring. We need you to help us reach our goals, and the success of one is good for all: a rising tide lifts all boats! We All Row!

**Athletic Department wins conference cup and individual awards**



Mark Potts

The VCSU Athletic Department earned three North Star Athletic Association awards at the North Star Summit held in Watertown, S.D., in May.

Valley City State won the first NSAA Commissioner's Cup trophy, which is awarded to the top performing athletic department based on the final conference standings in all sports. VCSU had 9 of its 14 teams finish in the Top 3 in 2018-19 North

Star competition.

Jill DeVries was named the NSAA Athletic Director of the Year, and Mark Potts was named the NSAA Sports Information Director of the Year. The awards are voted on by various personnel from NSAA schools.

DeVries just completed her second year as athletic director at VCSU. This season, she spearheaded the creation and execution of several new events that enhanced VCSU's connections to the community and alumni. DeVries was the driving force behind VCSU's first Ag Bowl; she organized and executed a "50 Years of Women's Athletics" alumni reunion weekend; and she played the lead administrative role as VCSU hosted both the NSAA Softball and Baseball Championships at the same time this spring.

Potts just finished his sixth season as VCSU's sports information director. This is the second time he has earned NSAA SID of the Year; he also won in 2017. Potts runs the athletic department website and social media and oversees photography and videography



(front, l to r) Dennis McCulloch, Ryan Montgomery, Adam Longmore; (back) Jamie Paurus, Casey Olney, Jill DeVries, Vanessa Keeler-Johnson

for the department. At the conference level this season, Potts organized live video broadcasts for the first NSAA Basketball Final Four in Watertown, S.D., and was the main SID contact at the NSAA Softball and Baseball Championships this spring.

## Spring Recaps

### Track & Field: Odegard and Gonzalez earn All-American honors

Kyle Odegard and Dennis Gonzalez earned All-American honors as part of a group of seven VCSU track and field athletes competing at the NAIA Outdoor Track & Field National Championships in Gulf Shores, Ala., in May.

Odegard placed fourth in the nation in the javelin after unleashing a school-record throw of 64.26 meters (210 feet, 10 inches). It beat his own school record by more than nine feet and bested his seventh-place finish in 2018.

Gonzalez qualified for nationals in the men's marathon and went on to finish fifth, earning All-American honors for the first time in his career.

Garret Roemmich placed 13th in men's javelin; Alex Otto tied for 24th in men's high jump; and Dylan Olson placed 36th in the men's marathon.

For the VCSU women, Grace Miller set a new school record in the marathon and placed 12th at nationals. Mackenzie Huber placed 19th in women's discus for the second straight season.

The VCSU track and field teams combined to win six conference titles at the NSAA Outdoor Championships in early May. Grace Miller doubled up with titles in the women's 5,000 and 10,000 meter runs. Bryeann



Kyle Odegard



Dennis Gonzalez, Grace Miller, Dylan Olson

Robertson won the women's shot put. For the Viking men, Otto won the high jump, Odegard won the javelin and Dylan Olson won the 3,000 meter steeplechase. VCSU had a total of 19 All-Conference finishes (Top 3).

Valley City State's men placed third overall, and the women took fourth at the conference championships.



Jacob Rosales



Vikings celebrate a home run during the NSAA tournament.

### Baseball: Vikings advance to NSAA championship game

The VCSU baseball season came to an end one step shy of the NAIA National Tournament.

The Vikings finished second at the NSAA Conference Tournament, losing the championship game to Bellevue University, which went on to qualify for the NAIA World Series.

Valley City State finished the season with a 21-24 overall record. The Vikings went 12-11 in conference play and earned the No. 3 seed for the postseason. VCSU won two straight loser-out games in the tournament against Mayville State (13-2) and Waldorf University (10-0) to advance to the NSAA Championship. Bellevue's offense was just too good as the Bruins rolled to the title.

The Vikings had three pitchers earn 1st Team All-Conference honors, including starters Jacob Rosales and Phillip Almanza, and reliever Brady Engebretson.

### Golf: Viking men place 2nd at NSAA Championships

The VCSU men's golf team placed second at the North Star Athletic Association Conference Championships this spring, with three Vikings finishing in the Top 10 to earn All-Conference honors during the 36-hole tournament at Platteview Golf Club in Bellevue, Neb. The second-

place finish at the conference meet is the top postseason finish for the Vikings since the golf program was reinstated in 2009.

Junior Collin Hoss led the Vikings with a fifth-place finish, while senior Casey Julson placed seventh and senior Jared Lentz took 10th. The Viking men won four team titles and five

individual titles — three by Lentz — at regular season meets this year.

The Viking women placed fifth at the NSAA Championships, led by freshman Jocelyn Braunberger who took ninth place and earned All-Conference honors. Braunberger won medalist honors once during the 2018-19 season.



Jocelyn Braunberger



Jared Lentz

## VCSU Softball Records Set in 2019

### Team Season

- Wins:** 54
- Hits:** 574
- At Bats:** 1648
- RBIs:** 344
- Runs:** 399
- Triples:** 20
- Doubles:** 112
- ERA:** 1.55
- Strikeouts:** 448
- Shutouts:** 21

### Individual Season

- At Bats:**  
206, Joelle Aiello
- Hits:**  
84, Joelle Aiello
- RBIs:**  
60, Marissa Hawkins
- Triples:**  
7, Joelle Aiello
- Runs:**  
69, Voni Culp
- Pitching Wins:**  
33, Emily Smith

### Individual Career

- Home Runs:**  
24, Tatum Lundin
- Triples:**  
10, Joelle Aiello
- Games Played:**  
212, Tatum Lundin

Emily Smith

## Softball caps off stellar season with world series appearance

The VCSU softball team had a historic season in 2019, winning a school record 54 games and advancing to the NAIA World Series for the third time in program history.

The Vikings finished the season with a 54-5 overall record and won both the North Star Athletic Association regular season and tournament championships. VCSU went on to win the NAIA Opening Round bracket in Columbia, Mo., advancing to the 10-team NAIA World Series.

The Vikings went 0-2 at the World Series in Springfield, Mo., losing their opening game 4-0 to eventual national runner-up Oklahoma City. The Vikings were eliminated from the World Series with a 7-1 loss to Oregon Tech.

VCSU (54-5, 26-2 NSAA) was ranked as high as No. 6 in the NAIA Top 25 Coaches' Poll, and finished the year ranked No. 10 in the nation. One of the highlights of the season included rolling through the NSAA Conference Tournament – outscoring their opponents 28-3 in five games – while playing in front of a large home crowd.

Valley City State started the season 15-0 and later had a 20-game winning streak heading into the World Series. This year's team broke more than a dozen individual and team records, including wins (54), runs scored (399), hits (574), RBIs (344), doubles (112) and triples (20).

The team racked up numerous awards, including 2nd Team All-American honors for junior pitcher Emily Smith, who went 33-1 with a 1.18 ERA. Freshman pitcher Emilee Wilson (19-3, 1.40 ERA) was named Honorable Mention All-American, along with infielder Voni Culp (.398 BA, 69 runs, 37 SB).

The Vikings won the female awards in all three categories of the North Dakota Associated Press Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association college awards. The Vikings were named the North Dakota Female Team of the Year; pitcher Emily Smith was named the Female Athlete of the Year; and coach Michael Mook was named Coach of the Year.

This summer, head coach Mike Mook and assistant Jenelle Trautmann accepted similar jobs at West Texas A&M University, an NCAA Division II school in Canyon, Texas. VCSU moved swiftly and hired Mark Mattson and Barbi Mattson – husband and wife – as head coach and associate head coach. (See p. 20.)



## Fall Previews

### Football returns explosive offensive unit

The VCSU football team will be balancing an experienced offense with a young defensive unit as the 2019 season kicks off in late August.

The Vikings return nine starters on offense, including five All-Conference players. Explosive playmakers Louis Quinones (running back) and Jake Peterson (receiver) are both looking to make big impacts in their senior seasons. The pair combined to score 22 touchdowns last season, helping the offense average 31 points per game.

Defensively, the Vikings have just five starters back from last year's squad. The biggest holes to fill are up front on the defensive line, where the Vikings graduated four All-Conference players from the 2018 squad. Linebacker Arron Martin is expected to anchor the defense during his senior season after leading the team with 88 tackles last season. Seniors Andrew Hanretty (defensive back) and Dakota Johnson (defensive line) will also be expected to lead defensively.

VCSU opens the 2019 season with a Thursday night home game, hosting rival University of Jamestown at 7 p.m. on Aug. 29 in the second annual VCSU Ag Bowl. The Ag Bowl, presented by First Community Credit Union, is a night of food, fun and football that recognizes the importance of the agriculture industry and all those associated with it.

Other home games for VCSU include the Sept. 28 VCSU Homecoming game against Dakota State University, along with home contests Oct. 19 (Mayville), Oct. 26 (Dickinson) and Nov. 9 (Waldorf University).

Away dates include Sept. 7 (Northwestern College), Sept. 14 (Minnesota-Morris), Oct. 5 (Waldorf University), Oct. 12 (Presentation College) and Nov. 2 (Dakota State).

Head coach Dennis McCulloch and assistant head coach Gregg Horner are both back for their 26th season at VCSU and their 23rd season leading the team in their current coaching roles.



Louis Quinones



Volleyball seniors Charlotte Huschka, Madison Brown and Ellie Winter

### Viking volleyball welcomes 10 new players

The VCSU volleyball team will start the 2019 season with 24 players as the team mixes in 10 new faces this season.

After graduating four senior starters from last year's team, the 2019 squad will have a much different look to it. The Vikings feature three seniors this season, including libero Charlotte Huschka and hitters Madison Brown and Ellie Winter.

VCSU is coming off a 15-15 record last season and has won 15 matches each of the last two seasons. Head coach Adam Longmore is in his sixth season leading the Vikings. Former VCSU setter Taylor Balkan has been hired as the top assistant coach this year, while former setter Leah Ruter is working as a student assistant.

The Vikings overall will be very young with nine freshmen, six sophomores and nine combined juniors and seniors.

The season opens Aug. 22-24 at the Big Sky Challenge in Butte, Mont. VCSU's first home match is set for Sept. 3 at Graichen Gymnasium.



Riley Roy-Lagasse

**Cross country looks to continue NSAA success**

The VCSU cross country teams will feature a large incoming class this year as they look to build off Top 3 finishes at last season’s conference championships.

The Viking women are coming off a second-place finish last year in the North Star Athletic Association – their highest conference finish since the program was reinstated at VCSU in 2010. VCSU returns four athletes from last year’s women’s team, including national qualifier Allyssa Weitkum. Seven new freshmen are joining the program this season for the largest women’s cross country roster in recent seasons.

On the men’s side, national qualifier Riley Roy-Lagasse, fourth in the NSAA last season, is the top returning Viking runner. VCSU’s men took third overall as a team, finishing in the Top 3 for the second straight season. With a large graduation of seniors from last year’s team, this year’s roster will feature five new freshmen and three returners.

Head coach Daniel Scheff is in his second season leading the cross country and track and field programs at VCSU.

**Baseball and golf busy in fall months**

Although technically spring sports, the VCSU baseball and golf teams will be busy with official competition in the fall months. An NAIA rule allows official baseball games in the fall, and Viking baseball is scheduled to play 12 games in September and October, starting Sept. 11 against University of Jamestown. The games will count on VCSU’s overall record for the 2019-20 season.

In golf, VCSU will play about five tournaments during the fall months, starting with the Jamestown Fall Kickoff meet on Aug. 27. Due to the unpredictable spring weather, the Vikings have traditionally played the bulk of their golf meets in the fall.

**New coaches announced for Viking softball, golf programs**



Kari Bodine

The VCSU softball and golf programs will both be led by new coaches this coming season.

Mark Mattson and Barbi Mattson – a husband and wife team – have been hired to lead the Viking softball program this season, while Kari Bodine has been named interim head golf coach.

The Mattsons come to VCSU after coaching the last seven seasons at Angelina College, an NJCAA Division I school in Lufkin, Texas. Under their leadership, Angelina College won its first ever national

championship in 2014, and last season the Roadrunners finished second in the nation.

Mark takes over as head coach for the Vikings, while Barbi has been named associate head coach. VCSU is the third school where the pair have teamed up to lead the softball program, including a stop at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D.

“We are extremely excited to have Mark and Barbi take over our softball program,” said DeVries. “Their established level of success, their outgoing personalities, and their passion for softball and collegiate athletics will be great assets to our campus. I am confident they will continue to grow and advance our softball program at the national level.”

Valley City State is coming off its third appearance at the NAIA Softball World Series. The Vikings set a school record with 54 wins and were ranked as high as No. 6 in the nation last season. Former head coach Michael Mook and assistant coach Jenelle Trautmann resigned earlier this summer to take similar positions at West Texas A&M University.

Leading the Viking golf program will be Kari Bodine, named interim head coach for the 2019-20 season. Along with her coaching duties, Bodine will also serve as assistant sports information director/athletic marketing.

A 2013 graduate of the University of Minnesota–Crookston, Bodine earned a bachelor of science degree in sport and recreation management. While at Crookston, she was a member of the women’s

golf team and served as intramural manager and men’s basketball team manager. She also completed internships in women’s basketball operations and athletic administration.

Bodine has worked at VCSU since 2013, most recently serving as career services coordinator.

“Kari has been a terrific member of the Viking family over the years, and we’re grateful to add her to our coaching staff,” DeVries said. “Her collegiate golf experience and leadership background will be great assets as she guides our golf team this season.”

Bodine takes over the VCSU golf programs after the unexpected passing of longtime coach Jamie Paurus this summer.



Mark and Barbi Mattson

### 2019 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Aug. 22-24	Big Sky Challenge - Butte, Mont.	
Aug. 27	@ Bemidji State University	7 p.m.
<b>Aug. 28</b>	<b>VCSU Red-White Scrimmage</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>Trinity Bible College</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Sept. 6-7	Baker Invite - Baldwin City, Kan.	
<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>Concordia College-Moorhead</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Sept. 13-14	NDSCS Scrimmages	
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<b>Waldorf University*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Viterbo University*</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
Sept. 27	@ Dakota State*	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	@ Bellevue University*	2 p.m.
<b>Oct. 2</b>	<b>Mayville State*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Oct. 5</b>	<b>Presentation College*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
<b>Oct. 8</b>	<b>Dickinson State*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Oct. 9	@ Univ. of Jamestown	7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>Dakota State*</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>Bellevue University*</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>
Oct. 25	@ Waldorf University*	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	@ Viterbo University*	2 p.m.
Oct. 30	@ Mayville State*	7 p.m.
Nov. 2	@ Presentation College*	3 p.m.
Nov. 8	@ Dickinson State*	7 p.m.
Nov. 15-16	NSAA Championships	TBA
Nov. 23	NAIA Opening Round	TBA

Home games in bold - All times Central Time

\*NSAA Conference Game

### 2019 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
<b>Aug. 29</b>	<b>Univ. of Jamestown</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Sept. 7	@ Northwestern College	1 p.m.
Sept. 14	@ Minnesota-Morris	6 p.m.
<b>Sept. 28</b>	<b>Dakota State* (Homecoming)</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
Oct. 5	@ Waldorf University*	1 p.m.
Oct. 12	@ Presentation College*	7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>Mayville State*</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
<b>Oct. 26</b>	<b>Dickinson State*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
Nov. 2	@ Dakota State*	4 p.m.
<b>Nov. 9</b>	<b>Waldorf University*</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>

Home games in bold – All times Central Time

\*NSAA Conference Game

### 2019-20 GOLF SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Aug. 27	Jamestown Fall Kickoff	Jamestown, N.D.
Sept. 15-16	Jamestown Fall Invite	Jamestown, N.D.
Sept. 22-23	Dickinson State Invite	Dickinson, N.D.
Oct. 3	Dickinson Dual	Dickinson, N.D.
Spring Season – Meets TBA		

### 2019 CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Sept. 7	Hardrocker Invitational	Rapid City, S.D.
Sept. 21	St. Olaf Invitational	Northfield, Minn.
Oct. 4	Jimmie Invitational	Jamestown, N.D.
Oct. 26	Seminole Valley Stampede	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Nov. 8	NSAA Conference Championships	Forest City, Iowa
Nov. 22	NAIA National Championships	Vancouver, Wash.

### 2019-20 FALL BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 11	@ Univ. of Jamestown (1x9)	6 p.m.
Sept. 14	@ Viterbo University (DH)	1 p.m.
Sept. 15	@ Viterbo University (1x9)	11 a.m.
Sept. 18	@ Mayville State (1x9)	3:30 p.m.
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Presentation College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>Sept. 23</b>	<b>Univ. of Jamestown (1x9)</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>Sept. 27</b>	<b>Alumni Game</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Oct. 2</b>	<b>Mayville State (1x9)</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>Oct. 5</b>	<b>Morningside College (1x7)</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
<b>Oct. 6</b>	<b>Morningside College (DH)</b>	<b>12 p.m.</b>

DH = Doubleheader

Home games in bold





1

# CONCERT CHOIR *Tours Italy*



2

The Concert Choir of Valley City State University — 26 students accompanied by their director, Christopher Redfearn, and his wife, Jennifer — toured Italy May 16-27.

The ensemble flew to Rome via Winnipeg and Toronto. An impromptu performance in the Toronto airport preceded the choir's first performance, singing during mass in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. The group's time in Rome featured another performance as well as sightseeing, including the Colosseum, the Forum, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, the Spanish Steps and more.

From Rome it was on to Tuscany, where the group used Montecatini Terme as a base to explore Florence, and then traveled to Santa Margherita Ligure via Pisa.

In Santa Margherita, the choir performed in the Oratorio dei Santi Bernardo e Lucia. The VCSU contingent then traveled to the Cinque Terre on the coast of the Ligurian Sea, visiting Monterosso and Vernazza before heading northeast to Cremona, the home of Stradivari's violin workshop, in the Lombardy region.

In Cremona, the group visited the Violin Museum and saw a luthier at work. Here Concert Choir performed in concert at the Santa Maria Maddalena Church.

From Cremona the tour continued on to Padua, where the ensemble viewed the Scrovegni Chapel and other sights. The next stop was Mirano, with the choir performing in concert with two local choirs at the Parrocchia della Cattedra di San Pietro in Scaltenigo, before heading to Venice.

In Venice, the choral group toured the city before its last performance, singing during mass at Basilica di San Marco (St. Mark's Basilica). A highlight here was singing Claudio Monteverdi's "Cantate Domino," a piece that Monteverdi, maestro di cappella (choirmaster) at St. Mark's in the 17th century, had composed for performance in that very venue.

A day (and then some) of travel brought the group back to Valley City after a memorable tour of Italy.

According to Redfearn, international travel and performance opportunities are part of what makes the VCSU music program special. "For many of our students, this is their first opportunity to travel overseas," he said, "and to have the opportunity to see the sights and sing in the venues they do makes this truly a trip of a lifetime."



3

1. Group pose in St. Peter's Square, Rome. 2. On the Spanish Steps, Rome. 3. The Leaning Tower of Pisa. 4. Venice. 5. The Pantheon, Rome. 6. Performing in Santa Maria Maddalena Church, Cremona.



4



5



6



## Vikings On The Move

**Harriet (Noltmier) '47** and Roy Ottinger live in Augusta, Ga., with their daughter. They are proud of their daughter, **Amy (Ottinger) Kitching '83**, who is being inducted into the VCSU Hall of Fame at homecoming this fall. Harriet would like to hear from fellow graduates from the 1940s.

**Eunice (Pera) Hafemeister '48** earned a two-year degree which, at the time, qualified her to teach elementary school. Eventually, she got involved in the Head Start program and taught preschoolers for 22 years. Eunice was living in Missouri and moved to Minneapolis after her husband passed away. She is involved in activities in her Lutheran church and regularly reads to children at a neighboring daycare. Eunice is thankful for good health, and at age 92, leads a fairly active life.

**Mary (Reinke) Stein '49** says, "It's hard to believe that 70 years ago I received my bachelor of science degree in secondary education from VCSU. Where have the years gone?"

**Darlene (Rasmussen) '55 and Peter Granlund '50** still live in their home of 54 years and are in reasonably good health. They continue to walk, garden and belong to a study group. "Life is good."

**Leon (Kambeitz) Feist '57** is retired and living at Marillac Manor in Bismarck. She really enjoys it there. Her husband, Lawrence Feist Jr., had a stroke in April 2013 and lived in a nursing home until his passing in July 2016.



**Karen '60 and Patrick '60 Hand** retired in Cheyenne, Wyo., a few years ago. Their family has grown since they left North Dakota many years ago. They now have three children, eight grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. The Hands' daughter and her husband recently moved to North Dakota to be closer to their family, including a granddaughter. The Hands also have a grandson living in North Dakota. Karen and Patrick recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary.

**Cecelia (Jorgenson) '60 and Adam Baumstarck '68** celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on May 31. They have 5 children (3 girls and 2 boys), 14 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. They have been retired for 20 years. Adam and Cecelia spend the winters in Mesa, Ariz., and their permanent home is in Linton, N.D.

**JoAnn (Hallsten) '61 and Mike '63 Haddican** live in Roseburg, Ore. Mike retired in 1998 after teaching and coaching for 35 years. JoAnn was a special education teacher and spent the last 10 years of her career as the program coordinator; she retired in 1999. They have two children: a son who lives in McMinnville, Ore., and a daughter in Roseburg. Mike and JoAnn are enjoying retirement and keep busy with their five grandchildren. Their grandson, who lives in Roseburg, is a basketball player so they spend much time going to games! Early in retirement, they enjoyed traveling in their RV and spending time in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. They just celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary! They still have family in North Dakota so they manage a trip back every year. They enjoyed their years at Valley City and have many fond memories of the time spent there.

**Marge (Nutz) '61 and Bob Sogn '61** are proud of their granddaughter, Lauren Carrasco, who has received two bachelor's degrees and is studying for the MCAT exam for acceptance into medical school.

**Marilyn (Krosanke) '62 and Dick '62 Twete** have recently moved from Wadena, Minn., to Bloomington, Minn. Their daughter lives just a couple miles from them now, and their son, who lives in Whitefish, Mont., comes to or through the Twin Cities area on business quite often so this new location gives them much more accessibility to their children. Health remains good to very good for both, and they remain quite active.

**Larry Peterson '63**, with his wife, Lois Steer, retired to Minneapolis in 2000 after more than 30 years with the Crookston Public Schools. They live in a high-rise downtown, about half way between US Bank Stadium and Target Field. They are not sports fans, but do take advantage of places like the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Swedish Institute, and Orchestra Hall. Larry and Lois are on the volunteer roster for both institutes and also at Central Lutheran Church. They have been able to enjoy a fair amount of travel and are grateful for generally good health.

**Ralph Jangula '68** and his wife, Serena, live in Bismarck, N.D. Ralph retired in 2009 after 13 years in public education and 24 years as a training technician for the U.S. Postal Service. Serena continues to work as comptroller and office manager for a local Toyota dealer. Spending time with family, friends, grandchildren, and attending dirt-track racing occupy most of their time.

**Robert Kohler '69** became the activities director at Lake Park Audubon High School in Minnesota on June 1, 2019.

**Judy (Paulson) MacZura '69** began teaching in Northfield, Minn., following graduation. After four years, she moved to Burlington, Vt., where she taught three plus years before getting married. Moving to Michigan, Judy began teaching and continued to teach first grade until retiring in 2009. Judy and her husband love to travel and attend car shows. Their son lives near them and their daughter lives in Florida; they enjoy seeing their grandchildren and friends on their travels.



"Forever Friends" from VCSU's Delphi sorority reunited in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., in January. "We get together two or three times a year to make more memories," says **Peggy (O'Connell) Sola '71**. "Our friendship has grown since being together at VCSU." Pictured are Sola, **Gayle (Schradler) Lamp '71**, **Cyd (Monroe) Meidinger '71**, **Myrna (Bierman) Milbrandt '70**, **Darlene (Wald) Eldred '71**, **Glenda (Kuffenkam) VanderLinden '71** and **Judy (Holt) Vollmers '71**.

**Bruce Scheie '71** and his wife, Karen, have three grown children, Kristin and twins Steve and Danielle. Bruce had a long career in teaching and coaching, serving in Leeds, N.D., from 1971-73; Lidgerwood, N.D., from 1973-89; Fargo South from 1989-92; Breckenridge, Minn., from 1993-95; and Kindred (N.D.) High School from 1995-2013. After retiring for

a couple years, Bruce decided to get back into coaching and went to Richland High School in Colfax, N.D., where he is still the girls basketball coach. Bruce says his VCSC education prepared him well, and he recognizes the great professors who taught him.

**Judy (Holt) '71 and Walt Vollmers '71** spent their fourth winter in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., and are glad to have escaped the horrid winter this past year! Seven of Judy's Delphi Friends got together in Arizona and had a blast.

**Lyle Halvorson '72** and his wife, Tamara, are retired and still live north of Wyndmere. Lyle is living the dream: he's playing softball in the summer in McLeod and baseball on major league training fields in the fall in Phoenix.

**Santha (Reetz) Zaik '72** graduated with a degree in music education, with an emphasis in horn performance. She has lived in her turn-of-the-century farmhouse 34 years, and it's still a work-in-progress. Her daughter and son live close so she sees them often and enjoys time with her grandchildren. This spring, Santha received her 30-year length of service award at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore. She is passionate about her work as the music specialist at the university Library. Santha continues to build a strong music collection, and supporting the faculty and students is a joy.

**Sue (Holmes) German '73** and her husband, Chuck, are enjoying their retirement spending time with their large family, extended family, volunteering and touring the United States in the fall and winter. Sue is a retired band director from Oakes, N.D., and enjoys substitute teaching and judging contests. Flower gardening at home and the lake is her fun hobby. Sue and Chuck spend lots of time in the summer at their lake home at Elm Lake.

**Verna Moos '73** retired in 2014 and moved from Texas to North Dakota. She has since went back to work for Alpha Opportunities of Jamestown.

**Phyllis (Fuhrman) Richter '73** taught school for 9 years following graduation. She worked for the State of ND as a weights and measures inspector for the PSC for 27 years. Phyllis is now retired, lives in Valley City and enjoys volunteer work, baking, reading and helping at church. Phyllis' husband (Allen) passed away in 2000. She loved her time at the college and loves seeing how well they continue to do in turning out great students. She has remained close to several friends from her college days.

**Janet Simon '75** says hello and best wishes to all her former teammates and Coach Dunlap!

**Antigone Karapetsa '76** graduated from VCSU with a B.S. in education in 1976, taught for 40 years and retired from education (or so she thought) in 2015. In her last post, she was the head of learning and development at a very big college in London, U.K., but when she visited Sweden a few years ago, she instantly fell in love with the country, bought a big cottage in a small village of 50 people in the forest and retired there with her husband. Last year, Antigone was asked by the International English School in Gävle if she could provide teacher education consultancy services to them and now, at 64, she is enjoying new and very exciting challenges in this beautiful secondary school. She has been learning Swedish and considers her move to be one of the best decisions she ever made.

**Patricia (Bednar Zaun) Smith '76** retired in July 2017 after eight and a half years as the executive director of the Souris Valley United Way in Minot, N.D. In May 2019, Patricia and her husband, Mike, moved to

Bismarck to be closer to her two sons and five grandkids. She enjoys golfing and helping with the grandkids.

**Tom Tracy '76** is fully retired after 29 years at the Kensal (N.D.) Public School. He was superintendent there for 25 years.

**Bill Cody '77** just turned that magic age of 65. Bill is still running his laser printer business in Fargo and enjoying it. His daughter, age 26, just bought her first home last spring and is a happy homeowner!! His son, Darek, now 22, is attempting to start his own business on a part-time basis; so far, so good. Bill enjoys reading about fellow alumni and wishes everyone an enjoyable retirement!

**Joan (Kapaun) Halland '77** caught a lucky break and is now teaching half-time after almost 40 years at Kindred High School. She teaches three periods of language arts 8 and occasionally subs in the afternoon. She says it is the best gig ever. Joan's former track assistant nominated her for the N.D. State Track and Field Hall of Fame, and that ceremony was held during the 2019 state track meet where she was inducted along with six other track and field athletes/coaches. She and her husband, Steve, are still living in Kindred. Their daughter **Erin Halland '00** lives in Marion with **Taylor Albrecht '08**; Erin works at the Open Door in Valley City, and Taylor works at the Marion elevator.

**Joe Gatrell '78** said retirement was boring so he returned to teaching ELA and special education at a charter high school in Chicago. He has no regrets; it's better than ever. Joe says, "Thank you, VCSC, for the training and experience. Hello, classmates. I can be reached at avjoe@att.net."

**Sharon (Sperle) '80 and Kevin '78 Horsager** live in Reiles Acres, N.D. Kevin works for NDSU as a soil research technician, and Sharon is a courtroom deputy clerk for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. They have five children and eight grandchildren: Blaine and Amy Horsager (and son Hunter); Bridget and Justin Piatz (and sons Jackson, Carson, Emerson and Benson); Cole Horsager and fiancée Jill Larson (and daughter Sawyer); Austin Horsager (and son Oakley) and Ali Horsager (and daughter Brynlee).

**Robert Ness Jr. '81** retired from 3M in May after a 22 year career. Previously, Bob had worked at the UND Energy and Environmental Research Center. Bob and his wife, Sumitra, currently reside in Woodbury, Minn., and have two children, Mike and Samantha, who also reside in the Twin Cities metro area. Bob will be doing some consulting work in his retirement as well as a long list of home improvement projects in the summer, while traveling in the winter months. He comes back to Valley City visiting relatives several times a year and is impressed with how the campus has grown in enrollment and facilities. He wishes good luck to all future and past Vikings!

**Janet (Burkle) Schapp '81** lives in Bismarck, N.D., and works at CHI St. Alexis Great Plains Rehabilitation doing the medicare billing. Her first husband, Dale Michel, died of cancer in October 2002, and in July 2007, she married Rick Schapp. He does IT work at MDU Resources. Janet has two daughters, Mandy Rodriguez (husband Rabin Rodriguez) and Katrina Moe (husband Bryan Moe), and four grandchildren: Desiree and Phoenix Rodriguez, and Kyla and Keaton Moe. Janet also has 4 stepchildren and 15 step-grandchildren.

**Robin (Orr) '82 and Rick Kohler '84** live on an acreage outside Missouri Valley, Iowa. Rick earned his MBA and is director of corporate purchasing for Lozier Corp. in Omaha, Neb., and Robin is a secretary for Missouri Valley High School. They have two children, Colten, who earned his MBA from Xavier University and works in Chicago, and Kelsea of Denver, Colo., who just earned her Ph.D. in communication from the University of Denver.



**Dr. Amy (Ottinger) Kitching '83** has recently married Jeff Klare, CEO of Be-A-Hero, Hire-A-Hero. They have opened a chiropractic and wellness center in Statesboro, Ga., which offers chiropractic care along with therapeutic massage, acupuncture, MY Lipo, infrared sauna, yoga, a hyperbaric chamber for oxygen therapy, and the services of a registered dietitian.

**Carolyn (Foster) Olson '87**, longtime head volleyball coach at Red River High School in Grand Forks and now head coach at Fargo Davies High School, was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches

Association Hall of Fame on June 27 at the 2019 NHSACA national convention held in Bismarck in conjunction with the North Dakota High School Coaches Association convention.

**Pat Windish '88** started his new position as superintendent at his high school alma mater, Maple Valley, in Tower City, N.D. Pat and his wife of 30 years, Tammy, will be moving to Valley City this summer, where Tammy will begin a new position at Sanford Clinic this summer. They have three grown children and are very excited to be back in the Valley City area.

**Mary Halvorson '89** is in her 30th year of teaching! She taught for 12 years in Carrington and 16 years in Valley City. Currently, she is living in Devils Lake and has been a kindergarten teacher at Tate Topa for the past two years. In the summer of 2018, Mary retired from being “summer help” for Bank Foward in the crop insurance department.

**Dawn (Kro) Wold '89** is starting her eighth year as a GED teacher at the Fargo Adult Learning Center and also her sixth year of teaching Elder Citizenship to the refugees. Dawn loves going to work each day and helping students who once struggled in school succeed. In May, Dawn had the pleasure of seeing one of her students, a refugee who started



**Annette “Netty” Schilling Willis** lives in Bismarck and has been working in the marketing and communications field since 1998. Netty also works with her family’s business, including development of the Schilling Building (State Street and 43rd Avenue in Bismarck), and owns and operates the Bismarck Tour Co., which offers city tours of Bismarck. Netty, better known now days as Annette, is married to Bill Willis. They have one son, Jack, who will start first grade in the fall, and one dog, Lucky. Annette and Bill love spending time at state parks, kayaking, hiking and traveling together.

attending classes the same year Dawn started teaching, walk across the stage and receive her diploma. The student came to the states knowing very little English and now has a diploma. Needless to say, Dawn shed a little tear as she read her name. Dawn and her husband, Bob, will celebrate 27 years of marriage in August. They have two daughters, Tiffanie, 26, who lives and works in Fargo, and Jordan, 23, who just graduated from college in December. Jordan lives and works in the area and will be moving back home in August; that is going to be different for them (Dawn rather likes being an empty nester). Their two dogs, Max and Zoey, both love going for walks and keep the house not so boring. After 30 years, Dawn and quite a few of her sorority sisters keep in touch and see each other from time to time. Facebook is a great way to connect for them.

**Layne (Holcomb) '92 and Kyle '95 Smith** have lived in Carrington since 1997. Layne is a substitute teacher for Carrington Public Schools; Kyle is the owner and operator of Central Dakota Physical Therapy in Carrington. They have three kids. **Brady** graduated from VCSU in May 2019 with a double major in biology and health sciences. He also played four years of baseball for the Vikings and was named honorable mention all-conference two years. He will be attending UND in August 2019 to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy. Payton graduated in May 2019 from Carrington High School and this fall will attend NDSU, where he will run cross country and track while majoring in exercise science. Brynn will be a seventh grader this fall in Carrington, where she enjoys volleyball, basketball and softball (and spoiling her dog, Riggs). VCSU is, and will always be, a special place for both Layne and Kyle. Layne’s mom, the late **Linda (Sundstrom) Holcomb '66**, taught at VCSU for over 30 years. She inspired and touched many lives in her time there and is dearly missed by all who knew her. Layne and Kyle still keep in touch with many friends they met during their time at VCSU. It seems that no matter where they go, they run into someone they went to school with. Their friends who did not attend VCSU are always amazed at the closeness of VCSU alumni. It is truly a unique university and great place to get your education.

**Deb (Hill) '77 and Jeff Bopp '99** both came to Valley City to go to college and work and have never left. That was 46 years ago. Jeff has recently retired after spending 40 years working at the Sheyenne Valley Area Career and Technology Center – 20 years as an instructor in the automotive department and the last 20 years as director of the center. Deb retired last year from teaching music at Washington Elementary in Valley City. They have four children, one who lives and works in Valley City and another who will soon be returning to work and live here as well.

**Ryan Hoyt '03** was recently hired as the human resource director for Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls, Minn. Ryan and his wife, Tami, reside in Fergus Falls with their children, Logan (age 6) and Hilda (3).



**Tanner Beauchman '05** and his wife, Samantha Chase Beauchman, live in Detroit Lakes, Minn., with their two sons Lewyn (age 4) and Ellis (2). Tanner teaches English and coaches tennis at Detroit Lakes High School, and Samantha is a psychologist with Sanford.

**Marni (Goerger) Driessen '04** works in the Omaha Public Schools as an elementary supervisor in the curriculum and instruction support department.



**Alyssa (Sorensen) Albrecht '07** is starting her fifth year as a PE and health teacher and athletic trainer at Barnes County North. Her husband, Travis, farms; they live outside Wimbledon with their daughter, Camilla (age 2), and son, Trent (3 weeks old in the photo).

**Kimberly Souba '09** is currently living in Moline, Ill. She just accepted a position as a 5th grade teacher at Tampico

Elementary School in Tampico, Ill., a rural consolidated school district. For the last several years she had taught 8th grade science in a low-income school district in East Moline and prior to that was the technology director and taught K-8 technology for a local Catholic school. Last summer, Kimberly was chosen as the only Illinois teacher to take part in the Iowa STEM Externship Program, in which she served as a teacher extern at John Deere for six weeks. Through this program, Kimberly was able to take what she learned at John Deere and apply it to her school's STEM Program. Her family, friends, and faith keep her going as she undergoes treatment every six weeks for blood cancer. Kimberly lives each day by the following quote by Brené Brown: "Let go of who you think you're supposed to be; embrace who you are."

**Jason Edwards, M.Ed. '10**, has been teaching 6th grade science and reading at Discovery Middle School in Fargo for 11 years. Along with teaching, he took over the girls cross country program at Fargo Davies in 2016 and became the girls distance coach in track and field. Since then, their team has won three straight team championships in cross country and four straight team titles in track and field. This past fall, Jason was voted the Powerade Class A Coach of the Year for Girls Cross Country. The USA Track and Field Association chose him as the Coach of the Year for girls cross country, and he is the representative for North Dakota for the "40 under 40" coaching award from Coach and Athletic Director magazine. This award was presented at the National Coaches Convention and Hall of Fame Banquet on June 25 in Bismarck, N.D.

**Alyssa (Tait) '14 and Jake Schauer '14** and their son, Jordy, are moving to Grand Forks, N.D. Alyssa will be starting a new career working as a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Grand Forks, and Jake will be teaching 6th grade and coaching football and baseball in Thompson, N.D.

**Shelby Hartman '15** taught in New Salem, N.D., for the past three years and has accepted a 5th grade position at Centennial Elementary School in Bismarck. She is super excited to begin her adventure with Bismarck Public Schools!

**Tonya Isabell, M. Ed. '15**, has been accepted into graduate school at Purdue University for her doctorate in technology. She will receive the Purdue Doctoral Fellowship, designed for the recruitment of outstanding Ph.D.-track students who will enhance the diversity of the graduate student body in the graduate programs through their diverse backgrounds, views and experiences.

**Spencer Aune '18** married Keary Stanger on June 16, 2018. They just moved to Bismarck where Spencer will start a new job with the Bismarck Parks and Recreation Department. They expect their first baby to arrive in mid-July!

**Benjamin Strand, M.Ed. '18**, moved from teaching 3rd grade at Hillsboro (N.D.) Elementary School to the technology and enrichment teacher this upcoming school year. He was also named the Hillsboro Teacher of the Year.

**Kelsey Gaukler '17 and Zach Nelson '17** are engaged and have set July 18, 2020, as their wedding date. Kelsey was an English education major, and Zach was a science education major. They are also expecting their first child in August 2019. Kelsey has a new job at Hankinson Public School (in her hometown) as the K-12 librarian. Zach works at Sargent Central Public School as a science teacher and is one of the junior high football coaches.



**Katie Pautz '18** graduated in December and started subbing in Tower City, N.D. Not long after graduation, she accepted a 5th grade position at Maple Valley Elementary in Tower City. Katie is excited to begin her teaching career and to coach volleyball this fall. Katie loves summer, especially spending time with family and friends at the lake. Go Vikings! The picture was from the last day of school, also her last day of long-term subbing in 6th grade!



## In Remembrance

**E. Palmer Rockswold '41**, Minneapolis, Minn.

**Mildred Peterson '43**, Battle Lake, Minn.

**Cecil (Place) Speidel**, Edgeley, N.D.

**Horace Borchert '49**, Havre, Mont.

**Dorothy (Becker) Schauer '50**, Ashley, N.D.

**Leona (Wetzel) Schields '51 ST and '77 BS-ED**, Dodge, N.D.

**Eugen Cederberg '59**, Casselton, N.D.

**John Colness '63**, Terry, Mont.

**Darleen (Marschke) Hansen '64**, Forest Grove, Ore.

**Jean (Kringlie) Busta '68**, Valley City

**Jennifer Ramey '70**, Rolla, N.D.

**Arnold Drendel '71**, Clinton, Mo.

**Daniel Lipp '71**, Cando, N.D.

**Alan Schlotfeldt '72**, Jamestown, N.D.

**Alan Bernhagen '74**, Rapid City, S.D.

**Elizabeth Licha**, Phoenix, Ariz.

**Leona (Geisler) Schober '50 ST and '75 BS**, Fargo, N.D.

**Elizabeth (Olson) Schlotman '76**, Cooperstown, N.D.

**Tammy (Heimbach) Prischmann '88**, Fargo, N.D.

**Delores (Neis) Richter '88**, Bismarck, N.D.

**Lloyd S. Anderson**, Valley City

**Duane Fast**, Valley City

## Former Faculty & Staff



### Terry Corwin

Terry Corwin, age 68, died Monday, June 24, 2019, at her lake home near Vergas, Minn., under the care of Hospice of the Red River Valley. Terry was born June 29, 1950, in Moline, Ill., to Helen and Eric Anderson. She graduated from Moline High School in 1968, and in 1972, she earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn. A gifted athlete, Terry was a member of the Gustavus gymnastics team. She started her teaching and coaching

career in Redwing, Minn., before moving to Valley City, where she began her career at Valley City State University. At VCSU, she taught classes while also starting and coaching the women's gymnastics team from 1975-89. At the end of the 1989 gymnastics season, the NAIA and VCSU dropped the sport, marking the end of Terry's collegiate coaching career. In 1997, she was inducted into the Gustavus Athletic Hall of Fame. Along with her 1984-85 VCSU gymnastics team, Terry was inducted into the Viking Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002; in 2013, she was also inducted individually in recognition of her successful VCSU coaching career. Terry continued her education throughout her life, earning a Master of Science in Education degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and a doctoral degree in educational technologies from Iowa State. Over time, she served VCSU in a number of academic and administrative roles, including director of assessment and professional development, director of instructional technology, assistant vice president for academic affairs, and director of graduate studies and research, among others. Terry was also an active member of the Valley City community. She shared her love for gymnastics with hundreds of young people by starting and coaching the Valley Twisters Gymnastics Club, and she also coached the Valley City High School gymnastics team for several years. More recently, Terry was a member of the Valley City Kiwanis Club. She is survived by her husband, Bill Corwin, whom she married June 12, 1982, in Vergas. Other survivors include a nephew, Scott Anderson; stepdaughter Katie Hasbarger; stepson Ben Corwin; and four grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Terry Corwin Memorial Scholarship at Valley City State University or Hospice of the Red River Valley.



### Jan Drake

Janet Drake, age 70, died March 26, 2019, at Bethany on University in Fargo, N.D. Born Janet Kalinowski on Jan. 21, 1949, to Theresa (Ryan) and Lawrence Kalinowski in Devils Lake, N.D., Jan attended Devils Lake Central High School and graduated in 1967. Following high school, she traveled to Hawaii and the western United States. After her travel, she enrolled at Lake Region Junior College in fall 1968. Jan married James Drake on Jan. 31, 1970, in Devils Lake.

The couple started a family and moved to Harvey, N.D., where Jan worked as a mother and a clerk at St. Aloysius Hospital. Following a separation and later a divorce, Jan moved her three boys to Grand Forks to continue her education at the University of North Dakota in 1980. She graduated in the spring of 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and immediately enrolled in graduate school, earning a Master of Arts in Education in spring 1985. In fall 1985, she began a 30-year career in academic services at Valley City State University, where she also served as an adjunct professor. She retired in 2015. Jan is survived by her three sons, Jason Drake, Justin Drake, and Joshua Drake, along with three grandchildren, Tyler Heagley, Jensen Drake, and Connor Drake. An educator until the end, Jan's wish was to bequeath her body to the Deeded Body Program at the University of North Dakota for anatomical study.

### Jamie Paurus

Jamie Paurus, age 38, died unexpectedly on June 10, 2019, in Dickinson, N.D. Born Oct. 15, 1980, in Detroit Lakes, Minn., he was the son of Sherri Schaefer and Steve Halstengaard. Jamie graduated from Frazee (Minn.) High School in 1999 and then attended North Dakota State University, earning an MBA degree in 2005. That year he joined the VCSU faculty as an instructor and rose to become assistant professor and chair of the Computer Systems and Software Engineering Department. He also led the VCSU



golf program; he was named co-coach for the both the men and women in 2012-13 and became head coach of both squads in 2013-14. On July 20, 2012, Jamie married Kelsey Hanson '11 of Willmar, Minn. Jamie is survived by his wife, Kelsey; son, Carver; daughters Berkley and Azalea; his parents; his grandparents, Clarence and Marcella Paurus; a brother; a sister; and his in-laws. Memorials may be directed to an education fund for the Paurus children at Dacotah Bank in Valley City.

# Just Married

1. **Megan Olson '17 and Jacob Schlecht '17** were married June 1, 2019, at the Sanctuary Event Center in Fargo, N.D. Jacob is currently a science teacher in Enderlin, N.D., and Megan works for Consolidated Communications. The couple resides in Enderlin.



Including the bride and groom, 10 VCSU alumni are pictured in the Olson/Schlecht wedding party: Adam Krueger '17, Jared Meiklejohn '17, Beau Diegel '16, Josh Michaelson '17, Hannah Schlecht '19, Kenny Hodem '17, Mitchell Scheer '17, and Megan (Good) Thielges '16.

2. **Alyssa Emmons '18** and Philip Kwitek were married June 16, 2019 in Hastings, Minn. Alyssa and Philip met while she was taking her VCSU elementary education classes on the NDSU campus. One of her VCSU classmates, friends and fellow teachers, Becca Meyer, was one of her bridesmaids! Alyssa accepted a position as a first grade teacher at Zanewood Elementary in Brooklyn Park, Minn. She is extremely excited about this opportunity and has already signed up for professional development classes such as a robotics class and a STEAM class offered by the district this summer.



3. **Alyssa Johnson '13** and Garth Hagen were married January 19, 2019. They live on a farm outside of Williston, N.D. Alyssa is a kindergarten teacher at Wilkinson Elementary, and Garth is an electrician, farmer and rancher.



4. **Kayla Jilek '12** and J.J. Béen were married August 10, 2018. Kayla is an occupational therapist for the Dickinson Public Schools, and J.J. works for Halliburton. The couple resides in Dickinson, N.D.



Kassidy Ronningen and **Mark Miller '18**, May 24, 2019

**Brittany Roney '19** and Donovan Zacharias, March 16, 2019

**Georgia Williams '17** and Jason Ralph, June 2019

**Mackenzie Hamre '15** and Patrick Dougherty July 13, 2019

**Clarissa Olson '19 and Dustin Miller '19**, July 26, 2019

**Nicole Mauch '15** and Brandon Larson, July 27, 2019



# 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](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu) to receive a free t-shirt for your new Lil' Viking. Please be sure to tell us your baby's name and birthdate. After you have received your baby's Lil' Viking shirt, send us your baby's photo so we can include it in the next issue of *The Bulletin*. Email the photo to [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu).



**Alexis Rey Horner**  
May 20, 2018  
7 pounds 2 ounces, 19 inches  
Ashley (Gierke) '12 and Nicholas Horner



**Quinn Elizabeth Kochel**  
December 23, 2017  
5 pounds 13 ounces, 19 inches  
Joins sister Ella (3)  
Lisa and Abbey Kochel '05



**Olivia May Backstrom**  
August 10, 2018  
8 pounds 10 ounces, 21 inches  
Joins siblings Timothy Aaron and Elizabeth Ann Heidi (Larson) '10 and Jordan Backstrom '11



**Josephine Ruth Praska**  
November 1, 2018  
7 pounds 9 ounces, 22 inches  
Joins brothers Luke, Elijah and Samuel  
Tara (Triebold) '05 and Jay Praska



**Kya Rae Udem**  
March 22, 2019  
6 pounds 2 ounces, 19 inches  
Mimi (Brown) '17 and Jordan Udem '14



**Connor Killian Dunn**  
July 27, 2018  
7 pounds 5 ounces, 19 3/4 inches  
Bree (Leadbetter) '06 and JD Dunn



**Stevie Jane Rindfleisch**  
June 14, 2019  
8 pounds 7 ounces, 21 inches  
Ainsley and Steve Rindfleisch M.Ed. '19



**Theodore Allan Swenson**  
July 24, 2018  
8 pounds 14 ounces, 21 1/4 inches  
Join siblings Maggie, Owen and Benjamin  
Michelle (Meckle) '07 and Sean '08 Swenson



**Jamison Thomas Axtman**  
November 21, 2018  
Alison and Matthew Axtman '07



**Isaac Dyllyn Hoffer**  
May 4, 2019  
7 pounds 15 ounces, 21 1/2 inches  
Joins sister Audrey  
Lyndsey (Hodnfield) '11 and Eric Hoffer



**Liam Joseph Duttonhefer**  
April 10, 2019  
7 pounds, 21 inches  
Kya and Joey Duttonhefer '13



**Brynley Marie Poppel**  
October 17, 2018  
7 pounds 11 ounces 21 inches  
Alyssa (Hummel) '13 and Luke Poppel



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