

# THE BULLETIN

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



## Lifetime of Giving

Braun gifts \$1 million to capital campaign

**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Record Enrollment ♦ Center for the Arts Update ♦ Hall of Fame



DEPARTMENTS

- 1 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 2 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CORNER
- 3 FOUNDATION CORNER
- 8 ALUMNI NEWS
- 10 VCSU NEWS
- 14 VIKING HIGHLIGHTS
- 19 PHONE-A-THON
- 22 VCSU CONNECTIONS

Welcome to the *Bulletin!*

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

Larry Robinson '71 ..... 701-845-7217  
Executive Director for University Advancement    *larry.robinson@vcsu.edu*

Cory Anderson '89 ..... 701-845-7216  
Director of Development and Major Gifts    *cory.anderson@vcsu.edu*

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

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

Jill DeVries ..... 701-845-7160  
Athletic Director    *jill.devries@vcsu.edu*

Mark Potts ..... 701-845-7228  
Interim Director for Marketing & Communications    *mark.m.potts@vcsu.edu*

Toll Free..... 800-532-8641 ext. 7203

Alumni/Foundation Website..... *vcsualumni.org*

Cover Story

**4 Braun donates \$1 million to VCSU campaign**

*Longtime VCSU supporter Ray Braun has pledged a \$1 million life estate to VCSU's first-ever capital campaign, marking the first major donation for the \$25 million campaign. Braun has been a difference maker for VCSU and the Valley City community over the past 60 years, including being a founding member of the VCSU Foundation Board of Directors.*



4

**5 Vikings Leading in the Legislature**

*Two Valley City State University alumni are holding leadership positions in the current session of the North Dakota Legislature. Joan Heckaman '67 is the Senate Minority Leader while Chet Pollert '77 is the House Majority Leader. The two both credit their years at Valley City State University for helping prepare them for the many demands of their respective positions.*



5

**6 Alumni Profile: David Woods '02**

*Husband, father, teacher, coach, mentor and city council member. Since first stepping foot in North Dakota back in 1998, VCSU alumnus David Woods '02 has made an impact with his many different roles. His North Dakota journey started on the VCSU football field and now finds him teaching and raising a family in Wahpeton.*



6

**13 Center for the Arts construction update**

*Construction on the new VCSU Center for the Arts remains on schedule after a mild winter. The anticipation is ramping up for VCSU students who will use the building when it opens in January 2022.*



13

Cover: Photo of Ray Braun (Credit: Dutton's Valley Gallery)



## The Best Time to be a Viking

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

Greetings Vikings!

The printing of this edition of the Bulletin coincides nicely with our presentations made to the two North Dakota legislative appropriations committees from the Senate on Jan. 19 and House on March 10. Joining me in our presentations were Student Senate President Angeline Gannon, Vice President for Business Affairs Wesley Wintch, and VCSU Foundation Executive Director Larry Robinson.

Our budget presentation focused on the past, present and future of VCSU, with particular attention on student academic success, student applied research and accolades, outstanding faculty and staff contributions, continued enrollment growth, cooperation and collaboration with community agencies in Valley City and Barnes County, and our plans for the future.

Our growth at VCSU continues to be a collaborative effort and there is no one singular action or strategic enrollment focus that has resulted in our success. Rather, the combination of several initiatives continues to propel us forward.

Allow me to share some of the highlights of the presentations:

- VCSU has been ranked as one of the “Best Colleges” by U.S. News for 23 consecutive years and was named the “Most Beautiful Campus in North Dakota” by Buzzfeed.
- Initially created as a “normal” school, we have a 130-year record of providing highly qualified educators to the state of North Dakota with 1,438 alumni currently teaching in 157 North Dakota communities.
- We have added academic programs in the areas of sound production and digital design, and we have other high demand programs in various stages of development and approval.
- We’ve created new initiatives such as the Rural School Partner Benefit Program, which helps North Dakota rural schools attract and retain their teacher workforce.
- Our reputation and success as innovators with technology strengthened our position and ability to respond to the demand for online instruction during the Covid pandemic.
- Our athletic conference was one of only a few conferences in the nation to move forward with a full slate of fall and spring athletics.

- Almost 70 percent of our students are from North Dakota.
- In 2019, VCSU had the highest retention rate (73%) of all the 4-year regional institutions in North Dakota. This is so very important for enrollment stability.
- VCSU remains one of the most affordable universities in North Dakota and the Midwest, and we continuously look for opportunities to keep the cost of a university education attainable. We decreased the student technology fee by 10 percent in 2019 and haven’t incurred any additional increases since then, and our room rates were kept even for Fall 2020.
- With the use of Open Educational Resources, VCSU students have saved more than \$1.5 million in textbook costs since 2016.
- Collaboration with the community and the Valley City/Barnes County Economic Development Corporation continues in the area of providing salesforce training and emerging educational needs to help efforts in job creation and workforce needs.
- Our highly active and supportive VCSU Foundation provided a record \$1.86 million in student scholarship support in 2020-21.
- During our presentation, we shared several high impact practice success stories of our students and programs in fisheries and wildlife, computer science and software engineering, recording technology, 2020 emergency substitute teacher program, and internships and career readiness.
- Finally, our *Forward Together* campaign to raise \$25 million in private donations is underway and will address current and future capital needs for our campus and students.

As you can see, the success of the university is a direct result of strategic planning and the collective efforts of many. We are incredibly grateful to our faculty and staff for their commitment to our students and mission, and to our students and their families for choosing VCSU as the place to pursue their dreams and aspirations. Our deep gratitude extends to you, our alumni, supporters and patrons who provide greatly needed financial support for our students. This is, indeed, the best time to be a Viking! Go Vikings!

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

The VCSU Alumni Association invites you to join alumni and friends at Newman Outdoor field for an F-M RedHawks game on Wednesday, August 11. We have reserved the Armadillo party deck for our VCSU gathering!

The Armadillo Party Deck, located down the first base line, features barstool seating and picnic tables.

**COST** \$20 per person

**INCLUDES**

- Game ticket
- All-you-can-eat hot dogs, bratwurst, pulled pork, potato salad, potato chips, pop and water, and snacks

**SOCIAL HOUR AND BUFFET** starts at 6:00 p.m.

**GAME TIME** 7:02 p.m.

**PLEASE RSVP** Call 701-845-7203 by August 1 to reserve your tickets

# 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).**



## Help us Honor Our Alumni

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

The tradition of honoring our alumni by the Valley City State University Alumni Association during Homecoming was put into place by the Alumni Board of Directors many years ago. Thus, the Certificate of Merit, Alumni Service, Young Alumni Achievement and Distinguished Alumni Awards were created to honor our extraordinary alumni.

The association has been fortunate to recognize several generations of outstanding alumni with these Awards. To date we have recognized 326 alumni with the Certificate of Merit Award. This award recognizes alumni for accomplishments, service or other noteworthy honors.

The *Distinguished Alumni Award* has been awarded 61 times. These honorees have achieved prominence in their chosen field of endeavor. The nominee must have received national or international recognition and must have been identified as

an expert in the individual's chosen field.

There have been 18 alumni

honored with the *Alumni Service Award*. This honor is for those who have attained exceptional achievement in their careers and have made significant contributions to the University through dedicated service, promotion, financial support or other efforts.

The *Young Alumni Achievement Award* – our newest award – has only been awarded eight times to date. This award was created to recognize VCSU's more recent, outstanding alumni as they embark on their chosen paths and strive for greatness. The award is presented to recognize

future leaders under the age of 40 based on the following criteria:

- Have demonstrated high levels of achievement in one's chosen career or profession
- Have demonstrated leadership ability or the potential for leadership and distinction in the long term
- Have shown support for Valley City State University
- Have shown substantial commitment to the service of others

Did you know we have over 12,000 alumni that have walked through the doors of McFarland Hall? Of this total, 11,965 live in the United States, 108 live in Canada, and we have 21 living in other countries. We have alumni living in all 50 states

– with 57 percent living in North Dakota.

We love recognizing our alumni for their

accomplishments but need your help in making nominations. With having our alumni scattered across the nation and in other countries, we aren't able to hear about everyone's achievements. Do you have a friend or family member that fits the criteria for one of our alumni awards presented above? Please see our website at [www.vcsualumni.org](http://www.vcsualumni.org) and click on "Awards" to access our nomination form. For more information on these awards please contact Kim Hesch at [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu). Help us honor more of our alumni! We look forward to hearing from you.

*...the Certificate of Merit, Alumni Service, Young Alumni Achievement and Distinguished Alumni Awards were created to honor our extraordinary alumni.*

### 2020–21 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

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**ex officio**

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## Forward Together: This is Our Day and this is Our Time

Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement

In February of 2020, the VCSU Foundation Board of Directors voted unanimously to proceed with the first ever Capital Campaign in the history of Valley City State University. After years of planning and discussion about the Capital needs of the institution, the board elected to move forward with this bold initiative. The university had previously identified a number of high priorities for the campaign, which we've titled: **Forward Together**.

- **Priority 1** includes a major addition to the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse, adding approximately 93,000 square feet, including a large indoor turf practice area, a 200-meter indoor track, locker rooms, a Viking Hall of Fame and much more.
- **Priority 2** is to raise a total of \$1 million to enhance the Foundation's scholarship program.
- **Priority 3** is to raise \$1 million for enhancements to the Memorial Student Center.
- **Priority 4** is to raise \$2 million to make important renovations to McCarthy Hall, the former lab school. This facility will soon become the dedicated home for VCSU's School of Education.

The priorities in the Capital Campaign are necessitated for a number of reasons. The advent of women's sports and the growth of our athletic program in general has created significant challenges in the Osmon Fieldhouse. When the facility was built in 1960 there were 111 Viking athletes and seven coaches. Today, there are 285 athletes and 28 coaches, and over 100 athletes have no locker space. Scheduling has become a major issue. Although the arena in the "Bubble" is still a very popular and competitive playing surface for basketball, the needs for the facility are far greater than basketball.

The need for additional scholarship funding is ongoing. With all-time record enrollment, the demand for scholarship support is greater than ever. We

place a high priority on awarding scholarships to minimize student debt, and we allocated a record \$1.86 million to VCSU students this year.

Like the Osmon fieldhouse, the Memorial Student Center was constructed in the early 1960's and expanded in 1969. The building is maintained in excellent condition, but our enrollment growth has placed real pressure on this facility as well. Additional space would allow for expanded student activities, Alumni events and community engagement.

McCarthy Hall served for many years as our Laboratory School. Countless VCSU students received their first taste of teacher education training in this facility. The years have taken their toll on McCarthy, and the need for a major renovation has come. The plan is to convert this facility into the VCSU School of Education. Fitting indeed!

I can assure you that the priorities included in the Capital Campaign are indeed "Needs" and not "Wants." The total campaign costs amount to \$25 million. George Gaukler '62, has graciously agreed to serve as the Chairperson of our Capital Campaign.

"We want to thank all of our alumni and friends for their past support," said Gaukler. "We invite you to join us in this exciting effort to enhance the educational opportunities at VCSU even further. The projects included in this campaign are critical for the university to respond to the significant increase in enrollment and to compete in a globalized society. Please answer our calls, respond to meeting requests, and engage in this conversation about the future of Valley City State University. We need you to invest in our campaign so we can move *Forward Together*."

For further information, or if you are interested in supporting VCSU's Capital Campaign, contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203.

### A Bequest of **LIFE INSURANCE**

Is Easier Than You Think

### HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- I would like to speak to someone about gifting an unneeded life insurance policy.
- I would like to receive your FREE Wills Planning Guide.
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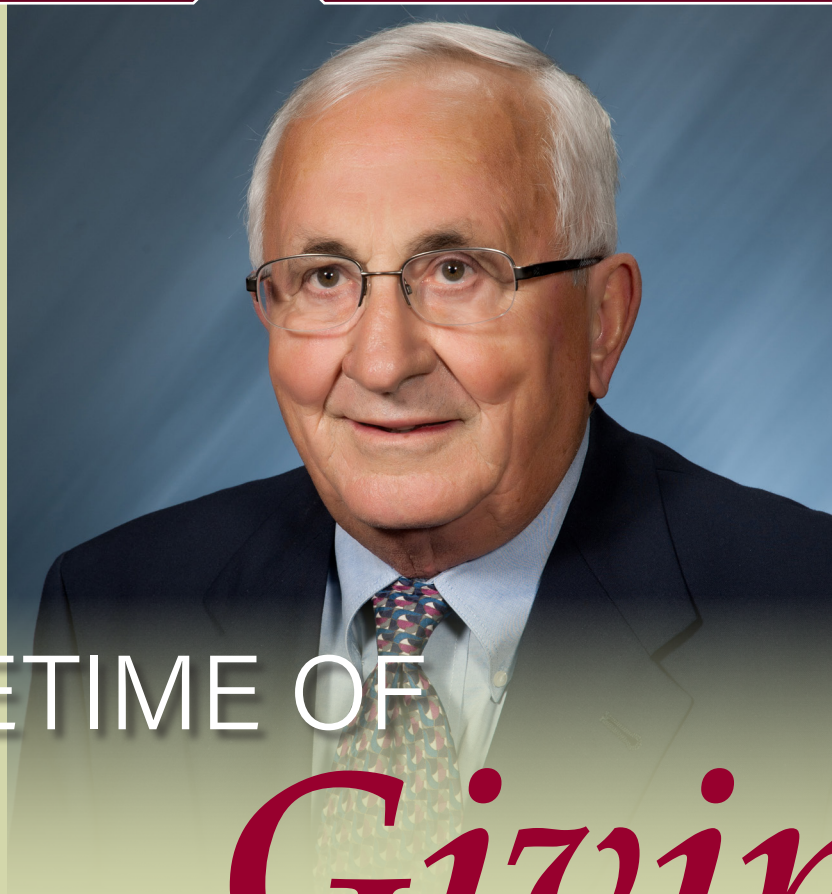
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#### Are you tired of paying premiums to maintain the policy?

By transferring ownership of your life insurance policy to the VCSU Foundation, you can eliminate premium payments and lower your taxes this year with a charitable income tax deduction.

The VCSU Foundation will benefit from the proceeds of your policy. To learn more, please contact us at 701-845-7203 or visit our website [vcsualumni.org](http://vcsualumni.org) today.



# LIFETIME OF *Giving*

Ray Braun's impact on Valley City State University has been years in the making. From monetary gifts to volunteer work, Braun has continually shown strong commitment to VCSU since making the Valley City community his home.

After 60 years of ongoing support, Braun recently gifted a \$1 million life estate to VCSU in support of the university's first ever capital campaign. It is the first major gift of the \$25 million capital campaign – titled *Forward Together* – which includes expansion of VCSU's athletic facilities, renovations of campus buildings, and increased scholarship support.

Braun's gift will directly support student scholarships for years to come, says Larry Robinson, the VCSU Foundation's Executive Director for Advancement.

"Ray's commitment to VCSU has been exemplary," Robinson said. "He has given of his time, talent and treasure for more than 60 years. His generosity speaks volumes of his desire to constantly give back and advocate for our university. We are most appreciative and thankful for his support. He has clearly impacted generations of students."

Braun was a key player in the establishment of the VCSU Foundation in 1996, and he has been central to its success over the subsequent 25 years. This year, the Foundation allocated a record \$1.86 million in student scholarships.

"This community and this university mean a lot to me," Braun said when asked about his contributions over the years. "It is a great feeling to be able to give something back."

Along with playing a major role in establishing the VCSU Foundation Board of Directors, Braun also helped create the Foundation Investment

Committee. He has been a long-term member of the Viking Century Club and is a regular in the stands at VCSU football and basketball games, cheering on the Vikings.

In 2011, Braun was recognized with the VCSU President's Distinguished Service Award – the highest honor that the President can bestow – for his exemplary contributions and ongoing support of Valley City State University. He is one of just 25 individuals to receive the honor.

Braun spent his working career as a managing partner of Ludvigson Braun and Company, a CPA firm in Valley City. The business provided a variety of accounting and financial services, including tax preparation, audit representation and payroll reporting. The firm was recently transferred to new ownership, and for the last several years Braun has served in an advisory capacity.

Born and raised at Strasburg, N.D., Braun attended Dakota Business College and the University of North Dakota. After making his home in Valley City, he became actively involved in the Valley City community, including Saint Catherine's Church, Reach (Religious Educators Advancing Christian Heritage), the Chamber of Commerce and the Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation.

Braun is a director with TRI W-G Inc., a medical equipment manufacturing firm in Valley City. He also serves as a board member of the Sheyenne Valley Foundation and a director of the Dakota Real Estate Investment Trust in Fargo, N.D. With various other commercial real estate interests in the community, Braun's roots in Valley City continue to run deep.

He is the proud father of three children, John (VCSU '94), Chris, and Rae Marie, and has eight grandchildren.

# VCSU Alumni Hold Leadership Positions in the N.D. Legislature

Two Valley City State University alumni are holding leadership positions in the current session of the North Dakota Legislature. Joan (Leichtman) Heckaman '67 is the Senate Minority Leader while Chet Pollert '77 is the House Majority Leader. The two both credit their years at Valley City State University for helping prepare them for the many demands of their respective positions.

Pollert has served in the House of Representatives since 1999 while Heckaman has served in the North Dakota Senate since 2006. They have both held roles on different legislative committees during their tenure. Heckaman has served on the Administrative Rules Committee; Budget Section; Information Technology Committee; and Legislative Management. Pollert has served on the Budget Section; Legislative Management; and Human Services.

Rep. Pollert noted that his experience as a small business owner helped him prepare for the legislature. Going back home after each session, he could see first-hand how his decisions impacted the constituents in his district. As House Majority Leader, Pollert noted that one of the biggest challenges is creating a consensus within the caucus and having a vision everyone can share for a common goal. Another big challenge is balancing your time between work, family and being a legislator. Pollert is also quick to point out the tremendous learning experience that the legislature provides.

At VCSU, Pollert remembers his time in the Sigma Nu Fraternity and living in Robertson Hall. He made many life-long friends at Valley City State and was appreciative of the one-on-one relationships with faculty and the low student-to-faculty ratios. Pollert stresses the benefits of a college education, encouraging everyone to consider attending a higher education institution.

"The experience helps you mature, and you soon realize that your successes and failures are your own," he said. "You learn independence."

At VCSU, Pollert majored in business administration and minored in economics and political science. He and his wife Jo have three grown children. They recently sold their business in New Rockford – G&R Grain & Feed – and currently reside in Carrington, N.D. Chet and Jo are members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Senator Heckaman has many memories of her days at Valley City State. She recalls basketball games at the "Bubble", ping pong in the game room, Homecoming festivities and having professors who enjoyed teaching. As a kid, she attended a one-room rural school but her fears of going to college soon disappeared when she found the faculty and staff so helpful at Valley City State. She was a member of the Viking Marching Band, under Dr. Loren Waa, and the Atheneum Society. Heckaman is a firm believer that alumni need to be ambassadors for their alma mater, and she encourages others to tell the story of their experiences at their university and why their

alma mater is so special. In her words, "VCSU is such a "close knit" school and alumni are often recognized wearing VCSU clothing." She is proud of having attended VCSU and takes her responsibility as an alumna seriously.

Sen. Heckaman is a retired educator, graduating from Valley City State with one of the university's signature teaching degrees. She is the first woman to serve as Senate Minority Leader in the state of North Dakota. Joan and her husband Dewey currently reside in New Rockford, N.D. She has been recognized as the North Dakota Early Childhood Advocate (2013); North Dakota Career and Technical Education Legislator of the Year (2015); and the North Dakota Autism Spectrum Legislator of the Year (2015). Sen. Heckaman is quick to point out the great working relationship she has with Senate Majority Leader Rich Wardner of Dickinson, and House Majority Leader Chet Pollert. Joan and Dewey are members of First Lutheran Church. They have four grown children and 10 grandchildren.

Larry Robinson, a former longtime State Senator representing District 24, and Executive Director of University Advancement at VCSU, believes Rep. Pollert and Sen. Heckaman have served their districts with distinction.

"To be elected to a leadership position by your caucus, speaks volumes of the respect you have earned from your peers," Robinson said. "During my time in the legislature, I have enjoyed working with both of them. They are professionals and passionate about their district and our state."



VCSU Alumni Chet Pollert '77, left, and Joan Heckaman '67 are pictured with VCSU President Alan LaFave during a recent day at the ND Legislature.



## Alaska Native Making His Mark in North Dakota

by Garret Fettig, VCSU Student Writer

Alaska and North Dakota alike boast freezing winters, beautiful scenery, and abundant natural wildlife, but Dr. David Woods noticed a difference all the same.

Born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, Woods flew into North Dakota for the first time in August 1998 to attend fall football practice at Valley City State University.

"I wore a nice, black Adidas tracksuit when I came to North Dakota," he recalls. "When I came out of the Fargo airport it was 98 degrees, and I'd never been in heat like that. I quickly ran in, stripped off all of my clothes, and came out in shorts and a tank top. Much better."

Now, 23 years later, Woods is calling North Dakota his home; the place he met his wife and raised his family, joined communities, and come to appreciate for its many opportunities. Woods currently coaches and teaches English at Wahpeton High School, but that's not the only place he's making a difference.

"What you put into your community is what you get out of it," he says. "That's the number one lesson Valley City taught me." This belief led Woods to run for Wahpeton's City Council, becoming the first African American to hold a seat as of June 2020. He also authors his own parenting blog and has served as a teacher and coach for hundreds of



students since graduating from VCSU.

Woods' parents always encouraged him to "strive for the best," pushing him to go to college and represent himself well. He tried his best to do exactly that – playing football, running track, and studying English education. At VCSU, Woods' professors emphasized how much representation matters, everywhere.

"I've always wanted a doctorate," he says. "I don't see a lot of Black doctors in education in North Dakota. I needed it so my children and their friends, not just of color, but everyone, sees that here's this guy, happens to be Black, and that's Dr. Woods."

Woods graduated from VCSU in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in English education. He later earned his master's in education from VCSU in 2012 and then became Dr. Woods in December of 2020, completing his PhD in educational leadership from the University of North Dakota. These degrees, along with his council position, coaching activities, personal training, and non-profit involvement, mark some of the highlights of Woods' career since his days at VCSU.

Cory Anderson, now the director of development and major gifts at VCSU, then the offensive coordinator who directly oversaw Woods on the football field, isn't surprised by his achievements.

"He's taken everything on headfirst, just like he did when he was on the football field," Anderson says. "He'll create his own role if there isn't one there for him. He's somebody that the whole Valley City community and the campus can be proud of."

Alongside his professional achievements, Woods considers becoming a father one of his greatest joys. Woods and his wife Heather – also a VCSU alumni and fellow English teacher at Wahpeton High School – met while working together at the VCSU student newspaper. Together, they've raised four children, Scout, 13, Claire, 10, Trey, 7, and Reese, 4. Woods suspects his kids will also be busy, as his girls both play basketball and Trey begins soccer.

Woods' own athletic career came to a climax as a running back at VCSU, but in his last year of high school he wasn't sure he'd even play in college. He injured himself during the first practice of his senior season and worried he'd derailed his chance at playing college football.

"Because I got injured, the offers went away," he says, "but Coach Mac (VCSU head coach Dennis McCulloch) was hounding me, and he called at the right time."

Thanks to the determination of the VCSU coaching staff, Woods committed to VCSU site unseen.

Once he arrived, things weren't exactly easy. The culture shock was hard to overcome. During high school, with his class of 500 students at a school of over 2,000, Woods had grown used to playing for larger crowds. He'd also grown used to playing inside during the winter months, which wasn't the case at Valley City State. During his freshman year at VCSU, the football team went 0-10, not winning a single game.

Then, tragedy struck. Four VCSU students, Woods' teammates on



*"He's taken everything on headfirst, just like he did when he was on the football field...he'll create his own role if there isn't one there for him..."*



the football team, died in a car accident on January 17, 1999. The entire university went into mourning. "That was really the last straw," Woods says. "I pretty much decided Valley probably wasn't the place for me."

It would have taken a miracle to convince him to stay. That miracle came in the form of his teammates and now lifelong friends, Mark Rerick, Brent Miller, Darin Walters and Steve Battle.

The four Vikings worked to persuade their friend, promising the team would not only be strong, but successful, if he stayed. Battle suggested they give it one more season and dedicate it to the four lost in the crash. Reluctantly, Woods agreed.

That decision proved to be the right one. Woods scored a total of 19 touchdowns during the 2000 and 2001 football seasons, helping the Vikings to an 18-4 record, a conference title and two national playoff berths. Both those teams were inducted into the Vikings Hall of Fame in 2017.

These successes proved something to Woods. "Everyone has that Division I dream, they see it on TV or whatever, but a lot of good things happen in other divisions, outside of Division I. You can go to Division I, never play, or go to NAIA, play all 4 years, and be the big man on campus. NAIA has more of that community side, while if you don't produce in upper Division I level, you're forgotten."

Aside from football at VCSU, Woods came to know more about the community. Cultural adjustments like waving when a car drove by, instead of fearing a drive-by, came easier to him. He excelled in the classroom as well as on the field. Professors like Dave Bass, who Woods called a mentor to him and many others in the education department, were influences on his education career.

"I think many people on campus didn't know about David's commitment to academic achievement until they had him in class," said Bass. "He became more extroverted, more communicative when he entered the classroom."

Woods' takeaways from college aren't only limited to athletics and academics. He acted as Marcellus in the theater department's production of Hamlet, participated in Mr. VCSU, and joined the student newspaper. It was there, in the Viking Newsroom, he met his future wife Heather Schmit.

Woods hopes everyone feels the same community sense of support as he felt at VCSU and uses it to thrive. "It's a place where if you wanted to create something, you're

going to get the support to create it," he says. "It's a place where you can create a community and do whatever you want to improve it."

At VCSU, Woods developed connections with people who became part of a lifelong group of friends. At VCSU, he became involved with student-run organizations that broadened his interests. At VCSU, he had staff and faculty to lean on while he earned his first degree. Woods is a true believer – and a living example – that whether it's personal, professional, or educational, success can be found at VCSU.

# BE PART OF VCSU'S GROWTH JOIN V-500

\$90,000



As VCSU experiences record enrollment growth – so does our commitment to scholarships at VCSU. To stay aligned, we need to expand our donor base.

Please consider investing in our students, our university, and our community.

Flexible payment options make it easy to show your Viking Pride and help reach our goal.



Donate today at  
[www.give.vcsu.edu](http://www.give.vcsu.edu)

## Rowing it Forward

**Cory Anderson '88, Director of Development and Major Gifts**



In June of 2020, I stepped onto the entrance of Old Main for a third time in my career. The first as a student in 1984, the next as a first-time VCSU employee in 1989, and now back in the Foundation Office.

Yes. The third time was even more charming than the first two. There has never been a better time to be a Viking. The university we all cherish is achieving record growth in enrollment, the campus is alive with construction and innovation, and our vision has never been clearer.

Indeed. How can you not be passionate about being a Viking? We are one of the fastest growing institutions in the Midwest due to many contributing factors but the most important are alumni and friends. VCSU brought us together, inspired hope and keeps us connected by that common passion.

Now, is the time for us to continue making a difference for others going forward. As we navigate through challenging times, the best way we can raise ourselves up is by doing something for someone who will benefit from the Viking experience, just as we did.

VCSU is our university. If you have not given in the past, let's lean in and find a convenient and comfortable way for you to "Row it Forward." Join in the pleasure of making a difference for future Vikings to share in our enthusiasm for Valley City State. Become a V-500 Scholarship member and give more students an experience they will always cherish. Join today at [give.vcsu.edu](http://give.vcsu.edu) or contact me for more information.

I am always anxious to hear what is new with our alumni and friends. Please call or email me and share your highlights and insights as they happen: [cory.anderson@vcsu.edu](mailto:cory.anderson@vcsu.edu) or 701-845-7216.



## VCSU establishing a Coaches Hall of Fame

### Inductees will receive the 'Osmon Icon Award'

Valley City State University is establishing the VCSU Coaches Hall of Fame with the intent and purpose of honoring and preserving the memory of those Valley City State alumni athletic coaches who have contributed in a very outstanding and positive way to the coaching profession.

Inductees to the VCSU Coaches Hall of Fame will receive the 'Osmon Icon Award' which is named in recognition of longtime coach and athletic director Bill Osmon for his many years of dedicated service at Valley City State.

Nominees must be a graduate of Valley City State University and must have been involved in the coaching profession for a minimum of 10 years. Other criteria to be considered includes achievements as a coach; personal contributions to the ideal of sports; and outstanding character demonstrated through commitment to youth both on and off the field or court.

Do you know of a deserving candidate for the Osmon Icon Award? Please visit [www.vcsualumni.org](http://www.vcsualumni.org) and submit a nomination through our online form.



Former VCSU coach Bill Osmon, center, celebrates with one of his conference championships basketball teams.

## Tarah (Cleveland) Beyers named MNTECH 2020 Rising Star

Tarah (Cleveland) Beyers '16 was named a recipient of the 2020 Rising Star Award, presented by the Minnesota Technology Association.

A 2016 graduate of VCSU's software engineering program, Beyers was recognized with the honor at Minnesota's 2020 tekne Awards on Nov. 18.

Since joining Target Corporation after graduating from VCSU, she's earned multiple promotions and has made a tremendous impact on Target's Women in Science and Technology (TWIST) organization. Her passion has been getting young women and students excited about roles in technology.

"Women pursuing STEM remains low nationwide despite having equal interest at a young age," said Beyers. "TWIST is a volunteer organization within Target that establishes programs and opportunities to engage and inspire women pursuing STEM careers."

Beyers started her Target career as an engineer working on Target's Digital Weekly Ad. She was promoted to product manager and has since been promoted again. She is currently a lead product owner and also works on supply chain technology for Target. Throughout her Target career, Beyers has mentored, volunteered and played roles in several different initiatives to increase the

representation of women and minorities in STEM careers.

"I feel a sense of urgency towards addressing the racial and gender disparities that exist in the tech industry, and my contributions are just one tiny piece of the puzzle in making the tech industry more inclusive in the state of Minnesota & beyond," she said. "I want to continue creating opportunities for youth to get exposure to the technology we are building at Target so that students can imagine that future for themselves. This strategy is working, but it takes everyone getting involved to make a measurable difference!"



## VCSU sets spring enrollment record for 6th consecutive year

Valley City State University has set spring enrollment records for the sixth consecutive year, according to official spring term 2021 numbers released Feb. 9 by the university.

VCSU reports a total headcount of 1,632 students this spring, including 1,501 undergraduates and 131 graduate students. Both the total headcount and undergraduate headcount are spring enrollment records, surpassing the previous highs of 1,622 and 1,491 set last year.

The full-time equivalent (FTE) of 1,119 students announced on Feb. 9 is also a new record for the spring.

"This is absolutely tremendous news," said VCSU President Alan LaFave. "Our entire campus community has played a role in achieving this milestone. We are very excited that students, together with their families, continue to trust Valley City State University for their education. This is validation for the work our campus continues to do in providing an outstanding college experience."

Over the past decade, VCSU's total headcount in the spring semester has increased by 25 percent, growing from 1,306 students in 2012 to 1,632 students this spring. Likewise, VCSU has set fall enrollment records for the past six years.

## VCSU Holds Virtual Winter Commencement



Brady Matheny delivered the undergraduate reflection at VCSU's virtual commencement on Dec. 17, 2020.

Valley City State University held a virtual commencement ceremony on Dec. 17, 2020, to honor its graduating class during the 2020 fall semester. VCSU recognized 95 graduates – 81 who received bachelor's degrees and 14 who received master's degrees.

Graduating senior Brady Matheny delivered the undergraduate reflection, and the faculty reflection was presented by Lee Kruger, associate professor of English.

A native of Lisbon, N.D., Matheny earned a bachelor's degree in history education. He was a member of the VCSU football and track and field teams, while also participating in the Native American Culture club, the history club and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Matheny was tabbed a Viking Pilot in 2019, was elected to the 2018 Homecoming Court and has also served as a Viking Ambassador.

During his reflection, he touched on the ways a small campus like VCSU allows students to become involved.

"Football, VCAB, track and many other activities at VCSU have presented me with great opportunities," he said. "They have allowed me to meet so many great people on this campus. You have all made VCSU more than just a school, but a family."

The complete ceremony can be viewed on VCSU's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/vcsuvikings](http://www.youtube.com/vcsuvikings)

VCSU also held a virtual commencement in May 2020 due to COVID-19 safety protocols. All graduates from the last year are invited back to participate in VCSU's next in-person commencement ceremony, which will be held on May 15, 2021.

2021

# VIKING SCRAMBLE

## Golf Tournament

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021

VALLEY CITY TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB/  
BJORNSON PARK PUBLIC COURSE

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE

Registration from 8:30-9 a.m. at VC Town & Country Club  
\$100/person, \$400/team (includes golf, meal,  
participation gift, door prizes and hole prizes)



**TO REGISTER:**

[vcsuvikings.com/scramble](http://vcsuvikings.com/scramble)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Jill DeVries 701-845-7160

## Erin Klingenberg appointed Interim Dean of Student Affairs



Valley City State University President Alan LaFave has announced the appointment of Dr. Erin Klingenberg to Interim Dean of Student Affairs.

The longtime director of counseling services at VCSU, Klingenberg assumed her new responsibilities on March 1, 2021.

“Dr. Klingenberg brings extensive experience to this position and is a very positive advocate for our students and programming in the student affairs division,” said President LaFave. “I have great confidence in her ability to help provide an exciting, safe and healthy campus experience for our students.”

Klingenberg has worked at VCSU since 1990, including the past 30 years as the director of counseling services. Her higher education experience at VCSU also includes roles as a faculty member in health and physical education (HPE) and psychology, along with various responsibilities in Title IX, athletics, student activities, retention and human resources.

Klingenberg will retain some of her counseling responsibilities while taking on the dean of student affairs role. She will also serve as a member of the president’s cabinet.

“I am excited to begin my new responsibilities of helping student affairs directors and staff continue to provide quality service to the students, faculty and staff of the VCSU community,” Klingenberg said. “Thank you to the current administration for their confidence in my abilities to lead the different areas of student affairs and for the support of our highly qualified student affairs directors. I look forward to continuing to work closely with our students, just in a new role. Thank you also to my family for their continuous support through my professional journey.”

Klingenberg started her professional career as a high school teacher and coach and then worked at NDSU-Bottineau as a faculty member and volleyball coach. She began her VCSU career in 1990 as a coach and faculty member before being hired as director of counseling services in 1991.

She holds a doctorate of philosophy degree in human development and supervision from North Dakota State University, along with two master of education degrees from NDSU and University of North Dakota. Klingenberg completed her undergraduate degree at Jamestown College.

## Student Leadership Exemplified



Angeline Gannon never envisioned becoming a Viking as she approached high school graduation. But as she considered colleges, the Bismarck native decided to take a visit to VCSU’s campus on the urging of her dad – a VCSU alumnus.

“I had an amazing tour guide, and I fell in love with VCSU,” she said. “Driving back home I told my mom that even though I had only been there a couple

hours, it already felt like a second home to me.”

The rest, as they say, is history.

Since arriving at her “second home” in the fall of 2018, Angeline has been busy creating a memorable Viking experience – taking advantage of the opportunities a small campus presents. She has truly immersed herself in campus life, pursuing a degree in history education while also competing as a dual-sport athlete and serving as student senate president.

“The pride of being a Viking is what has kept me here,” she said. “VCSU has a lot of pride – not just on campus, but within the Valley City community as well. It is amazing to be part of something that has so much support on and beyond campus.”

Angeline was elected student senate president in 2019 and has been involved in numerous campus projects and decisions. She participated in President Alan LaFave’s

inauguration ceremony, took an active role in helping promote the new Center for the Arts to the state legislature, and later gave a speech at the building’s groundbreaking ceremony. As student senate president, she is constantly working with VCSU staff and her fellow students to move VCSU forward.

Athletically, Angeline competes as both a cross country and track and field athlete, and she earned All-Conference this season after finishing seventh at the North Star Athletic Association Cross Country Championships. She is also heavily involved on campus as a resident assistant, Viking Ambassador and Learning to Live Mentor, along with being a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council and the history club. Through it all, she’s established tremendous bonds with her teammates and others on campus – leading to memories she won’t soon forget.

“At the conference cross country meet my freshman year, we had three athletes qualify for nationals and the rest of my teammates had great races,” recalled Angeline. “I personally had a horrible race, but I did not care because I was so happy for and proud of my teammates. The energy and the celebration from our little cross country team was unmatched to anything I have felt before. It was a truly amazing and memorable moment to be a Viking.”

Angeline is planning to graduate from VCSU in the fall of 2022 with a degree in history education. She is also pursuing a minor in political science and a certificate in coaching. After graduation, Angeline intends to work as a high school teacher and eventually plans to earn her master’s degree and pursue a career as a school administrator.

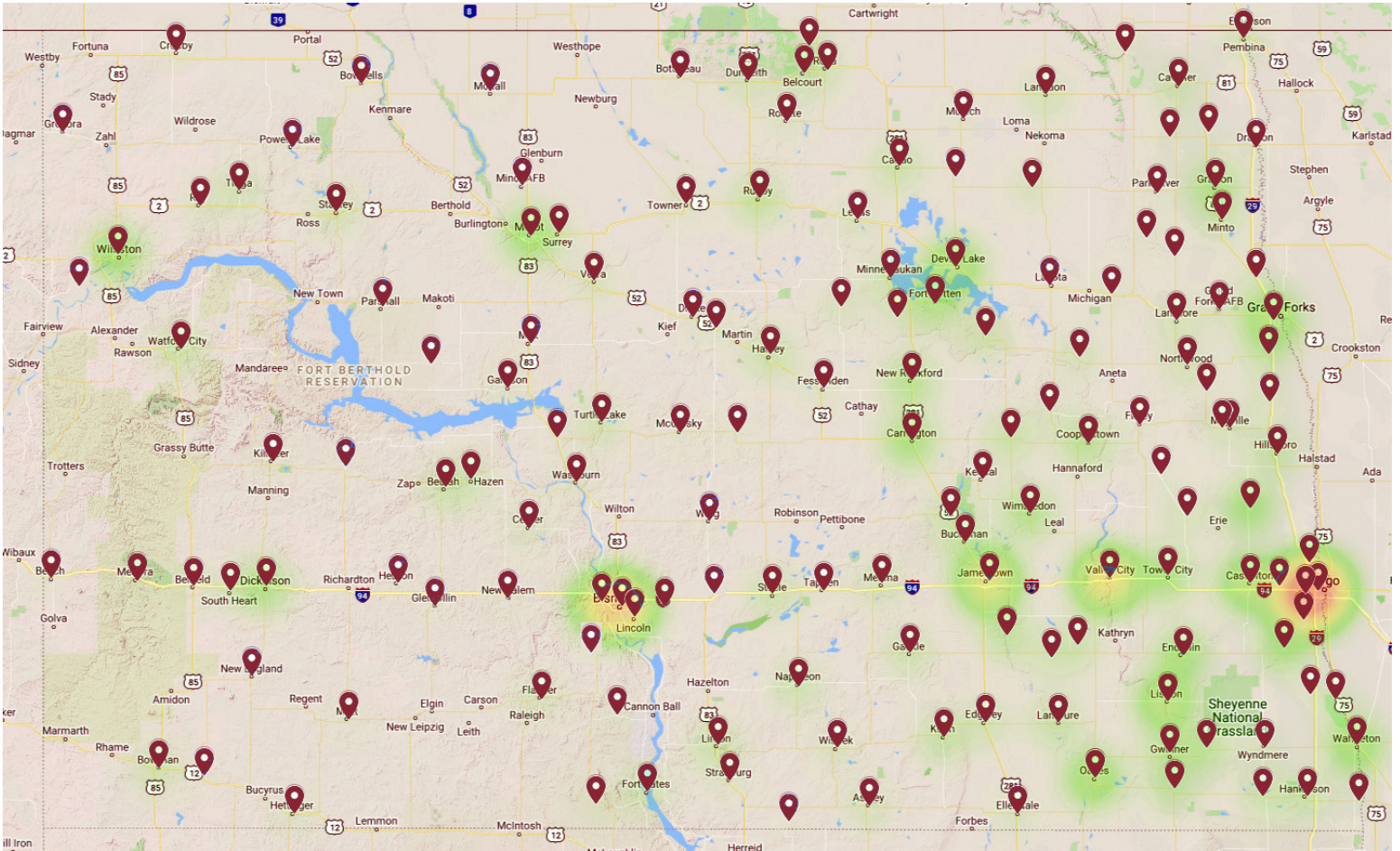


VCSU student senate president Angeline Gannon delivers a speech to the ND House Appropriations Committee on March 20, 2021.

# VCSU's Impact on Teachers

## ALUMNI FACTS

- Total Living Alumni: 12,085
- Alumni in North Dakota: 6,824
- Top 2 Areas of Alumni: Valley City and Fargo
- 1,438 VCSU alumni serve as licensed teachers, administrators and education professionals at 336 schools and education units in 157 North Dakota communities.



Locations of VCSU alumni serving as teachers or education professionals in North Dakota.

## VCSU named in U.S. News and World Report Best Online Program rankings

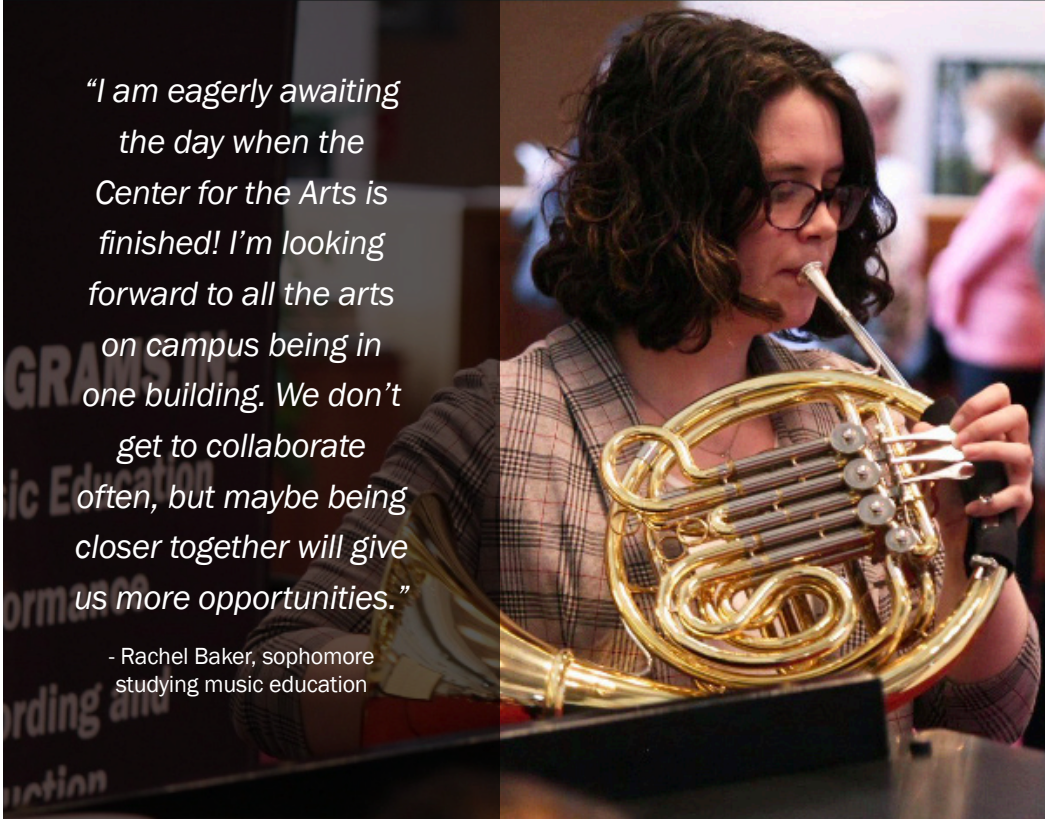
Valley City State University's online master's in education and bachelor's programs have been recognized by U.S. News and World Report in its Best Online Programs rankings.

In the 2021 national rankings of degree-granting online programs, Valley City State's online master's programs in education were ranked 142nd of 296 schools, and the online bachelor's programs at VCSU were ranked 189th out of 337 schools.

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

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

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



*"I am eagerly awaiting the day when the Center for the Arts is finished! I'm looking forward to all the arts on campus being in one building. We don't get to collaborate often, but maybe being closer together will give us more opportunities."*

- Rachel Baker, sophomore studying music education



*"I'm most excited about having new studio spaces for our classes. Especially with the new digital design major, we will get to have studios that are more dedicated to those classes which is something we don't currently have."*

- Bailey Nelson, sophomore studying art and digital design

## Center for the Arts Update

Construction continues on the new Center for the Arts being built on the campus of Valley City State University. Thanks to cooperative winter weather, the project remains on schedule and is slated to open for students in January 2022. The Center for the Arts will bring the VCSU art and music programs together in a state-of-the-art facility with spaces designed specifically for the disciplines.





ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S  
**CORNER**  
JILL DEVRIES



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

## Celebrating outstanding Viking alumni

It is often said a team is only as good as it's people. Coaches, athletes, professors and leaders who make up VCSU's human capital are critical to our success.

At VCSU, there is a long-standing tradition of excellence educating the next generation of teachers and coaches. Nothing showcases this like watching the North Dakota state high school tournaments and seeing VCSU alumni successfully leading their teams. This year, for example, the state Class B volleyball championship featured two teams led by former Vikings: state champion Linton's **Jaime (Bauman) Richter '00** and runner-up Langdon Area/Edmore/Munich's **Rich Olson '92**. **Carolyn Olson '87** coached Fargo Davies and **Rebekah Depesa '13** coached Valley City to Class A volleyball state tournament berths. In football, **Joseph Gerding '10** led the Lisbon football team to the state championship game.

In basketball, **Brad Woehl '98** won his first state championship with the Kindred boys basketball team beating **Kevin Strobel '95** and his Edgeley/Kulm/Montpelier team in the 2021 Class B title game.

The tradition remains strong as many VCSU alumni are on the sidelines as both head and assistant coaches sharing their knowledge, training, talent and experiences with the next generation of high school and collegiate student-athletes. We are proud of them all, and we are excited to announce the celebration of our outstanding coaches with a new alumni award.

VCSU is establishing the Osmon Icon Award to recognize individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in coaching through their

careers. Recipients will be inducted in the new VCSU Coaches Hall of Fame, which honors and preserves the memory of those Valley City State alumni athletic coaches who have contributed in a very outstanding and positive way to the coaching profession.

To learn more and/or nominate outstanding VCSU alumni, visit the Foundation alumni webpage at: [www.vcsualumni.org](http://www.vcsualumni.org)

## Winter Sports Recaps

### Women's Basketball finishes 5th in NSAA

The Valley City State women's basketball team concluded the 2020-21 season with an 8-13 record overall and 6-8 conference record. The Vikings finished in fifth place in the NSAA standings and faced fourth-ranked Mayville State in the quarterfinals of the NSAA Tournament. Valley City State lost 56-53 in a solid team effort and set a new school record with 12 blocked shots in the game.

Senior Macey Kvilvang was awarded NSAA Defensive Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-Conference after posting 12.5 points per game, 8.5 rebounds per game, and 2.7 blocks per game in just 13 games played. She set a new school record with seven blocked shots against Mayville State in the first round of the NSAA Tournament.

Senior Maara Nelson was named Second Team All-Conference after leading the Vikings in scoring with 12.8 points per game, shooting 45.5 percent from the field and 76.2 percent from the free throw line. She recorded 36 assists, 22 steals, and 11 blocks this season. Nelson was also named an NSAA Champion of Character.

Sophomore Adriana Torres averaged 10.4 points and 5.5 rebounds per game, and junior Dani Schwanke averaged 10.1 points per game this season as other top scorers for the Vikings.



Macey Kvilvang



## Viking Men Rise Towards The Top

By Hannah Anderson, VCSU Sports Information Intern

The Valley City State University men's basketball program took another step forward this year. For the last four seasons, the Vikings have consistently been in the middle of the North Star Athletic Association standings. This season, the Vikings rose towards the top as they finished second in the NSAA regular season standings, received votes for several weeks in the NAIA Top 25 Poll and finished the season with a 19-7 overall record and a 9-5 mark in conference play.

Although VCSU's season ended in the semifinals of the NSAA Conference Tournament, the Vikings put on a display of passion, intensity and entertaining basketball to record the program's first winning record since 2015-16.



Ryan Montgomery

This was the program's fifth season under head coach Ryan Montgomery, who was hired shortly before the 2016-17 season. With a shift in coaching staff, new players and a new overall program atmosphere, the Vikings have gone through the steps to rebuild the program. Despite some frustrations over the year, Montgomery maintained belief and trust in their vision for the program.

"We never strayed in believing what our staff believed when we got here," he said. "We wanted

to run a student-first, talented basketball program. Things had to be changed and certain stigmas needed to be eliminated. Those tough times were the cost of change and there was no way around that. We are not all the way there yet. We need to take the last step, but we are on the path."

Building a program takes time, and sometimes the success is not immediate. With their current roster and culture, the Vikings believed this was the year that things would take off. They were right.

After losing the season opener on the road, the Vikings won nine straight games to inject themselves into the national conversations – receiving votes in the NAIA Top 25 Coaches' Poll. That stretch included wins over nationally-ranked teams Dakota Wesleyan University and University of Jamestown.

This year's squad had a wide range of talent and personality, but all of the players worked together to create a strong team. The Vikings were deep and fun to watch, employing an up-tempo style that went 11-12 players deep each game and created havoc for opposing teams with a high-pressure, full-court defense.

There was not one specific shining star on the team – everyone had their own talents and knew how to use them effectively on the court. Five players averaged nine or more points per game, and often it was a different player stepping up in a big role each night.

"We're a good basketball team," said Montgomery. "We have the talent needed to win at a high level, and we have the experience. We play intense and fast. We create mayhem all game and we pride ourselves in that."

The Vikings averaged 83 points per game and shot 49 percent from the field and 38 percent on 3-pointers. VCSU's pressure defense averaged 10 steals and forced opponents into 18 turnovers per game while the Vikings committed just 11.5 turnovers.



Kevin Schramm

VCSU's Chris Thompson was named NSAA Defensive Player of the Year. Kevin Schramm earned 1st Team All-Conference; Jalen Addison earned 2nd Team All-Conference; and Connor Entzi received All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Off the court, the Vikings put together a team GPA above 3.0 during the fall semester proving their dedication to both basketball and their education. With only one senior on this year's roster, fans can expect to see a very similar team – and hopefully even more success – next season.



Jalen Addison

### Indoor Track & Field

Zachary Co earned All-American honors for the second straight season, and the VCSU track and field team broke seven school records during the 2021 indoor season.

Co, a senior from El Paso, Texas, placed fourth in shot put at the NAIA National Championships in early March. He unleashed a career-best throw of 17.13 meters (56', 2.5") at the national meet. The fourth-place finish was his second straight All-American performance after he placed sixth in 2020.

Senior high jumper Alex Otto also qualified for the NAIA National Meet and tied for 11th in the nation. Otto qualified for nationals with a jump of 2.03 meters (6'8") during the season, and later won the NSAA Conference Championship.

The Vikings finished the NSAA conference meet with three individual titles, including Otto, Co and senior Allyssa Weitkum, who won the women's 3,000 meters with a time of 11:23.55.

Both the VCSU men and women took fourth place in the NSAA team competition. The Vikings finished with 12 All-Conference performances, including three champions, five second-place finishers and four third-place finishers.

The women's 4x200 meter relay team broke a 19-year-old school record during the season, recording a time of 1:51.29. VCSU's record-breaking relay team included Taylor Sargent, Keolani Sayles, Ashanti Guertin and Brooke Malsom.

Other records set during the season included Taylor Sargent in the women's 60 meter hurdles (9.37 seconds) and pentathlon (2,476 points); Brooke Malsom in the women's 60 meters (8.08 seconds) and the 300 meters (43.68 seconds); Brooke Tibke in women's pole vault (2.75 meters); and Clay Kummer in the men's 55 meter hurdles (8.41 seconds).

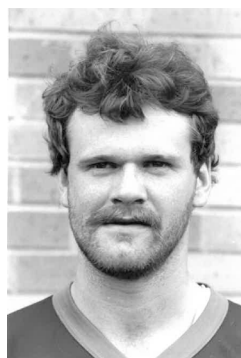


## 2020 Viking Athletic Hall of Fame inductees announced

Valley City State University has announced that six individuals and two teams are being inducted in the Viking Athletic Hall of Fame this year. The induction ceremony will take place Friday, Oct. 1, during Homecoming. There was no Hall of Fame Class in 2020 due to the ceremony being canceled because of COVID-19. Many of this year's inductees had previously been announced as inductees for 2020.

Individuals receiving the honor in 2021 include Jeff Pederson '83, Teri (Loe) Cresap '86, Kyle Bauer '93, Matt Johnson '94, Mike Tenuto '76 and Tom Klapp '05. Teams being inducted to the Hall of Fame this year include the 1990 and 1991 men's golf teams.

All individuals, coaches and team members are invited back for the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. For tickets or more information, contact the VCSU Alumni Office at 701-845-7203.



### JEFF PEDERSON '83

**Grafton, N.D.  
Football • 1979-82**

A native of Grafton, N.D., Pederson excelled as a kicker and punter for the Valley City State football team from 1979-82. He made 25 field goals and 72 extra points during his Viking career. Pederson's best individual year came during VCSU's conference title season in 1980, when he made 21 extra points and the current school record of 11 field goals. He helped the Vikings win conference titles in both 1980 and 1982. Pederson set a school record with 25 career field goals – a record which stood for more than 30 years before being broken in 2014. Pederson also holds the record for longest field goal, making a 62-yarder in 1981 against Moorhead State.



### TERI (LOE) CRESAP '86

**McVille, N.D.  
Softball, Women's Basketball • 1983-86**

Cresap was a two-sport standout for the Vikings in the 1980s, starring on the softball diamond as a smooth all-around shortstop and on the basketball court as a steady guard. A native of McVille, N.D., she earned four all-conference honors in her Viking career, picking up the recognition in 1983, 1985 and 1986 in softball and during the 1984-85 season in basketball. Cresap helped the Viking softball team capture conference championships in 1983, 1984 and 1986.



### KYLE BAUER '93

**Valley City, N.D.  
Golf • 1989-92**

A two-time all-conference honoree, Bauer helped the VCSU men's golf team to back-to-back conference championships during his career. A native of Valley City, Bauer was named all-conference in both 1990 and 1991, helping the Vikings win conference championships both seasons. As a junior in 1991, he finished second at the conference meet with a 5-over par score of 149. Bauer was also named NAIA Academic All-American as a senior in 1992.

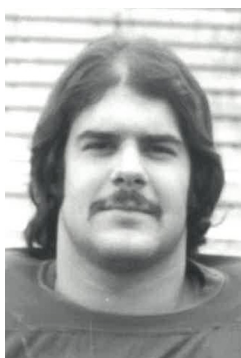


**MATT JOHNSON '94**

**Valley City, N.D.**

**Golf • 1991-93**

A Valley City native, Johnson was a three-time all-district and all-conference golfer for the Vikings from 1991-93. As a freshman in 1991, Johnson won the individual conference championship, shooting a 3-over par score of 147. His individual title helped the Vikings to their second straight team conference championship. As a sophomore and junior, Johnson earned both all-conference and all-district honors. He was also named NAIA Academic All-American as a junior. VCSU's golf program was discontinued before his senior season.

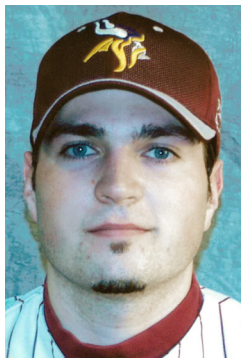


**MIKE TENUTO '76**

**Philadelphia, Pa.**

**Football • 1972-75**

Mike Tenuto was a three-time All-Conference player for the Valley City State football team in the 1970's. Tenuto excelled in disrupting the opposing team's offense as a defensive tackle. He was named All-Conference in 1973, 1974 and 1975, and was named the team's Most Improved Player during the conference championship season of 1972. He received Honorable Mention All-District in 1974 and was named the team's Top Defensive Player. In 1975, Tenuto received All-District and Honorable Mention All-American as a senior.



**TOM KLAPP '05**

**Elkford, British Columbia**

**Baseball • 2001-04**

Tom Klapp was a three-time All-American for the Viking baseball team in the 2000's, excelling as a pitcher and infielder. Klapp finished his Viking career with a 23-9 record on the mound, posting a 3.69 career ERA with 200 strikeouts in 227 innings. He had 20 complete games and pitched eight shutouts. As a batter, Klapp hit .315 for his career with 13 home runs, 22 doubles and 77 RBIs in 122 games. During his junior season in 2003 Klapp had team-highs of eight home runs and 40 RBIs while also

posting a 9-2 record as a pitcher. As a senior, Klapp recorded a career-best 2.57 ERA with six complete games and three saves. At the plate, Klapp hit .349 as a senior with nine doubles, four home runs and 27 RBIs. Klapp was named All-American in 2002, 2003 and 2004, and was named the conference's Most Valuable Graduating Senior in 2004. He was also an NAIA Scholar-Athlete during his junior and senior seasons.

**1990 & 1991 MEN'S GOLF TEAMS**

The 1990 and 1991 men's golf teams won back-to-back conference championships in the North Dakota College Athletic Conference. The 1990 team edged Minot State University to win the NDCAC meet, and won individual medalist honors at four of the season's six meets. Mike Ford won three straight medalist honors to open the season, and Kevin Gietz won the fourth tournament for Valley City. Gietz and Kyle Bauer both earned all-conference honors at the NDCAC meet. Team members included Bauer, Ford, Gietz, Jim Dew, Jared Manley, Todd Pederson, Kirk Baeth and Greg Paiement. Monte Johnson was head coach.



1990 Golf Team: (front) Mike Ford, Greg Paiement, Todd Peterson, Kirk Baeth; (back) Coach Monte Johnson, Kyle Bauer, Kevin Gietz, Jim Dew, Jared Manley

The 1991 men's golf team shared the conference championship with Minot State; the team shot a 613 at the NDCAC meet to claim their second straight conference title. VCSU freshman Matt Johnson won the individual conference title, shooting a 3-over par 147, while junior Kyle Bauer finished second with a 149. The Vikings finished third at the NAIA District 12 Meet. Johnson, Bauer and Kevin Gietz were named all-conference, and Johnson earned all-district honors. Team members included Bauer, Gietz, Johnson, Kirk Baeth and Todd Pederson. Head coach was Darrell Anderson.



1991 Golf Team: (front) Todd Pederson, Kirk Baeth; (back) Kyle Bauer, Kevin Gietz, Matt Johnson, Coach Darrel Anderson

## Viking Athletics Quick Hits

The 2020-21 collegiate athletic seasons have varied wildly over the country, with many schools delaying sports or electing to cancel seasons entirely. Valley City State University has played a fairly normal season, with some adjustments. Let's catch up with how things have gone so far for the Vikings.

### Football

The Valley City State football team was able to play seven games during the fall, posting a 5-2 record. All games were against conference opponents. The Vikings had two scheduled games canceled due to COVID quarantines. VCSU did not qualify for the NAIA playoffs – which are being played in the spring this season – but will convene for a couple weeks of spring practice.



Jahidi West

### Cross Country

The Vikings cross country teams were able to compete at four meets this season. Junior Angeline Gannon earned All-Conference honors with her seventh-place finish at the NSAA Conference Championships. Both of VCSU's teams placed fifth at the conference meet.

### Volleyball

The Viking volleyball season was split between the fall and spring this year. VCSU posted a 4-9 overall record and a 3-3 mark in conference play during the fall. Through March 18, the Vikings are now 4-16 overall. The season will wrap up with the NSAA Tournament in early April.

### Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team put together a very strong season, winning nine games in a row early on and finishing with a 19-7 overall record. The Vikings tied for second in the conference standings with a 9-5 record. VCSU's season ended in the semifinals of the NSAA Conference Tournament.

### Women's Basketball

The start of VCSU's women's basketball season began about three weeks later than planned due to COVID quarantines. At the end of the season, the Vikings were still able to play 21 games. VCSU had an 8-13 overall record and was fifth in the NSAA standings with a 6-8 conference record.

### Track & Field

Viking track and field was able to compete at five small meets during the indoor season. Due to COVID, most meets were limited to just a few teams. Zachary Co (shot put) and Alex Otto (high jump) qualified for the national meet, and Co earned All-American honors after placing fourth in the nation. Co, Otto and Allyssa Weitkum (women's 3000 meters) all won individual conference titles. The outdoor season is scheduled to start in late March.

### Golf

The Viking golf teams played at six small meets during the fall season. The Vikings are set to resume their season in early April. The NSAA Conference Championships will be held April 26-27.

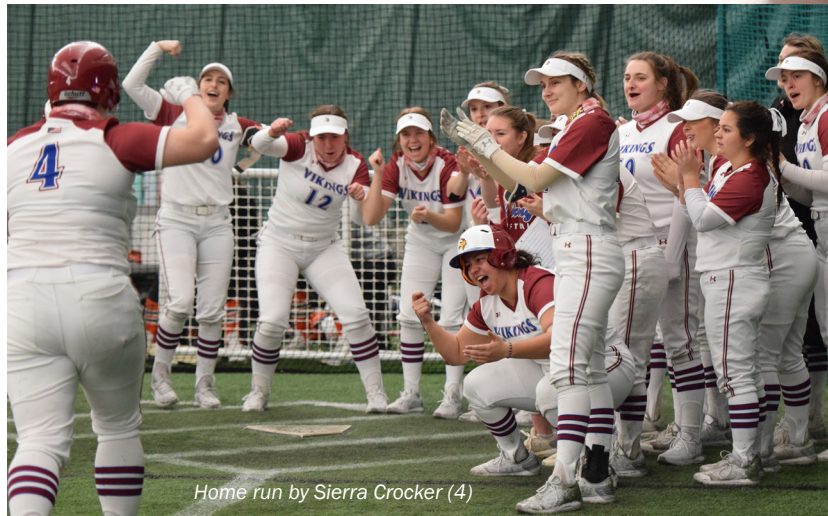
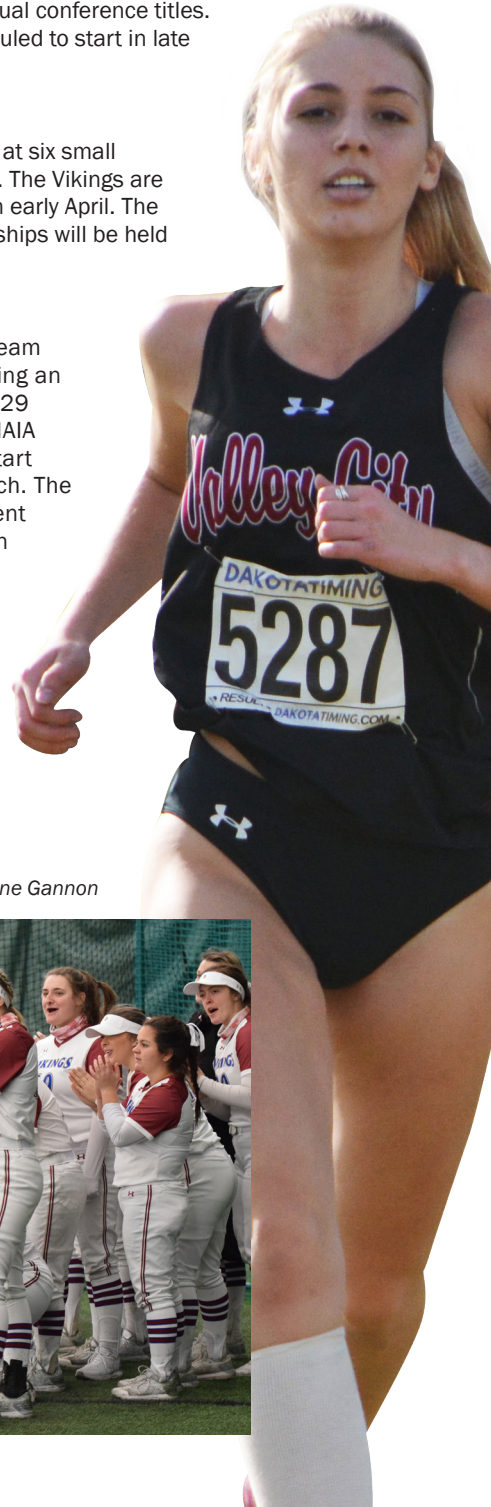
### Softball

Valley City State's softball team is off to a strong start, posting an 11-3 record through March 29 and receiving votes in the NAIA National Poll. The Vikings start conference play in late March. The NSAA Conference Tournament is scheduled for May 7-10 in Bellevue, Neb.

### Baseball

The VCSU baseball team has a 9-16 overall record through March 29. Conference play starts in late March for the Vikings. VCSU will host the NSAA Baseball Tournament on May 7-10.

Angeline Gannon



Home run by Sierra Crocker (4)

## PHONE-A-THON

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

Thank you to everyone who has supported the 2021 Alumni Phone-A-Thon. The following list includes cash donations and payment on pledges received as of March 15, 2021.

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

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Contact your accountant or tax attorney to see how you could benefit from a rollover gift to the Valley City State University Foundation.

## Vikings On The Move

**Capt. Robert Muhs Sr. '49** is retired. He spent 35 years as an administrator in Towner, N.D. He lives on a 1,000 acre farm and is enjoying the countryside of North Dakota.

**Donald Frost '50** is 92 years old! He enjoys league bowling and golfing and is looking forward to summer. Donald is tired of this lockdown!

**Hubert Thoreson '50** went on to receive his Masters from UND in 1955 and also his doctorate from UND in 1972. He retired in 1990.

**Marge (Netland) Morgan '58** still resides in Long Prairie, Minn. following the passing of her husband, **Leo Morgan '58**, in August, 2020 after battling several health issues.

**Bob '59 and Deanne (Roseth) '60 Horne** were very blessed to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in March of 2020. They are thankful for three sons, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren!

**Shirley (Lien) Grondahl '59** lives in a retirement home and fondly remembers her time at VCSU.

**Tilford '59 and Mary (Christensen) '59 Kroshus** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June, 2020. Tilford's little band – "Kroshus & Krew" – celebrated 50 years of performing.

**Marilyn (Knutson) '60 and Don '63 Wilke** are grateful of the educations they received at VCSU that started them on successful careers.



**Loretta Welk-Jung '64** recently published two children's books during the time of pandemic quarantine. She worked with Austin MaCauley Publishers, from New York to publish her book: "The Worry Rock." She also self-published another short story titled "Good Night Animals on the Farm." All of Loretta's books can

be found on Amazon by searching "Loretta Welk Jung." Loretta graduated from Valley City State with a degree in elementary education.

**Bob Bender '64** was the first in his family to graduate from college. Bob taught in elementary and middle schools for 31 years and substitute taught for another seven years after retiring. He likes to hike and cross-country ski. Bob and his wife also own a mini-farm where they garden and raise a couple of beef cows. They are very involved with their church and have worked on mission building projects in Guatemala, Kenya and even in the jungle of Peru. Bob wants to express his thankfulness to VCSU for the excellent training in the education he received. He is grateful for each of the professors and friends that helped shape who he is.

**Gary Frandson '64** and his wife, Mary, are retired and live in Marshall Minn. They spend their winters in Maricopa, Ariz. Gary retired from Southwest Minnesota State University after teaching in the business education department for 40 years. Mary taught elementary education for 30 years.

**Shirley (Syverson) Hanson '64** notes how much VCSU means to her family. Besides Shirley, her three children, **Troy Hanson '90, Heidi (Hanson) Enquist '93 and Trent Hanson (dec.) '97** are also VCSU grads. Grandson **Steven Hanson** is a 2013 grad and another grandson Garrett Hanson is a freshman at VCSU.

**Bob Gross '64** and his wife, Judy, are retired and living in Minneapolis. Bob spent many years as a school superintendent in Brainerd, Minn. and with the international schools. His last assignment was with the international school in Basel, Switzerland (2018-2019).

**Gladwin Lynne '65** taught science in N.D. and Minn. schools for 33 years. He also was a park naturalist and park ranger for 38 years, mostly in the summer.

**Peggy (Thomsen) '66 and James '66 Swanke** jointly own Swanke & Associates, LLC domiciled in Ariz.

**David Rust '67** was re-elected to the North Dakota Senate.

**Kaye (Otto) Topp '68** and her husband, George, have recently published their newly released inspirational memoir, "Pinned!: Farm Accident-My Walk in Faith." In May 2004, George was pinned between his tractor and truck's bumper with no one around to save him. He thought there was no way he would get out alive until God intervened and saved his life. Their debut book, "Pinned," shares how individually and together they got through a traumatic incident that strengthened their faith. To learn more, please visit [www.pinnedbook.com](http://www.pinnedbook.com). Kaye retired from teaching in 2010 and George from grain farming the same year. Kaye and George have been married since 1968 and have four children.

**Sandi (Johnson) '68 and Terry '68 Kemmer** retired to Detroit Lakes, Minn. in 2012 after 30+ years at Mayville State University and the Goose River Bank. They enjoy time with their three children's families in St. Cloud, Minn., Bismarck, N.D. and Fort Worth, Texas. One of their favorite sounds is the "ringing of the doorbell", so stop over when in the Detroit Lakes area!

**Sonia (Jacobsen) '70 and Allen '73 Sjurseth** are enjoying their retirement. Al retired in 2006 from the NDANG with the rank of Chief Master Sargent as chief of communication maintenance. He had 39 1/2 yrs of service. Sonia retired in 2009 from Bank of the West as corporate trainer for the insurance agencies. She enjoyed 32 years working in the insurance industry. They lived in Fargo for 27 years before selling their Fargo home and moving to Tamarac Lake, Minn. where Al and their son, Mark, had torn down the cabin and rebuilt a beautiful new home. Al and Sonia traveled the country and decided to buy a home and remodel it at Sunbird Golf Resort in Chandler, Ariz. where they now spend Oct to May each year. They have two sons, one daughter and eight grandchildren who they are quite proud of. They have some wonderful memories of their time spent at VCSU.

**Judy (Holt) '71 and Walt '71 Vollmers** are spending their winters in Lake Havasu, Ariz. They love being in the sun! They still keep in touch with Judy's Delphi sisters and get together regularly. They spend their summers at their cabin on Lake Tschida. Judy and Walt will celebrate 50 years of wedded bliss this summer.



**Shirley (Schonhardt) '72 and Robert '72 Ferguson** are both retired. Shirley still substitute teaches and Robert works part-time on the family farm.

**Kathy (Shape) '74 and Boyd '75 Sussex** have been happily retired for four years. They love living on Big Stone Lake and keep busy doing whatever and whenever they want. Covid has kept them close to home and being safe, but they are still blessed to spend time with their son, **Jackson Sussex '08**, his wife, Val, and their children, Baker and Lauren, in Grand Forks.

**Mark Meier '75** retired after 34 years as a pilot for American Airlines, flying as an international captain based at the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport in Texas.

**Dan Mimnaugh '75** retired in 2020 after serving 40 years as camp director of Elks Camp Grassick at Dawson, N.D. Camp Grassick is a program for children and adults with special needs. Dan returned to live in his hometown of Valley City following his retirement. He says "hi" to all his brother Tau Sigs.

**Patricia "Deb" (Sundstrom) '78 and David '77 Steele** are both retired and enjoy time with their eight grandchildren. David is serving his third year of a four-year term on the Jamestown City Council.

**Kaye (Haugen) Omdahl '77** and her husband, Neil, are still living in Rogers. They celebrated their 40th anniversary last summer with their family. Neil is working at Central Business Systems and Kaye keeps busy quilting, watching grandkids and in the summer, yardwork. Their youngest daughter is getting married in August, and Kaye and Neil are very excited. They feel so blessed!

**David Katzenmeyer '78** says hello to all VCSU alumni from Apple Valley, Minn. He hopes 2021 is better for all of us. Stay safe and SKOL Vikings!

**Diane (McDaniel) '81 and Randy '79 Clark** will be celebrating 38 years of marriage in May. Randy has been a full-time realtor in Fargo for 25 years. Randy and Diane are looking forward to retirement in a couple of years and being snowbirds in Texas.

**Mark Brown '84** retired in May, 2020 after 36 years in teaching - six years in Newburg, N.D., 23 years in Limon, Colo., and seven years in Brighton, Colo. After the last few months with remote learning and quarantining, he knew it was time to retire. He is enjoying his time off and has gotten lots of projects done around the house. His wife, Kathy, is a bus driver/trainer for 27J-Brighton district and works hard training new drivers. Their children are all grown up. **Amanda (Brown) Dechant '11** and husband, Damon, live in Kit Carson, Colo. Amanda teaches math and computers and Damon raises cattle on the family ranch. They have a son Drey (2) and daughter Ari (9 months). Matthew and Kenzi live in Williston, N.D. where Matt is a petroleum engineer and Kenzi teaches business classes. They are expecting in June 2021. Jason and Connie live in Commerce City, Colo. where Jason is a mechanical engineer and Connie is a daycare director. They have two boys, Boone (2) and Bruin (8 months).

**Steve Guenther '84** is getting ready to retire. A former student is building a fish house/camper for him. Daughter, Erin, is teaching 5th grade in Mahanomen and Elizabeth is working with Bemidji State in education and also spending time in Mahanomen. Steve notes, life is good and life is busy.

**Lisa (Johnson) Held '84** is teaching 5th grade at North Star in Cando, N.D. This is her 37th year as a classroom teacher. Lisa and her husband have two daughters teaching elementary students and a daughter-in-law teaching FACS while their son farms. Their children all live close to them. Lisa says "life is good."

**Jonathan Pettit '84** is the owner and operator of JonDor Herefords. He invites you to check out his Facebook page, JonDor Herefords.

**Kris (McCarthy) Piehl** is working as the administrative assistant at LaMoore Public School after taking over for Vicki Hebl who retired after 39 years. Previously, Kris was the Litchville-Marion High School administrative assistant for 15 years.

**Lorrie (Kirsch) Milford '87** is retired from social service/ministry. She lives in McAllister, Mont. and has two new beautiful great granddaughters. Lorrie sends her blessings to all.

**Mary Halvorson '89** decided to take a break from full-time teaching after 31 years. She is currently doing a long-term "gig" as a Title I guest teacher in her home town at Lakota Elementary School for this school year. Mary loves it and lives in Devils Lake, N.D.

**Ellen (Musgrave) Berg '91** is continuing to stay home and safe during the pandemic. Ellen and her husband miss seeing their grandchildren whom they have not had personal contact with since March 2020. They are hoping to receive the vaccine soon as they have reached the magic age of old.

**Theodore Wieser '96** has been retired for 14 years and says life is good.

**Tony Aukland '97** has recently taken the position of cybersecurity education and public awareness lead with North Dakota Information Technology Department.

**Jody Olheiser '98** is in her 23rd year of teaching. She teaches English 9 hybrid, English 9 distance learning, AVID 9, and AVID 9 distance learning. Jody recently completed grad school and now has her Masters in Education. She has two former AVID students currently attending VCSU as freshmen, and they love it! Go Vikings!

**Kevin Trotter '98** accepted a promotion and began his duties as a supervisory customs and border protection officer in Oroville, Wash. on February 28, 2021.

**Lyndsey (Hodnefield) Hoffer '11 and M.Ed. '16** teaches 3rd grade and is an assistant principal at Centennial Elementary in Bismarck, N.D. This fall, Lyndsey was announced as Bismarck Mandan Chamber of Commerce "Outstanding Teacher of the Year". Lyndsey says teaching is her passion and VCSU helped her develop that passion!



**Emily (Waswick) '14 and Josh '13 Harrison** live in West Fargo, N.D. with their dog, Oliver. Emily is teaching 6th Grade social studies and ELA at Heritage Middle School in West Fargo. Josh is the IT Director at Wallwork in Fargo. They recently celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary this past July! They met at VCSU in 2010 and have been together for 10 years this past November.

**Olivia (Brownson) Stankey '15** spent the last three years working at the University of Oregon. Due to massive layoffs by the university, Olivia was forced to look for a new job. She is now the executive team leader for service and engagement at Target. Olivia really likes her new position and is glad she made the move.



**Brittney Hamilton '15** and her daughter, Amyah (5), live in Fargo. Brittney is obtaining her Masters of Special Education with an emphasis on Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This is her fourth year with Fargo Public Schools. Previously, she was an interpreter but now is a first year Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing! Brittney is an itinerant teacher serving students from elementary to high school. Outside of work and school, Amyah and Brittney enjoy rollerblading, dancing and cuddling up on the couch for a good movie.

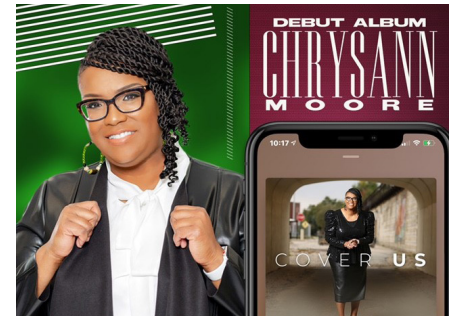
**Shayna Taffinder '16** is teaching English at Seaquam Secondary School in Delta, BC Canada. She has mostly been focusing on settling into teaching and looking into a Masters program for next year or the year after.



**Dustin Lindgren '18** received his Bachelor of Science with an Exercise Science & Sport Management Major with a focus in Strength and Conditioning. He landed his dream job in West Bend, Wisc. at A1 Health and Fitness as a coach and personal trainer. He enjoys working with his clients and loves the location. He spends his day teaching fitness classes and working one on one with his clients.

**John David Black '20** is the founder and ceo of Dreams Enterprise and Company, LLC.

**Chrysann Moore '20** is a contemporary gospel singer and released her first debut solo album, Cover Us, on January 1, 2021. It is available for download from most major music services. She's hoping that it will gain momentum as the year progresses!



## We'd love to hear from you!

Send us an update about yourself and family for the "Vikings on the Move" section of *The Bulletin*. Share a photo of your wedding, baby, or any other special event and it will be included in *The Bulletin* whenever possible. Visit [www.vcsualumni.org/get-involved](http://www.vcsualumni.org/get-involved) to share your info.

# Just Married

- Shane Ost '15** and Kelsey Deragisch were married on Nov. 21, 2020 and live in Jamestown, N.D. Kelsey works at the Anne Carlsen Center as the associate development director and Shane works at Dacotah Bank as a business banker.
- Jordan Aus '15** and Whitney Mayer were married July 25, 2020, in a small intimate ceremony with their immediate family in The Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit near Watford City, N.D. They had to adjust their plans because of COVID-19 but look forward to celebrating with friends and family when it's safe to do so! Jordan is a social studies teacher at West Fargo Sheyenne High School, where he is also a varsity football coach and the head boy's track and field coach. His wife, Whitney, is a FACS teacher at Carl Ben Eielson Middle School in Fargo. They reside in Fargo, N.D. with their golden retriever, Olive.
- Megan Cleveland '12 and M.Ed. '20** and Brady Sullivan were married Aug. 1, 2020. Megan graduated from VCSU in December of 2011 with a Business Education degree and in May of 2020 with her Masters in Teaching and Technology. She taught business education, coached girls basketball, refereed high school volleyball and advised FBPA in Edgeley, N.D., for 5.5 years. She then moved to Grand Forks where she has been for the last 3.5 years and teaches business and advises NTHS and FBPA at Grand Forks Central High School. Brady is a special education teacher at Schroeder Middle School in Grand Forks.
- Sierra Even '15 and Thomas Cortez '15** were married Oct. 24, 2020. Thomas continues to work at a nonprofit organization as a clinician/social worker. Sierra graduated with her juris doctorate degree and she currently works in the legal field.
- Susan (Olson) Wetch and **Anthony "Tony" Wendel '95** were married at their home in Valley City, on Jan. 1, 2021. Tony recently started his third year at VCSU as the academic systems administrator while Susan is in her second year working at the VCSU Cafeteria for Sodexo. Tony's new step son, Colton Wetch, is a sophomore at VCSU and step daughter Chloe Wetch is a sophomore at Maple Valley Public Schools. Tony is excited for the future.
- Lacey Anderson '07** and Timothy Blaufuss were married Oct. 3, 2020. Lacey is a behavioral health therapist on the Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit and Timothy is a pediatric gastroenterologist, both at Sanford. They reside in Fargo, N.D. with their basset hound, Gus.
- Emily Weatherstone & **Austin Rambow '18** were married Sept. 19, 2020. Austin and Emily are very thankful for VCSU as that is where they met. Emily was playing volleyball and Austin was playing basketball. They still get to Valley City quite a bit to visit friends. VCSU will always have a place in their hearts.



- 
- Mikayla Gustafson** & Danny Newton, Sept. 5, 2020  
**Leah Parizek '17 & Cody Brooks '17**, Sept. 19, 2020  
**Brianna Busch '12** & Brandon Cozzi, July 22, 2020  
**Lisa Rush '17** & Alex Boppre, Oct.10, 2020  
**Jennifer Hock & Nate Pecoraro '12 & M.Ed. '19**, Dec. 5, 2020

## In Remembrance

**Edna (Sandness) Oien '38**, LaMoure, N.D.

**Fred Linkenhelt**, Ojai, Calif.

**Mavis (Nordgaard) Strinden '43**, Valley City

**Julia (Piatz) Horner**, Fargo, N.D.

**Phyllis (Flach) Sorenson '44**, Enderlin, N.D.

**Marcia (Sortland) Strom '46**, Fargo, N.D.

**Irma (Swartout) Ness '47**, Valley City

**Ina (Faust) Oppegard '47**, Dazey, N.D.

**Natalie (Jones) Bruschwein '49**, Bismarck, N.D.

**Joseph Schneider '49**, Dickinson, N.D.

**Virginia (Martin) Johnson '51**, Fargo, N.D.

**Phyllis (Sayler) Schauer '53**, Las Cruces, NM

**Joanna (Lauder) St. Clair '53**, Minnetonka, Minn.

**Glen Dieterich '54**, Lewistown, Mont.

**Eugene Lavey '54**, Scobey, Mont.

**A Barbara Mashek**, Wyndmere, N.D.

**Robert St. Clair '55**, Minnetonka, Minn.

**Leo Morgan '58**, Long Prairie, Minn.

**Diane (Larson) Berg '59**, Grand Forks, N.D.

**Eldon Loibl '59**, Frazee, Minn.

**Carol (Schuler) Valenta '59**, Santa Ana, Calif.

**Carol (Paulson) Flatau '60**, Valley City

**Floyd Hunking '60**, Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Gloria (Foley) Mortenson '60**, Malta, Mont.

**Carl Nicholson '60**, Mandan, N.D.

**Laura (Peterson) Kapka-Borchert '62**, Valley City

**John Peyerl '63**, Penn, N.D.

**Richard Ertelt '64**, Fessenden, N.D.

**Leona (Zdeb) Hendrickson '64**, Enderlin, N.D.

**Clark Williams '64**, Wahpeton, N.D.

**David Kunze '65**, Waite Park, Minn.

**Dennis Friestad '66**, Enderlin, N.D.

**Larry Johnson '66**, Garden City, Kans.

**Michael Sheldon '67**, Detroit Lakes, Minn.

**Jerome French '69**, Rapid City, S.D.

**Dennis Haugen '69**, Jamestown, N.D.

**Ruth (Hoyt) Berntson '70**, Manvel, N.D.

**Mary (Houtkooper) Brown '70**, Circle Pines, N.D.

**Helen (Tonn) Goodfellow '70**, Fargo, N.D.

**Maurene (Miller) Bock '71**, Fergus Falls, Minn.

**Sandy (Skolness) Brier '71**, Ankeny, Iowa

**Zelda "Faye" (Dodge) Overby '71**, Spearfish, S.D.

**Dennis Wipperling**, Bloomington, Minn.

**Larry E. Schaefer '72**, Lawton, Okla.

**Loel Sandness '73**, Sioux City, Iowa

**Denis Horsager '74**, Valley City

**Ken Lang '74**, Tower City, N.D.

**Nancy Boehm '76**, Bismarck, N.D.

**Steve Willert '77**, Bryan, Texas

**Mary (Mortensen) Enge '82**, Royersford, Pa.

**Linda (Enger) Muellenberg '83**, Valley City

**Angela Prodzinski '84**, Buchanan, N.D.

**Donalee (Miller) Hansen '97**, Valley City

**Beverly Molbert**, Fargo, N.D.

**Everett Aarestad**, Superior, Mont.

**James Arndt**, LaMoure, N.D.

**Lorraine Coffey**, Mesa, Ariz.

**Stephanie Cummings**, Valley City

**Jeanne Kohler**, Valley City

**Lonnie Laffen**, Grand Forks, N.D.

**Janet Lauzon**, Grand Forks, N.D.

**Lloyd Miller**, Valley City

**Ralph Oehlke**, Enderlin, N.D.

**Gary Sorensen**, Valley City

**Konnie Wightman**, Mandan, N.D.

## Obituaries of Former Faculty and Staff



### Robert "Bob" Bergeth

Robert "Bob" Lynn Bergeth, 82, of Elk River, Minn., passed away Monday, Dec. 14, 2020.

Bob was an avid sports fan, especially the Twins, Vikings and U of M Gophers. Bob was born October 27, 1938, in Devils Lake, N.D., to Palmer and Agnes Bergeth. He attended elementary school in Penn and graduated from Devils Lake School in 1956.

Bob earned several degrees of higher learning, a BS from Jamestown College, a Master's Degree from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz., and a PhD from University of North Dakota in Grand

Forks, N.D. Bob began his career as a teacher and coach at St. Mary's Academy in Devils Lake and would hold positions in Las Vegas, Nev., and McClusky, N.D., before becoming the superintendent of schools in Michigan, N.D., and Lakota, N.D., while still in his twenties. Bob was then a professor at Valley City State University in Valley City, N.D., before moving to the Minneapolis area to work in the Minneapolis School District.

In 1975 Bob retired from education to pursue a career in business. He was a published author, having written a book in 1994 on business titled, "12 Secrets to Cashing Out." Bob traveled the world during his business career to places like London, Paris, Vienna, Monte Carlo, Moscow and Lucerne, Switzerland. Bob's family life included marrying Constance Deplazes and having two children.

He is survived by his children Stacey and Todd and their families, two siblings, and his former wife.



### **Phyllis McDonough**

Phyllis Ann Miller McDonough, 58, Valley City, N.D., passed away on Dec. 14, 2020.

She was born on Dec. 27, 1961, in Valley City to John and Dorothy (Sherman) Miller. She grew up in the Oriska area and graduated in 1980 from Oriska High School. Throughout her life, Phyllis was a caregiver. She started early on by caring for her brother, Arnie. When she and Arnie moved into Valley City and he began activities with the Open Door Center,

she worked various jobs in the community. She found a special place in her heart for the Sisters at Maryvale Convent when she worked there and always spoke fondly of them and her time with them.

After her marriage to Kevin McDonough in July of 2008, she began working at Valley City State University. She was a member of St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Oriska and enjoyed passing the time doing crochet or playing solitaire.

Phyllis is survived by 10 siblings and many nieces and nephews. She was known to torment her nieces and nephews when they would come to the farm to visit, but they loved it and always came back for more. They were very dear to her as she was to them.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; three brothers, two brother-in-laws and one sister-in-law.



### **Loree Hill**

Loree Ruth (Grassley) Hill, 68, of Valley City entered heaven surrounded by loved ones on Oct. 3, 2020. Loree was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Curt; two brothers, two children and nine grandchildren.

Loree was born in Waterloo, Iowa, on July 19, 1952. She lived most of her childhood in Boone, Iowa. She graduated from the University of Iowa in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in nursing and worked as a public health

nurse for 5 years before choosing to stay home with her children. As a young wife and mother she lived in Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., before moving back to her home town of Boone in 1983. She moved to Valley City in 1995 and lived there until her death.

She dedicated her life to raising her children and never went back to nursing. Once her children were older, she worked various jobs ranging from day care, to housecleaning, to administrative assistant. Her favorite job was as a children's librarian at Ericson Public Library in Boone, Iowa. She loved reading, and had a passion for children learning, not only to read, but to love reading. In 2014, she became involved with a summer reading program in the inner city Cleveland. She went back every summer and worked tirelessly until nearly the end of her life trying to help instill that love of reading in even more kids.

Loree was very creative and took great joy in fabric and paper crafting. In her final years, she knit something special for each grandchild, praying for them with each stitch. Another passion of hers was hospitality. A holiday never went by without our family table being opened to someone with nowhere else to go. She was constantly making cookies for college students, taking meals and paper products

to someone recently out of the hospital or bereaved, or in other ways taking care of people and inviting them to share her life.

Her very most favorite thing was spending time with her grandchildren. Whether it be at her house or theirs, she loved being with all of them and reading to the younger ones.



### **Eileen Starr**

Dr. Eileen M. Starr died on Sept. 30, 2020. She was a Spokane, Wash., resident since 1979. Eileen, originally from Lakewood, Ohio, graduated from Lakewood High School where she received the Selzer Award for Biology. She earned a B.S. and A.M. from the University of Michigan in Science Education and a Ph.D. from Washington State University. Eileen credits her tenure as a University of Michigan Museum of Natural History student docent for directing her life

course, which included working as either a planetarium director or a teacher of Earth Science classes in cities across the country.

Eileen was a gifted and passionate teacher who infused her lessons with humor. She had the ability to draw her students into subjects they never expected to find interesting. Eileen taught junior and senior high science classes in several locations and was planetarium director at the William Penn Memorial Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; for the Milwaukee, Wisconsin public schools; the Jacksonville Museum of Arts and Sciences in Jacksonville, Florida; at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington; and at Valley City State University. She was director of the Eastern Washington Science Center in Spokane's Riverfront Park in the 1980's. She also taught classes at Eastern Washington University, VCSU, and for North Dakota State University. She retired in 2002 as Professor Emeritus for Science from VCSU. Eileen published a number of books and she and her husband, John, traveled all over the world together which brought them great joy.

Eileen was predeceased by her parents and a grandson. Eileen leaves behind her husband of 35 years, John E. Douglas and his children and grandchildren; her daughter Kimberly A. Starr and her husband LJ Da Corsi; and her granddaughter Gwyn Zoe Harvey and her fiancée, Shay Farnam.

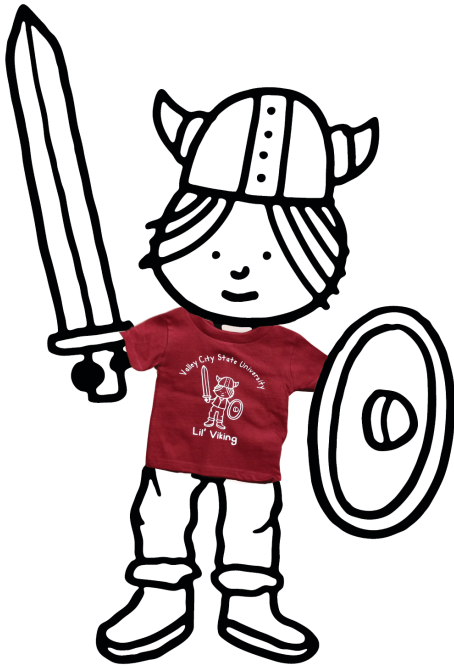
### **Sidney "Sid" Bingaman**

Sidney 'Sid' A. Bingaman, 78, passed away Feb. 26, 2021 in Minot, N.D. He was born April 14, 1942 in Churchs Ferry to Ernest and Lily (Thompson) Bingaman. He graduated from Churchs Ferry High School in 1960. In May 1968, he graduated from Minot State College; Sidney then earned his Master's Degree in August 1974 in Business and Vocational Education from the University of North Dakota.

Sidney was an instructor at Valley City State College, Drayton High School, Grand Forks Public School System, Grand Forks Air Force Base for Lake Region Community College, Fort Berthold Community College in New Town, Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt, Little Hoop Community College and Four Winds School in Fort Totten where he retired from teaching. During his teaching career, Sidney was a speaker at many conferences throughout the United States.

Sidney was a lifelong farmer and raised cattle. He was an accomplished, self-taught organist and pianist and played for many churches, events, weddings and funerals throughout the area.

Sidney is survived by three siblings. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.



# 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).



**Matthew Jacob Schlecht**  
December 31, 2020  
7 pounds 11 ounces, 20 inches  
Jacob '17 and Megan (Olson) Schlecht '17



**Liam Michael Freije**  
April 23, 2020  
9 pounds, 21 inches  
Joins siblings: Landyn and Haidyn Aaron '13 and Mandi (Freeman) Freije '12'



**Ashlyn Lovell**  
November 11, 2019  
8 pounds 1 ounce, 20 3/4 inches  
Chasity (Meidinger) '05 & Matt Lovell



**Matteo Harrison Morello**  
August 13, 2020  
9 pounds 3 ounces, 21 inches  
Glenn (VCSU science faculty) & Lili Morello



**Andrew Nathan Hokana**  
October 6, 2019  
6 pounds 2 ounces, 19 inches  
Big brother: Garrett Misty (Olds) Hokana '08 and Brandon Hokana



**Alex Therese Ostgarden**  
July 10, 2020  
7 pounds 12 ounces, 20.5 inches  
She joined her brothers Nate (7), Eli (5), and Charlie (3) Theresa (Foertsch) '11 and Joseph Ostgarden '12



**Braxtyn Lee Pesicka**  
July 25, 2020  
6 pounds 7 ounces, 20 inches  
Alyssa (Breuer) '19 and Charles Pesicka



**Aoife Jenae Bommersbach**  
July 5, 2019  
6 pounds 15 ounces, 18 3/4 inches  
Kristine (Dammel) '13 and Adam '12 Bommersbach

## HELP US LOCATE THESE LOST ALUMNI

If you know the address of any of these individuals, please contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 1-800-532-8641 ext. 37203 or email [alumni@vcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vcsu.edu).

### 1970

James Field  
Diane (Peterson) Huffman  
Ellen (Robinson) Larson  
Patricia (Heggen) Moe

### 1971

William Albert  
Phyllis (Hanson) Christianson  
Ruth (Anderson) Goll  
Larry Hehr  
Laura Jacobson  
Kathryn Jones  
Douglas Kramer  
Astrid Mills  
Glende Olson  
M. Pederson  
Richard Pederson  
Albert Ruckaber  
Marland Sarles  
Mari Shaw  
Jane Thoemke  
Linda Thompson  
Barbara (Bunney) Van Enk  
Daniel Welander

### 1972

Linda (Evanson) Blasczyrk  
Larry Exner  
Susan Ferguson  
James Friskop  
George Hanna  
Steven Hoffer  
Muriel King  
Sandra Kutz  
Susan (Roller) Lausch  
Bill Martell  
Sandra Olson  
Marlys Palmer  
Larry Schaefer  
Linda Senne  
Marilyn (Sims) Sudbeck  
Richard Wright

### 1973

Lane Bergman  
Debra (Scouler) Broome  
Rayanne (Doyle) Dahl  
Hidemasa Ioka  
Nancy (Raveling) Persons  
Nancy Wolhart

### 1974

Robert Becker  
Gail Bopp  
Rachel Koehn  
Eileen Mack  
Gerald Nagel  
Rosemary Olson  
Phillip Schmidt  
Russ Vogel  
Thomas Weinmann  
Marcia (O'Brien) Weisser

### 1975

Robert Dahl  
Larry Hanson  
Edna Olson

### 1976

Cynthia Abraham  
Vernon Engblom  
Helen (Feist) Gassmann  
Lynda (Carlson) Goggin  
Judith Kaiser  
David Lloyd  
Koreen Schlecht  
John Thomas

### 1976 cont.

Adeline Thorne  
David Tischer

### 1979

Faye Anderson  
Tom Stevenson

### 1980

James Brewer  
Jon Gilbertson

### 1981

Martin Dahl  
Robert Hoover  
Kim (Monson) Oberlander  
Sandra (Offner) Walser

### 1982

Julie Bassingthwaite  
Lisa (Ham) Beckman  
Douglas Black  
Francine (Netzer) Harter  
Cindy (Kautzman) Norberg  
Rick Reding  
Massoud Safiri

### 1982 cont.

Daniel Stephan

### 1983

Laurie (Carlson) Brown  
Michael Brown  
Jane Habiger  
Brooke Lilly  
Thomas Peterson  
Pauline (Gault) Wuori

### 1984

Barbara Bue  
Lori (Krueger) Oldenburg  
Debra (Goehring) Olson  
Brian Samdahl  
Pamela (Vagle) Sand  
Michael Thompson  
Christine Wiese  
George Yarbrough  
Evelyn (Laube) Youle

### 1985

Kim Lawler  
Lisa Tollefson-Larson  
Sue Whitney

## RECOMMEND A FUTURE VIKING!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY?

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Your Information: Name \_\_\_\_\_

VCSU Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

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