

THE BULLETIN

A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University



The Flood of 2009

VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

VCSU

Commencement 2009 ♦ Repairs Needed for Osmon Fieldhouse ♦ Welcome Jenni Lou Russi



DEPARTMENTS

- 1 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 2 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CORNER
- 3 FOUNDATION CORNER
- 12 VIKING HIGHLIGHTS
- 18 VCSU CONNECTIONS

COVER STORY



4 The Flood of 2009
 VCSU, and the entire Sheyenne Valley, has never seen anything like it. Reaching a crest of 20.55', the flood of 2009 broke the previous record set back in 1882, but the VCSU campus remained safe and dry thanks largely to an incredible effort by the National Guard, citizens of Valley City, and our own faculty, staff and students. Everyone in the community has their own story of how they were affected; see this article for VCSU's story.



6 Alumni in Education
 We can boast all day about our high quality faculty, technology enhanced learning, and our small class sizes, but ultimately, the quality of our teacher education programs is best demonstrated by the impact of our alumni in schools. Read this article to see the difference three of our alums are making.



8 Dahlberg to Continue as VPAA
 Dr. Margaret Dahlberg, who has been serving as interim vice president of academic affairs since April, will continue to serve in that role for at least another six months. She is no stranger to VCSU: she has been on the faculty for 13 years, and actually began her academic career at the "Model School" where her father served as superintendent.



10 Commencement 2009
 For a while, it looked like the record spring flooding may cause Commencement to be cancelled, but with a few changes in the plan, the event was held on schedule. The most visible change: the event was held in the Osmon Fieldhouse rather than Vangstad Auditorium. See this article for other news from VCSU's 117th Commencement Exercises.

ON THE COVER: The historic walking bridge, widely recognized as a symbol of VCSU, was transformed into a symbol of the flood of 2009 when it (and all but one of the other bridges in town) became submerged by the record waters. The flood evoked many other powerful images, and we've assembled some of them into a photo book – learn how you can get a copy for free on page 5.

Welcome to The Bulletin!

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A Spring Semester to Remember

Dr. Steve Shirley, President

Happy Summer Wishes to each and every one of VCSU's alumni, friends, and supporters! After a long winter and difficult spring filled with flood-related preparation and recovery, it certainly is nice to be in the midst of a beautiful summer. As you know, VCSU students completed the final five weeks of the Spring Semester completely online due to the flood conditions in Valley City. Copied below is an Op-Ed piece I wrote that appeared in the Sunday, May 3 newspaper issue of *The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead*:

With much cooperation, persistence and hard work by the entire community and beyond, Valley City, N.D., has been fortunate to avoid catastrophic loss of property or damage from the flooding Sheyenne River. No doubt there have been some losses, inconveniences and disruptions, but there has been no loss of life and no widespread/citywide flooding. At Valley City State University, we are engaged in the important work of finishing this academic year online and at a distance while Valley City moves into recovery mode.

It is important to note and distinguish that VCSU is completing the spring semester via distance-based and technology-based methods, and that we have not cancelled the semester, as had been stated in some media reports. The spring semester continues at VCSU; it is simply occurring at a distance rather than on the physical campus. It is also important to note that the VCSU campus is completely dry and safe.

VCSU is in an excellent position to complete the semester despite the fact our students will not be on campus the final few weeks. Because our students attend a laptop university, they each have computers equipped with the latest software and configured to work well in a distance-learning environment. Our online learning management system allows our faculty to teach courses and allows our students to learn in ways similar to their on-campus experience. Many of our faculty routinely use these assets in their on-campus courses, so for them this transition is almost transpar-

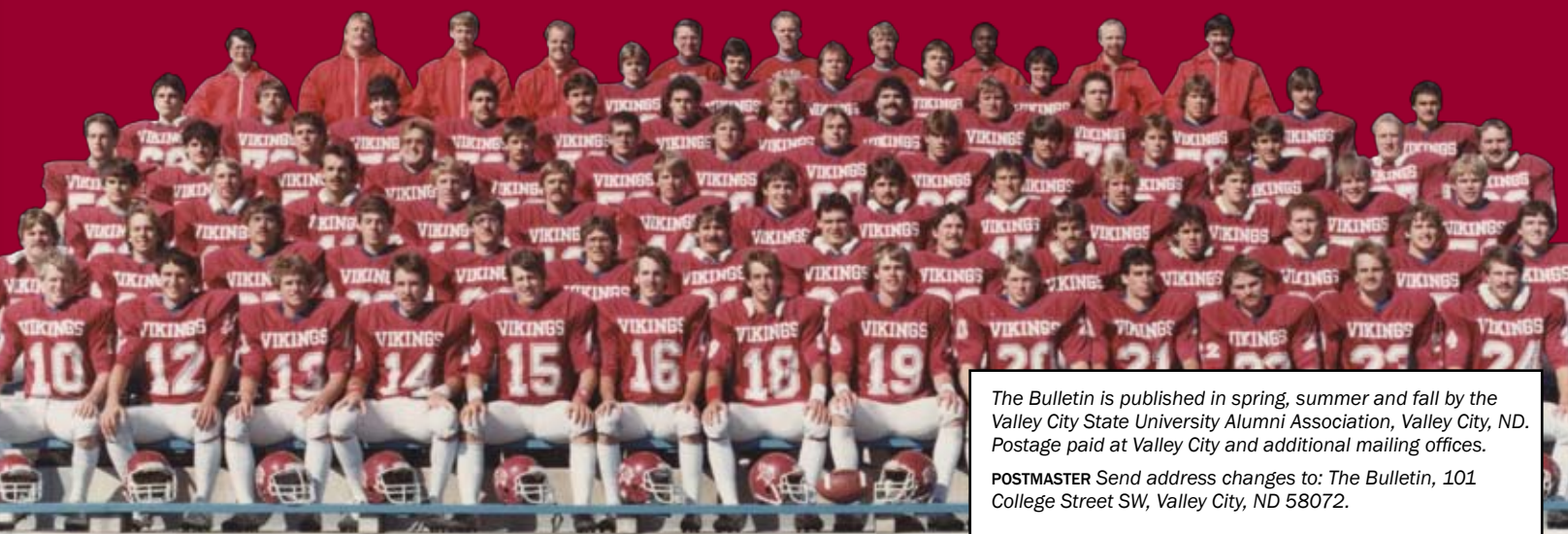
ent. As part of the flood preparations, our IT staff has worked diligently to ensure all necessary technology services remain available as our students complete the semester.

To be sure, the face-to-face classroom interaction is important in the educational experience and will be missed as we complete coursework at a distance. Our students departed campus for Easter break believing they would only be away for a long four-day weekend. Mother Nature had other plans, and our students were not able to return for the final few weeks to enjoy springtime on campus, say goodbye to their friends and professors, and end the academic year in a fashion we normally take for granted. We look forward to seeing our graduating seniors back on campus for Commencement, which will occur as scheduled on Saturday, May 16.

Adversity often brings out the best in people, and I have seen our faculty, staff and students, as well as the rest of the Valley City community, demonstrate this every day for the past month. We have seen the very best in all of our citizens throughout North Dakota and Minnesota all spring in fighting and winning the flood battles. At VCSU, we are rising to the challenge of completing the semester without benefit of an on-campus presence. At the same time, we are committed to providing a quality educational experience for our students.

As VCSU's president, I could not be more proud of the spirit, determination, cooperation, and hard work of everyone involved these past months. What a special place!! Go Vikings!!

As supporters, friends, and alumni, you can all be very proud of the students, faculty, and staff at VCSU. You will see some images and read a few stories from the Spring 2009 Flood in this issue of *The Bulletin*. There were some tremendous challenges the past several months as we completed the semester in the most unique of circumstances. The VCSU Family rose to the occasion and performed marvelously in a difficult situation. A beautiful Commencement was held on May 16 for our graduates, and we are now busy working with the incoming class of new students – it is exciting indeed to see the VCSU Class of 2013! As VCSU's president, I could not be more proud of the spirit, determination, cooperation, and hard work of everyone involved these past months. What a special place!! Go Vikings!!♦



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Major Repairs Needed for Osmon Fieldhouse

An inspection earlier this summer of the arches supporting the roof of the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse revealed portions of the exterior Glulam (Glued Laminated Timber) fibers comprising the bases that support the roof were found to be rotting, which could affect their structural integrity. As a result, the gymnasium and lobby were closed and the university began working with engineering and material testing firms to determine the extent of the damage and formulate a plan for repair.

As of press time, we still do not have complete information about the extent of the damage or the cost of repairs, but we are working as quickly as possible and receiving help from the state. In June, the State Board of Higher Education authorized VCSU to proceed with an accelerated bid process, and a few days later, the state Legislature's interim Budget Section granted VCSU \$276,000 from a contingency fund to go toward repairs. Until repairs are completed, the gymnasium and lobby of the Fieldhouse will remain closed. Graichen Gymnasium is being prepared for the fall Volleyball season and contingency planning is underway for other athletic programs.

When additional information becomes available, we will post it in the "News" section of www.vcsu.edu♦



Homecoming 2009



Make Plans to Come Back to VCSU

October 2 & 3

The Alumni Association is pleased to announce they will be holding a reunion of all the classes from the

Nine's

1949

1959

1969

1979

1989

1999

***2004**

(*5 year reunion)

along with hosting a

Greek Reunion

for the

EBC & Tau Sig Fraternities

and the

Philo & Delphi Sororities

A MAILING WITH REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE SENT OUT IN AUGUST.



You Can Do It, I Know You Can!

by Missy Vollmers '89, Alumni Board President

I spent three years as a football cheerleader for Valley City State University. One of the cheers we did, as Mark Ukestad lined himself up for a field goal, was, "You can do it, we know you can," and we would repeat it over and over until he made the kick! Mark always came through for VCSU, and I know that you, as VCSU alumni and friends, can come through with the following requests that I have for you.

Number 1 - Come back to Valley City on Friday and Saturday, October 2 and 3 for Homecoming! The Alumni Association will be holding a reunion of all classes from the Nine's along with hosting a Greek Reunion for the EBC and Tau Sig Fraternities and the Philo and Delphi Sororities. You are not off the hook if you do not fit into any of these categories. We want you to come to Homecoming, too!

Number 2 - Get involved with Valley City State University. I attended my first VCSU scholarship auction in May (it is usually in April, but because of the flood, it was rescheduled for May). It was so fun to see the current VCSU students displaying the merchandise that was up for auction. I was so happy that I could make a donation toward our students' education.

Here are a few other ideas for getting involved with our university: attend the EBC Christmas program, become a V-500 or Century Club member, contribute to the Phone-A-Thon, attend many of the sporting activities or any of the fine arts programs or play in the golf scramble. There are so many ways to get involved, please check out the VCSU website at www.vcsu.edu to find out what is happening.

I have so enjoyed being your Alumni President and I am passing the president's position onto John Monilaws. I will continue to encourage all alumni to come back to VCSU, give my time and talent, and support my alma mater because I know I can!

Number 3 - This is a very important goal, as increasing the enrollment at VCSU is crucial. Please visit with high school students about your education at Valley City State and encourage them to become a VCSU Viking. Visit with your nieces and nephews, your students (if you are in education), your friends' children or your children's friends. Please pass the names onto our Enrollment Service Office (800-532-8641 x 37101), so they can recruit them.

I have so enjoyed being your Alumni President, and I am passing the president's position on to John Monilaws. I will continue to encourage all alumni to come back to VCSU, give my time and talent, and support my alma mater, because I know I can!♦



North Dakota Legislature Invests in Higher Education and VCSU

by Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement

The North Dakota Legislature adjourned on May 4 after a marathon session of just over 79 days (by law, we are limited to 80 days). As a member of the North Dakota Senate, it is a good feeling to have the session behind us and return to my position here on the campus.

It is safe to say that the 2009 legislative session will go down in history for being one of the most productive and successful in the history of the state. In addition to record-setting reductions in property taxes and providing strong funding for a host of government services, agencies, and programs, the legislature significantly increased our investment in higher education.

The budget for the North Dakota University System for the 2009-2011 biennium will be \$791.3 million in total funds, of which \$597.9 million comes from general funds. This represents an increase of \$153.4 million (20.8%) over the 2007-2009 adjusted appropriation less one-time funding.

Some of the highlights of the legislative budget include:

- Nearly \$20 million dollars in needs-based financial aid.
 - An increase in parity (the basic budget to continue operations) to \$49,367,855. This includes salary increases (5% per year), health insurance increases and inflationary increases for utilities.
 - A total of \$39.1 million for system-wide capital projects.
- Valley City State University's enhanced budget for the 2009-2011 biennium comes to \$16,368,001 (compared to \$13,350,137 for the current biennium). Some of the highlights include:
- \$1 million capital asset funding to develop a campus-wide master plan and for maintenance and repair projects.

- \$1.3 million to address deferred maintenance projects across the VCSU campus.
- Affordability funding to insure that tuition increases do not exceed 4% each year of the biennium (the university has decided to limit increases to 3.5%).
- \$250,000 in "equity" funding to move the campus closer to the level of funding received by our peers across the nation.
- \$317,000 in flood-related dollars to, for

Tuition revenue is driven by enrollment. Enrollment is driven by students. Our ability to attract students is driven by scholarship support.

example, move the telephone switch and data center to a less vulnerable location, purchase an electric generator, and address a number of other immediate miscellaneous expenses that resulted from the recent flood.

- \$200,000 in marketing dollars to mitigate the potential effect of the flood on enrollment.
 - \$800,000 in broad discretionary funding to address a number of issues resulting from the spring flood. For example, these dollars could be used to bolster enrollment.
- VCSU was also given authority to issue up to \$3.5 million in bonds to renovate Snoeyenbos Hall, should we choose to pursue this project. Repayment would be made by student housing fees.

Finally, the campus will be working with the state of North Dakota and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) to address a long list of damages to campus infrastructure resulting from the flood (e.g., parking lots, buildings, etc.) over the next number of months.

As you can see, the legislature treated the North Dakota University System and Valley City

State University very well in terms of the 2009-2011 base budget. We are very thankful to the legislature for their vote of confidence and the strong budget that they approved for VCSU.

In addition to the base budget that VCSU receives from the state of North Dakota, the other important component of our budget is the revenue we receive from tuition. Needless to say, we cannot operate without tuition revenue. Tuition revenue is driven by enrollment.

Enrollment is driven by students. Our ability to attract students is driven by scholarship support. With the cost to attend college ever

increasing, scholarship support is an absolute must. The total cost to attend VCSU exceeds \$14,000 per year. We have been fortunate that many of you have supported our scholarship programs annually. From that support, the university provides over \$600,000 annually in scholarships. If you have been supporting our scholarship programs, we thank you and hope that you will continue to do so. If you have not supported the programs in the past, we ask that you consider doing so in the future. We have two primary scholarship programs: the V-500 program (which is earmarked for academic scholarships) and the Century Club (which provides athletic scholarships). Please consider making a contribution today. Your gifts are fully tax deductible. The VCSU Foundation is a 501 C3 tax exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

Visit us on the web at alumni.vcsu.edu. Contributions may be made online or simply mailed to the VCSU Foundation, 101 College St. SW, Valley City, ND 58072.

Have a great summer and stop by to visit us should your travels bring you this way.

Go Vikings!♦

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INAUGURATION - NEW DATE

Friday, September 11, 2009 ♦ 3:00 pm

The Inauguration of Dr. Steven Shirley has been rescheduled for 3:00 pm, Friday, September 11, 2009, in Vangstad Auditorium.

More information, including a detailed agenda and list of related events, will be posted as it becomes available on the inauguration web site.

www.vcsu.edu/inauguration



Annual Recognition Luncheon

The VCSU Foundation Board hosted its annual Recognition luncheon on Monday, June 15. The luncheon is hosted each June to recognize the donors who have reached a new level of giving over the past year. This year, over 40 donors attended. Two couples, John & Diane Hill and Ralph & Carolyn Kolstoe, were recognized for reaching the Gold level (\$50,000 - \$99,999) of giving and Gigi Goven, Meryl O'Connell, and

Harris Kluksdahl were recognized for reaching the Regents level (\$25,000 - \$49,999).

In addition, Larry Robinson, Executive Director of University Advancement, also recognized Ron Moser, VCSU Booster Board president; Tres Christiansen, VCSU Foundation Board president; and Dean Pederson, VCSU V-500 Board president, for their dedication and service to VCSU.♦

Dr. Steve Shirley, Meryl O'Connell (recognized for reaching the Regents level of giving) and VCSU Foundation president Tres Christiansen.



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The Flood of 2009



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1. As a back-up, a ring dike was built around Foss Hall to protect the campus if the main levee were to fail.
2. Dr. Shirley led University System Chancellor Bill Goetz on a tour to give him a first-hand view of conditions on campus.
3. Dr. Diana Skroch poses with a few members of the ND National Guard that patrolled her neighborhood.
4. VCSU's students volunteered by the hundreds to help fill sandbags.
5. Baseball and Softball seasons were cancelled because of damage to the fields and to avoid bringing athletes back to the evacuated campus.
6. The IT staff temporarily moved VCSU's entire data center to higher ground at the Regional Technology Center.

VCSU Completes the Semester Using Online & Distance Technology

As the last issue of *The Bulletin* was going to press, we were still in the middle of the record-setting flood and were only able to include a photo collage from the early days of the flood. In this issue, we'll tell the rest of the story.

For many, the Flood of 2009 will be remembered by the incredible response by volunteers filling an estimated 500,000 sandbags and building sandbag levees in areas the heavy equipment could not reach. "The response from our faculty, staff, and students was amazing," said VCSU President Steve Shirley. "I could not have been more proud."

As the flood waters rose, all three bridges leading to campus were closed, and a network of levees was built that blocked traffic routes on campus and closed parking lots. Eventually, access to campus would be limited to a single lane on 4th Avenue, which also became nearly impassable due to damage to the road from the sudden additional stress.

Nonetheless, the administration did its best to keep campus operations as normal as possible, even hosting the Regional Science Olympiad on Thursday, April 9. When Easter break officially began at 5:00 pm that day, most students left campus to celebrate the holiday with their families at home, expecting to return to class as normal the following Tuesday.

That all changed on Monday, April 13. In the early hours of the morning, one of the levees near the softball fields began to fail, and though the National Guard was able to repair the breach, the fields were flooded and had sustained considerable damage. Later that morning, one of the levees protecting the main campus also began to show signs of failure, prompting Dr. Shirley to call for an immediate

evacuation of campus and cancel classes for the week.

Though the levee never did actually fail, the threat was enough to kickoff a surge of activity to protect vulnerable areas of campus. The IT staff immediately began to dismantle the entire data center (which was located on the first floor of the Rhoades Science Center, an area of campus that would be most vulnerable to flooding) and move it temporarily to the Regional Technology Center. In the Allen Memorial Library, volunteers moved thousands of books from the basement to the first floor, and at the Foss Music Building, pianos and other instruments and equipment were also moved to higher elevation.

At the same time, Valley City was having problems of its own: the flood was putting pressure on the city's sanitary sewer system, which finally failed, prompting the city to call for a general evacuation of residents within the 500-year flood plain, an area that includes much of

"This is clearly an experience we will all remember for the rest of our lives, and can be very proud of the response and the commitment shown during this very difficult time." Dr. Steven Shirley

the VCSU campus.

With no sewer system, difficult access to campus, several buildings in disarray, and the river predicted to remain at record levels for up to a month, it became clear that bringing students back to campus would not be practical. VCSU made the decision to keep the campus closed for the remainder of the semester but resume classes using online and distance technology.

Not many other universities could make this work, but VCSU had several advantages that made resuming classes online possible. "As a laptop campus, our students use their laptops both in and out of the classroom, and they routinely take their laptops with them, even

while off campus," said Shirley. "Students were on Easter break when we closed the campus, but we could proceed knowing that they had the necessary tools to resume classes from their homes."

VCSU's expertise with online learning management was also an important factor. Many on-campus classes already made substantial use of these technologies, so a considerable amount of content was already available online even before the flood. As important, faculty and students already knew where to go and how to use these tools so they could resume online without a lot of preparation.

Of course, that still left the issue of the data center being moved to the Regional Technology Center. "Our IT staff did a great job getting the data center moved," said Shirley, "and we were able to resume the services needed for online classes in a matter of days."

Unfortunately, the softball and baseball seasons could not be saved. "With the city asking for an evacuation and the shape the campus was in, it would not be right to bring back 50 students

to complete the season," said B.J. Pumroy, athletic director. Fortunately, cooperation with the Dakota Athletic Conference and NAIA saved the year of eligibility for the team members.

The Sheyenne River crested on Friday, April 17 at 20.55' - below the forecasted crest of 22' but above the previous record of 20' set in 1882. Shirley said, "The campus remained safe and dry thanks to a tremendous community-wide effort, and of course, the efforts of VCSU faculty, staff and students. This is clearly an experience we will all remember for the rest of our lives, and can be very proud of the response and the commitment shown during this very difficult time." ♦



FREE Flood Photo Book

Get your **FREE** copy of the commemorative book while supplies last!

Call the Alumni office
701-845-7203 or 1-800-532-8641 ext. 7203

or visit us online at
<http://alumni.vcsu.edu/>

Watch the video at

www.vcsu.edu



Alumni in Education

We are proud of all of our alumni, but grads in the field of Education seem to consistently get more than their fair share of recognition, honors and awards. In this issue of *The Bulletin*, we will highlight three of those success stories who have recently been "in the news."

Gary Clark '71, West Fargo High School NDAESP "Principal of the Year"

"Change can be a very good thing," said Gary Clark, principal at West Fargo High School. "I think it is always a good idea to take a look at the important things and to avoid doing them just because they have always been done. But if you are going to change things at a fundamental level, you can avoid a lot of mistakes and problems if you approach the problem collaboratively."

This emphasis on collaboration is one of the reasons he was selected as the "High School Principal of the Year" by the North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals (NDASSP). The program annually recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing quality learning opportunities for students. The criteria for being selected for this honor includes willingness to apply collaborative leadership techniques.

An example of an accomplishment that involved collaboration was increasing participation in Advanced Placement (AP) classes. "In

talking with parents and students about AP classes, we found out that one of their concerns was how they might affect their GPA. So we were able to solve that by putting both their regular GPA and their weighted grading on their transcripts."

Another example of collaboration at West Fargo is their implementation of block scheduling. "We had good support from the superintendent and the Board of Education, but block scheduling is the kind of thing that can be controversial; some teachers love it, and some really don't. So we made sure we had the staff and students involved in the decision making process, and that made implementation of the decision go smoothly."

Clark also is proud of efforts to improve graduation rates. West Fargo implemented the Senior High Alternative Center (SHAC) to give extra support to students identified as being at risk for dropping out. This year, the program served 20 students, and Clark plans to keep it



small initially and expand slowly.

Mr. Clark was recognized at a special dinner sponsored by the NDASSP and will be honored at the NDASSP Winter Conference to be held in February of 2010. He will be invited by NASSP and MetLife (a sponsor of NASSP) to be honored at a symposium in Washington DC. ♦

Moorhead Education Icons Retiring After Combined 70 Years of Teaching



When Ken '69 and Jan (Gessner) '71 Welken retired this spring, neither had any regrets about spending their entire careers in education. In fact, neither could imagine doing anything else.

Ken retired this year after 40 years of teaching math in Moorhead, most recently at Horizon Middle School. He coached Tri-College Math Teams with a record number of first place finishes, the Minnesota State MATHCOUNTS team at the national competition in 2003, and the Moorhead Junior High MATHCOUNTS team as they took first place in 2003. Overall, he coached 20 teams in the state MATHCOUNTS competition, earning him recognition as a "MATHCOUNTS Coach Extraordinaire." "I'm an old school kind of teacher," said Ken. "I believe in working through problems on the white board and the value of homework. I also believe in giving students the attention they need. I get a lot of satisfaction from giving a little extra time to help a struggling student."

Jan began her career teaching and coaching in Casselton. With the birth of their first child,

she stayed at home 11 years, then began substitute teaching at Moorhead, Dilworth, Fargo, and West Fargo. In 1989, she started teaching Kindergarten Physical Education in Moorhead, and wrote a curriculum on the subject that she presented at the Minnesota State Kindergarten Convention (she sold several copies). She then spent 10 years at Moorhead Riverside Elementary. Most recently, she spent five years at Hopkins Elementary. "I've loved teaching Physical Education because it is important to the child's education," said Jan. "All the research shows that the more active kids are, the better they learn."

A big year for Ken and Jan came in 2002. Ken was nominated for the Moorhead Teacher of the Year, and Jan was recognized as the Minnesota Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

They are making some exciting plans for retirement including a possible trip to Norway to get to know relatives they have never met. They have one grandchild already with another due in September. ♦



Tabatha Joyce, Assistant Principal, The STEM School at Lodoen

The West Fargo school district could be a case-study in turning adversity into opportunity. With a significant overcrowding problem, the district was faced with an immediate need to move students to alternate facilities. "Rather than just forcing students to move, we decided a better approach would give them an incentive to move," said Dana Diesel Wallace, Superintendent of the West Fargo Public Schools. So was born "STEM at Lodoen," a magnet middle school established at the Lodoen Community Center in West Fargo. And when the time came to name a principal for the new entity, the call went to VCSU alum Tabatha (Loucks) Joyce '99. The STEM subjects, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, are receiving increasing attention as the need to improve performance in these fields is now seen as an urgent, national problem. "I'm completely excited about this opportunity," said Tabatha. "My biggest goal as a classroom teacher was to create thinkers who can solve their own problems, and that is the whole premise of what STEM is."

According to Joyce, STEM is all about helping students become literate in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. "STEM helps students make the connection between subject matter and 'why do I need to know this,' and that can be really important for giving students a reason to get excited about learning. If you can do this, students don't need to be taught in the traditional sense. You can give them a problem to solve and then help them discover the way to solve it. They don't really have to be

taught... they figure it out, and that way, they don't forget it."

After completing VCSU's Elementary Education program through the cooperative program with North Dakota State University (NDSU), Tabatha spent three years teaching in Denver, then seven years teaching fifth grade at Westside Elementary in West Fargo. She recently completed her Master of Education in Educational Leadership through NDSU. With that credential came the opportunity to become the assistant principal at Lodoen.

"This is North Dakota's first STEM school, so it is exciting to be part of it," Joyce said. She expects about 150 students this fall and plans to grow quickly to 200. The staff will include five full-time and two part-time faculty.

As a VCSU alum, Joyce has an appreciation for laptop computers and their ability to enhance learning, so STEM at Lodoen plans to make similar use of laptops. "I saw the benefit of that because I came into the NDSU/VCSU program right when all the Valley City students had laptops. That summer, I learned so much... they really are irreplaceable."

Parents and students are not being forced into STEM at Lodoen, but even so, Joyce is experiencing some resistance to the change. "Anytime there is change, people will have doubts. We'll watch our progress through measures like test scores and attendance, and we'll stay in close touch with parents and encourage them to speak up. I'm confident two years from now we'll be calling this a big success." ♦

VCSU Partners with Alum Launching STEM School

One challenge Joyce faced in founding the first STEM school in North Dakota was the lack of faculty with a background in STEM. Fortunately, a partnership with VCSU provided a ready solution.

In June, VCSU held the 2nd annual "STEM Workshop for Educators" that introduces K-12 teachers to curricula in the STEM made available through a partnership with the National Center for Technological Literacy. This year, the workshop attracted 41 registrants.

Eight of the participants were the future staff of STEM at Lodoen, and the workshop provided them with their first formal training in STEM. "The timing of the workshop was perfect," said Joyce. "It was the perfect time and content to help us hit the ground running when we open the doors this fall. The workshop helped us set the mind-set, and gave us curricula we can start using immediately."

VCSU faculty who taught the event included Dr. Don Mugan, Dr. Trish Gegelman, Dr. Hilde Van Gijssel, Jim Boe and Pete Gjovik. Alumni participants included Tom Weber '86, Jeff Pegg '85, Dawn Ihry, Lana Fornes MEd '09, Greg Heitkamp '01 MEd '07, Deanna (Meier) Dirks '85, Deb (Myer) Gulmon '78, Darla Jacobson '97, Suzy (Schuler) Becker '95, Rebecca (Meyer) Berntson '99, Justin Foss MEd '09, Yolanda (Triebold) Luick '81, Brian Anderson '05, Virjean (Kunze) Cramer '76, Marilyn (Urness) O'Callahan '69, Sara (Piper) Johnson '96, and David Lee '86. ♦





Dr. Dahlberg to Continue Serving as Interim VPAA

After a nationwide search was completed, Dr. Steve Shirley, VCSU president, announced that Dr. Margaret Dahlberg will continue to serve in her role as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs for at least the next six months. Dr. Dahlberg has been serving in this role since the resignation of Dr. Joe Bessie became effective in April. Dr. Shirley plans to reassess the situation after fall semester and determine whether to make the assignment permanent or to re-open a search.

Dr. Shirley said, "Margaret has done a tremendous job during the past months helping navigate through the flood-shortened spring and assisting with the budgeting process, and she has shown leadership with APAC and a host of

other areas. She has earned the opportunity to remain in this position."

Dr. Dahlberg has been on the VCSU faculty for 13 years serving as Associate Professor and Chair of the Communication Arts Department. She has lived in Valley City for a total of 20 years and taught violin for 10 years for the Community School of the Arts. Her academic efforts at VCSU actually began at VCSTC when she attended the Model School while her father, H.O. Pearce, served as its superintendent. She has one son who graduated from VCSU and one son who is currently attending VCSU.

She holds a B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of North Dakota. ♦

2009 Viking Scramble

The 2009 VCSU Viking Scramble was held at the Town and Country Club and Bjornson Park on Saturday, June 6. Twenty-eight teams participated in the golf tournament to raise money for scholarships for student athletes. ♦



l to r: Bob King '55, Don Bauer '63, Kyle Bauer '93 and Rolie Enstad teamed up to win the Open Flight.



l to r: Doug Krall, Dennis Moritz, Steve Kelly, Ace (Aaron) Anderson '92, and Sean Krall made up the winning team in the Championship Flight.

Teacher Education Programs Receive National Accreditation

The School of Education and Graduate Studies at VCSU received full accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the organization responsible for professional accreditation of teacher education.

Dr. Gary Thompson, Dean of the VCSU School of Education and Graduate Studies, said, "With this decision, VCSU continues our track record of uninterrupted NCATE accreditation, the gold standard of teacher education, ever since NCATE was founded in 1954. This consistent achievement is a clear sign of a quality teacher education program, and we are proud to be able to offer this quality to K-12 schools in North Dakota, the Midwest, and throughout the U.S. and Canada."

NCATE granted accreditation to VCSU at two levels. VCSU's undergraduate teacher education programs were accredited at the initial teacher preparation level, which applies to programs that prepare students for their first license to teach. In addition, VCSU's new online Master of Education program received accreditation at the advanced level, which includes post-baccalaureate programs for teachers who have completed initial preparation.

To receive accreditation from NCATE, schools must meet rigorous standards set by the profession and members of the public. Teacher candidates must have in-depth knowledge of the subject matter, as well as the skills necessary to convey that knowledge to students. The college or university must carefully assess student knowledge and must have partnerships with P-12 schools to help students learn. Candidates must be prepared to understand and work with diverse student populations.

Faculty must model effective teaching practices and the school must have the resources, including information technology resources, necessary to prepare candidates to meet new standards. NCATE revises its standards every five years to incorporate best practice and research in order to ensure that the standards reflect a consensus about what is important in teacher preparation today.

In their report, the NCATE Board of Examiners identified several key strengths of VCSU's programs. The report recognized VCSU's faculty for its high quality as evidenced by both faculty credentials and evaluation by students and colleagues. VCSU's field experience program was recognized for giving students opportunities to learn by participating in live classroom settings. The report also noted VCSU's centralized assessment system that helps students develop and model professional dispositions, as well as recent improvements to that system developed by faculty and the VCSU IT staff. NCATE also named as a strength VCSU's technology-rich environment, including its laptop initiative in which every full-time student is issued a laptop computer.

NCATE is a national accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that determines which schools, colleges, and departments of education meet rigorous national standards in preparing teachers and other school specialists for the classroom. Consisting of a coalition of 33 professional and policy maker organizations representing millions of Americans committed to quality teaching, NCATE currently accredits 632 institutions which produce two-thirds of the nation's new teacher graduates each year. ♦

VCSU Scholarship Auction was a Success



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"Showdown at the Viking Corral" was the theme for the 15th annual VCSU Scholarship Auction rescheduled for May 29 at the Valley City Eagles. The Auction had nearly 400 attendees and featured both a silent and live auction along with a variety of games, and successfully reached the goal of raising \$40,000 for student scholarships.

The Valley City Eagles Club was decked out Western-style. "We encouraged attendees to dress western style to the auction," said Kim Hesch, VCSU's assistant director of Advancement "and we were pleasantly surprised at the number of folks that did dress up!"

The theme would not have been complete without a good old fashion "Chuck wagon buffet," and the 2009 Scholarship Auction offered plenty of that. The huge buffet dinner included BBQ pork, southern fried chicken, cowboy baked beans, potato salad, breads and desserts. It was a sure bet that no one left hungry.

Everyone purchasing a ticket to the auction had a chance at being one of eight lucky winners to be awarded \$100 in "auction bucks." The auction bucks could be used toward purchases the night of the auction.

The 2010 Scholarship Auction is scheduled for April 23 - save the date now, and you will be glad you did! ♦

1. Dave Bass '77, Bruce Babcock '78 and Larry Grooters '57
2. Dee Jensen '66 and Janet Schultz '66 with their silent auction purchases.
3. Randy Hooye Jr. '08 spends some time in "Jail." Randy has co-emceed the event for the last three years with Voice of the Vikings radio personality Ryan Cunningham.
4. Auction attendees ready to start bidding.
5. Jennifer Christensen and Dr. Steven Shirley
6. Barb Kunze '66, Trish (Maus) Lueck '04, Dennis McCulloch, Randy (Tompt) Butke '06, Sharon Jacob and Todd Christiansen '82 having some fun during the horse race at Viking Downs.



COMMENCEMENT 2009

Although Commencement 2009 was well after the threat of flooding had passed, the event was held in the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse rather than Vangstad Auditorium due to difficulties with access to campus. Nonetheless, the gymnasium was beautifully decorated and the vast amount of seating allowed a larger audience than would have been possible in Vangstad.

This also marked the first commencement ceremony with Dr. Steve Shirley presiding. He began serving as president July 1, 2008. Speakers included Elizabeth Udem, who was being awarded a Master of Education, Tiffany Ost, graduating summa cum laude from the Health Science program, United States Senator Byron Dorgan, and Richie Smith, president of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education. Diplomas were distributed by Dr. Margaret Dahlberg, who is serving as interim vice president of academic affairs. Despite the new surroundings and new faces, tradition was observed: Paul McDaniel '73 came from his home in Minnesota to play the organ in his 30th ceremony.



Photo courtesy of Dutton's Valley Gallery



◀ Erika (Leppert) Schumacher

Erika (Leppert) Schumacher graduated cum laude with a major in chemistry, and was named the Outstanding Chemistry Student. She plans to attend the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University and was awarded the \$10,000 Minard G. Mills Scholarship.

This achievement comes after a remarkable childhood. Erika and four of her siblings were abducted from their family farm near Edgeley by members of a cult founded by her grandfather, Gordon Winrod. For several years, the children lived in caves in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas and at the cult's Missouri farm. With intervention from law enforcement, she finally left the cult in 2000 and returned home to her father. A few months later, after a four-day standoff with law enforcement, the rest of the children were rescued. She completed her GED in 2002, then took a year to travel around North and South Dakota as Miss Rodeo North Dakota Winter Show, and enrolled at VCSU the fall of 2004. She is married to Don Schumacher, a LaMoure County deputy, and they have a son, Ryan.

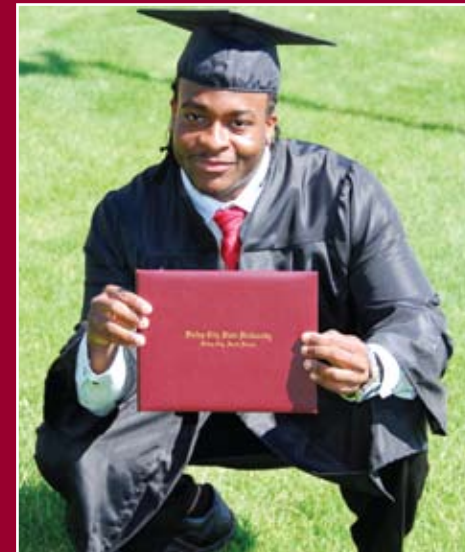
◀ A Family Tradition

Tatem Brandt became the latest member of his family to graduate from VCSU. From left: Brian Nelson '96 (brother-in-law), Jessica (Brandt) Nelson '99 (sister), Tatem Brandt '09, Tricia (Brandt) Lebahn '98 (sister), and Neil Lebahn '96 (brother-in-law). Tatem was named the outstanding Fisheries & Wildlife student and is currently working at the Valley City National Fish Hatchery.



◀ Mother & Son

Rhonda Fairfield (left) and her son Matthew (right) both participated in the 2009 Commencement. Rhonda has been an employee of VCSU since 1980 serving in a number of areas including the Education/ Psychology Division, Title III '98 Grant, Academic Affairs, and the President's office. She began her degree in 1980-81 by taking three quarters of shorthand from Dr. John Keller. "After 29 years, I may hold the record for the longest time spent completing a degree, but it just goes to show: It's never too late to complete your education." Matthew came to VCSU to earn his bachelor's degree in fisheries & wildlife after completing his associates degree from Minot State University - Bottineau. He is now working at the Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge in central North Dakota. ♦



Employee Recognition



Five Years of Service:
From left: Ruby Deminck, Louis Wieland '01, Doug Anderson, Amy (Grotberg) Anderson '74. Missing: K.O. Bolstad, David Klein '03.



Ten Years of Service:
Front row from left: Shannon Van Horn, Donna (Vandrovec) James '73, Patti Rickford, Jessica (Brandt) Nelson '99, C.J. Kotta '99. Back row: Patricia Geggelman, Kari Stricklin '92, Jill DeVries, Charlene (Stromsodt) Stenson '83, Brad Mills. Missing: Leesa Levy.



Fifteen - Thirty Years of Service:
From left: Preston Bush (15 years), Jane (Speyers) Hammer '97 (15 years), Jim Dew (30 years), John Paulson (20 years). Missing: Wayne Hammond, Gregg Horner '90, Beth Klingenstein, Dennis McCulloch, Steve Olson, Ron Pommerer, Barbara Schroeder, Linda Whitney. ♦
Valley City State University 11

VIKING SPORTS

Fall 2009 Preview

Golf Celebrates Inaugural Season

Men's Golf Coach Nathan Stover and Women's Golf Coach Ryan Bomstad spent the past year scouring the area for talented golfers to help restart the teams. Stover's team has ten student-athletes committed including three transfers and five incoming freshmen. At press time, Bomstad has three committed team members. One commitment for the men's team is current Valley City Town and Country Club men's champion Sean Krall. The team will practice on the local courses and will host a meet in the fall. Due to Dakota Athletic Conference regulations, the two-day tournament must be held out of town since DAC events must be played on 18-hole courses. Both teams will compete in the fall and spring seasons with six events counting towards the Dakota Athletic Conference standings. ♦

2009 - 2010 Golf Schedule Dakota Athletic Conference Golf Schedule

FALL DATES	HOST
Sept. 13 & 14	VCSU
Sept. 20 & 21	Jamestown College
Sept. 27 & 28	Minot State
SPRING DATES	HOST
April 11 & 12	SD School of Mines
April 18 & 19	Black Hills State
April 25 & 26	Dickinson State
TBD	NAIA Men's Unaffiliated Tournament



Volleyball Goes "Retro"

The Viking volleyball season features three non-conference match-ups along with the Home DAC schedule. Look for 2009 to be a "retro" year: structural issues with the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse (see article page 1) have left it unavailable as of press time, so the plan is to move all practices and competition to Graichen Gym. The team has played all of its matches at the Fieldhouse for the past three years and selected games took place at "the Bubble" in 2005. The 2009 version of the Vikings hit a valley more reminiscent of Death Valley than Valley City after a fast start. A glimpse of what could have been took place in the Vikings final game

at Jamestown College: the match went to the Jimmies 3-2 with the final game going 15-13. Jamestown won the DAC regular season title last year. Senior Heidi Larson will look to stay healthy after two injury-plagued seasons. She was an All-Conference performer and DAC Freshman of the Year in 2005. She followed that up with All-Conference performances in 2006 and 2007 despite injuring a knee and missing the last few weeks of the season. In 2008, she tried to play but it was determined best for her to take a medical hardship and try to come back 100% in 2009. ♦

Football Opens Season with Heavyweights

The 2009 Viking football squad will have plenty of opportunities to share their successes with the Fargo media market with three games with local ties. The Viking non-conference schedule leads-off with NCAA Division II Minnesota State University-Moorhead as the season opener followed up by always tough Concordia College of Moorhead. The conference schedule makers did the Vikings no favors as they start with heavyweights Minot, Dickinson and the Homecoming tilt with Black Hills State. Mayville makes their first appearance in Valley City since 2006 and on Halloween day fans will have a hard time telling pumpkins from the helmets of Jamestown College (both are orange). To finish off the season, all eight DAC schools will compete in an extraordinary event: the first annual Dacotah Bank DAC Bowl at the Fargodome. Teams will be matched following the previous week's games with seeds 7 and 8 matching up at 9:00 am, 5 and 6 at 12:30 pm, 2 and 3 at 4:00 pm and 1 and 4. at 7:30 pm. Because all of these games count towards conference records, they could very well determine the conference champion. Fans can catch all the action with an advanced ticket purchase price of \$15 for adults and \$5 for students.

The football team returns much of the defense including First Team All DAC selection Kevin Strang. Offensively, the Vikings will have to replace the departed tandem of Jason Beilke and Chauncey Calhoun, and the lack of spring practice due to flooding leaves the quarterback position unsettled. Coach Dennis McCulloch will rely on his innovative style to bring excitement to the offense as sophomores Jordan Backstrom and A.J. Pfeiffer return as the main rushing attack for the Vikings. A few breaks here and there could have led to a championship 2008 campaign and the 2009 version of the Vikings looks to build upon the character gained through the previous year. ♦

Viking Booster Club Awards:

SENIOR ATHLETES OF THE YEAR:

Recognizing the four-year careers of student athletes.

Female Senior Athlete of the Year -

Megan Floerke, Volleyball, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota
Floerke was a four-year letter-winner and was named Second Team All-Conference all four years. She was captain of the 2008-09 team. Over the course of her career, she was the DAC Setter of the Week two times her sophomore year, one time her junior year, and two times her senior year. She broke the career assists mark during her junior season. Her senior year helped build upon that mark and she ended up finishing second in games played, third in matches played and is one of four players with more than 200 aces. Her 248 aces rank her second on the career list, just one shy of the career mark.

Male Senior Athlete of the Year -

Jason Beilke, Baseball and Football, Valley City, North Dakota
A four-year letter-winner in baseball and football, Beilke earned All-Conference honors in both sports. In 2007-08, he was named Second Team All-Conference Pitcher after being named by his teammates as the team's top pitcher. In his freshman year, he was named VCSU's Top Newcomer. In football, he was Honorable Mention All-Conference his junior year and topped that off with First Team All-Conference in 2008-09. In 2008-09 he was nationally recognized finishing high in the NAIA final statistics. He was third in Passing Yards per Game and fifth in Total Offense. He is the VCSU single season and career leader in Passing Attempts and Passing Yards per Game. He also is the single season leader in Pass Completions, Passing Yards, and Passing Touchdowns. On the career records, Beilke ranks second in Completions, Passing Yards and Completion Percentage.

2008-2009 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR:

Recognizing the individuals with the best athletic season for the past academic year.

Female Athlete of the Year -

Abby Rittenhouse, Women's Basketball, Sophomore, Burnsville, Minnesota
In her first season at VCSU after transferring from St. Cloud State, Rittenhouse earned First Team All-Conference honors and was a DAC Player of the Week for the week of February 2-8. She finished her first season in the conference fourth in Scoring, seventh in Field Goal Percentage, and ninth in Free Throw Percentage. The team finished 17-13, won a conference playoff game and achieved their highest ever NAIA national ranking coming in 21st in the February 2 poll.

Male Athlete of the Year -

Chauncey Calhoun, Football, Senior, Glendale, Arizona
Calhoun was named to the American Football Coaches Association's All-American team and was a First Team All-American by the College Fanz Sports Network. In the final NAIA statistics he was second nationally with an average of 113.7 yards per game, second in Receptions per Game, second in Receiving Yards per Game, fourth in Scoring per Game, and 15th in All Purpose Yards per Game. Calhoun was chosen to play in the prestigious Texas vs. The Nation All-Star game held in El Paso. The Viking football team finished with a 5-5 record and several heartbreaking defeats. ♦



2009 Viking Football

DATE	OPPONENT - HOME GAMES IN BOLD	TIME
Aug. 29	@ MSUM (Moorhead, MN)	1:00 pm
Sept. 12	Concordia College	1:30 pm
Sept. 19	Minot State University	1:30 pm
Sept. 26	@ Dickinson State University (Dickinson, ND)	1:30 pm
Oct. 3	Black Hills State University (Homecoming)	1:30 pm
Oct. 10	@ Dakota State University (Madison, SD)	1:30 pm
Oct. 17	Mayville State University	1:30 pm
Oct. 24	@ SD School of Mines (Rapid City, SD)	1:00 pm
Oct. 31	Jamestown College	1:30 pm
Nov. 8	Dacotah Bank DAC Bowl at the Fargodome	TBA
Nov. 21	NAIA Playoffs - 1st Round	TBA
Nov. 28	NAIA Quarterfinals	TBA
Dec. 5	NAIA Semifinals	TBA
Dec. 19	NAIA National Championship	TBA



2009 Viking Volleyball

Note: Home games will be played in Graichen Gym

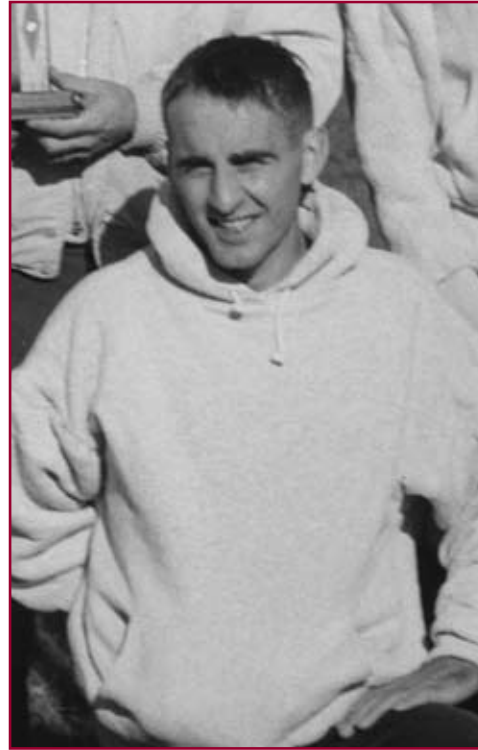
DATE	OPPONENT - HOME GAMES IN BOLD	TIME
Aug. 28	@ Red Raider Classic (Northwestern College)	TBA
Aug. 28	@ Red Raider Classic (Northwestern College)	TBA
Aug. 29	@ Red Raider Classic (Northwestern College)	TBA
Aug. 29	@ Red Raider Classic (Northwestern College)	TBA
Sept. 4	@ Concordia College Tournament	TBA
Sept. 4	@ Concordia College Tournament	TBA
Sept. 5	@ Concordia College Tournament	TBA
Sept. 5	@ Concordia College Tournament	TBA
Sept. 8	UM-Morris	7:00 pm
Sept. 11	Dakota Wesleyan	7:00 pm
Sept. 12	@ Mount Marty College (Presentation College)	1:00 pm
Sept. 12	@ Presentation College (Presentation College)	3:00 pm
Sept. 18	Dakota State University	7:00 pm
Sept. 19	Mayville State University	7:00 pm
Sept. 22	Presentation College	7:00 pm
Sept. 25	Black Hills State University	7:00 pm
Sept. 26	SD School of Mines	3:00 pm
Oct. 2	@ Dickinson State University (Dickinson)	7:00 pm
Oct. 3	@ Minot State University (Minot)	7:00 pm
Oct. 7	Jamestown College	7:00 pm
Oct. 16	@ Mayville State University (Mayville)	7:00 pm
Oct. 17	@ Dakota State University (Madison, SD)	3:00 pm
Oct. 23	@ Black Hills State University (Spearfish, SD)	7:00 pm
Oct. 24	@ SD School of Mines (Rapid City, SD)	7:00 pm
Oct. 30	Minot State University	7:00 pm
Oct. 31	Dickinson State University	7:00 pm
Nov. 4	@ Jamestown College (Jamestown)	7:00 pm
Nov. 7	DAC Quarterfinals	TBA
Nov. 11	DAC Semifinals	TBA
Nov. 11	DAC Finals	TBA
Nov. 21	NAIA Regional	TBA
Dec. 1	NAIA National Tourney	TBA

2009 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Dwight Leier '68 - Special Recognition Category

Dwight Leier's career as a cross country and track athlete combined with his achievements as a coach and friend of VCSU athletics usher him into the category of VCSU Hall of Famer. Leier ran on VCSU's first cross country team and also competed as a distance runner in track. He lettered three times in cross country and four in track earning him the Hardest Worker award for both sports his junior year and Most Improved in Cross Country his junior year. In his senior year, he was a key member of the cross country team that is being honored with Hall of Fame induction and he competed at the NAIA National Championship Meet.

Beyond his college athletic career, Leier made the most of his 35-year coaching career and ultimately was recognized with his induction into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Hall of Fame in 2007. Originally from Esmond, Leier returned home to coach football and track and field at Esmond High School before also heading the co-op program with Esmond and Maddock and eventually Maddock. He accumulated 249 football victories winning the state 9-man title once and finishing runner-up twice. These finishes headlined 17 state playoff appearances. He was a National Football Coach of the Year finalist and was named North Dakota 9-man Coach of the Year once while being a finalist on several other occasions. In 1995 Leier was inducted into the North Dakota High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



1967 Men's Cross Country Team

In only their third year as a varsity program, the 1967 Men's Cross Country Team led by Myron Loberg '68 (honored as the team's Most Valuable Runner as well as its Hardest Worker) and Dwight Leier '68 ran its way to its first NDCAC title after two straight years of being runner-up to Jamestown College.

After finishing second in their first meet of the season, the harriers racked up first place finishes in their next three meets prior to taking the conference title on their home course. Under the tutelage of first-year Coach Jim McCullough, the conference individual title was won by Loberg's time of 19:10.7 holding off a second place finisher from Jamestown. Leier's third-place time of 19:52 also held off Jamestown's second runner, helping to insure the team title.

With those qualifying times, seniors Loberg and Leier represented VCSU at the National Championship hosted by the University of Nebraska-Omaha on November 25. Loberg finished 77th and Leier 151st on the national stage featuring 300 runners.



Randy Betsinger '78 - Football

Randy Betsinger began his football career at the same time as legendary coach Jim Dew. During his career with the Vikings, the team would only lose more than two games per season once (1974). A Valley City native, Betsinger lettered as a freshman and then made the honorable mention All-NDCAC Team as a sophomore. The defensive lineman's greatest achievements came both as an individual and with the team his junior and senior years. The 1976 team was the first in school history to advance to the NAIA playoffs after going undefeated in the conference. Betsinger made the All-NDCAC Team as a junior. After tasting the playoffs, the team did all they could in the 1977 campaign going 9-0 overall (including a 6-0 NDCAC mark and finishing the season with a resounding 83-0 victory versus Huron College), but the playoff bid was not extended. At the time, the playoffs featured only four teams from around the nation. Betsinger was named First Team All-Conference and Honorable Mention All-District. His 1976 and 1977 teams previously have been inducted into the VCSU Hall of Fame.

Shauna (Cochrane) Thompson '93 - Volleyball and Softball

Shauna Cochrane was a four-year letter-winner in volleyball and softball, and a two-year letter-winner in basketball. Her career as a Viking started in a big way: during her freshman season in volleyball, the team went 9-1 in the conference, earned the WACND title, won the NE Sub-District and topped out in the District 12 Final Four. The team's final mark was 33-7. After slumping her sophomore and junior years, Cochrane's final campaign came up oh-so-close. They finished one game behind Jamestown for the Conference Title and were runners-up to the Jimmies in the Sub-District with an overall record of 20-7.

Cochrane, a catcher from Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, also kicked off her softball career with a great freshman experience. The team began the season with six games in Hawaii on their way to an 18-11 mark. In the conference, their 10-2 mark was good for a WACND championship. After sitting out the 1990 season, Cochrane returned for her sophomore year and made the All-Conference Team. Her senior year garnered the most individual awards. She was the team MVP and made the All-Conference and All-District teams. Her highest honor was being named the NDCAC Most Valuable Graduating Senior.



1984 Football Team

The 1982, 1983 and 1984 Football Teams

Four times in history, Viking football teams have won three straight league titles. The 1926-28 teams and the magical stretch of six straight championships from 1949-54 were joined by the Jim Dew led teams of 1976-1978 and 1982-84 teams as back to back-to-back champions. The 1982-84 teams are being honored as Hall of Fame inductees.

The 1982 team started the campaign with a tone-setting triumph over Northern State and then took the Paint Bucket with a 7-6 nail biter over Jamestown. A loss to Dickinson was followed by four straight conference wins in which six points was the most allowed by the defense. The NDCAC Title was shared with Dickinson and the overall record was 6-2. Team MVP was Terry Babler '82. Paul Leier, Jim Theis '84 and Steve Guenther '84 made the All-Conference Team with Guenther and Theis making Honorable Mention All-American. Jeff Pederson '83 was named Academic All-American.

The 1983 team didn't get off to the same start as the previous season, dropping a 10-9 tilt with Northern State. But like the previous year, the Paint Bucket stayed with its rightful owners with another dramatic close game, this time 7-3 in the Vikings favor. Revenge came the following week with a 7-6 win over Dickinson, then three more wins in NDCAC play. The final conference contest went to Minot, and the teams shared the Confer-

ence Crown. Overall, the team was 6-3. Team MVP was Jim Theis, and he was named First Team All-Conference along with Jed Klein '85, Mike Smith '84, Jeff Volk and Randy Peitz '86. All-District honors went to Theis, Klein and Volk. Klein and Volk made the Honorable Mention All-American Team. Mike Smith was named First Team Academic All-American and Jim Theis finished his career being named First Team All-American.

In 1984, the team again opened with Northern, and this time again they fell. Also true to the previous seasons, the conference opener was against a tough opponent and the Vikings prevailed in a tight one: a 9-7 victory over Dickinson. This was followed up with four straight conference wins including a homecoming triumph over the previous year's co-champions Minot. The outright title was denied by Jamestown in the final conference game as the Jimmies extracted some revenge from two previous close losses and the teams shared the NDCAC title. Overall, the team record was 5-4. The team MVP was shared by Jeff Volk and Pat O'Brien. All-Conference honors went to Pat Horner, O'Brien, Chris Lima '87, Steve Becher '85 and Troy Johnson. All-District Honors went to O'Brien, Becher and Horner with Horner and O'Brien also attaining Honorable Mention All-American honors. Bill Hiser '85 and Jerry Krosbakken '86 both earned Second Team Academic All-American honors. ♦



Welcome Jenni Lou Russi

VCSU is pleased to welcome Jenni Lou Russi as our new Theatre Director. She replaces Dr. Martin Kelly who retired this spring after 13 years of exemplary service. "I'm looking forward to meeting the students, alumni, faculty and staff who have an interest in the productions at VCSU," said Russi. "Creating theatre magic is my primary goal this academic year."

Russi holds a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Kent State University and has performed with professional theatre and opera companies. She has appeared in television shows and feature films. As a professional comedian who tours nationally, she incorporates her professional experience in classroom activities. Her teaching experience includes Kent State University, Western State College of Colorado, Utah Valley University, and most recently, Westminster College in Salt Lake City where she designed, taught, and directed shows in the Theatre Program.

A highlight for this year will be a 24-Hour Theatre Extravaganza in which students will have 24 hours to write, rehearse, and perform short plays.

If you would like to be added to the theatre program e-mail list, or would like more information about VCSU's Theatre Minor, buying season tickets, mentoring current Theatre students, or assisting with productions, please call the VCSU Theatre at 701-845-7320.



Levy Earns Doctoral Degree

Leesa Levy, Director of Choral Activities at Valley City State University, graduated from North Dakota State

University on May 15 with a Doctoral Degree (DMA) in Vocal Performance and Literature.

In fulfillment of the degree Levy successfully completed all course work, three doctoral recitals and a dissertation. Levy maintained a 4.0 average throughout her studies. Her dissertation subject is an investigation of solo art songs composed since 1945 on poetry written by children incarcerated in the Terezin Concentration Camp from 1942-1944.

VCSU 2009-2010 Theatre Season:

(date changes will be announced if needed)

24-Hour Theatre Extravaganza | Vangstad Auditorium | August 28, 7:00 pm • August 29, 8:00 pm

The Dining Room | Vangstad Auditorium | October 22, 23, 8:00 pm • October 24, 2:00 pm matinee and 8:00 pm

Valley City: Comedy Tonight! | Theatre 320 | November 19, 20, 21, 8:00 pm

Searching for David's Heart | Theatre 320 | February 11, 12, 13, 8:00 pm

Tintypes | Vangstad Auditorium | April 15, 16, 8:00 pm • April 17, 2:00 pm matinee and 8:00 pm

VCSU Theater Department | 101 College St SW • Valley City, ND 58072 | 701-845-7320

2009

Music Hall of Fame Banquet

Date Rescheduled!

SEPTEMBER 19, 2009

Valley City Town & Country Club
6:00 pm Social
6:30 pm Dinner

INDUCTEES:

Josephine (Wright) Rhoades '17 (in memoriam)
Carole (Paulson) Flatau '60

TICKETS: \$30

Payment must be received by September 4
Tickets will not be available at the door.

Contact Paula Larson:

paula.larson@vcsu.edu
701-845-7272

Nominations for 2010 Hall of Fame Awards Encouraged!

Alumni may contact the Department of Music for more information.



Josephine (Wright) Rhoades '17

Josephine Wright Rhoades attended the Valley City Normal School, where she later served as an instructor of piano and an accompanist for the department. One of her compositions won the 1916 All North Dakota Song Contest. Perhaps Ms. Rhoades' greatest contribution to Valley City State University was her composition of the words and music for VCSU's Alma Mater. Ms. Wright died at the age of 87, after over 70 years of contributions to the music profession. She was married to Louis D. Rhoades, who taught at VCSU from 1919-1961, and for whom the Rhoades Science Center is named.



Carole (Paulson) Flatau '60

Carole Flatau's career began in Valley City. She then moved to Florida where she accepted the prestigious positions of Director of Keyboard Publications for Columbia Pictures and later Music Editor at Belwin/CPP and Warner Brothers. In 2000, she returned to Valley City where she now operates an independent music studio, and is a free-lance editor and composer. She owns her own music publishing company, Noteworthy Publications. Flatau was recognized as the North Dakota Music Teachers Association Teacher of the Year in 2002 and as a Music Teachers National Association Foundation Fellow in 2005.

Performing Arts FALL/WINTER 2009 VCSU PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR

Aug. 10	VCACA: The Brett Family+ 7:30 pm <i>Vangstad</i>	Nov. 19	General Student Recital 7:30 pm <i>Froemke</i>
Sept. 17	VCSU Music Faculty Recital* 7:30 pm <i>Froemke</i>	Nov. 22	Micki Buchholz, mezzo-soprano/saxophone..... 3:00 pm & Sonja Plautz, trombone, <i>Froemke</i>
Sept. 19	VCSU Music Hall of Fame 6:00 pm <i>Valley City Town & Country Club, Advance Tickets Required</i>	Dec. 3	East Region Instrumental Contest Daytime (TBA) <i>Foss Music Hall</i>
Sept. 25	Beauty & Melody World Fest 7:30 pm <i>Vangstad</i>	Dec. 5	Valley Voice & Valley City Civic Orchestra*** 7:30 pm <i>Froemke</i>
Sept. 26	Concert Choir Rummage Sale 9:00 am-3:00 pm <i>Foss Hall</i>	Dec. 10	VCSU Concert Choir & University Singers*** 7:30 pm <i>St. Catherine's</i>
Oct. 4	VCACA: Barbary Coast Dixieland Band+ 7:30 pm <i>Vangstad</i>	Dec. 12	EBC Christmas Hit Parade..... 7:30 pm <i>Vangstad</i>
Oct. 16	Music Scholarship Dance & Auction* 7:00 pm <i>Location TBA</i>	Dec. 13	CSA Recitals 2:00 - 4:00 pm <i>Froemke</i>
Oct. 23-24	MTNA/NDMTA Competitions Daytime (TBA) <i>Foss Music Hall</i>	Dec. 14	Garage Bands..... 4:00 pm <i>Vangstad</i>
Oct. 27	VCSU Garage Bands 7:00 pm <i>Vangstad</i>	Dec. 15	Valley Voices, VCSU Choir, University Singers.....evening <i>Courthouse Carol Sing</i>
Oct. 29	General Student Recital 11:00 am <i>Froemke</i>		
Nov. 1	Heidi Kirsch, Soprano 3:00 pm <i>Froemke</i>		
Nov. 5	Ployhar Honor Band & Barnes County Music Festival 7:00 pm <i>Vangstad</i>		
Nov. 8	Valley Childrens' Choir*** 3:00 pm <i>Froemke</i>		
Nov. 12	VCSU Jazz Ensemble* 7:30 pm <i>Student Union Cafeteria</i>		
Nov. 12	Regional One-Act Plays 7:00 am - 4:00 pm <i>Vangstad</i>		
Nov. 13	VCSU Concert Band & Percussion* 7:30 pm <i>Vangstad</i>		
Nov. 18	VCACA: Paul Asaro, Ragtime Pianist+ 7:30 pm <i>Vangstad</i>		

*Concert Fees: \$5.00 Adult Admission Charge, VCSU Students, Faculty and Staff Admitted Free.

*** Free Will Offering Concerts

+VCACA Concerts: Admission by SEASON MEMBERSHIP, which may be purchased at the door.
Student @ \$12; Adult @ \$30; Single Parent Family @ \$40; Families @ \$65

Fine Arts FALL/WINTER 2009 VCSU FINE ARTS CALENDAR

Sept. 1 - Oct. 2	Shawn Holtz Exhibition <i>VCSU Gallery</i>
Oct. 1	Shawn Holtz Reception 5:00-6:30 pm <i>VCSU Gallery</i>
Oct. 5 - Nov. 13	Artists' Crawl Exhibition
Nov. 5	Artists' Crawl Reception 5:30-7:30 pm <i>VCSU Gallery</i>
Nov. 6	Artists' Crawl Open Studios 7:00-9:00 pm
Nov. 7	Artists' Crawl Open Studios 10:00am-4:00 pm
Nov. 8	Artists' Crawl Open Studios 11:00am-4:00 pm
Nov. 16 - Dec. 18	Mike Rasmussen Paintings <i>VCSU Gallery</i>
Dec. 10	Mike Rasmussen Reception 7:00-8:00 pm <i>VCSU Gallery</i>

In Remembrance

Stephanie L. Schulz, Hemet, CA
 Patsy I. (Oleson) Carlson '35, Sierra Madre, CA
 Kenneth Rietze, Jacksonville, FL
 Nuel Hulett '43, Great Falls, MT
 Harriet E. (Hemmer) Peterson '37, Detroit Lakes, MN
 Lillian I. (Wittenberg) Noeske, Oriska
 Jennie E. (Oss) Johnson '30, Woodburn, OR
 Dorothy (Pedersen) Torgerson '63, Clarkfield, MN
 Margie A. (Kunz) Meyers '55, Carrington
 Dale Iwen, Arthur
 Helen C. (Payne) White '37, Hankinson
 Florence L. (Hunt) Kollman, Bismarck
 Jerome Thomas Nord '64, Lisbon
 Rosells (Idso) Gresham '31, Mt Vernon, WA
 Gladys N. (Gums) Mickelson, Fargo
 Herman J. Wieland '60, Valley City
 Dorothy M. (Rood) Byberg Regnerus '65, Valley City
 Dorothy J. (Vondergeeste) Stampka '52, Sheridan, WY
 Marcel L. Gierszewski '07, Bismarck
 Clifford A. Anderson '49, Merced, CA
 Delores A. (Burke) Risgaard '48, Tolna
 Edward R. Stern, Fargo
 Charlotte L. Berdal '69, Grand Forks
 Elnor C. Monson '64, Hatton
 Raymond F. Ellerman '40, Las Vegas, NV
 Leulla I. (Isackson) Schuessler '40, Allentown, PA
 Olive B. (Halsne) Hanson '42, Bismarck
 Harriet C. (Nelson) Hegvik '36, Cooperstown
 Darby H. Dreis '42, Panorama City, CA
 Florence L. (Van Oosting) Dahle '30, Montpelier
 Eldora K. (Koenig) Wieland, Fargo
 Leone D. (Langemo) Osmon '42, Valley City

Vikings on the Move

1930's
Eleanor (Bunkowski) Thronson '39 is 91 years old and doing fine every day. She is no longer teaching. She gave up substitute teaching special ed when she was 87.

1940's
Sophie (Nielsen-Anderson) Beutler '47 lives in a high-rise apartment in Fargo, ND. She has watched the rise of the water in the Red River and the dikes that have grown to keep the water out of her building grounds. She praises God for the people who worked with sandbags and clay to protect her and the citizens of Fargo.

1950's
Owen Wallace '54 is the retired superintendent of schools at Fessenden. Owen met his wife Gladys (Pfungsten) '49 at VCSU in 1948 and married in 1951 in Aberdeen, SD. Gladys passed away in April of 2004. They have four daughters, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren who keep Owen very busy. Owen and two of his daughters visited Scotland and Ireland (his family descended from those countries) for 15 days in the summer of 2008.

Marjorie (Boomgaarden) Weston '54 has been retired for some years now, but still looks back at her time at VCSU fondly, particularly the beautiful campus with the picturesque footbridge and Old Main. Marjorie enjoys reading *The Bulletin* so she can stay in touch with the campus and alumni. She even remembers the squeaky floor en route to the convocation auditorium. So many years ago - the late 40's and 50's were her time.

1960's
Mel Olson '64 is currently the executive director of the Skills & Technology Training Center in Fargo, ND. Previously, he was a teacher, coach, secondary school principal, a superintendent of schools in Cavalier for 18 years, and the ND State Director of Career & Technical Education. He and his wife, Kim, have a son, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Terry Dunphy '68 is still playing with commercial real estate for Dakota Commercial and Development. He thinks it is a great retirement job. His wife, Jolene, is also retired, but is back working for the Grand Forks School District as a middle school nurse three days a week. Terry would like to see lots of EBC's at the homecoming reunion this fall. He says he is even lonesome for the Philos.

Judith (Hock) Townley '68 taught for 38 years in Verona, ND, until the school closed in 2005. She subbed in LaMoore, ND and Litchville-Marion, ND for one year and then went back full-time for one year in 2006-2007. She still follows many sporting events. Upon retiring, she has traveled to Europe, Africa, Egypt, South Africa, Mexico and the 50 states with her four daughters and friends.

Clarilyn (Anderson) Riedinger '69 is living in Steele, ND. She says there is no excuse not to find something to do if you are bored. Her husband passed away six years ago. Clarilyn is involved in many organizations such as a senior club,

historical society, two bible study groups at two different churches, church choir, and the Save the Manor Group. She also visits her two daughters and their families in northern Nebraska and her sister and her husband as well as her niece and family in Thief River Falls, MN . Clarilyn enjoys the piano recital of her niece's family every year in Thief River Falls. She says there is never a dull moment.

1970's
Bill and Jan (Hins) Mimnaugh '72 are living in Breckenridge, MN. Bill taught 3rd and 5th grade for 34 years and retired three years ago. He is still the director of the summer migrant program which is in its 36th year. Jan is teaching special ed 6th - 8th graders at the Breckenridge Middle School. Jan has been teaching for 37 years.

Margie R. Nelson '73 retired from teaching in June of 2008. She enjoys golfing and traveling in the fall. She still substitute teaches occasionally, but not too often.

Diana (Slone) Erickson '79 and her husband, Paul, live in Luverne, MN, where Diana teaches business and vocational education at the local high school and Paul is a field supervisor for Mid-America Communications. They have two children, Briana, 12, and Jimmy, 8. Paul is an avid outdoorsman who loves to hunt deer with bow and rifle. They all have bows and Diana is quite good. Briana is excelling in ice skating and competes regionally. They are very much a "Viking" family.

1980's
Kristie (Mahar) Ortiz '85 is teaching in the Richfield Schools at Prairie St. John's in Edina, MN, as an EBD teacher (K-12) working in a mental health partial hospital program. Kristie is married with one six-year-old son. Kristie has this to say: "Loving teaching after all these years, loving being a Mommy after waiting for so many years, and love my wonderful husband. Lots of love going on here. It is still true to this day. Ask any one who knows me and they will say, 'Her heart will always be with VCSU.' If someone asks me where they should attend college, I will always say, 'Have you looked at VCSU? They have so much to offer. Small enough to reach all students on a personal level, yet big enough to compete with other universities. I loved it!!' I am forever grateful for my years at VCSU. Thanks for making my college experience memorable and meaningful. I am a great teacher and that is largely due to the wonderful guidance I received from the staff there."

Mary Halvorson '89 is currently in her 8th year of teaching 2nd grade at Jefferson Elementary in Valley City after spending 12 years of teaching 1st grade in Carrington, ND. She spends her summer months working part time for Bank Forward in the crop insurance department in both Carrington and Valley City.

Lori (Gray) Shellito '89 is living in Comstock, MN. She and her husband, Scott, have a 7 year-old-son, Tate. Lori works with Scheels Marketing and loves her job. She gets to see her VCSU classmates from time to time. Lori is still active

and thinks the Fargo Marathon is a great place to see old faces. If anyone is in the area you can e-mail her at slshellito@msn.com.

1990's
Robert Steiger '90 and his wife, Michelle (Kappel), live in Le Sueur, MN, where he teaches high school social studies and is the head boys basketball coach. They have two beautiful children, Ethan (1 year old) and Maleah (4 years old). He would love to hear from fellow VCSU alums.

Robbie (Licari) Werchau '91 and her husband, Lance, live in Minot, ND. She teaches sophomore physical education at the central campus. Lance works at Verendrye Electric as a lineman. Their two children are very involved in school and activities. Trevor is 13 and in the 7th grade. He plays football and hockey. Hannah is 11 and in the 5th grade. She likes to run and do gymnastics. They like Minot and have been there for almost 18 years.

Kevin Trotter '98 began working for the Department of Justice in Victorville, CA, in April of 2009.

2000's
Benjamin Ford '04 has accepted a job offer with InfoTech of Minot ND. He started on May 4 and is meeting new people and learning new skills. Benjamin, Tina and their daughter, Kamrynn, are enjoying the time in Minot so far. They've spent time at the mall, swimming at the hotel pool, finding really good restaurants, and went to the first flea-market of the season at the North Dakota Fairgrounds.

Ashley (Mann) Fliflet '06 is currently teaching preschool with the Even Start Family Literacy Program through Jamestown Public Schools. She is married and has two beautiful boys, Jackson (4 years) and Colton (5 months)

Naomi (Tschaekefske) Karlin '07 is teaching art at the Seward High School in Seward, AK. She is a member of the Seward Mural Society which works toward procuring money for hiring a master artist to design a mural and assist their group in painting the mural. The society tries to paint at least one new mural a year. Each mural is about 10 ft x 30 ft and is displayed in a public place to enhance the tourism in their small city.

Nikki Laine Zinke '07 has been promoted from editor to publisher of the *Valley City Times Record*. "As editor, I was mainly responsible for the editorial quality of the paper, and now as publisher, my role includes more on the business side," she said. "But in a paper our size, we all have a lot of different roles, so no two days are really the same." Her experience in the newspaper business spans over 15 years and several rural newspapers including the *Ashley Tribune*, the *Northfield News*, and the *Fairbault Daily News*. "One reason I like the *Times Record* is that it is an afternoon paper. At most morning papers, it is not unusual to be working well into the night, which isn't easy when you have kids." Nikki's daughter, Lexi, is 8 years old and going into 3rd grade in Maple Valley. In addition, she has been active with ToastMasters and is a regular guest on Merrill Piepkorn's "News Professionals Roundtable."

Weddings

Jenna Sundby
 & Dustin Grabowska '07 May 30, 2009

Susan Hanish
 & Travis Anderson '06.....June 5, 2009

Casey Johnson '08
 & Daniel Triebold..... June 13, 2009

Erica Browne '08
 & Kyle Murie June 13, 2009

Elizabeth Smith
 & Brady Fritel '01 June 13, 2009

Amanda Perkerewicz
 & Ryan Botner '05..... June 19, 2009

Alecia Stark
 & David Killoran June 19, 2009

Breanna Braunagel
 & Sean Ritchie '09..... June 26, 2009

Mary Berglund '74
 & Earl Pomeroy..... July 2, 2009

Kayla Leininger
 & Jason Wind '07 July 7, 2009

Sherri Senne '01
 & Justin Horsager..... July 11, 2009

Heather Davidson
 & Freddie Maneiro July 18, 2009

Alonna Brady '08
 & Luke Wiese..... July 25, 2009

Kaylah Borg '09
 & Justin Stangler '05 August 8, 2009

Andrea Kelsch '08
 & James JensenSeptember 12, 2009



Leone Osmon continued the tradition of starting the annual Osmon Fun Run even after her husband Bill passed away. Here she is shown with the winners of the 2008 Fun Run: Calvin Kraft (left) and Jacklyn Mitchell (right).

In Remembrance Leone (Langemo) Osmon '42

Leone Osmon passed away April 26 at the age of 87. She was the widow of Bill Osmon, longtime VCSU coach and athletic director and namesake of the VCSU W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse, who passed away February, 2007. While a student, she was active in many campus activities including being elected Homecoming Queen. Bill and Leone met on campus and were married in 1943. During her career, Leone was a guidance counselor at Valley City High School until her retirement in 1980. A popular feature at Homecoming is the Osmon Fun Run which was started by Bill and carried on by Leone after his death. They will both be greatly missed. ♦

Milestones...

We count minutes, days, years ... unconsciously marking time as if waiting for an epochal event to mark another lifetime milestone.

Learning, growing, changing ... moving too quickly through youth, wanting to freeze special moments in time to be lived forever.

Searching for a reason to wake up every morning; to smile just because it feels good; to stop in the middle of the day and know that somewhere special, everything is right.

You are my living moment, more real and more perfect with each touch. As the kernel of vibrant youth shines through your timeless smile, your loving heart is the one great gift in my life.

Together, we will travel and grow. Know that in all the world there is only one wonderful you.

Frank Labaty



Loren Law '42 received his Standard Degree in 1936. He taught school at Edmunds, ND, for three years and then at Hannaford, ND, for three years. He went back to VCSU and received his BS-SE in 1942 (he attended school with Bill and Leone Osmon). Loren and his wife, Arlene, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on April 9, 2009. They spend 6 1/2 months at their condo in Florida and 5 1/2 months in Minnesota. Loren also served as the president of the VCSU Alumni Association from 1971-1972.



Kari (Grieger) Pflugsten '93 and her husband Billy are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Livia Dallas Pflugsten, who was born on October 23, 2008. She weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz and was 20 inches long. Kari and Billy live on a farmstead south of Casselton, ND. Kari is a 3rd grade teacher at Central Cass Public School in Casselton and Billy is a software engineer at Microsoft.



David Fiebiger '00 and his wife, Brittany, are living in Finley, ND, where David is the General Manager at Finley Farmers Elevator and Brittany works in Cooperstown at Griggs County Telephone. Molly Jo Lorraine was born January 8th, 2009, weighing 7 lbs 15 oz.

Alum Leads Team to National Robotics Competition for Two Consecutive Years

"We like to promote this as 'the hardest fun you'll ever have,'" said Sara Etzel MEd '07, referring to the FIRST robotics competition.

Sara graduated from VCSU's online Master of Education program in 2007 (among the first group of graduates) and is currently a Career and Tech Ed teacher at Washburn High School in Minneapolis. She has led her team, the "Millerbots," to two consecutive regional championships and two consecutive trips to the national championship in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). In the competition, teams are given a kit of hundreds of robotic parts and challenged to build robots that perform elaborate tasks under challenging conditions. "We are providing a great outlet for intelligent, academically-inclined kids to compete like crazy in an arena that requires them to use their brains," said Sara. ♦



Sara (right) is shown here with VCSU's Dr. Don Mugan (middle) and Dean Kamen (left), founder of FIRST. Sara is working with Dr. Mugan and the office of Senator Byron Dorgan to promote FIRST robotics in North Dakota, and perhaps even host a future regional competition.

Where Are They Now?

The VCSU Alumni Office would like to feature an alumnus in each issue of *The Bulletin*. This column gives us the chance to let their fellow alumni know what they have been up to since leaving VCSU.



In this issue, we are featuring Steve Gulseth '92. Steve graduated from VCSU with a computer information systems major. Steve has been married for 13 years to Lisa, a native of Nebraska. They have three children, Claire (12), Cody (9) and Christina (7) along with a beagle named Shadow. He has lived in Omaha for 16 years and has been working for IBM in hardware sales for the last nine years covering the Nebraska and Iowa area.

We asked Steve the following questions:

What did you do after you left VCSU?

I moved to Omaha shortly after college. I found a job in Fargo, and about eight months later, the owner asked me if I wanted to help open a new store in Omaha. So I had a choice of staying in Fargo making very little money or moving and making just a bit more.

I met my wife on a blind date in Omaha about two years after moving here. I just got back from a good friend's wedding (Doug Hartman). All my friends were married, with the exception of Larry Delmaire but he was with his new girlfriend who is now his wife. I felt like the fifth wheel and didn't have my usual good time. When I got back to work in Omaha the next Monday, I mentioned to a guy that I needed to find a girlfriend. He asked me what I liked so I rattled off about five things. He said 'I think I have a girl you'd like.' I thought he was joking when he came back with a phone number the next day and I told him she'd have to call me. That night while sitting on my apartment deck my phone rang and it was Lisa.

Describe a book, person, or experience that has had a major impact on you as a person or a professional?

I would say my Dad. I never realized how smart he was until I started raising my own family. I wish I would have listened to him more when I was a kid, but like most kids I thought I knew everything.

I also never knew how stressful supporting and raising a family is. I look back on my childhood and have come to realize that I am very much like my Dad. I watched him everyday worrying about supporting his family and trying to give us every advantage in life he could. I didn't realize what a big deal that is until now, since that is what I worry about every day. There isn't anything more important than providing for my family. Thank you Dad.

Please share a special memory of your time at VCSU?

I would say the friends I made is my special memory. I still keep in touch with many of them, and really haven't had friends as close since leaving college. I think the reason is that we were all struggling with the same things, what am I going to do when I leave here, studying, and of course relationships, and when you have all that in common you can make some lasting friendships.

What do you do for fun?

I coach Cody's select baseball team and love it. I loved playing growing up and now I get the same amount of excitement watching him play. I also love to golf. I usually get out to the course a few times a week. I also still like to do some partying. I have noticed that older I get the longer it takes me to recover from a night out.

What advice for success would you give our new alumni?

First, don't be surprised if your first job is not in the same field as your degree, and don't expect to make much money with that first job. But if you work hard, advancement and money will come. I would also say that, if you are not happy with what you are doing early in your career, then it is time to change. The longer you are in a field, you get to higher levels and make more money so it becomes tough to change careers at that point. ♦



Steve Gulseth '92 with his wife Lisa.



Steve Gulseth '92 with his family.

VCSU Alums Prominent at Regional Science Olympiad

All of the teams that participated in this year's Regional Science Olympiad deserve special praise because this year it fell on April 9, which happened to coincide with the height of the spring flooding and just days before the VCSU campus was to be closed. Once again, the impressive showing of VCSU alumni as coaches and advisors of the participating teams made the event look something like a mini reunion. Of particular note: Valley City Junior and Senior High School Teams, coached by Cynthia Klabo '06 and Matt Nielson '06, both had a fantastic showing, taking first place in the regional event and going on to finish 11th in the state competition. ♦



Alumni who were present included: Front row (l to r): Tom Milbrandt '05, Maple Valley High School, Susan (Pfaff) Duffy '00, Hillsboro High School, Samantha Gehrig '08, Kulm High School. Second Row (l to r): Ben Elder '03, Jamestown Middle School, Matt Nielson '06, Valley City High School, Dale Udem '83, Barnes County North. Missing: Cynthia Klabo '06, Valley City High School, Tom Klapp '05 (Northern Cass), Jean (Hassler) Legge '87, Dennis Friestad '66, Jacob Haag '03, Joelle (Hansen) Manlove '00, Blair Lindgren '68.



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