

# THE BULLETIN

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



## President Mason leaves her mark



Homecoming 2017 ♦ Mark Watne '09 leads NDFU ♦ DeVries named VCSU athletic director



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**Welcome to the *Bulletin!***

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

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**Cover Story**

**4 President Mason leaves her mark**

*President Tisa Mason led Valley City State University for three years, but on Dec. 15 she left the university to return to Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan., this time as president. VCSU's achievements and President Mason's accomplishments during her time in Valley City are reviewed as we say farewell to Tisa.*



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**5 VP Dahlberg to serve as interim president**

*Margaret Dahlberg, Ph.D., VCSU vice president for academic affairs, has assumed a familiar role as interim president following the departure of President Mason. Dahlberg previously served as interim president after the departure of Steve Shirley.*



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**6 Homecoming 2017**

*Tradition runs strong and deep at VCSU, and in these pages we review the activities and awards that marked Homecoming 2017.*

**14 Watne '09 leads North Dakota Farmers Union**

*Mark Watne '09, who earned his bachelor's degree from VCSU in a unique fashion, serves as president of the 47,500-member North Dakota Farmers Union, where he works to strengthen North Dakota family farmers and ranchers.*



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## A new journey begins

President Tisa Mason, Ed.D., CAE

As you many of you may know, my time in Valley City has come to a close as I return to Kansas to begin a new journey as the 10th president of Fort Hays State University. I would like to share with the greater Valley City State community some of the thoughts that I shared with campus in November.

"It is with a heavy heart I write this note to share with you that I have accepted the presidency of Fort Hays State University. This was an extremely difficult decision for me.

"The search process began in the summer. I was approached by the search firm, the past president, and many colleagues. I consistently and without hesitation turned everyone down as I have been very committed to and happy at VCSU. I began working with and supporting other candidates.

"Then, just a couple of weeks ago, I received a compelling call urging me to submit my credentials. Something felt different about this call. I searched my heart and I prayed. I began to believe that perhaps my journey was supposed to be different than my plans. I allowed my credentials to be considered, and today I was named the next president of Fort Hays State University."

That happened November 3, and I have since submitted my letter of resignation to the State Board of Higher Education and the Chancellor, effective December 15. In planning my departure, most important to me was being here for our graduates and community at

Winter Commencement on December 14.

Based on the recommendation of the VCSU Cabinet and the nomination of NDUS Chancellor Mark Hagerott, Dr. Margaret Dahlberg, our vice president for academic affairs, was appointed VCSU interim president by the State Board of Higher Education at the board's Nov. 30 meeting.

Dr. Dahlberg is certainly well qualified for the interim position, having successfully fulfilled that same role following former President Shir-

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*"My time at Valley City State University, and as a member of the North Dakota University System, has been among the best years of my professional life. I will miss my job and the incredible people with whom I have had the pleasure of working during these past three years. I will especially miss our students."*

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ley's departure to Minot State University and before my arrival at VCSU.

On behalf of the State Board of Higher Education, the Chancellor will appoint a search committee per NDUS procedure. Faculty, staff, student, alumni, and community representatives will be appointed to the committee as outlined in the procedure.

My time at Valley City State University, and as a member of the North Dakota University System, has been among the best years of my professional life. I will miss my job and the incredible people with whom I have had the

pleasure of working during these past three years. I will especially miss our students.

I am indebted to Valley City State University and my colleagues for the opportunities and experiences that shaped my leadership, the university, the community, the system, and the state. It has been an honor to serve with such dedicated, talented, and caring individuals.

I am deeply grateful for the support, encouragement, and professional growth I experienced from members of the State Board of Higher Education, the Chancellor, the NDUS presidents and senior staff, and legislators.

Bill and I have especially enjoyed being residents and engaged members of this wonderful Valley City community. We will cherish our memories of this special place and the many people who have touched our hearts. Thank you.

I know the strength of Valley City State University and the tremendous support we receive from the local community. VCSU will continue to thrive. Thank you for all you do for our students, faculty and staff. Never forget the impact you make in our lives and the collective impact we all make in this world.

Thank you for believing in me, for embracing Bill and I, and for working with us to build upon this strong and effective university. It has been a privilege to work and live with you, knowing every day is a great day to be a Viking!

Join **VCSU ALUMNI**  
and **FRIENDS**  
for Gatherings  
in Arizona

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 — PEORIA, ARIZ.

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

The Links Neighborhood Grill • Westbrook Village  
18823 N Country Club Pkwy • Peoria, Ariz.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018 — MESA, ARIZ.

#### Social & Luncheon

The Terrace Green at Viewpoint Golf Resort  
650 North Hawes Road • Mesa, Ariz.

#### Alumni Social & Luncheon — \$15 per person

11 a.m. — Reunion Social

12 noon — Luncheon

1 p.m. — Program

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

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

# 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 for university advancement, at [larry.robinson@vcsu.edu](mailto:larry.robinson@vcsu.edu).**



## Thanks for your continued support, engagement and advocacy

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

Greetings Fellow Alumni and Friends: As a graduate of Valley City State University, it is with great pleasure that I bring you warm holiday greetings from the Foundation and Alumni Office. Additionally, I want to thank you for giving back to a place that has given so much, to so many. Please know that as VCSU Foundation and Alumni staff, we are devoted to our alumni and look forward to building and maintaining great relationships and increasing participation in all alumni-sponsored events on the local and national levels.

The mission of the Valley City State University Alumni Association is to enhance the relationship between Valley City State University and all of its alumni.

We inspire lifelong loyalty and pride through programs, activities, and events for those that are "forever Vikings." We

have begun an effort of educating our freshmen on the importance of giving back and understanding their specific roles as active alumni. We encourage all alumni to support our beloved alma mater. We are diligently developing, coordinating, and promoting new programs designed to better inform alumni.

As part of our efforts to better inform alumni, we

have been working the last six months to create a new web presence for the VCSU Foundation and Alumni Office. And we have good news— we are up and running! Please check it out at [VCSUAlumni.org](http://VCSUAlumni.org). You will find our new website to be very user-friendly with the latest news, ways of giving, upcoming events, and ways to get involved.

Please stay connected through involvement and participation in the VCSU Alumni Association. We also encourage each alumnus and friend of the university like you to serve as an ambassador for Valley City State in your respective communities by assisting with student recruitment and by supporting our programs with your time, talent, and treasure.

*Please stay connected through involvement and participation in the VCSU Alumni Association. We also encourage each alumnus and friend of the university like you to serve as an ambassador for Valley City State in your respective communities by assisting with student recruitment and by supporting our programs with your time, talent, and treasure.*

In closing, I'd like to share our appreciation for your commitment to our alma mater. As we head into the hustle and

bustle of the holiday season, I thank you for your continued support, engagement and advocacy. Remember the gift of time is one of the most immeasurable gifts you can give. Our continued success depends on it!

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you in 2018.

### 2017-18 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

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## Year-end tax savings: Act now

Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director for University Advancement

Calendar year 2017 is rapidly coming to an end. Yes, it is that time of year again to consider your tax savings plans for 2017. There are several ways you can impact your tax billing if you act prior to December 31. The list below provides you with some ideas on how you can save on your 2017 tax liability:

- You can make contributions to your favorite charity and reduce your income taxes.
- You can pay your January mortgage payment early and add to your mortgage deduction this year.
- Check with your tax accountant to see what state and local taxes can be paid this year to reduce your tax bill.
- You can also consider adjusting the withholding on your W-2 form filed with your employer.
- Consider gifting appreciated stock and take advantage of attractive tax savings.
- Make an IRA Charitable Rollover gift. By doing so, you will lower the income and taxes from your required minimum distribution this year.

There are other meaningful ways in which you can impact your tax bill. It is often said that "folks don't plan to fail, they simply fail to plan."

We encourage you to visit with your tax accountant and/or attorney to see what steps you can take today to impact your tax billing come April 15, 2018. You can also visit us on the web at [vcsualumni.org](http://vcsualumni.org) for further information about other tax-savings ideas.

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As we bring calendar year 2017 to a close, we want to thank you for your continued support of Valley City State University. Thanks to that support, we have enjoyed a very successful and exciting year. Happy holidays from all of us at Valley City State University!



**A GIFT THAT  
KEEPS ON GIVING**



**Consider a Year-End Gift to the Valley City State University Foundation now and take advantage of tax savings when you prepare your 2017 income taxes. Gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to qualify for 2017 tax purposes.**

**(701) 845-7203 or [alumni@vcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vcsu.edu)**



## *North Dakota Suncoast Association Luncheon*

**Jay Morgan '69** and his wife, Louise, would like to extend an invitation to all Valley City State University alumni and friends who live, winter or plan to vacation in the Sarasota, Fla., area in February to the 54th annual North Dakota Suncoast Association Luncheon.

The luncheon will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018, with a social hour at 10:30 a.m. and luncheon at noon at the River Wilderness Golf and Country Club, 1-75 at exit 224 (Highway 301), in Parrish, Fla.

The scheduled entertainment will be North Dakota's own Michelle and Carl Bergman featuring their musical talent.

**If you are interested in attending, please contact Jay and Louise Morgan at 941-378-4444 for more information.**




# PRESIDENT MASON LEAVES HER MARK

On December 15, 2017, three years after she began her service at Valley City State University, President Tisa Mason departed campus to assume the presidency of Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan. Mason had come to Valley City from Fort Hays State, where she had previously served as vice president for student affairs.

Those three years went by quickly, but in her tenure at VCSU, Mason fostered a collegial, inclusive spirit that helped the university navigate through budget cuts stemming from the economic downturn in North Dakota, and her structured approach to strategic initiatives helped set the course for continued success in the future. In Mason's parlance, every day was a great day to be a Viking, and she brought her flair for personable interaction to all that she touched.

Mason's administrative style was characterized by the principle of shared governance—

meeting regularly with campus and community leaders, delegating authority and relying on the expertise of her Cabinet and the counsel of faculty, staff and student senate leaders. She led enthusiastically, and she earned respect and admiration from students, employees and townspeople alike, while bringing credit to Valley City State University through her positive interactions with North Dakota University System administrators and North Dakota legislators.

President Mason fostered support and encouragement through recognition and celebration, and there was much to celebrate. She put her October 2015 inauguration ceremony to use as the capstone event of the university's 125th anniversary celebration, focusing not on herself but rather on VCSU's rich history, the positive energy of the present, and hopeful aspirations for the future.

Record enrollments, national recognition,

successful reaccreditation efforts, the achievement of strategic planning goals, and student academic accomplishments were celebrated.

A prime example from this September was Mason leading the pep band, students, faculty and staff as they snaked their way from Foss Hall through the hallways of Rhoades, McCarthy and Vangstad, and on to the Student Center in celebration of an all-time record enrollment, 20 years as a U.S. News and World Report "Best College" and three consecutive years as the "No. 1 Public Regional College in the Midwest" in the U.S. News rankings. Even faculty and staff birthdays were celebrated with goodie bags from the president, who embraced the role of head cheerleader on campus.

Fond of the phrase "warmed by a fire I did not build," Mason also recognized the efforts of her predecessors, celebrating the completion of initiatives begun before she arrived in Valley City



*"President Mason joined the Viking family right before the entire state faced substantial budget cuts. She didn't have a slow introduction but was dropped right into the deep end and instead of sinking she did an amazing job at not only keeping herself afloat, but keeping the entire campus's spirits as high as they could be during such a time. She brought a new energy to VCSU that was greatly appreciated."*

—Jordan Bushaw '17, former Student Senate president

but completed or occurring on her watch. The ribbon was cut on a newly renovated Vangstad Auditorium in May 2016; the first phase of Valley City's flood protection to protect campus was completed in summer 2016; the 20th anniversary of the start of the laptop program was celebrated in September 2016; and the Gaukler Family Wellness Center opened in November 2016.

There were also plenty of new initiatives during the Mason era. The Master of Arts in Teaching program was added in fall 2016, and in its second year has already surpassed its three-year enrollment goals. A data-driven analysis produced methods to more effectively leverage student financial aid packages and enhance enrollment numbers, and strategic initiatives to capitalize on academic growth areas

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*"Tisa is one of those sought-after leaders whose words stir passion, offer possibilities and pulls you in. She instills in us that we all can and should be part of something great that makes life better. We will miss her. Thank you, Tisa!"*

—Jennifer Feist, director of development, Valley City–Barnes County Development Corporation

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and enhance retention and completion were begun. Pathways to three-year degree programs were identified and strengthened, and the implementation of free OER (Open Educational Resources) in place of textbooks in the last four semesters has saved VCSU students more than \$720,000.

Two K-12 Student Success Summits with area principals and superintendents were held to share innovative practices and data related to pre-college preparation and student success on campus. The town-gown relationship was strengthened with formal meetings between key community leaders and university personnel. An opening picnic for faculty, staff and families was added, as was the "Back to the City" orientation event to introduce new VCSU students to downtown Valley City.

In addition, a state-of-the-art heat plant was

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*"Her spirit is infectious and that positive leadership enhanced loyalty to Valley City State University across campus. She always says she is VCSU's biggest cheerleader, and my response is that I'm her biggest cheerleader."*

—Rhonda Fairfield '09, executive assistant to the president

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constructed, and an innovative project moving forward will add an environmentally friendly, income-producing activated carbon plant to the facility.

President Mason has also been a leader in the community, serving on the board of the Valley City–Barnes County Development Corporation, and as an active member of Kiwanis and Epworth United Methodist Church.

Tisa was just half of the Mason family that came to Valley City. Her husband, Bill, a bastion of domestic support for Tisa in her presidential role, was always willing to help out at Booster Board events and others as needed. He will be remembered in Valley City for his prolific performance in selling tickets to the annual Kiwanis pancake feed, along with his contributions to the baked treats Tisa frequently shared on campus.

The couple now return to Kansas with Tisa assuming the top spot at Fort Hays State. She has left her mark on Valley City State University and Valley City, and we thank her for service to the institution and the community.

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*"Tisa...wow! She is an astute visionary, a superb communicator (one-on-one and with the legislature) and a very fine person. I believe VCSU is in a better place as a result of her leadership, and I, too, am better for having known and worked with her. She and Bill will be missed in Valley City."*

—Dave Carlsrud, mayor, City of Valley City

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## VP Dahlberg to serve as VCSU interim president



Margaret Dahlberg, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs at Valley City State University, has been appointed interim president of VCSU by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, effective Dec. 16, 2017. Dahlberg is returning

to a familiar role as interim president. She served in that same capacity from July–December 2014, between the departure of former president Steve Shirley to Minot State University and the arrival of Mason.

Formerly professor of English and chair of the communication arts department, Dahlberg was appointed interim vice president for academic affairs in April 2009. In January 2010, she was named vice president for academic affairs (VPAA). As VPAA, Dahlberg directs all facets of the VCSU academic program and has led the university's accreditation efforts. She has also taken the lead role in the VCSU strategic planning process.

Dahlberg holds three degrees in English: a doctorate and a master's degree, both from the University of North Dakota, along with a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin–Platteville.

As a child, she attended the Model School of Valley City State Teachers College when her father, H.O. Pearce, served as school superintendent. The Pearce family moved to Platteville, Wis., during Dahlberg's childhood, but she returned to Valley City State as an English professor in 1996.

She and her husband, Paul Dahlberg, make their home in Valley City. The couple has three adult sons, who all attended VCSU.



# HOMEcoming 2017



VCSU students enjoyed a full week of Homecoming activities beginning with the Bill Osmon Fun Run on Monday, Oct. 9. On Wednesday, the Viking volleyball team won a hard-fought, five-set contest against Dakota State. The Alumni Association hosted an ice cream social in the Allen Pedersen Gazebo on Friday afternoon, and the Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony were held that evening at the Valley City Eagles Club. The annual Alumni Association Honors Breakfast took place in the Student Center cafeteria on Saturday morning, with alumni receiving a host of awards (see pp. 8-10). The traditional Homecoming parade flowed down Central Avenue, while baseball alumni gathered at Charlie Brown Field to renew acquaintances. The Comets of Mayville State came to town to face the Vikings on the gridiron, but it was the hometown VCSU team that delivered the stellar performance on the afternoon, cruising to a 58-0 win. A postgame social followed by a student/alumni dance at the Eagles capped off the festivities.







## Hall of Fame Banquet

Valley City State University inducted six individuals and two teams into its Viking Athletic Hall of Fame during an induction ceremony Oct. 13 at the Valley City Eagles Club.

A full-house crowd was on hand as VCSU honored the 2000 and 2001 football teams; football players Jeremy Peschel '04, Ben Aarestad '02 and Steve Battle '04; volleyball players Scheryl (Kott-sick) Bjorndahl '04 and Kelli (Geurtz) Heiser '97; and longtime coach and supporter Dave Bass '77.

The Hall of Fame inductees were also recognized during the annual Homecoming Parade and at halftime of the Homecoming football game.



2000 Viking Football Team



2001 Viking Football Team



Family of Ben Aarestad '02



Dave Bass '77



Steve Battle '04



Scheryl (Kott-sick) Bjorndahl '04



Kelli (Geurtz) Heiser '97



Jeremy Peschel '04



(l to r) Nick Archuleta '92, Joan (Kapaun) Halland '77, Perry Platz '86, Dean Winczewski M.Ed. '15, Thomas Kjelland '77

## Alumni honored with Certificate of Merit at honors breakfast

The Valley City State University Alumni Association honored 10 alumni with the Certificate of Merit award at its annual Alumni Honors Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 13. The Certificate of Merit was established by the VCSU Alumni Association to recognize alumni for service, accomplishments or other noteworthy honors. This year's alumni honorees, listed with their accomplishments and accolades, include the following:

### *Nick Archuleta '92*

Nick is president of North Dakota United and has taught Spanish and history for Bismarck Public Schools. He earned a Master of Arts in Secondary Education from the University of North Dakota in 2005.

#### Honors & Awards

- First North Dakota United President
- 2013 Sahnish nahuukoosú or Arikara Man of the Year

### *Scott DeLorme M.Ed. '10*

Scott is a seventh grade digital technology teacher at Jim Hill Middle School, serves as the middle school athletic director and coaches the boys and girls varsity tennis teams. He received a Master's in Athletic Administration from Concordia University Irvine in 2015.

#### Honors & Awards

- 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017 North Dakota West Region Tennis Coach of the Year
- 2014 North Dakota State Tennis Coach of the Year

### *Joan (Kapaun) Halland '77*

Joan is an English teacher at Kindred Public School. She coaches varsity boys and girls track and is the junior high girls basketball coach.

#### Honors & Awards

- Seven-time Regional Track Coach of the Year
- 2003 State Girls Track Coach of the Year
- 2004 Farm Bureau Teacher of the Year
- 2014 State Boys Track Coach of the Year
- 2015 Kindred High School's "Viking Pride" Award (first recipient of the award)

### *Richard Hovland '81*

Rich is a teacher and coach at Bismarck Public Schools.

#### Honors & Awards

- 1999 and 2000 Class A Girls Basketball Coach of the Year
- 2017 Class A Track and Field Assistant Coach of the Year

### *William Jansen '90*

Bill is a business instructor at Rugby High School. He also is the head coach for cross country and girls track and field.

#### Honors & Awards

- 2008 Class B Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year
- 2009 Class B Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year
- 2012 and 2015 Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year finalist, National High School Athletic Coaches Association
- Multiple years, North Dakota High School Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year in Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country and Girls Track and Field

### *Thomas Kjelland '77*

Tom is the instrumental director for grades 6–12 at Valley City Public Schools.

#### Honors & Awards

- 2014 Barnes County Honor Band Director
- 2015–16 North Dakota Governor's Band
- 2016 Valley City Public School's Teacher of the Year
- 2016 North Dakota Teacher of the Year Finalist

## Scott McPherson '84

Scott teaches at Legacy High School in Bismarck. He received a Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Northern State University.

### Honors & Awards

- 1999, 2011 Girls Tennis Coach of the Year
- 2016 Boys Class A Tennis Coach of the Year

## Perry Piatz '86

Perry is a math teacher at Kindred Public School. He serves as the athletic director and boys golf coach.

### Honors & Awards

- Four-time District Boys Basketball Coach of the Year
- Two-time District Girls Basketball Coach of the Year
- Three-time Regional Girls Basketball Coach of the Year
- Two-time Regional Boys Basketball Coach of the Year
- Eleven-time Regional Boys Golf Coach of the Year
- 2014 Regional Girls Golf Coach of the Year
- Three-time State Boys Golf Coach of the Year
- 2016 finalist for National Golf Coach of the Year
- 2017 North Dakota Associated Press Sportscasters and Sportswriters Female Coach of the Year
- 2011, 2012, 2013 Boys Golf State Champions
- 2014 Girls Golf State Champions
- 2017 Girls Basketball State Champions

## Jason Thielges '02

Jason is a business instructor at Davies High School in Fargo and is the head football coach.

### Honors & Awards

- 2013 and 2014 EDC Coach of the Year
- 2013 and 2014 State Football Coach of the Year 2014 State Football Championship

## Dean Winczewski M.Ed. '15

Dean is a social science educator with Minot Public Schools and serves as their head boys basketball coach.

### Honors & Awards

- 2003, 2007, 2015, 2016, 2017 State Class A Champions Boys Basketball
- 2003 NDAPSSA Team of the Year
- 2003 West Region Coach of the Year
- 2003, 2007 State Class A Coach of the Year
- 2007, 2015 West Region Co-Coach of the Year
- 2015, 2016, 2017 USA Today North Dakota Coach of the Year
- 2017 NDAPSSA High School Coach of the Year
- 2017 NDAPSSA Male Team of the Year

## Niewind receives Young Alumni Achievement Award

The Young Alumni Achievement Award was established in 2012 to recognize VCSU's more recent, outstanding alumni as they embark on their chosen paths and strive for greatness. The award is presented to recognize future leaders under the age of 40 based on the criteria of demonstrated achievement in their chosen career, demonstrated leadership, and commitment to service of others. Our recipient this year is:

### Bryan J. Niewind '00

Bryan J. Niewind received a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Valley City State University in 2000 and continued his education by graduating from The Traffic Institute, Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command in 2008 and from the FBI National Academy in 2012.

Niewind is employed as a captain with the North Dakota Highway Patrol and is commander of the Southeast Region.

Awards and honors received by Niewind include the Distinguished Service Medal Award (2009), the Colonel's Award for Excellence (2014), North Dakota Peace Officers Association Life Saving Award and Outstanding Efforts in Public Safety Award. He is also a member of the 2012 Viking Hall of Fame.

During his Jan. 3, 2017, State of the State Address, Governor Doug Burgum recognized three citizens for their outstanding commitment to the safety and security of our state. Governor Burgum stated, "Captain Niewind currently serves as our Highway Patrol's Emergency Response Team Commander. In this role he's been working tirelessly to reach

a peaceful resolution to the protests, while at the same time ensuring the safety of all involved."

When asked what does being a graduate of VCSU mean to you, Niewind replied, "Pride, loyalty and commitment."

"Pride—I have a sense of pride and accomplishment for what I achieved while at VCSU, but I also know the professors, coaches and staff at VCSU always had the same pride and respect for every person on campus. VCSU staff took, and continue to take, joy in the successes of VCSU students, graduates and alumni.

"Loyalty—It is spread in messages like "Viking Pride" and "Nobody Rides This Ship, We All Row." It is observed through the numerous

families that have multi-generations of family members who have attended VCSU. And you see it with the alumni and staff who give back over and over again, so others can have the same positive experience we had. Once a Viking, always a Viking!

"Commitment—Attending VCSU reinforced the value of commitment. Whether it was commitment to my education or to my team/teammates, each required something from me each and every day. It would have been easy to give one up or to quit altogether, but staying determined and finishing what I started provided reinforcement to the value of commitment. In addition, because of all the support on campus, I knew VCSU's commitment to me, and VCSU remains committed to the success of each and every student and its graduates."

Niewind and his wife Emmy (Dunwoody) '06 live in West Fargo with their two children. He also has a daughter who lives in Detroit Lakes, Minn.



Emmy (Dunwoody) '06 and Bryan Niewind '00 with children Ava and Noah

## Hills recognized with Alumni Service Award

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



### *Diane (Starr) '73 and John Hill '73*

John and Diane Hill are the 14th recipients of the Alumni Service Award.

The Hills are 1973 graduates of VCSU. John received his Bachelor of Science in Education degree in physical education and industrial arts, and Diane received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree in business education.

After a short tenure in South Dakota, John returned to Valley City and became a partner in his father's oil business. Years later, John became owner/manager of the business. From there, the Hills purchased John's I-94 Amoco, a business they owned and operated for several years, selling to Petro Serve a few years ago.

Diane worked for Valley City State University from 1978–2012 at the Student Center information desk. It was here that Diane became not only a fixture on the VCSU campus, but also a mentor and a friend of the students. She was loved by all. She became the face of the Student Center. Today, in our travels, we are often asked by alumni about Diane.

The Hills have always been loyal supporters of VCSU. They have consistently given of their time, talent and treasure. They have served on the V-500 and Booster boards raising scholarship dollars for our students. They have worked with the Golf Scramble and the Spring Scholarship Auction. John has donated pounds and pounds of fresh fish to our Viking Fish Fry held each winter. Their strong financial support of VCSU is without question. John and Diane were recognized as Fans of the Year by the VCSU Booster Board in 1999.

When asked what does being graduates of VCSU mean to them, they replied, "We are both very proud of graduating from VCSU and have benefited from the education we received. VCSU is a quality institution that knows its students as well as its alumni."

## 1967 Cross Country Reunion—50 years later!

In October, the 1967 cross country team held a 50-year reunion in Valley City. Those in attendance included: (front, l to r) Dennis Kost '69, Coach Jim McCullough, Chuck Flach '68, Myron Loberg '68, (back) Dwight Leier '68, Dave Flach '69, Gary Rufsvold '68, Dale Hillstrom '69, and Rocky Stack.



Here's a photo of the team back in 1967. Pictured are (front, l to r) Myron Loberg, Dwight Leier, Gary Rufsvold, (back) Tom Manns†'68, Lloyd Erfle, Coach Jim McCullough, Dale Hillstrom, and Dave Flach.

† deceased

## Support sought for scholarships honoring Grooters and Lemnus



Larry Grooters '57

At the urging of former students and student-athletes, the VCSU Foundation Office is working with interested parties to establish endowed scholarships to honor two VCSU coaching and teaching legends—Larry “Buck” Grooters '57 and Don Lemnus '58.

There is no question about the tremendous impact Coach Grooters has had on his former athletes and students. Buck’s long tenure of service to VCSU has served as a legacy and inspiration for all of us. He has given so much, and he continues to give.

Although his career at VCSU began in 1963, more than 50 years later, Grooters is still serving on the staff as Transition to Teaching program director for the School of Education and Graduate Studies.

We trust that you will also agree that Coach Lemnus was many things to many people. More than anything, he was an inspiration to us all. Whether it be on the wrestling mat, the football field, or in the classroom, Coach Lemnus was special!

Lemnus began his coaching career in 1962. Like Buck, he, too, touched

the lives of many. His impact on all of us will live forever.

This effort is long overdue. It is time that we recognize the contributions that these two outstanding men have made to VCSU.

To endow a scholarship, we need to raise a minimum of \$10,500. With an endowed scholarship, the principal is never touched. The interest earnings alone are used to fund the annual scholarship award.

We are asking you to help us raise the funds necessary to put these scholarships in place. Please consider making a gift to either (or both!) of these scholarship funds.

Please act today to ensure that these scholarships become a reality. Payments may be made by personal check or credit/debit card. You may also elect to make a four-year pledge. Make your payment/pledge online at [VCSUalumni.org](http://VCSUalumni.org) or call us at the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203 for help arranging your gift(s) to honor Coach Grooters and Coach Lemnus.



Don Lemnus '58



### Give back to VCSU through AmazonSmile

The VCSU Foundation and AmazonSmile are working together to help you make the most of your online shopping. When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to our foundation.

#### How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, please type in “VCSU Foundation” and then “select” VCSU Foundation from the list. There’s nothing more for you to do but start shopping! For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a portion of your purchase to the VCSU Foundation. When you visit [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) in the future, you will be reminded to switch over to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) so that VCSU Foundation will benefit from your eligible purchases. How easy is that?

### Does your employer have a matching-gift program?

Many employers provide a matching gift as a part of your fringe benefit package. Your gift to a qualified charity will be matched by your employer.

The list below includes those employers who have matched gifts to the VCSU Foundation in recent years. Check with your employer to see if they have a Matching Gift Program.

3M Foundation  
Ameriprise Financial  
Assurant Health Foundation  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Bank of the West  
The Capital Group Companies  
Caterpillar Foundation  
Cessna Foundation  
Chevron Foundation  
Ecolab Foundation  
Eide Bailly LLP  
ExxonMobil Foundation  
General Mills Foundation  
IBM Corporation  
John Deere Foundation Matching Gift Program  
Kimberly-Clark Corporation  
Land O’Lakes, Inc. Foundation  
Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren  
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation  
MassMutual Matching Gift Center

The McGraw-Hill Companies  
MDU Resources Foundation  
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program  
New York Life, YourCause, LLC  
Northwestern Mutual Foundation  
Odyssey America Reinsurance Corporation  
Otter Tail Power Company  
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.  
Pitney Bowes  
PPL Services Corporation  
QEP Resources Foundation  
Sprint Foundation  
St. Mary Land & Exploration Company  
State Farm Companies Foundation  
Textron Matching Gift Program  
U.S. Bank Foundation  
Ultima Bank Minnesota  
UST Inc.  
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign  
Wells Fargo Education Matching Gift Program

## Scholarship Dinner brings students, donors together



The annual VCSU Scholarship Dinner was held on Wednesday, Oct. 2, with over 90 in attendance.

The VCSU Foundation has approximately 250 endowed and memorial scholarships that recognize those who built the foundation of our university. The dinner provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations who have established named scholarships to meet the students who were awarded their scholarships. The dinner also provides a time for student scholarship recipients to say thank you in person to their scholarship donors.

Anyone interested in establishing a scholarship may contact the Office of Advancement at 800-532-8641, ext. 37203, for more information.



Abby Tinjum (Burchill Family Scholarship), Bonnie and Bob Burchill, and Madison Taylor (Burchill Family Scholarship)



Hannah Gress (Sue German Music Scholarship), Sue German, and Tara VonHagen (William Garth and Mae Holmes Family Music Scholarship)



Joy Rand, Taylor Balkan (Roger and Joy Rand Scholarship) and Roger Rand



Hannah Gress (John Reed Memorial Scholarship) and Connie Reed



Noreen Smestad, Mikayla Cramer (Gene and Noreen Smestad Scholarship) and Gene Smestad



Hayden Zander (Stickler Scholarship), Joe Stickler, and Maxwell Kollar (Stickler Scholarship)



# ALUMNI

VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

## SHOW YOUR VIKING PRIDE!

Join alumni in showing your pride as a graduate of Valley City State University. We have a limited number of alumni car decals available. These vinyl decals look great on clear or tinted windows. They adhere to the outside of your car window and are removable.

If you would like a free car decal, email [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu) with your mailing address!

# President's House Guest Inn



The historic President's House is located on the beautiful campus of Valley City State University. This magnificently preserved Victorian home, built in 1901, served as the home for VCSU presidents from 1921-94. It is now being offered as a guest inn providing accommodations for visitors to the campus and the Valley City area.

The President's House is also available for special events such as weddings, dining, teas, showers, business meetings, tours, and graduation receptions with full dining privileges for a few or many. Several local caterers are also available.

The main floor of the home contains a kitchen, dining room, den, sitting room, music room, one handicap accessible bedroom and full bathroom. The second floor has four bedrooms, a maid's room with a bed, and 1½ baths. There is also a third-floor bedroom.

## TO SCHEDULE AN EVENT AT THE GUEST INN

Please contact the VCSU Student Center Information Desk at 701-845-7122 or toll free at 1-800-532-8641. For more information, check out our website at [www.presidentshouse.com](http://www.presidentshouse.com).

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Short sleeve = \$20/shirt

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## Watne '09 leads North Dakota Farmers Union

Mark Watne took a nontraditional approach to earning his four-year degree in university studies from VCSU in 2009. A husband and father of three children, Watne held an associate's degree from NDSU and a full-time job at North Dakota Farmers Union in Jamestown. He recognized the value of a bachelor's degree and knew he wanted to earn one, but he wondered how that could happen while he continued to work and while he and his wife raised their family.

After looking at a variety of online options, Watne found a different route available at VCSU—the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program—that allowed him to apply his learning from life and work experience toward college credit.

With the help of Marcia Foss, now retired but then the VCSU Career Services director, Watne forged a plan that allowed him to relatively quickly complete his degree with the PLA credits and additional coursework. Although a capable businessperson, Watne didn't necessarily find the role of a nontraditional student easy. "It was tough—even my P.E. credits were rigorous—but I had good support," says Watne.

"I'm very thankful to VCSU for that option," he adds. "I feel a connection to the university because I don't know where else I could have found that opportunity."

Since completing his degree, Watne has gone on to become president of North Dakota Farmers Union, and he and his wife, Michelle, an employee with the Jamestown public schools, have taken pride in seeing their children pursue their own educations and careers. Daughter Meghan is in the second year of her medical residency in Olympia, Wash., while elder son Eric works at Farm Credit Services in Jamestown, and younger son Nick is a senior at NDSU majoring in agricultural economics. The Watnes also very much enjoy their granddaughter, Adley.

To say farming is in Mark Watne's blood is not an exaggeration—he grew up on a fourth-generation family farm, and his family still farms the original homestead quarter outside Velva, N.D. And when you listen to him speak about his work, the passion he has for family farms and ranches comes through loud and clear.

As president of North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU), the largest general farm organization in North Dakota with more than 47,500 member families, Watne works hard to make sure that NDFU fulfills its mission of providing "a network of educational programs, services and events that benefit farmers, ranchers and rural communities."




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***"We need to address the challenges involved in feeding the world. Despite ever-increasing production and efficiencies, we're not connecting our tremendous production to the people. Over one billion of the world's population suffers from hunger, and we need to do a better job of distribution and prepare for new and ever-increasing demand."***

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After high school, Watne attended North Dakota State University, earning an associate's degree in agricultural mechanization. He continued to farm while attending school on a slightly less than full-time basis; thanks to the quarter system employed then, he was able to study in Fargo during much of the year but return to his family's grain and oil seed farm for spring planting and summer work on the farm. In 1984, he began full-time farming with his father, Gene (who served four terms as a representative in the North Dakota Legislature), and his brother, Lynn.

Watne understands the challenges of farming, and it was one of those challenges—a drought year—that led him to become active in farm organizations. In the mid-1980s, he was elected to the board of the McHenry County Farm Union and served on the state Farmers Union policy and action committee, where he discovered a group of like-minded thinkers who felt the same way he did about the primacy of farming and ranching. In 1990, at age 27, Watne was elected to the NDFU State Board of Directors. The proverbial new kid on the block, he served six years on the board, including a term as NDFU state treasurer.

His Farmers Union work at the time involved making connections with suppliers and market-

ing co-ops, lobbying and looking for value-added projects to support the Farmers Union mission—ways to provide needed services that would add an additional income stream for the organization. Watne began doing contract work for the NDFU, using his connections to reach out to young farmers and ranchers, encouraging them to get involved and add to the collective power of an organization of producers with common interests and goals.

Watne and his family moved to Jamestown when he joined the NDFU staff in 1998, serving the organization as a development specialist and agricultural strategist. Watne continued his work developing co-ops in state, and he also worked at the national level, with representatives from other states, alongside the National Farmers Union in seeking federal support and legislation.

Much of his energy went into conceptualizing and bringing a key value-added project to fruition: the creation of a restaurant to serve diners foods that are "grown, raised and harvested on American family farms" to reinforce the importance of family farms and ranches in the U.S. culture and economy, in the American way of life.

Owned by NDFU and its members, the first Founding Farmers restaurant opened in the Washington, D.C., area in 2006. Since then, the operation has grown to a total of six restaurants in the greater D.C. area; the newest, in King of Prussia, Pa., opened just this fall on November 1, and a seventh, in Reston, Va., will be added in January 2018. The restaurants are popular with customers; collectively they serve more than 50,000 meals a week; reservations through the OpenTable service indicate that one of the restaurants has been the highest requested and reserved for six years running.

The success of the restaurants is a credit to the business savvy of Watne and the restaurant experts he brought in to help, but it's the concept—showcasing a complete food system from production to consumer while highlighting the value and values of family farming and ranching—that continues to excite and motivate him in his work at NDFU.

In 2012, Watne was named staff executive director, supervising more than 20 NDFU staff working out of the home office in Jamestown, and in November 2013, he was elected president of the organization. (The NDFU president is elected annually, and he will be up for election to his fifth term this December.)

Watne gives credits to former NDFU presidents Alan Bergman and Robert Carlson for their great commitment to family farmers and



ranchers, and the mentorship and support they gave him in his career. Emphasizing the strength of the organization and effectively modeling servant leadership, his two predecessors have greatly impacted the way Watne views his role at NDFU.

In addition to serving as NDFU president, Watne also serves as president of Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company and Farmers Union Service Association. He also serves on the boards of the National Farmers Union board, Farmers Union Enterprises, Midwest Regional Agency, First Community Credit Union and a host of other organizations.

Watne firmly believes that a strong rural America is—and will continue to be—vested in family farming and ranching. He takes great pride in the tremendous U.S. food production system, and having traveled overseas a number of times, he has seen firsthand the disparities between the bounty we enjoy stateside and the food situation in other countries. “Don’t take that for granted,” he says. “We can’t let people forget how good we have it here with our grocery stores full, and full of choice.”

The recent downturn in commodity prices has Watne concerned; he continues to advocate for the producers of raw crops, produce and livestock, wanting to make sure agriculture programs at the national and state levels benefit farmers and ranchers, too, and not just the “middlemen”—actually large multi-national corporations—that convert the raw products to food.

But Watne harbors a concern that goes beyond economics and politics in looking at current food systems and gets at the human issue at stake. “We need to address the challenges involved in feeding the world,” he says. “Despite ever-increasing production and efficiencies, we’re not connecting our tremendous production to the people. Over one billion of the world’s population suffers from hunger, and we need to do a better job of distribution and prepare for new and ever-increasing demand.”

As for the future of family farms and ranches, Watne is optimistic despite the challenges. “Young men and women want to farm, and as long as there’s a profit margin, they’ll keep coming back to farm. The demand for renewable fuels will continue to help in that regard.” But in Watne’s eyes, it’s more than profit margin—it’s that almost sacred commitment to family and the land that keeps farming and ranching so vital for the state and for the nation. That’s why Watne does what he does in leading the North Dakota Farmers Union.

# Accept the Challenge!

**Deadline: December 1, 2018**

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

## NORTH DAKOTA ENDOWMENT GIFT CREDIT

The endowment credit makes it possible for individuals, businesses and financial institutions to give more, and through their contributions, have a greater impact on the state’s quality of life. An endowment is a fund held by a tax-exempt organization where the principal of the fund is not wholly expendable. Only the interest and appreciation earned in an endowment fund can be used for current operations.

An individual may receive a 40 percent tax credit for contributions of \$5,000 or more (lump sum or aggregate in one year) to a qualified North Dakota endowment. If a donor is in the 28 percent federal tax bracket, the tax benefit may look like this:

YOUR GIFT AMOUNT	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Federal Tax Deduction (28%)	-\$1,400	-\$7,000	-\$14,000
N.D. State Income Tax Credit (40%)	-\$2,000	-\$10,000	-\$20,000
<b>NET COST TO YOU</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$16,000</b>

## NORTH DAKOTA CHALLENGE FUND MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

The 2017 North Dakota legislators have once again created the North Dakota Challenge Fund Matching Grant Program. VCSU has been allocated up to \$200,000 of matching dollars if we can raise \$400,000 in private dollars. The VCSU Foundation is using this program to enhance more than 170 scholarship endowment funds.

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

*As you can see, your charitable gift can cost LESS and do MORE than ever before thanks to the North Dakota Tax Credit and Challenge Grant Match Program! Please consider making a gift today, and as always, this information is provided for educational purposes only. Please consult your own attorney, accountant or financial adviser for advice on your individual situation.*

**Learn more by contacting the VCSU Foundation at [alumni@vcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vcsu.edu) or (701) 845-7203.**

## Gauklers, Pedersen honored for philanthropic efforts

Three Valley City individuals with close ties to Valley City State University were honored by the Northern Plains Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the organization's National Philanthropy Day luncheon held Nov. 16 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Fargo. Alumni Audrey (Dohman) '66 and George Gaukler '62 were named Philanthropists of the Year, and Dean Pedersen was one of two individuals receiving the Outstanding Volunteer award.

Larry Robinson, VCSU executive director for university advancement, presented the awards to the Gauklers and Pedersen. The honorees were accompanied at the luncheon by their families and a group of VCSU supporters, staff and foundation board members.



(l to r) Monte, Geoffrey and Reagan Gaukler; Tracy Smith; Audrey and George Gaukler, Kristin and Michael Smith '84



Matt Pedersen, Dean and Betty Pedersen, Sarah (Pedersen) Lerud '00

### Audrey and George Gaukler

The Gauklers were recognized for their long history of philanthropy in Valley City and across North Dakota. Their personal giving to Valley City State University alone exceeds \$1 million. Additionally, they have contributed to the university from several business interests they have in the community. They have also supported the Abused Persons Outreach Center, day-care programs, Valley City Public Schools, and a host of other charitable causes in the local community.

The Gauklers have also established their own family foundation. The foundation supports areas causes, including support for the Valley City Public School System. In addition, George worked to put in place the Sheyenne Valley Community Foundation two years ago. The foundation works to support a host of entities in the greater Sheyenne Valley area.

George also led the charge to establish a community foundation in Williston, N.D., where he has a significant real estate investment. The foundation was established to respond to a host of community needs.

Most recently George and Audrey were major contributors to the new community wellness center in Valley City, which bears their name. Here again the Gauklers led the charge, working with the Valley City Park District, the City of Valley City and Valley City State University to make the Gaukler Family Wellness Health and Physical Education Center a reality. In addition to their significant financial commitment to the project, George guaranteed the operating costs for an extended period of time and served as the lead project manager throughout the construction of the facility.

George has served 21 years as a member of the VCSU Foundation Board of Directors, and the Gauklers have also given countless hours of their time to charitable causes within the community. It is difficult to identify any fundraising efforts or community improvement efforts and initiatives in which the Gauklers have not been key players.

George has been a long-time member of the Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation. His leadership and commitment to the greater Valley City/Barnes County region has resulted in significant and long-lasting enhancements to the quality of life for the residents of Valley City and all of Barnes County.

Audrey and George's family includes daughter Tracy Smith and sons Michael Smith '84 and Geoffrey Gaukler, and their families.

### Dean Pedersen

Dean Pedersen has served on the VCSU Foundation's V-500 Scholarship Program Board of Directors for the last 14 years, serving 5 years as board president. In that position, Dean led the fundraising effort each and every year, and he is personally responsible for raising in excess of \$250,000 in scholarship support. He has been recognized as the Board Member of the Year by the V-500 Program multiple times.

Dean, a 100 percent disabled American veteran, served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. During his service, he was severely wounded and lost his sight. Following his honorable discharge, Dean has proven to be an active and positive member of society. He is a lifetime member of all veterans organizations and has held numerous offices and received a host of awards from these organizations.

Dean and his wife, Betty, are active members of United Congregational Church of Christ in Valley City, where Dean serves on the Board of Trustees.

Dean has also been recognized by a number of organizations and has served on a long list of committees. He served on the Mayor's Committee for the Employment of the Handicapped. He has served on the Governor's Committee for the Employment of the Handicapped and the North Dakota Private Sector Job Council. Dean was named the North Dakota Outstanding Vietnam Veteran, Valley City Outstanding Handicapped Citizen, and North Dakota Outstanding Handicapped Citizen. He served as chair to host the Vietnam Moving Wall in Valley City and received the President's Outstanding Community Achievement as a Vietnam Veteran, the This Old House Reader Remodel Moxie Award, the Valley City Education Association Friend of Education Award, the VCSU Alumni Service Award, and the VCSU V-500 Scholarship Program Volunteer of the Year Award.

Betty and Dean live in Valley City, as do their children, Matthew Pedersen (and wife Jen), and Sarah (Pedersen) Lerud '00 (and husband Mike and son Jack). Matt serves as vice chair of the VCSU Foundation Board of Directors.

## VCSU sets enrollment records

Valley City State University has set enrollment records with a total headcount of 1,522 and an undergraduate headcount of 1,372, according to official numbers released by the university for Fall Term 2017.

The total enrollment figure of 1,522 surpasses the previous record of 1,452 set in Fall 2016, while the undergraduate mark of 1,372 exceeds the previous record of 1,369 from 1970.

“Our record enrollment is an indicator of the robust learning environment that students, faculty and staff have created together at VCSU,” said President Tisa Mason.

“Part of our enrollment story is that our freshman retention rate—the percentage of students who return for their second year—has increased each of the last five years,” added President Mason. “The efforts we have focused on student success and support are making a difference.”

VCSU also set enrollment records this past summer with 633 students registered for Summer Term 2017 in undergraduate and graduate programs. That figure surpassed the previous high of 613 students in 2014.

Full-time equivalent (FTE) summer enrollment also set an institutional record, with a 226 FTE figure.

The summer enrollment numbers were bolstered by record enrollment in VCSU’s graduate programs, which established a summer record of 166 students and an FTE record of 62. The university offers two online master’s programs: a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree and a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree.

According to James Boe, Ph.D., VCSU director for graduate studies, the online offerings are becoming increasingly popular. “Offering our graduate programs online allows our students to advance their educations in a manner that’s convenient for them while maintaining academic rigor,” said Boe. “Individuals who want to add a master’s degree to their credentials are able to do that while continuing their day jobs, and the summer sessions are attractive to teachers who can pursue professional development more freely in the summer.”

The Master of Arts in Teaching prepares those with non-teaching bachelor’s degrees to become teachers.

The M.Ed. program is designed for practicing teachers and offers six different concentrations: Elementary Education, English Education, Library and Information Technologies, Teaching and Technology, Teaching English Language Learners and Technology Education.



## VCSU garners No. 1 ranking among public regional colleges in Midwest

Valley City State University has garnered the No. 1 ranking among public regional colleges in the Midwest in the 2018 U.S. News and World Report Best College rankings.

VCSU tied the University of Minnesota Crookston for the top position in the 2018 rankings. VCSU was also the No. 1 ranked public regional college in the Midwest in the 2017, 2016, 2013 and 2012 rankings. The university ranked second in 2015, 2014, 2011 and 2010. VCSU has now been ranked a U.S. News “Best College” for 20

consecutive years.

“We’re understandably proud of our No. 1 ranking,” said VCSU President Tisa Mason. “We’ve been able to achieve and maintain the top spot over the last several years. Two decades as a ‘Best College’ is also important. That distinction reflects the quality—and the consistent effort it takes to deliver it—that we’ve sustained over time. That doesn’t mean that we’ve rested on our laurels, however; we’ve continued to adapt, adjust and innovate to put the best practices in teaching and learning to work for our students’ success.”

U.S. News ranks colleges and universities according to their mission and, in some categories, by location. Schools are evaluated on a variety of criteria, including first-year retention rate, six-year graduation rates, educational spending per student, admissions selectivity, student-faculty ratio, class sizes, faculty resources, proportion of full-time faculty, alumni-giving rate and qualitative assessments by administrators at peer institutions.

The “Regional Colleges in the Midwest” category includes 80 ranked colleges and universities, including 13 public institutions, in 12 states: North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota.

The rankings are available online at [www.usnews.com/colleges](http://www.usnews.com/colleges) and in print in the 2018 U.S. News Best Colleges guidebook.

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**(701) 845-7203 or [alumni@vcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vcsu.edu)**

## Longtime coach DeVries named VCSU athletic director



Valley City State University women's basketball coach Jill DeVries has been named the school's next athletic director, President Tisa Mason announced Aug. 17.

DeVries, who was set to begin her 18th season coaching at VCSU, officially began her athletic director duties on Aug. 21. She is responsible for the development, administration, vision and leadership of the men's and women's athletic programs at VCSU. DeVries is the first female athletic director in school history. She has worked as an assistant athletic director since 2007.

"Jill's unquestioned dedication to VCSU and prior experi-

ence as assistant athletic director are great assets as she steps into her new role," said President Mason. "We're excited for the stability she will provide, but also the great ideas she has to advance our athletic department and our university. Throughout her 17 years on campus Jill has demonstrated a commitment to the total student-athlete experience and graduating high-quality students. Her teams have consistently achieved high levels of success on the court but have also been among the top academic women's basketball teams in the nation. Jill's insistence on student success and achieving the right balance between academics and athletics makes her the right fit for Viking athletics."

DeVries replaces Nate Stewart who left VCSU to join Centre College (Ky.) as the school's associate athletic director for advancement and external relations.

"I am excited and thankful for the opportunity to serve as the next director of athletics at VCSU," said DeVries. "I appreciate the confidence that President Mason and the VCSU administration have in me to take our program to the next level of success. I firmly believe in and am committed to the values of academic and athletic excellence. We have outstanding coaches and student-athletes at VCSU, and I'm proud to be a Viking."

A Glyndon, Minn., native, DeVries is a graduate of North Dakota State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education (1992) and a Master of Education (1997). While at NDSU, DeVries starred on the basketball court and helped lead the team to a national championship in 1991. She was inducted into the NDSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

DeVries began her coaching career at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and had stops at NDSU and the University of Nebraska-Kearney before she was hired as Valley City State University's head women's coach in 1999. DeVries is the only coach to lead the Viking women to the NAIA National Tournament, guiding them there four times in the past seven seasons. She is the all-time winningest coach in VCSU women's basketball history with a career record of 283-258.

DeVries and her wife, Holly, live in Valley City.

Valley City State University is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and a conference member of the North Star Athletic Association. VCSU sponsors 14 intercollegiate sports, including basketball, baseball, football, volleyball, softball, track and field, cross country and golf.



## Bass named NAIA Faculty Athletics Rep of Year

Dave Bass, assistant professor in the VCSU School of Education and Graduate Studies, has been named the 2017 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Wally Schwartz Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year, the NAIA announced Sept. 15.

Bass has served as VCSU's FAR for more than 20 years, acting as a liaison between the athletic department and the institution as

well as handling eligibility and academic questions. Bass will be presented with the national award at the NAIA Convention next April in Kansas City.

"Dave is dedicated to the success of the student-athletes at VCSU and in the NSAA," said VCSU athletic director Jill DeVries. "He is without a doubt the 'go-to guy' for eligibility questions and compliance at Valley City State and many other NAIA institutions."

Bass is also the NSAA eligibility chair and the FAR liaison to the NSAA Board of Directors. He has served 10 years as the eligibility chair for three difference conferences. At the national level, Dave has served four years on the NAIA Council of FARs and five years on the Learning Disability Advisory Committee. Prior to taking over as VCSU's FAR, Bass coached Viking track and field and cross country from 1981-91.

At VCSU, Bass consistently goes above and beyond his official duties as FAR to help Viking coaches and student-athletes succeed.

"He is instrumental to our success during the recruiting process and one of the biggest supporters of all the programs and student-athletes at Valley City State," said DeVries. "We are proud that he is a Viking."

Bass was previously named the North Star Athletic Association FAR of the Year in 2015 and 2016. This is the first time he has received the national award.

## L2L students pick squash for food bank

Two-hundred Valley City State University first-year students and their mentors harvested more than 50,000 pounds of produce on a farm northwest of Valley City on Thursday, Sept. 28, for distribution by the Great Plains Food Bank.

Mostly squash, the 25 tons of produce also included corn, tomatoes, peppers and onions. The VCSU students picked the produce as a community service project stemming from their Learning to Live, Living to Learn (L2L) course.

The squash and vegetables had been raised by Dan Faust, a retired Lutheran pastor in Valley City, on his family farm. Faust donates his harvest to the Great Plains Food Bank in Fargo, which then distributes the produce to more than 215 feeding programs run by community partners throughout North Dakota and Clay County, Minn.

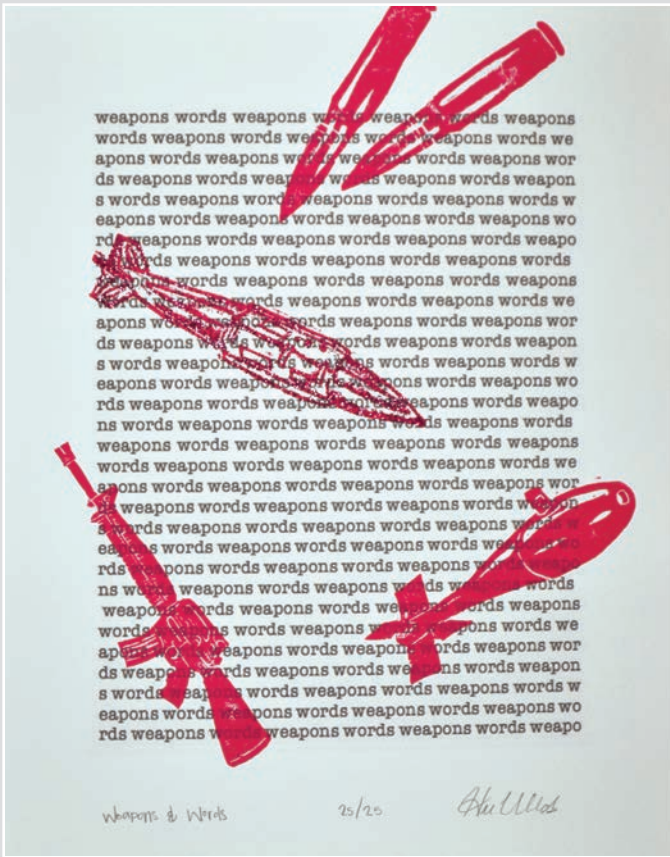
VCSU's participation in the harvest dates back seven years. "It's something we can do to help," says Stephanie Roelfsema, director of VCSU's L2L course. "Some of our students have never been on a farm, much less participated in a service project. Picking the squash gives them an opportunity to make the connections in regard to where food comes from, their comparative bounty, and their ability to impact the lives of others in a positive way through their own sweat and labor. It's a win-win for our students, Pastor Dan and the Great Plains Food Bank, and those who ultimately benefit from this food."

## Artists participate in print exchange

Nine VCSU art students, along with assistant professor Karri Dieken, put their printmaking skills to use and participated in a print exchange with other artists from regional colleges and universities.

Work from the exchange is featured in the exhibit “Printober” at the Plains Art Museum in Fargo. The exhibit opened Oct. 8 and runs through Jan. 7. Featured works represent the efforts of artists from VCSU, Concordia College, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Minot State University, North Dakota State University and the University of Manitoba.

In addition to professor Dieken, VCSU artists participating in the exchange included Megan Fuller, Zoey Koch, Megan Markuson, Alexa McCulloch, Sayge McKrill, Crystal Myrum, Hailie Wilds and Brenna Winter.



Hailie Wilds, archival inkjet with blockprint and glitter



Zoey Koch, serigraph



Alexa McCulloch, drypoint

## Winter/Spring 2018 Department of Music Events

Feb. 12.....Minnesota Opera..... 7:30 p.m. <i>Vangstad</i>	March 27 .....General Student Recital #3..... 11:00 a.m. <i>Froemke</i>
Feb. 20.....General Student Recital #1..... 11:00 a.m. <i>Froemke</i>	April 13 .....Kobayashi/Gray Duo, Guest Artists ..... 7:30 p.m. <i>Vangstad</i>
Feb. 23.....Choir Concert..... 7:30 p.m. <i>Vangstad</i>	April 17 .....General Student Recital #4..... 11:00 a.m. <i>Froemke</i>
March 2.....Instrumental Concert..... 7:30 p.m. <i>Vangstad</i>	April 27 .....Instrumental Concert..... 7:30 p.m. <i>Vangstad</i>
March 6.....General Student Recital #2..... 11:00 a.m. <i>Froemke</i>	

For a complete up-to-date list of events please visit [music.vcsu.edu](http://music.vcsu.edu)



# ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S CORNER

## JILL DEVRIES



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Education is at the heart of everything we do in college athletics. We believe that creating connections between our learning in and around the classroom and our engagement in the process allows us to grow as leaders and difference makers at Valley City State University.

Our success, determined by more than wins and losses, is also determined by the experience of our student-athletes and often goes beyond the results on the field. We are committed to fostering an inclusive, positive and winning culture built on respect for oneself and others.

For the 15th year, VCSU has been named an NAIA Champions of Character Five Star institution for 2016-17. VCSU earned the honor at the "silver" level for 2016-17, improving upon its "bronze" level from previous years. Institutions are measured on a demonstrated commitment to the Champions of Character program and earn points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Institutions also earn points based on exceptional student-athlete grade point averages and by having minimal to no ejections during competition throughout the course of the academic year.

On Nov. 18, 2017, Valley City State University was selected to receive the Special Olympics of North Dakota Outstanding School Award. VCSU athletics has cultivated a relationship with the North Dakota Special Olympians and Valley City Open Door Center. This fall our men's basketball team and our softball team have held clinics/fun nights for Special Olympians in our local area. In addition, Viking football has welcomed Matt Thorson to its staff as a manager the last two seasons. We encourage our outstanding student-athletes to be engaged, to educate, and to actively elevate the Viking family and community.

As a former VCSU coach and competitor myself, I understand that success in athletics is most often measured by wins and losses. I'm excited to share with you some of the highlights of our seasons so far.

- In cross country, junior Grace Miller (St. Cloud, Fla.) qualified for the NAIA Championships and placed 113th out of 338 runners. Both Viking teams saw dramatic turnarounds after finishing sixth at the NSAA Championships in 2016. The 2017 season saw VCSU's men place second and the women place third.
- The Viking volleyball team posted the program's first winning record since 2006, finishing 15-13 overall. VCSU went 9-7 in conference play, taking fourth in the NSAA regular season standings.
- Our Viking football team defeated rival University of Jamestown twice this season by a combined score of 83-27. VCSU finished the season 5-5 overall and 4-4 in conference play, going 3-1 over the last four games.
- Viking baseball played an eight-game schedule in the fall and went 3-5 overall, which included two victories over rival Mayville State University and a walk-off home run by junior Nate Soulis.
- The Viking golf team won two meets this fall and Jared Lentz took first place individually at the Dickinson State Invite.
- The winter seasons have started and the upper-class laden women's basketball team, under the direction of first year head coach Vanessa Keeler-Johnson, is off to a 10-0 start. Lexi Lennon, senior from West Fargo, N.D., scored her 1,000th point during the home opener Oct. 28. The senior-heavy men's basketball team opened the season receiving votes in the NAIA Top 25 Poll and has faced a tough early-season schedule en route to a 4-9 record.



## Winter sports previews

### Women's basketball starts 10-0



Lexi Lennon

The Valley City State women's basketball team is off to a 10-0 start to the season, the program's best start since the 2005-06 season.

First-year head coach Vanessa Keeler-Johnson has her experience-laden team playing well in the early going. VCSU's hot start also included an exhibition win at Bemidji State University, an NCAA Division II school.

Valley City State returned four of its top five scorers from last year's team that advanced to the NAIA National Tournament and tied a school record with 24 wins. The Vikings were picked to finish fourth in the North Star Athletic Association Preseason Coaches' Poll.

Senior guard Lexi Lennon scored her 1,000th career point during VCSU's season opener against College of Saint Mary.

### Men's basketball features six seniors



Jayden Ferguson

Expectations are high this season for the Viking men's basketball team which features six seniors. Valley City State returned four starters and its top three scorers from last year's team that went 16-15 overall.

Second-year head coach Ryan Montgomery has tested his team early with an aggressive schedule that includes upper-division teams and nationally-ranked NAIA teams. The Vikings were off to a 4-9 start, including a thrilling 85-82 win over Dordt College.

Valley City State was picked to finish second in the NSAA Preseason Coaches' Poll, trailing only last year's national runner-up Bellevue University.

### Viking track on the rise



Lenzel Koskela

The Valley City State University track and field program continues to grow under head coach Chris Johnson. In his third season leading the program, Johnson has expanded the team to about 70 participants this year, including more than 40 new additions to the roster.

The Vikings opened the indoor season early this year, competing at a Dec. 2 meet in Brookings, S.D. Valley City State is scheduled to compete at seven indoor meets this season, including the NSAA Indoor Championships on Feb. 17 in Brookings, S.D.

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## 2017 WINTER SPORTS

Visit [vcsuvikings.com](http://vcsuvikings.com), to view the latest schedules for all sports.

Home games in **bold**. ♦ All times are Central Time.

\*NSAA conference game

### Women's & Men's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 29-30	@ Tabor College Classic	
Dec. 29	W/M .....Tabor College	6 p.m./8 p.m.
Dec. 30	W/M .....Sterling College	1 p.m./3 p.m.
Jan. 5	W/M .....@ Bellevue University* (DH)	5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.
Jan. 6	W/M .....@ Dakota State University* (DH)	3 p.m./5 p.m.
Jan. 13	W/M .....@ Viterbo University* (DH)	3 p.m./5 p.m.
Jan. 19	W/M .....@ Mayville State* (DH)	5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.
Jan. 20	W/M .....@ Presentation College* (DH)	3 p.m./5 p.m.
<b>Jan. 26</b>	<b>W/M .....Dakota State University* (DH)</b>	<b>5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 27</b>	<b>W/M .....Bellevue University* (DH)</b>	<b>3 p.m./5 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 2</b>	<b>W/M .....Viterbo University* (DH)</b>	<b>5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 3</b>	<b>W/M .....Dickinson State* (DH)</b>	<b>3 p.m./5 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 7</b>	<b>W/M .....Trinity Bible College (DH)</b>	<b>5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.</b>
Feb. 10	W/M .....@ Univ. of Jamestown* (DH)	3 p.m./5 p.m.
Feb. 16	W/M .....@ Waldorf University* (DH)	5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21-25	W .....NSAA Tournament	TBA
Feb. 22-26	M .....NSAA Tournament	TBA
March 7-13	W/M .....NAIA National Tournament	Sioux City, Iowa

Home games | All Central Time | (DH) = W/M Doubleheader

\*NSAA Conference Game

### Indoor Track & Field

Jan. 13	.....@ Bemidji State Super 8 Open	.....Bemidji, Minn.
Jan. 20	.....@ Concordia Cobber Duels	.....Moorhead, Minn.
Jan. 26-27	.....@ UND Open	.....Grand Forks, N.D.
Feb. 2-3	.....@ NDSU Bison Open	..... Fargo, N.D.
Feb. 9-10	.....@ SDSU Indoor Classic	..... Brookings, S.D.
Feb. 11-12	.....@ NSAA Indoor Multis	.....Jamestown, N.D.
Feb. 17	.....@ NSAA Indoor Championships	..... Brookings, S.D.
March 1-3	.....@ NAIA Indoor Championships	.....Pittsburg, Kan.

## Fall Sport Recaps

### Football

A young Valley City State University football team had its ups and downs during the 2017 season before finishing with a 5-5 overall record. The Vikings went 4-4 in the North Star Athletic Association, taking fourth place in the standings.

Despite finishing fourth in the standings, the Vikings feel they were just a few plays away from finishing at or near the top of the conference. Turnovers hurt the Vikings in two losses to eventual conference champion and nationally-ranked Dickinson State University. VCSU's other two conference losses came when Waldorf University and Dakota State scored touchdowns in the final seconds of the game.

The Vikings began to click down the stretch, going 3-1 over their last four games. VCSU averaged 48 points per game in those contests, including a 58-0 win against Mayville State, a 66-27 win against Presentation College and a 40-14 win at rival University of Jamestown to close the season.

"I said this a lot this year, but we have a really talented group of guys," said McCulloch. "If we can keep this group together, they can do something special."

Valley City State University went 2-0 against rival University of Jamestown, outscoring the Jimmies 83-27 for the season and ensuring the Paint Bucket Trophy stays in Valley City for the offseason.



Nicholas McBeain

The Vikings will graduate nine seniors from this year's team, including seven starters. The list includes linebacker Nicholas McBeain, who leaves VCSU as the all-time leading tackler with 522 stops in his Viking career.

It also includes offensive linemen PJ Peterson and Avery Lock, both of whom won multiple All Conference awards during their career.

The Vikings were extremely young at the offensive "skill" positions, but showed huge talent and even more potential. Sophomore running back Louis Quinones averaged 104 yards per game, finishing the season with 13 touchdowns and a 5.7 yards per carry average.

Redshirt freshman Jalen Pfeifer won the starting quarterback job out of fall camp and impressed throughout the season with both his arm and legs. Pfeifer completed 59 percent of his passes with 19 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He averaged 217 yards passing per game.



Jake Peterson

Pfeifer's favorite target was sophomore Jake Peterson, who caught 47 passes for 777 yards and 10 touchdowns. Sophomore receiver Eli Luna (24/269/1) and junior Tyler Howell (22/171/0) were the other top pass-catchers.

The Vikings were also extremely young on defense starting just two seniors – McBeain and Jesus Munoz – while starting three freshmen and three sophomores for most of the year. Despite playing just five games due to injury,



Riley Fredrickson

McBeain led the Vikings with 76 tackles. Sophomore Riley Fredrickson was second on the team with 75 tackles, while freshman Kendrick Lenzen was third with 62 stops. Sophomore defensive end Austin Erickson led the team in sacks (5.0) and



Louis Quinones

as All Conference. Sophomore running back Louis Quinones picked up two honors, being named First Team All Conference as both a running back and a kick returner. VCSU's other First Team Offense selections included lineman Avery Lock, tight end Tayler Lentz and receiver Jake Peterson. First Team Defense honors went to defensive end Darius Graves, linebacker Nicholas McBeain and defensive back Travon Smith.

Second Team All Conference honors went to offensive lineman PJ Peterson, defensive lineman Tyler Masat, linebacker Jesus Munuz and kicker Landon Arredondo.

The Vikings had seven players earn the Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete award, which recognized juniors or seniors who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher in their careers. Earning the award for VCSU were: Dakota Johnson, Cole Kelly, Tyler Masat, Jake Peterson, PJ Peterson, Tyler Ukestad and Marc Wagner.

tackles for loss (6.5).

Despite posting a 5-5 record, the Vikings actually only played nine games. Finlandia University backed out of a scheduled contest and forfeited to the Vikings.

VCSU had 11 players honored







## Volleyball

The 2017 Valley City State University volleyball team posted the program's first winning record since 2006, finishing with a 15-13 overall mark.

The Vikings started the season 0-4, but went 15-9 over their final 24 matches to finish above .500 for the first time since going 16-15 in 2006. VCSU finished 9-7 in the North Star Athletic Association, taking fourth in the NSAA regular season standings. The Viking season came to an end in the quarterfinals of the NSAA Tournament.

Head coach Adam Longmore's squad went 6-3 on their home floor, creating an exciting volleyball atmosphere inside Graichen Gymnasium. The home schedule was highlighted by a sweep of Concordia-Moorhead that featured a standing-room-only crowd.

Junior middle Clarissa Olson, a Valley City native, was named 1st Team All Conference for the second straight season by the NSAA coaches. Olson led the Vikings in kills (237), hitting percentage (.324), blocks (59) and total points (289). She ranked third in the conference

Taylor Sharp and Clarissa Olson

in hitting percentage and was named the NSAA Attacker of the Week on Oct. 23. Olson was also named Honorable Mention All-American by the NAIA and All-Region by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Valley City State featured eight freshman on this year's team and will graduate just two seniors from the squad, albeit significant contributors. Senior Megan Johnson was second on the team with 209 kills and tied Olson with 59 blocks. Senior Polette Medina was an all-around player for VCSU – filling multiple roles throughout the season – as she racked up 107 kills, 35 aces and 247 digs.

Paige Benson from Hankinson, N.D., was one of several freshmen who made immediate impacts as she was third on the team with 172 kills.

Medina and Olson, along with juniors Autumn Johnson and Mikayla Mellem, were all recognized as Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes for demonstrating success in the classroom.

## Cross Country

The 2017 cross country season at Valley City State was highlighted by a complete turnaround for both the men's and women's teams. After both teams took last place in the conference in 2016, a revamped and expanded roster led the Viking men to a second-place finish and the VCSU women to a third-place finish at the North Star Athletic Association Championships.

Viking junior Grace Miller qualified for the NAIA National Championships on Nov. 18 in Vancouver, Wash. She ran a time of 19:10 at nationals as she placed 113th out of 338 runners. Earlier in the season, Miller ran the fourth-fastest time in VCSU history when she crossed the line in 19:02 during a race at Jamestown.

The majority of VCSU's runners wrapped their season at the NSAA Championships in Jamestown on Nov. 3. Conditions were far from ideal with teams facing falling snow, temps near 25 degrees and a wind of about 15 miles per hour. On the men's side, Valley City State's top five runners all finished in the Top 17 as they improved from last place in 2016 to second place in 2017.

Valley City State senior Dennis Gonzalez was the top Viking, taking 8th place and earning All Conference with a time of 25:45. Louis Leon ran a personal record of 26:31 as he placed 12th. Dylan Olson took 13th in 26:33. Orin Rambow (26:37) and Joe Celis (27:04) both ran season-best times and placed 16th and 17th, respectively.

For the Viking women, Miller ran a strong race as she placed third and earned All Conference. She anchored an overall strong performance by the VCSU women's team, which took third out of six teams. It was a huge one-year improvement for the Vikings, who finished last in the conference last season. The Vikings had four female runners in the Top 20: Julianne Wilson finished 15th (20:42); Allyssa Weitkum placed 17th (20:46); and Kristina Fricke took 20th overall (21:03). Peyton Halverson rounded out VCSU's team score of 85 by placing 30th. Both Wilson and Fricke ran collegiate-best times at the conference meet.

VCSU's men had consistent team success throughout the season. Over the final three meets against a variety of NCAA and NAIA competition, the Vikings finished in third place, second place and second place. Junior Orin Rambow was named a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete at the conclusion of the season, recognizing his consistent success in the classroom.



Grace Miller



Men's team

## Vikings On The Move

### 1950s

**Donna (Lunde) Niemann '53** is still enjoying living in St. Thomas, N.D. She tries to stay active at 86 years old. Donna is the president of the local senior citizens and plays the organ at St. John's Lutheran in rural Crystal, N.D., every Sunday. She feels very blessed.

### 1960s

**Dan O'Connor '61** and his wife, Patricia, have been married 55 years. Pat retired after 37 years as an R.N., and Dan retired and sold his plastics company after 47 years. They now live in Sedona, Ariz., near two of their three children. Their son Dan is a pharmacist with Safeway in Fountain Hills, Ariz., daughter Kate is the chief of a dental clinic in Tuba City, Ariz., and daughter, Jennifer, teaches in Liberty, Mo. They have seven brilliant and beautiful grandchildren (just like everyone's grandchildren). They look forward to seeing many alumni at the Mesa gathering in February 2018.

**Kenneth Herman '64** moved into a senior apartment in Fargo following the passing of Olgie, his wife of 24 years. Kenneth is glad to be back in North Dakota where things are much slower than in the Denver metro area.

### 1970s

**Randy Hagen '79** and his wife, Henrietta, live in Hutchinson, Minn. They have two daughters and five grandchildren who live near them. Randy has worked in the agricultural industry for 35 years. He now works for Monsanto as a technical education training lead across North America. Randy would love to connect with friends and hopes everyone is happy and doing well. He sends best wishes and success to all current students and staff at VCSU.

### 1980s

**Jonathan Bertsch '80** retired in 2016 after 36 years of teaching and coaching. He and his wife, Gretchen, now reside in South Jordan, Utah, where they are busy spoiling their first grandchild, Christopher.

**Delton Steele '80**, regional president of the Southeast North Dakota Region of U.S. Bank in Fargo, has been named chair of the North Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. This volunteer position has a three-year term and is equivalent to a military two-star flag officer under Department of Defense protocol. Steele was sworn in at a formal ceremony on Nov. 17 in Alexandria, Va.; he will serve under the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

**Elden Paczkowski '81** lives in Apple Valley, Minn. Elden (known as "Spock" in college) and his wife, Amy, have been married for 30 years. The couple has two sons, Dominic and Christopher. Dominic graduated from MSUM and lives and works in Moorhead, Minn. He also plays the trap

set in a cover band called Downtown Sound. Christopher is a junior at South Dakota State University in Brookings, where he is studying to become a physical therapist. Eldon invites his college friends to give him a call when in the Twin Cities!

**Cindy (Hochhalter) '81** and **Neil Goter '83** reside in Wagner, S.D. Neil will be completing his 33rd year and Cindy her 32nd year in education. Cindy teaches fourth grade, and Neil serves as high school principal and athletic director at Wagner Community School. They recently became grandparents for a second time and now have a grandson and a granddaughter. The couple says life is good, and they are thankful for the education and training they received at VCSC.

**Charlene Griffin '83** is currently residing in Plainfield, Ind. She has been employed with Hitachi Vantara for 17-plus years. Her family is all doing well. They had their first niece get married in June and have another getting married in January. Charlene will have the honor of marrying her as she is an ordained minister in the state of Minnesota. Charlene says that overall life is good, and she congratulates Valley City State University on their record enrollment.

**Kristi (Winkels) Gloe '89** lives in Watertown, S.D., with her husband, Scott. They have two daughters, Alexa and Mariah. Kristi is employed by Jenkins Living Center, Inc. as the marketing director; she "retired" from the game of volleyball last spring.

### 1990s

**Jeff Hoverson '90** is married to JoAnn, and they have six blessings ages 7 to 19: children Caleb, John, Kristian, Lydia, Victoria and Ezekiel. Jeff is a pastor at Living Word Lutheran Church in Minot, N.D., and he and JoAnn are homeschooling their children. They love living in their log home.

**Greg Koenig '90** began his 28th year of teaching and coaching at a new school this fall. Greg teaches high school English and is the varsity football and boys track coach at Cimarron High School in Cimarron, Kan. Anyone who is interested can follow Coach Koenig on Twitter: @DWCoachK.

**Steve Gulseth '92** has been living in Omaha, Neb., since 1993 and has been married to his wife, Lisa, for 21 years. They have three children: Claire, 20, a student at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis; Cody, 18, a senior in high school; and Chrissy, 15, a high school sophomore. Steve has worked in sales his entire career, including 14 years at IBM.

**Ryan Hanson '92** is currently in his 26th year in education, 20th year in Devils Lake, and 14th year as principal of Devils Lake High School (DLHS). His wife, Heidi, teaches kindergarten at the Minnie H Kindergarten Center in Devils Lake, and between them they have four children. Carlie works as a paraeducator at DLHS, Macy lives and works in Fargo, Parker is a sophomore at DLHS, and Gabby is in sixth grade at Central Middle

School. They also have a four-year-old granddaughter, Willow. Ryan and Heidi can be found at Firebird activities, dance events or on the golf course. Go Vikings!

**Larry Volk '94, M.Ed. '09**, earned a Master's Degree in Education and Technology from VCSU in 2009, and from there he went to earn his superintendent's degree from Arkansas State University Jonesboro in 2014. Larry taught history for 22 years and is now in his third year as superintendent at Starkweather (N.D.) Public School.

**Kristi (Hetland) Molina '94** got married two years ago to Dario Molina and moved to Gretna, Neb. She still teaches Spanish in Lincoln. Kristi has four stepkids and a stepgrandson.

**Chris '96** and **Heidi (Rocheleau) Eckart '96** are entering their 22nd year of teaching. Both are currently in the Hillsboro, N.D., school system. Chris teaches fifth grade and coaches various levels of basketball and track. Heidi teaches junior high language arts and high school art. Also the head girls track coach at Hillsboro-Central Valley Co-op, she was recently named North Dakota Class B Girls Track Coach of the Year. Their three kids are Addi Jo, a first-year student at VCSU; Adyn, in seventh grade; and Grady, in third grade. #VikingPride

**Leslie (Skarloken) Olson '96** celebrated her 20th anniversary with Noridian Healthcare Solutions, where she currently telecommutes as a business operations analyst. Leslie lives north of Petersburg, N.D., on a 43 acre farmstead with her husband, Jason, son Landon (age 16), and two daughters, Natalie (5) and Sadie (1).



▲ **Tony Aukland '97** is an information systems security analyst for North Dakota Information Technology Department. He is also attached to the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center as a cyber security analyst. Tony and his wife, Donna, an accountant with the Department of Human Services, have three children: two daughters, Corinne, a junior studying chemistry at VCSU, and Abigail, an airman first class in the U.S. Force, and a son, Alexander (pictured with the

VCSU Vikings flag). Alexander is very active in tae kwon do, football, Cub Scouts, and their church, and Tony volunteers for all of Alex's activities.

**Dennis Waloch '97** spent 19 years with Walgreens, including 13 years as store manager in New Ulm, Minn. He left Walgreens, bought the local Horace Mann insurance agency and started the Dennis Waloch Agency on Sept. 1, 2017. He says it has been a great change! Dennis remains active in the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce and also serves on the New Ulm School Board. The district passed a \$46 million referendum in 2014 to construct a new high school and to remodel existing sites. In his spare time, Dennis and his wife, Jen, are busy with their children's activities. They truly enjoy being part of the wonderful New Ulm community!

## 2000s

**Ryan Townsend '00** was named the Bismarck Chamber of Commerce 2016 Secondary Teacher of the Year. His classes were also a national finalist for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Grant, and they won a Project-Based Learning Award from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. Ryan, a teacher at Simle Middle School, is married to Maggie (Clemens) Townsend '02.

**Kari (Tangen) Chitty '00** currently lives at Fort Benning, Ga., with her husband Matt, two daughters (Ruby, 11, and Charlotte, 6), and two dogs. Kari works part-time for the Military Child Education Coalition as a parent educator and has also held multiple volunteer roles. Matt, a lieutenant colonel, is the battalion commander and commandant of the Officer Candidate School. Kari was in the Army from 2002–06, stationed at Fort Hood, and she served one deployment from 2003–04. After that she began working for State Farm Insurance and held a variety of positions with that company from 2006–10. She earned a Master's in Special Education and was able to teach one year before moving to Germany in 2014. Kari has lived in Fort Hood, San Antonio, and Abilene, Texas; Montgomery, Ala.; Richmond Hill, Ga.; and Stuttgart, Germany. The family moved to Fort Benning in May 2017.



**Nathan Brown '02** recently took a new job welding at Black Hills Trucking in Dickinson. He repairs trucks, trailers and cranes. He is in the

process of certifying in aluminum, stainless, and steel on 2" pipe 6G position to cover all aspects of the welding that they do there. He is furthering his work experience to use his vocational-technical education degree someday down the road to be able to teach welding, when he is physically not

able to weld anymore. Nathan bought a house in Dickinson last year and is enjoying home ownership. He lives there with his cat, Harry.



▲ **Eliza (Brown) Bullock '02** and husband, Eli, live and teach in Bismarck, N.D. They love chasing their two children, Hudson, age 3, and Jaxton, 18 months.



**Heather (Schmit) Woods '03, M.Ed. '12**, was named the 2017 North Dakota English Teacher of the Year. Heather teaches 11th grade English and speech at Wahpeton

High School. She is married to **David Woods '03**, and they have four children: Scout, Claire, Trey and Reese.

**Joe Kern '03** is starting his 15th school year of teaching 6th grade at Lisbon Middle School. His daughter, Olivia, is in the 7th grade. Joe is the head boys and girls varsity cross country coach (his 9th season) and is an assistant track coach. Joe was the head wrestling coach for 14 years and just stepped down to be able to watch his daughter's basketball games in the winter.

**Matt '05** and **Cynthia (Penner) Klabo '06** live in Valley City. Matt has been at FEI Inc. for 11 years; he is vice president of the fertilizer division. Cynthia is in her 12th year teaching at Valley City Public Schools. She teaches 9th grade physical science and is the 8th grade girls volleyball coach. They have 2 children; Tyson, 9, and in 3rd grade, and kindergartner Kierstin, 6.

**Jared Hoff '06** recently took the position of middle school principal in Lisbon, N.D. His wife, Sandy—who attended VCSU for three years before transferring to UND to finish her Doctor of Physical Therapy program—is a physical therapist at Mobility Plus Rehab in Lisbon. Their three kids, Kamryn (8), Madison (6), and Braeden (3), keep them very busy with activities.

## 2010s



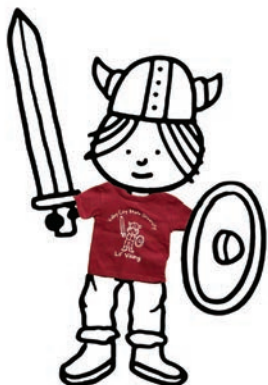
**Lara Loomis '10** enrolled and completed a Masters of Arts degree in addition counseling at Hazelden Graduate School of Addiction Studies following graduation from VCSU. She immediately earned employment at Spring Creek Correctional Center (SCCC), an all-male maximum security prison, in her hometown of Seward, Alaska, as a

primary counselor in the Life Success Substance Abuse Treatment program. Following that, she worked at the prison in the education department as an education lead in charge of GED programming. In addition to running the GED program, Lara taught classes in anger management, criminality and criminal thinking, and pre-release courses. After four years at SCCC, Lara changed positions and began working at AVTEC—a vocational technical center for postsecondary career training, also in Seward—as a youth grant case manager in charge of the WIOA (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act) federal grant. While working with the grant, she was responsible for recruiting at-risk youth to help them obtain employment or complete training at AVTEC. After three years in WIOA, she was selected to be one of two primary counselors at AVTEC assisting students. When not working, she enjoys camping, hiking, climbing, fishing, and any other activity she can do in the mountains around her home. Lara is in the process of building a tiny house (320 sq. ft.) that she shares with her boyfriend of nine years and their dog.

**Miranda (Beier) '11** and **Clint Neville '11** live in Grenora, N.D., where Clint teaches 7th and 8th grade math and proctors Acellus students at Grenora High School. Clint also stays busy running his business, Clint Neville's Taxidermy. Miranda teaches at Garden Valley Elementary in Williams Country School District No. 8. They have two beautiful daughters: Addison Rae, age 3, and Kennedy Lyn, 1.

**Amy (Field) Haugeberg '13** has joined Bonner Eye Clinic in Grand Rapids, Mich., after earning a Doctorate in Optometry at the Oklahoma College of Optometry.

**Christina (Jahner) McCleary '13** earned her degree in composite science education. Her husband, Kevin, has one daughter, Lydia, and they currently live just south of Lisbon, N.D. Christina is going on year five of teaching 7th-12th grade science—biology, chemistry, life science, earth science and physical science—in Milnor. She also assists in the school-wide MTSS (Multi-Tiered System Supports) data and administration. She loves education, and her students are one of her many joys in life. Kevin currently teaches social studies (North Dakota studies, geography, world history and psychology) at the high school in Lisbon.



# 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).



**Maren Eloise Bollingberg**

March 13, 2017  
8 pounds 3 ounces  
20 3/4 inches  
Joins brother Wyatt (2) Tonia (Christiansen) '06 and Ross Bollingberg



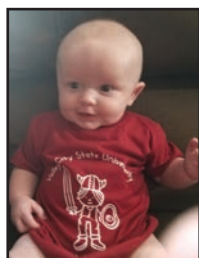
**Briggs Clayton Lee**

April 28, 2017  
8 pounds  
21 3/4 inches  
Joins sisters Emmerly (5) and Adalynn (4), and brother Rhett (2) Dakotah and Tyler Lee '08



**Finleigh Zeta Axtman**

March 7, 2017  
7 pounds 8 ounces  
20 1/4 inches  
Alison and Matthew Axtman '07



**Jordan Rizzo Haggin**

April 29, 2017  
7 pounds 9 ounces  
21 1/2 inches  
Mandy (Johnson) '12 and Aaron Haggin '10



**Mona Jean Graf**

January 16, 2017  
6 pounds 15 ounces  
19 1/2 inches  
Caitlyn (Wojahn) '11 and Jackson Graf



**Ava Marie Galt**

February 21, 2017  
7 pounds 7 ounces  
20 inches  
Jessica and Nick Galt (VCSU assistant professor of science)



**Braxton Rae Forster**

January 20, 2017  
5 pounds 11 ounces  
21 inches  
Ashley (Fischer) '09 and Nathan Forster



**Oakleigh Rose Johnson**

June 22, 2017  
8 pounds 10 ounces  
20 1/2 inches  
Jessica '10 and Ryan Johnson



**Azalea Jo Paurus**

May 29, 2017  
8 pounds 3 ounces  
Kelsey (Hanson) '11 and Jamie Paurus (VCSU assistant professor of computer systems and software engineering)



**Josie Lauren Klemisch**

August 14, 2017  
6 pounds 11 ounces  
20 inches  
Lynae (Ronningen) '10 and Clint Klemisch '10



**Ainslee Grace Scherbenske**

February 27, 2017  
7 pounds 14 ounces  
20 inches  
Joins siblings Hannah (7), Regan (5), Jonah (3), Kailee (stillborn April 8, 2016) Sheri (Stein) '05 and Matthew Scherbenske '05



**Braxton Allan Kuska**

May 30, 2017  
6 pounds 15 ounces  
19.75 inches  
Jessica (Carlblom) '15 and Brice Kuska

**Allison Veselka '13** lives in Tower City and works at the Barnes County Museum in Valley City. She is the assistant curator, helping curator Wes Anderson in putting together exhibits, leading school tours, and a variety of other tasks. For the past year, she has been working on a research project/exhibit on the role of local women in war. The list has grown to 400-plus names, spanning from World War I to Korea, and Allison's research continues toward Vietnam. These women were in military service, worked in industries supplying and supporting the war effort with materiel a la Rosie the Riveter, worked civil service positions with the government, and were nurses. She says it's been hard work but also a labor of love as these women deserve recognition for their hard work and service to our country.

**Vanessa Taylor '13** has been recognized by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting for maintaining certification for 25 years as a certified surgical technologist. Taylor is a graduate of East Grand Forks Technical College, Bismarck State College (BSC) and Valley City State University. She started work as a surgical technologist in 1992, and in 2005 began teaching as an adjunct in BSC's surgical technology program; she is currently an associate professor there. Vanessa also is an adjunct with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, assisting third- and fourth-year medical students with orientation into surgical rotations.

**Harrison Weber '14** graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in spring 2017 and recently joined the staff of the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association as the regional project manager. He lives in Fargo.

**Angela Awender '15** graduated from VCSU with a Bachelor of Science in Education in December 2015; however, instead of going the teacher route, she decided to continue her work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a park ranger. She relocated from the Lake Ashtabula project as a student ranger to Pequot Lakes, Minn., as permanent seasonal park ranger in natural resource management. Angela's duties include all interpretative services, enforcement of Title 26 Code of Federal Regulations and general resource management. This will be her second season there. In the winter, when she is not "rangering," she works in the district office in St. Paul, Minn., in the Regulatory Department working in wetland management and reviewing delineations; here, she gets to better use her biology degree. Angela has one son attending NDSU this year, and one son at home who is a junior at Pequot Lakes High School. She recently got engaged but has yet to set a date as it is hard to find time to plan with a ranger's schedule. It is her hope to get back to VCSU one day and visit her old stomping grounds; it is truly missed, and she cannot say enough how wonderful all of her professors were to get her to where she is today. It certainly is proof that hard work and perseverance can pay off!

## In Remembrance

Matthew McKeever, Bismarck, N.D.

Allen Pedersen '40, Crookston, Minn.

Adeline Ahmann '41, Fargo, N.D.

Jeanne (Eells) Colberg '43, Paragould, Ark.

Mary Lou (McDowall) Stafford, Spearfish, S.D.

Dorothy (Brown) Ells '47, Kirkland, Wash.

Eleanor (Miller) Peterson '47, Yreka, Calif.

Vivian (Verduin) Bowman '48, Valley City

Maxine (Howe) Tait '48, Portland, Ore.

Mary Arendes '51, Langdon, N.D.

Elaine (Sprunk) Pittenger '55, Tennessee, Ill.

Shirley (Topp) Lyson '57, Williston, N.D.

Isabelle "Liz" (Terhell) Herman '59,  
Wahpeton, N.D.

Lindsay Hull '59, Paynesville, Minn.

Leigh Sorenson '60, Apple Valley, Minn.

Darrel "Tucker" Wavra '60, Valley City

Leon H. Johnson '61, Fargo, N.D.

Richard Riedmann '63, Mandan, N.D.

Warren Duval '66, New Rockford, N.D.

Ellen (Jorgensen) Gerhardt '68, Flasher, N.D.

John Holien '69, Las Vegas, Nev.

Loren "Ted" Johnson '69, Los Alamitos, Calif.

George Schlager '69, Tucson, Ariz.

Ione (Sherve) Johnson '70, Fargo, N.D.

Steven Nies '70, Michigan, N.D.

Dorothy (Iwen) Moum '74, Casselton, N.D.

Paula (Mickelson) Rogers '75, Horace, N.D.

Julia (Reis) Erickson '84, Bismarck, N.D.

Robert Johnson '85, Baxter, Minn.

Elizabeth (Watson) Begg '87, St. Paul, Minn.

Steven Hensey '89, Lakota, N.D.

Victoria Williams '94, Jamestown, N.D.

Aric Bomber '07, Fargo, N.D.

Mary Lou (McDowall) Stafford, Spearfish, S.D.

## VCSU community mourns loss of three former faculty and staff

**Nathan Crosby** of Perham, Minn., died July 25, 2017. Born in Oriska, N.D., Crosby graduated from NDSU and then enlisted in the Army Air Force. Crosby was an accountant for the City of Valley City and then served as VCSU's vice president for business affairs from 1965–86. After retirement, he and his wife, Mary, spent time at their lake cottage in Minnesota and at their Florida home. Crosby is survived by his wife and their six children: John, Paul, Mary Jane, Patricia, Kay and Lucy, along with six grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

**Dean Karges '70**, emeritus professor of business and information technology, died Sept. 23, 2017. Born in Hazen, N.D., Karges served in the U.S. Army from 1960–62. Following his Army service, Karges returned to farm with his parents on the family farm near Oriska while continuing his education. In 1970, he earned a bachelor's degree in education from VCSU, and in 1972, he earned a master's degree in accounting and business law from the University of North Dakota. Recruited by John Keller, Karges joined the VCSU business faculty in the fall of 1972 and taught at the university for 35 years, retiring in spring 2007. Karges received the VCSU Alumni Association Certificate of Merit in September 2007. He is survived by his wife, Lynn; a daughter, Joy; and a son, Blair; along with three grandchildren.

**Richard "Dick" Kopenhagen** died July 23, 2017, in Lenexa, Kan. Born in Reeder, N.D., Kopenhagen grew up in Grand Forks and attended the University of North Dakota, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees and a doctorate in education. He was captain and quarterback of the UND football team. Kopenhagen served as head football coach at VCSU from 1962–64, earning conference titles in 1963 and 1964. His 1963 and 1964 teams were inducted into the VCSU Viking Hall of Fame in 2008, and he was inducted as an individual in 2011. He later coached at both NDSU and UND, served as athletic director at Mankato State, and was commissioner of the North Central Conference. He also had a second career in the insurance business. Kopenhagen is survived by his wife, Donna; his children, Kathleen, Mary Jo, and Rob; and several grandchildren.



1



4



2



5



3



6



7

# Just Married

- Amanda Brown '11** and Damon Dechant were married July 15, 2017. The couple resides in Kit Carson, Colo. Amanda teaches math and computers and is also the assistant coach for junior high and high school girls basketball. Damon, who farms and ranches, is the head boys basketball coach.
- Haley Arvidson and **Cameron Lentz '13** were married July 15, 2017. Cam is the technology director for Grafton Public Schools and coaches football. Haley is working at the nursing home in Grafton, but is planning on opening a home daycare. Cam and Haley bought a house in Grafton following their wedding, where they live with their dog, Chibbs.
- Marissa Oestreicher '13** and Dustin Motschenbacher were married Sept. 16, 2017. Marissa is in her third year as a sixth grade teacher at Lidgerwood Public School in Lidgerwood, N.D. She is also the assistant coach of the fastpitch softball team. Marissa and Dustin purchased a house in the summer of 2016 where they live with their ivory lab, Sammi Jo.
- Summer Romine '15** and **Derek Burchill '14** were married July 29, 2017. They were on the track and field team together while in college. Derek is currently the controller at F.E.I. in Valley City, and Summer is the counselor at the junior high school in Valley City.
- Shauna Ziwicki '15** and **Sam Grinter '16** were married June 16, 2017. They live in Fargo, where Sam works at Corwin Automotive, and Shauna works at Gate City Bank.
- Elizabeth Govier '17** married Kellan Ryan on July 1, 2017, on the Trinity Bible College campus where they met. They already had an apartment picked out and have been working in Aberdeen, S.D. Beth is substituting for the district and gaining experience to soon become a teacher. Kellan has two jobs that come in handy for traveling. They enjoy watching Netflix, walking around the park by their place and spending time with family.
- Heidi Hall '17** and Anthony Hauf were married Oct. 7, 2017. Heidi works at Dakota College at Bottineau as the student services clerk and as an adjunct online instructor. Anthony works at Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center as a correctional officer. They enjoy camping, going to movies, and spending time with their dog, Pendleton.

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**Wylie Wisnewski '09, M.Ed. '17**  
and Brittany Hanson .....August 18, 2017

**Stephanie O'Dell '13**  
and Donald Gilman .....August 19, 2017

**Greg Hastings '08**  
and Rachel Toren .....August 19, 2017

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## 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).

### 1961

Darlene Buelow  
Kirker Clark  
Janet Delvo  
Dale Gayer  
Marcella Gilk  
Linda (Anderson) Greer  
Arlene Johnson  
Connie Lund  
Delores Schwengler  
Charlotte Tolton  
Patricia (Bell) Tomlin  
Janice Williams  
Robert Woods

Judith Ensrud

Ronald Grieger  
Florence Gryth  
Janice (Kruse) Guck  
Emilie Halvorson  
Douglas Kessler  
Sharon Lee  
Caroline Sundstrom  
Lillian Wagner

### 1963

Margaret Anderson  
Jerome Anderson  
Donald Brandt  
Irene (Aslakson) Johnson  
Wesley Lines  
Frances (Nelson) Olstad

### 1964

Arla Johnson

### 1965

Beverly Anderson  
Margaret Corrigan  
Gary Glaser  
Kenneth May  
Brenda (Carter) Shaw

### 1966

Kenneth Hanson  
Janet (Fitzgerald) Hunter  
Lloyd Lorenz  
Susan (Lloyd) Pederson  
Kathy (Harvey) Schwartz

### 1967

Dorothy Kvien  
Delores Rodman

### 1968

Betty (Salzwedel) Anderson  
Gwen (Berger) Arnold  
Shirley Jorgensen  
Darryl Justesen  
Alan Lindemann  
Joyce Rice  
Chuck Sjostrom

### 1969

Linda (Hood) Field  
Robert Hall  
Dennis Haugen  
Robert Hebert  
Peggy (Lipp) Larson  
Roland Loney  
Lucille Olson

Becky (Ortiz) Olson  
Judy (Torson) Olson  
Orville Olson  
Glen Roberts

### 1970

Donald Bruce  
Gerald Bryn  
Dexter Ertelt  
James Field  
Diane (Peterson) Huffman  
Ellen (Robinson) Larson  
Patricia (Heggen) Moe  
Dorothy (Roll) Rayburn  
Gary Zimmerman

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: VCSU ALUMNI OFFICE, 101 COLLEGE ST. SW, VALLEY CITY, ND 58072**





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**Valley City State University**  
Alumni Association  
101 College Street SW  
Valley City, ND 58072

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PARENTS: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives at this address, please contact the Alumni Office with an updated address at alumni@vcsu.edu or 701.845.7203. Thank you for your help in keeping our records current.



# Happy Holidays

from the faculty and staff at

## VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY