

# THE BULLETIN

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



## Inauguration of President Tisa Mason



Homecoming ♦ Gauklers Get It Done ♦ Mugan CTE Leadership Center dedicated



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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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**4 Inauguration of the 13th President of VCSU**

*Tisa Mason was formally invested as Valley City State's 13th president on Oct. 1, 2015. There was plenty of pomp and circumstance; a host of distinguished guests, family and friends; and video versions of the university's past, present and future. It was a day full of joy, smiles and laughter; a day to think of those who had come before and those who will follow. All in all, it was a great day to be a Viking!*



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**6 Gauklers get it done**

*Audrey (Dohman) '67 and George Gaukler '62 have been staunch supporters of VCSU for some time, and now it's time to learn a little more about this Valley City couple and their family, interests and activities, and, of course, all they have done for the university and the community.*

**10-12 Alumni Honors Breakfast**

*The Alumni Honors Breakfast is traditionally held on the Saturday morning of Homecoming, and this year was no exception. Five outstanding alumni were honored with Certificates of Merit, two of our more recent graduates received Young Alumni Achievement Awards, and one key alumna was honored with the Alumni Service Award.*



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**14 Bjornson honored with Distinguished Service Award**

*The VCSU Distinguished Service Award—the university's highest honor—is given at the discretion of the president, and Tisa Mason made Paige Bjornson the most recent of 23 individuals and organizations to receive the award for her contributions to VCSU and the Valley City community.*

**16 VPs added to staff**

*Meet Peter Smithhisler and Wesley Wintch, the university's two new vice presidents.*

PHOTO CREDITS: cover—George Dutton

p. 8—Doris Knutson

p. 24—Taking Chances Photography

p. 26—Jason Groth, Perham Focus



## A Day to Cherish, A Future to Pursue

President Tisa Mason, Ed.D.

October 1, 2015, is a day I will cherish forever! It was an amazing opportunity to celebrate Valley City State University with my colleagues, students, family and friends. Indeed it was a day of reflection, inspiration, and celebration—a day of great joy and gratitude.

In many ways I believe VCSU and I share a similar journey—a journey of humble beginnings with much promise, a journey always nurtured by the love and support of a family/community. We have prospered, and we have stumbled. We have grown. We strive daily to achieve excellence and to become more magnificent than our modest beginnings. Our success is measured only by the positive impact we have had on the lives of others, and we know that our achievements come only through the collective efforts of many.

An inauguration ceremony serves as formal means of uniting people who care deeply about the future of a university, which is why, I believe, the blending of the inauguration, homecoming, and the 125th anniversary of VCSU was not only appropriate but extraordinary. The theme, "Making a Difference—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow," set the perfect tone for expressing our gratitude to those who have shaped us and celebrated us, and to those who wholeheartedly believe that significant contributions are still yet to unfold.

The ceremony was meticulously planned by an outstanding committee—Dave Bass, Rhonda Fairfield, Kelli Heath, Kim Hesch, Brianna Johnson, Heather Kvilvang, Nick Lee, Kaleen Peterson, Mark Potts, Tara Praska, Greg Vanney, Jamie Wirth and Madelyn Zane—chaired by Christopher Redfearn. There were so many very thoughtful elements

built into this ceremony, including:

- two very special guest speakers, Dr. Charles Shearer, president emeritus of my alma mater, Transylvania University, and Dr. Edward Hammond, president emeritus of Fort Hays State University
- Madelyn Zane, Student Senate president, carrying the presidential medallion
- the beginning of a new tradition, the carrying of a university mace by Anthony Dutton, Faculty Senate president (Recently crafted from a downed local tree by Ray Grim, Vernon "Cubby" Anderson, and Mark Vinje, the mace will be carried at every university commencement from this point forward.)



My parents also surprised me by having a VCSU presidential robe made—it is beautiful!

Other events included a day of service for our community—a community which has rallied support around VCSU from the very beginning and has remained steadfast in its loyalty—along with a scholarship dinner, prayer breakfast, and planting of a tree in my honor. I am excited to

watch that cathedral elm grow strong and flourish just as our beloved university thrives in its journey forward into a future full of promise.

For me, inauguration day was a deeply personal day—a day when I formally accepted the office of president, thanked those whose leadership has presented me with a vibrant student-focused university, and publicly declared my commitment to relentlessly pursue our promising future.

Yes, for me, October 1, 2015, was a particularly great day to be a Viking!



### Alumni Association Get-Togethers Winter/Spring 2015-16

**You are invited to stop by, enjoy some complimentary appetizers, spend time reminiscing and catching up with other alumni and find out what is new at VCSU!**

Please put these dates on your calendars, and if you are in the area, please join us (and bring other alumni with you). All socials are from 5:30–7:30 p.m.

A RSVP is requested. Please contact Kim Hesch at 800-532-8641 ext. 7403 or [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu).

**January 27** .....VCSU Tuesday Social in Bismarck (TBD)

**February 23** .....VCSU Tuesday Social in Grand Forks (Green Mill)

**March 22** .....VCSU Tuesday Social in Fargo (Green Mill)

**April 26** .....VCSU Tuesday Social in Jamestown (TBD)

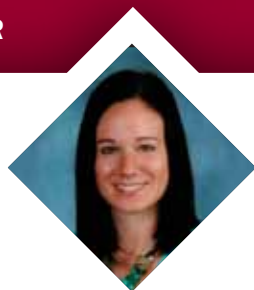
**Watch for more VCSU events on our Facebook page or at [alumni.vcsu.edu](http://alumni.vcsu.edu).**

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



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

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



## VCSU Helped Us Reach Our Dreams!

by Greta (Trader) Delparte '07, M.Ed. '11

Hello! My name is Greta (Trader) Delparte, and I am your new Alumni Board president at VCSU. I want to take a few minutes of your time to introduce myself to you as well as share what a successful Homecoming we had this year.

I am originally from Fargo, N.D., and attended Valley City State University after hearing wonderful things about this place. Both of my parents graduated from VCSU—my mother Mary Lee (Trautmann) Klosterman graduated in 1974 with a degree in elementary education and business education, and my father, Keith Trader, earned a business and physical education degree that same year. My mother taught at Kindred Public Schools for 33 years before retiring and spending her time at Battle Lake, Minn., and Naples, Fla. My father taught five years before returning to school to obtain his law degree. He now practices law in both Fargo and Valley City.

From the moment my parents dropped me off at VCSU, I felt an excitement about this new place. Over my college years, I became part of many different organizations, including Student Senate and Viking Campus Activity Board, which I served as president. I was also an RA in the dorms and assistant housing director. I even had the opportunity to plan a Homecoming and Snow Days celebration.

During my time at VCSU, I worked as a student employee in the Alumni Office. It was there that I first started interacting with alumni and began to fully understand how crucial they are to a strong foundation for the university. I witnessed many gifts come through the office and developed a desire to one day be able to support our university the way I saw so many doing. As a V-500 recipient myself, I felt thank-

ful to see so many donations.

While attending VCSU, I also had the opportunity to develop many friendships and to get to know my husband, Kurry Delparte. Although I had been dating Kurry prior to attending VCSU, it was our fun times in college that we will cherish. Kurry graduated from VCSU in 2006 with a degree in health science. He now works for Zimmer-Biomet Orthopedics in Bismarck at St. Alexis Hospital.

When I graduated in 2007 with a degree in elementary education, Kurry and I married, and we moved to Bismarck. After a few years of teaching multiple grades, I decided to go back to school and complete my master's in teaching with technology at VCSU in 2011. I have now taught in the Bismarck Public Schools for nine years. Currently I teach first grade at Centennial Elementary.

As of now, we have no children; however, our time is devoted to our two yellow labs, Sadie and Abbey.

We feel very blessed and happy to support VCSU in any way we can. VCSU helped us reach our dreams, and we are so excited to help promote this great institution.

I am happy to report that Homecoming 2015 was a great success. I was able to see many faces at the Alumni Honors Breakfast, and we had a nice day for a parade before going to battle with Mayville State at the Homecoming game. If you were unable to attend Homecoming, I encourage you to attend one of our Alumni Socials and/or stop by the campus to see how beautiful it is looking. It is so nice to see all of the care we are taking with our former home. I look forward to seeing all of you at VCSU events this year.

### 2015–16 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

#### PRESIDENT

**Greta (Trader)  
Delparte '06**

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**Ashley (Smette) Krinke '09**

**Stephanie (Trautman)**

**Roelfsema '07**

**Tristan Ross '08**

**Sheri (Sweree) Wetch '98**

### 2015–16 Foundation Board of Directors

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**Ryan Botner '05**

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**Ray Braun**

**Mark Finstad**

**George Gaukler '62**

**Dick Gulmon**

**Gigi Goven**

**Robert Horne '59**

**Dee Jensen '66**

**Tisa Mason**

**Phillip Mueller '68**

**Mark Richman '74**

**Harvey Schilling '61**

**Gene Smestad**

**Delton Steele '80**

**Jan Stowman**

**Jerry A. Topp '74**

**Erin Welken**

**Larry Robinson '71,**

**ex officio**

**Wesley Wintch, ex officio**



## 'Tis the Season

by Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement

Each year on the fourth Thursday of November, Americans gather for a day of feasting, football, family and giving thanks. While today's Thanksgiving celebrations would likely be unrecognizable to the attendees of the original 1621 harvest meal, it continues to be a special day for all of us as we gather together to give thanks for the abundance we enjoy.

That is certainly the case here at Valley City State University. Our blessings are many, and we do not take them for granted! The VCSU family is inclusive in the broadest sense of the word. Certainly students, faculty and staff are a big part of our family. The family also includes our alumni and friends, our local business community and our many donors and volunteers who each and every year step to the plate to give of their time, talent and treasure in support of our university!

We are thankful, too, for the strong support we have received from the State of North Dakota, the State Board of Higher Education, the North Dakota University System office, the legislature, the governor, and our Congressional delegation.

*Today we enjoy record enrollment growth, record scholarship allocations, and national recognition. We have come a long way in the past 125 years. It has been said that our rich tradition is as much a part of our future as it is our past.*

All of this support has meant exciting times here at the university. We recently celebrated our 125th anniversary on October 13—our Founders Day—which recognizes the day in 1890 when Valley City State Normal School held its first classes.

VCSU been led by 13 different presidents, and the institution has been blessed by a dedicated faculty and staff over the years. Today we enjoy record enrollment growth, record scholarship allocations, and national recognition. We have come a long way in the past 125 years. It has been said that our rich tradition is as much a part of our future as it is our past.

We want to take this opportunity to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to everyone for their continued support of our university. It is no accident that Valley City State University is in a leadership position in so many ways. That success is the result of the efforts of a tremendous university family. Thank you for your participation in that success. With you as a member of our family, our best years are yet to come. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Join VCSU Alumni and Friends in

# WARM ARIZONA

February 5 and February 6, 2016

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016 – SURPRISE, ARIZONA**

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

Lou's Tivoli Garden ❖ 12535 West Bell Road ❖ Surprise, Arizona

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016 – MESA, ARIZONA**

**Golf and Luncheon**

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

**Alumni & Friends Golf Scramble ♦ \$25 per person**

7:30 a.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. Tee-off

**Alumni Social & Luncheon ♦ \$15 per person**

11:00 a.m. — Reunion Social

12 noon — Luncheon

1:00 p.m. — Program

**BRING A FRIEND!**

**These events are not restricted to VCSU Alumni.**

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





# Inauguration

## of the 13th President of VCSU

Oct. 1, 2015, was a banner day for VCSU as Tisa Mason was inaugurated as the university's 13th president. Mason has served VCSU since Dec. 15, 2015; the inauguration marked her formal investiture as president.

The inauguration ceremony was held in W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse with Margaret Dahlberg, vice president for academic affairs, serving as presiding officer.

Kathleen Neset, chair, North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, and Mark Hagerott, chancellor, North Dakota University System, did the investiture.

Special guests included President Mason's family members, along with Charles Shearer, president emeritus of Transylvania University, and Edward Hammond, president emeritus of Fort Hays State University.

Anthony Dutton, Faculty Senate president, carried the newly commissioned university mace in the ceremony. Shaped from a downed tree from City Park by local woodworkers, the mace will become part of all VCSU academic processions.

The inauguration shared the theme of VCSU's 125th anniversary, "Making a Difference—Yesterday, Today,

Tomorrow," and President Mason based her inaugural address on the theme's three time components, punctuating her spoken words with three videos addressing the university's history, future and present.

A reception at Epworth United Methodist Church followed the ceremony, and a tree-planting ceremony in honor of President Mason was held on Friday afternoon.

*The inauguration website, [www.vcsu.edu/inauguration](http://www.vcsu.edu/inauguration), includes a complete video of the ceremony, the component videos from President Mason's inaugural address and congratulatory certificates.*



Facing page: NDUS Chancellor Mark Hagerott and SBHE Chair Kathleen Neset place the VCSU Presidential Medallion on Tisa Mason.

(clockwise from above)

- ◆ President Emeritus Charles House rocks the house with President Mason's sorority sisters.
- ◆ Close-up of University Mace
- ◆ Transylvania University President Emeritus Charles Shearer takes a selfie with President Mason.
- ◆ President Mason poses with her parents, Doug and Arlene Mayer (right) and sister Cindy Gurney.
- ◆ Former president Steve Shirley greets President Mason after the ceremony.
- ◆ President Mason poses with Edward Hammond, president emeritus of Fort Hays State University.
- ◆ Waiting to process: (l to r): Kim Hesch, Wesley Wintch, Mark Hagerott, Margaret Dahlberg, Steven King, Charles Shearer, and Kathleen Neset (hidden behind Hagerott is Edward Hammond)
- ◆ Homecoming royalty Tarah Cleveland and Richard Langdeaux pose with President Mason.
- ◆ Naomi Muscha '88 (left), N.D. District 24 Representative, visits with President Tisa Mason, Bill Mason and Tisa's father, Doug Mayer.





Audrey (Dohman) '67 and George Gaukler '62

# GAUKLERS GET IT DONE

*“If you’re fortunate, you need to help the community. And when you start something, you need to do it right and get it done.”*

In the corridor outside its offices in McFarland Hall, the Valley City State University Foundation maintains a Donor Wall listing the names of those who have supported the university through the years. Near the top of the list for lifetime giving to VCSU is a small nameplate that reads “George and Audrey Gaukler.”

Behind that entry, simple as it may be, is a more complex story of the couple, both VCSU alumni, who have given so much to the university.

Audrey Dohman came to Valley City State Teachers College from Milnor, N.D., in 1958; she earned a standard certificate in education in 1960. She then went on to teach in Lisbon and Campbell, Minn. She married James “Pat” Smith, a 1963 Valley City State graduate, and the couple had two children, Michael and Tracy. A hunting accident left Audrey a widow, and in 1966, she and her children returned to Valley City so that she could finish an English degree at the college.

George Gaukler came to Valley City from Lidgerwood, N.D. (about 100 miles southeast of Valley City); he graduated from VCSTC in 1962 with a degree in mathematics and minors in physics and accounting after a college career that included service as student body president and a Viking Pilot award his senior year.

George taught and served as principal at a rural school northeast of Valley City for two years after graduation; he then founded his real estate business, Valley Realty, in 1964. Although George and Audrey knew each other at college, it wasn’t until Audrey returned to Valley City that they became a couple—the two married in 1971. A third child, Geoffrey Gaukler, was later born to the new family.

Through the application of his business acumen and plenty of hard work, George was able to grow Valley Realty. In 1965 he added a subsidiary, Valley Rental Service, to manage rental properties that Valley Realty had developed. Today Valley Realty continues in real estate sales, rental management (through Valley Rental Service), land development, and construction (with another subsidiary, Hi Line Construction).

George also founded and serves as president of the Dakota REIT, a privately held real estate investment trust, which provides investment opportunities for its 700 shareholders with properties in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska. George’s construction companies have done up to \$50 million of construction a year.

In addition to the real estate companies, George also owns Tri-WG, a Valley City manufacturer of rehab treatment equipment. Named after the group of college friends—two Wieands, a Weber and Gaukler—who started the firm on a shoestring in 1967, the company has grown to become a leader in the industry.



Audrey's primary concern was raising the children. She never did return to teaching, but early on she did some work in the area of vocational rehabilitation, and she played a role in the interior decorating for the various apartment complexes that George developed.

Although he's experienced business success, George is quick to point out that real estate has its ups and downs and that the rewards do not come without risk. At an age where many would have long been retired, he still puts in 8- to 10-hour workdays. But evenings, weekends, holidays and vacation time belong to him and his family; he doesn't work then, nor does he accept calls. Despite the pressure of the work world, he and Audrey are able to get away at times—they have a lake home in Minnesota and also like to vacation in St. Maarten in the Caribbean.

The couple are proud of their children, and they enjoy the time they're able to spend with them and 10 grandchildren. Siblings Michael Smith, a 1984 VCSU graduate, and Tracy Smith have followed similar paths—both live in the Twin Cities area and are attorneys/CPAs working in tax law. Tracy and Michael's brother Geoffrey Gaukler is a counselor at Red River High School in Grand Forks.

(Michael played football at VCSU, and he's in the Viking Hall of Fame as a member of the outstanding 1980, 1982 and 1983 teams.)

Audrey enjoys reading historical novels in her spare time; George's hobbies revolve around his greenhouse and gardening. Because of George's busy work schedule, folks often give Audrey credit for the garden's flowers and produce. She says there was a time when she let people know that it was George's handiwork that produced the bountiful results, but now



George Gaukler addresses the crowd assembled for the groundbreaking of the Valley City Health, Wellness and Physical Education Center.

she just smiles and says thank you!

The couple also put their energies to work in support of the Valley City and VCSU communities. Audrey has served on the Mercy Hospital board and the VCSU V-500 board and is active in PEO, while George serves on the boards of the VCSU Foundation, Valley Development Group and the Sheyenne Valley Community Foundation. (He's also helped found a community foundation in Williston, N.D., where his companies have built, own and manage many rental properties.) George has been one of the driving forces behind the Valley City Health, Wellness and Physical Education Center; according to Larry Robinson, VCSU Foundation executive director, the Wellness Center, now under construction, wouldn't have come to fruition

without George's leadership and financial support.

For his efforts over time, VCSU has recognized George with both its Distinguished Alumni Award (1995) and Distinguished Service Award (2007).

George and Audrey are humble people; they don't seek the limelight nor do they do things to reap accolades. George sums up their philosophy in a simple yet elegant fashion: "If you're fortunate, you need to help the community. And when you start something, you need to do it right and get it done."

The Gauklers have done lots of things right, much to the benefit of Valley City and Valley City State University. Thank you, George and Audrey, for your many gifts.

## Wellness Center takes shape

Work continues on the Valley City Health, Wellness and Physical Education Center, with the placement of precast wall panels giving the building its exterior shape.

Placement of the wall panels began in mid-October. Weighing up to 25 tons a piece, the panels are shipped in via semi-trailer trucks and then removed from the flat-bed trailers and put in place with the help of a large crane. Plans are for the building to be fully enclosed by Jan. 1, 2016, so that crews can do interior work throughout the winter months.

Members of both the VCSU and Valley City communities will be able to use the 65,000 square foot Wellness Center upon its August 2016 completion. Located east of Osmon Fieldhouse, the facility will feature a fitness center, swimming pool, multi-use court space, an indoor playground and gathering spaces. The Wellness Center will house the offices of the Valley City Parks and Recreation Department and classrooms, offices and a physiology lab for the VCSU Health and Physical Education Department.

Fundraising continues for the project; contact the the VCSU Foundation Office at 800-532-8641, ext. 7203, for more information.



A large crane has been setting the precast wall panels in place at the Wellness Center. View construction progress via a webcam at [technologyservices.vcsu.edu/vp.htm?p=3420](http://technologyservices.vcsu.edu/vp.htm?p=3420).

## VCSU alumnae receive state Teacher of Year honors in both North Dakota and South Dakota



Sarah (Baertsch) Lutz '05

Two Valley City State University alumnae—Amy (Ashley) Neal '96 of Minot, N.D., and Sarah (Baertsch) Lutz '05 of Pierre, S.D.—recently received 2016 Teacher of the Year honors in their respective states.

Neal, North Dakota Teacher of the Year, teaches kindergarten at Lewis and Clark Elementary in Minot, and Lutz, South Dakota Teacher of the Year, teaches third grade at Stanley County Elementary in Fort Pierre.

A native of Williston, N.D., Neal has taught in the Minot Public School District since 2000; she previously taught in West Fargo, N.D., and Bloomer, Wis. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from VCSU and a master's degree from Minot State University (MSU).

Neal also serves as adjunct faculty at MSU. She is married to Peter Neal '94, also a VCSU

graduate, who works for Bayer CropScience.

Lutz is a product of VCSU's elementary education partnership with North Dakota State University, in which NDSU students take courses from VCSU faculty on the NDSU campus and earn dual degrees in child development and family science from NDSU and in elementary education from VCSU.

Originally from Marion, N.D., Sarah is a graduate of Litchville-Marion High School. Her mother, Rebecca Baertsch, a 1996 VCSU graduate, teaches kindergarten in the elementary school in Litchville.

Both Lutz and Neal recognize VCSU's contributions to their successful teaching careers.

"Without a doubt, I enjoyed my years at Valley City State University," says Neal. "The size of campus, great class sizes, caring staff, and positive educational experiences were a perfect fit for me. ...As a student I really felt comfortable and confident in my decisions."

"The VCSU/NDSU education program will always have a special place in my heart," says Lutz. "The close

community of classmates and professors working together helped provide an excellent foundation to my teaching career. The professors challenged me and motivated me to be the best teacher I can be for my students."

Being the best teachers they can be—that's what it's all about for these two teachers of the year.



Amy (Ashley) Neal '96

## Hart brothers honored for heroic police work

by Doris Knutson

*This article and accompanying photographs ran in the Oct. 7, 2015, issue of Northern Light Region, the Baudette, Minn., newspaper. Baudette is the hometown of Andy and Tony Hart, both members of the VCSU class of 2005. Thanks to Doris Knutson, editor of Northern Light Region, for sharing the piece.*

Twin brothers Andy and Tony Hart, formerly of Baudette, both chose law enforcement as their line of work. Andy is a detective on the Thief River Falls police force, while Tony is an officer in the East Grand Forks Police Department.

Earlier this year, both officers were commended for their lifesaving actions in the line of duty.

In April of 2014, Detective Tony Hart responded to a report of a single vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 2. The driver of the vehicle initially appeared to be unconscious and witnesses reported they believed he had been having a seizure. As Officer Hart attempted to assist him, the driver drew a knife and began swinging at the officer. Officer Hart was able to keep the subject confined to his vehicle, thus minimizing the threat to other personnel in the area.

The subject was transported to a hospital where blood tests showed he was under the influence of methamphetamine.

Hart received the Medal of Merit at a ceremony on July 16, 2015. He is credited with handling the situation in a professional and calm manner, keeping control of a situation that very easily could have resulted

in injuries, or even death, to the officers, the subject or members of the public.

On September 1, 2015, Officer Andy Hart received a Life Saving Award during the Thief River Falls City Council Meeting.

The award was given for an incident that occurred August 9, when Officer Hart and another officer responded to a report of a shooting at a party south of St. Hilaire.

Upon arrival, they found Ryan Houle bleeding profusely from gunshot wounds to his chest. The shooter was still at large and no one knew his whereabouts.

The officers were able to slow down Houle's bleeding and paramedics credited them with Houle's survival.

The shooter was later arrested and was charged with felony second degree attempted murder, among other charges.

This was Officer Andy Hart's fourth Life Saving Award.

Tony and Andy are the sons of Colleen Wilson of Baudette and the late Jim Hart and are graduates of Lake of the Woods High School.



Andy Hart



Tony Hart

## VCSU Scholarship Dinner

The annual VCSU Scholarship Dinner was held Wednesday, Oct. 7, in the Student Center Skoal Room with over 80 in attendance.

The dinner provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations who have established named scholarships to meet the students who were awarded their scholarships and give students the opportunity to say “thank you” in person to their scholarship donors. The VCSU Foundation has approximately 170 endowed and memorial scholarships that recognize those who built the foundation of our university.

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



1. Ken Astrup, Brittany Nathan (Astrup Scholarship) and Linda Astrup
2. Brooke Breckheimer (Bank Forward Scholar), Josh Kasowski of Bank Forward, and Collin Mullenburg (Bank Forward Scholar)
3. Dick Bernard, Jessica Sanden (Classes of 1956–64 Scholarship) and Carl Peters
4. Tara Von Hagen (Stephanie Dockter Scholarship), Stephen Dockter, and Maxwell Kollar (Stephanie Dockter Scholarship)
5. Mary Simonson and Olivia Damge (Simonson Scholarship)
6. Jessica Sanden (Steven Welken Scholarship), Delores Welken, Courtney Dixon (Steven Welken Scholarship), Shayna Taffinder (Steven Welken Scholarship), and Larry Welken



## ALUMNI OFFICE SEEKS HOMECOMING BUTTONS

The VCSU Foundation and Alumni Office is looking to complete their collection of Homecoming buttons. We are planning to display them in the Soroos-Bruhn Alumni Room. Please check your mementos of your time at VCSU and considering donating your Homecoming buttons to us. We are missing the following buttons:

- 1927
- 1930
- 1932–52
- 1954
- 1959
- 1962
- 1999
- 2003

For more information, contact Kim Hesch at [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu) or 701-845-7403.





Certificate of Merit recipients pose with President Mason: (l to r) Carolyn (Foster) Olson '87, Donn Frahm '79, John Muckenhirn '76, President Tisa Mason, Delores (Gourneau) Manson '79, and Daniel Mimnaugh '75.

## Five alumni honored with Certificate of Merit Award at Honors Breakfast

The Valley City State University Alumni Association honored five alumni with the Certificate of Merit award at its annual Alumni Honors Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 3. 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:

### *Donn Frahm '79*

Donn is currently starting his 35th year in the insurance field. He has often attributed his drive for success in the countless hours he spent on numerous boards and committees to the work ethic he developed at VCSU, particularly the people skills he honed in his active role in the EBC fraternity.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ Henry Kroshus Award as Outstanding EBC Member, 1977
- ◆ VCSU Student Senate Outstanding Leadership Award, 1978
- ◆ VCSU Viking Pilot Award for Campus Leadership, 1977, 1978, 1979
- ◆ Diamond Ring Award winner for producing \$1 million of life insurance, 1984
- ◆ Northwestern National Life Top Agent in North Dakota, 1990
- ◆ Life USA Shareholder Club, 1992
- ◆ six-time Mile High Club Award winner
- ◆ four-time Pacesetter Association Award winner
- ◆ nine-time Founders Day winner
- ◆ four-time Ring of Honor recognition, Farmers Union Insurance Company
- ◆ six-time General Manager Award winner
- ◆ Farmers Union Insurance Agent of the Quarter, 2005
- ◆ Superior Crop Insurance Sales Award, 2015

### *Delores (Gourneau) Manson '79*

Delores is a career development and high school counselor with the Sheyenne Valley Area Career and Technology Center in Valley City.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ North Dakota High School Counselor of the Year, 2014
- ◆ Director's Award of Excellence for Career Development Program, 2008

### *Daniel J. Mimnaugh '75*

Dan serves as the director and superintendent of Elks Camp Grassick. He has served in this position for 43 years.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ Elk of the Year Award
- ◆ Honorary member of Mandan Indian Shriners
- ◆ Dakota Medical Foundation Star Award for Service to Camp Grassick

### *John Muckenhirn '76*

John is a retired teacher from the Oakes Public Schools; he is currently living in Fargo and working as an insurance specialist for Wells Fargo.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ North Dakota Officials Association Hall of Fame, 2015

### *Carolyn (Foster) Olson '87*

Carolyn is a high school physical education teacher and head volleyball coach at Red River High School in Grand Forks.

#### **Honors & Awards**

- ◆ eight-time North Dakota State Volleyball Coach of the Year
- ◆ seven-time Eastern Dakota Conference Volleyball Coach of the Year
- ◆ eight-time All-Star Volleyball Coach
- ◆ National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Volleyball Coach of the Year, 2015
- ◆ 502 career wins at Red River High School

## 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 chosen career, demonstrated leadership and commitment to the service of others. This year's recipients are:

### Wendy Birhanzel '98



Wendy Birhanzel and students

Wendy Birhanzel graduated from Valley City State University in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in education. She earned a master's degree in education Administration from California State University Dominguez Hills in 2004 and a doctorate from the University of Southern California in 2007.

Wendy is currently assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction and assessment for Harrison School District 2 in Colorado. In her career, she has twice become principal of two low-performing schools and within two to three years at each school earned state and national awards for increasing achievement and decreasing the achievement gap.

Wendy is currently assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction and assessment for Harrison School District 2 in Colorado. In her career, she has twice become principal of two low-performing schools and within two to three years at each school earned state and national awards for increasing achievement and decreasing the achievement gap.

In 2009, she became principal of Wildflower Elementary, and within two years the school was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education for drastically increasing the achievement at a diverse school while also decreasing the achievement gap. Then in 2011, she moved to become principal at Centennial Elementary, and within three years, she had turned the achievement levels around from being the lowest in the city to one of the top performing schools in the area.

Reflecting on her VCSU experience, Wendy said, "Being a graduate of VCSU means a solid education and assurance that I would be successful in life. VCSU provides a top-notch education preparing students for opportunities in life."

Wendy's special memory of her time at VCSU is when her mother passed away on the first day of her student teaching. Wendy said "Although this was a tragic event for me, the entire faculty came together to support me. In particular, Dave Bass made sure I could complete my student teaching at home while I supported my dad. I was able to graduate on time with honors. This experience is a great example of the family feel of VCSU and how much the faculty cares."

### D.C. Lucas '96



D.C. Lucas and President Tisa Mason

D.C. Lucas is a 1996 VCSU graduate. He earned a master's degree from the University of Mary in 2011.

D.C. began his career as a technical trainer/sales engineer at Corporate Technologies in Fargo, and after four years moved into a position as a corporate account executive with Intellisol International, a position he held for three years. D.C. spent time as business development manager at Sundog and a territory sales manager with Vtrenz. After four years as a sales rep/diabetes specialist with Takeda Pharmaceuticals, he went

to work for ADP. He now serves Eide Bailly as a business development manager, a position he has held since 2011. D.C. is a top performer in the technology industry.

His volunteer service includes work with the Fargo-Moorhead/West Fargo Chamber Ambassadors, United Way, Fargo-Moorhead Leadership, and the VCSU Alumni Board of Directors (including two years as president). He is also active in the Northern Cass School District.

In addition, D.C. meets with current VCSU students one-on-one to talk career paths, serves on the VCSU Business Department Advisory Board and has been a speaker for VCSU Career Services at many of their events.

When asked about what VCSU means to him, D.C. responded, "It means you're part of a family for life. Ever since I graduated from VCSU, they have continued to stay a part of my professional life and my personal life."

D.C. has many special memories about VCSU, with most revolving around the people who worked and studied there. "My first day on campus will always be a special day, as I remember how friendly and helpful everyone was. It felt like I'd been in the VCSU family for years on my first day. I will remember the business classes I took from Diane Wood and the career prep that Marcia Foss gave me as special moments."



# IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

## *Don't get caught unprepared.*

Consider a **Year-End Gift** to the Valley City State University Foundation now and take advantage of tax savings when you prepare your 2015 income taxes.

**Gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to qualify for 2015 tax purposes.**



## Nielson '79 receives 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.*

Mary Lee Nielson is the 12th recipient of the Alumni Service Award.

Mary Lee graduated from VCSU in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in biology and physical education. She has served as mayor of Valley City (2008–10) and as a city commissioner (2004–06 and 2012–present). She also serves as marketing coordinator for the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway.

Mary Lee strongly supports education and continues to participate in student and adult educational experiences. She has been active in many VCSU initiatives, including Camp Cyber Prairie, the Kathryn Center, and Prairie Waters Education and Research Center.

She was recognized as the Outstanding City Elected Official in North Dakota in 2009, and in 2008 she received the VCSU Distinguished Service Award.

Mary Lee describe her feelings for her alma mater this way: "My association with VCSU has lasted over 40 years. My education allowed me to take on many roles over the years. VCSU is part of my foundation. I am proud of VCSU and all the changes it makes to keep pace and innovate. It's been a privilege to be a part of some of these innovations."

Her fond memories of her time at VCSU include working in two special jobs: facilitating freshman participation in the high-ropes course at the Kathryn Center and working with VCSU professors and faculty at Camp Cyber Prairie and Prairie Waters. Both programs showed VCSU at its best—being innovative!

## D-Day veteran Seiwert '42 honored by France



VCSU alumnus and World War II veteran Hilbert "Si" Seiwert '42 was honored by the government of France for his role in the June 6, 1944, invasion of Normandy, which turned the tide of the war in Europe.

Seiwert and 13 others from the East Bay region of California who participated in D-Day were feted at a Feb. 2, 2015, reception with Pauline Carmona, the French consul general in San Francisco, in Orinda, Calif. The veterans received medals and certificates at the event, organized by the Boy Scouts of America.

A native of Casselton, N.D., Seiwert served in the U.S. Navy from 1942–46. He was part of a 4-man crew on an LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel) boat, a 36-ft. long craft capable of transporting 36 men to shore.

Although he's now 94 years old, Seiwert maintains vivid memories of the D-Day invasion and his war years. Temporarily assigned to Brit-

ish allies, Seiwert and his boat landed at Gold Beach mid-afternoon on June 6. The first landings had come at 6:30 a.m. so it was difficult to find a place to land as the beach was cluttered with small craft. Once emptied of its human cargo, Seiwert's LCVP was put to work ferrying more troops, supplies and equipment from transport ships anchored further out at sea. Storms with high seas and wind sometimes interrupted this multi-day effort.

Shortly thereafter Seiwert returned to the LST (Landing Ship, Tank) that he'd crossed the English Channel in, and that ship made 20 crossings of the channel over the next 5 months. Then he was assigned to an Army unit (with Navy boats) to move General Patton's Third Army across France and into Germany, training on the Moselle River in France and then moving to the Rhine River in late March 1945, and continuing into April.

By VE (Victory in Europe) Day, May 8, 1945, Seiwert was back safe ("knock on wood," Si says) in Southhampton, England, the port from which he'd left from for the D-Day invasion. He returned to the States and loaded ships for the Navy in San Francisco for a while before marrying and leaving the service in 1946.

Seiwert and his wife, Patricia, settled in California, where they raised a family and Si built a successful career in insurance, investments and finance. A loyal alumnus and generous supporter of the university, Si has returned to Valley City for VCSU's homecoming celebrations for more than 20 consecutive years, including 2015.



## Swedish exchange student and roommate in 1963 maintain friendship



Carolyn (Spiekermeier) Utke (left) and Kristina (Kulenius) Håkansson lived together in West Hall in 1963-64.

More than half a century after the two first met at Valley City State in the fall of 1963, former roommates Carolyn (Spiekermeier) Utke and Kristina (Kulenius) Håkansson returned to campus to visit on Sept. 23, 2015.

Kristina had come to the college from Sweden for one year of study, the beneficiary of a Sweden-America Foundation scholarship, whereas Carolyn, from Sheldon, N.D., was beginning her second year in pursuit of a standard certificate in 1963.

It was the wooden shoes in the closet of her room in West Hall that tipped Carolyn off that she might have a roommate (and a "different one" at that); nothing had been communicated to her prior to her arrival on campus with her father.

Her initial impressions of Kristina were not altogether positive. Carolyn was troubled by Kristina's command of the English language, which she found hard to understand, and she approached Miss Larsen (Margaret Larsen, the dean of women) with a request to move to a different room. That request was answered with a reply of "Wait two weeks," and when Carolyn repeated the request two weeks later, the response was the same.

By the time the second two weeks were up, Carolyn had accepted Kristina, and a lifelong bond was formed.

Kristina returned to Sweden at the end of the 1963-64 school year, and Carolyn went on to teach three years before becoming a stay-at-home mom. Kristina returned to the States for visits in 1975, '81, '89, '98, 2004 (for a 40-year reunion), and again this fall. Carolyn and her husband made a trip to Sweden in 1991, and their children and Kristina's daughter have also made visits across the Atlantic. Phone calls have kept the roommates close between visits.

For her part, Kristina considers her Valley City State experience one of the best years of her life and is thankful for the close friends she made. Carolyn, too, is thankful for the lifelong friend she made in Kristina—and thankful for the dean of women who asked for her patience in getting along with a stranger.



## VCSU sets enrollment record

Valley City State University has set a record with its final Fall Semester 2015 enrollment figures, which show a total headcount of 1,422. That number surpasses the previous high of a 1,384 headcount in 2011.

“The record enrollment we’re experiencing this fall reflects the quality education offered at VCSU and the choice students are making to be here,” said President Tisa Mason. “Not only are we attracting more new students, we’re also retaining more students who have entered the university and decided to stay at Valley City State.”

The record enrollment follows a record class of graduates in 2015, when VCSU awarded 302 degrees to 255 undergraduates and 47 graduate students.

“That we’re able to graduate record numbers while at the same time growing our student body speaks to the attractiveness of our programs,” said President Mason.

“Consistently we’ve paired solid academics with a personal campus experience, and students and families have recognized the value of a Valley City State education. We’re very proud of our university and the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who contribute to our success—this is a team effort.”



Distinguished Service Award recipient Paige Bjornson (center) is pictured with VCSU President Tisa Mason; VCSU Cabinet members Larry Robinson, Joe Tykwinski, Wesley Wintch, and Margaret Dahlberg; and Dick Gulmon, Dacotah Bank president.

## Bjornson honored with Distinguished Service Award

President Tisa Mason presented Paige Bjornson with the Valley City State University Distinguished Service Award at a reception at Dacotah Bank on Sept. 29.

“Paige has done so much for Valley City and VCSU,” said President Mason. “She’s definitely a difference maker in the community and very deserving of this award.”

The university’s highest honor, the VCSU Distinguished Service Award is given at the discretion of the president in recognition of exceptional contribution toward the university’s vision. The honor has been bestowed on a total of 23 individuals and organizations, including Bjornson, since its 1975 inception.

A senior business banker at Dacotah Bank in

Valley City, Bjornson serves on the VCSU Business Advisory Board and is president of the Valley Development Group Board of Directors. She also serves on the Independent Community Banks of North Dakota Board of Directors and is a member of the Valley City Rotary Club.

Bjornson holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from North Dakota State University. She has done additional work in advanced accounting at Minnesota State University Moorhead and is a graduate of the Dakota School of Banking and the ABA National Commercial Lending School.

She and her husband, Darren Bjornson, live in Valley City with their children, Mason, Quinn and Anne.

## Listopad receives Hefner First Amendment Award



Steven Listopad, assistant professor and director of student media at Valley City State University, received a Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Award at a reception at the Playboy Mansion in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sept. 29.

Listopad was honored for his work in support of the John Wall New Voices Act, a bill “which ensures the free-speech rights of journalism students in North Dakota public schools and colleges.” Listopad was a leading advocate of the bill, which unanimously passed the North Dakota legislature last session and went into effect in August 2015.

The New Voices Act is named in honor of the late John Wall, a former high school teacher and North Dakota legislator who died in 2014. Wall, a 1970 VCSU alumnus, served five terms in the North Dakota House following retirement after 34 years teaching English and journalism at Wahpeton (N.D.) High School and Sargent

Central High School in Forman, N.D.

The Hefner Foundation cited Listopad “as a shining example to teachers everywhere when he helped his students craft the nation’s strongest and most comprehensive statutes protecting North Dakota student journalists.”

Other recipients of 2015 First Amendment Awards were Victor Navasky, editor of *Nation* magazine, who received a lifetime achievement award; James Risen, *New York Times* investigative reporter; writer/activist Malkia Amala Cyril; and professor/activist Zephyr Teachout.

The Hugh M. Hefner Foundation was established to work on behalf of individual rights in a democratic society. The primary focus of the foundation is to support organizations that advocate for and defend civil rights and civil liberties.



## Mugan CTE Leadership Center dedicated at homecoming ceremony

Valley City State University dedicated the Don Mugan Career and Technical Education Leadership Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday afternoon, Oct. 2, in the Rhoades Science Center auditorium.

Speakers included VCSU President Tisa Mason and Mugan Center co-directors Peder Gjovik '77, assistant professor and chair of the VCSU Department of Technology, and Rick Ross, associate professor. Wayne Kutzer, director and executive officer of the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education, and Jamie Wirth, assistant professor and director of the Great Plains STEM Education Center at VCSU, also spoke at the event, as did faculty members (and alumni) James Boe '91 and Lana Fornes, M.Ed. '09. Ryan Mugan, representing the Mugan family, also gave comments.

The Mugan CTE Center will work in partnership with the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education to identify, recruit and train future career and technical education teachers and administrators. The center honors the legacy of the late Don Mugan, who taught at VCSU from 1973-2012.

Mugan originally accepted a teaching position in the industrial arts department at VCSU. He became chair of the science and technology department in 1990 and was a key player in the development of VCSU's online program. A strong advocate of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines, Mugan led efforts at VCSU to establish the Great Plains STEM Education Center in 2010; he was named its first director. Health issues precipitated his retirement in June 2012 after 39 years as a teacher and administrator at VCSU; he died in April 2014.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony capped off the Mugan CTE Leadership Center dedication; pictured (l to r) are Rick Ross, Dave Melgaard, President Tisa Mason, Pat Mugan, Alex Mugan and Peder Gjovik.

## VCSU's STEM Education Center receives nearly \$300,000 from DPI



The Great Plains STEM Education Center (GPSEC) at Valley City State University has received a competitive grant award of \$298,288 from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (DPI) through the U.S. Department

of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) program.

The MSP program aims to improve K-12 classroom instruction and student achievement in math and science by providing intensive, content-rich professional development to teachers.

VCSU's Jamie Wirth, GPSEC director, and Gary Ketterling, GPSEC education coordinator, will lead professional development sessions for about 40 K-12 teachers in 8 North Dakota school districts: Edgeley, Ellendale, Enderlin, LaMoure, Lidgerwood, Litchville-Marion, Kensal and McClusky.

"We're excited to be able to bring these area teachers to VCSU and work with them on putting integrative STEM methods and curriculum into their schools," said Wirth. "Our experience has been that teachers appreciate what we're able to share, and when they bring these inquiry- and project-based lessons into their classrooms, students are much more engaged and energized about learning."

The project, which runs through September 2016, will include monthly 1-day professional development sessions from November to March, followed by a 5-day summer camp in June, all on the VCSU campus. The sessions will feature integrative STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) pedagogy training, along with a wide variety of curriculum training for teachers.

GPSEC will also conduct community STEM events at each of the participating schools, including Family Engineering Night and STEM Design Challenge Night.

# SMART IDEAS FOR YEAR-END BENEFITS

With the end of the year approaching, here is a checklist of some tax-wise year-end charitable gifts that can provide you with tax savings and possible income benefits:

- ◆ Make a gift of appreciated assets
- ◆ Fund a charitable gift annuity
- ◆ Establish a charitable remainder trust
- ◆ Make a gift of life insurance
- ◆ Create a charitable life estate

To learn more about how you can benefit from these gifts, please contact us.

1.800.532.8641 x37203  
[alumni.vcsu.edu/givingopp](http://alumni.vcsu.edu/givingopp)

TAX-WISE GIVING STRATEGIES

## VCSU ranked No. 1 public regional college in Midwest by U.S. News



Valley City State University has been ranked the No. 1 public regional college in the Midwest in the 2016 *U.S. News and World Report Best College Rankings*.

VCSU has been ranked a *U.S. News*

"Best College" for 18 consecutive years, and it has achieved the No. 1 or No. 2 ranking among public regional colleges in the Midwest each of the last seven years. It previously achieved the No. 1 ranking in the 2012 and 2013 rankings.

"We're pleased to see our name at the top of the list," said VCSU President Tisa Mason. "It's a measure of the effort that our students, faculty and staff put in day-after-day, year-after-year to create quality.

"That we've been recognized for 18 years now as a 'Best College' suggests that our community members have held and achieved high standards for quite some time; that's something that our university family can take great pride in," added President Mason.

In the *U.S. News* rankings, accredited U.S. colleges and universities are grouped according to their mission and, for some categories, by location. Then the institutions are compared

based on data related to academic excellence from up to 16 areas. Criteria include admission acceptance rates, academic profile of entering freshmen, freshman-to-sophomore retention, student/faculty ratio, class sizes, graduation rates, alumni-giving rates, and assessments by administrators at peer institutions, among others.

The "Regional Colleges in the Midwest" category includes 96 colleges and universities, with 14 public institutions, in 12 states.

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

## Smithhisler joins VCSU as interim VP for student affairs



Peter Smithhisler has joined the administrative staff of Valley City State University as interim vice president for student affairs (VPSA).

As interim VPSA, Smithhisler will direct the Student Affairs division, leading VCSU's efforts in enrollment, retention, and financial aid; residence life and dining; cocurricular activities; counseling, career and diversity services; parent relations; student safety, government and judicial process; and new student orientation.

Smithhisler previously served the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) in Indianapolis, Ind., most recently as president and CEO. (NIC, a 75-member trade association, serves 400,000 student members and 5 million alumni on 800 campuses throughout the United States and Canada.) Smithhisler began his NIC career in 1998 as director of leadership education; in 2001, he became vice president for media and community relations, and in 2007 he became

president and CEO, as well as executive vice president of the NIC Foundation.

His other higher education experience includes work at Colorado State University (Fort Collins, Colo.) as interim director of campus activities, associate director of campus activities and director of Greek life; at the University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, N.D.) as coordinator of Greek life; and at Western Illinois University (Macomb, Ill.) as interfraternity council advisor.

He holds a master's degree in college student personnel and a bachelor's degree in public communication and human relations, both from Western Illinois University.

Smithhisler and his wife, Christina, are the parents of twin daughters, Olivia and Hadley. His family will remain at their home in the Indianapolis area while his daughters complete their senior year in high school.

## Wintch joins VCSU as VP of business affairs



Wesley Wintch has joined the administrative team of Valley City State University as vice president of business affairs (VPBA). As VPBA, Wintch will direct the university's efforts in financial management and reporting, budgeting, campus planning, facilities and risk management, safety and security, human resources and payroll, and grants and contracts.

Wintch comes to Valley City from Avalon Hills Health Care Programs in Logan, Utah, where he served as controller and senior business director. At Avalon Hills, Wintch was responsible for the organization's fiscal management, including budgets, accounting, financial reporting, accounts receivable and payable, employee recruitment, retention, benefit administration, inventory, investments and information technology management.

In addition, Wintch led the grants program and directed strategic planning, cost control, employee

training, employee recognition, project management and overall compliance with governmental agencies and auditors. Prior to joining Avalon Health Care Programs, he served as senior accountant at Buena Vista Homes in Mesa, Ariz., a multimillion dollar construction company.

Wintch holds a master's degree in business administration with emphases in finance and human resources from Brigham Young University. He and wife, Natalie, have three children, ages 11, 8 and 4.

# Accept the Challenge

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:

<b>YOUR GIFT AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
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 2015 North Dakota legislators have once again created the North Dakota Challenge Fund Matching Grant Program. VCSU has been allocated up to \$1 million of matching dollars if we can raise \$2 million in private dollars. The VCSU Foundation is using this program to enhance more than 170 scholarship endowment funds.

<b>YOUR GIFT AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
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 advisor for advice on your individual situation.*



*"We were pleased to use the North Dakota Challenge Grant Program to establish an endowed scholarship at VCSU. This 'Gift of Education' will impact students for generations to come. It is a great feeling to give something back for such a worthy cause."*

*~James '59 & Mary Keiley*

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



# INSIDE ATHLETICS

by Mark Potts, sports information director

Another fall sports season has come and gone here at Valley City State University.

As with any season, there are memorable days, moments and games. This fall, some of those standout memories include VCSU football's last-minute victory over rival Jamestown, Viking volleyball's five-set win on Senior Day, and Viking cross country earning three spots at nationals during the conference championship race.

But when I look back to the fall of 2015 in 5, 10 or 15 years, there is one night that will stand out the most for me. On Oct. 3, as part of Homecoming and the 125th anniversary celebration, the VCSU Athletic Department invited all members of the Viking Athletic Hall of Fame back

for a reunion. The memories and camaraderie shared that night made me proud to be part of Viking Athletics.

Listening to the excitement of former Viking athletes as they recounted stories of their "glory days," seeing them interact with old friends, and seeing the pride they took in their time at VCSU made the night and the experience one I will not soon forget.

As part of the reunion, assistant women's basketball coach Matt Karlgaard and I put together a video about the Viking Hall of Fame that touched on the history of VCSU athletics, the experience of Viking athletes and the importance of the Viking Hall of Fame. We talked to several former Viking athletes and coaches for the video, and in each interview Viking pride and passion shown through.

There is something special about being a part of VCSU and Viking athletics. It's not exactly something I can describe with words. But on that night, and during those interviews, it was there. I felt the Viking Pride. And whenever my time at VCSU is done—be it in 5, 25 or 50 years—I hope I, too, can still hold on to that Viking Pride.

View the Hall of Fame reunion video online at [alumni.vcsu.edu/VikingHallofFame](http://alumni.vcsu.edu/VikingHallofFame).

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/vcsuvikings](http://www.facebook.com/vcsuvikings)

Twitter: @vcsuvikings

Instagram: vcsuvikings

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



*Go Vikings!*



## 2015-16 VIKING BASKETBALL

Check out our website, [vcsuvikings.com](http://vcsuvikings.com), to view the latest schedules for all sports. Home games in bold  
All times are Central Time • \*Denotes NSAA conference game

DATE	W/M	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 27	M	@ Antelope Valley College	9:00 p.m.
Nov. 28	M	@ West Coast Baptist College	5:00 p.m.
Nov. 27-28	W	Northwestern College Classic, Orange City, Iowa	
Nov. 27	W	College of St. Mary	5:00 p.m.
Nov. 28	W	Northwestern College	4:00 p.m.
<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Trinity Bible College</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Waldorf College*</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Johnson &amp; Wales</b>	<b>2:00/4:00 p.m.</b>
Dec. 8	W	@ University of Mary (Exhib.)	7:00 p.m.
<b>Dec. 9</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>vs. Dakota Wesleyan</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>vs. Bellevue University*</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
Dec. 17	M	@ U. of North Dakota (Exhib.)	TBA
<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>vs. Grace University</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
Dec. 28-29	W	@ Rocky Mountain Classic, Billings, Mont.	
Dec. 28	W	Rocky Mountain College	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 29	W	UM-Western	2:30 p.m.

Dec. 29-30	M	@ Bellevue Classic, Bellevue, Neb.	
Dec. 29	M	Hastings College	5:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	M	Indiana East	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 8-9	W/M	@ Johnson & Wales Classic, Denver, Colo.	
Jan. 8	W/M	Northern New Mexico	1:00/3:00 p.m.
Jan. 9	W/M	Johnson & Wales	6:00/8:00 p.m.
<b>Jan. 13</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>vs. University of Jamestown*</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 17</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>vs. Silver Lake College</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>
Jan. 20	W/M	@ University of Jamestown*	5:30/7:00 p.m.
Jan. 23	W/M	@ Presentation College*	4:00/6:00 p.m.
<b>Jan. 27</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Dakota State University*</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
Jan. 30	W/M	@ Dickinson State University*	5:00/7:00 p.m.
<b>Feb. 3</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Mayville State University*</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 6</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>vs. University of Jamestown*</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 10</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Dickinson State University*</b>	<b>5:30/7:30 p.m.</b>
Feb. 13	W/M	@ Dakota State University*	4:00/6:00 p.m.
Feb. 17	W/M	@ Mayville State University*	5:30/7:30 p.m.
<b>Feb. 20</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>vs. Presentation College*</b>	<b>4:00/6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 24-29</b>	<b>W/M</b>	<b>NSAA Tournament</b>	<b>TBA</b>

## Basketball teams off to good start

The Valley City State basketball teams have had a successful start to the 2015-16 seasons. As of Nov. 11, the Vikings were a combined 8-1 to start the season, including three wins over teams ranked or receiving votes in the NAIA Top 25 Preseason Polls.

### 2015-16 Women's Basketball

The Valley City State women have started the season with a 4-1 record, which included a 73-68 victory over Northwestern College, which like VCSU, is receiving votes in the NAIA poll. The Vikings had previously lost eight straight games against Northwestern since the 2006 season.

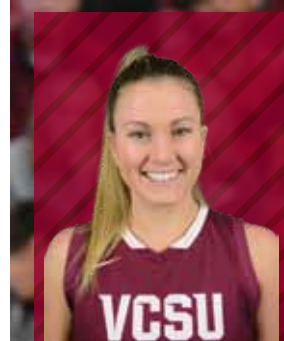
Valley City State has been led on the floor this season by junior guard Georgia Williams, averaging 17 points, four assists and three steals per game while shooting 55 percent from the field.

VCSU has six players scoring seven points or more per game. A pair of returning players, sophomore Lexi Lennon and senior Courtney Dixon, are both averaging 7.5 points per game for the Vikings so far.

A trio of newcomers have made big contributions in the scoring column as well. Freshman guard Courtney Magnuson is averaging 9.2 points, and freshman center Mackenzie Huber is averaging 7.8 points and 6.4 rebounds. Junior transfer Sara Schwanke is scoring seven points per game.

This year's team is heavily reliant on new faces, as the Vikings mix six returning players with eight new additions to the program. Head coach Jill DeVries is back for her 16th season at VCSU, assisted by Matt Karlgaard, in his second season. Morgan Titus is serving as student assistant.

VCSU is coming off a highly successful 2014-15 season, during which the Vikings posted a 22-9 record and finished second in the North Star Athletic Association. The NSAA women's basketball conference has grown to eight teams this year with the additions of Waldorf College and Viterbo University.



Georgia Williams



Mackenzie Huber



Lexi Lennon

### 2015-16 Men's Basketball

The 2015-16 VCSU men's basketball team is looking to reverse the results of last season when the Vikings went 12-18 and finished last in the conference. So far, so good.

Thanks in part to a several new additions to the roster, the Viking men are off to a 4-0 start. That fast start included back-to-back wins against Northwestern College—which is receiving votes in the poll—and No. 13-ranked Dordt College. VCSU had entered the year with a combined 3-15 record against those teams since 2006.

The early season also included a great opportunity for the Vikings, as they played an exhibition game at Marquette University, an NCAA Division I school in the Big East Conference. VCSU junior Ellwood Ellenson has two brothers who currently play for Marquette, which gave the family a unique opportunity to watch all three at once.

Ellenson is one of six returners from last year's roster. Sophomore Jayden Ferguson, who led the Vikings in scoring as a freshman, is off to solid season again, averaging 17.3 points and 6.3 rebounds per game through the first four contests.

Head coach Jeff Kaminsky, in his 11th season at VCSU, had added seven new faces to the roster this year, several of whom are playing significant roles already.

Junior guard Darryl Howell has been VCSU's leading scorer at 18 points per game. Guard Justyn Galloway is scoring 13.5 points and dishing out 3.5 assists per game. Forward Nygel Drury is averaging 13 points and seven rebounds, and guard Nate Vieira is pouring in 10 points per game.

Nathan Stover is in his 11th season as an assistant with Kaminsky. Both Adam Krueger and Jake Pommerer are in their second years as student assistants. VCSU's remaining schedule includes exhibition games at North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota, followed by 13 conference games. The North Star has grown to nine teams in men's basketball with the additions of Waldorf College, Viterbo University and Bellevue University.



Jayden Ferguson



Darryl Howell



Ellwood Ellenson

## Three run at nationals

A trio of Viking cross country runners competed at the NAIA National Championships in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 21 after punching their tickets with strong performances at the conference championships on Nov. 7.

Jenna Coghlan and Alexandra Cardenas represented the Viking women, and Misael Herrera represented the Viking men at the NAIA Cross Country Championships in Charlotte.

Each of the three earned all-conference honors during the conference meet in Madison, S.D., and picked up one of the individual national qualifier spots allotted to the conference.

Coghlan placed fourth in the women's 5k race and Cardenas placed fifth. In the men's 8k race, Herrera placed seventh. The top team, along with the top four individuals not on the winning team, qualified for nationals. Dickinson State won both team titles, and the Vikings proceeded to pick up three of the eight individual qualifier spots.

"We had some real gutsy performances at the conference meet, and I'm proud of how our squad responded," said first-year head coach Chris Johnson. "We haven't had a woman qualify for nationals in 21 years, and we had two this year. We're pretty happy right

Valley City State's last women's runner to qualify for nationals was Christine Munn in 1994. The last Viking men's runner to compete at nationals was current student assistant Richard Langdeaux, who competed at nationals last season as a senior.

As a team, VCSU's men placed fifth of six teams as the conference meet. Malik Jackson (22nd) and Orin Rambow (27th) finished in the top half of the race. The Viking women placed fourth of five teams.

The Vikings competed at five meets during the 2015 season, including the renowned Roy Griak Invitational hosted by the University of Minnesota.



Jenna Coghlan

## Volleyball gains valuable experience

Valley City State's volleyball team posted a 9-20 overall record during the 2015 season.

The Vikings, in their second year under head coach Adam Longmore, had the tough task of blending a roster that featured seven returning players and 10 new faces.

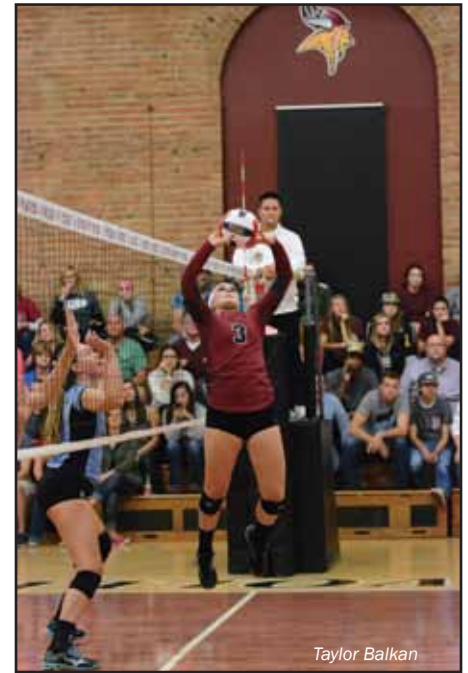
VCSU started the year with a 7-6 record before hitting a tough stretch against good competition. The Vikings closed the regular season with wins in two of their last three matches, including an exciting five-set victory on Senior Day against Clarke University.

Valley City State's season came to a close in the first round of the North Star Athletic Association conference tournament, with the Vikings losing a five-set match at Mayville State University.

Five-set matches were a theme for this year's team, which had 10 of its 29 matches go the distance. VCSU posted a 5-5 record in those five-set matches.

As a team, VCSU finished the year ranked 18th in the NAIA in service aces per game (2.02). Senior setter Steph Miller recored 73 total aces, placing her third in the nation in aces per game (.65). Libero Jaycee George was also one of the top defensive players in the nation as her 5.42 digs per game ranked 22nd.

Junior Kanani Auwae led the Vikings with 267 kills, while freshman Seri Geisler recorded 213 kills. Miller led the team in assists (711) and aces (73), while George had a team-high 564 digs. Junior middle Chelzie-Kristina Ulu had a team-high 77 blocks.



Taylor Balkan

## Baseball finishes fall season, looks forward to spring

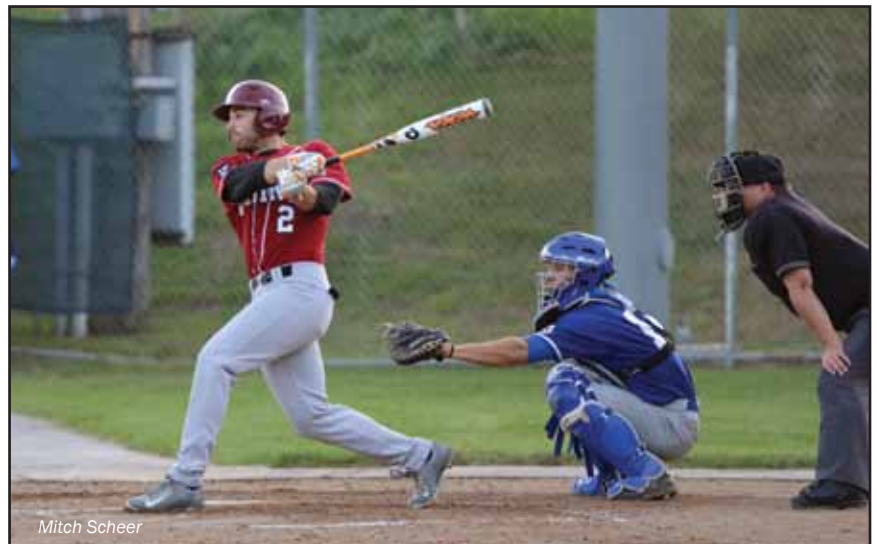
For the third straight year, the Valley City State University baseball team was able to play games that count during the fall.

Approved by the NAIA three years ago, the fall baseball season has been a way for northern teams to play games while the weather is still favorable.

The Vikings played 10 games this fall, posting a 3-7 overall record. The fall season ended on a high note as VCSU swept a doubleheader from the University of Winnipeg 4-2 and 11-7.

VCSU's baseball season is scheduled to resume on March 5 at Midland University. The spring schedule currently includes 35 more games. This year's Vikings have high hopes for the spring after returning numerous key players from a team that won a school-record 32 games last year.

Valley City State and the University of Jamestown will co-host the NSAA Conference Tournament, which begins May 6. The tournament will feature games in both Valley City and Jamestown. The NSAA conference has expanded from six teams to 10 teams this year with the additions of Waldorf College, Bellevue University, Viterbo University and the University of Winnipeg.



Mitch Scheer

## Football finishes strong

The Valley City State football team's run of four consecutive conference championships came to end this year, but the Vikings finished with a solid 7-3 record and won their final four games to end the 2015 season strong.

VCSU was ranked as high as No. 15 in the NAIA Top 25 Coaches' Poll released on Sept. 21. A conference loss Sept. 26 at Dickinson State—the eventual North Star Athletic Association conference champion—knocked VCSU out of the Top 25 poll for the rest of the season.

After dropping to 3-3 overall following a tough 14-13 loss to Mayville State on Oct. 3, the Vikings regrouped to win their final four games. That included a thrilling 12-6 victory over rival University of Jamestown, with VCSU scoring the game-winning touchdown with just 17 seconds remaining. The Vikings closed the year with a 56-7 thumping of Waldorf College at the Dacotah Bank/North Star Bowl in the Fargodome.

"I've been around teams that had tough unexpected losses before and have struggled to stay with it; this group did not do that," head coach Dennis McCulloch said of his team's strong finish to the season. "After losing homecoming, in a tough loss to Mayville, it would have been easy for the guys to hang it up. But they came back and found a way to beat a good Dakota State team the next week and play good football down the stretch."

VCSU's 4-2 record in the North Star Athletic Association put the Vikings second in the conference standings behind Dickinson State, which finished 5-1 in conference play.

With their 7-3 record this year, the Vikings are now 16-5 the last two seasons and have a 37-15 record since 2011.

For the first time since 2003, a pair of Vikings finished with more than 100 tackles in a season. Sophomore linebacker Nicholas McBeain had 115 tackles, going over 100 for the second straight year. Senior linebacker Ethen Preston finished with 107 tackles. The last pair of Viking teammates to both top 100 tackles was Josh Kasowski and Andrew Thompson during the 2003 season.

Junior running back Jacob Duilio rushed for 901 yards and nine touchdowns this season, averaging 4.6 yards per carry. Junior receiver Colby Lum led the team with 50 catches for 777 yards and five touchdowns. Junior quarterback Kurtis Walls finished the year completing 170 of 326 passes for 2174 yards, 17 touchdowns and 13 interceptions.



Colby Lum

### 2015 Results

Aug. 29	@ Jamestown	W, 41-31
Sept. 5	@ Mayville State	W, 55-6
Sept. 12	vs. Robert Morris	L, 14-28
Sept. 19	@ Waldorf College	W, 35-13
Sept. 26	@ Dickinson State	L, 7-28
Oct. 3	vs. Mayville State	L, 13-14
Oct. 10	vs. Dakota State	W, 32-24
Oct. 17	@ Presentation College	W, 24-14
Oct. 24	vs. Jamestown	W, 12-6
Nov. 8	NSAA Bowl vs. Waldorf	W, 56-7

## Sorenson, Heinitz lead golfers

The Viking golf teams played in six meets this fall to kick off the 2015-16 golf season. Valley City State is scheduled to resume play with tournaments in late March and early April, weather permitting.

New this year, the North Star Athletic Association is playing a 72-hole qualifying tournament. The top individual and top team after 72 holes will move on to the NAIA National Championships. Thirty-six of the qualifying holes were played in the fall, and 36 more will be played in the spring. The scores will be combined to determine the conference champions and national representatives.



Ben Sorenson

### Men's Golf

The Valley City State men's golf team won two tournaments during the fall season and placed third at the North Star Fall Qualifier Meet.

VCSU carded a 36-hole total of 632 at the Fall Qualifier, 19 shots back of the leader, Bellevue University. Viking Ben Sorenson finished in fourth place overall, just three shots back of the leader. His two-day total of 153 was 9-over par. The Viking will carry those scores over to the Spring Qualifier as they attempt to qualify for nationals.

Earlier in the season, the Vikings won both the Dickinson State Invite and the University of Minnesota–Morris Cougar Invitational. The Vikings shot a season-low round of 297 at the Cougar Invitational, and freshman Jared Lentz tied for medalist honors with an even-par 71.

Sorenson led the Vikings with five Top 10 finishes, which included two Top 5 finishes. Kyle Wiebe had four Top 10s and two Top 5s. Lentz had two Top 10 finishes in the fall, including his first-place finish. Tyler Baukol also recorded one Top 10 finish for VCSU.



Nicole Heinitz

### Women's Golf

The Viking women finished second out of three teams at the Dickinson State Invite for their best finish of the fall season.

Nicole Heinitz had the top individual finish for VCSU's women as she placed second at both the Dickinson State Invite and the Bismarck State Invite. Heinitz ended the fall with three Top 5 finishes. Hannah Gress recorded two Top 10s, and Mara Nysetvold had one Top 10 finish.

Nysetvold had the top VCSU performance at the North Star Fall Qualifier. Her two-day total of 182 has Nysetvold in 17th place overall after the first 36 holes of the conference meet. As a team, VCSU is in fifth place after the 36-hole Fall Qualifier.

## LeTellier joins music faculty; Laczkoski, Meyers now tenure track

John LeTellier, M.M., has joined the VCSU Music Department as assistant professor of music education. He fills the position most recently held by Sara Hagen, who retired at the end of the 2013–14 school year.

LeTellier comes to Valley City from Florida, where he served as the arts specialist for the Florida Department of Education. He brings a wealth of experience in K–12 classroom work, where he taught band and choir, as well as in state government and national circles.

Very much involved in current trends in music education, LeTellier is a strong advocate for the use of technology in the classroom, and he will be teaching courses in music education as well as in recording and production technology.

Jason Laczkoski, M.A., and Nick Meyers, D.M.A., who began last year in temporary teaching assignments, have secured tenure-track positions at VCSU.

Laczkoski, instructor of woodwinds, music history and jazz studies; Meyers, director of athletic bands and assistant professor of percussion; and LeTellier are now part of a full-time music faculty roster which includes Christopher Redfearn, D.A., director of choral activities, assistant

professor and department chair; James Adams, D.A., director of bands and assistant professor of brass; Geraldine Ong, D.M.A., assistant professor of piano; and Robin Allebach, M.M., voice instructor.



John LeTellier



Nick Meyers



Jason Laczkoski



## Ramos's ceramics featured in two exhibits

Armando Ramos, assistant professor and chair of the Art Department, has recently exhibited sculptural ceramic pieces at two exhibitions.

He exhibited his multipiece work *Kind Regards* at "Art Prize Seven at GRAM: Nature/Nurture," which ran Sept. 17–Oct. 11, 2015, at the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Art Museum. The exhibit "explored the the circumstances of everyday life and the complex character of identity," addressing the question "Are we a product of our DNA or of our environment?"

Ramos's piece *ACDC* is also on exhibit through Jan. 2, 2016, at the Zanesville Prize for Contemporary Ceramics show at the Janesville (Ohio) Museum of Art. Ramos was a finalist for the 2015 Janesville Prize, which carried a \$20,000 Best-of-Show award, at this international, juried showcase of outstanding work in contemporary ceramics.







Monika Browne portrayed Amanda Wingfield in "The Glass Menagerie."

## Busy spring for theatre

The 2016 spring semester is a busy one for VCSU Theatre with two events in Theatre 320 and a musical in the renovated Vangstad Auditorium.

VCSU Theatre is bringing back its 24 Hour Theatre with registration at 7 p.m. on Jan. 22 and show on Jan. 23. In just 24 hours, VCSU students, faculty and staff will write, rehearse and perform an original production. VCSU Theatre alumni and community members are encouraged to participate with the campus community in this unique opportunity. There is no admission charge for this popular event. Email Jenni Lou Russi, VCSU Theatre director, at [jennilou.russi@vcsu.edu](mailto:jennilou.russi@vcsu.edu) for more information about participating in or attending this event.

The following week VCSU Theatre will produce a special Student Showcase featuring Monika Browne's one-person show "Transnational Woman" in Theatre 320 on Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Browne created this performance as a SOAR Grant recipient. The SOAR (Student Opportunities for Academic Research) Program supports student-driven and faculty-mentored interdisciplinary projects.

Browne is familiar to VCSU Theatre audiences from her roles in many productions, including "The Dining Room," "The Jungle Book," "The Glass Menagerie" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Originally from Warsaw, Poland, Browne chronicles her international journey, as well as the experiences of other transnational women, with research that will culminate in her performance. Tickets for this special one-night-only show will be available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis.

VCSU Theatre's first show in the renovated Vangstad Auditorium will be "Quilters," a musical featuring stories and songs of pioneer women as they settle in the American West. Based on "Quilters: Women and Domestic Art" by Patricia Cooper and Norma Bradley Allen, this heart-warming musical by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek is especially significant for people in the Dakotas.

Auditions for performers, including musicians, will be held in Theatre 320 on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. All roles are available, and auditions are open to the public.

Victoria Hammel, M.M., M.S.L.S, is the musical director for the production. Hammel teaches in both the communication arts and music departments at VCSU.

Valley City resident Jack Jenness is the production set designer for the musical. Jenness, who earned an M.F.A. in scenic design at Minnesota State University Mankato, has designed sets at VCSU in the past. Jenni Lou Russi, VCSU Theatre director, will direct the production. Shows will run April 14-16 at 7:30 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee April 16. Tickets for the show can be purchased at the VCSU Bookstore or reserved by calling 701-845-7320.

# WINTER/SPRING 2015-16 FINE ARTS

## Music

- Dec. 3 East Region Instrumental Contest ..... All Day  
Campus
- Dec. 3 Concert Choir: Christmas at St. Catherine's ..... 7:30 p.m.  
St. Catherine's Church
- Dec. 4 Concert Band/Jazz Ensemble concert..... 7:30 p.m.  
Nazarene Church
- Dec. 5 Valley City Civic Orchestra, Valley Voices,  
Valley Youth Choir concert.....3:00 p.m.  
Nazarene Church
- Dec. 8 Christmas at The Vault..... 7:30 p.m.  
The Vault
- Jan. 29 Faculty Recital ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Froemke Auditorium
- Feb. 29 Robin Allebach/Christopher Redfearn, Faculty Recital . 7:30 p.m.  
Froemke Auditorium
- Mar. 5 Piano Day, featuring Alan Chow, piano ..... All Day  
Froemke Auditorium
- Mar. 10 Choir Concert ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Epworth Church
- Mar. 14 Region 2 Instrumental Contest..... All Day  
Campus
- Mar. 30 Region 2 Vocal Contest ..... All Day  
Campus
- Apr. 9 CSA Chamber Recital ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Froemke Auditorium
- Apr. 14 Region 5 Music Contest ..... All Day  
Campus

## Gallery

- Nov. 16-Dec. 9 ..... Exhibition—Student Spotlight
- Jan. 18-Feb. 19..... Exhibition—Tracy Melendez
- Feb. 29-Apr. 1 ..... Exhibition—Brock Drenth
- Apr. 11-May 6 ..... Exhibition—Student Spotlight

**2015-2016  
THEATRE  
SEASON**

**VCSU 24 HOUR THEATRE**  
January 22-23, 2016

**VCSU THEATRE STUDENT  
SHOWCASE**  
January 30, 2016

**QUILTERS**  
April 14-16, 2016 • Vangstad Auditorium

**Box Office: 701.845.7320**      **www.vcsu.edu/theatre**

# Just Married



1



4



2



5



3



6

1. **Mindi Paulson '08** and Douglas Lill were married June 13, 2015, in a beautiful outdoor ceremony in rural Mountain, N.D.
2. **Andrea Hummel '11** and **Tommy Butler '12** were married Aug. 1, 2015.
3. **Mandi Bindas '12** and **Jordan Maher '12** were married Aug. 21, 2015.
4. **Sara Gullickson '13** and Preston Laib were married July 18, 2015.
5. **Sarah Rhyan '13** and Justin Larsen were married July 4, 2015, in Las Vegas, Nev. Justin is the manager of Quality Auto Body in Valley City, and Sarah is an admission counselor at VCSU.
6. **Jessica Carlblom '15** and Brice Kuska were married Aug. 8, 2015, in Valley City and are currently living in Litchville, N.D. Brice has been employed as a custom applicator with Dakota Plains Cooperative of Litchville since 2007. After three years of schooling, Jessica graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education; in addition, she has a kindergarten endorsement and a Title I credential. She is employed part-time with Dakota Plains Cooperative of Litchville and is subbing in different school districts. She recently completed a long-term subbing experience in Lisbon, N.D.
7. Alyssa Phillips and **Daniel Eppen '15** were married Aug. 8, 2015.

## MORE WEDDINGS

**Apryl Andersen '14** & Andrew Zetocha, Oct. 14, 2014

**Brittini Bruenjes '10, M.Ed. '14** & Tyler Fettig, July 25, 2015

**Brittany Lehner '14** & **Josh Evans '12**, Aug. 8, 2015

**Mariah Martin '11** & Daniel McCormack, Aug. 29, 2015

**Brittany Olson '09** & Mike Peschel, Nov. 12, 2015



7

Taking Chances Photography



# 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).



**Kirby Marie Eller**

March 27, 2015  
6 pounds 4 ounces,  
19 inches  
Amber (Radloff) '08 and  
Darin Eller '08  
(grandparents Scott '82  
and Brenda '83 Radloff)



**Kellen Eric  
Johnson**

May 12, 2015  
7 pounds 4 ounces,  
20 inches  
Tom '05 and Jennifer  
Johnson



**Brayden Joseph  
Ziegler**

November 10, 2014  
7 pounds, 11 ounces  
Joins brother Bryce  
Tiffany (Christiansen) '10  
and Denny Ziegler



**Simon Elliott  
Sczepanski**

July 7, 2015  
10 pounds 4 ounces,  
21 inches  
Joins brother Jacob  
(3 1/2) and sister Avery  
(1 1/2)  
Barrett '06 and Katie  
Sczepanski



**Ireland Rose  
Reiter**

May 8, 2015  
7 pounds, 12 ounces,  
21 inches  
Scott '08 and Natalie  
Reiter



**Dixon Doom**

March 28, 2014  
6 pounds 12 ounces,  
20 inches  
Damian '97 and Carrie  
Doom



**Stassi Hagen**

October 27, 2014  
6 pounds 13 ounces,  
21 inches  
Natalie (Edwards) '12 and  
Sean Hagen



**Molly Rose  
Thomas**

May 22, 2014  
4 pounds, 11 ounces,  
18 inches  
Trisha (Voeltz) '13 and  
Troy Thomas



**Greyson Stewart**

March 16, 2015  
9 pounds 2 ounces,  
22 1/4 inches  
Eileen (Grieger) '09 and  
Kyle Stewart '08  
(grandparents Vera  
[Hansen] '82 and Dalen  
Grieger)



**Walker Alan Mark**

March 13, 2015  
7 pounds 6 ounces,  
20 1/4 inches  
Jessica (Lemna) '13 and  
Dustin Mark



**Avery Marie  
Courtney**

May 20, 2015  
7 pounds 4 ounces,  
20 1/2 inches  
Lindsey (Friedt) '12 and  
Drew Courtney



**Laura Barbara  
Anderson**

May 22, 2015  
7 pounds 10 ounces,  
21 1/2 inches  
Joel and Lisa '12 (Gader)  
Anderson

## Vikings on the Move

### 1970s

**Lynn Garcia '72** retired from teaching this past spring. He taught 29 years in all, the past 25 years in the Fargo Public Schools with the last 22 at South High. Lynn had taught for 4 years in the '70s, then worked in radio and TV news for more than a dozen years. Lynn says he will likely sub for a while until he "figures this retirement thing out."

**Jim Trett '79** and his wife, Jennifer, live in Sioux Falls. Their three children—David (age 35), Lindsey (26) and Justin (22)—live in Nashville, Edina and Sioux Falls, respectively. If you are ever in Nashville, stop at the Red Bicycle and have a cup of coffee and a crepe at David's coffee shop. Jim has retired from coaching after 33 years as a head basketball coach, but he's still teaching. He says, "If you're ever in Sioux Falls, give me a call, and we'll play some golf. VCSU rocks!"

### 1980s

**Delores (Turnquist) Tracy '83** has worked for the Diocese of Bismarck for the last 14 years, with the last 11 years as the account tech in the fiscal office. Her youngest child, Jessica, just started her fourth year at VCSU and lives only a door away from Delores's dorm room 30-plus years ago.

### 1990s

**Throy Haadem '99** works for the Rolla (N.D.) School District as a special education aide during the school year. During the summer months, he works at the Rolla Country Club and Rolla Public Library, and also waters flowers for the City of Rolla.



Jay Morgan '69 and his wife, Louise Anna, would like to extend an invitation to all VCSU alumni and friends who live, winter or plan to vacation in the Sarasota, Fla., area in February to attend the 52nd annual North Dakota Suncoast Association Luncheon. The event will be held Feb. 20, 2016—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 (Hwy 301) Parrish, Fla.

The scheduled entertainment will be a singing quartet from the famous Sun-and-Fun RV Resort.

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

## Miller receives coaching honors

Jameson Miller '10, head girls tennis coach at Perham (Minn.) High School was named Minnesota Section 8A Coach of the Year and Mid-State Conference Co-Coach of the Year for 2015.

Miller, who got his coaching start helping out with the Valley City Hi-Liner tennis programs, just finished his third year of coaching at Perham.

"Jameson was an outstanding Viking tennis athlete who set a high standard for all club members to follow and then carried that into his high school coaching," says Erik Kringle '92, VCSU club tennis coach. "I couldn't be more proud of his accomplishments at Perham."



## 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).

### 1950

Evangeline Belling  
Margaret Born  
Anna Gates  
Alice Rue

### 1951

Ruby Berg  
Agnes Fritz  
Mildred Munro  
Marilyn Murphy  
Phyllis Oien  
Loretta Schneider  
Helen (Berg) Steadman

### 1952

James Anderson  
Eunice Blocker  
Jeanne Fiedler  
Dorothy (Lindell) Kluge  
Ellen (Webster) Olson  
Bernice (Ferguson) Schutt

### 1953

Carol Carlson

Ninita (Phillips) Kings  
Marilyn Nelson  
DuAnn (Lindemann) Torgerson

### 1954

Marilyn Barr  
June Slagerman  
Grace Williams

### 1955

Edwin Carlson  
Marie Eissingner  
Georgena Ertelt  
Rose (Kunkel) Krush  
Dorothy Mattson  
Beverly Meyer  
Lois (Hollinberger) Michelson  
Roy Schultz

### 1956

Cheryl Amundson  
Janet (Freeman) Anderson  
Shirley Bratlie  
Carol Brown  
Arlene Cichos

Jo Hanson  
Arlis Hanson  
Morrene Haugen  
Robert Johnson  
Vivian Kalmbach  
Mary Olmstead  
Vera Olsen  
Arlene Olson  
Montell Romine  
Carol Schultz  
Marjoline Struxness  
Dorothy Suda  
Vydell Suko  
Teresa Weniger  
Gladys Wright

### 1957

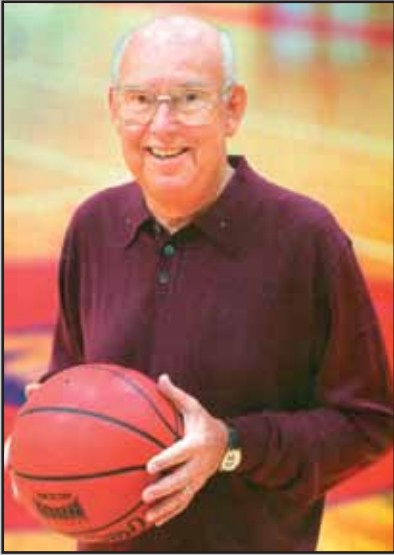
Clara Buchfink  
Shirley Dahl  
Gail Fitzpatrick  
Nellie Giles  
Helen (Hendricks) Harper  
Arthur Keller  
Alice (Johnson) Miller

JoAnne Monson  
Grace Naatus  
Patricia Renault  
Verlyn Ricketts  
Julie (Nelson) Seavert  
Cara Thompson  
Beryl Ulven

### 1958

Betty Braa  
Donavon Coleman  
Mark Cory  
Arlene (Walberg) Fail  
Joyce Harstad  
Jeanette Haskell  
Cleo Johnson  
Gertrude Keller  
Lois Nagel  
Helan (Witt) Oswald  
Jean (Keeling) Rose  
Donna Schumaker  
Lila Shyse  
Marlene (Hoerauf) Walth

## In Memoriam: Alfred Bortke '60



Alfred Junior Bortke, age 78 of Bismarck, N.D., died Sept. 20, 2015.

Born Feb. 18, 1937, in Hettinger, N.D., he graduated from Hettinger High School in 1956 and from VCSU in 1960 with a bachelor of science degree. He went on to complete postgraduate studies at the University of North Dakota.

He married Linda Ukestad of Valley City on June 24, 1961. They made their home and raised two sons, Todd and Paul, in Bismarck.

Bortke's high school basketball coaching career began in college at St. Catherine's High School in Valley City, and it continued at Turtle Lake, Bismarck St. Mary's, Grand Forks St. James, and Pipestone, Minn. In 1973, he became the University of Mary's men's basketball coach and first athletic director.

In 2000, he was named NAIA National Athletic Director of the Year, and in 2001, he received the VCSU Distinguished Alumni Award. He was inducted into the University of Mary Hall of Fame (1991), the North Dakota Special

Olympics Hall of Fame (2004), the NAIA Hall of Fame (2006), and the North Dakota Babe Ruth Hall of Fame.

The University of Mary basketball court was named "Bortke Court" in his honor after his 2009 retirement. In 2013, he and his wife received the United Way Lifetime of Caring Award.

Broke is survived by his wife, Linda; his sons and daughters-in-law, Todd and Ann, and Paul and Jenelle; and several grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister and brother, and many nieces and nephews.

## In Remembrance

Beulah (Patrie) Long '34, Bowdon, N.D.

Blanche Molony '36, Fargo, N.D.

Marley Swanson '39, West Fargo, N.D.

Pearl (Bakko) Frosaker '41, Fargo, N.D.

Mary (Englebart) Bredeson '46,  
West Des Moines, Iowa

Elaine (Hess) Hill '48, Valley City

Philip Willson '49, Castro Valley, Calif.

Jean (Fiedler) Collette '52, Grafton, N.D.

Harold Davidson '54, Billings, Mont.

Curtis Herman '56, Minot, N.D.

E. Daniel McKenna '57, Moorhead, Minn.

Edmund Motl '59, Dilworth, Minn.

William Vollan '59, Lake Oswego, Ore.

Alfred Bortke '60, Bismarck, N.D.

Dorothy Odden '61, Shawano, Wis.

James Bjorklund '62, West Fargo, N.D.

Ruth (Trygg) Hein '68, Wing, N.D.

Harry Lippy '68, Portland, Ore.

Delyle Diede '72, Milnor, N.D.

Mary (Kasowski) Ford '72, Fargo, N.D.

Leroy Miedema '74, Jamestown, N.D.

Michael Puetz '79, Eden Prairie, Minn.

Rhonda Roesler '97, Eagan, Minn.

Kathleen (Schweitzer) Hoover '00, Valley City

Lyle Edlund, Northwood, N.D.

Paul Gage, Fargo, N.D.

Laurel Gamache, Lisbon, N.D.

Ellen (Lund) Gronvold, Orlando, Fla.

Perry Grotberg, Valley City

Anneus Meester, Fargo, N.D.

Matthew Skogen, Bismarck, N.D.

Terry Stewart, La Grange, Texas

### Former Faculty & Staff

Esther "Sybby" Knutson, Valley City

## DON'T WORRY YOU DON'T NEED A WILL

*The GOVERNMENT will take care of it for you.*

Contact the  
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Will Kit

701-845-7203



## Dueling Pianos fuel Rendezvous fun

The Black & Whyte Dueling Pianos played to a packed house at the Valley City Eagles Club during the fourth annual VCSU Rendezvous on Friday, Oct. 23. Sponsored by Bank Forward, Insure Forward, Invest Forward, and Ingstad Family Media, the event raised funds for the V-500 Scholarship program.

Jeremy Wiebe, VCSU assistant director of annual giving for VCSU, said, "I couldn't have been more pleased with the turnout and support from our VCSU alumni and friends. Black & Whyte put on a great show. With all proceeds benefiting the V-500 scholarship program, it certainly was a night of fun for a great cause!"



# VCSU HOMECOMING

# 2015

There were the usual trappings: a week of fun student activities, the Alumni Honors Breakfast, a parade and a football game, but Homecoming 2015 was also a little different (and special) this year with the inauguration of President Tisa Mason and the 125th anniversary celebration. In addition, all Viking Hall of Fame athletes and all Greeks were invited back for the weekend's festivities.



# Continue the Viking Family Tradition!

Valley City State University will be awarding a \$1,000 Alumni Scholarship to **FIVE** freshman students attending VCSU because *it's their parents' Alma Mater*—and what an Alma Mater it is!

Continue the VCSU Viking Family Tradition and get paid for it!

For information on the Alumni Scholarship application, contact Enrollment Services at 701.845.7101 or refer a student at [alumni.vcsu.edu/tradition](http://alumni.vcsu.edu/tradition)



**The Lentz Family**

Mike '88, Kathy M.Ed '07, Cameron '13, Tayler (junior) & Jared (freshman)



The VCSU Alumni Association invites you to join alumni and friends at Scheels Arena for a **FARGO FORCE HOCKEY GAME**

**We have reserved the North Club Lounge for  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016**

**COST = \$20 per person**

(includes reserved ticket for seating in the North Club Lounge area, food and fun!)

**SOCIAL STARTS AT 6:00 P.M. • GAME TIME: 7:05 P.M.**

***Come out and join your fellow VCSU supporters to cheer on the Fargo Force!***

Please RSVP to reserve your tickets—there are only a limited number available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Call 701-845-7203 to reserve yours today!



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