

# THE BULLETIN

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



## President Shirley to leave VCSU

**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# VCSU

Largest gift in university history ♦ Enrollment growth trend continues ♦ Athletic updates



DEPARTMENTS

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

**Welcome to the *Bulletin!***

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

- Larry Robinson '71** ..... 701-845-7217  
*Executive Director of University Advancement*    [larry.robinson@vcsu.edu](mailto:larry.robinson@vcsu.edu)
- Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91** ..... 701-845-7403  
*Assistant Director of University Advancement*    [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu)
- Alison Kasowski '06** ..... 701-845-7216  
*Assistant Director of Annual Giving*    [alison.kasowski@vcsu.edu](mailto:alison.kasowski@vcsu.edu)
- Loree Morehouse '89** ..... 701-845-7203  
*Data Processing and Research Coordinator*    [loree.morehouse@vcsu.edu](mailto:loree.morehouse@vcsu.edu)
- Greg Vanney** ..... 701-845-7227  
*Director of Marketing and Communications*    [greg.vanney@vcsu.edu](mailto:greg.vanney@vcsu.edu)
- Jack Denholm** ..... 701-845-7160  
*Athletic Director*    [jack.denholm@vcsu.edu](mailto:jack.denholm@vcsu.edu)
- Mark Potts** ..... 701-845-7228  
*Sports Information Director*    [mark.m.potts@vcsu.edu](mailto:mark.m.potts@vcsu.edu)
- Tara Praska '05** ..... 701-845-7362  
*Graphic Designer*    [tara.praska@vcsu.edu](mailto:tara.praska@vcsu.edu)
- Toll Free** ..... 800-532-8641 ext. 7203
- VCSU Website** ..... [www.vcsu.edu](http://www.vcsu.edu)

Cover Story



4

**4 President Shirley's leadership has served VCSU well**

*VCSU President Steven W. Shirley was recently selected as the next president of Minot State University by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education. Shirley's record of achievement in his six years at VCSU has been impressive, and here we review his major accomplishments in Valley City.*



6

**6 Wright estate provides largest gift in university history**

*North Dakota natives Leonard and Marjorie (Dreis) Wright left the Northern Plains to head to Alaska, where their construction business prospered with work associated with the Alaska oil pipeline. The Wrights' estate has now provided Valley City State University with a \$2.5 million gift, the largest single gift in university history.*



19

**8 VCSU Foundation Board Profiles**

*In the first of a series of articles profiling VCSU Foundation Board directors, Mary Simonson, Ken Astrup, Dee Jensen and Delton Steele respond to questions about their backgrounds, their ties to VCSU, the university's strengths and why they serve on the board.*

**19 A record-breaking season**

*In 2013, VCSU senior running back Derek Elliott put together one of the greatest individual seasons ever by a Viking football player, setting or tying 13 school records. His accomplishments culminated in his being named an AFC-NAIA first-team All American.*

**Photo Credits**

Steve Voit—cover, p. 1,2, 20  
Dutton's Valley Gallery—p. 8, 14



# A Monumental Gift...and Thanks for Six Great Years!

Dr. Steve Shirley, President

In December, Valley City State University and the VCSU Foundation announced that a gift in excess of \$2.5 million had been received from the Leonard and Marjorie (Dreis) Wright Estate. This is the largest gift ever received at VCSU and will be used for student scholarships. You will read more about the Wrights and their legacy in this issue of *The Bulletin*. The Wrights were from this part of North Dakota, and Marjorie earned her teaching credentials from VCSU. Throughout their successful careers, they never forgot their roots and the importance of her VCSU education.

A key ingredient to recent enrollment growth has been the record scholarship allocations the VCSU Foundation has awarded. Our students repeatedly state that a critical factor in their decision to choose VCSU is the availability of private scholarships, and so a gift such as this will have a tremendously positive impact for VCSU and current and future students alike.

A special word of thanks to Phil Mueller for his role in helping secure this gift. Phil graduated from VCSU, previously worked at VCSU, served as a District 24 representative in the North Dakota House, and currently serves on the VCSU Foundation Board. Phil is the nephew of Marjorie and Leonard, and without his dedication and connection with the Wrights, this gift may have never occurred. On behalf of VCSU and all students who will benefit from these scholarship dollars—*thank you, Phil!*

On another note, this is a bittersweet column for me to write. As indicated on the cover, I will be leaving VCSU this summer to begin as president at Minot State University on July 1. The past six years at VCSU have been a tremendous chapter in my life and have absolutely flown by. I was just finally getting over being introduced as the “new president” of VCSU!

In reflecting on the past six years, there are milestones that stand out. The record student enrollments and significant campus growth; the facility enhancements including the \$10.3 million expansion/renovation to Rhoades, the new artificial turf at Shelly Ellig Field, the \$3.5 million renovation to Snoeyenbos, and the pending \$3.5 million renovation to Vangstad Auditorium and the classroom building; the No. 1 rankings by *U.S. News*; the addition of the Great Plains STEM Education Center and the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center; the formation of the North

Star Athletic Association, national play-off appearances by multiple Viking athletic teams, and the reemergence of track and field and cross country at VCSU; the addition of new academic programs including software engineering, athletic training, business process integration management, and medical lab science, along with new concentrations in our M.Ed. program; campuswide environmental and sustainability initiatives; national recognition for VCSU’s library and information technologies M.Ed. program; the successful conclusion to the flood-altered Spring 2009 semester (and another successful flood fight in Spring 2011); a new partnership with Zhejiang Economic & Trade Polytechnic in Hangzhou, China; a successful accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission in 2011–12; a new university strategic plan; increased scholarship allocations, record-breaking fundraisers, and growth in the VCSU Foundation asset base—these are but a few of the wonderful memories from the past six years.

Yet, what really stands out about VCSU is the dedication of so many wonderful people throughout campus and beyond to make these and other achievements possible. This has indeed been a *team effort* in the truest sense of the phrase. As I have written before, it is not about the bricks, mortar, or material things, but rather, what really makes a campus special are the people. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with such terrific faculty, staff, students, alumni, supporters, community members, and others who are committed to the success of VCSU. I have made so many new friends and created lifelong relationships, and it is the wonderful people and these relationships that will always stand out as the biggest highlight of six great years in Valley City.

My wife, Jennifer, and I (and our two-year-old Anna), are looking forward to the transition and new life in Minot in the months ahead. But we are also excited to only be a few hours from Valley City. It will be nice remaining in the North Dakota University System and having the chance to continue collaborating with VCSU in the years ahead. I look forward to maintaining contact with many of you, and for now will simply say *good-bye and thank you!*

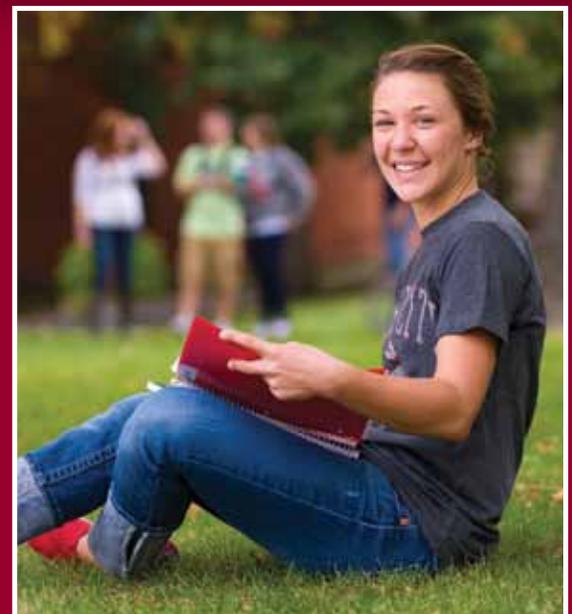
As always...Go Vikings!

## Alumni Association Get-Togethers Spring/Summer 2014

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

- April 15 ..... VCSU Tuesday ..... Fargo  
Green Mill, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
- May 20 ..... VCSU Tuesday ..... Jamestown  
IDK, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
- June 3 ..... VCSU Golf and Social ..... Carrington  
CrossRoads Golf Course  
Golf @ 4:00 p.m. / Social @ 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- July 29 ..... A Riverboat Cruise on the Majestic Lewis and Clark ..... Bismarck  
Join us for a 90-minute cruise with fresh and hot Papa Murphy’s pizza!  
6:00–7:30 p.m. / \$25 per person
- Aug. 6 ..... VCSU at the FM-Redhawks ..... Fargo  
Picnic at 6:00 p.m., Game at 7:05 p.m.

***RSVP is requested.*** Please contact Kim Hesch at 800-532-8641 x7403 or [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu).



VCSU First Fridays

# VIKING PRIDE DAY!

Join alumni, friends and students in showing your passion as a Valley City State Viking by wearing your Cardinal or Viking attire the first Friday of every month to show your support for your alma mater.

We ask that you wear VCSU Viking apparel to your place of work, at home and/or around town to help promote your school pride and to celebrate our great university on the first Friday of every month.

Email your pictures to [alumni@vcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@vcsu.edu), and we'll post the photos on our VCSU Alumni Association Facebook page and, of course, put your name in a drawing for VCSU gear.

If you don't have any gear, go online to the VCSU Bookstore at

[bookstore.vcsu.edu/merchandise.aspx](http://bookstore.vcsu.edu/merchandise.aspx)



## Honoring Our Alumni and Staying Connected to VCSU

Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91  
Assistant Director for Advancement & Alumni Relations

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

The association has been fortunate to recognize several generations of outstanding alumni with these Awards. To date we have recognized 280 alumni with the *Certificate of Merit Award*. This award recognizes alumni for accomplishments, service or other noteworthy honors.

The *Distinguished Alumni Award* has been awarded 59 times.

These alumni have achieved prominence in their chosen field of endeavor. The nominee must have received national or international recognition and must have been identified as an expert in the individual's chosen field.

There have been 11 alumni honored with the *Alumni Service Award*. These alumni are honored for exceptional achievement in their careers and significant contributions to the university through dedicated service, promotion, financial support or other efforts.

A new award recently created by the VCSU Alumni Board of Directors is our *Young Alumni Achievement Award*. This award was created to recognize VCSU's more recent outstanding alumni as they embark on their chosen paths and strive for greatness. The award is presented to recognize future leaders under the age of 40 based on the following criteria:

- ◆ Those who have demonstrated high levels of achievement in one's chosen career or profession,
- ◆ Those who have demonstrated leadership ability or the potential for leadership and distinction in the long term,

- ◆ Those who have shown support for Valley City State University, and
- ◆ Those who have shown substantial commitment to the service of others.

For more information on these awards or to make a nomination, please contact Kim Hesch at [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu), call 701-845-7403 or visit our website for criteria and nomination forms at [alumni.vcsu.edu/awards](http://alumni.vcsu.edu/awards).

Finally, stay connected to your alma mater. I invite you to join your fellow alumni, friends, faculty and staff in making a difference by making a gift to our annual Phone-A-Thon. Gifts made through the

Phone-A-Thon help support scholarships and other Alumni Association initiatives, including *The Bulletin*, reunion events and our alumni award programs. By supporting

Phone-A-Thon you are investing in your alma mater. These are just a few of the examples of what your gifts have done to help VCSU achieve our strategic initiatives: record enrollment, new academic programs, national recognition, and new facilities.

Donations of any amount increase Valley City State University's alumni participation rate, an important and impactful number that helps strengthen the university's national rankings and recognition. Please consider a gift; donations can be made online at [alumni.vcsu.edu](http://alumni.vcsu.edu) (click on the "Donate" button in the middle of the page).

In advance, I thank you for being engaged with your alma mater. Only collectively can we be successful. As alumni events and programs are planned, we will be looking to each of you for your participation. Please feel free to contact the Alumni Office at 701-845-7203 or [alumni.vcsu.edu](http://alumni.vcsu.edu) with any comments, suggestions or questions. I look forward to hearing from you and to meeting you personally.

*For more information on these awards or to make a nomination, please contact Kim Hesch at [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu) or visit our website for criteria and nomination forms at [alumni.vcsu.edu/awards](http://alumni.vcsu.edu/awards).*

# Do You Own Mineral Rights?

Please consider making a gift of your land or mineral interest to our organization. You may be able to transfer your land or mineral rights to a charitable remainder trust or fund a charitable gift annuity that will provide you (and your spouse) with payments for the rest of your lives. You will receive a charitable deduction in the year you make your gift, and the VCSU Foundation will benefit from the future proceeds. To learn more about the benefits of gifting land, wind or mineral rights, please call us at 701-845-7203.





# Private Support—That Critical Margin of Difference

Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement

We often hear from our alumni and friends that they would like to do more financially for Valley City State University, but they cannot afford to do much at the current time. We certainly understand the financial pressures that folks are feeling today. We also know that all gifts, large or small, are important to VCSU; they all contribute to our overall effort to support our alma mater.

Some folks are positioned to do more than others. That is a fact of life. We have alumni and friends who elect to make an annual gift, while others prefer to contribute on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Still others elect to include the VCSU Foundation in their estate plans in addition to their annual giving. The most common gift is cash, but we often receive gifts of life insurance, IRA rollovers, stocks, bonds, and the like. We have also benefited from gifts of real estate and antique automobiles.

Because our VCSU Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity according to Internal Revenue Service guidelines, there are attractive tax benefits that accrue from contributing to the VCSU Foundation. All donors are recognized in our annual Donor Edition and on our website. Once donors reach a minimum level of \$5,000 in total lifetime giving, they are listed on our recognition wall near our office in McFarland Hall here on the VCSU campus.

Needless to say, charitable support of the VCSU Foundation is absolutely critical to the ongoing vitality of our alma mater. Although VCSU receives general fund support from the state of North Dakota, private giving represents that “critical margin of difference” between a good institution and an outstanding institution. Private giving provides for a strong resource base which positions the university to respond to market-

place opportunities, manage an aggressive and competitive scholarship program, and meet other important needs.

That support has been the key to the record enrollment growth that VCSU has experienced over the last number of years. In fact, the Spring Semester enrollment at VCSU set an all-time record. That enrollment growth was fueled by a strong scholarship program supported by private giving from alumni and friends of the university. To say that we couldn't do it without you is an understatement. Scholarship allocations in excess of \$750,000 in recent years have been a big factor in our enrollment growth. Those allocations are expected to grow to over \$900,000 for the 2014-15 academic year. These dollars come from the tremendous support we have received from our alumni and friends.

If you are currently supporting these programs, we thank you for that support. Your dollars

have been put to good use and you are clearly making a difference in the lives of our students here at the university. Your investment in VCSU and our students is paying big dividends. You are touching lives and opening doors. Few gifts have more of an impact than the gift of education. If you have not been supporting our programs, please consider doing so today. Join our team. Visit us online at [alumni.vcsu.edu](http://alumni.vcsu.edu) or call the Foundation Office at 701-845-7203. We accept pledges, Visa and MasterCard, checking account auto pay, electronic transfers, etc.

As I wrap up this article today, it is March 1 and -20 degrees here in Valley City. We are definitely looking forward to warmer weather. Should your travels bring you this way over the summer months stop by for a visit. We would love to catch up on developments in your lives.

*Needless to say, charitable support of the VCSU Foundation is absolutely critical to the ongoing vitality of our alma mater. Although VCSU receives general fund support from the state of North Dakota, private giving represents that critical margin of difference between a good institution and an outstanding institution.*

## 2013-14 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT**  
Josh Argall '99

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Greta (Trader) Delparte '06

**FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE**  
Dave Bass '77

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
D.C. Lucas '96

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Deb (Gruman) Burchill '98  
Jason Drake '96  
Mary Halvorson '89  
Maryellen (Vandrovec) Homan '74  
Paul Keidel '86  
Marty Lanter '98  
Ashley (Smette) Krinke '09  
Stephanie (Trautman) Roelfsema '07  
Dan Smith '83  
Jim Vandrovec '74

## 2013-14 Foundation Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT**  
Mary Simonson

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Matt Pedersen

**TREASURER**  
Jeff Nathan

**SECRETARY**  
Dave Bass '77

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Ken Astrup '73  
Bob Bergan '82  
Ryan Botner '05  
DuWayne Bott '58  
Ray Braun  
Mark Finstad  
George Gaukler '62  
Dick Gulmon  
Gigi Goven  
Robert Horne '59  
Dee Jensen '66  
Holly (Nelson) Johnson '08  
Phillip Mueller '68  
Mark Richman '74

Harvey Schilling '61  
Dr. Steven Shirley  
Gene Smestad  
Delton Steele '80  
Jan Stowman  
Jerry A. Topp '74  
Erin Welken  
Larry Robinson '71, ex officio  
Douglas Dawes, ex officio



# PRESIDENT SHIRLEY'S LEADERSHIP HAS SERVED VCSU WELL

Steven W. Shirley, Ph.D., president of Valley City State University, has been selected to become the next president of Minot State University by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education (SBHE). He will succeed David Fuller, who is retiring as Minot State president. Shirley will begin his work at Minot State by July 1, 2014.

Shirley began serving as president of Valley City State on July 1, 2008. Prior to joining VCSU, he had served as vice president for student affairs at Dakota State University in Madison, S.D., and as business professor and director of learning abroad at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. A native of Fargo, N.D., Shirley earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration and doctorate in higher education, all from the University of North Dakota.

The State Board of Higher Education will direct the search for Shirley's successor at VCSU.

*"We have been well served by President Shirley. Under his leadership, VCSU has made notable progress and achievements in a number of critical areas. We understand and support the opportunity he has at Minot State, and we wish him the very best in that endeavor."*

—Larry Robinson '71, VCSU executive director of university advancement

When Steve Shirley was chosen as president of Valley City State in April 2008, there were questions about the young college administrator, and most of those questions had to do with his young age—he

was then 35—and his relative lack of experience in relation to the position he was about to assume.

In six short years at VCSU, President Shirley has silenced those critics, and on Feb. 27, 2014, when

the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education selected Shirley to succeed the retiring David Fuller as president of Minot State University, it was a bittersweet day at Valley City State—with no one begrudging the well-liked Shirley the opportunity to advance his career.

Quick with a smile, Shirley has earned the respect of the Valley City State and Valley City communities, while impressing his colleagues in the North Dakota University System. His sharp mind and ability to grasp the essence of a situation and

discard the extraneous, have served Shirley and Valley City State well. But it is his down-to-earth, humble nature and the warmth with which he treats those he comes in contact with that has especially endeared him to folks in Valley City.

Yet Shirley has done far more than get along with people; he's put together an enviable record of accomplishment at VCSU. Perhaps chief among his achievements is the student enrollment growth that has taken place at the university under his leadership.

In Fall 2008, shortly after Shirley began his tenure in Valley City, total headcount enrollment stood at 1,019; by Fall 2013, that number had risen to 1,366, a 34 percent increase. Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 823 in Fall 2008; by Fall 2013, that figure was 975, an 18 percent increase. In a competitive higher education market, VCSU has seen its enrollment stock rise.

The increases in enrollment did not come by standing still; they are a result of managed change. In 2010, VCSU finalized and began implementing a new strategic plan, VCSU 2015, addressing four main areas: academic quality, facilities, funding and enrollment growth.

Change and innovation have been hallmarks of Shirley's tenure at Valley City State. New and realigned academic programs have emerged, and two new academic centers—the Great Plains STEM Education Center and Prairie Waters Education and Research Center—have also been established. The STEM Center, in cooperation and with the support of both public- and private-sector partners, provides professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers and hands-on, inquiry-based learning opportunities for students. Prairie Waters provides environmental learning opportunities focused on North Dakota waters for students, teachers and professionals, while also conducting research on aquatic biological resources. Both centers extend the reach of Valley City State beyond educating university students, bringing VCSU resources and personnel to bear on broader missions to serve a number of extended constituencies.

In addition to the academic program, the physical campus of VCSU has also received attention during the Shirley years at VCSU. A major accomplishment was the first capital construction project for an academic building on the VCSU campus in 40 years, a \$10.3 million expansion and renovation of Rhoades Science Center which nearly doubled the size of the facility. The project was begun in November 2011 and completed in August 2013, with a ribbon-cutting and open house held Oct. 4, 2013.

Rhoades Science Center provides state-of-the-art facilities for VCSU's science and math departments, the Great Plains STEM Education Center, technology services, and the university's collaborative nursing program with Dakota

College at Bottineau. The building's environmentally friendly design earned LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Serving on the NAIA Council of Presidents, Shirley played the lead role in the formation of the North Star Athletic Association, which began play in Fall 2013. The new athletic conference includes charter members VCSU, Mayville State and the University of Jamestown, along with

***“Steve understands the importance of a comprehensive athletic program and the sense of pride those teams bring to the campus and community. He was, and will continue to be, a true Viking!”***

—Dave Bass '77: VCSU assistant professor of education and faculty athletic representative; director, VCSU Foundation

Presentation College in Aberdeen, S.D., and Dakota State University in Madison, S.D. The formation of the North Star Athletic Association greatly enhances the VCSU Viking athletic program by maintaining traditional rivalries, providing stability in scheduling and affording relatively reasonable travel requirements.

Although it's been relatively smooth sailing on calm waters for Shirley at VCSU, it was literally water—in the form of floodwaters of the swollen Sheyenne River in April 2009—that tested him and the university. As the river water rose, earthen levees were built and bridges to campus were closed; community members, students, faculty and staff filled sandbags and helped fight the floodwaters. Easter break provided an escape for students, but little did they know that most wouldn't return until the fall as stressed levees and the failure of the city's sanitation system resulted in the closing of campus.

A closed campus didn't end the semester, though; VCSU's collective expertise with technology allowed for classes to resume through distance learning, and seniors came back a month later to graduate in a ceremony held in Osmon Fieldhouse. The flood of 2009 had certainly done its damage, but it wasn't able to sink the university.

Dealing with the flood required VCSU to work hand in glove with the greater Valley City community, and throughout his appointment at VCSU, Shirley has been able to encourage cooperation and foster good relations with the community through various means. He serves on the board of the Valley City-Barnes County Development Corp. and in that role has assisted with local economic development efforts, to which VCSU contributes in a large way. Shirley also keeps the community informed on what's happening at VCSU, writing a column

every other week for the Times-Record newspaper and frequently appearing on Voice of the Valley, a KOVC radio show. A long-time Rotarian, Shirley currently serves as president of the Valley City Rotary Club.

Shirley has brought recognition to the university as well—in each of the last five years, VCSU has been ranked by U.S. News as either the No. 1 or No. 2 public regional college in the Midwest. Another substantial endorsement came in

the form of the Higher Learning Commission's 2012 decision to give Valley City State University its

maximum 10-year reaccreditation.

Valley City State University has thrived under the leadership of President Steven W. Shirley. Enrollment growth, new academic programs, a new science center, a new athletic conference—the list goes on. Steve Shirley has been recognized for these accomplishments and more, and when he leaves for Minot State, he will be remembered as a good person who served VCSU well.



Steve and Jennifer Shirley with daughter Anna

In an email to VCSU faculty and staff in which he shared the news that he had been nominated for the Minot State presidency, Shirley spoke of his strong feelings for Valley City State. "...Please know that Jennifer and I are very happy in Valley City," he said. "There is tremendous momentum at VCSU right now, and it is a fantastic place to come to work every morning. I have a deep fondness for the campus, our students, our employees, our alumni, our community supporters, and everyone connected with VCSU."

# Wright estate provides largest gift in university history



In December 2013, Valley City State University received a \$2.5 million gift to the VCSU Foundation from the estate of Leonard and Marjorie (Dreis) Wright of Mukilteo, Wash.

The gift—the largest in VCSU history—will be applied to the scholarship fund at VCSU.

Marjorie Wright attended VCSU, then known as Valley City State Teacher's College, and became a teacher.

One of 12 children born to Anna and Mathias Dreis, Marjorie grew up on a farm four miles from Dazey. The family had no plumbing, electricity or telephone while

Marjorie lived at home. She attended Bennett School, a mile-and-a-half from the farm, as a child, and taught there her first year after attending Valley City State for two years.

While teaching, Marjorie met Leonard Wright of Wimbledon, N.D., and the two married in 1945. They lived and worked on

*"We will be forever thankful to the Wrights for their outstanding generosity and their commitment to education," said VCSU President Steven W. Shirley. "Their gift is clearly a gift that will keep on giving, touching the lives of future generations of VCSU students."*

The Wright estate gift was facilitated in part through their relationship with Phil Mueller of Valley City, a 1968 VCSU alumnus who serves on the Valley City State Foundation Board. The Wrights had no children of their own but took several young relatives, including Mueller, under their wing. The nephew of Leonard Wright, Mueller spent two of his college summers working on road construction projects for the Wrights in North Pole, Alaska, and maintained contact with them throughout their lives.

The Wrights maintained a strong connection with family and friends back home—"North Dakota was never far from their hearts and minds," says Mueller, who helped plant the seed with his aunt and uncle that grew into their grand bequest to VCSU.

A rural Dazey, N.D., native,

several farms in the Dazey area before moving to Washington and then on to Oregon, where Marjorie continued both her teaching education and career, all before heading to Alaska in 1953.

Leonard—or "Len" as he was called—and his brothers formed a construction company, Wright Brothers, in North Pole, Alaska, while Marjorie taught and finished her education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. When Leonard's brother Don left the construction business in 1966, Marjorie left teaching and took over the accounting work for the firm.

Renamed Badger Construction, the firm prospered in the mid-1970s with work on construction projects associated with the Alaska oil pipeline. At one point, according to Mueller, the Wrights had 114 pieces of machinery—trucks and heavy equipment—working on

pipeline-related construction projects.

"They ran the business together," says Mueller. "Leonard had the entrepreneurial spirit, and Marjorie took care of administrative details."

After 26 years in Alaska, the Wrights moved their business from Alaska to Washington, where they continued working for 14 years. Upon retirement, the couple moved to Oregon, then to Arizona (where they had spent many winters), and ultimately to Nevada.

In semi-retirement and retirement, the couple channeled the passion and energy with which they drove their business into travel—first in their Prevost motorhomes and then on cruises. On separate trips they cruised the Atlantic from the Canary Islands to the Caribbean and Florida, down the Pacific Coast of Mexico, and through the Panama Canal. Other cruises took them across Europe and through the fjords of Norway; they also flew to Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia, among other places.

Included in their travels were domestic trips on the Mississippi River—down the river from the headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minn., to Memphis by RV on one trip, and up from New Orleans to St. Louis on a paddle-wheel boat on another—along with many return trips to the Valley City area to visit family and friends. And one of their favorite trips was an Alaska cruise; the busy pace of work when they lived in the state had prevented them from seeing many of the sites at the time.

The Wrights' travel adventures came to a close when a traumatic fall, in which he broke multiple ribs on one side of his body, took a strong toll on Leonard's health, and as Marjorie described in her 2009 memoir, "One thing after the other developed."

In June 2007, Leonard died; shortly thereafter Marjorie moved from the home they had built in Henderson, Nev., to Mukilteo, Wash. Marjorie lived in Mukilteo for several years, and it was there where she died at the age of 91 on April 7, 2013.

In the memoir she put together for friends

and family—aptly named *The Roads We've Taken*—Marjorie wrote of her life with Leonard: "I feel very fortunate to have shared nearly 62 years of life with Len.... We were happy, were good business partners, worked hard, saved for old age, invested wisely, had great retirement years, and learned much through it all."

For family member Phil Mueller, it's not the Wrights' wealth that he thinks about when he talks of them. Rather it's the notion that they had come from humble beginnings, endured hardship and tough times in their lives before finding success, and through it all, stayed down-to-earth and true to their North Dakota roots, while maintaining their connections to family and friends.

In regard to his aunt, one particular thing Mueller remembers, as he wrote at the time of Marjorie's death, is that "She always had a sense of humor that helped us all laugh when it may have seemed the issue wasn't a laughing matter. A very good lesson."

Of course, now neither Mueller, nor the others who know Valley City State well, will ever forget the wonderful gift the Wrights have bestowed on the university. Through the young people who will benefit from scholarships funded by Leonard and Marjorie's generosity and the foresight of their philanthropy, the Wright story and legacy will live on for generations to come.

*"Leonard and Marjorie Wright were very successful business people," said Larry Robinson, VCSU executive director of university advancement, "and the foresight they had in making the arrangements for this generous gift to Valley City State shows they did not forget their North Dakota roots."*



## Phil Mueller '68

A 1968 alumnus of Valley City State, Phil Mueller serves on the board of directors of the VCSU Foundation.

With VCSU majors in business education and English education and a minor in physical education under his belt, Mueller taught English at Grand Forks Central from 1968–71 before returning to Valley City State to serve four years as director of the Student Union and student activities (in that capacity the direct predecessor of Larry Robinson '71, now VCSU executive director of university advancement).

Mueller then took a position at Eastern Montana College in Billings, prior to returning to North Dakota to buy and run his grandfather's farm, three miles east of Wimbledon, in 1979.

In 1998 Mueller ran for office in the North Dakota Legislature, and with an election win began a 14-year career as a state representative.

Now retired, Mueller and his wife, Darlene, winter in Texas and spend the rest of their days in Valley City. They are the parents of three adult children; their son, Markus, is now the fourth generation to run the family's farm.

## Meet the Foundation Board of Directors

With this piece we begin a series of profiles in question/answer format with the Board of Directors of the Valley City State University Foundation. Beginning here and continuing in future issues of *The Bulletin*, we will feature our entire board.



### *Mary Simonson (Foundation Board president)*

**Full name, hometown, current occupation (include tenure) and family information:**

My hometown is Valley City, N.D., and I am the executive director of the Open Door Center, located in Valley City and Lisbon, N.D. I have been employed in this position for 31 years (32 on May 1!). My husband, Mikal, is an attorney with an undergraduate degree from VCSU. My first son, Nick, is an attorney for Schwan's, and he is married to Angie Sersha, also an attorney for Schwan's. They have one child, Alex, born Jan. 27, 2014. Our youngest son, Ben, a graduate of VCSU, is program director at the Open Door Center.

been and remains a balanced budget. The foundation has also increased the number of staff who have greatly assisted in the increase in funds to use for scholarships and other foundation activities. The foundation is blessed to have such passionate staff.

**Tell us your experience as a Foundation Board member.**

My experience on the Foundation Board has been one of growth! The foundation's scholarship programs have increased dramatically, thanks to several gifts. Scholarships now total almost three-quarters of a million dollars annually. This surge has been a precipitating factor for the increase of enrollment, with the current semester's number exceeding all other spring semesters. The budget of the foundation has

**In your opinion, what are VCSU's strengths?**

VCSU has many strengths, but foremost is its staff from the president to faculty and staff. The production by the development staff has resulted in additional scholarships that has precipitated increased enrollment. Faculty have a driving desire to meet the needs of students, and that has increased retention and the addition of new and exciting fields of study. President Shirley has been instrumental in designing a new athletic league, leading the charge for the addition to the Rhoades Science Center, as well as challenging staff to move forward with new and exciting areas of study. The campus at VCSU is one of the prettiest in the state. New activities, renovations of dormitories, and the addition of sport participation, coupled with additional scholarships, all serve to attract more students. These are only a few factors that have been instrumental in the growth of Valley City State University.

**What are VCSU's greatest opportunities?**

VCSU's greatest opportunity is the forward-looking viewpoint of all who are involved with the university. Students, staff, faculty, and the leadership are always exploring

new opportunities to expand the outreach of the university to those presently attending classes, but also for alumni, the community, the state, and beyond our borders. Consequently VCSU continues to push to meet the needs of current and future students as well as encouraging the development of all who are involved with the campus and its offerings.

**Why is it important for alumni to stay engaged with their alma mater?**

It is important for alumni to stay involved with VCSU because their experience helps pave the path for those who are attending or will attend the university. They can influence the career of a student by sharing their viewpoint and recommendations with potential students. Alumni can also influence new avenues of study because they are experiencing the real world. By offering suggestions for additions of career paths and activities, along with building and equipment additions, they can help ensure that the university will continue to meet the needs of the students of today and the emerging needs of the society that they will serve.

**Do you have advice for alumni or anything else you would like to add?**

My advice to alumni is to stay involved, as you have the experiences that can help sculpt VCSU to meet the needs of future students and the world that they will experience.



### *Ken Astrup '73*

**Full name, hometown, current occupation (include tenure) and family information:**

I grew up in Wimbledon, N.D., and currently reside in Jamestown with my wife Linda.

We have three grown children and two grandchildren. I have served as the general manager of Dakota Plains Cooperative since January 2006.

**Tell us your experience as a Foundation Board member.**

I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the Foundation Board with a number of very smart people. Serving on the board has given me a chance to see a different side of higher education.

**In your opinion, what are VCSU's strengths?**

There are a number of strengths at Valley City State University. I think the biggest strength is the people involved with the university. They truly care about the students that attend VCSU and are committed to making the student experience positive. This strength is closely followed by the willingness of the staff to make necessary changes so that the educational experience for the student is relevant and assists them in being prepared to enter the work world.

**What are VCSU's greatest opportunities?**

I think the greatest opportunities for VCSU are to continue to build on that commitment to students so they are prepared for their future after graduation and to continue to develop the additional programs to accomplish that goal.

**Why is it important for alumni to stay engaged with their alma mater?**

The university played a very important role in my development, education, and success, and I think it did the same for most other alumni. If not for their time at VCSU, would alumni be successfully doing what they are today? I think alumni have an obligation to give back and to be involved in providing resources for VCSU to continue the development of students.



### Dee Jensen '66

**Full name, hometown, current occupation (include tenure) and family information:**

Delores "Dee" Jensen, Wahpeton N.D. (where I have lived the majority of my adult life). Now

self-employed, retired associate professor and head women's track & field coach, North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS). Degrees: B.S., Valley City State University; M.S., Northern Arizona University. A native of North Dakota, I grew up on the family farm with six older brothers. I married my college sweetheart, Owen Jensen. After 33 years of marriage and parallel teaching and coaching careers at NDSCS, he died in 2002. We both were competition officials in track and field at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

**Tell us your experience as a Foundation Board member.**

I've had the opportunity to participate with a group of individuals who have diverse professional backgrounds and collectively share their commitment, insights, passion, and vision for VCSU.

**In your opinion, what are VCSU's strengths?**

The people and the programs are the cause and effect of what makes VCSU a first-class university. Sharing in that success as students, faculty, staff, administration, and community generates even higher expectations, greater pride, and momentum as we enjoy record enrollments, the addition of academic programs and delivery, and new and renovated facilities. The student-teacher ratio of 12:1 provides an optimal setting for quality learning. Because VCSU is a laptop campus, students are able to gain technological skills that enhance their job opportunities. Being ranked No. 1 or No. 2 Public Regional College in the Midwest by *US News* the past five years is outstanding.

**What are VCSU's greatest opportunities?**

The continued ability to provide and deliver quality programs at an affordable price, the

designation of STEM Center in the university system, implementing needed and new curriculums, and expansion of donor base to keep pace with record enrollment.

**Why is it important for alumni to stay engaged with their alma mater?**

When you stay connected to (or reconnect with) your alma mater, you have the opportunity to relive the great memories you experienced while at VCSU and also become aware of all the advancements and improvements that have taken place since your college days. Brick and mortar are essential, yet people likely made the biggest difference in your college experience. Staying engaged in your alma mater is the motivator to "pay it forward" in some form.

**Do you have advice for alumni or anything else you would like to add?**

Giving is an attitude. When you develop the habit of sharing your time, your talents, and your resources, you become part of a whole that is much greater than self. Whether current life situations make it possible to only share your time, your talents, your resources or all three, VCSU is grateful. Give what you can!



### Delton Steele '80

**Full name, hometown, current occupation (include tenure) and family information:**

I grew up on a farm near Pingree, N.D., and graduated from Pingree High School. I

am the regional president for the southeast North Dakota region of U.S. Bank. This region includes our banking facilities in Fargo, Moorhead, Valley City, Lisbon, and Wahpeton. I have been with U.S. Bank ever since graduating from VCSU in 1980. I met my wife Lori at VCSU; she's a 1981 graduate. Originally from Hurdsfield, N.D., she is a substitute teacher in the West Fargo and Fargo school districts. We have three grown children and four grandchildren. Our son Eric is married and a father of three. He is a dentist in Rochester, Minn. Our daughter Jennifer has a Master's degree in education. A high school English teacher at West Fargo High School, she is married and the mother of one. Our youngest son Scott has a B.S. degree in psychology and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in school counseling.

**Tell us your experience as a Foundation Board member.**

I am very excited to have the opportunity to serve as a Foundation Board member. To be a part of a group of alumni and friends that have a passion for the success and mission of VCSU is a wonderful experience. I can't say enough about the hard work that the Foundation Staff does to keep advancing the mission of VCSU.

**In your opinion, what are VCSU's strengths?**

In my opinion, the strengths of VCSU are the support it receives from the local community and the low student-to-teacher ratio that allows students to build relationships with their professors. The evolution and enhancements to the overall areas of study available to students in recent years is creating exciting opportunities. This has been accomplished by also not forgetting the programs that helped make VCSU the quality institution that it has always been. The leadership and staff of VCSU have continued to make the university a successful player in higher education, as demonstrated in continued public recognition, increases in enrollment, and student retention.

**What are VCSU's greatest opportunities?**

I believe the remodel and addition to the Rhoades Science Center can be the spring-

board and showcase for the university to attract students. Working with the community to develop a wellness center would also enhance the quality of life we want students to experience.

**Why is it important for alumni to stay engaged with their alma mater?**

Just like so many things in life, the competitive environment to attract students is intense. If we are to remain competitive and provide the best possible experience that we can for students, we need to continue to work toward and champion continued upgrades to facilities and provide scholarship opportunities to keep students' out of pocket costs as reasonable as possible.

**Do you have advice for alumni or anything else you would like to add?**

My advice for alumni would be to evaluate what you can do to help keep VCSU as one of the premier institutions of higher education that it is today. Do what you can to be familiar with what VCSU has to offer and to help carry that story forward wherever you may be located. And yes, VCSU does need your continued financial support. One of the best gifts we can ever provide to a young person is the gift of a high-quality education.

## Anderson brings VCSU background to North Star Athletic Association

There are few people, if any, who have been involved in Valley City State University athletics the way Cory Anderson has over the past 30 years. A career that began as a VCSU student-athlete in 1984 has progressed all the way to VCSU's conference commissioner.

Anderson, a 1989 graduate of VCSU, was named commissioner of the new North Star Athletic Association on July 1, 2013. VCSU is one of five founding member schools in the conference. It's just another chapter in the story of Anderson and VCSU athletics.

A native of McVie, N.D., Anderson attended VCSU from 1984–89, playing both baseball and football for the Vikings and being a part of four conference championships.

After graduation he began working in the VCSU Enrollment Services Office and then moved to assistant football and assistant baseball coach in 1990–91. Anderson became head coach of VCSU baseball in 1992, a job he held until 2007. During that time he also served as assistant football coach, the majority as offensive coordinator, and spent time as the sports information director.

Anderson left the world of college athletics in 2007. He spent five years working in the insurance and financial services industry, and in 2012 became executive director of the James River Valley YMCA in Jamestown—a job he held until joining the North Star Athletic Association.

As conference commissioner Anderson looks out for the interests of all schools in the conference, not just VCSU. So his involvement with Viking athletics is less than before, but in some ways just as important. He has been tasked with building credibility and expanding membership of the North Star Athletic Association, which began with five teams in 2013 and is expanding to six teams in all sports and seven teams in football for 2014–15.

A stable, healthy conference is something

Viking athletics has lacked since the breakdown of the Dakota Athletic Conference began, and it's something that can do wonders for the growth and competitiveness of the programs.

The importance is not lost on the conference's athletic directors, including VCSU's Jack Denholm, who praised Anderson's work.

"Cory has done an outstanding job in his first year," said Denholm. "His vision, passion and hard work will undoubtedly pay off as we move towards building a stronger league."

For his part, Anderson says there's much to be done, but he's seeing progress.

"We're really just hitting the ground right now with what we want to do, but I think that we've done a decent job of getting our brand out there," he said. "Our reputation is getting out there as being a conference that is on the rise and wants to be aggressive and doesn't want to sit back and be a so-so conference."

So how does someone become a conference commissioner? It's not exactly a common job opening, Anderson says with a laugh. But for him, while it maybe wasn't the intended goal, every job Anderson held since graduating VCSU has prepared him for this job and its responsibility.

"Everything I did in that time period, they were all great prerequisites for the job of being a commissioner," he said. "There really wasn't anything on the job description that I hadn't done, so it's kind of a unique opportunity for me."

Anderson and his wife, Kristi, also a VCSU graduate, reside in Jamestown. Their son Brady is a sophomore at VCSU and plays baseball for the Vikings. Daughter Kadie is a junior at Jamestown

High School and is involved in several sports, including fast-pitch softball.

The offices of the North Star Athletic Association are, right now, centered in the Anderson home. He is the only full-time employee of the conference office. His work days consist of day-to-day duties involved with running the conference—such as fielding phone calls, writing and reviewing reports, planning meetings, making visits to conference schools and attending conference events—and also big-picture items, such as visiting and recruiting potential new conference members. It's a varied and busy schedule that Anderson enjoys.

"It's never boring, that's for sure," he said. "There hasn't been a time yet where I've sat here and wondered what I'll do today."

August 2014 will mark the 30-year anniversary of Anderson's enrollment at VCSU and the beginning of his career in VCSU athletics. Thirty years later the job is different and the man has changed, but that Viking connection is still going strong.



North Star Athletic Association commissioner Cory Anderson '89 presents conference awards to VCSU student-athletes on Feb. 12.



### Hoffner named head coach at Minot State

Valley City State University graduate and former football player Todd Hoffner '89 has been hired as the head football coach at Minot State University.

Minot State is an NCAA Division II school playing in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC).

Hoffner previously served as head coach at Minnesota State Mankato, where he

coached the Mavericks to a 34-13 record, three NSIC South Division titles, and one NSIC conference title.

Hoffner played cornerback for Valley City State from 1984-87, playing alongside current VCSU assistant head coach Gregg Horner.

### King joins NDUS tech services

Darin King '86 is now deputy CIO for operations in the Core Technology Services (formerly SITS) division of the North Dakota University System. King began his work with NDUS in late November 2013.

King formerly was director of the North Dakota Education Technology Council (NDETC), a state board responsible for developing technology systems and coordinating their effective use in elementary and secondary education. Prior to joining the NDETC, King served as technology director for the Grand Forks Public School district for 15 years.

King began his education career as a high school mathematics and computer science teacher; he also coached high school football.

In addition to a B.S. degree in math education and minors in computer science and athletic coaching from VCSU, King holds an M.S. degree in education from the University of North Dakota (UND) and has completed his coursework (ABD) toward a UND doctorate in educational leadership.

## 2014 Arizona Reunion

### Mesa, Arizona

1. (front, l to r) John '60 & Joan '60 Ostlie, Deanne Horne '60, Marge Sogn '61, Marilyn Baumann '55, Jeannice '67 and Myron '62 Sommerfeld  
(back) Don Lemnus '58, Harvey Peterson, Jane Lemnus, Al Dosch '55, Bob Horne '60, Arlin Prochnow '64, Joe Welder '67, Robert Sogn '51, Owen Wallace '54, Harley Mathias, Bill Thomas '59, Jerry Pederson '60, Ron Wendel '67, Robert King '55, Mary Wendel '68, and Jerry Olson '55
2. (front, l to r) Pat Thomas '59, Dee Hillstrom '69, Carol Meyers '68, Ruth McMillan '52, and Mary Schroeder '65  
(back) Dan O'Connor '61, Dale Hillstrom '69, Kathy Crandall '67, and John Ovrebo '66
3. (front, l to r) Noreen Smestad '81, Mary Lee Robinson '71, Bonnie VanBruggen, JoAnn Nathan, and Arlene Burchill  
(back) Charlo Shirley, Ruth McMillan '52, unidentified, Gene Smestad, unidentified, Eldwyn VanBruggen, Grant Archer '75, Terry Anderson '74, Dennis Nathan, and Nyle Burchill



### Surprise, Arizona

4. (l to r) Dave & Linda Nagle, Dan '59 & Pat '67 Parrish, Steve Shirley, Mary Schroeder '65, Harlan '72 & Peggy Bultema, and Howard Rasmusson '71. Not pictured: Robert & Linda Nagle and Karen Strand
5. (l to r) Mary Lee '71 & Larry '71 Robinson, Gary '67 & Karen '69 Krause, Bob '68 & Linda '70 McKenzie, Joan '60 & John '60 Ostlie, and Marie '74 & Jerry '74 Topp
6. (l to r) Jack '60 & Kay '67 Holm, Pat '59 & Bill '59 Thomas, Connie Seaborn '61, and Gene Engle '61



# Winter ALUMNI Socials



**Grand Forks Alumni Social**

(l to r) Vaughn '60 and Pauline '60 Hesse; Joseph '12, Nathaniel and Theresa (Foertsch) '11 Ostgarden; Jackson Sussex '08; and Samantha Logan '06



(top, l to r) Missy (Stowman) Vollmers '89, Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91, Greta (Trader) Delparte '06, Angela Morford '12, Brianna Busch '12; (bottom left) Justin Vollmers, Easton Hesch; (bottom right) Morford, Busch, Scrratch (Bobcats mascot)

## TURN YOUR PROPERTY INTO INCOME

*Your property can help you save for retirement. By transferring your property to a charitable remainder unitrust you can take advantage of a number of tax benefits. To learn more, visit our website. [www.vcsugift.org](http://www.vcsugift.org)*



## HELP US LOCATE THESE LOST ALUMNI ▼

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

### 1961

Darlene Buelow  
Kirker Clark  
Janet Delvo  
Dale Gayer  
Marcella Gilk  
Linda (Anderson) Greer  
Arthur Hagen  
Delphine Lenzen  
Marlys Lund  
Connie Lund  
Eileen Mayer  
Jacqueline Petterson  
Delores Schwengler  
Charlotte Tolton  
Patricia (Bell) Tomlin  
Vynn Walter  
Janice Williams  
Robert Woods

### 1962

Phyllis (Christensen) Dehne  
Jacqueline Dunphy  
Barbara Engebretson  
Judith Ensrud  
Florence Gryth  
Emilie Halvorson  
Barbara (Engebretson) Hovde  
Dianne Kalmbach  
Wayne Kenner  
Douglas Kessler  
Kathleen (Heitkamp) King  
Sharon Lee  
Edythe Mittleider  
Devonne Naatus  
Richard Ouren  
Caroline Sundstrom  
Gary Swenson  
Lillian Wagner

### 1963

Jerome Anderson  
Margaret Anderson  
Roger Aune  
Donald Brandt  
Irene (Aslakson) Johnson  
Wesley Lines  
Barbara Rahrich

### 1964

Arla Johnson  
Mary (Wagner) Tibbitts

### 1965

Beverly Anderson  
Margaret Corrigan  
Gary Glaser  
Dennis Maasjo  
Peggy (Hakanson) Matsumoto-  
Ritchie  
Lavonne Myhre  
Cheryll (Erfle) Rousseau  
Brenda (Carter) Shaw

### 1966

William Chambers  
Dorothy Eberle  
Kenneth Hanson  
Phyllis Huber  
Janet (Fitzgerald) Hunter  
Susan (Lloyd) Pederson  
Deloris (Beauchamp) Schindler

### 1967

Carol Gaugler  
Lawrence Malaney  
Delores Rodman  
Richard Vetter  
Helen (Tiistola) Ware  
Robert Werlinger

### 1968

Betty (Salzwedel) Anderson  
Gwen (Berger) Arnold  
Arllys (Muonio) Degerman  
Joanne (Watne) Hofstad  
Shirley Jorgensen  
Joyce Rice  
William Vossler

### 1969

Carol (Joyce) Haag  
Daryl Haas  
Robert Hall  
Dennis Haugen  
Connie Lacher  
Peggy (Lipp) Larson  
Daniel McMahon  
Lucille Olson  
Orville Olson  
Judy (Torson) Olson  
Becky (Ortiz) Olson  
Glen Roberts  
Susan (Settelmeier) Ryden

### 1970

Marilyn Brooks  
Donald Bruce  
Bernadette (Heidrich) Durette  
Dexter Ertelt  
Lynette (Goldsmith) Gilliland  
Jane Harris  
Diane (Peterson) Huffman  
Ellen (Robinson) Larson  
Dale Mikkelsen  
Patricia (Heggen) Moe  
Richard Podoll  
Dorothy (Roll) Rayburn  
Ronald Reede  
Dan Tongen  
Gary Zimmerman



# VCSU

## Women's Weekend A Mystery Bus Trip Aug. 15–17, 2014

Don't worry about dusting off the old college psych book; come reconnect with VCSU alumni on a mystery getaway!

VCSU Alumnae,

Grab a girlfriend for an exciting weekend of mystery dinners, activities and other surprises along the way. You and your guest will arrive on the VCSU campus on Friday evening without a worry. Leave the planning to us and enjoy a relaxing, carefree weekend connecting with other VCSU alumni and friends as we travel to a variety of destinations.

For \$125 a person, all of your accommodations, meals, snacks, activities and transportation will be covered once you arrive on the VCSU campus Friday evening!

- Weekend participants must register in pairs and include at least one VCSU alumni
- Participants must be 21 or older
- Limited to 40 participants
- Registration due June 1, 2014

Email [vcsuwomensweekend@gmail.com](mailto:vcsuwomensweekend@gmail.com) for more information or to register.

## Student Senate president Edinger active on campus



VCSU student Erin Edinger is very active on campus, where she works with fellow students in a number of ways.

Edinger, a Valley City High School graduate, started at VCSU in January 2010, after beginning her college career with a semester at the University of North Dakota. Now a senior at VCSU, Edinger is a business administration major and involved in many campus activities, including Student Senate, DECA, and the Enrollment Services Office, along with serving as an R.A. in Kolstoe Hall.

One way Edinger works with students is as president of Student Senate. “We’re the decision-making body for the students,” she said. “Any time the campus exec team is looking for student input, they send all the issues to Student Senate, and we represent all of the students.” The senate also does community service events and “lots of events for campus.”

Edinger also did a fall semester internship in the university’s Student Affairs Office, in which she focused on multicultural programming. “I worked a lot with Nadja Johnson, our new retention, diversity and inclusion coordinator,” she said.

One new event she helped bring to campus was a celebration of Canadian Thanksgiving. “That’s probably our biggest international population,” said Edinger. We’d never really done anything [for Canadians] before.”

Edinger also hosted a hunger banquet, in which people went to the cafeteria and were assigned a social class, which determined where they sat in the cafeteria and what meal they were served. “The whole goal of the hunger banquet was to raise awareness of hunger and poverty and serve as a fund-raiser for the Barnes County Food Pantry,” she said.

Edinger stays involved with students after hours as an R.A. for Kolstoe Hall. Her duties involve creating a welcoming environment in the dorms, coming up with different programs and making sure students are following the rules.

In addition, Edinger works as a night manager at the Student Center. “Whenever our manager is gone, we are at that information desk and basically in charge of all the activities that are going on—making sure everything’s running smoothly here in the Student Center,” Edinger said.

Edinger also works as a student ambassador on campus, giving tours, helping with orientation and hosting Viking Visit Days, when prospective students visit campus.

Being actively involved with campus and students should prepare Edinger for studying in the student affairs area in graduate school once she graduates VCSU this spring. Student affairs involves much of what she’s already doing here—student activities, housing and enrollment.

—Based on a piece by Heidi Harris '11 that first appeared in the Valley City Times-Record

## VCSU sets spring semester enrollment records, growth trend continues

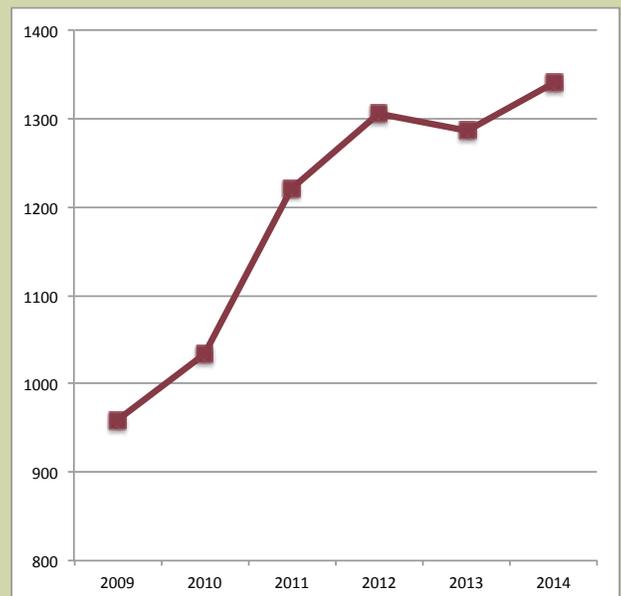
Valley City State University has released its final student enrollment figures for Spring Semester 2014, and those figures indicate that VCSU has set records for both headcount and FTE (full-time equivalent), eclipsing all previous marks since the university switched to a semester system in 1992–93.

VCSU numbers for Spring 2014 show a total headcount of 1,341 students, an increase of 54 over last year’s spring enrollment of 1,287. The 2014 figures include 1,192 undergraduate students, along with 149 graduate students in VCSU’s online Master of Education (M.Ed.) program.

The FTE figure for Spring 2014 is 956, an increase of 35 over last spring’s mark of 921.

The increase seen in VCSU’s Spring Semester 2014 enrollment is part of a strong growth trend at Valley City State. Since 2009, VCSU’s spring headcount numbers have grown from 959 to 1,341, a 40 percent increase. Similarly, FTE over the same period has increased from 767 to 956, a 25 percent increase.

“We’re excited to announce this all-time record spring enrollment as well as the continuation of our recent significant campus growth,” said VCSU President Steven W. Shirley. “The numbers reflect the quality and variety of our academic offerings, and they’re an important indicator of the overall teaching and learning environment here at Valley City State.”



## Interim Higher Ed Funding Committee meets on campus

The Interim Higher Education Funding Committee of the North Dakota Legislature met on the campus of Valley City State University on Nov. 20.

Chaired by Mark Sanford, District 17 representative, the committee includes two Valley City State alumni—Larry Robinson '71, District 24 senator (and VCSU executive director of university advancement), and Clark Williams '64, District 25 representative.

VCSU alumnus Brady Larson '04, assistant legislative budget analyst, assists the Interim Higher Education Funding Committee as a staff member.

President Steve Shirley presented Valley City State highlights to the committee, and David DeMuth, Jr., executive director of the Great Plains STEM Education Center at VCSU, also presented on the STEM Center's activities and goals.

The Interim Higher Education Funding Committee also heard presentations on the North Dakota University System's proposed Pathways to Student Success Plan, K-12 Common Core standards in mathematics and English language arts, student performance and remedial education rates, college affordability and loans, student tuition and fee models, state scholarship programs, and the statewide longitudinal data system.

Among those presenting to the committee was VCSU alumnus Kirsten Baesler, M.Ed. '10, North Dakota superintendent of public instruction, along with Kirsten Diederich, president of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, and Larry Skogen, North Dakota University System interim chancellor.

In attendance at the meeting was VCSU alumna Joan Heckaman

'67, District 23 senator, who serves on the Interim Education Funding Committee.

Joe Stickler, VCSU professor emeritus, led interested committee members and meeting attendees on a tour of the newly renovated and expanded L.D. Rhoades Science Center, a \$10.3 million project funded by an appropriation in the 2011 North Dakota legislative session.



Brady Larson '04 and Rep. Mark Sanford

## VCSU online programs—M.Ed., bachelor's—nationally ranked by U.S. News

Both of Valley City State University's online degree programs—its Master of Education (M.Ed.) and Bachelor's Degree programs—are nationally ranked in the 2014 *U.S. News Best Online Programs*.

Appearing in the Graduate Education category, VCSU's online M.Ed. is ranked 42nd among 234 programs listed in the rankings. It is the only program offered by a North Dakota college or university ranked in this category.

In the Best Online Bachelor's Program category, VCSU is ranked 138th of 278 listed programs.

"VCSU is proud to be included in the *U.S. News* online education rankings as these results speak to the academic excellence of our programs," said VCSU President Steven W. Shirley. "Online education is important in providing flexible access to Bachelor's and Master's Degree programs to those who might not be able to participate in a traditional on-site program.

"Providing in-service teaching professionals with the opportunity to earn an M.Ed. online in a highly ranked program helps improve the quality of classroom education in elementary and secondary schools, and that's been central to Valley City State's mission since its founding in 1890," added President Shirley.



# 2014 Viking Scramble Golf Tournament

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21 \***

**VALLEY CITY TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB  
BJORNSON PARK PUBLIC COURSE**

**\*Please Note:** Due to poor weather conditions in past years, the Viking Scramble has been moved to the third weekend in June.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:**

<https://secure.vcsu.edu/vikingscramble/registration.htm>





# VIKING SPORTS

## Spring Schedule 2014

All dates and times are subject to change.  
For complete up-to-date schedules of all sports,  
visit [vikings.vcsu.edu](http://vikings.vcsu.edu).

### BASEBALL

All times are Central Standard Time  
(DH) = Doubleheader

March 22	.....vs. Bethesda University	.....10 a.m.
March 23	.....vs. Oberlin College	.....10 a.m.
March 23	.....vs. Middlebury College	.....2 p.m.
March 24	.....vs. Williams College	.....1 p.m.
March 24	.....vs. Luther College	.....5 p.m.
March 29	.....@ Dickinson State (DH)	.....1/3:30 p.m.
March 30	.....@ Dickinson State (DH)	.....1/3:30 p.m.
April 5	.....@ University of Jamestown (DH)	.....1/3 p.m.
April 6	.....@ University of Jamestown (DH)	.....12/2 p.m.
April 10	.....vs. Concordia	.....4 p.m.
April 12	.....vs. Dakota State (DH)	.....1/3 p.m.
April 13	.....vs. Dakota State (DH)	.....12/2 p.m.
April 16	.....vs. Winnipeg (DH)	.....2/4 p.m.
April 18	.....vs. Presentation (DH)	.....1/3 p.m.
April 19	.....vs. Presentation (DH)	.....12/2 p.m.
April 26	.....@ Mayville State (DH)	.....1/3 p.m.
April 27	.....vs. Mayville State (DH)	.....1/3 p.m.
April 29	.....@ Winnipeg	.....4 p.m.
May 2-5	.....North Star Tournament @ VCSU	

### SOFTBALL

March 21	.....vs. Lamar Community College	.....12 p.m.
March 21	.....vs. University of Antelope Valley	.....2:30 p.m.
March 21	.....vs. Oklahoma Baptist University	.....4:30 p.m.
March 22	.....vs. Oklahoma Baptist University	.....10 a.m.
March 22	.....vs. Dickinson State	.....2:30 p.m.
April 5	.....vs. University of Jamestown (DH)	.....TBA
April 6	.....@ University of Jamestown (DH)	.....TBA
April 9	.....@ Mayville State (DH)	.....TBA
April 12	.....@ Presentation College (DH)	.....TBA
April 13	.....@ Presentation College (DH)	.....TBA
April 18	.....vs. Dickinson State (DH)	.....TBA
April 19	.....@ Dickinson State (DH)	.....TBA
April 23	.....vs. Mayville State (DH)	.....TBA
April 26	.....vs. Dakota State (DH)	.....TBA
April 27	.....vs. Dakota State (DH)	.....TBA
May 2-4	.....North Star Tournament @ TBA	.....TBA

### VCSU Outdoor Track and Field

March 29	.....@ Dakota State Invite (Madison, S.D.)
April 5	.....@ Augustana Vance Butler Invite (Sioux Falls, S.D.)
April 12	.....@ NDSU Dakota Duels (Fargo, N.D.)
April 18	.....@ Northern State Invite (Aberdeen, S.D.)
April 22	.....@ Concordia Cobber Twilight (Moorhead, Minn.)
April 26	.....@ Jamestown AI Cassel Relays (Jamestown, N.D.)
May 3	.....@ MSUM Ron Masanz Invite (Moorhead, Minn.)
May 9	.....NSAA Conference Meet (Valley City, N.D.)
May 22-24	.....@ NAIA Championships (Gulf Shores, Ala.)

### Baseball preview

North Star Athletic Association baseball coaches have picked Valley City State University to finish third in the conference, according to the pre-season coaches' poll released in early February.

Valley City State received 13 poll points, slightly edging Dakota State for third place. The University of Jamestown is picked as the conference favorite, followed by Mayville State.

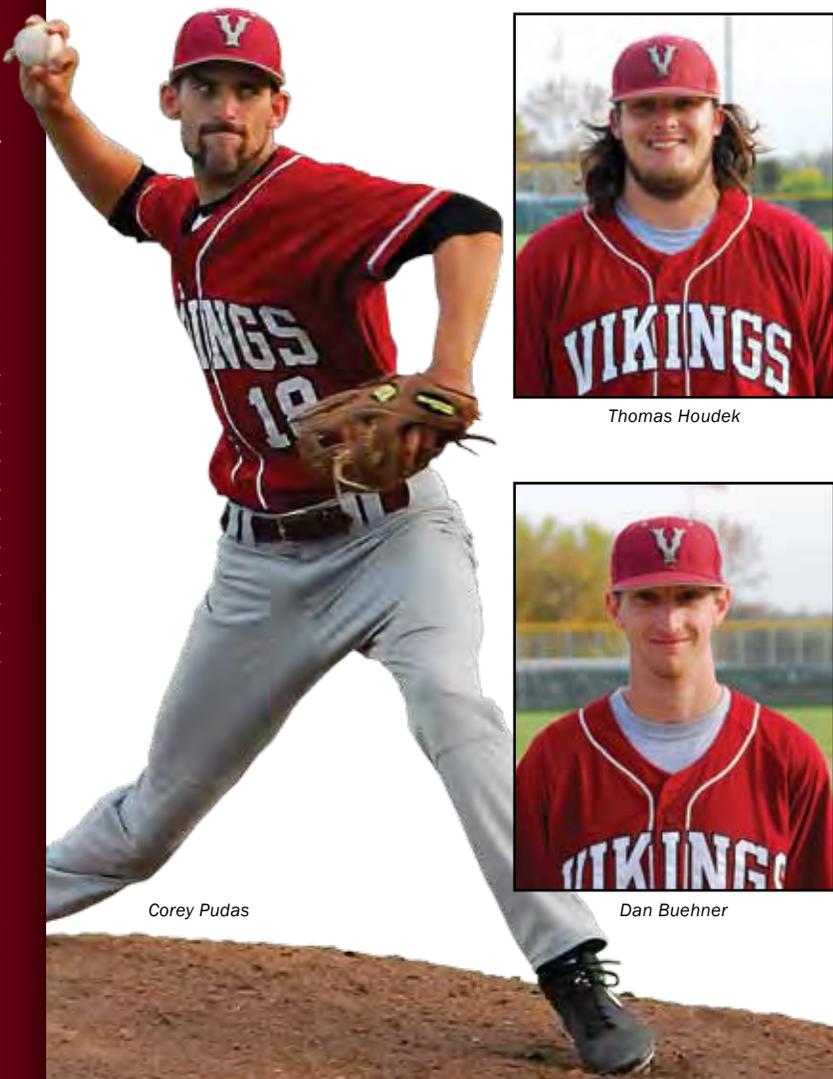
Valley City State enters the spring season 4-4 after some North Star teams played games in the fall. The Vikings are coming off a 15-26 record in 2013. Under the direction of head coach Casey Olney, VCSU went 2-2 last year at the A.I.I.-Unaffiliated Postseason Tournament—losing out in the semifinals against Mayville State.

Olney's squad returns three players who hit .300 or better last season: Thomas Houdek (.320), Brady Anderson (.301) and Dan Buehner (.300). The Vikings also return one of their top pitchers from last season in Bryce Venaas (3-3, 3.17 ERA).

Valley City opened the spring schedule March 8-9 at Midland, Neb. VCSU will take a spring trip to Tucson, Ariz., and play 16 games from March 13-24.

The North Star-Frontier Conference Tournament will be held in Valley City this year. The six-team double-elimination tournament will be played at Charlie Brown Memorial Field. All five NSAA schools along with a member from the Frontier Conference—Dickinson State—will compete in the conference tournament.

The NSAA-Frontier Tournament winner will earn an automatic bid to the NAIA Baseball National Tournament opening round May 12-15.



Thomas Houdek

Dan Buehner

Corey Pudas

## Softball preview

Valley City State University has been picked to finish second in the North Star Athletic Association preseason softball poll released in early February.

The Vikings received 17 points in the poll, voted on by the conference's five head coaches. Valley City State is entering its first season under head coach Elle Fracker, who was a VCSU assistant last year. The Vikings posted a 10-26 record last season.

Fracker's squad returns its top pitcher from last season, Samantha Nalley, and three of its top four hitters by average: Savannah McMillin (.342), Liz Hall-Sewell (.337) and Brittany Lehner (.324). McMillin, Hall-Sewell and Katarina Boychuk were all voted preseason all-conference.

The Vikings opened the 2014 season Feb. 25-26 with six indoor games in St. Paul, Minn. Valley City State takes a spring trip to Tucson, Ariz., where the Vikings will play 20 games from March 12-22.

The North Star-Frontier Conference Tournament takes place in Jamestown on May 2-4. The six-team double-elimination tournament will be played at the Lyle Lawrence Field. The winner will earn an automatic bid to the NAIA Softball National Tournament opening round May 12-14.

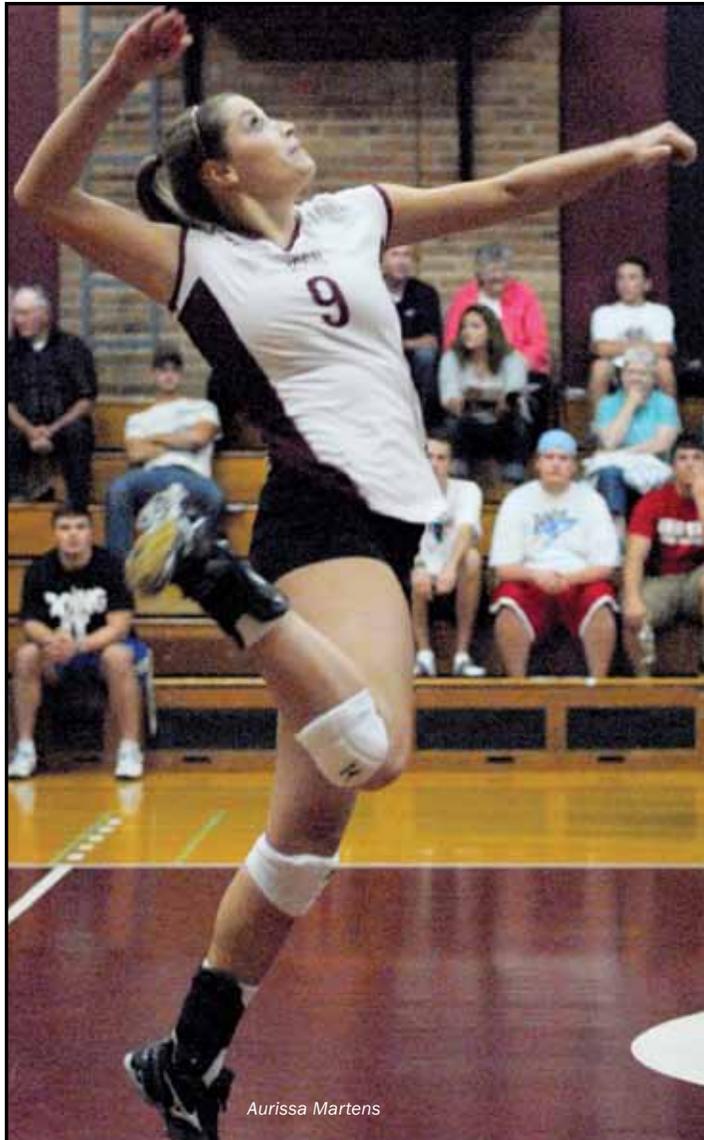
The University of Jamestown is picked as the preseason favorite after receiving four first-place votes.



Liz Hall-Sewell



Savannah McMillin



Aurissa Martens

## Change in the air

### *Viking volleyball says goodbye to coach, two important seniors*

The Valley City State volleyball team will be led by a different coach on the bench and a different group of seniors on the court next season.

After wrapping up a 13-25 season and a third-place finish in the North Star Athletic Association, change is coming next season for the Viking volleyball program. Head coach Susan Kolbow resigned Jan. 29, and VCSU is in the process of hiring a new head coach.

The Vikings also say good-bye to two Canadian seniors who played significant roles throughout their four years: Aurissa Martens and Anna Neufeld.

A native of Steinbach, Manitoba, Neufeld finishes her VCSU career with 2,026 assists and 672 digs from the setter position. She was twice named a Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete.

A native of Manitou, Manitoba, Martens leaves VCSU as one of the most prolific hitters in school history. This year, Martens surpassed 1,000 career kills and tallied 399 kills and 121 blocks in her senior season. She was named NSAA Most Valuable Senior, NSAA first-team all-conference and AVCA all-region honorable mention. She was also named first-team all-conference in 2012 and was twice named a Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete.

Martens leaves VCSU eighth all-time in career kills (1066) and third all-time in blocks (408).

Martens and Neufeld helped lead VCSU to a third-place finish this season in the North Star Athletic Association. The Viking season ended against Mayville State in the semifinals of the conference tournament.



Anna Neufeld

Emily Plowman, a sophomore libero from Simi Valley, Calif., was named second-team all-conference. Kaitlyn Heuring, a junior hitter from Winnipeg, Manitoba, was named a Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete along with Neufeld and Martens. A total of 11 Vikings were named North Star Athletic Association Scholar-Athletes (3.25 GPA or higher).

## Basketball recap

After a season in which both the VCSU men's and women's basketball teams made the NAIA National Tournament, it would have been tough for this year's Vikings to match the success of 2012–13. With several key seniors gone from both teams, the Vikings experienced some growing pains early this year but put together two very solid seasons.

The Viking men posted a .500 record of 14-14 under the direction of head coach Jeff Kaminsky, placing third in the North Star Athletic Association with a 5-3 conference record. The season came to an end with a 74-56 loss at Dakota State in the NSAA semifinals.

Valley City started the season 3-9 overall, but won 10 of the next 12 games to put itself in contention in the North Star.

Aaron Duske, a senior guard from Buffalo, Minn., was one of five first-team all-conference selections. He averaged 14.9 points and 7 rebounds per game this season. Duske leaves VCSU with 1,375 points, which ranks him seventh all-time in school history. He scored 20 or more points in five games this season, and 19 times he reached double-digit points.

AJ McDonald, a junior guard from Killeen, Texas, was named second-team all-conference. The explosive point guard averaged 14.5 points and 3.6 assists per game. He poured in a season-high 33 points on Nov. 1 against Dordt College and scored double figures in 23 of 28 games.

Duske was the only senior on the men's team, which saw big contributions from junior transfers Russell Robinson (7 ppg, 6.4 rpg) and Jeremy Ware (6.7 ppg, 2.3 rpg). True freshman Mac Kroepin was third on the team in scoring at 9.1 points a game. He knocked down a team-high 51 3-pointers. Three more freshmen—Quinton Peterson, Paxton Lloyd and Tyler Thielges—all played significant minutes.

Valley City State's women ended the year with a 13-12 record under first-year head coach Cathy Hanek. The Vikings were third in the North Star standings with a 3-5 conference mark. The season ended with a 75-66 loss at the University of Jamestown in the NSAA semifinals. After starting the season 4-6, the Vikings rolled off six straight wins to move above .500, where they would stay the rest of the season.

Senior forward Brittany Lehner was named first-team all-conference. A native of Watertown, S.D., she averaged 18 points and 7.2 rebounds per game while shooting 59.1 percent from the field—the fourth-best shooting percentage in NAIA Division II basketball. Lehner led the North Star Athletic Association in shooting percentage and scored 30 or more points in three games.

Lehner leaves VCSU ranked in the Top 10 of numerous categories. Her 1,390 career points rank fourth all-time in school history. Her 592 rebounds are sixth best in school history, and her career shooting percentage of 54.2 percent is second best.

Junior Stephanie Pedersen was second on the team in scoring at 9.1 points a game. Junior Sierra Even scored 8.1 points a game while also averaging 3.6 rebounds and 3 assists; she set a new school record with 14 assists Jan. 15 in a win over Johnson and Wales. Junior Sadiqah Jihad (5.6 ppg, 3.5 apg), Lehner, Pedersen and Even were a consistent group, starting all 25 of VCSU's games. Lehner was the only graduating senior this season, setting the stage for a strong returning group in 2014–15.



Brittany Lehner

## Mission accomplished: Viking harriers reach goal of national meet

A group of seven young men left their mark on school history and the school pavement this fall at Valley City State University.

Pounding the pavement around campus—regardless of the unpredictable North Dakota weather—paid off this fall for the VCSU men's cross country team. The group of seven Vikings enjoyed the program's best season since the sport returned to VCSU in 2010, winning an NAIA Regional Qualifying Meet and advancing to the NAIA National Championships for the first time since 1986.

"The guys set the goal of getting to nationals and winning the qualifier, and they accomplished that," said head coach Ken Frenette. "We've come a long way since the program was reestablished here at VCSU."

Prior to the season, the Vikings knew they had a shot at going to nationals and set the lofty goal of winning the NAIA Qualifier meet in Lawrence, Kan. Working towards that goal, day in, day out, before the season and during the season, the cross country teams could be seen winding their way through Valley City and the VCSU campus. All their hard work paid off Nov. 9 when the Viking men didn't just win the qualifying meet—which included eight teams from the North Star Athletic Association and the Midlands—they completely dominated the meet.

VCSU runners took five out of the top seven spots, and all seven Vikings finished in the top 14. Their team total of 22 points was well ahead of second-place Dakota State's score of 54. All-region honors were awarded to Richard Langdeaux (second place), Richard Wright (third), Malik Jackson (fourth), Austin Albrecht (sixth) and Misael Herrera (seventh). Wayne Engelhard finished 12th, and Alex Askerooth took 14th in the 51-person field.

Engelhard, who along with Wright was part of the original VCSU team back in 2010, said winning the regional meet was the season highlight. "That meet was our big focus," he said. "And to be able to go to the national meet was just icing on the cake."

At the National Championships in Kansas—against the NAIA's best competition—the Vikings took 32nd place but ran their best team average time of the season. The top five Vikings were just 58 seconds apart.

Engelhard and Wright are the only two seniors on team, meaning VCSU returns a solid core as they shift focus to 2014.



The VCSU men's cross country team celebrates their victory at the NAIA National Region Qualifying Meet on Nov. 9. From left, Misael Herrera, Malik Jackson, Richard Wright, Austin Albrecht, head coach Ken Frenette, Alex Askerooth, Wayne Engelhard, Richard Langdeaux.

## Football recap

A third straight conference championship and an individual season for the record books highlighted the 2013 Valley City State University football season this fall.

After being ranked as high as No. 16 in the nation, the Vikings finished with a 5-5 overall record. VCSU posted a 3-1 mark in North Star Athletic Association play, earning a share of the conference championship with University of Jamestown. It is the third straight season VCSU has won a conference championship under head coach Dennis McCulloch.

While the Viking team earned its place in school history with the conference title, running back Derek Elliott rewrote school history with a monster senior season. The Valley City native broke or tied 13 school records during the year (see graphic) and put together the most prolific season ever by a Viking running back with 1,873 rushing yards and 23 total touchdowns.

Elliott led the NAIA in all purpose yards per game (232), rushing yards per game (187) and scoring per game (14.1). He was second in the nation in all-purpose yards (2,318) and regular season rushing yards. He topped 100 yards rushing in all 10 games, and three times rushed for at least 260 yards.

He leaves VCSU as the school record holder in most major rushing categories.

"Derek is a rare type of player," said McCulloch. "Week in, week out, what he gave us on the field was something special."

Following his terrific season, Elliott was named an AFCA-NAIA First-Team All American by the nation's coaches.

Eight Valley City State football players were named first-team all-conference during the first year of the NSAA. Offensive linemen George Trujillo and Gustavo Ramirez, tight end Jacob Miller and kicker Thomas Cortez were named to the first-team offense along with Elliott. Defensive linemen Matt Craft and Dwayne Fearon were voted first-team defense along with Thurston.

Elliott was voted Most Valuable Player Offense. Viking senior linebacker Jake Thurston was named Most Valuable Senior, and head coach Dennis McCulloch was voted Coach of the Year.



Derek Elliott



## A RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

A look at VCSU running back Derek Elliott's career and 2013 season numbers and how they stack up in VCSU school history. Elliott's 2013 Season: 268 carries, 1,873 rushing yards, 23 total touchdowns, 2,318 all-purpose yards

CATEGORY	OLD RECORD	ELLIOTT
Career rushing yards	3,332 John Overbey (1976-79)	3,489 NEW RECORD
Career rush TDs	25 Buck Kasowski (1974-77) John Overbey (1976-79)	36 NEW RECORD
Career all-purpose yards	4,808 Steve Battle (1999-2002)	5,958 NEW RECORD
Season rushing yards	1,386 Trevor Bakalar (1996)	1,873 NEW RECORD
Season rushing TDs	15 Anthony Walkine (2007)	20 NEW RECORD
Season total TDs	18 Steve Battle (2000) Chauncey Calhoun (2008)	23 NEW RECORD
Season all-purpose yards	1,754 Dan Rohrbach (1995)	2,318 NEW RECORD
Season rush yards/game	139.9 Ben King (1999)	187.3 NEW RECORD
Single game rushing yards	286 John Overbey (1976)	286 TIED
Single game rush TDs	4 Ben King (1999)	5 NEW RECORD
Single game TDs	5 LeTheo Proctor (2011)	5 TIED
Most points in game	30 LeTheo Proctor (2011)	31 NEW RECORD
Longest rush from scrimmage	93 Dan Rohrbach (1995)	95 NEW RECORD

## Track and field update

The Valley City State University track and field team completed its indoor season in January and February. After the five-meet season, several Vikings had great performances that moved them onto the All-Time Top 10 list of Viking Track and Field.

Most notably, two different Vikings established new school records for indoor events.

Sophomore Jessica Meland (Harvey, N.D.), who already held the school record in women's weight throw, extended her own record early in the season with a throw of 14.09m, or 46 feet, 2 inches. It broke her old school record by almost three feet.

Freshman Alicia VanSweringen (Minot, N.D.) set personal best after personal best during the short season, and closed the final meet with a new school record in the 60-meter high hurdles at 10.45 seconds.

"I'm very pleased with how the season went," said head coach Ken Frenette. "We had two school records broken, many athletes made the all-time performance list, and every athlete truly gave it their all. This season has been a great stepping stone as we build for the future and the upcoming outdoor season."

## SPRING 2014 FINE ARTS

### MUSIC

- Mar. 24 ..... James Fusik, saxophone, guest artist ..... 7:30 p.m.  
*Froemke*
- Mar. 29 ..... CSA Chamber Festival..... 7:30 p.m.  
*Froemke*
- Apr. 9 ..... Region 2 Instrumental
- Apr. 10 ..... Region 5, Vocal & Instrumental
- Apr. 11 ..... General Student Recital ..... 7:30 p.m.  
*Froemke*
- Apr. 12 ..... VC & JC Orchestras, Valley Voices, Youth Choir . 3:00 p.m.  
*Vangstad*
- Apr. 13 ..... Epworth Choir Sing ..... 4:00 p.m.  
*Epworth Church*
- Apr. 26 ..... VCSU Concert Band, Jazz, & Chamber..... 3:00 p.m.  
*Medicine Wheel*
- Apr. 28 ..... Andrew Allen, Saxophone..... 7:30 p.m.  
*Froemke*
- May 1 ..... Composers' Concert ..... 7:30 p.m.  
*Froemke*
- May 9 ..... VCSU Choir & University Singers ..... 7:30 p.m.  
*Epworth*
- May 10 ..... CSA Recitals ..... 2:00; 4:00 p.m.  
*Froemke*
- May 12 ..... Garage Bands..... 4:00 p.m.  
*Graichen*

### VISUAL/THEATRE ARTS

- Mar. 24–Apr. 4 .. Marci Armstrong, Senior Exhibition, VCSU Gallery
- Mar. 24 ..... Lecture ..... 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 28 ..... Reception ..... 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- Apr. 7–18 ..... Adrianna Boychuk, Senior Exhibition, VCSU Gallery
- Apr. 11 ..... Reception ..... 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 14 ..... Lecture ..... 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 18 ..... Reception ..... 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 22–May 2 .. Spring Semester Student Exhibition, VCSU Gallery
- May 2 ..... Reception ..... 5:00–6:30 p.m.
- May 1–3 ..... *The Glass Menagerie*  
*Theatre 320*



Adrianna Boychuk ▶

## VCSU group attends NAMM conference

VCSU students Amelia “Mimi” Brown and Ben Clifton earned Presidential Innovation Scholarship Awards to attend the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) conference Jan. 22–26 in Anaheim, Calif.

Also attending the conference were VCSU music faculty members Sara Hagen and Christopher Redfearn. The VCSU contingent was part of the College Music Society (CMS) Generation Next program, a new collaborative relationship forged between higher education and the music industry. The goal of the education/industry collaboration is “All In”—that all students should be participating in music at the K–12 levels.

At the NAMM conference, Hagen presented “Turning STEM into STE[A]M with Undergraduate Research Fellows,” with Brown and Clifton participating by demonstrating their work with the MaKey MaKey invention kit, which allows anything that conducts electricity to become a music-making device.

The two engaged audience members in a “drum” circle, using ordinary silverware and fruit as the instruments to trigger a different percussion sound when struck.

The VCSU group took in a number of presentations at the conference, including an interview with musician Ben Folds and a panel discussion of music industry professionals in recording and producing.



NAMM Conference attendees included (l to r) Sara Hagen, Amelia Brown, Ben Clifton and Christopher Redfearn.



### Note to VCSU Music Alumni

“We know our VCSU music alumni our doing great things out in the field,” says Beth Gigante Klingenstein, chair of the Department of Music. “Please let us know what you’re up to.”

#### Email Klingenstein at

beth.klingenstein@vcsu.edu

#### or send snail-mail to:

Beth Gigante Klingenstein, Department of Music, Valley City State University, 101 College Street SW, Valley City, ND 58072.

## Shedding light on a menagerie of talent in theatre

Applause is expected for the actors on the stage; for the designers who create the set, lights, costumes, and sound; and occasionally for the director. Yet two key roles are often overlooked by audiences (but not by the actors and production team who depend on them to complete the show).

Chelsey Anderson and Thomas Cherry are filling important roles for VCSU Theatre's production of *The Glass Menagerie* running May 1–3 in Theatre 320. Anderson is the dramaturg for the production, and Cherry will run the show, leading the cast and crew during performances as the stage manager.

Written by Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie* was first produced in 1944 as a memory play looking back on the life of a struggling family in the 1930s. Traces of Williams'

own life are reflected in the play's four characters: Amanda, the single mother of two adult children; Tom, her son; Laura, her "crippled" daughter; and Jim, the Gentleman Caller.

Like Amanda, Williams envisioned himself as the embodiment of Southern Gentility. "Tennessee" was the name he chose when he graduated from the University of Iowa in 1938 as Thomas Lanier Williams, and became a writer, as Tom wishes to become in the play. The source of Laura's frailty is unclear in the play, but it is clear that she contracted pleurisy, and was called Blue Roses by a boy in school. Williams himself had diphtheria at a young age, which temporarily paralyzed his legs, and he suffered ill health for much of his life. He also watched his beloved sister, Rose, struggle with chronic depression, followed by the after-

effects of a lobotomy. Williams eventually became her caretaker.

As dramaturg for the production, Anderson provided valuable insight for the actors before they auditioned in February. Her research on the four characters in the play included their activities, attire, and familial roles specific to the time period (late 1930s), location (St. Louis), and character traits identified in the script's dialogue. Additional research assisted the designers and director in their work creating the small apartment, period costumes, and dialects. Anderson's coursework as a psychology major and sociology minor provides a strong background for dramaturgy, and because she intends to pursue a graduate degree in addiction counseling, her research on Tom's drinking and how it affects the behavior of the other characters in the play was of particular interest to her.

Stage managers lead their casts and crews during the most stressful activity in the production cycle—the performances. Experience in team sports is helpful for this leadership position. Cherry originally came to VCSU from Killeen, Texas, to play on the VCSU basketball team, so he understands leadership and teamwork. A mathematics major with a minor in physics, Cherry is new to theatre but recently performed in a reading of *The Laramie Project* as part of an acting class at VCSU. As stage manager he will call the cues for the show, which will be performed in an arena setting, with audience seating surrounding the action.

Tickets for *The Glass Menagerie* can be purchased at the VCSU Bookstore in the Student Center, online at [www.vcsu.edu/theatre](http://www.vcsu.edu/theatre) or by calling the VCSU Theatre Box Office at 701-845-7320. For more information about the show, email [jennilou.russi@vcsu.edu](mailto:jennilou.russi@vcsu.edu) or call 701-845-7319.



Chelsey Anderson, dramaturg for *The Glass Menagerie*

## REDUCE YOUR 2014 TAXES With an IRA Gift

Did you know that you can reduce your taxes for 2014  
by making a gift from YOUR IRA TO CHARITY?

The fiscal cliff law permits individuals who are 70½ to roll over up to \$100,000 from their IRA to charity free from federal income tax. Better yet, an IRA rollover gift qualifies for your 2013 required minimum distribution, permitting you to lower your income and taxes for this year while helping our cause.

Contact us to learn more about how you can redirect unneeded IRA income to charity, help further our mission and enjoy valuable tax savings this year.

**800.532.8641 x37203 ♦ [vcsugift.org](http://vcsugift.org)**



## In Remembrance

Opal (Lipetzky) Ableidinger '36, Kensal, N.D.  
 Hannah Larsen '38, Portland, Ore.  
 Geraldine (Greb) Foss '41, Valley City  
 Vivian L. (Reiten) Weisser '42, Mt. Vernon, Wash.  
 Harold Strasser '48, Stanley, N.D.  
 Dolores (Morris) Loberg '50, Grand Forks, N.D.  
 Della (Schaefer) Renner '57, Carrington, N.D.  
 Joan (Kruschwitz) Ostlie '60, Moorhead, Minn.  
 Richard Atkinson '62, Dallas, Texas  
 Lois (Anderson) Harstad-Smith '64,  
 Grand Forks, N.D.  
 Gerald R. Bartholomay '69, Fargo, N.D.  
 Joan (Pietsch) Schatzke '69, Wheatland, N.D.  
 Ione (Liebenow) Vigasaa '72, Mansfield, Ohio  
 Timothy Kaim '73, Watertown, S.D.  
 Donna (Benson) Kratz '75, LaMoure, N.D.  
 Sandra (Johnson) Kocka '76, Willmar, Minn.  
 Darol Nutt '78, Rock Springs, Wyo.  
 George Ann Jacobs '94, Portland  
 Garland Auvigne Jr. '99, Calgary, Alberta,  
 Canada  
 Jacob J. Andersen, Luverne, N.D.  
 Mary (Kambeitz) Fladmark, Eagan, Minn.  
 Rev. Dean Hartley, Underwood, N.D.  
 Clarine Hendrickson, Fargo, N.D.  
 Gilbert Holle, Bismarck, N.D.  
 Lydia (Furhman) Jensen, Steele, N.D.  
 Robert Manly, New Rockford, N.D.  
 Don Ratts, Montpelier, N.D.

### FORMER FACULTY & STAFF

Geraldine (Greb) Foss '41, Valley City  
 Lucy Lockwood, Valley City

## We would love to hear from you!

### SUBMIT YOUR

- *Vikings on the Move*
- *Weddings*
- *Lil' Vikings*

entry by contacting the  
 VCSU Alumni Office:

701-845-7203 ♦ 800-532-8641 x7203  
 alumni@vcsu.edu

## Vikings on the Move

### 1940s

**Ralph '48 and Carolyn (Cockle) '47 Kolstoe** have been married 66 years and live in Grand Forks. They spend their winters in Marco Island, Fla. Kolstoe Hall was named after his father, S.O. Kolstoe. Ralph and his brothers, **Oliver '41** and **John '56**, and sister **Marian (Kolstoe) Prior '40**, all attended VCSU. Oliver lives in California, and John lives in Montana. Marian died in 2008, and another brother, Martin, died in 1986.

### 1950s

**Leona (Geisler) Schober '50 and '75** has four grandchildren. Courtney and Chaz were born in and reside in Arizona. Courtney will be 24 in April and recently graduated from Tucson, while Chaz is in college at Flagstaff. Karl and Kyle were born in and reside in South Carolina. Karl is 20 and in his second year at Columbia University. Kyle will graduate from high school this year; he excels in music and is auditioning at numerous colleges.

**Joan (Ertelt) Olson '56** lives in Webster City, Iowa, and spends her winters in Naples, Fla.

**Eugene '57 and Lois (Gilbert) '57 Larsen** live in Port Angeles, Wash., where they retired from work for the school district. They spend much of their time reading, playing bridge, golfing and visiting their two daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Maurene (Miller) Bock '57 and '71** has been living alone since her husband's death in early 2006. After retiring from teaching, Maurene substitute taught for 10 years. She recently sold her house and moved into the Beverly Anne Assisted Living Center in Lisbon. She thinks it's pretty great getting waited on for everything!

**Bob '59 and Deanne (Roseth) Horne '60** are enjoying retirement, with winters spent in Mesa, Ariz. They especially enjoy their two great-grandchildren (one boy and one girl) and their seven grandchildren.

### 1960s

**Dick Bernard '61** has been retired for 14 years. He says retirement is a busy job. Dick is involved in many things, including his "Window to the World" blog that he's been writing for five years. He writes on various topics, including his VCSTC years.

**Colleen (Whitney) Olson Asket '61** is enjoying life in Grand Forks. She taught elementary students in North Dakota for 35 years and did substitute teaching in Grand Forks for 12 years.

**Sharon Falk '66** has been back home in Jamestown since May 2010. She is glad to be back with local friends and relatives. Her lupus condition has been in remission since October 2011. Some of Sharon's nieces and great nieces helped her celebrate her 70th birthday on Feb. 10, 2014.

**Carol Anderson '68** was honored with a named, endowed grant through the Warren-Alvarado-Oslo (WAO) Education Foundation. The grant—the Carol J. Anderson Endowment for Education—will be utilized to provide educational needs for WAO students and staff. The grant was funded by local businesses, WAO alumni and people from the WAO communities. Carol was a fourth grade teacher for 38 years at Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Schools in Warren, Minn.

**Delores (Bennetto) Baltrusch '69** has enjoyed her retirement by visiting family and friends from out of state. She thoroughly enjoys her children, grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Delores also stays busy with her church, retired teachers group, Red Hat ladies group, coffee partners and playing piano for long-term care bible study every Tuesday afternoon.

### 1970s

**Bill '72 and Jan (Hins) '72 Mimnaugh** live in Breckenridge, Minn. Jan, in her 42nd year of teaching, is a middle-school special-education teacher in Breckenridge. Bill retired 7 years ago but still directs the summer migrant program. They have four grandchildren.

**Grant P. Archer '74** retired in 2009. He spent four years in the U.S. Air Force; five years teaching in Williston, N.D.; and 24 years as the superintendent of schools for Williams County School District while at the same time holding the position of public administrator for Northwest District Court. Grant has two sons: Sean of Waite Park, Minn., and Seth (with wife Jennie Enger) of Maquoketa, Ill. In 1996, Grant married Marilyn Ramberg of Tiooga, N.D. He enjoys dabbling buying mineral rights in the oil patch and spends time at the cabin on Lake Sakakawea. Grant and Marilyn look forward to the Alumni Association socials in Mesa, Ariz.

**Janet Simon '75** is enjoying her third year of retirement spending time with family, friends and golf. Janet sends best wishes to her classmates from 1971–75.

**Boyd '75 and Kathy (Shape) '74 Sussex** are living on Big Stone Lake and still teaching in Milbank, S.D. They love life at the lake and would enjoy having everyone come for a visit. Their son, **Jackson '08**, and his wife, Val, live in Grand Forks. Jackson works at Alerus Financial, and Val is the assistant women's basketball coach at UND.

**Linda (Rominsky) Bye '77** and her husband, David, still live in Fredericksburg, Va. Linda cares for her grandsons, Aiden (4) and Kaleb (3), every day and enjoys being able to do so. She sends her greetings to all of her VCSU friends and invites them to stop by if they are ever in Virginia. "Our door is always open," she says.

**Carol (Bommersbach) Marcks '79** still lives in Buffalo, N.D. She has been married for 31 years to her wonderful husband, Casey. They became grandparents with the Dec. 4, 2013, birth of Nixon Casey Neuberger. Carol has been working at her job for 30 years. Her company had a changeover to Shopko Hometown, and Carol is now the receiving specialist.

### 1980s

**Frances (Eckart) Arusell '80** is now a resident of St. Aloisius Nursing Home in Harvey, N.D.

**Kevin Froeber '83** teaches physical education at Cheney Middle School in West Fargo; he also coaches cross country, basketball and track. Kevin and his wife, Michelle, will be celebrating their 15th anniversary this May. They have two sons, David (13) and Michael (10).

**Delores (Turnquist) Tracy '83** has worked for the Catholic Diocese of Bismarck in the fiscal office for over 10 years. She has three grown children: Chris (24), Tim (21) and Jessica (19), a sophomore at VCSU. Delores can't believe that she graduated from VCSU over 30 years ago. She says it's great to go back to campus to visit her daughter for homecoming or special weekends and adds that Jessica also lives in the best dorm, McCoy, which hasn't changed much in 30 years.

**Duane '84 and Darcy (King) '83 Schauer** are still living and teaching in "Boomtown, USA"—Williston, N.D. They think they just may be too old for all this change. Their son, Jake, will graduate from VCSU this May, and they couldn't be prouder. Go Vikes!

**Daniel Nelson '84** and his wife, Lori, have been married for 30 years. They have one son, Chris, and twin daughters, Sarah and Katherine. Daniel has taught in Rochester, Minn., for nearly 25 years.

**Laurel (Ploium) Westby '84** is in her 30th year of teaching. This school year she changed from teaching Pre-K to teaching English in grades 7-9. Her husband, Neil, finds time to help their children by fixing and keeping their cars in good working order and helping their daughter, Mallory, move from Minot to Bismarck. Their daughter, Erin, works in Grand Forks while their son, Scott, is in his third year of history education at VCSU.

**Jane Radig '84** retired for the Railroad Retirement Board and works part-time at Lee's Hallmark.

**Coleen (Ellefson) Asche '86** and her husband are still in Grand Forks working at their same jobs. This past summer Coleen hosted a group of Delphis at their lake cabin, and they had a great time. She enjoys keeping up with other VCSU alumni on Facebook as well. Coleen's big news for the year is that their oldest daughter will be married this summer!

**Lana (Atkinson) Wietgreffe '86** continues to work as a farm marketing consultant and com-

modity broker in Britton, S.D. Her daughter, Amy, graduated from college, moved to North Carolina and married last year. Her son, Andrew, is a nuclear reactor operator in the Navy, stationed on the submarine USS Chicago in Guam. Her youngest daughter, Erica, is a sophomore pre-vet major at the University of Minnesota Morris, and her youngest son, Eli, is a junior in high school.

### 1990s

**Ellen (Musgrave) Berg '91** and her husband, Don, are both retired from South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D. They keep very busy with volunteer work and trying to keep up with their nine grandkids. Their oldest grandson, Michael, 25, is getting married in October 2014, and they are looking forward to the wedding in the Black Hills. Ellen and Don were in Rapid City this past October to help plan the wedding and were caught in the blizzard. It was an adventure they hope won't be repeated in October 2014.

**Jeanette (Wieland) Persons '92** is the chief of police in Lisbon, N.D. She has been with the department for 17 years, 8 1/2 of those as police chief.

**Cynthia (Kukla) Beckert '93** retired in January 2012.

### 2000s



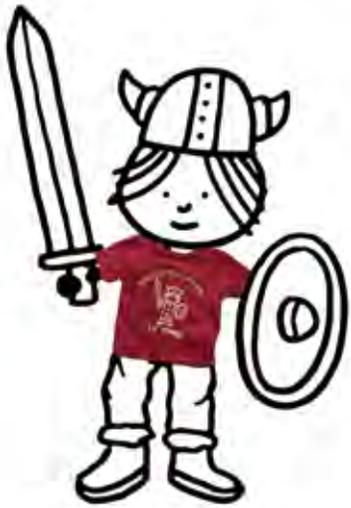
▲ **Jason Moore '00** rode in the 2014 Alaska National Guard Iron Dog snowmobile race, advertised as the "world's toughest snowmobile race," covering Alaska's most rugged and remote terrain from Big Lake to Nome and from Nome to Fairbanks. This year Moore participated in the noncompetitive trail class of the race, which began Feb. 14 and covered 1,100 miles; he and his partner were the first to finish. He hopes to compete in the professional class in 2015. Moore, assistant principal at Wasilla (Alaska) Middle School, is the husband of **Tara (Feuerherm) Moore '02**, daughter of **Deb (Nielsen) Feuerherm '73**, administrative assistant in the VCSU athletic department.



## THE MISSION OF THE VCSU FOUNDATION

*is to support Valley City State University by involving alumni and friends of the university in activities and private giving that meet the university's needs and advance its welfare. The Foundation supports and coordinates the efforts of the Alumni Association, V-500, Booster Board, and major giving activities.*

*Mark and Kathy Finstad, members of our Legacy Society, have elected to remember the VCSU Foundation in their estate plan to insure that future generations of students can benefit from Valley City State University.*



# 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).



**Jon Levi Kirk**  
September 20, 2013  
8 pounds 3 ounces, 21 inches  
Karen (Rawlings) '06 and Darren Kirk



**Ryan Emerson Bischof**  
August 28, 2013  
8 pounds 5 ounces, 22 inches  
Levi '11 and Samantha (Bartholomay) '10 Bischof



**Mikael Ann Moore**  
April 4, 2013  
6 pounds 2 ounces, 19 inches  
Joins big sister Lucy (3) Tara (Feuerherm) '02 and Jason Moore '00



**Harlie Rae Blanchard**  
June 5, 2013  
7 pounds 11 ounces, 21 inches  
Brodie and Sheena (Hamilton) '07 Blanchard



**Brecken Matthew Swanson**  
June 18, 2013  
7 pounds 6 ounces, 19 inches  
Matthew '06 and Ashley Swanson



**Brock Burchill**  
July 16, 2013  
7 pounds 11 ounces, 20 inches  
Joins siblings Hunter (13), Calahan (8) and Katie (4) Deb (Gruman) '98 and Casey Burchill



**Berkley Marcella-Jeane Paurus**  
August 21, 2013  
9 pounds 2 ounces, 21 inches  
Joins big brother Carver (7) Jamie and Kelsey (Hanson) '11 Paurus



**Sebastian Richard Botner**  
October 5, 2013  
8 pounds 6 ounces, 22 inches  
Ryan '05 and Amanda Botner



**Kara Jean Morgenroth**  
June 28, 2013  
7 pounds, 20 1/2 inches  
Chuck and Alicia (Hiatt) '05 Morgenroth



**Graiden James Fulsebakke**  
October 22, 2013  
8 pounds 8 ounces, 21 1/2 inches  
Joins big brother Jace Henry Erin (Beckius) '05 and Jordan Fulsebakke



**Kallan Nicole Maresh**  
August 19, 2013  
8 pounds 5 ounces, 20 inches  
Joins big brother Kade (2) Joseph '07 and Tyffani Maresh



**Brynleigh Mae Milbrandt**  
October 30, 2013  
7 pounds 4 ounces, 19 inches  
Joins big sister Annabelle (4) Tom '05 and Amy Milbrandt



**Jolyssa Elaine Norton**  
May 28, 2013  
6 pounds 6 ounces, 20 inches  
Robert '96 and Jennifer (Lautt) '05, '10 Norton



**Maylen Kay Edwards**  
September 7, 2013  
7 pounds 10 ounces, 19 1/2 inches  
Joins big brother Kemper (4) and big sister Bergen (2 1/2) Jason, M.Ed. '10, and Kathy (Legge) '06 Edwards



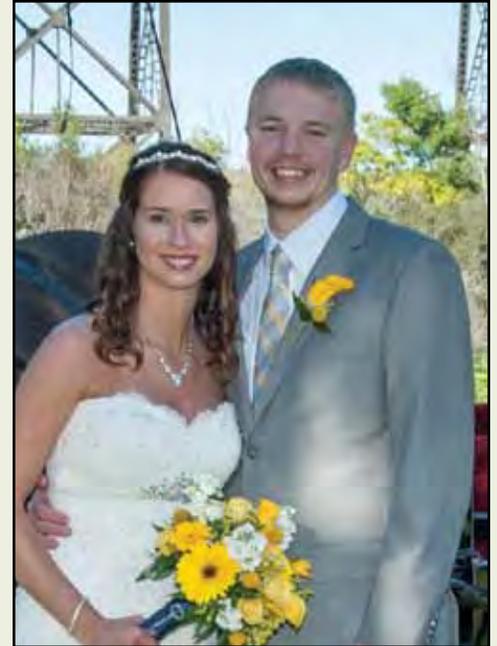
**Victor Arthur Martinez Jr.**  
September 23, 2013  
8 pounds 1 ounce, 20 inches  
Victor Arthur Martinez and Tahnee '10 (Huertás) Martinez



▲ **Tonia Christiansen '06** and Ross Bollingberg were married Nov. 23, 2013. The couple lives in Courtenay, N.D., where Ross farms with his dad and brothers. Tonia works at Central Plains Ag Services in Hannaford.



▲ **Shelly Swanson '90** and Jon Fields were married Sept. 7, 2013, in the courtyard at Kelly Inn of Fargo. Shelly is employed at the West Fargo Post Office, and Jon is employed at Nelson International of Fargo.



▲ **Isaac '12 and Katie (Paulson) '13 Olson** were married Sept. 21, 2013, in Valley City. The couple lives in Fargo, where Isaac works at Microsoft and Katie works at AgCountry Farm Credit.

◀ **Nicholas and Ashley (Gierke) '12 Horner** were married Oct. 19, 2013 at Faith Lutheran Church in Valley City. Ashley graduated from VCSU in 2012 with degrees in biology, chemistry, and health science. She is enrolled at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences where she is pursuing a doctor of medicine degree. Nicholas attended VCSU for two years before transferring to Lake Region State College at Devils Lake to obtain his peace officer's certificate. He is now employed by the City of Valley City.

**VCSU**  
**MARDI GRAS**  
 Celebrate Our  
**20th** annual  
 valley • city • state • university  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**AUCTION**



**VALLEY CITY**  
 STATE UNIVERSITY

sponsored by



Friday, April 25, 2014

Valley City Eagles Club

5:00 pm. - Social/Silent Auction

6:00 pm. - Dinner

7:00 pm. - Live Auction

\$35/Ticket - Includes Dinner & 2 Drinks

Prizes for the Best Dressed (Clothing IS required)

Music provided by BIG HAMMER



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FARGO, ND  
PERMIT NO. 1159

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

