

# THE BULLETIN

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



## Foundation finalizing campaign

**\$25 million campaign first ever for VCSU**

**VALLEY CITY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Virtual Commencement • COVID-19 Reopening • VCSU: A Hidden Gem



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### Welcome to the *Bulletin!*

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

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#### 4 Foundation finalizing plans for first-ever campaign

*The VCSU Foundation is finalizing plans for its first-ever capital campaign. The \$25 million effort includes four components: an addition to the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse with a turf practice field and indoor track, student scholarship enhancements, the repurposing of McCarthy Hall as a new home for the School of Education and Graduate Studies, and a renovation of the Student Center to create a multipurpose space from the old pool area.*



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#### 6 May 16, 2020: VCSU hosts its first virtual commencement

*The coronavirus couldn't keep the Class of 2020 from graduating, but it did turn the 128th commencement exercises into a virtual affair. Streamed on YouTube, the event came off without a hitch or technical glitch, with plenty of pomp and circumstance for the day that saw nearly 300 students receive VCSU degrees.*



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#### 8 Reopening this fall in the face of COVID-19

*Students didn't come back to campus after spring break, finishing the semester virtually from home. But this fall, they were back on campus taking face-to-face classes with a synchronous delivery option, participating in athletics and other activities, and generally going about the business of going to college. Lots of protocols and procedures, including a mandate for face coverings in public spaces, have helped the university navigate the semester safely.*



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#### 11 Center for Arts construction on schedule

*A physically distanced groundbreaking ceremony on June 24 kicked off construction on the \$32 million Center for the Arts. Located just west of the Student Center, the new facility will serve as home for the VCSU art and music departments and offer the campus and community in outstanding venue for the arts. Follow the construction on two webcams as the building progresses toward its scheduled January 2020 opening.*

*Cover: Architect's rendering of the addition to the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse — the "Double Bubble."*



## Planning for the future: Forward Together

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

Greetings, alumni and friends!

So much of what we've been doing this summer and fall has been COVID-19 related. We all have seen the impact of the coronavirus on our society — all areas have needed to adjust their operations to continue in as effective, safe, and normal manner as possible.

VCSU has succeeded with our pandemic response. Although we've had positive cases of COVID-19 that have resulted in students and employees being put into isolation and close contacts quarantined, our numbers have been relatively low, and we've been able to continue on with limited impacts throughout the semester.

Don't get me wrong; it's taken much effort and many adjustments by many folks on campus to reopen campus, but we are making it work. If you'd like to monitor the campus COVID-19 data, view our online dashboard at [www.vcsu.edu/coronavirus-information/covid-19-dashboard](http://www.vcsu.edu/coronavirus-information/covid-19-dashboard).

Thanks to the entire campus community for their efforts in keeping our students, faculty, and staff safe and successful during this challenging semester. It's important, however, to remain diligent and

not get complacent. As we all know, the current low numbers of active cases could escalate quickly if we become negligent or careless in following our guidelines and protocols.

COVID-19 has not prevented us from planning for the future. VCSU does not rest on its laurels; we continue to move ahead. In this Bulletin you can read more about the plans we are making for our first-ever capital campaign, Forward Together, and how the projects we're pursuing fit with our mission and commitment to provide our students with an innovative, learning-centered education in a collaborative, engaged environment.

We appreciate the time you will take to review our plans, and I welcome any and all questions you may have.

I hope you will consider joining our campaign via financial support, introduction to persons who may wish to support us financially, or in any other volunteer capacity you may consider. The success of this effort will determine in a large way the direction of VCSU for the next 50 years.

Let us move Forward Together!

## IRA Charitable Rollover



There is a way for you to support the mission of the VCSU Foundation that you may not have heard about. It's called the IRA charitable rollover, and it's a way you can make a gift to support our cause and save on taxes this year.

If you are 72½ or older, you can use the IRA charitable rollover to help charities like us complete our important work. The IRA charitable rollover allows you to meet your required minimum distribution (RMD) requirement by directing your distribution to charity rather than taking it yourself.

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

1. Call your IRA administrator.
2. Tell them you want to make an IRA charitable rollover gift to support our mission.
3. Direct the distribution to our nonprofit organization.

You can distribute up to \$100,000 to charity from your IRA each year to meet your RMD.

### Consider using your IRA Required Minimum Distribution to fund an Endowed Scholarship.

For the IRA charitable rollover to work for you, it is important that you do not take the distribution. Ask your IRA administrator to make the distribution directly to our organization. While you will not receive an income tax deduction for your gift, you will receive the joy of knowing the full amount will go to support our cause.

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



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

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



## Viking Giving Day — Better Together: Supporting students and scholarship needs

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

It has been an exciting time at VCSU seeing our university family return to campus. We were fortunate to kick off our fall semester with students returning to campus and attending face-to-face classes in a safe manner, along with our athletes being able to compete in their respective sports.

Our enrollment continues to grow. The university recently announced we have set enrollment records with a total headcount of 1,676 students this fall term. We are thankful for our alumni and friends' past support; your support of our scholarship programs at VCSU has been key to growing our enrollment.

Our V-500 and Century Club scholarship programs have been successful marketing tools for the university in recruiting and retaining

students at VCSU. Over the course of the academic year, we typically hold a number of fundraising events to help support these programs, but last spring, due to COVID-19, we had to cancel our annual Fish Fry, Scholarship Auction and Viking Golf Scramble. Not having these events has taken a toll on our scholarship budgets. This academic year just over \$500,000 will be offered in V-500 and Century Club scholarships. To continue to increase scholarship support and keep a VCSU

*Our enrollment continues to grow. The university recently announced we have set enrollment records with a total headcount of 1,676 students this fall term.*

education accessible to our students, we need your help!

To that end, we are pleased to announce our first annual Viking Day of Giving, "Better Together," to be held on Thursday, Nov. 12, in support of student scholarships.

A 24-hour fundraising campaign, Viking Giving Day:

- Encourages individuals to become donors, regardless of the size of the gift
- Generates awareness among students about the generosity of alumni and friends of the university
- Highlights our current need for scholarship support

The VCSU Foundation challenges you to make a gift during our Viking Day of Giving. This event is designed to provide a convenient, daylong

opportunity for you to make a gift no matter the dollar amount to support student scholarships and make a difference in the life of a future VCSU student.

Donations can be made online beginning at noon on November 12 through noon on November 13. Help us reach our goal of \$50,000!

We are **Better Together!** Together we have the strength to make an incredible impact at VCSU. Donate at [vcsualumni.org/dayofgiving](http://vcsualumni.org/dayofgiving)

### 2020-21 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

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MARK FINSTAD	



## Thanksgiving: The Season of Giving

Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director of University Advancement

As we approach this special time of year, one can't help but reflect on the meaning of Thanksgiving. This annual national holiday is intended to celebrate the harvest and the many other blessings of the past year. We believe that our Thanksgiving holiday is modeled after the 1621 harvest feast shared by the Pilgrims and Native Americans. To most of us, it is a time of family gatherings, roast turkey, pumpkin pie and reflecting on everything we have to be thankful for in life. It is indeed a special holiday.

Thanksgiving for 2020 will take on new meaning. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us all to reconsider the important things in our lives, for example, family, friends, neighbors, relatives, community, and our church. It has caused us to realize that we need one another. During this crisis, family, friends and neighbors take on new meaning.

Here at Valley City State University, we have also paused to reflect on the year behind us. So many things have changed. We have had to accept new ways of communication with Zoom and Teams meetings. We have had to physical distance to protect one another from the virus. Many of us have had to work remotely. Folks have been wearing masks and spending much less time in public. We have had to eat out much less frequently, and hand sanitizer is a common item on our grocery list. Yes, COVID-19 has created significant challenges in our lives and the way we do business.

One of the most significant challenges we have had in the Foundation Office is responding to our scholarship commitment to our students. Raising dollars for scholarship support has been difficult, but our commitment to our students and scholarships remains a high priority here at Valley City State University.

With the cost of a college education increasing each and every year, we remain committed to scholarship support for our students. College accessibility is one thing; affordability is another. This phenomenon has taken on new meaning as a result of the pandemic. Many of our students and their parents have found themselves unemployed as a result of the virus. Dollars for higher education tuition, fees, room and board, and books and supplies have become increasingly hard to find.

Yes, we are thankful for the many good things we have in life. We are especially thankful for our many donors who have invested in our students and our scholarship programs. You are clearly **"Giving Back"** and **"Making a Difference"** in the lives of deserving students here on the campus. Thank you for that support. As we approach this **Season of Giving**, please consider making your gift so the students of today can be the graduates of tomorrow. Then they, too, can give back and support the next generation of students.



*My late wife, our two children and I are graduates of VCSU, and we all received scholarship support. I felt now was a good time to give back to VCSU and make a difference to students so they have the same opportunities we had. I established an endowed scholarship while taking advantage of the challenge grant at the same time. I would encourage and challenge you to consider an endowed scholarship. It's an excellent way to honor someone special now and into the future.*

— George Berger '75, Binford, N.D.



### WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

An endowment is a special fund in which the principal is invested in perpetuity and never used. The interest earnings support the annual scholarship allocation. Endowments are an excellent way to honor or memorialize a loved one, teacher, coach or your family.

*The VCSU Foundation requires a minimum investment of \$10,500 to establish an endowment.*

Donors can invest the funds all at one time, or make periodic contributions to the fund until such time that the \$10,500 minimum is met. Once the fund is established, contributions to the fund can continue into the future.

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# *Forward Together*

## Foundation finalizing plan for first-ever campaign



The Valley City State University Foundation is finalizing its plans for a \$25 million campaign, the first in its history.

Titled "Forward Together: The Campaign for Valley City State University," the fundraising effort comprises four components: an addition to the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse, additional funds for student scholarships, repurposing McCarthy Hall for VCSU's renowned teacher education program, and a renovation of the Student Center.

According to Larry Robinson, executive director of the VCSU Foundation, the time is right for the foundation's first campaign. "VCSU is committed to our students, and this campaign is crucial if we are to continue to serve their needs."

The four campaign components break down as follows:

### OSMON FIELDHOUSE ADDITION

- Indoor turf practice facility
- 200 meter indoor track
- Updated strength and athletic training
- New and expanded locker rooms
- Updated and expanded public areas
- Classrooms and meeting rooms
- Viking Hall of Fame



## SCHOLARSHIP ENHANCEMENTS

- Keep scholarship allotment on pace with enrollment growth
- Maintain an accessible and affordable VCSU education
- Recruitment and retention of next generation of VCSU Vikings

## MCCARTHY HALL REPURPOSE

- Conversion of the existing McCarthy Hall into the VCSU School of Education and Graduate Studies
- Cutting-edge classrooms and tech labs
- Collaborative student workspaces
- Attractive two-story atrium entrance
- Bridge corridor from McFarland Hall
- Updated instructional technology
- Updated mechanical, HVAC, and electrical systems
- Extensive exterior renovation

## STUDENT CENTER RENOVATION

- Convert available square footage from pool closure into usable space
- Create banquet and meeting spaces for:
  - New student orientation
  - Career fairs and organizational meetings
  - Esports competition venue
  - Other student activities

"For over 130 years, Valley City State University has provided exemplary leadership in higher education," said George Gaukler '62, who is serving as campaign chair. "The success we have enjoyed has resulted in an all-time record enrollment, and outstanding accreditation reviews. Our Forward Together campaign builds on that success and captures that momentum as we look to the future. The projects included in our campaign focus on our students, protecting our core values of innovation, collaboration, and learner-centered educational opportunities and experiences."

*For over 130 years, Valley City State University has provided exemplary leadership in higher education.*

— George Gaukler '62  
campaign chair



## May 16, 2020: VCSU hosts its first virtual commencement

To honor its 2020 graduating class, Valley City State University held its 128th commencement exercises virtually on Saturday, May 16, streaming the event on YouTube. At the ceremony, VCSU recognized 299 graduates – 261 bachelor's degree candidates and 38 master's degree students.

President Alan LaFave presided over the commencement exercises from Vangstad Auditorium, with assistance from faculty marshal Brenda Tyre, associate professor of business and president of Faculty Senate; Margaret Dahlberg, vice president for academic affairs; and Pete Smithhisler, vice president for student affairs.

In his remarks, President LaFave gave thanks to the parents, spouses and other family members of the graduates, as well as thanking the VCSU faculty and staff. Addressing the graduates themselves, he said, "You have all contributed to the culture and success of our university."

He shared two quotes – Nelson Mandela's "Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward," and Warren Buffet's "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago" – encouraging the graduates to focus on the positive future and asking them to consider how they can leave the world a better place than how they found it.

President LaFave closed with "Always remember VCSU, and come back and visit – we'll welcome you with open arms," and, of course, his signature phrase, "Go Vikings!"

Audience members also heard from Nick Hacker, chair of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, who brought congratulations to the graduate on behalf of the state board. "We celebrate together your hard work and dedication," said Hacker, who also told the graduating class, "We're confident you'll do well because you've proven you can work hard, think critically and show up."

In addition to his SBHE service, Hacker is CEO of Guaranty and Title Company, which provides title insurance and real estate closing services across North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Montana.

Brandi Aranda gave the student reflection. A VCSU senior from Hitterdal, Minn., Aranda graduated with a bachelor's degree in athletic training. She had served the university as an R.A. and a Viking Ambassador, and also as a student athletic trainer and leader in the Athletic Training Club. In fall 2019, she co-chaired the student homecoming celebration. She received



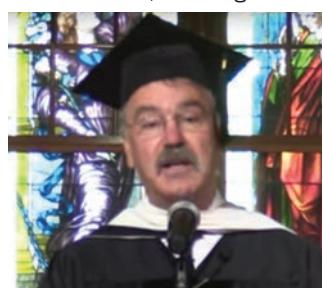
Brandi Aranda

a Viking Pilot Award in recognition of her passion for and contributions to the student body and campus community.

"Never in my life did I imagine that I would be speaking to all of you like this today," said Aranda. She thanked those who helped her at VCSU: "Valley City State University has given me opportunity and opportunity again, and I will forever be thankful for each and every one of them," noting that on both good days and bad days, "There was always someone there for me."

Aranda encouraged her classmates to take pride in their accomplishments: "Graduates, look at where you're at. Look at how far you've come." And she closed with this advice: "No matter where you go, remember where you came from."

The faculty reflection was presented by Steven King, professor of social science, who began teaching at VCSU in 1998 and secured a



Steven King

tenure-track position in 2005. In 2019, he was recognized at the Dakota Conference at Augustana College with the Distinguished Contribution to the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage of the Northern Plains Award. Campus adviser for the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, King was honored by VCSU's Student Senate as its 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Addressing the graduates, King said, "I hope we have challenged you. You, believe it or not, have challenged us. ...We are a bit different because you were here."

Prior to the ceremony, King had solicited remarks from the graduates via email, and he shared several statements of praise for VCSU and the campus community from members of the class of 2020. He, too, shared a quote, closing his remarks with words from Winston Churchill: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91, assistant director of university advancement, coordinated the commencement ceremony, and the technical crew that produced the event was led by Erik Kringlie '92, director for data centers and visualization.

The virtual ceremony is archived on YouTube and can be viewed at [youtu.be/IjCfqV-BDpw](https://youtu.be/IjCfqV-BDpw). Digital congratulations for the graduating class can be viewed at [vcsu.kudoboard.com/boards/vcsuvikings2020](http://vcsu.kudoboard.com/boards/vcsuvikings2020). See sample of congratulations on next page.



Photo captions: Faculty Senate President Brenda Tyre, President Alan LaFave, Vice President for Academic Affairs Margaret Dahlberg and Vice President for Student Affairs Pete Smithhisler



Dear graduates,

As we began the spring 2020 semester, none of us could have anticipated the emergence and significance of COVID-19 on our campus, community, state, nation and world. The last thing on our minds was the notion that we may have to delay coming back to campus following spring break, and then the ultimate decision to remain on-line for the remainder of the semester. This unprecedented health crisis has led to challenging times, but has also resulted in more creativity, entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, and lots of hard work by all.

The impact this has had on your ability to complete your academic courses in person, finish and compete in your last semester of athletic contests as a VCSU Viking, final concerts, in-person capstone experiences, student activities, and the lost opportunity to spend the past seven weeks together has impacted us all.

I continue to marvel at your can-do spirit and optimistic outlook. I'm so very proud of your countless contributions to VCSU and am sorry that I can't physically shake your hand on Saturday. Please know how incredibly proud I am of each one of you. Your achievements are noteworthy, and this is just the beginning for you.

I wish to personally thank you for all you have done to help make VCSU a better place. Please accept my very best wishes for a bright, successful, healthy and prosperous future, regardless of where that future takes you. I also look forward to the time of relaxed "physical distancing" protocols and the opportunity to see you again, in person, as you will have the option to walk across the commencement stage in December or May. I sure hope we see each other at some point before then!

Thank you to each and every one of you and always be proud to be a graduate of the finest institution of higher learning in North Dakota....Valley City State University! Go Vikings!!!

Added by Alan LaFave



Congratulations to our graduating seniors, Madison Brown and Charlotte Huschka. In addition to all of the class of 2020, embrace this thing called life with drive, passion and perseverance.

Added by VCSU Volleyball



Congratulations Austin words cannot express how proud we are. You will make a great teacher. Always take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you can go. We love you - ❤️ Mom & Dad

Added by Austin Ramos

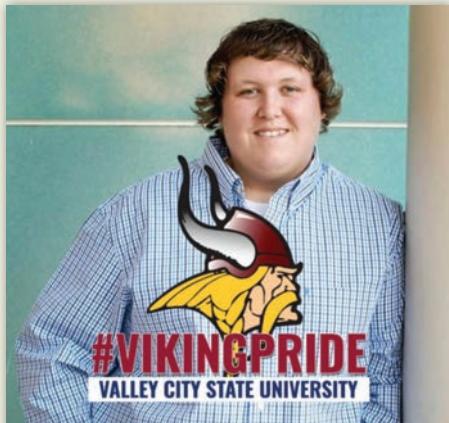


We are SO PROUD of our VIKING!! Graduating with Honors - such an accomplishment and one you worked extremely hard to achieve! We cannot wait to see you spread your wings - we love you!!!

Your Number One Fans!!!

The Fam

Added by Annie Swenson



What lies behind you and before you are small compared to what lies within you.

Go set the world on fire!

Always so very proud of you.

Love, Mom and Dad

Added by Mom and Dad For Kollen Knutson



Congratulations Emma Maguire on your Business Administration HR Concentration degree! We are so proud of our Viking!

Added by Emma Maguire



Congratulations to all the VCSU 2020 graduates! Super proud of you, Bradyn- graduating with honors! Your future is so bright! Viking Pride ❤️ Love you!!

Added by Mom, Dad & Hunter



## Reopening this fall in the face of COVID-19

Spring break 2020 was a pivot-point for Valley City State University. As the coronavirus began to spread prior to break, university officials began meeting frequently to talk through plans to ensure the safety of the campus community and Valley City.

Faculty and staff began working from home in mid-March, and ultimately the decision was made to keep students home after break and deliver instruction via online technology. What started as a two-week trial period after break changed to a virtual campus for the remainder of the semester.

Throughout the spring and summer, the VCSU Emergency Management Team worked on plans to keep the campus and community safe. Employees began returning to work on campus in stages in July and August.

Plexiglass shields, signage and floor markers were installed as safety measures and aids for appropriate behavior and physical distancing. A policy mandating the use of face coverings in indoor public areas on campus was implemented. Microsoft Teams became the go-to virtual platform for meetings and conversations.

Plans were made to reopen the campus with face-to-face classes in August. Classroom seating was reduced to manageable capacities, and enhanced technology in the form of cameras and audio equipment was installed to provide synchronous virtual delivery of course instruction. Margaret Dahlberg, vice president for academic affairs, explained how this would work:

"This flexible approach will provide synchronous remote course access that keeps students and faculty engaged with everyone in the face-to-face course, whether they are remote or in person on any given day. The actual classroom is available virtually, using cameras and microphones to give the whole classroom experience, not just trained on the faculty presenter."

"Remote learners can participate — ask questions, respond to others, even make presentations to the class or attend a small-group meeting. The class is recorded, so those who cannot attend synchronously can watch the class at a later time, and those who need to check on something or who need to listen to part of a presentation a second time can do so."

"This will be an ongoing choice: Students can choose whether to attend in person or remotely on any given day."

Plans and procedures for isolation of positive cases and quarantine of close contacts were established and refined. Extensive cleaning and sanitization protocols for classrooms and other areas throughout campus were employed to ensure safe environments after each use cycle. Masks and hand sanitizers were purchased for distribution to all students and employees.

Frequent drive-through COVID-19 testing events have been held at the fieldhouse and the Winter Show, and students and employees have been encouraged to participate.

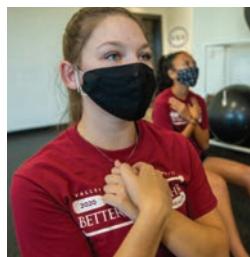
VCSU athletics have also been impacted, with the Vikings and North Star Athletic Association playing fall sports with later start dates for pre-season training and competition. Student-athletes and staff have been tested frequently as well, and protocols implemented to keep teams safe and healthy. Here, too, facilities have been routinely cleaned and sanitized between uses.

Meals in the cafeteria were changed as well. Seating capacity at any one time is limited, with dining hours extended to allow patrons to eat more safely with physical distancing employed. Grab-and-go portions are provided, and other items are served; students are no longer serving themselves to help make things safer.

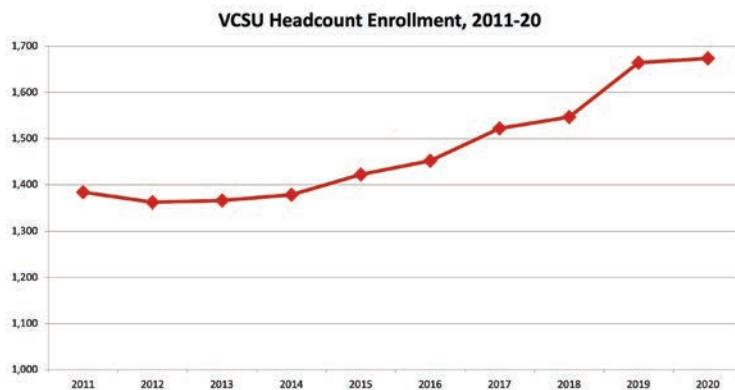
Thus far the huge investment in planning and establishing safe procedures has paid off; the VCSU community has weathered the pandemic with few disruptions to its "new normal" operations.

"Months of planning and preparation have gone into where we are today," says President Alan LaFave. "While we can't predict what the future will hold, we know that we've tried our best to enable us to serve our mission."

To monitor COVID-19 cases at VCSU, visit the online dashboard at [www.vcsu.edu/coronavirus-information/covid-19-dashboard](http://www.vcsu.edu/coronavirus-information/covid-19-dashboard).



## VCSU sets enrollment record for 6th consecutive year, headcount up 21% over decade



Valley City State University has set enrollment records with a total headcount of 1,676 students and an undergraduate headcount of 1,541, according to official fall term 2020 figures released by the university.

The 1,676 total headcount surpasses the previous record of 1,665 set in fall 2019, and the undergraduate headcount of 1,541 surpasses the previous record of 1,524, also from last fall.

The record headcount enrollment marks the sixth consecutive year of record-breaking numbers for VCSU, dating back to a fall 2015 mark of 1,422 that surpassed the previous record of 1,384 set in 2011. Over the decade beginning in fall 2011, VCSU's headcount has increased by 21%.

"We're very excited to share the news of our record enrollment," said President Alan LaFave. "That count represents individual students, together with their families, who have actively chosen Valley City State University for their education. They are the reason we are here, and it's the hard work of those students and our faculty, staff and alumni that continues to propel us forward together."

Retention of full-time students from their first year to their second plays a large role in overall enrollment numbers; this fall's cohort featured a 72% retention rate, VCSU's second highest retention rate over the decade.

## VCSU ranked 4th among public regional colleges in Midwest by U.S. News

Valley City State University has been ranked fourth among public regional colleges in the Midwest by U.S. News and World Report in its "2021 U.S. News Best Colleges" guidebook.

VCSU has now appeared in the U.S. News "Best College" rankings for 23 consecutive years, and the university has been ranked in the top five Midwest public regional colleges each year since 2010.

"We're very proud of the students, faculty, staff and alumni of Valley City State University who have maintained a standard of excellence over time matched by few others," said President Alan LaFave. "Rankings such as these provide credence and credibility to the notion we hold in our hearts and minds that VCSU is an exceptional place with extraordinary people."

The U.S. News rankings are based on data including retention and six-year graduation rates, graduation rates for low-income students (based on federal Pell Grant recipients), measures of student excellence (high school class standing and ACT/SAT scores), the alumni giving rate and educational expenditure per student. A peer assessment by college and university officers also factors into the rankings.

The Midwest region comprises 12 states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

The rankings for top public schools among regional colleges in the Midwest can be found online at [www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/regional-colleges-midwest/top-public](http://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/regional-colleges-midwest/top-public).



## VCSU named a 'Hidden Gem' in the Plains region by College Raptor

Valley City State University has been named one of the 2021 "Hidden Gems in the Plains Region" by College Raptor, a college search platform that serves students, parents and counselors.

VCSU is one of 21 Great Plains schools selected as a "Hidden Gem." College Raptor uses publicly available data to evaluate each college. Factors include first-year retention rate, median ACT/SAT scores for incoming freshmen, average faculty salary, student-to-faculty ratio, admission selectivity, endowment per student and four- and six-year graduation rates.

All data used in the College Raptor Best Colleges rankings is self-reported by colleges to the National Center for Education Statistics.

The "Hidden Gem Colleges in the Plains Region" rankings can be found online at [www.collegeraptor.com/find-colleges/articles/hidden-gems-2021/hidden-gem-colleges-in-the-plains-region-2021-rankings](http://www.collegeraptor.com/find-colleges/articles/hidden-gems-2021/hidden-gem-colleges-in-the-plains-region-2021-rankings).

## VCSU Foundation/Alumni Office cancels Homecoming 2020 events

Homecoming 2020 was like no other, as the Valley City State University Foundation and Alumni Office was forced to cancel in-person events and gatherings for the event, originally scheduled for Oct. 2-3.

In a statement released Aug. 19, foundation officials announced the cancellation, calling it "a difficult decision" made while "keeping the health and safety of the campus community, alumni, friends and the Valley City community in mind."

VCSU students continued their tradition of a weeklong series of events Homecoming week, including the crowning of a Homecoming king and queen — Mitchell Silkman and Sofia Muruato.

2020 Homecoming King Mitchell Silkman and Queen Sofia Muruato



## Center for Arts construction on schedule

Work on the Center for the Arts continues on the site west of the Student Center. Construction is on schedule for the \$32 million facility, funded by an appropriation from the 2019 North Dakota Legislature. The building, which will house the VCSU art and music departments, is scheduled to come online in January 2022.



A recent webcam screenshot shows construction progress on the new Center for the Arts.



A host of delegates pitched in at the Center for the Arts groundbreaking ceremony held June 24.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Center for the Arts was held June 24. University officials, along with community, regional and state leaders, gathered with representatives from the architectural, construction and site preparation firms to break ground on the project.

Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony included VCSU President Alan LaFave; Roxanne Nelson, arts, community and education principal at HGA, architects for the project; Marc Mellmer, vice president of JE Dunn Construction; Dave Carlsrud, mayor of Valley City; and Angeline Gannon, VCSU Student Senate president. Wesley Wintch, VCSU vice president of business affairs and chair of the Center for the Arts Steering Committee, served as emcee.

"Given the situation with COVID-19, sometimes it feels like the world is standing still," said President Alan LaFave. "We are not standing still at VCSU. We are moving forward; we are moving forward together. This ceremony today is an important milestone at the university, one that will help secure our future and a big step as we create a showcase for the arts for our students, the campus community and Valley City. Thank you to all who played a role in the planning and funding of the Center for the Arts."

Art facilities in the new building will include a ceramics lab; printmaking, painting and drawing studios; a digital design lab; a digital photography studio; and a woodshop. An art gallery will provide a highly visible, secure space to showcase student and visiting artist exhibitions.

Music facilities will include a 350-seat performance hall, a 100-seat recital hall/choral room, a band room, a piano/computer lab, a recording and production studio, large and small practice rooms, and faculty offices/studios. Acoustic treatments have been designed for all performance, rehearsal and practice spaces, and the larger spaces feature adjustable acoustics and audio/video recording capabilities.

Gathering spaces will be found throughout the building, and a grand lobby will provide a reception area and showcase for the arts at VCSU.

A construction webcam can be found online at [www.vcsu.edu/center-for-the-arts-building](http://www.vcsu.edu/center-for-the-arts-building); another webcam is also available at [www.senserasystems.com/public/embed/M78092226A92](http://www.senserasystems.com/public/embed/M78092226A92).



# ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S CORNER

## JILL DEVRIES

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

Twitter: @vcsuvikings

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

## Standing tall and giving it our best

VCSU Viking athletics has always been an engine for change, high performance, and institutional pride. The pandemic of 2020 has tested our ingenuity, resiliency, patience, and motivation. We have had to plan, adapt, replan, readapt, and find a way to be okay with uncertainty almost daily. And, we have.

The coaching staff at VCSU has been great and has really done all they can to create a sense of normalcy when things are anything but normal. We have implemented strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while still being able to practice, meet, watch film, strength train, get treatments in the athletic training room and compete. We have had to get comfortable with doing things differently; however, through it all, the expectations have

not changed: Prepare student-athletes to succeed, provide an exceptional experience, and build character through collegiate sport.

I'm very proud of the commitment by our student-athletes. They follow protocols put in place for their safety and that of their teammates and our campus. They have missed practices due to quarantine, missed competition due to positive test results, and with every curveball thrown their way, they have confidently stood tall and gave it their best.

Thus far, 2020 has been anything but normal for Viking Athletics, but we are grateful for the opportunities we have been given to come together, to work together, to stay together in our Viking family. We are BETTER TOGETHER!

## Fall Sports Update

### Football

The Viking football team had played three games through Oct. 10, posting a 3-1 record with wins against Presentation College and Waldorf University. VCSU's lone loss came at Dickinson State. The highlight of the early season was a thrilling 17-16 home win against Waldorf University. The Vikings are scheduled to play nine games – all conference contests – during the fall season. Due to COVID-19, the NAIA playoffs will be held in the spring, starting April 17.





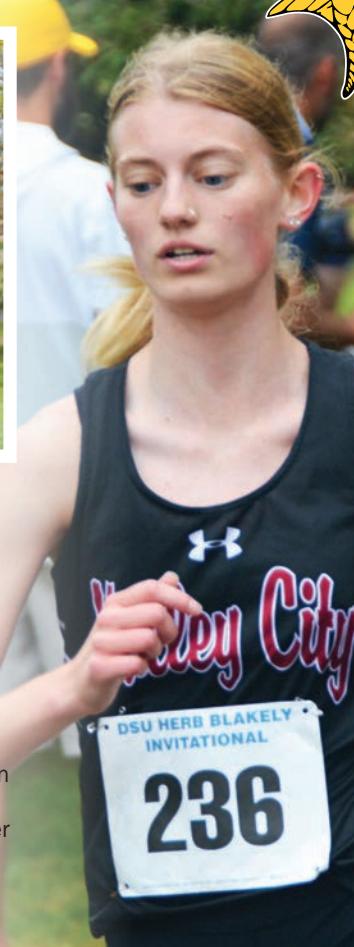
### Volleyball

Valley City State's volleyball team had posted a 4-9 overall record and a 3-3 mark in conference play through Oct. 10. The Vikings are in their first season under the direction of new head coach Brigitte Greywater, who previously coached at Lake Region State College. A highlight of the season so far was a 3-1 win against Waldorf University on VCSU's Senior Night. The Vikings are scheduled to play 15 matches this fall, and then will play 7 more matches in the spring. Due to COVID-19, the NAIA playoffs will be held in the spring beginning April 27.



### Golf

Valley City State's golf teams were able to compete at six meets during the fall season. The Viking women won a dual with Dickinson State and had individual medalists four times. Jocelyn Braunberger (twice), Ashley McKittrick and Hayley Shanks all placed first at meets. The Viking men showed improvement throughout the season and shot their season-best round of 312 at their last meet of the fall. Freshman Rory Gentzkow has led the way with five Top 5 finishes. The Vikings will resume their season in early April.



### Cross Country

The Viking cross country teams are in their first season with new coaches Laquone Robinson and Glen Ellingson. Through Oct. 5, the Vikings had competed at two meets. VCSU's men's team won the title during a Sept. 28 meet at Dickinson State University. The Vikings also had the top two collegiate individuals as Mason Wendt won the men's 8K race and Jasmine Barnes won the women's 5K. The NSAA conference championships will be held in November as previously scheduled, but the NAIA National Championships have been pushed back to April 9, 2021.

### Baseball

Viking baseball had posted a 3-3 record through Oct. 5. The Vikings went 2-1 in three games with Mayville State, including a 3-0 shutout of the Comets. Valley City State went 1-2 in its three games against the University of Jamestown. The Vikings are scheduled to play a three-game series at Morningside College yet this fall, and then will resume their season in early March.



## Vikings ready to take the court

After an offseason of uncertainty, the Valley City State University basketball teams are gearing up to take the court again this fall.

Despite some schools and conferences delaying the start of their basketball seasons due to COVID-19, the Vikings are still on track to play games in late October. Both the men and women have been practicing for several weeks in preparation for the 2020-21 season.

This season's schedule looks to be heavy on conference games as schools prioritize essential games and limit travel due to COVID-19. For the most up to date VCSU basketball schedules, visit [www.vcsuvikings.com](http://www.vcsuvikings.com).



Macey Kvivilang

### Women's Basketball Preview

Valley City State women's basketball is looking to improve on last year's campaign heading into the 2020-21 season. The Vikings finished in fourth place in the North Star Athletic Association, ending the season with a 12-14 record overall and a 9-5 record in the conference. Head coach Vanessa Johnson begins her fourth year leading the Viking women.

The Vikings graduated two impactful seniors in Mackenzie Huber and Emily Schafer last season. Huber, named an All-American selection and first team all-conference, averaged 15.1 points and 7.2 rebounds per game. Schafer also played significant minutes for the Vikings, averaging 4.9 points and 3.3 rebounds per game.

Valley City State returns two seniors to the squad, including all-conference honorable mention Macey Kvivilang, who averaged 8.8 points per game last season, and

Maara Nelson, who averaged 8.5 points per game. The Vikings also return juniors Dani Schwanke (8.9 ppg) and sophomore Adriana Torres (8.4 ppg) who saw significant action last season.

The Vikings also welcome junior transfers Andranae Powns and Niea Ulmer from Compton College and Emma Nielsen from North Dakota State College of Science.



Dani Schwanke



Logan Nelson

### Men's Basketball Preview

The Viking men are looking to take the next step forward this year as the program enters its fifth season under head coach Ryan Montgomery.

After playing with a relatively young team the past few seasons, the Vikings return a strong corps of upperclassmen this season – including four seniors and two juniors who played the bulk of VCSU's minutes last season.

VCSU's top five leading scorers all return this season, including seniors Logan Nelson (14.3 ppg), Kevin Schramm (13.8 ppg), Connor Entzi (11.8 ppg) and Jalen Addison (9.8 ppg). Schramm was named second team all-conference last season as a post player, while Nelson earned honorable mention all-conference as a shooting guard. Nelson enters the season just 31 points shy of reaching 1,000 career points.

Juniors Chris Thompson and Hunter Sand are also back this year after playing significant minutes last season. They are joined in the junior class by three junior college transfer guards who appear poised to make immediate impacts: Tate Hebrink and Eddie Oyet from Riverland Community College, and Josh Kelly from Southwest Tennessee Community College.

The Vikings posted a 9-20 overall record last season, including a 5-9 mark in conference play.



Kevin Schramm



Jalen Addison



## 2020 FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Oct. 10	Presentation College*	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	@ Waldorf University*	1 p.m.
Oct. 24	@ Dakota State University*	4 p.m.
<b>Oct. 31</b>	<b>Dickinson State*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
Nov. 7	@ Mayville State*	1 p.m.
<b>Nov. 21</b>	<b>Mayville State*</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
April 17	NAIA Playoffs: April 17-May 10	

## 2020 VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Oct. 10	@ Presentation College*	12 p.m.
Oct. 11	@ Bellevue University*	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 16	@ Dakota State*	7 p.m.
March 12	@ Waldorf University*	7 p.m.
March 13	@ Viterbo University*	2 p.m.
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Dakota State*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Bellevue University*</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Mayville State*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Presentation College*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
March 31	@ Dickinson State*	7 p.m.
April 9-10	NSAA Championships	TBA
April 17-May 1	NAIA National Championships	TBA

## 2020 CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Oct. 9	Jimmie Invitational	Jamestown, N.D.
Nov. 6	NSAA Conference Championships	Madison, S.D.
April 9	NAIA National Championships	Cedar Rapids, Iowa

## 2020-21 TRACK & FIELD

DATE	EVENT	Location
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Indoor & Outdoor regular season meets are TBA  
 Feb. 22.....NSAA Indoor Championships.....Brookings, S.D.  
 March 4-6.....NAIA Indoor Championships.....Brookings, S.D.  
 May 7-8.....NSAA Outdoor Championships.....Forest City, Iowa  
 May 26-28.....NAIA Outdoor Championships.....Gulf Shores, Ala.



## 2020-21 MEN'S BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Oct. 30	@ University of Jamestown	8 p.m.
Nov. 7-8	Pentagon Challenge - Sioux Falls, S.D.	
Nov. 7	Dakota Wesleyan University	TBA
Nov. 8	Mount Marty University	TBA
<b>Nov. 10</b>	<b>Mayville State University</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>University of Jamestown</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
Nov. 17	@ Trinity Bible College	7 p.m.
Nov. 20-21	Waldorf University Tournament - Forest City, Iowa	
Nov. 20	North Central University	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 21	Baptist Bible College	1 p.m.
<b>Nov. 24</b>	<b>Oak Hills Christian College</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>Oak Hills Christian College</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>Dickinson State University*</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Trinity Bible College</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Presentation College*</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>Mayville State*</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
Dec. 19	@ Dickinson State University	TBA
<b>Jan. 2</b>	<b>Yellowstone Christian College</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Jan. 8	@ Dakota State*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	@ Bellevue University*	5 p.m.
<b>Jan. 15</b>	<b>Waldorf University*</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 16</b>	<b>Viterbo University*</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
Jan. 22	@ Mayville State*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ Presentation College*	5 p.m.
Jan. 27	@ Yellowstone Christian College	TBA
Feb. 5	@ Viterbo University*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	@ Waldorf University*	5 p.m.
<b>Feb. 12</b>	<b>Bellevue University*</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 13</b>	<b>Dakota State University*</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
Feb. 16	@ Dickinson State*	8:30 p.m.
Feb. 24-28	NSAA Tournament	
March 12-13	NAIA Opening Round - Campus Sites	
March 18-23	NAIA National Tournament - Kansas City, Mo.	

## 2020-21 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Oct. 30	@ Univ. of Jamestown (Exhibition)	6 p.m.
<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Briar Cliff University</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
Nov. 7-8	Pentagon Challenge - Sioux Falls, S.D.	
Nov. 7	Dakota Wesleyan University	TBA
Nov. 8	Mount Marty University	TBA
<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>University of Jamestown</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>Oak Hills Christian College</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Nov. 20-21	Dakota State Classic - Madison, S.D.	
Nov. 20	Presentation College	5 p.m.
Nov. 21	Dakota State University	6 p.m.
Nov. 27-28	Carroll College Thanksgiving Classic - Carroll, Mont.	
Nov. 27	Montana Tech	6 p.m.
Nov. 28	Carroll College	5 p.m.
<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>Dickinson State University*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Trinity Bible College</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Presentation College*</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>Mayville State*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 2</b>	<b>Yellowstone Christian College</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Jan. 8	@ Dakota State*	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	@ Bellevue University*	3 p.m.
<b>Jan. 15</b>	<b>Waldorf University*</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Jan. 16</b>	<b>Viterbo University*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
Jan. 22	@ Mayville State*	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ Presentation College*	3 p.m.
Jan. 27	@ Yellowstone Christian College	TBA
Feb. 5	@ Viterbo University*	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	@ Waldorf University*	3 p.m.
<b>Feb. 12</b>	<b>Bellevue University*</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Feb. 13</b>	<b>Dakota State University*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
Feb. 16	@ Dickinson State*	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 23-28	NSAA Tournament	
March 12-13	NAIA Opening Round - Campus Sites	
March 18-23	NAIA National Tournament - Sioux City, Iowa	

## Vikings On The Move



**Jay Morgan '69** attended the 56th Annual North Dakota Suncoast Luncheon on February 22, 2020, that was held near Parrish, Florida. It was a successful event with over 50 in attendance. George Stenehjem led the group in singing "Home on the Range." The Bakken oil fields, taxation, flooding and dinosaur discovery were some of the topics discussed. All in attendance received door prizes or pens from VCSU,

UND, NDSU or Bank Forward. Pictured are Jay and Louise Morgan and Jay's cousin, **Joy (Knutson) Chamley '69**.

Attend the 57th annual North Dakota Suncoast Association Luncheon on February 27, 2021, at the newly remodeled clubhouse at the River Wilderness Golf & Country Club, Parrish, Fla. Please join Jay and others where "The North Dakota Spirit Lives!"

**Francis Dahl '54** and his wife, Joyce, are living in Billings, Mont. They celebrated 65 years of marriage last December. Francis retired after 34 years in education, mostly in administration, and spent nearly 30 years doing crop insurance work. Francis plays golf with his two "Billings" sons and rides an old bicycle around his neighborhood. Francis and Joyce still live in their own home which they really enjoy.

**Darlene (Rasmussen) '55 and Peter Granlund '50** are still in their home of 55 years in Port Angeles, Wash., enjoying family, friends and the wonders of life.

**Don Johnson '57** retired in 1994 after teaching for 42 years. He was 17 when he got his first teaching job at a country school in Kathryn, N.D. where he stayed for 3 years. He taught in Lisbon, N.D. for 1 year before being drafted into the Korean Conflict in 1952. He returned to Valley City and obtained his BS-SE degree and proceeded to teach in Duluth, Minn. for 3 years. It was during this time he married another teacher. They made the big move to California in 1959 where Don taught for another 35 years. Don has 2 children, a son in Texas and a daughter in Oklahoma. He also has 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Don's wife, Thelma, passed away in January, 2020. In July, Don moved to Oklahoma to be near his family.

**Arbadalla (Schauer) Wolf '58** lives in Miles City, Mont. Arby says she had a wonderful teaching career in Miles City. She has a son and two daughters who are grown and married. She also has six grandchildren who are the light of her life. Arby would like to hear from any of her dorm mates.

**Beverly (Hofstad) Quamme '58** lives in West Fargo, N.D. Her husband, **Hollis Quamme '57**, passed away in June 2020 after a nearly three year battle with cancer.

**Mary (Christensen) '59 and Tilford Kroshus '59** had some great years at Valley City State University. They are both retired and enjoy their year round home on Pickerel Lake in Minnesota.

**Lola (Murray) '59 and Don Patnoude '60** are retired and continue to live in Breckenridge, Minn., where Don taught the last 22 years. Lola's final 22 years of teaching were at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton. They've been married 64 years and have three grown children, none of whom are teachers! Due to the pandemic, they miss participating with family and friends and look forward to live sports (Don) and music (Lola) again.

**Marj (Smith) '60 and Dick Stiles '61** are still kicking in Oregon. Marj turned 80 on Valentine's Day, and Dick was 84 in August. They retired from coaching a few years ago in Estacada, Ore. Their three children live close by. They had to cancel their plans to attend homecoming with the turmoil in the area and COVID-19. The last time they were back they were really impressed with how the campus had improved with all the new buildings, track, football field and the floodwall. Marj was a cheerleader, and Dick was a three-sport athlete and on five Hall of Fame teams. Once a Viking, always a Viking!

**Gwen (Simonson) Flynn '61** has decided to make a change and move from Alexandria, Minn., to Palm Desert, Calif. The cold winters in Minnesota are too restrictive for her at her age. Gwen's son Terry, who lives with her, is in this endeavor with her and made the big move September 15. They have purchased a home in a gated, 55-plus community and have downsized big time so there was little to move. It was hard to leave their family and friends, but they have assured them they will come to visit. Gwen has such fond memories of her time at VCSU and she so enjoyed her 35 years of teaching. Gwen says thanks for the memories!

The wife of **William Fossen '62** passed away five years ago in November. William had a stroke 12 years ago but has recovered every part of his body except his brain; however, it too has gotten better, and he can still drive – and most important, he can now read books.

**Dennis Maasjo '65** has been retired for several years and lives in Sun City West, Ariz. He traveled to Valley City last December for commencement at Valley City State as his granddaughter, **Autumn Johnson '19**, gave the student address. It was an excellent speech, and grandpa was very proud of not only her speech but of all her accomplishments.



**Audrey (Wibstad) Heupel '66** is retired and living in Buckeye, Ariz. She enjoys time with her family.

**Richard Kadry '66** and his wife, Clarice, are retired and living in Charleswood Estates in West Fargo. Richard retired from banking in 2001 and Clarice from the dental profession in 2007. They have enjoyed several cruises and have traveled extensively, most recently to seven countries in Europe. They spend their summers in North Dakota and winters in Arizona. They have two children and four grandchildren.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

The Viking Day of Giving is an opportunity for alumni and friends of VCSU to come together on one day to support the scholarship needs at our university.

Your gift can help ensure that our University continues to grow!  
**Learn more at [www.vcsualumni.org/dayofgiving](http://www.vcsualumni.org/dayofgiving).**



**Help us reach our goal of \$50,000  
on November 12, 2020.**

**Linda (Sowden) '67 and Luther Skogen '68** moved to Alexandria, Minn., in May after being in Valley City for the past 75 years. They are moving to be closer to their daughter Sara and her family.

**Cecelia (Jorgenson) '60 and Adam Baumstarck '60** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 31. They live in Linton, N.D., and winter at The Resort in Mesa, Ariz. They have 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.



Here is a photo of **Bill Coghlan '67, Tom Kirchoffner '68, Myron Loberg '68, Larry "Buck" Grooters '57** at the Cajun Cafe in Fargo at their weekly Wednesday morning luncheon. Some of the other VCSU grads that come are **Gary Tharaldson '67, Gene Boyle '69, and Ray Clark '68**. **Rich Rogers '75** has also come on several occasions. They have had **Pat Blake '68** from Dickinson stop in when he comes to Fargo, as well as **Terry Dunphy '68** from Grand Forks. Myron says, "We are holding a four-year letter winner stadium blanket; you had to letter all four years to get one. Come join the group Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Cajun Cafe. It's just off South University Avenue by the old K-Mart store. Great food and a great time. We definitely solve all problems!"

**Karen (Hansen) DeBoer '69** and her husband, Gary, have been retired from teaching for several years. They enjoy their retirement on Rabbit Lake in Crosby, Minn. Karen and Gary still have family in Valley City and travel there several times a year to visit Karen's 91-year-old mother and two sisters, as well as traveling over to Jamestown to visit her brother.



**Roselyn (Mattern) Persons '69** is happily retired from United Airlines after 20 years. She lives in Altoona, Wis., and enjoys her 5 adult kids and 10 grandchildren. Roselyn says she loved her time at VCSU in the late 1960s.

Judy (Holt) and **Walt Vollmers '71** are loving retirement. Their winters are spent in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., and the summers at their lake home on Lake Tschida. They also spend a few months at their Bismarck, N.D. condo. They have seven grandchildren – five in Bismarck and two in Phoenix, Ariz.



**Jim Fredrickson '71** lives in Detroit Lakes, Minn., and enjoys running, biking and pickleball. He also enjoys bow hunting for deer, antelope, bear, turkey and elk. His daughter, Amy, is a nurse at the VA in Fargo. Amy and husband, Ryan, have three beautiful children. Jim also has two beautiful granddaughters from his son. All of his grandkids are involved in sports, which Jim loves watching. He even volunteer coaches them in basketball and track. It has been 13 years since he last taught school, and Jim is enjoying retirement.

**John Clancy '72** and wife, Colleen Clancy (retired from the VCSU Bookstore in 2010), still live in Tower City, N.D. John retired from the USDA in 2015. They have seven grandchildren ranging in ages from 1 1/2 to 13 1/2 years. John likes woodworking, politics, and lake and family time.

**Debora (Webber) Janes '72** just retired from teaching in Rapid City. She always enjoys the Bulletin and catching up on VCSU. Deb says she has so many great memories of her time there, and found it to be a perfect fit for her. She taught in 3 states and 7 schools over a 37-year career she loved.



**Kathy (Shape) '74 and Boyd Sussex '75** have both been retired from teaching for three years. They loved their years in education and coaching but say retirement is amazing. Boyd was very honored and humbled to receive the South Dakota High School Distinguished Service Award this past year. The couple live on Big Stone Lake, north of Milbank, S.D. Lake life is awesome. Their family consists of their son **Jackson Sussex '08** (played basketball

at VCSU from 2003-07), his wife Val (played basketball at UND from 2003-07), and their grandkids, Baker, age 5, and Lauren, 3. They live in Grand Forks, so Boyd and Kathy spend a lot of time there when the kids aren't visiting them at the lake. They love visitors, so if you are ever in the area, please let them know!



**Thomas Scott '75** said if he had any brains at all, he'd move back to Valley! Tom retired from IBM and also retired as director of Fitness USMA, West Point. He works part time, at a health club in North Carolina. Tom has five kids and the youngest is a college senior. He says he is off to Florida soon!

**Dan Mimnaugh '75** plans to retire after this year and move back to his hometown, "good ol' Valley City," after serving as the director of Elks Camp Grassick for 40 years.

**Jody (Carlson) '78 and Curt Anderson '76** met while teaching in Hankinson. They have been living in West Fargo, N.D., since the fall of 1984 and are both retired. Their children live in Fargo, Hankinson, and Aurora, Ill. They have one grandchild who lives in Florida. Curt and Jody spend a lot of time gardening and growing flowers and say retirement is the best!

**Kaye (Tait) Belzer '76** and her husband are currently living in a suburb of Casselton, N.D., called Amenia. They have lived in this very quiet place for almost six years. Kaye has been retired from hairdressing for four years but keeps busy with their country church activities, where her husband is the pastor. Their combined family of six living children is scattered throughout the United States, two of them live in North Dakota so they get to see them a little more often. Kaye lost her son in a tragic accident

## *Make a DIFFERENCE in the life of a V-500 Student – Join V-500*



*"Through scholarship support I was able to graduate from college with my first two years paid for, giving me an optimistic start to my future."*

"Choosing VCSU was the smartest decision I could've made for my future. I received the best education from professors who challenged and guided me to success. I grew as a person from extracurriculars that pushed me out of my comfort zone. And most importantly I gained a network of support from peers, faculty and staff, community members, and alumni.

Coming from a low-income household in small-town North Dakota, I was very skeptical about how I was going to make my dream of going to college and playing college volleyball a reality. Through scholarship support I was able to graduate from college with my first two years paid for, giving me an optimistic start to my future.

I am forever grateful for the support that allowed me to receive an education, make my family proud, and make my dreams come true. Thank you for passing the torch to keep VCSU the best it can be and helping future Vikings get the best of what this school has to offer."

– Autumn Johnson '19, Hazen, ND

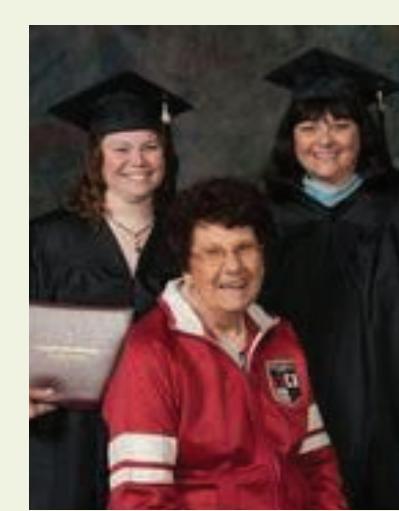
last fall and comments that no parents should have to bury a child. The good news is they have a granddaughter who will be attending VCSU this fall online, which makes her grandma very happy. Go Vikings! Kaye says it is always fun to run into former VCSU alumni along the way. She enjoys reading about former students, teachers and the happenings of the college when The Bulletin arrives.

**Tom Tracy '76** spent 27 eventful years as the superintendent at the Kensal (N.D.) Public School and finally fully retired after working his last six years at Kensal part-time, three years at three days per week, two years at two days per week and one year at one day per week. Instead of riding off into the sunset, he kind of limped off with a cane. He is now fully enjoying full retirement in Jamestown, N.D., with his lovely wife, Fay.

**Antigone (Karapetsa) Topcheev '76** is now 65 and lives in a small village in Sweden called Mörtebo, near Ockelbo, with her husband, Vladimir, and their 1-year old beagle Sputnik. Having left the stressful London life in 2015, they found a great deal of peace, space and joy in the Swedish forest. Their lives have changed considerably for the better, surrounded by forests, lakes and rivers. Their Swedish neighbours are very nice people being there when needed and giving one another space to enjoy nature and a quiet life. Antigone has found a part of North Dakota and Valley City in Mörtebo – similar buildings, traditions, Vikings, cinnamon rolls and lutefisk, as well as similar winters and a farming culture. Mörtebo often reminds her of her great days at what was then VCSC. Antigone continues working part-time at the International English School in Gävle (secondary) as an education consultant. The school is truly international with many teachers from Canada, the USA, UK and – naturally – Sweden. This is, by far, the best school she has ever worked in as a teacher or in a managerial capacity. The staff here have an amazing ability to make everyone feel comfortable, cared for, and fulfilled at a professional level. The students, also from various backgrounds, are a joy to work with and so full of life! Vladimir is a retired Russian physicist and is very active writing books on Russian history and culture. He is a scholar and expert in Soviet and Russian military and civil history. A few years ago, they visited Valley City and the university which left a good impression on both of them. In a nutshell, her five years in Sweden have been the best by far and, although she can feel age catching up on her, her home life and work keep her active and positive. A positive attitude to life can do so much for the morale, especially on gray days!

**Delbert Huttunen '77** started teaching and coaching football and basketball at Pembina High School in Pembina, N.D., until retiring from teaching spring of 1997. He also worked 18 summers as a customs officer at the Pembina port of entry. In August 1997, Delbert started a full time career with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as an uniformed customs officer at the port of entry until December 2005, when he transferred to a non-uniformed position with CBP as an import specialist officer stationed in the downtown Pembina office. He retired from CBP in August 2018. Delbert married Lanet Graba from Nimrod, Minn., in 1981 and have three sons; Allen and Peter, both in Pembina, and Reid in East Grand Forks, Minn. Delbert and Lanet still reside in Pembina.

**David Katzenmeyer '78** greets all his friends and teammates from VCSU! His youngest son, Daniel, graduated high school and is planning on attending NDSU. According to David, "all roads lead back to North Dakota."



**Kristine (Dammel) Bommersbach '13** (left) is pictured with her mother, **Linda (DeKrey) Dammel** (right), and grandmother, **Alpha (Whitman) DeKrey '48**, in a three-generation photo taken on Kristine's VCSU graduation day in May 2013. Linda received her undergraduate degree in education in 1981 and her master's in education (library and information technology concentration) from VCSU in 2010. Alpha graduated from VCSU with her two-year teaching degree

but was sick with the flu on her graduation day and was unable to attend the commencement ceremony. Alpha died in July 2020, and in recognition of her belief in the importance of education, the family established an endowed scholarship at VCSU in her name, which will be awarded to a junior or senior in the elementary education program.

**Julie (Hermanson) Morben '79** taught business at Central Valley High School, Buxton, N.D., for 10 years following graduation. She received her master's degree in business and also in school counseling from UND. Julie worked as a school counselor for 23 years in West Fargo High School, Moorhead Junior High, and Bismarck High School (18 years). After retiring in 2012, Julie and her husband, Jerry, moved to St. George, Utah. Her hobbies include scuba diving, fishing, and lots and lots of traveling.

**Laura McLean '79** is giving piano lessons at the Manvel school after teaching kindergarten for 26 years. She lives by herself back on the family farm near Gilby, N.D. Laura has two 8-year-old German Shorthaired dogs named Jake and Jazz.

**Kathleen (Buhr) Mita '80** celebrated one year of owning a home in Williston, N.D. and not having to drive an hour each way to work in Wildrose. Kathleen completed her fifth year teaching Title I at Hagan Elementary School in Williston. Her last child graduated from college in 2020. In April, she had two grand babies born three days apart bringing the count to seven grandchildren.

**Sharon (Sperle) '80 and Kevin Horsager '78** live in Reiles Acres, Fargo. Kevin has been employed at NDSU since 1979. Sharon is employed at U.S. Bankruptcy Court since 1986. They have five children and eight grandchildren: Blaine and Amy Horsager, and Hunter, live in West Fargo; Bridget and Justin Piatz, and Jackson, Carson, Emerson and Benson, live in Napoleon; Cole and Jill Horsager, and Sawyer, live in West Fargo; Austin Horsager and Oakley live in Fargo; and Ali Horsager and Brynlee live in Fargo.

**Carol (Ball) Pinke '80** retired in 2014 and lives in Fargo, N.D. Her husband, **Del Pinke '72**, passed away in March 2020. The Pinke families have contributed to scholarships in memory of Del for Litchville-Marion graduates attending VCSU in the fall of 2020.

**Edward Stipp '80** went to Northwest Missouri State University as a graduate assistant in the athletics department and earned an M.S. in Education and the Education Specialist degree. He returned to his home state, Indiana, and took a position as athletic director and head varsity

boys basketball coach at a school in Kokomo. After five years, Edward and his family moved to Fort Wayne. He took a superintendent/principal position for a K-12 state-accredited school and stayed there for 13 years before moving back to Kokomo (taking an administration position with Indiana University Kokomo for 11 years). He took an early release and buyout from IUK in June 2011, allowing him to travel to Vietnam (12 times since 2007) to help university students in Ho Chi Minh City. A veteran – U.S. Air Force 1968-72 and one year with the Army National Guard in Valley City – Edward has organized veterans groups (mostly World War II veterans) at several assisted-living facilities in Kokomo. He also mentors elementary age students. His ex-wife and two grown children still remain in Fort Wayne (son is a chief engineer for a telecommunications company and daughter is a relationship manager with a financial institution in Fort Wayne). He has fond memories of his time at VCSC (basically one year assisting with the men's basketball team under Coach Anderson) and fondly remembers Bill Osmon, Coach Dew, Dr. Grooters and Coach Anderson, to name a few. Edward wishes VCSU the very best in this upcoming and challenging school year. Go Vikings!

**Penny (Levondowski) '83 and Don Nash '80** celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this past August. Don is retired from teaching, and Penny is teaching art at Oak Grove Lutheran Elementary School in Fargo. They are very grateful for the blessings they enjoy!

Former Viking basketball, track and cross country member **Josef Cannon '83** became a Hollywood actor after graduation. He returned to VCSU in April 2014 to work with student actors in Jenni Lou Russi's Advanced Acting class. Josef is featured in the new film "Debt Collectors," which was released in May. The film stars Scott Adkins (Marvel's "Dr. Strange" and "The Expendables 2") and Louis Mandylor ("My Big Fat Greek Wedding" and "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2").

**Carol (Laschkewitsch) Simmers '84** is a retired third grade teacher from Bismarck, N.D. Carol says she is so happy in life and grateful for her VCSC education, instructors and friends!

**John Hovda '85** is still in Valley City. He moved off the farm in 2010 but still gets there to mow. John had his second kidney transplant seven and a half years ago. He is in his 29th summer working at St. Catherine's cemetery. John says "hi" to the class of 1985.

**Cindy (Weispfenning) Kleven '86** has been employed at JRMC for 33 years as a certified coding specialist. Cindy and her husband, John, have one son who will be a sophomore at NDSU.



Rapids, Minn. Ally recently received her BSW degree from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. A few weeks later she married her high school sweetheart, Joey Lohse, in a small, intimate ceremony with 10 family members. She recently accepted a social work position with Seasons Center for Behavioral Health in Iowa, while her husband finishes up his undergraduate degree before heading on to dental school. In his spare time, Dan volunteers as an adult leader/mentor for a local church,

helping out in the high school ministries area. He says, "I don't get back to VCSU enough, but please know that it holds a very special place in my heart. ...As I reflect on the chapters of my life, and most specifically places or people that have made an impact, VCSU jumps out to the front of the line! From Coach Dew and everything/anything related to Viking football, to Nate Crosby, Larry Robinson and Diane Hill... wow, where do I begin? Thank you VCSU for your role in making me the man I am today."

**Daryl Miller '92** recently ended his 30-plus year career in the customer service industry and began a new career as a custodian at Wahpeton Middle School. He wants to thank the many customers he had over the years and is looking forward to a new venture in his life.



**Beth (Loibl) Karnik '94**, a language arts teacher at Sheyenne High School, was awarded the 2020-21 Professional/Licensed Staff of the Year Award by West Fargo Public Schools. Beth came to the district in 2011 as a high school language arts teacher at West Fargo High School. Since 2014, she has been a language arts teacher at Sheyenne High School and has also served as the department chair at Sheyenne High School for the past four years. As this year's award winner, Beth (or Mrs. Karnik as she's known to her students)

was described by her nominator as "loving and gregarious... she has a wonderful ability to reach all students and come to them on a level they appreciate. Her room is defined by a culture of mutual respect and gratitude because she has invested in all of her students since day one."

## A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING



**Consider a Year-End Gift to the Valley City State University Foundation now and take advantage of tax savings when you prepare your 2020 income taxes. Gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to qualify for 2020 tax purposes.**

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



**Brenda (Anderson) Hill '94** is still teaching kindergarten in Wahpeton! This last spring marked her 25th year, and she still loves it! Brenda and her husband, Nathan, have three kids — two in high school and one in middle school. Their daughter is looking into being a Viking in the fall of 2021!

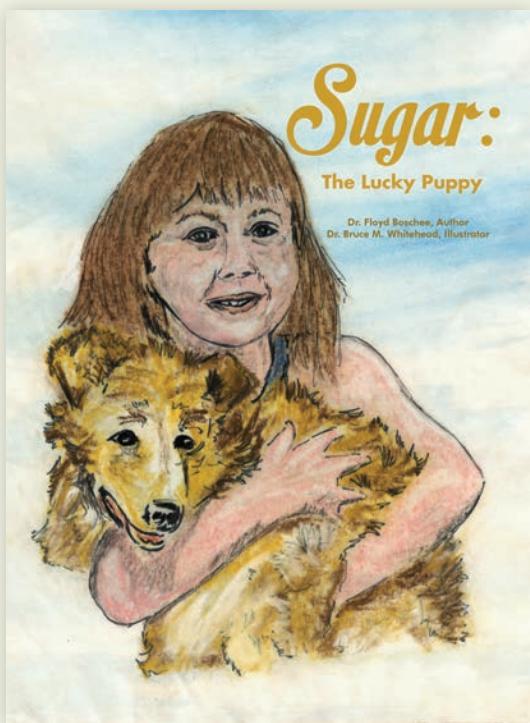
**Doris "Eileen" (Brauer) Geske '94** is retired but still teaches music lessons out of her home to people in the LaMoure and Oakes area. She currently facetimes her students six hours per week since they cannot meet in person because of COVID-19. Many of her students have gone on to become teachers themselves, either in a school or home setting, and Eileen enjoys watching them continue teaching others. Eileen was named the 2001 North Dakota Music Teacher of the Year and the 2004 Music Teachers National Association Teacher of the Year. Eileen and her husband reside on the family farm near Verona, N.D.

**Max Miranda '98** is currently a retired police officer after honoring the badge for 22 1/2 years with the Albuquerque (N.M.) Police Department. His wife, Rhonda, is a registered nurse for the State of New Mexico working at the North Valley Health Clinic and also at the University of New Mexico Cancer Center. Their son, Jacob, is 16 years old and will be a junior in 2020-21 and maybe one day will play football at VCSU! Daughter Jayden is 14 years old and will be a freshman; she is an outstanding gymnast and track and field star! Max feels blessed saying "Thank you, VCSU, and go Vikings!"

**Holly (Snyder) Yttredahl '98** is married to Steve and they have a 5-year-old daughter, Josephine. Holly graduated with her master's degree in special education from UND in May 2020. She also completed the resident teaching program at UND, teaching special education for the Moorhead (Minn.) Public Schools.

**Kristi (Turnquist) Haadem '99** and **Throy Haadem '99** are living in Rolla, N.D., where both work in special education. Throy works at the Rolla School, and Kristi is working in Cando at North Star. They have three growing boys: Jalin 19, Noah 16, and Brennen 13. They love getting back to the Valley City area and say if you're ever in northern North Dakota to look them up.

**Cameron Scott '01** has been employed by the Portage la Prairie School Division in Manitoba following graduation and loves every minute of it. He is teaching K-8 physical education at Oakville School. Cameron says that Portage la Prairie is a marvelous little town of around 1,000 people with a very strong farming community surrounding it. They have about 165 students who are an enthusiastic bunch when it comes to Panther Pride! Cam misses his days at VCSU and thinks about many good Viking moments regularly!



A children's book authored by **Floyd Boschee '56**, "Sugar: The Lucky Puppy," has been published by Dorrance Publishing. The book is illustrated by Bruce Whitehead. More information about the book can be found online at [bookstore.dorrancepublishing.com/sugar-the-lucky-puppy](http://bookstore.dorrancepublishing.com/sugar-the-lucky-puppy).

Boschee has authored and coauthored 15 books in education. In addition to his bachelor's degree from VCSU he holds a master's degree from the University of North Dakota and a doctorate from the University of Montana. He is professor emeritus at the University of South Dakota.

He and his wife, Marlys, who also attended VCSU, live in Sun City, Ariz. The couple has established the Drs. Floyd and Marlys Ann Knutson Boschee Endowed Scholarship at VCSU.

**Teri Smith '05** sends greetings from sunbaked Reile's Acres. She says retirement from Fargo Public Schools is wonderful. Reading, gardening and writing a genealogy book for her family are at the top of her bucket list right now. She hopes that everyone is well and COVID-19 free.



**Kimberly Souba '09** teaches 5th grade at Tampico Elementary School in Tampico, Ill. Tampico is a very small farm community with a population of about 700. Closing school in March due to COVID-19 was extremely difficult for their students and teachers. Kimberly tried different ways to engage her students through a variety of costumes that she dressed in as well as creating videos of herself singing to them. Pictured is Kimberly dressed up with the yard signs she made for each of her students; she spent a day driving around the countryside taking each of her 19 students a sign.

**Jessica (Fischer) Johnson '10** and her husband, Ryan, live in Valley City where Jessica works at the Sheyenne Care Center and Ryan is a postal carrier. They have a 3-year-old daughter, Oakleigh Rose, and a 3-month-old son, Lincoln Rhett.



**Derek Davis '12** is employed as an administrative specialist for Lutheran Social Service Meals on Wheels. He is also pursuing a doctorate in adult education through Grand Canyon University, and his first horror novel, "Evil Has A Target," will be available for purchase on Amazon.



**Trevor Goerts '15** lives in Fargo, N.D. with his fiancé, Marie Winans. They met three years ago the old fashioned way, at a bar, the Bulldog Tap, in south Fargo. They will be married June 12, 2021, in northern Michigan. Marie is from Atlanta, Mich., about one and a half hours south of the Mackinac Bridge in northern Michigan. She is an echo sonographer at Essentia Health in Fargo. Trevor is employed by Clearwater Custom Cabinets in Horace, N.D., where he has worked the past three years as a cabinet builder/installer. It's a family-run company with two of his cousins as

the owners. Trevor notes there's nothing better than working for family who truly care about the employees and the product.

**JoLynn (Gregoryk) '17 and Tayler Lentz '17** live in Fargo. Tayler teaches first grade at Maple Valley and coaches football and junior high basketball. JoLynn is a community services supervisor at Solutions in Fargo.



**Alyssa (Breuer) Pesicka '19** and husband, Charles, have been married two years this past October and had their first child, a son, in July. Alyssa also started her first year of teaching in Mandan, N.D., at Red Trail Elementary School as a second grade teacher. She is so excited!



**Courtney (Henkel) Owen '19** and her husband, Jordan, live in Fergus Falls, Minn., with their 4-year-old daughter Harper. Courtney has been using her communication degree the last four years as an optician with 20/20 Optical and enjoys it immensely! They have been keeping busy with work, preschool and helping open a children's museum in Fergus Falls. She can't wait to come back to VCSU for a visit!



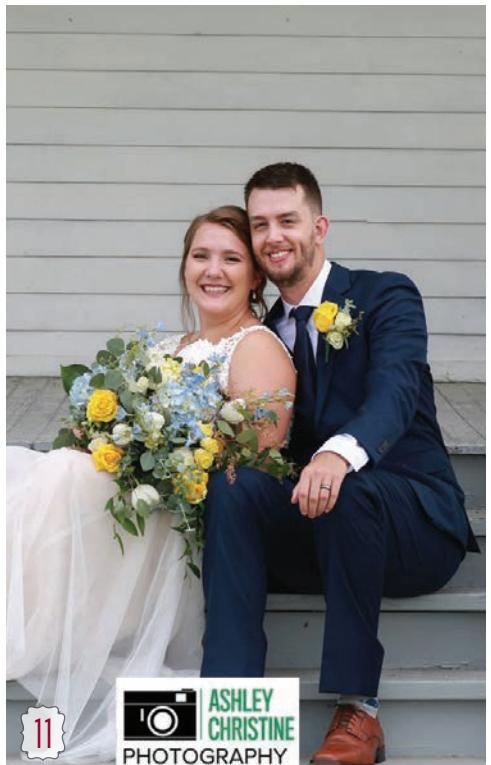
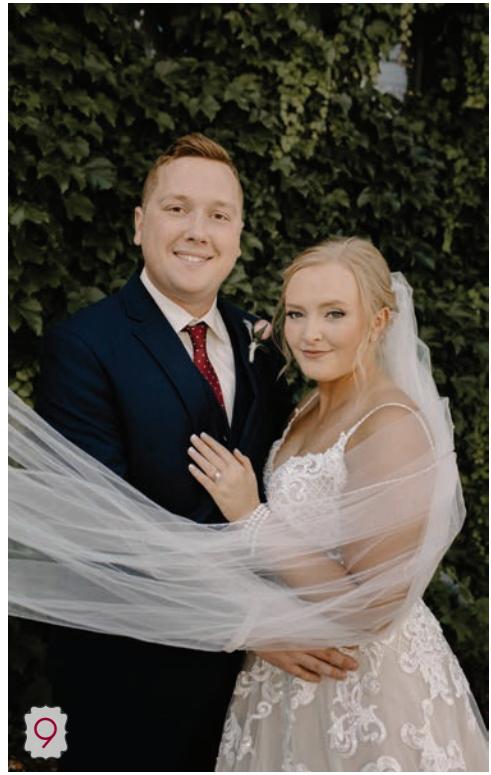
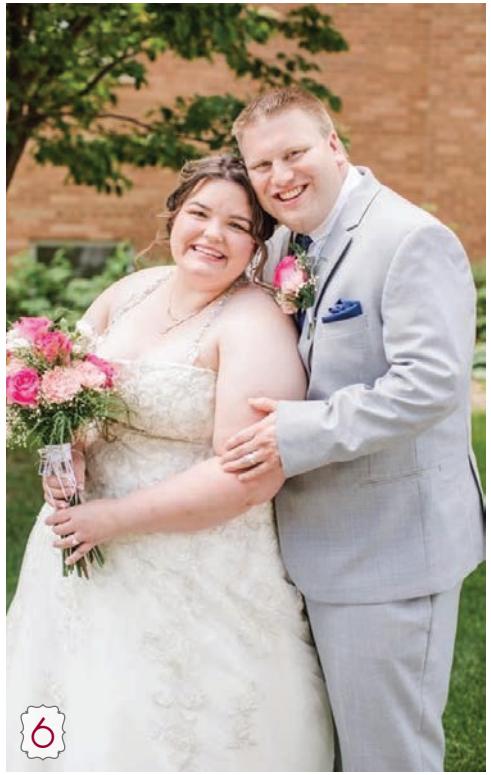
**Nik Vargas '19** enrolled in EMT academy last fall at Mendocino College. He passed EMT academy and the national registry to become an NREMT-B certified EMT all while working at a local grocery store. In December last year, Nik was hired by South Lake County Fire Protection District as a paid-call firefighter (PCF) and was put through a fire academy from January–July 2020. Nik was badged and cleared to respond on July 21, 2020, and has been responding to fires, technical rescues, medical-aids, traffic

collisions, etc. since then. Nik looks forward to the next time he gets to visit VCSU and all the people he became close with.

# Just Married

1. **Tarah Cleveland '16** and Clayton Beyers were married Oct. 5, 2019. Clay and Tarah met and still both work in technology at Target headquarters in Minneapolis.
2. **Jennifer (Soland) Moore '13** graduated from the VCSU/NDSU elementary education program in May 2013. She teaches first grade at Horace Elementary School. This is her eighth year teaching! In October 2019, she married her husband, Nick.
3. **Jessica Ronning '20** and Thor Hanson were married March 21, 2020. Their plans changed three times due to COVID-19. Despite the challenges, they were able to go through with the wedding even though they couldn't have all their friends and family with them. Jess was a co-op at Doosan Bobcat during her last semester at VCSU and accepted a full-time position as a finance analyst based in Fargo. She says it's been a lot of fun to learn and experience new things. Jess is also continuing in the MBA program and planning to complete the program at UND in the spring of 2021. In February, they added a new member to their family, a young black lab named Bailey. She is entertaining and never seems to run out of energy or enthusiasm. She loves car rides, tug-of-war, and playing overall. Jess is thankful for the education and opportunities VCSU gave her.
4. **Alexis Olson '16** & Matthew Ottis, April 3, 2020
5. **Rebecca Nelson '18** & Alexander May, June 3, 2020
6. Rebecca Furman and **Jacob Miedema '12** were married June 27, 2020. They reside in Spiritwood, N.D.
7. Lillian Smith & **Michael Bloch '17**, July 17, 2020
8. **Kelsey Gaukler '17** & **Zach Nelson '17**, July 18, 2020
9. **Brittany Schumm '18** & Jonathan Mark, July 31, 2020
10. Addie Gross & **Josh Magnuson '16**, August 1, 2020
11. **Jennifer Riemann '18** and **Alex Conlon '17** were married Aug. 8, 2020. They live in Bowman, N.D. Alex teaches high school math at Bowman County High School, and Jenny teaches K-12 music at Scranton Public School. They are proud to say they met at VCSU!
12. **Kara Kohler '17** & Andrew Schaefer, August 29, 2020
13. **Haley Butterfield '18** and **AJ Potter '17** were married September 12, 2020. Haley is a social science teacher at Dickinson High School and AJ is a deputy for the Dunn County Sheriff's Office.
14. **Laura Kapaun '14** & Tyler Mielke, September 26, 2020





## In Remembrance

**Ardele (Olson) Sander '38**, Castle Rock, Colo.  
**Maida (Nicholls) Sjoberg '40**,  
 Thief River Falls, Minn.  
**Phyllis (Johnson) Solheim '40**, Lakefield, Minn.  
**Muriel (Strand) Anderson '41**, Fargo, N.D.  
**Harriet Joy (Eissinger) Liberda '43**,  
 Chisago City, Minn.  
**Elizabeth (Schela) Sweeney '44**,  
 Whitefish, Mont.  
**Frances (Morrow) Burchill '45**,  
 Sioux Falls, S.D.  
**Ruth (Langemo) Steen '45**, Fargo, N.D.  
**Betty (Podoll) Nei '46**, Mandan, N.D.  
**Jackie (Jungnitsch) Noack '47**,  
 Cottonwood, Ariz.  
**William Thal '47**, Hopkins, Minn.  
**Alpha (Whitman) DeKrey '49**, Jamestown, N.D.  
**Joan (Froemke) Mason '49**,  
 Cape Girardeau, Mo.  
**Leona (Fischer) Ehli '50**, Fargo, N.D.  
**Yvonne (DeForge) Harlow '50**, Bismarck, N.D.  
**Vivian (Keeling) Rowell '50**, Orlando, Fla.  
**Ty Peterson '52**, Valley City  
**Darlene (Reimers) Loebrick '53**, Tucker, Ga.  
**Eleanor (Johnson) Ramsey '54**,  
 Cooperstown, N.D.  
**Charles Solum '54**, Moorhead, Minn.  
**Clarabelle (Baltrusch) Ortmann '55**, Minot, N.D.  
**Eugene Larsen '57**, Port Angeles, Wash.  
**Barbara (Roller) Mitzel '57**, West Fargo, N.D.  
**Hollis Quamme '57**, West Fargo, N.D.  
**Roger Rasmussen '58**, Forest Lake, Minn.  
**Gerald Ringdahl '58**, Oakes, N.D.

**Sandra Spitzer '58**, Kensal, N.D.  
**Mary (Armentrout) '59**, Portland, Ore.  
**Angeline (Moch) Erhardt '59**, Bismarck, N.D.  
**Marcia (Bemis) Jefferson '60**, Valley City  
**Marvin Linde '61**, Billings, Mont.  
**Daniel O'Connor '61**, Sedona, Ariz.  
**Helen (Neumiller) Rosenau '61**,  
 Carrington, N.D.  
**Eileen (Rolfzen) Cresap '60**, Cloquet, Minn.  
**Karen (Berge) Baeth '62, '81**, Fargo, N.D.  
**Duane Lawrence '62**, Grand Junction, Colo.  
**Michael Olsberg '62**, Valley City  
**Larry Pewe '63**, Edinburg, N.D.  
**Janice (Bleyhl) Annala '64**, Great Falls, Mont.  
**Lillian (Rahrich) Hennessey '64**, Eloy, Ariz.  
**Jean (Anderson) Miller '65**, Carrington, N.D.  
**Richard Swanson '66**, Dent, Minn.  
**Dennis Boyd '67**, Bismarck, N.D.  
**Victoria Brown '67**, Milton, N.D.  
**Nelda (Monson) Frank '68**, Jamestown, N.D.  
**Hilbert Gums '68**, Bismarck N.D.  
**Bernice (Kalland) Martin '68**, Fargo, N.D.  
**Carol (Nelson) Wild '68**, Fargo, N.D.  
**David Mickelson '69**, Jamestown, N.D.  
**Leslie Olafson '69**, Harvey, N.D.  
**Grady Porter '71**, Omaha, Neb.  
**Douglas Reitan '71**, Grand Forks, N.D.  
**Janice (Bauer) Syverson '71**, Valley City  
**James Diemert '72**, Lisbon N.D.  
**Allan Nelson '72**, West Fargo, N.D.  
**Del Pinke '72**, Fargo, N.D.  
**Richard Truckowski '73**, Excelsior Springs, Mo.  
**Dennis Maresh '74**, Valley City

**Gary Kiefert '77**, Fertile, Minn.  
**Elaine (Brugman) Johnson '79**, Beulah, N.D.  
**Frances (Eckart) Arusell '80**, Harvey, N.D.  
**Debra (Waloch) McDermott '81**,  
 Bismarck, N.D.  
**Eloise Thompson '82**, Fargo, N.D.  
**Lora (Schumacher) Workin '84**, Walcott, N.D.  
**Janice (Dronen) Johnson '86**, Mandan, N.D.  
**Jeffrey Ditch '89**, Abercrombie, N.D.  
**Sharon (Long) Coit '92**, West Fargo, N.D.  
**Eric Hewitt '93**, Carrington, N.D.  
**John Beil**, Valley City  
**Torrey Berge**, Valley City  
**Agnes (Jakoubek) Biewer**, Fargo, N.D.  
**Sadie (Ojanen) Dockter**, Gillette, Wyo.  
**Judy Dosch**, Strasburg, N.D.  
**Marshall Fearing**, Willison, N.D.  
**Gasper Giarmo**, Byron Center, Mich.  
**Duane Graalum**, Valley City  
**Irene (Syvertson) Haugen**, Valley City  
**Gladys (Granlund) Hendrickson**,  
 Turtle Lake, Minn.  
**Jon Horner**, Detroit Lakes, Minn.  
**Robert Ihry**, Dilworth, Minn.  
**Ardith (Leedy) Kleingartner**, Jamestown, N.D.  
**Judith (Broten) Legge**, Sanborn, N.D.  
**Diane (Schuette) Leier**, Bismarck, N.D.  
**Eileen Maresh**, Valley City  
**Mark Nelson**, Mesa, Ariz.  
**Roy Ottinger**, Augusta, Ga.  
**Lillian Salisbury**, Jamestown, N.D.  
**Douglas Schmid**, Carrington, N.D.  
**Joe Ukestad**, Valley City

## 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).

**1957**  
 Mary (Grotberg) Billing  
 Clara Buchfink  
 Shirley Dahl  
 Gail Fitzpatrick  
 Nellie Giles  
 Arthur Keller  
 JoAnne Monson  
 Patricia Renault  
 Verlyn Ricketts  
 Julie (Nelson) Seavert  
 Wayne Sedivec  
 Beryl Ulven

**1958**  
 Betty Braa  
 Donavon Coleman  
 Mark Cory  
 Arlene (Walberg) Fail  
 Barbara (Strand) Goodyear  
 Joyce Harstad  
 Jeanette Haskell  
 Cleo Johnson  
 Gertrude Keller  
 Allene (Grady) Mueller  
 Lois Nagel

Helan (Witt) Oswald  
 Jean (Keeling) Rose  
 Lila Shyse

**1959**  
 Dayananda Abeywickrama  
 Lorraine (Schildberger)  
 Bancoura  
 Marlene Bodell  
 Bernard Collins  
 Kathleen Flados  
 Leona (Schuette) Gaukler  
 Carol Halvorson  
 June Johns  
 Violet Johnson  
 Anna Johnson  
 Marlyce (Widener) Miller  
 Beverly Smith  
 Lilly Swenson  
 Cara Thompson  
 Betty Walby

**1961**  
 Jerry Brekke  
 Kirker Clark  
 Janet Delvo  
 Dale Gayer  
 Linda (Anderson) Greer  
 Arlene Johnson  
 Connie Lund  
 Isabel Prescott  
 Dolores Schwengler  
 Janice Williams  
 Robert Woods

**1962**  
 Jacqueline Dunphy  
 Judith Ensrud  
 Florence Gryth  
 Emilie Halvorson  
 Douglas Kessler  
 Sharon Lee  
 Grace Naatus

**1960**  
 Dale Cameron  
 Dale Christiansen  
 Carol (Overland) Evenson

**1963**  
 Jerome Anderson  
 Elizabeth Barnett  
 Donald Brandt  
 Darlene Buelow  
 Helen (Hendricks) Harper  
 Irene (Aslakson) Johnson  
 Wesley Lines

**1964**  
 Leona Zdeb

**1965**  
 Beverly Anderson  
 Margaret Corrigan  
 Kenneth May

**1966**  
 Kenneth Hanson  
 Janet (Fitzgerald) Hunter  
 Lloyd Lorenz  
 Susan (Lloyd) Pederson

**1967**  
 Arla Johnson

**1968**  
 Carol (Amoth) Aamodt  
 Betty (Salzwedel) Anderson  
 Gwen (Berger) Arnold  
 Linda Groth  
 Shirley Jorgensen  
 Alan Lindemann  
 Judith (Schaffer) Olson  
 Joyce Rice  
 Chuck Sjostrom

**1969**  
 Linda (Hood) Field  
 Dennis Haugen  
 Peggy (Lipp) Larson  
 Christy Miller  
 Lucille Olson  
 Orville Olson  
 Judy (Torson) Olson  
 Becky (Ortiz) Olson  
 Glen Roberts

# Obituaries of Former Faculty, Staff and Distinguished Alumni

## Dorothy Enger

Born April 12, 1927, Dorothy Enger died June 6, 2020, at age 93. Born and raised in rural Hatton, N.D., Enger graduated high school in 1945 and went on to earn her teaching certificate from Mayville State College. She taught in rural schools in the Emerado and Hatton areas. In 1952, Enger began a 37-year career at Valley City State Teachers College, serving as an account technician in the business office.

Following her 1989 retirement, Enger moved to her new home in Mayville, where she spent the remainder of her years enjoying her home, entertaining family and friends, and serving at Little Forks Lutheran Church, where she had been baptized and confirmed, in rural Hatton. She is survived by three sisters and several nieces and nephews.



## John Keller '55

John Keller, VCSU professor emeritus of business, died July 6, 2020, at age 89. Born in Harvey, N.D., Keller graduated from Goodrich (N.D.) High School in 1948 and attended summer sessions at Valley City State Teachers College (VCSTC) from 1948-51, teaching in rural schools during the school years. In the fall of 1951, Keller was inducted into the U.S. Armed Forces and served in the Korean Conflict. Following his honorable discharge

in 1953, he returned to VCSTC, completing a bachelor's degree in education with a composite major in business education and a minor in public school music in 1955. He was elected VCSTC homecoming king in 1954. He earned a master's degree in 1960 and a doctorate in education in 1973, both from the University of North Dakota.

Prior to joining the VCSU faculty, Keller taught in public high schools in North Dakota, including Sherwood, Velva, and Valley City, as well as three years in rural schools in Sheridan County. He also taught business education/administration courses at Mayville State University and at Dawson County Junior College in Glendive, Mont. Keller taught business at VCSU from 1968-93. He served as chairman of the Division of Applied Arts from 1970-90. He received the VCSU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993 following his retirement.

He served as president-elect, president, and past-president of the North Dakota Business Teachers, Mountain Plains Business Teachers, and the Association of North Dakota College Teachers of Accounting. He was also a member of the Valley City Retired Teachers Association, Alpha Omega Phi, Delta Phi Epsilon, and the National Business Association. Keller was a member of the Valley Troubadours for 44 years, Valley City Eagles and Elks member for more than 30 years, and a member of the American Legion Goodrich for 65 years. He is survived by a sister Lois (Keller) Schell and several nieces, nephews, and great nieces and great nephews.

## Norman Machart

Norman Machart of Walker, Minn., died April 1, 2020, at age 85. Machart was born July 14, 1934, near Lankin, N.D. He began teaching at age 17 in a one-room schoolhouse and continued to teach for the rest of his life. After serving in Germany as a member of the U.S. Army, he earned a bachelor's degree from Mayville State and began teaching elementary school in Crookston, Minn., where he met his future wife, Patricia. While raising their four children, Machart earned a doctorate from the University of North Dakota in 1977 and began the second

phase of his career as a college professor, training future educators. He served as professor at VCSU from 1984-97, teaching education and psychology courses. He received professor emeritus recognition following his retirement.

Machart enjoyed numerous hobbies, including painting wildlife and still-life artwork and making jewelry. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting and looking for arrowheads. A great storyteller, he loved sharing stories, real and imagined, with his children and grandchildren. He is survived by three sisters; his children, Thomas, Greg, Tracy and Carrie; and their families.

## Gary Valiere '55



Gary Valiere of Reno, Nev., died Nov. 21, 2019, at age 89. Born on Feb. 24, 1931, in Valley City, he spent part of his youth in the Seattle, Wash., and Missoula, Mont., areas, but returned to Valley City.

A member of the Army National Guard, he was a Golden Gloves boxing champion and was part of the 1949 Valley City State football team which was inducted into the Viking Hall of Fame in 1989.

Valiere earned a bachelor's degree from VCSTC in 1955 with majors in math and chemistry and a minor in physics, a master's of business administration in finance from California State University in 1968 and a doctorate in psychology from United States International University – San Diego in 1980.

He married Delores Leick in 1951; they were married for 64 years until her death in 2015. They had four sons: Michael, Steve, Tom and Gary.

Valiere began his career working for Phillips Petroleum in north Texas. He and his family moved to Seattle, Wash., and Santa Barbara, Calif., before settling in Costa Mesa, Calif., in 1962. There he worked for Management Systems Corp.; Astronautics Co.; Douglas Aircraft Co.; McDonnell Douglas Corp.; Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co.; and Rex Land & Associates, among others.

In the 1970s his work as a consultant propelled him to start his own firms, beginning with Rigel, Inc. Next was Professional Education and Development, Inc., in 1982, which designed and delivered educational training programs for government agencies, universities, industrial firms, and public seminars. From there, he started Astro Vista Inc., an international consulting firm.

Valiere taught at USC, UCLA, Sierra Nevada College and the University of Nevada. He also served on the Scripps Clinic Research Council.

In 1985, Valiere received the VCSU Distinguished Alumnus Award from Valley City State University. In 2002, he gave the VCSU commencement address.

In the late 1980s, Gary and Delores moved to Lake Tahoe, Nev., to live in their vacation home. In 1998, they moved to Reno, where they spent the last years of their lives. In his later years, Valiere volunteered with SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives).

Valiere is survived by three sons – Steve, Tom and Gary (Michael died in 2016) – and their families, including seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

# 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).



**Judah James Aakre**

October 1st, 2019

8 pounds 6 ounces, 21 inches

Joins siblings Charlotte, Marshall and Graham

Brittany and Nathan Aakre '06



**Kolbe Arnold Blikre**

April 6, 2020

7 pounds 7 ounces, 19 inches

Joins siblings Kellen and McKenna

Ashleigh (Crockett) '07 and Jared Blikre



**Jozy Wilder Dale**

July 28, 2019

8 pounds 9 ounces, 19 1/2 inches

Joins siblings Ezra and Zoey

Sarah (Hiebert) '08 and Dewayne Dale '07



**Berkley Mae Erickson**

April 2, 2020

7 pounds 1 ounces, 20 3/4 inches

Amanda Starr '18 and Christopher Erickson



**Braden Harold Evans**

September 25, 2019

7 pounds 10 ounces, 19 1/2 inches

Brittany (Lehner) '14 and Josh Evans '12



**Charlotte Louise Good**

October 3, 2018

7 pounds 13 ounces, 20 1/2 inches

Cassandra (Kunze) '14 and Bradyne Good



**Margaret "Maggie" Lureen Graf**

November 15, 2019

6 pounds 15 ounces, 19 1/2 inches

Joins sister Mona

Caitlyn (Wojahn) '11 and Jackson Graf



**Isabelle Avery Hart**

April 8, 2020

7 pounds 1 ounce, 20 inches

Tracy and Eric Hart M.Ed. '12



**Oliver Matthew Johnson**

(left)

October 18, 2019

7 pounds 9 ounces, 19 1/2 inches

**Owen Robert Johnson**

(right)

October 18, 2019

7 pounds, 19 inches

Melissa (Neuheisel) '15 and Charlie Johnson '15



**Mazie Ray Krueger**

March 17, 2020

Sierra (Hokanson) and Adam Krueger '17



**Emery Lynn Lettenmaier**

September 15, 2019

8 pounds, 21 1/2 inches

Joins sisters Jocelynn, Clara and Olivia Lacey (Anderson) '08 and Brandon Lettenmaier



**Leo Michael David Nelson**

August 19, 2019

7 pounds 11 ounces, 21 inches

Kelsey (Gaukler) '17 and Zach Nelson '17



**Warren KJ Perry**

January 13, 2020

8 pounds 3 ounces, 21 inches  
Joins brothers Grant and Oliver Alexis (Klingenberg) '12 and Travis Perry



**Nash Donald Perleberg**

(left)

February 26, 2020

6 pounds 9 ounces, 20 1/2 inches

**Holt Donald Perleberg**

(right)

February 26, 2020

6 pounds 1 ounces, 20 inches

Joins brother John Tanys (Ulmer) '19 and JR Perleberg



**Keegan Ray Scherr**

October 19, 2018

8 pounds 9 ounces, 22 1/2 inches

Sabrina and Arick Scherr '13



**Dawson Michael Werlinger**

March 5, 2020

8 pounds, 9 ounces, 22 inches  
Cassandra (Fick) '15 and Michael Werlinger

## RECOMMEND A FUTURE VIKING!

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

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

First \_\_\_\_\_

Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

School \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



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Alumni Association  
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Valley City, ND 58072

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