



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

THE BULLETIN

A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University

ISSUE 071662 | NOVEMBER 2022



The Changing Landscape of Education

VCSU is a leader in preparing teachers. Alumni serving at schools across the state offer their thoughts on the state of education, how prepared new teachers are to face challenges and bright spots they see in their field. [Read More - PAGE 6](#)

THE BULLETIN

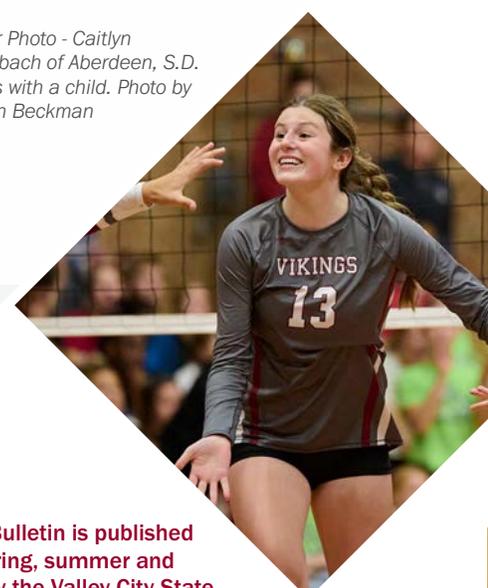
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Cover Photo - Caitlyn Fischbach of Aberdeen, S.D. works with a child. Photo by Jerilyn Beckman



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VCSU leads in education and innovation in teacher preparation

President Alan LaFave, D.M.A.

Greetings from Valley City State University!

Wherever I travel in North Dakota and surrounding states, one of the most



recognized and celebrated centers of excellence on the VCSU campus is the School of Education. With over 1,438 educators serving as teachers and administrators in 323 schools throughout North Dakota, we are proud to be positively known for this excellent program and continue to find ways to lead from the front.

Here are just a few additional data points illustrating the success of our program:

VCSU was ranked as the top elementary education program in the nation by Study.com in 2021.

Our Rural School Partner Benefit program continues to build collaborations with partner schools to help teachers obtain a master's degree by offering a 50% tuition waiver to qualified applicants.

We graduated 115 elementary education students in 2021-22, more than any other North Dakota institution.

Our collaborative elementary education program with North Dakota State University is providing real-life in-classroom experiences and valuable experiential learning for our students in West Fargo.

The innovative substitute teacher program provides hands-on experiences for our students at an early stage in their coursework, preparing them for successful student teaching experiences and careers as educators.

The success and placement of our graduates are positive performance indicators of the program, but we all know we must do more to encourage, recruit, prepare and retain teachers for the workforce needs of today and future years. With nearly 400 unfilled teaching positions available in North Dakota at the beginning of the 2022 school year, this need is more apparent than ever. Teachers are needed in every grade level and content area.

Under the leadership of Dr. Allen Burgad, Dean of the VCSU School of Education, we were recently chosen as the recipient of a \$600K grant from the Department of Public Instruction to provide scholarship assistance and a pathway for current paraprofessionals and substitute teachers to obtain their licensure. This grant helps illustrate the confidence that many stakeholders have in our ability to make a difference in this important work. Congratulations to all who helped develop the innovative proposal and secure these funds to address the ongoing teacher shortage.

Those choosing a career path in education have our deepest respect and gratitude for their willingness to join a noble profession and help address one of the most critical workforce needs in our state, region and nation. Valley City State University is dedicated to continuing the important work to which we have been committed since our founding and we pledge to continue leading in this effort.

Go Vikings!

58th Annual North Dakota Suncoast Luncheon in Florida

Saturday, February 25, 2023 – Social hour begins at 10:30 a.m.

The annual luncheon will be at the newly renovated River Wilderness Country Club in Parrish, Florida. Luncheon and Program – 12 noon (Everyone chooses from a menu and pays at the event).

Please join us! Call Jay Morgan, 941-378-4444 to RSVP and for more information.

Moving The Needle

Cory Anderson, '89
Executive Director for University Advancement

Campus is alive with construction and innovation and our vision has never been clearer. The numbers prove there has never been a better time to be a Viking.



Anderson

Support from our alumni and friends has resulted in VCSU becoming one of the fastest growing institutions in the Midwest.

As we approach an enrollment of 1,700 students many contributing factors have played a role, but none so great as your investment in prospective and current VCSU students.

In 2011, we awarded just over \$550,000 in annual scholarships. That number rose to just over \$1.9

million this past year. The escalation was due in large part to increasing our scholarship values to the highest in the region and by making those scholarships renewable to incoming students. That's a 245% percent increase in scholarships over that period.

Thank you for helping us move the needle.

The best way we can raise ourselves up is by doing something for someone who will benefit from the Viking experience. The Foundation Office focus will always be to improve our position and help VCSU attract and retain a growing, diverse population of students. We will also provide a quality experience for our alumni, friends, campus and community.

It's indeed a GREAT time to be a Viking.

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Larry Robinson '71

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By the Numbers

8.6

million dollar increase in our endowment through the ND Challenge Grant since 2013

90%

of our incoming freshmen receive a merit-based scholarship
(80% are renewable)

37.8%

of new students received renewable scholarship that covered more than 50% of in-state tuition

SUBSTANTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS
per merit in our region

LESS DEBT
accumulated by VCSU graduates upon graduation than our regional counterparts

Summer Vikes on Central a Success

In a symbolic and visible display of the important connection between VCSU and the Valley City community, the 2022 incoming freshman class, with current students, athletic teams, staff, faculty, and VCSU Viking family members met at the footbridge and walked as a group to join Summer Vikes on Central. The event was coordinated by the Summer Nights on Central Committee and included many participating local businesses and community members. The event featured live music, shopping and food vendors.



Watch a Summer Vikes
on Central recap video



*Forward
Together*

The perfect match

VCSU's Capital Campaign + Your IRA

Consider VCSU's Forward Together Campaign when making your Year End Planning decisions.

Your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) would make an excellent gift to VCSU's Capital Campaign.

If you are 70 ½ you can roll over up to \$100,000 tax free to the charity of your choice, tax free.

For further information contact your tax accountant or the VCSU Foundation at 701-845-7203.

VCSU enrolls 4th largest freshman class in school history and sees growth in on-campus student population

21% enrollment growth over past decade; Increase in students living on campus

Valley City State University (VCSU) has, for the fourth time in school history, a freshman class of more than 200 students.

Overall enrollment at the university is 1,658 with 205 freshmen. Also included are upper-class students, students pursuing graduate degrees and dual credit students. For the fourth year in a row, the student body has eclipsed 1,650, and there are almost 300 freshmen and transfer students enrolled this fall.

“One of the areas we have seen positive momentum in is the number of students choosing to live in our residence halls. We are very pleased with a 22% increase of students living on campus this semester,” VCSU President Alan LaFave said. “This positive occupancy rate reflects an increase in our freshman class size, along with more interest from our returning students to be an active part of our university community.”

VCSU has seen enrollment grow by 21% in the past decade. In that time frame, multiple programs and

partnerships have helped ensure VCSU continues to meet student and community needs. This includes launching the new Master of Science degree in Business Information Systems and continued collaboration with North Dakota State University to offer a dual degree in Elementary Education. VCSU continues to assist, educate and retain teachers through the Rural School Partner Benefit Program and the innovative substitute teaching component for students admitted to the VCSU School of Education.

“There are so many great things happening on our campus. Our full-time student population has increased from last year. It’s also important to note that our retention rates increased from last fall, indicating strong student satisfaction,” LaFave said. “You can feel the energy of full-time, on-campus students every day. We are fortunate to have so many wonderful students actively engaged on campus and in our community.”

JOIN VCSU ALUMNI & FRIENDS FOR GATHERINGS IN ARIZONA

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

To RSVP, contact Kim Hesch at 701-845-7403 or kim.hesch@vcsu.edu.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023 – PEORIA, ARIZONA

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

The Links Neighborhood Grill
18823 North Country Club Parkway
Peoria, Arizona

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023 – MESA, ARIZONA

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

Alumni Social & Luncheon — \$15 per person

11:00 a.m. — Reunion Social
12 noon — Luncheon
1:00 p.m. — Program

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

Alumni Anecdotes



VCSU selected as top public regional college in North Dakota by U.S. News and World Report

25th consecutive year VCSU has been ranked by the publication

Valley City State University (VCSU) announced it has been ranked as the top regional public college in North Dakota by U.S. News and World Report.

VCSU has been ranked for 25 consecutive years. This year, VCSU also earned the top public college ranking for Best Value in the Midwest.

"This accolade reinforces the fact that VCSU offers a valuable and high-quality educational experience for every student," VCSU President Alan LaFave said. "For a quarter of a century, we have been ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best colleges in our region. Our faculty and staff are proud to continue that tradition."

The report is based on retention, peer reviews, graduate rates, measures of student excellence, alumni giving rates and the educational expenditure per student.

"VCSU continues to rank in the upper echelon because of the hard work of our faculty, staff and generosity of our supporters," LaFave added. "Our commitment to a quality educational experience reflects in everything we do at VCSU. We are so grateful to have the support of our community, alumni and state as we continue to strive to help prepare students for the future."

The ranking also showed VCSU alumni had the highest amount of giving as compared to all other public colleges in the Midwest.

VCSU was ranked No. 4 in the Midwest category of public regional colleges. The Midwest region includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas.



Tyler Manske '22

At VCSU, Manske pursued a degree in music. He paused in 2015 to spend time narrowing down what he wanted to pursue. He met Michael J. Glasgow, a talented North Carolina composer and conductor. The two struck up a conversation about music. Without hearing Manske sing, Glasgow offered him a choir spot for a performance in 2017. Manske later discovered it was scheduled in Carnegie Hall. Manske seized the opportunity, and had a wonderful experience. He returned in 2022 for the world premiere of another of Glasgow's songs.

"To walk the same steps as legends like The Beatles and Tchaikovsky was an honor," Manske said. "As I walked back to the hotel with my tuxedo jacket slung over my shoulder, I was grateful for the experience and excited for the cheap, greasy New York pizza that awaited me."

Manske graduated from VCSU in 2022, and is a communications specialist for Grand Forks Public Health. "Though my degree in music is not in line with my career," he said, "that isn't to say that the broad scope of my education didn't help get me where I am today. Because I had such a solid educational foundation, I was able to take advantage of whatever career opportunities came my way."



Challenging Times Producing Innovation & Inspiration

Five VCSU alumni share their thoughts on the wins, challenges and hope they see in new teachers graduating from their alma mater

VCSU alum and elementary school principal Sara Schafer, '89, loves her job.

"I have a front row seat to the greatest show on earth," she says, laughing. Schafer loves working with students, teachers and parents as the principal at Bennett Elementary within the Fargo Public School system.

In the 33 years she has worked in schools, some things have not changed.

Kids still need a high-quality education and adults who genuinely care about them. Educators still dream



Schafer

of helping every student find their greatest potential and need support from administration and their community to achieve that goal.

But it is clear that education is changing. Filling open positions at schools is challenging. Technology creates opportunities and multiple pressures for teachers and students. Political debates and mental health concerns are all pressures that, at times, rest squarely on teachers' and administrators' shoulders.

We spoke with five administrators about their views on education, what they see in new teacher graduates coming from their alma mater and what brings them the most hope on hard days.

IF NOT US, THEN WHO?

Brandon Bata, '07, started his college career as a basketball player, became a professional as a math teacher and now serves as a high school principal in Oakes, N.D.



Bata

Although he has only been in education for 15 years, he has already seen many things change.

"There are a lot more things to be aware of now with mental health issues with students and teachers coming to the forefront," he said. "The demands on teachers with technology has increased and it is hard to disconnect."

Finding a balance that offers connection with students, but the ability to disconnect is a narrow path.

"In our district, we are committed to three things: genuine relationships, respect and growth mindset. We have really tried to focus on relationships at the forefront," Bata said.

Those relationships are strengthened through activities, athletics and being involved.

But sometimes it's not enough, and that has impacts on hiring and retention.

"Hiring has been challenging," Bata said. "We have been fortunate to fill all of our vacancies, but it's been extremely difficult."

Bata said there are numerous stressors being placed on teachers' shoulders, that could be contributing to the shortage.

"It's a hard lift and not easy work, but if we are not here doing this important work, then who comes behind us," he said. "If not us, then who?"

One answer to that question could be in classrooms at VCSU.

"VCSU grads are top notch. They are student-first and want to build relationships," he said. "They are extremely prepared. It's one thing to have the skills and another thing to learn how to adapt those skills when changes come up."

FINDING FANTASTIC PEOPLE

Schafer has also seen the number of applications for open positions at her school decline.

As a principal, she said, the most important job she has is to "hire really great people."

She said it is encouraging to know that many school districts are all trying to come up with solutions for this issue. One way Fargo Public Schools, including Bennett Elementary, have filled some of those gaps is by having future teachers enter the classroom as substitute teachers.

VCSU offers this opportunity to students and partner schools, which helps students gain experience and schools fill critical substitute teacher needs.

Although the future teachers do not have the necessary coursework, it does give them a clear picture of what life as a teacher is like, Schafer explained.

Schafer has also seen bright spots by partnering with colleagues at VCSU to bring practicum students in for reading or science.

Bringing VCSU students in to help elementary learners not only gives the future teachers experience, but also allows full-time teachers time to participate in professional development and other important activities.

"Teachers are all working very hard and they have kids on their minds and hearts all of the time," she said.

"We are expecting teachers to have an average of 20 to 30 students and be everything for them," Schafer said. "You can't pour from an empty bucket. It's important to carve out time for your family and yourself to do those things that make you you. You can't do that if you are doing school 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Continued on page 8

Teaching and the Numbers



1,438 teachers

and administrators in North Dakota are VCSU alumni in 323 schools and 148 communities.



142 graduates

received degrees in education last year from VCSU.



Critical shortage

On March 10, 2022, the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board declared all content areas as "critical shortage" for the 2022-2023 school year.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE, EVERY DAY

As superintendent of South Prairie School District just south of Minot, Wayne Stanley has also experienced the challenge of hiring crucial employees.

The district tries to keep pay competitive, as to not lose staff to larger markets like Minot, but things are markedly different from when he first graduated from VCSU in 1992.

"It's a totally different hiring landscape," Stanley said. When he graduated, teachers would take jobs wherever one was offered. Now, applicants have the luxury of choosing where they want to be partially because there are so few candidates. He noted they typically get applicants from the region, and rarely beyond.

This has led districts like South Prairie to prioritize investing in people, infrastructure and building a strong sense of community. There is no main street, but they have worked hard to build a strong culture, Stanley said.

"We pride ourselves on being community-oriented. Our expectations are high and we have a good support system of parents," he said. "That is what can make or break a school system. The adage about 'it takes a village' is true."

Part of Stanley's village includes maintaining ties with VCSU. Last school year he was asked to supervise a VCSU student teacher. He agreed instantly. "The world of education requires a level of support within and for each other," Stanley said. "It requires networking between superintendents and colleges."

This type of partnership allows a school to see a student teacher in action with a classroom before potentially offering them employment.

"We see how prepared they are," Stanley said. For Stanley, one of his VCSU student teachers was "hands-down our number one choice."

"What she came out of VCSU with was above and beyond," he said.

Superintendent Stanley with students at South Prairie School.



PROMOTING EDUCATION AS A CAREER

Retaining new teachers and changing the conversation about education as a profession has been a top priority for fellow superintendent Dr. Michael McNeff, '04.

"Recently there has been this push to talk about education and why people are leaving. We must do a better job talking about why we are staying in education," McNeff said. "We have to think about how we are promoting education as a career."

McNeff has led Rugby Public Schools for more than a decade and described how the district uses a grant to offer instructional coaching and mentors. Building a team approach to help everyone improve has worked well.

That team mentality can also help others working in the school, like paraprofessionals, find the support they need to go back to school and get a degree to become a full-time teacher.

This fall, VCSU announced a grant-funded scholarship program to help individuals working as substitute teachers or paraprofessionals in North Dakota schools return to college. The online education courses would help those individuals get their teaching degree.

Creating pathways for more potential teachers is important, but ensuring they have knowledgeable, experienced and caring professors is critical.

"There are several people I think of still like Al Olson, Dave Bass, and many people I have served on various committees with," McNeff said. "When we have hired VCSU graduates they do very well in the classroom."

McNeff also acknowledges that first-time teachers have a different set of pressures when approaching a classroom than when he started as a social studies teacher at Dakota Prairie High School in 2004.

"Educators have a challenging environment to navigate," McNeff said. "Our top educators are working year-round to create a great atmosphere for every student."

That atmosphere creates opportunity for all students, regardless of background.

"I wouldn't be anywhere without a great public education," McNeff said. "Education gives everyone an opportunity to be whatever they want as long as they work hard and have supporting individuals."



McNeff

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

Building a community with a strong network of support is what Greg Dobitz, '05, is trying to craft at Oakes Elementary.

"First-year teachers are required to have a mentor," he explained. "Mentors can help with the little things and that is important."

Oakes, located about 60 miles south of Valley City, has multiple VCSU alumni on staff.

"Our first-year teachers from VCSU are very well prepared," he said. "Valley City does such a great job not just with student teaching, but with other practicums and requiring their students to be in classrooms. The more teachers can be in the classroom during their college preparation, the more they will learn because of the practical application."

Graduates with classroom management skills because of their undergraduate student teaching or substitute teaching can help them succeed in their first few years as a professional.



Dobitz

Keeping a new teacher is also a part of the community network Oakes has been building.

To recruit and retain teachers, Dobitz explained Oakes has a retention bonus written into their

contract.

Even with incentives, sometimes it is not enough.

"Last year we had a teacher leave halfway through the year and the students finished online," Dobitz said.

Some of the pressures he sees teachers facing include the need for help with overall staffing, mental health and special education support.

"We need more resources to handle complex situations," Dobitz explained. Planning is important, but sometimes the best plan can be sidelined.

"Sometimes as a teacher you think you are prepared on Monday for the whole week but by 9 a.m., what you planned is totally out the window," he said laughing. Winging it is sometimes required to be adaptable, all in the name of helping a kid "get it."

"It's that bright spot and why I want to be a teacher," Dobitz said. "It's what keeps you coming back, that moment the lightbulb turns on. When you can help facilitate that, there is nothing better, and that hasn't changed."



New teacher and VCSU alumna Hannah Dockter, '22 in her English classroom in Oakes, N.D.

IN THE NEWS

VCSU receives \$600,000 teacher preparation grant to address teacher shortage

Valley City State University (VCSU) has received a \$600,000 grant from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction to help prepare more teachers to fill critical teaching needs across the state. The grant will fund the VCSU Grow Your Own Scholarship Program. This program offers scholarships to individuals aspiring to become a licensed teacher in North Dakota. It is specifically designed for paraprofessionals and substitute teachers working in North Dakota school districts.

The Future of Education

McCARTHY HALL RENOVATION



VCSU's Capital Campaign *Forward Together* – The Case for McCarthy Hall

Larry Robinson '71, Capital Campaign Director

Significant progress has been made raising the dollars necessary to meet the *Forward Together* capital campaign goals. One of those goals is prioritizing the use of McCarthy Hall as our School of Education and Graduate Studies. This highlights our mission in teacher education. VCSU was founded as a Normal School to train teachers for the schools across the state of North Dakota in 1890, and has remained true to that mission.

Built in 1930, McCarthy Hall served as our College High School until 1965. Little has been done to update the facility to meet the educational needs of today. Our plans for a complete refurbishment of McCarthy include modern classrooms, learning labs, updated technology, HVAC improvements, energy efficiency updates and much more. According to Dr. Allen Burgad, VCSU's Dean for the School of Education and Graduate Studies, "The current facility no longer meets the needs of our students. The proposed renovation of McCarthy would enable our university to expand the number of students attending and graduating from our education program."



Robinson

VCSU's School of Education and Graduate Studies is the largest academic department on campus. With increased enrollment, the need for expanded space for the School of Education is without question. VCSU graduates more teachers than any institution in the state.

In 2021, VCSU's Elementary Education program was recognized as the **number one Elementary Education program** in the nation by Study.com

This fall, North Dakota K-12 schools opened with more than 400 teaching vacancies. VCSU is working hard to respond to this need. The renovation of McCarthy Hall is a critical component necessary to provide the additional updated space for growth in the department.

According to VCSU President, Dr. Al LaFave, "We are excited about our capital campaign and the tremendous impact the improvements identified in the campaign will have on VCSU. These improvements will position us for the next 50 years. We encourage our alumni and friends to join our campaign as we move *Forward Together*."

For further information, contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203.



VCSU FINE ARTS 2022-2023 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2022

Friday, Nov. 18
Instrumental Concert
Center for the Arts - 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 2022

Friday, Dec. 2
Christmas at St. Catherine's
St. Catherine's Church

Tuesday, Dec. 6
Non Major Student Recital
Center for the Arts - 11 a.m.

FEBRUARY 2023

Friday, Feb. 17
Instrumental Concert
Center for the Arts - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 24
Intercollegiate Band
Center for the Arts - Noon

Saturday Feb. 25
Intercollegiate Band Concert
Center for the Arts - 3 p.m.

MARCH 2023

Friday, March 3
Choral Showcase Concert
Center for the Arts - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 10
Lydia Watkins, piano Sr. Recital
Center for the Arts - 7:30 p.m.

GALLERY SHOWS

Nov 7 - Nov. 18
Senior Art Show
Hannah Aberle
"Let There Be Light"

Nov 21 - Dec. 2
Senior Art Show
Laken Chase
"One Step Closer"

Dec. 5 to Dec. 16
Senior Art Show
Nicole Hurt
"Hidden Underneath"



One Step Closer

Laken Chase will have her artist talk presenting her senior exhibit, One Step Closer. Her virtual artist talk is scheduled for November 30, at 2 p.m. and can be viewed on YouTube and Facebook.

A reception will follow in the Center for the Arts Gallery on the Valley City State University campus. For anyone unable to attend the show, a virtual exhibit is available on the VCSU YouTube channel.

Laken's artwork consists of close up photos of flowers, insects, animals and more. Photography has always been one of those things that brought joy to Laken's life. When it came time to choose a topic for her art show, Laken knew right away that she wanted to incorporate her close family dynamic into her photos. By combining her love for the little details and her relationships with her family, the concept of close photography was formed. One thing that fascinates Laken about close photography is the thrill of seeing how close one can get to their subject.

Laken's art show invites you as the viewer to look within your surroundings and be able to take One Step Closer. After graduation, Laken is excited to pursue opportunities and hopes to find professional work as a photographer in the region. She is looking forward to what the future holds for her.



James D. Ployhar Honor Band

The 19th annual James D. Ployhar Honor Band performed in the VCSU Center for the Arts Performance Hall on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022. A variety of classical and modern band literature was performed by 95 students selected from 20 schools across North Dakota and South Dakota, featuring selections arranged by Ployhar.

"We are once again humbled by the regional support for our event," said Jerrold Heide, festival director and music department chair. "Thanks to the efforts of directors and students, we once again offered two quality instrumental ensembles as part of the Ployhar event."

To mark the first Ployhar event in the newly completed Center for the Arts, the event featured Shawn Sudduth, professor from the University of the Cumberland (UC) and Tammy Goerger, the instrumental music teacher at Wahpeton Public Schools.

ALUMNI CORNER

Kim Svenningsen-Hesch, '91

Asst. Director for University Advancement and Alumni Relations



Svenningsen-Hesch

We are halfway through the semester and it's been busy! It was nice to see alumni during homecoming. I hope your return to campus was great and you enjoyed the activities and reconnecting with fellow Vikings. If you have ideas for future events please let us know.

For those that attended the banquets, socials or the Honors Breakfast, thank you for coming and know your presence made them special. Out of all the activities, the Honors Breakfast stands out in my mind. Honoring alumni and listening to the award recipients explain how VCSU helped shape their personal careers is very rewarding. Congratulations to our Viking Hall of Fame inductees and I'd like to give a special shout out to the 2006 softball team. They were inducted into the Viking Hall of Fame. Thank you for coming back for homecoming and attending all the events with your families.

In September we revved up the 3rd Annual VCSU Alumni Motorcycle and Car Cruise and started our VCSU Tuesday social events (photos on the right). Throughout the year, the VCSU Foundation & Alumni has several opportunities to get out and renew friendships, volunteer and get involved. We have VCSU Tuesday social events, music concerts, athletic events, the Scholarship Auction, and the always lovely Medicine Wheel Park. There are many ways to participate. Check out our website for an updated list of events.

Finally, this fall the university launched a mobile app for both Apple and Android devices. Soon there will be a way for alumni to use this app as well! The app is designed for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and prospective students to stay connected and access important VCSU information, as well as provide a single sign-on for all VCSU services. Please watch for details in early 2023 in how you as an alumni can access this new mobile app and get reconnected with VCSU!



3rd Annual VCSU Alumni Motorcycle/Car Cruise

The VCSU alumni association hosted its 3rd annual motorcycle/car cruise on Saturday, September 24. The cruise headed north of Valley City this year and stopped at Lake Ashtabula (Hungry Pelican at the Crossing) and the communities of Dazey and Sanborn. It was a beautiful fall afternoon for the cruise and a fun day visiting with alumni and friends of the University.

Alumni Honored

Seven Alumni were honored during the Valley City State University Alumni Association 2022 Homecoming celebration Saturday, September 17.

On Saturday morning, an all-Alumni Honors Breakfast was held at the VCSU Student Center. The Honors Breakfast provides the VCSU Alumni Association with an opportunity to present fellow alumni with Certificate of Merit, Alumni Service, and the Young Alumni Achievement awards.

Young Alumni Achievement Award

The Young Alumni Achievement Award was established in 2012 to recognize VCSU's more recent, outstanding alumni as they embark on their chosen paths and strive for greatness. The award is presented to recognize leaders under the age of 40.



Young Alumni Achievement Award: President Alan LaFave, Nicholas Lee, and Zach McBeain, President of the VCSU Alumni Association.

Nicholas (Nick) Lee '16, MAT '21

Nick has earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from VCSU. This fall, Nick became the Principal at St. Catherine's Elementary School in Valley City. He is also the Director for the Community School of the Arts and Arts Administrator of the Bridges Art Council.

Prior to taking the principal position, Nick taught 7-12 grade science at North Sargent Public Schools and was the head Speech Coach and Student Congress Coach for Valley City Public Schools. He has been named 2017 and 2021 State Class A Speech Coach of the Year while coaching the speech team to four state championships and coaching 27 state champions. Nick was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award by the National Speech and Debate Association and achieved one of the highest honors by the National Speech and Debate Association by receiving the Diamond Coach Award.

While attending VCSU, Nick was the Student Senate President and a member of the EBC fraternity.

When asking Nick what graduating from VCSU means to him, he said, "VCSU provided me with a skill set necessary to be successful and helped shape me into the person I am. I graduated with my undergrad and my oldest was in the audience. When I got my master's, all my kids were there. VCSU allowed me to be successful and raise my family. That is so special."

When asked about a special memory of his time at VCSU, Nick had many and wasn't sure how appropriate they might be but settled on being asked to give the Commencement Address on behalf of the students at the December 2021 ceremony.

Nick and his wife, Kaitlen, live in Valley City with their three children (Micaiah, Eliam, and Ezra).



Alumni Service Awards: President Alan LaFave, Rhonda Fairfield, Charlene Stenson, and Zach McBeain, President of the VCSU Alumni Association.

Alumni Service Awards

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

Rhonda (Hansen) Fairfield '09

Rhonda has been part of our VCSU family for 42 years! She was hired in August of 1980 as Secretary for the Division of Education & Psychology. After 18 years, she took an administrative assistant position with the Title III grant office and in 2000 moved to the Vice President of Academic Affairs office. Then in January 2008, Rhonda moved to the VCSU President's Office, where she was the Executive Assistant until her retirement in 2021.

Rhonda was part of offering ropes course team building to our VCSU freshmen for 25 consecutive years. She also served as a Learning to Live (L2L) instructor and offered training to the L2L student mentors annually.

The Student Senate named Rhonda the Student Advocate of the Year in 2014. She has been a member of the V-500 Board of Directors helping raise dollars for academic scholarships and coordinating the silent auction for the annual VCSU Scholarship auction.

When asked what being a VCSU graduate meant to her, Rhonda replied "Completing my degree was a 29-year process that I will never regret. Learning in the classroom and on the job were invaluable to becoming the person I am today."

Her special memory of her time at VCSU includes being part of the 2009 graduating class with her son, Matthew, and being able to present him with his diploma that same day.

Rhonda and her husband Dan, also a graduate of VCSU, live on a farm near Valley City and have three grown children along with one granddaughter.

Charlene (Stromsodt) Stenson '83

Charlene first came to VCSU as a freshman in 1979 and was recruited to the campus to play basketball. She also participated in softball and track and field and graduated from VCSU in 1983 with a teaching degree in physical education. Following a career of teaching and coaching at various schools and levels in North Dakota as well as in Limon, Colorado, Charlene returned to begin her career at VCSU as an admissions counselor in 1999. Charlene retired this summer as VCSU's Director of Enrollment Services, a position to which she was appointed in 2008. Under Charlene's leadership, the University has seen a jump in enrollment growth.

During her time at VCSU, Charlene has served on the Viking Booster Board, was named Fan of the Year in 2010, and received the Employee of the Quarter award in Spring of 2012.

Charlene was inducted into the Viking Hall of Fame in 1995 for her role on the VCSU women's basketball team from 1979-1983.

When asked what being a VCSU graduate meant to her, Charlene replied, "I am so proud to be a VCSU graduate. The university gave me the opportunity to build my confidence and develop my leadership skills. When I think of VCSU, I think of family because that is what it was for me as a student! Support, encouragement, going the extra mile and dedication to being successful encompasses the VCSU family."

Charlene and her husband Dean reside on a farm near Sanborn. The Stensons love the outdoors and engage in various outdoor activities throughout the year such as hunting, fishing, gardening and snowmobiling.



Certificate of Merit Award: President Alan LaFave, Jason Edwards, Annette Beattie, Marcy Svenningsen and Zach McBeain, President of the VCSU Alumni Association. Not pictured: Kim Schneider.

Certificate of Merit Awards

The Certificate of Merit was established to recognize alumni for accomplishments, service or other noteworthy honors. This year's alumni honorees, listed with their accomplishments and accolades, include the following:

Annette (Peterson) Beattie M.Ed. '08

Annette is the Technology & Engineering teacher and the Robotics Coach at Valley City Public Schools.

- Valley City Public School Teacher of the Year
- ACTE New Tech Ed Teacher of the Year
- ITEEA Teacher Excellence Award
- ITEEA Program Excellence Award
- Technology Student Association Chapter Excellence
- Technology Student Association Advisor of the Year

Jason Edwards M.Ed. '09

Jason is a 7th Grade Life Science Teacher along with Head Girls Cross Country and Assistant Girls Track Coach at Fargo Public Schools.

- EDC Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year – 2018
- ND State Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year – 2018
- USA Track and Field Coach of the Year for ND – 2018
- Five-Time Teacher of the Year Nomination for Fargo Public Schools
- “40 Under 40” Recipient at National High School Coaches Convention – 2019
- Five State Championships in Girls Cross Country
- Four State Championships in Girls Track & Field

Kim (Ihry) Schneider '96

Kim currently serves as the Title I/Reading Interventionist with Langdon Area Schools.

- Cavalier County Teacher of the Year – 2021
- Langdon Area Schools Teacher of the Year – 2012

Marcy (Borg) Svenningsen '81

Marcy is the State Director with the ND Farm Service Agency. Prior to that she was the Financial Director for 35 years at the Open Door Center in Valley City.

- Marcy has received recognition for her time and contributions she's made on the various boards she has served on and been an advocate for the ag community. She was appointed by President Joe Biden as the State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency this past February.

2022 HOMECOMING

The Valley City State University Foundation and Alumni Association welcomed alumni back to campus for VCSU Homecoming the weekend of September 16 and 17.

“We loved seeing familiar faces and welcomed our Viking family back to campus,” Executive Director for Advancement Cory Anderson said. “It was a great chance for our Alumni to catch up with old friends, and to see what has happened on campus and in the community.”

“There were many events planned for the weekend. Many of our alumni, community members, students, faculty and staff attended,” Assistant Director for Advancement & Alumni Relations Kim Svenningsen Hesch said.

The 40th Annual Bill Osmon Fun Run kicked off VCSU Homecoming week on Monday, September 12.

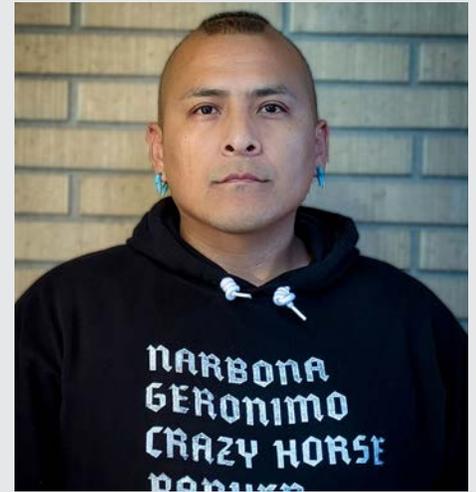
On Friday, Sept. 16, alumni were welcomed back with an ice cream social in the Student Center Lounge. A Hall of Fame Social, Banquet and Ceremony honored inductees on Friday evening at the Valley City Eagles.

New this year was a VCSU Walking Tour. The tour highlighted some of our most notable places on campus along with the chance to see our new Center for the Arts.

The Alumni Honors Breakfast took place Saturday morning followed by the parade. VCSU Football took on Dickinson State University. There was a post-game All Alumni & Friends Social following the football game at the Valley City Eagles with a college student and alumni dance after.



Alumni Anecdotes



Dewayne Dale '07

Sports had always been part of Dale's life—personally, academically and professionally. Growing up, he participated in athletics across the board, eventually earning a baseball scholarship from VCSU. In school, Dale earned a health science degree and went on to pursue a master's in athletic training.

Eventually, Dale's love of athletics—and sneakers—turned into a passion that could not be contained to a hobby. He returned to school and earned a third degree in industrial design, going on to work for an innovation team that served brands like KEEN Footwear and Chrome Industries. Dale's own signature sneaker line, FIFTH, was created in 2020. In an interview with Nice Kicks, he said "I honestly want to be able to influence a lot of Indigenous artists and designers, but at the same time, I also want to just keep pushing the envelope in terms of the industry." FIFTH combines authentic Native American design with contemporary style.



I N S I D E ATHLETICS

vcsuvikings.com



Recognizing Viking Greatness

Dennis McCulloch, Interim Athletic Director



It's inspiring to witness greatness. Whether it's Michael Jordan on the basketball court or Tom Brady on the football field, whenever we're able to witness an athlete make history it can be inspiring.

At Valley City State University, we have the honor of recognizing Viking greatness every year when we induct a new class into our Viking Hall of Fame. This year was no different as our Hall of Fame Committee

selected five individuals and one team who were among the best ever to play at VCSU. The committee, the Foundation Office and our emcee Cory Anderson all put together a great format to help honor our inductees.

Molly (Anderson) Welstad '03, Loni (Hall) Thilmony '07, Josh Kasowski '05, Matt Johnson '01, Karalea (Morris) Hoyano '07 and the 2006 softball team are all truly deserving of this honor. I had the pleasure of personally watching all of them compete for the Vikings and to see it come full circle with an induction into the Hall of Fame was fitting.

I think anyone who has been around Viking Athletics would confirm their talent level and impact to their programs. They are all truly great representatives of what it means to be in the Viking Hall of Fame. I look forward to seeing their faces looking at me in our Hall of Fame room for many years to come.

All the inductees were terrific athletes, but what we sometimes forget is that they are all amazing people who have represented their family name at a high level on and off the field. All the parents and people (teachers, coaches, etc.) involved in their lives can be very proud of the people they have become and how they are still impacting the world.

Every year that I've been able to attend a Hall of Fame event I'm always inspired by the stories behind how they got to this point in their lives. It's also fun to hear their memories of being a Viking and the types of things they remember. Most of the time, it is not the games or success but the people that they bonded with. It's a reminder that the experiences our athletes take with them are more about relationships and not just about getting that next win. Those relationships help shape who our student-athletes become. And when they become great people, that's inspiring.



2022 Hall of Fame

Valley City State University added five individuals and one team to its Vikings Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming Weekend.

The Class of 2022 was officially inducted during a ceremony at the Valley City Eagles Club on Friday, Sept. 16. This year's inductees include Molly (Anderson) Welstad '03, Karalea (Morris) Hoyano '07, Loni (Hall) Thilmony '07, Josh Kasowski '05, Matt Johnson '01 and the 2006 softball team.



Read more about the inductees at www.vcsuvikings.com/halloffame

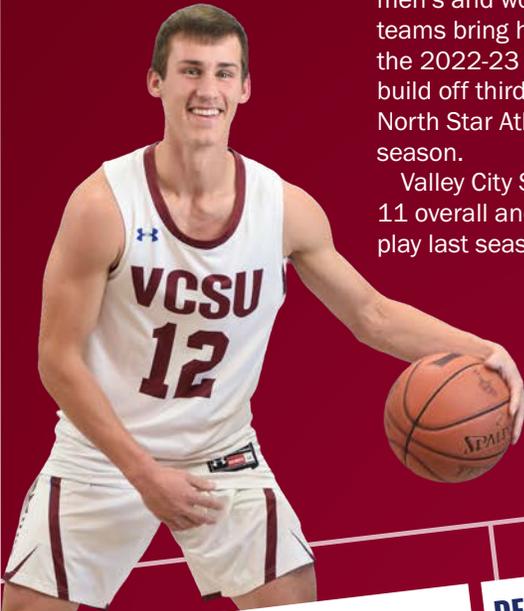
Viking Basketball Starts New Season

The Valley City State University men's and women's basketball teams bring high expectations into the 2022-23 season, looking to build off third-place finishes in the North Star Athletic Association last season.

Valley City State's men went 18-11 overall and 8-6 in conference play last season, while the Viking

women were 10-15 overall and 7-7 in conference play.

Combined, the teams have bolstered their rosters with 11 new faces joining the programs. The Vikings started their seasons in late October. Conference play begins on Dec. 3 when the Vikings host Dickinson State University for a doubleheader.



All Athletics News at VCSUVikings.com

2022-2023 VIKING BASKETBALL SCHEDULE



MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOV. 23 Oak Hills Christian College Men - 6 p.m.	DEC. 30 University of Jamestown Women - 6 p.m.	JAN. 20 @ Presentation College* Women - 5:30 p.m. Men - 7:30 p.m.	FEB. 11 Bellevue University* Women - 5:30 p.m. Men - 7:30 p.m.
NOV. 26 @ Augustana University Men - 3 p.m. Oak Hills Christian College Women - 3 p.m.	JAN. 4 @ Martin Luther College Men - 7 p.m.	JAN. 21 @ Mayville State* Women - 3 p.m. Men - 5 p.m.	FEB. 12 Dakota State* Women - 3 p.m. Men - 5 p.m.
NOV. 30 Trinity Bible College Women - 5:30 p.m. Men - 7:30 p.m.	JAN. 6 @ Dakota State Women - 5:30 p.m. Men - 7:30 p.m.	JAN. 27 Mayville State* Women - 5:30 p.m. Men - 7:30 p.m.	FEB. 16 @ Dickinson State* Women - 6:30 p.m. Men - 8:30 p.m.
DEC. 3 Dickinson State* Women - 3 p.m. Men - 5 p.m.	JAN. 7 @ Bellevue University* Women - 3 p.m. Men - 5 p.m.	JAN. 28 Presentation College* Women - 3 p.m. Men - 5 p.m.	FEB. 22-26 NSAA Postseason Tournament
DEC. 7 @ University of Jamestown Women - 6 p.m. Men - 8 p.m.	JAN. 13 Viterbo University* Women - 5:30 p.m. Men - 7:30 p.m.	FEB. 3 @ Waldorf University* Women - 5:30 p.m. Men - 7:30 p.m.	MARCH 7-8 NAIA Opening Round Campus Sites
DEC. 17-19 Hawaii Classic Hilo Hawaii	JAN. 14 Waldorf University* Women - 3 p.m. Men - 5 p.m.	FEB. 4 @ Viterbo University* Women - 3 p.m. Men - 5 p.m.	MARCH 13-18 NAIA National Tournament Women - Sioux City, Iowa Men - Kansas City, Missouri

Fall Sports HIGHLIGHTS

The Valley City State University fall sports seasons have been in full swing our teams have enjoyed great weather during the first half of their seasons. A few highlights included a large crowd on hand for the annual VCSU Ag Bowl football game, and Viking Volleyball earning a four-set victory over Dakota State University – a team that was receiving votes in the national poll. Riley Gerhardt (football), Bailey Nelson (volleyball) and JayCee Richter (volleyball) have all earned conference Player of the Week honors this season. For the latest results, stories and photos, follow the Vikings at www.vcsuvikings.com.



2022-2023

VCSU TRACK & FIELD



INDOOR

Dakota Alumni Classic
Dec. 2-3 - Fargo, N.D.

U-Mary Indoor Opener and Multi
Dec. 9-10 - Bismarck, N.D.

Mike Thorson Open
Jan. 14 - Bismarck, N.D.

VCSU-UJ Dual
Jan. 17 - Jamestown, N.D.

Cobber Open
Jan. 21 - Moorhead, Minn.

UND Indoor Open and Multi
Jan. 28 - Grand Forks, N.D.

Bison Open and Multi
Feb. 3-4 - Fargo, N.D.

SDSU Indoor Classic
Feb. 10-11 - Brookings, S.D.

NSAA Indoor Championships
Feb. 19 - Brookings, S.D.

NAIA Indoor National Championship
March 2-4 - Brookings, S.D.

OUTDOOR

Yellow Jacket Spring Open
March 24-25 - Spearfish, S.D.

Al Bortke Open
April 1 - Bismarck, N.D.

Blue Hawk Games
April 14 - Dickinson, N.D.

Al Cassell Classic
April 15 - Jamestown, N.D.

Bison Open
April 21-22 - Fargo, N.D.

VCSU Viking Twilight Meet
April 26 - Valley City, N.D.

Ron Masanz Classic
April 29 - Moorhead, Minn.

NDSU Tuneup Meet
May 5 - Fargo, N.D.

NSAA Outdoor Championships
May 11-12 - Madison, S.D.

NAIA Outdoor National Championships
May 24-26 - Marion, Ind.



MEN'S INDOOR SCHEDULE



WOMEN'S INDOOR SCHEDULE

Join VSCU Students in Costa Rica and Argentina in 2023

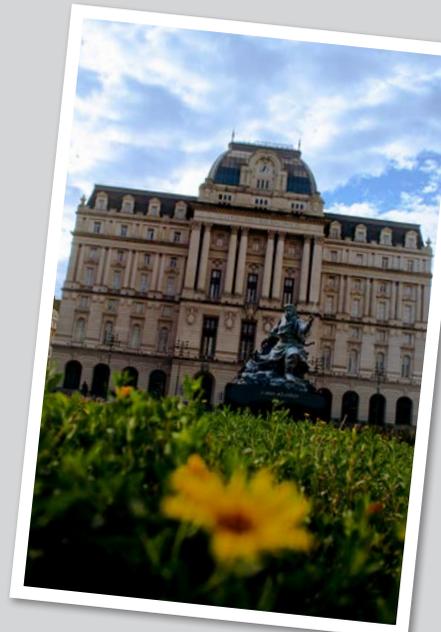


Volunteer your time and talents. Practice your Spanish skills.

VCSU has two upcoming travel opportunities this year for students and alumni with the Global Exploration Club.

Heredia, Costa Rica - March 2023

Buenos Aires, Argentina - May 2023



More information is available by contacting Dr. Kiersten Baughman at kiersten.baughman@vcsu.edu, and the club accepts donations of any amount via their university fund at <https://vcsu-ndus.nbsstore.net/study-abroad-trips>

Just Married

Send us your wedding photo so we can include it in the next issue of **The Bulletin**. Email the photo and a short description to kim.hesch@vcsu.edu.



1 - Ryan McCulloch '10 and Kristin Mussar were married July 23, 2022. They live in Bellevue, Wash. where Ryan works as a software engineer for Microsoft, adding buttons and bugs to your favorite business software, and Kristin works as a data scientist for Seagen, developing cancer treatments and convincing her fellow Ph.D.s that PowerPoint is not an appropriate data storage solution. They are cared for by their two cats, Jasper and Zarya, who live wonderful lives not working at all.

2 - Jenna Guttormson '12 and Dan Edenberg were married September 9, 2022 in Fargo, N.D. Jenna not only gained a husband, but three bonus sons as well, Liam, Bennett and Mac. The family lives in Hillsboro, N.D. Jenna is a school psychologist for the Area Special Education Cooperative in East Grand Forks and Dan works for BNSF Railway.

3 - Diane Le and **Nick Faure '12** were married September 17, 2022. Nick is a 2012 graduate of VCSU and went on to earn his Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) from Oregon Health and Science University, in Portland, Ore. in 2016 where he practices general dentistry at Pike Creek Dental. Diane works as a Ph.D. Senior Scientist in Merck pharmaceuticals discovery process chemistry department. She works on developing green and sustainable chemistry towards long term manufacturing routes of pharmaceutical drug candidates. The couple currently reside in Wilmington, Del.

4 - Kelsey Labodi '16 and Zach Hennes were married September 18, 2021.



5

5 - Barbara Ector '16 and Erick Dameron were married March 25, 2022, and live in Phoenix, Ariz. Barbara is a CPA working for Troon, and Erick is a director of IT.



6

6 - Jessica Burns '18 and Isaac Yturalde '19 were married July 9, 2022.



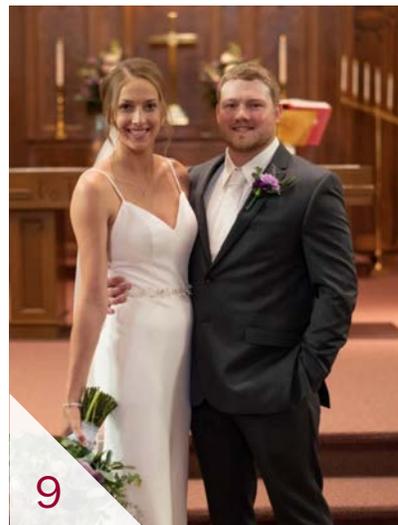
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7 - Harley Mairs '19 and Jesse Vavra '17 were married May 21, 2022. They met in college and started dating in 2016. They still live in Valley City where Jesse works at Smith Lumber Company managing the warehouse and selling Winkler Structures. Harley will start her 4th year teaching mathematics. She started in a new position at Valley City Public Schools teaching 7th grade math.



8

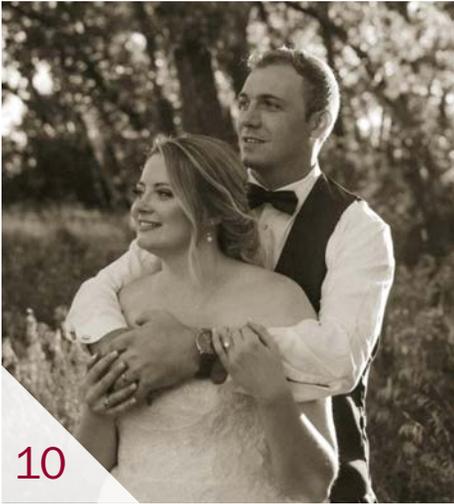
8 - Miriah Yoder and Eli Luna '19 were married June 18, 2022.



9

9 - Leah Ruter '20 and Chris Brogdon '19 were married June 25, 2022.

Just Married CONTINUED



10



11



12



13

10 - Sean Beilke and Kayla Brademeyer '20 were married September 3, 2022. Kayla is working as the executive assistant at CHI Mercy Hospital in Valley City. Sean is graduating from VCSU in December with a degree in social science education and is currently student teaching at Maple Valley High School.

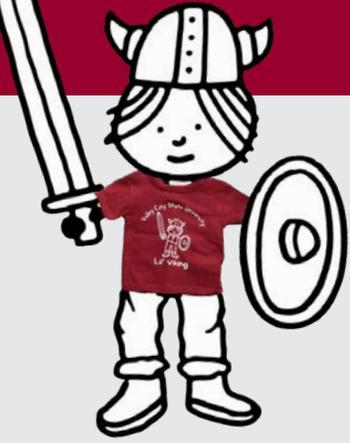
11 - Yariel Rivera '21 and Marielle Villarin '20 tied the knot on January 1st, 2022. After living in Fargo for the past year, Yariel will be returning to school for a degree in nursing. Marielle continues to work as a lab scientist in Fargo, N.D.

12 - Joelle Aiello '21 and Hunter McCalla '21 were married July 22, 2022, with many VCSU alumni and current students in attendance. Joelle graduated from VCSU with a degree in health science and spent her time on the softball team. Hunter graduated from VCSU with a degree in business administration. They met at VCSU's freshmen year orientation and have been inseparable ever since! They live happily in Clear Lake, Minn. with their dog, Drake, and cat, Parmesan!

13 - Djuana Harvey and Dr. Kendall Coleman MAT '21 were married April 9, 2022. Kendall and Djuana work in the Chicago Public Schools and the couple also live in Chicago, IL.

Not Pictured

- Paige Emmel & **Marc Wagner '19**, July 30, 2022
- Jenna Pommerer '22 & Daniel Biggers '20**, August 6, 2022
- Becca Eberle & **Ryan Sand '19**, August 6, 2022
- Tasha Piehl '18** & Eric Thomas, August 26, 2022
- Mallory Twete & **Christian Kvilvang '19**, September 4, 2022
- Tara Von Hagen '18** & Thomas Tabatt, September 17, 2022
- Mackenzie Huber '20 & Carter Buelow '21**, September 24, 2022
- Nisja Bass '17** & Terrion Bell, September 24, 2022



Lil' Vikings

Have you had an addition to your family?

Share your good news with the Viking family!

Contact Kim Hesch at kim.hesch@vcsu.edu to receive a free t-shirt for your new Lil' Viking. Include your baby's name and birth date. After you have your Lil' Viking shirt, send a photo to kim.hesch@vcsu.edu so we can include it in the next issue of **The Bulletin**.



Ephraim Patrick Atiemo

February 27, 2022
6 lbs, 14 oz., 19 in.

Amanda (Aune) '13
and Peter Atiemo



Lena Jo Degenstein

July 3rd, 2022
8 lbs, 12 oz., 21 ½ in.

Nicole Heinitz '18 and
Brian Degenstein



Hudson Marvin Preston

June 1, 2022
8 lbs, 11 oz., 21 in.

Ethen '16 and Cassandra
(Pautz) '18 MAT '22 Preston



Reginald "Reggie" Jens Jensen

December 26, 2021
6 lbs, 14 oz., 20 ½ in.

Preston '13 and Chelsey
(Dockter) '13 Jensen



Owen Stephen Bitter

November 13, 2021
6 lbs, 11 oz., 20 ½ in.

Katherine (Gerntholz) '16
and Alex Bitter



River Patricia Ann Miller

September 17, 2021
8 lbs, 3 oz., 21 in.

Dustin '19 and Clarissa
(Olson) '19 Miller



Stella Grace Ingberg

June 16, 2022
7 lbs, 13 oz., 21 in.

Siblings: Selah (7) and
Olivia (1)

Elisa (Ailie) '11 and
Devlan Ingberg



Bentley Waylan Erickson

May 5, 2022
6 lbs. 11oz., 19.5 inches

Amanda Starr '18 and
Christopher Erickson





On Monday, Aug. 8, 2022, VCSU professor **Lisa Krumwiede '08, M.Ed '17** was named Teacher Educator of the Year by the North Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education. The winners were announced at the N.D. Career and Technical Education Professional Development Conference in Bismarck.

CLASS OF 2013

Marissa (Oestreicher) Motschenbacher '13 and her husband just finished building a new house in Lidgerwood, N.D. Marissa teaches 6th grade at Lidgerwood Public Schools and coaches fastpitch softball.



CLASS OF 2019

Dierra Diegel '19 began applying to different law schools during her senior year at VCSU, ultimately deciding to stay in-state and attend a three-year program at UND's law school. After graduating from UND School of Law in the spring of 2022 with her juris doctorate, she sat for and passed the North Dakota bar exam. Finally, after also making it through the character and fitness process, Diegel was admitted to the ND Bar Association.

On September 23, Diegel, along with 36 other new lawyers, were admitted to the North Dakota bar. She is currently at SW&L Attorneys in Fargo, ND practicing criminal defense for both adults and juveniles. She serves in N.D. and is currently in the process of earning licensure in M.N. and the N.D. Federal Court.

Hannah Schlecht '19 and **Beau Diegel '16** were married August 6, 2022. They celebrated with several people from the VCSU family. Once a Viking, Always a Viking.



Alumni Anecdotes



Tracy Yorks '17

Tracy's career spans two decades with experience in the Technology, Hospitality and Beauty industries. Since her days at VCSU, Yorks has had a successful career in marketing working with several companies including Estee Lauder Companies and L'Oreal USA. While working for L'Oreal, she served as the Associate Vice President of CRM and Loyalty for The Body Shop USA (TBS). TBS fights for a fairer world through community trade, sustainability, all-natural products and showing that business can be a force for good. When L'Oreal sold TBS to Natura & Co., a Brazilian cosmetics group, Tracy was promoted to Head of Marketing, U.S. During her tenure, the company initiated in-store recycling and was awarded the inaugural Compassionate Corporation Award by Born Free USA. Tracy is now with SeaWeed Naturals where she shares her knowledge of sustainable practices and environmental action with impact focused brands.

In Remembrance

Helen (Winter) Noeske '51, Valley City
Jacquetta (Personius) Stricklin '51, Valley City
Ken Schatz, Linton, N.D.
Lois (Berg) Wieck '56, Marion, N.D.
Jacob "Jack" Sitter '59, Marion, Iowa
Irene (Langdahl) Visby '60, Fargo, N.D.
Robert Rieth '62, Valley City
Anita (Wessels) Woodbury '63, Wahpeton, N.D.
Douglas Ferguson '64, Fort Benton, Mont.
Deloris (Boschee) '64, Wishek, N.D.
Susan (Kapaun) Taft '64, Minot, N.D.
James Vetter '67, Bismarck, N.D.
Charles Salvi, Fargo, N.D.
Judith (Stuart) Andahl '70, Katy, Texas
Liv (Lundebj) Bjorlie-Halvorson '72, Grand Forks, N.D.

James Fuhrer '74, Devils Lake, N.D.
Joyce (Sad) Gardner '76, Horace, N.D.
Julie (Brosz) Wayne '76, Jamestown, N.D.
Lorri Isakson '84, Sheboygan, Wisc.
Dorothy (Swanson) Reiten '88, Valley City
Amy (Fossen) Anderson '96, Heimdal, N.D.

Pat Barr, Moorhead, Minn.
Bonnie Byberg, New Rockford N.D.
Wayne Fiebiger, Cooperstown, N.D.
Robert Miedema, Valley City
Lee Samson, Fargo, N.D.

Former Faculty & Staff

July 26, 2022 – Marjorie Eggert, Valley City
July 28, 2022 – Leslie (Hovel) Sullivan '87, Fargo, N.D.

Margie Eggert - Accounts Receivable Specialist 1989–2011



Marjorie (Margie) Ellen Eggert, 70, of Valley City, North Dakota, passed away, Tuesday, July 26 surrounded by her family and dear friends.

Marjorie was born December 20, 1951, in Valley City to Wayne and Shirley (Stroh) Hanson. She grew up in Kathryn, ND and at the age of five, moved to Rogers, ND, where she was baptized and confirmed, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Rogers, ND. She graduated from North Central High School in 1969. Following high school, she attended and completed her year course at Wahpeton State School and was proudly a "Wildcat Kitten."

On May 1, 1971, Margie married Gale (Buzz) Eggert at Trinity Lutheran Church in Valley City, N.D. and celebrated 50 years of marriage before Buzz passed away on August 22, 2021.

Margie enjoyed spending time in Arizona and at her lake home on Lake Lizzie in Minnesota, but most importantly quality time with family and friends. She was a pillar of strength for her husband, children and loved ones. There was never any doubt that her faith and her family were her main priorities in life.

Margie valued life on the farm while also working in the offices of 1st National Bank, Washington Elementary School and then retiring after 21½ years on December 15, 2011 from Valley City State University.

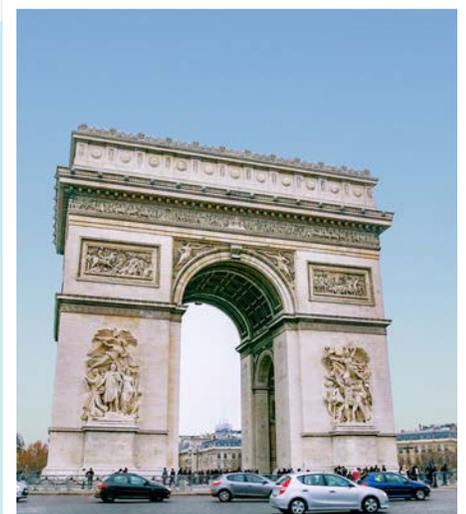
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Continuing the Connection

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.



1965

Beverly Anderson
Margaret Corrigan
Nancy (Foley) Kjelgaard
Kenneth May

1966

Kenneth Hanson
Janet (Fitzgerald) Hunter
Judy (Botnen) Krush
Susan (Lloyd) Pederson
Candace (Vail) Quick
June (Gale) Wicks

1967

Arla Johnson
Harold Kjelgaard

1968

Carol (Amoth) Aamodt
Betty (Salzwedel) Anderson
Gwen (Berger) Arnold
Linda Groth
Shirley Jorgensen
Alan Lindemann
Joyce Rice
Chuck Sjoström

1969

Linda (Hood) Field
Ronald Haugen
Peggy (Lipp) Larson
Christy Miller
Lucille Olson
Orville Olson
Judy (Torson) Olson
Glen Roberts

1970

James Koch
Ellen (Robinson) Larson
Patricia Moe

1971

William Albert
Phyllis (Hanson) Christianson
Vance Gillette
Ruth (Anderson) Goll
Larry Hehr
Laura Jacobson
Kathryn Jones
Astrid Mills
Glende Olson
M. Pederson
Richard Pederson

Albert Ruckaber
Marland Sarles
Mari Shaw
Jane Thoenke
Linda Thompson
Daniel Welander

1972

Linda (Evanson) Blasczyrk
Dennis Clark
Larry Exner
Susan Ferguson
James Friskop
George Hanna
Steven Hoffer
Muriel King
Bill Martell
Sandra Olson
Marlys Palmer
Susan (Roller) Selle
Marilyn (Sims) Sudbeck
Rita Vandrovac
Richard Wright

1973

Lane Bergman
Debra (Scoular) Broome
Rayanne (Doyle) Dahl
Hidemasa Ioka
Nancy (Raveling) Persons

1974

Robert Becker
Rachel Koehn
Gerald Nagel
Rosemary Olson
Phillip Schmidt
Thomas Weinmann
Marcia (O'Brien) Weisser

1975

Robert Dahl
Larry Hanson
Edna Olson



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Gerald and Cindy Urlaub
West Fargo, N.D.

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Sam Rieger
Lisbon, N.D.