

THE BULLETIN A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University Official Publication Number 071605 * March 2002



Ross Loibl '93, wife Barb, and sons Nathan and Nash

Loibl carries the torch

By Julie Nelson Times-Record

An unbelievable attitude.

That, and Ross Loibl's ability to inspire others with his courage and determination, earned him not only the admiration of his family, but also a chance to pass the Olympic torch. Ross was among the "elite" chosen to run with the torch about .2 of a mile in Casper, Wyoming, on January 29.

Ross is a regular on the basketball courts, where he referees games from Class B to college about three times a week. He works at Wells Fargo Bank in Bismarck.

No one, says his wife, would guess that he receives 52 hours every other week of continuous chemotherapy. The chemicals are fighting an enemy Loibl refuses to let get him down: cancer.

"He just does not allow the disease to overtake his life," says his wife, Barb (Didier) '92.

He was original diagnosed with colon cancer in 1999. Following treatment and surgery, he seemed to have beat the odds.

But last January, just weeks before the birth of the couple's second son, he received the news that the cancer had returned.

"His focus was totally on the baby coming," Barb remembered. "That was his priority."

It was his attitude, she says, that caused some that knew him to notice a Coke promotion asking for stories of people who inspired them. The winners would be chosen to "carry the torch." Ross received four nominations, and was subsequently chosen.

It was, Ross says, an honor.

When Ross ran, Barb and their boys, Nathan (4) and Nash (11 months) were there cheering him on along with many friends and family members. Among those family members are Maynard '65 and Rita (Dewitz) '65 Loibl and Beth Loibl-Karnik '94.

And in Bismarck, where the Loibls have lived since 1994, they have received "an unbelievable amount of support" from the people there.

But the people back home in Valley City have also not forgotten. Last year, a raffle benefit was held for the family. "It was just incredible," Barb says. "We realized how important Valley City is to both of us."

Ross agrees. "I'm not originally from Valley City, but the people there have made it feel like home," he says. "I've gotten very good support, a lot of calls. There's just a lot of good people in Valley City. I appreciate that."

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> VCSU Home Page http://www.vcsu.edu

President's Message by Dr. Ellen Chaffee

Some people go to Mayo Clinic for a physical. Like them, VCSU went to two accrediting associations last fall. One looked at the university as a whole, the other at our teacher education program. Both required do us to comprehensive self-studies, followed by a visit from a team of experts to explore and verify the information. This is a "nowhere to run. nowhere to hide" investigation! But VCSU is a showcase, and we can prove it.

The reports from the expert visitors are glowing with praise. Both groups gave VCSU the maximum period until the next evaluation. It just does not get any better than this.

Risky as it may be to single anyone out in a team that is so outstanding from stem to stern, I must tell you that the institutional accrediting team was especially positive about VCSU's student services programs in general and career services in particular. They deserve it! And along with our strong academic programs, they represent some of the most compelling reasons for the love and loyalty I see constantly in our alumni.

The university is also proud to be part of a wonderfully vibrant community. The state League of Cities recently named Valley City as the City of the Year, based on the amazing number of improvements and initiatives undertaken here recently. One of them was the Regional Technology Center, in partnership with VCSU.

What do you do when you know of a place that does great things – especially if it does them at an incredible price? Most of us can't wait to spread the word. We hope you will do that for VCSU. This issue of the Bulletin



Ellen Chaffee

includes a special gift you can give to someone you know who could benefit from an outstanding VCSU experience. Please see the insert, and use it to help someone find the best value in higher education today!



Val Moritz Alumni Relations

We've had an unusually mild winter and have enjoyed every minute of our reprieve from cold and snow! Spring is just around the corner and we're busily preparing for all the activities.

As we're putting this newsletter together, our students are in the midst of contacting all our alumni during our annual Phone-A-Thon. Thank you for taking the time to visit with these students and for making a financial commitment to VCSU. The Phone-A-Thon is the only fundraiser conducted by the Alumni Association. Money raised through this effort funds scholarships,

publications, correspondence with alumni, reunions and socials, staffing and campus projects. The demands for additional scholarships and much needed campus projects have increased dramatically. If you have not yet been called for the Phone-A-Thon, we hope you will help us reach our goal of \$80,000. If you've never donated before, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. If you have donated before, thank you for what you have done and, hopefully, will continue to do. The importance of giving, whether it is \$10 or \$10,000, is that everyone does his or her part.

Again this year, we are holding a series of reunions. These gatherings are very popular and we look forward to visiting with all our alumni and friends around the country. We hope to see you when we schedule an event close to you.

The VCSU Scholarship Auction is scheduled for Friday, April 19th. If you can help by donating items for this important event, please give me a call. Popular items include condo rentals, fishing and hunting equipment, handcrafted items, tools, etc.

As many of you plan summer vacations, remember that you are always welcome at your alma mater. Stop by and have a cup of coffee if you're in the area. You'd be amazed at how much VCSU has changed and yet stayed the same!



You can now request information and make online donations on our secure site through our alumni link. Don't delay... check us out today. www.vcsu.edu

You can give a wonderful gift to a prospective student and help them find the best value in higher education today!

Sign your name to the top of the application on page 5 and give the application to someone who could benefit from an outstanding VCSU experience. If the student submits the application before April 15th, we'll waive the application fee!

VCSU Foundation Corner

Larry Robinson, Executive Director

Who Gave The Gift?

Folks who have decided to include a special charity in their estate plans through a "Planned Gift," often differ in their attitude about recognition. Some prefer anonymity. They want no announcements about their gift annuity, charitable trust, or the endowment that they have established. They desire privacy.

Still others want to be associated with their gifts. They embrace the positive aspects of public disclosure, which include the following:

Gift Leveraging. That is, one gift can encourage additional gifts. Consider, for example, the influence of Mr. and Mrs. Smith when they are publicly recognized for their commitment to Valley City State University in their will. Mr. and Mrs. Jones, who know and respect the Smiths hear the good news and decide to make a similar bequest.

Value Statement. Permitting disclosure of a planned gift is a way to communicate personal priorities. A gift affirms the donor's partnership with VCSU and lets others know that he or she believes in the values and

mission of Valley City State University. In short, planned giving is a way to get across to family, friends, and others, what the donor truly considers to be important.

Gift Closure. Another reason to let your generosity be known is to give others the opportunity to express their gratitude – something that completes the giving cycle and provides closure. Many of us feel robbed when we are prevented from openly communicating our thankfulness.

Whether you wish your gift and name remain anonymous or not, we at the Valley City State University Foundation are very careful to honor the wishes and desires of our donors. We know that making a planned gift is a personal matter and that convictions and tastes differ.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you about your plans and the possibility of including Valley City State University in those plans. For further information about the many opportunities in planned giving, call Larry Robinson at the VCSU Foundation Office. Telephone number 701-845-7203 or e-mail at Larry_Robinson@mail.vcsu.nodak.edu.

Should you prefer, fill out and return the card below to the Foundation Office, Valley City State University, 101 College St. SW, Valley City, North Dakota 58072.

·	Clip and Mail $$
Please send me free information a	bout making a planned gift to Valley City State University.
I have already included VCSU in	my estate plans.
Please contact me by phone. My n	number is
Name	
Address	
City	
Best time to reach me:	
Please complete and mail to Larry Robinson Valley City State University Foundation	n, Executive Director 101 College St. S.W. Valley City, North Dakota 58072



Larry Robinson Executive Director

Family Ties – Lifelong Teacher & Learner



Bertha Mae Dale

By Julee Russell

In the summers of 1926 and 1927, a young Dickey, North Dakota native and Jamestown High School graduate pursued her education at Valley City State Teachers College. Bertha Mae Ridgway was 19 and the oldest of 6 children born to Grover and Edna (Smith) Ridgway. Bertha earned her teaching certificate in 1927 and began

teaching in a one-room school three miles from Dickey. She lived at home with the family and walked the three miles to and from school daily. For that first teaching position she earned \$50.00 per month. Members of the family have said that Bertha used part of this salary to buy younger sister Vivian her first pair of new shoes. She also used this salary to assist with other family needs.

In 1929 she married Arthur Dale, and they lived on a farm near Montpelier for 28 years. Their home became a gathering place for family and friends. Even after they left the farm in 1957, the family continued to gather at the Dale's home in Montpelier, North Dakota The Dales had two children, Alan and Karen. Bertha continued to teach for thirteen years in small schools in and around Montpelier including Saratoga and Dickey. When her daughter, Karen, was old enough to go to school, she attended the one-room school where Bertha was teaching. During the North Dakota blizzards, Bertha and Karen stayed over night in the school, sometimes for several nights in a row. They used a board over the sand box as their bed, and they could hear the winter winds roaring all around them.

Son Alan managed the family farm until his death in 1985, and daughter Karen graduated from Valley City State Teachers College in 1956. Even after Bertha was no longer teaching full time, she often served as a substitute teacher. She believed in the power of education and in the value of young people. She could often be seen at family gatherings sitting with the children and talking with them about school or asking them to read to her. In addition to teaching, raising a family, and farming, Bertha was active in her church and in Farmers Union. She also taught Sunday school classes, and she taught classes through the North Dakota Farmers Union. She and her husband Art worked at Farmers Union camps many summers.

Bertha Mae (Ridgway) Dale passed away in Jamestown on February 6, 2002 at the age of 94. Her obituary stated, "She loved watching flowers grow and wheat fields ripen. In her 94 years of life she touched many lives and will be greatly missed." Truly, Bertha Dale was a teacher. She was proud of her connections with VCSU and the university's tradition of excellence. The family's connection to VCSU continues. Currently, Bertha's greatniece, Dr. Julee A. Russell, serves as associate professor of communication arts and chair of the division of communication arts and social science at Valley City State University. Bertha understood the power of education and the importance of giving young people the best education possible.

Help VCSU Attract the Best

"I have a friend whose son is a talented student and hasn't heard a thing from Valley City State University." These words are a shrill to an enrollment services director like the piercing music that accompanies a villain in a horror flick.

While we make a lot of effort to find out about talented students that would be great fits for VCSU, we're unable to know about everyone. With an FTE staffing of



Dan Klein Enrollment Services

2.25 it's humanly impossible. However, with 8000 active friends and alumni, willing to provide us leads, it's very possible.

Let's take a look at how students become part of the information pipeline in a typical enrollment services operation. Many campuses purchase names of students, some as young as ninth or tenth grade, from organizations such as ACT, the College Board, or NRCCUA. At almost \$.25 per name, this can get to be very costly. In the past, we have relied on the schools of the surrounding region to provide names. Because fewer and fewer high schools are providing these lists, this is becoming less a viable option, so we may have to look at purchasing names of students in the region. Even with the acquisition of names in this manner, however, one doesn't get 100% of the names.

In this early stage, usually late summer, students on the school or purchased lists are sent a direct mail piece. This is a brief overview and introduction to the university for the student. The goal is to get the student to complete the attached reply card to request more information. Once our office receives the reply card, the student is considered active in the system and is provided information on a continued basis.

Shortly after school begins, college fairs are held throughout the state and nation. Students who stop by the VCSU table and complete a card are also provided on-going communication and are activated in the system. This process of obtaining names continues with high school visits; referrals by alumni, friends, parents, counselors and others; and other events throughout the year. The only time that a student is made inactive, or what we call pending, is if he/she tells us they are going somewhere else or wants to be removed from the mailing list.

We practice this process of active and pending students because we must focus our efforts on students who have shown us, through one activity or another, that they are interested. The reality of a limited budget prevents us from sustaining an on-going communication campaign with the 8000 students we began with, so we must focus on the 1500-1600 students that we learn are interested or are referred by someone else.

This is where you as alumni and friends come in. Help your university identify those individuals who will make outstanding VCSU students. Included in this issue of the *Bulletin* is an application for admission. Pass it on to a student who you would like to see benefit from the VCSU experience. A recommendation from a respected adult speaks loudly to a student who is making this important decision. In fact, if you sign and print your name anywhere in the top margin of the application and the student submits the application before *April 15th*, we'll waive the application fee!

Also included is an insert that asks you to refer students to VCSU. Take some time to look it over and think of some prospects you know. Your assistance in identifying quality students will go a long way in helping us reach our goal of 1300 students. And if you hear someone say, "my kid hasn't heard anything from VCSU," say, "give me your child's name, address, and phone number and I'll be glad to let them know about your child. I know they'll treat him/her well!"

College Preparatory Course Report Form

Required for admission to the four-year public universities in North Dakota:

DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY, MAYVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY, MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA, VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Last Name:	First Name:	MI:
Home Address:		
City, State, Zip:	Social Security Number*:	
High School Name:	High School ACT Code:	
City and State of High School:	Graduation Date:	

All students who graduated from high school in 1993 or later are required to have completed the college preparatory requirements prior to admission to a North Dakota University System baccalaureate program. Complete this form to the best of your knowledge. Transfer applicants with 24 or more transferable semester credits are not required to submit this form.

Fill in the section below using the exact titles of college preparatory courses you have taken and/or plan to take in each semester. One unit is equal to one full year of study. See your high school counselor or principal for guidance in determining which courses are college preparatory.

Send your application, application fee, and this form at the time you apply. Have your high school send your transcript to the appropriate university even if you have not yet graduated from high school. Be sure to request that your final transcript be sent to the appropriate admission office upon completion of your senior year. The transcript will be used to verify information on this form and to certify graduation. Be sure that you sign the Confirmation of College Preparatory Program section on the following page.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

North Dakota University System		9th Grade		10th Grade		11th Grade		12th Grade		Office
College Preparatory Requirements	ts Sem	Course Titl	es units	Course Title	s units	Course Titles	units	Course Titles	units	Use
ENGLISH (4 Units) Written and Oral Communication Skills	1									
	2									
Algebra I and above	1									
	2									
LAB SCIENCE (3 Units) At least 1 unit each in 2 or more of the following: biology, chemistry, physics, or physical science	1									
	2									
SOCIAL STUDIES (3 Units) Exclude consumer education, cooperative marketing,	1									
orientation to social science, and marriage/family										

Continued on Page 6

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N	lorth Dakota University Syste	em Application for Ad	mission	
PLEASE READ ALL DIRECTIONS BEFORE CO				type or print in ink
Mail the Application for Admission, the College Preparatory Co to the Enrollment Services Office at the university to which you are a	pplying. If you are applying to a two	o-year college, you do not	need to complete the College P	
To which college or University within the North Da				
Have you previously applied for admission to that col Have you previously attended that College or Univer- Will you be registering for courses from more than on	rsity? Yes 🗆 No 🖵 🛛 If yes	, list date attended _		
Will you be registering for courses from more than on		-		
1. DATE/ **SOCIAL SE	CURITY NUMBER		NA/ID No(for i	nstitutional use only)
2. Legal Name:	First	Midd	le	Former (if applicable)
3. Student's E-mail Address:				
4. Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	Zip Code
County	Country (if not	USA)	(Telephone	/
5. Name of Parent or Guardian				
Permanent or Parent/Guardian Address	Street Apt	# City	State	Zip Code
6 Vour Birthdate / / Place of Birt	•	ntry (if not USA)	()
6. Your Birthdate //// // Place of Birt	City State	e County	Country (if not USA)	
7. Are you a member or Veteran of the Armed Servic				
 Are you an active member/dependent of an active Are you a spouse or dependent of a graduate of a N 				
10. Are you a North Dakota resident? Yes 🗆 No 🗅	If ves length of residency	? If no_state	of residence	
11. Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes \Box No \Box If no, in				
12. If not a U.S. Citizen, are you a permanent reside	ent? Yes 🗆 No 🖵 If yes, gi	ve alien registration	number	
13. *Gender: Male 🗆 Female 🗅 *Race: White 🗅			can American/Black 🗅	
14. Year you plan to enter? 20 (check one)	ı/Pacific Islander 🗅 Hispar Fall 🗆 Spring 🗅 S		er (explain) 🗖	
15. Please Indicate:	T O			
Academic Major Teach	ing Degree (yes or no) Acad	If u	Indecided on academic	major check here:
16. Indicate the date you took or plan to take either t	he ACT or SAT: ACT		/	
17. List the last high school attended	Mo.	Yr.	Mo. Yr.	
17. List the last high school attended:				
High School	City		State	Graduation Date
			GED (high school equivale	ency exam) Completion Date
 Have you attended or are you currently enrolled List all colleges, universities, and schools (beyond be) 	in any other colleges or univ iigh school) attended, wheth	rersities? Yes 🗆 No ner or not credit was	□ earned.	
Failure to list all colle recision o	ges, universities, and schools pr r admission, dismissal, loss of o	eviously attended may redit(s), or other appro	result in denial of admission priate sanctions.	on,
NAME LOCATION (C	City, State)	INCI TES OF ATTENDA	LUSIVE NCE AND DATE	DEGREE(S) EARNED
	DA			
List additional colleges, universities and schools on a				
I CERTIFY THAT ALL STATEMENTS IN THIS	APPLICATION ARE CON	/IPLETE AND TRU	JE:	
REQUIRED: (applicant's signature)		Date		·····

*NOTE: This information is requested for statistical purposes only and will not affect the status of your application. The information will not be used in a discriminatory manner and your reponse is voluntary. **NOTE: Social Security Number disclosure is voluntary and is used as an individual ID number for record-keeping and administrative purposes only.

Wall of Fame to Highlight Lifetime Giving

Your Foundation Office staff has been working to put in place a *"Wall Of Fame"* here in McFarland Hall. According to VCSU Foundation Director, Larry Robinson, *"The Wall of Fame will be* a special place where we will recognize and honor our many donors and supporters.

The many heroes listed in this special recognition center will include those folks who have listed us in their wills, established endowments, joined our Board of Regents, established gift annuities, trusts, or left a portion of their estate to Valley City State University. The recognition center will represent our Lifetime Giving program and will provide for a visual breakdown of our donors by the respective categories in the program. According to Robinson, "We have completed the design phase of the Wall of Fame. We are hoping to have the wall in place by late 2002. It will truly be a special center, appropriately recognizing our friends and Alumni who have provided unquestioned support to Valley City State University."

The various giving levels in our Lifetime Giving Program are listed below. Anyone with questions regarding their respective giving level, or lifetime giving history, should contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7203 or dial 1-800-532-8641. The E-mail address is Larry_Robinson@mail.vcsu.nodak.edu.

Patrons Society	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Builders Society	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Bronze society	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Silver Society	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Board of Regents	\$25,000 - \$49,999
Gold Society	\$50,000 - \$99,999
Diamond Society	\$100,000 and above

VCSU's V-500 Scholarship Program Making a Difference Since 1972

The V-500 Scholarship Program is VCSU's primary source of scholarship dollars for students attending the university. Since the program was founded in 1972 over 4.500 students have benefited from the program. There are well over 1,000 V-500 members providing the financial support for the program. Each year over 170 students receive V-500 scholarships ranging from \$800 to \$1,500. Scholarships in the early years ranged from \$75 - \$125. In 1972, a total of \$5,000 was awarded in scholarships. Today, that number exceeds \$150,000!

According to Val Moritz, V-500 Executive Director, "The V-500 Scholarship Program has been central to the success of our enrollment management efforts." As the costs to attend the university continue to rise, the role of V-500 is more important than ever.

V-500 membership is available for as little as 54 cents per day or the price of a cup of coffee! Memberships begin at the \$500 level. Many folks have elected to support the program at the V-\$1,000, V-\$5,000, V-\$10,000 or V-\$20,000 level. If one were to take into consideration the consumer price index, a V-500 membership today should actually be V-\$2,000.

The goal for this year's membership drive is \$105,000. As of 2-28-02, the drive has generated a total of \$60,000! Can we count on you to reach our goal? If your membership pledge in V-500 is paid in full, take out another membership. If you have never been a V-500 member, perhaps the time is now to become a member with your \$500 pledge.

If you are in the middle of a membership commitment, consider paying off the balance and re-enlisting. Better yet, upgrade your membership to a V-\$1,000, V-\$5,000 or more. You will receive credit for all previous payments. The balance can be paid over a five year time period. If you are not ready to make a commitment to V-500 membership, what about making a outright contribution to V-500?

All contributions are tax deductible and apply toward your lifetime giving credit at the university.

Donor name(s):		Phone:		Yes, I will support Valley City State University through V-500 with my total
Address:	City	State	Zip	- pledge of \$
In memory of/In honor of: Please acknowledge gift to:				Membership Options:
Address:Street or Box	City	State	Zip	□ Upper Level □ V-5000
Payments to be: In full now Annually Initial payment enclosed: Check Credit Card [Mass Card Number: 	tercard or Visa _ months begin	Accepted	Exp:/	V-10,000 V-15,000 V-20,000 Other \$ Outright Contribution enclosed in the amount of \$ Enlisted by: Thank You

Anna Langness Focused on Achievement

During the 1993-94 school year, Bear Creek Elementary teachers and parents in Boulder, Colo., met to prioritize school goals. During that period, it became obvious that there was strong support for building a curriculum that developed thinking skills through emphasis on literacy and math, but also with a strong focus on the arts.

In 1994, while parents were looking for ways to improve students' learning, the school district was also questioning the viability of operating a school in a geographic area with a declining number of students. Faced with the challenge of slipping enrollment, parents and teachers began to look at ways to attract students from other parts of the community.

By the spring of 1995, a survey of parents resulted in nearly 98 percent agreeing that Bear Creek Elementary should move in the direction of becoming a focus school organized around the pursuit of high levels of achievement in math, science, music, and literacy. Thus, the concept of organizing around these goals to form a focus school was presented to and approved by the Boulder Valley School District in the fall of 1995. Poised in a perfect position to help lead this change was Dr. Anna Langness, who had earlier received her Ph.D. in music from the University of Colorado.

Langness' teaching career began in the mid-1960s in Hannaford, N.D., where she taught about 110 students in grades one through 12. In her first teaching assignment, Langness was in charge of all aspects of the music program, from beginning band to high school band to choir and marching band.

From Hannaford, Langness went to Cottage Grove, Minn., where she had an opportunity to teach a larger group of students. The move proved to be pivotal, for it was here that she became aware of Mary Helen Richards and Richards' work in Kodaly, the music method from Hungary that encourages music for everyone, with emphasis on singing lessons for every child, every day. Studying with Richards in the 1970s gave Langness experience in how to use music as play so that the children internalize music as it becomes part of their whole being, rather than relying on memorization.

In the early 1970s, Langness moved to Montana and taught adults in the Kodaly method for the Richards Institute. Here, Langness taught music teachers to reflect on current learning and performance in light of what could be accomplished in the next learning or performance experience. This more holistic approach to teaching rhythm and pitch helps students move from song literature to symbols, from the sound of songs to the symbol of songs.

In the mid-1980s, Langness entered a doctoral program in music at the University of Colorado and earned her Ph.D. in 1992. That same year, Langness began teaching in the Boulder Valley School District at Bear Creek Elementary School. With the school's 20-year tradition of excellence in reading, math and science, a full slate of passionate teachers, and parents and teachers who weren't resistant to change, Langness found her new home.

While the focus school concept may have been new to parents in the mid-1990s, the high level of interaction between Bear Creek parents and teachers was not. Bear **Creek Elementary first developed** as an IDEA (Institute for **Development of Educational** Activities) school in the late 1980s with a goal of directing the school to produce successful students and a successful school. As a music specialist at Bear Creek Elementary since 1992, Langness became part of the team that developed and continues to guide the transition of Bear Creek from an IDEA school to a music focus school.

The idea of establishing a music focus school surfaced when a first grade teacher, Pat Bird, recalled her discussions with a chancellor at the University of Colorado about connecting music, math, and science. Langness used her background and training as catalysts for change at Bear Creek. As a music specialist, Langness is the guiding force in developing Bear Creek as a music focus school, possibly the only elementary school with such an intense focus on music in the entire United States. At Bear Creek Elementary, teachers are challenged to make tangible the natural connections among music, math, and science. According to Langness, "We're aren't just building children as databanks who can score high on the required tests; we're teaching children to value and embrace the world."

School Band and Orchestra: How does a focus school differ from a traditional public school?

Langness: Our school is still part of the district and we are still responsible for meeting district goals, but we are organized differently. We admit students from our neighborhood, like most schools. However, parents can choose to send their students to our school because of the valuable and interesting exposure to music they will receive. We have about 350 students in grades K-5 with 42 to 44 percent coming from outside the attendance area. (See Sidebar for more information about focus schools.)

SBO: Describe the overall role of music in the curriculum of the school. How is the curriculum designed?

Langness: Reading and writing basics remain foremost in our curriculum. Students have three 90-minute music encounters per week. To plan these music connections, the music staff meets with math, science, social studies, and English teachers to look for connections with music.

SBO: How does the focus on music in the curriculum help students with their other subjects, such as math, science, social studies and English?

Langness: Students and teachers now expect music in all classes. Teachers have permission to bring in performers, etc., so instead

By Joanne Monath

of just reading a book, students can listen to connected tapes. Although it requires more work to get correlated tapes and other materials, the story comes alive, which raises the mental alertness of students. At early ages, students begin to notice patterns and forms of music that add to their understanding and appreciation of music.

SBO: What is the benefit of teaching children about music and through music at an early age?

Langness: Students develop habits of mind and ways of thinking on different levels. Students learn to expect to have a spark of interest when they connect with something they've learned before.

SBO: How does this early music education affect students' participation in instrumental music as they mature?

Langness: Our strong program helps children think of themselves as musicians and singers and they believe that music is an open option for them. The instrumental music program begins in the fifth grade and there is a very high percentage of students who take up instruments and a higher than average percentage — compared to other schools — who continue as they go through the program. Also, a high percentage of students take all of the music programs that are available to them here. Observers who visit the school are surprised to see 100 percent participation in the classroom. Everyone is singing — the girls and the boys. Because of the interactive approach of playing, singing and writing about music, every student hooks up with music.

SBO: In addition to the traditional goals in math, science, and literacy, what goals do teachers have in music?

Langness: A high priority is placed on listening skills so students are able to respond to the aesthetic quality of music. Additionally, students study music theory — the elements of form, *Langness*, continued on page 10 —

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Your Estate -

- You built it
- You preserved it,
- Bestow it with care . . .

Invest a bequest in the VCSU Foundation

Phone today for your free will information kit

1-800-532-8641 Ext. 3-7203



Valley City State University "Viking Scramble" Saturday, June 1, 2002

Valley City Town & Country Club and Bjornson Park Public Course

5 Person Scramble Entry Fee: \$60 Per Person or \$300 Per Team

Register Now By Contacting: Cory Anderson Valley City State University 101 College St SW Valley City, ND 58072 1-800-532-8641 Ext. 37413 cory_anderson@mail.vcsu.nodak.edu

All proceeds provide scholarship support for student athletes attending VCSU!

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Page 10, Alumni Bulletin

Langness, from page 8 —— rhythm, pitch, timbre, and texture through processes designed to develop proficiency in writing and reading music notation. Voice education is also emphasized, promoting vocal health and vocal production techniques. Students love to perform and in addition to performing a variety of choral literature, they can participate in the hand bell ensemble, band, or orchestra.

SBO: How successful has the curriculum been since its inception? Has it delivered the anticipated results?

Langness: The program has been very successful on several levels. In our first year, we met attendance and parental support goals. Bear Creek Elementary is located in an area facing a declining school population. Now, however, our enrollment is about 350 students. Additionally, our program has continued to attract actively involved parents who are dedicated to student learning and student success.

A survey in March 2001 revealed that 100 percent of our staff and 98 percent of our parents say they are satisfied (agree or strongly agree) that Bear Creek sets high expectations and that Bear Creek provides a strong foundation for student success.

SBO: How has the curriculum fallen short?

Langness: The administrators and teachers at Bear Creek Elementary continually look for ways to improve. I can't say that we have fallen short, but we are striving to analyze what students need to continue achieving at the same high level. Over time, I have seen more and more students become skilled at high levels. Our school has brought in authentic and independent assessment teams and, along with private music teachers, everyone is surprised at the level of music reading in our school.

At the same time, our school continues to excel in reading, writing, and math tests both on the district level and at the state level. Our Bear Creek School Improvement Team, accountable to parents, community, and the Boulder and state boards of education, regularly meets to set and monitor school improvement goals. The Improvement Team has made it a goal to increase direct instruction and experiences in the area of technology. Currently, the team is developing a goal to promote an initiative to value diversity and to promote understanding among cultures.

SBO: Can you cite some examples of how music is incorporated into the curriculum at each grade level?

Langness: In kindergarten, we begin with a typical, highly interactive movement with music in games or in listening. Students learn dynamics, tempo, beat, and are introduced to tone syllables and the music language of do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do. All in the spirit of play and exploring, kindergarten students develop a sense of numbers and counting. Since they spend as much time learning about music as numbers, they learn to predict where they think a song will end through a kind of inner singing. We call this music math. Then we also expose students to non-pitched instruments, such as drums, sticks and rattles, where we involve the skill of listening to help keep the beat and notice rhythm patterns.

In first grade, vocal skills are continued; however, students are introduced to music writing. Reading of music begins, which later corresponds to symbol reading in math. At this point, students begin achieving high levels of success in singing in tune. In music math, students start studying patterns in math that naturally carry over to music. Here, they begin to see connections between music and math, and this becomes integral to their study of music. In all areas, we try to connect music with social studies, science, etc. For example, we don't say, "Let's sing about the clouds since we're studying weather," but rather, "What conditions make weather?

What instruments can we use to compose a piece about the sounds that make weather?"

The science of singing and voice grow at each grade level. In second grade, the study of insects perfectly integrates math, science, and music. For example, we created a bug symphony that explores instruments and ways to create insect-like sounds with them. At the same time, we're reviewing and applying everything they've learned about insects. With music at the core, students get more music, more math, and more science. Traditional learning is not diminished.

Third graders work more with resonance chamber changes, the science of sound vibrations and connections to rhythm. Students become more intrigued with their bodies and the variety of sounds they can make. And, when students are taught to sing "Dem Bones," the scientific names for the bones are added into the melody. Students estimate the number of bones using the scientific method, ending with the use of math problem solving and computation to come up with all 206 bones.

Recorders are introduced in third grade and they begin practicing music reading. Students play longer pieces that are complex enough to avoid memorization and encourage music reading. By third grade, students are doing a lot of performing, gaining pleasure from sharing what they've learned with others. Each student learns his or her individual and unique role in making the performance a success.

Grades three to five study standard music notation, producing sound for notation patterns, identifying relationships in sound duration, and identifying patterns in song score. Students use standard music notation in math to identify patterns, number sense, relationships, computations, and fractions. Then, in science, they play games that illustrate effects of spin, force, flow, and rate.

Fourth graders study the science of sound. Though this is just one example of the music/math/science connection made in fourth grade, it is a good demonstration of how we use research and music together. Fourth graders study the planets, gathering information about their diameter, distance from other planets, etc. Then, they listen to "The Planets" by Gustav Holst. The next assignment is to write about what they have heard and how the music evokes images of each planet. Holst didn't compose music for the Earth or Pluto, so later students use computer programs to compose their own musical expressions of these planets.

Fifth grade is an exciting time for students to compose music without being constricted by what they've learned so far. Since math is deeply embedded in the process of creating music, students compose a musical piece by recognizing, creating, and manipulating patterns in sound and notation. MusicTime software then helps them to score and play their piece. By this time, students also have a wide range of pitches and, through their study of the science of voice, they learn to control their voice, their muscles and their breathing to produce a desired sound.

SBO: Now, five years later, what has been the longterm impact of the focus school concept?

Langness: Teachers report that they infuse math/music/science in all areas of the curriculum — that it has become second nature. They report that new ideas come to mind regularly and they are continually adding new connections to lesson plans. Teachers report that students initiate their own connections as they begin to recognize patterns everywhere. Students have come to expect music everywhere and can identify and explain connections. Students are more willing to take risks when sharing their thinking as they contribute to how/why discussions. In the community, the continuing relationship among Bear Creek Elementary, the University of Colorado students and professors, the school district, and parents and supporters of the focus school concept have reaffirmed our commitment to ongoing development.

There is another large benefit our faculty works as a team. At Bear Creek Elementary, I see all teachers valuing music and respecting what I do as well as what their students are doing in music.

Joanne Monath is a freelance writer based in Fort Collins, Colo.

Viking Highlights

Anderson Leading VCSU Women

It has been an up and down season for the Vikings. They opened in Hasting, NE and started the season 0-5 before getting a much needed win at home versus MSU-Moorhead 68-64. That win sparked a 5-2 start in the DAC-10 to keep the Vikings in the conference race. With two weeks left in the regular season, the Vikings are 7-7 in the DAC-10, have solidified a spot in the DAC-10 tourney and are playing for a home seed in the first round.

Molly Anderson, a 5'5" senior point guard from Watford City, ND, leads the team in scoring averaging 17ppg, assists with four per game, and is tied for second with 4.5 rebounds per game. "Molly made an impact in the program the day she signed her letter of intent to play at VCSU," stated head coach Jill DeVries. Anderson was a DAC-10 All-conference performer as a junior, and is most assuredly an All DAC-10 performer as a senior.

The Vikings other offensive punch comes from Melissa Leno, a 5'10" junior from Bismarck, ND. Leno averages 16.3ppg, and 4.5rpg. Jessica James has come into her own as the Vikings spark off the bench. James is averaging 10.2ppg in her reserve role.

Kristel Engelby, a 6'0" sophomore post player leads the team in rebounding with five per game. Melody Knodel, a 5'8" junior post from Bowdon, ND and Kelly Martin, a 5'9" wing from Hawley, MN round off the starting lineup. Laura Heckaman, a 6'1" senior post player from New Rockford, ND has been sidelined most of the season with injuries. Kelli Moore, Ali Clary, Sandy Motl, and Karen Rawlings have given the Vikings added depth this season.

"We are a team of role players," says DeVries. "On any night we have seven players who could score in double figures. Unfortunately, those nights have been few and far between. We rely on Molly and Missy to score and for everybody else to play "D" and rebound. When we get a third, fourth and even fifth player to step up and score, we are playing very good ball. We just haven't been getting that on a consistent basis."

The Vikings are 9-15 overall. "We have had a tough time finding a way to win on the road. We are 1-10 on the road. And, some of those games we were the better team, we just couldn't put it together," commented DeVries.

The Vikings play their final home games February 8th and 9th and then travel to Minot February 15th and Dickinson February 16th to complete the DAC-10 schedule.



Men's Basketball Qualifies for DAC-10 Playoffs

The VCSU men's basketball team ensured a place in the DAC 10 playoffs this past weekend beating Dakota State University 92-71. The win gives the Vikings a 6-8 DAC 10 record and 10-14 mark overall.

Four conference games remain to determine the 8 team playoff pairings. VCSU hosts the University of Mary and Jamestown February 8 and 9 and travels to Minot State and Dickinson State February 15 and 16 to finish the regular season.

Austin McCullough (Jefferson City, MT) paces the scoring attack dropping in 16ppg. He is 4th in the NAIA in Free Throw percentage at 90.4%. McCullough has also made 68 3-point field goals and could break the single season record for made 3-pointers. Steve Strittmatter (Oriska) chips in 10.0ppg and leads the team in rebounding at 5.8ppg.

Viking Football Experiences Another Successful Season

The Valley City State Vikings completed another successful football season under 5th year head coach Dennis McCulloch. The Vikings completed their regular season with a 9-1 record and were ranked as high as #3 in the NAIA National Poll. The Vikings advanced to the NAIA playoffs where they traveled to Helena, Montana. The Saints of Carroll College defeated the Vikings 45-27 and advanced to the NAIA semifinals before being defeated by the eventual national champion.

Quarterback Jeremy Peschel was named the DAC-10 MVP for the second consecutive season and was also a finalist for NAIA Player of the Year. Wide receiver Steve Battle, linebacker Ben Aarestad, and defensive lineman Brent Miller were honored by the NAIA as All-Americans.

Eleven Vikings were named to the All-DAC 10 team including eight first team performers.

QB Jeremy Peschel, WR Steve Battle, DL Brent Miller, LB Ben Aarestad and Punter James Thornton were repeat performers on the first team. Center Justin Wieseler, DL Mike Silbernagel and DB David Rowe made were first timers.

Named to the second team were WR J.O. Thielges, LB Josh Komarek, and DB Mike Rowe.

The Vikings have posted a 25-6 record over the last three seasons and look to build upon the tradition next season arrives with a good nucleus returning.



Doris Eileen Geske '94 was named "North Dakota Music Teacher of the Year" by the The North Dakota Music Teachers Association (NDMTA). The recipient is selected from nominees from throughout the state, based upon three criteria: educational preparation, reputation as an effective teacher, and service to community and state as musician and teacher.

Walker Honored at ND Conference

Marcia Foss Walker '72, Director of Career Services/Internships at Valley City State University, received the Glen Dolan Award at the annual North Dakota Counseling Conference held recently in Bismarck. The Glen Dolan Award is named after the founder of the ND Counseling Association and a lifetime worker and promoter in the counseling field. The criteria for the award are:

- Lifetime dedication to the field of counseling
- Contributions that have a long term impact on the counseling profession and counselors
- Dedication to community, work and welfare of people

Marcia has been employed at VCSU in a variety of positions over the past 23 years. She also serves as the Executive Director of the ND Counseling Association, a position she has held for the past six years.

Marcia is the daughter of Geraldine (Greb) Foss '41 and the mother of Cameron and Jessica, both students at VCSU.

Weddings..._

Rita Kramer '94 married Michael Jarrett ~ 10-13-01 James Zumbaum '99 married Samantha Beyer ~ 12-27-01



Dr. Sigurd Johnson, Harvey and Diane Schilling, and daughter, Nettie

Schillings Recognized for Donation

Harvey '61 and Diane Schilling were recognized by the VCSU Music Department for their generous donation that helped purchase the remaining instruments for the Steel Drum Band. "Without Mr. Schilling's gift, it would have been difficult to find the funds to complete this new group," said Sigurd Johnson, Director of Bands at VCSU. "With the donation we were able to purchase four bass steel drums, get cases for the other instruments and have them all re-tuned."

In Remembrance

Harriet (Nelson) Schlaht '43, Bloomington, MN Donna (Kensok) Ausk '49, Fargo Robert Heyer '41, McMinnville, OR Minnie (Baney) Heitzman, Portland, OR Doris (Bjornson) Olstad, Valley City Olive (Hazlett) Haedt, Fargo James Brooks '55, Vancouver, WA James E. Holm, Edgewood, WA Ethel (Bitz) Gallagher, Jamestown Mayme (Griffith) Syvertsen '28, Wahpeton Barbara (Burchill) Svenningsen, Valley City Cecelia (Moriarty) Sullivan, Fargo Richard Codding, Jamestown Viola (Williams) Miller, White Bear Lake, MN Mildred (Bailey) McLeod '27, Wahpeton Shirley (Vierkandt) Christensen '48, Fargo Claris (McCallson) Kent, Moorhead, MN Leone (Michalski) Nilsen '33, Valley City Ethel (Prigge) Lansing, Grafton Rose Tvedt, Argusville Sally Muldoon '53, Corvallis, OR Alvin Hendrickson, New Orleans, LA Mary Ellen Benson '29, Devils Lake Anna Pomeroy, Dell Rapids, SD Mabel (Skonnord) Hill, Valley City Helen (Myron) Ihland, Abercrombie Mary (Deardorff) Schwehr, Valley City Joann (Larson) Lenz '88, Bismarck Virginia Lacy '25, Bismarck Bernice (Getty) Bauske, Portland, OR Walter Green '33, Carrington Vivian (Schoessow) Froemke '31, IA Magda (Sundeen) Jerijarvi '39, Devils Lake Lillian (Krapu) Schaffer, Gackle Audrey Rudy, Mandan Edward Chudley (V-12), Lincoln, NE Dwight Hanson '68, Gwinner Maybelle (Henderson) Kranz, Valley City Harold Henrickson '34, Lisbon Beada (Heupel) Heitzmann '28, Ashley Nanna Thoreson Aase, Detroit Lakes, MN Alice (Ruud) Knapp '40, Lewistown, MT Kathryn (Heimes) Lewis '36, Ashland, OR Alice (Wohlwend) Johnson '51, Lidgerwood Anna (Janz) Mellum '33, Jamestown Tillie (Reiswig) Werth, Harvey Lorraine (Moser) Kerner, Jamestown Anna (Satreaas) Busche '40, LaMoure Lee Holm, Valley City Norm Furuseth '52, Williston Meridee (Tollefson) Johnson '68, Williston Bertha (Ridgway) Dale, Montpelier

Former VCSU Staff Elmer Kreutsburg, Jamestown

$\mathrm{V}^{\mathrm{ikings}}$ on the Move

1930s

Grant Anderson '35 has retired as the executive director of Case Tech Alumni Association in Cleveland, OH. He held that position for 30 years. Grant has now embarked on a second career as a professional writer and researcher. Copies of his research on World War II are in the Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, MO; Historical Section, U.S. Army, Washington, DC; World War II Alumni Archives, University of North Dakota and Northwestern University.

1960s

Dean Zimmerman '65 took the oath of office for the Minneapolis City Council on January 2nd. Dean, long active in Minneapolis politics, served the last eight years as an elected member of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Dean graduated from Carrington High School in 1960 and from VCSU in 1965.

Gary Rufsvold '68 will retire on June 30 after serving as director of activities at the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield, MN. Gary started the athletic program at the school in 1972 when the school became coeducational. In addition to overseeing athletics, arts and other activities at AHA, Gary also coached the boys' basketball team from 1972-99. After June 30 Gary will take on new responsibilities at the school.

1970s

Jeff Reed has joined Flint Communications in Fargo, ND, as a graphic designer/illustrator. He has 20 years experience in the restaurant and hospitality business and 15 years experience in design. He and his wife, Lavina, live in Fargo with their son.

Shelley (Hanson) Williamson '75 and her husband, Jim, have recently relocated to Commerce, GA. Shelley is a Tax Specialist with the BellSouthCorporation in Atlanta, GA. She has been with the company for 23 years.

Donn Frahm '79 was recently named "Agent of the Quarter" by the National Farmers Union Property and Casualty Companies. Donn earned this honor as a result of his production of new business during the year as well as the service and support he provides to his customers. Donn and his wife, Kristi (Froeber) '80, reside in New Rockford.

1980s

Tres (Pritchard) Christiansen '80 has been named a personal banking officer with Wells Fargo in Valley City. She is a 21-year veteran of the financial services industry. Originally from Oakes, Tres remains active with VCSU serving on the Foundation board and is past president of the VCSU Century Club.

Dale V. Johnson '84 is the Police Chief in Thompson. Dale, his wife, Cindy, and their daughter, Mikayla, are enjoying life in a smaller town, again. Mikayla LOVES her kindergarten. They invite any Sigma Nus to stop by when in the area.

1990s

LaDonna (Sherman) Nelson '91 has joined The Goose River Bank in Mayville, ND. In her new position, LaDonna will be responsible for the drive-up teller window. Before she began her job at the bank, she was employed by Aasen Drug Store and Daycare Pals, both in Mayville. LaDonna and her husband, Dan, live in Portland, ND, with their son.

Susan (Martin) Kapaun '92 was recently promoted to loan assistant at Farmers & Merchants Bank of Valley City. She will be responsible for consumer lending in addition to her loan processing and customer service responsibilities. Susan and her husband, Perry, live in Valley City.

Wayne '95 and Angie (Mason) Triebold reside in Puyallup, WA. Angie has completed optometry school and has opened her own practice. Wayne has taken a new job with Toray Composites as Fuel Cell Business Development Manager. He recently traveled to Japan to learn more about the company and the material that Toray produces for Fuel Cells.

Holly (Schmidt) Stromsodt '97 has been promoted to assistant vice president of lending at Citizens State Bank of Finley. Matt Klein '97 has been promoted to assistant vice president of commercial real estate lending at State Bank of Fargo.

Ned '98 and Val (Buchholz) Clooten '99 have moved to Douglas, AK. Ned is teaching at-risk students in a program called CHOICE (Choosing Healthy Options In Cooperative Education) at Juneau-Douglas High School. The program was just recognized by the USA Today with an All-American Teacher award. Val is working for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) as a prevention specialist. She works with families and youth trying to prevent addiction.

Jana Labree '99 has accepted a position as an admissions counselor at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, MT.

Jenny (Ryan) Wamsley '99 teaches 8th grade health and physical education at Murray Junior School in St. Paul, MN. She also coaches B-squad volleyball and basketball and is the head badminton coach. Jenny began working on her masters degree and plans to complete her degree in 2003.

Nominate Outstanding Alumni

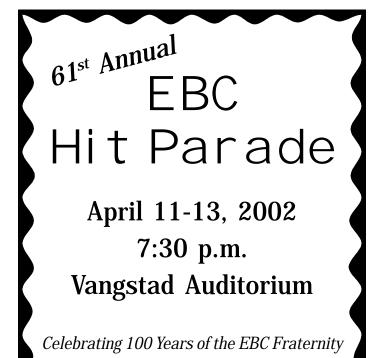
Valley City State University is proud of its alumni and the tremendous impact they have, and are continuing to make across the nation. If you know of a VCSU alumni who should be recognized for their achievements, please take the time to nominate that person for one of the Alumni Association's awards. All nominations will be forwarded to the appropriate screening committees and will receive full consideration.

Certificate of Merit: This award provides the Alumni Association with a way to recognize alumni for accomplishments, service, or other noteworthy honors.

Alumni Service Award: This award is presented to alumni and university friends who have attained exceptional achievement in their careers and have made a significant contribution to the university through dedicated service, promotion, financial support or other efforts.

Distinguished Alumni: The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor presented by the Alumni Association. The recipient's professional contributions, honors and awards, and leadership are considered.

Nominations to: Val Moritz, VCSU Foundation, 1-800-532-8641 Ext. 37403 E-Mail: val_moritz@mail.vcsu.nodak.edu



EBC & Philomathian Social

Saturday, April 13, 2002 Valley City Country Club Dance from 10:00 PM to 1:00 AM

All Philo and EBC alumni, as well as former hit parade performers are invited to attend.

The cost is \$2 at the door.

For additional information, contact Haley at 845-4368 or e-mail: philoalumni@hotmail.com

Where Are They?

We do not have current addresses for the following VCSU alumni. If you know their addresses or can direct us to someone who can, please contact our office at 1-800-532-8641. Thanks for your help!

1975

Wayne Clemens Robert Dahl William Delbaugh Donna Flemmer Edna Olson Noreen Sagmiller Carol Scott Richard Standal Ralph Ubben Gail Wagner

1976

Lucille Fercho Helen Gassmann James Hanson, Jr. Joel Hillius Craig Holmgren David Lloyd Koreen Schlecht John Thomas Adeline Thorne David Tischer Robert Young

1977

Larry Abdallah Judith Cunningham Kathryn Eng-Eidsmoe Allison Ghylin Paul Gibson Archie Gillis Marilyn Henderson Charles Naze Delaine Thoms Janet Weaver

1978

Michael Bell Marlene Falk Debra Gunsch Eileen Haskins Gayle Haugen Brett Herrala Twila Hoffmann Robin Kappel Barbara King Genene Kringlie Douglas Laber Debra Lee Bryan Nelson Laurie Nelson Carmen Netterville Lois Paulus Kathryn Roth John Slone

Sue Swanson Patricia Ternes Glenda Truesdell

1979

Faye Anderson Daniel Antal Robert Brendel Ellen Brown Diane Carlson Alan Carlson Bernadine Christofferson Joan Cruff Rita Feist Ann Grim Collette Kasowski Christine Klein Don May Brent McAdoo Susan McLeod Dona Molet John Pavelich Lorraine Pontius Paul Roth Bruce Schmith Susan Senger **Diana Slone**

1980

Kirsten Arndt Jerome Bykonen Dawn Feickert Brent Graf David Gusaas Pamela Hanson Tonette Hartman Miranda Heintz Lori Hooey Leonor Jensen Vicki Johnson Julie Knutson Thomas Kristensen Brenda Legge Nancy Loney Peter Martin Steven Mehl Lisa Monroe Carol Noecker Peter Pogatshnik David Shorey **Edward Stipp** Paulette Sunde Darla Zenker-Haagenson Jolene Warner Thomas Scott Nancy Smith Rose Wolff

Valley City State University Homecoming 2002

Friday, October 11, 2002

Class of 1952 & Class of 1942 Reunion Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremonies

Saturday, October 12, 2002

Alumni Honors Breakfast Homecoming Parade Library Luncheon Football Game Alumni Social Homecoming Dance

Class of 1952 50-Year Reunion

Colleen Erickson Aafedt Donald Aus Barbara Sanderson Ayala Arthur Bell Lois Laplant Brown Marlys Knutson Christianson Warren Christianson Jean Fiedler Collette Monica Gondringer Constant Harold Davidson Arthur Ekblad Shirley Schultz Elgie Roman Ertelt

Alice Lund Anderson **Gwendolyn Hanson Anderson Doris Lentz Baumgartner Raymond Bechtle** Dorothy Skonnord Bennett Hulda Eisenbeis Berg Judy Riskedahl Borlaug Janet Dawkins Boysen **Evelyn Justesen Butcher** Leslie Carlin Laura Erickson Carlson Laurene Lewis Carlson Jean Kirkoff Carpenter **Doris Carlson Chase** Lucille Soutor Chilcote Helen Nelson Coles **Evelyn Weber Corcoran Clara Wagner Cowen** Harry Dahl Irene Meyer Demoray **Darby Dreis Doris Eller**

Virginia Uglem Fischer Ruth Moellenkamp Fog Stella Eissinger Fox Joan Prochnow Gifford Kay Wilson Grager J. Bradley Hanna Vernon Hansen Georgia Wentz Hawk Doris Nundahl Hoistad Arvid Homuth Marlys Thoen Johnson Rebecca Skonnord Carol Larson Kain Jean Kappel Alvin Koslofsky Anita Evenson Laberge Joyce Sowden Larson Leroy Larson Ted Leagjeld Carlton Lee Gladys Lowe Russ McMillan Ruth Saar McMillan Lois Hahn Moe James Odden Carleton Opgaard

Class of 1942 60-Year Reunion

Betty Oxley Hart Dorothy LaQua Hayer **Eloise Stading Heidkross** Vernice Pederson Helberg **Dolores Wilke Henninger** Alta Schmidt Hermes Laverne Moltzen Holle Helen Hjelmstad Holo Maurice Iverson June Johnson **Esther Erickson Karas** Josephine Rueckert Koch **Ruth Fehr Krueger** lorenlaw Russell Lee **Doreen Carlson Lende** Lvnn Lende Lucille Olson Lewis Ruth Engdahl Magnuson Margaret Kjelland McDonough Myrna Lindstrom McGregor Everett McKay

Merle Conley McKinney Marion Ness Harold Nienas **Dorothy Mahlum Norell** Eveline Szarkowski Noriega Pearl Johnson Oehlke Jean Anderson Oliver Rae Olson Leone Langemo Osmon Willis Osmon **Carol Argersinger Parrow Mildred Peterson Roy Peterson** Carroll Hinschberger Podhasky Irene Stangler Pollock Agnes Malmin Pomeroy Audrev Naves Primos **Evelyn Heringer Rasmussen Dolores Bredahl Roach** Eva Stimman Rogers David Schatz Verna Cuypers Schrader

Ty Peterson Beverly Josund Pierce Patricia Myhre Samuelson Richard Schnell Marilyn Johnson Sell Marian Stelzmiller Spears Donna Jenner Stadler Richard Starke Theresa Wolf Straley Paul Sundstrom Delores Vagle

Hilbert Seiwert **Gladys Hatter Sjostrom** Janet Carlson Snyder Geraldine Schuster Stein **Inez Haugen Stockeland** Rhoda Trowbridge Sturla Elsie Nitschke Tait Leona Axtell Trautmann **Ruth Rickbeil Vincent Ray Wallner** Ada Krenz Weber Ardyce Oien Weiss Lenora Reiten Weisser Ellen Sather Wilhelmi Ann Saugstad Wilson **Esther Scheer Winther** Audrev Herk Wiseman Alice Stensgaard Yanish Margaret Conley York Aryds Berg Zetter

Valley City State University graduate sells Japanese collectibles

Charlotte Holm '68 finally gave in nine years ago. So frequent were the requests for the historic arts and crafts Holm brought back from her travels in Japan, she decided to start selling them to others. And thus a new business – the Takara Collection – was born.

Charlotte has sold Japanese collectibles with business and travel partner Vickie Briscoe under the Takara Collection name since 1992.

Charlotte has worked in Japan as a school librarian for the U.S. Department of Defense since 1972. For six years, she worked in mainland Japan. Since 1978, she's worked at the U.S. military base middle school on the Japanese island of Okinawa. The Okinawa base is home to members of all branches of the military and their families – about 50,000 Americans in all.

During her 29 years in Japan, she's traveled extensively throughout the country and collected various art pieces from vendors and artists. Before opening her business, Charlotte was often greeted with inquiries about the unique wares she brought back to the military base. So one year she and Briscoe lugged back suitcases full of Japanese art pieces to the base. The items fascinated the Americans.

"They sold out in 45 minutes," Charlotte says. "Not being the dumbest people, we said, 'Wait a minute, maybe we have something here.'"

Charlotte and Vickie have been selling their collectibles at bazaars in Okinawa ever since. Vickie teaches drama and music at the high school on the military base. The bazaars feature anywhere from 15 to 30 vendors. Items are sold exclusively to the military personnel and their families on the base, but the vendors come from all parts of Asia.

The Takara Collection items are popular gifts, particularly because Japanese culture dictates that a gift be given each time someone meets a new person or bids one farewell. Products in the Takara Collection include gold leaf vases and boxes, cherry bark tea canisters, iron lanterns and teapots, and bamboo dolls. They collect and sell Japanese arts and crafts they find "beautiful, unusual or artistic." Charlotte says.

Right now, selling the arts and crafts is just a pleasant side project for the two school teachers. It's less a business venture than a fun hobby. But the pair are becoming more serious about selling the items they affectionately call their "treasures." In the fall of 2000, they started a Web site (www.Takaracollection.com) where customers can view and purchase their products.

Charlotte says she would like to retire from her librarian position in five years. She recently bought a house in Mesa, Arizona, where she will set up headquarters for the Takara Collection when she retires. She hopes to devote more time in the coming years working on her business, including possibly selling her products in stores in Fargo, ND. (Matt Tustison, The Forum)





Expect a call during the 2002 Phone-A-Thon. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



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