



# THE BULLETIN

A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University  
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## Back to head of class

by Mike Nowatzki, *The Forum*

At first glance, Ellen Chaffee appears to be a typical college instructor. When she asks her freshman writing class at Valley City State University how a citywide power outage the night before affected their homework, one student's excuse doesn't make the grade.

"Yeah, yeah, and the dog ate it," she says, drawing laughs from the freshmen.

About 15 minutes into the period, as Chaffee reviews sentence structure, two students wearing shorts and baseball caps stroll into the room.

"So nice to have you here, gentlemen," she says wryly. "Thank you for coming."

And as class gets under way, she announces tongue-in-cheek, "OK, I think we're going to start with the mini-lesson in grammar and stuff."

Despite her comfortable appearance, Chaffee isn't an average college instructor. For the past 10 years, she has served as president of VCSU, which reported fall enrollment at 998 students. Two weeks before fall classes began, a part-time instructor was lured away from VCSU with a full-time position at North Dakota State University. With no time to find a replacement, Chaffee filled the void.

By teaching, Chaffee said she is learning a lot about students' experiences and ideas, faculty life and herself.

However, it's not the first time she's stood in front of a classroom.

Chaffee graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Kentucky in 1966 and taught at high schools in Moorhead and Hinsdale, Ill. In 1971, she received her master's degree in counseling from NDSU and worked in the student affairs office for several years.

After earning a doctorate degree in administration and policy analysis from Stanford University in 1980, she landed a research position at the University of Colorado, where she also taught



statistics part time. She became president of both VCSU and Mayville State University in 1993, and of VCSU alone on Oct. 1, 2002.

Over the years, Chaffee has stayed on top of her English and writing skills by publishing 20 articles and penning her weekly column, the "President's Corner." But writing and teaching students how to write are two very different things, she said.

On the first day of class, she put the freshmen at ease by admitting that she, too, felt like a freshman, being in front of a class for the first time in 20 years, said one of her students, Alicia Rothschiller of Ashley.

"She has a fun class," Rothschiller said. "She's all excited."

Chaffee also understands the challenges facing students, Rothschiller said. Thursday's class was in part a special review session for the midterm exam, which Chaffee postponed a week because she felt students didn't have a proper grasp of the subject matter.

"If we don't get it, she makes sure she goes over it," Rothschiller said.

Chaffee said she works hard at being a good teacher, spending at least 15 hours a week — mostly during nights and weekends — preparing for class and grading papers.

Her responsibilities as a teacher almost always

*Back to head of class, continued on page 8*



David M. Hanson  
VCSU Alumni President

# President's Corner

by David M. Hanson '83

## Greetings from Wyndmere, ND...

My name is David Hanson and I am the VCSU Alumni President for 2003-2004. I graduated from VCSU in 1983 with a major in elementary education. I am currently the elementary administrator and technology coordinator for the Wyndmere Public School. My wife Tami teaches JH/HS Math. I have two

sons, Devin (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and another son Christian (6<sup>th</sup> grade). This year marks the 19<sup>th</sup> year I have spent in Wyndmere.

Valley City State has always been an important part of my life. Growing up in Valley City, I was (am) a loyal Viking fan! I really can't remember ever considering any other colleges when entering that part of my life. I was very well prepared for my first elementary teaching position in Lidgerwood, North Dakota. I have taken that training and experience and continued my professional career here at Wyndmere.

As elementary administrator for the school, I have had the responsibility of hiring new elementary instructors. Valley City State is always my first call. Who is graduating and who might fit the needs we have here at Wyndmere? All of the instructors I have hired from VCSU have been top notch!

This past year I was asked if I would consider having two student teachers from VCSU. Needless to say this was a request I could not say no to. Our students benefited greatly from their presence here. One of them is now my kindergarten teacher.

The story comes full circle with my holding the position of Alumni President. I take this responsibility very seriously as VCSU commands a very high degree of respect not only in our state, but across the country as well. If there is anything the Alumni board or I can do to promote VCSU in your area, I hope you won't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David M. Hanson

Class of 1983

David.M.Hanson.1@sendit.nodak.edu



Val Moritz  
Alumni Relations

Valley City State University has a respected reputation for having excellent faculty and staff. Numerous faculty and staff devote many years of their lives to serving students here at VCSU. We have been saddened this last year by the passing of two of those longtime VCSU alumni and faculty: Art Dafoe and Jim O'Connell.

Art was a faculty member and chair of the chemistry department for 24 years before he retired in 1981. Jim began his career at VCSU in 1948 and taught for 46 years before retiring in 1994 as chair of the mathematics department. Their dedication to their students was evident, and both also served their

communities in many different capacities. Their retirement didn't end their relationship with VCSU. They remained interested in campus news and attended campus events whenever possible.

We will miss Art and Jim, but we know their legacy will live on for years. Their students are passing on the love for learning that Art and Jim instilled in so many. To Nora and Meryl and their families, we extend our sincere sympathies and our heartfelt thanks for sharing these wonderful gentlemen with us.

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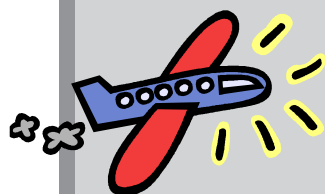
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# President's Message

by Dr. Ellen-Earle Chaffee

For the sixth straight year, we started fall semester with the news that Valley City State University is one of the top public colleges in the Midwest, according to *US News & World Report*. As usual, we have much to celebrate. Our new IBM notebook computers for faculty and students have multimedia features to help students prepare their digital portfolios, now required for graduation. Sun Microsystems is our new and very supportive partner for networking and behind-the-scenes equipment. Faculty and students are making presentations on technology-enriched learning at major national conferences.

Grant funding is increasing

exponentially in the area of undergraduate scientific research. Dr. Andre DeLorme had the first major projects in the 1990s from state sources to fund research on macroinvertebrates in North Dakota. Last year, a federally funded program allowed us to hire Dr. Hilde Van Gijssel, a toxicologist from the Netherlands who had been working at the National Institutes of Health. Not only was she the students' choice for teacher of the year last year, but her work has also attracted significantly more funding. Drs. DeLorme and Van Gijssel share a newly renovated laboratory in McCarthy Hall. Curt Hill has a new National Science Foundation grant to enhance computer

science education at VCSU and United Tribes Technical College.

We are proud, too, of Linda Whitney-McGillis, associate professor of art, who received a \$2,500 fellowship from the North Dakota Council of the Arts. The program supports professional artists with outstanding talent and ability.

Construction has begun to convert Kolstoe Hall to suites with upscale amenities such as a fitness center, air conditioning, and top of the line materials. We are bidding on an addition to the north side of Graichen Gym to add a welcoming lobby, west entrance, elevator, and restrooms. The city and FEMA are giving us two lots by the river where houses



Ellen-Earle Chaffee  
VCSU President

once stood, destined to be much-appreciated parking lots.

I could go on and on, of course. The faculty, staff, and students at Valley City State University provide new cause for celebration daily. Thank you for your interest and support!



Valley City State University has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the Best Comprehensive Colleges in the Midwest for the sixth year in a row, along with Southwest State University (MN), University of Minnesota—Crookston (MN) and Dakota State University (SD). VCSU is the only

ND institution to make a US News "top" list again this year.

Comprehensive Colleges focus primarily on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the liberal arts but grant fewer than 50 percent of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. At these schools, at least 10 percent of undergraduate degrees awarded are bachelor's degrees. There are 324 comprehensive colleges, ranked within four regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

The U.S. News ranking system relies on quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality, and it is based on their nonpartisan view of what matters in education.

The U.S. News rankings are based on several key measures of quality. These measures fall into seven broad categories: peer assessment, retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and graduation rate performance.

"An endorsement from US News in any year is phenomenal, but to receive this prestigious honor for six years in a row is incredible," stated Dr. Ellen Chaffee, VCSU President. She added that "It is also justified. The faculty, staff, and students have been setting the standard for quality, year after year, with relentless energy and purpose. This is a wonderful way to launch another great year at Valley City State University."

## New Academic Programs at VCSU

VCSU is excited to announce the following programs were approved at the November State Board for Higher Education meeting.

**Bachelor of Science and Arts in Health Services:** This program is designed to prepare students for advanced studies at professional schools (medical, dentistry, optometry, physical therapy) or graduate school.

**Teaching English Language Learners (Minor):** VCSU currently offers its Elementary and Secondary education majors the English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement, a 16 hour program approved by the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board. The Teaching English Language Learners (ELL) minor builds on the core requirements of this endorsement to offer education students a viable minor that will both increase their opportunities for employment and improve the quality of K-12 education for second language learners and limited English proficient (LEP) students in North Dakota.

**Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Music Management and a minor in Music Business:** This new degree offers a broad new degree and career path to musicians and business students with a interest in the entertainment industry. This is the only degree of its kind in North Dakota.

**Master of Science in Technology Education:** This program is a cooperative program between UND and VCSU. The program draws from course work development as part of the curriculum project designed by VCSU faculty, International Technology Education Association consultants, and with input from the UND technology faculty. The purpose is to further integrate the new Standards for Technological Literacy into Technology Education for the K-12 curriculum. The VCSU project is to prepare baccalaureate degree educators on how to incorporate the standards into the curriculum. The graduate program builds on that base to cross-train credentialed educator and upgrade in-service technology education teachers with the skills set from the new Standards Project.

# VCSU's V-500 Scholarship Program — Sustaining the Vision Since 1972

The Valley City State University V-500 Scholarship Program was founded in the early 1970s. The first scholarships were for \$75 each. Needless to say, very few scholarships were awarded. Since that time the program has grown and expanded considerably. Today, up to \$170,000 in scholarships are awarded annually ranging from \$750 to \$1,500, with approximately 165 students receiving scholarships each year. According to Larry Robinson, Director of University Advancement, "The V-500 Program has been a tremendous success. The founders of this important program clearly had a vision and a commitment to Valley City State University. To date, several thousand students have benefited from V-500 scholarships." The theme for this year's membership drive is "Sustaining the Vision." The goal is to sustain the vision of the founders of V-500 over 30 years ago.

Tuition at VCSU for 2003-2004, increased by over 20%. That increase brought the tuition for the 2003-2004 academic year to \$2,590. In addition, students are required to pay a \$998 technology fee. The room and board rates are estimated to total \$3,140. Add to this list of costs

\$700 for books and supplies and an additional \$2,700 for living expenses, the total estimated annual costs to attend VCSU for one academic year exceeds \$10,000. Needless to say, tuition increases make the scholarship program more important than ever. Newly elected V-500 President, Dr. Sharon McCarriar, recently stated, "Without V-500 scholarships, we would be hard pressed to compete for quality students at the university."

The minutes of the Valley City State College Foundation of May 31, 1972, noted that the V-500 Scholarship Program was fashioned after similar programs at Concordia College and Dickinson State College. In those days, tuition at the college for one academic year totaled \$315, compared to \$2,590 this year.

The minutes of the V-500 Foundation reflect total pledges of \$48,000 as of March 27, 1973 with a total of \$13,928.34 cash on hand. Thanks to over 1,000 members, the V-500 program has shown steady growth since those humble beginnings in the early 1970's.

Unfortunately, the challenges of tomorrow will place additional pressure on V-500. Competition for students is at an all time high. According to Robinson, "Even

though we are on the right road, we must keep moving or we will be run over. In today's marketplace, growth is absolutely essential for us to remain competitive." Robinson further noted that some institutions are offering renewable \$2,000 annual scholarships. The scholarship is automatically renewed each year, providing the student meets the criteria and remains a full time student at the institution. Consider for example, the total cost of providing 100 of those scholarships each year for four years!

"The key to the success of the V-500 program has been the strong support that V-500 has enjoyed from our alumni, friends, and the business community. They have been there from the very beginning," stated Robinson. "We have been blessed by so many folks and businesses who have elected to purchase multiple memberships and to move to higher levels of giving. For V-500 to continue to grow, that practice and commitment needs to continue," noted Robinson.

The V-500 listing for donors is a story of commitment to a program, a university and to students. The list of single memberships is long and it is growing. More importantly, the list

of multiple memberships, e.g., V-1,000; V-5,000; V-10,000; V-20,000; V-25,000 and additional upper level memberships, is impressive. The program has also received several estate gifts from folks via wills.

The V-500 Board of Directors recently met and reorganized for the academic year. The membership drive for the year is underway. According to Robinson, "special emphasis will be placed on encouraging folks who have supported the program previously to do so again. We simply must look at V-500 as an on going commitment. It is clearly an opportunity for all of us to give something back to VCSU. Anyone who had benefited from a V-500 scholarship in the past, should give serious consideration to supporting this membership drive and allowing another student to attend Valley City State University with the support of a V-500 scholarship." Robinson concluded, by saying, "It Takes Two, V-500 and You." Folks interested in further information on the V-500 Scholarship Program should contact the VCSU Advancement Office at 701-845-7203.

## Students Speak Out – Thank You V-500!

*"This scholarship has allowed me to pursue an education at a top quality institution. I appreciate knowing that there are alumni and friends that care so much about VCSU that they graciously donated to help future leaders. I look forward to the day I can give back to the university and help a new generation of students experience what VCSU has to offer."*

*Brady Larson, VCSU Senior  
Student Senate President  
Lignite, ND*

*"The scholarships that I have received from Valley City State University have all been very valuable to me. It is the people who contribute to the scholarships that make my education as well as many others' a possibility. I know that I will contribute to the scholarship funds in the future. I want future students to be granted the same opportunity for an education as I have been privileged to receive."*

*Kimberly Kuhlmann, VCSU Senior  
Wimbledon, ND*

# V-500 Scholarship Program

Valley City State University

Help support the students of VCSU with a new pledge to the V-500 Scholarship Program!

**New or renewed commitments receive the following benefits in appreciation of your continued support:**

**\$150 per year  
(5 year commitment):**

- \* V-500 Membership pin
- \* Program Recognition
- \* 2 tickets to V-500 Banquet
- \* V-500 Shirt

**\$250 per year  
(5 year commitment):**

- \* V-500 Membership Pin
- \* Program Recognition
- \* 2 tickets to V-500 Banquet
- \* Photo and press release
- \* V-500 jacket or blanket

**\$500 per year  
(5 year commitment):**

- \* V-500 Membership Pin
- \* Program Recognition
- \* 2 tickets to V-500 Banquet
- \* Photo and press release
- \* V-500 jacket or blanket
- \* V-500 shirt

**\$1,000 per year  
(5 year commitment):**

- \* V-500 Membership Pin
- \* Program Recognition
- \* 2 tickets to V-500 banquet
- \* Photo and press release
- \* Dinner for two with President Chaffee
- \* VCSU wooden rocker or chair

**\$2,000 per year  
(5 year commitment):**

- \* V-500 Membership Pin
- \* Program Recognition
- \* 2 tickets to V-500 banquet
- \* Photo and press release
- \* Dinner for two with President Chaffee
- \* 2 VCSU wooden rockers or chairs

*A small portion of your gift may be used to offset administrative costs associated with membership.*

## V-500 Membership Application 2003-04

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Commitment:**

- \$150 per year for 5 years
- \$250 per year for 5 years
- \$500 per year for 5 years
- \$1,000 per year for 5 years
- \$2,000 per year for 5 years
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Benefits of membership reduce the amount of your tax deduction. This amount will be reflected on your receipt.**

**Payment Frequency:**

- Annual
- Semi-Annual

If you would like to make your payment during a specific month, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

I request that my entire donation be applied to VCSU V-500 Scholarships and do not wish to receive any gifts as part of my membership.

*Do you or your spouse work for a matching gift company?*

- Yes
- No

**Payment Option:**

- Check:** Payable to VCSU Foundation/V-500
- Credit Card:**  Mastercard  Visa  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature on Account \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to automatically charge this credit card when payments are due.

- Payroll Deduction: VCSU Employees**  
Please obtain a Payroll Deduction form in the VCSU Foundation Office.

- Automatic Withdrawal:** Enclose voided check. I authorize the VCSU Foundation/V-500 to withdraw \$\_\_\_\_\_ semi-annually on the 15th of the months \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months to complete my pledge.

Signature on Account \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail completed form to:**

VCSU V-500; Valley City State University;  
101 College St. SW; Valley City, ND 58072

## Jim Collins Jr. recognized as the “Environmental Educator of the Year”

Jim Collins Jr., of the North Dakota Department of Health in Bismarck, accepted the 2003 “ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR” award at the Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony held in Fargo on September 27. Nominations were received from across the state, and the award winners were recognized by the North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota State University.

Jim is one of those state employees that is unafraid to work evenings, weekends or whenever he is needed. He is definitely a 24/7 type person. Jim’s great enthusiasm and interesting messages help others learn about their environment. He leads the department’s water quality education program and is engaged in the Envirothon, adult workshops, Eco-Ed and water festivals. He educates people of all ages about the need for clean water, sources of pollution and how each of us can do our part to help.

The award winners were honored at a recognition ceremony at North Dakota State University. State Forester Larry Kotchman and President



Jim Collins, Jr., (middle) receives the “Environmental Educator of the Year” award from NDSU President Joseph Chapman and State Forester Larry Kotchman.

Joseph Chapman presented each winner with a special Trees Awards plaque and limited edition print. The award winners were also recognized on the field during the NDSU halftime activities at the Trees Bowl Football Game that afternoon.

## New VCSU Alumni Board Members

**Rae Ann Vandrovec** currently teaches fourth grade at St. John’s Academy in Jamestown. She has completed 25 years of teaching. Rae Ann was awarded the Presidential Award of Academic Excellence for Elementary Science Education in Washington, D. C. She received a Fulbright Memorial Teachers’ Fund Award to study in Japan in the fall of 2001. Rae Ann is also a graduate of the NASA New Teachers’ Program in Cleveland, Ohio. She has presented at the State Teaching and Technology Conference and the State Reading Conference. Rae Ann is a successful grant writer, receiving funding for all eleven classroom projects for which she applied. She is married to Jim (both graduates of VCSU) and has 2 sons, Terry and Kevin. Rae Ann is currently attending graduate school at NDSU working toward a master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

**Missy (Stowman) Vollmers** grew up in Valley City and graduated from VCSU in 1989. She received her masters degree from the University of St. Thomas in 1993. Missy taught first grade for four years in Brainerd, MN, and then moved to Bismarck where she has been working with the Bismarck Public Schools for 10 years. She is currently teaching kindergarten at Centennial Elementary School. Missy and her husband, Chad, have a two-year old son, Justin. Chad is employed at Bobcat.

**Coleen (Ellefson) Asche** is a native of Milnor, ND. She was an ’86 graduate and started teaching mathematics at Schroeder Jr. High in Grand Forks fall ’86. She also coached basketball and volleyball while at Schroeder. She received her Masters Degree in Educational Administration from the UND in ’93. She has taught math in the GF school district at Schroeder, Central HS, Red River HS and has been at Community HS since fall ’97. She and her husband Rick have 3 daughters: Holly (13), Emily (11), and Heidi (9). They enjoy attending UND hockey and basketball games and spending time at South Turtle Lake in the summer. Coleen is active with her church and all her girls’ activities. She is honored to be part of the VCSU Alumni Board of Directors. She is especially excited to be on the board with one of her former students from Schroeder, Mike Zick!



Vandrovec



Vollmers



Asche

# VCSU to host National Symposium on Music Instruction Technology

The Sixth National Symposium on Music Instruction Technology (NSMIT) will be held at Valley City State University June 17-19, 2004. The NSMIT conference will provide opportunities for music educators and music education researchers to share knowledge and experiences concerning technology-enhanced music instruction. Its purposes are to provide an opportunity for music researchers and teachers in the field to share and discuss applications of technology; to encourage appropriate uses of music technology in PreK-12 learning environments; and to distribute findings of investigations into learning with music technology. The scope of the presentations is from beginner to advanced applications of music technologies in the classroom, appealing to music teachers at all levels. Participants with no experience are welcome as well as those who have experimented with music technologies and want to extend their knowledge. In addition, pre-conference workshops on Wednesday, June

16, will be available to participants that will include a morning of team-building events at Corporate Learning Adventures in Kathryn, ND, and a tour and demonstration of the Regional Technology Center in Valley City in the afternoon. Graduate credit for attendance is pending.

The co-chairs of the three-day event are Dr. Sara Hagen, VCSU, Dr. Jack Taylor, Florida State University (retired) and UNC-Greensboro, and Dr. Kimberly Walls, Auburn University.

The symposium began in 1999 as a project of the Music Education Program at Auburn in conjunction with the Center for Music Research at the Florida State University under the direction of Walls and Taylor, respectively. The conference has also received sponsorship from the MENC: The National Association for Music Education. Previous symposium sites include FSU and Auburn as well as the University of Oklahoma and Illinois State University, which draw a number of local as well as regional and national presenters and audiences.

Presentations, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops are featured on numerous topics including teaching with technology, reports of research findings, technology ensembles, student electronic compositions, or student-produced multimedia projects. Proposals are welcome from both PreK-12 teachers and college faculty experienced in music technology or other related areas, such as multimedia or research relevant to teaching and learning with technology. Data Stream, an electronic ensemble from Northfield, MN, will be the featured guest artists for the event, led by Dr. Peter Hamlin of St. Olaf College.

The conference will be held prior to the summer Technology Institute for Music Educators (TI:ME) continuing education course at Valley City State University (June 21-25). The TI:ME organization was formed partly in order to standardize teaching curricula for music technology so that teachers in the field can be certified with a recognized set of skills needed for

incorporating music technology into the schools. Dr. Sara Hagen is the only certified TI:ME instructor in North Dakota and has significant experience in teaching and learning with music technologies. Slated for the summer of 2004 is a one-week two-credit course in Sequencing (Level 2), a recording method for creating accompaniments and compositions with synthesizers. Teachers must have completed Level 1 certification in order to participate. In the past two summers, eight music educators in North Dakota and South Dakota have been certified in Level 1 of TI:ME by completing both level 1A (electronic instruments, notation, and sequencing) and level 1B (multimedia, Internet, and communications) courses at VCSU. The Level 1 courses will again be available summer of 2005.

For more information, contact Sara Hagen via email at [sara.hagen@vcsu.edu](mailto:sara.hagen@vcsu.edu) or by telephone locally at 845-7270 or toll-free 1-800-532-8641 ext. 3-7270.

## HONOR/MEMORIAL GIFTS

### VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Please send to: VCSU Alumni Association, 101 College Street SW, Valley City, ND 58072.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please acknowledge donation to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

**From:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

## O'Connell Scholarship Established

A scholarship in memory of former VCSU professor Jim O'Connell has been established. A 1948 graduate of Valley City State University, Jim began his career at VCSU immediately after his graduation. He became the chair of the mathematics department in 1964 and continued in that role until his retirement in 1994. Although he retired, he still continued teaching on many different levels. Students and learning were two of his major priorities.

Jim is survived by his wife of 60 years, Meryl; son, James (Barbara Kramer) of Grand Forks; daughters, Sandy (Dalton) West of Annapolis, MD; and Peggy (Dave) Sola of West Fargo; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren; and one sister.

Contributions to this memorial scholarship fund may be sent to the VCSU Foundation Office, Valley City State University, 101 College Street SW, Valley City, ND 58072.



Pete Hughes



Wanda Schwab



Casey Schweitzer



Jim Thies

## 2003 Hall of Fame Inductees



Women's basketball team from 1990-91 (left to right): Dan Taylor, Jill (Henningsgard) Taylor, Ramona (Huschka) Meiklejohn, Sue Fjellander, KaSaundra (Larson) Olstad, Donita (Stenson) Lennon, Coach Al Olson, Lena Throlson, Mary (Enstad) Fike, Kathy (Mans) Nielsen, Holly (Pow) Williams, Wanda Schwab, Jody (Baarstad) Muscha, and Becky Ust.

### Back to head of class, continued from page 1

come before her presidential duties, although the latter still occasionally pull her away from the classroom, she said.

So far this semester, she's missed three classes: one for a Board of Higher Education meeting, one to be a guest speaker at a technology conference and a third for a doctor's appointment. Chaffee was diagnosed with breast cancer Oct. 17, 2002, but she battled back with surgery and chemotherapy.

"So everything's back on track," she said.

Her years in administration have altered her approach to teaching.

"I'm probably a better teacher today than I was before, because I'm trying to teach in a way that works for me and that I think will work for them, and I'm constantly seeking feedback," she said.

That input is important because college students have changed in the past 20 years, she said, adding a shorter attention span is probably the most noticeable difference. Instead of spending hours preparing for a lecture, she now identifies goals before each class and plans hands-on activities to accomplish them.

During Thursday's class in Room 112 of Vangstad Auditorium, 17 students posted journal entries on an online "blackboard," using the laptop computers issued to every VCSU student.

Students in the class say they enjoy the laptops because they can look up assignments anytime and stay in touch more easily with instructors and other students.

Chaffee said the technology has helped her, as well.

"I wouldn't be able to teach without technology," she said. "One of the things that was always really hard for me was staying organized."

Getting up in front of a classroom used to be like climbing on a horse, she said.

"Now, it's a rocket ship or something," she said, laughing. "I've told the faculty here for years that I've never taught because it's too hard."

Michel Hillman, vice chancellor for academic and students affairs for the North Dakota University System, said there are plenty of examples of university vice presidents who teach classes, but not as many examples of presidents.

"I would say it's not real common, but it's not what I would label unusual," he said.

Sharon Etemad, president at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, is a part-time instructor in the University of North Dakota's education leadership program.

"It's important to me to keep connected with the educational process," she said.

Chaffee, 59, said she has no plans to retire anytime soon. She doesn't know yet whether she'll teach during spring semester.

"I don't know if they'll let me," she said, laughing. "I would really love to teach. It gives the campus experience its most rewarding fundamental dimension. The presidency plus teaching is, I would say, heaven."



# VCSU Foundation Corner

Larry Robinson, Director of Advancement



Larry Robinson  
Director of Advancement

## Life Insurance: The Forgotten Gift?

Do you have a life insurance policy you no longer need? Perhaps your other assets have grown to provide the protection you require, and the insurance policy lies forgotten in a safety deposit box. Did you know that the policy could make a wonderful charitable gift to Valley City State University?

Instead of giving cash or stock, you could sign over your policy to Valley City State University and, generally speaking, receive a charitable income tax deduction for

the replacement value of the policy. Valley City State University could cash in the policy and put those dormant dollars to work right away.

Your gift of life insurance can be used to establish a future endowment fund in your name... or you can honor someone else through the fund. The policy could also be used to assist with a capital project or simply give the annual fund a mighty boost.

If you have insurance you may like to contribute, or if you are

currently paying premiums on a policy and want to discover how this policy might work as a gift, contact our Advancement Director, Larry Robinson. He will be pleased to meet with you and describe the various ways insurance can be used prudently to make a planned gift. He is also available to meet with your life insurance professional, if you wish. You can reach Larry at 701-845-7217.

We also have a complimentary brochure for you on giving

insurance. You can request it over the phone or by using the handy response form below.

### Campus Beautification Fund Established

The Valley City State University Advancement Office announces the establishment of a **Campus Beautification Fund**. The fund will be used to offset costs associated with a wide variety of campus beautification projects including flower gardens, tree replacement, landscaping projects, etc. According to Larry Robinson, Director of Advancement, "There is an ongoing need to offset costs associated with a host of campus beautification related projects. We are blessed with a beautiful campus. The establishment of this fund will help us insure that the beauty of the campus is protected for years to come." **Folks interested in contributing to this fund should send their contributions to the VCSU Foundation Office, Campus Beautification Fund, Valley City State University, Valley City, North Dakota 58072.** All donors will be listed in the annual Donor Edition of *The Bulletin*.

### She's making us proud...

Following are excerpts from a letter sent to Scott and Mary Tangen from Captain Matt Rottamn, commanding officer of VCSU graduate, Kari Tangen '00.

*I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you what a wonderful soldier Kari is. She is constantly looking for ways to improve our section's performance as well as her own. She is one of the hardest working soldiers I have seen during my years in the military.*

*I'm sure you are aware that Kari intends to attend Officer's Candidate School. I have no doubt she will be successful. She exhibits many of the traits necessary to be successful as an Army officer.*

*You have raised a terrific soldier who has the potential to be an outstanding officer. You should be extremely proud of Kari and rest assured that she is a vital part of our Nation's defense. I only wish I had about ten more soldiers like her.*

#### Response Form

Dear Mr. Robinson:

- Please send me the free booklet on giving life insurance to Valley City State University.
- Please contact me on the phone. My number is:

\_\_\_\_\_ and the best time to reach me is:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Place the completed form in an envelope and mail to:*

Larry Robinson, Director of Advancement  
Valley City State University  
101 College Street SW  
Valley City, ND 58072



Melanie Hericks '02 is pictured at her white coat ceremony at Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery. She is a member of the Class of 2007.

## We'll Be Seeing You

...

### VCSU Alumni & Friends Socials

...

**DENVER, CO**  
**Jan. 10, 2004**

**MESA, AZ**  
**Feb. 7, 2004**

The Terrace Green  
at Viewpoint

**MIAMI, FL**  
**Feb. 14, 2004**

Radisson Mart  
Plaza Hotel

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN**  
**March 20, 2004**

Elk River  
American Legion

# Arneson releases new CD

Mark Arneson, who attended Valley City State University in the late 1970's, recently released a new musical CD titled "City Stories" under the name The Mark Arneson Project. Tom Surowicz, a critic for the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, says the songs of "City Stories," a concept album of urban R&B, are "catchy and undeniable slices of pep/rock/funk" that deserve to be heard (and danced to) in a lot of urban locales, both here and abroad."

Mark was born in Los Angeles, California, where he stayed in foster homes until he was adopted by loving family in North Dakota. At a young age Mark studied keyboards and at the age of 6 he gave his first recital. By the age of 7 he did his first professional gig, playing bass. At the same time still developing his keyboard skills and doing solo performances.

Mark then developed an interest in guitar. Growing up listening to top 40 radio and playing classical music, guitar was another outlet to learn another type of music – rock and roll. He ended up learning the Jimi Hendrix album "Band of Gypsies" album by the time he was 16. In an effort to "broaden" Marks musical horizons, his parents sent him to jazz camp where he developed in acute interest in saxophone. At the end of high school, he was proficient in bass, keyboards, saxophone, guitar, and two new instruments- violin and vocals.

Mark attended Valley City State College in the late 1970's and met his future wife, Beth Gusaas. At Valley City State, Mark joined the EBC Fraternity which made him eligible to direct the 18-piece jazz orchestra. He did some arranging for and conducting of the band's vocal and big band charts. During his years at college, Mark would spend his summers in Medora, North Dakota, running the soundboard for the Medora Musical and developing his ears for his future craft.

From 1981-1983, Mark joined a country rock

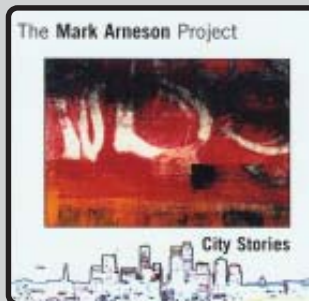
band called "Sagebrush." The band moved from Detroit Lakes to Breckenridge, Colorado, where he had the opportunity to play ski resorts in Keystone, Copper, Vail, Steamboat Springs, Winter Park, Arapahoe Basin and the Little Bear in Evergreen. In 1984, Mark moved to Fargo to play in bands and study saxophone at Moorhead State University. Mark moved to Reno, Nevada, in 1986 to play in nightclubs. There he met an internationally known Steel Guitar player named Ernie Hagar. In 1988, he moved to Minneapolis

where he worked at Schmitt Music and played in blues and country bands. Mark won a Minnesota Music Award in 1991. In 1993, Mark produced and wrote all the songs for the critically acclaimed jazz CD "Flammable Jammies" featuring some of the twin cities finest musicians.

Mark accumulated the best recording gear at the time and began to learn the art of engineering. Instead of learning on other peoples projects, he decided to use his new project "City Stories" as his learning adventure. So Mark used the best vocalists in the midwest and Paisley Park head recording engineer, Jonathan Akre, took him under his wing."

Referring to this, Mark says; "I bring everything I can to the project. I approach music in a very unique way. My theory and harmonization skills can be used in many different formats. Such as in my own CDs, I like to bring diverse elements to the music. I've always tried to keep my music as truthful as I possibly can. I know sometimes when improvising on gig, mixing a song, writing a tune, or whatever, you have to keep a window open for God to come through. 'Cause with over 35 years of performing, and over 20 years of teaching I couldn't do it without him."

The Mark Arneson Project CD "City Stories" can be found on-line at [www.tcmusic.net](http://www.tcmusic.net).





Pictured with Dr. Ellen Chaffee (right) are Art's daughters Carroll (left) and Peggy (center) presenting a cash donation in memory of their father as well as a plaque which will be permanently displayed in Rhoades Science Center.

## Dafoe Memorial

Art Dafoe '34, longtime professor and head of the Valley City State University chemistry department, died August 12, 2003. Art was employed at VCSU from 1959-1981. He was a teacher all of his life, from one-room rural schools to college except for an 11-year period when he was an auditor for GTA.

Not only was Art active in his community and church, he also served as president and treasurer of the VCSU Alumni Association and also as treasurer of V-500.

Art is survived by his wife, Nora '39; three daughters, Avis (Tom) Klinkhammer; Peggy '59 (Dale '61) Koppelman; Carroll '66 (Ken '66) Berntson; one son, Dennis '63 (Darlene). He is also survived by twelve grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

## Geske named National Music Teacher of the Year

Doris Eileen Geske has been named national MTNA Teacher of the Year by the Music Teachers National Association. Geske learned of the award by letter Tuesday at her home in Verona. Geske will receive round trip airfare to the national convention in Kansas City, Missouri in March, 2004, four nights of lodging at the conference hotel, conference registration, and tickets to the awards brunch and the Foundation gala.

Geske was previously named state Music Teacher of the Year at the North Dakota Music Teachers Association (NDMTA) Convention held October 26-28, 2001 in Williston. Recipients are 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. This year, she was nominated for the national award and the supporting documentation was reviewed by a national committee.

Geske holds Bachelors degrees in Music Education and Elementary Education with a minor in Piano Pedagogy from Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota. Prior to earning those degrees and since their completion, she has vigorously pursued additional professional development

through attendance at workshops, conventions, and concerts, as well as through private study.

She has 39 years of teaching experience in the private studio and as a public school teacher. Her students have frequently performed in NDMTA/MTNA Advancing and Non-Advancing Performance Competitions and Composition contests, NDMTA Rallies, NFMC Junior Festivals, and for the National Guild. They have been consistently well-prepared and in the last thirty years, over 100 awards on the state, regional, and national levels have been garnered by her students. Many of her high school piano students present solo recitals prior to graduation and talented youth are showcased annually through her "Young Peoples' Concerts." Many students have continued their music study on the collegiate level and are active in their own communities as music teachers, church organists, and accompanists. Geske has privately conducted her own "Audience-Building Campaign," as over the years she has treated hundreds of students to "field trips" to area recitals and symphony concerts.

She has been an active member of NDMTA/MTNA since 1978 and has twice served as President of the Valley City Music Teachers Association. Geske has been an NDMTA certified teacher for 9 years. She regularly attends state conventions and divisional competitions. Geske has also



Doris Eileen Geske

contributed through her 26 years of service to the Nationally Federated Music Clubs (NFMC) in which she is a certified adjudicator. She has been a member of Music Educators National Conference and the National Guild of Teachers of Music.

Geske has performed as a pianist in numerous recitals, master classes, and other forums. She has served her communities for over 37 years as a church organist and through frequent performances of special music.

Geske was nominated initially for the state honor by her local association, the Valley City Music Teachers Association. The national award will be presented March 31, 2004, in Kansas City, Missouri at the MTNA Conference.

## The Smithsonian is coming to Valley City!

The Barnes County Historical Society has asked for our help in gathering information for a unique exhibit coming to Valley City February 22 through April 3, 2004. During that time, the Barnes County Historical Museum will be the proud host of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program exhibit entitled "Produce for Victory". Valley City will be one of six localities in the state selected for this honor!

"Produce for Victory" is primarily an exhibit of posters dedicated to the Home Front experience of WWII. To make this exhibit a success, the Barnes County Historical Museum must provide local history and begin now to chronicle the experiences of Barnes County Citizens during that time period. They are looking for Rosie the Riveters, plane spotters, air-raid wardens, veterans of the war production industry. They need stories from anyone who remembers the rationing of gas, tires, nylons and sugar. Did you plant victory gardens; gather milkweed pods for life vests, or donate to the scrap drives? Were you a war bride? Did you work on a farm during the war? Do you have letters written during this time? They need all kinds of experiences and information, and ask that you share your experiences and memories.

If you can provide any information, please contact Wes Anderson, Director of the Barnes County Historical Museum at 315 North Central Avenue, Valley City, ND 58072. E-mail: wes\_anderson75@hotmail.com Phone: 845-0966.

The Barnes County Historical Museum does a great job and we are so proud of their accomplishments. I'd encourage you to help Wes and his crew with this project. It will be great!

Sincerely,  
Val Moritz  
Director of Alumni Relations

Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003



Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003

2003 King & Queen



This year's Homecoming King and Queen are Todd MacIver and Mel Knodel.



The former queens and kings rode on the viking ship float in the 2003 VCSU Homecoming parade.

VCSU Homecoming Royalty



Former royalty recognized at Homecoming included the following VCSU Homecoming Queens: Kathy (Mans) Nielsen, Sara (Goffe) Schafer, Wendy (Reidman) Hogue, Laura (Griffin) Becker, Louie (Mattern) Paulson, Ruth (Langemo) Steen, Leone (Langemo) Osmon, Margie (Kunz) Meyers, Darlene (Rasmussen) Granlund, Diane (Yanish) Trapp and Karen (Hansen) DeBoer.



Former VCSU Homecoming Kings returning to celebrate Homecoming included: Travis Engen, Matthew Johnson, Curt Olson, Kendall Railing, Anthony Fast, Bill Wieland, Richard Twete, John Holden, Larry Grooters and Roger Ludwig.



Football teammates reunited at Homecoming included: Ted Knutson, Scott Radloff, Mike Callahan, Jeff Hooey, Pete Hughes, Billy Willson, Jim Thies, Jon Bolstad, Todd Christianson, Jed Klein and former football coach Jim Dew.

Friends & Football



Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003

# Homecoming 2003

# Homecoming 2003



# Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003 Homecoming 2003

## Certificate of Merit



Jon Bertsch



Carole Flatau



Ken Hoerth



Rodney Oksendal



John Olstad



Sara (Goffe) Schafer



Randy Toppen



Jan (Gessner) Welken



Ken Welken



Bill Wieland

Certificate of Merit recipients honored at the Homecoming Alumni Honors Breakfast are congratulated by President Ellen E. Chaffee.

## Fun & Friends



Mel Hill '34 and Hilbert "Si" Seiwert '42



Class of 1943 class members Hildegard (Eberle) Anderson and Isabel (Muir) McLaren.



Class of 1953 members Gertrude (Amann) Solum and Donna (Lunde) Niemann.



VCSU Alumni Board President David Hanson '83 and board member Rae Ann (Rolshoven) Vandrovec '75 serve rootbeer at the tailgating picnic.



P.J. Cunningham '82 of Miami, FL, visits with VCSU Alumni board member Jim Ukestad '78 before the football game.

# Homecoming 2003

# Homecoming 2003



# Valley City State wins Mayors Cup

The presidents of Mayville State University and Valley City State University have agreed to compete for the Mayors Cup in football and the Presidents Cup in basketball. The awarding of the Mayors Cup began when the Comets hosted the Vikings in MSU's homecoming game. The Presidents Cup will be awarded in Mayville after the basketball games on February 19.



Valley City's mayor, Riley Rogers, and Mayville's mayor, Jim LeClair, following the Viking's football victory over the Comets.

The Mayors Cup will be awarded annually to the mayor whose team wins each year's football game. The mayors of Mayville and Portland will alternate with each other every year on behalf of Mayville State. The mayor of Valley City will represent Valley City State. This year, Mayville's mayor Jim LeClair, a former Comet head football coach, and Riley Rogers, mayor of Valley City, were on hand for the post-game ceremony. The picture on the right shows Mayor Rogers with the "Mayors Cup" after VCSU defeated the Comets.

The Presidents Cup is won by the college that wins the majority of the basketball games played between the colleges each year during the regular season. Each season, the men's and women's basketball teams play each other twice, once at home and once on the road. Whichever school wins at least three of the four games will win the Presidents Cup. Should the schools split the four games and a tiebreaker be needed, the Presidents Cup shall be awarded to the college in possession of the Mayors Cup (i.e. the school that won the football game).

# Benefit held for Matt Klein

A benefit for Matt Klein '97 was held Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Fargo Holiday Inn. Matt suffered a massive stroke in April 2003 that caused severe paralysis. Matt has made progress, but is still in need of extensive therapy.

Contributions may be made payable to "Matt Klein Benefit Fund" and sent to State Bank & Trust, Attn: Toni Huck, PO Box 10877, Fargo, ND 58106-0877.

# Brotherly Love

## Brian Buck quarterbacks Goodhue, and Chris Buck is the coach at Randolph

By Paul Christian, Rochester Post-Bulletin

Here's a nice dilemma. If you have a son playing quarterback on one team, and that team will play against a school coached by your other son, then whom do you root for?

Good question.

And there is no easy answer.

"All I know," Dave Buck said, "is that I'll have a football game to attend."

That would be for the Section Four, Class A championship.

Top-seeded Goodhue played host to Randolph on October 24 for one of the berths in that game.

And it just so happens that Brian Buck quarterbacks the high-flying Wildcats while Chris Buck (2001 VCSU graduate) is the second-year head coach at Randolph.

They are brothers. Dave and Ann Buck are the parents.

"Where will I sit?" I imagine the Goodhue side because that's where we always sit," Ann said. "But it's going to seem weird. But if you look at it, we can't

lose. One way or another, I'm going to be a happy mother."

One the other hand, somebody has to lose, too.

Chris graduated from Goodhue seven years ago. He played football at Rochester Community and Technical College for two years, then played both football and baseball at Valley City State University for two years before landing a teaching job at Randolph.

He was named head football coach last year.

"What's really going to be strange is standing on the other sideline, across from the Goodhue side," Chris said. "I've played and sat on the Goodhue side of the field a number of times, and now for the first time I'll be on the other side."

"It should be a lot of fun," said Brian. "I don't think we'll talk before the game, but once it's over, I'm sure we'll meet and give each other a hug."

# 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@vcsu.edu

# Students honor soldiers, including teacher

By Nancy Hull, Salina Journal

Selecia Herrman draws a pretty good Blackhawk helicopter for a 7-year old.

With crayons, she even draws a red, white and blue flag on its tail.

Like the rest of the students who were in Susan (Miller) Jordan's first and second grade combination class at Meadowlark Ridge Elementary School this past school year. Selecia's plenty familiar with the helicopters. Classmate Katie Garr's father, Jason, is a Blackhawk pilot in the Salina-based National Guard unit that's been in Bosnia since January.

And there was a poster of a flying Blackhawk on the side of Susan Jordan's desk—she, too, is a Blackhawk pilot for the Guard.

Those ties influenced Selecia's idea for her page of the book her class created, "Somewhere Today...." Selecia's page says "Somewhere today an American soldier is flying a Blackhawk in the dark," and in her picture, the helicopter is flying among stars while a gigantic, half-moon watches.

As a way to mesh all the writing skills the students were learning this spring, Jordan had the class

write and edit a book dealing with the war in Iraq.

During a book-signing party last June, Susan read the published book to her former students and some of their parents. She also had some news for them: She was leaving for Afghanistan.

Gathered in a circle, Susan showed the children Afghanistan on a world globe, told them they can e-mail her while she's gone, and then, she'll return.

A bold and energetic Susan Jordan presented the book, and some of the words provoked emotion on parents' faces.

"Somewhere today an American soldier is writing a letter to his family."

"Somewhere today an American soldier is bringing water to thirsty people."

"Somewhere today an American soldier is missing."

"Somewhere today an American soldier is holding a child's hand."

Katie Garr, the former second-grader whose dad is in Bosnia wrote, "Somewhere today an American soldier is thinking about his daughter."

She drew a broad-shouldered man in camouflage standing next to an American flag, and pictured in a thought bubble is a girl. That girl, Katie said, is her, and the blue-eyed soldier is her dad.

"Just hearing Miss Jordan read it brought tears to my eyes," said Kathie Garr, Katie's mother.

Around the children and parents, Susan kept her composure.

Leaving, she said, is not something she dwells on. She simply views it as a duty, and when she's called upon, she'll do her best and then return to the community.

"If you dwell on it too much, it'll drive you crazy," Susan said. "The best thing you can do is train and be ready."

Susan has spent 25 years in the Guard and began flying 18 years ago. Her unit is based in Edmond, Oklahoma. She and her husband, Jeffry, moved to Salina in August when Jeffry, who's in the Air National Guard, took the commander job at the Smokey Hill Weapons Range.

Susan is a chief warrant officer

and master Army aviator. She flies medivac missions which bring aid to civilians.

"I truly love helping people," Susan said.

Helping people is what ties teaching and her service duty together.

"I love teaching," she said, turning up one hand. "I love flying," she said as she looked to the other hand.

"I get the best of both worlds."

In the classroom, Susan said she approached war from a motherly perspective. When students had questions, she said she tried to answer them the way parents would want. She and her husband have an 8-year old daughter, Samantha.

Susan said she's been preparing at home for her departure by making sure her husband knows all those mom things, like how to braid hair.

Susan is the daughter of Lloyd and Kathy Miller of Valley City.

## The Bush Foundation awards VCSU with another grant

By Dr. Terry Corwin, Director of Assessment & Professional Development

In July, the Bush Foundation awarded a faculty development renewal grant to VCSU. The award is for \$50,000 each year for three years. Mini-grants for individuals and divisions/departments will be available over the next three years. Assessment of student learning, specifically for divisions/departments, is a priority in this proposal. The grant also funds the Summer Institute. The first

call for mini-grants will be in October. Goals of proposal based on findings and recommendations from the Bush Planning Grant Committee, the outcomes of the 2000 and 2001 - 2003 Bush proposals, and the new campus strategic plan; the goals of the 2003 - 2006 proposal are:

1. To implement the assessment plan formulated in 2001 and approved by NCA. Developing valid and reliable evidence

concerning the impact of our learning environments on student outcomes is essential.

2. To support faculty in the implementation of new teaching and learning strategies.

3. To provide ongoing opportunities for faculty to further pursue their online and distance learning innovations. Continued exposure to online software and pedagogy are important in the university's approach to learning.

4. To disseminate our research and assessment findings at regional and national conferences and workshops.

For more information and specific grant objectives contact Linda Whitney or your divisional representative to the Faculty Development committee.



# VCSU SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

**Friday, April 23, 2004  
Valley City Eagles**

Contributions  
for the auction  
may be directed to:

Val Moritz at  
1-800-532-8641  
ext. 37403

## Reunited

Vince Olson '57 and Bill Nagle met in Korea and became good friends. When Vince left Korea in July of 1952, they promised to stay in touch. And they tried, but didn't succeed until 50 years later.



Vince was honored by the VCSU Alumni Association in the fall of 2000 and his photo appeared in the December edition of *The Bulletin*. Bill's friend, Bob Taylor, saw the photo and forwarded the paper to Bill. Bill and Vince finally connected by phone.

Vince and Bill met in Tacoma, Washington, at the reunion of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, U.S. Army.



## Ployhar Honor Band Festival held in Valley City

The "first annual" honor band festival was held October 17-18. The initial festival was dedicated to (and named after) VCSU alum, James D. Ployhar '49.

During the honor band concert, James was honored with the "Golden Baton Award" from Kappa Kappa Psi, a national band honor society which serves college or university band programs through service projects, fundraisers, social events, etc.

## Wildlife Biology Position Open

The VCSU Science Department invites applications from qualified individuals for a full time Biology faculty position available August 2004. The purpose of this position is to help establish and strengthen a fisheries and wildlife program. The candidate will be expected to teach an introductory non-majors biology course, wildlife/fisheries management courses, and a class in their field of expertise. Additional consideration will be given to candidates with expertise in any area of vertebrate zoology. Masters required and Doctorate preferred. This position will be a five year contract with possible conversion to tenure track. Implementation of this position is dependent on external funding. If you have interest in this position or would like more information, please contact Alice Beauchman at 701-845-7452 or email her at [alice.beauchman@vcsu.edu](mailto:alice.beauchman@vcsu.edu).



# VCSU Music Reunion



Master of Ceremonies for the banquet was Larry Nelson '71.



Alumni who performed during the banquet were: Tim Fogderud '69, Linda (Rome) Loe '69, Carol (Potter) Winter '68, Barbara (Nilsen) Roberts '70, Diane Townsend '71, Harold Foley '66, and Yvonne (Enervold) Emery '69.



Alumni responsible for the organization of the music reunion were: Diane Townsend '71, Carol (Potter) Winter '68, Lavonne (Carlson) Rustad '72, and Harold Foley '66.



Enjoying the reunion were Susan (Piper) '70 and Gene Boyle '69 and Jim Bernstson '70.



Linda (Rome) '69 and Robert Loe '69, Anna (Peter) Langness '66, Blair '67 and Yvonne (Enervold) '69 Emery.



Leon '70 and Lujane (Morlock) Opdahl '71



Special guests at the music alumni reunion were former VCSU instructors Loren Waa and Ray Miller pictured here with VCSU President Ellen Chaffee (Center).



## VCSU Alumni Reunion Decade of the 1960's

June 18 & 19, 2004 ~ Valley City State University

Join your classmates for a reunion at Valley City State University. Plans are still being made so watch your mail for specific details.

### Friday, June 18

- ❖ Lunch with VCSU Board of Directors and VCSU Retired Faculty and Staff
- ❖ Campus and community tours
- ❖ Picnic
- ❖ Evening activity

### Saturday, June 19

- ❖ Valley City "Rally in the Valley" Parade (VCSU 1960's members will have a float!)
- ❖ Car Show
- ❖ Lunch with Dr. Chaffee
- ❖ Flea Market
- ❖ Street Dance

## DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Valley City State is increasingly using e-mail to communicate with our alumni and friends.

Don't be left out!

**Send your e-mail address to:**  
**val.moritz@vcsu.edu**

Help us stay connected to you!



# Viking Highlights



## 2003-04 Women's Basketball Outlook



Coach DeVries

The Valley City State University women's basketball team experienced a little bit everything last season.

There were injuries and illnesses that rearranged the ending of a standout career, sidelined veterans for a stretch of time and also caused freshmen to miss several contests.

With those experiences safely in the past, head coach Jill DeVries is looking forward to the start of the Vikings 2003-04 campaign.

VCSU returns six lettermen, including two starters, and will rely heavily on the play of a batch of promising imports to improve upon last seasons 7-19 record.

All DAC-10 guard Jessica James, 5-7 senior (Alexander, ND), headlines a cast of returnees that gained important seasoning in 2002-03. James is anxious to return to the backcourt and lead the Vikings in their up-tempo style of play. Fellow senior, 6-0 forward Kristel Engelby (Hoffman, MN) gives VCSU much needed experience on the inside.

In addition, DeVries returns four other letterwinners, including 5-7 sophomore guard Janae Larson (Valley City), 5-10 sophomore forward Darcie Engelby (Hoffman, MN), 5-9 sophomore forward Danni Matthews (Fergus Falls, MN), and 5-10 sophomore Jody Langerud (Ulen, MN).

Larson and Engelby (Darcie) filled vital roles last season and will be expected to contribute even more this season. Larson averaged 7.7 ppg and 2.9 rpg in 22 minutes per game and had a coming-out party with 21 points against Huron. Engelby averaged 5.3 ppg and 4.2 rpg inside for VCSU.

While there are great expectations for the incumbents this winter, DeVries also has high expectations for 5-11 junior guard Lacey Turcotte (Trenton, ND), a transfer from Williston State College, 6-0 red-shirt freshman Beth Orthman (Lemmon, SD), and 6-2 freshman center Loni Hall (Parshall, ND).

"We hope to be able to blend returning players with new players to find success," said DeVries. "We've added talent and depth to our team and I believe that we will be able to score better than we have in the past. We want to play an up-tempo style and out rebound teams. Hopefully we'll be able to stay injury free and use our depth to our advantage all season."

That depth can be seen on the perimeter for VCSU in 5-11 junior forward Nicolle James, a transfer from Williston State College. James averaged 9.3 ppg and 7.9 rpg for the Tetons in 2002-03. Freshmen are also expected to make their presence

felt in 2003-04. Five-nine forward Ashley Pfaff (Ipswich, SD), 5-7 guard Molly Schultz (Casselton, ND), 5-9 guard Katie Floyd (Kenai, AK), 5-7 guard Jackie O'Neill (Maplewood, MN), 5-6 guard Cassie Francis (Cooperstown, ND) and 6-0 forward Shannon Mundfrom (Greeley, CO) will all battle for playing time throughout the season.

The Vikings will be put to the test early as they face a demanding 18-game DAC-10 schedule and perhaps an even tougher non-conference schedule including the University of Sioux Falls and Dakota Wesleyan, NAIA Final Four teams from a year ago, and showdowns with MSU-Moorhead and North Dakota State as well.

"This is an exciting time for VCSU women's basketball. We believe that we have the talent to get us back to the glory days of the program. It is going to take a lot of hard work and some time to figure out what we do well, but I believe that this group of young ladies can help rebuild that tradition of excellence that Viking fans are accustomed to," said DeVries.

**Athletic schedules  
available at  
[www.vcsu.edu](http://www.vcsu.edu)**

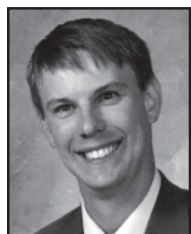




# Viking Highlights



## 2003-04 Men's Basketball Season Preview



Coach DeHaan

The third edition of the Adam DeHaan basketball era begins at Valley City State University. After logging the Vikings first 13 win season since 1988-89, DeHaan is confident that measurable success is around the corner. "Expectations have been raised for our program. If we continue to build team confidence, work hard and make plays, we will reach our goals." DeHaan will craft this team with solid returnees, impact transfers, and talented youngsters. Among the letter winners, 6-3 senior point guard Mario Lewis (Jackson, MS) expects to emerge as a premier DAC-10 player. After a consistent season last year which saw him average 8.3 points and 5 rebounds per contest, Lewis is poised to increase his scoring while establishing relentless ball pressure defensively. "Mario has worked hard to develop his jump shot. His confidence in our system is evident and we look forward to Mario leading the team," DeHaan said. 6-5 sophomore Brandon Bata (Kensal) was pressed into heavy play as a freshman after injuries decimated the post rotation. He responded by finishing second in the DAC-10 in field goal percentage (58%) and leading the team in rebounding (5.2reb/game). "Bata is already battle tested," DeHaan stated. "He will only improve as his career progresses." Garth McFadden, 6-2 senior, stands poised to replace all-conference guard Austin McCullough (116 3pt FG's) at the 2-guard position. McFadden (Buffalo, MN) struggled through nagging injuries last year, but played well late. McFadden converted 40% of his 3-point opportunities and averaged 6.1 ppg. "When Garth feeds off of his team mates and lets the game come to him, he is one of the most precise shooters in the conference," DeHaan stated. Two other Viking returnees saw extensive action last year. 6-2 senior Jon Hippe (Froid, MT) is expected to stretch defenses with his shooting ability. The system employed by the Vikings places a premium on the long ball which utilizes his strength. Gulfport, Mississippi bruiser Marcus Oatis brings a physical presence to the post rotation. The 6-5, 260 pound senior relishes the opportunity to defend and rebound. Red shirts Kevin Faulkner and Steve Trudeau had a year to adjust to DAC-10 play and are looking forward to competing for roles this season. A 5-10 transfer from Bismarck State College, Faulkner (Detroit, MI) will compete at the point guard position. Trudeau (Mayville) used his red shirt year well, becoming stronger and working on his jump shot. The 6-6 forward will play both the small and power forward positions this season. The Vikings expect two transfers to assert themselves immediately. 2000 North Dakota Mr. Basketball, Tyrone Terry (Valley City), will play his final two years of eligibility in a Viking uniform. The 6-4 wing transfers from North Dakota State University. DeHaan expressed enthusiasm about the transfer, "Ty is a dynamic personality. That personality carries onto the floor where we will depend on him to be a defensive stopper and basket maker." Garrison native Matt Klabo, brings a scoring presence to the

power forward position. The 6-7 MSU-Bottineau transfer averaged 21.7 points and 11.3 rebounds for the Lumberjacks last season. "Klabo has shown a single minded focus – winning. It is fun to coach guys with that edge." A weakness of Valley City State University has been size. This is no longer the case with the arrival of two solid post players. Nick Lee (Glenburn) held down the center position at MSU-Bottineau the past two years. This past year the 6-7 Lee averaged 12.7 points and 7.8 rebounds a game while shooting 52% from the field. Levi Mitchell took the past year off from college basketball after playing at Dawson Community College in Glendive, Montana. The 6-8, 270 pound post from Glendive has shown promise in fall workouts and will figure into the mix. A trio of youngsters arrives on the VCSU campus hungry for playing time. Dickinson Trinity standout Brady Ernst was a two-time Class B All-State player. The 6-1 guard averaged 16.7 points per game for the Class B runner-up Titans. DeHaan commented on Ernst's strengths, "Brady has deceiving athleticism and an uncanny ability to make his team mates better." 6-7 Cando native, Jon Lindahl, was also a North Dakota Class B All-State selection. Lindahl converted 76 3-point field goals as a senior on his way to scoring 1237 career points. "His skill and feel for the game will enable him to compete for minutes as a true freshman," DeHaan continued. Jackson Sussex (Milbank SD) rounds out the freshman class. The 6-0 point guard averaged 14 points, 6 rebounds, and 3 assists per contest while leading the Bulldogs to a consolation championship in the South Dakota Class A Tournament. Valley City State University made a splash on the NAIA scene last year by finishing sixth in 3-point field goal percentage (40.4%). This feat is especially interesting when you take into account that VCSU set a DAC-10 record for 3-point field goals made (284). The Vikings finished 5th in the DAC-10 last season and are hungry to take the next step. "We have made great strides the past two seasons, but let's be honest — we let a home playoff game slip through our fingers by not sweeping our last three games at home," DeHaan surmised. "That motivation has propelled us through the summer and into fall workouts. The new players are hungry and have infused their energy into the program. We are looking forward to the challenges of our opponents." And challenges are what their opponents have planned. Early season opponents include NCAA II Minnesota State University Moorhead. The Dragons are coming off an 18 win season a year ago. The Vikings will travel to Sioux Center, Iowa, to take on perennial GPAC powers, University of Sioux Falls and host Dordt College. DeHaan expects the DAC-10 to be perhaps the strongest conference in NAIA II. Jamestown returns all five starters from their Elite 8 team of last year. Black Hills and Minot have added incredible talent and could both be ranked in the NAIA II preseason poll. "New talent has been infused throughout the league. The teams that can keep it together and play consistent ball every weekend have a great chance to play deep into March."

## VCSU Success Stories

**Rod Oksendahl '73** was named 2003 Male Team Coach of the Year by the North Dakota Associated Press Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

**Bob Bowen '70**, Quartermaster of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2764 of Valley City, was honored with an All State Post Commander award for 2002-03.

**Gary Tharaldson '67** was inducted into the Norsk Hostfest Scandinavian – American Hall of Fame at the annual SAHF banquet held during the 2003 Norsk Hostfest.

**Bev (Rambough) Enger '74** received the Outstanding Adult Educator of the Year Award at the North Dakota Adult Basic and Secondary Education Conference.

## Olson receives Ph.D.

Dawn Olson (Shafer) received her Ph.D. in Education with a Major in Higher Education from the University of North Dakota August 8, 2003. Dr. Olson is an Assistant Professor at Valley City State University in the Division of Business and Information Technology.

## NSF awards Department of Math and Computer Science with grant

The National Science Foundation has announced that Curt Hill of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Valley City State University has been awarded an Information Technology Research grant funded for \$266,403 over three years starting on September 15, 2003. The grant is entitled: *Accelerating Computer Science Education* will be used to enhance Computer Science Education at VCSU as well as United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck. The focus of the grant is on the continued development and deployment of ProgrammingLand MOO, which is an online computerized, instructional system developed by Curt Hill and currently used at VCSU.

## Alexander continues research

Bonnie Alexander, Associate Professor of Biology spent her fourth summer researching the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (federally listed as “threatened”) in the Sheyenne National Grassland east of Lisbon, ND. She is working under a Federal Forest Service research grant. Assisted by student Warren Micheal, they collected data on several hundred orchids. This research project will continue through the fall and resume again next summer.

Bonnie also traveled in June to the Flint Hills of Kansas. This area is the largest tract of native tall grass prairie still in existence in the United States. She collected several hundred native prairie plants to add to the ever expanding VCSU botanical herbarium. She also collected plants in the Osage Hills of Oklahoma. Aside from collecting plants, another goal of her travels was to observe a live possum in a pouch, but alas, the possums she saw all ran too fast and eluded capture (they are nocturnal and she was chasing them in the dark). Incidentally, the possum is the only marsupial in the United States and has now been found in North Dakota.

## Time Out

### Solheim induction was a treat

By Luther Dorr, Princeton Union-Eagle

Players from at least five decades, and many friends and some former opponents, were in attendance as Howard “Swede” Solheim was inducted into the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame. Solheim was the Princeton Legion baseball coach from 1956-1979 where he compiled a 355-169 record. John Gloege, the coach who followed Solheim, was the master of ceremonies for the evening. He read the letter of nomination for Solheim which told of his accomplishments. But nothing Gloege said, or anything the presenters said, could match what former players and one former opposing coach had to say afterward.

“Thanks for the memories, the support and the direction you provided a lanky left-hander as he was growing up. You’ll never fully understand how much it meant to me,” said a former player.

Another former player talked about the different reasons why kids begin, or keep on, playing sports, some of them good, some of them quirky. But, he said, Solheim coached for the right reason – “because he loved the game.”

## Rory Froehlich promoted to colonel

Lt. Col. Rory T. Froehlich '83 was promoted Colonel at a promotion ceremony on June 23, 2003. The ceremony was held at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, VA.

Col. Rory Froehlich, son of Leo W. Froehlich and Jacqueline Froehlich, began his military career in 1975 as an enlisted soldier with the North Dakota Army National Guard. He was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant upon graduation from Officer Candidate School in 1978. As a traditional guardsman he has served as a platoon leader, executive officer, company commander, and battalion S4. In 1989 Capt. Froehlich went on active duty as an assistant professor of Military Science at the University of North Dakota. In 1991 he reported for duty with the ARNG Comptroller, was promoted to major and served in the Budget Formulation Branch, Execution and Analysis Branch and as the Counterdrug analyst for the Comptroller Division.

Major Froehlich was then transferred to the Pentagon and served four years as the Army National Guard Liaison to the assistant secretary of the Army for

Financial Management in the Army Budget Office. He returned to the Army National Guard Readiness Center, was promoted to lieutenant colonel and served as the senior budget officer in Budget Formulation and as Chief, Budget Formulation prior to appointment as Chief, Resource Management. Col. Froehlich has been appointed as the Division Chief of Personnel Programs, Manpower, and Resource Division, NGB-ARM, effective July 1, 2003.

His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star and Headquarter Department of Army Staff Badge.

Col. Froehlich graduated from VCSU with a bachelor of science degree with majors in business administration. He holds a master of business administration from Troy State University.

Col. Froehlich is married to Lisa Graves Froehlich of Jamestown. They have two children, Ashley and Justin.

# Student Success After Graduation

by Dr. Joseph Stickler (Taken from excerpts of the chemistry program review)

The anecdotal descriptions which follow will provide a picture of the success of Valley City State University chemistry graduates. Not only are VCSU Chemistry majors viably employed across the nation, many choose to remain in North Dakota to fill critically needed positions.

Additionally, the number of VCSU chemistry majors completing professional programs in allied health fields and advanced degrees in chemistry has been impressive. Student success rates after graduation offer the most convincing argument for the quality of the program and its continued support. Not only do these success stories contribute to the image of quality education at VCSU, many of these graduates will become affluent enough to make considerable contributions to their alma mater in the future.

Both **Robert Gilbertson** (93) and **Brooks Hornstein** (N/A) means that the student attended VCSU for several years, but did not graduate) have completed Ph.D.'s in Chemistry (at the University of Oregon and New Mexico State University, respectively) and are now working at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. **Kevin Peterson** (89), after teaching for three years at Sheyenne, ND, returned to

school and completed a Ph.D. in biochemistry at North Dakota State University.

**Jim Pechacek** (86) completed a Masters degree in chemistry at the University of Nebraska and is employed by Dow Chemical Company. **Jill McCleary-Bayley** (87) earned a Masters in cereal chemistry at NDSU and is a research assistant at Ore-Ida Foods in Payette, ID. **Travis Martin** (99) completed a Masters degree in Chemistry at North Dakota State University and is currently employed as a scientist at Dakota Technologies, Inc. in Fargo.

The following chemistry majors are either currently in Optometry School or are practicing optometrists: **Linda Tran** (99), **John Horner** (82), **Tami Anderson** (00), **Tim Pinke** (N/A), **Mark Hoss** (N/A), **Jeremy Anderson** (95), **Cheryl Mitzel Fenno** (82), **Amy Mitzel DuBois** (N/A), and **Ashlee Arlien** (02). Recently, Amy Mitzel Dubois was the named the North Dakota Young Optometrist of the Year.

**Angela Dolleschlager** (99) and **Laura Wagner** (N/A) are practicing pharmacists. **Jason Drake** (96) is a chiropractic doctor in Fargo, and **Eric Vangerud** (86) is a respiratory therapist at Arnold Palmer Hospital in Orlando, Florida. **Bryan Gerhardt** (96) is a

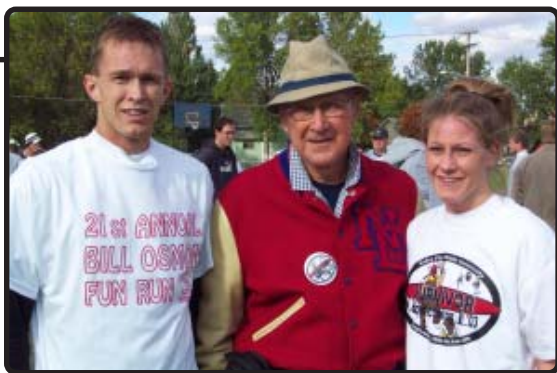
business support scientist at Kimberly-Clark in Appleton, Wisconsin, and **Wayne Triebold** (95) is Fuel Cell Business Development Manager at Toray Composites, Inc. in Tacoma, Washington. **Ignacio Areas** (98) is laboratory technician at Beta Analytic, Inc. in Miami, Florida. **Durand Johnson** (91) is the Director of Educational Programs and the Planetarium at the Sciworks Museum in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The following chemistry majors are employed as chemists in private or government businesses in the State of North Dakota. **Greg Sandness** (91) and **Todd Ussatis** (96) are both employed as chemists at the North Dakota Department of Health in Bismarck. **Jim Severson** (83) is the chief chemist at National Sun Industries in Enderlin, ND. **Jeff Dolliver** (95) works at Progold in Wahpeton, ND as a technician. **Bob Buskness** (93) is the Chief Health and Safety Officer at the ND Pasta Growers Co. in Carrington, ND. **Greg McCarthy** (94) works as a research scientist at the Great Plains Synfuel Plant in Hazen, ND. **Heath Weber** (00) is a quality control chemist at the Spiritwood Malting Plant in Spiritwood, ND.

The following chemistry

graduates are secondary science teachers: **Casey McCausland** (98) Cotter High School in Winona, MN; **Paul Zimmer** (99) Port Orchard, WA; **Kristi Grooters Stuber** (00) Hawley, MN; **Karla Grooters Callies** (86), Fargo South H.S. ND; **Darin Walters** (02) Grand Forks Central, ND; **Kirk Misialek** (87) East Grand Forks H.S. MN; **Dale Miller** (97) Red River H.S., Grand Forks, ND; **Brenda Steffens** (91); **Jon Gums** (97), and **Michael Mostad** (95) Breckenridge, MN.

In continuing communications with these graduates, Dr. Stickler hears nothing but praise for the preparation they have received at VCSU. A recent visit to the ND State Health Department, Todd Ussatis told Dr. Stickler that most of his colleagues come from Division I schools and his background was easily as good or better than most. Dr. Stickler devotes the last five minutes of his General Chemistry class every Friday to highlight one of his former students as the "Person of the Week." If you find some of Professor Stickler information out-of-date or you were a chem major that did not get included, please correspond with him by phone, letter or email. He would enjoy hearing from you. You might even be his next "Person of the Week."



## 2003 Osmon Fun Run

The winners of the 21st Annual Bill Osmon Fun Run are **Matt Swenson** and **Meagan Dufault**. Congratulations Megan and Matt!

## Track meet named in Jensen's honor

The Wahpeton-Breckenridge Kiwanis Club renamed its annual high school invitational track meet as the "Owen 'OJ' Jensen Track Meet." OJ (a 1965 VCSU grad) died last November after a brief illness. He served as North Dakota State College of Science men's track and field coach from 1975-2002 and also taught in the Business Administration program. OJ's teams won six regional championships in track and five in cross country. His student athletes placed 23 times in national competitions and won 112 individual regional titles. He also coached 23 All-Americans. OJ was named National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIII Coach of the Year four times. He was named NDSCS Educator of the Year in 1997. OJ was also active nationally and internationally in track and field, serving as: javelin official at the 1996 Centennial Olympics in Atlanta; assistant manager of the 1989 World University Games in West Germany; and an official at numerous national championships, Olympic trials and Pan American and Good will games.

# Vikings on the Move

## 1930's

**Ella Mae (Johnson) Neumiller '39** says some of her best years were spent at VCSU. She taught for 34 years until retiring in 1984. After her retirement, Ella taught in Singapore and had a great experience traveling in Thailand, Hong Kong, and Penang. Ella and her husband, Al, have been married for 61 years. They have traveled extensively and now spend their winters in Arizona and the remainder of the year in Washington.

## 1940's

**Katherine (Freeman) Swalling '42** attended VCSU from 1939-1942 and spent three delightful years in the old West Hall dorm. She spent several years teaching in Minnesota, Montana, Alaska, Washington and Hawaii. She married her husband, Ernest, and has lived in Anchorage, AK, since 1956. Katherine feels her success as a teacher was due to the education she received at VCSU and is especially grateful to her wonderful practice teaching supervisor.

## 1960's

**Jeanette (Schaack) Holm '60** retired after 40 years of teaching – 36 at the ND Youth Correctional Center. She continues to be the "Hat Lady," a motivational-humorous speaker. Jeanette and her husband, Logan, enjoy traveling, especially to be with their three grandchildren.

**Dwight Leier '68** is not coaching football this fall for the first time in 35 years. One of the all-time winningest coaches in North Dakota prep history retired with 242 victories. His work with a crop insurance company was too demanding, he said. Dwight retired from teaching in 2000. He began coaching 9-man football at nearby Esmond in 1968. Esmond and Maddock formed a

cooperative in 1983 until 1992 when Esmond closed.

**Terry Dunphy '68** retired from education in 2001 and enjoyed 1 ½ years of golfing, hunting, and traveling to sporting events. He has now entered the world of finance and is employed as a loan officer for Midwest Financial Mortgage. Wife, Jolene, is employed by the Grand Forks school district.

**Jerry Gauderman '69** was employed by the Wimbledon-Courtenay School system until 2002. He served as high school math teacher for 7 years, 3 years as high school principal and the last 23 years as superintendent. Jerry retired in 2002 but is currently serving as superintendent of schools in Shell Lake, WI.

## 1970's

**Sgt. Edmund Gruchalla '75** retired in July from the North Dakota Highway Patrol. He retired after 25 years of service.

## 1980's

**Todd Christiansen '82** became the manager of the Valley City Town and Country Club in June. He had worked at Stoudt-Ross Ford for the past 17 years. Todd and his wife, Tres (Pritchard) have two daughters, Tonia, who attends VCSU, Tiffany, 17, and a son, Trevor.

**Gail (Berge) Miller '84** and her family have been in Sauke Centre, MN, for two years. Gail is part owner of Mortgages on Main and her husband, Jeff, is with Edward Jones. Daughter, Kari, is a senior in high school and is looking at VCSU. Son, Joseph, is in the tenth grade.

**Jeff Ditch '89** has been named assistant baseball coach at West Virginia University. Along with being the team's hitting coach, Jeff is also in charge of the infielders. Most recently, Jeff spent five

seasons as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Cincinnati. From 1994-98, Jeff served as recruiting coordinators and hitting instructor at Penn State. He also coached at St. Cloud State.

**Gary '89 and Naomi (Wieland) Schafer '89** and their family have relocated to the Seattle, WA, area where they are enjoying their new home.

## 1990's

**Kari (Miller) Mohs '91** is employed by Cenex Harvest States in Kindred, ND, as a bookkeeper. She and her husband, Mike, live in Horace. Kari's stepson, Toren, is 17 and a senior at West Fargo High School. Son, Zachary, is 6 years old and just started first grade; daughter, Brianna, is 15-months old. Life is pretty busy with the kids and work. Her new pastime (when there is time) is scrapbooking since she takes lots of pictures.

**Scott and Kathryn (Mrozla) Webster '91** are residing in Fargo, ND. Kathryn is still working at Trinity Preschool Daycare in Moorhead, MN, as an Assistant Toddler Teacher and absolutely loves her job. Scott has started a new job in Moorhead and is active in the Music & Drama Ministry at First Assembly of God church and is ministering at the Evergreens Assisted Living complex in Fargo.

**Steve Ondracek '92** has recently joined Security Insurance Agency in Valley City as an insurance agent. Steve and his wife, Karolee, have two children.

**Connie Ova '92** was recently named chief executive officer of the Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation. She had been serving as the interim CEO since August. Prior to that time, Connie had been the training and projects coordinator,

a position funded by the JSDC and NDSOS.

**James Boe '92**, lecturer in technology education at VCSU, was one of 20 individuals selected nationally to create a strategic plan for the technology education teacher preparation profession. This plan will be presented at the 2004 International Technology Education Conference.

**Troy and Janelle (Sorby) Wittenburg '94** have moved to Wahpeton, ND, where both have started new jobs. Troy does public relations for the Wahpeton-Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce and Janelle worked for the Wahpeton Police Department. They have two girls: Hannah (7) and Marah (5).

**Heidi (Wolf) Reichart '94** is teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade Modular Technology and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Multimedia Production and Tech skills in Ankeny, IA. Heidi credits her education and experience at VCSU in getting this position.

**Randy Russell '95** has returned to Deposit, NY, and is employed as the Middle & High School principal at his alma mater.

**Darin '95 and Tanya (Sortland) Leick '96** of St. Cloud, MN, are the parents of a daughter, Maisie Jean, born July 18, 2003. Maisie joins a brother, Noah, at home.

**Tricia Pethick '96** is teaching special education in Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan, and is also employed as an EMS. Tricia is getting married on July 10, 2004. Life couldn't be better.

**Denny Waloch '97** is celebrating his fifth year of employment with Walgreen's. On 10-18-03, Denny married Jennifer Blattner of Cedar Rapids, IA.

**Bob Hanson '98** has accepted a position as information technology/information systems

VOM, continued on page 23 —

# In Remembrance

Ina (Sletten) Noecker, Valley City  
 Leona (Pewe) Breckheimer, McVillage  
 Vera (Lentz) Fey, Fargo  
 Neva (Quick) Hanson, Cooperstown  
 Carol Jean (Larson) Carlisle, Fargo  
 Myrtle Olson, Fargo  
 Agnes Houdek, Lacey, WA  
 Harold Sisson, Everett, WA  
 Gerry Kringlie '60, Randall, MN  
 Rita (McCabe) Rabak '36, Lubbock, TX  
 Vernice Helberg '49, Klamath Falls, OR  
 Ruth Jordan, Fargo  
 Ethel (Oppegard) Thyberg, Council Bluffs, IA  
 Ruth (Myer) Urness, Park River  
 Glenn Dorr '68, Milnor  
 Regis (Mahan) Smith '39, Tacoma, WA  
 Irene (Irving) Elhard, Ashley  
 Ruth (Hiller) Buchholtz '37, Casselton  
 Kristy (Azure) Komrosky, Valley City  
 Henrietta (Klar) Riemann, Hankinson  
 Martha Dobrinz '39, Bainbridge Island, WA  
 Arthur Schmidt, Aurora, CO  
 Alton Sanden '38, Fargo  
 Ila (Fornshell) Schimke '57, Hebron  
 Margaret (Spink) Steidl '46, Tacoma, WA  
 Marjorie (Scribner) Hoefs '29, Hankinson  
 Esther Myrdal '48, Las Vegas, NV  
 Edna (Wahl) Pierce, Cannon Falls, MN  
 Roderick Gillund, Enderlin  
 Mary (Sammons) Wick, Pelican Rapids, MN  
 Patsy (Cowell) Kasner '40, San Marcos, CA  
 Stephen Moberg, Port St. Lucie, FL  
 Lyda M. Holstad '32, Escondido, CA  
 David Altringer, Denver CO  
 Hazel (Nicholson) Little, Park Rapids, MN  
 Leonard Martin, Frazee, MN  
 Jennifer (Erdelt) Schafer '90, Beulah  
 Helen (Rustad) Grange, Fargo  
 Albert Possen, Sheyenne  
 Hilda (Shirley) Otto, Mandan  
 Irene (Lang) Krause '44, Gackle  
 Theresa (Mucha) Encke, Jamestown  
 Jack Carlson '72, Dickinson  
 Sylvia (Woldseth) Ness, Larimore  
 Ruth Zuern '90, Hazen  
 Kenneth Mogck, Edgeley  
 Eleanor (Skonnord) Sanden '58, Mesa  
 Julia (Thorson) Nustad, Detroit Lakes, MN  
 Nina (Swartaut) Van Winkle, Jamestown  
 Lynda (VanDyke) Rowell '87, Fairbault, MN  
 Marie (Larvick) Rindahl, Fargo  
 Hulda Dramstad '31, Cooperstown  
 Alma (Bjornhei) Gallagher, Carrington  
 Calista (DeVore) Keim '46, Bismarck

*Former VCSU Staff*  
 Art Dafoe '34, Fargo  
 Mary Hening, Fargo  
 Wayne Schoenig, Fort Collins, CO  
 Jim O'Connell '48, Valley City

# Weddings...

Ryan Graalum '90 married Lori Fitzjarrald - 5-3-03  
 Mark Berg '93 married Bridget Kartes - 6-14-03  
 Kelli Moore '03 married Jeremy Stizler - 7-5-03  
 Sheila Huebner '01 married Justin Raml - 7-12-03  
 Jay Oettle '96 married Amie Heim - 7-12-03  
 Jill Wieser '02 married Scott Kuster - 7-12-03  
 Emelia Schroeder '00 married Tyler Stover - 7-18-03  
 Beth Althoff '03 married Ben Mauch -  
 Emily Mrozla '03 married Benjamin Richard - 7-19-03  
 Mandi Groth '03 married Joshua Radcliffe - 7-19-03  
 Nylenne Myhre '01 married Arlen Schiele - 7-19-03  
 Kristina Heinz '01 married Chris Metcalfe '01 - 7-19-03  
 Ryan Maddock '96 married Sarah Huso - 8-9-03  
 Andy Sather '03 married Kellie Johnsen - 8-23-03  
 Doreen Johnson '93 married Steven Clark - 9-13-03  
 Travis Elesperger '98 married Melissa Pershke - 9-13-03  
 Corey Cruchet '98 married Kelly Helsing - 9-13-03  
 Heather Orner '03 married Brandon Solberg - 9-20-03  
 Rebecca Boyle '96 married Robert Jones - 9-20-03  
 Barry Christianson married Jennifer Gail - 9-20-03  
 Jennifer Johansen '03 married Joshua Frueh - 10-4-03  
 Clayton Erdmann '03 married Mary Kuhn - 10-4-03  
 Teresa Luthi '94 married Bert McDonough - 10-10-03  
 Amy McKenna '01 married Matthew Ertelt - 10-10-03  
 Dennis Waloch '97 married Jennifer Blattner - 10-18-03

## VOM, continued from page

specialist at the Carrington Health Center. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Jamestown where she is employed as a teacher at the Anne Carlsen Center. Bob and Amy have two children.

**Jenny (Ryan) Wamsley '99** teaches 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade health and physical education in St. Paul, MN, at Murray Junior High School. She just received her masters degree in 2003. Jenny and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their first child, Jonathan Thomas, on September 29, 2003.

## 2000's

**Marcus Hooks '00** is currently working for Enterprise-Rent-A-Car as an Account Executive. His daily activities include marketing his territory to make sure relationships with the Credit Unions and (AAA) Automobile clubs offices are strong.

**Natalie (Birchem) Potratz '02** is an elementary teacher in Storm Lake, IA. She is also the junior varsity basketball coach and the junior high volleyball coach.

**Tanya Hurlimann '02** is working at the New England Aquarium in Boston, MA. Currently she is working with the 65 penguins housed at the aquarium. Tanya loves her job.

**Amy Pomranke '03** has accepted a position as Grade 8 algebra teacher at Knoxville Middle School in Knoxville, TN.

**Matt Moen '03** has accepted a position as seventh grade history teacher and coach at River/Backus School in Pine River, MN.

**KeriAnn Eggert '03** has accepted a position as kindergarten teacher at Jefferson Elementary School in Valley City.

**Sean Kimball '03** has accepted a position as a fifth grade teacher at Elvira Elementary School in Tucson, AZ.

**Jessica Schneider '03** is teaching fourth grade at St. John (ND) Elementary School. She also coaches volleyball and is assistant track coach.

# Still Special After All These Years

by Ellen-Earle Chaffee, VCSU President



Sharon Buhr, Isabel (Muir) McLaren '43 and President Ellen Chaffee.

I have met only one person who did not know Isabel McLaren. Now he knows her, too. I've known her for 30 years, myself. She was my daughter's kindergarten teacher in Fargo, and she was perfect for it. She is not a whole lot bigger than the kids, just as energetic, even more eager, and ever so much fun. Two generations of children seem to have charged her batteries for the two decades since she retired, and then some. Those years and her inimitable style endear her to hundreds of kids and families throughout the region and beyond. Isabel grew

up here, learned to teach at her beloved VCSU, and returned here often over the years. We were especially pleased that she came back for Homecoming, attending one event after another with Sharon Buhr or Carol Nelson as her escort. She had decided, as usual, to enjoy every minute. At one point, Isabel rose to say a few words about what VCSU and teaching had meant to her. When she finished, the man across the table sat staring, mesmerized. He is the one who had not met her before. Slowly he smiled, breaking his trance, and said, "I never heard anything like that before. I wanted to say, 'yes, ma'am.'" Homecoming had a number of special moments like that. Ed Stern, who attended in 1935, came back from Fargo, too, with his son Rick. Ed's father funded Straus Clothiers here decades ago. His parents sent him to UND at first, but he transferred back here for a year. Seems a lovely girl (whom he later married) had something to do with it. The folks sent him to a prominent

Pennsylvania university to graduate. Ed said he worried whether his North Dakota credits would transfer. As it turned out, his one accounting class from VCSU was so good that Ed tested out of two classes in Pennsylvania.

VCSU's reputation for great faculty echoes through every decade of its existence. Pete Hughes was back, too, from the class of 1981. He had never seen anything like our state until he made the long, long drive from Maryland, crossing state after state and entering North Dakota in a March winter storm. He came here to play football and had been told to go to the Bubble when he got to town. He found it, but he could not imagine what all those horse trailers and cowboys were about. A Winter Show attendant kindly sent him down the hill, where he played and studied well all the way through graduation. We celebrated his induction into the athletic Hall of Fame, as well as the successful coaching and

education career he is pursuing back in his home state. Another special feature of Homecoming is the effort people make to be here. Si Siewert takes the cake for that, coming back from California every year but one since 1988. More people every year decide to return often, not just for a specific reunion. Thanks very much to the many hard-working folks who produced a wonderful series of events for us all to enjoy!



Isabel (Muir) McLaren '43 and Val Moritz.

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Alumni Association  
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Valley City, ND 58072-4098

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