

# THE BULLETIN

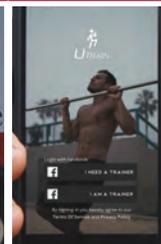
*A Publication for Alumni & Friends of Valley City State University*



**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## Valley City named 'Most Beautiful Town' in North Dakota

OER implementation ♦ Hall of Fame inductees ♦ 3-year graduates



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Welcome to the *Bulletin!*

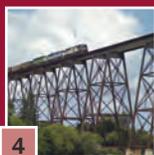
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Cover Story

4 Valley City named 'Most Beautiful Town' in North Dakota

*Author Chloe Mulliner chose a most beautiful town in each of the 50 states for her piece on Expedia's Viewfinder travel blog, and lo and behold, she selected Valley City as North Dakota's representative. Read her description of Valley City, which we've paired with George Dutton's photos, and remind yourself of what a picturesque community we have here.*



5 VCSU counselors help with Hurricane Matthew relief

*The VCSU counseling team of Erin Klingenberg and Kelsie Jo Carter traveled to flood-ravaged Lumberton, N.C., as Red Cross volunteers aiding in the relief effort in Hurricane Matthew's aftermath.*



6 Accomplished students become 3-year graduates at this 4-year school

*From 2011-16, 43 VCSU students graduated in less than 4 years, and at winter 2016 commencement, 11 graduates were honored as 3-year graduates. Learn the why and how-to regarding the accomplishments of a hard-working group of high achievers.*

10 Wirth named to Prairie Business '40 Under 40' list

*Prairie Business magazine annually recognizes 40 of the top young leaders in the northern plains, and this year Jamie Wirth, director of the Great Plains STEM Education Center at VCSU, received the prestigious honor.*



13 Women's basketball returns to nationals, finishes 24-9

*A gritty Viking team set a school record with 24 wins and made it back to the NAIA National Tournament for the fourth time in the last 7 years. Read the season recap.*

*Photo credits: cover, p. 4—George Dutton (Medicine Wheel photo by Durand Johnson '91)*

*Photographer George Dutton and his wife, Bonnie, have operated a full-service photography studio—Dutton's Valley Gallery—in Valley City for more than three decades. Dutton graciously shared his photographs of Valley City to illustrate our cover story.*



## Distinctively VCSU!

President Tisa Mason, Ed.D., CAE

When choosing a new location to live and work/study—whether a student, professor, or member of the staff—I believe the decision really boils down to three central questions: How does the place make you feel? How do you feel about the people? Does the mission, or purpose, motivate you?

VCSU alumni and friends smile in a big way when asked about Valley City State University and Valley City. My experiences here have been amazing—from walking into Vangstad Auditorium and being awestruck by the beauty of the auditorium and hearing the many stories of “The Twins”; to strolling through the impressive Rhoades Science Center, built in alignment with environmentally friendly LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) principles; and then stepping outside and seeing our gazebo, the realized vision of alumnus Allen Pedersen '40, who wanted to provide an “open door” to campus so that all community members and visitors could enjoy its beauty, celebrate special occasions and reminisce fondly of days gone by.

This special campus connects to the city of Valley City both symbolically and literally via the magnificent foot bridge. Although it won't come as a surprise to many that Expedia's travel blog chose Valley City as the most beautiful town in North Dakota, the declaration makes us all smile and nod our heads in agreement, and bring many great images to mind! Place does matter. (And a special thank-you to George Dutton for sharing his beautiful photos with us.)

No matter how beautiful a place is however, if you don't feel good about the people—your colleagues and neighbors—the place will never feel like home. A VCSU core value is community: “We trust one another, we work well together, and we are involved with our local and extended communities.”

One of the hallmarks of a VCSU education is hands-on engagement. Teaching and learning are shared responsibilities as we all learn from one another every day. In this spirit, I am so proud of Counseling Services director Erin Klingenberg's work volunteering for the Hurricane Matthew relief effort and creating the opportunity to bring her intern, Kelsie Carter, with her to North Carolina. Together they made a tremendous impact on the lives of many while sharpening their professional skills.

And while place and people are central to our quality of life, for me, there is nothing better than working for an organization in which my personal beliefs and goals are fully aligned. At Valley City State University, we prepare students “to succeed as educators, leaders, and engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society.”

That mission resonates deeply with me and is the reason I am so proud of our students and alumni. Every day, the purposeful lives they lead bear witness to the good work done on this campus. While the nation counts student completion on six-year cycles, at VCSU we are graduating many students in less than four years. This special group artfully manages fully engaged student lives, internships, and high-quality academic work on a self-paced program that defies national standards and results in bachelor's degrees and employment before their national peers even file the paperwork for graduation!

Please invest the time to read about our beautiful town's honor, the good work of Erin and Kelsie, and our three-year graduates in the pages that follow. You'll be glad you did, and trust me, you'll feel the Viking Pride!

## Vikings rally in Tucson!

The VCSU Alumni Association invited VCSU baseball and softball players and their families to gather for a Viking Rally while the teams were playing in Tucson, Ariz.

The gathering, in its fourth year, brought a crowd of more than 150 out to the picnic area of Kino Stadium in Tucson. The event was hosted by VCSU President Tisa Mason, athletic director Nate Stewart, faculty athletic representative Dave Bass '77, and Kristi (Tait) '93 and Cory Anderson '89 (the parents of current Viking ballplayers Kadie and Brady).



# leave a Legacy for V-500 at VCSU



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

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



## Forever Vikings

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

Most of us received our degrees from VCSU in four years (or maybe a little longer), but the impact VCSU has made on us will last a lifetime.

I've been fortunate to host alumni socials, reunions and homecoming events over the years as part of my job. It's always fun to visit with our alumni and listen to them share their stories, and it's amazing to hear all the tales and learn how VCSU has influenced their lives.

Our alumni events are organized by the VCSU Foundation and Alumni Office along with our Alumni Board of Directors. This group of 12 volunteers, who serve three-year terms, meets on campus three times a year. Over the last year, we have adopted the following mission statement for the VCSU Alumni Association:

The mission of Valley City State University Alumni Association is to enhance the relationship between Valley City State University and all of its alumni. We inspire lifelong loyalty and pride through programs, activities, and events for those that are forever Vikings.

Alumni board members have started discussions about the ways in which they can refine what they are doing to meet the mission statement and promote VCSU. Their focus is growing enrollment, promoting alumni award programs, and creating and developing alumni engagement. Here are a few opportunities for you to help us meet our mission.

### Enrollment

The alumni board is already active in helping with Viking Visit Days and referring students but recently has assisted the Enrollment Services staff in reaching out to students that have applied to VCSU but have not said "yes" yet. Our alumni are our best cheerleaders. If you are willing to assist in this area, please contact our office at 701-845-7203.

### Award Programs

We currently have four alumni awards: Certificate of Merit, Distinguished Alumni, Young Alumni Achievement and Alumni Service. For a complete description on each of these awards, please visit our website at [alumni.vcsu.edu](http://alumni.vcsu.edu). If you or a fellow alumnus fall into one of these categories, please let us know; we need your help in identifying alumni deserving of this recognition!



VCSU Tech Swag

### Attend Events and Promote Your Alma Mater!

We hold alumni events throughout the year, including opportunities for you to return to campus. Watch our website calendar for up-to-date events. For those of you who live outside North Dakota, consider hosting an event for alumni in your area. Give us a call, and we'll help work out the details! Be a forever Viking by promoting your alma mater—wear your VCSU gear when you are out and about. Don't have gear? Our bookstore has a nice selection of items available at [bookstore.vcsu.edu](http://bookstore.vcsu.edu). We also have a limited supply of VCSU Tech Swag as a special thank you. Please help us promote VCSU Viking Pride by displaying this swag on your laptops, cell phones, etc. Email me at [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu) if you would like us to send you some VCSU Tech Swag!

As always, it's a great day to be a Viking!

## 2016-17 VCSU Alumni Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

**Greta (Trader) Delparte '06**

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**Stacy Wendel-Monilaws '02**

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**Sheri (Sweree) Wetch '98**

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**Larry Robinson '71,**

**ex officio**

**Wesley Wintch, ex officio**



## VCSU faces challenging 2017–19 budget

Larry Robinson '71, Executive Director for University Advancement

By the time you read this issue of the Bulletin, the 2017 Legislative Session will be history. The session has been historic in the sense that the state has been dealing with an unprecedented decline in revenue. The legislature has had to deal with a \$1 billion reduction in revenue compared to the previous budget cycle. That's right, a \$1 billion reduction.

To address this reduction, former Governor Dalrymple ordered two allotments—budget reductions—in calendar year 2016. Those allotments came in February and August. The two totaled a reduction to the VCSU budget of \$2.6 million dollars. Governor Dalrymple in his Executive Budget Recommendation called for a reduction of total spending for the North Dakota University System that amounted to 15 percent below budgets for the current biennium. That resulted in a further reduction to the budget for VCSU.

In January 2017, newly elected Governor Burgum recommended a further reduction of \$31 million to the budget for the North Dakota University System in response to a continued decline in state revenue. That reduction will bring the proposed budget for the 2017–19 biennium to 21 percent of current spending levels—overall a nearly \$5.2 million reduction to the budget for VCSU (which includes an additional \$2.5 million reduction beyond the 90 percent budget submitted in August 2016 in preparation for the Legislative Session).

In response to the budget challenge, VCSU President Tisa Mason has been leading a comprehensive, university-wide budget-reduction effort on campus. The effort is intended to identify ways in which our university can respond to the budget challenges. The effort is based on trust, transparency and engagement of all members of the faculty, staff and student body.

We are charged with finding new and innovative ways to do more with less, to think outside the box, to streamline operations, and to the extent possible, use this budget challenge as an opportunity to position our university as strong as possible for the future. Needless to say, the exercise has been challenging. But I also need to say that I have been impressed with President Mason's leadership and the strength and determination of our university community. With President Mason's guidance, the budget discussions have been passionate, direct and clearly focused on doing what is best for our long-term interests.

Yes, it is indeed a challenging time. We have faced adversity in the past and have come through those challenges stronger and more determined than ever. The strength of VCSU is deeply rooted in a university community that not only includes our faculty, staff, and students, but also our

alumni and friends who span the globe. We are also fortunate to have an extensive number of dedicated volunteers that serve on our various boards and support organizations. They constantly give of their time, talent and treasure to support and promote our university.

That support has been crucial in the past. It will be even more so in the future. That support has enabled us to provide a record \$1.375 million in scholarship support for our students. That support has been a key factor in the all-time record enrollment at VCSU in the past two years.

A special thank-you to all of our alumni and friends who have continually provided important financial support to VCSU. A thank-you is also in order to our volunteer boards. That support has made the difference in the past. It will have even more of an impact in the future.

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*It is indeed a challenging time. We have faced adversity in the past and have come through those challenges stronger and more determined than ever. The strength of VCSU is deeply rooted in a university community that not only includes our faculty, staff, and students, but also our alumni and friends who span the globe.*

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**THE IRA  
CHARITABLE  
ROLLOVER IS  
PERMANENT!**

IRA  
Rollover

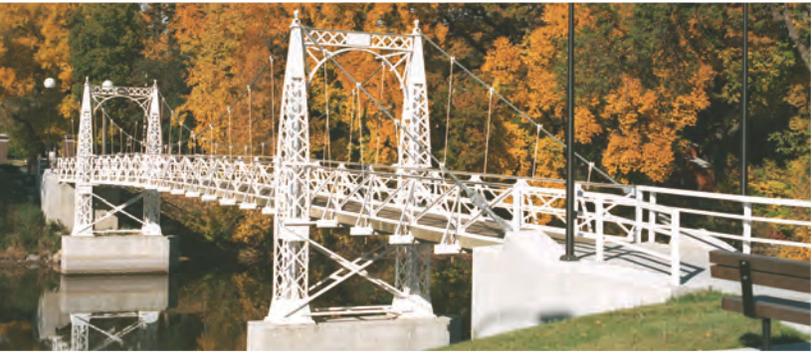
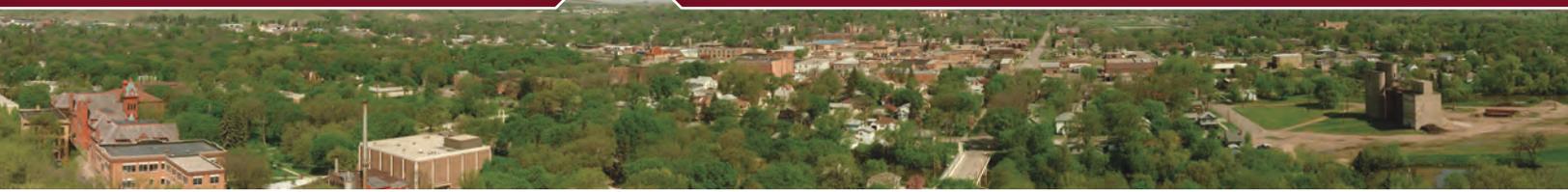


## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN EASY WAY TO HELP THE CAUSES YOU CARE THE MOST ABOUT?

Congress has extended the IRA charitable rollover and made it permanent. With the IRA charitable rollover, you can make a gift from your IRA account to help support the work of our organization and benefit. Gifts made from your IRA (up to \$100,000 per year) are not reportable as taxable income. They also qualify for your required minimum distribution (RMD) which can lower your income and taxes.

To learn more about the benefits of making an IRA charitable rollover gift, please contact us at:

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



VALLEY CITY NAMED

*Most Beautiful Town*  
IN NORTH DAKOTA

A March 7, 2017, article on Expedia's Viewfinder travel blog named Valley City the most beautiful town in North Dakota. Author Chloe Mulliner selected Valley City for her "Most Beautiful Towns in All 50 States" feature, citing Valley City's historic bridges, Medicine Wheel Park and the Sheyenne River National Scenic Byway.

**Here's what she had to say about Valley City:**

"Settled cozily along the Sheyenne River, pretty Valley City is home to 11 historic bridges, some of which date back as far as the 1890s. Take a tour of these celebrated arches, and then see what's in store at the Medicine Wheel Park. The 30 acres of serene parkland feature the impressive medicine wheel solar calendar, native burial grounds, and even a perennial garden. On your way out of town, take the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway for unbeatable views."

The complete article can be found online at [viewfinder.expedia.com/features/beautiful-towns-50-states](http://viewfinder.expedia.com/features/beautiful-towns-50-states).





## VCSU counselors help with Hurricane Matthew relief

After a destructive path through the Caribbean islands, Hurricane Matthew brought pain and suffering to the southeast United States in early October 2016. The storm—with its high winds, storm surges and heavy rains—affected Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and more, leaving downed trees, power outages and flooding in its wake. In the U.S., North Carolina was the hardest hit, with 26 deaths and \$1.6 billion in damages.

Here in Valley City, Erin Klingenberg, VCSU director of counseling services, was contacted through the American Counseling Association, which had put a call out for licensed counselors to help with the Red Cross response to the hurricane devastation. Klingenberg and Kelsie Jo Carter, counseling intern, were keenly interested, and the pair volunteered for the relief effort.

After training that included a webinar on Red Cross fundamentals and an orientation session in Fargo with the issuance of uniform shirts, first aid packs and a credit card for expenses—the two left North Dakota for Fayetteville, N.C., on Thursday, Oct. 27, with a one-way ticket for a minimum nine-day volunteer commitment.

Fort Bragg, a U.S. Army base on the outskirts of Fayetteville, served as Red Cross headquarters for the relief effort in North Carolina, and Klingenberg and Carter spent two nights on the base while working during the day in Lumberton, N.C., an hour from the fort. After that, the duo took up residence in a Lumberton motel for the duration of their service.

A town of about 21,000 people a hundred miles from the coast, Lumberton had suffered heavy flooding 3 weeks earlier during the storm when up to 14 inches of rain in the river basin sent the Lumber River spilling over dikes that normally contain it, with the river peaking about 9 feet over flood stage. The flooding devastated Lumberton and surrounding Robeson County, leaving one of North Carolina's economically poorest areas in worse shape, with businesses closed and no power or running water.

That was the environment that Carter and Klingenberg had dived into. Working out of a Red Cross yard set up in a Baptist Church parking lot, they traveled in separate ERVs (specially equipped emergency response vehicles) with crews to deliver information, drinking water, snacks and hot meals twice daily to a host of people in need throughout the area.

In addition to the sustenance they delivered, an important role they provided was serving as compassionate listeners, hearing the stories and

offering kind words of support to those who suffered losses in the flooding. "Often you'd hear the same story you heard yesterday," said Klingenberg, who was most touched by the resilience of the flood victims. "They were trying to focus on what they still had, not what they had lost."

Each day the pair were up and would eat breakfast at 6:30 or 7 a.m. in the motel before heading to the yard for the first of their two trips out in the community to deliver lunch. There would be a little downtime between the lunch and dinner trips where they would chat with other Red Cross volunteers who came from throughout the U.S. to help. (The two had met a woman from Jamestown, N.D., who was working at Red Cross HQ at Fort Bragg, and they worked alongside other volunteers from Minnesota and even Canada.) They typically would return to the motel about 7 or 8 p.m.

There were multiple yards throughout North Carolina, serving more than 50,000 meals a day. More than just a depot for the 20 ERVs that were operating at peak times, the Lumberton yard was the kitchen where the meals were prepared, including serving 1,000 meals to people who would drive through daily to pick up food.

Months after the hurricane, recovery is slow. A North Carolina Public Radio article ([wunc.org/post/road-recovery-remains-long-cities-hardest-hit-hurricane-matthew](http://wunc.org/post/road-recovery-remains-long-cities-hardest-hit-hurricane-matthew)) published at the end of February 2017 details the hundreds of families still displaced by the damage.

Although Klingenberg and Carter were ready to be home when their volunteer commitment ended Nov. 4, their experience will stay with them. "It was amazing to see the people who were affected by the flood and make personal connections," said Carter.

"I'd do it again in a minute," added Klingenberg. Both hope to stay in contact with their fellow volunteers they met in North Carolina, and they'll forever be more tuned in when other disasters hit.

"We were there three weeks after the flood," said Klingenberg. "I can only imagine what it would have been like to be there at the start."

Klingenberg and Carter may find themselves on the front lines soon. Both now serve as volunteers with the Disaster Action Team (DAT) and Disaster Mental Health (DMH) of Red Cross of Fargo, ready and willing to answer the call once again.



Among the 11 three-year graduates recognized at VCSU's winter commencement on Dec. 15, 2016, were these women: Savannah Windish, Alexandra Cardenas, Ivy Restemayer, KaSaundra Peterson and Baylee Swenson. Recognized, but not pictured, were three-year graduates Sabra Hoffman, Jacob Johnson, Adam Mortenson, Mason Ryckman, Michaela Scherr and Kaitlin Stinson.

## Accomplished students become 3-year graduates at this 4-year school

Valley City Normal School became a four-year college back in 1921 when it began offering bachelor's degrees in addition to its traditional fare of teacher certificates. Recently, a growing number of VCSU students have been bucking the traditional four-year program in favor of graduating early, finishing their degree requirements in three or three-and-a-half years.

In the 2015–16 academic year, university officials began pondering what could be done to address North Dakota's labor shortage, and more specifically, teacher shortage.

That prompted a closer look at what some professors and administrators knew anecdotally—there were already a host of VCSU students who had graduated in less than four years.

“Over the last five years—2011 through 2016—43 students completed their VCSU degrees in less than four years,” says President Tisa Mason. “This led us to look at what they did and prompted us to formalize the three-year program, while removing barriers they had to overcome.”

At VCSU's second winter commencement in December 2016, VCSU recognized 11 graduates who had completed their degrees in less

than four years. Among that group were four students—Alexandra Cardenas, Jacob Johnson, KaSaundra Peterson and Michaela Scherr—who shared their takes on the paths they had followed to early completion.

In addition to those like the quartet above who've already graduated, as of spring 2017, there are 25 current freshmen and sophomores on pace to complete degrees in less than four years, including Abby Greff, a sophomore from Bismarck, N.D., majoring in English education who is set to graduate in two-and-a-half years!

A number of academic majors at VCSU may be completed within less than four years. For instance, in addition to Greff's pursuit of an English education major (along with a minor in teaching English language learners), Peterson obtained a major in business administration with a management concentration; Cardenas graduated with majors in Spanish and psychology; Scherr earned an elementary education major with a kindergarten endorsement; and Johnson earned a fisheries and wildlife science major along with a biology minor.

Software engineering is another major that

students have completed in less than four years; alumni Tarah Cleveland and Baylee Swenson did so, and current student Jordan Bushaw is on track to finish this spring.

Sample pathways for three-year degree programs are available in English education, English, elementary education, and communication. Not all programs lend themselves to early completion, but in many cases, the process—and the decision to pursue the faster path to a degree—are dependent on the student's personal commitment.

Following a path to a three-year degree requires careful and clear communication between the student and his/her academic advisor, along with a high level of internal motivation and steady academic progress and success on the student's part.

Coming in with college credit from AP courses, CLEP tests or dual-credit high school courses helps meet VCSU's degree requirement minimum of 120 hours of credit, of course, but the number of those credits varies quite a bit among successful three-year graduates.

Johnson came in with a semester's worth,

15 dual credits, while Greff's two-and-a-half year plan makes use of a full-year of pre-college course work. "I came in with 30 transferred credits through dual-credit classes, and AP and CLEP tests," she says. "My high school offered an awesome number of courses! I took everything I could, and Valley City was great about accepting them."

Scherr, who is from Valley City, took advantage of her close proximity to campus to take some summer face-to-face classes. "I enjoyed these classes because they were small and very one-on-one with the professor and peers," she says.

Peterson, too, took summer classes. "During my first and second summer of school, I took some online courses while working to gain experience in the field I wanted to go into."

Cardenas took a different route to adding a few credits; she studied abroad in Spain in the summer of 2016. "By going overseas I was not only able to experience a culture that I had been studying in the classroom," she says, "but I also finished a portion of my credits that went toward my major."

Johnson, on the other hand, kept his summers free of courses to concentrate on his end game—finding work in his degree area. "I was still able to do what I wanted in the summer," he says. "I had summer jobs that related to my field and helped me network and gain experience." (He's now a full-time soil conservationist working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Fessenden, N.D.)

Peterson and Cardenas added work experience, too, with both doing internships in their last semesters. Says Peterson, "My last semester I did an internship at the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks to gain experience in event management." Cardenas, from California, also interned: "I was able to complete my degree at home with an internship that really enriched my learning experience."

It's not "all work and no play" for the early graduates. According to Scherr, other than taking some summer

courses, her experience wasn't "anything different than the 'normal' college experience. I still did everything that all my friends got to do."

Cardenas seconds that notion. "Other than taking a heavy credit load, my college experience wasn't any different than the next student at VCSU," she says. "I was very involved, being a part of the cross country team and track team, and serving as a resident assistant. Participating in Student Senate, clubs, and extracurricular activities, I felt very happy with my experience at VCSU."

Greff describes her current experience as normal as well. "As for my life outside of academics, it's average. I work in the tutoring center and the coffee shop on campus while remaining active in the community. I eat far too many pizza pockets, believe Netflix is a human necessity, and consider waking up before 9 a.m. torturous. That's college in a nutshell to me!"

What motivates someone to take an accelerated path to graduation? Sometimes it's just knowing that it can be done. Peterson says, "I decided that I was going to follow through and graduate in less than four years because it was an accomplishment that I would be proud to have."

For Cardenas, it was seeing what others had done—"I had many friends who finished their own degrees at VCSU early, and following in their footsteps excited me."

Although somewhat hesitant to admit it, Greff is practical in talking about her motivation. "I hate to list money as my number one motivation, but it is," she confesses. "I'm saving money by not paying for the final year of college. Even more than that, I'll be earning a full year of additional 'adult pay' by graduating early."

That sentiment is echoed by Johnson. He says, "My main motivation was the financial benefit from graduating early and starting my career earlier."

In addition to the financial motivation, Greff describes another dimension to her thinking.

"It also will allow me freedom! If I want to take graduate classes, volunteer for an organization, or even travel, the options are always there."

Another explanation comes from Scherr in regard to her student teaching. "I was able to student teach in the fall and be in the classroom at the start of the school year. This also gave me time to substitute in the spring and job search," she says. "My motivation was knowing that I got to be in the classroom sooner!"

And would they recommend early graduation to others?

Cardenas, now pursuing a master's in social work, would recommend the three-year program "as long as you can finish to the best of your ability while enjoying the journey."

That type of sound advice also comes from Greff. "Go at the speed that works best for you! If you know what you want to do with your career and would love to enter the field now, I recommend the fast graduation. I have loved my experience here, and I don't think it has been hindered by moving quickly."

Both give credit to the support from the VCSU community. "I felt that the faculty and staff were nothing but supportive, and worked very hard alongside me to help me reach my goals," says Cardenas.

"Everyone I have talked to here has been very encouraging and supportive of my goals," says Greff. "Honestly, I can't be grateful enough to the faculty and staff here," she adds.

Three-year programs may not fit everyone, and completing a degree early is not easy. But for those who are able, doing so offers tangible benefits without sacrificing a true collegiate experience.

"I'm amazed by what our three-year people have been able to accomplish," says President Mason. "Not only do they finish early, they do so with distinction, and they bring so much else to the campus as well. These are outstanding men and women, and I applaud their achievements."

*"Go at the speed that works best for you! If you know what you want to do with your career and would love to enter the field now, I recommend the fast graduation. I have loved my experience here, and I don't think it has been hindered by moving quickly."*

— Abby Greff

*"By going overseas I was not only able to experience a culture that I had been studying in the classroom, but I also finished a portion of my credits that went toward my major."*

— Alexandra Cardenas

(clockwise from top left) Alexandra Cardenas, Michaela Scherr, KaSaundra Peterson, Abby Greff, Jacob Johnson



## VCSU leads way in OER implementation

On Feb. 20, professors Diane Burr, M.S., AT, LAT (chair, Department of Kinesiology and Human Performance) and Julee Russell, Ph.D. (chair, Departments of Art, Communication Arts, and Language and Literature), presented at the Instructional Technology Council’s eLearning Conference in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The presentation, “OER: Small University/Big Impact,” was made to 35 attendees, all looking at ways to implement Open Educational Resources (OER) on their campuses. The presentation told the VCSU story in regard to OER, with Burr and Russell explaining how VCSU entered the OER realm and how VCSU is authoring an OER text for HPER 100: Concepts of Fitness and Wellness, that can be used by most NDUS institutions as well as others across the country.

According to Russell, she and Burr “learned that VCSU is indeed on the cutting edge of OER implementation at four-year universities. Valley City State University is involving the appropriate constituents as well as gathering the appropriate data to ensure quality and student satisfaction. The attendees appeared to be impressed, asked valuable questions, and continued to contact Diane and I throughout the remainder of the conference.”

The duo also presented a webinar on the same topic on Tuesday, March 28, through the auspices of the Instructional Technology Council

(ITC). ITC offered the presentation as one of two free webinars it featured as part of its celebration of Open Education Week March 27–31.

Burr and Russell fielded questions from audience members, shared PowerPoint presentations, VCSU librarian Al Bernardo’s OER libguide ([libguides.library.vcsu.edu/oer/](http://libguides.library.vcsu.edu/oer/)), and the VCSU video on OER ([www.vcsu.edu/president/vp.htm?p=3538](http://www.vcsu.edu/president/vp.htm?p=3538)). A recording of the webinar can be found online at <http://bit.ly/2opG8dN>.

Russell offered the following additional comments regarding the status of OER on the VCSU campus.

“VCSU is in the right place at the right time for OER adoption and implementation. Congratulations to all of the faculty adopters, the VCSU administrators who have been so supportive of these efforts, Dr. Margaret Dahlberg and President Tisa Mason, as well as the North Dakota Legislature, which provided grant funding to begin the project.

“The momentum must continue. Not every course lends itself to the use of OER, or reduced cost materials, but many do. At this point, after three semesters, faculty at VCSU have saved students nearly \$460,000, a significant amount. The efforts have also impacted well over half of the entire faculty and student body.

“OER are here to stay, and VCSU, with its flexibility and responsiveness, continues to be a leader in this area.”

## Spring enrollment records set

Valley City State University has set spring enrollment records for the second consecutive year according to official Spring Semester 2017 census numbers released Tuesday, Feb. 7.

The VCSU enrollment figures show a record spring headcount of 1,407 students, along with a spring record for full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of 1,007.

The two marks represent a continuation of a growth trend at VCSU over the last decade. Since 2008, VCSU's spring headcount has grown by more than 48 percent (from 946 to 1,407), and spring FTE enrollment has jumped by more than 32 percent (from 758 to 1,007) over the same period.

"Enrollment numbers represent choices made by individuals," said President Tisa Mason, "and to have more students and their families choosing Valley City State makes us proud. Our increasing numbers reflect the tremendous level of effort, care and concern our faculty and staff dedicate toward helping our students learn, grow and succeed, and that's what makes for a great education."

Students choose from among more than 80 undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs at VCSU. U.S. News and World Report has recognized VCSU as the No. 1 Public Regional College in the Midwest in 2017 and 2016, and the university has been ranked a U.S. News "Best College" for 19 consecutive years.

## Online programs earn U.S. News recognition

Valley City State University's online graduate education and bachelor's degree programs have earned national recognition in the 2017 U.S. News Best Online Program rankings.

In the Best Online Graduate Education Program rankings, VCSU is ranked 47 of 275 schools that were evaluated. The rankings formula included weighted measures for student engagement (35 percent), student services and technology (20 percent), admissions selectivity (15 percent), faculty credentials and training (15 percent) and peer reputation (15 percent).

"Our M.Ed. program has unique concentrations to meet the needs of K-12 educators," said James Boe, Ph.D., VCSU director for graduate studies and research, "and the new M.A.T. program increases our ability to meet the critical teacher shortage in North Dakota.

"The personal attention we give to our students and our flexible delivery methods play a big part in our success," added Boe. "We will continue to seek innovative ways to provide our students with quality graduate programs at VCSU."

VCSU offers two online master's degree programs in education—the Master of Education (M.Ed.) program and the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program. The M.A.T. is designed for individuals who already have a non-teaching bachelor's degree and would like to become a teacher, while the Master of

Education degree is designed for practicing teachers. The M.Ed. program offers six concentrations: elementary education, English education, library and information technologies, teaching English language learners, teaching and technology, and technology education.

The 47th place ranking for VCSU's graduate education program represents a considerable move upward compared to the 2016 rankings; last year VCSU was ranked 83rd among 263 listed schools.

More information on VCSU's graduate education programs can be found online at [vcsu.edu/graduate](http://vcsu.edu/graduate).

In the 2017 Best Online Bachelor's Program rankings, VCSU is ranked 148 of 306 evaluated schools. The rankings formula included weighted measures for student engagement (40 percent), faculty credentials and training (20 percent), student services and technology (20 percent), and peer reputation (20 percent).

Online bachelor's degree programs at VCSU include business education, business process integration management, career and technical education, communication, English education, history education, music, and technology education.

More information on VCSU's online bachelor's degree programs can be found at [online.vcsu.edu](http://online.vcsu.edu).

## University pursues activated carbon plant addition to heat plant



Construction continues on VCSU's new heat plant, situated on College Street east of Rhoades Science Center.

Construction on the new VCSU heat plant continues on a site east of Rhoades Science Center. Funded by an appropriation received from the North Dakota Legislature in its 2015 session, the \$13.9 million steam plant facility will replace an outdated facility constructed in 1910.

Crossover from the old plant to the new will be accomplished later this spring, with the plant fully operational for the 2017–18 heating season.

VCSU, in collaboration with the Energy and Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota, is pursuing an innovative carbon plant addition to the heat plant. The carbon plant will burn North Dakota lignite coal and biomass in a clean process to produce fuel for the heat plant, while at the same time producing valuable activated carbon byproducts.

In addition to establishing an independent revenue stream for the university, the carbon plant will provide research opportunities for students and faculty members. The plant will also have a positive environmental impact with its clean-burn technology and the extensive use of the activated carbon products as filters for air and water.

VCSU sought authorization to pursue financing for the carbon plant from the North Dakota Legislature during its 2017 session. SB2196, the legislation authorizing the financing, passed both the Senate and House and was signed by Governor Burgum on April 7.

An Activated Carbon Project Advisory Team has been assembled to help guide the carbon plant effort; the advisory team includes:

- Tisa Mason, president, VCSU
- Larry Robinson '71, executive director, VCSU Foundation
- Wesley Wintch, VP for business affairs, VCSU
- Delton Steele '80, director, VCSU Foundation Board; regional president, U.S. Bank
- Steve Benson, associate VP for research, Energy and Environmental Research Center, UND
- Michael Mann, executive director, Institute for Energy Studies, UND
- Rick Tonder, facility planning director, NDUS
- Nick Hacker, State Board of Higher Education
- Greg Stemen, State Board of Higher Education
- Lonnie Laffen, CEO, JLG Architects
- Ed Schafer, 30th Governor of North Dakota
- Mike Seifert, CEO, Aurora Borealis Dakota

## Wirth named to Prairie Business '40 Under 40' list



Jamie Wirth, Ph.D., director of the Great Plains STEM Education Center at Valley City State University, has been named to Prairie Business magazine's 2016 "40 Under 40" list, which recognizes 40 of the top business professionals under the age of 40 in the Dakotas and western Minnesota.

Also an assistant professor of mathematics at VCSU, Wirth is featured as one of the "40 Under 40" honorees in the December 2016 issue of Prairie Business magazine. The magazine recognizes young professionals who are making significant impacts in their chosen

professions, industries and communities.

Wirth has directed the efforts of VCSU's Great Plains STEM Education Center (GPSEC) since January 2015. GPSEC offers professional development workshops for teachers and STEM activities for K-12 students and

parents, along with curriculum support for STEM educators.

"We're excited to see Jamie Wirth's talent and accomplishments recognized on the '40 Under 40' list," said VCSU President Tisa Mason. "The STEM Education Center's program makes a huge difference in the education that K-12 students receive, and Jamie's energy and enthusiasm for his work plays a big role in making that happen. We're proud and privileged to have Jamie on the VCSU staff."

Wirth joined VCSU as a mathematics education instructor in 2008 and served as chair of the VCSU mathematics department from 2011-13. He was promoted to assistant professor in 2014. Wirth taught high school mathematics in Wyndmere, N.D., from 2004-08; he also served as the Wyndmere boys varsity basketball coach for three years. Wirth holds a doctorate in adult and occupational education from North Dakota State University, a master of arts in teaching degree in mathematics education from Minot State University, a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Mayville State University, and a bachelor's degree in communication from the University of North Dakota.

## Great Plains STEM Education Center receives \$300,000 for K-12 teacher training

In January 2017, the Great Plains STEM Education Center (GPSEC) at Valley City State University was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and North Dakota University System through the U.S. Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnership program.

The grant is being used to fund professional development activities in integrative STEM education for 44 teachers from 12 K-12 school districts: Central Cass, Edgeley, Ellendale, Enderlin, Griggs County Central, Kensal, LaMoure, Lidgerwood, Lisbon, Litchville-Marion, Maple Valley and McClusky. The grant may also be used to fund community STEM events such as Family Engineering Night and STEM Design Challenge at participating schools.

The professional development training covers the engineering design process and project- and inquiry-based learning, along with a wide range of STEM curriculum opportunities. The teacher training—led by Jamie Wirth, GPSEC director, and Gary Ketterling, GPSEC education coordinator—began in February and will conclude with a weeklong residency June 5-9 on the VCSU campus.

The grant is the STEM Education Center's second such award in recent years; in October 2015, the center received a \$298,288 grant from the same funding sources for a similar professional development program for 36 K-12 teachers.

More information about the Great Plains STEM Education Center at VCSU can be found online at [stem.vcsu.edu](http://stem.vcsu.edu).



Rachael Langley builds with cardboard at the family engineering night at Ellendale Public School earlier this month. The event was part of the Great Plains STEM Education Center's professional development program for area teachers. Courtesy photo

## SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATH GREATNESS STARTS YOUNG

### Participation

North Dakota schools with teachers in the Great Plains STEM Education Center's professional development program:

- Edgeley
- Ellendale
- Enderlin
- LaMoure
- Lidgerwood
- Litchville-Marion
- Kensal
- McClusky

### STEM program benefits school in Ellendale, ND

BY KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND  
[kgrandstrand@oberlinemedia.com](mailto:kgrandstrand@oberlinemedia.com)

Students in Ellendale, N.D., have been getting more hands-on in their science and math classes this school year.

That's thanks to a Valley City State University program geared at increasing the number of young people interested in science, technology, engineering and math careers.

Kindergarten teacher Michelle Vance said she is excited to bring the projects into her Ellendale classroom.

"They are so engaged when they do hands-on projects," Vance said of her students. "The inquisitive nature of kindergartners obviously generates a lot of excitement to work on projects to get them learning."

She'll get kids from older grades to come help her kindergartners with the projects, fostering bonds between the students.

"They get so excited," she said. "It's so much fun to watch as they go. Look what

happened!" and to be able to put two and two together to learn."

More and more, schools are trying to use experiment-based learning in classrooms, said Jamie Wirth, director of the Great Plains STEM Education Center at Valley City State.

"All of the research points to active learning, hands-on learning, student engagement as opposed to sit and get, meaning 'Everybody be quiet and I'll tell you everything that you need to know,'" Wirth said. "That model of education has long been disproven."

With a grant of nearly \$300,000, the center is

See STEM, 5A

A January 2016 article in the Aberdeen (S.D.) American News covered the Great Plains STEM Education Center's work with Ellendale, N.D., teachers, highlighting the Family Engineering Night.

## Glandt recognized with VCSU Foundation's 'Difference Maker Award'

The VCSU Foundation Office named Tom Glandt as the first recipient of its "Difference Maker Award" for his long-term volunteer efforts on behalf of VCSU. Glandt was recognized at a brief ceremony at Dacotah Bank in Valley City on Nov. 9.

The Difference Maker Award was adopted by the VCSU Foundation Office to recognize friends of the university who have made significant contributions to the university through dedicated service, promotion, financial support or other efforts.

"Tom has gone above and beyond year after year, giving of his time, talent, and treasure for the betterment of Valley City State University," said Larry Robinson, executive director of the VCSU Foundation. "He is most deserving of this award because he has clearly been 'Making A Difference' at VCSU. We are most appreciative of Tom for his efforts. He makes us proud!"

Kim Hesch, assistant director of the VCSU Foundation and director of alumni relations, noted, "Tom has also been a major player in the success we have enjoyed with our annual spring Scholarship Auction. He has been a leader in that effort for nearly 10 years. During that time period, our proceeds have more than doubled."

Glandt is a financial advisor with Investment Centers of America at Dacotah Bank. His wife, Tara, also a VCSU volunteer, teaches fourth grade at Washington Elementary in Valley City. The couple has three children.

"VCSU is so fortunate to have well over 100 volunteers giving of their

time in a host of different ways," added Robinson. "They have been a big part of our family. The success we have enjoyed over the years is no accident. Our volunteers have been there with us every step of the way. We are forever grateful to them for their commitment to VCSU."



Pictured with Tom Glandt (center), are (l to r) Loree Morehouse (data processing and research coordinator in the VCSU Foundation Office), Robinson, VCSU President Tisa Mason and Hesch.



## Langdeaux, DeLorme speak at second winter commencement

Valley City State University held its second winter commencement exercises the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 15, in Vangstad Auditorium. The ceremony recognized 75 degree candidates, including 65 undergraduates and 10 graduate students.

Speakers included President Tisa Mason; Greg Stemen '88, representing the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education; and Andre DeLorme '79, professor and chair of the Department of Science, director of the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center, and recipient of the VCSU 2016 Teacher Excellence Award for Senior Faculty.

Graduate Richard Langdeaux provided the undergraduate reflection. A biology education major from Rosebud, S.D., Langdeaux ran cross country and track for the VCSU Vikings. He also served as an R.A., a Viking Ambassador, a New Student Orientation leader and a member of Student Senate.

Langdeaux spoke about finding courage in times of personal crisis. He shared an anecdote from early in his Valley City State career when he had doubted his choice to attend the university. He chose to stay, and he acknowledged that "This is the best decision I ever made to stay here and be a part of the VCSU family."

President Mason spoke of the bond that the graduates, newly minted VCSU alumni, will continue to share with the university. "As the light of Valley City State University continues to shine, it will shine through you," she said. Stemen reminded the graduates that "the more willing you are to serve, the better prepared you are to lead."

DeLorme drew applause when he confessed that he had googled "how to give a commencement address." He shared his personal journey, which includes coming full circle to chair and teach in the VCSU department he had graduated from in 1979. He told the audience, "I am where I'm supposed to be," and he encouraged the graduates to "create your future around what you're passionate about."

(top) President Tisa Mason and Richard Langdeaux  
(bottom) Andre DeLorme



ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S  
**CORNER**  
NATE STEWART



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

To borrow a saying from Tisa Mason, our university president, "It is indeed a great day to be a Viking!"

Since arriving in August, my family and I have greatly enjoyed getting to know everyone on campus, community members, alumni and, most important, our talented and hard-working student-athletes. Even though it has been a whirlwind with moving and transitioning into a new job, I cannot say thank you enough to everyone who has gone out of their way to make us feel comfortable at VCSU.

Working together, we've achieved many milestones in my first six months on the job. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in making these things happen. While we still have much to accomplish, I wake up each morning excited to take on the challenges of the day and to roll my sleeves up and work with our coaching staff and student-athletes. Below are some brief highlights from the fall semester:

- **Academic Success:** Our student athletes are not only competitive on the courts, fields and track, but they are also competitive in the classroom. During the fall semester, we had 33 student-athletes earn a place on the President's Honor Roll (4.0 GPA) and 52 student-athletes make the Dean's Honor Roll (3.5 GPA). The Athletic Department was also well represented on the North Star Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete team with 39 fall sport athletes (football, volleyball and cross country) rewarded for achieving a 3.25 or higher GPA last semester. Also, 13 of our 14 teams accumulated a 3.0 or higher team GPA for the fall semester. Our Vikings truly embody the term "student-athlete!"
- Through the hard work of Mark Potts, our sports information director, a Viking Athletics mobile app has also been released. The VCSU Vikings mobile app works with both Apple and Android devices. Fans can watch live video and live stats within the app, as well as keep up with the latest news, rosters, schedules and results.

There have also been many needed facility enhancements that have taken place this fall.

- With the move of the Kinesiology and Human Performance Department to the new Gaukler Family Wellness Center, athletics has transitioned part of our department into the basement of Graichen Gym. Baseball and softball were both able to obtain much-needed locker room space for their student-athletes. With the help of the Alumni Foundation, a new state-of-the-art weight room has been constructed in Graichen for baseball, softball and volleyball. This provides our student-athletes a top-notch facility for training. New pads have also been installed along the walls in Graichen.
- The basketball floor at the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse was refinished last summer with a new paint job to highlight the Viking logo at center court. The football locker rooms underwent a much-needed renovation with new carpeting and wooden lockers installed. A Hall of Fame room has been created in W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse, allowing us to recognize those who have played a part in building VCSU Athletics into the program it is today. All Hall of Fame inductees have their induction plaques displayed on the wall, commemorating their contributions to Viking Athletics!
- Through a partnership with Valley City Parks and Rec and the Valley City Public Schools, a brand-new baseball scoreboard has been purchased for Charlie Brown Baseball Field.

All of these facility improvements will enhance the student-athlete experience and allow our coaches to continue to recruit talented student-athletes!

Thank you to all Vikings for your continued support of our programs, coaches, and our student-athletes as they work to pursue athletic and academic excellence. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Viking athletic event. With your partnership, I'm excited to see what the next six months brings for Viking Athletics!



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## 2017 Hall of Fame to induct 2 teams and 6 individuals

Valley City State University will induct two teams and six individuals into the Viking Athletic Hall of Fame during the 2017 Homecoming Weekend.

The 2000 and 2001 football teams will be inducted, along with three team members: Jeremy Peschel '04, Ben Aarestad '02 and Steve Battle '04. Longtime coach and supporter Dave Bass '77 and volleyball players Scheryl (Kottsick) Bjorndahl '04 and Kelli (Geurtz) Heiser '97 will also be inducted.

The 2017 Hall of Fame Class will be honored Friday, Oct. 13, during an induction ceremony. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Viking Athletics Office, 701-845-7161, or the VCSU Foundation Office, 701-845-7203.

### 2000 FOOTBALL TEAM

The 2000 Viking football team won a share of the Dakota Athletic Conference championship and advanced to the NAIA National Playoffs.

The Vikings posted a 9-2 overall record that season, including an 8-1 record in conference play. The Vikings tied with Huron for the regular season conference championship. VCSU advanced to the NAIA National Playoffs but lost to Carroll College 24-21 at the Fargodome.

Wide receiver Steve Battle was named second team All-American, and quarterback Jeremy Peschel was named conference MVP. Seven Vikings earned first-team all-conference honors, including Peschel, Battle, Mark Rerick, Darin Walters, Ben Aarestad, Brent Miller and James Thornton.

### 2001 FOOTBALL TEAM

The 2001 Viking football team also went 9-2 overall and 8-1 in conference play, advancing to the NAIA National Playoffs for the second year in a row.

VCSU started the season 9-0 before losing to conference champion University of Mary in the final regular season game. The Vikings played at Carroll College in the playoffs, losing a 45-27 contest.

Wide receiver Steve Battle and linebacker Ben Aarestad were both named second team All-American, and quarterback Jeremy Peschel was named conference MVP for the second year in a row. Eight Vikings earned first-team all-conference, including Peschel, Battle, Aarestad, Justin Wieseler, Brent Miller, James Thornton, Mike Silbernagel and David Rowe.

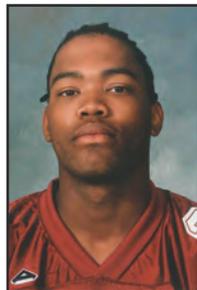


### JEREMY PESCHEL '04

A four-year starter at quarterback, Peschel helped take the Vikings from an 0-10 season his freshman year to back-to-back national playoff appearances in his junior and senior seasons.

The Vikings posted a 25-6 record during Peschel's final three seasons. He ended his career as the school's all-time leader in pass completions (563), passing yards (7,751), passing touchdowns (70), total offensive yards (8,403) and total touchdowns (81).

Peschel was named conference MVP in both his junior and senior seasons. He received all-conference honorable mention as a freshman and sophomore, and first-team all-conference as a junior and senior. He also received All-American honorable mention after his junior season.



### STEVE BATTLE '04

A three-time All-American, Battle excelled as a dynamic receiver for the Vikings from 1999 to 2002.

Battle burst onto the scene as a sophomore during the 2000 season, returning three kickoffs for touchdowns in addition to his receiving prowess. He was named second-team All-American and first-team all-conference. He repeated with those same honors as a junior, and then was named the conference's Most Valuable Graduating Senior in 2002, along with earning All-American honorable mention.

VCSU posted a 32-9 record and made two playoff appearances during Battle's career. Battle is the school record holder in several categories, including career receiving yards (3,337), receptions (182) and receiving touchdowns (48).



### BEN AARESTAD '02

A fierce linebacker, Aarestad was a three-time first-team all-conference selection during his Viking football career from 1998 to 2001.

He was named Team Defensive MVP his final three years, along with earning first-team all-conference those seasons. Aarestad was also named second-team All-American during his senior season. The Vikings were 25-6 over his final three seasons, and he posted 235 tackles and 11 sacks as a junior and senior.



### KELLI (GEURTZ) HEISER '97

Geurtz excelled in two sports during her VCSU career, earning all-conference honors in both volleyball and softball.

She joined the Viking family as a transfer in 1995 and made an immediate impact on the volleyball court, earning all-conference honors as a junior. As a senior, Geurtz helped the Viking volleyball team achieve a 33-8 overall record, an 11-1 conference record and a regular-season conference championship. She was named all-conference and first-team

All Great Plains, along with earning all-region honors.

On the softball field, Geurtz was named all-conference and all-section after her junior season in 1996.



### SCHERYL (KOTTSICK) BJORND AHL '04

Kottsick starred on the VCSU volleyball court from 1999 to 2002, earning all-conference honors each of her four seasons.

After bursting onto the scene as a freshman, Kottsick was named second-team all-conference and conference Freshman of the Year. She continued her career with all-conference honors as a sophomore, junior and senior. She was named the conference's Most Valuable Graduating Senior in 2002.



### DAVE BASS '77

Bass has been a fixture at Valley City State University for more than 35 years. He is being inducted for his service as a coach and administrator for Viking athletics.

Bass started his career at VCSU in 1981. He served as the head track and field and cross country coach for 10 years from 1981-91. He was also an assistant football coach for three seasons from 1983-85. Most recently, Bass has served as faculty athletic representative for 20 years and as the

conference's eligibility chair for nine years.

Bass served as a coach for four teams already inducted into the Hall of Fame: 1981 and 1986 cross country, and 1983 and 1984 football.



## Women's basketball returns to nationals, finish 24-9

A school-record 24 wins and the fourth national tournament appearance in program history highlighted the Valley City State women's basketball season in 2016-17.

Despite battling a rash of injuries, the Viking women posted a 24-9 overall record and advanced to the NAIA National Tournament for the fourth time in the last seven years. After earning an at-large bid to nationals in Sioux City, Iowa, the Vikings drew the nation's only undefeated team in the first round: No. 5-ranked Southeastern University (Fla.).

VCSU played the Fire tough for the first 20 minutes, trailing just 36-33 at halftime, but Southeastern's tall and deep roster overwhelmed the Vikings in the second half. Southeastern went on to an 87-58 victory. The 24 victories ties the program record set by the 2012-13 squad, which also lost in the first round of the national tournament.

Valley City State went 22-7 during the regular season and finished third in the North Star Athletic Association with a 13-3 conference record. The Vikings defeated rival University of Jamestown, then ranked No. 11 in the country, in overtime during the regular season finale. VCSU then knocked off No. 21 Dickinson State in the semifinals of the conference tournament before losing to Jamestown in the NSAA championship game.

The injury bug hit VCSU so bad that at semester break the Vikings added to the active roster

their student assistant coach, Morgan Titus, who subsequently suffered a season-ending injury a few weeks later. Rebecca Eberle, a student from the general population, also joined the team at semester break and played a key role for VCSU down the stretch. At one point in the season, the Vikings traveled with just seven healthy players for a road game at Viterbo University. The Vikings had two players miss the entire season with injuries, and three other players miss significant portions of the year.

"All year we had different kids step up and be difference makers," said VCSU head coach Jill DeVries. "I'm so proud of this group. They just kept working and finding ways to win games."

Lexi Lennon, a 5-foot-8 guard from West Fargo, N.D., was named first-team all-conference and honorable mention All-American following the season. Lennon proved to be a versatile team leader this season for the Vikings. She played a team-high 31 minutes per game and filled up the stat sheet with averages of 14.3 points, 5.1 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.8 steals. Lennon shot a team-best 49 percent from the field and 41 percent on 3-point shots. Lennon finished the season just eight points shy of 1,000 career points.

Georgia Williams, a 5-foot-10 senior guard from Townsville, Australia, was named second-team all-conference for VCSU. She led the team in scoring at 14.5 points per game and made a team-high 65 3-pointers during the season. Wil-

liams surpassed 1,000 career points during the season and finishes her career eighth all-time in scoring at VCSU with 1,260 points. She is also the school's all-time leading 3-point shooter with 185 made 3s.

Alli Vandal, a sophomore forward from Rolla, N.D., emerged as one of the conference's top players inside over the last half of the season. She was named honorable mention all-conference after averaging 12.5 points and 5.6 rebounds per game.

Junior guard Kennedy Henningsgard also averaged double figures for VCSU, making an immediate impact in her first season as a Viking with 10 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.

VCSU graduates three seniors from this year's team: Williams, guard Nisja Bass and guard Sara Schwanke. Williams, Lennon, Schwanke and Paige Meyer were all named Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes, recognizing them as juniors or seniors who have maintained at least a cumulative GPA of 3.5.



## Men's basketball finishes 16-15 under new coaches



Austin Dunbar

A new coaching staff highlighted the 2016–17 men's basketball season at Valley City State University. After being hired in early August, new head coach Ryan Montgomery and assistant Karl Sorby hit the ground running with little preparation time for the new season.

The end result was positive: a 16-15 overall record, an 8-8 mark in conference play, and a fifth-place finish in the North Star Athletic Association regular season standings. Due to various circumstances, the Vikings at times were down to just eight healthy players on the roster.

A few highlights during the season included a Dec. 16 win over No. 21-ranked Viterbo University and a Jan. 7 road win at rival University of Jamestown. After tying for fifth in the NSAA standings, VCSU received the No. 6 seed for the conference tournament. The Vikings lost out in a quarterfinal game at the University of Jamestown.

Junior Jayden Ferguson was named first-team all-conference and honorable mention All-American for the Vikings. A 6-foot-5 forward from Williston, N.D., Ferguson led the Vikings in scoring this season at 21 points per game. He also pulled down 4.9 rebounds and shot 51 percent from the field and 41 percent on 3s. Ferguson was second in the North Star Athletic Association in scoring and finished fourth in shooting percentage.

Ferguson climbed the all-time scoring list at VCSU throughout the season, moving up to fourth all-time with 1,635 points. Only three Vikings have scored more points in their careers than Ferguson: Bob Price (1,835 points, 1948–51), Bill Galloway (2,006 points, 1949–51, 1953–54), and Cavin Anderson (2,305 points, 1968–72).

Austin Dunbar, a 6-foot-5 junior forward from Dolton, Ill., was named the NSAA Defensive Player of the Year for 2016–17 after leading the conference with 12 double-doubles. Dunbar averaged 14.1 points and a conference-best 8.7 rebounds per game. He also earned honorable mention all-conference honors.

Rashad Satahoo, a 6-foot-2 junior guard from North Lauderdale, Fla., earned honorable mention all-conference as well after scoring 18.3 points per game and making 86 3-pointers on the season. Satahoo was fourth in the nation in free-throw percentage at 89.8 percent. He ranked fourth in the conference in scoring.

Satahoo and junior guard Alex Quist were both named Dakotronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes after the season. The honor is bestowed on junior or senior student-athletes who have maintained a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA.

The Vikings graduate two seniors from this year's squad: 6-foot-8 forward Ellwood Ellenson and 6-foot-5 forward Austin Rambow.

## Indoor track & field fares well at NSAA meet



The Valley City State track and field team had two conference champions, eight all-conference performances and one national qualifier during the 2017 indoor season this winter.

Seri Geisler (shot put) and Dennis Gonzalez (3,000 meters)

each won individual conference titles and set meet records at the NSAA Championships, and Geisler represented VCSU at the NAIA National Championships. She placed 16th in the national women's shot put competition.

Geisler won her second straight conference indoor shot put title, breaking her own school and conference record with a personal-best toss of 13.39 meters (43-11/14).

On the men's side, Gonzalez earned a conference title in the 3,000 meters. He entered the meet with the top time in the NSAA and lived up to the billing, crossing the line in a time of 9:10.80, a new meet record by almost five seconds. Gonzalez also earned all-conference honors in the mile run by finishing in third place.

The Vikings had 19 place-winning performances (Top 6) and set 32 new career or season bests at the NSAA meet in Brookings, S.D.

"I do not believe that I can adequately convey how truly proud I am of these student-athletes," VCSU head coach Chris Johnson said after the conference meet. "This team stepped up to the plate today and performed at the highest level. We pride ourselves on the preparations we make to compete at the conference meet and it showed with our best meet of the year to date."

In addition to Geisler and Gonzalez's meet records, VCSU athletes also set a pair of school records. Keauna Hansen broke her own record from earlier this year with a time of 1:01.64 in the 400-meter dash, and Macy Dimler set a new record with a time of 9.89 in the 60-meter hurdles.

Megan Johnson had all-conference performances in the long jump and high jump, and Dimler earned all conference in the 60-meter hurdles.

For the Viking men, Orin Rambow was all-conference in the 800, and Lenzel Koskela raced to an all-conference finish in the 400.

Valley City State will continue its track and field season with a half-dozen outdoor meets this spring.



Dennis Gonzalez



The cast of "The Empty Chair" poses with director Katy Spears (center, standing).

## Theatre students take the director's role in presenting one-acts

The presentation of the student-directed one-acts has been a tradition in VCSU Theatre for many years. Student directors around the country close the academic year with student-directed works to showcase not only skills in directing, but also to provide unique opportunities for actors who haven't been able to participate in mainstage productions.

Often these productions are limited to scenes or students working in teams of two to direct one-act plays in large departments. "Our students have an advantage," says Jenni Lou Russi, VCSU director of theatre. "We provide an opportunity for each student in Theatre 365 to direct their own one-act play."

Each student chooses their own one-act play, applies for the rights to produce the script, and leads the cast and crew in creating the final product on stage. "As directors in a semester-long project, our students need to learn how to choose published works and apply for the rights to produce scripts that are appropriate for North Dakota High School Activities Association events and community theatre productions," says Russi.

Choosing their scripts is the first step in producing this event. Katy Spears, a theatre minor at VCSU, chose her script, "The Empty Chair" by Tim Kelly, because she wanted students on campus to discuss a difficult subject, while being able to express their reaction to the events that occur during a meeting for a 12-step program in the play. She cast students from VCSU, community members, and VCSU alumni, including Jacob Olson, who now works in Valley City for the Abused Persons Outreach Center.

From Park Rapids, Minn., Spears is in the directing class to prepare for future work in theatre. She intends to apply for a SOAR (Student Opportunities in Academic Research) grant in the 2017-18 academic year to complete a researched production based on sensory deprivation as a capstone project in her senior year.

Monika Browne, SOAR grant recipient in 2015-16, directed Tennessee Williams's "Lord Byron's Love Letter," stating that she chose the play because it is "such an unusual piece in Williams's canon." Browne, an active theatre minor at VCSU, has performed in many productions as well as serving casts as a student dramaturg, dialect coach, and stage manager.

She enrolled in Theatre 365: Directing the Play because, in her words, "I needed it to complete my theatre minor and it was my last opportunity to take directing with Professor Russi. I wanted to take this class specifically from her because in my almost 20 years in theatre, I have come to know many different directors. Russi is a director whose approach, inventiveness, and experience—as an artist and an educator—I have come to respect and value over these years that I've spent studying at the VCSU Theatre Department."

Browne is known for her work in the Fargo area and intends to continue using her skills after graduation. "Directing is not just a skill applicable to theatre," she says. "It is a life skill which can be useful in any job because it requires the ability to understand literature, to manage people, to be creative with information and materials given....It's a continuous test of self-discipline, interpersonal communication, and the ability to work within ever-changing deadlines."

Hannah Isakson, a freshman at VCSU, dove into VCSU Theatre in the 24-Hour Theatre event at the beginning of the academic year, played the leading role in "Lysistrata," and played two very different characters in "Almost, Maine."

Directing "Push" by George Cameron Grant was an important choice for Isakson. In her program notes for the production, she states: "Not only does the show discuss the grief faced after the loss of a close family member, but it also tackles the lack of acceptance for members of the LGBT community. With tough subjects like

this, 'Push' provides a voice for those who don't always get the opportunity to speak up."

In addition to her VCSU Theatre activities, Isakson is also an assistant coach for the Valley City High School speech team. She intends to continue using her directing and coaching skills for her own students when she begins her teaching career.

The student directors led their casts and crew in all aspects of production, including set construction, rehearsals, technical design, and curtain speeches for public audiences. Their work culminated in public shows April 6-8 in Theatre 320. "These students are ready for their own venues," says Russi. "One of the best parts of my job is seeing our VCSU Theatre alumni with their own student casts at NDHSA events."



Monika Browne, Hannah Isakson and Katy Spears each chose and directed a one-act play for VCSU Theatre April 6-8.

## Dieken featured in Midwest Artists Studio exhibit

The work of Karri Dieken, assistant professor of art, was featured in the Midwest Artist Studios Group Show, which ran March 3–April 1 at Walker's Point Center for the Arts in Milwaukee, Wis. The show included artwork from 15 participating artists in the Midwest Artist Studios Project, a series of visits to regional artists who embrace the importance of art education.

Created by Wisconsin artist and art educator Frank Juarez, the project aims to provide a dynamic curriculum for K-12 art educators. During Juarez's studio visits, he and his team documented each of the artists' studio environments, their process, and discussed what it is to be a working artist, including work schedule, work ethic, creative stimulation, motivation and more. The content is published in a yearly volume along with a workbook with curriculum created based on each artist's practice.

Dieken was interviewed in her Valley City State studio in July 2016. (A portion of the interview can be found online at [midwestartiststudios.com/2016/07/13/day-4-view-from-the-road/](http://midwestartiststudios.com/2016/07/13/day-4-view-from-the-road/).) She created artwork especially for the project and participated in Skype interviews and collaborative projects with Juarez and his students.



## Concert Choir performs at Capitol

Valley City State University's 65-voice Concert Choir, under the direction of Christopher Redfearn, performed a concert with choirs from Minot State University and the University of North Dakota during the Legislative Showcase March 29 in the State Capitol at Bismarck.

Singing in the Capitol's Memorial Hall, the ensemble performed four pieces on its own and three more in a massed choir with the two other groups.



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The VCSU Alumni Association's annual Phone-A-Thon, one of our major activities each academic year, allows our alumni to show their Viking Pride in supporting our university. Donations allow us to stay in touch with alumni in several important ways, including publication of The Bulletin, hosting socials and reunions, sponsoring alumni award programs and supporting programs on the campus of Valley City State University. The Phone-A-Thon also provides scholarship support to our current students attending VCSU. By supporting the annual Phone-A-Thon, you can help VCSU achieve the strategic initiatives underway that move VCSU forward.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the 2017 Alumni Phone-A-Thon. The following list includes cash donations and payment on pledges received as of March 31, 2017.

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 Douglas & Ann Kelly

Alan M. Klefstad  
 Sandra L. Kleinknecht  
 ♥Jenner L. Klemme  
 ♥Mel & Erin Klingenberg  
 James & Judith Knauss  
 ♥Kim & Rhonda Knodle  
 ♥Dianne & Leslie Koll  
 Patricia A. Korf  
 Mary M. Kreidelcamp  
 Donna M. Krisch  
 Lori A. Kuzel  
 Jeane R. Lang  
 Russ & Pat Larson  
 Bruce & Susan Larson  
 Ivan A. Lehman  
 Letha E. Lewis  
 Ardis A. Libak  
 Lowell I. Linder  
 ♥Roger & Kim Lipetzky  
 Darlene F. Loewen  
 Chuck & Linda Luessen  
 ♥Craig R. Lunde  
 Kent A. Luttschwager  
 Edward & Joy Lyter  
 Judith L. Mains  
 John A. Marshall  
 Louise Max  
 Laura J. McLean  
 ♥David & Beverly  
 Melgaard  
 Mary Ann Metcalf  
 Kathy B. Michael  
 Kathryn H. Mikwold  
 Lorraine E. Milford  
 Robert D. Mitchell  
 Brenda R. Mitzel  
 Jeanine M. Moffitt  
 Patricia A. Moore  
 ♥Angela M. Morford  
 Paul A. Morth  
 Shirley M. Moulton-Bachini  
 Curry G. Mund  
 ♥Stacey A. Nathan  
 Felix P. Ndugwa  
 Jay M. Nitschke  
 ♥Melinda Olauson  
 Rod & Judy Olin  
 ♥Cara L. Olson  
 Roger D. Olson  
 Kaye M. Omdahl

Susan K. Paulson  
 Tammi Paulson  
 Franz D. Pedersen  
 Jean M. Peterson  
 Douglas L. Pieske  
 Jean M. Piper Burton  
 ♥Mark & Cora Potts  
 Delores B. Quigley  
 Jane T. Radig  
 Mike Rasmussen  
 Kurt & Maria Reidman  
 ♥Annie M. Retka  
 Barbara J. Richards  
 ♥Dave & Patti Rickford  
 Brian T. Ringdahl  
 Bonita J. Roswick  
 Lynn A. Rudolph  
 Senator David Rust  
 LaVonne G. Rustad  
 Lisa A. Ruter  
 Shirley D. Ruud  
 Mark & Jody Sand  
 ♥Scott & Traci Sand  
 Doris A. Sanden  
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 Harvey & Diane Schilling  
 Leo & JoAnn Schmidt  
 Terry A. Schock  
 ♥John Schonert  
 Becky & Darrell Schroeder  
 Russell L. Schuldheisz  
 Donald H. Schuler  
 Betty & Alvin Schumacher  
 Brenda J. Seher  
 Darlene J. A. Short  
 Janet Simon  
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 David A. Smith  
 Pat Smith  
 Shirley L. Sobolik  
 Peggy Sola  
 JoAnn D. Spickler  
 David A. Steele  
 Dean & Charlene Stenson  
 Carlyn A. Stevens  
 Thomas S. Stingl  
 Barbara A. Stockstad  
 Amy V. Strasser  
 ♥Janna C. Strege

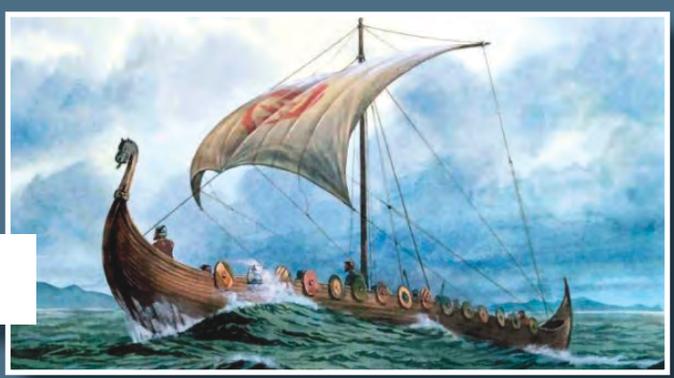
Bradley E. Sufficool  
 Boyd & Kathy Sussex  
 Elaine K. Theisen  
 William & Pat Thomas  
 Herb A. Tillapaugh  
 Kaye L. Topp  
 Delores C. Tracy  
 Matthew Trapp  
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 Jeff D. Weigel  
 Kenneth P. Weshnevski  
 ♥Scott Westby  
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 ♥Jeremy & Kara Wiebe  
 Mary L. Wiens  
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 ♥Kellie M. Wikenheiser  
 Trista J. Williams  
 James & Lucy Wire  
 Cathy M. Wollitz  
 Alan L. Worrel  
 ♥David & Rhondalyn Wyum  
 Stuart E. Wyum  
 ♥Brian & Brooke Yanish  
 ♥Timothy J. Ziemba in  
 memory of Jim Ziemba  
 Davy & Sheila Zinke

**These donors gave on Giving Hearts Day to other VCSU funds:**

♥Dale & Liz Hoskisson  
 ♥Kenneth Lettenmaier  
 ♥Dan & Katherine McRoberts  
 ♥Isaac & Katie Olson  
 ♥Carl Evelyn Peter  
 ♥Dick & Marilyn Twete

CHECK OUT THE VCSU STUDENT BLOG  
**THE VIKING VOYAGER**

[thevikingvoyager.wordpress.com](http://thevikingvoyager.wordpress.com)



## Vikings on the Move

### 1930s

**Loren Law '36/'42** recently celebrated his 100th birthday. A party was held in his honor.

**Muriel (Strand) Anderson '41** is retired and lives in Fargo. She keeps active with many organizations, including the Fargo Retired Teachers.

### 1950s

**Donald Frost '50** and his wife, Joanne, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 1, 2017. They recently spent two weeks in sunny Orlando, Fla. Don will finish his bowling season in May and looks forward to golf league starting in April.

**Ruth (Saar) McMillan '52** is blessed to be able to enjoy the summers in North Dakota and winters in Arizona. Ruth enjoys receiving *The Bulletin* and any news of VCSU! She is thankful for the various alumni reunions and socials that are held.

**Barbara (Langdahl) Gilbertson '54** enjoys living in Sun Center Apartments in Mayville, N.D. She gets back to Finley as much as possible. Barbara takes part in the senior citizens activities in both Mayville and Portland. Her daughter, Joni, and family—Doug, Ryan, Rae and Scarlett—live in Mayville as well.

**Kathleen (Sheldon) Boe '56/'61** has been retired for 20 years! She cannot believe that it has been that long. Kathleen enjoys traveling.

**Beverly (Olson) Lobsinger '57/'79** taught for 40 years in North Dakota and Montana, with the last 23 years in Williston. Her husband, Richard, was a Sears manager so they moved a lot; he retired in 1993 when the store closed. Beverly retired in 2000. They have two daughters, Amy and Kay, and five grandchildren. The youngest two grandchildren will graduate from high school this year, and one will be attending VCSU in the fall. Beverly is excited about that. All of their children live in North Dakota so they get together often. Beverly and Richard love to camp whenever they can.

**Juanita (Cozart) Luessen '57** is 96 years old. She has always been proud of VCSU and can remember when school boards came to the college searching for teachers.

**Lowell Peterson '58** taught school at Fingal for 9 years. He moved to McVile, N.D., in 1967 and was the superintendent of schools for 25 years. He retired in 1992 and moved to Valley City in 1996. He has two children, Toni and Todd, who are both teachers.

**Roger Rasmusson '58** and his wife, Dolores, moved from Willmar, Minn., to Chisago City, Minn., in late 2015 to be closer to family. They had lived in Willmar for 51 years.

**Harriet (Peterson) Greuel '59 and '73** spends six months in Arizona and six months in Fargo.

**Deanne (Roseth) '60 and Bob Horne '59** welcomed their sixth great-grandchild in January 2017. They also have seven grandchildren and three sons. They consider themselves greatly blessed.

**Mary (Christensen) '59 and Tilford Kroshus '59** are retired and living at Pickerel Lake, Minn., in Ottertail County. They really enjoy traveling, and Tilford still plays in the band Kroshus & Krew.

### 1960s

**Karen (Berge) Baeth '62/'81** is retired and a grandmother. She has two grandsons in college, and more will enter college soon. She is a strong believer in earning a college education.

**Marilyn (Knutson) '60 and Don Wilke '63** met at VCSTC in 1959 and married on June 2, 1962; they will celebrate 55 years this June. They moved to Minnesota in 1969, where Don served as an elementary principal and later as superintendent in four different school districts. Marilyn earned her M. Ed. and taught special education for a number of years. Marilyn has developed Parkinson's disease, and Don is her lead caregiver with assistance from several home health aides. They have two adult children and four grandchildren.

**Mel Olson '64** retired after serving 49 years in the field of education. He served 10 years as a teacher/coach in Pembina, N.D.; 3 years as a secondary principal and 18 years as the superintendent in Cavalier, N.D.; 5 years as the North Dakota state director of vocational/technical education, and 13 years as the director of the Skills and Technology Training Center at NDSCS Fargo. Mel and his wife, Kim, live in Fargo, ND.

**Duane Zwinger '64** fully retired from the education field in 2014 after 50 years of working with students. His career was mostly a classroom teacher; he then moved into the administrative field and also did some coaching. Duane and his wife of 50 years, Mary Ann, currently live in Carington; they will be moving to Fargo this spring.

**Sandra (Sargent) Kleinknecht '65** is a retired elementary teacher. In June, she will be traveling to St. Petersburg, Russia; Finland; and Norway. She has previously traveled to Israel, Italy, Greece and Turkey. Sandra was the 2016 South Dakota Volunteer of the Year for the American Red Cross.

**Joseph Coggon '69** was appointed to the Board of Directors of CONECA (Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error Collectors of America), Brooklyn, N.Y. and liaison to the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs, Colorado. His duties include directing the ERRORAMA in Denver, Colo., in 2017. As a Denver Coin Club member, this is a special honor to serve the organizations of which he is a member.

**Pam (Stockland) '69 and Craig Sturlaugson '70** are retired. Since retiring from teaching in 2003, Craig continues to teach behind-the-wheel at Centennial High School in Circle Pines, Minn. He also ushers for the Minnesota Twins. Pam continues with her piano lessons.

### 1970s

**Paul Hentges '70** is still living in Great Bend, N.D. He retired from teaching in Atwater, Minn., in 2004. He enjoys golf with his friends and several trips to Arizona each winter. He and his wife, Patty, have 18 grandchildren who keep them happy and busy throughout the year.

**Jan (Hins) '72 and Bill Mimnaugh '72** have four grandchildren. Bill just finished his 43rd summer as the migrant program director, and Jan is in her 44th year of teaching special education with the Breckenridge Public School System.

**John Schmidt '73** retired from education in 2013 after serving as a teacher, coach, athletic director, middle school principal and high school principal in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. He currently lives in Eagan, Minn.

**Kathy (Shape) '74 and Boyd Sussex '75** are both retiring from teaching at the end of the 2017 school year. After 42 years of teaching, they are looking forward to enjoying a life that isn't scheduled. They are also looking forward to spending more time with their grandkids.

**Beverly (Woehl) Weigel '75** is enjoying retirement!

**Kay (Haugen) Omdahl '77** is blessed to be able to be at home and babysit her 3-1/2-year-old grandson. Her favorite hobby is quilting; she also enjoys listening to Chicago Bulls games. Her husband, Neil, works at Central Business Systems in Jamestown.

**David Katzenmeyer '78** is loving the retired life after 38 years in teaching. He stays busy with two boys in high school. David says, "Hello to all the VCSU alumni out there. Go Vikings!"

**Kristi (Froeber) '80 and Donn Frahm '79** continue to live in New Rockford, N.D., where they've been for 35 years. Kristi retired in 2014 after 30 years as an English teacher. Donn and Kristi are proud grandparents for the first time. Their daughter and son-in-law, who live in St. Paul, had their first child in December 2016, Drew Braden Anderson. Donn and Kristi's son Kendall graduates from college this spring.



◀ **Jay Morgan '69** can be found at the Longboat Key Tennis Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays stringing tennis rackets and installing new grips. He is known as the "Breeze-way Stringer" and has strung rackets for more than 30 years. Longboat Key is located near Sarasota, Fla. Jay attended the 53rd Annual North Dakota Suncoast Luncheon on Feb. 18, 2017, in Parrish, Fla. The honored guest was Mark Brown, CEO of Bank Forward, which has 14 branches including one in Valley City, N.D. Jay grew up with the Brown family at Sibley, N.D., on Lake Ashtabula in the early 1960s.

## In Remembrance

Laurence Kipp '37, St. Paul, Minn.  
 Zelda (Wadeson) Kyser '41, Fargo, N.D.  
 Agnes (Malmin) Pomeroy '42, Olympia, Wash.  
 Mary (Kirmis) Stahlecker '47, Lisbon, N.D.  
 Lucile (Clancy) Zink '56, Fargo, N.D.  
 Donald Flatau '60, Layton, Utah  
 Michael Flynn '61, Alexandria, Minn.  
 Orville Duval '62, Blair, Neb.  
 Doris (Schufletowski) Lageson '62, Verndale, Minn.  
 Agnes Austin '68, Jamestown, N.D.  
 Lorraine (Johnson) Larson '69, Valley City  
 David Donegan '70, Jamestown, N.D.  
 Jerry Kleinknecht '70, Aberdeen, S.D.  
 Dale Lutjens '70, Mandan, N.D.  
 Gary Olsberg '70, Valley City  
 Mary Pat (Matchie) Keyes '71, Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Morgan Lacy '71, Fessenden, N.D.  
 Craig Murie '74, Fargo, N.D.  
 Cyndy (Saugstad) Zaun '81, Fingal, N.D.  
 Gregory Grooters '82, Fargo, N.D.  
 Gregory Norberg '82, Valley City  
 Carol (Kastner) Christianson, Fargo, N.D.  
 Lawrence Bushey, Bismarck, N.D.  
 Jan Ingstad, Valley City  
 Nancy (Rezac) Lunneborg, Hawley, Minn.  
 Harley Mathias, Valley City  
 Harold Narum, Walcott, N.D.  
 Louis Nicoli, West Fargo, N.D.  
 John O'Grady, Rochester, Minn.  
 Morris Peterson, Valley City  
 Blaine Perry White Owl, Minot, N.D.

### Former Faculty & Staff

Arthur Bell '52, Northfield, Minn.  
 Kenneth "K.O." Bolstad, Valley City  
 Gene Kish, Valley City

**Nancy (Pederson) '75 and Alan Sorensen '80** are retiring! Al's 36 years in education and Nancy's 36 years as an optician are coming to an end, and they are hoping to enjoy their time with family and friends.

### 1980s

**Dianne (Winter) Graff '82** and her husband, Brad, continue to live in Valley City. Dianne has been busy with planning and decorating for weddings around the area following her retirement from teaching. Her business, Lush Wedding Design and Rental, continues to grow. The couple celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary with a return trip to Mackinac Island, where they were married.

**Steve Olson '88** was named the head football coach at Michigan Tech University. Olson has been the defensive coordinator for the past three seasons at Michigan Tech and was linebackers coach prior to that. Olson has 25 years of collegiate coaching experience, including 12 years at Minnesota-Crookston and 7 years at Jamestown College.

### 1990s

**Ellen (Musgrave) Berg '91** and her husband, Don, are looking forward to spring and the opportunity to get outside to enjoy the weather again. Ellen and Don keep very busy and really like the fact that they make their own schedule. They both read a lot; Ellen still likes to do handwork, and Don is in the process of writing a book about the Dust Bowl. They hope to make another trip to Austin, Texas, this year to visit their oldest daughter and her family and celebrate their granddaughter's second birthday.

**Mary (Enstad) '92 and Steve Fike '93** have been living in the Bowdon area for 20 years. Steve farms, and Mary teaches at Fessenden-Bowdon and coaches for Harvey-Wells County. Their oldest daughter, Kara, attends NDSU; son Brian attends VCSU; and their youngest child, Jaye Nichole, is a sophomore at Fessenden-Bowdon.

**Teresa (Luthi) McDonough '94** spent November 2016 through March 2017 at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia working as a liaison for the Guard to active duty intelligence.

**Tricia (Brandt) Lebahn '98** was named the North Dakota Music Educators Association Music Educator of the Year for 2016. Tricia teaches all

levels of music—from basic music introduction to band and choir, to students in fifth grade through high school—in the LaMoure (N.D.) Public School. She and her husband, **Neil Lebahn '96**, live on a farm a few miles south of Litchville with their two children.

**Stacey (Juntunen) Seale '98** was selected to represent Minnesota in the School Band and Orchestra magazine's 19th annual "50 Directors Who Make a Difference." "50 Directors Who Make A Difference" showcases great music educators submitted from all 50 states. Current and former students, colleagues, peers, parents and other admirers of these band and orchestra directors submitted nominations. Stacey, the instrumental music instructor at East Grand Forks High School, has been teaching for 18 years.

### 2000s



▲ **Tuya (Battulga) Dutton '10**, a native of Mongolia, opened an e-commerce business importing and retailing premium Mongolian cashmere, woolen and leather goods online at [www.noosshop.com](http://www.noosshop.com). In Mongolian, "noos" means "wool," and the new venture allows her to combine her heritage, long-standing goal of opening a business, and the education she received at VCSU. Tuya and her sister in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, source products from artisans and small-scale producers across Mongolia. Tuya arrived at Valley City State as an international student from Mongolia to study business administration and after graduation spent more than five years working in VCSU's Allen Memorial Library. She is married to **Anthony Dutton '96**, associate professor and chair of the VCSU Department of Social Science.

## HELP US LOCATE THESE LOST ALUMNI

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

### 2006

Man Chu  
 Michael Dietz  
 Ashley (Mann) Fliflet  
 Jonathan Hanson  
 Melie Ilogu  
 Deric Ingram  
 Dena Muri  
 Marcy Overby  
 Jenifer (Wollman) Peterson

Rebecca Skrypek  
 Andrew St. Vincent  
 Brooke Tangen-Huus  
 Angela (Mayo) Trenbeath

### 2007

Heather (Docktor) Beaudoin  
 Carling Beninger  
 Skye Braun

Danielle Buggert  
 Michelle Castillo  
 Jamie Flath  
 Joseph Foertsch  
 Jessica (Peterson) Hanson  
 Jenna (Poeppel) Jewett  
 Audra Karlin  
 Jennifer (Porter) Kolesar  
 Ashley Kunz

Dawn (Sandbeck) Ransom  
 Brent Solberg

### 2008

Ashley Barr  
 Stephanie Bina  
 Tammy Cromwell  
 Michael Fox  
 Benjamin Gasal  
 Kali Henke  
 Carl Hintzman  
 Cody Johnson  
 Andrew Kuester  
 Martin Olsen  
 Andrea Smith  
 Monica Townsend

### 2009

Brandon Boehm  
 Jenny Colby  
 Grace Daugherty  
 Daniel Hill  
 Rachel (Wilson) Hill  
 Patrick Langehaug  
 Erin (Ottinger) Low  
 Christina Moreno  
 Yusuke Oikawa

### 2010

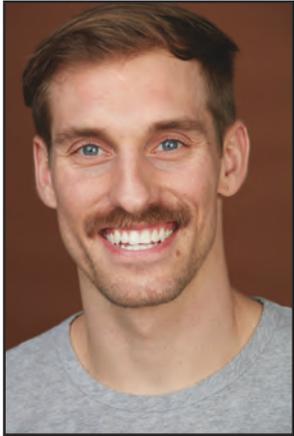
Brenda Browning  
 Amanda Carter  
 Eva Dusolier  
 Alesha Horst  
 Clay Johnson

Luke Jones  
 Stephanie Kosman  
 Nicole Nelson  
 Heath Rensink  
 Becca Wolff

### 2011

Caitlin Bonnstetter  
 Andy Derilus  
 Brice George  
 Dustin Krueger  
 Bethany Myles  
 Philip Russell  
 Cara Tonnell

## Ostrom '13 founds UTrain app



The article below was written by Sarah Tyre, a VCSU junior from Fargo and a student in Communication 344: Reporting and Feature Writing. The piece originally appeared on the VCSU student blog, the Viking Voyager ([www.thevikingvoyager.com](http://www.thevikingvoyager.com)).

Entitled. Narcissistic. Cynical. These are all words that have been used to describe millennials. Being a millennial simply means a person is between the ages of 20 and 35, but as with all generations, it can imply a certain persona. A simple Google search for “millennials” will produce equal parts spiteful and inspiring articles.

Technology and social media have been accused of corrupting an entire generation of young professionals. When a study emerges that shines light on successful and inspiring members of this controversial generation, it is a breath of fresh air.

While technology may be to blame for excessive selfies and cat videos, it is also responsible for the millennial generation’s entrepreneurial success. More millennials are starting companies and having rapid success than previous generations. The reason for their success and negative stereotype is the same—technology.

For millennial VCSU alumnus Dillan Ostrom '13, technology is not a vice but a victory. Ostrom, along with his business partner Nick Corbett created UTrain ([myutrain.com](http://myutrain.com)), an app that connects personal trainers with clients all over the country. As personal trainers, Ostrom and Corbett founded UTrain after brainstorming ways to grow their consumer base. Their tech-savvy and grit paved the way to starting a company.

“Back in the day if you were to start a business you didn’t have all these resources. You couldn’t easily go to Squarespace and make a website. Customers couldn’t easily reach out to you,” Ostrom said.

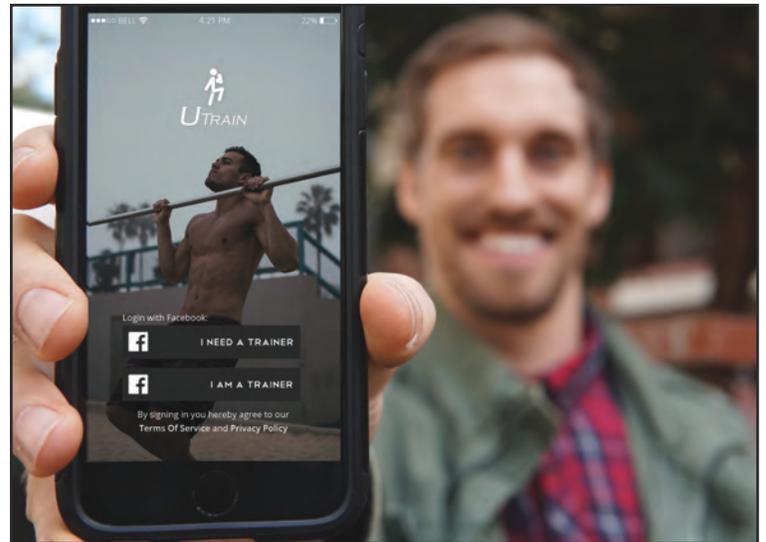
A study in “The BNP Paribas Global Entrepreneurs Report 2016” speculates that part of the reason there are more millennial entrepreneurs than prior generations may be that millennials are more comfortable with

failure. Millennials are used to starting over. Resilience and tenacity are a perfect combination for entrepreneurs. Ostrom chooses to see failure as a chance to grow.

“If you fail, do not panic. Failure is expected. It teaches you what you did wrong so that you can do it right next time around. If you love what you do, you’ll find a way,” Ostrom said.

Having an idea is the first step to every business. Introducing a new idea and convincing the public of the importance is one of the most challenging aspects of starting a business, according to Ostrom. What’s the remedy for the non-believers? Ostrom says it’s persistence. “It’s just believing in yourself and believing in your idea. If you believe in your idea, that’s going to show.”

Millennials tuned in to the negative static surrounding their generation should listen closely to the opportunity the world they were born into is providing. Starting a business today is as easy as owning a laptop. All it takes is an idea and perseverance.



2017

# VIKING SCRAMBLE Golf Tournament

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

VALLEY CITY TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB /  
BJORNSON PARK PUBLIC COURSE

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE

Registration from 8:30–9:30 a.m. at the Country Club  
\$90/person, \$360/team (includes golf, meal,  
mulligans and participation gift, door prizes and hole prizes)

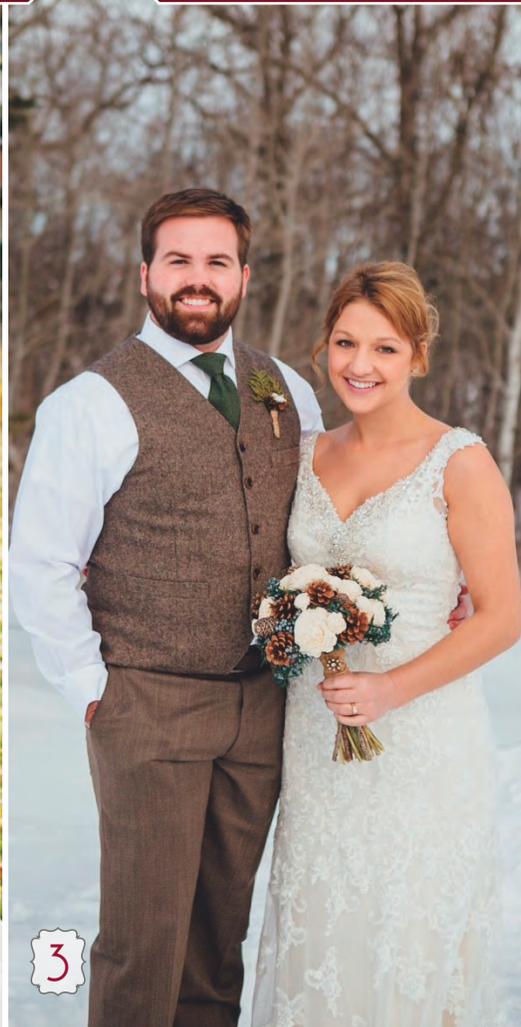


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[vcsuvikings.com/scramble](http://vcsuvikings.com/scramble)

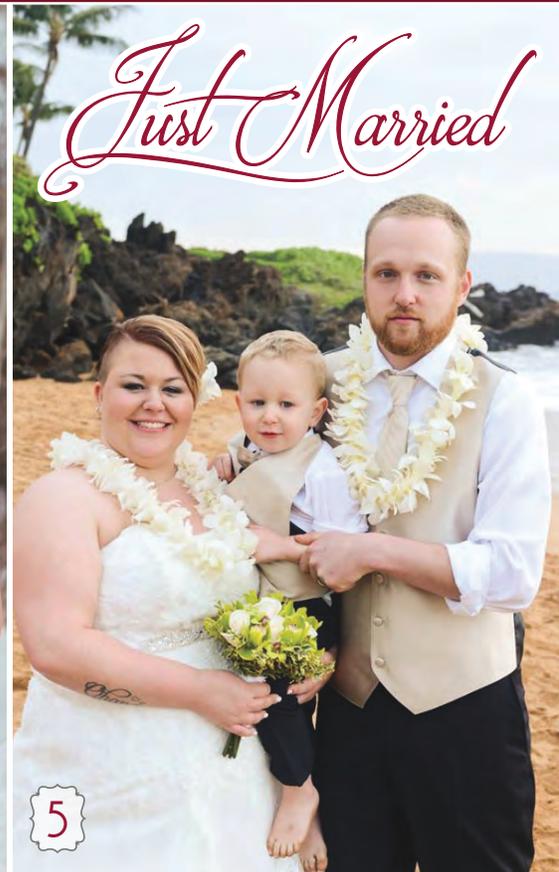
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Nate Stewart 701-845-7160



1



3



5



2



4

# Just Married

- Misty Olds '08** and Brandon Hokana were married on October 22, 2016.
- Patrick Rogers '13** and Kelly Stein were married June 24, 2016, in St. Paul, Minn.
- Amy Field '13** and **Ben Haugeberg '14** were married Dec. 30, 2016. Ben earned his master's in chemistry last summer, and Amy will graduate this May as a doctor of optometry. They are planning on settling down in Grand Rapids, Minn.
- Savannah McMillin '16** and **Gus Kueber '14** were married Dec. 3, 2016. Gus works at the bank in Aneta and is the assistant basketball coach at Dakota Prairie High School. Savannah works as a paraprofessional educator at Dakota Prairie High School and is the assistant coach of the softball team. They want to thank VCSU for everything they have done for them and their careers. Go Vikings!
- Katelyn Boyd '16** and Andrew Michel were married Feb. 1, 2017 in Maui, Hawaii, after nine years together. They live in Jamestown, N.D., and have a two-year-old son. Katelyn graduated from VCSU in May 2016 with a bachelor's degree in business process integration management and a human resource minor. Andrew graduated from NDSOS in May 2013 with an associate degree in diesel mechanics.

**Nicole Myhre '16** and Zachary Simmer were married Sept. 3, 2016.



# Lil' Vikings

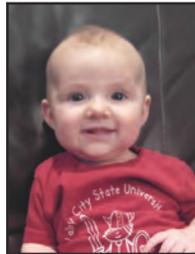
Have you had an addition to your family within the last six months? We want to know!

Contact Kim Hesch at [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu) to receive a free t-shirt for your new Lil' Viking. Please be sure to tell us your baby's name and birthdate. After you have received your baby's Lil' Viking shirt, send us your baby's photo so we can include it in the next issue of *The Bulletin*. Email the photo to [kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu).



**Nicholas Daniel Walsh**

September 3, 2016  
7 pounds 7 ounces,  
21 inches  
Raquel and Tom Walsh '16



**Jordyn Elizabeth Smith**

November 3, 2016  
7 pounds 1 ounces,  
19 inches  
Joins sister Brooklyn Elizabeth (Davis) '13 and Christopher Smith



**Owen Johnson**

December 24, 2015  
7 pounds 14 ounces,  
20 1/2 inches  
Krista (Sorensen) '10 and Mark Johnson



**Elizabeth Ann Backstrom**

July 10, 2016  
9 pounds 9 ounces,  
21 inches  
Joins brother Timothy Heidi (Larson) '10 and Jordan Backstrom '11



**Madison Eileen Kirsch**

October 28, 2016  
8 pounds 5 ounces,  
20 1/2 inches  
Ali (Jenson) '11 and Cy Kirsch '12



**Anders Jax Egstad**

April 19, 2016  
6 pounds 13 ounces,  
20 1/2 inches  
Jenni (Crom) '07 and Pete Egstad



**Jonathan Michael Pettit III**

November 12, 2014  
6 pounds 15 ounces,  
20 inches  
Kimberly and Jonathan "J.J." Pettit Jr. '09



**Bella Kay Kompelien**

November 11, 2016  
9 pounds, 22 inches  
Jeena (Schmit) '15 and Scott Kompelien



**Reese Montgomery Woods**

November 9, 2016  
8 pounds 10 ounces,  
21 inches  
Joins siblings Scout, Claire and Trey Heather (Schmit) '02, M. Ed '11, and David Woods '02, M. Ed '12



**Paisley Jade Radcliffe**

August 24, 2016  
4 pounds 12 ounces,  
18 1/2 inches  
Joins siblings Jaxon (7), Dashiell (4)  
Mandi (Groth) '03 and Josh Radcliffe



**Everett Ronald Alexander**

October 20, 2016  
8 pounds, 21 inches  
Joins sister Scarlet (2) Hope (Keyser) '07 and Loren Alexander '06 Grandson of the late Bonnie Alexander, former VCSU science professor



**Jessie Mae Juliet Fiebiger**

November 18, 2016  
7 pounds 7 ounces,  
20 1/2 inches  
Joins sisters Molly (8), Katie (6), Macy (6), Paige (5) Brittany and David Fiebiger '00 Granddaughter of Theresa (Clauson) Fiebiger '71



**Ryan Peter Erickson (left)**

6 pounds 5 ounces, 20 1/2 inches

**Cameron Bret Erickson (right)**

6 pounds 7 ounces, 19 3/4 inches  
August 27, 2016  
Bret '15 and Jacey Erickson



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