



ALUMNI BULLETIN

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VCSU Recognized

U.S. News and World Report has recognized Valley City State University as one of the top regional liberal arts colleges in the Midwest. *U.S. News* defines a liberal arts college as schools that emphasize undergraduate education and award at least 40% of their degrees in the liberal arts.

According to the Carnegie Foundation categories, there are 429 regional liberal arts schools. The Midwest region includes North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

The criteria for ranking the institutions include graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, alumni giving, student selectivity, and graduate rate performance. Valley City State University was the only four-year liberal arts institution in North Dakota to receive such recognition. "VCSU has earned several forms of national recognition in recent years," said Dr. Ellen Chaffee, VCSU President. "Ranking by *U.S. News and World Report* confirms that our innovations are paying off in student success rates. Nothing could be more gratifying to the people of Valley City State University."

President's Corner

by Gene Boyle '69

What makes you proud to be an alumnus of VCNS, VCSTC, VCSC, or VCSU? I don't know about you but when I go to an athletic contest, a music concert, attend a technology training session, observe a speech tournament, etc. I look at the biography of the coaches, conductors, or presenters. It is with great pride that I notice that VCSU is nearly always represented. In fact, Valley grads are leaders in most of these professions.

On September 25th and 26th, I attended the VCSU athletic hall of fame banquet, and alumni awards breakfast, and the football game. Each honored alumnus cited example after example of the teachers, coaches, and staff at VCSU who took a personal interest in them when they were students at Valley. They shared heart warming—life changing stories of educators who took the time to encourage, provide direction and even admonish them.

The dedicated caring attitude of VCSU professors and staff has left life-long imprints on each of us. As a result lives are being touched every day by Valley grads, just as they were touched while students at Valley. Now that is something to be proud of, I know I am.



Gene Boyle



Members of the 1988 Viking football team enjoyed a reunion on June 5th and many took part in the Viking Golf Scramble on June 6th. Team members, coaches and cheerleaders who took part in the reunion are: Back Row (left to right): Head Coach Jim Dew, Doug Wendel, Tom Smargiassi, Dave Rausch, Mark Ukestad, Paul Olson, Don Lennon, Tyler Schlecht, Bret Sorensen, Rob Keller, Larry Schafer and Anthony Fast. Row Two (left to right): Brad Townsend, Kyle Smith, Bruce Nelson, Don Lingen, Jim Breckheimer, Mark Dufner and Thad Engberg. Front Row (left to right): Sara Schafer, Gregg Horner, Darin Loe, Cory Anderson and Steve Fike. Also present but not pictured were Missy Stowman Vollmers and Mary Halverson.

LETTERS Editor

[Letters to the Editor are welcome and will be printed as space allows!]

Dear Friends,

Not long ago I got a telephone call from a young man, a student at VCSU, reminding me of the annual telethon. I asked him why he had chosen VCSU as an institution of higher learning. He said simply because it seemed to be so friendly. I could have said the same thing when I enrolled more than forty years ago.

I received my standard diploma in 1934 and I really expected to finish my studies at VCSU but events led me in another direction. I was given the chance to teach in a large junior high school near Chicago.

I'm sure you must know that there are several really great institutions in and near Chicago. I finally graduated from Northwestern and continued on at the University of Chicago and while these schools were excellent somehow VCSU remained foremost in my thoughts.

It seemed that at VCSU the faculty had created a learning environment which also included a very large helping of warm personal relationships. Students felt a security that was not present in the large institutions and that is only one of the many reasons I consider VCSU as one of the outstanding institutions of higher learning in the United States.

Would the "Bulletin" do us the honor of encouraging former students, especially those of the 1930s to write their thoughts concerning VCSU?

"Mike" Hummel
Class of 1934

VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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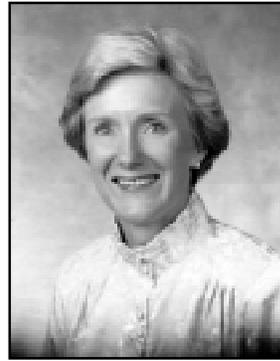
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| Bob King '55 | Valley City, ND |

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President of the Student Senate

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President's Message by Dr. Ellen Chaffee



Dr. Ellen Chaffee

The good news has been rolling in this fall! Enrollment is up 4 percent overall, and more than 10 percent for freshmen. *U.S. News & World Report* named VCSU as one of the top three public liberal arts colleges in the Midwest. And the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the university a \$1.7 million grant to develop a technology education program and customized learning.

The grant will allow us to transform the existing technology education program, which prepares K-12 teachers of technology, in two important ways. First, the new program will meet new standards soon to be issued by the International Technol-

ogy Education Association. Ours will be among the first to do so. Second, the program will be designed to encourage current teachers to come back and obtain a technology major without leaving their jobs, using various distance learning methods and flexible scheduling. Technology education will thus become our pilot project in customized learning. Other majors will follow the pattern later, with all VCSU majors eventually able to reach people any time, anywhere.

Faculty and students are becoming ever more proficient in using technology. This fall, each division is receiving equipment that will assist students in preparing their electronic portfolios of accomplishments in college. Completion of such a portfolio is a new requirement for graduation. Faculty will have more options for assessing student knowledge and skills. Students will be able to show prospective employers their talents. Ask us if we've scanned, pressed, or downloaded anything lately, and you're likely to get an earful!

In short, we seem to be on a rising spiral of achievement as we continue down the road of innovation. Please visit the campus at your convenience and see for yourself!

Nominate Outstanding Alumni

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

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

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

Nominations to Val Moritz at the VCSU Foundation
1-800-532-8641 Ext. 37403

Mending a Marveled Mansion

by Deneen Gilmour, *Fargo Forum*, 9-21-98

The President's House on the VCSU campus survives thanks to sturdy construction by Dr. Ludvig Stoud Platou and careful renovations while university presidents lived here from 1921 to 1994.

Now, somewhat of an orphan, the house thrives thanks to a volunteer partnership of concerned Valley City residents and college employees who refused to abandon it when the state University System dropped it as a budget item.

"We just don't want to let this house deteriorate or be torn down," said Jan Stowman, one of the volunteers who adopted the house. "Volunteers try to do as much work as possible so the campus staff isn't taxed. We don't want to burden them because there is no budget for this house."

A core group of eight women has adopted the house, toiling as if it were their own—replacing 1970s green and gold color schemes with historically appropriate decor, painting, wallpapering, cleaning and hanging pictures.

Martha Platou, an artist and photographer, designed the house on a grand scale, meant to be filled with music, conversation, food and parties. That's why the volunteers decided it deserved more than hands-off museum treatment.

They decided to operate it as a guest inn. This way, family reunion groups may make use of the five bedrooms. Or folks on a corporate retreat may enjoy a meal on heirloom china embossed with the words State Normal School.

The university still owns the house and provides heat and insurance coverage, Stowman said. However, the tender loving care that makes a house a home come from the hands of volunteers.

Visitors may rent The President's House for \$35 per day or \$100 for overnight stays. Daytime rentals are popular for bridal showers, business meetings and holiday parties.

Some guests bring their own food and use the home's kitchen. Or, food may be purchased from on-campus Marriott Food Service which offers 25 menu selections, ranging from a breakfast croissant to chicken Kiev for evening meals.

Twenty groups rented The President's House in June, July and August, said Connie Stavens, who works at VCSU's Student Center and handles bookings.

Rental proceeds go right back into the house. The volunteers have purchased pieces that help the home look historically accurate, such as rugs and linens. Historical furniture has been donated or loaned.

Becky Heise, who documented the home's history, contacted Platou descendants in New Orleans, Illinois and California and Norway, sending them current photos of the house. Platou descendants reciprocated with donations and historic photos.

"The community and college are in this together," says Stowman. "It is such a team thing. The people from Marriott (food service) are the frontline workers in making this work. They go way beyond the call of duty, hauling in beautiful centerpieces when they serve a meal and hauling all that food up the hill."

Dormitory housekeepers pitch in by prepping beds for overnight guests.

And students get into the action, too. Nineteen freshmen in Jan Drake's "Learning to Live, Living to Learn" class have selected the house as a service project. The class is designed to teach critical-thinking skills and teamwork.

For more information on The President's House, contact the VCSU Student Center at 701-845-7122.

In Remembrance

Leonard Stock (48) June 1998
 Georgiana Borden (55) June 1998
 Gerald Korsmo (57) July 1998
 Jennie (Sand) Shockman July 1998
 Wilhelmeina (Vanourny) Erickson (31) October 1998
 Valborg (Ordahl) Anderson (35) August 1998
 Burnett Graff (75) September 1998
 Joseph Flashe (71) August 1998
 Odine Christianson August 1998
 Homer Bjornson (43) August 1998
 Sarah (Wright) Abentroth (35) August 1998
 Juanita (Baustad) Evenson (39) July 1998
 Norman Wagner August 1998
 Grace Carlson August 1998
 Luciene (Lee) Rostberg July 1998
 Aron Ruff July 1998
 Anna (Jonasen) Rasmussen July 1998
 Norman Saugstad July 1998
 Dorothy Kozak [former faculty] August 1998
 Violet (Lutz) Ainscough (62) October 1998
 Eugene Henricks (62) September 1998
 Wallace Graalum (48) September 1998
 Trent Hanson (96) September 1998
 Pearl (Aljets) Linderman (33) September 1997
 Frances (Henderson) Triplett (21) October 1998
 Margaret (Almen) Johnson (35) July 1998
 Olga (Jordheim) Fredrickson (23) April 1998
 Ethel (Watts) Lane (24) April 1998
 Ilene (Fair) Beaton July 1998
 William Meier (35) August 1998
 A.E. "Ernie" Brox (40) October 1998
 Dr. Donald P. Miller (58) October 1998



Volunteer Spotlight

Many dedicated individuals donate hundreds of hours to Valley City State University and volunteer their time and talents in many ways. Their contributions are immeasurable and, too often, not adequately recognized. Beginning with this issue, we will introduce you to one of our valuable volunteers.

Bob King

Bob King '55 has been with the North Dakota High School Activities Association for the past 20 years; the last 11 of them spent as the Executive Secretary. Prior to that time he was a high school teacher, athletic director and coach. Bob is quick to credit his training at VCSU as being critical in building his successful career.

"I've always been very proud to tell people that I'm a graduate of VCSU. Valley City State was good to me. I have a special memory of Bill Osmon recruiting me and giving me the opportunity to go to college. If not for VCSU and Bill Osmon, I wonder where I would be today."

Bob and his wife, Nancy, have two adult children, both of whom are VCSU grads: Darin '86, Director of Technology for the Grand Forks Public Schools and Darcy Schauer '83, a teacher in Williston, ND.

Bob has served on the Alumni Board of Directors, the Viking Booster Board, the VCSU Foundation Board, the Scholarship Auction Committee, along with numerous committees. In addition, Bob has served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Viking Athletic Hall of Fame since 1986.

"I don't remember a time when Bob hasn't been available to help us," states Val Moritz, VCSU Alumni Relations. "Whether it's to MC a banquet, solicit Century Club memberships, serve a tailgate party, or recruit students, he's always willing to give his assistance to VCSU. He's a treasure!"



Now



Then

Scholarships Established

Dr. John F. Keller, Class of 1955, long-time Chairman of the VCSU Division of Business Education, and the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1993, established this scholarship fund upon his retirement in 1993. The scholarship is valued at up to \$500 is available to sophomores, juniors, and seniors majoring in Business Teacher Education. This annual renewable business education scholarship will be awarded on the basis of merit and potential as a future business educator as determined by the faculty of the Division of Business and Dr. Keller.

Mr. Terry Stewart and wife, Phyllis, of LaGrange, TX, have established the **Blanche E. Stewart Elementary Education Scholarship**. Blanche was a 1930 graduate of Valley City State University and spent her entire career in the field of elementary education in area schools including the last 25 of those years in the Jamestown Public School system. The scholarship will provide up to \$1,000 annually to a student from the Jamestown-Valley City area enrolled as an elementary education major at Valley City State University. The student should demonstrate academic ability, financial need, and

show promise as a prospective elementary education teacher.

Jeffrey M. Leech has established a \$1,000 scholarship which is available to an out-of-state student who shows academic promise and intends to participate in varsity football. Mr. Leech is a 1980 VCSU alumnus who participated in Viking Football while he was a student on campus. He currently owns and manages JML Asset Management, Atlanta, GA. The selection will be made by the Director of Financial Aid, Athletic Director, and the football coach.

VCSU Foundation . . . • Larry Robinson, Executive Director

Year End Tax Strategies for Investors

Your primary objective when you invest in securities is to make a profit; buy low, sell high. Unfortunately, getting the most profit isn't so simple— not only do you contend with the fluctuations of the market, but you're subject to tax laws that stipulate how much of the profit you can keep.

As the end of the year approaches, you're no doubt even more aware of the results of your investments and their tax consequences. The following strategies— followed before the year closes— help minimize your tax obligation without jeopardizing your financial goals.

Sell stocks with highest cost basis first. If you've bought the same stock at different times and plan to sell part of the holding, sell the shares with the highest cost basis first.

By doing so, you minimize your capital gain. According to the Internal Revenue Service, if you don't give specific instructions, the shares you have held the longest will be sold first.

Offset capital gains with capital losses. If you realize capital gains this year, you may offset them by selling stock or other securities at a loss. If your capital losses exceed gains, you may deduct the excess losses dollar for dollar against ordinary income up to a limit of \$3,000. (\$1,500 if married and filing separately.)

Make gifts of highly appreciated property. Publicly traded or closely held stock, real estate, and other appreciated property are all charitable gift candidates. When you make such a gift to your favorite charity, you

benefit from a tax deduction, avoid capital gains tax, and feel the satisfaction of helping support your favorite charity.

Ask us for details. An even better option may be for you to fund a charitable remainder trust with some of your low yield, highly appreciated stock. This could actually increase your income, because the trust may pay you (annually, for your lifetime) more than the dividends you were receiving, plus you'll obtain a charitable deduction for the value expected to remain for charity when the trust ends. Please call us for further information or consult your personal financial advisor.

[The information in this publication is not intended for legal advice. For legal advice, please contact an attorney.]

Review Your Will and Estate Plan . . .

If any of the major changes below have occurred in your personal affairs or those of your family, it's critical for you to review your will to see if it still meets the needs of your family:

Change in tax laws: Have you reviewed your will since the tax law changes were enacted by Congress? Your plans may be drastically affected.

Marriage: Your own marriage requires a change of your estate plan, because the law creates certain new rights and obligations with respect to property after marriage. But a change in a beneficiary's marital status might also trigger a will change.

Birth: A new child or grandchild in the family means a will should be reviewed. Should you provide a trust to protect an inexperienced beneficiary or provide funds for a college education?

Death: Does a death of a family member completely change your plan?

Divorce: Would you want to change the provisions made for your son or daughter if he or she were divorced?

Change of needs: Are your children grown up now? Do you and your spouse have more than ample assets? Should you make a greater use of gifts?

Change of residence: Does your will conform to the law of the state where you live now? Are inheritance taxes more? How can your estate pay them?

When reviewing your plan, we hope that you will consider a gift to Valley City State University. There are options available that allow you substantial tax savings, plus the satisfaction knowing you have helped sustain our efforts. For more information, please call or write us today:

VCSU Foundation
101 College Street SW
Valley City, ND 58072
701-845-7217 or 1-800-832-8641

Remembering Us in Your Will . . .

There are several ways to remember Valley City State University in your will. It all begins with an up-to-date will, which is the key to making your wishes known about how you want your estate to be divided.

If you don't leave a will, state law determines how your property will be divided— and an old will can be almost as bad as no will at all. Your wishes today for the division of your estate may be quite different from those you had when you made it originally.

You have numerous options if you name Valley City State University as a beneficiary.

One possibility is a bequest of a fixed dollar amount. Another is to give VCSU a percentage of the estate, which allows you to keep a division of the estate residue in desired proportions, regardless of its size.

Your gift can be contingent— that is, the funds would go to a certain individual if that person survives you. If not, they would be paid to VCSU. Often a better alternative is to create a trust, which would pay an income to an individual for life, with the remaining principal to be given to VCSU thereafter.

A gift without restrictions is usually the most useful as it allows us to apply the funds to the most pressing needs. However, you also have the right to specify in your will how the funds are to be used. If you wish to do this, we urge you to consult us before your execute your will to make certain that your conditions are ones that we are able to meet.

One of the nicest things you can do is to make your gift in memory of someone— either yourself or a person you've loved or admired.

You can also give property, and the possibilities are endless: a home, farm, or other real estate; business property; life insurance policies; or prized personal possessions. You may decide to bequeath us something you would like us to retain or use. If we can, we will do so.

If you are planning to make VCSU one of your beneficiaries, we encourage you to tell us now. By doing so, we can help you get the greatest possible satisfaction from your gift.

VCSU Theatre Opens Season

The first play of the season, "The Foreigner" opened October 21 and was performed through October 24 in Vangstad Auditorium. The next production, "The Pleasure of Honesty", will be produced in Theatre 320 December 2-5. In February, the VCSU Theatre will produce a musical comedy, "The Boy Friend". Days of that production are February 24-27 in Vangstad Auditorium. Finally, the season will close with a one-act play festival April 7-10 in Theatre 320. These productions are under the direction of Martin L. Key, VCSU Director of Theatre. Additional information is available by calling the VCSU Theatre at 701-845-7320

Planning Ahead

Alumni Socials 1998-99

Class A Girls Basketball – Jamestown

Thursday, November 12

4:00^{PM} – 7:00^{PM}

Gladstone/Select Inn

Class A Boys Basketball – Fargo

Thursday, March 11

4:00^{PM} – 7:00^{PM}

Days Inn

Class B Boys Basketball – Bismarck

Thursday, March 18

4:00^{PM} – 7:00^{PM}

Radisson Inn

December

VCSU Theatre Production

"The Pleasure of Honesty"

December 2 – 5, 1998

February

1999 Alumni Phone-A-Thon

VCSU Theatre Production

"The Boy Friend"

February 24 – 27, 1999

March

EBC Hit Parade

March 25-27, 1999

April

VCSU Theatre Production

One-Act Play Festival

April 7 – 10

5th Annual V-500/Booster Spring Auction

April 16

May

Commencement

May 8, 1999

June

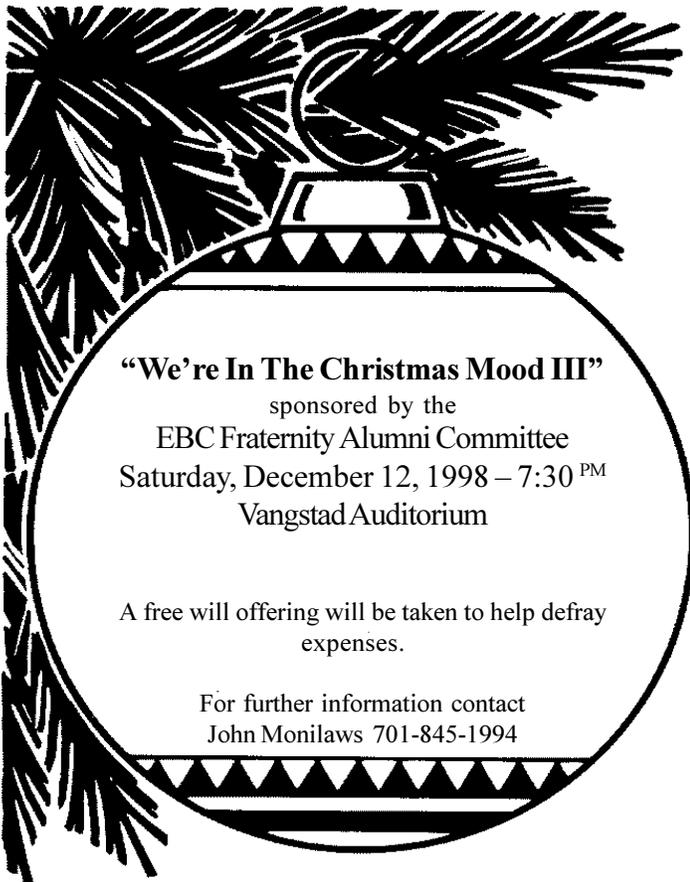
Viking Golf Scramble

June 5, 1999

October

1999 VCSU Homecoming Activities

October 1-2, 1999



Olson Keynotes Career Fair

Dan Olson '85, Vice President of Programming for KLTA, Fargo, ND, was the keynote speaker for the 1998 VCSU Career Fair held on Tuesday, October 13. He is also the host of Fargo/Moorhead's number one morning show, "The Flakes". A native of Valley City, Dan graduated from Valley City High School in 1980. Prior to his present position, he also worked as the sports director for KVLV Television in Fargo. He has many years of experience in radio broadcasting.

While in college, Dan was a member of three NDCAC conference championship football teams, was Student Senate vice President, Homecoming King, and was selected as a Viking Pilot.

From 1986 to the present, Dan has received 30 advertising federation "ADDY" awards for excellence in advertising. In 1990 he was honored as the national first runner up for radio commercial. Dan has been honored many times for his civic and service contributions.

Over 600 high school juniors and seniors took part in the annual career fair. Many VCSU alumni played a major role in the career fair and spoke to students about specific careers. Among the presenters were: Mary (Blake) Otto '70; Kristi (Tait) Anderson '93; Marcia (Knutson) Pritchert '91; Al Olson '84; Dianne Wood '80; Alice (Janish) Beauchman '73; Heather (Coit) Schwehr '97; Brad Cruff '86; Evy Schilling '81; Erik Kringlie '92; Mary (Paulson) Berglund '74; and Chuck Wendel '69. Marcia Foss Walker '72, Coordinator of Career Services at VCSU, organized the career fair.



Keynote speaker at the annual VCSU Career Day, Dan Olson '85, encouraged high school students to follow their passion when considering their careers. Pictured with Dan are his parents, Dorothy (Ratzlaff) and Vince Olson '57.

VCSU Receives Their Largest Ever Grant

Valley City State University has received word through Senator Kent Conrad's office that the US Department of Education has awarded the university \$335,080 for the first year of a five-year \$1.7 million grant.

The grant begins October 1, 1998. The university will develop a highly individualized program in technology education, a new field of study that prepares K-12 teachers to teach technological literacy—how to understand, use, and control technology.

Simultaneously, the university will develop administrative systems that are also highly individualized in areas such as admissions, financial aid, fee payment, registration, and course scheduling. The goal is that, over time, the university's courses and programs will become available on an "any time, anywhere" basis.

The grant is the largest ever won by VCSU and among the largest to any North Dakota university.

VCSU is one of few universities in a multi-state region that has authority to offer a program to prepare technology teachers for the public schools.

North Dakota is short 20 such teachers today; the state will need over 100 and the nation will need 13,000 of them by 2002.

New VCSU courses will include, for example, applying technology, inventions and innovations, communications technology, production technology, and energy/transportation technology.

The State Board of Vocational-Technical Education is a major partner in this program, which has support from the executive director of the International Technology Education Association.

The new program will meet national curriculum standards and frameworks. The program will be delivered to new groups of learners using nontraditional methodology, delivery, and assessment.

The university will use the technology education program as a vehicle for transforming administrative systems and academic support systems so that they become responsive to a customized learning approach. The transformed systems will then be in place to support any or all of VCSU's academic programs. The Kathryn

Center, CII, and the vo-tech teacher education program already need such systems.

Some of the changes associated with this grant include:

- Appoint a director of customized learning and a tech ed activity director (Don Mugan);

- Appoint a project management coordinator;

- Expand Institutional Improvement Committee representation to include five on-campus groups and two off-campus stakeholder groups;

- Emphasize customer service in on-campus professional development sessions;

- Develop technology laboratories;

- Emphasize delivering the program to off-campus learners, such as teachers of other subjects;

- Develop courses in modules called Customized Learning Units (CLU's);

- Establish a Technology Literacy Board to oversee the project.

The Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation wishes to build and own a facility that would house the Center for Innovation and Instruction, the technology education program, shared-use classrooms, and a technology service center.

It has begun the process of seeking funds for the project. The Development Corporation sees information technology and the graduates of VCSU as a major focus for future economic development activity.

Heartfelt thanks and congratulations to these key people on the grant proposal:

Dan Pullen, CII; Don Cannon and Jamie Eriksson, MaSU; Kathryn Holleque, Don Mugan, Kim Hesch, CII; Joe Tykwinski, George Rauch, Eileen Starr, Mark Wilson, State Board of Vocational-Technical Education.



Certificate of Merit awards were presented at the Alumni Honors Breakfast. VCSU alumni recognized for their accomplishments were: Back Row (left to right): Adam Boschee '67, Larry Ukestad '66, Larry Lynne '68, Marlys (Kusler) Maasjo '70, Delmar Zimmerman '62, Robert St. Clair '55, and VCSU Alumni President Gene Boyle. Front Row (left to right): Vickie (Lemley) Boutiette '72, Diane (Kusler) Larson '64, VCSU Alumni Vice President Susan (Holmes) German, Harvey Schilling '61, and Deloris (Boschee) Zimmerman '63.



Enjoying the Homecoming social were members of the VCSU Class of 1973. Pictured left to right are Mike Watterson, Randi (Nielsen) Watterson, Paul McDaniel, Avis (Huso) McDaniel, John Hill, Diane (Starr) Hill and Roger Hulne. Mike, Paul, John and Roger are EBC alumni, while Randi, Avis and Diane are all Philo alumni.



Members of the VCSU Class of 1948 planted and dedicated a tree in honor of their class during 1998 Homecoming activities. Pictured left to right are: Harry Moore, Miles Smart, Ralph Kolstoe, Carolyn Kolstoe, Harold Strasser, Jim O'Connell, Esther Birkmaier, Roger Ludwig, Lorraine Ludwig, Shirley (Vierkandt) Christensen, Karen (Pedersen) Arneson, Elaine (Hess) Hill and William Thal.



Members of the Class of 1948 and spouses enjoyed an informal gathering at the VCSU Student Center prior to the tree planting ceremony

A reunion of friends from 1980-1984 at VCSU took place at Homecoming 1998. Enjoying their visit at the social following the football game are: (left to right) Marilyn (Selensky) Matthews '82, Fargo; Rane (Hjelmstad) Severson '84, Hope; Shelly (Haugaard) Schumacher '84, Mandan; Colette (Duchscher) Heilman '82, Langdon; Rynette (Hjelmstad) Burckhard '84, Minot; Doris Hager '84, Bismarck; and Karen (Albrecht) Dufault '84, Killdeer.



Homecoming '98

Hall of Fame

1998 Inductees



Eric Jorgenson



Jim Dew



Jennifer Bennett Conlon



James McPherson



Jack Ramey



Members of the 1976 VCSU football team present for the Hall of Fame banquet were: First Row (left to right): Ed Pung, Craig Knudsen, Dave Hentges, Ralph Parenio, Mark Stack, Doug Bergan, Bill Beranek, Eric Jorgenson, and Perry Brintnell. Second Row (left to right): Craig Hougen, Kevin Everson, David Katzenmeyer, Buck Kasowski, David Olson, Coach Jim Dew, Coach Don Lemnus, Bruce Babcock, Dave Rausch, Jim Ukestad, Jon Achter, and Gus Claymore.



'99 HOMECOMING
OCTOBER 1-2

HALL OF FAME BANQUET
ALUMNI HONORS BREAKFAST
VIKING FOOTBALL

HONORING
CLASS OF 1949

VCSU's Medicine Wheel

by: Tammy Swift, *Fargo Forum*, 9-23-98

Several times a year, the people of Valley City, ND, do something distinctly un-Midwestern.

They gather atop Granger Hill, south of Valley City State University, circling a couple of hundred strong, around a wheel-shaped monument made of prairie stones. They sing, hold hands and celebrate the coming of the new season. And then they watch as the peach smudge on the horizon blooms into a sunrise.

All this, because of Valley City's Medicine Wheel. It's an example of "reconstructive archaeology" by Joe Stickler, chairman of VCSU's math, science and technology division, and his astronomy classes.

The wheel was built six years ago to replicate similar, mysterious wheels which have been found throughout the Great Plains and Canada. Since the 1970s, astrologers have theorized that the stone patterns were actually solar calendars built by early Plains Indians to set the time for ritual ceremonies, like the sun dance.

Now North Dakota has its own solar calendar. And, like the primitive timekeepers before it, this one is tied to celebrations. The wheel is the site of sunrise and sunset ceremonies during the spring and autumnal equinoxes, and the winter and summer solstices.

"I particularly enjoy noting the movement of the sun along the horizon as a way of keeping a calendar," says Stickler, a gray-bearded amiable man wearing a vaguely American Indian-inspired necklace. "It serves as a reminder that the calendar is really a reflection of the Earth's journey around the sun, and not just 12 pieces of paper."

Stickler's brainchild has not only sparked an interest in skywatching among his students, it also has become part spiritual haven, part tourist attraction for the community.

"I can honestly say it's the most spiritual place I've ever been," says Ann Zaun, a VCSU business major who also runs the medicine wheel's Web site. Matt Taylor, a social sciences/education major adds: "Come up here at midnight and watch the moon rise, and it's all that and more."

There could be one explanation for the mystical aura, a hill to the east is believed to have been a burial ground for the Northern Plains Woodland Indians, perhaps dating from as far back as 20 A.D. through the 1700s.

Stickler's interest in medicine wheels was sparked by his first job, teaching astronomy at the College of Ganado, an American Indian school in Arizona.

A few decades later, after moving to Valley City, he finally was able to visit one of the greatest examples of these solar calendars, the Bighorn Medicine Wheel in Wyoming. When early explorers discovered it, the wheel was already very old, so old, in fact, that when the explorers asked local tribes if they had built it, the answers they received were cryptic: "It was here when we came." Or: "The sun built it to show us how to build a teepee."

The Bighorn experience so inspired Stickler that when he returned home from his trip, he said, "I didn't even take the suitcase out of the car." Instead, he headed straight up Granger Hill, where he found the prime location for his own medicine wheel. Not only did the hill offer a panoramic view of the horizon, Stickler could not dismiss its convenient proximity to an Indian burial ground.

A week later, Stickler brought the university president and the head of the physical plant up to the site and shared his vision. Fine, they agreed. After all, it *was* college land.

It was only later that Stickler found out that the land did belong to the college—except for the one spot where he'd decided to build the wheel. That parcel of soil, which had been everything from the former site of a water tower to area residents' lovers lane, was city property.

But it all turned out OK in the end. The city agreed to lease the land to Stickler as a new park. In turn, Valley City gained a new sightseeing site.

Since 1992, Stickler's astronomy classes have been working on the wheel, which measures 214 feet in circumference. It has 28 spokes, representing the 29 days in the lunar month, or "moon" by which American Indians figured time.



Ironically, some of the farm kids in Stickler's classes probably didn't think they'd come to college to pick more rocks. But that's precisely what they did, harvesting hundred of ham-sized chunks of granite from surrounding fields and hills.

The sore backs and jammed fingers didn't seem to hamper anyone's enthusiasm. Stickler's students say his astronomy classes are among the most popular on campus. "It's awesome. It's one of the best that I've taken," Zaun said.

Computer science major Alyssa Martin adds: "Dr. Joe's known for making things really interesting."

While the wheel relies on simple science, Stickler sometimes worries it will be misconstrued as occultish. But "if there are complaints, they haven't reached me," he says.

He *did* jokingly incorporate a UFO theme for one celebration, after seeing the movie, "Contact." But, he quipped in his regular news release, "Skywatcher's Corner": "Any UFO sightings or actual abductions at the Medicine Wheel should be reported to the proper authorities."

The wheel is not only popular with college students, but with older folks, too. Participants at celebrations have included community members, visitors from Hawaii and international students.

Stickler also wants to be sensitive to American Indian culture. During one celebration, he invited American Indian drummers to perform. An American Indian friend told him, after participating one year: "If you had told me there would be 200 people up here doing the round dance, I never would have believed you."

Meanwhile, Stickler and Co. keep refining the area. The spokes on the wheel were changed to make the wheel more precise. The gaps between the spokes were filled with gravel.

And Stickler sometimes wonders of his example of "reconstructive archeology" will fool scientists 500 years from now. "I would like nothing better," he says, grinning, "than to leave behind my own little cosmic joke on the face of the planet."



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Department Highlights



Valley City State University gratefully acknowledges the following gifts. We apologize for any oversight in our donor edition.

Friends of Music 1997-98

\$500 Kathryn Holleque

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- ◆ 1997-98: 100% of recent VCSU music graduates are accepted in graduate schools
- ◆ 1997-98: The new chamber orchestra of the Community School of the Arts presents two concerts
- ◆ 1997-98: Beth Gigante Klingenstein named NDMTA "Teacher of the Year"
- ◆ 1997-99: Dr. Diana Skroch serves as North Central Association consultant-evaluator
- ◆ March 1, 1998: Sara Hagen and daughter Jocelyn present recital
- ◆ March 8, 1998: VCSU Music Faculty present recital
- ◆ March, 1998: The music and drama departments collaborate to produce *Brigadoon*
- ◆ March, 1998: Tim Farrell's VCSU Jazz Ensemble performs at Eau Claire Wisconsin Jazz Festival and receives all "1" (Highest) ratings
- ◆ April, 1998: Kim Farrell organizes the Region V Music Festivals, held at VCSU
- ◆ April, 1998: Community School for the Arts receives a \$2000 grant from the ND Council on the Arts for a new music theory computer lab, for shared use by VCSU students
- ◆ May, 1998: Beth Klingenstein serves as clinician, lecturer, and adjudicator at the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association State Convention in Oklahoma City
- ◆ May, 1998: Longtime VCSU choral director John Reed gives notice of early retirement
- ◆ June, 1998: New Yamaha studio piano purchased from tuition revenues of the Community School for the Arts and the Piano Pedagogy Laboratory Program
- ◆ August, 1998: New instructors include Cynthia Peterson (Choir); Kim Farrell (Choral Conducting & Basic Voice); Katherine Ellingson (Applied Voice & University Singers); Dr. David Eyster (Percussion); and Glenn Ginn (Guitar)
- ◆ August, 1998: Paul McDaniel '73 offers instruction in organ through the Community School for the Arts
- ◆ Fall, 1998: "Creative Keyboards," a new course to assist faculty, staff, and students in their exploration of the new Foss Hall digital keyboard lab
- ◆ Fall, 1998: VCSU music students mentor VC Junior High's original opera project
- ◆ Fall, 1998: Beth Klingenstein directs the VCSU Handbell Choir and the Our Savior's Lutheran/Faith Lutheran Churches combined Handbell choir
- ◆ October, 1998: Sara Hagen presents workshop, "Website Development," at NDMTA Convention
- ◆ 1998: Scholarship program established to assist eligible community students to enroll in lessons through the Community School of the Arts
- ◆ October, 1998: Collegiate MENC students attend the state NDMEA convention in Minot
- ◆ November, 1998: MENC members tour Minneapolis art and music centers, and attend the Broadway musical *Ragtime* and performances by the Minnesota Orchestra.

Future Plans . . .

- ◆ 1998-2000: VCSU well-represented on the roster of ND Music Teachers Association Officers: Dr. Diana Skroch, President; Beth Klingenstein, Vice-President; Sara Hagen, Technology Chair
- ◆ January, 1999: Sara Hagen develops and presents the department's first on-line course, MUS 100 Music Fundamentals, available to high school seniors who wish to prepare for college music theory
- ◆ April 20, 1999: Dr. Diana Skroch presents lecture to Grand Forks Music Teachers Association
- ◆ April, 1999: Katherine Ellingson presents graduate recital at Moorhead State University

Berg and Reed Retire



Barbara Berg

Barbara Berg and John Reed, two long-time professors at VCSU, retired at the end of Spring Semester 1998.

Barbara, a 1955 VCSU grad, earned her master's degree from Moorhead State University. She began teaching in the Division of Business at VCSU in 1979.

John earned his BS degree from Jamestown College and his master's degree from Occidental College. He had been with the VCSU Music Department since 1972.

The VCSU Alumni Association wishes them well in their retirements.



John Reed



Kristina Kulenius Bjorlin (left) and Carolyn Spiekermeier Utke (right) visit with Mrs. Gertrude Tamke, who was the housemother in West Hall during the 1963-64 school year. Kristina and Carolyn were classmates at VCSU and were reunited when Kristina and her daughter, Helena, flew from Stockholm, Sweden, for the wedding of Carolyn's son. While in North Dakota, Kristina and Carolyn and their daughters visited Valley City State University.

From The Desk Of Monte Johnson Director of Admissions

Exciting things are happening at your alma mater! Although several new and dynamic changes have been made on the campus, the tradition of providing high quality personalized instruction continues. Valley City State University continues to have a positive impact on the lives of its students just as it did for you when you were a student here on the campus.

In looking to the future, we need your help to get our message out to prospective students. We are asking you to share your PRIDE in Valley City State University! Would you be willing to identify prospective students who could benefit from VCSU?

As a result of WICHE (Western Undergraduate Exchange Program), tuition for students in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming is only \$2,748, which is approximately one half of full time out-of-state tuition.

Think about students in your area and talk to them about the benefits of Valley City State University. These individuals might be a neighbor, a son, daughter, friends, grandchild, etc. Perhaps the individual is older having recently returned from military service or has been impacted by changing family circumstances. Whatever the situation, VCSU has much to offer and we stand ready to support your efforts! Call toll free (1-800-532-8641) and our office will promptly send out information.

Your referrals are important!

Betsinger Brings Elvis to Life

by: Terry Rindfleisch, *Tribune*

VCSU alumnus, Randy Betsinger '78, never gave Elvis Presley much thought until he heard on the radio on August 16, 1977, that the king of rock 'n' roll was dead at the age of 42.

The 42 year old Holmen man, who does impersonations such as John Wayne and Howard Cosell, said he then became fascinated with Elvis. He didn't become much of a collector (although his daughter, Jennifer, has a fairly good collection of Elvis memorabilia).

But he toyed with Elvis impersonations. At a friend's wedding dance, he was asked to sing Elvis' "Blue Suede Shoes."

"It went unbelievably well," he said. "I was hooked on Elvis."

Betsinger has never been paid to sing like Elvis, but he can be found doing his Elvis impersonation and singing "In the Ghetto" at an occasional karaoke night.

Whenever a theater production calls for an Elvis-type character, Betsinger auditions and gets the role. He is a big, brawny man who is built like a defensive end, but can move his legs and hips like Elvis.

When the La Crosse Community Theatre held auditions for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" this summer, Betsinger auditioned for only one role— the Elvis-type Pharoah.

Of course, he got the part.

Betsinger also played the Elvis-type character, Conrad Birdie, in the 1992 La Crosse Community Theatre production of "Bye, Bye Birdie."

For the Pharoah part in "Joseph," Betsinger said he has watched some Elvis videos to find a move here and there.

"I want to capture the spirit of Elvis in the part," Betsinger said. "I have watched his hands, leg movement and body turns. His leg shaking is different in the '70s than in the '50s."

He plans to reuse his Birdie black wig for the Pharoah part.

"I'm thrilled to get this part," Betsinger said. "I discovered early on I'm a character actor, not a leading man character, and I find parts I feel I would fit into."

Betsinger said the Elvis characters are all part of musical comedy. "If you do a good job and entertain people in the seats, then they will feed off what I'm doing on stage."

[Editor's note: Randy was not able to join his teammates from the 1976 football team when they were inducted into the VCSU Hall of Fame this past Homecoming because of this commitment to the La Crosse Community Theater.]

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Success Stories

Shirley (Schonhardt) Ferguson '72 recently won the North Dakota Newspaper Association's Newspapers in Education Teacher of the Year Award. Shirley, a first grade teacher in Lakota, ND, received the award for her use of newspapers in her social studies class. By talking about the pictures that accompany stories, Ferguson is able to relate events to her young students. They also discuss what impact news events may have on their community. Shirley, who is in her 25th year of teaching, was nominated for the honor by the Grand Forks Herald.

Manix Zepeda, a fourth grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary in Fargo, ND, was honored with the 1998 Sallie Mae First Class Teacher Award for North Dakota. Manix was recognized for his commitment to helping students develop responsibility for their own achievements, and to take pride in their academic achievements. A native of Nicaragua, Zepeda emigrated to the United States in 1981. A graduate of Valley City State University, he began teaching in 1997. Sallie Mae is a national corporation engaged in the financing of higher education. It annually honors one teacher in each state. The winners receive a \$1,500 award at a ceremony in Washington, DC.

Frank Koch '64, an associate professor of chemistry at Bismarck State College, was named the Outstanding Alumnus for 1998 by the BSC National Alumni Association board of directors. In early April he earned two additional honors. He is one of four regional winners of the Catalyst Award from the Chemical Manufacturers Association of excellence in teaching and community involvement in promoting chemistry. And he was chosen by the ND Science Olympiad Committee to represent the state at the National Science Olympiad in Michigan. Koch's passion for chemistry materialized during his junior year at VCSU, where one of his professors (Art Dafoe) enlisted him to help with the water analysis he was doing for the city. He also helped out in the college's chemistry stock room. Following his graduation from VCSU, Koch worked at the ND State Health Lab and taught in Center, Edgeley, and Mandan before joining the faculty at BSC in 1968. He earned his master's degree in chemistry from NDSU in 1969.

Amy (Brown) Pederson '94 of Valley City has received the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association's Outstanding Young Professional Award. This award is for professionalism, leadership ability, and consistent outstanding job performance. Pederson is currently employed as the Recreation Manager for Valley City Parks and Recreation. She received her award on September 9th in Bismarck.

Al Bortke '60, Bismarck, was honored with the 1998 Daryl Bjelde Memorial Award at the annual North Dakota Special Olympics State Awards Banquet on September 19. The award is the highest honor given by NDSO. Bortke has been involved with NDSO for many years. Currently, he is the chairman of the organization's statewide Board of Directors and is a North Central Region representative to the US Leadership Council for Special Olympics. Over the years, he has conducted coach training schools, recruited sports experts, and encouraged student athletes to volunteer in the program. Bortke has been Athletic Director at the University of Mary for 23 years. He was the head men's basketball coach at the school for 16 years, posting a 335-157 record to become the second most winning coach in ND college and university basketball history.

Diane (Kusler) Larson '64, formerly from Fredonia, ND, has been awarded the Southeast Minnesota Reading Association Celebrate

Literacy Award for her contributions to adult and student literacy. Diane serves as elementary principal in Owatonna, MN, and is an elected member of the Board of Directors of the International Reading Association, a 92,000 member professional organization. Larson has taught all grade levels 1-12, and has been an educator in Minnesota for over 30 years. Diane has been involved in leading the Language Arts change process and has been a presenter at local, state, regional and national conventions. She has served in a variety of leadership roles. Larson has written articles on "Personal Growth for Leaders" and has received numerous awards.

Ken Astrup '72, Jamestown, was elected to the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) board of directors at the annual ACE meeting and institute recently held in Seattle, WA. Astrup, a cooperative specialist on the ND Farmers Union staff, will serve a three year term. He is the first Farmers Union representative to serve on the board. "For people involved in cooperative education, ACE provides an opportunity to share their knowledge, experiences and expertise," states Astrup.

Dee Jensen '66, Women's Track and Field Coach at the North Dakota State College of Science, is the latest inductee in the National Junior College Athletic Association Track and Field Cross Country Hall of Fame. Induction ceremonies took place during the NJCAA National Indoor Track & Field Championships at Carbondale, IL, March 6-7. Jensen has been the women's track coach at NDSOS since the inception of the program in 1975. She has coached ten Region 13 Track and Field Championship teams, 7 national champions, 33 All-Americans, 56 national placewinners, and 2 national record holders. She has served on USA Track and Field coaching staffs for the Goodwill Games in 1990 and the World Championships in Athens, Greece, in 1997. Additionally, she has officiated in the Los Angeles and Atlanta Olympic Games.

Darwin Subart '82, has been named assistant vice president-business development of WBI Holdings, Inc. of Bismarck, ND. Subart has been the company's business development director since 1994. In announcing the promotion, John Castleberry, president of WBI, stated, "Darwin's knowledge and expertise in financial analysis and the business development area have been instrumental in the company's recent acquisitions and strategic alliances. I look forward to having him join our executive management team and know his contributions will strengthen our growth potential." WBI, a division of MDU Resources, produces natural gas and provides natural gas transportation and underground storage, energy management and propane services to customers located throughout the Rocky Mountain and Upper Midwest regions.

Senator **Larry Robinson** was awarded the NDVA Legislator of the Year Award during the All-Service Vocational-Technical Education Conference in Bismarck, ND. The award is given annually by the North Dakota Vocational Association to individuals that have made significant contributions to Vocational and Technical Education. Senator Robinson is a native of Dawson, ND. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Valley City State University and his Master of Educational Administration from North Dakota State University. He has served three terms in the North Dakota Senate and currently serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Robinson resides in Valley City with his wife, Mary, and two sons, Travis and Jamie. He is involved in numerous community activities serving on several community committees and boards. He is currently the Executive Director of the Valley City State University Foundation.

Vikings on the Move

1930s

Viola (Sad) Johnson '30, celebrated her 90th birthday on June 6, 1998 at her retirement home in Cokato, MN.

Thomas & Constance (Strand) Ostenson '39, have been retired in the south (Mesa) for 20 years and would enjoy hearing from former classmates.

1940s

Roger & Lorraine (Faust) Ludwig '48, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 15, 1998. The Ludwigs have now retired and in December 1997 they moved to Steele, ND, where their daughter Lynn and her family reside. During the winter months, they escape to warmer weather by traveling to Mesa, AZ. Remaining active and full of life, they join in the activities of children, grandchildren and now a great grandchild. Golfing nine to 18 holes every day keeps them physically fit.

Marilyn (Thompson) Rhoades attended VCSTC in 1946-47. She taught grades 5-8 and was the principal at Hensel School for one year. She then married **John Rhoades** '47, finished her B.A. and later a M.A. in Learning Handicaps. She taught an accelerated 6th grade in the American School in Manila, Philippines for two years. Marilyn then taught 4th and 7th grades for five years and a special day class for learning disabled students for 21 years in the Campbell (CA) school district. John and Marilyn have 4 sons, 3 grandsons, 1 granddaughter, and 3 step grandchildren. Although retired for four years, Marilyn still does substitute work and teaches a pull-out reading program for first grade students during the months of January to March. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year with an annual pig roast. They travel frequently and are active in their church.

Everett "Ike" '42 & Ruth (Stoll) McKay '55, reside in Laramie, WY, and spend their winters in Tucson. Should you get to either place they're listed in the directory. They'd love to receive your call! They just finished a trip to Canada and stopped to see Ernie & Babe Brox in Crosby. It's so great to see special friends from college days.

1950s

LaVerne (Hertel) Bladow '57, and husband, Paul, moved to Huntsville, AR, in 1976. In 1998 she retired from the accounting department of Butterball Turkey Company. Paul, retired in 1995, was the superintendent of processing for Butterball. They enjoy the climate, scenery, and Razorback sports in Arkansas. Stop by and say "Hey" when you're in the area.

Vinton & Darlene (Popp) Zabel '58 reside in Glencoe, MN. Vint is retired from education and now is busy fishing, golfing, and working for H & R Block. Darlene is working for American Express as a financial planner. A highlight of 1998 was a cruise of the Inland Passage of Alaska.

Owen Graupe '58 recently retired as principal at Schroeder Junior High in Grand Forks. Having spent 37 years in education, he is enjoying the leisure years working part time as an insurance adjuster and golfing. He and his wife, Marlene, have three daughters scattered throughout the US and enjoy visiting them and the grandchildren.

1960s

If you were to spend time with **Loretta (Welk) Jung** '64, you wouldn't guess that she has been battling cancer and has taken early retirement after 35 years of teaching in Jamestown, ND. Jung was ND Teacher of the Year in 1980 and had about 75 of her articles published in educational magazines like "Learning" and "Instructor." Loretta is planning to put together a book for teachers on developing themes in the classroom. Jung plans to continue as a substitute teacher and work as a teaching consultant.

Adeline (Mattern) Pelster '63, married Ed Pelster in September 1991. They now live at Mina Lake in Mina, SD, [12 miles west of Aberdeen]. Ed works for Enron Corp. and Adeline has been in the insurance industry since 1986. For the past five years she's been a sales associate for AFLAC Supplementary Insurance and loves it. Adeline taught school for 26 years at the junior high level plus teaching summer Head Start for many years at Strasburg, ND. Adeline and Ed have 5 children and 8 grandchildren which they enjoy.

1970s

Three years ago, **Susan (Fuglestad) Bellon** '70, started a Pre School in Hope, ND. She also does some substitute teaching at local schools. Her husband, Harold, works at the Pillsbury Elevator. They have five children: Tim, a Captain and Green Beret in Monterey, CA; Brenda, married with two children; Anna a beautician in Jamestown; and Jeff and John go to school in Hope.

Lorraine (Nelson) Sommerfeld '73, is still busy turning out magazine articles. She has also managed to outline a mystery novel. Lorraine plans to complete it this winter when the snow is blowing around and it's 90° below zero! She continues to work on her Smith-Corona portable typewriter but has her eyeballs on a new Apple! She enjoys the alumni news.

Jim McMillan '79, received his Ph.D. from Arizona State in 1990 and is an associate professor of history at Central College in Pella, IA. He recently published "The U.S. Senate Papers of Ernest W. McFarland" and is completing a full biography of the former Senate majority leader. Former VCSU art professor, Dale McMillan, directs the Pella Arts Council. Jim and Dale have two children: Ben, 17, who was born in Valley City; and Phoebe, age 12.

Boyd '75 & Kathy (Shape) Sussex '74 have been in Milbank, SD, for ten years where they continue teaching and coaching. Son, Jackson, is in 8th grade and doing well in football, basketball, and track. E-Mail address: ksussex@tnics.com.

Valerie (Thorsness) Vogel '75, is in her 9th year as the K-6 PE instructor and her 2nd year as principal at St. Joseph School in Mandan, ND. She never planned on being a

principal, it just happened! Valerie is working on her masters in administration at the University of Mary in Bismarck and hopes to finish by the fall of 1999. She continues to live in Bismarck with her son, David, and daughter, Mary Ellen. Mary Ellen recently graduated from Century High School and is attending BSC. "Hi" to all McCoy 3rd floor friends!

John Gores '74, currently serves as principal for Campbell County School District in Wyoming.

Paul McDaniel '73, was one of more than 120 teachers who attended a seminar sponsored by the Lignite Energy Council and the American Coal Foundation. Paul currently teaches at Jefferson Elementary in Valley City.

Burdell '75 & Theo (Oochsner) Johnson '72, are ranching northeast of Tuttle, ND. Theo is teaching business at Goodrich High School. They have three children: Keri a 1998 graduate of Mankato State University; Stephanie a junior at Stanford University in CA; and Michael a freshman at Jamestown College.

1980s

Tom Kramer '88, has been teaching science at West Seattle High School for the last five years. He is also head coach of Cross Country and Track teams. Wife, Jill Sells, is a pediatrician north of Seattle. They enjoy watching their 18 month old son, Alex, grow, explore, laugh, and learn to talk.

Arizona has been home for Ed & **Julie (Clark) Kostelcky** '81, for two years. They remain involved in mineral exploration. Lindsey (8) and Shelby (5) like having their mom volunteer in their classrooms. Instead of teaching school, Julie teaches skin care classes. This fall she plans to start a new business in home decorating. If anyone feels like heading south in January or February, the door is always open! You can e-mail Julie at skincare@eaznet.com.

Larry & Sara (Goffe) Schafer '89, enjoy living in Washington, DC. Larry works for the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. Sara teaches for Alexandria City Public Schools, Alexandria, VA. They really enjoyed seeing everyone at the 1988 football reunion!

Terry '86 & Michelle (Halvorson) Calkins '88 enjoy life in the Twin Cities. Terry is a sales representative for Spring PCS and Shelly works at John Alden Life Insurance. Daughter, Erika (10) keeps them busy with all of her sports. Courtney (2) likes to imitate her sister and "play ball" too. If any roommates are ever in town—call them!

After 11 years, **Karen Rufsvold** '86, continues to work for Wallwork's in West Fargo. She is now with the truck center and serves as office manager. Karen remains single and has no children.

Dean Tosseth '89, and his wife, Kristi, live in Minot, ND. Dean taught high school business and coached for seven years. He is now employed by Aid Association for Lutherans working with insurance and investments. Dean and Kristi have a daughter, Madison, age 2. Any and all old friends are invited to call when and if you're in the Minot area.

Kids who meet **Gary Olson** '88, don't always remember his name, but they do know what he does. They call him the "dinosaur guy." Gary, a former science teacher, talks to

classes throughout the region about one of favorite subjects—paleontology. Olson enjoys talking to classes so much that he has developed three shows. One covers the tools and methods used to collect fossils. Another explains how fossil replicas and casts are made, while the third takes students through a segment of Earth's history and the events that shaped it. Gary hopes to continue in North Dakota, as well as expand into Minnesota and South Dakota.

Kurt Wagner '89, was one of more than 120 teachers who attended a seminar sponsored by the Lignite Energy Council and the American Coal Foundation. Kurt teaches in the Wimbledon—Courtenay School in Wimbledon, ND.

Linda McKibben '86, was recently named principal at Madison Elementary School in Fargo, ND. She has been part of the Fargo Public School District for the past eight years at Roosevelt Elementary. Linda and her family reside in Valley City.

Gene Weixel '89, a resident of the ND State Veterans Home in Lisbon, ND, has organized a group of fellow residents to help Lisbon with its city beautification projects. Take time to look around at what Gene and his fellow volunteers accomplish throughout Lisbon when you're in the area.

Dr. Michael Lentz '88, has returned to Valley City and opened Lentz Chiropractic Clinic. Michael is married to the former Kathy Burchill. Kathy is a teacher's aide at Jefferson School. The couple has three boys: Cameron (8), Tayler (3), and Jared (1).

James Muckenhirn '84, is the new secondary principal at Page (ND) School. In addition to teaching telecommunications at the senior high level and keyboarding for grades six and seven, he will be the athletic director and junior high football coach. James is working on a master's degree in school administration at NDSU in Fargo. His hobby is making custom golf clubs. In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and being outdoors.

Kindred (ND) School is where you will find **Perry Piatz** '86, teaching math. Prior to moving to Kindred, Perry taught for 12 years in the Gackle-Streeter School District. In Kindred he teaches 7th grade math, geometry, applied math and advanced algebra. He will also concentrate on coaching girls golf. Perry and his wife, Sandi, have a 15 month old daughter, Alexis. They live in West Fargo and Sandi works for Intellisol, a computer company in Fargo.

1990s

Jodi Kershaw '98 teaches three sections of 9th grade English and two sections of 11th grade US history in Kindred, ND. Jodi did her practice teaching in Bismarck. Jodi enjoys being outdoors, boating, roller-blading and reading.

Nicole (Skarloken) Powers '94, is the new kindergarten teacher at Page School. Nicole taught for a half a year at the Anne Carlsen School in Jamestown, working with a special education teacher in a team teaching situation. She also did some substitute teaching before taking the position in Page. She and her husband, Matt, live in rural Valley City, where he farms. They have a son, Shayne, age 3.

Kirk Zink '98 also accepted a position in Kindred, ND, where he is the new 5th grade instructor and will concentrate on teaching three sections of science. He will also serve as assistant coach for wrestling and is coaching a flag football program for 5th and 6th grade. He and his wife, Karrie, have two children: son, Oakly, just started kindergarten; and one year old daughter, Brooklyn.

Tricia Velure '95, marketing director at Bonanzaville (West Fargo, ND), says that the flower gardens at the pioneer village have added to the beauty of the grounds. Recently the gardens were named to the honor roll of the Hometown Pride Awards given by "Midwest Living" magazine.

Chris Kvilvang '92, of Nodak Mutual Insurance Company was awarded Rookie of the Year for 1997. The award is presented once each year to agents achieving an outstanding level of business performance. He was also named to the Farm Bureau Financial Services Premiere Club for life insurance production.

Cindy Wenzel '90 opened her home for a prekindergarten program in the Wimbledon-Courtenay area in June. She is strictly the volunteer teacher for the not-for-profit program and receives no compensation other than the sheer experience. The purpose of the program is to help each child to be better prepared to start school.

Alfred & Nancy (Maresh) Melo '97, are in their second year of teaching in Bullhead City, AZ. Nancy teaches grade 2 at Mt. View School. Al teaches high school health at Mohave High School. He also is the offensive coordinator for football and the head soccer coach. During the 1997-98 soccer season, Al was conference Coach of the Year. If anyone is in the Arizona or Las Vegas area, look them up!

After spending seven years in Illinois, **Robert Steiger** '90, and his wife, Michelle, moved to LeSueur, MN, where Robert accepted a position teaching social studies and head coach for boys basketball. They love being closer to friends and family. Michelle is operating a local pharmacy.

John Frantz '91, and wife, Wendy, are expecting Baby #3 the first week of January 1999. Baby will join siblings Rachel and Samuel.

Dave '91 and **Judy Hultin** are excited about the arrival of their first child, Emily Elizabeth, born September 26, 1998. Greetings to all EBCs & Philos.

Greta (Frank) Christianson '90, husband, Doug, and 2½ year old son, Drew, moved to Kingman, AZ, last August so Greta could finally pursue a teaching career. She is teaching 4th grade at the smallest school in Kingman. They have been very busy sight-seeing since they've been there. Last winter was terrific and they are looking forward to another!

Sheila (Morse) Coleman '92, is married to Kevin Coleman and together they have four children: Chelsea (12½), Josten (7½), Brady (6), and Caden (3½). Currently, Sheila is a half-time junior high math teacher and half-time special education aide in the Oakes (ND) school system. She manages to keep "busy" with family and work!

Chris & Dawn (Nicholson) Nathan '91, love life in Sioux Falls, SD. Dawn is very excited

about the 1998-99 school year as she will be teaching all Spanish classes and will be the advisor to "BV Impressions", a drug-free improvisational theater troupe. Chris is in his sixth year of management with Radio Shack. They have had the opportunity to do a little traveling during this past year to destinations including Minneapolis, the Black Hills, Florida and Mexico. They would enjoy hearing from VCSU friends who visit the SF area!

Jessica Schott '97, has been named ag/business banker for Norwest Bank in Jamestown, ND. She will service both ag and business loan requests. Jessica has been with Norwest since 1996, previously serving as a teller in Valley City and as an ag banker trainee in Jamestown.

Greetings from **Adrian '91 & Lori (Brown) Hafner** '92. They will soon be celebrating their 2nd year in Denver, CO. Adrian is enjoying his accounting work at FCI in Englewood. Lori says that her daycare business is a true success, and loves every minute being home with their 2½ year old daughter, Shelby. In April they will be adding another addition to the family. Shelby can't wait to be a big sister.

Jodi (Sitte) Johnson '93, has begun her duties as a chiropractor's assistant at Central Avenue Chiropractic in Valley City. Previously she had worked as night manager and bookkeeper for Leever's Super Valu and Norwest Bank in Valley City. Jodi and her husband, Patrick, have a daughter, Tristan, age 2½.

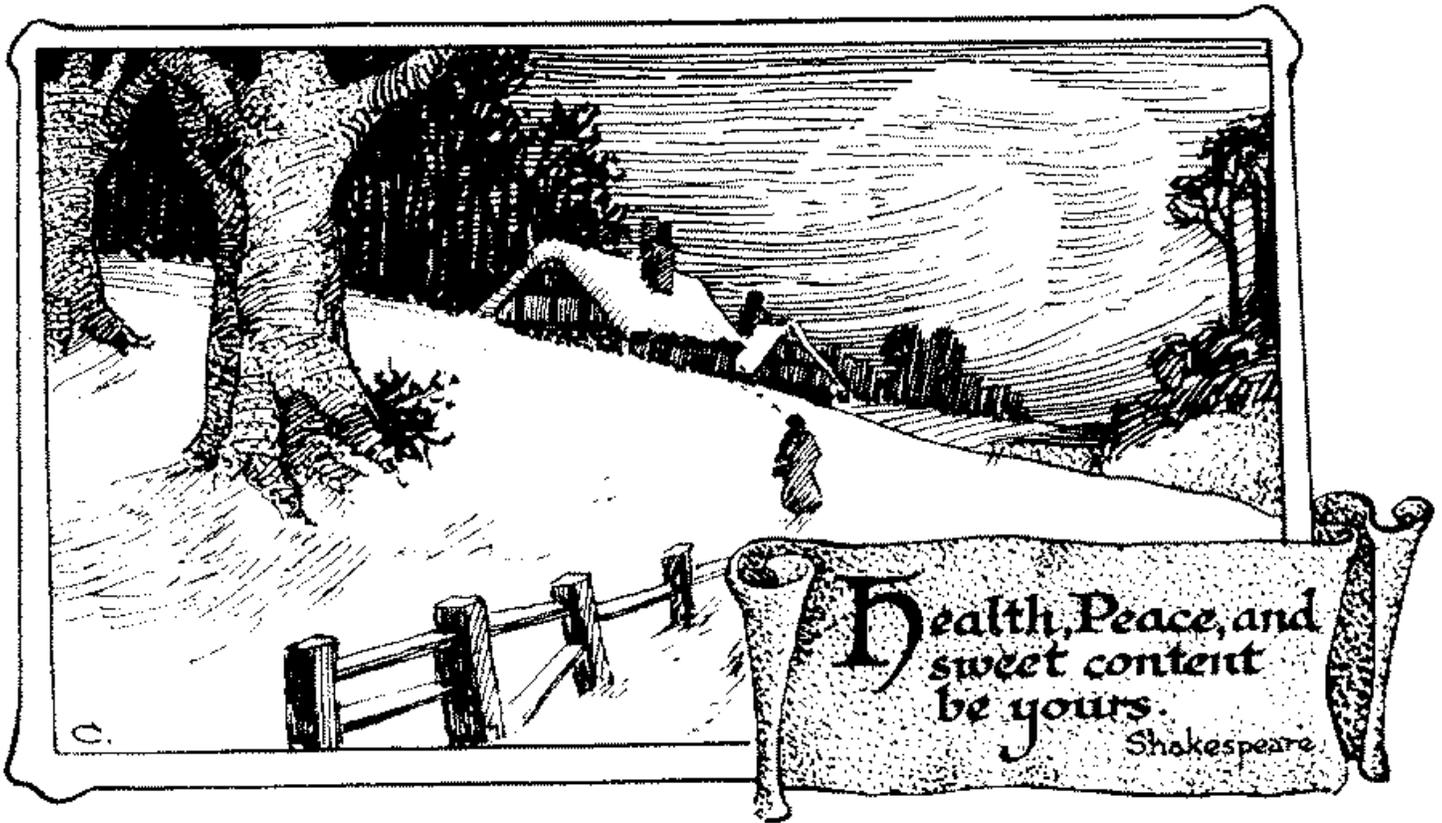
Mexican Connection

Mario Solis (1995-96) is a Certified Public Accountant and the Comptroller for the city of San Nicolas de los Garza.

Raúl Hernández B. (1993-95) works in Mexico City in the sales department of Aditivos Mexicanos, a subsidiary of Chevron Oil Company. Raúl is single and travels regularly to Houston as well as to other cities in Mexico.

Lourdes Macias Villareal (1985-86) is married with two children and living in Monterrey, Nuevo León. Lourdes is the treasurer of Celestica de Monterrey, a Canadian company.

Eduardo Macias R. (1986-87) lives in Monterrey, Nuevo León. He finished his master's degree in 1993 and married Laura Rojas that same year. He has his own construction business. In June of this year their first child, Andrea, was born.



Warm holiday greetings from faculty, staff, and students of Valley City State University.

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