State of the University: Dramatic Change Continues

Homecoming Special • 9th Year as a U.S. News “Best College” • Holcomb Retires
A Season of Many Changes

Ellen-Earle Chaffee, President

“The most beautiful autumn in North Dakota history.” This season may well deserve that honor. We have enjoyed many clear, mild, sunny days. The progression of leaves throughout our rolling valley from green to orange, fluttering to the ground like snowflakes, has brought fresh vistas every day for weeks.

This season began with the arrival of nearly 180 bright-eyed new freshmen, widely remarked as one of the most enthusiastic, positive classes we have ever welcomed. Overall, enrollment remains at a little over 1,000, our steady state for over a decade. In light of the continuing steep decline in the number of North Dakota young people, this year’s entering class is a special beacon of success.

Remarkable as it is, the increase in scholarship funding has not kept pace with tuition, which has gone up 95 percent in the last nine years. Tuition and required fees now stand at $177 per credit, or $2,466 for a typical full-time semester. These increases are typical of all public universities in North Dakota, fueled largely by inflation-adjusted declining state support over the years, recent utility costs, and essential but costly major improvements in administrative software statewide.

Consequently, North Dakota students graduate with the second-highest debt level of all the states. VCSU graduates in 2005 had an average debt of $18,400. They worked, they had family support, and they had scholarships, but they could not finish school without significant debt. I have a little magnet that says, “yagottawannalearn.” We can all take great pride in our young alumni; they have amply demonstrated their persistence and their personal commitment to a good education.

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I am also thrilled to report that we have 80 graduate students this fall – 62 in the master’s of education program and another 18 in a special one-year mentoring program. It is a new era for Valley City State.

Finally, we also have an “entering class” of new top administrators this fall! They are Dr. Joseph Bolesa, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Trudy Collins, Vice President for Business Affairs; Dr. Patricia Rogers, Dean of the School of Education and Graduate Studies; and Ken Brodes, Director of the Institute for Customerized Business Solutions. All of them were our top candidates in the search process, and all of them feel like they hit the jackpot when we offered them a position here.

May your holiday season be warm and wonderful, and do come see us or write when you can.

Welcome to The Bulletin!

Larry Robinson ..................................................... 701-845-7237
Director of University Advancement  larry.robinson@vcsu.edu
Heidi Sandness ..................................................... 701-845-7411
Development Assistant  heidi.sandness@vcsu.edu
Toll Free ................................................................. 800-532-8641 ext. 37203
VCSU Home Page ............................................. http://www.vcsu.edu

ON THE COVER: Fall is a spectacular time of year on the VCSU campus, as the Ash, Oak, Maple, and Linden trees change their summertime canopy of deep forest green to brilliant hues of red, orange and yellow. Photo credit: Jennifer Neier.谷市城谷大学
Come Back...Give Back
by Janis Wallender, Alumni Board President

After an alumni board meeting where we were apprised of some major donations to VCSU, I went home and said to my mother, “wouldn’t it be nice to have enough money to give a huge donation to the people who helped give you a start in life?” Money, time, and talent... some people have all three. Take away the money, and the majority of us have the other two. With two children in college, I certainly don’t have any extra money, but I do have time and talent. Some may argue about their talents, but we all have one kind of talent. I’m not suggesting that you have to be a master at this talent, only that we are all good at something.

That brings me to my point... “We’re Back...Giving Back, VCSU Alumni.” I would personally like to invite you to the first VCSU Alumni Work Retreat to be held on the VCSU Campus from 1:00 pm June 14 through 12:00 noon on June 15. Although our plans are still in the infancy stages, we will grow them to fruition when you show up to help by giving of your time and talents. The VCSU Alumni Board voted unanimously to move forward with a work retreat at our meeting the beginning of September. Larry Robinson, Director for University Advancement and Kim Hesch, Advancement Assistant are in charge of the groundwork at the university and the rest of us just need to indicate our willingness to show up ready to complete the tasks they assign. I know that there are lost alumni needing to be found, alumni records needing to be dusted and sorted, and alumni and university artifacts needing to be cataloged and arranged. These are just a few of the jobs that will be available for our alumni volunteers.

In addition to our work time, we are also planning some down time. Many of us stay in contact with some of our fellow alumni, but there are others we haven’t seen or heard from in years. I look at this as an opportunity to show VCSU our gratitude and also to reconnect with alumni classmates and connect with alumni who we’ve yet to meet. So, take out your calendar, mark June 14-15 with an X, and plan to meet me in Valley City so we can show VCSU “We’re Back...Giving Back.”

A note from Larry and Kim: At this time details are still being worked out, but we would like to get an idea of how many are interested in participating in this retreat. We have several projects lined up including: campus beautification projects (painting, flower gardens, trees & shrubbery), tracking lost alumni/updating alumni records, and cataloguing alumni and university artifacts. The cost to attend the event will be $85 — this includes campus housing and meals.

Happy Holidays from all of us here at Valley City State University! It is certainly a busy time of the year. We find ourselves busy with holiday planning, Christmas shopping, addressing cards, planning for that special holiday dinner, and so much more. It is also the time of the year that we should be doing our year end tax planning. An attractive part of the year end tax planning process is the income tax charitable deduction. By acting before December 31, 2006, you can have a very positive impact on your tax bill.

If you are one of the many tax payers that itemize your taxes, no matter what your income, you can almost always lower your income taxes through charitable giving. The exact amount of your tax savings will depend upon your particular tax bracket.

As an example, if you are in the 33% income tax bracket for tax year 2006 and you itemize your deductions, a $1,000 gift to VCSU by December 31, will save you $333 in your 2006 taxes.

For example, if you purchased stock years ago for $1,000 and it now has a value of $10,000, an outright gift of the stock to us would result in a charitable deduction of $10,000. Additionally, there would be no capital gains on the $9,000 of appreciation.

As we wrap up another year here at the university, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all of your for your generous support of your time, talent and treasure. VCSU is fortunate to have you as a friend. Your support is clearly "making a difference" in the lives of our students, faculty and staff. Happy Holidays!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CORNER

VCSU Holds 3rd Annual Scholarship Lunch
The annual Scholarship Donor Luncheon is an opportunity for individuals and organizations that have established named scholarships to meet the students who were awarded the scholarship so they can see first-hand the good that is being done with their donations. Anyone interested in establishing a named scholarship, should contact the VCSU Advancement Office at 800-532-8641 or x37203 for more information.

Among this year’s attendees (pictured below):

TOP Ed and John Slom with Cathy Bernsen, recipient of the Human Stein Music Scholarship.
MIDDLE Mary O’Connor and Brandon Bata, recipient of the Jim O’Connor Memorial Scholarship.
BOTTOM Leighton Smith of Alliance Pipeline with Sarah Hobert, recipient of the Alliance Pipeline Scholarship and beneficiary of the Ne Soons Scholarship.

Year-end Planning... Benefitting You & VCSU
by Larry Robinson ’71, Director of University Advancement

Your charitable gifts do much more than save you hard earned tax dollars. Your gift to VCSU helps support the many programs here at the university. Your gift provides the important resources so the students of today can experience Valley City State University.

There are a variety of ways in which you can make a gift to us at this time of the year. The most common way is a gift of cash. If you write us a check or Us Savings Account, it will be available to us in the first week of 2007. Gifts of cash are fully deductible to a maximum of 50% of your adjusted gross income.

Stock. It is almost always more tax wise to contribute gifts of stock than cash. Gifts of stock, in most cases, offer donors an immediate income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time you make your gift.

Among this year’s attendees (pictured below):

TOP Size Celestrum 10K Gold 14K Gold
Small: 5/16” x 7/16” $220 $365 $433
Medium: 7/16” x 5/8” $240 $395 $496
Large: 9/16” x 11/16” $230 $395 $497

Ring Side Choices: 2 or 3 letter degree year date 2 or 3 letter degree
5/16” x 7/16” $220 $365 $433
Encrusting in Garnet Stone Matches Ring Color
For more information or to purchase:
Dave Cross, Balfour • 701-245-4526 • dgbkbl@balfour.com

VCSU Foundation Presents:
The Official University Collegiate Ring

FREE PLANNED GIVING INFORMATION

Please send me the following materials that I have checked:
☐ Boasts, Individuals and Intentions
☐ Basic Estate Planning
☐ Charitable Gift Annuities
☐ Charitable Remainder Trusts
☐ Charitable Donor Rights
☐ Distributing Your Estate
☐ Estate Planning for Women
☐ Gifts of Life Insurance
☐ Gifts of Real Estate
☐ Gifts of Securities
☐ Life Income Plans: Charitable Gifts that Benefit You
☐ Memorials and Endowments
☐ Outright Charitable Gifts
☐ Trusts and Their Benefits
☐ Your Personal Guide: To Planned Giving
☐ Tax and Financial Planning Techniques
☐ Will Preparation Kit

MAIL THIS FORM TO:
VCSU Foundation Attention: Larry Robinson
Director of University Advancement
101 College Street SW
Valley City, ND 58072

2 Valley City State University
During its Opening Week activities, VCSU celebrated the 10th year of its initiative to integrate technology to enhance learning. In conjunction with this milestone, the university is deploying a new set of Enterprise applications campus-wide that take the technology initiative to a new level.

Dr. Ellen Chaffee said, “Ten years ago, VCSU became a leader in the practice of enhancing learning through technology, and every year since then, it has paid important benefits for our students and their employers. On occasions like this, it is easy to focus on the technology, but in a very real sense, our true focus has been on enhancing the student experience and improving education. We look forward to extending our leadership into the future as we take advantage of new technologies and new opportunities to enhance learning.”

The initiative began in the fall of 1996 when VCSU became the first university in North Dakota and the second in the nation to issue laptop computers to all full-time students. The move was accomplished without additional state funds, and received national attention including being featured in COMPUTERWORLD magazine three times, winning awards from three national higher education associations, and receiving the ND Chamber of Commerce education award.

Among the first applications of the technology was the requirement that graduating seniors produce a digital portfolio demonstrating the best evidence of meeting the abilities and skill requirements for their degree. VCSU has defined abilities in eight areas: Communication, Global Awareness, Problem Solving, Wellness, Collaboration, Aesthetic Engagement, Technology, and Effective Citizenship. Early results included high student satisfaction and rave reviews from employers who appreciated the quality of VCSU graduates and their ability to apply technology for enhancing their performance in these areas.

The university has continually expanded the use of technology, moving from a “laptop” environment to one that includes a variety of advanced technologies that enhance learning. Technologies that have been added over the years include high-performance wireless network access throughout campus, high-speed Internet access, “smart” classrooms, and the latest educational software.

This fall, VCSU is taking the technology initiative to the next level by deploying a set of Enterprise software applications that give students complete access to educational resources anytime and anywhere. These applications include the BlackBoard Academic Suite, Microsoft Exchange Server, and Microsoft Outlook for e-mail, calendar and other collaborative applications. Joe Tylkowski, VCSU Chief Information Officer, said, “This is the latest step in a progression of transforming the traditional classroom into the learning environment of the future in which access to learning resources are available anytime and from anywhere.”

Scott Kost, CEO of Edic Bally Technology Consulting, participated in the celebration by delivering a presentation to faculty and staff. The presentation described the role of technology in the business world and the importance of college graduates being ready to incorporate technology into their thought process and work habits. Mr. Kost commented, “More than ever, today’s business environment requires the ability to change, and technology is often both the driver and the vehicle of change. Graduates of VCSU, with their ability to use technology in such crucial skills as communication and collaboration, are in an excellent position to make the organizations they work for more responsive and effective.”

Wagens Share Time, Talent, Treasure to Beautify Campus
Willis ‘72 and Mary Wagar, Valley City, are shown in the Bowen Garden on the campus of Valley City State University. The Wagar’s volunteered their time, talent and treasure to give the garden a much needed “face lift.” According to Larry Robinson, Director of University Advancement, “Wills and Mary have given so much to the university over the years, and they continue to give. The Bowen Garden has been in need of new plants and a general revamping of the landscaping for sometime. We are very thankful and appreciative of the Wagar’s for their willingness to provide their time and talent and the plants to redo the garden. This beautiful garden now more appropriately memorializes the late Gracie Bowen, the VCSU benefactor for whom the garden is named.”

Linda Holcomb Retires
After 34 years teaching at VCSU, Linda (Sundstrom) Holcomb ‘66 retired earlier this year to Professor Emeritus status. She spent the majority of her career with VCSU teaching courses in Elementary Education Methods, Early Childhood, and Children’s Literature, and supervising student teachers. Since she first joined the VCSU faculty in March of 1972, virtually every VCSU student studying Elementary Education has been in at least one of Linda’s classes. “I love the students,” she said. “The best students in the world come to VCSU. The best part of my career has been getting into the schools and working with our students and cooperating teachers. It is fantastic seeing all the new ideas our students are working with and all the fun they are having.”

Through officially retired, Linda will keep on teaching part-time as an adjunct professor. “I’m looking forward to staying in touch with the VCSU students,” she said.

Taking “Flax” for a Healthy Product
As if being full-time farmers weren’t enough work, the Bertson family of Valley City showed their entrepreneurial spirit and started a new business right here in Valley City. The family includes VCSU alums Ray ’64, his son Mike ’93, and Mike’s wife Stacey ’95, plus Ray’s wife Mary Ann. The company they started, Skandia Mills, produces and distributes whole and milled flaxseed, and has also begun selling related products such as flax bread mixes and starter kits. Why Flax? The seed is great in bread, but can also be used to provide health benefits in cereals, juice, yogurt and baked recipes. Flax seed is the highest vegetable source of Omega-3 fatty acids, which are good antioxidants, and the seed is high in dietary fiber. Business has been booming, growing at over 300% per year since the company was founded in 2001. Recently, the Bertsons built an internet storefront that is now bringing them orders from all over the world. Their business has grown to over 350,000 lbs this year sold in everything from 2 lb bags for individual consumers to 1,000 lbs to tossed sold to wholesale customers. According to Ray, the next step in the business is to work on commercial bakery across the United States. To learn more about the health benefits of flax and the variety of flax products that Skandia Mills offers (including a cookbook!), visit http://www.skandiamills.com or send an e-mail message to info@skandiamills.com.

VCSU Celebrates 10th Year of Technology Initiative; Deploys Enterprise Applications

New faculty members at VCSU this year include (left to right): Jamie Paurus, Instructor in the Division of Business and Information Technology, Kari Stiel, Instructor in the Division of Business and Information Technology, Jennifer Carlson, Education Graduate, Dr. David Silverman, Assistant Professor of Communication, Dr. Patricia Rogers, Dean, School of Education and Graduate Studies, and Dr. Joe Besen, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

New staff members for VCSU include (left to right): Bridget Blunck, Toxicology Lab Manager, Claire Johrner, Business Office Technician, Ken Brooks, Director, Institute for Customized Business Solutions, Kamala Kinney, Accounts Payable, Patti Gruman, Payroll Accountant, and Maria Swenson, Circulation Supervisor at the Allen Memorial Library.
VCSU was recognized in the “America’s Best Colleges 2007” edition of U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 4 Public Comprehensive Colleges in the Midwest. This marks the ninth year in a row that VCSU has received this recognition from U.S. News. Dr. Ellen Chaffee, President of VCSU said, “The faculty and staff at VCSU work very hard to provide the finest educational experience available, and we are very pleased to receive this recognition for the ninth year in a row.”

In the U.S. News rankings, institutions categorized as “Comprehensive Colleges” focus primarily on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the liberal arts but grant fewer than 50 percent of their degrees at the graduate arts disciplines. VCSU offers over 80 degree programs in Business, Information Technology, Communication Arts, Social Sciences, Education, Fine Arts, Mathematics, Science, Health, and Physical Education. U.S. News ranks 320 comprehensive colleges nationwide, and VCSU was the only public university in North Dakota to rank in this category. Other public institutions in the Top 4 of this category include Southwest Minnesota State (MN), Dakota State University (SD), and University of Minnesota – Crookston (MN).

The U.S. News ranking system relies on quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality. It is based on 13 nonpartisan view of what matters in education. These measures fall into seven broad categories: peer assessment, freshman retention, faculty student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and graduation rate performance.

VCSU named to “Best Colleges” List for 9th Consecutive Year

VCSU in a State of Change

In September, VCSU President Dr. Ellen Chaffee delivered the annual State of the University address that outlined the far-reaching changes on VCSU’s current status and the vision for the future. The bottom line: the University is in the midst of a remarkable amount of change, and her message to the campus centered on a request to actively participate and drive that change.

Borrowing from some thoughts delivered by Scott Norm, CEO of Edna Bailey Technology Consulting during his presentation to campus. Dr. Norm’s speech was titled “Welcome Week. Dr. Chaffee began by describing the pace of change that can be expected. “Over the next 20 years, we will see an equivalent amount of change as we have seen over the last 10 years,” she quoted Norm as saying.

Not all of those changes are opportunities, continued Chaffee. “The number of high school seniors in both North Dakota and Barnes County has been declining in recent years, and is expected to continue to decline for the next several years. This is making competition for our traditional base of students particularly intense.”

Students to VCSU, have increased 61% in the last 9 years, though VCSU’s resources in this area still lag behind many competitors. Major gifts plus the V-500 and Century Club have played a key role in this success, and will continue to play critical roles in the future.

And despite the overall stability of enrollment figures, Chaffee noted dramatic changes in the composition and nature of enrollment even in a relatively short period of time. To highlight these changes and draw them out into the future, Chaffee cited findings in the recently released report from the U.S. Secretary of Education’s Commission on the Future of Higher Education. The report called for a culture of continuous innovation and quality improvement, development of new pedagogies, curricula, and technologies to improve learning, and a national strategy for lifelong learning that will create VCSU’s future. “We will maximize lifelong learning by marketing selected majors and raising scholarship funding,” Chaffee said. “We will focus on sharing and developing resources by growing the Master’s degree and the Institute for Customized Business Solutions. We will improve organizational efficiencies by streamlining academic and administrative processes and procedure, and we will document results by focusing on frequent campus wide communication.”

She ended the address by bringing the subject back to change. “We must change, and change holds great opportunities,” Chaffee said. “Though we continue to face a shortage of past resources, we also have an abundance of new resources avenues, including new ages, ethnicities, and locations, new goals and expectations, new learning styles, and new partners. I hope you can embrace these changes and be positive about them, and feel and fuel the pride and the opportunity.”

There’s a bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln in Frengar Park, Oslo, Norway, with close ties to Valley City State University.

Those are the connections: Abe Lincoln on the landing in Allen Library, with ties to Norway and silent resistance to Nazi occupation, and one of America’s most distinguished sculptors - a North Dakota son- with a little Ibsen thrown-in from the next generation.

The plaster cast from which the bust was forged sits on the mezzanine level of VCSU’s Allen Library, rescued from storage by Lillian Jacobson, the library’s former director.

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Fjelde continued his studies in Chicago. During this time, North Dakota Gov. Louis B. Hanna visited Gettysburg. He noticed that one of the statues there had been sculpted by Jacob Fjeld, Paul’s father.

Lincoln’s tie with Gettysburg was an intimate one, bonded by his famed speech and by the father who had sculpted other Civil War icons won the contest. His bronze of Lincoln would go to Norway.

In turn, Fjelde presented the original plastic cast to VCSU on Feb. 12, 1914. In Norway during World War II, the bust in Frogner Park became ground zero for silent protest against Nazi occupation. Every July 4 during the occupation, Norwegians gathered by the Lincoln bust in Frogner Park in silent protest at the affront to freedom the Nazis represented to the people of Norway.

Fjelde’s bust is still prominent in the July 4 celebration that continues each year in Frogner Park. A replica of the Frogner bronze is located in front of the courthouse in Hillsboro.

Fjelde never returned to live in North Dakota after his studies in Chicago. His return to New York, Paris and Copenhagen. His sculptures and architectural structures are found in public places across America and around the world.

Fjelde taught at the prestigious Pratt Institute of Art in New York City, and later at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and then at the National Academy School of Fine Arts in New York City.

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We could not have asked for a more beautiful fall day in Valley City as clear, calm skies and temperatures in the high 70's dominated a weekend full of fun for students, faculty, staff and alumni alike. A highlight of the weekend was the Homecoming football game in which the Vikings rolled past the Mayville State Comets 49-7. Three Vikings scored two touchdowns each while the defense allowed the opposition only 35 total yards.

PHOTOS BELOW FROM LEFT
1. Viking Hall of Fame inductees were honored at halftime of the Homecoming game. BACK ROW Darrel Anderson, Holly Pow-Williams ’92, Mary Edlund, Kelley Lott ’76, Dean Entzminger ’74, Myron Loberg ’68, Wes Anderson ’97, Tom Homsey, Josh Argall ’99. FRONT ROW John Monilaws ’87, Bill Lydell ’55, Mary (Enstad) Fike ’92.
2. Music alumni were invited to participate in the Pep Band; Brad Lambrecht ’05 took over as the conductor. Brad teaches in the Central Cass school district.
3. VCSU students and alumni involved in the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) had a busy weekend of special activities over Homecoming weekend, including riding in their own float in the parade, playing in a combined alumni/student pep band during the game, and recognition of James Ployhar as the first inductee into the VCSU Music Hall of Fame.
4. Ron Moser ’81, Chair of the Viking Century Club Board of Directors, shows his special school spirit while riding the Century Club’s golf cart in the Homecoming parade.

Certificate of Merit recipients and Alumni Board members joined faculty and staff to ride the Viking Ship during the Homecoming parade. FROM LEFT Dennis Horrigan ’74, Anna Langness ’66, James Vandervest ’74, Dan Ann Vandervest ’75, Dan Olson ’85.

Distinguished Alumni Award
Ken Astrup ’72 was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award, the most prestigious award offered by the Alumni Association. Ken is the General Manager for the Dakota Plains Cooperative of Valley City, Litholphia and LaMoure, and has been active in community affairs all his life.

Alumni Service Award
Larry Robinson ’71 was selected by the Alumni Board of Directors to be the fourth recipient of the Alumni Service Award. He is currently employed at VCSU as the Director of Advancement, and has served as District 24 Senator for the past 9 years.

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Homecoming Huge Success and Fun for All!
At Valley City State University, alumni and friends gathered for the 48th annual Homecoming Festival, celebrating the university’s rich history and traditions. The weekend featured a variety of activities, including a pep rally, parade, and football game. The highlight of the festival was the Homecoming football game, which drew a large crowd to the campus.

Photos show alumni and students enjoying the festivities. One photo features alumni and staff members riding in the Homecoming parade, while another highlights the Viking Hall of Fame inductees honored at halftime of the Homecoming game. Photos also capture the vibrant atmosphere of the Homecoming social, with alumni and friends gathered around, enjoying each other’s company.

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It doesn’t take much to see the athletic department and facility services at VCSU had a busy summer and fall.

Anyone who walks in the door of the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse can see a lot of time, effort and energy went into the renovation of the building.

A newly remolded lobby area with the Viking logo etched into the floor reminds each visitor that “Viking Pride” is alive and well on the VCSU campus. As visitors scan the open lobby area, it becomes obvious that the new design of the lobby isn’t the only change to take place in the building.

New porcelain tile flooring runs throughout the freshly painted hallways and classrooms in the building. A quick glance into the gymnasium also draws visitors in for a closer look. The rows of new cardinal bleachers surrounding the gym floor are an addition to the awesome atmosphere of “the bubble.” The new bleachers combined with the recently replaced wood floor and the beauty of the domed roof creates a sports arena that is truly one of a kind.

The bleachers are a result of capital project funding from the state while the rest of the changes result from the generosity of Gary & Connie Tharaldson, reported Doug Peters, VCSU’s Athletic Director. “The changes you see today are very obvious and I am happy to report there are more to follow thanks to the support of Gary and Connie,” added Peters.

Further improvements include a new “Viking Hall of Fame” room that will complete the indoor part of the renovation. Construction of permanent dugouts and a 35 foot high scoreboard in the shape of a softball diamond in the College Complex will finish out the current projects.

“Viking Pride” is alive and well in the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse.
Congress Approves IRA Rollover
Attractive Tax Incentives Included

The United States House and Senate along with President Bush have enacted a new law making it easier for donors 70½ years of age to give to the Valley City State University Foundation through their IRA or Roth IRA. The charitable incentives open up powerful new options in new charitable giving from IRAs. During the calendar years of 2006 and 2007, a person meeting the above criteria can gift up to $100,000 each year. There are four requirements for a qualified IRA charitable gift. First, the IRA gift must otherwise have been includable ordinary income to the IRA owner. Second the IRA owner must be 70½ years old or older. Third, the gift must be to a qualified exempt public charity, such as the Valley City State University Foundation. Fourth, the recipient may not be a private foundation, supporting organization or donor advised fund.

Fortunately, the IRA charitable rollover will qualify for the donor’s required minimum distribution (RMD). The Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation Technical Explanation of PPA 2006 (JX-38-06) states on page 266, “Qualified charitable distributions are taken into account for purposes of the minimum distribution rules applicable to traditional IRAs to the same extent the distribution would have been taken into account under such rules had the distribution not been directly distributed under the provision.” There is no charitable income tax deduction, but no exclusion. It is simply a very convenient way to help the Valley City State University Foundation. Donors can give up to 50% of Adjusted gross income from their regular assets and then make “over and above” gifts from their IRA. Some generous donors may in effect give 100% or more of income per year through this method. Since the IRA is not included in taxable income, it will have no impact on their regular income and other charitable gifts.

Many senior donors may not have a sufficient level of deductions to itemize and choose instead to use the standard deduction. If senior donors withdraw $1,000 from his or her IRA and then give it to the Valley City State University Foundation, there is $1,000 of increased income with no offsetting charitable deduction, since the standard deduction is taken. Therefore, it will be preferable for all donors taking a standard deduction to make IRA gifts directly to the Valley City State University Foundation and avoid the additional income tax otherwise payable. Social Security is subject to two levels of taxation. For donors who have income in excess of the first level, 50% of Social Security is taxed. For donors with income in excess of the second level, up to 85% of Social Security income may be subject to tax. Withdrawing an amount from an IRA will potentially cause the recipient’s income to increase from the 50% taxable bracket to the 85% Social Security taxable bracket. Even though the withdrawn amount is given to the Valley City State University Foundation and deducted, there still is taxation with the added 35% bracket. Thus, by making the transfer directly to the Foundation, many Social Security recipients will save substantial taxes.

The $100,000 IRA charitable gifts provision opens up many new gift opportunities to the Valley City State University Foundation. Please contact Larry Robinson at the Foundation at 701-845-7271 or visit your allied professional to explore all of these gift benefits for this new legislation. You can find further information on the IRA Rollover legislation on the Planned Giving Page or our web sites, alumni.vcsu.edu.

A Little Quiz About Wills

The following True or False quiz will help you measure how much you know or don’t know about having a will. To see how you did, check out the answers below.

True or False

1. Most states will honor a hand-written will as long as it is signed by an attorney.

2. A married couple only needs to have one will.

3. If a person dies without a will, the state automatically takes over the estate for probate fees.

4. It is illegal to open and read a deceased person’s will until after the funeral.

5. A “codicil” is the stamped impression that makes a will valid.

To learn more about wills and other estate planning matters, request your Free Will Information Kit from the VCSU Foundation Office.

Please use the handy response form below, or call us at 1-800-532-8641. You can also request your Will Kit at our Web site: www.vcsu.edu.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM

Dear Friends at Valley City State University:

Please send me complimentary Will Information Kit.

Please send me complimentary information about planned giving.

Please contact me about a personal visit.

The best time to call is ___________________________.

Name(s): __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ______ Zip: ___________

Phone Number: ________________________________________

Larry Robinson
VSU Foundation
101 College St. SW
Valley City, ND 58072
larry.robinson@vcsu.edu

1. Kelley Utt and Darrell Anderson, two of the recent Viking Hall of Fame Inductees. 2. Laurie Zacher addresses the crowd on behalf of her softball teammates as the 1988 and 1989 Viking softball teams are inducted into the Viking Hall of Fame. 3. Charles Cook proudly displays his Viking Hall of Fame award as his wife Lisa and his daughters Abby and Katelyn pose for a picture celebrating his induction. 4. Duey Yliniemi, his wife Lisa and his daughters Abby and Katelyn pose for a picture celebrating his induction. 5. The 1988 and 1989 Viking softball teams.
Department of Music Launches Vital Scholarship Drive

The VCSU Department of Music, with support from the Music Alumni Council, is undertaking the single most important fundraising initiative of the decade: raising $20,000 for scholarships this year.

Did you know:

- Only 41% VCSU’s budget now comes from the state.
- Tuition has increased 95.5% in the last 9 years.
- Students have absorbed an average tuition increase of 11.5% every year since 2001.
- This is the second year in which VCSU has charged for tuition by-the-credit.
- The average music student now spends 5 years completing their college program.

These budget constraints have directly impacted music students:

- The current cost of one credit of tuition at VCSU is $189.94 ($64.74 in special fees).
- In 2000, 4 ensembles cost a full-time student nothing; today they cost $800 per year in extra tuition.
- A music student pays $200-$450 annually in accompanist and applied lesson fees.
- The average student spends $350 per semester on books.
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Music Hall of Fame Names Ployhar as First Inductee

Dr. Diana Skroch (chair of music department), James Phoyar, VCSU President Dr. Ellen Chaffee, and student Martin Olsen of Sandefjord, Norway, recipient of this year’s Ployhar Music Scholarship.
**Vikings On the Move**

**Bob Gross '64** has accepted a job as Superintendent of Schools at Simpson College American School in Singapore after 35 years in education in Minnesota. Singapore American Academy is the largest international school in the world with 3,700 students and 300 faculty. Bob is this 6th and final year at the school. He has accepted a job with the Department of State Schools of Overseas Schools beginning in August, 2007. He will be living in Washington D.C. and will have the responsibility for working with the International schools in his choice of either Western Europe or Africa. He will need to decide that within the next couple of months. Bob’s job will require traveling at least 12 weeks out of the year to one of those two continents. He says working in the International schools is one of the world’s best kept secrets. If you’re interested in more information please feel free to get in touch with him.

Carol Anderson ‘68 retired in May after teaching 4th grade for 38 years in the Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School District at Warren, MN. Kay (Kuipers) Stephens ‘68 has taught in public schools for 26 years in Stanton, Bismarck, Fort Yates, Mandan, and Corvallis, OR. She has spent the past 13 years at ... students how to quilt. She celebrated her 60th birthday in North Dakota during June with two of her VCSC roommates, Mieke ‘68, and Neva Acheson Carlisle ‘67, along with his wife Boyd ‘75 and Kathy ‘74 Sussex are retired in September from Job Service of North Dakota after 22 years. Caleb is now 10 months and is walking and mimics words truly exceptional. The grandchilden range from 18 years down to 1 year old. Edumir is enjoying retirement after his 40 yr. plus teaching. He has resumed fishing and gets out as much as possible. Both Edumir and Marilyn enjoy music, so they attend the Symphony both in Texas and in Fargo whenever possible. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 25, 2005 and as a celebration took a cruise to Alaska in June of 2006.

**Vikings On the Move**

**Joey Selvig ‘77** is teaching in the 1960s. He is still living on Lake Elsie and teaching in Hankinson. Bruce has retired from coaching Varsity Basketball but still enjoys taking teams to compete in tournaments overseas to Ireland, Belgium, Holland, England, and Hawaii. Cyndi says their greatest adventure so far has been becoming a Grandma and Grandpa! It’s so fun!

**Boyd ’74 and Cyndi Stein ’77** is teaching in Lake Elise and teaching in Hankinson. Bruce has retired from coaching Varsity Basketball but still enjoys taking teams to compete in tournaments overseas to Ireland, Belgium, Holland, England, and Hawaii. Cyndi says their greatest adventure so far has been becoming a Grandma and Grandpa! It’s so fun!

**Mark Ameson** is currently on the roster for guitarists with the Minnesota Orchestra and he also does seminars for them. Some of the people he’s worked with include keyboardist Rick Petersen (who can see on Lene and Lettermann playing with John Mayer and he’s also saxophonist David Sanborn’s piano player, Larry McCabe and Larry Foyen (both with the Maynard Ferguson band), many members of Philadephia, Frank in New Eagles’ bands, and also Cynthia Johnson (the singer of Funkytown). Mark produced over 20 CDs last year with Prince and Revolution drummer Bobby Z. Check out his website at www.odbaby.com/ maxwell and in Los Angeles with Dallas. Zeke. Alumri can feel free to contact him at markameson@budnet.com.

**Bill Benakich ‘70** has worked with American Family Insurance Company in Eau Claire, WI for 28 years in its underwriting department. He and his wife, Marjean, live in Elk Mound, MN and have two sons: Evan, 10 and Tony, 2. Marjean is a nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Shawano, WI. Bill is still involved in local activities and gets to the Boundary Waters a couple times a year. Their boys are big into Boy Scouts, football, baseball, ice fishing and hunting.

**Donn ’79 and Kristi (Froeber) ’80 Frahm** have been blessed with eight grandchildren, 6 boys and 2 girls. The youngest is going to be a year old in November. This year they have been spending 10 months and is walking and mimics words truly exceptional. The grandchilden range from 18 years down to 1 year old. Edumir is enjoying retirement after his 40 yr. plus teaching. He has resumed fishing and gets out as much as possible. Both Edumir and Marilyn enjoy music, so they attend the Symphony both in Texas and in Fargo whenever possible. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 25, 2005 and as a celebration took a cruise to Alaska in June of 2006.

**Edumir G. Motl ’59 and his wife Marilyn enjoy the summers in ND, spend the winters in New Braunfels, TX, and plan to do this as long as their health permits. They have been blessed with eight grandchildren,
Rich Veiland ’81 teaches Business and Physical Education at Bismarck High School, where he also coaches wrestling and football. His wife, Jayne, is a dietician at the Misquarie Lutheran Care Center. Their daughter, Taylor, is a 7th grader at Horizon Middle School. She plays the trombone, runs cross country and track, plays volleyball and basketball, and earns studies in a wildlife. This is Rich and Jayne’s 18th year in Bismarck.

Lisa Webster-Ott 82 and more recently 2004, lives in Coopertown with two of her children. Her oldest, Lucas is a student at Minnesota State University Moorhead, living between the FM area and home. Lisa’s other two daughters are Cameron, 13. Also students, are graduates of Camp Bryce at Valley City. They would love to hear from everyone and their communications with President Chaaffe. Lisa loves her job teaching all the business and computer classes grades 7-12 at the Hope-Page High School where she has been for the last three years. Life has revolved around Keegan and his med school and medical school classes for the last three years so we have recently begun a new regimen. Thanks to all my VCU friends who have kept tabs on us through Keegan’s website’s. We are always looking forward to all of your notes and encouragements. (If you’re keeping up for a little bit yet because so many are checking out Keegan’s blog then you can check up on us at Keegan’s website’s http://www. campbellsedge.org/nd/vcsu and you’ll see how we are doing.)

Kevin Bratland ’90 started his 17th year in 2010. This will be his 10th year in Endert teaching Physical Education and middle school Science.

Becky (Blaisey) ’92 married Brent Keith ’92, a former VCU football player, in July of 1994 and they have two daughters. Danni is 18 years old and in the 4th grade, and Kako is 7 years old and in the 2nd grade. They live in Lincoln, NE, which is 20 miles directly west of Omaha. Andrew lives in Bismarck, ND which is 10 miles north of Bismarck. She is currently the lead Medical Assistant at the Boulder Center for Sports Medicine (BCSM) in Boulder, CO and Advanced Placement (AP) music theory exams in one week at The University of New Mexico. She is the more familiar AP math and English courses, AP music theory is a high school class equivalent to a first year university course. A national exam is offered every May in high school.

Karen (Rufsvold) ’86 married James Faik on June 11, 2005. She has worked in the finance world for 20 years. Recently, she changed positions to Wolfin Financial Corporation. She is living in Wisconsin, ND. Karen says “Hi to All at Sigma, Sigma Nu’s and sisters.”

Cindy (North) Kapau ’87 was honored by the North Dakota Education Association at the “Celebrate North Dakotans” event in Bismarck. She was recognized in the education category. Dollars for Scholars is establishing a $1,000 scholarship for a 2007 graduate in her hometown. She is an educator in the Maple Valley School District and also the Chapter Advisor for Students Against Drunk Driving.

Janet Marley ’86 is beginning his 19th year of teaching and coaching and still loves it. The past 7 years were at Leeds High School (ND), with 7 years in Bismarck, 3 in Mandan. He is currently in his 4th year in the Paige-Vinson Academy for Undergraduate Education located in Marysville, MO, and has had the opportunity to have the VCU Viking basketball team to play over a weekend. He also has had former Viking Steve Olson (of UN Moorhead) down to play several times. Dan is not coaching football anymore, but follows the Bearcat Football team every step of the way (2005 National Runner up, currently ranked #2 in the nation).

Darin Los ’91 and his wife Lisa have 3 children: Abby 6, Macy 4, and Cooper 2. He is currently in his 8th year as Head Baseball Coach at Northwest Missouri State University. He is currently in his 18th year in Bismarck.

Denny Waloch ’97 just celebrated his eighth year working for Walgreens. He became the owner/partner of a Walgreens store in St. Paul, MN. He and his wife have 2 children. They are living in Shakopee, MN. Denny says thanks to all the Lady Vikes Basketball players that she played with while at VCSU.

Rich Hovland ’81 teaches Business and Physical Education at Bismarck High School, where he also coaches wrestling and football. His wife, Carla (Brantner), has been a dental assistant in Wheaton for 8 years. They have 2 girls. McKenna is 6 and Sydney is 4. Andrew and Carla currently live in the Twin Cities and have been there for about 12 years.

80s

1990s

Melinda Berg ’90 returned home to North Dakota in 1999 after teaching in Spain, Montana, and Alaska. She presently teaches Spanish at Bismarck Public School system. From 2001-2004, she was an Admissions Counselor at Mayville State College, ND. This fact makes the rivalry shared by both universities uniquely interesting to debate at athletic events! Melinda says Valley City will always be her home away from home, and with the addition of graduate credits, VCSU continues to be a great place to get to and further an education.

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Adopt-a-Room at the President’s House a Great Success!

The President’s House Preservation Society is pleased to announce that their Adopt-a-Room program has met with a huge success! In response to our last article in The Bulletin, Ron and Judy Leekkin and their daughter, Christy Kelley, have adopted the dining room and reception hall respectively. The Barnes County Pioneer Daughters donated funds to restore the Gentleman’s Room, the Sandy Gofts family the parlor and the Rhodes family the music room.

Three of the adopted rooms on the main floor—the dining room, the parlor and the gentleman’s room have already had the old wallpaper stripped, the walls repaired and the new, more appropriate, period wallpaper applied. They look beautiful! Thank you so much to the special people who have donated to adopt a room. Also, a special thanks to the Valley City Beta Sigma Phi Chapters for their help with this labor intensive work.

The attic is being set up as a playroom for the kids and the one finished room up there has been renovated as well. Sponsors may still “Adopt-a-Room by making a $500.00 tax deductible gift, and will be recognized by an engraved bronze plate displayed in the room.

The bulletin welcomes its first child, Treyton Blake, on April 27, 2006. Treyton was born at Valley City Regional Hospital, weighing 10 lbs, 1 oz.

The President’s House Preservation Society is still conducting research on the interiors of the historic homes. Research has already uncovered original wallpaper designs and decorative moldings but, with no interior photos of the house, the group can only make educated guesses as to what some of the other decorative elements looked like originally. “We are really hoping someone with photos or memories of the home’s interior will assist us,” says Becky Heise, co-chair of the Society. “We know many events through the years were held at the house including Freshman and Graduation Toals, as well as parties for visiting dignitaries and informal gatherings. I am sure many of these events were photographed. We would like to ask the former residents of the house, the President’s families, or even past visitors to the house to check their albums for any historic photos of the house, interior or exterior, that they might be willing to share with this hard-working group. Specifically, although any are welcome, we are looking for photos of the parlor area to find out what the original mantle may have looked like, the bench at the base of the stairs also in the parlor, the original dining room chandelier, porch railings, and landscaping features, even if they are only visible in the background of the photo.”

If you have any photos to share or know of anyone who does, or anyone interested in adopting a room, or making any form of contribution, contact Becky Heise at heise@nodaknet.net. Thank you so much for your help!

A reminder that the historic VCSU President’s House, built in 1901, is now being used as a Guest Inn for visitors to the Valley City area. The house is available for use by the day, night or week and will accommodate small meetings, family gatherings, and parties. The Guest Inn is available by single room or the entire house, which sleeps a maximum of nine, in a family atmosphere. Consider staying at the home on your next visit to Valley City!

e-Delivery of The Bulletin!

Did you know that you can save VCSU money by electing to have your copy of The Bulletin electronically delivered to you via e-mail? “The Bulletin is valued and important way for us to stay in touch with our alumni, said Larry Robinson, Director of Advancement, but each copy we need to print and mail costs the VCSU Advancement Office between $0.70 and $8.00. We can reduce this expense if we can persuade alumni to receive the publication electronically instead.”

To get your copy of The Bulletin delivered electronically, just subscribe to a special online newsletter we have set-up just for alumni. Then, whenever a new issue of The Bulletin is available, you will receive an e-mail notification containing a link to a page you can visit to download it. Once you have subscribed to the online version of The Bulletin, you will be removed from The Bulletin’s regular mailing list, and help us save money on that issue!

To subscribe to this special newsletter, visit: http://www.vcsu.edu/newsletter/

Provide your email address, first and last name. Then, you can subscribe to any of several VCSU electronic newsletters, including one for The Bulletin (others include “VCSU Alumni News,” “Viking Sports News,” and several others). Select the newsletters you wish to receive. You can unsubscribe to any of these newsletters at any time, and VCSU will keep your information confidential.

If you have any questions please call Kim Hesch at 800-532-8641 ext. 3-7203.