



# Division of Business and Information Technology

VOLUME: 2

EDITION: 1

## Notes from the Division Chair



**Dr. Brenda Finger** Greetings from the BIT Division! Another academic year is well under way. There are exciting things happening for the university and the division. US News and World Report named VCSU the #1 Public Regional College in the Midwest. This is the 14th year VCSU has appeared on the list! VCSU set an all-time record enrollment by achieving a headcount of 1,384 students, surpassing last year's final headcount of 1,285 by 7.7%. With this accomplishment, enrollment at VCSU has grown by 40.1% over the past four years.

The university/division received full approval to offer a BPIM major program online. The Business Process Integration Management degree focuses on building communication, problem-solving, business, collaboration and technical skills with a focus on business processes and advanced enterprise systems to ensure students are well prepared to enter the growing business and IT workforce.

VCSU is the leading SAP University Alliances program member in a six state area with four years of strong integration of SAP curriculum in the classroom. Our students learn through hands-on application of real enterprise systems used by major employers in the region. Participation in this academic program provides curriculum created by experts throughout the world and project-based curriculum that prepares our students with valuable skills for employers.

Enjoy the fall season. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. I can be reached at: 701-845-7513 or [brenda.finger@vcsu.edu](mailto:brenda.finger@vcsu.edu).

## VCSU Offers Masters in Education with CTE Option

Valley City State University approved adding an option of Career and Technical Education in the Masters of Education in the Technology Education concentration. This program will be offered completely online with course work starting in the 2012 - 2013 calendar year.

Rick Ross, Assistant Professor and Career and Technical Coordinator, is excited to have an option for teachers in Career and Technical Education to move their education forward in a program that emphasizes their teaching area. James Boe, Department Chair of Technology Education, lead the team that developed the program. If you are interested in the graduate program, contact Valley City State University Graduate Office at 701.845.7238.

## Advisory Board Meeting

The Division of Business and Information Technology Advisory Board meeting was held October 27, 2011. The following professionals have agreed to sit on our advisory board:

- Scott Dieterle - Alliance Pipeline, Inc.
- Bobby Koepplin - Cass County Electric Cooperative
- Paige Bjornson - Dacotah Bank
- Sandy Kjellvik - Discovery Benefits
- D.C. Lucas - Eide Bailly
- Les Olson - Frontier Equipment, WPI Inc.
- Charlene Griffin - HITACHI Data Systems
- Dawn Haugen - John Deere Seeding Group
- Dennis Stanford - LaFarge Dakota, LLC
- Kevin Reisenauer - ND Dept. of CTE
- Ryan Botner - Northwestern Mutual
- Jay Matthews - Producers Financial Group
- Chip Bartunek - Sanford Health Systems
- Jeremy Neuharth - State Bank and Trust
- Jonathon Rademacher - Sundog
- Amy King - Target
- Quentin Conklin - Ulteig Engineers, Inc.

## Dates to Remember

- Nov. 19 - Viking Visit Day
- Dec. 9 - Portfolio Review
- Dec. 12 - 16 - FINALS
- Dec. 19 - Jan. 9 - Christmas Break
- Jan. 10 - Classes Begin
- Jan. 21 - Viking Visit Day
- Feb. 1 - BIT Day
- Mar. 12 - March 16 - Spring Break
- Mar. 24 - Viking Visit Day
- May 4 - Portfolio Review
- May 7 -11 - FINALS
- May 11 - Employee Recognition Banquet
- May 12 - Commencement

## BAIT Camp Dates Set



Dates have been set for the 3rd Annual BAIT Camp June 13-15, 2012. This camp gives high school students the opportunity to explore the waters of business and computer information systems career choices they may be interested in setting their hooks into.

For more information, feel free to contact Kerry Gregoryk at 701-845-7519.



**#1 Public Regional College in the Midwest!**

If you would like to be placed on our electronic mailing list, please contact LaDonna Anderson via email: [ladonna.anderson@vcsu.edu](mailto:ladonna.anderson@vcsu.edu) or call her at 701-845-7521.

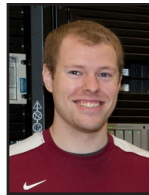
## Internships



**Felix Kyei Asare**, junior student, double majoring in Computer Information Systems and Business Administration-Management. He is currently interning at the

**Barnes County Courthouse.** He holds the position of Assistant Manager of Information Systems and is responsible for the information systems hardware, software and user support for the county, its offices, and other offices that pay fees to the Department of Information Systems.

"It feels good to see how the methods I am learning in the classroom go hand in hand with the things on the job. This has helped me apply my theoretical and conceptual knowledge in practical situations."



**Brian Dahlberg**, senior student, is double majoring in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems. Brian is interning at the **VCSU Datacenter.**

For his internship, he will be designing and architecting a datacenter monitoring and log file analysis tool, using software from Splunk. After researching the software and drawing up architecture for the new system, he will be in charge of deploying the necessary servers using VCSU's virtual server infrastructure. The scope of this implementation can cover the basic systems at VCSU or it can be expanded to cover almost all of the systems. "I feel that the skills that I am learning at this internship, such as architecting and designing systems, will benefit me in any job I take after college."



L to R. Erin Edinger, Dave Johnsen, President Dacotah Bank

**Erin Edinger**, junior student seeking a Business Administration major with a concentration in Finance, is currently interning at **Dacotah Bank** in Valley City. "It is a great financial institution to work for because their goal is to exceed customer's expectations, and they do a great job at that. I truly look forward to going to work on the days I intern. I worked at Dacotah Bank over the summer and was trained in as a teller. This helped me to gain a basic knowledge of the company

culture, customers, and activities of Dacotah Bank. Now that summer is over and school is in session, I am sitting in and learning about other areas of the bank such as lending, insurance, and investments. This is great because, besides the fact that I know I want to go into banking after graduation, I am not sure which area I would specifically like to pursue."

## Faculty News



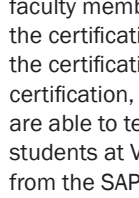
**Rick Ross**, Assistant Professor and Career and Technical Coordinator, was voted to the North Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education (NDACTE) Board through the year 2013. He will be representing the North Dakota Career and Technical Education Administrators on the board. The responsibilities of the NDACTE Board are to promote and improve career and technical education, provide service, leadership opportunities and recognition to its members, and to support career and technical education as an integral part of the educational system.

Rick Ross accepts Region V (ACTE) Nominating Committee assignment through the year 2013.

The responsibilities of the Nominating Committee are to nominate the best qualified members for each elective position of leadership of the association and to oversee the election process in the association.

Founded in 1926, the Association for Career and Technical Education is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE Region V is comprised of the 14 most western states as well as Alaska and Hawaii.

**Jamie Paurus**, Instructor, recently earned the SAP Certified Business Associate with SAP ERP 6.0 certification through the SAP TERP10 academy. Paurus is the second



faculty member of the division to earn the certification; **Susan Pfeifer** received the certification in June 2010. With the certification, both Pfeifer and Paurus are able to teach the TERP10 course to students at VCSU with curriculum provided from the SAP University Alliance.

TERP10 is an entry/associate level certification course that may result in a SAP Certified Business Associate with SAP ERP 6.0 certificate. It is a two week course (nine days of instruction plus one

day for exam) taught by a TERP10 certified instructor to students who have completed course work in SAP from an University Alliances member school.



**Dr. Kerry Gregoryk**, AAssociate Professor, has completed her term as Division Chair and is participating on behalf of the VCSU BIT Division in a pilot

project facilitating the integration of an electronic portfolio system for higher education and North Dakota's workforce system. The system will allow creation of personal web-based portfolios to showcase students' education, career, and personal achievements for use in higher education assessment as well as workforce labor exchange and economic development intelligence purposes. The pilot is mandated through North Dakota legislation and involves the North Dakota Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Development, Job Service North Dakota, North Dakota State College of Science, and VCSU.

## VCSU Faculty and Students Attend ND SHRM Conference



L to R. Neenah Donalee, Philip Deger, Michelle Anderson, Derek Davis, Jordan Didier, Neenah Donnelly and Barbara Ennen

VCSU Assistant Professor **Philip Deger** and five (5) VCSU students (Michelle Anderson, Derek Davis, Jordan Didier, Neenah Donnelly and Barbara Ennen) attended portions of the 2011 ND SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) conference in Fargo September 28-30.

Activities included guest keynote speakers (including "Coming Together at the Speed of Trust"), workshops (including "Leadership Ethics"), exhibitor showcase displays, and networking opportunities.

The VCSU students received free conference registration for volunteering at the conference. They were able to network with other area college students as well. Representing ADP, Inc. at the exhibitor showcase was VCSU's own D.C. Lucas (President of the VCSU Alumni Association and member of the VCSU Business Division Advisory Committee).

Post conference plans include creating a VCSU SHRM college chapter, affiliated with National SHRM and local SHRM professional chapters.

## In the Spotlight

### Faculty



**Philip H. Deger, MSIR, SPHR,** comes to us from St. Cloud, MN. A native of Chicago, Philip moved to St. Cloud in 1995 where he accepted a position with Fingerhut in Labor Relations. Philip received his MSIR (Human Resources/Industrial Relations) and BS in Psychology from Loyola University in Chicago. He has developed and taught over 30 college level business courses, both face-to-face as well as online.

Philip and his wife Deb, a Public Health Nurse and free lance Spanish interpreter, have two children, Kevin and Hannah.

Philip enjoys skiing and is starting a winter sports club at VCSU. Philip joined the division in August and will be teaching Human Resource Management as well as other upper level management courses.

### Alumni



**Jeremy Neuharth,** State Bank and Trust Software Engineering Supervisor, oversees the bank's development team and many of the major technology projects such

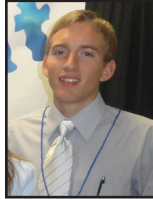
as the integration and launch of mobile banking, various core banking system upgrades, and the redesign of the public website.

Jeremy's passion for information technology and project management goes beyond the walls of State Bank & Trust. He currently teaches a number of project management classes for TrainND and can be found speaking at many regional technology and project management events. As a strong advocate of continued education, Jeremy has attained several project management certifications including PMI's Project Management Professional (PMP).

Outside the office, he enjoys serving in a number of volunteer roles as well. Currently, Jeremy is the Program Manager for the Northwest Outreach Program of the Minnesota Chapter of the Project Management Institute and a board member on the Information Technology Council of North Dakota (ITCND). Both organizations focus on educating and driving interest in their prospective arenas.

Additionally, Jeremy is married to fellow VCSU alumni Tiffany (Fisher) Neuharth '02. They live in Fargo where they enjoy raising their two children.

### Student



**Richard Wright** is in his third year at VCSU and pursuing a double major in Business Education and Business Administration (concentrations in

Accounting and Finance and a double minor in Health Education and Coaching). He is currently a first clarinetist in the band, President of DECA, President of Newman Club, and a cross country and track athlete. Last year, he made all-conference in the 5K. He teaches a kindergarten Sunday School class at the St. Catherine's Catholic Church and is also a board member of Faith In Action in Valley City.

## News from Career Services

Fall semester, Career Services is offering, to our students a free one hour webinar every Wednesday on a variety of topics to assist them in their job search. The topics are:

- Active Interviewing
- Blind Spots
- Equipping Young Minds for Exceptional Performance
- 5 Steps to Build Your Personal Brand
- Guerilla Job Marketing Techniques
- Learn How to Choose the Right Career
- LinkedIn Makeover
- 7 Mistakes Job Seekers Make Online
- Pick a Career Path & Job You'll LOVE!

On October 12th, the webinar was the "7 Mistakes Job Seekers Make Online" which was presented by Joshua Waldman, author of Job Searching with Social Media for Dummies. It was a great presentation and provided good information for everyone. Did you know that 80% of employers WILL look you up on LinkedIn before returning your call? Make sure your online presence is spick and span by avoiding common mistakes. Common mistakes are:

#1 Not having a well defined brand across platforms. Branding starts with you and ends with them. ID your values, then ID your target company's top two problems. Align all messaging and images with that.

#2 Using your job title in your professional headlines. You are NOT your job. Move away from commodity and into personality by using your branding message in the 120 characters available in LinkedIn's headline space.

#3 Rambling on and on in your Profile Summary. The profile summary of your online resume is a place to differentiate yourself in 20-30 seconds. Deliver your elevator pitch in 5 lines or less.

## VCSU DECA Chapter attended the State Leadership Conference



L to R. Erin Edinger, Travis Pierce, Amber Eichhorn, Ben Snyder, Ashley Alberts, and Richard Wright.

VCSU DECA's chapter attended the State Career Leadership Conference in Fargo, ND, on October 11 and 12. Chapter members who attended included Ashley Alberts, Erin Edinger, Amber Eichhorn, Travis Pierce, Ben Snyder, and Richard Wright. The State Career Leadership Conference is an opportunity for DECA members to receive leadership and officer training, learn from industry professionals, prepare for competitive conferences, and share ideas about fundraisers and service learning projects. The leadership training they receive benefits the entire VCSU campus, as members are able to apply concepts to other organizations and teams in which they participate.

The keynote speaker, Brandon Lee White, founded an organization called "Youth Movers." He is a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker on subjects such as leadership, entrepreneurship, bullying, self-balance, and connecting to your passion. He is also an actor, model, and professional ballroom dancer and has worked on "Dancing with the Stars" and a TLC documentary about ballroom wheelchair dancing. Brandon worked with the DECA students on the difference between management and leadership, communication techniques, and connecting with your passion for entrepreneurialism.

As an organization, DECA seeks to prepare the next generation of academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, and experienced leaders. The VCSU DECA chapter will compete at the State Career Development Conference in Fargo on February 12 and 13 for the chance to compete at the international level in April in Salt Lake City, UT.

## Scholarships

Many scholarships are available to students pursuing a degree in the fields of Business Administration, Business Education, Computer Information Systems (CIS) or Career and Technical Education (CTE). Scholarship values and the number of scholarships available each year vary due to current investment rates. The Valley City State University scholarship program is possible through generous donations from alumni and friends.

Division of Business and Information Technology scholarships available are:

- Anna B. Spangler Memorial Scholarship
- Business Education Scholarship
- Dacotah Bank Scholarship
- Dr. John F. Keller Scholarship
- David Melgaard Scholarship
- Friends of Business Scholarship
- Herman Stern Scholarship
- MDU Scholarship
- Mabel Snoeyenbos Scholarship
- Mary G. Heery Scholarship
- Sabine D. Morh Memorial Scholarship

For more information on the list of scholarships available go to <http://www.vcsu.edu/financialaid/vp.htm?p=300#1> or if you would like to contribute to a scholarship, contact:

Kim Hesch  
Assistant Director of  
University Advancement  
701-845-7403  
[kim.hesch@vcsu.edu](mailto:kim.hesch@vcsu.edu)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SAP Field Trip



Back: Alan Spanier, Jeff Monette, Amanda Aune, Troy Niemeier, Isaac Olson, Katie Paulson, Sidney Simons, Steve Hanson, Mark Howell, Ben Snyder  
Front: Haley Baasch, Toyin Oladosu, Kristine Dammel, Ashley Alberts, Natalie Edwards, Colin Waldner, Cliff Vazquez

Susan Pfeifer and Marcia Foss facilitated the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Minneapolis SAP Field Trip, October 18-20, 2011 with 17 students from the Division of Business and Information Technology. Each student has used SAP ERP systems in at least one or more courses in the CIS or Business Administration majors. Students attended the Minnesota Chapter of Americas' SAP Users' Group (ASUG) meeting and toured Entegris, Ecolob, and Polaris. The group saw first-hand how enterprise systems enable a business and networked with professionals at each organization. The trip focused on the alignment between business and IT in organizations and introduced students to careers in these areas.

## BIT is Now on Facebook

Now you can stay informed about the 'BIT Happenings'. Be sure to



us at:

[www.facebook.com/vcsubusinfotech](http://www.facebook.com/vcsubusinfotech)

VCSU - Division of Business and Information Technology  
101 College Street SW  
Valley City, ND 58072

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FARGO, ND  
PERMIT #1159