



**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

*Office of the President*



*May 2010*

**Grant Funds Center for Aquatic Education & Research**

The Prairie Waters Education and Research Center (PWERC) at Valley City State University (VCSU) has been awarded a five year \$732,000 grant by the North Dakota Department of Health. The grant will allow the Center to serve as a statewide resource for water education, research and management.

The Center will have four main areas of focus: educational activities for students, teacher workshops, professional workshops, and research on aquatic biological resources. It will be housed in the Kathryn School, which is located about 17 miles south of Valley City in the Sheyenne River Valley and within easy access to a variety of aquatic resources including the Sheyenne River, Clausen Springs, Little Yellowstone, and several large wetlands.

The Center will be headed by Dr. Andre DeLorme, who has been on the faculty of VCSU since 1996. In addition to teaching classes in Biology and Zoology, Dr. DeLorme founded the VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab which conducts research on aquatic geological resources and water quality in North Dakota and provides research opportunities for VCSU's undergraduate students. The lab currently serves as the identification resource for the aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring program of the North Dakota Department of Health. Over the last 10 years, the lab has generated over \$1 million in grants and contracts to VCSU.

The Center was initially approved by the State Board of Higher Education at its September 2009 meeting. Though initial funding was provided by the State of ND and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the grant from the ND Department of Health is the first major funding the Center has received to allow it to begin operations. The Center is expected to begin operations in summer 2010 when updates to the Kathryn School are complete.

**Morton Named Head Coach for Cross Country and Track & Field**

Galen Morton has been named the head coach for the men's and women's cross country and track & field teams. Morton, who is currently an assistant cross country and track & field coach and sports information director at Dickinson State University, will assume his new responsibilities at VCSU on August 16, 2010.

Morton has been with Dickinson State for four years, during which time he has coached 25 national qualifiers and seven All-Americans. Previously, he was an assistant coach at Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA, and coached in the Los Angeles public school system for 12 years and taught biology for 15 years. Morton has a Master of Arts degree in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Occidental College. Morton said, "I am thrilled to offer my experience to Valley City State University. The sense of community and competitive spirit has been obvious to me from the beginning of the application process and I fully expect that the shared enthusiasm will continue for many seasons. Taking the lead role in reviving track and field and cross-country at VCSU is a unique opportunity; I am grateful as a professional but it is also a special opportunity for the student-athlete."

VCSU had active cross country and track & field programs until the 2002-2003 academic year when the programs were discontinued. In 2008, VCSU announced the intention to resume the sports contingent on the successful conclusion of a fundraising campaign to cover start-up costs. The campaign reached its goal of \$160,000.

Dave Bass, assistant professor at VCSU and former cross country and track & field head coach, has been serving as coordinator for the program and recruiting student athletes in preparation for the programs' inaugural season. Bass said, "We are really excited about Galen's addition to Viking athletics. Galen brings the coaching expertise, the recruiting experience, and a philosophy that matches VCSU values for development of student-athletes. He will be a quality addition to our athletic staff."

Bass expects rosters of at least 18 women and 18 men for the 2010-11 track and field season. "We are still actively recruiting and I look forward to working with Galen to conclude what has already been a very successful recruiting year. We have set high goals for the program and expect to field very competitive teams, even during the inaugural season."



THE DIFFERENCE IS ME





Office of the President



May 2010

### Music Students Receive National Award

Heidi Kirsch, Sonja Plautz, and Kelsey Wilhelm, all senior music education majors at VCSU, were recently given national recognition from the National Association for Music Education (MENC). The three were awarded the Professional Achievement recognition certificate for their "commitment and dedication to MENC and music education. This recognition is given to Collegiate members who have served their chapters in an exemplary manner."

All three have served as officers in the VCSU Collegiate chapter of MENC, and have distinguished themselves through service to the VCSU campus, the Valley City community, and the field of music education.

The VCSU MENC chapter promotes the field of music education through service and professional development activities, and provides its members with meaningful learning and service opportunities. Membership is open to any enrolled VCSU student with a strong interest in music education.

### Four VCSU students receive EPSCoR GSRA Awards

Four VCSU students have been selected to receive Graduate Student Research Assistantship (GSRA) awards through the North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR) program. The awards recognize the academic achievement of these students and provide significant financial support as they pursue M.S. and/or Ph.D. degrees in science, engineering, and mathematics at UND and NDSU.

EPSCoR was established by the National Science Foundation and is now a family of competitive merit-based programs spanning seven federal research and development agencies. ND EPSCoR implemented the GSRA program to increase opportunities for graduating seniors from the North Dakota University System baccalaureate universities to obtain M.S. and/or Ph.D. degrees at NDSU and UND. Each student's award provides an \$18,000 per year stipend for up to 24 months. Students who complete the program can be eligible for a ND EPSCoR Doctoral Dissertation Award.

### Scholarship Auction Sets Records

VCSU's 16th annual Scholarship Auction sold out this year at 520 tickets and generated over \$62,000 – both records in the history of the event. The auction is VCSU's single largest fundraising event of the year, and proceeds fund both athletic and academic scholarships.

### VCSU Hosts Business Technology Meeting



VCSU was the host for the first meeting of the North Central Regional Chapter of Americas' SAP Users' Group (ASUG) on February 18. The meeting gave students the opportunity to meet representatives of these companies and learn first-hand how the software is used to manage the complex operations of leading businesses.

SAP software is used by medium-to-large organizations to manage such applications as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), financials, and operations. VCSU is involved with ASUG because it has been taking the unique step of integrating SAP software into several of its courses in the Computer Information Systems and Business Administration majors over the last three years. As a result, VCSU students graduate with hands-on experience with this widely used, strategic software. As a member of both ASUG and the SAP University Alliance, VCSU faculty have had extensive training in several areas and have participated in multiple meetings of these organizations.

Fourteen companies from four states participated in the meeting. Companies from North Dakota that were represented include Border States Electric, American Crystal Sugar, Global Electric Motor Cars, John Deere, Alliance Pipeline, and Goodrich.

*Valley City State University earned the #2 spot among the Top Baccalaureate Colleges in the Midwest in the 2010 Edition of America's Best Colleges by U.S. News Media Group*

