

THE *Viking* SCHOLAR

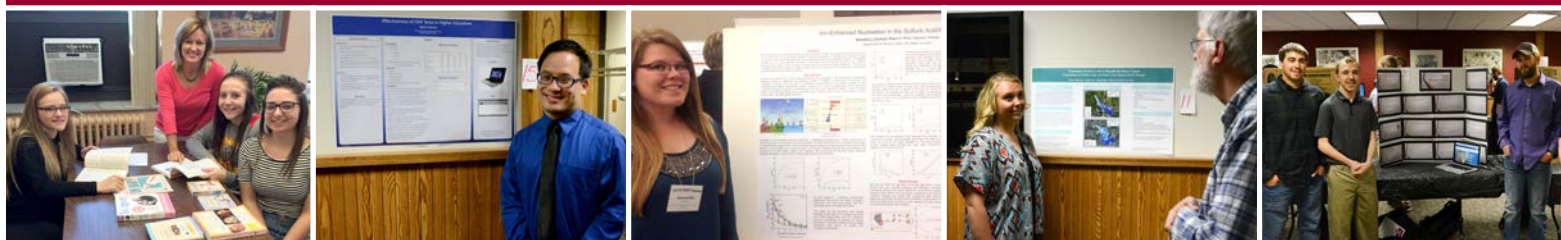
October 2016

*A Research Publication of
Valley City State University*



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY
www.vcsu.edu

SOAR ♦ Scholar Symposium
The Forge ♦ INBRE ♦ Graduate Studies
Student Presentations ♦ Faculty Presentations



Welcome to the October 2016, number two edition of The Viking Scholar. This publication is made possible as a result of dedicated faculty who mentor and challenge their students to present papers at professional conferences, as well as recent initiatives and established programs that have fostered and supported student research. The result has been an increase in the depth and breadth of research taking place across the campus.

The second publication is more inclusive in presenting the venues across campus where students have the opportunity to do discipline specific research and present their work. New in this edition is The Forge, INBRE, Performing Arts, and Graduate Studies.

The students on the cover are the Spring 2016 Literary Publication class. See page 6 for further details.

Chief Editor:

Steven W. King

Contributing Editor:

Gregory Carlson

Editorial Board:

David DeMuth, Jr.	SOAR
Lee Kruger	The Forge
Christopher Redfearn	Performing Arts
James Boe	Graduate Studies
Jodi Shorma	Scholar Symposium
Samuel Keasler	INBRE

Layout Design:

Tara Praska (Graphic Designer/FMC Director)

President:

Tisa A. Mason

Vice President for Academic Affairs:

Margaret Dahlberg

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Mission

Valley City State University is a public, regional university offering exceptional programs in an active, learner-centered community that promotes meaningful scholarship, ethical service, and the skilled use of technology. As an important knowledge resource, the University offers programs and outreach that enrich the quality of life in North Dakota and beyond. Through flexible, accessible, and innovative baccalaureate and master's programs, VCSU prepares students to succeed as educators, leaders, and engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

Student Opportunities for Academic Research (SOAR)

Rare is the scholarly activity that is more intellectually rewarding than research; driven by inquiry, discovery unfolds for the student who practices independence, ethics, and grit, a principle feature: development of a skill set that will continuously benefit all involved.



Annually in early May at the Valley City State University, President Mason and Vice-President Dahlberg host a celebratory banquet to recognize undergraduate academic research.

Annually, the SOAR program solicits student interest to work with VCSU faculty of their choosing on scholarly and creative works of significance, project effort estimated at 100 hours, remuneration at \$1,000 with an additional \$250 allowed for research materials.

Interested students participate by identifying first a faculty mentor to develop their idea, developing a short proposal that is submitted to jurors who rank submissions using a scoring rubric, then, if successful, committing to working on their project for up to one year.

During the 2015-16 academic year, nine students were awarded funding to investigate the topics they found most interesting as an extra-curricular activity.

As coupled with a faculty mentor, the work proved rewarding for both student and faculty, and in each case, shepherding long-term relationships for the student, with faculty and campus.

Inclusivity is an important attribute of the program. A goal is for each academic department across the arts, science, and education spectrum to regularly host student discovery makers.

The SOAR process is competitive, the program sponsoring seventeen projects since its inception in 2014, and VCSU continues to encourage more students to become Viking Scholars.



SOAR Students Justin Tangen, Tanner Hovland, Mackenzie Bruce, DaveMarth Nagbe, Dallas Petersen, Alexis Getzlaff, Jordan Bushaw, Richard Langdeaux, and Baylee Swenson. Visit http://soar.vcsu.edu/?page_id=460 to read their research abstracts.



Participants in a virtual tour of a wetland using an Oculus Rift, an optical aide for immersion. Baylee Swenson and Jordan Bushaw partnered on their project: *The Effects of Motion Sickness in Virtual Reality Environments*.

Baylee Swenson and Jordan Bushaw use SOAR Grant to pursue the effects of motion sickness in virtual reality environments



Baylee Swenson has always had an interest in technology, video games, and virtual reality – this SOAR project allowed her to work with all three in a way that can positively impact others. Her project, *The Effects of Motion Sickness in Virtual Reality Environments*, looks at why motion sickness is prominent in virtual reality as well as why we are susceptible to it. The project will have

willing participants play through two levels: a realistic level and a cartoon-like level. She will measure the participants' motion sickness before and after the tests to get an accurate measure of how the game affected them. From doing this, she hopes to learn whether the level of realism of graphics within a game can cause a form of motion sickness on the user when playing it in virtual reality. The SOAR project is a great chance for a student to work on something they're passionate about, and she is grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of it.

Baylee Swenson is a Senior from Hatton, North Dakota. She is pursuing a major in Software Engineering with a minor in Computer Science and is scheduled to graduate in December of 2016. She currently works in the Web Services office at Valley City State University in order to help her prepare for her job at the Center for Open Science in Virginia after graduation.

The SOAR project is a great chance for a student to work on something they're passionate about.

SOAR gave **Jordan Bushaw** the opportunity to take her passion of up and coming technologies and working with them. Her study of *The Effects of Motion Sickness in Virtual Reality Environments* looks at how motion sickness appears in virtual reality environments and what the leading causes behind that may be. To do this

There are not many colleges that would give an undergraduate the opportunity to perform such research.

she and her partner will send test subjects through two separate levels in a virtual reality environment, one with cartoonish graphics and the other with realistic. The different reactions of the two will give her and her partner an indication as to what a cause behind the motion sickness in Virtual Reality may be. Through her research, she has discovered many new things about Virtual Reality and the effects that come along with it, many of which she has utilized in her internships and hopes to use with her future career at NBCUniversal after she graduates. There are not many colleges that would give an undergraduate the opportunity to perform such research, and she is extremely grateful for the opportunity.

Jordan Bushaw is a senior from Bismarck, North Dakota. She will graduate from Valley City State University in May of 2017 with a major in Software Engineering and a concentration in Enterprise Applications.



Scholar Symposium

Undergraduate Students Present Their Best Academic Work at VCSU's Student Scholar Symposium



Ben Bruenjes, Jacob Pommerer, Ryan Hammargren, and Nicole Willprecht presenting their "Hungry Santa" public relations campaign.

VCSU's Annual Student Scholar Symposium provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to share their best work and their talents with the VCSU community. In May of each academic year, students display their academic work using wall posters, tri-fold table boards, and computers and then present to judges consisting of VCSU faculty, staff and administration. Judging criteria includes content, appearance and rigor of student academic work. Monetary awards are given to the top three students with the highest judges' ratings, and the top 20% of students are recognized as/with Honorable Mention. Approximately 75 students participate in the symposium each year with 40 some faculty, staff and administration participating as judges.

On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 84 undergraduates presented their projects from the 2015-2016 academic year; 43 faculty, staff and administration volunteered as judges.

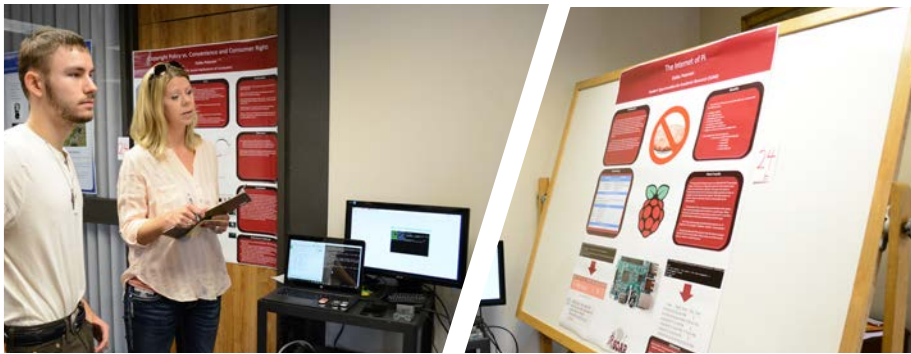
This year's event featured individual and team projects as well as projects from two distance students who Skyped their presentations for their judges. One of the team projects receiving Honorable Mention was a Great Plains Food Bank public relations campaign titled *Hungry Santa*. Ryan Hammargren, Jacob Pommerer, Nicole Willprecht, and Ben Bruenjes teamed up to share their project using a tri-fold table board to display their work.

Mattea Bierman, a junior Fisheries and Wildlife major from LaMoure, North Dakota, presented a research proposal receiving Honorable Mention. Bierman's project titled *Community Parasite Loads in Bluegill and Black Crappie Populations in Nelson Lake and Fish Creek Dam in North*

Dakota describes a proposed study to examine fish parasite populations. This was Bierman's first time presenting at a symposium. She stated, "At first, I was nervous to present to people who were not from the science field because I thought they would not have much interest in my proposal, but I was definitely wrong. All of my judges were very interested in my proposed project and encouraged me to actually complete the project this summer if I was able to."



Mattea Bierman presenting her research proposal displayed on a wall poster to one of her symposium judges Dr. Curt Hill.



Dallas Petersen top award winner of the 2016 Student Scholar Symposium presenting his SOAR project titled "The Internet of Pi" to one of his symposium judges Angela Williams.

The May 2016 Student Scholar Symposium top award winner was no novice to the symposium event. Dallas Petersen, from Kenmare, North Dakota, and a May 2016 graduate in the Software Engineering program, presented two individual projects this year and two individual projects last year with all four projects receiving award and/or honorable mention recognition.

Petersen's May 2016 SOAR Undergraduate Project titled *The Internet of Pi* received first place in this year's symposium. SOAR—Student Opportunities for Academic Research—encourages faculty-mentored research, artistry, and creativity projects for undergraduates at VCSU. Petersen's goal for his research project was to create an affordable home automation system, one that any consumer could afford. Petersen

studied applications of using the "Raspberry Pi" computing device for both smart home/home automation tasks, as well as an Internet of Things (IoT) hub. To study the capabilities of the device, Petersen made three sub-projects – a time management system, a panic button (similar to a Life Alert), and a weather notification system. Petersen displayed his methods, results and findings of his research project using a wall poster and highlighted his project with a computer demonstration.

Petersen's advice to future symposium presenters: "Don't give up after your first year at the symposium. Yes, the first symposium is difficult to know what to expect, but by year two, you have a handle on what to expect, and then you can really focus on giving your best presentation."

The 2016 Student Scholar Symposium Awards

BEST IN SHOW



Dallas Petersen

The Internet of Pi

RUNNER UP



Baylee Swenson

Ethics and Implications of Violence and Immorality in Virtual Reality

THIRD PLACE



Alexandra Cardenas and Ashley Metcalf

Las Mariposas Valientes: The Courageous Mirabal Sisters



HONORABLE MENTION

Tarah Cleveland, *Big Data Analysis and Social Media*

Jordan Bushaw and Baylee Swenson, *The Effects of Motion Sickness in Virtual Reality Environments*

Mattea Bierman, *Community Parasite Loads in Bluegill and Black Crappie Populations in Nelson Lake and Fish Creek Dam in North Dakota*

Richard Langdeaux, *Environmental Health-Oriented, Coal Fly Ash*

Ryan Hammargren, Jacob Pommerer, Nicole Willprecht, and Ben Bruenjes, *Hungry Santa*

Hayden Zander, *Dragonfly Distributions in North Dakota*

Taran Langland, *Drones and Their Impact on Society*

Jordan Bushaw, *DNA: The New Facebook? The Ethics and Protection of DNA in a Technological Society*

Dallas Petersen, *Copyright vs. Convenience and Consumer Rights*

Ethen Preston, *To Use Live Bait or Artificial Bait: That is the Question*

Justin Tangen, *Using Side Scanning Sonar to Map Bottom Substrate Features in North Dakota*

Ashley Limesand, *Developmental Differences Between Urban China and Rural U.S.*

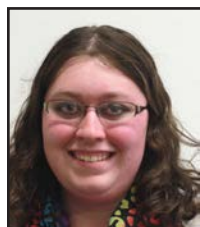
DaveMarth Nagbe, *My Life as an Illegal Immigrant*

VIEWERS CHOICE - TIE



Dallas Petersen

The Internet of Pi



Deborah Haley

Developmentally Different



Jordan Bushaw and Baylee Swenson

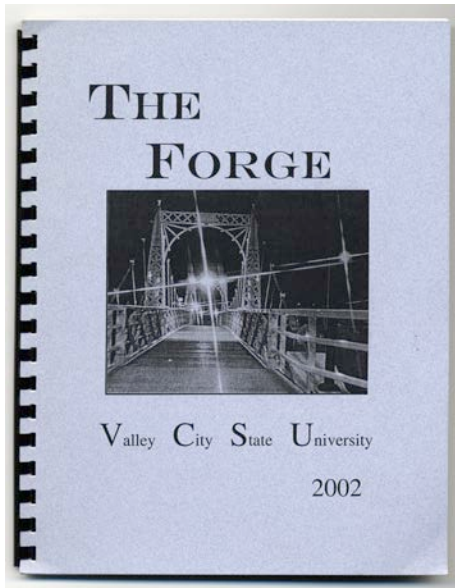
The Effects of Motion Sickness in Virtual Reality Environments



The Forge: Celebrating 15 Years of Student Creativity

Origins

Fifteen years ago, a small group of English majors met with new hire Lee Kruger to discuss the desirability of resurrecting a campus literary magazine. Years before, Dr. Richard (Dick) Betting had overseen an earlier incarnation, *The Exhibitor* (1967-77), and Dr. Martin Kelly had been filling the gap with a publication from his Creative Writing class each time he taught it, but the group was interested in a more representative effort to include a broader swath of campus. The result? The founding of *The Forge*, the name the group resoundingly and rather pointedly endorsed over Kruger's initial suggestion of *The Valkyrie*, in a move that suggested the impact of students from the start—an impact recent developments have only further solidified.



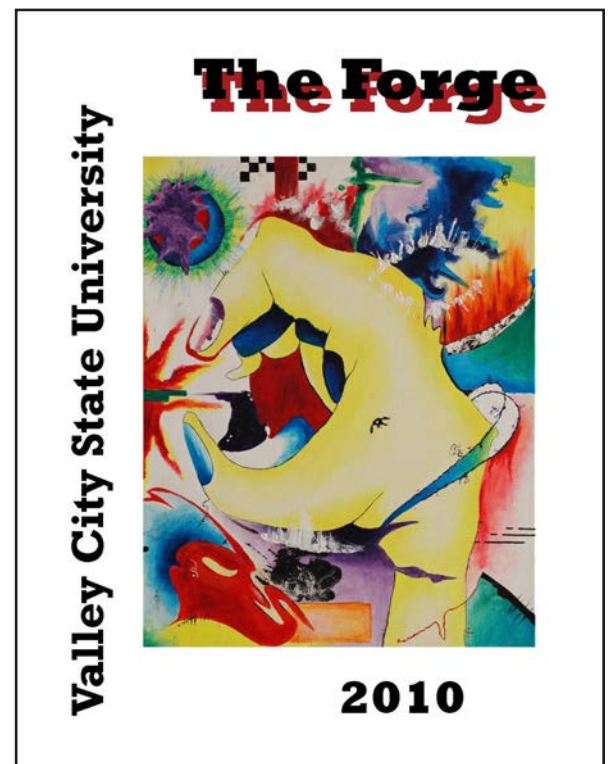
The First Edition

That first year included work by 30 students from 4 different countries in 4 juried categories—Essay, Poetry, Drama/Fiction, and Visions (a combination of photography, digital imagery, drawing and intaglio)—and paid 1st (\$20) and 2nd (\$10) places for each with prize monies coming from personal contributions on the part of 12 faculty. Additionally, five faculty contributed original pieces, including a haiku from then basketball coach Adam DeHaan, and over a half dozen faculty also served on three-member juries for each category. The cover to the left, by Hawaiian native, Chantal Molina, won second place in the Visuals category, and seemed an iconic

photo to set the tone for the magazine, which emerged as a 67-page, comb-bound 8½x11 book with the extensive help of JJ Thoreson in the FMC. Scarlett Gray, a music and English double major, won first prize for both Poetry and Visuals, and Ross Kopperud and Philip Godel, won for essay and Drama/Fiction, respectively. Kruger served as faculty advisor and co-editor with Ally Godel, a senior English major; Dr. Margaret Dahlberg and senior Maggie Clemons (also English) chipped in for the lion's share of the editing duties; and funding for the printing of 200 copies came primarily from Sigma Tau Delta and the CASS Division.

Upon Further Review

After that first year, *The Forge* steadily grew in popularity, size, and scope to reach average publishing runs of between 250 and 300, include (on average) 6 categories, and pay out upwards of \$300 in prize monies annually. Additionally, the 2002-2010 editions were made available online through generous funding from Student Senate, which has become the major financier for the print editions of *The Forge* ever since that first year. Over 300 different students have been represented in at least one issue in the 14 years of its existence, and special sections have been dedicated to alumni (both alive and in one case recently deceased), to special class productions, to three talented graduating art majors, and even to the writings of former President Chaffee's mother, who had written a lifetime of poetry and prose. Along the way, we've experimented with incorporating music, including the 12-string stylings of area resident and one-time VCSU student Michael Whisler's (in the 2008 online edition—Googling 'VCSU The Forge' should get you there), as well as Tyson Rost's winning entry from the Music Department's 2009 Composition contest. In all, we've published over 1,000 individual original works ranging from poems to plays to paintings to ceramic images from students who came from Nepal, Nigeria, France, Mexico, Colombia, Canada and Fingal (to name a few nations and one small North Dakota town), distributed over 3,000 copies of *The Forge* itself to anyone who wanted one, and had an absolute blast along the way.





2016 Spring Literary Publication Class, left to right: Lee Kruger, former faculty advisor; Strella Navalta; Jolene Woodbury; Alexis McCullough; Elisabeth Ostrem; Heather Gensler; Deborah Haley; Dr. Greg Brister, current faculty advisor; Maren Stegner; (not pictured: Monika Browne)

The Handing Over of the Keys

In our most recent strategic planning efforts, it became clear the time might be ripe to approach the publication

"a wonderful learning experience"

of *The Forge* through an addition to our English curriculum. For years, the Creative Writing class and spin-off poetry and fiction workshops had kicked up strong material for *The Forge* (and continued to do so last year as poets from an online workshop for

distance students won top honors), but the production of the actual publication depended on volunteers—particularly

upper class English and Art majors looking for some experience—working with

Kruger. In 2015, that changed with the development of a one-credit class, Literary Publication, to be offered by Dr. J. Gregory Brister. This last spring, Dr. Brister's inaugural class met weekly, studied literary magazines from other campuses and organizations,

organized marketing materials, got the word out, and then practiced what they had learned in publishing the first class-based issue of *The Forge*. Then, they held a party—an Open Mic celebrating the unveiling of *The Forge* and announcing the winners—and distributed the slick, 2016, saddleback stapled edition held by several above. Finally, in May, after a four-year absence, *The Forge* returned to full color online through the efforts of Dr. Brister.

The Dawn Chorus

I got the news today,
from an old friend of a friend
who will never be the same;
a life has come to an end.

The morning air fills with sorrow;
no one thought this day was near.
As the birds chirp outside the window,
suddenly, life seems more unfair.

The birds flit and twitter around the trees
dancing in the morning breeze,
oblivious to the tragic news
that makes the day so dark and the mood so blue.

Nothing seems to matter –
my friend is without a father.

by **Shayna Taffinder**
Vancouver, British Columbia

Takeaways and the Future

By all accounts, the switch to a class-based publication was a rousing success, and deemed "a wonderful learning experience" by sophomore Deborah Haley, who plans to take the repeatable course again. Junior transfer Jolene Woodbury added that the experience was "a cool way to see how talented kids at VCSU are." It seems we're on to something sustainable, and marvelous, here.

"a cool way to see how talented kids at VCSU are."

The themes reflected over the years in *The Forge* mirror the themes found in the best of literature and image—love and loss; discord and balance; the simple and the complex; the sense of wonder and awe and beauty in both the mundane and the extraordinary. One imagines those themes will emerge again next year, and the year after that, but the special nature of the publication emerges through the intense variety of ways VCSU students wrestle with the universal. Here's hoping *The Forge* will continue to be a vehicle for discovery and realization far into the future those students themselves have helped, and will continue to help, create.

Forge Prizes

First Place: \$30, Second Place: \$20, Third Place: \$10

Poetry

First Place	Erin Jangula	<i>The Course of the Columbia</i>
Second Place	Colleen McNeill	<i>Dawn in the Night</i>
Third Place	Sarah Staley	<i>The Top of the Farm</i>

Fiction/Drama

First Place	Deborah Haley	<i>Kid Friendly: A Play</i>
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Academic Essay

First Place	Jami Markovsky	<i>Supporting the Underdog: Examining Shakespeare's View of the Marginalized Character</i>
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Personal Essay

First Place	Angelea Wald	<i>Miracles Do Happen</i>
Second Place	Brittany Nathan	<i>Gotcha Day</i>
Third Place	Deborah Haley	<i>Not My Fault</i>

Photography

First Place	Amanda Schrenk	<i>Rainbow Flame</i>
Second Place	Megan Trautman	<i>Clock Tower (VCSU)</i>
Third Place	Levi Fettig	<i>Curious Owl</i>

Drawing/Printing

First Place	Megan Fuller	<i>Cull (Block Print)</i>
Second Place	Katarina Boychuk	<i>Dodo</i>

Painting

First Place	Kaylee Johnson	<i>Blue Winter (Watercolor)</i>
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Ceramics

First Place	Megan Trautman	<i>Beaded Bowl</i>
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THE FORGE 2016

Return (Mono Print) by Megan Fuller

THE INBRE PROGRAM

For more than a decade, the North Dakota INBRE program has been providing opportunities for VCSU students. Since the program's inception in 2004, more than 50 students have gained valuable research experience, travelled to scientific meetings to present their results, and earned extra money to help pay for school. These experiences have helped our students gain admission to Ph. D. programs, medical and dental schools, and a wide variety of other professional programs. Program alumni are working in careers ranging from research, to health care, to education. This program has been instrumental to building research capacity at VCSU, providing more than \$3,000,000 in student and faculty support, research materials, and travel funding over the last decade, and will continue to be an invaluable opportunity for our students moving forward.

The INBRE program (IDeA Network

of Biomedical Research Excellence) is a nationwide program administered by the National Institutes of Health to help build biomedical research capacity and provide increased research opportunities for faculty and students, particularly in states where these opportunities have been limited in the past. The success of the program at VCSU and the other institutions in the North Dakota network has enabled the state to secure three consecutive grant awards from this program.

Several different VCSU faculty mentors have participated in the INBRE program. Dr. Andre Delorme and Dr. Hilde van Gijssel were VCSU's first participants. Dr. van Gijssel's research investigates the link between herbicides and cancer using fruit flies as a model, while Dr. Delorme investigated the impact of herbicides on macroinvertebrate species in aquatic environments. Dr. Jerzy Bilski and Dr. Sam Keasler are currently participating

in the program. Dr. Bilski has been an INBRE participant since 2009 and runs a research group studying the growth of plants in coal fly ash. Dr. Keasler is a new participant in the program, starting in 2014. His research uses computational modeling to better understand how sulfuric acid and other pollutants can impact climate.

A major goal of the North Dakota INBRE program is to help create research capacity at undergraduate institutions and promote a culture in which faculty are active in research and work to include undergraduate students in these projects. This culture has been a driver of other efforts by faculty to create research opportunities for students beyond the INBRE program and will continue to be a major component of VCSU's ongoing efforts to ensure that our programs provide meaningful real-world experience to our graduates.

Megan Olson presents research on Global Warming at national conference

Megan Olson has been a participant in the INBRE program since the fall semester of her sophomore year working with Dr. Sam Keasler to understand how sulfuric acid and other pollutants can promote the formation of water droplets in the atmosphere which can have a significant impact on global climate. During the last two years, Megan has presented her results in the ND INBRE symposium in Grand Forks and at the Midwest Undergraduate Computational Chemistry Consortium Annual meeting in Evanston. Her work also earned an honorable mention at the VCSU scholar symposium. A journal article based on her findings is currently being prepared for submission and her results will be presented at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in San Francisco this spring.

Megan is a triple major in health science, biology, and chemistry, and is spending much of her senior year finishing minors in business and marketing in preparation for a career in medical device sales.

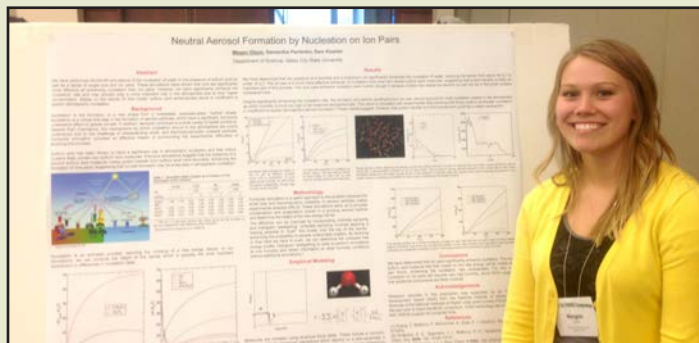
"The INBRE program has had a huge impact on me. Being a part of this program is much more rewarding than I ever thought possible. When I first came to college I never thought I would have the opportunity to be a part of something so much bigger than I am, but here I am two years later, still

working on the research. I feel like this opportunity has made me a more well-rounded candidate for my future job. My analytical skills have been challenged many times through this program. I strongly believe that I have done better in my classes due to the INBRE program.

It has also been great to have the chance to travel to different schools and present our research. Although this was typically something I was scared to do, it always went well and it was such a great experience. My public speaking skills have certainly grown thanks to this program.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the INBRE program and I am so thankful that I was given the opportunity to improve my education."

"The INBRE program has had a huge impact on me. Being a part of this program is much more rewarding than I ever thought possible."



GRADUATE STUDIES

Graduate Students Take Action to Improve Learning in the Classroom

VCSU's Graduate Programs use action research to find effective solutions to problems they confront in their classrooms in everyday life.

VCSU's graduate program has been in existence for ten years and each concentration focuses on providing teachers an advanced education with a technology focus. As with any graduate level program, research is also at the heart of VCSU's M.Ed. degree. Graduates learn how to conduct action research and apply their new knowledge to improve instruction. The goal of action research in the program is to provide teachers with a systematic approach to investigate everyday problems and develop solutions they can implement right away.

Unlike traditional educational research that focuses generalizable results, action research seeks solutions to specific situations that are localized to a single school or classroom. This doesn't make action research less valuable or relevant. Action research is a powerful tool that results in a plan for implementation or action to improve teaching and learning and has a higher potential to impact instructional strategies and student outcomes.

Action research studies in the program are traditionally mixed-methods studies that allow for triangulation of data and better support for the development of action plans. A typical action research study is still written in a five chapter format covering the following major topics (a) Area of Focus, (b) Data Collection, (c) Analysis and Interpretation of Data, (d) Action Plan, and (e) Reflection. Graduate students present the findings of their research and the action plans to a faculty committee as a part of their capstone presentations.

Although action research can be done in an informal manner in the classroom, the research conducted as a part of a university program is required to seek Institutional Review Board approval, which poses some unique chal-

"Action research has a higher potential to impact instructional strategies and student outcomes."

lenges. The nature of action research potentially makes the teacher both the researcher and the data collection instrument. The graduate student is responsible to address the ethical challenges and ensure the rights of the research participants are protected to the satisfaction of the IRB. All research conducted through the graduate programs must also seek administrator approval.

Graduates of the Master of Education program that have continued their education in specialist or doctoral degrees found the action research process beneficial in preparing them for experimental research associated with these

programs. Graduates are also encouraged to present their findings at conferences or publish in related educational journals. In some cases, students will do this independently, but sometimes faculty will assist with the research and publication process as a co-author.

The Office of Graduate Studies also supports faculty research and assessment projects on campus. Each year individual \$500 mini grants are available to faculty who are completing research or assessment studies that increase scholarly activity, publications and conference presentations. Faculty and students at the graduate and undergraduate level are conducting great research studies and it is important to recognize their work.

To date, just over 250 action research studies have been conducted since the first graduating class in 2007. Based on the minimum, this translates to almost 4,000 K-12 students impacted by the research and resulting action plans. The graduate faculty have always supported the goal of promoting research methods that teachers can use on a regular basis and have a tremendous impact on teaching and learning in the classroom.



Aleksandr Sadwnyk is a Technology and Engineering Education teacher in VCSU's graduate program and works in the state of New Jersey.

Action Research Spotlight



Online vs. Face-To-Face Outcomes for Nurse Assistants

Katie Hatt

Health Science Teacher
Grand Forks Public Schools
Grand Forks North Dakota

According to Allen and Seaman, “The number of students taking at least one online course increased by over 411,000 to a new total of 7.1 million” and “Ninety percent of academic leaders believe that it is ‘likely’ or ‘very likely’ that a majority of all higher education students will be taking at least one online course in five years time” (2014, p. 4). Despite the growing interest in distance education, one-quarter of chief academic leaders still consider the learning outcomes for online education to be inferior to those for face-to-face instruction, and over two-thirds of academic leaders believe there are concerns about the quality of online courses (Allen & Seaman, 2014).

The findings of this action research project provided reassurance there were no disadvantages in academic achievement, perception of the learning experience, or student satisfaction for students enrolled in one course platform versus the other. Information gained from this research included what students felt was most beneficial to their learning, what they found most challenging, and what they enjoyed the most about their course experience. With this data, educators are able to take action towards improving the experience for future students and use it as rationale for why specific decisions are made within a course. Two items that came up multiple times on the question asking about aspects the learner found most challenging were the memorization of medical terminology and memorization of steps in skill procedures. Having this specific feedback provides direction; for example, instruction can be improved and differentiated by exploring instructional strategies for vocabulary and memorization.

The research results can also be used to show students, parents, and school administrators that online courses can be used to expand student opportunities that would not have otherwise been available due to limited offerings in some schools or schedule conflicts. The findings show that online courses are a valid and effective alternative to traditional classes.

Finally, this research will be beneficial when the district’s CTE Director and I seek certification for the online Nurse

“This research will be beneficial when the district’s CTE Director and I seek certification for the online Nurse Assistant course from the North Dakota Department of Health in the upcoming future.”

Assistant course from the North Dakota Department of Health in the upcoming future. There has been apprehension to certify online Nurse Assistant courses in the state due to the differences in the learning experience. With the growing nursing shortage we are experiencing in our

country, especially rural areas, healthcare facilities could have an increased supply of CNAs if the state certified a greater number of programs. Online Nurse Assistant programs can offer flexibility and increase opportunities for both busy and rural individuals interested in becoming CNAs. Having evidence-based research to support the effectiveness of online Nurse Assistant programs could help support a change in the perception of the online learning platform.

Katie is working with faculty member Lana Fornes to prepare her research study for an article in the *Technology and Engineering Teacher* journal. She will also be submitting a proposal for an article in one or more of the Journals of Career and Technical Education. Katie is a Spring 2016 graduate of the VCSU Master of Education program with a concentration in Technology Education.

Student Presentations

Dedicated faculty at Valley City State University inspire their students toward excellence. One of the ways faculty do this is to mentor and encourage students to submit research to regional and national professional conferences or other venues. This section highlights the depth and breadth of student presentations over the 2015–16 academic year. For a complete list of student presentations, see pages 16–17.

Justin Tangen pursues multiple research opportunities at VCSU

Previous to pursuing his nursing degree, Justin Tangen conducted research as an Environmental Science major on two primary topics: using side scanning sonar to map substrate features on a stretch of the Sheyenne River, and growing different cereal crops on coal fly ash substrates to gain a better understanding of how certain crops uptake chemicals. The first research used sonar technology to scan and take pictures/videos of river beds to understand how the substrate is laid out along a stretch of the Sheyenne River near Kathryn, North Dakota. A better understanding of the substrate can help identify certain areas where keystone species such as the freshwater mussels may reside. This opportunity was granted by the North Dakota NAS Space Grant Consortium, and Justin conducted the research in the summer of 2015 and presented his findings at the Space Grant Consortium conference in the spring of 2016. For his second research project, Justin is growing different crops, mostly cereal grains, on varying substrates that contain coal fly ash. Currently, coal fly ash waste is lightly regulated by the EPA and is often dumped in large containment pits and stored onsite of coal burning facilities. The goal of this research is to find a better and more productive use for the waste, such as fortifying plants with fly ash due to the many chemicals it contains. Since 2014, the means for his research has been provided by INBRE of North Dakota, short for the Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence. Justin has presented his findings at both the annual INBRE conference and at the North Dakota Academy of Science conference. While at VCSU, he has also helped to maintain the greenhouse and conducted personal research growing and maintaining a variety of horticultural plants. He also enjoys



working with computers and technology and with different embedded systems to create devices that help monitor changes in temperature, humidity, and barometric pressure.

At Valley City State University, Justin feels he has been granted opportunities to study many different areas than he might have had at larger schools and credits his research with making him a more rounded person academically and personally and with showing him how fun and rewarding research can be. When asked about VCSU's impact, he stated, "VCSU has not only helped me to do better research, but it showed me how great being at a smaller school can be.

"The professors at this school know you by name and take the time to get to know you, which makes the learning experience that much better."

The professors at this school know you by name and take the time to get to know you, which makes the learning experience that much better." He also wanted to say a special thanks to VCSU Science Chair Dr. Andre Delorme and to Dr.

Jerzi Bilski for helping him become academically proficient, and for their and others' part in sparking a lifelong interest in seeking new knowledge and answers.

Justin is currently enrolled in the Dakota Nursing Program through Dakota College at Bottineau on the Valley City State University campus. Justin is from Kathryn, North Dakota. Upon graduation high from Valley City High School in 2008, he served five years in the United States Marine Corps providing security for a nuclear weapon submarine base in Seattle, Washington, and then as an infantryman out of Twentynine Palms, California. While stationed in California, his unit deployed overseas to Sangin, Afghanistan, where he served seven months. Shortly after arriving back to the States, he was honorably discharged and moved back home to pursue a college education.

Faculty and Staff Publications and Presentations

Faculty and staff across campus engage in research to present at conferences or for publication. For a complete list of staff and faculty publications and conference presentations during the 2015–16 academic year, see pages 17–20.



Sam Keasler examines impact of Sulphuric Acid on Global Warming

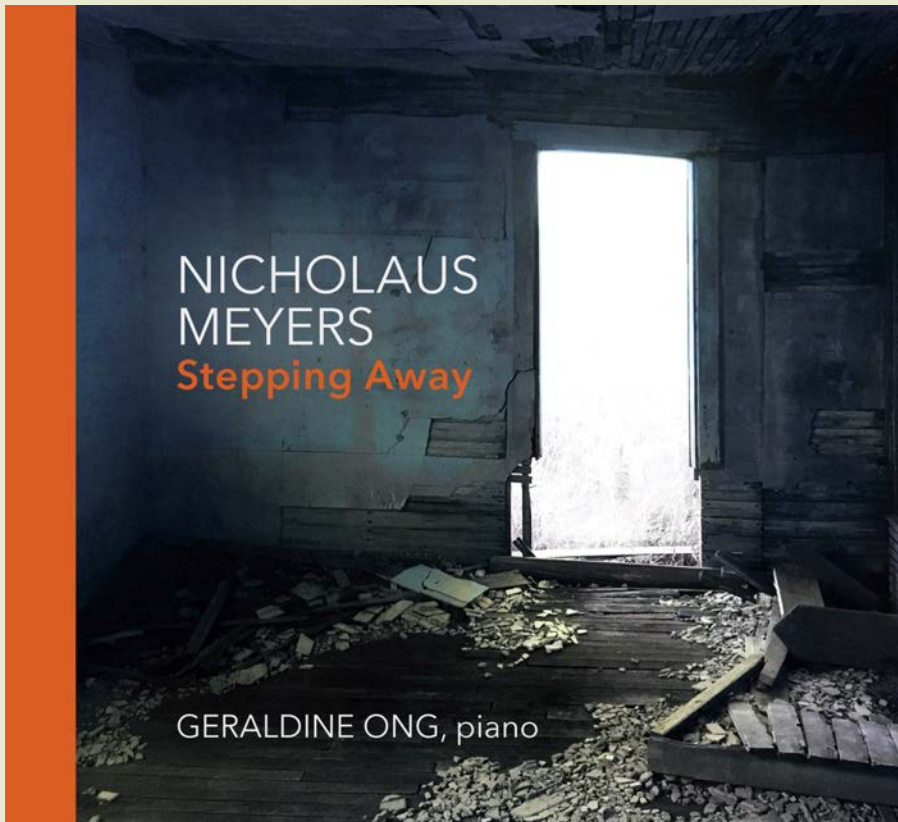
Aerosol particles are tiny drops of liquid that are light enough to be suspended in the atmosphere. Despite their small size, aerosols have an important role in regulating global climate. Incoming light from the sun can be reflected back to space by aerosol particles, reducing the amount of light that reaches the surface and significantly impacting global temperatures. In addition, the small size of these particles allows them to bypass natural filters in the nose and throat and enter the lungs, where they can cause a wide range of health problems. Despite their importance to medical and climate change research, the ways in which these particles form in the atmosphere are still poorly understood. Dr. Sam Keasler received a grant from the North Dakota INBRE program in 2014 focused on understanding how aerosol particles form. His current research uses computer simulations to understand how sulfuric acid and other pollutants in the atmosphere lead to the production of new aerosols. The main application of this research is to improve models for predicting how climate will change as carbon dioxide concentrations continue to rise. This data can also help to inform policy makers about which pollution control measures will be most helpful for limiting aerosol production and improving public health.

Several VCSU students have been involved in this research, including current students Megan Olson (see page 8), Jacob Schelcht, and recent graduates Samantha Pavlenko and Charlie Johnson. These students have presented the results of this work at the annual INBRE symposium in Grand Forks and the Midwest Undergraduate Computational Chemistry Consortium annual meeting in Evanston, IL. The first journal article based on this research will be submitted later this year.

In addition to his INBRE funded research, Keasler has been involved in a collaboration with Dr. Hilde van Gijssel

and one of VCSU's newest faculty members, Dr. Nick Galt, to create a synthetic biology research program at VCSU. The goals of this program are to apply engineering principles to biological systems in order to develop a bacteria that can sense mercury, a harmful environmental contaminant. While current VCSU student Max Kollar has been working with Drs. van Gijssel and Galt on engineering the mercury sensing bacteria, former VCSU student DaveMarth Nagbe worked with Dr. Keasler on using computer modeling to better understand how the mercury sensor works.

Keasler started his higher education at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. He earned a B.S. in chemistry in 2005 and had a chance to work on several different undergraduate research projects. These projects not only gave him his first introduction to computer modeling in chemistry, but they also highlighted the impact that research experience can have on undergraduate students. Keasler went south to Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge for his doctoral program, where his research focused on using computer simulations to understand chemical processes in the atmosphere. After completing his Ph.D. in 2010, Keasler moved to the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he spent three years working as a postdoctoral associate. He was involved in several different research projects at Minnesota including the development of improved models for next generation refrigerants, and investigating methods to more economically remove the water from biofuels. In 2013 Keasler joined the science faculty at Valley City State University where, in addition to running his research group, he teaches courses in general, analytical, physical, and inorganic chemistry. Dr. Keasler is always looking for new research students so anyone interested in working on any of these projects should contact him directly.



Music faculty produce album of original compositions

Original compositions by Nicholaus Meyers, assistant professor of music, are featured on a new album titled *Stepping Away*. The album was recorded in Froemke Auditorium on May 13, 2016, and features Geraldine Ong, assistant professor of music, at the piano. The tracks on *Stepping Away* were recorded and mastered by John LeTellier, assistant professor of music and instructor of music technology courses. The equipment used in recording and mastering the album is the same equipment used by students in the Music Recording and Production minor. The artwork for the cover was designed by Shannon Hone, a recent VCSU alumna and percussion student of Meyers. The production of this album, the scholarly equivalent to writing and publishing a book, demonstrates the depth of talent VCSU's Music Department and what can be achieved by faculty working in a collaborative fashion.



John LeTellier, Geraldine Ong, and Nicholaus Meyers

Viking Scholar Bibliography

Student Opportunities for Academic Research (SOAR)

Bruce, Mackenzie. *Does the herbicide 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid induce epigenetic changes in G12-Chinese hamster ovary cells?* Mentor: Dr. Hilde van Gijssel.

Getzlaff, Alexis. *The pickled fish project.* Mentor: Dr. Casey Williams.

Hovland, Tanner. *Are the multigenerational effects of chlorophenoxy herbicides on development and growth of drosophila melanogaster inherited through the male or female germ line?* Mentor: Dr. Hilde van Gijssel.

Nagbe, DaveMarth. *Analyzing mercury biosensors using computational modeling techniques.* Mentor Dr. Samuel Keasler.

Petersen, Dallas. *The internet of pi.* Mentor: Dr. Curt Hill.

Pilipetskii, Andrei, *Creating a virtual ensemble for online learners.* Mentor: Dr. Nicholas Meyers.

Swenson, Baylee and Bushaw, Jordan. *The effects of motion sickness in virtual reality environments.* Mentor: Professor Susan Pfeifer.

Scholar Symposium

Bierman, Mattea. *Community parasite loads in bluegill and black crappie populations in Nelson Lake and Fish Creek Dam in North Dakota.* ENGL 410 Technical and Scientific Writing. -Honorable Mention.

Bruenjes, Benjamin; Ryan Hammargren; Jacob Pommerer; and Nicole Willprecht. *Hungry santa.* COMM 314 Public Relations.

Bushaw, Jordan. *DNA: The new Facebook? The ethics and protection of DNA in a technological society.* SE 379 Social Implications of Computers. – Honorable Mention.

Bushaw, Jordan and Baylee Swenson. *The effects of motion sickness in virtual reality environments.* SOAR Undergraduate Research Project. – Viewer's Choice / Honorable Mention.

Cardenas, Alexandra, and Ashley Metcalf. *Las Mariposas Valientes: The courageous Mirabal sisters.* SPAN 320 Introduction to Spanish Literature. – Third Place.

Cleveland, Tarah. *Big data analysis and social media.* SE 379 Social Implications of Computers. – Honorable Mention.

Haley, Deborah. *Developmentally different.* PSYC 250 Developmental Psychology. – Viewer's Choice.

Langdeaux, Richard. *Environmental health-oriented, coal fly ash.* SOAR Undergraduate Research Project. – Honorable Mention.

Langland, Taran. *Drones and their impact on society.* SE 379 Social Implications of Computers. – Honorable Mention.

Limesand, Ashley. *Developmental differences between urban China and rural U.S.* COMM 460 Media Ethics. – Honorable Mention.

Nagbe, DaveMarth. *My life as an illegal immigrant.* COMM 216 Intercultural Communication. – Honorable Mention.

Petersen, Dallas. *Copyright vs. convenience and consumer rights.* SE 379 Social Implications of Computers. – Honorable Mention.

Petersen, Dallas. *The internet of pi.* SOAR Undergraduate Research Project. – Honorable Mention.

Preston, Ethen. *To use live bait or artificial bait: That is the question.* ENGL 410 Technical and Scientific Writing. – Honorable Mention.

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Zander, Hayden. *Dragonfly distributions in North Dakota*. SOAR Undergraduate Research Project. – Honorable Mention.

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Arnold, Duane W. *Motivating reluctant readers*.

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Butler, Andrea M. *Effects of listening to audio recordings on the comprehension of informational texts by English language learners*.

Christensen, Adam L. *Tier II interventions with texting*.

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Hoffer, Lyndsey Michelle. *Effects of classroom environment on student learning*.

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Inbody, Nathan J. *A research study of methods increasing student visualization of two and three-dimensional representation*.

Isabell, Tonya Madora. *A study to determine the impact of robotics education on student engagement and achievement*.

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Kenkel, Heather L. *Language supports for English language learners in math word problems*.

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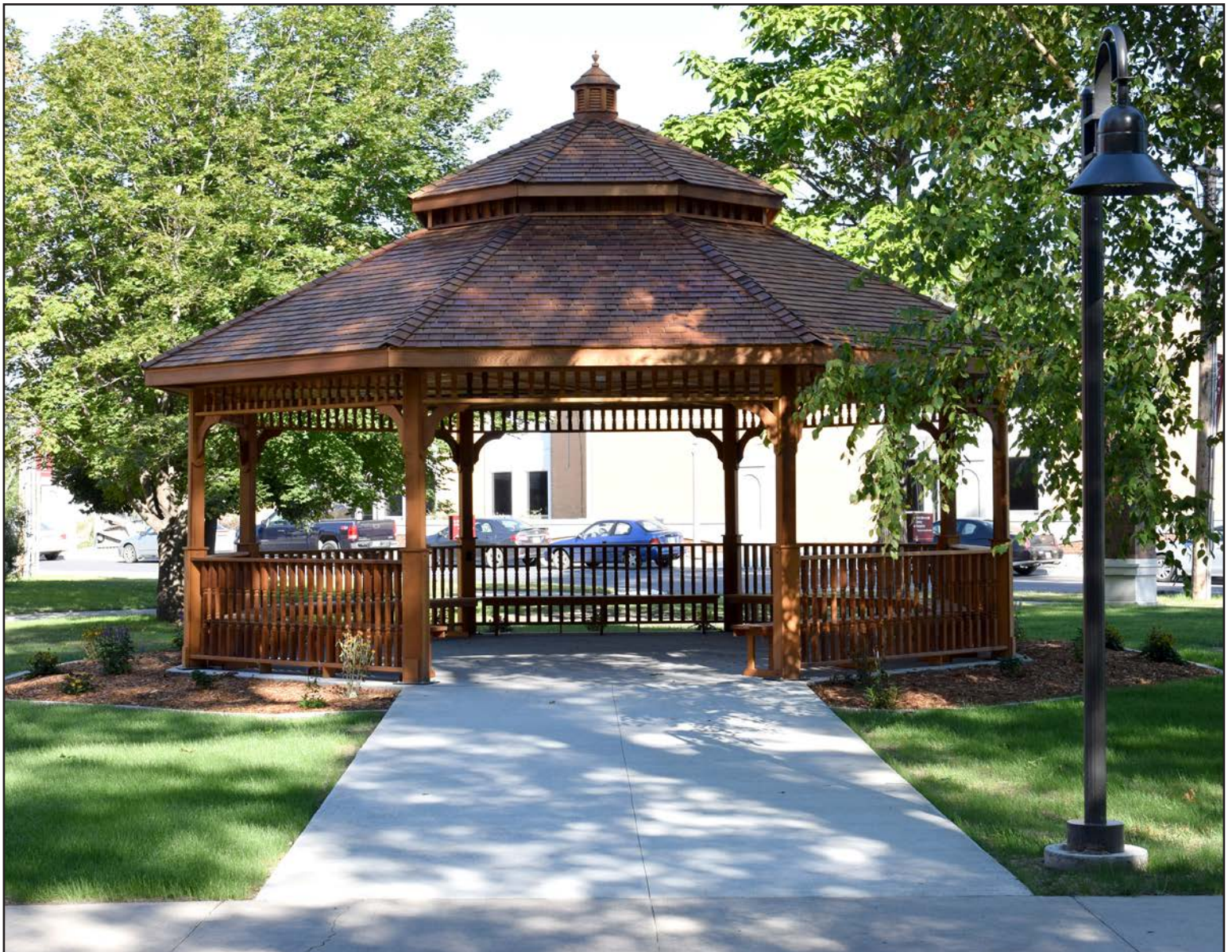
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Valley City State University
101 College St. SW ♦ Valley City, ND 58072
www.vcsu.edu ♦ 1.800.532.8641