VCSTC Faculty, Staff and the Times
1958-62
Dick Bernard
January 30, 2013

We, the students who frequented VCSTCs halls from 1958-62, were homogeneous racially, and mostly North Dakotan by nativity. (I recall no Native American students - "Indian" as we would have said, then). The maximum enrollment of VCSTC at any one time 1958-64 probably never exceeded 1000 college students.

We probably well reflected the North Dakota of the time. For us, "cultural diversity" was the occasional enrollee from a bigger city or from another state. I recall actually meeting only two persons with dark skin: one from Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Dayananda Abeywickrame, who had been a student the year before I arrived the summer of 1958; a second, an exchange student from Ethiopia who was attending Moorhead State and came to Valley City for some unremembered reason.

Beyond that, however, we were a diverse lot: farm and tiny town kids; townies from Valley City, and many from Barnes County; a fair number of older students who were there on the GI bill; people who had been teaching on a one year certificate or two year Standard and came back to finish their degree, etc.

By our very name, we were a State Teachers College. Basically most of us probably began adulthood looking at becoming a teacher of something, somewhere. (Years later, I learned that we were good prospects to be good teachers. It helped to be from VCSTC.)

I looked back at my four yearbooks (1959-62) to review who our faculty was, back then. They are all listed below, and there is a Facebook album with their photos from the time, though not their last name. I think the album is open to anyone. Every person listed below is pictured. [i]

(continued at end of the list)

VCSTC Faculty and staff 1958-62, Alpha Order (years in parens)
*** preceding the name means the person was faculty or staff all four years.**
Source: Viking Annuals for 1959, 60, 61, 62

Bane, Louise - Home Ec 1958-60
* Bell, Florence - English 1958-62
Berge, Lorraine - Art 1961-62
Boedecker, Frank - English, Social Studies 1960-61
* Bollinger, Vera - English 1958-62
* Bratland, June - Secretary to Mr. Soroos 1960-62
* Bruhn, Louis - Dean of Men 1958-62
Bruhschwein, Robert - Science, Math 1959-62
Bucco, Martin - English 1958-59

Buegel, Betty - Education and Psychology 1959-60
* Canine, Mary Hagen - English and Speech 1958-62
Caskey, Gerald - Social Science Supervisor 1961-62
Charley, Alfred - Art 1958-60
* Christopherson, Dr. H. E. - Education and Psychology 1958-62
Dafoe, Arthur - Science, Math 1959-62
Dienhart, Merlyn - Social Science 1961-62
* Donavan, Jack - Vocal Music 1958-62
Emmerich, Carl - Art 1959-62
* Enger, Dorothy - Assistant to Business Manager
Evans, Alan - Football Coach 1960-62
Fearing, Pat - Secretary to Registrar and Business Manager, 1958-59
* Ferguson, Donald - Librarian 1958-62
Flath, Arnold - Lab School 1958-59
Froemke, Arthur - 1958-61
Gale, Vernon - Football 1958-60
Gillund, R. Cameron - 1958-61
* Graichen, Charlotte - Girls PE 1958-62
Gunderson, Annie - English 1959-62
Gunsch, Leonhardt - Science 1958-59, 1961-62
* Hanna, Glenn - Industrial Arts 1958-62
* Hanson, Gilmour - Commerce 1958-62
Hanson, Helen - Library 1958-61
Hanson, Sena - Lab School 1958-59
Hedberg, Ora - House Matron East Hall 1958-60
Hendrickson, Paul - Art 1958-59
Hill, Lyle - English,1961-62
* Jacobson, Lillian - Librarian, Lab School 1958-62
Kanwischer, Cynthia - Education 1961-62
Keeling, Dr. Wilbur - Social Science 1958-59, 1960-62
* Kienetz, Ellen - Secretary to President Lokken 1958-62
* Keinath, William - Social Studies 1958-62
Kerl, Harriatt - Home Ec 1958-59
* Kennedy, George - Geography 1958-62
Kolstoe, Soren - Retired but legendary, see photo
Koppenhaver, Dr. R. G. - Psychology 1961-62
Kozak, Dorothy - Music Lab School 1959-1962
* Lade, James - Science 1958-62
Langemo, Dorothy - Education 1961-62
Lemon, Dale - Coach 1959-62
* Leraas, Marvin - Biology 1958-62
Lokken, Roscoe - President 1958-62
Ludwig, Roger - Jr. High Princ 1958-60, 1961-62
Lydell, Arthur - Piano-Organ, 1958-59
Lyons, Stuart - English, French 1961-62
Mackie, Verna - English 1958-61

Martin, Kay - Secretary to Mr. Pearce and Mr. Osmon 1961-62
* McTavish, Claire - Assistant to Registrar 1958-1962
Menk, Dr. Gail - Music 1961-62
Moss, Kittie - Foreign Language 1958-61
* Movius, Helen - English, Euclid Hall Matron 1958-62
Neys, Margaret - Librarian 1961-62
Novy, Evelyn - English, History 1959-60
* O'Connell, James - Mathematics, 1958-62
Olson, Mildred - English 1961-62
Olson, Viola - Home Economics 1960-62
* Osmon, Willis - Basketball, 1958-62
* Ovrebo, Gerhard - Physics, Math 1958-62
* Ovrebo, Sigrid - College Bookstore 1958-62
* Pearce, Harry - Lab School Supt 1958-62
Peterson, Carol - Girls PE 1959-62
Peterson, Ethel - Lab School Supervisor 1958-59, 1961-62
Peterson, Mary - House Matron West Hall 1958-61
Rhoades, L. D. "Dusty" - Science 1958-61 (retired 1961, at VCSTC since 1919)
Richter, Dorothy - Lab School Supervisor 1958-59
Robertson, Ina C - Recently Retired Geography, unfortunately, no photo.
Robinson, Hugh - Science 1958-59
Schwartz, Murray - Off Campus Supervisor 1958-61
*Snoeyenbos, Mabel - Commerce 1958-62
*Soroos, Adolf - Registrar 1958-62
Sparzo, Frank - Psychology 1958-59
*Stowman, Lorraine - Nurse 1958-62
Strommen, Elizabeth - Biology 1960-61
Swonchoski, Albert - Lab School Music Sup 1958-59
Syverson, Marian - House Matron East Hall 1960-61
Talbot, Dr. Robert - Social Science 1959-62
Tiemann, Harry - Education, Psychology 1960-61
*Vangstad, Lena - Education 1958-62
Vangstand, Thilda - Principal Lab School 1958-59 and 1961-62
Vick, Richard - English, German 1961-62
Vike, Peter - Piano, Organ 1959-60
Waldera, Eva - Dance 1961-62
Welsh, Dr. Donald - English, Social Science 1961-62
Whitnah, Dr. Donald - Soc Science 1958-59
Wicks, Larry - Piano and Organ, 1960-62
Williams, Eugene - Physics, Science 1961-62
* Willson, Bernice - Secretary to Dean of Men
* Wooldridge, Opal - Lab School Supervisor 1958-62

(continued from page one)
Probably like most students, I only knew a few faculty members (I recognized 19 of those listed above).

I intentionally include on the above list the non-teaching staff, as the personnel in the Registrars office, etc.

In their way, these non-faculty adults were our teachers as well. [ii] You were never far from adult supervision!

At VCSTC, the average academic faculty for those four years numbered slightly under 50. Twenty faculty members were there all four years, and many of these had been part of VCSTC for many years. A few old-timers retired sometime during 1958-62. I believe band man Arthur Froemke had to retire early due to illness. He was replaced pro tem by Dr. Christopherson, whose specialty was not band, but Education and Psychology.

In those four years, a total of 85 different individuals were faculty members for one or more years. Some of these, like Hugh Robinson, were at the end of their career when I started (I took an Ag class from him - I remember identifying weed seeds).

Most teachers had MS degrees, the new ones each year probably fresh out of graduate school or perhaps some K-12 experience somewhere, and getting some real-world college seasoning before going on to their doctorate somewhere else.

One of these, Martin Bucco, was one of my first instructors in the summer of 1958, and was at STC for only one year. Some years ago I googled his name and up he came as a retired professor at Colorado State University, and an expert on Sinclair Lewis. We made contact. He had come from Newark NJ, and was 28 and married when they came to Valley City. A child was born during the Valley City year. Thence came a doctorate somewhere, and off to CSU for 43 years, beginning 1963.

Many of us can probably share similar recollections about other faculty.

Thinking back to those years, now over 50 years ago, it seems that we were college students at a pretty unique time in American history. Our generation grew up in an unusual space in American and World history.

Most of us were born before or during WWII, and thus were neither part of the Baby Boom, or what came to be dubbed the Greatest Generation. We were, all of us, in one way or another related to the Great Depression, which had impacted on our parents and everyone in their generation.

Most of us were old enough to have some childhood memories of the WWII experience.

I watched Sputnik blink across a brilliant ND night sky in Nov. 1957, nine months before my first class at STC in the summer of 1958. We were on the lawn of my

grandparents farm between Berlin and Grand Rapids ND. In that time, newspapers published a map showing the track and time Sputnik would come over ND.

About this time, Minot and Grand Forks Air Force bases opened, in the midst of "the Cold War". Missile silos were soon to come. A vivid memory for me is seeing President Eisenhower in an open car in a motorcade in Minot in, likely, 1954. He was probably in ND to inspect the site of the just beginning construction Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Bases.

February 3, 1959, "The Day the Music Died", Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash enroute to a concert in Moorhead. The tragedy began the career of a fill-in Fargo garage band led by 15 year old Bob Velline. That band became Bobby Vee and the Shadows.

In February, 1961, the Vietnam Era officially began. I went in the U.S. Army in January 1962, but it wasn't until much later that somebody fixed the official beginning of the "Vietnam Era" (we hardly knew there was a place called Vietnam). The fact that my Colorado Springs basic training base, Ft. Carson, became the base for a newly reactivated 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) into which we all were transferred in the spring of 1962 did mean something very big, but then unknown to us. In October of that first year out of college came the Cuban Missile Crisis. I was in an Infantry Company being mobilized just in case.

During the VCSTC years, Dwight Eisenhower's eight years in the White House ended, and his successor was John F. Kennedy. I was too young to vote in 1960 - I was not yet 21, then the voting age. I note in the yearbooks that I was neither a Young Democrat nor Young Republican at the time.

Towards the end of September, 1961, I stopped at KOVC Radio, then next to the Rudolph Hotel, and the linotype writer had just brought the news that Fargoan Roger Maris had hit his 60th home run for the NY Yankees, tying Babe Ruths record set 34 years earlier. I wish I had kept that tear sheet.

Soon thereafter, Maris hit his 61st, breaking the record, but his record always included the asterisk: he hit his homerun in a longer season than Ruth, and thus it was not a legitimate record.... It to be another 34 years before Maris' record was broken, in the steroid-sodden 90s. Those later records have proven to be an embarrassment, far greater than Maris' "61 in 61".

Judging from the annuals, most of us seem to have been from that motley crew called "Christian". Different denominations didn't get along especially well in our growing up years.

But the hundreds of years of religious "cold war" was thawing in our college days. I was (still am) Catholic. Dour Pope Pius XII had died my senior year in high school,

to be replaced by Pope John XXIII, who set about opening some long closed windows.

What we Catholics knew as Vatican II officially began right after my graduation. Fifty years later, there is a low-grade 'war' within our denomination as to what being Catholic means.... Some issues are never "settled". War by whatever name or strategy never settles anything (my political statement).

In college days, Civil Rights was looming. 1963 was a peak year (I recommend Martin Luther King's 1964 book, Why We Can't Wait", for an easy to read "seminar". The book is about 1963 in the south, and all the stresses then. King wrote the book when he was 34 years old. It was published shortly after JFK's assassination. MLK had met personally Eisenhower and Kennedy. (JFK was only 46 in 1963.... We tend to forget this, as we age.)

There are endless additional memories. Every one of us have them; they're worth writing down, at minimum, for our kids and grandkids.

All of the faculty and staff I knew, then, are likely gone now, so it is a bit late to say thank you in person. But I can convey thanks to present day Valley City State University for both the 2012 and 2000 Directories.

Thanks for the memories!

Dick Bernard
The very small class of December, 1961

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[i] - A couple of years ago I read the book "My Faraway One: Selected Letters of Georgia O'Keefe and Alfred Stieglitz" editor Sarah Greenlough, and found very interesting the early chapters where O'Keefe taught Art at a "Normal School" in Texas. Her letters richly described how it was to be a teacher at an institution that seemed much like VCSTC.

[ii] - After nine years teaching Junior High School, most of my professional career was spent representing school teachers in Minnesota.

It became obvious early on that non-teaching personnel: secretaries, cooks, bus drivers, principals, custodians, and on and on and on, were really an integral part of the learning environment in every school, even though they weren't part of the formal "teacher" list.

So, when I asked teacher union leaders at a workshop in the late 90s to identify a school employee who'd impacted on their life in some tangible way, and then to identify a single quality that led to that impact being made, I specifically included every member of the public school staff.

Somebody in that place called school made a difference. (The interesting results of that exercise can be found at http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/?m=20130124, the blog post for January 24, 2013.)