Stories from Fall 1996 Strides

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Can we stop the violence? We hear about it, we see it, some of us are even the unfortunate victims of the violence which seeps into every aspect of our life in America. At Viterbo College, several individuals have seized the initiative and are practicing their own homespun version of peacemaking. They are compassionate to prisoners, give hope when it seems there is none, and offer opportunities for reconciliation. Meet three faculty and one Viterbo graduate who tell their stories.

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Viterbo introduces Advance program for adults
Beginning this September, Viterbo College started a new adult completion program that will make it possible to finish a bachelor’s degree in Organizational Management in as little as 18 months. The ADVANCE Degree Completion Program is designed for adults who have completed their first two years of college but who, for a variety of reasons, have not completed their bachelor's degree, according to Robert Dean, dean of the Dahl School of Business at Viterbo College.

"The ADVANCE Program is a non-traditional program. Students attend classes just one night per week," according to Dean. "The classes are designed for the adult student who learns the material through independent study and preparation of assignments for class. The time in class follows a seminar approach with students actively participating in the discussion."

The degree offered through this new program is a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management. Dean said that Viterbo College had selected the Organizational Management major "because it fits best with the corporate needs of the area. Students finishing this program will be qualified for a variety of supervisory and management positions."

Under the program, students will be enrolled in small groups, usually 15 to 20 people. These groups will stay together throughout the entire 18-month program. "This group process results in strong bonding between students, enhancing the desire to learn with others in the group. Students draw upon the work, travel and personal experiences of each other as much as from the course material in many cases," Dean stated. "As a result, nearly 90 percent of those students will complete their degrees, compared with only about 40 to 45 percent of college students in traditional programs."

"Viterbo plans to register its first class on September 17, then begin new groups on a regular schedule after that. We believe this will be an exciting opportunity for area businesses and adult students," Dean added.

New Vice President for Finance and Administration Named
Todd Ericson, who has served as Controller at Viterbo College since 1993, has been named vice president for Finance and Administration.

In his newest appointment, Ericson interacts with a wide range of internal and external constituencies, interprets and applies meaning to financial data, and balances fiscal priorities in cooperation with the college president. He also provides administrative oversight in the areas of financial aid, admissions and physical plant.

Ericson received his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Accounting from UW-Eau Claire. He was granted his Wisconsin Department of Regulations and Licensing Certified Public
Accountants License in 1992. His professional affiliations include both the American and the Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
In his capacity, Ericson oversees a budget which has grown from $8 million to $18 million in less than six years.

New to career services
Graduates should take notice that Diana Beran has just been hired as the new Director of Career Services. She replaces Barbara Rockwell who accepted another position in higher education at a college in Kansas.
Beran was most recently the creator and director of the Regional Youth Career Center through the Western Wisconsin School to Work Consortium and the Private Industry Council in La Crosse. She has a wealth of experience conducting career education and job seeking skills workshops, resume writing and non-traditional careers workshops. She has also coordinated and monitored work exploration experiences for young people.

Beran holds a master's degree in guidance and counseling from UW-River Falls and is certified by the state of Wisconsin as a professional counselor.
The search committee selected Diana as director because of her vast knowledge and background and superb communication skills. Members also found that her stated philosophy of life and interaction with people are consistent with the Viterbo College mission.
Diana, along with Tim Wall, Assistant Director, will be more than happy to answer all your job seeking questions. You may contact them at (608) 796-3828.

Fine Arts Center anniversary harkens early memories
The FSPAs decided to make St. Rose Convent and La Crosse their home 125 years ago. Along with their prayer books and satchels, the Sisters brought along something much more dear to them—their passion for the arts.

Eventually, just over 25 years ago, the Sisters made a similarly large commitment on behalf of Viterbo in approving construction of the magnificent Fine Arts Center, which is the subject of a year long array of anniversary festivities.

The Franciscan community had always been one that believed that the Arts are an integral part of life, according to Sister Marie Leon La Croix, a retired member of the theatre faculty, who was deeply involved in all aspects of the construction.

"Mother Antonia, who was the first Mother Superior in La Crosse, served at a time when the community was very destitute," she says. "When the order had hardly enough money for food, Mother Antonia went out and bought two oil paintings, explaining that they were nourishment for the soul which satisfied a much deeper hunger.

"During the winter months, when there wasn't enough heat in the convent, we brought the piano into the kitchen along with our easels and paints so as to continue our art," explained Sister Marie Leon in a storytelling mode that would make the finest oral historian proud.

The programs all grew over time. The Music Department was originally housed in the convent, ceramics were done in the basement of Murphy Cente, and the Theatre Department was housed in the old gymnasium.
But in the 1960s as the college began to grow, this setup was no longer suitable. Talk began about a new facility for the sole purpose of housing the arts. "What began as a tiny seed grew into an enormous tree," laughed Sister Marie Leon in explaining the planning process. "I guess you can say Sister Grace Mc-Donald, who was president of the college at the time, took a leap of faith in allowing the plans to grow into a 5.5 million dollar structure."

Finally, the big day arrived.

On a snowy and cold December day, trucks moved the pianos from St. Rose, the kilns from the basement of Murphy Center and the spotlights from the old gymnasium. Feelings of joy, satisfaction and praise permeated the campus.

The state-of-the-art theatre that was considered 25 years ago to be the finest in the Midwest, still carries that distinction as one of the best in the region.

Editor's Note: This memoir of the birth of the Fine Arts Center serves as an introduction to the many stories honoring its anniversary you will find in the spring issue of Strides.

**Viterbo honors its own**

During the annual honors convocation held this past spring, faculty member Diane Foust received the honorable Teacher of the Year award.

Foust joined the Viterbo Music Department Faculty in 1985 and has served as department chair since 1986. Foust has been a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing since 1980. Her areas of expertise include: choral ensemble, vocal literature, sight singing and ear training.

"Diane possesses all the traits that define an excellent teacher: a great mind, astute powers of reason, love for her subject matter and a genuine concern for the students' needs. She is tireless in the pursuit of her students' potential," said Jerry Benser, a colleague in the music department.

Music education major M. Shealan Crowley commented, "Diane's creativity as a teacher and singer have taught me so much about the art of music. She is constantly seeking new ways to improve herself as a person as well as a teacher, which encourages students to do the same."

Several other noteworthy awards were presented at the ceremony as well.

Sister Grace McDonald, former president of Viterbo College received this year's Father J. Thomas Finucan Award, given annually to a member of the college community who embodies qualities exhibiting Viterbo's mission and values. Sister Grace is in her 26th year as a member of the Board of Directors.

Sister Marlene Weisenbeck, chair of the Board of Directors, said, "Grace always saw the mission of the college not in isolation but as integrated with the whole life of the La Crosse community. When it wasn't popular or even in practice, Grace became a very acceptable part of the business community by instinctively integrating the religious orientation of the college with the growth and development of the civic community."
During her tenure as president, Sister Grace spearheaded many significant changes on campus. Marian Hall, the school's first dormitory was constructed along with the Fine Arts Center. She also made the decision to admit men at Viterbo.

Education instructor, Mary Kisken, was named the recipient of the first annual Alec Chiu Memorial Award. The award is named after philosophy instructor Alec Chiu, who recently lost a courageous battle with cancer. Its purpose is to recognize excellence in teaching.

Kisken, who has taught part-time for eight years, is greatly beloved by her students. "As an instructor, Mary motivates all her students to partake and continue along the path of lifelong learning. Her words of wisdom and personal anecdotes have inspired students to go beyond ordinary achievements and utilize their extraordinary, imaginative skills," said senior education major Angie Timm.

Viterbo, local elementary schools receive collaboration grant
Educators from Viterbo will join their peers from Franklin and Hamilton Elementary schools in a unique project which will strengthen children's readiness to learn while providing benefits to college students studying to be teachers.

The funding for this collaboration comes from the State of Wisconsin which received a grant from the "Goals 2000: Educate America Act" signed by President Clinton in March, 1994.

Major features of the grant include: establishment of after school reading and tutorial clinics at both elementary schools, selection of elementary teachers who will be involved in teaching methods courses at Viterbo, and scheduling "family education nights" at the two elementary schools where Viterbo students will join existing staff in meeting with parents, making curriculum presentations and planning social activities designed to enhance communication between families and schools.

"I'm very excited about this exchange," said Sue Batell dean of the School of Education at Viterbo. "This is a great project to collaborate on. Our students get real teaching experience early in their college career and they will also benefit from the multi-cultural, multi-racial setting at these two schools and from the exchanges with some of the very best elementary school teachers in the La Crosse area."

ECEN program grants first licensure
Congratulations to Paula Neberman of La Crosse, the first student to complete the new graduate licensure program in Early Childhood/ Exceptional Needs.

Neberman, a teacher at Coulee Children's Center, works with young children with Attention Deficit Disorder or Down's Syndrome, who are language delayed. She says the licensure program has proven to be a real asset. "It focuses on early intervention, which is key to helping these children who are truly a joy to teach."

While Neberman has the distinction of being the first to gain licensure, a number of other students who are currently enrolled will be completing the process later this year.

Licensure in Early Childhood/Exceptional Needs became available at Viterbo in 1995 and is a cooperative program between the Graduate Studies Department at Viterbo and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
In addition to coursework, students must complete 300 hours of practicum experience. Most of the practicum is completed at the classroom level. Local medical facilities also provide opportunities for students to be involved with comprehensive evaluations for children newborn to age six.

**Men in love: Now that's news**
What are they like and what do they really think? That question was intriguing enough to capture the attention of the local media who attended a briefing on the Viterbo campus. Dr. John Seem's class on research and methods sponsored the project which presented the results of an expansive telephone survey which was prominently featured on radio, television and in the newspaper.

The results? Much too complicated to present here. If you would like to know if men are as kind and sensitive as they like to think, or, if they are as diabolical and scheming as portrayed on shows such as "Melrose Place," drop us a line at Strides and we'll send you the full results.

**Dahl School of Business receives Kauffman grant**
Viterbo College has received a $37,500 grant to provide for a unique partnership with La Crosse area entrepreneurs.

Of the 26 institutions nationwide that received the new grant from the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Inc. at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Viterbo is the only liberal arts college. There were 290 applicants.

Viterbo College will match the grant with an equal amount. Combined, the funds will allow students to learn on-site, the practical aspects of entrepreneurial business by placing paid Viterbo interns in La Crosse area firms. Likewise, businesses benefit by utilizing interns without incurring the full cost.

Businesses qualifying for the program must earn less than $25 million annually and/or employ fewer than 200 people.

"The Kauffman Foundation grant is an invaluable experience that provides an abundance of opportunities for Viterbo students and entrepreneurial firms to form a previously unattainable bond. Small business is one sector of our economy that is growing and our students can certainly benefit from learning how these firms are run," said college president William Medland.

"Already students have expressed tremendous interest in this program, more so than we ever expected. Our original goal was to identify students now and begin placements next spring, but it appears as though some will be starting already this fall," said Robert Dean, Dean of the Dahl School of Business.

In addition to the valuable experience and learning the students receive through their internship experiences, the companies in which interns are placed should benefit from the students' expertise and energy. Students will also receive college credit for successfully completing internships, Dean said.
Philanthropy Notes

Viterbo friend, D.B. Reinhart dies

Viterbo suffered a great loss on April 13, when long time friend and supporter, D.B. Reinhart died at the age of 75.

"Rhiny's" generosity made it possible for many students to benefit from a Viterbo education and his commitment to Catholic education has not gone unnoticed by the Viterbo community. In 1985 he received the Pope John XXIII award and five years later he was awarded an honorary doctorate degree. He was also a long time member of the Board of Directors and guided the college through a fragile and critical period of growth during the 70s. His reputation as a charitable and dedicated Catholic layman extends beyond the college as well.

He was a member of Blessed Sacrament Church and a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In 1985 Rhiny received the St. Francis Foundation Spheres of Influence award.

A self made man, Reinhart was the founder of Gateway Foods, Kwik Trip Stores, Festival Foods, Rainbow Foods and Reinhart Institutional Foods. He also established the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse.

D.B. is survived by his wife, Marjorie and their four children: Nancy Hengel, Patricia Harrison, John Reinhart and Robert Reinhart.

Viterbo selected by ROTC for "Partnership"

One of the strongest programs on campus just got even better.

Viterbo College is among 41 colleges chosen nationwide by the U.S. Army Cadet Command to participate in a newly created Partnership in Nursing Education program.

Both Viterbo and prospective nursing students will benefit from the Partnership in terms of the way army ROTC scholarships are awarded. The army will assign ROTC nursing students to one of the 41 selected schools. Up to 10 full-tuition, four year nursing scholarships are guaranteed each year for the students assigned to Viterbo. In addition, Viterbo will provide free room and board to these students.

"We are truly pleased to be selected to participate in this very distinctive program," Dr. William Medland, president of Viterbo College said. "Because there are only 41 colleges involved nationwide, we anticipate enrolling students from all over the United States."

According to Lt. Colonel Craig Gaetzke, professor of Military Science at UW-L, "Viterbo's selection is indicative of the quality education provided by the School of Nursing as well as Viterbo's outstanding history as an army nurse producer. With the increased availability of scholarship dollars, I expect the caliber of Viterbo nursing applicants to get even better."

Teagle grant

Viterbo's fundraising capabilities are being strengthened as a result of a $195,000 grant awarded by the Teagle Foundation of New York.
According to Dr. William Medland, President of Viterbo College, the award couldn't have come at a better time. "We are at a strategic point in our 106-year history. A key factor in this important period is to elevate the fund raising capability of the college to a new and enhanced level to allow for the transformation of Viterbo and assure its vitality well into the future. The Teagle Foundation Grant allows us to move forward with great confidence."

The Teagle Foundation's primary interest is small liberal arts colleges, and its president Richard W. Kimball had nothing but positive things to say about Viterbo. "We were really impressed by the way the college, its trustees and its president had assessed the priorities; it is clear that fundraising is critical. We were pleased to respond to their request and anticipate great results.

**Environmental Studies receives NSP Grant**

Thanks to a generous grant from NSP, Viterbo's new Environmental Studies program is off to a brisk start. The gift will be used to purchase laboratory and computer equipment and to train science faculty.

The recently approved program will be available to students for the first time this fall. Rooted in the sciences, the curriculum has branched out into such diverse fields as economics, literature, political science, history, sociology and religion.

Environmental Studies is available as a minor, however students may choose to enroll in classes as electives to enhance existing majors and minors.

**Service Bound**

Spring break equals warm weather, great tans, party time....well not always. That beeline to the nearest sunny beach will have to wait at least another year for 16 Viterbo students, who instead ventured to David Kentucky, the heart of the impoverished Appalachian Mountains, to tutor high school students, clean, paint and perform various other service projects.

An entire week was spent working at the David School, located in the isolated coal rich, dirt poor regions of rural Kentucky. The school enrolls students who have fallen through the cracks at public school. They are either so poor that they cannot attend school, or they have given up and dropped out of school.

The Outreach program was organized by Earl Madary (campus ministry) and intern, Sue Ernster. Juliana Eiken, a sophomore from Spring Grove Minnesota kept a diary, excerpts of which she agreed to share with Strides readers. The following is an edited and abridged version:

**MARCH 2, 1996 DAY 1:**

We arrived at David today in the early evening. There was a quick orientation at the David school for us and two other college groups: Purdue and Loyola. We gathered in a small room to talk about the week. Excitement, laughter, smiles, and yawns of sheer exhaustion filled this room of almost complete strangers. I think this will be a great week.

**MARCH 3, 1996 DAY 2:**

We began working today by cleaning out our cabins. The three crews here began to mingle. We had to move donated household items to the David school for a rummage sale. I think we are all anxious to hear what our assignments are tomorrow. We had a great discussion tonight. We met more members of the David school staff. How dedicated and caring they are.
We each said a prayer for the week, asking for guidance, openness, love, and great memories. A big day is ahead of us tomorrow.

**MARCH 4, 1996--DAY 3:**
The time has come! Today I stayed at the David High School to tutor. The David School is wonderful for these students. Many of them are happy there even if they don't like to show it all of the time. Most of them hadn't thought much about their futures. Some mentioned the armed forces or local mining. One young lady wants to be a pediatrician and I hope she makes it. She told me she goes to David not because of poor grades, but because she loves the teachers so much, as compared to her public school.

**MARCH 5, 1996--DAY 4:**
Since I stayed clean by tutoring in the school yesterday, I figured I should get dirty today. We started the day painting the gym and entrance of the new school. A visiting pastor held Mass in the David school after supper. Just like the old days; gathering in an old building and praising the Lord in communion, with what you have. It is a good reminder of how we should live our lives today. We did a little shopping at the David craft shop, which is run by the mission. They went out into the homes of the families in the area and taught crafts to the wives, which they now sell in the shop.

**MARCH 6, 1996--DAY 5:**
I helped give an assessment test to a man in his 30s who was there for the first time. He couldn't read, and so I helped him answer the questions. He had dropped out of school because he needed to work. To the public he may be perceived as a stupid man, but that he is not. He wants to learn to read and possibly go back to school. After supper tonight we had a bonfire. By looking into those flames we can see many things. We all will return with changed souls.

**MARCH 7, 1996--DAY 6:**
Because of the weather today, the David school was canceled, and because of road conditions nobody went out to the Adult Learning Centers. The power of one week of hard work, good laughs, and thousands of smiles is amazing, the bond that forms will always be there...the David School.

**MARCH 8, 1996--DAY 7:**
The final day. Again the school canceled classes because of inclement weather. These conditions also prompted an early start on our journey home. After goodbyes and thank-yous, we hit the road once again, and 16 hours later, were back in La Crosse. One more final prayer as a group, and then we were off to sleep in our own warm beds. This has been a most memorable week. I have learned so much about others, myself and the Lord. These words cannot do justice to what I have experienced.

A run down building
Unsuitable say the inspectors
but I say
UNBELIEVABLE
teachers with moon-sized hearts
students with star-twinkling eyes
maybe at times a mask is worn
but under it all is where the
David school lies.

in the heart
Responding to Violence

We live in a world where television exposes us to over 2,600 violent acts each day, where the Saturday morning cartoons our children watch feature on average, 32 acts of violence per hour, where teens are the victims of 30 percent of all violent crimes, and where every day, 135,000 guns are brought into schools.

This torrid climate puts the Franciscan values of the Viterbo community to the test. If "no man is an island," shouldn't the same be said of our college which is also not immune to societal realities?

Therefore, Strides set out recently to surface responses to the pressing questions of the day: How do we as a community respond to the violence which threatens to envelop us? We discovered in visits with members of the Viterbo community, that there is indeed light opposite the darkness which constitutes the prevailing violence. And the four we interviewed, give hope that individually and collectively, we can contribute to the betterment of our society by advocating the course of peace and justice.

One such woman is Sr. Jean Moore, who in the spirit of Sister Helen Prejean, author of the bestselling book, "Dead Man Walking," has unselfishly volunteered her time for the past 12 years at Oxford Federal Correctional Institute.

Sister Jean, who is dean of the School of Letters and Sciences, became involved at Oxford because of the significant number of Hispanics incarcerated there. Fluent in Spanish, she has been involved in language and cultural immersion projects, worked as a translator, and provided extensive liaison support for the Cuban refugee population which appeared en masse on America's shores in the early 1980s.

She visits the prison almost weekly and once a month along with other volunteers, including Earl Madary and Sue Ernster of Viterbo campus ministry, conducts Residents Encounter Christ (REC), which involves socializing with the inmates, small group sharing and prayer. Participants need not be Catholic. "What this ministry does is help the prisoners develop a sense of community because violence stems from a lack of concern for others in the community," explained Sister Jean.

When asked about the recent film "Dead Man Walking," based upon Prejean's book, Sister Jean had one word to say: "awesome." She found that it brought out the many complexities of the
issue of capital punishment. Though her work is similar to that of Sister Helen, there are important differences to note.

The inmates Sister Jean works with at the federal prison differ from those held at a state facility, such as the one featured in the film. "The inmates at a state prison are more sociopathic. The acts of violence committed by those in a federal prison are based on greed and a lack of respect for others. They are acts such as drug related offenses, tax evasion, wire fraud and murders committed in the process of another crime. Many are done under the influence of drugs or alcohol and all extend from an inflated sense of self," she explained.

A number of offenders suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, stemming from their involvement in the Vietnam war. "Take the good boy from a Catholic family who was taught to follow the ten commandments and that it was wrong to kill. When he was drafted that all changed. He was instructed to kill and kill he did. Figuring he had hell to look forward to anyway, he began to commit other crimes," said Sister Jean.

She does not have contact with the families of the victims or inmates-the federal prison system does not allow it. This does not mean, however, she lacks compassion for them. "I will not condone the evil the prisoners have done, but I cannot just throw them away either," she said. "What I do is provide new avenues for these people to deepen their faith. I can only open up the invitation and some are not willing to make positive changes. Some will be back here, but many just blew it the first time. If just one or two make a change, it's all worth it," added Sister Jean.

Her unconditional willingness to be present and belief in the relative worth of all God's creation can create the smallest light even under circumstances which are apparently hostile to others.

Even a 1984 murder at Oxford prison illustrates the inmates' devotion to her presence. An African American guard was killed by a prisoner affiliated with the Aryan Nation Brotherhood. "This happened on a Monday and I went to the prison the following Thursday. 'Don't worry,' said the guys I worked with, 'We will protect you.'"

Sister Jean also undergoes training every year to prepare for an emergency situation, such as if she were taken hostage.

The tremendous risk involved and a lack of compassion for offenders on the part of the general public make prison ministry unique. Because of individuals like Sister Jean Moore, who are able to open their hearts to this forgotten population, many are given the chance to reexamine their faith and their role in the outside world.

"If we do not provide rehabilitative services for offenders, we as a society will suffer the consequences as well. Locking a child in a dark closet for two days does not change bad behavior, it only serves to create a really bad attitude. If we can help these people realize that there are other ways of being, then maybe there is some hope," she said.

At war with others and ourselves -A look at Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

While Sister Jean works solely with those who are incarcerated, several other forms of violent behavior run rampant in society which do not require such drastic measures. What they do require is the caring and compassion that is so much a part of Viterbo's Franciscan mission.
When Hurricane Andrew ravaged Florida in 1993, Dr. Ron Schafer of the psychology faculty, arrived in the aftermath as a Red Cross volunteer coming to the aid of the devastated survivors.

The effects of trauma are familiar territory to Schafer who has dedicated years of his life to helping those who suffer from PTSD. Since the early 80s, he has worked extensively with Vietnam veterans. In a 1985 Strides interview, he described how he became involved in PTSD therapy. "Several years ago, there was a community based meeting for mental health professionals in the area to discuss delayed stress and the mental health problems in Vietnam veteransâ€”I was the only professional that showed up."

Fortunately for countless area veterans, he did attend the meeting. His method of therapy was so successful that Ken McClurg, a Vietnam veteran, 1992 Viterbo graduate and former participant in Schafer's Post-Traumatic Stress group, has since helped to organize a similar group in Vernon County.

Though we tend to associate PTSD with the violence of the Vietnam war, Schafer is quick to point out that any event one experiences that is beyond the normal range of human behavior can cause this condition. Common sufferers of PTSD are victims of rape, neglect, abuse and violent acts of nature. Undergoing torture almost guarantees trauma, says Schafer. "It is very important to recognize this often misunderstood condition for what it really is—a normal response to an abnormal circumstance."

Even so, the damage inflicted by the trauma of war cannot be overlooked. The number of veterans who have committed suicide since Vietnam is nearly double the number who have died in combat, demonstrating the reality of this disorder, which many still consider a myth. According to Schafer, PTSD sufferers experience anxiety as rage and often become suicidal when they feel they may be dangerous to loved ones.

To help prevent such tragedy, PTSD sufferers should seek therapy immediately, according to Schafer. They are often given anti-depressants and tranquilizers alone to control mood swings and sleep patterns which may be disrupted by repetitive nightmares.

"The problem with these drugs is that they are very addictive and many patients do not need them at all. The drugs cause PTSD sufferers to avoid any stimulus or thought that reminds them of the experience, while therapy walks them through it at a comfortable pace. It's a paradox really: in order to heal, the trauma must become a part of your life but not your whole life," explained Schafer.

Ironically, in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, many Red Cross volunteers became traumatized. Schafer counseled these individuals, in particular one woman who would not sleep for fear of reoccurring dreams. "We see this in professionals, such as police officers, fire fighters and emergency trained volunteers who work with people who have been treated horribly by others," said Schafer. He also indicated that the looting and vandalism that took place after Andrew was more upsetting to the victims than the storm itself, which was an act of nature and not of human folly.

"Crisis can divide us or it can bring us together. The healing capacity is remarkable when we look at what people can come back from and grow from, when they are shown the way," Schafer said.
Children: our most vulnerable victims With three million cases of child abuse reported each year and five documented deaths resulting from child abuse each day in the U.S., there has come a crucial need for people like 1985 Viterbo psychology graduate John Kolhoven.

Kolhoven recently returned to La Crosse and was at Viterbo for a week to teach a short course entitled, "Sex, Power and the Law." His visit constituted a homecoming of sorts.

Two years ago Koholven became involved with the Dependency Court Mediation program in Sacramento California. It is one of five pilot programs in the state. Though dispute resolution has been around for a long time, it is new to dependency court. After a judge has determined that abuse has taken place in the home, the child is put under the protection of the juvenile court system.

According to Kolhoven, a dependency mediator, "The program makes good economic sense because 30% of all court cases involve domestic abuse. This places a huge burden on the court system, costing both time and money. In fact, Sacramento has two courts that see nothing but dependency cases, so settling these cases outside of court saves valuable resources."

Before embarking on this pilot program, Kolhoven worked for several years in Child Protective Services, where he saw first hand the traumatic results of child abuse. "There is a pattern in these families," he explained. "Most lack affective parenting and coping skills, are single parent families, chemically dependent or substance abusers, lower income or have a criminal record." Many also have a history with social service agencies.

Though reunification when possible is the program's ultimate goal, mediation was created to help solve the family's problems and there are times when removing a child from the home is the only way to accomplish this. "Detaining a child is a last resort—an extreme action, but children in eminent danger are taken from the home and put in foster care," explained Kolhoven.

Kolhoven finds it a challenge not to allow himself to become completely consumed by his emotionally taxing work. The incredible support of his family is pivotal in this. "My wife and soulmate, Mary Kay (Rudolph) and our four year-old son Colin serve as my anchor. He is absolutely the best thing I have ever done in my life," shared Kolhoven.

The family travel extensively for the sake of their own mental well-being. They have visited the Far East, Russia and many parts of Europe.

John also stresses the importance of talking about his profession, which raises awareness in others, rather than bottling up the horror he sees on a daily basis. He has the opportunity to share his wealth of experience as a part-time faculty member at Sacramento City College where he teaches courses in probation and juvenile delinquency, counseling skills, domestic violence and stress management.

Though over a decade has passed since he left Viterbo, John still has a very strong bond with the college. "Viterbo was very instrumental in helping me to get where I am now. I acknowledged several members of the college community in my dissertation, especially Buzz Nelson and Deb Randall Anderson from admissions and Ron Schafer and Mort Morehouse from the psychology department. These people enabled me to go my own direction and instilled in me a desire for more knowledge, especially that which allows me to help those in need."
There has never been a time when someone wasn't here for me and I am happy I can be here for them now. I'm thrilled that I was asked to come back and teach this course. It almost feels like I never left."

Violence: As symbolic of our culture Twelve years ago, when a well-loved colleague at the Las Vegas high school where he worked was shot and killed by a student, Dr. Grant Smith's interest in school violence was sparked. He has since become a sort of expert on the topic.

In 1993, after thirteen years of teaching high school English, Smith joined the faculty of Viterbo College and brought his advocacy for the cause along with him. Recently, Smith attended a conference sponsored by the International Association of School Safety and is now a certified workshop presenter. He has approached area middle and high schools to offer workshops on various elements of school violence. "Violence in schools involves far more than gangs and gun toting grade schoolers. There are many other components, such as bullying, verbal and sexual harassment, and teaching styles and techniques which can diminish prospects for aggressive behavior," he explained.

Smith is enthusiastic in promoting proactive and nonviolent approaches in today's educational environment, in fact his faculty essay "An Approach to Teaching Peace," which appeared in the Winter 1996 issue of Strides, addresses this very issue, "I have given much thought recently on how we can teach 'peace' in our classrooms, what changes we must make in attitude and practice to help our students stop hurting themselves and others. I am certain that the first step is this: to reconsider how I perceive my role as a professor."

Smith places emphasis on examining the root of this incredibly complex issue, rather than merely attempting to stifle the problem after it has erupted.

Another example is the paper he presented last spring at the Popular Culture Conference in Las Vegas on the irrefutable and prolific writer of choice for adolescents, R.L. Stine. His Goosebumps and Fear Street series consistently glean five to seven spots on the top ten reading list, but his overwhelming popularity concerns Smith. Stine's books, in particular the Fear Street series, send some powerful messages to girls who are most often the victims in the stories, frequently contributing to their own dilemmas. "I find this troubling," Smith explains. "The messages that germinate in the mind of young readers are powerful, promote negative stereotypes and are long-lasting and damaging because kids retain the kind of information they receive at this formative age."

Smith is now in the process of writing a federal grant with psychology instructor Debra Murray, which will fund efforts to minimize violence and drug and alcohol abuse on the Viterbo campus. Unfortunately, the two often coexist, so Smith and Murray have teamed up to educate the college community and help to diminish the devastating effects of this combination. By the time this issue of Strides goes to print we will know if their efforts have been successful.

Though the efforts of these four individuals may appear meager in comparison to the great obstacle they are struggling to overcome, they are grand and noble to those whose lives have been enhanced by them. For just as violence perpetuates violence, compassion and forgiveness foster growth and renewal.
If traveling halfway around the world to work with Tibetan refugees in India sounds like an intriguing adventure, you should definitely take the time to visit with Dr. Pam Maykut, a Viterbo psychology professor who has just experienced what could be described as a “once in a lifetime” sabbatical. As if this cross cultural journey wasn’t enough, Maykut was also presented with the distinct opportunity to meet with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, not once, but twice in Dharamsala India, where the Tibetan government operates in exile. The Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959 to escape the Chinese oppression and occupation of his homeland. It was in this remote region that his path would cross with that of Maykut’s.

A year ago, Maykut had no idea her sabbatical would take on such unusual twists and turns. Now that she’s back in Wisconsin and ready for the start of school, she shared some observations about this very interesting journey.

Her sabbatical was intended to be one of service and research. To that end, Maykut taught Tibetan refugee children at the Tibetan Homes School in Mussorrie, India and on the other end of the spectrum, gathered the oral histories of 24 Tibetan elders as part of a cultural preservation project.

Maykut, who carries the reputation at Viterbo for being a highly qualified, intense, and demanding master teacher, had her hands full during her time in India.

"Everything I knew about teaching I had to draw on," Maykut said. "Their facilities were so poor. There were no books, heat, chalkboards. You’re trying to teach in the most dire of circumstances. It’s just you and that’s it. It was a stretch and everything I knew about teaching I reached for."

Officially, there are 130,000 Tibetans living in India, she indicated, but more have made it to the country illegally. Most fled the Chinese repression by braving the harrowing escape route through the Himalayas with little food or adequate clothing.

"There are only six million Tibetans in their own country. These people have faced forced sterilization and imprisonment by their Chinese captors. Even photos of the Dalai Lama are forbidden in Tibet," Maykut said.

Despite these hardships, the children in particular—many who were without parents, demonstrated a resilience and Maykut attributed this survival mentality to the support the youngsters received via Tibetan friendships, religion and culture.

While she taught the children, she listened to the elders, taking oral histories so important to this endangered culture.

"I studied the Tibetan language and knew a little bit and that was a good bridge. The elders also trusted the interpreters and I got in on that." "I stayed on three additional months for the elder project. I was supposed to come home in December.”

During the course of her visits, little was left unsaid. "People would cry frequently. The conversations contained hot, painful stuff. There was also anger, grief and joy. I heard about how marriages are arranged, how some had to fight to marry for love. I heard the story of
how one woman married two brothers to keep the land in the family. I learned that the Chinese, in an effort to humiliate several Tibetan monks, forced them to break their vow of celibacy. I also taped two bodyguards who helped the Dalai Lama escape in 1959," Maykut said.

Maykut drew upon her experiences in taking oral histories in La Crosse. "As a psychologist and proponent of cultural preservation, I am interested in the importance of storytelling as a part of overall development. I found the elders enjoyed telling their story and for some, ‘putting things in order’ mattered and for others it didn’t."

Upon completion of the project, all the tapes were turned over to the Library of Tibetan Books and Archives which is located in India.

As might be expected, her two sessions with the Dalai Lama stand out as the most memorable moments of the sabbatical.

One visit was for an hour, the other for 30 minutes. "If nothing else happened, this was it. The visit with the Dalai Lama (which translates to Oceans of Wisdom) was one of the neatest things that has ever happened to me."

And Maykut found that the greatness of his reputation was well deserved.

"He was serious, intense, funny, personable and always right there. He wanted to engage me in conversation and wasn't content with just a question and answer session. It was a give and take and he was offering advice on certain issues."

Despite the engaging demeanor of the Dalai Lama, Maykut was required to be well prepared for the sessions.

"All questions needed to be reviewed by the press secretary," she said. "You couldn't ask any question that had been asked before."

During the first interview, she asked about the adjustments required of the Tibetan children ("How do you prepare for a career when you are living in India and you might be going back to Tibet? What about the children? This is a refugee school that is poor and doesn't even have running water. They should be in bad shape but they aren't.")

She found the Dalai Lama, now 62, to be a patient man. Using a variety of signs, he was identified by his people at age 3, as the reincarnation of His Holiness. He assumed full leadership at 17, and has been in exile for 37 years, the result of a plot by Mao Tse Tung to kidnap and perhaps kill him. "The Dalai Lama has said," Maykut indicated, "that Mao is his greatest teacher because he has taught him patience. Likewise, the same can be said of the Indians who are finding the Tibetans to be politically expendable. 'At first we were welcome but now they hate us and that teaches us about patience,' the Dalai Lama has said."

It's hard now for Pam Maykut to fully envision how her sabbatical will change her life and she's not searching for any depthful answers. "I'm glad to be back and I want to be ready for school this fall. I'll stay put for a while."

Then again...she recently returned from an English as a Second Language (ESL) training session at Hamline University in St. Paul and her conscience is also requiring its due.
"Most people aren't aware that there are Tibetans exiled in India. I will always be a proponent for this cause," she says somewhat enigmatically, with a look that reveals that although she's home, the 'sabbatical of a lifetime' will continue to influence her future in ways yet to unfold.

'A' Students Define their own Success and Happiness

The same scene repeats itself each year at spring commencement. Classmates watch in awe as a select few soon-to-be grads approach the stage adorned with that telling golden rope. Typically those in the audience will crane their necks just a bit further to view the elite order of students who graduate with the distinctive honor known in academe as: summa cum laude.

Who are those Herculean students who are able to graduate with a phenomenal grade point average of at least 3.9 on a 4.0 scale and whatever becomes of those who reach this academic pinnacle?

They're the few, the proud, the summas. Strides has been wondering about them too, so we set out to catch up with them and see what direction their lives have taken. Summa cum laude is indeed a rare distinction. In fact Viterbo registrar Jan Linderbaum says only 79 students have achieved that ultimate status since 1964. One such individual is Susan Shimshak '80.

When asked if her current position is where she expected to be upon graduation, Shimshak, director of marketing for Ernst and Young LLP, replied, "As I was sitting in the Sears Tower in a 16th floor meeting room yesterday with the managing partner of the Chicago office of Ernst and Young, I truly thought, 'How did I get here?' While my boxes of learning centers and bulletin boards are still in my basement (in case I go back to teaching), I'm a long way from the classroom! It's still in my blood though."

Beth Dolder-Zieke's '88 plans have also taken some interesting twists and turns. The psychology major now works as a full-time mother of two and part-time telephone counselor at First Call for Help in La Crosse. "I had expected to be working in a more traditional agency setting as a counselor. I also expected to have my master's degree by now. However, I also had no idea that I would find parenting to be as exciting and fulfilling as I do," she explained.

"In many ways I have exceeded the expectations I had at the time of graduation, but as you become more proficient and accomplished, expectations continue to change and the journey never ends. I would like to accomplish more than I have in that context," said Medical Nutrition Therapist, Mary Cummins Collins '84, who is with the La Crosse Visiting Nurses Association.

Kathleen Mutch '76, biology major, had no idea she would be working as the principal software engineer for Motorola, Inc. "Prior to graduating from Viterbo I had never taken a single computer course. Later I became so interested in computer programming that I got a Ph.D. in the field," she explained.

Lynne (Myers) Waters '91, who works as a volunteer coordinator for Minnesota's Houston County, makes it clear that her success is not determined by what she expected of her life at
this time, but rather what she does with the choices she has made that have brought her to where she is at. "I am happy, therefore successful," she explained.

Others, like Lorna Fox '87, knew from day one which direction their careers would take. Fox was a nontraditional student with 15 years experience in nursing. "I knew this would be my career choice. I decided upon home health care with La Crosse Visiting Nurses after my senior synthesis because of its uniqueness and rapid growth. I now have the opportunity to teach and use my nursing skills," said Fox.

For some summas, earning a near perfect GPA was crucial in the pursuit of predetermined career goals. Said Jamie (De Young) De Vries '94, "Such a GPA was necessary to get into medical school. Plus, being the Dr. Scholl Scholarship winner mandated it."

For nursing major Mary (Kenney) Proksch '89, who is now working in quality improvement services at La Crosse's Gundersen Lutheran, it was her ardent curiosity. She responded, "I have always had a deep love of learning, a longing to know all there is to know. I was valedictorian of my high school class, and I really attribute my academic excellence to my sense of wonder at all there is to learn and my realization of how much I don't yet know."

Annette Yanisch '81 is currently an enterostomal therapy nurse. Her motivation had shall we say, biological origins. "What did it were those basic over-achievement genes—it's a hereditary/congenital defect in my family," said a light-hearted Yanisch.

Given the enormous academic success it takes to graduate summa cum laude, career opportunities for such an individual are boundless. Though Viterbo's summas are found in a vast array of vocations, many are held together by a common thread—the reasons in choosing their respective fields. In the case of virtually all who were surveyed, money and prestige took back seat to human service and personal satisfaction.

John P. Snyder '84, who majored in religious studies and currently teaches in Eau Claire said, "I chose teaching because I believe I can make a real difference in the spiritual and academic lives of my students."

"As an ICU nurse, I have the opportunity to come in contact with people at a very vulnerable time in their lives. I hope that I can touch them in a way that will bring comfort and improve the quality of their lives. I have also met some very wonderful people and learned much about living life to the fullest," explained nursing major Stacy (Maier) Schaefer '90, who was also a Dr. Scholl scholar.

Margaret (Kemer) Brunn '86, ministry major, felt a calling to both her former position as director of religious education and to her current one as full-time homemaker. "I think God chose it for me. I have been involved with the church for many years. I was blessed with the gifts that would be useful in such a career. I also knew that I wanted to be home with my kids, which I am fortunate enough to be doing," she said.

Psychology major Debra Murray '90 didn't stray too far from her alma mater. After earning her master's degree and developing an interest in teaching, she returned to Viterbo as a psychology instructor. "I enjoy working with people, particularly in providing experiences in which they have the opportunity to learn about themselves, their relationships and how they experience life," said Murray, who is also working with Viterbo's pilot first year experience program.
Kathy (Tomsicek) Weisbrod ’86, who taught elementary education for eight years, has chosen to stay at home with her two young children. Many of her peers have questioned her decision wondering how she could “waste” her education and give up a high paying teaching position. Weisbrod doesn’t see it that way. “It’s a cliché, but our children are our future and they grow up all too fast. I believe our society is mistakenly focused on the quantity of money a person can accumulate, rather than the quality of the life one lives. Education should be viewed as contributing to the quality of one’s future rather than as a ticket to a high paying job,” she said.

Four years of extensive studying certainly called for a degree of sacrifice for these graduates. Long evenings at the library took the place of basketball games, dances and parties for many summas. When asked if they would do anything differently if they had their college years to live over again, some have expressed regret over missing out on much of the social aspect of campus life, while others feel they maintained an ideal balance between academics and mirth.

Lisa D’Angelo ’94, a dietetics major who now works in community nutrition education admits, “Perhaps I may have been lax in cultivating friendships and social circles.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed my college years. I was lucky to attend college for five years due to a change in major and schools. I don’t feel like I ever missed out on social life because of studying; in fact, if I hadn’t had a balance between studies and friends I could never have gotten the grades I did,” remarked Laura (Skogman) Wendt ’90, nursing graduate.

Said music education major Susan (Wagner) Imm ’83, “If I could go back to my college years perhaps I would not take myself so seriously. It was the expectations and support of my parents and wonderful instructors that motivated me to strive for success. Thanks, Viterbo!”

Our informal and totally unscientific study revealed that indeed there is plenty to be proud of in reviewing the achievements and aspirations of some of Viterbo’s most academically gifted students. In one interesting aside, it was noted that only 5% of all summa cum laude graduates are males. However, Strides will continue to take the politically correct route and refuse to provide an interpretation for that particular statistical aberration. Whew!

**Alumna takes a bite out of crime**

Recently, Strides embarked on an “out and about series,” highlighting alumni with unique professions. As this writer and photographer pulled up to the entrance of Calliope Kennels we were immediately acknowledged by two sizable, unconfined German Shepherds. Much to our relief, we spotted owner /trainer Jamie (Colbert) Swanson ’93 just moments later. Clad in cut-off shorts and lofty rubber waders, she was engrossed in hosing down her spotless kennels. This didn't dampen her enthusiasm however, as she invited us in.

The business administration major shared a bit about her profession boarding and training canines, including police dogs. Swanson purchases crime-busting canines directly from Germany to assure pure bloodlines. She currently is working with six.

Straight narcotics dogs are sold to police departments around the country for around $3,000 each. Her most recent sale was to Fond du Lac. Many precincts use money confiscated from drug arrests to purchase a dog.
Each dog can expect to spend six months at Calliope Kennels, and for the last month, the officer who will work with the dog boards with Jamie and husband Josh. A substance containing the chemical makeup of various narcotics is used to familiarize the dog with the scent. These animals are not trained to attack people, but simply to track illegal substances. To ensure that the dog will respond to new authority, the officer undergoes a 200 hour handling course. Though the time Swanson spends with these dogs is relatively brief, "it's long enough to become attached," said the trainer.

Depending on the needs of their area, police departments may also opt to purchase a patrol dog or a dual purpose patrol/narcotics dog for $5,000 or $8,000, respectively.

Swanson also teaches basic and advanced obedience for all breeds. Food is never used as reward during any training sessions. Swanson prefers the "affection and correction method" over the bribery which is commonly used with dogs. "I also refuse to stereotype different breeds. I have Shepherds who do hunting and Labs who do bitework, the complete opposite of what one would expect," she explained.

Her own training involved six months of classes at West Virginia Canine College. There she learned the Schutzhund method of training. Schutzhund is a German word meaning "protection dog," and the program focuses on developing and evaluating the traits in dogs that make them useful and happy companions to their owners. It involves three components: tracking, obedience and protection work. While in school Swanson trained and certified six dogs.

Calliope Kennels officially opened on November 1 of 1995. Located on Highway 16, in La Crosse, the backyard provides access to the Myrick marshlands, ideal tracking grounds for the dogs. Jamie conducts a Schutzhund club two nights a week and in exchange for her instruction, members help to renovate an old barn on her property. She hopes to have the work completed before a very prominent visitor arrives.

Author/trainer Stewart Hilliard, who is "the Michael Jordan of dog training," according to Swanson, will spend a week at Calliope Kennels in the near future, giving her the rare opportunity to work with the master.

The ambitious business woman has other career plans on the plate as well. "I'm planning on taking courses in police science this fall. I feel I have an understanding of the dog's perspective during a drug arrest, but I'd like to get inside the officer's mind also," she said.

Jamie introduced us to some of her "ferocious" canines before we left. Among them was German Shepherd, Henrietta, her first dog, which she purchased for protection while living in an apartment in an unsafe area, and a pet who also sparked her interest in dog training. "I named her after Sister Henrietta at Viterbo, one of my favorite instructors," she explained. Henrietta rolled on the lawn with a young Shepherd who just arrived for "Puppy Kindergarten," stopping occasionally for a belly rub. After carousing with her and learning of her gentle disposition, we exited the premises with much more confidence than when we arrived.
Alumni News

Sex, Power and the Law
"We hope this is only first of many classes to come, featuring alumni instructors at Viterbo," expressed Dr. Richard Morehouse of the Psychology Department. Morehouse was referring to "Sex, Power and the Law" taught this summer on the Viterbo campus by alumnus John Kolhoven '85, and his wife, Mary Kay Rudolph. They ventured back from California to team teach this class as visiting professors. A special psychology and sociology alumni reception was held at a local pub during their stay. (See more comments from John Kohlhoven in the feature article on societal violence on page 10)

Nursing anniversary
For twenty-five years nurses have been graduating from the Viterbo nursing program, in fact, over 1,600 have passed through its doors. Something to celebrate? You bet! On May 18 alumni from around the country converged to celebrate this milestone. A tour, mass and banquet were the highlights. Alums Mary Lu Gerke and Bob Ustby, both from the class of '74, were the emcees, directing an evening of memories, fellowship and fun. A video of images from over the years was the climax of the evening. Thanks to the 25 nursing alumni that worked with the nursing department and alumni office to plan this very special event.

Professional mentoring program begins
A professional mentoring program for students aspiring for careers in areas such as law and medicine has been introduced at Viterbo College. The goal is to attract and retain pre-professional students through contact and involvement with Viterbo alumni and friends in their professions, and ultimately to give these students the best experiences and advice possible toward facilitating the transition of Viterbo students to professional schools.

In conjunction with the project, a questionnaire was mailed to known alumni doctors, lawyers, dentists, chiropractors, and pharmacists. The results will be used to involve alumni in various ways with current students. According to Wayne Wojciechowski, Director of Academic Advising, "I feel this will be a great opportunity for our own students to touch base with professionals who sat in the same classrooms and successfully completed a program of study. The program has the potential to help our own students clarify their professional career aspirations, increase academic motivation and realize that there is life after Viterbo."

If you were not contacted and would like to be involved, please call the Alumni Office at (608)796-3072.

Alumni Association Board welcomes five new members:
€ Mary Ann Wetterling '90, Masters in Education
€ Mikki Maddox '94, Broad|field Social Studies
€ Nels Peter Anderson '86, Accounting
€ Audrey Growt '63, Sociology
€ Margaret Doering '91, Masters in Education

Leaving the board are: Carolyn (Roy) Hogan '63 who has completed six years of serving on the board and was initiated into the Emeritus Board. Goodbye to members Lynda Fernholz '91, and Greg '82, and Amy Gillman '80-82, who have completed one term of service to the board. A new year has also brought a change in the board's leadership. A big thanks goes out to Dr. Linda Lorenz Hamilton who has served as president these past two years. Welcome to Tom Knothe '86, who will now be serving as president of the board.
AVIA project
Alumni Volunteers in Action, a sub-committee of the Alumni Association Board, has been working on a project involving alumni with the recruitment process. Recent alumni from all over the country were asked to participate. Their task? To allow their names, professions and phone numbers to be printed in a brochure for prospective students. “I really feel that incoming students need all the advice and direction they can get when determining a career and college. This will be one more tool to help with that process,” says Dean Yohnk ’87 committee member and theater department chairperson. “Hopefully, this will help students to be more aware of the wide range of career possibilities, enable students to ask questions, and provide a network of advice to pursue a career.”

Mary Liston Liepold alumna and author
The Todd Wehr library just received a gift of books from one of our alums. Mary (Liston) Liepold ’66 who now lives in Washington, DC is the editor of “Children’s Voice,” a publication of The Child Welfare League of America. She is also one of the authors of “Child Abuse and Neglect: A Look at the States.” This is a reference to data on the U.S. child welfare system, providing a basis for sound public policy decisions. This book and another, “Teaching Parents of Young Children,” are now part of the library collection. Thank you, Mary.

Senior Class Gift A technology endowment for Viterbo
This year’s senior class gift committee has reached over $17,500 in pledges for the next five years. This gift had been added to by Sigma Pi Delta, the student alumni association, with a gift of $1,000. Best yet, a benefactor of the college has agreed to match it all.

What will an endowed technology fund do? The computer committee has been authorized to allocate the interest each year to update and improve the computer and technology systems on campus.

Congratulations seniors on a great idea, a great effort and a great gift. Thank you.

Class Notes

1960
Sister Alice Kaiser ’63 was the presenter for the spring meeting of the Arcadia Deanery Council of Catholic Women held at Galesville, May 2. About 100 women heard her speak on the role of women in the Church and John Paul II’s letter to women.

Sister Bernadette Prochaska ’62 received a Foundation for a Civil Society fellowship to teach English at Komenskeho University in Bratislava, Slovakia, this summer. She is one of 30 American teachers assigned to Slovakia. This is her fourth fellowship in as many years to either the Czech Republic or Slovakia.

Sister Joyce Blum ’63 is the first Roman Catholic Sister to be hired by the Department of Corrections in Arizona as a state prison Chaplin. She started in 1994 and works full-time in the open yard and on death row.
Sister Helen Elsbernd ’65 “Electron exchange reaction of bis(terpyridine) cobalt(III/II) re-examined by NMR” was published recently in Inorganica Chimica Acta, an international inorganic chemistry journal.

Sister Joan Weisenbeck ’65 will be one of two presenters at a Franciscan Day of Reflection to be held September 21, 1996, in Tiffin, Ohio, and October 12, 1996, in Frankfort, Illinois. The topic is Franciscan Mystics: Then and Now.

Sister Fran Sulzer ’67 received her Doctor of Ministry degree from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, May 30.

Sue Schmitt ’69, associate vice president for academic affairs at the University of North Dakota, has been named Dean of Seattle University’s School of Education.
Barbara Weber ’69 of Arlington, Va, will speak and receive the alumni award at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Ill, at commencement ceremonies on May 10, 11, and 12.

1970
Kathryn (Lukasek) Bauer ’74 was elected as a board member of Avant, a La Crosse area women’s business and leadership group. She will be the special events/social coordinator. Avant is an educational and networking organization for area business women. It also funds a scholarship for one area student each year as part of its commitment to education and development.

Mary (Stanek) Housner ’75 is one of 30 participants recently selected for Group VII of the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program. Ms. Houser is the Executive Assistant at St. Joseph’s Memorial Hospital and Home, Hillsboro. The program includes a series of seminars throughout Wisconsin, a week studying the U. S. government in Washington, D.C., and 2-3 weeks in Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Thailand.

Barbara Hundt ’76 received the 1996 Recognition of Service Award from the American Dietetic Association. This award recognizes the dedication, service and countless hours of time given to the Association by individuals.

Deb Strong-Joles ’76 has been named Vice President of Advantage Bank in Racine, Wis.

Cindi (Stelpflug) ’79 and Joe Breuer celebrated the birth of a son, Andrew Christopher, born June 11, 1995. Andrew joins siblings Philip and Kim, at home.

Deborah (Ferguson) ’79 and Jeffery Herbers celebrated the birth of a son, Jonathan David, born May 20, 1996. Jonathan joins siblings Katie and T.J., at home.

1980
Jane (Reichert) ’80 and Brad Clements celebrated the birth of a son, Ethan, born November 6, 1995. Ethan joins brothers Jason and Justin, at home.

Karen Loewenhagen ’80 has been appointed as Director of Personnel of the La Crosse Visiting Nurses Association and Community Care Incorporated.

Anne (Zenner) ’81 and Roger Buchholz celebrated the birth of a son, Matthew John, born May 19, 1995. Matthew joins siblings Nicholas and Lauren, at home.

Rhonda (Voelz) ’81 and Alan Lemke were married May 28, 1996.
Cherie (Rogness) Nigl '81 has been selected as one of 12 students in the Physician Assistant Program at U.W. - La Crosse starting June, 1996. She has previously worked at Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse for 13 years as a Medical Technologist.

Catherine (Rympel) '81 and Phil Rennert celebrated the birth of a son, Ason David, born April 5, 1996.

Deanna (Lang) '82 and Anne Horjus celebrated the birth of a son born March 19, 1996. Deanna and her husband reside in Holland, Netherlands. She is a member of the National Broadcasting Choir of Holland and also does solo work.

Susan (Zbornik) '82 and Andrew Thompson were married March 16, 1996, in Sydney, Australia.

Jean Wells '83 and James Porrett were married February, 1996.

Susan Schramke '83 and Martin K. Rhodes, Jr. were married November 4, 1995 in Duluth, Minn. Susan also received her master's degree in Nursing at the College of St. Scholastica, May 18, 1996.

Trish (Weber) and Frank Perez-Guerra '84 were married June 8, 1996.

Jeanette (Hertges) Brown '85 will be deployed on board the USS Enterprise for a Mediterranean cruise. She should return before Christmas.

Rose Hammes '85, is the Communications and Public Relations Officer for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wis. She has also been appointed to serve a two-year term on the board of directors for the National Council of Catholic Women, and will attend quarterly meetings in Washington, D.C. and give public relations workshops for Catholic women's groups across the country.

Betty (Dean) '85 and Billy J. Heltne celebrated the birth of a daughter, Molly Elizabeth, born June 7, 1996. Molly joins a brother, Michael, at home.

Patricia (Piehl) '85 and Michael Rehberg celebrated the birth of a daughter, Abigail May, born November 13, 1995.


Robert Hoyt '86 has been invited by the Educational Theatre Association to address the issue of Theatre Education with an ambassador delegation to China this October.

Cathy (Chellevold) '86 and Kenneth Lewis, Jr. celebrated the birth of a son, Kahlik Alexander, born May 7, 1996.

Sheila Wetzel '87 and Jerald Cundiff were married September 3, 1995 in La Crosse, Wis.

Melissa (Tanz) '87 and Jeffery Haldeman celebrated the birth of a daughter, April Erin, born April 17, 1996. April joins siblings Jared and Clara, at home.

Suzanne (Jones) '87 and Jack Linder celebrated the birth of a son, Nathan Joseph, born January 10, 1996.
Laura (Karoses) '87 and Steven Nigh celebrated the birth of a daughter, Aubrey Irene, born April 8, 1996. Aubrey joins brothers Andrew and Alec, at home.

Karen (Linde) '87 and Bruce Rogers celebrated the birth of a son, Gunnar Jacob, born May 23, 1996.

Jill (Counsell) '87 and Rob Schuettpelz were married June 3, 1995 at First Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

Patricia (Paulson) '87 and Walter Shuda celebrated the birth of a daughter, Morgan Emily, born July 28, 1995.

Pamela (Linder) Alt '88, completed her M.S.N. from the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire and is working as a Family Nurse Practitioner in the Pediatric Department at the Marshfield Clinic.

Steven Hertzler '88 his article "How much lactose is low lactose?" was published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, March 1996.


Karen (Brand) '88 and Stephen Wendler celebrated the birth of a son, Alexander James, born April 4, 1996.

Mary (Nicosia) Kay '89 has been hired as perdiem R.N. for IV Therapist and Administrative Supervisor at Benedictine Hospital, Kingston, N.Y.

Diane Krause '89 and Michael Abnet were married October 28, 1995 in La Crescent, Minn. at the Church of the Crucifixion.

Michelle "Shelly" (Schultz) '89 and Mark Maxwell were married June 15, 1996.

Lisa (Alt) '89 and Thomas J. Miller were married May, 11, 1996 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Lone Rock, Wis.

1990

Lisa (Espelien) '90 and Darin Bohn celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kaitlin Elizabeth, born May 17, 1996.

Kent Cain '90 was cast in a featured role in a dramatic series pilot episode created for NBC.

Kimberly Lueck '90 has been promoted to a Consumer Lending Underwriter at First Federal Savings Bank, La Crosse, Wis.

Kim (Woodworth) '90 and Dennis Lulling were married May 13, 1995 at St. Dennis in Madison, Wis.

Michelle (Soller) '90 and Richard Rank celebrated the birth of a daughter, Rachel Marie, born April 20, 1996.

Laura (Skogman) '90 and Jim Wendt celebrated the birth of a son, James Andrew, born May 5, 1996.
Kerry (McGinnis) '91 and Daniel Brockmann celebrated the birth of a son, Nathaniel Lee, born April 19, 1996.
Karen Higbee '91 was recently named Loan Processing Supervisor at the Credit Union. She has been with the Credit Union for two years and has worked as a loan interviewer. Karen is also pursuing a Master's degree in Business Administration at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Rene and Jay Hinytzke '91 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Caitlynn Alyssa, born October 2, 1995. Caitlynn joins a brother, Christopher, at home.

Carolyn (Hellman) '91 and Douglas Steinbronn '90 were married July 13, 1996 on Stout's Island, Mikana, Wis.

Amy (Neubauer) '91 and Gregory Sutton celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lauren Renee, born on March 20, 1996.

Colleen (Zimmer) '92 and Thomas Hass were married September 9, 1995 in Brookfield, Wis.

Jane (Carroll) '92 and Russell Monroe '91 celebrated the birth of a daughter born July 4, 1996.

Patrice (Wilhelm) '92 and Scott Thompson were married November 4, 1996 in La Crosse, Wis.

Kathy (Kluesner) '92 and Ryan Wolff were married September 4, 1996.

Gerlyn (Heil) '93 and Mathew Brasic were married April 13, 1996 in Faith Lutheran Church, Marshfield, Wis. The couple lives in Madison, Wis.

Theresa Freiberg '93 will be leaving Phoenix and the VA system to begin travel nursing in August in Port Edwards, Wis.

Renee (Greene) '93 and Terry Hickman celebrated the birth of a son, Mitchell John, born November 10, 1995.

Stephanie Klitzkie '93 was recently promoted from Sales Promotion Coordinator to Director of Programming at WKOW-TV/Channel 27.

Lisa Runde '93 was recently certified as a diabetes educator by the American Association of Diabetes Educators. To achieve certification Lisa had to have 2,000 hours of patient education, work professionally as a registered dietitian for two years and pass a four hour exam covering all areas of diabetes.

Tammy (Tranberg) '93 and Willie Vehrenkamp celebrated the birth of a son, Joseph La Verne, born April 24, 1996.

Melissa (Widner) '94 and Guy Guglielmi were married June 1, 1996. They reside in Marshfield, Wis.

Christine (Ziehler) '94 and David Justus were married July 6, 1996 at St. Pius X Church in La Crosse, Wis.

Jill (Hefty) '94 and Cpt. Thomas Nguyen were married May 11, 1996. They will be stationed at Ft. Bragg, N.C.
Katherine (Koenig) '94 and Paul Rosengren '90-94 were married February 10, 1996 and moved to Montana in March.

Jeannie (Marcou) '94 and Steve Schmidt celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob Steven, born March 27, 1996.

Mary VanderLoop '94 was recognized as one of four Kaukauna Area Schools 1996 Teachers’ of the Year.

Cathy Conway '95 has recently joined Century 21 in La Crosse, Wis.

Elizabeth (Kazmierczak) '95 and Alan Gindt were married July 6, 1996.

Elizabeth (Ekern) '95 and Mark Lakmann were married December 30, 1995.

Teri (Suchla) '95 and Brian Putz were married October 28, 1995 at Saints Peter and Paul’s Catholic Church, Independence, Wis.

Valerie (Kokott) '96 and Brian Rebhahn were married June 29, 1996.

He smiles when you say "cheese"

Ever wonder what’s really in the cappucino you purchase from your local convenience store every weekday morning? Dennis Vosen '80 not only knows the answer to that question, he is partly to thank for making the instant variety of this early morning pleasure a reality.

Vosen began making cheese at age 15, working for a cheese factory in his home town of La Farge. At age 39, though still in the same line of business, this ambitious alumnus has come a long way.

After working for 13 years for Ridgeview Industries, now DMV USA and the third largest dairy cooperative in the world, he left to became part-owner and technical director at Century Foods International in 1993. Formed in 1991 the progressive new company, which exports to 38 countries and has a customer list in the thousands, has grown from 2 to 125 employees. The Sparta based company was awarded the Governor's Large Business Award in 1994.

Century Foods does many types of dairy processing. Among their products are a variety of processed cheeses and custom dry dairy blends for candy, confectioneries, Slimfast type diet drinks, and yes, cappucinos.

Viterbo has influenced Vosen's life in profound ways. “The multiple disciplinary approach to learning lasts a lifetime, instilling flexibility and the research opportunities I had during college taught independence and self reliance,” Vosen, a chemistry and biology major, explained. Also while in college, Dennis met his lifetime partner, Michelle (Lamb) Vosen ’80, whom he married the summer after graduation. They now divide their time between their demanding careers and three children: Sean 14, Chelsea 12 and Carly 9.

The licensed cheesemaker has travelled extensively consulting with manufacturers of dairy products, advising customers on dairy product usage and investigating dairy product
processing techniques and equipment. He is also an annual speaker at the University of Wisconsin Process Cheese Short Course.

**E. Milton Bevington: olympic torch bearer**

In the very early hours—about 12:40 a.m., in fact—of July 19, opening day of the 1996 Centennial Olympics, E. Milton Bevington accepted the Olympic torch flame from the previous torch relay runner. Family, friends, neighbors and a crowd of enthusiastic by-standers cheered as he ran his half-mile and then lit the next runner's torch.

Bevington, an honorary director of Viterbo College, is the father of Peter Bevington '79, La Crosse.

Bevington was one of 5,500 "Community Heroes" selected among a total of about 10,000 torchbearers who carried the Olympic flame on its 84-day, 15,000 mile journey across the USA. The Olympian honor followed triple recognition for Bevington in 1995: the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta named him recipient of its annual Community Caring award, the Boy Scouts of America honored him with the Silver Antelope and M.I.T. presented him with its Dalton Bowl. (He is a chemical engineering graduate of M.I.T.)

An Atlantan, Bevington, president and founder of Servidyne Incorporated and Servidyne Systems, Inc., lived in La Crosse from 1970 to 1973 when he was Executive Vice President of The Trane Company. During that time, he served on Viterbo's board and St. Francis Hospital's board, and Bevington has since been very active in the Atlanta community. He is a former president of the Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, and former chair of The Georgia Conservancy, a statewide environmental advocacy group, and continues to play a leadership role in those organizations and in a number of others.

**Memoriam**

Sister Rose Cecile Korst '44, April 3, 1996 in Duluth, Minn.
Dorothy Bertrand, January 20, 1996, mother of Irene (Clausen) Bertrand ’47
Sister Loretta Rudolph ’53, April 22, 1996.
Sister Louise Ann Meyer ’54, April 1, 1996.
Edward J. Rendler, Jr., husband of Jane (Noelke) Rendler ’57.
Mark Haser, February 1, 1996, father of Susan (Maddock) Haser ’72.
Edward Peter Muenzenberger, April 17, 1996, father of Janet Muenzenberger '73 and Jean Muenzenberger '93.

Joseph Paremski, June 8, 1996, father-in-law of Anne (Bartel) Paremski '74.

Barbara 'Barbie' Patterson, April 14, 1996, daughter of Paul R. Patterson '74-75 and Deborah (Goddard) Patterson '79.


Margaret Smithson, November 12, 1995, mother of Jane (Reichert) Clements '80 and Judy (Reichert) Helgeson '82.


Glen Brommer, April 8, 1996, father of Susan (Brommer) Kraehnke '87.


Jeanette (Flynn) Nickelatti '89, March 27, 1996.

Gerald B. (Jerry) Garrison '90, April 22, 1996, husband of Marci L. (Lau) Garrison '90, father of Kat, Seth, Jeff and Dylan.

Kenneth Janecek, May 18, 1996, father of Renee Janecek '96.

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A Reflection on Viterbo and the FSPAs

Editor's note: This essay by David Stoeffler, originally appeared in the Spring 1996 issue of FSPA Perspectives and has been reprinted with permission. Stoeffler, a former Lumen editor, graduated from Viterbo in 1981. After 14 years as a reporter and editor at the Wisconsin State Journal in Madison, Stoeffler returned to La Crosse last fall as editor of the La Crosse Tribune. He was asked by Communications Director Sister Maria Friedman, to share his thoughts about his early years at Viterbo. We are glad he agreed to do so because we now have in our possession, a very eloquent essay affirming the special role our faculty play in the lives of our students. Years later, the buildings and programs change, but the people who make a difference are not forgotten.

I suppose the moment that convinced me I was in a different world came the dark afternoon I visited that cubby hole in Murphy Center known as the office of Sister Thea Bowman.
Just months earlier, I was a cocky high school senior at a 160-student high school in southwestern Wisconsin, charging into life with the self-assurance typical of so many 18-year-olds. Now, I was headed for a visit with my college adviser, looking for some advice on a paper, a Lumen story or some tiff with the Viterbo College administration- I can’t recall now and it’s not really important. The lights were off as I entered her office but the glow of dozens of candles large and small cast the room in a warmth matching the personality of its occupant. As I cautiously sat down, Sister Thea let out one of those wide-smile laughs of hers and said simply: "I’ve always been a pyromaniac."

I can’t imagine how different my life would be if I had not chosen to attend Viterbo and chosen to stay even after the decision was made to cancel my intended major (journalism) after just my first semester. (I long ago forgave Sister Helen Elsbernd-who was then the academic dean-because the decision meant I ended up with a much richer series of classes in my new major, English.)

Would I have experienced the great inner journey without the help (and more candles) of Sister Laurian Pieterek’s philosophy class? Would film, theater, and other fine arts have such deep meaning without the guidance of Sister Marie Leon LaCroix or other fine instructors, like Dr. Roland Nelson? Would Keats, Byron, Arnold, Melville, Twain, or the other great works of literature have come to life without Sisters Maureen Gengler, Rita Rathburn, Mary Conrad, and others? Would I have ever discovered the beauty of Milton, the depth of Donne, or the inner meaning of Shakespeare without Sister Celestine Cepress? Would I have become an editor at all without Celestine’s red-ink grammar and usage coaching? Or her moral support? Would I have opened my eyes and my heart to other races, other cultures, other views without that burning memory of the soft glow radiating from the skin of Sister Thea?

I don’t know where I’d be or what I’d be doing if not for the Franciscan Sisters and their influence on Viterbo College and my life. Keep the candles burning.

**Calendar**

**OCTOBER 16-NOVEMBER 8**
Win Bruhl paintings, drawings and prints; Keith Williams-ceramics, Viterbo College Gallery exhibit

**OCTOBER 19**
MS and WS vs. Teikyo Marycrest (Parent’s Day)

**OCTOBER 21**
Phonathon begins
OCTOBER 30
Tricia Park, Violin, Bright Star Event
WVB vs. Mount Mercy College

NOVEMBER 9
The Complete George Shearing, Bright Star Event

NOVEMBER 19
Alumni Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 20
Bright Star Season 25th Anniversary Gala with Victor Borge

NOVEMBER 21-25
The Tragedy of MacBeth, La Croix Black Box Theatre

DECEMBER 4
Alumni Cup Game V-Hawks vs. UW-La Crosse

DECEMBER 7
Alumni Children's Christmas Party

DECEMBER 7-8
Amahl and the Night Visitors, Bright Star Event

JANUARY 11
MBB and WBB vs. St. Ambrose University

JANUARY 15
Don Schmidlapp-paintings, Viterbo College Gallery exhibit
MBB and WBB vs. Iowa Wesleyan University

JANUARY 18
Ballet Iowa, Dr. Zhivago, Bright Star Event

JANUARY 22
MBB and WBB vs. Mount St. Clare College

JANUARY 23-27
Private Lives, La Croix Black Box Theatre

FEBRUARY 1
MBB and WBB vs. Mount Mercy College (Homecoming)
Alumni Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 12
Carlene Unser, FSPA-weavings, Viterbo Gallery Exhibit
MBB and WBB vs. Grand View

FEBRUARY 14
The Real Group, Bright Star Event

* Sporting events listed are Home Midwest Classic Conference games
* WBB indicates women's basketball/ MBB indicates men's basketball.
* MS indicates men's soccer/ WS indicates women's soccer
* WVB indicates women's volleyball