Defining New Heights-Viterbo Growth Spurt Continues

A year ago last fall, Viterbo reported that enrollment was up for the fifth consecutive year. To celebrate the occasion, the Board of Directors sponsored an ice cream social for students and staff. They even supported the purchase of a large advertisement in the local newspaper to commemorate the event. That was last year.

You can imagine how the Board must have felt this fall when they read the headline: “Viterbo enrollment up 11%.” Included in that number were 420 new students, the largest group of freshmen ever recruited by Viterbo College.

Since enrollment ascent began nine years ago, Viterbo has effectively doubled full-time enrollment, and that’s not all.

The growth has been across the board, and counting part-time students, 2,300 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in Viterbo programs. The rosy enrollment picture bode well for other strategic decisions that were based on a premise of growth.

For example, Rose Terrace, the new student housing complex which literally opened two days before the start of school, is filled to capacity.

Likewise, most required classes are filled, as are many of the elective courses. Murphy Center and the other academic corridors are bursting with a capacity number of students. Despite the record numbers, Viterbo president, Dr. William Medland, indicated the campus is better prepared to handle the influx. In previous years, the lack of living space forced housing staff to place students in the Holiday Inn and other area motels. The addition of Rose Terrace eliminated that dilemma.

“Our increases are the direct result of Viterbo’s mission and vision which is very attractive to students and their parents, and to the dedication and hard work of all of our faculty and staff,” Medland said.

Much of the increase in new students has also been spread throughout entrepreneurial programs such as the one-night-per-week Advance business program in Organizational Management and the one-day-per-week returning RN program.

Enrollment in the new Criminal Justice major also contributed to the increase, and 38 students were enrolled this fall.
“The news is even better than what the statistics report,” Medland said. “Traditionally, only undergraduate enrollment is recorded, yet this year, the increases in our graduate program were so large that we now serve more teachers in our Master of Arts in Education program than virtually every other school in the country.

“We even feel more fortunate in that most colleges and universities over the past decade have reported static or decreasing enrollment. To double the number of full-time students is a phenomenal accomplishment that nobody would have predicted,” Medland added.

Elsewhere on campus, the news is also good.

Many of the initiatives contained in Vision 2005: A Renaissance for Living and Learning in the 21st Century, are nearing fruition.

With the opening of Rose Terrace, Viterbo now provides more opportunities for students to live on-campus and benefit from the residential experience called for in Vision 2005. The Gateway Project, completed in October, now provides Viterbo with a more defined and attractive entryway to campus, along with improved parking.

Weather permitting, the V-Hawks this spring—or at the latest, fall—will finally be competing in outdoor soccer, baseball and softball at facilities actually owned by the college, which was made possible by the purchase of 65 acres just out of La Crosse in Medary Township.

And there’s more…the announcement of a $2,000,000 gift, the largest in the history of the college… a $250,000 endowment which will be applied to the Institute for Ethics in Leadership, which begins programs this fall…Viterbo College has indeed enjoyed a good year, and opportunities to share the good news have been plentiful.

“Virtually every crack and crevice of the Viterbo campus is alive with students who are benefitting from the vibrancy of a person-centered, values-based, living and learning environment,” Medland recently wrote to donors in a report entitled, ‘What a Year It’s Been.’ The evidence is abundant that our mission and vision are coming to fruition.”

Assisi, Italy: Amid the Ruins, a Spirit Prevails and Restoration Begins

The earthquake in central Italy September 26, focused considerable world attention on Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis. Pat Kerrigan, managing editor of Strides and director of Viterbo’s office of Public Relations and Marketing was in Assisi just a week prior to the earthquake, participating in a Franciscan pilgrimage. He prepared the following account of that experience.

Today Assisi, Italy, the home to St. Francis and considered one of the holiest shrines of the world, lies shattered and battered by the devastating effects of an earthquake and aftershocks that left in its wake, 11 dead, thousands of homeless, and priceless sacred relics in ruin.

Just a week earlier, my wife and I, along with our traveling companions, who included
Viterbo’s admission director, Dr. Roland Nelson, were completely immersed in the beauty, serenity and sacredness of this holy place, called by many, “the New Jerusalem.”

The trip, which had been planned for months, was not a vacation. We were fortunate to be part of a Franciscan pilgrimage group which included a number of people connected with Franciscan institutions. The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, founders of Viterbo College, had extended an invitation to a number of us from the La Crosse area. We represented institutions sponsored by the Sisters. As part of a mission effectiveness program, a pilgrimage to the places made sacred by Francis and his followers seemed like a logical opportunity to share a common bond with the Sisters, and in the process, become better acquainted with the importance of the Franciscan influence. We were not disappointed and the 5,100 mile journey, 10-day pilgrimage was a grand experience.

As pilgrims we travelled the path of Francis. We celebrated mass at the tomb in the Basilica of St. Francis and at the Porziuncola, the “little church” Francis restored and the place he loved more than anywhere else. We did the same at San Damiano church, where in early life, a confused Francis struggled to find meaning, and God spoke to him, “Francis, rebuild my house.” Later his companion Clare would come to San Damiano which was to become the home of the Sisters of the Poor Clare. In the mountains of LaVerna, we prayed where Francis received the stigmata. Farther away, in Greccio, our mass was celebrated on the site where Francis, with permission of the pope, had the townspeople reenact the nativity scene.

We saw Chiesa Nuova—believed to be the childhood home of Francis; we walked to the Carceri on Mount Subasio, where in solitude, Francis prayed and meditated in cave-like hermitages.

In the end, we visited the Basilica of St Francis, the final resting place of this popular and revered saint.

We heard about the earthquakes and the destruction which occurred centuries ago, completely unaware that most of what we saw and experienced, would in less than a week, be closed to the rest of the world.

That in part is the legacy of this pilgrimage, which was filled with many powerful, insightful and memorable experiences for all 32 of us who shared the journey.

The twin earthquake and hundreds of aftershocks literally leveled several medieval towns near Assisi and caused significant damage to the 750-year-old Basilica. The first quake occurred at 2:35 in the morning; when the second shock hit seven hours later, portions of the ceiling collapsed, killing four people who were inspecting the earlier damage.

Inside the Basilica, the quake destroyed a fresco attributed to the artist Cimabue and part of another attributed to the school of Giotto.

Despite the extensive damage, the Tomb of St. Francis was spared. Even so, all the sacred places of Assisi are changed for now.

Italy is in mourning and the rest of the world shares its pain.

The British Museum was sending experts to help in any potential reconstruction of damaged artifacts; the Louvre Museum of Paris pledged two months of admission fees; the central
government of Italy was rushing millions in its effort to aid the victims, but the restoration process which will take years. Pope

John Paul expressed sorrow and called for relief and reconstruction efforts.

Even the United States Air Force sent engineers to central Italy to help rebuild the shattered town of Assisi and clear debris with bulldozers at four sites where prefabricated shelters were constructed for some 4,000 displaced people.

The shock of such devastation has not been lost upon my traveling companions. Our pilgrimage was directed by Franciscan Friars Tod Laverty and John Wijtowicz of Chicago and Sister Ramona Miller, program director at the Winona (Minn.) Tau Center. Several weeks after we returned from Assisi, Sister Ramona wrote to us: “This St. Francis Day will have new meaning for all of us and feelings on many levels, right? The earthquake news from Assisi has muted my ordinary spirit of celebration these days as I grieve for the loss of lives and of homes of Assisians…. The churches are closed so the remaining days (of those currently on pilgrimage) will be creative ones of experiencing the spirituality of place without getting into the sanctuaries. The liturgical celebration of the feast of Francis will be held on the piazza in front of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels.

As we celebrate the memory of Francis, let us continue to pray for each other that we may ever be conveyers of God’s peace and love,” wrote Sister Ramona.

Although most of us returned early enough to read about the September 26 quake from the safety of our American homes, one fellow-companion, Fr. Jim Lobacz from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, stayed in Italy to meet his parents who would be traveling throughout Italy as part of a long-anticipated 50th wedding anniversary present to themselves.

Assisi was on the itinerary which he later described to us via e-mail.

“Dear Friends from the Assisi Leadership Pilgrimage,” he wrote, “You may recall that I was meeting my parents and we were going to tour with a group. Our second from the last night was in Assisi. We arrived around 4 p.m. on September 30th. The quakes had hit on the 25th and 26th. I could tell that things had changed.

“The Basilica of San Francesco is surrounded by emergency vehicles and barriers keep the general public quite far away. It is closed. On the lawn out in front there are tents where people are sorting out rubble. One can see a pile of cut stones about four feet square and three feet high… each marked with a grease pen.

“On the night I was there the whole city was closed by 9 p.m… even the coffee shops in the piazza commune closed quite early. As you walk the city streets you see an occasional barrier and then notice further up the wall great cracks with stone and mortar missing.

There is a rather large Red Cross camp set up outside of the city walls down on the floor of the Umbrian valley. Many locals were still sleeping in their cars outside the city and then driving into town for the days activities.
“After dinner I took my parents in a cab to the church of St. Clare, it too is closed and surrounded by barriers. We walked to the fountain and found the same thing in front of the church of Mary of Minerva...barriers and police.

“I did not experience the same peace or sense of life that I did when we were together there. This is sad. Some say that the people think St. Francis is angry with all of the bars, shops, and commercializing that has been taking place in the city. Others grieve the loss of life and the loss of art, the loss of heritage....No one can get close to anything. All the holy places are closed.”

Much like Sister Ramona, Father Jim also asked us to remember Assisi in a way that goes right to the purpose of our being there. “ I hope that this little set of notes can do two things. That it can help you appreciate that we had a very fine experience with all the shrines and spaces open to us. And second, that each of us needs to carry a piece of our Assisi peace back home... to every place.”

Back at Viterbo, I was and continue to be constantly asked about the earthquake. I cannot help but grieve for the great loss of life, property and access to the sacred places of Assisi. Efforts are already under way to reopen many sites, and the restoration process moves forward. God’s thirteenth century message to St. Francis, “Rebuild my house,” takes on modern meaning.

Meanwhile, the many dedicated leaders who promote the Franciscan pilgrimage program, vow to continue offering the experience regardless of the progress of the renovations. Because as Father Roch Niemer OFM explained recently in a letter to previous participants: “The best thing anyone can do for Assisi now is to show up and walk the streets. This helps bring hope and encouragement to the people.

“We have developed new ways to tap into the spirituality of each place, even if we may not be able to enter some of them directly.

“Can we do ‘The Assisi Experience?’ Without question, and in a deeper and more meaningful way than ever before.”

Meanwhile, I am back at work, distanced by thousands of miles and weeks of time from the renewing effects of this very sacred place. It doesn’t matter, though. As Franciscan leadership participants, we were challenged to bring Assisi back home. Even though the peace, simplicity, and tranquility of Assisi is impossible to completely replicate—especially in America—we are trying our best to keep the experience close to us. If the e-mails, notes, conversations and other correspondence that continues among the group I was with, is any indicator, the spirit of Franciscanism is indeed alive and well, far beyond the walled city of Assisi.

For many of us, the journey to Assisi is a journey that has just begun. The physical part is over, but that part which remains continue to unfold in new ways.

We were told that Francis of Assisi, a man who died nearly 800 years ago, is a saint for the modern man and woman and that his movement is more relevant than ever before. Who can disagree? A concern for the environment and all living things...a penchant for simplicity in the midst of plenty...a willingness to treat all people as equals...the courage to speak out without fear, for issues of peace and justice, were all issues important to Francis.
He would indeed feel at home in the twenty-first century, as these are many of the same issues we face in approaching a new millennium. The rebuilding which began in the twelfth century by Francis continues today in Assisi, at Viterbo College, and in other places across the globe where the Franciscan spirit prevails.

**A pilgrim’s notebook**

Just who are these modern-era pilgrims, and what effect has sending them to Assisi, homeland of St. Francis, had on the institutions they work for? The group that returned this fall was the fifth to make such a journey. Since 1993, over 75 individuals have participated in the Franciscan Leadership Pilgrimage Program.

Participants from Viterbo College, Franciscan-Skemp Healthcare, St. Rose Convent, and St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home in Carroll have made the trip. Even members of the Board of Directors who oversee these organizations have traveled to Assisi.

According to Sister Celesta Day, FSPA, the idea came about in discussions with an advisory board. “We were talking about ways to develop a sense of mission and I mentioned the idea of the Assisi trip. The group just sat there quietly and said little. The next time we met, they were all talking about it,” said Sister Celesta, who directs the mission effectiveness program for the FSPA congregation.

Before long, the idea became a reality and the reaction from the participants has been good. “Every time a group returns, I sense a feeling of excitement. I think it’s the way the pilgrimage is set up. The participants are encouraged to reflect in the settings of Assisi which are very sacred.

“Francis had a feeling and great appreciation of the power of certain places to convey things, and participants do lots of walking, talking, and reflecting away from work pressures, the telephone and so on,” Sister Celesta said.

The results vary—as they should. “Our purpose is to equip people who are leading our sponsored institutions now,” Sister Celesta said, “to not only tell the Sisters’ story, but their own as well.

Several years ago, LoriLee Rebhan, along with several other administrators from Viterbo College, travelled to Assisi and while the effect of the experience is hard to put into words, she believes the pilgrimage has made a big difference in her life.

“It made a profound impact,” said Rebhan who leads the development effort at Viterbo. “I share a new sense of responsibility to carry on in a manner that the Sisters intended. Viterbo is different and our students and donors sense that this is a special place. Consequently, I feel more of an obligation to base decisions on more than just dollars and cents, but rather on what is right and just. More often than not, I discover that the Franciscan approach is the one that is right for Viterbo.”

Not surprisingly, Sister Celesta said, others share similar attitudes regardless of their background.

“The Franciscan traditions are very hospitable to all and we are inviting our leaders and their respective institutions to participate and share in our very important mission in today’s world.”
Family Gives Whole New Meaning to Higher Education

When James Walter quit his job to pursue a degree in business at Viterbo, he opened the door for the entire family.

August 25, 1997, is a day the Walter family of Onalaska won’t soon forget. It was the start of the fall semester at Viterbo College, but more importantly, it was the first day of classes for the entire Walter family, minus one.

That’s right, mom, dad, brother and sister all attending Viterbo College at the same time. And it’s not at all uncommon to see the Walters walking around campus together, eating lunch together in Marian Hall, or even studying together in the Viterbo library. In fact, they prefer it that way.

See, in most households, family time means sitting around the dinner table and discussing each others’ day. Or gathering around the television to watch a favorite sitcom or movie. Not for the Walter family.

For the Walters—dad James, mom Sherrie, brother Michael and sister Laura—family time took on a whole new meaning when school started in August. Their lives were literally turned upside-down.

“We don’t have dinner together in the evening much any more because of school, jobs or studying,” said Sherrie, who is a sociology major and the clear spokesperson for the Walter clan. “We wait on one another after class so we can have that family moment to talk right here at Viterbo. Many times, I may not see Michael anywhere but on campus, so we cherish that family time together.”

Laura agrees. “We try to get together and do the family thing right here on campus because we don’t see each other at home,” said Laura, a freshman sociology major. “We even meet with Janet (the oldest sister in the family who graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in 1996) sometimes. We see each other more at school than we do at home.”

With the exception of James, who is in the Viterbo ADVANCE Program, the Walters even take some of the same classes.

“It’s a different experience,” said Michael, a nursing major who transferred from Western Wisconsin Technical College. “In high school, you may see your older sister or younger sister in the halls occasionally. But now, I have a class with my sister and my mom.”

For Amy Johnson-Pierce, an instructor in the music department at Viterbo, it was great having all three in the same classroom.

“It all started with Michael in my Music Appreciation class,” Johnson-Pierce said. “Michael told his mom about the class and she added it, then Laura also added it.
“I was kind of surprised. It doesn’t happen that often. It’s kind of cute the way they sit there in a line in class.”

Not only is it cute, it’s very helpful for Sherrie, who returned to school after 23 years. She believes taking the same classes with her children is helping her become a better student.

“I try to take the same classes they do because they’re younger and have better study skills,” Sherrie said. “They help me a lot.

“We just kind of ended up in music together because we all wanted to get those requirements out of the way.”

Sherrie and Laura even worked on their finals presentation together, which Johnson-Pierce said helped both.

“It’s nice for them that they get to share information together. They’re able to discuss the concerts together for the report (which was part of their assignment).”

The classroom isn’t the only place the Walters enjoy each other’s company. The Fine Arts Center events give the family an opportunity to be together in a more traditional way.

“I think more than anything, we’ve gone to a lot of plays and concerts here on campus,” Sherrie said. “I actually think we see each other the most when we sit down in the theater together.”

The whole Walter family-Viterbo connection began when James heard an advertisement on the radio for the ADVANCE Program’s degree in Organizational Management.

He thought it was time to do something different with his life after spending 24 years in the conservation field—12 years with the Arkansas Game and Fish Service and 12 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a biologist-pilot. So he quit his job to pursue a business degree. He knew it was a big step at this point in his life, but decided the risk was worth it.

“Burnout was the main reason I quit conservation work,” said James, who began taking classes in April 1997. “A lot of my thoughts and philosophies are quite a bit different than what they were when I was 24, or even 35.

“Working in wildlife management took me away from home considerably. I just thought there were other things I could do that would mean more.”

But if it wasn’t for his job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, James and the entire Walter family wouldn’t even have come to La Crosse in the first place.

Here’s how the story goes: James was banding ducks in Alberta, Canada, one summer, so the rest of the family took a road trip to see him. To get to Canada, the Walters drove through the Coulee Region and were very impressed.

“We just loved this area the first time we saw it,” Sherrie said. “One night, we spent the night here and I told Jim over the phone that this is where we need to live. And he said, ‘You aren’t going to believe this, there’s a spot open there.’ ”

And the rest is history.

With a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Arkansas Tech University in 1972, and 24 years working with the public in the conservation field, James hopes to formalize some of those
experiences with the ADVANCE Program degree. Then, he says, he'll decide what's next in his life.

Laura was the next Walter to begin her degree quest at Viterbo. She briefly looked into UW-L, but knew Viterbo was the place for her. She started in August.

"Besides the fact that it's a very good college, I like it because it's small and people are very friendly here," Laura said. "People I didn't even know were saying hi to me that first day."

Then there was Sherrie. After taking some refresher courses at WWTC, she decided to take the Viterbo College placement test.

"I did better than what I thought I would and they said I could go ahead and start the next semester," Sherrie said. "So that's what I did."

Sherrie started in August as well.

Finally, there was Michael. After spending a year at WWTC, Michael found out he could get right in the nursing program without waiting. He, too, jumped on the chance.

"I need a four-year college degree to become a flight nurse," Michael said. "and Viterbo's nursing program has a very good reputation."

With four family members attending a private college at the same time, life can be a little bit stressful, especially when it comes to finances. The Walters try to take it in stride.

"Having us all in school, especially after the job change is a burden," said James, who works full time at Blaine's Farm and Fleet. "We're on loans primarily. Sometimes you have to take a risk and look at what can be and not what used to be. You just go for it. You have to set priorities, and education is one of those priorities."

Sherrie couldn't agree more. "It's staggering," Sherrie said. "If you sit down and actually add all of this up in the years to come, you have to stop. You would think it not possible. "We can't approach it that way. The cost is huge, but once you have an education, nobody can take it away from you."

What happens after graduation?

"We're a real close family but we're also independent," Sherrie said. "We know this won't go on forever. When everybody goes their separate ways, it will be okay."

"Life changes," Laura said. "When we all go off in our own direction, there are five different worlds that open up, and we can share them with each other. Things will change, but I think we're enjoying the moment now."

If things go as planned for the Walters, James will be the first to graduate from Viterbo, followed by Michael, and ending with Sherrie and Laura graduating at the same time.

"I would be honored to graduate with my children," Sherrie said. "It will be wonderful."

Who knows, the Walters enjoy going to college together so much, they may plan it so all four take part in the same graduation ceremony.

"Don't count on it," James said.
Jerry Schultz was a happy-go-lucky guy with a wonderful wife, a wonderful family, lots of friends and a big dream.

Schultz wanted to be a school teacher like his mother before him.

Like many other non-traditional students attending Viterbo College, he was juggling school, family and work.

Jerry Schultz died before he could realize his dream. In November 1995, with just 12 credits to go, Schultz lost a long battle with leukemia.

As a husband, a father and a friend, Schultz touched many lives in his 44 years. As the owner of Howie’s Hof Brau in downtown La Crosse, he touched even more.

“He was everything to a lot of people,” said Schultz’s wife, Sharon. “His mother had Multiple Sclerosis and he took care of her for years — on top of school and the bar and the kids and family. He was just a giving person who went out of his way for people.”

The people who knew Jerry Schultz best will remember him as a thoughtful, forgiving man who always tried to do things the right way. One of those people is Dave Johnson, the current owner of Howie’s.

“Jerry was a very honest person and a very good friend,” Johnson said. “I knew him for 34 years. It’s tough losing a great friend.”

But even in death, Schultz’s generosity lives on.

Thanks in part to Sharon Schultz, Johnson and a cast of hundreds, deserving Viterbo College students working toward degrees in education may realize their dreams of becoming teachers through a scholarship started in Jerry Schultz’s name.

“Jerry had mentioned many times the number of people attending (Viterbo) who were parents that were struggling financially,” Sharon Schultz said. “There was one man in particular who had been awarded custody of his three kids and was still going to school. Jerry was really impressed with this man.

“He would have wanted someone like that to get help paying for college.”

That’s why the scholarship’s specific purpose is “to help a non-traditional education or a non-traditional health major complete his or her degree at Viterbo College. Highest priority will be an education major.”

The recipient of “The Jerry Schultz Memorial Scholarship,” which was given for the first time at the beginning of the 1997-98 academic school year, was Rod Pederson, a sophomore in Elementary Education. The scholarship will continue to be given to a full time sophomore, junior or senior in need in years to come. The recipient also must be 25 years old and have a 3.0 GPA.

To pay for the scholarship, Sharon Schultz and Johnson agreed to give all the proceeds from an annual golf tournament sponsored by Howie’s.

Started 12 years ago by Jerry Schultz and Dave Bonifus as a fun event for about 20 golfers, “The Hacker Open” has kept growing and has become known all around the area. Because of this, the tradition will live on even in Jerry Schultz’s absence.
“When Jerry died, Dave (Bonifus) came to us and asked if we wanted to continue the ‘Hacker’ and donate the money to some cause,” Sharon Schultz said. “We just felt that since Jerry was only 12 credits away from getting his degree, Viterbo was a good place to donate the money. We thought maybe someone else could reach their goal with our help.”

The “Hacker,” played at Pine Creek golf course in La Crescent, Minn., has continued to grow in popularity, which is a testimonial to Schultz’s legacy. Last year’s event drew more than 120 golfers, Johnson said. In 1996, 107 golfers took part, and in 1995, 104 golfers took to the links.

**On Campus**

**Ethics in Leadership institute gets name**

The Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo College will be named in memory of D. B. Reinhart, thanks to the generosity of the friends and business associates of the well-known businessman and philanthropist who died on April 13, 1996.

The announcement was made by Viterbo president William Medland at the college’s Founders Day banquet.

“There is not a more appropriate individual to name the Institute after than D. B Reinhart,” Medland said. “Rhiny was involved in virtually every aspect of our college. He was a longtime and outstanding member of our Board of Directors and he was the recipient of two of Viterbo’s most prestigious honors: the 1980 Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service and a 1990 Doctor of Laws honorary degree.

The D. B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership will offer its first programs in fall, 1998 and a goal has been set to raise $500,000 for an endowment to partially support the operation of the institute. Over half of the funds have already been raised and Medland predicted that the goal would be reached soon. “When we explained the purpose of the Institute to businesses and organizations, the idea has been met with a great deal of enthusiasm,” he said.

The goal of the Institute is to promote the concepts of ethics in leadership as integral to the advancement of American society and to promote leadership and ethics courses, conferences, workshops, and public forums for the students of area schools and colleges, employers and employees and the people of western Wisconsin, northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota.

To achieve this goal, the Institute will:
• Establish an ethicist in residence;
• Bring nationally recognized leaders to campus to address the people of the Tri-State area on critical issues in leadership and ethics;
• Provide conferences and workshops on ethics in leadership;
• Promote faculty understanding of the aims of values-related education and foster faculty preparedness to address issues of cognitive/moral development;
•Conduct an annual Institute for Ethics and Teaching to strengthen the teaching of ethics across the curriculum at Viterbo College.

The D. B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership will operate out of existing facilities when programs begin next fall. “We are in the beginning stages of an exciting endeavor. There have been many people providing enthusiastic support and I fully expect the Institute will grow in size and scope,” Medland said.

“Gateway” to Viterbo College unveiled at dedication

The “Gateway” to Viterbo College was unveiled Sept. 23 as the college celebrated the completion of the Fine Arts Center Gateway/Atrium project with a reception, dedication and ribbon cutting. More than 200 students, faculty and administrators were on hand for the event.

The celebration coincided with the first performance of the 1997-98 Bright Star Season, which featured the timeless folk music of the Kingston Trio. The show was a sellout.

La Crosse Mayor John Medinger, who recalled how he had helped build the Fine Arts Center during the summer of 1971 as a construction worker trying to earn money for college, took part in the celebration, saying the atrium is “a beautiful and magnificent enhancement to the neighborhood.”

“The Gateway Project,” which features a one-of-a-kind glass-enclosed atrium, is the new gateway to the Viterbo campus and enhances the visibility and functional use of the Fine Arts Center, said Viterbo President William Medland.

“Viterbo is most visible to our community from Jackson Street,” Medland said. “The Gateway Project is an excellent gift both to the college and the La Crosse community.”

Medland dedicated the atrium to The FSPAs and to former Viterbo President Sister Grace McDonald, who was president during the construction of the Fine Arts Center. Sister Grace’s “leap of faith in dreaming an important dream helped to create one of the finest fine arts centers in the Midwest,” Medland said.

Viterbo, Japanese college enter into formal agreement

Viterbo College has entered into a formal agreement with a two-year college in Japan which will allow Japanese students to transfer up to 62 credits to the La Crosse campus.

The agreement was signed in Japan by Dr. William Medland and Sister Michiko Inai, ICM, respective presidents of the colleges.

As a result of this agreement—the first international exchange of this kind for Viterbo—Japanese students from Immaculate Heart will be able to finish their degree requirements in the United States.

“We’re very excited about the possibilities that this agreement presents,” said Medland, president of Viterbo College. “An exchange of this kind is a very culturally enriching experience and for Immaculate Heart, they will be able to place students here, at a college which has a mission very similar to theirs.”

Approximately 800 women attend Immaculate Heart College in Kogoshima, a city of approximately 250,000 located in the southernmost part of Japan.

Medland indicated that he expects Viterbo will commit to conclude a similar agreement with another college that would result in Viterbo students traveling to Japan to study language,
politics and culture. Discussions are ongoing between Viterbo and Immaculate Heart University, a four-year liberal arts institution located in Sendai-Shi, Japan. Sister Marlene Weisenbeck, chair of the Viterbo Board of Directors, also represented the college during discussions and the agreement.

And another!
Dr. Medland was also in China and while there, concluded a friendship agreement with Luoyang Institute of Technology. The agreement will promote academic cooperation and future exchanges involving faculty and students.

Advisory Council prepares Viterbo for new millennium
Changes are on the horizon in higher education as Viterbo College and other institutions head into the new millennium. To be better prepared, a National Advisory Council has been formed at Viterbo to insure that the institution keeps “expanding its horizons.”

Consisting of 22 members from around the country, the National Advisory Council will meet once a year, as well as throughout the year with monthly communications, to provide the president and the executive committee of the Viterbo College Board of Directors with perspective and insight into higher education issues.

“The idea is to bring together people from higher education, business and industry from across the U.S. to insure that we remain cognizant of the issues of higher education from the national perspective,” said William Medland, president of Viterbo College. “The involvement of the men and women on the council is to make sure that Viterbo’s eyes are open to the world. As outsiders, these individuals will bring objective and national perspectives to issues critical to Viterbo’s future.”

FSPA Christian Mission Award goes to Viterbo graduate program
The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration presented their 1997 Christian Mission Award to the Graduate Education Program at Viterbo. The award was presented by Sister Helen Elsbernd, FSPA vice president at the FSPA Sponsorship Conference held this fall in La Crosse.

“We want to honor programs in our institutions that name Christian values and motivate people to live them,” Sister Elsbernd said. “This program does that eminently well.”
In receiving the award, John Schroeder, head of the graduate program said, “From the testimonials we get from students, we know we have a very good program, but it’s rewarding to receive this affirmation from the Franciscan sisters who come from such a long tradition of teaching.”
The program graduated its first 41 students in 1990. Its eighth class numbered 250.

Computer lab named for technology pioneer
A Viterbo College computer lab was renamed in September in honor of a woman whose efforts have helped the college integrate computers into the school’s everyday learning process. Ill with cancer, Georgette Silva was unable to attend the ceremony. Silva’s son, Dr. Paul Silva, his wife, Dr. Diane Silva, and their daughters Julie, Jennifer and Dawn were present at the ceremony.
President William Medland spoke at the dedication about how Georgette Silva's efforts have served to strengthen the college.

Silva provided the impetus for Viterbo's establishment of a technology endowment fund, and challenged last year's graduating class to raise funds for the effort. The Class of 1997 came through, raising over $20,000.

A native of Hungary, Silva earned a bachelor's degree in South Africa, a master's degree in Australia and her doctorate in linguistics from the University of California at Los Angeles. In addition to attaining fluency in five languages, Silva had a strong interest in computers and shared her talents liberally with Viterbo after relocating to La Crosse in 1989. It didn't take her long to identify some pressing needs.

In fact, in 1990, Silva presented Medland with his first computer shortly after he became the college's president.

Silva was a dedicated volunteer at the Viterbo College learning center and taught computer science courses at the college.

(Dr. Georgette Silva died November 1, 1997 of cancer. She will be missed and the prayers and condolences of the Viterbo community go with her and her family.)

Renowned scholar presents lecture at Viterbo
Father Kevin Wildes, S.J., Ph.D., presented a lecture entitled “Institutional Conscience: Is it possible? What would it look like?” on Sept. 29 in the Viterbo Fine Arts Center Lobby.

Father Wildes is the associate director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and is an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at the Georgetown University School of Medicine. He also is a Senior Scholar of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown.

Ordained a priest in 1986, Father Wildes holds advanced degrees in theology from the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., and in philosophy from Fordham University and Rice University.

He received his Ph.D. from Rice in 1993.

Father Wildes is the editor of numerous books and serves as associate editor of The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy, associate editor of The Philosophy and Medicine book series, and co-editor of the Clinical Medical Ethics book series. He is finishing his own book on methodology in secular bioethics.

The lecture was co-sponsored by Viterbo College and the Gundersen Medical Foundation.

Composer debuts composition at Founder’s Day celebration
Noted American composer Libby Larsen, known throughout music circles as a prolific, imaginative and passionate crusader for musical causes, led a lively discussion of recent developments in musical composition and the future of classical music, both sacred and secular, on Oct. 6, in the Viterbo College Fine Arts Center Recital Hall as part of the college’s Founder’s Day celebration.

Larsen’s commissions, honors and awards are numerous, including a 1994 Grammy as producer for the CD “The Art of Arleen Auger,” an acclaimed recording that features Larsen’s “Sonnets
from the Portuguese.” Her opera, “Frankenstein, the Modern Prometheus,” was selected as one of the eight best classical music events of 1990 by USA Today.

Larsen’s latest work, “Prayer of St. Francis,” for voice and piano, received its world premiere at the Founder’s Day Mass. The work was performed by tenor Jerry Benser and pianist Martin David Jones of the Viterbo College Music Department.

Philanthropy Notes

Viterbo receives grants exceeding over a half-million

The month of October started off on a particularly good note at Viterbo College, thanks to the U.S. Department of Education.

That’s because the college was notified that it will receive over a half-million dollars in the form of two grants: one for $349,000 to advance technology in the classroom, and the other for $188,647 to provide services for “at-risk” students who are pursuing four-year degrees.

This is the third year for Viterbo’s technology grant and the funds have brought computers and training to a number of faculty.

Music, science, biology and chemistry faculty were among the first to benefit from the grant funding which challenges instructors to incorporate technology into the classroom. The installation of new computer laboratories and the wiring of campus buildings that would have otherwise been cost prohibitive also have been accomplished with use of the Department of Education funding.

The other grant has made a big difference in preparing students for a college experience, said Jane Eddy, director of the college’s learning center.

Under the grant, students are eligible for tutoring, particularly in reading, writing and math; specialized advising and other activities designed to enhance “preparedness” for college.

Students qualify for services in a number of ways, Eddy said. “Many are ‘first-generation’ college students, others may have a diagnosed learning disability or meet income guidelines specified under Special Services guidelines.

“The government is very committed to helping the ‘at-risk’ student graduate and the type of grant we have received assures that students are better prepared to meet the challenges they will encounter in college.”

Talk about talk

Everything you wanted to know about Viterbo, and more, was literally on the line this past November as nearly 50 students and staff chatted with alumni across the nation, raising close to $95,000 in the process.

According to Barry Fried, director of the annual phonathon event, when the phone banks finally cooled down after three weeks of calling, over 6,000 alumni were visited, constituting nearly 375 hours of non-stop talk. Whew!

Calling took place in the Robers Conference Room of the Todd Wehr Library and 16 phone lines were set up.
Even though the $95,000 raised set a record exceeding last year’s total by over 10%, Fried indicated that the real purpose of the Viterbo Phonathon, now in its 14th year, goes well beyond fundraising. “Our callers ‘really visit,’ and they did a nice job,” Fried said. “They get feedback, answer questions about current events at Viterbo, update and verify records and chat about favorite faculty.”

In all, over 2,000 alumni made pledges averaging $47 each.

Thanks Viterbo
One sign of the health of an organization is measured in the support provided by its employees. The results of the most recent faculty and staff campaign were indeed gratifying and reassuring.

Nearly 69% of the full-time employees who were solicited made pledges. That translates to 141 out of 205 full-time employees, and is up substantially from the results of previous years when a campaign of this nature was not as formalized.

A friend of education
It was indeed a surprise when Lori Rebhan learned that Viterbo College was remembered in the estate of Alta McAfee, a former educator. Rebhan, who directs the office of Institutional Advancement, says many people remember Viterbo in their will or via a deferred gift, but little is known about Alta McAfee. The $152,161 portion of the estate Ms. McAfee provided to Viterbo, has been designated for scholarships for education majors and the gift was in the memory of her sister Jean Downey.

“Jean Downey taught at Blessed Sacrament and we know Alta taught in the public schools. The sisters were born in Montello, Wisconsin,” Rebhan said. “Although we do not know much more, I am confident Alta would be proud to know that students majoring in education will benefit from the scholarship money she so generously willed to Viterbo.”

Sports Corner

A golden opportunity Nagano, Japan?
Say that again. Mike Peplinski, one of Viterbo’s favorite “work study” students is going where?

That’s right, Peplinski, a 1996 graduate is going for the gold in this year’s Winter Olympics, and while he’s competing in Japan, his fans in Viterbo’s Murphy Center will be cheering loud and clear.

For years, he was simply known as that tall, well mannered, friendly student worker who was a regular in the Institutional Advancement office where he was constantly mailing, sorting, stapling, filing—generally “go-phering” for whatever needed doing. Perhaps—a staff joke—that experience provided Mike Peplinski with an Olympic-size dose of patience and tenacity.

Mike was also an excellent student, who after graduating with an elementary education major, was hired by the Alma (Wis) School District to teach seventh and eighth grade math, science and geography.

Now he’s an Olympian, a member of the United States curling team, which will be competing as an official medal sport for the first time, a distinction that has gained him and his teammates some notoriety.
In an e-mail to Chris Sanger, his friend and former work-study supervisor at Viterbo, Mike wrote: “Did I tell you that we are going to be on Letterman? We are flying to New York on Monday the 19th to tape, and then it will air during the Olympics. I guess we are teaching Dave how to curl. Should be interesting!”

While Mike will face the competitive likes of Team Canada with its arsenal of talented players, he also must confront a series of personal challenges far from the curling rink. He was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease (idiopathic membranous nephropathy) which will require a transplant, perhaps as early as this summer. At 23, his prospects for a long and productive life hinge on the operation. His doctor has given approval for his continued play and the medication he takes to regulate his kidney function required an Olympic waiver which he recently received.

Considering all these very unique and interesting variables, Mike Peplinski, who is very low key and modest wants to focus on the gold for now and avoid the media feeding frenzy that could result from his very compelling story.

In a recent article in the La Crosse Tribune, he made clear his Olympic determination saying, “When we started playing in state junior competition, we were sixth in the state. I said, ‘I want to be the best at this sport.’ When I was 17-years-old, we won the state (junior) title and finished second in the nation. That wasn’t good enough. I wanted to be the best in the nation...Being an Olympian is a great feeling, but being on top of that medal stand...”

Baseball team rallies around own cause

Call it a team-building exercise. Call it an act of desperation. But any way you slice it, the Viterbo College men’s baseball team pitched in to insure they would have a new field to play on come this spring.

More than 30 members of the team, under the direction of head baseball coach Sean McDermott, rallied together in late October to not only raise money needed to purchase sod for the V-Hawks’ new home, but also did the actual work.

“I wanted to get the field ready as soon as possible,” said McDermott, who opted to sod rather than seed that late in the year. “With the timing of things and the way the weather kept pushing things back, sodding seemed like the best route to go to insure that we had a playable field in the spring.”

The baseball field, which is part of Viterbo’s new $650,000 athletic complex that will have a shared men’s and women’s soccer game field, a practice soccer field, women’s softball field, as well as the men’s baseball diamond, is located on 75 acres of land on Hwy. 16 in the town of Medary.

As the rains continued to fall during the summer, the completion date, which was expected in the fall of 1997, kept getting pushed back farther and farther.

That’s when McDermott took matters into his own hands. Concerned that the seed the college had planned to use on the baseball field would not grow in time for the spring home opener, the third-year coach got on the telephone. Knowing the college would only pay for sodding the infield, McDermott raised the funds to sod the outfield.

“I thought if we could raise the money to sod the field, we would have a better playing surface much sooner than if we seeded. Sod gives you an instant playing surface that’s thick.”
After the sod was delivered, 38 players were involved in laying the sod. They continued to work until the project was complete.

“For a group of 38 players to get out there and work as hard and as long as they did was a very positive thing for our team,” McDermott said. “It not only showed we could get the job done, it showed we could work together as one unit.

“Donating our time to sod the field was one of the best team-building exercises we could have done. It brought everyone together and camaraderie is at an all-time high.”

**Great soccer season comes to abrupt stop in postseason**

Even though soccer is a team sport, more often than not the superb play of one person can spell certain doom for the opposition on any given day.

That’s what happened to the Viterbo College men’s soccer team as it started its postseason journey after winning the Midwest Classic Conference hands down with a 6-0 record.

The V-Hawks’ “second season” was a short one as they stumbled coming out of the blocks in a first-round loss to Marycrest International University at the Dairyland Athletic Complex.

Even though the V-Hawks’ quest to make it to the NAIA Midwest Regionals came to a premature halt, Viterbo didn’t come up empty handed.

During the regular season, senior forward Chris Swenson became Viterbo’s all-time leading scorer when he scored two goals and added an assist in a 5-1 nonconference victory over Mount Senario College. Swenson finished his career with 54 goals and 38 assists for 146 points, passing Chad Clift as the V-Hawks’ career scoring leader.

Swenson also led the way when conference honors were handed down when he was named MCC Player of the Year and was named to the MCC All-Conference first team. Also named to the first team were Jeff Dally, Bryan Thorson, Craig Davis, Ryan Shea and Derrin Durfee. On the All-Conference second team were Viterbo’s Dan Benda and Chris Sarchett.

It was also a big season for Erickson, who was named MCC Coach of the Year.

---

**Alumni Now**

*The following essay was written by Viterbo graduate Diane (Schiltz) ’63 Lottner. It appeared in Passages the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Magazine for the separated and divorced.*

**Count Your Blessings**

During the past 30 years or so, I have never had a window facing the west in my place of residence. During the last five years, I have had no window at all to speak of. One window faces the hallway, so it must be covered. The other windows face a brick wall.

Now, it is with a large dose of joy that I anticipate moving into my new apartment. Both the living room and bedroom windows face west. I will be in heaven with the experience of
watching sunsets, lying in bed at night looking out at the moon and the stars, seeing clouds and rainstorms and sunshine. This blessing will pass though my life with much gratitude emanating from my soul.

A short time ago I experienced depression. It was ugly but it lasted only a short time. Some of the professionals felt I might be suffering from SAD, or Seasonal Affective Disorder. I wouldn’t be surprised, for to walk into my present apartment during the day, one would think it was night time, as it is so dark. I never know what the weather is like until I go outside. Oftentimes I’m carrying an umbrella on a sunny day.

After experiencing a winter with no long outdoor walks, I appreciate the warmer weather with its invitation to hike. I inhabit the parks and soak up the beauty of the sprouting plants and busy animals.

This year I will experience many more blessings. My new apartment has many advantages which I lacked in the old. I will have a large refrigerator after having a very small one, I will have an oven, a garbage disposal, a bathtub, a storage area, a parking space and air conditioning. I will even have grass to sit on, to lie on, or to picnic on. But best of all, I will have windows.

A lot of these things are things which most people take for granted. How many people consider having windows one of their greatest blessings? Or a bathtub? But for me, these things will be enjoyed and appreciated, for I haven’t had them for a long, long time.

When I was married I had almost everything. Sad to say, I didn’t appreciate what I had. It took me several years of going without for me to be able to appreciate the simple and ordinary blessings in life.

But my greatest blessings are my daughters, my family and my friends. I could have all the treasures in the world but if I didn’t have their love, I would not be happy. Perhaps the happiness they arouse in me encouraged me to seek further blessings. Perhaps it is because now I love myself due to their love, that I feel good enough about myself to think I deserve more-to think I deserve windows.

-Diane Lotter

Madison Alumni Meet

Madison area alumni met in October to learn more about “Vision 2005” and reminisce about their Viterbo days. Sister Marlene Weisenbeck, chairperson of the Board of Directors, and Lori Rebhan, Vice President for Institutional Advancement hosted the dinner.

Reunion ’98

June 27 and 28 are the dates for Reunion ’98. Plans are underway, so contact your friends to make this one of the best. Call the alumni office if you would like to help with a class or departmental reunion gathering.

EdVest helps families save

While Viterbo itself does not have an individual program designed to provide parents with the opportunity to escrow savings to be applied to college, such a program exists statewide. The EdVest Wisconsin program allows for the purchase of “tuition units” which may be applied to tuition at any qualifying college nationwide.

There is a one-time processing fee of $50 for each account opened.

Upon college enrollment, the beneficiary may redeem tuition units as needed for tuition
expenses; they may not be used to pay for room and board. If the actual tuition amount is more than the amount provided by EdVest, the beneficiary will be responsible for the difference. Federal income tax on investment earnings will be deferred until college enrollment. For more information, call toll-free: 1-888-338-3789.

**Alumna returns to teach special class**
Dr. Richard Morehouse (psychology) has arranged for Michelle Munson Fellenz '90 to return to Viterbo to teach Team Building in the Human Services Environment. The class will begin June 25 in conjunction with the alumni reunion weekend, and run Thursday evening, all day Friday, Monday and Tuesday evenings. This is the third year that Dr. Morehouse has facilitated bringing an alum back to campus to teach other alumni and current students. Call Dr. Morehouse at (608)796-3710 for information on how you can take advantage of this year’s program.

**Alumni Night at the Theatre**
Saturday, February 28 is Alumni Night at the Fine Arts Center. The Theatre Arts Department will be performing “The Importance of Being Earnest.” A reception hosted by the Alumni Association following the performance will be held for alumni, cast and friends. Main floor tickets with the alumni discount can be ordered through the Alumni Office.

**Professional mentoring night**
On October 9, students and alumnae attended “An Evening With the Professionals.” Doctors Judy (Schmieder) Harpenau '83, Linda Lorenz Hamilton ’85-87, and Margaret Grenisen ’80 shared their experiences in the medical profession with current pre-med and pre-chiropractic students.

**Women's golf tournament**
Plans are underway for a women’s golf tournament to be organized by the athletic department. This will be held on August 17 at the La Crosse Country Club. For more information, call Bobbi Vandenberg, women’s basketball coach at 608-796-3813.

---

**Class Notes**

**1950**

Sister Mary James Ramaekers '53 participated in a demonstration against Alliant Tech Systems in Hopkins, Minn., on April 24, 1997, leading to the arrest of the 59 demonstrators. The demonstrators placed a pile of shoes at the doors of Alliant Tech Systems, which has refused to stop producing land mines, to call attention to the severed legs which will no longer need shoes. Sister Mary has been attending prayer vigils at the plant every two weeks for the past year and is working for legislation to ban land mines.

Sister Rita Rathburn '53 represented Viterbo College at the inauguration of Marilou Eldred as President of Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Ind.

Sister Lydia Wendl '55 retired from pastoral care ministry at St. Anne Parish in Las Vegas.

Sister Leclare Beres '56 was part of a La Crosse delegation which traveled to Dubna, Russia with its sister city May 17-28.
Sister Nancy Lafferty ’58 was honored at an April 2, 1997 awards banquet held during the National Catholic Education Association’s annual meeting at Minneapolis. The award to Holy Family School in Sioux City, Iowa was based on the English-as-a-Second-Language Bilingual Education Program for which Sister Nancy is coordinator. Sister Nancy was hired in 1995 to develop curriculum, coordinate volunteer tutors, and serve as instructor for the program which operates in each of the school’s three centers and serves chiefly Vietnamese and Hispanic students.

1960
Lois Hess ’62 and Jean Mollendorf were married June 21, 1997.

Sister Anita Beskar ’65 will co-chair a Diversity Task Force in La Crosse. The voluntary program will invite local businesses to take a lead role in promoting the advantages of diversity to their employees, customers, and the community. The task force will meet with interested businesses to create and implement a plan for addressing diversity issues.

Sister Mary Gschwind ’65 received the 1997 Bishop John Paul Distinguished Alumnus Award at Aquinas High School graduation ceremonies on May 25, 1997 in La Crosse.

Sister Marlene Weisenbeck ’67 was named chancellor of the La Crosse Diocese by Bishop Raymond Burke effective August 5, 1997. As chancellor she is the official record-keeper for the diocese and will serve as the chief notary and secretary in accordance with Roman Catholic Canon Law. Sister Marlene will also work closely with the bishop on matters relating to the 180 parishes in the diocese.

Sister Fran Ferder represented Viterbo College at the inauguration of Steven V. Sundborg, S.J., at Seattle University, Seattle, September 26, 1997.

1970
Delores (Feldmeier) Friske ’71, recently was named Coordinator of the Family Child Care Mentor Program for the State of Minnesota. This is a new program.

Laurene (Sloniker) Wurster ’73 is still working at St. Joseph’s Hospital as a nursing educator. She has been at St. Joseph’s for twenty five years.

Mary Knutson ’72-’74 announced that her daughter Stacey graduated from UW Whitewater in December 1997 with a Computer Graphic Arts Degree. Stacey is getting married August 1, 1998 to Spencer Hodnett.

Patricia Buck ’75 was promoted to Colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

Cathy Gilbert ’76 celebrated the birth of a grandson, Andrew Jordan Hilby, September 30, 1997. He joins brother Jacob at home. Cathy has been divorced for two years.

Mary Friesen ’76 was recently made Lifestyle Editor for the Marshfield Herald in Marshfield.

David Schoonover ’76 was elected president of the Greater La Crosse Area Catholic Schools Council, August, 1997. The council is comprised of pastors and parish representatives from La Crosse, Onalaska, and Holmen.
Karolee (Hogden) Sowle '77 became the Vice President of Patient Services at the Desert Hospital in Palm Springs, Calif. in March 1997. She had previously been the Assistant Administrator at St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan.

Julie A. Neururer '78 and Dave Rotholz celebrated the birth of a son, Jonah Malone Rotholz, November 11, 1996.

Diane (Ley) O'Donnell '79 graduated in May 1997 from Marquette University with a Masters of Science in Nursing. She is working as a certified nurse midwife and pediatric nurse practitioner at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee.

Cindi (Stelpflug) '79 and Joe Breuer celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kari Marie, October 29, 1996. She joins siblings Philip (4), Kim (3), and Andrew (16 months) at home.

Ellen (Zembruiski) Hopkins '79 and Ron Reister were married at home on September 6, 1991.

1980
Diane (Osterhous) Neefe '81 was recently hired as the Clinical Coordinator for the Medical Laboratory Technician Program at WWTC.

Lisa (Abbott) '82 and Henry M. Busch Jr. celebrated the birth of a son, Drew Henry, June 18, 1996. He joins his sisters Whitney, Gabrielle, Madeline and Ellory at home. On June 30, 1997, Drew had a liver transplant with his uncle as the donor, and is currently doing well.

Pamela (Dorshorst) '82 and Phillip Epple celebrated the birth of a son, Matthew Phillip, February 15, 1997.

Susan and Michael Smith '83 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Katherine Josephini, June 11, 1997. She joins sister Bridgid Marie at home.

Kristi (Coorough) '95 and Carl Henry '84 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Abigail Jean, October 30, 1997. She joins brother Gabriel at home.

Jeanne (Kleinhenz) '84 and Barry Bandy traveled to Guatemala to adopt their son, Seth Thomas in October 1993. All three of them traveled to The People’s Republic of China to adopt a daughter, Mary Ming, in May 1996.

Kathleen Matzke '84 and Dean Matzke celebrated the adoption of a daughter, Gabriella Maria Angelina, on June 13, 1997. She was born on February 22, 1997 in Bogota, Columbia. Karrie Sue (Mehlum) '84 and Christopher Brown celebrated the adoption of a daughter, Kayla Sue Eun Brown. Born in Taegu, South Korea on January 25, 1997, she joined her parents and brothers, Ryan, Cuyler, and Casey on September 9, 1997.

Susan (Burgmeier) '85 and Michael Rohrer celebrated the birth of a son, Cody Michael, February 12, 1997.

Mary (Splittstoesser) '84 and Dave Thompson celebrated the birth of a son, Tanner Nathaniel, July 27, 1997. He joins sister Amelia at home.

Lisa Marnholtz '85 and Gregory Gerzel were married October 18, 1997, in Merrill.

Jean (Pintz) '85 and Joel Olson celebrated the birth of a son, August 21, 1997.
Michelle (Fitch) ‘86 Messer graduated Summa Cum Laude from Emory University in Atlanta, May ‘97 with a Master’s in Nursing and is now practicing as an Adult Nurse Practitioner in Fayetteville, N.C. In August ‘97, she was promoted to the rank of major in the U.S. Army.

Renee Jacobson ’86 and Brien Plunkett were married October 18th, 1997.

Colleen Muldoon-Lemmons ’86 and Scott Lemmons celebrated the birth of a son, Connor Scott, July 14, 1997. He joins his three year old sister Shannon Kate at home.

Christine (Urfer) ’86 and Ned Quarterman celebrated the birth of a daughter, Samantha Marlene, on May 26, 1997.

Sue Deyo ’87 recently completed her Masters in English at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

Trish Gorman-Turben ’87 and Don Turben celebrated the birth of twins, Hunter and Olivia, April 7, 1997.

Kelly (Komis) ’87 and Brad Heimke celebrated the birth of a daughter, Mykala Komis, July 17, 1997. She joins her brother Kollin at home.

Becky (Ritzer) ’87 and Joe Lowery celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Grace Irene, October 26, 1996.

Ann (Nguyen) ’87 Sullivan is a returning to work mother. Her husband, Todd Sullivan has been working at Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory since graduating from Stevens Point and completed his MBA at Aurora University.

Lisa and Todd Butzman ’88 were married on July 25, 1997.

Cindy Hutson ’88 was ordained on November 2, 1997, and will be transferring to Trinity Lutheran Church in Sparta as of November 4, 1997.

Kristine (Manning) ’88 and Christopher Thoren celebrated the birth of twins, Andrew Christopher and Kallie Margaret, September 22, 1997. They join brother Jonathan at home.

Diane (Mayer) ’88 and Thomas Knothe ’88 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Mary Eileen, June 26, 1997. She joins sister Elizabeth at home.

Kelly (Hogan) ’88 and Brian Petrouka ’89 relocated to Colorado in the summer of 1997. Kelly is an active duty Army Nurse Corp Officer at Fort Carson, Colorado. Brian is a Windows NT Field Support Manager for Science Applications International Corporation in Colorado Springs.

Susan Stone ’88 celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel Edward, October 10, 1997.

Dawn (Liepke) ’94 and Jeffrey Bojarski ’89 celebrated the adoption of a daughter, Katelyn, September 2, 1997. Katelyn was born July 25, 1997.

Kathy (Fritz) ’89 and Jim Gibson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jamie Erin, April 26, 1997. She joins her sister Lindsay at home.

Diana and Ronald Krajnik ’89 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Azrianna Noel, July 31, 1997.

Lisa (Lemley) ’89 and Dave Bezold ’90 celebrated the birth of a son, Tyler Bud, July 31, 1997.

Lisa (Alt) ’89 and Tom Miller celebrated the birth of a daughter, Alivia Justin, July 3, 1997.

Ellen (Speltz) ’89 and Todd Prill celebrated the birth of a daughter, Allison Louise, August 25, 1997.

LoAnn (Stinson) ’89 and Michael DeBoer celebrated the birth of a son, Joshua Lee October 12, 1997. He joins sister Shanna, and brother Austin at home.

1990
Dione Davidson ’90 and Randall S. Brandt were married July 12, 1997.

Ann (Figge) ’90 and Joel Theisen ’90 celebrated the birth of a son, Blake Hunter, August 20, 1997.

Ruth (Brom) ’90 Wills is attending St. Mary’s University in Winona. She is working towards a Masters Degree in Pastoral Studies.

Ellen (Glaser) ’91 and Ken Koelbl ’90 celebrated the birth of a son, Kyle John, June 26, 1997.

Sue (Schnurr) ’90 and Jack Putnam celebrated the birth of a daughter, Abbey Rose, September 25, 1997.

Sara Schroeder ’90 and Anthony Warmker were married on May 11, 1996.

Mary (Siebert) ’90 and Michael Schaap celebrated the birth of a daughter, Gabrielle, October 26, 1997.

Jacquelyn Trehaus ’90 has finished her Master’s in Community Counseling at Winona State University, Winona.

Suzanne (Miller) ’91 and John Voros celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hannah Marie, August 9, 1997.

Susan (Thompson) ’91 and David Wise celebrated the birth of a son, Brendan, February 4, 1997. He joins brother Ross at home.

Michel Anderson ’92 and Patrick McGettigan were married June 28, 1997.


Wendy Cash ’92 is chairing the steering committee of the Monroe County Habitat for Humanity. They expect to complete their affiliation by July 1, 1998.
Jodi (Crapser) '92 and John Priebe were married September 6, 1997.

Heather (Cutting) Gustafson '92 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madelyn April 16, 1997.

Connie Glasheen and Devin T. Hogan '92 were married August 9, 1997.

Kimberly Kjelland '92 returned to school at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse for her Masters Degree in Education. She expects to graduate in two years.

Laura (Ledden) '92 and Rob Gilbertson celebrated the birth of a son, August 5, 1997.

Christine (Conrad) Ott '92 is working for the Fall Creek School District, Fall Creek, Wis.

Mary Amundson '93 and Dean Kulas were married July 19, 1997 at Holy Trinity Church in La Crosse, Wis.

Laurie (Stahl) '93 and Dean Bierschenk celebrated the birth of a son, Barrett James, October 4, 1996.

Clayton Cobb '93 was recently hired as the Assistant Director for the Office of Student Life at the Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.

MaryJane Drews '93 and Mark Bernhardt were married June 14, 1997.

Carlena (Buttner) '93 and John Goddeau '96 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Renee Angelique, May 30, 1997.

Tania (Voter) Greener '93 is a K - 5 School Counselor with the Rochester Public School District.

Vikki (Seefeldt) Harraden '93 was transferred, along with her husband Shaun, to Yokota Air Base, Japan, where she is a registered nurse for the United States Air Force.

Johanna Sanders '93 was married to Michael G. Deffenderfer on October 11, 1997 in Sparta, Wis.

Michelle Boucher '94 received her Master’s in Clinical Psychology from Mankato State University, August, 1997. She is continuing her education towards a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg.

Angelea Deutmeyer '94 and Robert Fontaine were married on August 30, 1997.

Patricia Herrewig '94 and Patrick Pedretti were married September 13, 1997.

Susan McKenna '94 and Todd Slapp were married in June 1996. They celebrated the birth of a son, Connor in September 1997.

Marla Norder '94 and Keith Snyder were married on April 5, 1997.

Diane Schlesser '94 entered the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the University of Minnesota/Minneapolis in the fall of 1997.

Lora Willhite '94 and Doug Dillon were married June 1, 1997.

Chevonne (Gollatner) '95 and Michael Merhalski celebrated the birth their first daughter, Tessa Marie, October 6, 1997.
Bridget Kennedy '95 and Brian Ideker were married September 13, 1997. Bridget began working as a dietitian for Olmsted Community Hospital November 3, 1997.

Elizabeth (Kazmierczak) '95 and Alan Gindt celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kayla Marie, September 4, 1997.

Mary (Macke) '95 and Dean Hampton celebrated the birth of a daughter, Brianna Diane September 17, 1997.

Tricia (Shumway) '95 Komay received word that she passed the uniform CPA exam. Tricia is employed by Hawkins, Ashe, Baptie & Co. in La Crosse.

Sarah (Miller) '95 and Christopher Worley celebrated the birth of a son, Isaac Miller Worley, March 16, 1997.

Shelly Danczyk '96 and Dan Heerts '94 were married July 6, 1997 in Wausau. They reside in Parkersburg, Iowa. Shelly teaches pre-K vocal music in Greene, Iowa. Dan contracts out to high schools, designing sets, lights, props and costumes. Dan recently completed his Master of Arts degree in Theatre Design and Technology at the University of Northern Iowa in May of 1997. Shelly and Dan celebrated the birth of a son, Seth Daniel on August 28, 1997.

Natalie Eggen '96 and Fred Iausly were married June 7, 1997.

Tracy Fernholz '96 and Thomas Ferris were married July 19, 1997 at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish, Onalaska.


Catherine Laddusire '96 and Robert Gerke were married September 27, 1997.

Eve Marie Molzhon '96 and Shawn Zellmer were married August 9, 1997.

Erin Paggi '96 and Gary Beck were married September 20, 1997.

Jennifer Shafer '96 and Steven Plitzner were married on June 21, 1997 at the Pettibone Park Gazebo in La Crosse.

Lisa (Baker) '97 and Jon Baker celebrated the birth of twins, Alexia Michelle and Maxwell Jon, April 23, 1997.

Carrie Emond '97 and Mitchell Jacobson were married August 3, 1997.

Mike W. Gheres '97 is the high school football coach for the Rock Falls/Nora Springs Eagles in Nora Springs, Iowa. The Eagles, he reports, are having a good season.

Betty A. Hanson '97 and Mike Hugunin were married July 12, 1997.

Marilyn Hart '97 and Brendt King were married September 27, 1997.

Danielle Klingbeil '97 recently began working at Bethesda Lutheran Home as a clinical dietitian. Located in Watertown, the facility is a residence for 300 mentally retarded people.

Kim Kohlwey '97 and Jeffery Scott were married on August 9, 1997. Kim also passed her nursing boards the same month.
Theresa Knebel '97 and Scott Gassman were married on May 31, 1997, and enjoyed a honeymoon trip to Jamaica.

Angela Lenz ’97 is employed with Franciscan Skemp Healthcare as a Registered Nurse.

Stacey (Lincoln) ’97 and Charles Mentzel were married on June 20, 1997.

Rebecca May ’97 represented Viterbo College at the inauguration of Richard I. Ridenour, M.D., at Marian College of Fond Du Lac on October 25, 1997.

Tanya Newton ’97 and Anthony Neumaier were married June 7, 1997.
Sally Pomerening ’97 and Mark Boland were married on July 12, 1997.

In addition to students and community members, these Alumni have been inducted into the newly formed Viterbo College Honor Society of Nursing.

Inducted November 1996
Darcy Abbott ’97
Tammy Betzing ’97
Cary Brazelton ’97
Wendy Brereton ’97
Melanie Culliton ’97
Marilyn Hart ’97
Jennifer Hoeper ’97
Jessica Jajesnica ’97
Jennifer Johnson ’97
Emily Jones ’97
Alison Klevann ’97
Kimberly (Kohlwey) Scott ’97
Andrea Lemke’97
Rebecca Marty ’97
Debra Myhre ’97
Kara Nelson ’97
Tina Ritter ’97
Ruth Soulsby-Monroy ’97
Heather Thompson ’97
Therese Walker-Honeywell ’97
Judy Anderson ’84
Mary Christianson ’79
Mary Lu Gerke ’74
Rose Kreutz ’66
Jane Mrozek ’88
Bonnie Nesbitt ’74
Rose Peterson ’77
Lois Sanwick ’71
Teresa Kunavich ’71
Inducted April 1997
Linda Charles ’97
Sherry Johnson ’97
A Final Word:
Acquiring Maturity from History

Not to know the events which happened before one was born, that is to remain always a boy.
—Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43 b.c.)

Many of us in the humanities face the 21st century needing to defend how we help students develop their ability to think critically, a primary asset in a liberal arts education. Human knowledge and capacity have exploded throughout this century, and educational institutions at every level are being forced to modify their traditional curriculum. The amount of history studied has been a casualty in this process of change. Also, a fast-paced, future oriented, technologically driven society may not appreciate or see the value in the study of history. After all, it was Henry Ford who said, “History is bunk.”
I strongly disagree. Clearly, interchangeable parts go together easier than intersecting ideas. I will not quibble about profits, but I am compelled to challenge Mr. Ford’s errant judgment. We need a solid foundation in history more than ever, because it connects so many elements of our behavior. We are on an avenue towards the unity of our planet, which is much more complex than any assembly line. The scope of human history teaches us that we have been moving through a process of integration, creating larger amalgamations which require an increasing capacity for cooperation. Today we speak of the global village created through our systems of transportation, communications, and markets. However, because of our remarkable historical transformations, we judge the outcome of these forces within the modern quest to provide a decent standard of living for all people.

Alas! Even here at Viterbo we have moved to broaden students’ ability to fulfill the history requirement within our new general education program. What this means in practical terms is that many of our students will take only one history class. Yet we maintain a commitment to the supposition that history has an important relationship to students’ understanding of other subjects, providing the vital background for many other courses. History also conveys a characteristic element of the values taught in a Viterbo education: our human experience is not only intelligible across time, but across religious and political divides as well. When our perspective on the world is opened up, we better understand ourselves and our fellow human beings. Although historical circumstances change, the dilemmas we face in the human experience do not. History repeats itself only if no one listens to its record of human progress: the advancement of our minds and collective spirit, all towards a discernible objective.

Every Viterbo student must take an introductory history class which has a western focus—either Western Civilization or U.S. History. When our emphasis is increasingly the integration of our global community, is this western focus counter-productive? No, because we need to understand how our institutions have developed, how our values have evolved, and our own societal foundations, in order to effectively engage our world. We have a collective identity that too often is unknown in our society which tends to over-glory individual accomplishment, and has only recently confronted our own cultural diversity. It seems to me prudent to have this basis upon which to prepare ourselves for the constantly expanding inter-civilization relationships the 21st century will thrust upon us.

Civilized existence is ambivalent. Although urban life offers us the opportunity for maximum protection, it is combined with great incentives for aggression. When we aspire to wide vistas of freedom and diverse experiences, we might instead discover the imposition of drastic compulsion and regimentation. Indeed, our human proclivity towards warfare may be seen as an urban institution which has developed as an essential element of having become civilized. However, the maturity available to us from the study of history helps us overcome such predilections as the urban institution of warfare.

In our Western Civilization course we investigate the impact of warfare on our cultural development. We read great literary works from folks like Cicero. And we carefully investigate the two founding pillars of our cultural outlook: the ethical, monotheistic religious foundation of the Bible, and the rational, philosophical accomplishments of the Greeks. Then we see how these two basic elements of our western civilized life interact and merge.

Humans in the earliest civilizations viewed history as cyclical recurrences, played out in their
natural religious outlook. Greek philosophers searched for timeless ideals in human beauty, goodness, truth. Judaism, Christianity and Islam introduced the idea of time moving towards an ultimate goal. Historians view these ideas developing in relation to events. Nothing can be isolated as we analyze how these foundations interact with social forces which seek to control society. Maturity through historical inquiry has led us to recognize these tensions are fundamental elements of the human condition, whatever the historical epoch, and wherever we human beings interact in our civilized existence.

**From the Archives**

Does this photo bring back memories for you?
Describe this Viterbo archive photo using as much detail as possible, and mail your caption to Viterbo College, c/o Strides Magazine, 815 South 9th Street, La Crosse, WI 54601. The earliest postmark containing a reasonably accurate and comprehensive description will receive a copy of The History of Viterbo College, compliments of Viterbo College. If possible, try to identify individuals in the photo as well as the context and setting.
Current Viterbo employees are ineligible to enter. Look for “From the Archives” to appear regularly in Strides, and if you have an interesting Viterbo archive photo, we’ll be happy to consider it, as well as your favorite memories, for publication in Strides magazine.

**Last issue...**

Thanks to Betty (Knop) Keefe ’59 of Lincoln, Nebraska for providing the following:
Just received my Strides to find myself in the Archives. That’s Kathy (Schlosser) Dabel ’60, Elaine (Reget) Weisbecker ’59 and me off to San Francisco in the summer of 1958, I think for some sort of Catholic Youth Conference. The picture was taken in front of Viterbo and we were driving a 1954 Pontiac out to our western adventure!
P.S. I’ve always wondered what was so interesting in that trunk.

**Viterbo Calendar**

**February 4 - March 6**
David Kamm prints and collages, Viterbo College Gallery

**February 7**
MBB/WBB vs. St. Ambrose University (Homecoming)
Wall of Fame

**February 11**
MBB/WBB vs. Iowa Wesleyan College

**February 18**
MBB/WBB vs. Mount St. Clare College

**February 26 - March 1**
Bright Star Season: “The Importance of Being Earnest”
(February 28-Alumni Night-reception following performance)
March 7-15
Spring Break

March 13
Bright Star Season: The Spirit of Ireland

March 18
Senior Salute

March 20 - April 8
Senior Exhibition, Viterbo College Gallery

March 31
Bright Star Season: Eugenia Zukerman & Shanghai Quartet

April 2-6
Black Box Theatre: “To Kill a Mockingbird”

April 16 - May 6
All Student Exhibition, Viterbo College Gallery

April 17
Bright Star Season: “Carousel”

April 23-27
Black Box Theatre: “All My Sons”

April 29
Bright Star Season: “Steve Allen & Jayne Meadows Love Letters”

April 30
Honors Convocation

May 1
Courtyard Carni
Last Day of Classes

May 10
Baccalaureate and Commencement

* Sporting events listed are Home Midwest Classic Conference games
* WBB indicates women’s basketball/ MBB indicates men’s basketball.