Stories from Winter 1999 Strides

Surviving the 90s & College: It's a New World Out There

Remember those years when going to college meant registering, attending classes, studying some, having lots of fun, then graduating?

Unfortunately, this nostalgic version of the “off to college” memory isn’t quite the same anymore. Here’s a closer look at how Viterbo is working to provide a mission based approach in meeting the needs of the new and definitely challenging generation of new students.

“The high school student who went on to attend college in the 60s, 70s or 80s is dramatically different than the high school student of today entering college,” said Dr. Roland “Buzz” Nelson, director of admissions at Viterbo.

“Kids looking to go to college today, unlike young people of 25 and even 15 years ago, appear to be a very conservative group,” said Nelson, a 20-year veteran in the recruiting process.

Nelson believes that because of that conservative nature, incoming college students also carry the baggage associated with it.

“They are apprehensive about decisions and often-times need consultation,” Nelson said. “They just don’t haphazardly, like John Glenn, jump on a spaceship or do foolish things. Today’s students are sensitive to risk and change and needs direction more than any students who have previously entered college.”

That’s where Wayne Wojciechowski comes in. In his advising and counseling capacity, Wojciechowski comes in contact with most students at one time or another. He has been at Viterbo since 1980 and currently works as assistant to the vice president of academics.

“Years ago, I was able to identify the academic at-risk students. I’d look at ACT score and high school performance for academically at-risk students when they entered. Today, every student who walks in the door is at risk. There is no student who wouldn’t be a part of that pool. That has definitely changed in the last 10 years, even five years.”

What does Wojciechowski think is the problem?

“Our ACT scores have gone up, and high school rank, likewise, has probably gone up a little bit,” Wojciechowski said. “So we’re dealing with more potential, but we’re bringing in a student who is less prepared for college.
Some students he discovered, enter college with excellent ACT scores. In high school they were able to achieve good grades and success without a great deal of studying or effort. That, Wojciechowski believes, is the crux of the problem.

“Students know that in college they are going to have to work, but they don’t know the quantitative definition of that term,” Wojciechowski said. “That whole first semester and even the entire year is a challenge because of all the adjusting that goes on personally, socially, psychologically. Then, all of a sudden someone comes along and says likewise, you have to perform academically. A lot of these same students just don’t know how to do it.”

Others, including psychology faculty member Debra Murray, believe there are many reasons why today’s students are different than those of the 80s.

“I think one of the pieces is that our culture and society continue to progress so rapidly,” Murray said. “Whether it be technology or the changing fabric of the family, I don’t know that our students are adequately equipped to handle the change of college.”

For the past several years, Murray has toggled her way back and forth between her faculty status in the psychology department to working with programs such as Connect, which promotes safe alternatives to drinking and drugs. This year she is coordinating the popular class, Person, College, Community, targeted for the incoming freshman.

“We’re asking students to change so rapidly from high school into this whole new lifestyle,” Murray said. “College is definitely a test tube for stress. We ask them to leave their families and their schedules. We put them in a small dorm room with somebody they don’t know. And we put them in new classes. We’re asking them to do this in a short period of time and I don’t think they have a good internal source to deal with the changes.

Then there is technology. Murray believes that, too, has played a big role in our changing student.

“I can now plug in and tune out anytime I want, and that has changed,” Murray said. “And what has happened to the art of reading, given our electronic society? What are all the ramifications?

“The question is, as classes get bigger and the pace gets faster, do we need to connect more with our students?”

College officials believed the answer to Murray’s question is a resounding “yes.” That is why Viterbo has instituted, tweaked and refined the Person, College, Community course for incoming freshmen.

The course, formerly called First Year Experience, helps students in the transition from high school to college, and deal with the stress of meeting the demands of higher education.

“Viterbo began offering the First Year Experience course four years ago in response to attrition data when we noticed students were not returning for a third semester in the same percentage as they had previously,” Nelson said. “The question was, do the students need to be acclimated after one or two semesters because of the failure on our part to properly acclimate them to the campus?”
Wojciechowski saw the change in students 15 years ago and tried to propose a similar course back then, but to no avail.

“At the time, we saw a need and would have loved to get the first year experience at that point,” Wojciechowski said. “So what we did was to offer a learning strategies course that dealt basically with learning techniques.

“But it wasn’t enough because we had to look at the comprehensive picture—a course, that had some academic substance, but also could provide students a framework for which they could increase their understanding of themselves, the college scene, Viterbo College. This would allow students to better adjust and improve the likelihood of success.”

That reasoning, said Wojciechowski, was why Viterbo was finally able to get a course approved that would help students deal with the anxieties of college life. Thus was born FRST 100, better known as Person, College, Community.

“I feel the course we have now is good and helpful to the students,” Wojciechowski said. “Certainly it is not perfect, but at least it is substantially there. My hope is that every first-time freshman takes this class.”

Already this year, more than 200 students enrolled in the course, which represents two-thirds of the first-time, “traditional age” freshmen at Viterbo. Every section of the elective course was full at the beginning of the year.

A very popular and challenging aspect of the class features a trek to the COPE course which is designed to develop trust and teamwork and a willingness to entertain reasonable risk taking. Located in Camp Decorah, a Boy Scout Camp on the Black River near Galesville, it has been described as a boot camp with an academic element— definitely not a traditional classroom experience.

Cries of “we need a system,” or “we have to work as a team” can be heard all throughout the wooded acreage.

That’s the essence of the class, says Murray.

“The COPE (Challenge Outdoor Personal Experience) course has multiple purposes,” she said. “It’s a great opportunity to meet other students in a setting other than the classroom, dorm or dining hall. The COPE course requires that you work together as a team. If the team is going to be successful, they have to work together. You have to be creative and you have to solve problems together.”

Which is exactly what Mary Crosby, a freshman nursing student from Chippewa Falls, found out during her COPE experience.

“I didn’t actually want to go, but after I got there, it turned out to be fun and rewarding,” Crosby said. “It wasn’t a total pain to take time out of my Saturday, even though it was pretty early.

“I now realize that I can’t do everything on my own … that the things I do affect other people and what they do affects me. To get things done, you have to rely on others. You have to work as a team.”
But would she recommend the class to other incoming freshmen?

“I definitely would,” Crosby said. “At first I didn’t know what I would get out of it and then it sinks in that you are actually learning about yourself, the college and the community. It was a great experience.”

And for Murray, the similarities between Person College, Community, and life, are astonishing.

“It looks to me like the agenda they have as they go through life, particularly in the way we set it up at Viterbo College,” Murray said.

“It really can give students valuable insight into how to meet challenges and how to work with others.”

**Viterbo Receives $3 Million Gift**

"This is a defining moment in the history of our institution."

The foundation was started by Mrs. Reinhart and her husband, La Crosse businessman and philanthropist, the late D.B. Reinhart, the owner of Gateway Foods, who died April 13, 1996.

The gift, the largest in the 108-year history of Viterbo, will be used to fund projects and initiatives described in “VISION 2005: A Renaissance for Living and Learning in the 21st Century,” the plan which will guide the college for the next six years.

“My husband was a person who placed great value in his faith, in his integrity, and in the well being of his family, friends and business associates,” said Marjorie Reinhart. “He would very much support the efforts of this very fine college in promoting ethics in leadership and the many excellent projects Viterbo is undertaking as part of ‘Vision 2005.’

“The Reinhart family has had an interest and investment in Viterbo’s health and development for a very long time. This gift results from a 30-plus year relationship with the college. It is our hope that Viterbo remains unique in offering students an exceptional value-based education which emphasizes faith, service, and leadership, and an education in which ethical decision-making is at the core.”

The Reinhart family has been actively involved in Viterbo affairs for over three decades.

Grace McDonald, FSPA, was president of Viterbo from 1970-80 and she recalled her contact with Reinhart during those early years.

“In my mind, Rhiny was a man of integrity. He was committed to faith, God and the others in his life. It was those traits that made him successful as a businessman and as a longstanding friend and advisor to the college,” S. Grace said.

VISION 2005, announced in March 1997, details a number of the new and distinguishing initiatives including:
Endowments for student scholarship, faculty development, technology enhancement, and educational ventures;
Capital projects including renovation of the Fine Arts Center atrium and lobby, a “Viterbo Court,” a V-Hawk outdoor athletic complex, a new residence complex and a Center for Ethics in Leadership. (Several building initiatives have already been completed; the Rose Terrace apartments, the V-Hawk Outdoor Athletic Complex; and the Fine Arts Center Entrance project.)
Creation of an Institute for Ethics in Leadership. Last October, the Institute was named in honor of D.B. Reinhart. Friends and business associates started a $450,000 endowment for the planning and implementation of programs which will be offered beginning this spring.

Medland indicated that the $3 million gift will offer Viterbo significant opportunities, one of which will be the self imposed challenge to match the gift.

**MILESTONES**

La Crosse businessman D.B. Reinhart had a longstanding relationship with Viterbo College.

- 1965 - D. B. Reinhart joins the Viterbo College Board of Advisors
- 1973 - D. B. Reinhart joins the Viterbo College Board of Directors
- 1980 - D.B. Reinhart receives the Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service, Viterbo's most prestigious non-academic award
- 1990 - Viterbo College awards D.B. Reinhart an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree, only the fifth honorary degree presented by the college in its history.
- 1997 - Viterbo establishes the Institute of Ethics in Leadership. Friends and associates of D.B. Reinhart donate $450,000 to establish an institute endowment.
- 1998 - The D.B. and Marjorie A. Reinhart Family Foundation announce that Viterbo will receive a $3 million gift to be used to advance initiatives outlined in VISION 2005: A Renaissance for Living and Learning.

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**My Unbelievable Journey**

*by Nguyen Thi Oanh*

**Editor’s note:** Her name is Nguyen Thi Oanh. People remember her as that “charming, petite, brave, enthusiastic” young woman who traveled over 8,000 miles from her homeland, to Viterbo, a distant and unknown destination. The year of her arrival was 1951.

Indeed, this young lady from Vietnam was special. She was the first lay foreign student to attend Viterbo and after graduating from college with a degree in sociology, she returned to Vietnam, helping her people as a social worker.

Today, nearly a half century later, we hear from Nguyen Thi Oanh again. This time her voice is contained in a manuscript. At age 67, she is no longer the young innocent from abroad. Living in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), she possesses the wisdom gained from witnessing war, reunification, and reconciliation—the cumulative struggles of her people and a nation, grappling with hardship. Her story is called, “My Unbelievable Journey: Memoirs of a Social Worker in Vietnam.” We were first alerted of the activities of this remarkable woman, by Tom Fox, former editor and now publisher of the “National Catholic Reporter.” As a journalist
and social worker, Fox was in Vietnam from 1966-72 and he married a Vietnamese social worker who was a student of Ms. Oahn. “Ms. Oahn is a caring and beautiful and incredibly able person,” he writes, “She tells the story of Vietnam from the time of the French through a generally uncaring anti-communist regime to a dogmatic communist regime. Through it all is this woman who is trying to understand Vietnamese society and social forces and organize them to make life better for ordinary people.”

“My Unbelievable Journey” is a 30,000-40,000 word autobiography. Excerpts pertaining to her reflections of life in America and her early years at Viterbo are shared in this “Strides” version.

IN THE BEGINNING

Vietnamese of my time do not celebrate their birthday. Instead, the anniversary of a death is more important. However our birthday—mine and my twin brother’s, is so special that nobody can forget it. It was on Christmas day, December 25, 1931 that we were born in Gocong, then a little southeastern province of Vietnam.

Though Vietnam is a non-Christian country, Christmas during the French era was celebrated with sports activities. My father and brothers were watching a football game when we came into this world. My mother was playing Vietnamese traditional cards when the pain came. And I came out quickly, easily, because mother had had enough experience. It was the 13th childbirth in our family.

Around fifteen minutes later, mother was surprised to have pain again. At the time, my uncle, who was also our family doctor, was returning from the football game with my father. He told my mother that another baby was to come! She laughed out loud and said: “They think I am Mr Khiem!” Mr Khiem was the richest man in the province.

My father started as a teacher. Although from a poor family, he and my uncle were sent to Saigon for studies. He was one of the very few young men who came back to Gocong with a degree in pedagogy; that was the reason why my maternal grandparents, who were richer, decided to accept him as their son-in-law...

AMERICA

The first United States consular office was opened in Saigon in 1950 and offered evening courses in English. I joined them right away and there I learned that there were scholarships for Vietnamese to study in the United States. I applied without much hope because there were many smarter applicants. Meanwhile, my family heard of a Catholic scholarship program sponsored by the council of Vietnamese bishops. My father worried that going to a state college in modern America, I would “lose my soul” because of so much freedom and individualism. He urged me to join the latter program.

So I left Vietnam in May 1951 to study at Viterbo College, La Crosse, Wisconsin. The school was so small that even many Americans had never heard about it. Several months later, I was informed that I had won a government scholarship, and that if I wanted to, I could transfer to a state University. I refused—being used to and enjoying the courses at Viterbo College.

I always wondered why I got such a rare scholarship when there were so many smarter applicants. At that time, young people were very shy and dependent on their families. My father hoped that by not going with me to the consular office, he would discourage me from
applying, so I went by myself and spoke on my own behalf. And I guess this helped me win a scholarship.

Some Vietnamese went to big universities like Fordham, Loyola, Georgetown: I was sent to a tiny college, the name of which was even strange to local people. The college was run by Franciscan Sisters; Viterbo was a village in Italy, the home of their patron St. Rose. The college was first only for religious students. When I arrived in May 1951, it was only the second year the college was open to lay people. We comprised 100 female students and all were female too. The majority of teachers were female and religious sisters although all possessed academic titles.

VITERBO LIFE
As I was Viterbo’s first foreign student, all the teachers tried their best to contribute to my education. Students living in town took me home and I became the point of exotic attraction of the whole town. Besides a Chinese family running a restaurant and myself, there was a Japanese war bride who was lonely because she did not speak English. Some good-will ladies wanted to bring us together, not realizing that we spoke three different languages. At the time, all Asians were considered the same for Westerners and vice versa. A year later, three more foreign students arrived: a mainland Chinese, a Venezuelan, a Puerto Rican girl. Then came Lillie, the first African-American student from the South. I was deeply touched by Lillie’s stories on racial discrimination. As Lillie was more at ease with us, we incorporated her into our little international family of which I became the big sister. Forty years ago this international experience was quite an event for our tiny college. Personally I learned much from sharing with people of different cultures. We were all the more close to one another since we spent the summers together.

At Viterbo, my English classes for foreign students were so much fun that I picked up spoken English very fast. After the summer, I was ready to sit in regular classes. Studies suddenly became an easy game.

At first I was completely lost with the lengthy group discussion in sociology where the teacher no longer dictated what should be done. Worse, in a social problems course, the teacher just took up the introductory part and each of the students had to choose one problem area, read materials and lecture to the class. I cried so much because I just could not understand such a strange role reversal. Why didn’t the teacher do her work, and how could I go to her desk and teach at her place? And I was still so limited in English compared to the American students that I feared I would have low grades. With much understanding and patience, the teacher said I could be the last to report so that I could have a longer time to prepare. To everybody’s surprise, at the end of the course I did well, because during the whole semester, I was always concerned with the problem assigned to me and, as a result, I collected a lot of material and devoted much thinking to it. Now I can’t teach my students in any other way than with those participatory methods. Even in 1997 in Vietnam, these techniques are considered great innovations in education.

And why did I choose sociology as a major? I left Vietnam determined to become a diplomat, but a special meeting changed the course of my life. I and three other students went to America via Paris. Mr. Tran Huu Phuong, a member of the Catholic Scholarship committee, met us at the Orly airport. He asked us what we planned to take up. My three friends replied
education. When I said I wanted to become a diplomat, Phuong said, “Vietnamese people will need you in Vietnam, not outside the country. Why don’t you study sociology, a new science that could help Vietnam’s development?”

I hadn’t the slightest idea what sociology was but kept his suggestion in mind. The college advised me to take time to try both sociology and education and make up my mind later. It did not take me long, however. I didn’t know if this was due to the course content, methods, or the teachers’ personalities. In education classes, we seemed to have to fit our mind into a ready-made frame, while in sociology, the more we asked questions, explored and analyzed, the more the teachers seemed to be pleased. I still remember one education teacher getting cross when the students asked too many questions.

**MAKING CHOICES**

I quickly made up my mind for sociology, which made my father unhappy because he thought the major was “for priests and nuns doing charity work.” Poor father who dreamt about my becoming a doctor, a pharmacist, a lawyer, then an agricultural engineer. He was once more disappointed. Still, becoming a diplomat was even better than a sociologist! And it was impossible, from America, to explain to my father what sociology was. I felt lucky to have decided to remain at Viterbo because studying sociology there was the turning point for my present career. The head of the Sociology Department, also in charge of Student Affairs, was an exceptional person. She became one of the important actors to have shaped my personality. Her name was Sister Mary Roderick Chisholm.

Sister Mary Roderick had received her Ph.D. at the Catholic University of America, and she was more than a teacher of sociological theories and concepts. She was also a great practitioner as well as an educator and counselor.

Sister Mary Roderick had drawn up a well-rounded educational plan for me. Besides the required courses, she advised me to take music (choir), art (ceramics) and home economics as electives. Then they were relaxing; now they help me enjoy aging.

I was put on committees for extra curricular activities like any American girl. I was taught to plan my work yearly, monthly, weekly, daily and I became a planning addict even in these later years of my life. Thanks to that training, I have helped many young Vietnamese to organize their work more effectively.

Because I had a good background in French literature, the sophomore English course, world literature, was too easy so I received credits for it without attending classes. Instead, the English Department encouraged me to write articles for *Touchstone*, the college magazine. I did several, and to the joy of the whole college and the Vietnamese student community, one of my articles won the first prize in the 1953-1954 Catholic Press Association writing contest for students. My article “Getting Back to the Roots,” dealt with uniformity in thinking and in everyday life as a result of mass production and commercials. It was no big effort for me because I was literally shocked by American consumerism and the lack of originality. One time I bought a dress in La Crosse and when I wore it to take a walk I met three other people dressed exactly like me. What astonished me more though was the fact that my classmates had such a hard time with essay type exams because they were so used to the objective true-false tests.

The most humorous fact is that right now in Vietnam, my articles do not differ much from what I wrote in that article some 40 years ago. Writing for *Touchstone* became the starting
point of partial occupation for me throughout my life and work in Vietnam. I’ve collaborated with different newspapers, magazines and organized our own professional magazine from the mid fifties until the present.

Speech was a required course given by a beautiful and elegant lay teacher. I also enjoyed it. But again Sister Celestine Cepress, the English Department head, did not let me stop there. She coached me for radio broadcasting and public speaking outside the college. At another international school event, she helped me to prepare a talk on Vietnam. In the middle of the speech, just looking at the audience full of important looking and smartly dressed people, I got into a panic. My knees started to shake, but luckily they were covered by my long Vietnamese tunic. Suddenly, I saw Sister Celestine in the audience, pale and tense, moving her lips to remind me of what I should say next because she knew my speech even better than I. The situation was so funny that I started laughing and got over my panic. And I am also thankful for this experience.

The first five years after the 1975 Revolution were really hard. The great majority of Saigon University graduates were unemployed. The most painful feeling though was that one could not do anything useful for society. When the Youth Cultural Center asked me to train young people in public speaking, I accepted right away and was thankful for having been so systematically trained before at Viterbo.

Belonging to a rather well-to-do family, I never did any house work. I didn’t even wash my own clothes. Although the scholarship covered everything, Viterbo arranged for me to do part-time work to get my pocket money. I first worked in a hospital dressing room. I also got some money by going along with my friends to do babysitting. I recall a big story about a young high school girl who was kidnapped while babysitting (Evelyn Hartley, a Central High School student). From then on, the La Crosse families always paid for two people, and I became a regular babysitter assistant.

Only once I had to give up my job. It was when I worked in the hospital cancer ward. Every day I had to feed three or four dying old ladies. I became so depressed that I could no longer eat and sleep. Everytime I closed my eyes I saw the dying faces. It was too overwhelming for my age.

I was transferred then to the college library where I learned to do things from scratch: dusting the shelves, putting borrowed books back in at the right places, managing the library desk, typing library cards, classifying books.

BACK HOME
I left Vietnam without any practical skills and came back completely changed: I could clean the house, wash dishes (I used to wash dishes at summer camps with 60-70 people), care for the sick, do library work. People around observed with much admiration: “She can even type with her ten fingers.” My father seemed to be quite satisfied with these changes besides the degree in sociology!

When the first batch of American trained graduates returned to Vietnam, they were mocked by their French trained predecessors and colleagues as people having only practical skills and no theoretical knowledge. We replied that the French trained people only talked, but did not know how to work.
For myself, I am lucky to be a mixed product of both French and American education and most of all to have fallen into that tiny, unknown school, Viterbo, where everybody concentrated their efforts on me. In a larger university, I could have never attracted so much attention and care.

Ten years later, when I sent my niece to Viterbo there were already 500 students and I felt lost when I went to visit her, although I was received like a homecoming queen. My relationship with the college was interrupted only in 1975 when the Revolution broke out.

A Musical Gift: Viterbo College Music Major Beth Parker Gives of Herself so Others Can Enjoy Her Passion

“To reach them and to teach them.”

That was the goal of Viterbo College senior music major Beth Parker when she began her duties as volunteer director of the five-member Riverfront Singers a little over a year ago.

That goal, and much more, has been realized as Parker and her charges have not only expanded to 20 members, but also have been invited to perform at many community events, which says something for their musical ability.

Not bad for a group of singers who have only been at it for a year.

But to know just how much Parker and this group has accomplished, one has to go back a year to when the Riverfront Singers were formed. You see, this isn’t your typical singing group, and Parker knew that going in.

“There was a posting on the music floor (in the Viterbo College Fine Arts Center) asking for someone interested in working with people with developmental or severe physical disabilities, so I called,” Parker said. “When I started, singing was just a part of the weekly activities at Riverfront. We then decided to get more organized and do some concerts. I knew it would be challenging, but it was a great opportunity to teach something I love to a group that was so willing to learn.”

That’s when the real story begins.

Referred to by many as a group that has come together much like the one in “Sister Act,” a movie starring Whoopi Goldberg about a faux nun on the lam who turns an inner-city high school group into the state’s top singing group, the Riverfront Singers have come together out of a shared love of music and a desire to sing.

They haven’t set their minds on being the best in the state, they have committed themselves to being the best they can be. And that’s okay with Parker.

“Our main goal is to just have fun,” said Parker, who recently finished a semester at Longfellow Middle School as a student teacher of choir and general music. “A year ago, they were timid. Now, they feel like they are a part of a special choir.”
They’re just that to Parker, who had to learn how to reach each group member, which wasn’t an easy task at first.

“When I first started, I came in looking at it technically,” Parker said. “I was looking for perfect pitch and rhythm. It didn’t take me long to realize that wasn’t going to happen.”

That’s when Parker changed things. It was at that time that she began to see an amazing transformation.

“It’s laid back now and I’ve looked at it in a whole different light,” Parker said. “Once I let back, they trusted me and let me in and we’ve gotten so much better. It’s not about awards and grades here. People are here to express themselves in the music. When they could relax, that’s when the pitch and the rhythm started to come.”

Pam Solberg, Director of Development at Riverfront, said she saw the transformation and cannot say enough about Parker’s commitment to the Riverfront Singers.

“We are wonderfully blessed to have her here,” Solberg said. “She respects and enjoys the people for who they are and has the ability to bring out everything they can be. That’s a unique gift.”

“It’s really amazing that a college student is willing to take on a volunteer commitment of this size,” she added. “It says a lot about her, but also about Viterbo College and the values they promote.”

While Parker has turned a group of people with disabilities into quite the singing group in her tenure as volunteer director, it’s not the only thing she has achieved. Along the way, the group gained confidence and self-esteem, which for most, was missing from their lives, and that’s special for Parker.

“It’s great,” she said. “It’s neat to see that we can do this and have more confidence. It gives them something to be proud of, to brag about. Singing gives them something to hold onto.”

And for Parker?

“It gives me the best feeling inside,” she said. “They give me so much. They can get me in a good mood quicker than anything.

“And for a music teacher to hear ‘we couldn’t do this without you,’ and ‘you taught me how to sing,’ well, that’s the greatest thing.”

**ON CAMPUS**

*Magazine ranks Viterbo first in region, second in nation in graduation performance rate*

The news is out. Viterbo College is ranked number one among regional Midwest universities and liberal arts colleges in its graduation performance rate. The graduation performance rate indicator, is designed to capture the effect of a college’s programs and policies on the graduation rate of students.
According to *U.S. News & World Report*, Viterbo not only ranks first in the Midwest among regional institutions with a graduation performance rate of 83 percent, it also ranks number two in the nation among other regional institutions, second only to Villanova University (Penn.), which has a graduation performance rate of 86 percent.

A score is determined by measuring the difference between a school’s six-year graduation rate for the class that entered in 1991 and the predicted rate for the class.

Dr. William Medland, president of Viterbo College, says the survey released August 31, demonstrates Viterbo College’s commitment to the success of its students. “This is a tribute to our faculty, our programs and our policies, which are geared toward assisting students in achieving their goal of graduation.

“The ranking is indicative of the person-centered, learning-focused education offered at Viterbo College,” Medland added.

Viterbo has received national recognition on several occasions during this decade. In 1993, the college was included in the top quartile among liberal arts colleges as a “best buy” for quality and cost by *U.S. News and World Report*. Several years later, the Templeton Foundation recognized Viterbo as an institution which emphasized character building, and in 1996, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* cited Viterbo as one of the fastest growing institutions in the Midwest.

**Enrollment continues record climb**

The number of students attending Viterbo College stands at 2,098, representing the culmination of a decade-long trend of historic enrollments.

Record enrollments for fall semester were posted for undergraduate, graduate and total enrollments. These figures are reported by the registrar’s office as the official statistics used for state and federal reporting purposes.

Total enrollment has increased from 1,067 students reported in 1988, to the 2,098 figure reported for the fall 1998 semester. The number of full-time students is at 1,396, more than double the 652 figure of a decade ago.

This record setting momentum began ten years ago and the breathtaking enrollment ascent has been non-stop.

Viterbo was cited two years ago in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of the fastest growing colleges in the Midwest. The Office of Admission attributes much of the growth to the ability of the college to attract students from a wider geographic region.

Increase aside, all new students were able to be housed in Viterbo residences. The completion of Rose Terrace, a 96-student, apartment-style complex has provided the additional overall capacity needed for housing all students. In previous years, the college was forced to relieve overcrowding by using motels.

Despite the many advantages associated with the increases in enrollment, college officials warn that a leveling off is not only expected, but desired.
“Unless we create additional classroom space, our on-campus full-time enrollment has stabilized and must be capped,” William Medland, president, said this fall. “In fact, we may be projecting some decreases in the number of on-campus students due to capacity problems. The reality is that we neither expected nor desire to continue this unprecedented expansion which has been virtually non-stop since 1988.

“Our niche is to provide students with an individualized education in an environment which stimulates personal and intellectual growth. Being the ‘right size’ is imperative for our concept of living and learning.”

Medland indicated that in the academic area, classroom space was created as a result of several campus remodeling projects, which added four additional classrooms.

Fueling the prolonged period of growth has been strong enrollment in pre-med, education, theatre, nursing, and the newly added social work and criminal justice majors. Viterbo has also successfully recruited a larger percentage of students from outside the local area, which has increased the pool of students.

**Street closings make campus safer**

Viterbo College is a step closer to its vision of providing more green space and safer walkways for its students.

On the first day of the fall semester, students found it a little easier than usual to cross the streets in front of Murphy Center, the Student Activities Center, Rose Terrace and Marian Hall.

That’s because sections of Ninth and Winnebago Streets adjacent to the Viterbo College campus were closed to vehicle traffic just days before classes began.

The closings, technically called street vacations, were approved by the La Crosse City Council in July after committee review and a public hearing. The vacations affected the 800 block of Ninth Street and the 800 block of Winnebago.

According to Dr. William Medland, president of Viterbo College, the petition to vacate the streets was prompted by several issues.

“The area in question has an abundance of pedestrian traffic from Viterbo students and area grade school children,” Medland said. “There have been a number of ‘near misses’ and the danger of serious accidents occurring in this vicinity was very high.

“We also will be able to enhance security for all involved as easier patrolling and more defined and unified boundaries will result from the street closing.”

Prior to petitioning the city, college officials sent letters to neighbors explaining the request. “We heard from a few neighbors who had some questions, but the overall response was very favorable,” Medland said. “Although our primary motivation was to promote improved safety and security, there is also an opportunity which we will be looking at later, to beautify the area by increasing green space and adding walking areas.”

**Vietnam memories: Do you have one**
The spring issue of *Strides* will contain coverage of the February symposium Re-telling the Stories of Vietnam. The current student body possesses little information or knowledge about this very traumatic era in American history. Now 25 years later, the scene, both domestic and overseas is revisited.

*Strides* readers, particularly those on campus during the Vietnam era, do you have a story to share? How do you remember the war and how did the conflict affect your Viterbo experience? Send us a note and picture if you have one, and we’ll include many of these observations in the next magazine.

Send to: *Strides*, 815 South Ninth Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601. Better yet, if you have access to e-mail, send your memory to: PGKerrigan@mail.viterbo.edu.

**Viterbo Fine Arts foyers/lobby lighting project completed**

The Viterbo College Fine Arts Center is a much brighter place, thanks to Janet Hoeschler, a local arts benefactor.

Hoeschler’s leading gift was used to complete a lighting project in both FAC foyers and to add new fixtures in the lobby and stairwells to allow lighting levels to be changed. Other aesthetic and safety improvements were included in the $100,000-plus project.

“We are very grateful to Janet for providing the lead portion of this gift,” said Kenna Christians, Viterbo College Vice President of Institutional Advancement. “The renovated areas are used on hundreds of occasions by numerous groups and the improvements are going to allow us much more flexibility in scheduling events.”

The areas in question have not been changed since the building was completed in 1971.

“People will immediately appreciate the added beauty and brightness,” Christians said, “and from a safety perspective, entering and exiting the main theatre has been made much more secure and comfortable.”

**Former Viterbo president returns to promote Vision 2005 and Ethics in Leadership Institute**

The former president of Viterbo College, Rev. J. Thomas Finucan, will be returning to campus to help promote Vision 2005 and the newly formed D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership.

The new position, Assistant to the president for Vision 2005, is part-time. During Finucan’s tenure (1970-80) at Viterbo, the college became co-educational, began athletics, and the first major capital campaign was initiated. The enrollment of lay students also grew dramatically during the Finucan era.

“I’m delighted to welcome Father Finucan to this new appointment,” said William J. Medland, president of Viterbo. “Father Finucan has many contacts in our community and he will be a superb goodwill ambassador promoting the new institute and the Vision 2005 priorities which Viterbo is establishing for the new millennium.”

Kenna Christians, vice president for Institutional Advancement echoed similar sentiments.

“Many friends of Viterbo remember Father Finucan, and he will be an excellent person to help us tie together elements of the past, present and future,” she said.
One of Father Finucan’s first assignments, Christians said, will be to work in tandem with Viterbo’s Office of Institutional Advancement to raise additional funds for the endowment and programs which will be offered by the institute named in honor of the late D.B. Reinhart, a philanthropist and highly successful La Crosse-based businessman.

“We have plans to promote both our unique ethics-across-the-curriculum program and also institute workshops pertaining to ethics in leadership which will be applicable to a variety of business situations,” Medland said. “Father Finucan also will be sharing information regarding these proposals with our donors.”

Although it has been over 28 years since Finucan’s presidency officially ended, he says he is ready for his new role.

“It’s a real honor and delight to continue as a part of Viterbo College and to be supportive of the work of Dr. Medland and the many others who are part of the mission,” Finucan said.

Cambodian poet recalls horror of killing fields

The much publicized Killing Fields of the 70s and the atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge upon the innocents of Cambodia, revealed a society unraveling amid human cruelty and depravity that seemingly had no bounds. Poet U Sam Ohur recalled those times for Viterbo students in a November visit to campus. Over 2 million Cambodians lost their lives to the killing regime led by the notorious Pol Pot.

Ohur, who now lives in the Twin Cities, was also a victim, albeit a living one. After receiving his MFA from the University of Iowa in 1968, Ohur returned to Cambodia where he and his family were routed from the capital city of Phnom Penh to a four year existence in six different concentration camps. He survived the sure death afforded intellectuals by feigning illiteracy, burning his college thesis, destroying his glasses, and smearing water buffalo dung on his face and clothes in order to pass himself off as a bumpkin. When the Khmer Rouge would give him papers to read, he would turn them upside down and frown.

All this couldn’t save his newborn twin daughters who were ripped from his wife’s womb and strangled by camp officials who resented the potential loss of productivity.

He recited first in English, then chanted in his native Khmer portions of the “Loss of My Twins”:
Cringing as if I’d entered Hell,
I took the babies in my arms and carried them to the bank of the Mekong River.
Staring at the moon, I howled.

The emotion in the Viterbo class clearly registered. Ohur’s eyewitness account made it impossible for most students to relegate to Cambodian massacre to a historical footnote concerning man’s inhumanity to one another.

“Students connected on a real emotional level,” Sister Anita Beskar (Global Education) said. “The level of suffering he was talking about is unbelievable. To have students hear a first-hand account and to make a connection is all part of going beyond just the intellectual understanding.”

Prominent theologian lectures at Viterbo
The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy arm of Wisconsin’s Roman Catholic bishops, and the Department of Religious Studies at Viterbo College sponsored a public policy lecture Sept. 23 featuring the Rev. Augustine Di Noia, O.P.

Father Di Noia spoke on, “Public Policy Implications of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Programs.” He is the Executive Director of the Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C.

“Health care policies affect Catholics as advocates for the poor, as providers of services, and as employers, who purchase healthcare for their employees and these policy debates have moral and ethical considerations,” explained WCC Executive Director John Huebscher. “These facts make this a most appropriate time to discuss the policy implications of the Ethical and Religious Directives.”

Rev. Di Noia’s lecture was followed by responses from Dr. Glenn Forbes, President of Franciscan Skemp Healthcare in La Crosse, and Char Baier, Patient Care Director for Surgery at Franciscan Skemp Health Care.

**Viterbo and La Crosse Diocese to offer “The Next Step”**

How do lay Catholics become more active in church leadership positions or extend their faith in meaningful ways to their existing careers in professions such as healthcare, business or law?

That question was one of many which prompted a unique collaboration between Viterbo College and the Diocese of La Crosse to offer a new program called “The Next Step.”

This newest pastoral education program, which is targeted at working adults, will meet at St. Joseph Parish Center in Black River Falls one Saturday per month for the next two years. The program started in January.

“This is really an exciting development,” said Tom Thibodeau, chair of the Religious Studies Department at Viterbo. “With the declining number of priests and religious, lay Catholics now have the challenge and opportunity to take some responsibility for the work of the church in partnership with the ordained and professed religious.”

Thibodeau predicted that “The Next Step” would be an attractive program for professionals or others who already have bachelor and graduate degrees and are seeking a “second career.”

“There will be a lot of energy driving this program,” he said.

**Oxfam America - Viterbo students fast for world hunger**

Over 250,000 children die each week from hunger-related causes. And only 10 percent of these deaths are the result of famine; the other 90 percent are caused by chronic malnutrition.

In response to these astounding statistics, a number of Viterbo students joined the Oxfam America campaign for world hunger and poverty on Nov. 23, 1998, to dine on a noon meal of white rice. A portion of the money that would have been spent on food they are more accustomed to was donated to Oxfam.
In addition to raising money for food relief, sponsors of the fast wanted the day to also be educational and at the evening meal, students were able to buy a ticket which admitted them to a “World Banquet.”

Selected by lottery, approximately 15 percent of the group was served a full-course “gourmet meal.”

Another 30 percent received rice and beans, and the 55 percent were allocated rice and water. The distribution was the means for dramatizing the unequal distribution of global resources.

The fast was sponsored by Campus Ministry and the Peace and Justice Committee. Proceeds were given to Oxfam which distributes food aid in areas of need worldwide.

**Ready for play**

Dr. William J. Medland says a few words during the dedication of the new Viterbo College Outdoor Athletic Complex before the men’s soccer team played Marycrest International University in the Midwest Classic Conference Tournament semifinals on Nov. 4, 1998. Pictured from left to right are: Vice Presidents Sister Jean Moore, Todd Ericson, men’s soccer coach Bruce Erickson, Medland, Sister Marlene Weisenbeck, representing the board of directors, and women’s soccer player Becky Aderman.

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**PHILANTHROPY NOTES**

**Community answers S.O.S. distress call**

When the distress call went out to help the Viterbo Fine Arts Department Save Our Steinways, Gloria Vallejo and her committee—Fe Abellera and Jan Brock, co-chairs, Barbara Rice, Sandra Locher, Julie Noll, Janet Virata and honorary chair Mary Funk—were there to volunteer their help.

The problem facing the group was to raise an estimated $40,000 to repair several Steinway pianos in the Fine Arts Center, ranging from minor repairs to complete overhauls.

“It’s a big expense,” said Deb Stover, Director of Development for Fine Arts at Viterbo. “We look at it as an investment. They are a big asset to the music program not only for their value, but because they are enjoyed by so many people at Viterbo events.”

The committee got a good start on Sept. 11, 1998, when 80 people attended a fund-raiser that started out with wine and hors d’oeuvres at the residence of Mario and Fe Abellera.

From there, the group was served an exquisite dinner, prepared by volunteer chefs from the Radisson under the direction of executive chef Judy Danielson, at the homes of Mariel Carlisle, Bill and Doris Skemp, George and Sallye Sanders, and John Cochran and Margaret Grenisen.

Then it was time for dessert and entertainment back at the Fine Arts Center lobby. A mousse-filled chocolate grand piano with a raspberry and vanilla glaze was served while the group was entertained by the Viterbo music faculty.
When it was all said and done, more than $4,000 was raised at the event for the cause, which increased the total amount to $10,000.

**Viterbo Arts For Young America secures support**

The popular Arts for Young America program at Viterbo College received some very good news last fall when Ronald McDonald House of Charities of Western Wisconsin, Inc. signed on as the series sponsor for the 1998-99 season.

“Ronald McDonald House of Charities of Western Wisconsin, Inc.’s gift of $10,000 to support our school and family series is a tremendous boost to our program,” said Michael Ranscht, coordinator of Arts for Young America. “It represents an ideal corporate sponsorship of the arts, and will help us keep ticket prices within the reach of families with school age children.”

The Arts for Young America program at Viterbo is in its third year and according to Ranscht, attendance has exceeded original expectations. He said many schools brought entire grade levels to attend selected performances.

“Last year, more than 15,000 students and family members attended such shows as “The Magic Bus” and “To Kill a Mockingbird,” Ranscht said. “More than 3,500 attended our performances of “Frog and Toad.”

The success of the series—and the demand for high quality, live performances for youth—are the reasons Ronald McDonald House of Charities agreed to be a major sponsor of the series.

**A BIG call**

Whether you are a Packer or Viking fan, Viterbo phonathon callers knew enough not to contact alumni during gametime. That strategy must have paid off, because by the time the phonathon pledge drive reached the goal line, over $94,000 in donations were made by 2,079 alumni.

While there is plenty of credit to go around, Barry Fried, phonathon director chose to recognize the alumni for this most recent success. “Most of our former students say they really value and appreciate the time they spent at the college.

Although Viterbo may be a small part in the total life-span of our alumni, it is in many cases a life-changing experience. It makes you feel very good to hear these kinds of messages.”

**SPORTS CORNER**

**Men’s soccer team enjoys banner year**

Something great happened to the Viterbo College men’s soccer team in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year for the V-Hawks.

They accomplished things that went well beyond anyone’s expectations, including head coach Bruce Erickson’s.
“The guys really pulled it together,” said Erickson, whose team finished 13-6-1. “It was just an amazing season. It says a lot for a team that started seven freshmen at times.”

And the winning season was only the tip of the iceberg. For the second straight year, the V-Hawks finished a perfect 6-0 in the Midwest Classic Conference, taking the regular-season crown.

And for the third straight year, Erickson was named MCC Coach of the Year.

But the icing on the cake was a history-making event for Viterbo College. In the men’s soccer program’s 19-year history, no V-Hawk team had ever won both the regular-season conference title and the tournament title in the same year. That is until 1998, when the V-Hawks took both.

“At the beginning of the season I wanted to be in this position, and as always, it was our goal, but I never would have imagined it,” Erickson said. “It’s a great accomplishment.”

That probably doesn’t surprise some soccer aficionados, but to some, the mere fact that the V-Hawks accomplished so much, despite starting with an 0-3 record, is very surprising.

But it probably does surprise those same people that the V-Hawks are getting it done with a mostly freshman lineup.

Now, that’s not a knock against younger players, but everybody knows that a roster that is freshman heavy usually doesn’t have that much success until they have played together a year or two. Luckily for Erickson, the V-Hawks are the exception to the rule.

The freshmen are only a part of the success story for Erickson and the V-Hawks. As a team, Viterbo not only enjoyed the conference and tournament titles, they also gained an automatic bid to the Midwest Region Tournament. Unfortunately for the V-Hawks, the season came to an abrupt end as they lost 5-1 to Lindenwood University in St. Louis.

“What an unbelievable run,” Erickson said.

New baseball coach brings history, experience to V-Hawks

Dale Varsho comes from a long line of talented baseball players. His father was a major leaguer, and so was his brother.

Now the Viterbo College baseball team will have the fortunes of that blood line as Varsho became the new V-Hawks coach in August.

But that’s not the only reason he was hired.

Varsho has some accomplishments of his own, both as a player for UW-Oshkosh and as a coach for UW-River Falls.

In two years at River Falls, Varsho had a 33-32 record. In 1998, his team finished in fifth place in the WIAC with a 6-8 record, while in 1997, the Falcons were 6-6, good for third place in the four-team Northern Division.
“We hired a very talented coach in Dale Varsho,” said Viterbo Director of Athletics Bruce Erickson. “I think he not only has coaching ability in a quality league like the WIAC, but he also will fit in extremely well in the athletic department.”

How does Varsho feel about his new job?

“I am very excited to be here. It seems like a perfect fit.” Varsho said. “I want to build on a program that has had some great success.”

That success was due mostly to Sean McDermott, who stepped down to accept an assistant coaching job at the University of Illinois-Chicago, an NCAA Division I program. McDermott led the V-Hawks to a 24-24 record in 1998, and a fourth-place finish in the NAIA Midwest Regional tournament in Quincy, Ill. In three seasons, the V-Hawks were 74-72 under McDermott.

“Sean is a good coach and left this program in great condition,” Varsho said. “I just want to build on what he already has in place. A lot of people would like to be in my shoes because of the state of the program. There is a great facility and a good recruiting class.”

ALUMNI NOW

Wisconsin Teacher of the Year is Viterbo grad

The students at Gibraltar Elementary School in Fish Creek were jumping for joy in October when they learned sixth-grade teacher Lauren Mittermann was named Wisconsin Teacher of the Year by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

They weren’t the only ones.

Closer to home, Susan Batell and the other members of the Viterbo College Master of Education program were elated and felt proud to have one of their former students receive such an honor.

Mitterman, a 1994 graduate of Viterbo College’s Master of Education program, was named Wisconsin’s Middle School Teacher of the Year for 1998-99. That, in turn, made her one of four finalists in the Wisconsin Teacher of the Year competition. From there, she received Wisconsin’s top honor.

“I believe this recognition is a reflection of the excellent graduate degree program offered by Viterbo,” Mitterman said. “In ‘Mission of Teaching’ with Tom Thibodeau and Sister Laurian, I came to appreciate what it means to be a teacher.

“A special thank you to Viterbo College for providing the inspiration, leadership and support which empowers teachers to achieve their goals.”

Mittermann will represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year competition, to be held in April 1999.

Batell, an instructor in Viterbo College’s graduate program, remembers Mittermann as a pleasant student who worked very hard.
“I remember Lauren as a very talented, focused student,” Batell said. “She did outstanding work in our graduate classes. I am not at all surprised that she was chosen as Wisconsin Teacher of the Year. It is a well deserved award.”

Mitterman isn’t the only alum of Viterbo’s graduate program to receive a good report card. Sue Blair ’97, who is a K-12 physical education instructor at Orchard Place Campus School in Des Moines, was named “1997-98 Adaptive Physical Education Teacher of the Year.” Meanwhile, Chris Stevenson, ’96, an Independence, Iowa French teacher, was one of two instructors selected for “The Best of Iowa” award for her presentation at the annual Iowa Foreign Language Association Conference in Des Moines.

This dog is woman’s best friend

When Mary (Walton) Johnson ’76 had heart surgery in 1996, her doctors said it might be a good idea to get a dog for companionship and for the long healing process she faced.

Johnson, 44, who graduated from Viterbo College with a nursing degree, had read studies about how heart patients who have the companionship of a dog live longer and recuperate faster, so she embraced the idea.

“I had wanted a dog and my cardiologist said there was scientific proof that dogs helped heart patients live longer, so we got a dog,” Johnson said. “At the time, I didn’t know ‘Heart Therapy Dogs International’ existed.”

But now she does, and that’s where the real story begins.

Johnson said she had read an article about dogs that could warn heart patients about impending dangers, such as chest pains, irregular heart beats, high blood pressure and even mini strokes.

That article referred to “Heart Therapy Dogs International,” a nonprofit foundation promoting heart care founded by Sy Elliott in Laguna Hills, Calif.

Heart Therapy Dogs International’s sole purpose, according to company literature is to “register qualified canine applicants as service dogs that benefit their heart-patient owners by walking them, loving them and training them.”

That article changed Johnson’s life. Her scheltie Cheyenne’s life was about to change as well.

“I called to inquire about it and it was just so neat,” Johnson said. “My only concern was would they be able to train Cheyenne to do the wonderful things these other dogs were doing.”

The answer was yes, and now Johnson has a fully-trained Heart Service Dog in Cheyenne. She said she can’t even count the number of times her dog has warned her about heart episodes.

“Cheyenne is just a little doll, a real angel,” Johnson said. “She warns me before I have a heart episode—light-headedness, blood pressure change, etc. She does it in all places, no matter what I’m doing or where I am.”
1960
S. Joyce Blum ’63 was named to the Women Religious Leadership Team in September 1998. There are seven women who coordinate activities for nearly 300 different religious congregations in the Diocese of Tucson.

Juanita (Lash) Madland ’63 won the Piano Concert Contest for the State of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She played Beethoven’s Emperor Concerto.

S. Mary Peter Prince ’64 recently celebrated her 60th Jubilee as a sister with the Servants of Mary, Ladysmith.

Kathleen (Purpora) Forslund ’66 received the Excellence in Administration Award for Outstanding Leadership May 7, 1998 from the Diocese of La Crosse Department of Education.

Sandra (Ray) Coorough ’68 is the owner of Coorough & Associates, Corp., doing geriatric care management.

1970
Loretta Kimmet-Mobley ’71 is celebrating 25 years at 3M as Quality Engineer in the Chemical Division.

Rebecca (Hommer) Johnson ’74 is the Public Health Division Manager for Menomonee County Human Services.

Arlene (Baumler) Smith ’74 recently received her master’s degree in professional development from UW-La Crosse.

S. Patricia Tekippe ’74 has been named Information and Resource Manager for the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, based in Saint Paul. The MCBW links more than 80 agencies throughout the state to improve resources available for women and children escaping domestic violence.

Connie (Barr) Delaney ’75 was named Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. In September 1998 she was awarded the Rosella Schotfeldt Award for Leadership by the Midwest Alliance in Nursing, the Midwest 13 state consortium representing nurse educators, researchers and administrators.

Ann (Zittel) Moore ’75 attended the Disney Institute’s Leadership Excellence Business Seminar June 1998. The focus was on evaluating what one values in a leader, the skills leaders exhibit and identifying the behaviors which either enhance or detract from leadership skills.

Judith (Otteson) ’76 and Richard Dowd celebrated the birth of a son, Benjamin Caleb, June 19, 1998. He joins his 5 brothers and 4 sisters at home.


Janet Mead ’76 married David Campana September 1998. She received a graduate degree from Syracuse University and is employed as a nurse practitioner at the Alaska Heart Clinic.

Karen Clark-Stone’77 is the Co-coordinator of the Substance Abuse Program at the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Virginia.
Lisa (Skemp) Kelley ’77 is currently a Nursing Ph.D. student at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. She spent the summer doing ethnographic research on elder status and care systems in St. Lucia, West Indies. The research was funded by the Landes Foundation of New York City.

Marilyn Omernick ’77 is receiving her Masters of Divinity from the Clarmont School of Divinity.

Karolee (Hogden) Sowle ’77 is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Rosemary (Merschman) ’78 and Tom Deutsch are the owners of Tom’s Family Pharmacy in New Hampton, Iowa.

Nicholas Narloch ’79 received the 1998 Outstanding Vocal Music Director Award from the Wisconsin School Music Association. Nick directs the choirs at Marathon High School, and a youth choir at St. Mary’s Parish, Marathon.

1980

Sheila (Scholze) Bolduan ’80 has been re-certified as a Certified Nutritional Support Nurse.

Mary K. Brandt ’80 married Paul Beal September 5, 1998.

Theresa (Messerschmidt) ’80 and Scott Smerud celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emma Clare, May 6, 1998. She joins siblings Anna, Aidan, and twins Quinlan and Kristian at home.

Sara (Dregne) Deters ’81 began working for Tweeten Lutheran Home Life Options as a home health care nurse in July 1997.

Marsha (Roach) Konichek ’81 received certification as a hospice nurse.

Christopher Mashuda ’81 recently began teaching classroom music, band and chorus at Hiawatha Elementary School in Minneapolis. He taught 2nd grade this summer.

Georgina (Metzer) ’81 and Milo Sampson celebrated the birth of a son, George Thomas, August 17, 1997. He joins sister Samantha at home.

Susan (Prindle) Bock ’82 will be pursuing her Nurse Practitioner degree from UW-Madison in January 1999.

Tammi L. Miller-Solomon ’82 received her Master of Business Administration in Executive Management June 1998 from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management.

Judy (Schmieder) ’83 and Doug Harpenau celebrated the birth of a son, Benjamin, May 20, 1998. He joins siblings Alex and Stephanie at home.

Janice (Meier) ’83 and Jim Gordon celebrated the birth of a son, Anthony Phillip, March 18, 1998. They recently purchased a new home in New Auburn, Wis.

Carrie A. (Johnson) Skifton ’83 recently began working as the Director of Patient Care Services for the Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota.

Jean (Wells) Porrett ’83 received her Masters in Public Health from UW-La Crosse December 1997. She married James Porrett February 1996.

Laura (Goltz) ’84 and Chris Cole live in Salem, Ore. where Chris is the associate director of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. They have two children, Lisa, 4 and Eleanor, 1.
Laurie and Jonathon Earp ’84 celebrated the birth of a son, Dylan George-Ringo Earp, December 23, 1998. He joins sister Erin Rae at home.

Debbie (Whitrick) Keil ’84 was selected for Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers 1998.

Michelle (Weiss) ’84 and Tom Klassen celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel, April 13, 1998. He joins sister Abbey at home.

Sue Ann (Davis) Mitley ’84 recently started a new business called Wall Art. She paints murals that feature children’s art for day care centers, nurseries, playrooms, and hospitals.

Julie (Sarazin) ’84 and Rod Van Dunk celebrated the birth of a son, Nolan Richard, April 9, 1998. He joins sister Afton Marie at home.

Debra Schiffer ’84 received her master’s degree in Health Care Administration May 1998.

Debra L Ferguson ’85 married Dean Mangold September 9, 1997.

Debbie Schiffer ’84 received her master’s degree in Health Care Administration May 1998.

Lisa (Foellmi) ’85 and Thomas Adams celebrated the birth of a son, Maxwell Kenneth, May 19, 1998. He joins sister Lydia Rose at home.

Mary Kay and John Kolhoven ’85 will be teaching in Helsinki, Finland in September 1998.


Laura (Anderson) Pine ’85 recently began working as a Cardio/Vascular/Transplant Research Coordinator for the Sentara Norfolk General Hospital in Norfolk.

JoAnn (Oedsma) ’85 and Richard T. Reinholdt celebrated the birth of a son, Michael Stanley April 28, 1998. He joins brother Ricky at home.

Juanita Vogel ’85 and her husband, Steve Schwartz, celebrated the birth of a son, Mitchell, November 12, 1997. He joins brother Nathan at home.

Kay (McParlon) Zadow ’85 received her master’s degree in biology from UW-La Crosse.

Amy Black ’86 married Doug Crowley February 8, 1997 at Pax Christi Catholic Church in Rochester, Minn.

Anne (Kriener) ’86 and David Blocker celebrated the birth of a daughter, Grace Elizabeth Rose, October 9, 1998. She joins siblings Katherine Rose and Martin Maurice at home.

Tammy (Repta) ’86 and Walter Calloway celebrated the birth of a son, Conner, April 22, 1998.

Cynthia (Schone) ’86 and Joseph Covelli celebrated the birth of a son, Jonathon Robert, August 5, 1998. He joins sisters Laura and Elizabeth at home.

Sheila (Howes) Fiers ’86 received ANA certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner in October 1997, and is now employed by the North End Community Clinic in Saint Paul.
Janell Huwald ’86 was married to James Burss January 26, 1985. They have 2 children, Lindsey Marie, and Nathaniel Alexander.

Laura Ketchum ’86 married Ahmet Cifti July 31, 1998 in Mosinee. Laura is ABD for her doctorate from UW-Madison in educational administration.

Julie (Dabroski) ’86 and Jeff Penn celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kailey Ann, May 21, 1998. She joins siblings Brittany, Jordan, and Taylor at home.

Renee (Jacobson) ’86 and Brien Plunkett celebrated the birth of a son October 31, 1998.

Holly (Nelson) ’86 and Terrance Theede celebrated the birth of a son, William, February 27, 1998. He joins sisters Rebecca, Julia, and Susanna at home.

Katherine (Spieker) ’86 and David Wallin celebrated the birth of a daughter, Nicole Renee, October 20, 1997. She joins brother Nathan at home.

Cherie and John M. Hass ’87 celebrated the birth of a son, Jordan, September 24, 1998. He joins sister Cierra, 3, at home.

Lori (Elliot) ’87 and Michael Caretta celebrated the birth of a son, Spencer Caretta, March 5, 1998. He joins sister Gillian at home.

Sheila (Wetzel) ’87 and Jerry Cundiff celebrated the birth of a son, Scott Raymond, May 21, 1998. He joins brother Jerry at home.

Karen (Linde) ’87 and Bruce Rogers celebrated the birth of a daughter, Brenna Keely, January 16, 1998. She joins brother Gunnar, 2, at home.

Debra (Halverson) ’87 and Leon Primmer, Jr. celebrated the birth of a daughter, Christina, June 18, 1998. She joins sisters Aleda and Elizabeth, at home.

Sara A. Sundby ’87 and her husband, Lyn Larkin celebrated the birth of a daughter, Mickaela Shea, August 7, 1997.

Ann “Mitzi” (Zorman) ’88 and Kristopher Burrows celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ciara Jane, September 8, 1998. She joins siblings Tyler and Kaylee at home.

Deanna and John Dunnum ’87 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jenna Catherine, November 7, 1998. She joins sister Kristine Marie at home.

Karla (Matthews) ’88 and Jeffrey Fennie moved to La Crosse two years ago upon the purchase of two Taco John's franchises. They celebrated the birth of a daughter, Brier Roselyn January 1, 1997. She joined sister Maryl Sage at home. Karla completed a 24 month Marriage and Family Therapy graduate course at UW-Stout, August 1996.

Dawn (Davidson) Hammond ’88 recently received her master’s degree in education.

Deborah (Janowski) ’88 and James Kapitan celebrated the birth of a daughter, Abigail Nicole, November 18, 1997. She joins brother John Michael at home.

Jodi (Rostvold) ’89 and Michael Kadinger ’88 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Morgan Rachel, July 26, 1998. She joins brother Marcus at home.

Joan (Kazmer) ’88 and Michael O’Reilly celebrated the birth of identical twin daughters, Faith Miroslawa and Hope Marie, March 24, 1998. They join brother Michael at home.

Terry Martini ’88 is a computer programmer/consultant for Information Systems Engineering in Oconomowoc.

Wendy (Wasieleski) Mitch ’88 is a member of a core group of people in Stevens Point that has planned and recently opened a Catholic Worker House.

Tamara J. Singer ’88 is now working at Paceli High School, Stevens Point, as campus minister and teacher.


Joyce (Naedler) ’89 and Christopher Deedon celebrated the birth of a son, Nathan Michael, August 20, 1998. He joins siblings Nicholas and Alecia at home.


Michelle M. (Felt) ’89 and Joseph Johnson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Alyssa Noelle, July 6, 1998. Michelle is working as a nurse manager/staff nurse at Luther Hospital Women’s Health in Eau Claire.

Molly (Murphy) Garwood ’89 received her Ph.D. in Counseling and Developmental Psychology from the University of Notre Dame August 1998. She is now employed by the Psychiatry Center/Child Protection Center of Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee as a Pediatric Psychologist.

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

Doug Haefele ’89 was promoted to vice president of Intelligent Marketing Systems, Inc.

Peggy (Smith) ’89 and Doug Mahlum celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ella Rose, October 31, 1998. She joins brothers Spencer and Austin at home.

Melissa (Weinberger) ’89 and Craig Elsinger celebrated the birth of a son, Matthew Alan, November 15, 1997.

Susan (Niederhauser) ’89 and Jeff Jasper celebrated the birth of a son, Sam Donovan, September 26, 1998. He joins sister Elizabeth at home.

Joanne (Juza) ’90 and Philip Johnson ’89 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Michaela Renee, June 9, 1998. She joins brothers Alex and Thomas at home.

1990
Dione (Davidson) '90 and Randall Brandt celebrated the birth of a son, Cameron Scott, July 28, 1998.

Tanya (Vaughn) '90 and Norval Greenwold celebrated the birth of a daughter, Taylor Vaughn, May 14, 1998.

Karen J. Nelson '90 is in a special accelerated master's program for special education in Nevada.

Cynthia Kotney-Schleisman '90 and Greg Schliesman celebrated the birth of a son, Matthew Scott, June 27, 1998.

Theresa LaFleur '90 married Paul Ringo February 7, 1998. She began working as the Mental Health Case Manager for West Central Industries of Hutchinson, Minn. in July 1998.


Mary (Dubiel) '90 and Tim Pomietlo celebrated the birth of a daughter, Meredith Jean, December 29, 1997. She joins sister Lindsay Ann, 5, at home.

Linda Aarness-Gluch '91 received her Master of Arts in Elementary Education from Viterbo College in July 1998. She has accepted a teaching position in Westby, having previously taught in Highland.

Amy (Borke) '91 and Duane Boris celebrated the birth of a son, Rillie James, April 1, 1998.

Anne Braun '91 married Patrick Hernandez June 20, 1998.


Michelle Collyar '91 celebrated the birth of a son, Zachary William Schiffer, September 23, 1997. Michelle is working for Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in the Department of Theatre and Dance as faculty and costume designer

Rachel (Ott) '91 and Matthew Evenson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Meredith, July 6, 1997. She joins sister Kaitelyn at home.

Carla and Joseph (Mailman) Arena '91 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madesyn, June 2, 1998. She joins sibling Alex at home.


Amy (Neubauer) '91 and Gregory Sutton celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kaitlyn Marie, October 8, 1998. She joins sister Lauren at home.

Leah (Sims) '91 and Eric Olson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hanna, July 2, 1998. She joins sister Emily, 3, at home.

David M. Young '91 is currently a graduate student working on his doctoral dissertation in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at Yale University in New Haven, Conn.


Colleen (Zimmer) Haas ’92 began working this past summer as a flight nurse on the Flight For Life helicopter based out of Froedtert Hospital’s Level I Trauma Center in Milwaukee.

Jeff Hillbo ’92 was recently named head of the Math Department at Vernon Middle School, where he is starting his 5th year teaching 8th grade algebra and pre-algebra.

Patricia (Steffes) ’92 and Michael Schulist celebrated the birth of a daughter, McKenzie Marie, June 26, 1998.

Katherine (Steffens) ’92 and Larry Schwartzhoff celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jenna, October 20, 1998.

Paula (Hlavaty) ’92 and Jason Taylor celebrated the birth of a daughter, Erica Ann, August 26, 1998.

Patrice (Wilhelm) ’92 and Scott Thompson celebrated the birth of a son, Brooks Wilhelm Thompson, June 30, 1998.

David Viner ’92 was recently awarded an Irene Ryan nomination for acting in the role of the professor in Tracers, a play about Vietnam. The show played to two standing ovations in the Kansas City KCACTF regional festival. The show was also cited and given an award by the Kennedy Center judges for Best Ensemble Acting.

Lisa (Modjeski) ’93 and Scott Bents celebrated the birth of a daughter, Tess Erin, May 19, 1998.

Teresa Freiberg ’93 married William Conrow September 19, 1998 in Naples, Fla. They plan to continue traveling together with their jobs.


Renee (Greene) ’93 and Terry Hickman celebrated the birth of a daughter, Alyssa Kay Marie, June 1998. She joins brother Mitchell at home.

Annissa Morgensen-Lindsay ’93 graduated May 8, 1998 from Bowling Green State University with her Ph.D. in theatre. She and her husband Richard Lindsay celebrated the birth of a son, Mitchell Erik, on July 28, 1998. He joins brother Rick at home.

Lori and Edward Rosson ’93 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Courtney J. Rosson, September 1, 1997. She joins siblings Ronald and Tamara at home.

Kerri (Kuehn) ’93 and Jeff Sarbacker celebrated the birth of a son, Justin, September 11, 1998.

Lori (Minzlaff) ’93 and Rick Thill celebrated the birth of a daughter, Maggie, May 3, 1998. She joins brother Adam at home.

Amanda Becker ’94 married Chad Bueng September 12, 1998.

Jamie S. (DeYoung) DeVries ’94 recently graduated from UW-Madison Medical School and started a family practice residency at the Waukesha Memorial Hospital, Waukesha. She was
elected to the Medical Honor Society, Alpha Omega Alpha, for those graduating in the top 1/6th of the class.

LaDonna Ekern ’94 received her Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary May 17, 1998. She was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament June 21, 1998 and became pastor/mission redeveloper at Family of God Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, Minn. July 1, 1998.

Sarah (Pavlik) ’94 and Duane Fanta celebrated the birth of a daughter, Claire Christine, June 29, 1998.

Cynthia (Berg) ’94 and Kit Feurhelm celebrated the birth of a daughter, Natalie Pamela, June 23, 1998.
Noel Marie (Patzner) ’94 and Henry J. Filla celebrated the birth of a daughter, Mariah Jill August 6, 1998. She joins sister Wynonah Lyn at home.


Janean Lenius married Bradley A. Hanson ’94 August 8, 1998, at Sussex. Brad is currently employed by the University of Kansas in Lawrence in the department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry as a graduate student seeking his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry.


Sandra (Hansen) ’94 and Philip Nguyen celebrated the birth of a daughter, Christina Tan-Marie August 11, 1998. She joins brother Andrew Phillip, at home.


Heather (Beck) ’94 and Greg Sievers celebrated the birth of a daughter, Isabell, August 16, 1998. She joins brother Nickolas, 2, at home.


Amy Achterkirch married David Tauscher ’94 September 26, 1998.

Kathryn Waldenberger ’94 is currently working on her Master of Public Health in Community Health Education at UW-La Crosse.

Jennifer Zeps ’94 and her husband Kevin Weiner celebrated the birth of a son, Donavan Michael March 11, 1998. He joins siblings, Jameson Philip and Hadley Martha at home.

Linda and Grant C. Brintnall ’95 celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel Lee, July 30, 1998.

Diana Datka ’95 received her Master’s Degree in Education in Interdisciplinary Studies in Curriculum and Instruction from Saint Louis University August 31, 1998.

Cynthia (Holler) ’95 and Matthias Kestler celebrated the birth of a daughter, Allison Marie, September 17, 1998.

Cherilyn Loos '95 married Ryan Jakobi June 6, 1998. She has worked at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Marshfield since graduation.

Karla Mees '95 is currently working on her master’s degree and is the Nursing Coordinator for the Mayo Clinic, Rochester.

Jane M. Schieber '95 married Daren Boe August 8, 1998 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Caledonia, Minn.

Connie George '95 married William Guza April 12, 1997.
Samantha J. Greenwood '95 married Robert Talmage August 1, 1998 at Central Baptist Church, Atlantic Highlands, N. J.

Jill (Wallace) '95 and Kenneth Kietzke celebrated the birth of a son, Benjamin Walter, June 28, 1998.

Karin Ann Maresh '95 is a Ph.D. candidate in theatre at Ohio State University.

Maureen (Kelly) '95 and Thomas Menard celebrated the birth of a son, Ryan Joseph, October 22, 1998.

Nanette L. Riplinger-Harter '95 and James Harter celebrated the birth of a son, Benjamin James, June 29, 1998.


Tracy Hudrick-Tracy '96 and Steve Tracy celebrated the birth of a son, Zachary, January 20, 1998. He joins siblings Ryan, 8 and Mallory, 6 at home.

Deb and David Hyatt '96 celebrated the birth of a son, Caleb, June 9, 1998. He joins sister Andrea at home.

Valerie Kokott-Rebhan '96 has been accepted at St. Mary’s University, Rochester, Minn. for the Master’s of Counseling & Psychological Services Program.


Karl Nordin '96 was elected president of District Two of the Wisconsin Nurse’s Association.

Dana (Watkins) '96 and Christopher Radle celebrated the birth of a daughter, Maisie Leigh, August 8, 1998.

Carla (Schumacher) '96 and Brian Scheuer celebrated the birth of a daughter, McKayla, April 7, 1998.

Michelle (Sebion) '96 and Jason Shimanski celebrated the birth of a son, Alexander Thomas, September 17, 1998.

Christine Stevenson '96 was a co-presenter at the Iowa Foreign Language Association Conference in Des Moines last fall. The two presenters received the Best of Iowa Award for their presentation, 50 Minutes, 50 Ideas.

Susan Blair '97 was named the 1997 Adaptive Physical Educator of the Year for the State of Iowa. Susan is a K-12 Physical Education instructor at Orchard Place Campus School in Des Moines.


Teresa (Sheahan) '97 and James Fields celebrated the birth of a son, Adam James, July 29, 1998.

Charmaine K. Harings '97 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jade, September 9, 1998.


Emily Jones '97 is currently a graduate student at UW-Madison pursuing a career as a pediatric nurse practitioner.


Angela (Stefferud) '97 and Scott Johnson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Abby Rose, September 23, 1998.

Sarah E. Neumann '97 is the Nutrition Coordinator for Aging Services for the State of Arizona.

Donna J. Olson '97 began working as the Resident Care Coordinator for the Onalaska Woven Hearts June 29, 1998.


Alisabeth (Mead) '97 and Timothy Truenbach celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lillian Jude, August 4, 1998.

Elaine Zarcone '97 is teaching 4th grade at the Westfield School District, Westfield, Wisc.


Amy M. (Klemz) '98 and Douglas Finka celebrated the birth of a son, Nathan George, April 30, 1998.


Sally (Rechkemmer) Kittleson '98 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, September 8, 1998.

Jacqueline Leiker '98 received the Golden Apple Award April 24, 1998, a national award given to teachers of distinction through the local Chamber of Commerce.


Therese Munyon '98 married Dennis Wopat, October 3, 1998.


Ryan L. Raymond '98 is moving to Izmir Turkey at the end of February to become the Chief of Administration and Operations for Allied Land Forces of Southeastern Europe, the Southern headquarters for NATO.


Nancy (Jaitner) '98 and Brian Stegeman celebrated the birth of a daughter, Katherine, August 30, 1998.

Allison Stursa '98 is attending the University of St. Thomas for the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology.

Deanne Valadez '98 married Tim Vick December 5, 1998.

A FINAL WORD

Who are our heros?

Isn’t it funny how things change from generation to generation, yet stay the same in many respects? I really never gave that much thought until I was charged with writing a series of stories about today’s “new student” in this issue of Strides.

Then it hit me. While many things are different about these students, there remains one constant in most of them.

It’s not the clothes they wear or the music they listen to. Nor is it the way they act or the work ethic they bring with them to college. Those things change from student to student and from generation to generation.

The one constant I found are the people students list as their heroes.
Some students say their heroes are folks like Michael Jordan or Magic Johnson, Mark McGwire or Sammy Sosa, Princess Diana or Mother Teresa, John F. Kennedy or Martin Luther King, Jr. And why not. These people have done some pretty amazing things.

And that hasn’t changed much from past generations as people like Babe Ruth or Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio or Mickey Mantle, Harry Truman or Winston Churchill have all been mentioned as heroes.

There always have been, and always will be, those who think of sports stars and society’s movers and shakers as heroes.

But how do we truly define a hero? There are many definitions, like the one in Life magazine’s “Hall of Heroes.” It reads: “(Heroes) are men or women, privileged or poor, patriots or rebels. They are different from the rest of us, and yet the same. They are our inspiration and therefore essential.”

Then there is Sen. Bob Kerrey’s (D-Neb.) definition. He says, “A hero is not stone. A hero fails, doubts, cries and suffers great moments of despair. A hero perseveres; higher duty and purpose triumph over forgetfulness and arrogance. A hero loves and is loved in return.”

And if you ask the many students roaming the Viterbo campus their definition of what a hero is, you are bound to get as many definitions as there are students.

But if you were to ask those same students who their heroes are, the majority of them would have the same answer—mom and dad.

I give students a lot of credit for wading through the tons of images and sound bites in this technology driven society that make it hard not to think of the Michael Jordans and Mark McGwires as their heroes.

Sure, Michael Jordan is probably the best basketball player to hit the hardwood, period. He most certainly is the most well-known athlete of our time and gives a lot of his time and money to charitable organizations. But does that make him hero material? Maybe.

And what about Mark McGwire? He, too, has done some amazing things on and off the field. But does that make him a hero? It does to some and maybe not to others.

I know as a kid growing up in Illinois in the 60s and 70s, and even in the 80s, my heroes were those people I heard most about in the news or those I followed on the sports fields. There was Bob Gibson and Stan Musial, Lou Brock and Roberto Clemente, Walter Payton and Mike Singletary.

But like most kids who mature into young adults, I realized these stars weren’t really my heroes. They were just athletes that were really good at what they did. In the end, the people I really wanted to be most like were my parents. They were the ones that made me who I am today and instilled the values I will always carry with me.

And I have found out in the process of writing these stories that as students mature, they, too, realize that the true heroes in their lives are not superstar athletes, politicians or civil rights leaders. They are simply mom and dad—or in the cases where families are not intact—
that “everyday” relative or friend, or teacher, who cared and shared a part of life in seemingly small and intimate ways.

I may be an overly optimistic person, but I really don’t think this will change anytime soon, either. You see, I have first-hand experience at this hero thing.

The other day, my 3-year-old son, Alex, proclaimed that I, along with his mother, were his heroes.

Not only was that a wonderful thing to hear and something that made me a bit teary-eyed, it solidified what I’ve been trying to say here...that no matter how many superstars are out there, most people come full circle to recognize their true heros. People who students want to pattern their lives after.

I think Big Bird said it best when he said: “My heroes are Larry Bird, Admiral Byrd, Lady Byrd, Cheryl Crow, Chick Corea, the inventor of bird seed, and anyone who reads to you even if she’s tired, or makes you feel safe if you’re afraid.”

So for you cynics who ask “where have all the heroes gone?” I, and many of the students at Viterbo say they have never really been that far away.

If you like this article, you will enjoy many of the other articles which appear in “Strides” Magazine. Most were written by Jerry Smith, who is a writer and Sports Information Director at Viterbo College. Smith, who is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee, is a former copy editor at the La Crosse Tribune.

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 Judy (Kroeger) McKercher ’57 for providing the following: “The picture was taken in May of 1957. It originally appeared in the Lumen with a story announcing the May Crowning Ceremony for Mother Mary Day on May 26, 1957. Those pictured were members of the student council who made up the coronation court. Front row (left to right) Kathy Schlosser’60, Jean Walsh ’58 and Judy Kroeger’57. Back row (left to right) Geri Ostrander ’57 and Carol Deiss ’57. Jean’s veil in the picture is actually the back of her dress. This was not the case at the actual ceremony.
VITERBO CALENDAR

February 18-22
The Three Sisters, Black Box Theatre
February 20
WBB and MBB vs. Marycrest International University
February 28
Irish Rovers, Fine Arts Main Theatre (7:30 p.m.)
March 2
Netherlands Symphony Orchestra, Fine Arts Main Theatre
(7:30 p.m.)
March 6-14
Spring Break
March 23
Porgy and Bess, Fine Arts Main Theatre (7:30 p.m.)
March 25-28
Our Town (Senior Showcase), Black Box Theatre
April 1-5
Easter Break
April 5
SB vs. Mount St. Clare (3 p.m.)
April 9-10
Duckwitz/Hessburg/Brienza Acting Recital, Black Box Theatre
April 11
SB vs. Iowa Weselyan (noon)

April 16-18
Cinderella, Fine Arts Main Theatre
April 17-18
BB vs St. Ambrose (4/17-1 p.m. & 4/18-2 p.m)
April 19
SB vs Marycrest (2 p.m.)
April 21
Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, Fine Arts Main Theatre (7:30 p.m.)
BB vs. Mount St. Clare (1 p.m.)
April 23-24
Grubb/Melchior Acting Recital, Black Box Theatre
April 24-25
BB vs Mt. Mercy (4/24-1 p.m. & 4/25-noon)
April 29
Honors Convocation, Fine Arts Main Theatre
May 7
Courtyard Carni
May 12
Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service
May 16
Graduation, La Crosse Center
* Sporting events listed are home conference games
* WBB-women’s basketball, MBB-men’s basketball, SB-softball, BB-baseball