Have you heard the oft-repeated phrase, “the world is getting smaller and smaller?” Distance matters less and less as time passes. In the last 10 years:

Email and the Internet have made our communication with people across the globe so efficient it's often easier than communicating with our next door neighbors; Low prices on airfares have made globetrotting as easy as taking a trip to the beach; And policy changes in many nations have allowed for increased global trade opportunities.

As doors throughout the world open wider, opportunities to build friendship, increase knowledge, and spread peace are growing. Strides recently explored several ways Viterbo College is taking advantage of those opportunities. On the following pages, you'll find stories about Viterbo and its budding relationship with a college in La Crosse's Sister City, Luoyang, China; international students and their experiences with life at Viterbo College; and two alumnae making a difference in foreign countries.

These stories illustrate just a few of the ways Viterbo is establishing an increasing global presence. They may be small steps but, as with the 21st century, it's only the beginning.

Viterbo and Luoyang, China: Building Bridges of Friendship

With a population of almost six million and a 5,000-year history, the city of Luoyang, China seems an unlikely Sister City to La Crosse with its population of 50,000 and 100-year history. But that hasn't stopped the two from forming a bond that stretches across the Pacific Ocean. Part of that bond is a relationship that developed between Viterbo and the Luoyang Institute of Technology (LIT). Two years ago, the two formed a three-year, cooperative agreement designed to promote friendship, understanding, and an open exchange of information.

"The agreement has given us an excellent opportunity to get to know each other," says Viterbo President William J. Medland. "The relationship we're building will help both of our institutions enhance curriculum and develop a better understanding of our different cultures through the exchange of teaching and academic research," he added.

The Visit

Thanks to the cooperative agreement, the first Chinese delegation in education visited La Crosse and Viterbo in late October. The visit, which was the first from either institution since the agreement was developed, allowed the delegation of five (four from the LIT and one from the Luoyang Technology College, which recently merged with LIT) to spend time at Viterbo. During the visit, they observed classes, met with various college officials and familiarized
themselves with the programs of the two schools.
At a gift exchange ceremony held during the delegation’s visit, representatives from Viterbo and LIT presented each other with gifts that symbolize their relationship. Viterbo gave the delegates a framed photo of “Harmony and Peace,” a Viterbo campus sculpture by Luis Arata that members of the delegation admired during their visit. The Chinese delegation presented Medland with an ornamental plate featuring a peony, the national flower of China, which represents love and good fortune.

“We have built a bridge across the ocean, which is a bridge of friendship, which is a bridge of cooperation,” said LIT Vice President Yin Leifang during the ceremony. “Our hope is that the friendships last a long time like the Mississippi and the Yellow rivers.”

Two members of the delegation from LIT, Qiu Tianhe, Dean of Foreign Languages and Xi Shengyang, Dean of the Business School remained at Viterbo for an additional month to study curriculum and meet with their respective departments to exchange ideas and information.

**Faculty and Student Exchanges Planned**
Viterbo is offering students an opportunity to experience China and its culture firsthand through a three-week trip to China at the end of spring semester. In preparation, students will learn about China, its people, and its language.
Art Department Chair Peter Fletcher, who helped organize the trip, has made two trips to China and is well-versed on Buddhism and Chinese culture.
Fletcher hopes the course and its ensuing visit will open up the eyes of students to the dangers of dealing with people from other countries and not understanding their culture. “We don’t understand enough about them. For years, Americans have wanted to sell automobiles to the Chinese. For years, we were annoyed that the Chinese wouldn’t buy them. But Americans didn’t start selling cars with the steering wheel on the right until recently and that is what the Chinese need,” he illustrates.

He also hopes students will experience a personal connection with China and be able to learn more about its cultural values. “With China as the largest nation and one of the most powerful, we’d better get along. There’s a fascination and a suspicion on both sides. We might as well make ourselves more knowledgeable and more personable,” states Fletcher.
Although controversy exists in the world over reports of repression in China by its communist government, Fletcher says visitors to China feel safe. “I was only there two and a half months. I’m not an expert. But I can wander anywhere in China apart from a few military zones. I can talk to people and they sure smile a lot. Maybe there are some of those dark things going on, but I didn’t see them,” Fletcher notes.
“The Chinese have an ancient culture that still has this thread running through it,” adds Fletcher. “The thread says, ‘This is one thing happening in time.’ It’s the ability to step back and not be in such an almighty hurry.”

**Teaching in Luoyang**
In addition to sending students to China, Viterbo is sending English Department Chair Lyon Evans to teach in Luoyang for three months beginning this April.
When Global Education Associate Beth Moore approached the English department one year
ago about sending a representative to teach in Luoyang, Evans was coincidentally working on his request for a spring 2000 sabbatical.

LIT requested an instructor to teach for its entire 22-week semester, but the semester setup in Luoyang is seven weeks longer than the traditional American semester. Evans proposed a shorter time teaching in China. That is allowing him to spend the first few months of his sabbatical immersing himself in Chinese culture.

"My approach to learning a subject is to learn as much history as I can...and then apply it to their literature, art, and culture," he explains. During his stay, Evans will meet with English faculty to discuss teaching-related issues, give guest lectures, and teach courses, one of which will be "English and American Literatures." Evans looks forward to his interaction with Chinese students. "Presumably these are students majoring in English so they're interested in the American language and culture...I'll try the best I can to be an emissary of America," he says.

Following his experience teaching in Luoyang, Evans will join the Viterbo students on their tour of China at the end of May. Then it's on to the city of Shoaguang where he has been invited to discuss American literature and culture at another institution.

Evans hopes the Chinese experience will help him develop a course in Non-Western Literature for the Viterbo English Department. The current course catalog lists such a course but Viterbo has not had an instructor to teach it for several years and Evans plans to fill that void.

Evans, who enjoys the freedom of traveling in a foreign country, says, "When the safety net is gone and I'm traveling by train from Luoyang to Shoaguang with no guides, that's when it'll get really exciting."

Viterbo Grad Teaching in Africa
Karen Matzek '93, an Onalaska High School English teacher, embarked on a one-year mission to Africa in July. Originally from Hager City, Matzek is teaching English and music at St. Aloysius Minor Seminary, a school for boys ages 12-19 run by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kumbo in Cameroon.

Matzek's adventure is sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA) through their Shared Horizons program. She has been an affiliate with the FSPA since 1998.

Matzek's timing was perfect, according to the sisters. She was interested in Africa at the same time the FSPA were beginning a five-year partnering program with the Franciscan Tertiary Sisters in Cameroon. The Cameroon sisters are providing Matzek a local link to FSPA and sharing their community and worship with her, an experience Matzek is enjoying. "Any time you live in community with people who put their faith lives first, it's always a renewing experience," she says.

Matzek says she is enjoying learning the culture and, at the same time, more about herself. She also hopes to bring the fruits of her experience back to her students in Onalaska, where she was granted a 12-month leave of absence by the local school board.

"Everything that I do in Cameroon will in some way enrich my classroom when I get back," says Matzek. "There's a whole wealth of African literature that we in the states are unaware of."
We’re so multi-cultural-minded in literature now that this can only stand to enrich what I bring to my students here.

As a reminder of their teacher and colleague’s work, Onalaska High School is flying the Cameroon flag during Matzek’s mission.

**Artistic Appeal:**

*New Dean has Ear to his Audience*

Arts for all” sounds like a cry from the Three Musketeers but, in reality, it’s the edict set forth by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration when they built the Viterbo Fine Arts Center 30 years ago.

“That’s a pretty tall order,” says Paul Sannerud, the new Dean of Viterbo’s School of Fine Arts. “Given the sisters’ philosophy, we need to look closely at how to reach all kinds of folks.”

Sannerud did just that when he first came to town mid-summer by inviting La Crosse Tribune readers to call him at work with their ideas on how to make the Bright Star Season shine even more brightly.

“Discovering what’s good for the audience and what they want to see is my goal. I’ve received a few calls and notes from the community, mostly from people who are familiar with our programs. But sometimes the most valuable information comes from those who don’t attend our events. If they don’t come, why aren’t they?” asks Sannerud.

During this new millennium, meeting the “arts for all” challenge will grow even more difficult. But change is a part of life that even theatre and Viterbo College can’t escape.

“This college grows and changes. It’s still Viterbo, but people who graduated 10 years ago come back and find it a very different place. The next 10 years we will grow and change even more. At the same time, the relationship between the arts and the community will change too,” says Sannerud.

With the rise of Internet activities like online education, banking and shopping, people no longer need to have as many face-to-face, human interactions that were once a part of everyday life. “People will need to rediscover that shared experiences become more valuable the more disconnected we are in our educational and workplace environment,” explains Sannerud. “Shared experiences lead to a sense of community and insights into who we are as people.”

So just who is this dynamic individual with a community-wide open door policy and a drive to encourage all people to explore the arts? Sannerud is a man who embodies the kind of juxtaposition that comes from having grown up on a farm near the Twin Cities. He seems as comfortable in a business suit as he does in jeans and a T-shirt. He is at home designing productions, building sets, painting backdrops and, at the same time, is comfortable managing staff, handling program development for the Fine Arts Center and recruiting talent. That comfort level and confidence in himself is what led Sannerud to Viterbo College. “One of the reasons I came here is because I like the people. I came to the interview and thought, ‘I’m just going to be myself and see what happens,’ and they hired me,” he says.

As a child, Sannerud was a self-described class clown who didn’t give a career in theatre a thought until he was a high school senior. Thanks to 4H talent contests, Sannerud quickly
became passionate about theatre and in 1980 obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree with a theatre major and minors in communications, English, philosophy, and religion from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn. In 1983, he received a Master of Fine Arts in theatre design and technology with minors in studio arts and sculpture from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis.

His post graduate experience includes teaching, professional design (including a stint as a scenic painter on a 1995 Hallmark Hall of Fame television movie, Harvest of Fire), production design, directing and consulting. Since 1993, Sannerud has been with Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa where he served as a professor in the Theatre Department.

As Dean of the Viterbo School of Fine Arts, Sannerud feels he has found new challenges and a staff of creative individuals who will help him continue blazing new trails. When he's not busy building a set or recruiting new talent, Sannerud enjoys canoeing, camping and painting. He is married to Peggy Sannerud, a freelance lighting designer for theatre, dance and opera. They have two children, Bryn, age six, and Kiri, age one.

You can reach Sannerud by e-mail at pdsannerud@viterbo.edu.

Lecture Series Inspires Ethics Discussions in Classrooms

As a values-based institution, Viterbo College has challenged itself to provide an ethical component to every course across curricula. But just how does a college or university integrate ethics into the classroom of each discipline?

During the 1999-00 academic year, Viterbo inaugurated an ethical lecture series designed to infuse the curricula with issues and information necessary to spark lively discussions on complex moral and ethical issues.


Undergraduate and graduate curricula for the fall semester were designed by disciplines to include the ethical dimensions reflected in these presentations through:

• Required student attendance at the lectures;
• Classroom discussions and debates;
• Reading and book discussion (for example, more than 200 students were required to read "Dead Man Walking" by Sr. Prejean and/or "Forgiving Dead Man Walking" by Debbie Morris).

"In this new millennium, we'll be faced with many different challenges and our students need to develop the tools to help them respond in a prudent, ethical manner. Through this lecture series, we are able to bring current ethical issues into our classrooms and inspire critical thinking in our students," says Viterbo President William J. Medland.
The spring 2000 lecture series, which is free and open to the public, features additional speakers whose topics also will be incorporated into classes. The speakers are:

- Fr. Raymond C. Baumhart, S.J., D.B.A. who will present "Ethics in Business?" on April 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- Fr. William J. Byron, S.J., Ph.D. who will present "Old Ethical Principles in the New Corporate Culture," on April 12 at 7:30 p.m.

The lecture series and the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership are named in honor of D.B. Reinhart, a successful businessman, philanthropist and mentor who espoused the ideals of ethical leadership.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

Marianne Moody Jennings, J.D.
Jennings has written six books on business ethics, and her bi-weekly column for Arizona Republic, for which she received the Arizona Press Club Award in 1994, is nationally syndicated.
A professor of legal and ethical studies in business at Arizona State University, Jennings earned her undergraduate degree and Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Helen Prejean, C.S.J.
For the past 10 years, Sr. Prejean has been the spiritual advisor to five death row inmates in the Louisiana State Penitentiary. Her experiences have led her to speak out against capital punishment, and advocate wider public understanding of the death penalty. She helped found "Survive," a victim advocacy group and is the author of the best selling book, "Dead Man Walking."

Raymond C. Baumhart, S.J., D.B.A.
Fr. Baumhart is Director of Evangelization and Christian Life in the Archdiocese of Chicago. He is a former dean and president of Loyola University in Chicago and is currently on leave of absence as Professor of Management at Loyola. Fr. Baumhart is an author of business texts and articles and has served on numerous boards and councils including the Council of Better Business Bureaus.

William J. Byron, S.J., Ph.D.
Fr. Byron is a distinguished professor of management at Georgetown University and director of the Center for Advanced Study of Ethics. His current research focuses on mid-career executive transitions. He is also a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and is a founding director and past chairman of Bread for the World.

Character Building Commitment Puts Viterbo on Honor Roll
Good character is hard to find.
Just ask La Crosse area employers who say character is missing from many people entering the workforce. In fact, they feel character is so important that they have begun a community-
wide initiative called, "The Character Counts Campaign," to encourage schools, businesses and parents to work together on teaching values to area youth.

Viterbo College already is helping make life a little easier for employers in La Crosse and around the globe by serving as a character-building college. Last fall, Viterbo was one of 100 colleges and universities nationwide named to the Templeton Honor Roll for its "comprehensive commitment and programs that inspire students to lead ethical and civic-minded lives."

In "The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development," a Viterbo College senior states, "Viterbo has enabled me to experience leadership in ways I could not have done elsewhere. I have learned more from my extracurricular activities than I could have from classwork alone."

In addition to being one of the profiled colleges, Viterbo is also featured for two of its programs that build character—its First-Year and its Substance-Abuse Prevention programs.

"We are delighted to be among the 100 institutions named to the Templeton Honor Roll and are proud of our programs that help students develop the strong values that will serve them beyond their college years," says Viterbo College President William J. Medland.

"Character development is a lifelong process and we believe that colleges and universities have a very important and unique role to play."

Designed for students, parents, and educators who believe that character matters, "The Templeton Guide" contains profiles of exemplary colleges and specific programs that exercise leadership in character development.

Established in 1987, the John Templeton Foundation supports programs that encourage character development in schools and colleges; encourages an appreciation for the benefits of freedom; and stimulates serious scientific research on the relationship between spirituality and health.

PROFILES

Person, College and Community

One of 60 selected in the First-Year category, this program is for new students enrolling in their first year of college. Each takes the course "Person, College, Community" (PCC), which teaches them more about themselves and how to balance freedom and responsibility while searching for ethical solutions to community challenges.

Debra Murray, who has been the PCC coordinator for four years, feels the success of the first-year program lies in the small size of the classes and the foundation laid by several faculty, including Richard Morehouse, Ron Schafer and Pam Maykut, psychology; Jane Eddy, Learning Center; Sr. Laurian Pieterek, philosophy; and Darrell Pofahl, sociology.

"Even though we're not a very big college, we have a cohesive group that models what they teach. It's easy for people to forget just how big the step is from high school to college. The faculty works hard together to make sure they normalize and enrich that experience for students," Murray says.

CONNECT Club

Viterbo’s Substance-Abuse Prevention Program was one of 35 selected. The student-led
CONNECT club was cited for its creative methods of reinforcing the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. The group uses presentations, videos, staged DWI arrests and alcohol-free alternatives like a weekly coffeehouse to illustrate its point.

“The CONNECT program provides students with the opportunity to weigh values against behaviors and develop skills with which they can influence the larger community as they live and work there,” says Murray, one of the founders of the CONNECT program.

The program, now coordinated by Anne Ellefson, has seen its students move on to successful careers as a result of their CONNECT club experience. One graduate helped develop a Minnesota school district’s drug and alcohol prevention program while a current student recently was appointed to the State Board of Drug and Alcohol Prevention in Iowa.

CAMPUS NEWS

Sigma Theta Tau Chapter Starts
A new chapter has begun at Viterbo College—a Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) nursing honors society chapter.

Viterbo Nursing Honors Society President-Elect Mary Christianson, Treasurer Teri Kunavich, and Faculty Counselor Delayne Vogel, presented Viterbo's chapter application to the Sigma Theta Tau House of Delegates in San Diego last November and received unanimous approval from the group.

That presentation was the culmination of four years of hard work that included an intensive self-study; meeting all STTI requirements for a three-year review period, which includes offering two scholarly programs to members per year; an evaluation visit on campus; and Sigma Theta Tau Board approval.

"Receiving approval for the STTI chapter is an honor for the college, an opportunity for our students, and a means of recognizing and promoting nursing scholarship in our community,” says Christianson.

Membership in the organization is by invitation to graduate nursing students who demonstrate academic excellence and to community nurses with demonstrated leadership in their area of expertise.

Founded in 1936, Sigma Theta Tau International was the first organization in the U.S. to fund nursing research. Today, it contributes more than $650,000 dollars a year to nursing research and is the second largest nursing organization in the world. Sigma Theta Tau has 383 chapters and more than 260,000 active members in 78 countries.

To inquire about membership in Viterbo's STTI chapter, contact Vicki Moss at 608-796-3694 or by email at vamoss@viterbo.edu.

Viterbo Court Completed
Viterbo Court, the new pedestrian mall, officially opened on Aug. 24 with the unveiling of a huge college seal located between the entrances of Murphy Center and the Student Activity Center.
The unveiling of the 24’ seal is the culmination of the campus beautification project which had its beginnings last August when Ninth Street between Winnebago and Mississippi Street was closed to vehicle traffic. Replacing the roadway is a courtyard featuring green space, flowers, benches, a brick walkway, and aesthetic, old-style street lamps.

"Viterbo Court serves as a gathering place for students and faculty as well as an attractive addition to the neighborhood," says Viterbo President William J. Medland. "This project has been very gratifying in that it ties together the academic and residential areas while creating a wonderful green space neighbors, students and visitors alike enjoy."

Construction of Viterbo Court completes another of the initiatives identified in Viterbo’s strategic plan: "Vision 2005: A Renaissance for Living and Learning in the 21st Century." Over the past three years, Viterbo has acquired land and created an outdoor athletic complex in Medary, renovated the Fine Arts Center to create an atrium entryway to campus, and constructed Rose Terrace, an apartment-style living complex for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

New Board Members Named
Four new members have been appointed to the Viterbo College Board of Directors for four-year terms beginning this October. They are: Glenn Forbes, MD; Donna Hansen; Karen Lueck, FSPA; and Nola Jo Starling-Ratliff.

Dr. Glenn Forbes
Forbes has been President and CEO of Franciscan Skemp Healthcare since January 1998 and has served on its Board of Directors since March 1997. He has been the Mayo Clinic physician liaison to the Franciscan Skemp management group since July 1997. Prior to joining Franciscan Skemp, Forbes was chair of the Mayo Clinic Department of Diagnostic Radiology. He received his undergraduate degree in preprofessional studies at the University of Notre Dame and his medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine. After medical school, he cared for patients at the Navajo reservation at Gallup, N.M. Forbes completed his postgraduate training in diagnostic radiology at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine and, in 1977, completed a special fellowship in neuroradiology at Mayo Clinic. He is a nationally recognized radiologist who frequently lectures at national and international conferences.

Donna Hansen
Hansen is a graduate of Madison General Hospital School of Nursing. She is presently a member of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops National Advisory Committee and serves as co-chair of the Riverfront, Inc. major gifts campaign. From 1998-99, Hansen served as Chair of the Board of Directors for Riverfront, Inc. and, from 1994-96 as President of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. For 25 years, she was a religious education instructor in her local parish and served as a member of the Bangor School Board. The Central Preparatory Commission for Synod V and a committee for Ministry to Persons with Special Needs, both for the Diocese of La Crosse, are parts of Hansen's service efforts.

Sr. Karen Lueck
Sr. Lueck is a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration and currently serves as a member of their Leadership Team. She received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from the University of Northern Iowa-Cedar Falls in 1971 and went on to teach elementary school in Cedar Rapids, West Point and Bellevue, Iowa. She then served as an elementary principal in Oklahoma City. In 1991, Sr. Lueck received a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola University in Chicago and, in 1996, earned a Doctor
of Ministry degree from Chicago Theological Seminary. She is licensed in Iowa as a mental health counselor and currently lives in Hiawatha, Iowa.

**Nola Jo Starling-Ratliff**

Since 1993, Starling-Ratliff has been the principal of Horlick High School in Racine. Prior to that, she spent two years as principal of Hamilton High School in Sussex. Starling-Ratliff graduated from Viterbo College in 1974 with a degree in music education and voice minor. She went on to receive a Master of Science degree in Administrative Leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1982. Starling-Ratliff has been associated with many civic organizations including the Racine Black Caucus and the Racine Alliance of Black School Educators. She was also a member of the Racine Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Committee. In 1997, Starling-Ratliff received the Viterbo Outstanding Alumni Award for exemplary service to her community.

**Viterbo student remembered**

The Viterbo community suffered a great loss on Saturday, September 25, 1999 when JoNelle Bunke died in an automobile accident near Utica, MN. She had been on her way to Rochester, where she worked as a waitress, when she collided with a truck at the top of a hill. The funeral was held at Rushford Lutheran Church on September 29, where former classmates and friends gathered in celebration of JoNelle’s life.

Viterbo also held a memorial service at the Campus Church that was attended by JoNelle’s parents, brother and boyfriend.

According to friends, JoNelle, who was a sophomore nursing student, had always held Viterbo in high regard, because of the family atmosphere, and looked forward to returning to school after long vacations.

JoNelle will be remembered and missed by all of her friends and by the entire Viterbo community.

**Fr. McGarty is Visiting Scholar**

Bernard McGarty, a recently retired Catholic priest from the Diocese of La Crosse, has joined the Department of Religious Studies as a Visiting Scholar in Ecumenical Studies. In this position, Fr. McGarty will present a public lecture on ecumenism each semester. He will also serve as guest lecturer in theology courses and perform research and writing in various aspects of religious studies.

Fr. McGarty received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa in 1945 and a bachelor's degree in theology from Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. in 1949. In 1979, he received a licentiate in theology and, in 1989, a doctorate in sacred theology from Angelicum University in Rome, Italy. He has additional graduate credits in education from Marquette University in Milwaukee and in English from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Within the Diocese of La Crosse, Fr. McGarty has served as Vocation Director, Director of Communications, Times Review Editor, Director of Ecumenism and Co-founder of LARC (Lutherans, Anglicans and Roman Catholics) in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. He has been pastor of several parishes within the Diocese including: St. Patrick's Parish in Onalaska, St. Patrick's Parish in Eau Claire, St. Matthew's Parish in Wausau, and most recently, Blessed Sacrament in La Crosse. He has also served as chaplain for St. Rose Convent in La Crosse.

Counseling Program Receives Certification
The Alcohol and Drug Counseling Certification Program at Viterbo was recently certified by the Education and Training Committee of the Wisconsin Certification Board—making it the only program of its kind in the area endorsed by the state board.

The program, designed to develop knowledge and skills in identifying substance abuse problems, utilize resources and referrals, and deliver effective intervention and treatment services, is a series of seven psychology courses which fulfill the 360 hours of educational and classroom experience required for drug and alcohol counselor certification. The other requirement is supervised practice, which is arranged by the students and their employers. While most students in the courses are full-time and from a variety of disciplines, the program also accommodates non-traditional students who are employed full-time and still seek certification. Many of the courses are offered in the evening or over the lunch hour and, in addition, non-traditional students can receive college credit for work experience.

"We designed the program to be accessible to multiple disciplines because chemical abuse and dependency permeate so many areas of society. Individuals working in the human service fields, psychology, nursing, social work, criminal justice, healthcare, education, and business often work with clients, patients, co-workers, and acquaintances who are abusing or dependent on chemicals," says Debra Murray, coordinator of the Certification Program.

Viterbo to become University September 4
Viterbo College will officially become America’s newest university effective September 4, the feast day of Saint Rose of Viterbo.

The announcement detailing the change was made Jan. 11 at faculty and staff in-service held prior to the start of second semester classes.

The decision to adopt university status was approved by the Board of Directors following discussions with campus faculty and staff, community advisors, alumni, donors, students leaders, and members of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

"The overwhelming sentiment we heard in talking with these groups was: ‘Make the change,’” said Dr. William J. Medland, who has been president since 1991.

"The timing could not be better for Viterbo to adopt university designation. Viterbo already meets all of the prerequisites for university status and making this change is simply conforming to the reality of who we already are,” Medland added.

Viterbo was reclassified as a comprehensive institution (university) by the U.S. Department of Education in 1994. Momentum for the change accelerated during the 90s as Viterbo graduate program enrollment skyrocketed and other academic programs were reorganized into schools similar to that of many universities.
All Viterbo alumni were notified of the plans by mail on the same day of the announcement and a special website has been set up to provide more information about the change and the rationale behind it (www.viterbo.edu/univ.htm).

A comprehensive story about Viterbo’s change to university status also will appear in the June issue of Strides.

Feedback
The following note was written in response to the article, “Viterbo Business Course offers Cultural Experience,” in the fall issue of Strides magazine. The article did not mention that the business students’ trip to Mexico was sponsored by Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration’s Global Awareness Through Experience (GATE) program.

Dear Editor,
I took a few minutes to look at our file on Viterbo and found that in the last five years GATE has hosted seven programs and over 70 people from Viterbo. Participants have been drawn from the Spanish and Business departments, as well as one program planned exclusively for faculty and administrators of the college.

It has been our pleasure to collaborate with Viterbo’s Global Chair and department heads to plan programs that support the goals of Viterbo and to promote a global perspective through experience in other countries. Though all our Viterbo programs so far have been in Mexico, GATE is found in Central America and Eastern Europe as well, offering regular programs to Guatemala, El Salvador, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland.

Sister Cecilia Corcoran

SPORTS CORNER

Dale Varsho: Coach and Caretaker
Dale Varsho is in charge of growing both baseball players and baseball fields.

Varsho doubles as the college’s head baseball coach and its supervisor of outside facilities. That latter title means he cares for Viterbo’s Outdoor Athletic Complex, which consists of baseball and softball diamonds, plus a soccer field and practice area for soccer players.

"It's a beautiful setting. I receive many compliments from other coaches. It's one of the nicest facilities I've ever been associated with," he said.

Varsho, by the way, is really associated with Viterbo's athletic complex. He lives in a rented house just behind the left field fence on the baseball diamond, and keeps a pair of binoculars handy to keep track of what's happening on the fields. "If I didn't live there, I'm sure there'd be a heck of a lot more vandalism," he says.

“People have jumped fences in order to play on the diamonds, and a few pet owners have even tried to walk their dogs on the property, Varsho said. He now keeps the gate locked at the entrance to the complex to deter those who want to simply walk on it.

Varsho's proximity means he is handy to take care of the sprinkling system and run the mowers that trim the grass, a special combination created by a seed company just for the
fields. The "Viterbo Mix," as Varsho calls it, is approximately 70 percent Kentucky bluegrass and 30 percent perennial rye grass.

Varsho is assisted in maintaining the complex by several work-study students. "I like what I do," he reported. "I like being outside, and I love going to work."

Viterbo "is fortunate to have Dale," suggests Barry Fried, the college's director of athletics. "Dale takes good care of his players and the athletic fields. He brings dedication and determination to his job. As a result both the baseball team and the athletic complex are looking good."

**Men's Soccer Scores Conference Championship**

Winning is a habit for the men's soccer team at Viterbo. In fact, the V-Hawks succeeded in capturing their fourth straight conference championship in November.

The team captured the title by going undefeated in conference play for the third straight year. That span includes 18 straight league wins, or three 6-0 seasons, with the most recent conference loss coming in the last game of the 1996 season. The team also won conference championships in 1998, 1997, 1993, and 1992.

The 1999 version of the men's soccer team, led by first-year Head Coach Michael Rahn, finished with a record of 15-5-1. The team won the conference's season-ending playoffs and advanced to the semifinals of the Region VII playoffs in River Forest, Ill., where it was finally stopped by a 1-0 double-overtime loss to Dominican University.

**The Best Isn't Always in the Big Time**

At least two standout athletes have chosen to pass up opportunities at bigger colleges in favor of the athletics and academics available at Viterbo.

Nicole Ellefson turned down an athletic scholarship from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and turned to Viterbo. She has an interest in biology, liked Viterbo's academic programs, and came to La Crosse, which is just an hour away from her hometown of Seneca.

The high school volleyball star had to be released from her scholarship at UW-Green Bay, which would have covered four years of tuition and books. But, in an interview with the La Crosse Tribune, she said she feels she made the right decision in coming to Viterbo. "The first day of practice here, I loved it from the start. I don't want to say anything bad about (UW-Green Bay), but they didn't care who you were. I like the smallness of it here," Ellefson said.

The freshman proved her volleyball skills with the V-Hawks last fall, when her powerful left-handed strikes placed her among the team leaders in kills.

Darren Orcutt, a sophomore midfielder for the men's soccer team, could have played NCAA Division I ball with Western Illinois University. But he turned down the Illinois college because of the pleasant memories he had of his visit to Viterbo, Orcutt told the La Crosse Tribune in November.

Orcutt said he liked Viterbo and the area, felt comfortable with the V-Hawk players and was attracted by the closeness of the team. So he left his hometown of Bloomingdale, Ill. and this year became one of the best players on a V-Hawk squad that advanced to the semifinals of the regional playoffs. He played in all 21 of the soccer team's games, and totaled 12 points on four goals and four assists.
Viterbo Athletes Hit the Books

Athletics and academics can both demand a lot of time, but those demands don't seem to be in conflict at Viterbo.

Grade-point averages for student athletes at Viterbo are nearly equal to those attained by the rest of the student body, according to statistics obtained through the office of Wayne Wojciechowski, assistant academic vice president.

Statistics from the 1998-99 school year show student athletes compiled an overall grade-point average of 2.95. That compares with general student body averages of 3.18 for the 1998 fall session and 3.23 for the 1999 spring session. Female student athletes recorded an overall grade-point average of 3.17 during the 1998-99 year, while male student athletes had a combined grade-point average of 2.78.

"This information isn't surprising to us," reports Barry Fried, Director of Athletics. "We've known for a long time that athletics and academics have many of the same requirements. Students with intelligence, determination and a good work ethic are likely to do well in anything they attempt. Viterbo's student athletes usually are a source of pride for both their coaches and their professors."

The V-Hawks compete in seven sports: soccer, basketball and baseball for men, and soccer, basketball, softball and volleyball for women. Student athletes have been able to maintain respectable scholastic standards while finding success in their sports.

In the last 10 years, the V-Hawks have captured 13 conference championships, and 194 student athletes have been named to all-conference teams. The college has produced teams that have made three NAIA national tournament appearances, including the 1998-99 men's basketball team, which made it to the Elite Eight. The college has also been home for 28 NAIA All-Americans and 12 Academic All-Americans.

Annual Golf Tournament Successful

Viterbo's annual golf tournament is growing faster than a downhill putt on a fast green.

The Aug. 16 tournament, which was held at the La Crosse Country Club, attracted a full field of 144 golfers. "It was a sell-out, and it was extremely successful," reports Barry Fried, Viterbo athletics director.

The event was held at the La Crosse Country Club, and was followed by a meal and awards ceremony. Approximately 200 people attended the banquet.

The tournament, officially dubbed the Viterbo College Athletics Golf Scramble, grew from 59 golfers in 1998 to the 144 players who teed off last summer. Fried, who said he had to turn down another 24 golfers who wanted to participate last summer, is pondering ways to increase the size of the field.

Anyone interested in participating in next year's tournament may contact Fried to be placed on a mailing list for information and an entry form.

Prizes offered at last year's tournament included a new car, golf vacations, and airline tickets for a hole-in-one. No one knocked in a tee shot to win the big prizes, but more than 60
corporate sponsors and business donors provided dozens of gifts that lucky participants did take home. Proceeds from the tournament support the athletics department.

ALUMNI NOW

Alumni Publishes Sixth Photo Book
Irish eyes are smilin’ on Renée Travis Reilly ’64 and her husband, Cyril Reilly, who recently published their sixth photo giftbook, "An Irish Blessing."

Published in September 1999 by Sorin Books, the giftbook uses color photos taken from their Ireland trips to illustrate verses of a classic Irish blessing. The Reillys also have collaborated on: "Gift of Irish Wisdom" (1995), "The Earth We Swing On" (1984), "A Song of Creation" (1983), "I Am of Ireland" (1981), and an earlier version of their new book, "An Irish Blessing," with different photos (1977). They live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Alumna Receives Nursing Awards
When Decorah “Dee” Mach graduated from Viterbo in 1977, she had the distinction of being the first HoChunk Tribal member to graduate from the school of nursing. She never dreamed that 20 years later she would have chosen an area of nursing that would lead to additional honors.

In 1999, Mach received the Clinical Excellence Award from the Fourth District Minnesota Nurse’s Association and the Minnesota Nurse’s Association State Award. “It’s been a remarkable year and an honor to be recognized by a group of one’s peers on a district and then state level,” she says. “To be rewarded for one’s life passion is even more astounding.”

Mach is currently a child adolescent Psychiatric Nurse Specialist at the Wilder Child Guidance Clinic in St. Paul, Minn. She also helps coordinate and administer psychiatric attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) evaluations with the St. Paul Public Schools Special Education Department. She is a strong advocate for children’s mental health and has been a member of the Minnesota State Advisory Council Subcommittee on Children’s Mental Health since 1986.

Wisconsin Wants You!
Have you left Wisconsin but want to come back? Are you currently working in Wisconsin but want to pursue other career opportunities in the state? Forward Wisconsin just made your task a little easier.

An interactive web site, Great Jobs Wisconsin (www.Great JobsWI.com) makes it easier for people seeking jobs to make their resumes accessible to Wisconsin employers. It’s also a great place for employers to post jobs since they have unlimited position postings and resume downloads.

"It’s critically important that we as a state utilize every available tool and new technology to expand and strengthen our workforce... both attracting new employees to Wisconsin and keeping our talented people here,” says Forward Wisconsin Chairman Governor Tommy Thompson.
The web site matches new job postings with registered, qualified job seekers 24-hours-a-day and provides direct email of job postings within a day to all matching job seekers.

Revenue generated by the web site will be reinvested in the project.

**Master's student pleased with Viterbo caring and quality**

*Dear Strides Editor,*

*Regarding your interesting article about the graduate program, Sr. Laurian, Tom (Thibodeau), Jack (Havertape), and Sue (Batell) on pages 10-14 in the Fall issue of Strides, I felt that I must respond. Your comment, “It is they who come first,” is exactly why the graduate program is so successful. When I came to campus in 1993 to do my research project, I was totally overwhelmed. On the first Thursday, I went to Jack Havertape’s office and told him I was leaving, going home. He took me by the hand and said, “We’ve never lost a student yet and you’re not going to be the first. Now what do you need me to help you do?” Of course I finished the program and have gone on to add another 30 hours, all from Viterbo, to my master’s.*

*In all of the classes I’ve taken, I have met many people who were just taking a few classes but had not made up their mind about getting the master’s. I have encouraged many people to take this program. There is no education program that I know of that has such a sense of community and a sense of caring about you as an individual and you as an educator. All of the teachers have been top notch, but Tom Thibodeau and Sr. Laurian (Pieterek) are the best of the best.*

*My own daughter is a senior in high school and, as of now, Viterbo is her first choice for a college. It is a little further from home than I would like and a little more expensive, but I know that if she chooses Viterbo, she will be in the hands of people who care about her. What more could a mother ask?*

*Fondly,*

*Brenda Beaty*

*Waterloo Iowa Community Schools*

### CLASS NOTES

#### 1950

S. Cecileinne Goetz ’53 recently received certification from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher.

S. Marcella Steffes ’56 was profiled in the April 1999 issue of Musical Times, a publication of the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra. S. Marcella has been a member of the symphony for 34 years.

Elizabeth (Buchner) ’58 and Dick Vaughn were among the first residents of Del Webb’s first Four Seasons Sun City Retirement Community in Huntley, Ill.
1960

S. Bernadette Prochaska '62 received an award from the Madison Knights of Columbus for her volunteer work as organ player for the Sunday television mass for the handicapped.

S. Charlene Smith '63 has been elected to serve as treasurer of the Thea Bowman Black Catholic Education Foundation. She began her service on July 1, 1999.

S. Lea Henkes '64 recently released a collection of her compositions titled "Like an Empty Bowl, Music for Prayer and Reflection." The collection, a CD cassette and book, contains refrains and songs for individual or group prayer. The book gives helpful suggestions for using the music. It is available at all FSPA Spirituality Centers.


Charlotte Scheckel '69 is the principal of St. John’s Schools, Beloit, Kan.

Mary (Cunningham) Keppler '68-'70 writes for the Catholic Witness Web Page. The address for this page is http://www.geocites.com/heartland/cottage/7606. Mary also distributes prayer cards through her program called Cards with a Mission.

1970

Barbara Kuhls '70-'71 and Ron Kuhls celebrated the adoption of a son, Ionut, December 11, 1998. Ionut (pronounced 'Yonoot’) is from Romania. He joins his siblings Aaron and Kara at home.

Patrica (Rickert) Bacon '70 recently served as Master of Ceremonies for the Freedom High School Alumni Association Scholarship dinner.

Jane L. Lange '71 received the Arizona Public Health Association’s 1999 Honor Award. The award is presented yearly to recognize outstanding contributions to public health.

S. Maureen Becker OSF '72 was named to the Mt. St. Clare Academy Hall of Fame at an alumni reunion June 11, 1999, in Clinton, Iowa.

Ellen Conway '73 married Bob Zwirlein May 15, 1999 at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Monona.

Laurene (Sloniker) Wurster '73 is working for the St. Joseph’s Community Health Service in Hillsboro as a nursing educator and cardiopulmonary rehabilitation coordinator.
Ruth (Winder) Standley ’75 recently completed certification courses for becoming a school nurse through Caldwell College, Caldwell, N.J.

Julie Le Hunt ’76-'78 appeared as ‘the old lady’ in Sunday in the Park With George at the Edythean Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis.

Clark Gallup ’76 took first place in an art show in Alberta, Canada with his pen and ink drawing of deer and best in show with his pen and ink drawing of elk.

Decorah Mach ’77 received the Creative Nursing Award from the Minnesota Nurses’ Association during their annual meeting held in Mankato, Minn. October 17-20, 1999.

Lt.C. Sandra Schmidt-Berringer ’77 was among 112 candidates selected by the Squadron Screening Board at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas as a squadron commander candidate.

Barbara (Vieth) ’93 and Dale Stafslien ’78 were married October 9, 1999 in Tomah. Barbara (Johnson) Plaut ’79 received her Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in December 1999.

1980

Jane Marie Kirchling ’80 was named Dean and Professor of the College of Nursing, University of Southern Maine, Portland in August 1999.

Janette (Roggensack) Reget ’80 is working towards her Master’s Degree in Social Work. Janette and her husband Thomas celebrated the birth of a daughter, Natalie, January 19, 1994.

Lynnann (Bauman) ’82 and Jim Murphy celebrated the birth of a son, John, July 12, 1999.
Dawn (Redman) Travelstead ’82 competed in her first marathon with Team Diabetes in Maui, March 1999. She raised $3100 for diabetes research. She finished with a time of 4:27:11.

Jillene (Fries) ’83 and Jeffrey Schramm celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob Scott, September 8, 1999. He joins his sister Jessica at home.

Dianne and Gary Ziebell ’83 celebrated the birth of a son, Jordan Michael, August 10, 1999.
Janell (Beers) ’84 and Randy Newton celebrated the birth of a daughter, Anna Catherine, September 3, 1999. She joins her sister, Elizabeth Rose, at home.

Joyce and Jack Felsheim ’84 celebrated the birth of a daughter October 3, 1999.

David Rodeberg ’84 completed his fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and began working for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. in June of 1999. He completed his fellowship in pediatrics July 1999. He is a Consultant in Pediatric Surgery. David and his wife, Alicia celebrated the birth of a son, Conner Ian, October 11, 1999.
Rebecca (Speigel) ’90 and Peter Smith ’84-’87 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Josephine, July 15, 1999. She joins her siblings, Elijah and Emmalyne at home.

Amy L. Hansen ’85 married Thomas Strom August 21, 1999 in Onalaska. Linda Lorenz-Hamilton ’85-’87 will be moving her chiropractic practice to 432 Cass St. in La Crosse.

Linda (Jostad) ’85 and Bryan Berg celebrated the birth of a son, Spencer Matthias, June 16, 1999. He joins his siblings, Dalton, 3 and McKenzie, 2, at home.

Lisa (Marnholtz) ’85 and Greg Gerzel celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob Alexander, October 5, 1999.


Anita (Bruha) ’86 and Brad Schubring celebrated the birth of twin daughters, Katelin and Madeline, July 30, 1999. They join their brother Trenton, 3, at home.


Yvonne D’Arcy ’86 presented two posters at the World Congress on Pain in Vienna, Austria. She also received the Charlotte Liberty Fellowship to the Ph.D. program at the University of Florida.

Robert Hoyt ’86 has moved to New York City to complete his Ph.D. in dramaturgy and theatre criticism at Columbia University.

Beth (Zimmerman) ’86 and Joseph Von Arx celebrated the birth of a son, Maximilian, March 1999. He joins his siblings, Francesca, Katherine, Anne, John and Joseph at home.

Susan (Arcand) ’87 and Tim Emerson celebrated the birth of a son, Lucas Timothy, January 12, 1999.

Lynette (Button) Figueroa ’87 wrote a book titled “Women Shaping Christianity.” It became available beginning December 1999.

Patricia (Dernelle) ’87 and Jim Koaek celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kennedy, June 16, 1999.

Denise (Drews) Kniprath ’87 received her Master’s of Science in Nursing December 12, 1997.

Lisa and Alan Dutton ’87 celebrated the birth of a son, Matthew Jonathan, February 1, 1999.

Suzanne (Jones) ’87 and Jack Linder celebrated the birth of a daughter, Allison Marie, July 3, 1999. She joins her brother, Nathan, at home.

Betty (Karoses) ’87 and Robert Nigh celebrated the birth of a daughter, Rachel Ann, May 4, 1999. She joins her brothers, Brady, Ryan and Brandon, at home.

Denise (Drews) Kniprath ’87 began working for the Henry Medical Center in Wisconsin Rapids, January 1998.

Kelly (Hogan) ’88 and Brian Peroutka ’89 relocated to Madison from Colorado Springs, Colo. Kelly was promoted to Major in the U.S. Army, and is attending the University of Wisconsin,
Madison for her master’s degree as a Nurse Medical/Clinical Specialist. Brian is employed by TDS Telecom in Madison as an Information Systems Infrastructure Support Specialist.

Jane (Gavin) ’88 and Wayne Meyer have four children, Katie, 9, Jill, 7, Sam, 5 and Valene, 2.

Rebecca Jeub ’88 has begun working at Show Low High School in Show Low, Ariz. as the counselor for the junior and senior classes. She is responsible for more than 350 students.

Wendy Korn Peterson ’88 and Sherwood Peterson celebrated the adoption of Hannah, 4 months and Andrew, 3, in 1999.

Ray Lacina ’88 is currently teaching English at the King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and is running a few business-writing courses for local companies. He is also finishing his dissertation in American Literature for the University of Toronto on Thomas Jefferson’s “Essay on the Anglo-Saxon Language.”

Karla (Matthews) ’88 and Jeffrey Fennie celebrated the birth of a daughter, Brynna Rey, May 8, 1999. She joins her sisters, Maryl Sage and Brier Roselynn, at home.

Nancy (Nelson) ’88 and Ken Levra celebrated the birth of a son, Joshua, August 8, 1999. He joins his brothers, Jordan and Kyle, at home.


Diana and Ronald Krajnik ’89 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Isabella, January 3, 1999. She joins her sister, Azrianna Noel, at home.

Michele (Miller) ’89 and Jeff Lemke celebrated the birth of a daughter, Julia Rose, July 16, 1999. She joins her brothers, Mitchell, 6 and Ross, 3 at home.

Catherine (Dieter) ’90 and Douglas Moore ’89 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Sydney Fae, September 18, 1999.

Andrea Philhower ’89 graduated Magna Cum Laude from Seattle University of Law in May 1998 and passed the Washington State Bar Exam in July 1998. She is now an associate attorney with the firm of Gierke, Curwen, Metzler & Erie in Tacoma, practicing insurance defense.

Kathleen (Ross) ’89 and Michael Rusovick celebrated the birth of a daughter, Tatum Marie, June 3, 1999.

Linda Templin ’89 received her administrator’s license from Marian College, Fond du Lac, spring 1999.

Gina (Wachter) ’89 and Neil Wimmer celebrated the birth of a son, Isaiah Scott, February 16, 1999. He joins his sister Acacia, 4, at home.
1990

Maria (Cariolano) '90 and Larry Evers celebrated the birth of a son, Andrew James, June 22, 1999. He joins his sister, Kaitlin, 2, at home. They live in Germany.

Ann (Figge) '90 and Joel Theisen '90 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hannah Dayle, April 11, 1999. She joins her brother, Blake, 2, at home.

Kim and Aaron Gibbons '90 celebrated the birth of a son, Elijah Aaron, August 12, 1999.

Bonnie Merryfield '90 retired in June 1999 after 29 years of teaching.

Linda Mullikin '90 recently moved from Green Bay to Madison, where she works for St. Mary’s Medical Center as an emergency room nurse.

Bernice and Christopher Nagel '90 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Stephany Oliveira, November 28, 1998. They recently moved to Boulder, Colo.

Mary (Siebert) '90 and Michael Schaap celebrated the birth of a son, Dylan Michael, June 16, 1999. He joins his sister Gabrielle, 2, at home.

Debra (Seiger) '90 and James Trowbridge celebrated the birth of a son, Austin, March 30, 1999.

Brenda (Neubauer) '94 and Dean Witz '90 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ellisha, October 2, 1999.

Linda Aarness-Gluch '91 and David Gluch '92 celebrated the birth of a son, Owen Kearney, April 1999. David accepted a position as principal of Winskill Elementary School in Lancaster. Dave previously taught third grade at Winskill.

Carmen Curti '91 married Douglas Kolstad April 24, 1999 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison.

Mary (Tuttle) Jensen '91 began working with the Country Nurses Inc. in August 1999 as a registered nurse. She works in Madison and surrounding areas.

Beverly (Kettler) '91 and Dean Sorenson celebrated the birth of a son, Matthew Dean, September 27, 1999.


Renée (Clark) '92 and John Mansour '91 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Sydney Anne, July 19, 1999. She joins her brother Grant at home.

Therese (Plonde) '91 and Todd Mathison celebrated the birth of a daughter, Skylar Rose, April 9, 1999. She joins her siblings, Kaitlin and Zachary at home.

Lisa (Zanter) '91 and Tom Leehy celebrated the birth of a daughter, Colleen, February 20, 1998.

Sara Aschom '92 married Thomas Heiss August 21, 1999 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Madison. They live in Janesville.

Susan and Todd Goldsmith '92 celebrated the birth of a son, Andrew Charles. He joins his brother, Matthew, at home.
Virginia (Lunstead) ’92 and Mark Nord celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel Charles, January 1, 1998. He joins siblings, Kathleen, 4 and Charles, 3, at home.

Linda Pfaff ’92 went to Ireland November 1999 with her daughter. Her first trip there was with the Global Reach Program while a student at Viterbo.

Peggy (Schaefer) Mossholder ’92 recently began working for the Savannah Hospice as the Homecare Manager.

Donna (Statz) ’92 and Chad Milne ’94 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Paige Darline, October 7, 1999.

Eric Wallbruch ’92 has joined the national touring company of “The Buddy Holly Story” The tour is being produced by Ordway Theatre out of Saint Paul and went on the road November 29, 1999 for 30 to 50 weeks. Cities include Chicago, Milwaukee, Saint Paul, Green Bay and Des Moines.


Susan (Briggs) ’93 and Greg Knorr celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madeline Mary, July 5, 1999. She joins her sister Emma Leone, 3, at home.

John C. Clark ’93 graduated from Denver University College of Law May 15, 1999.


Erin Kraemer ’93 worked as a vocal/general music teacher for grades 2 - 12 at Markesan Public Schools in Markesan from 1993 to 1997. In 1997, she won a full scholarship and assistantship from the University of Notre Dame. While at Notre Dame, Erin appeared as Ottavia in Monteverdi’s “The Coronation of Poppea” and as Blanche de la Force in “Poulenc’s Dialogues of the Carmelites.” She received a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance in 1999. She is currently employed as the Music Director and Fine Arts teacher at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church and School in Ripon.

Tammy Mathison ’93 recently began employment with the Bradford Exchange as a Product Developer and Program Manager. The Bradford Exchange makes limited edition collector plates. Tammy’s team will be working on Home & Family, which produces children, pets, angels and inspirational designs.

Karen Matzek ’93 will be in Cameroon, Africa to teach English and Music for one year through the FSPA Shared Horizons Program. She began orientation on July 10, 1999 in Chicago, and flew to Cameroon on July 27, 1999.

Karen (Saltmarsh) Marschel ’93 is a diabetes nutrition educator with the Rice Hospital International Diabetes Center in Wilmar, Minn. She began in April 1999.

Jennifer (Bondow) ’94 and Tyson Varney celebrated the birth of a son, Pierce Addison, April 27, 1999. He joins his sister Hannah at home.
Tiffany (Gehling) '94 and Richard Peets celebrated the birth of a son, Kade Joseph, June 7, 1999.

Judy and Scott Groth '94 were married April 24, 1999.

Nicole (Kowalski) Greener '94 received her Master’s Degree in Education and Professional Development from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse August 6, 1999.

Richelle (Huber) '94 and Keith Stetzer celebrated the birth of a son, Brendan, September 27, 1999.

Cindy Lund '94 received her Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She is doing her post graduate fellowship in Denver.

Amy McIlmail '94 married Tim Wysocki August 7, 1999. They live in Shoreview, Minn.

Kay McSweeney '94 retired spring 1999 after 43 years of teaching.


Noel (Patzner) '94 and Henry Filla celebrated the birth of a daughter, Mariah, August 6, 1998. She joins her sister Wynonah at home.

Jennifer (Schuld) '94 and Michael Heenan celebrated the birth of a son, Nathan Michael, August 26, 1999.


Shanen (Baures) '95 and Joseph Kazynski celebrated the birth of a son, Branden, January 10, 1999. He joins his brother Tyler at home.

Jennifer Campbell-Degener '95 and Chris Degener celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, August 5, 1998.

Melissa Hellwig '95 recently began working for La Crosse County Health Department as the coordinator for the new Community Liaison Program. The program was developed in response to concerns about the effects of the W2 welfare reform program. Its purpose is to identify and serve the needs of people whose needs are not being met by existing programs.

Thora (Kenny) '95 and Shannon Tollefson celebrated the birth of a son, Erik Lars, June 12, 1999. He joins his brother, Aaron, at home.

Traci (Kruztz) '96 and Dean Lindner '95 celebrated the birth of a son, Cole Donald, September 4, 1999.

Jeanine Pekkarinen '95 married Mike O’Malley September 6, 1999. They live in New York.

Barbara Piatt '95 married Michael Kain September 5, 1999.


Melissa Riffe-Grade '95 and Scott Grade celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lauren Nicole, July 10, 1999.

Kathryn Ritter '95 married Jon Heiderscheit October 30, 1999.
Jenna Robek ’95 married Jason Miller October 23, 1999. They live in West Salem. Lynda (Sawyer) Kruckeberg ’95 recently began working for the Mohane Department of Public Health in Arizona. She is working as a nurse practitioner, providing healthcare to the uninsured and the underinsured.

Teri (Suchla) ’95 and Brian Putz celebrated the birth of a son, Brian Adam, July 29, 1999. He joins his sister, Erin, at home.

Karen Thaldorf-Miller ’95 and George Miller celebrated the birth of a daughter, Maeve Ann, October 5, 1999.

Erika (Von Arx) ’95 and Dan Lind celebrated the birth of a son, Pierce, July 21, 1999.

Abigail (Meisch) Avila ’96 recently began working as an embryologist for the Midwest Reproductive Health Associates, P.A. in Robbinsdale, Minn.


Barbara (Dade) ’96 and Terry Dickman celebrated the birth of a daughter, Allyson Rose, August 20, 1999.

Michele (Cunningham) ’96 and Randy Aschbrenner celebrated the adoption of Yanush Aschbrenner, 5, November 1999, and twins, Colin and Selena, 8 months, October 1999. Yanush is from Moldova in Eastern Europe. Colin and Selena are from Colombia.

Tina Daniels ’96 recently relocated to Whitewater and is employed by Merry Health System in Janesville as an office manager at their new regional dialysis center.

Sara Froh ’96 married Jason Buss June 12, 1999.


Mary O’Flaherty ’96 married Robert Bohanek July 10, 1999 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse.

Mindy (Schuyler) ’96 and Jim Huemmer celebrated the birth of a son, Maxwell James, July 24, 1999.

Kari Staack ’96 recently began working as a teacher for the Waverly-Shell Rock School District as a K-12 TAG teacher. She and her family moved to Waverly, Iowa from West Des Moines.

Catherine (Abrahamzon) ’97 and Roy Eliason celebrated the birth of a son, Joseph Thomas, April 27, 1999. He joins his brother Lane, 4, at home.

Jessica Carlson ’97 married Jason Zych March 19, 1999 in Key West, Fla.

Tammy Carlson ’97 married Brent Schuettpelz October 9, 1999.

Jody and Kris Connors ’97 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Rebekah Grace, October 8, 1999.

Heath J. Faul ’97 is attending St. Mary’s University in the Masters of Education program.
Paula (Flaskrud) '97 and Brian Stedman celebrated the birth of a child, November 1999. Paula is teaching 8th grade at Lincoln Middle School in La Crosse.


Yvette Heritsch '97 is the Master Electrician for the Riverside Theatre in Vero Beach, Fla.

Danielle Klingbeil '97 married Scott Krueger October 1999.

Kelly (Loos) '97 and Dean Fleisner celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kaitlynn Marie, September 16, 1999.

Alisabeth (Mead) '97 and Timothy Truebenbach celebrated the birth of a daughter, Chloe "Charlie" Eugena, July 22, 1999. She joins her sister Lillian, 1, at home.


Jody Spiel-King '97 and Brian King celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kira Inez, June 15, 1999.

Kristine Trine '97 and Juner Schultz '97 were married October 9, 1999.

Diane (Van Coulter) '97 and Joe Reinfeldt celebrated the birth of a son, Matthew Kenneth, November 2, 1998.

Sean Vigue '97 performed the part of Hero in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum March 11 - April 4, 1999 in Vero Beach, Fla.

Mrs. and Douglas Walkner '97 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Julia Nicole, May 25, 1999.

Janice (Wendtland) Soczka '97 received her Master’s of Science in Nursing from the UW-Oshkosh 1999. She is a family nurse in Edgar.

Heather Whitmer '97 recently began working for Aurora Healthcare/Sinai Samaritan Medical Center in Milwaukee as a registered dietitian.

Melissa Boyer-Sunga '98 and Anthony Sunga celebrated the birth of a son, Michael, March 27, 1999.

Megan Campbell '98 married Brian Haun August 14, 1999 in Richland Center.

Kelly Camrud '98 is a graduate student at Washington University in St. Louis. She is working toward her Master’s Degree in Social Work with an emphasis in programs and policies.

Sara Clemens '98 married Jon Root July 31, 1999 in Chatfield, Minn.

James Cochran '98 and his wife Betty are living in Japan. James is teaching conversational English to middle school students. He formerly taught middle school math in Iowa. They are getting used to the Japanese culture and have had wonderful experiences. They can be reached by email at: mtown@yin.or.jp.


Amy Schroeder married Nate Keller '98 July 10, 1999 at the Christ the King Lutheran Church, Holmen.

Lynn (Heinz) Pokorski '98 celebrated the birth of a son, Alex Paul, January 6, 1999.

Barb Larsen '98 recently began working for EnPower as regional sales account executive in La Crosse. EnPower is a marketing and sales organization serving cooperatives of the upper Midwest, and has offices in La Crosse and Maple Grove, Minn.

Amy Lilla '98 married Seth Barna '99 August 7, 1999 in Winona.

Lulie Loehlein '98 married Brent Howell August 6, 1999.

Marirose Lucey '98 received a Master’s of Arts in Educational Leadership degree December 18, 1999 from Marian College, Fond du Lac. She became the principal of Cooper School in Sheboygan August 1999.

Richard Pfaff '98 is currently attending the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee for his Master’s in Urban and Regional Planning.

Julie Rubenzer '98 and Tim Dearman celebrated the birth of a son, Gabriel Timothy, October 14, 1999.

Maggie Reinert '98 is working as a case manager for the homeless for Catholic Family Service, Inc. in Amarillo.


Traci Schutt '98 and Scott Schutt celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hannah, May 8, 1998.


Allison Stursa '98 is currently a graduate student at the University of St. Thomas. Her area of study is counseling psychology with a specialty in marriage and family therapy.

Melinda Williams '98 married Jeff Spaulding '98 August 14, 1999. They live in Noblesville, Ind. Melinda is employed by Eli Lilly as a marketing research analyst for Prozac, and Jeff is employed by Old Republic Title as an internal auditor.

Nicole Bauer '99 left for the Peace Corps on September 8, 1999. She will be teaching child and maternal health in Turkmenistan. Her address there is: US Peace Corps/Turkmenistan P.O. Box 258, Krugozor, Central Post Office, Ashgabat, 744000, Turkmenistan.


Krista Hamus '99 is employed by the Adams-Friendship School District as a third grade teacher. She is also in charge of the After School Program there.

Jessica Kuehn '99 is currently attending the University of York, England. She is pursuing her Master of Arts degree in Women’s Studies.
Marilyn Pedretti ’99 is a volunteer with Shared Horizons, an FSPA program. She is living in El Paso, Texas and has three ministries. Her main focus is building straw bale houses that are environmentally and economically friendly. The families are involved in helping to build their homes, and also attend workshops on financial assistance, conservation and other subjects to help improve their lives. Marilyn is also a teacher’s aide at a Catholic elementary school and tutors first, second and third graders. She also works two days a week at Catholic Charities of El Paso helping families with food, clothing and financial assistance.

Trisha Winter ’99 married Darin Johnson December 18, 1999 in Des Moines, Iowa.

The following FSPA Alumni celebrated their jubilees in 1999:

- **75 Years**
  - S. Aimee Sendelbach ’45

- **70 Years**
  - S. Irene Richelman ’49

- **60 Years**
  - S. LaVonne Abts ’51
  - S. Josara Bielefeld ’45
  - S. Dominica Chen ’75
  - S. Jamesetta Dowd ’55
  - S. Patricia Fried ’47
  - S. Marie Gengler ’51
  - S. Agnes Hafner ’46
  - S. Flavia Hennig ’55
  - S. Rosealine Janssen ’63
  - S. Marie Leon LaCroix ’45
  - S. Eva Jean Laverdiere ’51
  - S. Alice McMullin ’51
  - S. Jean Marie Menke ’48
  - S. Margaret Neumann ’52
  - S. Stella Swoboda ’54
  - S. Clerone Brill ’59
  - S. Edna Bube ’67

- **50 Years**
  - S. Patricia Keating ’55
  - S. Julin Ann Mauss ’55
  - S. Rose Menke ’55
  - S. Therese Pedretti ’57
  - S. Donna Schwager ’55
  - S. Laura Schreck ’62
  - S. Susan Till ’55
  - S. Dorothy Wenzel ’61

**In Memoriam**

- S. Carola Unser ’46, September 8, 1999, sister of S. Carlene Unser ’53.

- Virginia Bender, November 12, 1999, sister of S. Virginia McCarville ’45.
Herbert Gamache, October 7, 1999, brother of S. Ione Gamache ’47.
S. Sylvestrina Falkner ’47, November 2, 1999, sister of S. Barbarita Falkner ’47.
S. Mary Claude Donndelinger ’48, June 10, 1999.
Nicolas Soong, November 1999, brother of S. Mary Gabriel Soong ’52.
Theresa Malin, October 16, 1999, sister of S. Loretta Penchi ’54.
Gertrude Poeschel, August 8, 1999, sister of S. Dorothy Brenner ’55.
Nicholas Myers, April 5, 1999, son of Therese (Myers) McHenry ’55 and brother of Renee Myers-Kelley ’77-’80.
Joseph Wittig, June 21, 1999, brother of S. Mary Avila Wittig ’55.
William Dolle, February 18, 1999, husband of Rita (Hafner) Dolle ’57-’58, brother-in-law of Joyce (Jostad) Dolle ’49-50 and Loretta (Hafner) Schneider ’89, uncle of Rose (Dolle) Kulig ’78 and John Schneider ’82.
S. Rosemary Christine Freed ’58, September 1999, sister of S. Patricia Freed ’47.
Elizabeth M. Gerke, August 4, 1999, mother of S. Malinda Gerke ’60, Donna M. (Gerke) Cuta ’70, Mary Lu Gerke ’74, and grandmother of Jeffrey Gerke ’95.
Rose Sprosty, June 10, 1999, mother of S. Laurette Sprosty ’63.
Anna Pieper, June 9, 1999, mother of S. Dorothy Pieper ’64.
Mary J. Henning ’65, March 17, 1999.
John ’Jack’ Sheetz, September 12, 1999, father of Mary Ellen (Sheetz) Justinger ’69.
Mark Rickert, June 25, 1999, brother of Patricia (Rickert) Bacon '70.
William Rachubinski, September 30, 1999, father of Mary (Rachubinski) McShane '70 and Donna (Rachubinski) Friess '85.
Joseph A. Dudek, June 21, 1999, father of Carol (Dudek) Spencer '70.
Margaret Ernst, October 9, 1999, mother of Mary (Ernst) Bonifas '71.
Ann Radtke, November 1998, mother of Terri (Radtke) Shea '73-'75.
Boyd W. Conard, Jr., October 23, 1999, husband of Sue (Irons) Conard '73.
Shirley Vieth, March 22, 1999, mother of Mary (Vieth) Yellick '73.
Vilo James McCoy, July 9, 1999, father-in-law of Barbara (Knadle) McCoy '75.
Jack Yurcek, June 29, 1999, brother of Mary (Yurcek) Hoover '75.
Virginia Banasik, August 17, 1999, mother of Madonna (Banasik) Daley '76.
Gertrude Liebl, August 1999, Mother of Judy (Liebl) Stafslien '76.
LaVerne O. Emerson, November 1, 1999, father-in-law of Sally (Kramer) Emerson '77.
Donald Jacobson, October 3, 1999, father of Kevin Jacobson '78.
Melvern Gander, May 9, 1999, father-in-law of Kathy (Gorman) Gander '79.
Helen Sage, June 28, 1999, mother of Richard Sage '82.
Timothy R. Valk '82, August 16, 1999 brother of Bruce Valk '80 and Barry Valk '88.
Chester Garthwaite, March 9, 1999, father of Nancy (Garthwaite) Posten '83.
LaVerne Schmieder, June 2, 1999, father of Judy (Schmieder) Harpenau '83.
Lawrence Mitley, Sr., September 1, 1999, father-in-law of Sue Ann (Davis) Mitley '84.
Francis Siebenaler, July 4, 1999, mother of Sam Siebenaler '85, mother in law of Deb (Kotnour) Siebenaler '76, grandmother of Dennis Siebenaler '75 and Sheryl (Siebenaler) Wiegers '79.
Lloyd Burnett, May 1, 1999, father of Gregory Burnett '86.
A FINAL WORD

Melinda Van Slyke graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Theatre Arts in Viterbo College in 1997. After graduating she spent a year in Guatemala as a human rights observer and spent part of last year teaching in Bogota, Colombia. You can reach her by email at melindavs@hotmail.com.
Choosing to Make A Difference: Living in the Third World

*Strides Note: At press time, the civil war in Colombia had escalated and Van Slyke, fearing for her safety, returned home to Spring Green. She hopes to one day return to Colombia and continue her teaching mission.*

Here I am in Bogota, Colombia. I know what you are thinking—“First Guatemala, now Colombia? Is she completely out of her mind?” I thought I might share with you the process I went through in choosing to come here.

I got back from Guatemala in late November of last year. I was ready to come home—a volcanic eruption, bacterial dysentery, and Hurricane Mitch will do that to a person. But I wasn’t ready to watch news reports about toy stores hiring security guards to watch over their Furby displays. How does one go from living with refugees in absolute poverty who thought that getting an egg was a treat to living in a country whose average cat is better nourished than the average third world baby?

I decided that I needed to reconsider where my life was heading when:

- I realized with horror that I could rattle off the ABC Tuesday night line-up;
- I spent half an hour roaming aimlessly through my mother’s kitchen, peering into her well-stocked refrigerator and cabinets before I proclaimed, quite seriously, “There’s nothing to eat around here.”;
- I found myself going on a weekend trip to La Crosse and I had packed not one, not two, but three different kinds of lotions. (I had face lotion, hand lotion, and general every-day lotion for emergency moisturizing on the parts of my body not covered by lotion number one and lotion number two. My packing three lotions may not seem like a reason to consider fleeing the country until I remind you that just a few weeks prior my beauty routine consisted of quite happily bathing in the river using laundry detergent.)

So to make a long story short, I felt a little out of control. I felt like I was living in the belly of the beast and that I was being consumed by the gods of excess. I felt like I needed a change.

Now, I have come to discover that the universe has a way of taking care of me. Just when I felt that I needed a change, who should call me but Beth Moore, one of my friends from Viterbo College. She had received correspondence from a Franciscan school in Bogota, saying they were looking for teachers for the 1999-00 school year. I was immediately intrigued. I had spent a semester studying in Bogot?, and since then I have retained a soft spot for Colombia. I began corresponding with Colegio Santa Francisca Romana. As it turns out, I was offered a position teaching theatre and speech. After seriously weighing the pros and cons, I accepted the position.

The main con was the personal security issue. Colombia is embroiled in a brutal civil war. I won’t bore you with facts and figures about how many people have been killed, kidnapped, or disappeared. Suffice it to say that the only country in the world that has more refugees and displaced people than Colombia is Sudan.

Generally speaking, while Colombia is very dangerous, Bogota, for whatever reason, has been spared from much of the violence. If one is careful, as one should be in any large city, one can expect to live a normal life. So I knew that as long as I was prudent and stayed inside of Bogota I should be fine.
The main pro was the opportunity to teach theatre in a Spanish-speaking country. It seemed almost too good to be true. All through college people would say to me, “You’re studying theatre and Spanish and education? What are you going to do, teach theatre in Spain?” As it turns out, yes—only in Colombia.

I am working with two schools, both Franciscan-Colegio Santa Francisca Romana and Colegio Anexo San Francisco de Asis. I am teaching theatre classes in sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grades, and I am teaching a speech class to the 11th graders. The classes are going well, and they are interesting, to say the least. My ninth graders are working on short one-acts, and their themes leave me absolutely breathless. One group’s is about a girl who is kidnapped by the guerrillas. Another group’s is about a shoot-out that takes place between the narco-traffickers and the paramilitaries.

This is what the children think about. This is their reality. And my reality too, at least for the time being. But the difference is that I choose to live here.

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...
This was a tough one! So far we’ve received no letters identifying these Viterbo alums. But we’re not about to give up! If you can identify, with as much detail as possible, what’s happening in this photo and who the people are, you can still submit the information. Send it to Viterbo University, c/o Strides Magazine, 815 South 9th Street, La Crosse, WI 54601. We’ll publish it in the next issue and, if you’re the first to submit, we’ll send you a copy of The History of Viterbo College.

VITERBO CALENDAR

February 16 - March 17
Chris Autio Exhibition, Viterbo College Art Gallery
February 19
WBB/MBB vs. Mount St. Clare College
(Homecoming)
February 24-28
Black Box Theatre: "As You Like It"

February 27
Bright Star Season: "Harlem Spiritual Ensemble"

March 1
Bright Star Season: "Victor/Victoria"
BB vs. Mount Senario

March 15
Bright Star Season: "River North Dance Company"

March 18
Suzuki String Festival

March 19
Arts for Young America: Richard Scary's "Busytown"

March 22 - April 12
Graphic Design Senior Exhibition,
Viterbo College Art Gallery

March 26
Thea Fest (see inside cover)

March 25
Bright Star Season: "The Tamburitzans"

April 6
SB vs. Grandview College

April 8-9
BB vs. St. Ambrose

April 10
SB vs. St. Ambrose University

April 14-15
BB vs. Iowa Wesleyan

April 14-16
Bright Star Season: Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe"

April 18
BB vs. Mount St. Clare

April 26 - May 7
All Student Exhibition, Viterbo College Art Gallery

April 27
SB vs. Mount Mercy College

April 30 - May 1
BB vs. Grandview

May 3
Bright Star Season: "Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson"

May 4
Honors Convocation

May 5
Courtyard Carni

Last Day of Classes
May 14
Baccalaureate and Commencement
* Sporting events listed are home conference games
* WBB-women’s basketball, MBB-men’s basketball, SB-softball, BB-baseball