A New Era Begins

People could hardly blame the President of “Viterbo College” for wanting to be cautious. After all, the good name Viterbo College means a lot to many people, and he wasn’t about to take lightly a decision about changing to university status.

In an effort to be inclusive, President William J. Medland queried countless stakeholders about making the switch, and when the results of his discussion were in, he was surprised only by the unanimity of the response. The overwhelming sentiment was: “Make the change.” Although the spirit and special nature of the people who make up Viterbo remains essentially unchanged, participants in the discussions recognized that the time to become a university had arrived.

The U.S. Department of Education had already recognized the institution’s successful ventures into graduate education and subsequently reclassified Viterbo as a “comprehensive institution (university)” for reporting purposes. Viterbo awarded its first 41 Master of Arts in Education degrees in 1990. A decade later, the number of teacher education graduates skyrocketed to 309, making Viterbo one of the largest programs in the nation. In 1998, a Master of Science in Nursing was added.

Other changes to the landscape and infrastructure of the campus remain abundantly evident to this day. Viterbo’s undergraduate enrollment has doubled in just the last decade. Classrooms are filled to capacity. And additional housing has been constructed to handle the influx of students wanting to live on campus. Earlier in the decade, Viterbo reorganized its undergraduate, graduate, and extended learning programs into schools, an alignment which is very similar to university institutions.

“There has been little expressed resistance to moving to university status,” said Sally Emerson, Viterbo’s alumni director. “Dr. Medland met with the Alumni Board and they were very supportive, particularly when they were reassured that the important things, like mission and the emphasis on personal attention, will not change.

“A number of alumni expressed pride that university status indicates their alma mater is advancing,” Emerson added.

Meanwhile, as the Sept. 4 date nears, indicators of change are everywhere: new letterhead, apparel, signage, publications—signify only the beginning of this exciting new era for Viterbo University.
Welcome to Viterbo University

On Jan. 11, 2000, Viterbo made “Viterbo University” official with the following announcement, which was made by President Medland at a campus gathering that included the local press.

“Good afternoon. At this time, I would like to make an important announcement regarding Viterbo.

I am pleased to announce that this institution will assume the status of Viterbo University, effective on the Feast of St. Rose of Viterbo, Sept. 4, 2000. The Board of Directors at its meeting in December unanimously approved the change in status which conforms to our designation by the U.S. Department of Education.

Since 1994, Viterbo College has been classified by the U.S. Department of Education as a comprehensive institution; that is, a university. In this past decade, a new model of higher education has emerged which combines characteristics from the research university and liberal arts college. This new model has been termed the “New American Comprehensive Institution” or more properly, the “New American University.” Viterbo fits the characteristics inherent in this new model. The eight characteristics include the following:

• An array of academic programs (35 undergraduate/two graduate)
• A liberal arts core curriculum
• A regional student body
• Graduate programs
• A set of professional schools
• Programs for non-traditional students offered via non-traditional delivery systems
• A focus on teaching rather than research
• A community outreach component.

In fact, if you analyze Viterbo today you will recognize that it conforms to TheWebster’s New Collegiate Dictionary definition of a university. A university is “an institution of higher learning providing facilities for teaching and research and authorized to grant academic degrees; specifically, one made up of an undergraduate division which confers bachelor degrees and a graduate division which confers master degrees.” This obviously is Viterbo today!

Even under the designation of university, Viterbo will continue to be an institution that is person-centered, values-based, service-directed, and learning-focused. Viterbo will continue to emphasize the following:

• Its Catholic identity as a Christian and ecumenical institution
• Its Franciscan values
• Its Liberal Arts curriculum
• The primacy of the faculty teaching role
• The emphasis on student learning
• Small classes taught by professional faculty
• The accessibility of faculty and staff to graduate and undergraduate students.

Should Viterbo change to a university? Throughout the 1999 fall semester, the college contacted virtually all internal and external constituencies and received their input regarding the change from college to university. Every constituent group gave its support to the change, and in all cases, it was unanimous or nearly unanimous. The constituent groups that provided
input to this process included the National Advisory Council, the National Alumni Board, the Board of Advisors, the undergraduate Student Government Association, graduate students, the assemblies for Faculty, Administrators, and Staff, the Planning Council of Viterbo, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, and the Board of Directors.

This indeed is a significant milestone in the history of this Franciscan institution. However, this change for Viterbo is an evolutionary change reflecting the growth of this institution through its various stages as St. Rose Normal School, St. Rose Junior College, and Viterbo College.

I wish to thank each one of you for the tremendous effort you have given to Viterbo during this past decade, whether that be keeping our classrooms and offices clean or repairing this item or that item, or teaching our students in the classroom. Collectively and individually, you have made a difference in this Franciscan institution. Together you have helped prepare the college to become Viterbo University.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to each of you. Welcome to Viterbo University.”

Some common questions about University status

How will alumni be affected?

Students who attended Viterbo prior to the changeover will continue to be issued Viterbo College transcripts. On resumes, Viterbo graduates are encouraged to use the designation-college or university-in a manner that represents their personal and professional interest. For present, either choice is accurate, although over time the university designation will become more familiar and thus more appropriate for widespread use.

When will the change occur?

Officially, Viterbo assumes university status on Sept. 4, 2000. In reality, some transitioning to the new name already is occurring, when practical, in areas such as signage. It should be noted that the distinctive “Viterbo College,” which appears above the entrance of Murphy Center, will remain as a reminder of the heritage of the college.

When will diplomas change?

The first Viterbo University diplomas will be issued to students participating in the December 2000 commencement exercise.

What is the cost associated with changing from college to university?

The change is estimated to cost $25,000. The plan is to deplete the inventories on costly items such as letterhead, envelopes, and recruiting brochures before reordering with the new name.

What is the rationale behind the change?

For complete details, log onto Viterbo’s website at: www.viterbo.edu/univ.htm. An eight-page insert also was distributed at the time of the announcement and a limited number of copies are available. To request one, write in care of Strides or email pgkerrigan@viterbo.edu.
The Final Score: How do Female Athletes Win the Game?

“I hope that there will come a day when people will enjoy, watch, participate in, and be a part of sports, without caring whether the sport is being played by male or female teams.”
“Coaches Public Speaking Portfolio,”
Parker Publishing Company, 1986

Being a female athlete can be difficult, because the two terms are somewhat contradictory in many minds. Perceptions of feminism and athleticism don’t always mix well.

On the other hand, masculinity and athleticism seem to go together. The take-no-prisoners mentality prevails. Ruthless and relentless male competitors are revered.

Female athletes sometimes feel a need to be cautious about not crossing some mysterious and wavering line that divides femininity and masculinity. “Girls can be big and strong, but we’d better not push it,” explained Darcie Vacek, a forward on the women’s basketball team at Viterbo. “We’re still supposed to be girls, too.”

It is hard, said Vacek, to be both a female and an athlete. “If you’re too athletic then you’re a tomboy,” she said. But displaying too many feminine traits wins a “sissy label” and probably won’t win many basketball games.

Female basketball players probably are evolving toward the men’s style of play, a more competitive and physical brand of basketball, Vacek predicted. “Women are getting tougher,” she said.

That is not necessarily a good thing, noted Dr. Grant Smith of Viterbo’s English Department, who as a high school student, was a member of his basketball and football championship team in his home state of Idaho.

“There are things about masculine competition that no one should adopt,” said Smith, who has done a study titled “Her Story: Gender Representation in Young Adult Sports Literature.”

His research, which found there is a shortage of quality writing about athletics from the female viewpoint, also suggests there may be more than one way to play a game. Female athletes, and their games, are evolving. Will they find a distinctively female way to compete, or will they adopt the male model of competition?

The darker side of athletics is not much of a problem at Viterbo for either male or female athletes, Smith said. “This is a Franciscan community, and the emphasis is on community,” he explained. “We have a tradition of including those who might have been excluded elsewhere.”

That type of philosophy more closely fits the female version of athletics, Smith suggested. “There is less of an emphasis on individual statistics in women’s basketball. The emphasis is more on the team and less on the player.”

Smith said he likes that attitude, and wonders if win-at-all-costs competition is a good thing. Perhaps participation is more important, he suggested. “Maybe we should be playing more people. It might be more important to include more players, rather than exclude and win.”
There are some observers of sports that believe the very act of keeping score causes problems, but Bobbi Vandenberg doesn’t agree with that concept. “If you don’t keep score you never know where you stand,” said the head coach of women’s basketball at Viterbo.

She believes women’s basketball is evolving more toward the male game, with some differences. But the element of competition is vital to basketball for both men and women, she said. “Striving to win, and striving for championships, is important,” she said. “It’s very rewarding when you win.”

Vandenberg should know. Prior to coming to Viterbo, she was a highly successful coach at Boulder High School in Boulder. She compiled a 183-27 record there, winning the Colorado Girls’ Championship five times. She was named Coach of the Year five times by the Denver Post. In her seven years at Viterbo, Vandenberg is 114-100.

Females tend to be more team-oriented, she added, and that is one important difference between women’s basketball and the ultra-competitive male game. If you can find a player who combines the competitive attitude of a male with the team spirit of a female, then you’ve probably found a key component of a successful team, Vandenberg suggested. But, she noted, “The best players I’ve had had some of the male attitude and approach toward the game. Those players believe that it does matter whether you win or lose,” the coach said.

“My girls have as much desire to win as guys do,” reported Dave Waraxa, head coach of volleyball at Viterbo. But, he adds, female athletes do approach competition differently. “They want to win, but they want to be a good sport about it.”

Because of this, the coach believes it may be necessary to motivate female athletes differently. “You can’t just yell at them, like you would a male athlete,” he explained. “Females are by nature more nurturing and caring, and their feelings and emotions translate into on-court behavior,” Waraxa said. “They want to win, but they don’t want to make the other team feel too badly either,” he added.

“The challenge is for women to decide if they want to appropriate masculine definitions of sport, or if they want to redefine the terms,” added Smith, who analyzed three years of Sports Illustrated as part of the research for his study. He vividly recalled an issue of the magazine that contained a story about Pat Summitt, the highly successful coach of women’s basketball at the University of Tennessee. The story described Summitt as a “female” Bobby Knight, the temperamental but also successful coach of men’s basketball at the University of Indiana.

The Indiana coach easily could be labeled as abusive, Smith contends. “Calling Pat Summitt another Bobby Knight—is that really a compliment?”

But women, Smith said, don’t have to adopt that male win-or-else attitude. “Yes, there will be winners and losers, but if the loser has done her best she also is a winner. The objective is not to crush the opponent. The objective is to play well, to learn, to have fun.”

“Guys do play differently,” agreed Vacek, who had an older brother and sister, James and Beth, who were outstanding basketball players for Viterbo. “When guys play one-on-one, that’s a cut-throat match. When I play one-on-one with someone, I have fun, and when the game’s over I laugh.”
Vacek predicts women's basketball will continue to change toward the male game, but hopes that evolution doesn't go too far. “I would hate to see the women's game evolve to the NBA style,” she said.

That is exactly what Smith fears could happen. “Do we really need a “female” Latrell Sprewell?” Smith asked. Sprewell, now a member of the New York Knicks, once was suspended from professional basketball for attacking and choking his former coach.

Ven terminology can indicate the direction women's athletics is heading, Smith contended. “Does the women’s team play a man-to-man defense?” he asked. “If so, that’s an example of women embracing the male definition of sports.”

Yep,” said Vandenberg, “I call it a man-to-man defense.” But she isn’t so sure that indicates anything important or anything at all. “I call the girls guys too,” she said. “I’m less politically correct than some.” Many female coaches do prefer the term “player-to-player” defense, she reported.

Vandenberg sees more significance in the female athlete’s willingness to give up competitive sports in favor of something else. “Females are generally more focused on their future,” Vandenberg explained. If their grades start to suffer they sometimes will quit the team to spend more time on their studies, she said. Viterbo female athletes, had an overall grade-point average of 3.17 during the 1998 - 99 school year, compared with a combined grade-point average of 2.78 for male student-athletes.

“We also lose a lot of female athletes who have relationships,” Vandenberg said. She suggested the opposite isn’t true very often. “Guys don’t give up sports for girls,” she concluded.

Smith said female athletics still is evolving and changing. The female interpretation of competition may yet prove to be different from the male interpretation, he added. “Women should back up and decide for themselves what they want before adapting to the male model.”

But the direction may have been set, and it probably will be hard to change. As Vacek said: “To me, if someone says, ‘You play like a girl,’ that’s an insult.”

**Thea Fest 2000: A Celebration of Sister Thea Bowman's Life - March 26, 2000**

**Who was Thea?**

Thea, as she was called by many, was known for tirelessly spreading the Gospel through song, dance, and story, and for promoting cross-cultural awareness throughout the country. She so captured the hearts and minds of the world that, since her death, talk of sainthood has surrounded her name.

Born Bertha Bowman in Yazoo City, Miss., Thea was baptized a Catholic in 1947. In 1953 she entered the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration community in La Crosse, Wis., and
professed her vows in 1958. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree at Viterbo College, Thea taught at Blessed Sacrament in La Crosse and Holy Child Jesus Catholic High School in Canton, Miss. She went on to receive her master’s and doctoral degrees from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She then came back to La Crosse and taught English at Viterbo from 1972-78. Thea helped found the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in New Orleans, La. and became a popular speaker. She died in 1990 after a six-year struggle with cancer.

**Thea on Viterbo...**

In March 1989, Sr. Thea Bowman was interviewed as part of Viterbo’s centennial celebration. The following reflections from Sr. Thea on Viterbo are excerpts from that interview.

- “I remember the motto ‘Goodness, Wisdom, Knowledge. Teach me, oh Lord!’ I remember Viterbo as a place where my teachers were very dedicated and they shared a love for learning...School was a place to go to enjoy life. I remember my classmates going around studying chemistry and physics and some of these more vigorous disciplines and I was a student of the English language individual with a minor in drama and I was just having fun. I loved literature and I met teachers who were able to help me open the books. I met some teachers who realized that I had some gifts and that was something that had never occurred to me. You know, just to realize that I could do some things...I think, read, write, the basics.”

- “I came back to Viterbo in 1972 as a teacher, full of enthusiasm for teaching, for Viterbo, for learning. And I met some fascinating students who made my life here as a teacher very, very exciting. And I had a good time. I was convinced that literature is an incentive for most people who want to live. That in literature you meet people who will tell you things that your best friends, your closest friends, won’t tell you and you have experiences of life vicariously that prepare you for experiences of life that are real. Experiences of life vicariously that help you to understand the reality that you attempt to live. And that was exciting for me.”

- “As a teacher of the English language and literature and Chair of the English Department, one of my primary objectives was that I should have a good time, that my students should have a good time, and that we should enjoy what we were doing. That was my focus. Got me in trouble sometimes, but that was OK too.”

- “Viterbo was small and Viterbo was family. You knew your teachers, you knew your students. And I think as Viterbo grew and expanded there were people who were dedicated to trying to maintain that kind of family atmosphere... just a real care and concern for your intellectual development, for your professional development, for your human and personal development and to me that’s different from what I’ve met at some other places.”

- “And they (students) were always pinching pennies. I don’t know if they all do that...do they still do that? Trying to make it on a shoestring? Well, that’s St. Francis. Dependin’ on the Lord to get you through and get you over.”

- “There’s a certain craziness that’s Franciscan, one of abandon, joie de vivre, and I think that was part of Viterbo. People took time to laugh and they took time to play and they took time to cry—sometimes together. And it wasn’t an isolated thing...I think at the time when I was here, you know, faculty and students and students and administration—there was a kind of closeness, a kind of love that to me is Franciscan.”
Sr. Kathleen Kenkel Leaving Viterbo

At age 70, in the year 2000, having served as an FSPA for 50 years and at Viterbo for 15 of those—Sr. Kathleen Kenkel is leaving her position as a full-time teacher in the Religious Studies Department.

These milestones all point to a full and enriching career, but for Sr. Kathleen, the term “retirement” doesn’t quite match up with her future plans. Slowing down the pace of things might be a more agreeable description of her intentions.

“I’m not sure what I’ll do. I will be volunteering at our retreat centers in Prairiewood and Marywood. I also plan to take a year off for a sabbatical to reflect and pray. This is an opportunity to integrate life and my years of activity in a contemplative way.”

The year off, or more if she prefers, has been earned—the bountiful reward for a life lived well and committed in selfless dedication to the thousands of young people who were her students.

Wherever there was a need, at Viterbo or elsewhere, Sr. Kathleen could be counted on to do the required job. Assigned to elementary and secondary teaching jobs throughout the vast network of FSPA-sponsored schools that existed at the time, she took her final vows in 1950, and quickly became familiar with the landscape of the Midwest. Always on the move, she taught in Mosinee, Wausau, Superior, Platteville, La Crosse, and in the Iowa towns of Carroll, Bellevue, Kemper, and even in Spokane, Wash.

Her specialty was English, but Sr. Kathleen also earned a master’s degree in Theology from Notre Dame, and that coveted combination was noticed by Father J. Thomas Finucan, then president of Viterbo College.

“I arrived at Viterbo in 1975 and taught in both the Religious Studies and English Departments. The times were exciting because there was a strong common spirit among the sisters and some of the first lay faculty to be hired.”

After eight years at Viterbo, Sr. Kathleen was to move on. The Franciscan Spirituality Center was just beginning at St. Rose Convent and she was named its first director. After three years there and a year studying at Loyola University in Chicago, she accepted one of the most difficult challenges in her life, work in parish ministry at Sacred Heart Church in Palos Hills, Ill. The congregation did not have a school and Sr. Kathleen assumed primary responsibility for ministering to 700 grade school students and catechists. She also assumed multiple roles associated with the spiritual needs of the massive church which had a burgeoning membership of 3,300.

Viterbo was in her past...that is, until one night when she received a call.

“All was happy with what I was doing and I got this phone call, and Viterbo wanted me to return to teach in the Religious Studies Department.”

The lure of academia and the desire to be closer to her La Crosse FSPA community made saying “yes” easy, and from 1993 on, Sr. Kathleen has been in the Viterbo classroom, most frequently teaching Religions of the World.
When she teaches that last class and says goodbye for a final time to her faculty peers, the feeling will be bittersweet. “I will miss the intellectual stimulation and commitment to students. I’ll miss the opportunity to invite people to a deeper spirituality in their sense of God and ministry.” But Viterbo is in good hands, she said, even though her retirement means the loss of one more FSPA from the faculty rolls.

“People here are committed to Franciscanism. There is a great receptivity to it, and with fewer FSPA, the laity will accept that as a reality and challenge. In the 60s, the number of Sisters teaching in the grade schools dramatically dropped. We were all traumatized and wondered what would happen. However the dedication of the people to the mission stayed the same and things were fine. At Viterbo, this is similar; I know many faculty who are dedicated and will carry on the mission.

“The Religious Studies Department is also very alive and creative. It has expanded in ways that fit the times. The involvement with campus ministry and Place of Grace (a local Catholic Worker house) and the volunteer ministry trips are just a few examples of these good works.” Despite Sr. Kathleen’s impression that life at Viterbo will carry on just fine without her, Tom Thibodeau, chair of the Religious Studies Department, isn’t as quick to brush off the impact of her departure.

“You know people in two ways: by their presence and by their absence. I will miss Sr. Kathleen and all that she has done,” Thibodeau said before giving what is probably the finest tribute to a Sister who is remembered by many for giving 100 percent: “Many of us are good with ideas, but Kathleen understands that God is into details and whatever she was involved in was completed,” he said.

On Campus

Recipients of Pope John XXIII awards

Lindy and Jane Saline, a couple known for their volunteer spirit and commitment to the community, and, Billy Mills, the gold medal winner in the 1964 Olympics, were honored May 1 as Viterbo’s year 2000 recipients of the Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service.

The Salines as a couple, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this October. During their life together, they have enjoyed the challenges of raising a family, while balancing homemaking and employment and serving their church and community. Since moving to Dresbach, MN, in 1984, they have strived to be useful people who enjoy the social, educational, natural, civic, economic, and religious assets of the Coulee Region.

Jane Saline, as a full-time homemaker, mother of four, and now principal caregiver for her mother and aunt has always served her church (now First Presbyterian-La Crosse) in many ways: Choir member and soloist, church school teacher and Bible study leader, Presbyterian Women committee chair and member, and Board of Deacons. She is a member of Christian Women’s Club. She volunteers at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare for nearly 3,000 hours. As a
member of the FSH Auxiliary, she has sold more than 10,000 geraniums to support nursing scholarships at Viterbo and WWTC.

Jane Saline supports the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra as a former Board member, was former President of the Friends of the Symphony, and sold more than 1,000 Symphony Dining Out Coupon Books. She sings with the UW-L Choral Union and is on the Viterbo School of Nursing Advisory Board.

Lindy Saline retired in 1984 from a 36-year career with General Electric Company. He has always been active in church as a church school teacher and in leadership roles, currently as an Elder and Treasurer of First Presbyterian. Lindy has served many Coulee Region organizations including Chileda, Chamber of Commerce, La Crosse Community Foundation, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare (and its predecessors), Family and Children Center, UW-L, WLSU (“Mind Your Business:), Viterbo College, Downtown La Crosse Rotary, and Rotary Foundation. He has facilitated 39 planning workshops for social agencies, churches, colleges, and civic organizations and is an organizer of Coulee Region Collaboration and United Coulee Region. Billy Mills was honored for the powerful message he brings to others, in particular youth to setting goals and working to develop positive self esteem. His life is a living example of that principle.

Mills was born on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Orphaned by the age of 12, he attended boarding school in Lawrence, Kansas and began running in order to train for boxing. He developed a love for running and earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Prior to the 1964 Olympics, no American had ever won the Gold Medal in the 10,000 meter run. Billy Mills overcame these odds and won. His victory is considered one of the greatest upsets in Olympic history. Since the 1964 Olympics, Mills has shared how he pursued excellence in the world of sports with corporations, associations, universities, and schools. He has encouraged numerous future sports stars, business stars and classroom stars to reach within the depths of their capabilities and perform to the greatest of their potential. Billy Mills is National Spokesperson for Christian Relief Services and has helped raise over 212 million dollars, in-kind and cash, over the past 10 years. Running Strong for American Indian Youth is one part of the organization that helps Native American youth. He is also the recipient of five Honorary Doctorate Degrees.

In the year 2000, he was selected by Sports Illustrated Magazine as the top athlete of the century for the State of South Dakota. Runner’s World Magazine selected Billy Mills’ race as one of the top ten Olympic Track races of the century, and Billy Mills as one of the 20 Spirits That Moved Running in the Century.

**Viterbo Named “Small School of the Year”**

Viterbo College has been named “Small School of the Year” by the Wisconsin United Residence Hall Association (WURHA) at its annual meeting in Milwaukee Feb. 18-20.

“Small School of the Year” is the highest honor a residence hall association can receive and it’s awarded to residence hall organizations and schools that have made a positive impact on students through achievements and innovative programs.
“For us to win this year is a real achievement, particularly since it’s only the second year Viterbo’s been involved in this competition,” said Jason Ramaker, Viterbo’s director of residence life. “The staff worked extremely hard to make changes on campus through student forums that led to improvements in campus life and increased attendance at all its programs. They deserve this honor.”

Last year, Viterbo’s RSB held 46 social, educational, and community-service initiatives for students, an average of 2-3 per week.

RSB President Joe Pickar and Treasurer Jillian Blackburn also received a “Top 10 Program” honor for “Oh That Feels Good!” a program on meditation and relaxation. The group also took the best “Small School Display” award. The exhibit took an innovative look at Viterbo and the La Crosse community with its “underwater bubble” design highlighted with strobe lighting.

Professors Collaborate on Book
Viterbo Religious Studies Professors Bill Reese and Earl Madary put their combined knowledge of the Catholic and Lutheran traditions to paper by penning the book *These Things are Written: A Practical Introduction to the New Testament.*

Reese, a Lutheran, and Madary, a Catholic, put doctrinal differences aside and concentrated on relaying the messages in the New Testament according to both the Catholic and Lutheran traditions. The book, published in December, is being used in a class at Viterbo and in classes at two other college campuses.

A limited number of copies of the book were published. The cost is $36 and it is available in the Viterbo Bookstore. To order a copy of the book, contact the Viterbo Bookstore at 608-796-3848 or email viterbo_bkstr@fheg.follett.com.

New Theatre Alliance is First of its Kind
Are the days of the starving artist over? Not yet, but the Viterbo Theatre Arts Department wants to make sure those days are numbered.

That’s why they’ve created a groundbreaking alliance that will benefit theatre arts students, graduates, and alumni.

Announced to students in January, the Professional Theatre Affiliation Program (Pro-Tap) is an alliance between the Viterbo Theatre Arts Department and a number of professional theatre organizations throughout the Midwest. Pro-Tap creates a more interactive relationship between those organizations and Viterbo in order to foster educational and career opportunities for students.

“Parents of students in theatre are often so fearful when they bring their kids to college for the first time. They frequently don’t want their kids to be theatre majors because they fear that their children will lead lives of poverty and wandering after graduation. But for the students, theatre may be the only thing they want to do. That’s why Pro-Tap means so much for our current students and graduates,” said Dr. Dean Yohnk, professor of theatre arts.

“Nearly all of our theatre grads get jobs in their field, however, Pro Tap gives us a more developed, one-of-a-kind partnership with exceptionally fine professional theatres. This further enhances placement in the professional theatre world. This means our students have
choices and parents can see that we train their kids well,” explained Yohnk, who created Pro-Tap during his 1999 fall sabbatical. Alliances with organizations like the famed Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago and the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis not only assist Viterbo theatre students in finding internships and career opportunities, they create a wide range of opportunities. Viterbo and its students will also find it easier to keep abreast of current artistic trends, find guest residencies, and experience professional theatre through discounted tickets, backstage tours, and educational workshops, according to Yohnk.

But perhaps even more amazing than what the new program means for current students and graduates is how it can help in recruiting new students to the department. After the information about Pro-Tap had been on the web for only one week, said Yohnk, one prospective student said it was the reason he was considering the college. Yohnk’s also noticing increased recognition of Viterbo among professional theatre groups throughout the region. “Theatres are contacting us now and wanting to be part of the program. They’re recognizing Viterbo and seeing that we have these amazingly talented students they can call on. It helps theatres because they have people to recruit. It helps Viterbo because we can connect our students with meaningful jobs in professional theatre,” he said.

If you’d like to know more about Pro-Tap, check out the web site at: http://www.viterbo.edu/academic/ug/sfa/theatre/thprotap.htm or contact Dr. Dean Yohnk at 608-796-3790 or by email at dryohnk@viterbo.edu.

Who are Viterbo’s Pro-Tap Partners?

Chicago Professional Theatre
• Chicago Shakespeare Theatre
• The Goodman Theatre
• The Steppenwolf Theatre Company
• The Victory Gardens Theatre Company

Milwaukee Professional Theatre
• The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
• The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
• Skylight Opera Theatre

Minneapolis-St. Paul Professional Theatre
• The Children’s Theatre Company
• The Great American History Theatre
• The Guthrie Theatre
• The Jungle Theatre Company
• The Penumbra Theatre Company
• Theatre de la Jeune Lune

Other Regional
Professional Theatre
- The American Players Theatre (Spring Green)
- The Commonweal Theatre Company (Lanesboro, Minn.)
- The Peninsula Players Theatre (Door County)
- Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre (Barrett, Minn.)

Viterbo Students Give Up Spring Break for Service Trip
It wasn’t a trip to the beach or a visit with the family for several groups at Viterbo over spring break. Students instead visited various locations in search of service opportunities.
A homelessness class, taught by Religious Studies Professor Tom Thibodeau, took 15 students to Omaha, Neb. to work in the Dorothy Day Shelter where they volunteered their time and efforts with the homeless of the community. It was the 13th year the homelessness class has volunteered in Omaha.
Four nursing students, led by Sue Ernster, FSPA went to the Mud Creek Clinic located in the southwest corner of Kentucky’s Appalachia to work with low-income patients in a healthcare clinic.
Earl Madary, religious studies professor, and 10 students traveled to Kansas City, Mo. to serve food in the Holy Family Catholic Worker House. These students prepared and served evening meals for 200-300 people daily.

Each trip ranged in length from 3-6 days. Viterbo’s spring break was March 4-12.

AIDS Quilt Stops at Viterbo
Perhaps the world’s most dramatic symbol of the struggle against AIDS, the AIDS Memorial Quilt returned to La Crosse as part of AIDS Awareness Week on the Viterbo College Campus March 20-25.
Since it isn’t possible to display the entire quilt, the size of which covers 17 football fields, several of its panels were displayed throughout the week in the Fine Arts Center Lobby. Also as part of the week, people listened to the voices of those who created panels for The AIDS Memorial Quilt when they attended “Voices from the Quilt,” a multi-media reader’s theatre based on actual letters of friends, relatives, and victims of AIDS who made panels for the quilt. The presentation was written and directed by Viterbo Theatre Professor Dean Yohnk. Other events included a presentation by a local woman who has AIDS and a discussion led by Sara Johnson, a counselor with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.
Proceeds from free will offerings throughout the week benefited the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation AIDS Fund.

Celebrating Unity
A special concert was held on Jan. 27 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse to celebrate the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification by the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church. “Unity in Christ: A Millennium Choral Concert” was performed by the Viterbo Concert Choir and the Luther Nordic Choir.

Who did you say visited Viterbo?
A lot of famous faces have been seen on campus this past academic year. But much more than
just famous faces, these people—from authors to athletes—shared their tremendous knowledge about history and humankind with the Viterbo community in hopes of making a difference. So just who were these people?

**Alicia Appleman-Jurman**

A Holocaust survivor and the author of Alicia: My Story, Appleman-Jurman visited Viterbo in April to talk about her experiences. Her book traces her life as a young girl, from ages 9-15, during World War II. She was the only member of her family to survive the Holocaust. And, not only did she survive, she saved the lives of thousands of Jewish people. Today, Appleman Jurman lives in San Jose, Calif. with her husband. They have three grown children.

**Amy Goodman**

Host of Pacifica Radio’s “Democracy Now” program, Goodman was a keynote speaker at this year’s January Humanities Symposium, “Multiple Faces of Evil: Our Human Response.” Her talk was about “Media Evil: Reporting on Human Rights around the World.” Well-versed in global reporting, Goodman witnessed and survived the 1991 Santa Cruz massacre in Indonesia, after which she was barred from that country for exposing the Indonesian occupation of East Timor and the genocide of the East Timorese. She openly discussed this experience along with a variety of global human rights issues. Goodman also called attention to the increasing commercialization of media and the need for journalists to remain independent of sponsorship.

**Kathy Kelly**

Kelly is co-director of Voices in the Wilderness, a group aimed at ending sanctions against Iraq. She started the group in 1996 with four other activists. As a penalty for bringing much needed medicines and toys to the children of Iraq, Kelly and members of her group have been threatened with 12 years of imprisonment and a $160,000 penalty for their actions. As an activist in the Catholic Worker movement and a former teacher, Kelly has been to Iraq six times, bringing much needed supplies for the people of Iraq on each trip. In 1988, she was sentenced to one year of prison for a nonviolent protest in which she planted corn at a nuclear missile site. She spoke to classes at Viterbo in January as part of the Humanities Symposium “Multiple Faces of Evil: Our Human Response.” She was also a guest on La Crosse Public Radio’s “Newsmakers” program.

**Billy Mills**

Born on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and orphaned by the age of 12, Billy Mills, part Caucasian, part Lakota Sioux, overcame enormous obstacles to win the 1964 Olympic gold medal in the 10,000 meter run. The feat has been generally acknowledged as one of the greatest upsets in the history of the games. A movie was made about Mills’ life in 1984. Starring Robbie Benson, Running Brave was a major motion picture depicting Mills’ life and his Olympic triumph. A role model for young Native Americans and an inspiration for youth searching for their identity, Billy Mills has been inducted into the World Sport Humanitarian Hall of Fame. He holds five honorary doctorate degrees and is the national spokesperson for Christian Relief Services. He was on campus May 1 to meet with students, share his story and receive Viterbo’s Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service.

**U Sam Oeur**

A Cambodian poet, Oeur is a survivor of the genocide and “ethnic cleansing” of the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. Oeur is the author of Sacred Vows, a compilation of his poetry that speaks of the horrors he faced in Cambodia but also addresses the beautiful aspects of its culture. Oeur’s twin daughters were among the hundreds of thousands of innocent victims
who perished during a period hauntingly reminiscent of the holocaust. The turmoil in his country was made famous in the movie The Killing Fields.

Many other speakers shared their experiences with Viterbo College students this past semester, including death penalty opponent Sister Helen Prejean and a series of four speakers who discussed topics associated with business ethics.

Philanthropy Notes

**Mondovi Senior is Dr. Scholl Winner**
Kathryn Fahnel is the winner of the Dr. Scholl Scholarship, which is Viterbo College’s most competitive and lucrative scholarship.

Fahnel, a Mondovi High School senior and daughter of Pamela and Rick Fahnel, was selected at the end of a day of testing and campus interviews provided to the 24 finalists competing for the scholarship. All candidates have expressed an interest in pursuing careers in healthcare or science.

The Scholl Scholarship, which is renewable from year to year, covers complete tuition costs for up to four years, and is valued in excess of $50,000.

Fahnel, who is interested in biological research, has a 3.97 grade point average and is a member of the National Honor Society.

The scholarship is named in honor of Dr. William Scholl who died in 1968. He left the bulk of his estate to a foundation named in his honor.

**Square Foot Campaign**
The Health Science Consortium visited the Viterbo campus in February as part of its “Square Foot Campaign” kick-off.

The campaign encourages public support of the new, state-of-the-art Health Science Center which will open this fall. Individuals can participate by “purchasing” pieces of the building in increments of $50 per square. A donor wall in the lobby will list the names of those who participated in the fundraising drive. Supporters will also receive a certificate of membership in the “Square Foot Club” and an invitation to the grand opening celebration.

Eight million of the $27 million-plus building needs to be secured through local fundraising efforts. To date, $4.5 million of the eight has been raised. The five story facility will accommodate 530 students in 13 education specialties. Much of the activity associated with the building will evolve over time.

Tremendous potential exists in the areas of nursing, dietetics, internships, distance learning, and scientific research. Certain areas of the building are now available for occupancy. Full occupancy is expected before fall 2000.

Viterbo is one of five partners that make up the consortium. The others are: Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, Gundersen Lutheran, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and Western
Wisconsin Technical College. Viterbo President William J. Medland and Vice President of Finance Todd Ericson are voting members of the consortium board. For more information, or to join the “Square Foot Club,” contact the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium, Inc. at 608-785-5160.

There’s No Place Like Viterbo...
Unlike the yellow brick road on the way to Oz, the path in Viterbo’s new V-Hawk Court will be paved with engraved bricks.

The Viterbo Brick Road Program, which kicked off in March, allows donors and friends to make an investment in V-Hawk Court by “paving the way.” Although a gift in any amount will help with the project, donors of $100 or more will receive an engraved brick.

“Buying a brick is a unique way to memorialize a loved one and honor friends and family. It’s also a great way for alumni to make their mark on campus and let generations to come know they were a proud Viterbo graduate,” says Matt Riffe, individual gifts officer.

Once V-Hawk Court is finished, a detailed map showing where the brick is located will be mailed to the person designated.

V-Hawk Court, to be located on Winnebago Street between the Student Activities Center and Rose Terrace, will beautify the campus and the neighborhood and will unify the academic, residential, and athletic portions of the campus. Park benches, a Viterbo clock tower, student announcement center, picnic tables, and a walkway complete with engraved bricks are just some of the distinguishing features of this new green space.

V-Hawk Court is the final phase in the beautification project for 9th and Winnebago streets. The first phase, Viterbo Court, was completed last August.

To buy a brick, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 608-796-3070. All gifts must be received by Friday, June 23.

Sports Corner

Basketball Teams Finish Strong Season
Solid seasons were completed by the men’s and women’s basketball teams at Viterbo College.

Both squads compiled winning records, with the women finishing at 21-13 and the men at 19-15. The women, helped by a late-season surge that saw them win 11 of their last 14 games, grabbed third place in the Midwest Classic Conference with an 8-4 league mark. The men had a 6-6 conference record, which was good enough to finish in a tie for third place.

But both teams also were somewhat disappointed, because they were finished playing a little sooner than they would have liked. Neither team made the national tournament, and playing at that level was the goal for both teams.
The women’s team was one win short of going to the NAIA national tourney, losing the conference tournament’s championship game to St. Ambrose University. The men fell, by a single point, in the semifinals of the conference tournament, also to St. Ambrose. Several individual honors were harvested by the V-Hawks.

Luke Maher, who became Viterbo’s career scoring leader in 1999-00 competition with 2,030 points for his four seasons, led the conference in scoring and was named “Player of the Year” for the league. Maher and teammate Sean Madigan both were named to the all-conference squad.

Heidi Behnke was named to the women’s all-conference team, and two of her teammates, Kara Brandau and Sarah Olson, were awarded honorable mention.

Leaving Behind a Legacy of Leadership
When coaches speak of senior leadership they are referring to players like Sarah Olson and Luke Maher.

Olson was the only senior on the women’s basketball team this year, and served as a role model for dedication, determination and drive. “Her coachability, maturity, durability and great attitude have made her a joy for me to work with, day in and day out, in the gym,” reported Bobbi Vandenberg, head coach of women’s basketball.

The 5-foot-8 guard was a constant presence during her four years with the V-Hawks. In fact, she played in her first game as a freshman, and she played in every game after that. Neither illness nor injury kept her off the floor, and she left the team having played in 126 consecutive games.

Vandenberg said injuries to others forced her to play Olson at positions other than her natural spot of shooting guard. The coach said she appreciated Olson’s versatility and the player’s willingness to make sacrifices for the good of the team.

Olson returned to the shooting guard position this season and her scoring statistics took a corresponding leap. She scored 93 points as a freshman, 103 as a sophomore, 237 as a junior and 400 as a senior. This year she was a constant threat from the perimeter, and ended up averaging 11.5 points a game overall and 13 points a match in league play. She also grabbed nearly three rebounds a game and averaged 1.6 assists.

Her excellence was recognized elsewhere in the Midwest Classic Conference also, as she was an honorable mention choice for the all-conference team.

Vandenberg said Olson played “super defense” in addition to compiling impressive scoring totals.

“I have never observed Sarah to be anything less than unselfish, always putting the team first,” the coach continued. “Sarah has exceeded all of what I envisioned for her as a player at Viterbo College and I wish her good fortune in her career as an elementary school teacher. She’ll be a great one!”

Maher set career rebounding and scoring records for the men’s basketball team and was nominated for NAIA Division II All-American status.

Maher set the new career rebounding record at 762, breaking the old mark of 736, which was set by Adrian Boyd between 1987 and 1991. Maher became the college’s all-time career
scoring leader in the final game of the year when he recorded the last of his 2,030 points, which broke the standard of 2,027 set between 1988 and 1992 by Mark Skogen.

Sean Madigan, the only other senior on the 1999-00 men’s basketball team, joined Maher on the all-conference team and as a leader of the V-Hawks.

“Everything revolved around them,” said Wayne Wagner, head coach of men’s basketball. Both players always showed “unrelenting competitiveness,” Wagner added.

Madigan, who played just two years at Viterbo after transferring from St. Ambrose University, also was among the conference leaders in scoring and rebounding.

Maher, who averaged 20 points a game in his senior season, missed the 1997-98 year with a broken wrist. But he scored 305 points in 1995-96, 444 in 1996-97 and 607 in 1998-99 to go with the 674 he accumulated in the 1999-00 season.

A marketing major, Maher was named an honorable mention All-American after the 1998-99 season, and in that same year was chosen to the all-tournament team for his play in the NAIA national tournament.

Erickson and Lee Named to Wall of Fame
The Viterbo Athletics Department inducted two former student athletes into its Wall of Fame on Feb. 19.

The induction ceremony, which was part of the college’s Homecoming activities, honored Dave Lee, an enormously talented hitter on the 1988-90 V-Hawk baseball teams, and Bruce Erickson, who set a record at Viterbo by allowing the fewest goals per game while playing for the 1986-90 soccer teams. Erickson went on to coach the men’s soccer team for six years, and was director of athletics at Viterbo from 1995-99.

The purpose of the Wall of Fame is to celebrate the heritage of athletics at Viterbo and honor the student athletes, coaches, and administrators who have made special contributions to that tradition, according to Barry Fried, director of athletics. The Wall of Fame was established in 1992 and now has 32 distinguished members.

Erickson played 50 games as a goalkeeper, losing just 10 of those matches while recording 18 shutouts. His goals-against average of .87 per game made him the college’s leading goalie upon graduation. His team won the NAIA District 14 championship in 1988. He was head coach of the men’s soccer team from 1992-98, and was named the Midwest Classic Conference’s Coach of the Year in 1996, 1997, and 1998. He was the co-winner of that award in 1993, when he also was named the district’s coach of the year and his team won the NAIA district championship.

Lee had 106 hits for Viterbo during his career, and was named to all-district teams in 1989 and 1990. He had 47 hits and a .402 batting average in 1990, and slugged six home runs and four triples in 1989, when his team was a District 14 finalist. He ranks second on the college’s list of career home runs, with 12, and also is first in triples, with 10, and second in walks, with 71. His career batting average of .368 is third on the all-time list, and he ranks fourth in stolen bases, with 35, and fifth in runs batted in, with 83.
The Wall of Fame is dedicated to the memories of Herbert Popp and the Rev. Robert Nelson. Popp was the father of former Viterbo men’s basketball coach Rod Popp, and Nelson was the coach’s father-in-law. Both Herbert Popp and Nelson died within a month’s time of each other in the winter of 1991, and money from their memorial funds helped establish the Wall of Fame.

**Honoring the Memory of Chris Lee**

Scholarships honoring the memory of Chris Lee, a former V-Hawk athlete, have been established at Viterbo College.

Lee, an all-conference baseball player who graduated from Viterbo on May 16, 1999, died in a traffic accident on Oct. 23, 1999. The perpetual scholarship program was established by Lee’s parents, Gary and Gwen, and a brother, Derek.

Backers of the scholarship program are trying to raise a $100,000 endowment that will fund two $5,000 annual scholarships. The Christopher Michael Lee Scholarships will be awarded to baseball players at Viterbo.

Lee set several records while playing for the V-Hawks, including becoming the college’s first player to hit for the cycle when he collected a home run, triple, double and single in one game as a sophomore. He made the all-conference team twice as a pitcher, and played in the outfield when he wasn’t on the mound. His baseball jersey, bearing the number 15, was retired by the college.

Lee also was active in soccer, hockey, baseball, and basketball in his hometown of Burnsville, Minn.

A May golf tournament and dinner, plus a raffle of a new Corvette from Grossman Chevrolet in Burnsville, helped the fund-raising campaign. Organizers intend to make the golf tournament an annual event. Anyone interested in making a donation to the scholarship endowment may contact the Viterbo College Athletics Department, at (608) 796-3811, or the Lee family at (612) 890-9150.

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**Alumni Now**

**Graduate Appointed to Iowa Board at Governor’s Request**

Barbara Winters was appointed to a four-year term on the Iowa Substance Abuse Commission the week before her graduation from Viterbo last December. The nine-person board is responsible for reviewing drivers license applications, renewals, denials, suspensions, and revocations and making policy recommendations to Iowa Governor Thomas J. Vilsack and the State General Assembly concerning substance abuse treatment, education, intervention, and prevention programs.

Governor Vilsack learned of Winters’ substance abuse prevention work during a visit to Waukon less than a year ago. Winters serves as the coordinator for the substance abuse
prevention programs in Allamakee County and the Allamakee school district, a position she began a year-and-a-half before receiving her degree.

According to Winters, the governor was particularly impressed with the First Offenders Class, an education program for teens who have been arrested for underage drinking, and the county-wide youth group, a partnership with area schools, churches, and other organizations in offering alcohol-free activities for teens.

**Homecoming Alumni Game**

This year’s Homecoming Alumni Game was a real “barn-burner,” as they say. The gray team, (grads from odd-numbered years) scored 103 with the red team (even-numbered years) scoring 107. MVPs were Troy Wagner ’95 and Monte Gardner ’96.

**Cat Nap**

“Cats: The Musical” will end its 18-year run on Broadway this month, which means Viterbo grad Linda Balgord ’82 will be hanging up her cat suit. Balgord, a New Lisbon native, starred in the musical as the glamorous Grizabella. Her role included singing the smash hit “Memory.” Before “Cats,” she played the part of Norma Desmond in the touring show of “Sunset Boulevard.” Following “Cats,” Balgord plans to take a “well-needed rest,” but be sure to watch for more from this rising star.

**Get Your Master’s in Nursing**

Today’s healthcare environment is extremely competitive and nurses need to do everything they can to maintain and strengthen their abilities in order to remain a strong force in the delivery system.

The Viterbo Graduate Program in Nursing helps nurses prepare for the newly defined roles and expectations being set for today’s nurses. Designed with flexibility and convenience in mind, the program can be tailored to meet each person’s educational needs so what students learn in the classroom can be applied directly to their career. It’s also designed to accommodate busy schedules by arranging clinical experiences close to home and maintaining class times during daytime hours one day a week.

The program offers two tracks: Midlife and Older Adult or Family and Community Health. Recent changes in the program allow a student to prepare for a role as a nurse educator by choosing either track and/or a role as nurse practitioner via the Midlife and Older Adult Track.

“This program has just completed its second year in existence and the feedback we’re receiving from our graduate nursing students is fantastic,” said Bonnie Nesbitt, assistant dean, Graduate Studies in Nursing. “They appreciate the quality of the education they’re receiving and are enthused that they can participate in the program and still have a life outside of school and work.”

Applications for admission to the Graduate Studies in Nursing program are currently being accepted. For more information about the program and about scholarships and financial aid opportunities, please contact Bonnie Nesbitt at 608-796-3688.
CLASS NOTES

1970
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.

Terri (Horihan) Richards ’73 participated in the opening ceremonies of the 12th annual Badger State Winter Games, which are held in the Wausau region. More than 7,000 athletes participate in this event. Terri provided the welcoming address.


Debra (Thompson) Montague ’79 is a field technician for Vibra-Tech Engineers of Chicago. Vibra-Tech monitors man-made vibrations in the earth caused by quarry blasts, building demolitions, and road construction.

Nicholas Narloch ’79 recently advanced to the level of Master Adjudicator for the Wisconsin School Music Association. He is director of choral activities at Marathon High School and is in his second year as advisor for their yearbook. In July 1999, he attended the Summer Journalism workshop at Columbia University in New York City, along with two students.

1980
Elizabeth Pauly ’80 and William Waddington celebrated the adoption of a daughter, Maggie, January 17, 2000. She was born April 14, 1999.

Maureen (Austin) ’83 and Brian Holder celebrated the birth of a son, Andrew John, October 4, 1999.

Lynn Anne (Willig) Richards ’83 recently accepted the position of Business Analysis Consultant with Ingenix, a subsidiary of United Health Group.

Sabrina (Cuellar) ’84 and Ricky Ross celebrated the birth of a daughter, Alejandrina delCarmen, November 23, 1999. She joins her brothers, Tristan and Austin, at home.

Joyce and Jack Felsheim ’84 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Mary Therese, October 3, 1999. She joins her sisters, Elizabeth and Emily, at home.

Julie (Oligney) ’84 and Daniel Pisula celebrated the adoption of a son, Brett Joseph, who was born November 16, 1999. He joins his brother, Bronson, at home.

Kay (McParlon) ’85 and Randy Zadow celebrated the adoption of Elena Kathleen, October 1999. She was born July 24, 1998 in Russia. Elena joins her brothers, Ryan Joshua and Erik, at home.

Stephanie Miller-Lamb ’85 has taken a new job in the San Francisco area as Director of Administration and Development for CalPerformances’ Student Musical Activities Organization where she will be training and mentoring students in arts administration and management.

Karla Wakeen ’85 and Joe Beck celebrated the adoption of Lydia Huang Shu November 24, 1999. She was born February 26, 1999 in China.

Lory (Grelson) ’87 and Scott Saunders celebrated the birth of a son, Zachery Payton, November 11, 1999. He joins his sister, Melanie, at home.
Jeanne (Ramstack) '87 and David Kratzer celebrated the birth of a son, Joseph Thomas, May 20, 1999.

Ellen (Speltz) '88 and Todd Prill celebrated the birth of a son, Collin Gerhardt, February 4, 2000. He joins his sister Allison, 2 1/2, at home.

GayLynn (Lundeen) '88 and Stuart McCarty celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madison Taylor, November 19, 1999. She joins her brother Austin Ryan, 3, at home.


Lisa (Alt) '89 and Thomas Miller celebrated the birth of a daughter, Leah Mae, January 1, 2000. She joins her sister Alivia, 2 1/2, at home.

1990

Holly (Anibas) '90 and Vince Ritchie celebrated the birth of twin sons, Zachary Philip and McKinley John Paul, November 13, 1999.

Mary (Cunningham) '90 and Jody Miedema celebrated the birth of a son, Caleb Joseph, January 13, 2000.

Shira Kirsner married Tim Roehl '90 January 15, 2000 in Miami. They live in New York City.

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

Kari (Friedewald) '91 and Jerry Denny celebrated the birth of a daughter, Brooke, January 11, 1999. She joins her sister Brianna, 3, at home.

Sherry (Guernsey) '91 and David Carter celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hannah Lynn, September 20, 1999.

Lt. Scott V. Savage '91 recently accepted a position at the Strength Maintenance Division of the National Guard Bureau at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va. Martin Welles '91 has relocated to Washington, D.C. He works as an attorney for Alexander and Associates where he practices labor, employment, communications and technology law.

Lisa (Knopick) '92 and Joseph Hammes celebrated the birth of a daughter, Megan Renee, December 14, 1999.

Carrie (Menke) '92 and Chris Hamady celebrated the birth of a daughter, Evelyn Elizabeth, April 7, 1999. They live in Toledo, Ohio.

Johnilee (Becker) '93 and Rick Slark celebrated the birth of a son, Isaac, October 13, 1999. He joins his siblings, Skylar and Bailey, at home.

Sara (Lepak) '93 and Brian Kromke celebrated the birth of a son, Nicholas Brian, September 30, 1999.

Sharon and Dan Licht '93 celebrated the birth of a son, Chad Daniel, March 4, 2000.

Heather (Baker) '94 and Jeffrey Givens '94 celebrated the birth of a son, Joshua James, November 8, 1999. He joins his brother, Connor, 3, at home.
Julie Burrill ’94 married Mark Welter October 23, 1999 in Marshfield. They live in Rochester, Minn.
Nicole (Kowalski) ’94 and Bob Greener celebrated the birth of a son, Joel Robert, February 3, 2000.

Jennifer (Schuld) ’94 and Mike Heenan celebrated the birth of a son, Nathan Michael, August 26, 1999. He joins his brother, James, at home.


Cynthia (Holler) ’95 and Matthias Kestler celebrated the birth of a daughter, Samantha Arianna, December 30, 1999. She joins her sister, Allison Marie, at home.

Elizabeth (Kazmierczak) ’95 and Alan Gindt celebrated the birth of a son, Josh, February 21, 2000. He joins his sister, Kayla Marie, at home.

Beth (Ekern) Lakmann ’95 is the assistant choral director at Jefferson High School, Bloomington, Minn.

Michelle (Brendel) ’96 and Mike Peplinski ’96 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Matelyn Michelle, December 13, 1999. She joins her brother, Jaren, at home. Mike participated in the opening ceremonies of the 12th annual Badger State Winter Games held in the Wausau region. More than 7,000 athletes participate. Mike provided the oath of the athletes and was the special athlete for the opening ceremonies.

Mary O’Flaherty ’96 is employed by ARAMARK at the Midwest region level as Registered Dietitian. She is the publisher of a newsletter, Treat Yourself Right.

Stacey Oliphant-Kennedy ’96 and Jeremy Kennedy celebrated the birth of a son, Gavan Maxwell, January 9, 2000. He joins his brothers, Vince and Keaton, at home.

Logan (Vogt) ’96 and John Bezlyk celebrated the birth of a son, Jack Arthur, December 31, 1999. Logan is working as a kindergarten teacher at Sacred Heart School in Marshfield.

Tammy Betzing-Piojda ’97 and Nicholas Piojda celebrated the birth of a son, Connor Nicholas, June 21, 1999.

Paula (Flaskrud) ’97 and Brian Stedman celebrated the birth of a son, Draven Randolph, November 17, 1999. Paula is currently teaching eighth grade Language Arts at Lincoln Middle School in La Crosse.


Christine Melko ’98 is currently serving with the Peace Corps in Madagascar, off the coast of South Africa. She is a health service volunteer working with mothers and young children in their education about better nutrition, living improvements and general health issues.

Tina Schreiner ’98 and Michael Schreiner celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kaylyn, July 10, 1999.
Kris Follansbee '99 and Steve Follansbee celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob, September 26, 1999. He joins his brother, Nicholas, at home.


Jennifer Shultis '99 and Scott Kluever celebrated the birth of a son, Keaton, October 31, 1999.

Melody Voskuil '99 is in Germany with the U. S. Army Nurse Corps.

IN MEMORIAM


Paul Sweeney, February 28, 2000, brother of S. Dorothy E. Sweeney '46.


S. Agnes Rager '48, December 8, 1999.

Marcella Grosse, February 14, 2000, sister of S. Lucille Schettler '50.

S. Margaret Neumann '52, December 1, 1999.

Julia Rettenmaier, February 23, 2000, sister of S. Eloise Nees '53.

Dora Olberding, February 29, 2000, sister of S. Eloise Nees '53.


Mary Fischer, November 29, 1999, mother of S. Rita Mae Fischer '57.


Robert Adams, January 9, 2000, brother of S. Cordelle Adams '60.


Timothy Potaracke, January 10, 1999, nephew of S. Rochelle Potaracke '64.


Thomas Sullivan, February 12, 2000, father of Patricia (Sullivan) O'Brien '65 and Kathryn (Sullivan) Rech '70-'72.

Judy Murphy ’69, December 16, 1999.
Frederick A. Reiman, January 5, 2000, brother-in-law of Mary (Stejskal) Reiman ’72, father of Anne (Reiman) Kuschel ’87 and former spouse of Kay (Eide) Reiman ’93.
Romis J. Davy, October 19, 1999, father of Michelle (Davy) Hompertz ’75 and Jeanne Farnham-Davy ’79.
Anna Temp, December 7, 1999, grandmother of Kim (Graff) Johnson ’74-’76.
Michael Halvorson, April 22, 1999, nephew of Sandra (Starck) Chaussee ’78.
Agnes Stowell, January 18, 2000, grandmother of Rachel (Stowell) Smith ’78.
Kathleen Risinger, July 5, 1999, mother of Barbara (Risinger) Van Dreese ’80.
Helen Luttchens, October 19, 1999, grandmother of Sandra Luttchens ’83.
Louis Boehm, September 26, 1999, father of Dorothy (Boehm) Fitzgerald ’85.
Paul Muehlenkamp, December 21, 1999, father of Paula Muehlenkamp ’85.
Joanne Elland, October 26, 1999, mother of Bob Elland ’89.
Charlotte Hotchkiss, November 19, 1999, mother of Kathleen (Oines) Filkouski ’91 and grandmother of Nate Casey ’98.
Leonard Oines, January 21, 2000, father of Kathleen (Oines) Filkouski ’91 and grandfather of Nate Casey ’98.
Gerald Knopick, January 23, 2000, father of Lisa (Knopick) Hammes ’92.
Mark Leis, November 11, 1999, father of Susan (Leis) Schmitz ’92.
Bryce Brown, Sr., December 13, 1999, grandfather of Glenn Olstad ’94.
Justin Giese, October 11, 1999, infant son of Heidi Hierlmeier ’95.
Robert Ford, January 22, 2000, grandfather of Michelle Matiak ’96.
William Sprehn, November 8, 1999, grandfather of Amanda Sprehn '98.


A FINAL WORD

Beth Jaekel '93
A 1993 Viterbo College graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Beth is currently the News and Features Writer for Viterbo. She was diagnosed in 1978 with Ewing’s sarcoma, a type of bone cancer, and immediately underwent radiation therapy followed by two years of chemotherapy. She has been cancer-free for 20 years. You can reach her by email at bmjaekel@viterbo.edu.

Celebrating Life with Sr. Thea Bowman
“Courage is being scared to death—but saddling up anyway.” -John Wayne

It was courage that first brought us together.

By us, I mean Sr. Thea Bowman and me. She was a “shooting star” and I was a shy and awkward 17-year-old. It was March 1988 and the two of us were being honored by the American Cancer Society at their National Courage Award celebration in Washington, D.C. She was the state of Mississippi’s Courage Award recipient and I was Wisconsin’s.

The award was presented to those who had shown “unusual courage” in the fight against cancer. I hardly felt worthy of the award. After all, it had been 10 years since I’d been diagnosed. I’d been cancer-free for eight years. I was no longer “in the trenches.” I was still alive while many of my friends with cancer were not. “How am I courageous now?” I wondered.

But Thea, she was another story. Thea was still battling cancer. I use the term battle because it is a fight. You are fighting not only to keep your body alive, you are fighting to not be looked on with pity. You are fighting to keep your spirits high. And there was no one with higher spirits than Thea.

By accounts, she would have been about 50 then. But, oh she looked young...and beautiful. The funny thing is that I can hardly recall our first encounter that week. But what I do remember is a wheelchair and a radiant woman with an amazing smile. Even when her mouth wasn’t set in a grin, she smiled. She did it with her eyes. There was light there. There was fire. There was passion. And it was all Thea.

My mom approached her first. She knew of Thea through my great aunt, Sr. Laurella Seipel, who worked with Thea in Canton, Miss. for several years. It was this connection that brought us together. My mother, a nurse and an amazing woman herself, immediately took Thea under her wing.

For those few days in Washington, Mom, Dad, and I would pick Thea up at her room and wheel her wherever she needed to be. Together, we attended a celebration dinner where we
mingled with singer Leslie Uggams and actress Jill Ireland (who was receiving a courage award for her battle with breast cancer), and Ireland’s husband actor Charles Bronson. We had lunch with our state representatives. And, since the First Lady was also receiving a courage award, we had an audience with her and President Reagan in the White House Rose Garden.

The week was a whirlwind of activity and we all felt a sense of wonder that we were a part of such an incredible celebration of life. Being with Thea made it even more special. She told us about Canton and her busy schedule of appearances. We talked about Viterbo and the changes that had taken place there since she last visited. She encouraged me to attend Viterbo and sang the praises of its English Department.

Being with Thea was like being with a friend. It was comfortable but at the same time, you knew she’d help keep you in line if necessary. Just like family and friends would. In fact, during that trip, Thea called us her “family away from home.” We were lucky to be with her and we knew it.

I never saw Thea again after our time in Washington, D.C., but I did write to her. We struck up a correspondence that spanned the two years until her death. Because she was so ill, many of her letters were form letters, but there were handwritten notes on several. In one dated November 1989, Thea thanked me for my strength and courage. Imagine. Thea thanked me for my strength and courage. Me. This incredible woman who had been battling cancer for five years, while maintaining such an inspirational passion for life, was thanking a girl who battled cancer for a mere two years...and survived.

I have no idea what I wrote to Thea to inspire such encouraging words. I can only imagine them as the somewhat careless words of a teenager trying to do a little of everything all at once. A teen who wanted so badly to live a normal life that she wanted to wish away the fact that she’d had cancer. Pretend, for even a moment, that it didn’t happen to her. To take those two years back and fill them instead with laughter, play, friendships, and nonsense.

I didn’t get it then. But Thea knew. She knew that while cancer itself was a battle, survivors have other battles to face. She knew that the fear takes a long, long time to leave. She knew that only those that had been there could truly understand. And, in her own inimitable way, Thea was telling me I had strength and courage. And that would see me through.

Though I knew Thea only briefly…and not at all very well, I miss her. We all miss her. But we know she’s still reaching out to people around the world with her legacy of words, songs, and memories that remain alive in our hearts and minds. And we know she’s there, lighting up heaven with her smile and helping us “keep on keepin’ on.”

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 John Schneider ‘92 for providing the following:
“This is from either the Courtyard Carni or Hog Wild Weekend in 1989 or 90. The six people are (from left to right) Bill Marose, Erik Lettner, Devin Hogan, Sean McGraw, Jeff Jirak, and John Schneider.
As to the context—just one of those impromptu mattress race types of things that people do during Courtyard Carni and Hogwild.”

Viterbo Calendar

MAY 15
Summer Session (3 week) begins
JUNE 5
Summer Session (6 week) begins
June 13
Alumni Board Meeting
July 14
Graduate School commencement
July 28-30
Class of ’65 Reunion
AUGUST 16
Viterbo Athletics Benefit Golf Scramble
August 21
Viterbo Athletics Golf Outing,
La Crosse Country Club
August 31
Alumni Chicken-Que
September 5
Fall semester begins
September 17
Milwaukee Alumni Cruise