What started as a way to get out of study hall in the seventh grade has become a way of life for Viterbo senior Jen Freitag.

Volunteering to help out at school and in the community quickly became more than just an obligation or change of pace, it became a passion. Today, Freitag is part of the community at Place of Grace, a Catholic Worker House in La Crosse located six blocks from campus. As one of two live-in residents, Freitag helps out during Sunday afternoon and Thursday evenings and other times when the house is open to the community by serving food, doing dishes, cooking, playing with children, and visiting with guests.

“I love the people and the house and it’s what God wanted me to do,” said Freitag who is majoring in ministry and minoring in sociology. “This is not really volunteer work. It’s like hanging out with your family.”

Viterbo students, like Freitag, are finding themselves increasingly exposed to community service opportunities since the university made service learning a graduation requirement for students starting in fall 1999 or later.

While increasing volunteerism and community service opportunities are popping up on campuses across the U.S., Viterbo is one of the few to actually formalize it as part of the graduation requirements. According to a 1999 national report, “Combining Service and Learning in Higher Education,” only 18 percent of liberal arts institutions surveyed were requiring service as a condition of graduation.

What makes Viterbo’s service learning requirement even more unique is that the development and assessment project is designed by academic discipline. That means what ministry or sociology majors do to fulfill their service experience is not necessarily the same as what art or biology majors do.

Some departments include it as part of routine coursework, others have the students define it. Although there is no requirement for a specific number of hours or an outline of activities, the service learning experience is part of the overall assessment for each academic program.
No matter what the policy, each discipline encourages the development of community service skills in order to help students develop an attitude of service that focuses on “giving,” not “getting.”

**Volunteerism Nothing New at Viterbo**

According to Earl Madary, President of Viterbo’s Faculty Assembly, the requirement simply formalizes a way of life that already exists at Viterbo. “I think there’s a legacy of service at Viterbo. I think it’s just inherent in who we are,” said Madary. “The FSPA make the extraordinary ordinary. They call us to such a high level of accountability with ourselves and our world...All Viterbo has to do to be true to the Gospel is be true to their mission. That's the FSPA’s gift and legacy to us."

Darrell Pofahl, chair of sociology, social work, and criminal justice, said his department has been integrating aspects of service since the late ‘70s due to the nature of human service work. Students are exposed to different volunteer efforts to help them determine future specialization. For example, students have tutored Hmong through the former Friendship Center or Native American youth through the Ho Chunk Nation’s Learning Center or have worked with the elderly at area nursing homes and resource centers.

“The whole purpose was to give them a variety of experiences in different areas over the course of three semesters so they could see what type of populations they most enjoyed working with,” said Pofahl.

In addition to the opportunities offered in human service fields, many other disciplines have offered similar experiences. The art department has consistently held an After School Art Workshop for La Crosse-area youth. Each eight-week class is taught by students in professor Lisa Schoenfielder’s Methods in Art Education class.

Religious Studies Professor Tom Thibodeau has included community service experiences in his classes since he began teaching at Viterbo 17 years ago. And for the past 13 years, a class he has taught has exposed students to the life of the homeless in Omaha, Neb.

“We opened Place of Grace as a response to the Gospel’s call to love our neighbors,” said Thibodeau, one of the founders of Place of Grace. “If we can love our neighbor who’s poor and homeless in Omaha, could we not love our neighbor who’s poor and homeless in La Crosse? The most radical idea we can teach our students is to love our neighbors...Throughout our lifetimes, we'll always be someone's neighbor.”

Service to the community has also extended beyond the classroom at Viterbo. Other opportunities include Campus Ministry-sponsored service trips held at break times each year. Last year, students traveled to Minneapolis to volunteer in a Catholic Worker House and to Mud Creek, Ky. to work in a free clinic. Students are also encouraged to participate in La Crosse community volunteer work through the on-campus Volunteer Center.

With the service learning requirement in place, these experiences still serve as a vehicle for fulfilling some of those obligations.

“To make community service a requirement of graduation is exactly what Viterbo is about,” said Schoenfielder. “It’s not just about just sitting passively in the classroom. We, as teachers, want students to discover and figure things out and tell us what they’re learning.”

**A Contradiction in Terms?**

Along with any major change, comes the inevitable challenge. By requiring community
service of its graduates, do colleges and universities make community service more obligation than volunteerism?

“I think it’s a good idea to do community service. The problem is that people might want to do it just to get their hours over with and get out. For people who are drawn to it, it’s good. For a certain portion, they don’t want to do it,” said Freitag.

“I might have been one of them at one point,” agreed Brandon Fortney, a ’00 graduate of Viterbo and regular volunteer at Place of Grace. “I’m not a firm believer in making people volunteer. It’s tough for students to work, pay for college, and still do volunteer work on the side,” he said.

Still, Fortney admits that, for him, the service has paid off in more ways than one. He started volunteering at Place of Grace a few years ago on a weekly basis. Eventually, the community asked him to move into the apartment next door to help out on a routine basis, rent paid. The financial assistance allowed Fortney to concentrate more fully on his coursework and his volunteerism. “It helped me graduate,” he said, and added, “Around here, it doesn’t seem like work. I like the people that come here.”

Madary likes to think of Viterbo’s service learning experience less as a requirement than an invitation. “Instilling lifelong service as a way of life, a way of sharing our lives and how we live with people...it’s like our rent on this planet.”

In general, he added, “students are very excited about service. It’s a way to put practical ideas into action. In childhood, while students learn and see all of the good things about the church, it doesn’t seem real until they make a commitment to live out the values they’ve learned. Service experiences are the bridges that help them get there.”

Personally Rewarding

Inspired by the book How Can I Make What I Cannot See, by Shir-O-Fukurai, about a person who teaches art to the blind, a student in Lisa Schoenfielder’s class was inspired to do something similar for a service learning class project. She chose to work with a young man from Chileda who is almost completely blind on clay projects for an art showing.

“One thing that really came out in her writings,” said Schoenfielder, “was that she had seen him as agitated, not very happy, watching TV all of the time and then she noticed immediately how alive he became after they began working together. The reason art is beneficial to people is that the art experience changes people’s lives. He came alive in a way she hadn’t expected.”

For that student, service learning meant giving to another, and learning and experiencing life for herself. “Anyone really involved in what they’re doing doesn’t stop to think of the grade, they start thinking of the personal rewards,” said Schoenfielder.

Pofahl agrees, “Service puts our own problems into better perspective. We’re not dwelling on our own issues, but seeing ourselves as part of a larger world. The students have a significant amount of positive feedback on their experiences. In general, they’re pumped up because they’re seeing things in a whole new way.”

In fact, like Schoenfielder’s art student, some may have life experiences that challenge their notions and stereotypes. “In some cases, students even overcome prejudices. One of my students admitted prejudice about Hmong people. But after doing community service work
with Hmong, she said she couldn’t believe how wrong she’d been. She now sees the stereotypes she’d learned were wrong and she defends the Hmong population of our community. That type of experience matures students and makes the teaching experience rewarding,” said Pofahl.

Students also make community connections they might not have otherwise. They might learn more about the populations they’d like to work with in their fields, even identifying which organizations they’d like to work with one day. They might even be offered internship opportunities.

“What I like is that they develop relationships with people in the community. And by the time they do their student teaching, it’s not new to them. They’ve already done so many activities like that,” explained Schoenfielder.

But the benefits don’t apply only to students. There is a waterfall effect for professors too. “Doing community service is beneficial to the students because it motivates them to apply the concepts they’re learning in school to the real world. It benefits the faculty because it points out the validity of the things we’re teaching. When the students see real world applications of what we teach, they come back motivated and the faculty sees the progress,” said Pofahl.

**A Way of Life**

Perhaps nowhere has Viterbo’s dedication to the community been more evident than at Place of Grace. When the local Catholic Worker House first opened its doors in 1998, its residents were Viterbo alumna Mickey Collins and then-student Marilyn Pedretti, a 1999 graduate of Viterbo.

Collins and Pedretti helped organize free meals, staff the house when it was open to the community, and visit with guests. After graduating, Pedretti moved on but there have been six other Viterbo students who have lived and worked at Place of Grace. Collins has remained the one constant resident.

“It’s not service, it’s a way of life to me,” said Collins, who also works in pastoral care at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare.

As for the Viterbo students who’ve been involved at Place of Grace, Collins feels strongly that their presence is important. “They make all of the difference in the children in this neighborhood. They literally bring joy to the children,” she explained.

“There have been Viterbo students there from the get-go,” concurred Joe Kruse, one of the founders of Place of Grace and a Vice President at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare. “Everyone fits a different niche. Brandon (Fortney) and Heath (Thayer) are outstanding with the neighborhood kids. And Dana (Pukrop) created a bridge between the house and Aquinas students because she student taught there.”

“They juggle a lot—school full-time, part-time jobs, and Place of Grace. They have a consistent physical presence there which many of us can’t because of our families and jobs,” added Kruse.

Pofahl has also found that service from Viterbo students has been well received in the community. In the past, staff at the Friendship Center, and now the Ho Chunk Nation say
Viterbo students are “dependable students and they’re always respectful. You can count on them. They’re conscientious, responsible, and always do a good job.”

Added Kruse, “Without Viterbo and the FSPA, we (Place of Grace) couldn’t survive in terms of people, power, gifts, and support.”

“Community service,” explained Thibodeau, “is rooted in the common good. The focus of community service is not how the student will benefit. The focus is how the community will benefit. One serves one’s community because it’s the right thing to do. It’s what Jesus wants us to do.”

**A Tradition of Service**

A vision to impart students with the know-how and desire to volunteer in the communities in which they live and work is not new to Viterbo. Its origins are found in Viterbo’s Franciscan heritage.

More than 150 years ago, a group of Bavarian women arrived in the U.S. to establish a Franciscan order in Milwaukee. These strong, independent sisters were dedicated to educating the children of immigrants and furthering the work of the church among pioneer families in the Midwest.

To these sisters, service to budding communities was their mission—regardless of pay. “The idea of service for the sisters was partly in education and also revolved around caring for orphans and providing healthcare to the community. If they were to do this, they needed to educate themselves. Their service grew out of that…so they could be helpful wherever they went,” said Grace McDonald, FSPA, president of Viterbo from 1960-70.

By 1871, some of the sisters relocated to La Crosse to continue their mission in the newly formed Diocese of La Crosse. They established the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, a community that soon became dedicated to preparing Sisters to teach in area schools. They founded St. Rose Normal School, which later was named Viterbo College, after the city in Italy that was home to St. Rose.

The Sisters were soon teaching at schools in La Crosse and other communities. But teaching would not be the only service the Sisters provided to the area. The hardships of pioneering life meant illness and disease, like cholera and smallpox, were rampant. That meant people were dying and often leaving behind children in need of care. The Sisters soon found themselves providing care for orphans and staffing St. Michael’s Home for Children.

The need for a hospital to serve the sick of La Crosse was also strongly evident. Through hard work and sheer determination, the Sisters built and staffed St. Francis Hospital, today’s Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, in 1883.

“Everything the Sisters did was a service to the community. And if they helped children learn and become good civic members of society, that’s service to the community,” said McDonald. “Helping children develop in their faith life, in responsibility for civic duties and what is owed to the community they live in, that’s all part of an education,” she added. “An institution that’s not imbuing students with the idea that they need to look at the needs of society as a whole is not doing its job. Institutions need to help students be good members of society.”
Good Deeds Get Noticed
As more and more Viterbo students have begun fulfilling their service learning requirements, they're not only giving of themselves and their time, they're getting noticed.

The following are just a few of the Viterbo people and organizations that were honored during the last academic year by city, state, and national groups for their efforts:

Amanda Talafous: A Viterbo University senior, Talafous was honored by the Coulee Region Volunteer Center in April for her service as the volunteer director for the Riverfront Singers, a group of adults with developmental disabilities. Thanks to Talafous, sing, the singers have sung for a variety of community functions and have even performed in concert with the Viterbo show choir.

Connect Club: Viterbo’s Connect Club was one of 35 college programs nationwide in the substance-abuse prevention category cited as character-building and profiled in The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development. The Connect Club uses creative methods to reinforce the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse including use of videos, staged DWI arrests, and alcohol-free alternatives like a weekly coffeehouse.

Resident Student Board (RSB): Through innovative educational, wellness, and prevention programs for fellow college students, Viterbo’s RSB was recognized as “Small School of the Year” by the Wisconsin United Residence Hall Association in Milwaukee last February. The group also took home other honors: a “Top Ten Program” award for program on meditation and relaxation, and “Best Small School Display” award.

Rotaract: The La Crosse Tribune recognized Viterbo’s Rotaract students for their partnership with the local United Way in the Red Feather Club, an effort to promote volunteering in the community. Seven students completed their hours and received their Red Feather pins.

Student Wisconsin Education Association (StWEA): Viterbo’s chapter captured two top awards at the 1999-00 Annual Awards Luncheon in Madison last April. The “Outstanding Chapter Excellence Award” for its excellence in programming and service and its opportunities for student leadership and growth. The group also received the “Outstanding Chapter National Education CLASS Project Award” for its grant-funded Safe Trick-or-Treat Project that allows community children to trick-or-treat on the Viterbo campus at Halloween. The award encourages and supports StWEA student members in reaching out and involving themselves and their universities and colleges in the local community.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE): At its first regional competition in Minneapolis, Viterbo’s SIFE team matched its educational outreach projects against those of other regional SIFE chapters and came in third place overall while receiving the “Rookie of the Year” distinction. The highlight of Viterbo’s SIFE presentation was its “Teach a Child about Business” program. Students from SIFE taught 85 fourth and fifth grade students at a local elementary school about money—where it goes and how it circulates.

China Delegation

ary Hassinger is the dean of Viterbo’s School of Letters and Sciences. As one of six faculty and administrators and nine students participating in “The Cultural History of China,” a course offered through the Viterbo Global Studies program last spring, Hassinger and others
attended class each Thursday for 12 weeks to study the history, culture, geography, economic system, and language of China. The culmination of their studies was a three-week trip to China. Her notes and observations take the form of a reflection on what the experience meant to her personally and professionally.

As I rolled my luggage out the door of the airport, and into the busy streets of Beijing, I took one last look back. It’s difficult to describe the feelings of anticipation and nervousness I experienced as we moved into the crowds. After all, Beijing, a city of 12 million people, six million bikes, and two million cars, is sensory overload if the city you have left behind is La Crosse, population 52,000. The three weeks ahead suddenly seemed like forever.

But my anxiety was short-lived. I soon forgot the passage of time as we visited and traveled among the cities of Beijing, Luoyang, Xi’an, Taiyuan, and Wutaishan. Each day brought new experiences, laughter, and increased understanding of Chinese society.

Our group learned that China’s economic system has been in transition since 1980. The most sweeping changes have taken place in the last eight years and economic growth has brought with it Western technology and influence. The Chinese, especially the young, are fascinated with Western culture and eager to learn more about it.

Few people in China speak English, but the younger generation is learning. Many times, we were approached by Chinese who suspected we spoke English. (We weren’t hard to spot as the only white people among thousands of Chinese.) “Hello, where are you from?” they asked. As the conversation began, others stopped to listen to their fellow Chinese person speak English to an American. Soon unbelievably large crowds would be gathered on the sidewalk to listen, their fascination evident in their stares. Most wanted to know our thoughts on China, how American and Chinese students differ, and how China compares to the U.S.

We learned that change is slow in a country of 1.2 billion. Contrast between old and new was striking. Clothing ranged from Mao-era jackets and hats to mini-skirts and platform shoes. I saw BMW’s on the roadway beside carts pulled by men, bikes, or donkeys. Music played in piano bars and restaurants included traditional Chinese music and tunes such as “Silent Night,” “Theme from Titanic,” and “Auld Lang Syne.”

We visited a modern clinic where magnetic resonance imaging is available, but diagnoses are also performed using Chinese traditional medicine, where pulse, breath, body temperature, and tongue color are used to determine the ailment. At one modern department store in Xi’an, I bought something from the electronics department and the sales clerk used an abacus to compute the bill. And on a hot overnight train ride from Xi’an to Taiyuan, hand-held paper fans were the only means to keep cool in the sweltering heat.

While all of our experiences in China were amazing, by far the most enjoyable was our week-long stay in Luoyang. There we were treated like celebrities wherever we went. The LIT campus welcomed us with streaming banners and students lined up in traditional Chinese dress. Tea, speeches, gift exchanges, question-and-answer, and photo opportunities took place on each of our visits. Many banquets were held in our honor. One had 28 dishes and included octopus and snake soup. We went to a dance, a student performance, and even a dumpling-making party. We were overwhelmed with the hospitality and effort of the people of Luoyang and our LIT hosts.
There we were each paired with an English-speaking student. These “conversation partners” charmed us with their eagerness to use English and their willingness to share their lives, stories, and dreams with us. Each evening, as our bus returned from a day of visiting off-campus sites, our partners eagerly awaited us on the steps of our dormitory. My partner, Guo Yan, was a senior business student from Beijing. She worried about her future in China and hoped someday to go to graduate school in the U.S. Guo Yan escorted me to dinner each night, introduced me to a local Internet bar, and helped me navigate the busy streets of Luoyang. We learned much about each other over the few days we were together. And as we said goodbye in the rain on the last morning, we both had tears in our eyes. Seeing us and others in tears, Mr. Zhao, our host and LIT's assistant director of Foreign Affairs, lightened the moment as he jumped on the bus and cried out, “Don’t cry for me Argentina!”

As I left Luoyang, I thought about Martha Nussbaum’s words in her book Cultivating Humanity. She writes of the ability to “think what it might be like to be in the shoes of someone different from oneself” and to be an “intelligent reader of that person’s story.” Clearly, I have a lot to learn before I understand the full stories of my friend Guo Yan and the Chinese people. But at least now I’ve got a good start.

(Stride note: Viterbo plans to continue building on the basis of the exchanges that have already occurred between the people of Luoyang and the people of Viterbo. The prospect of Chinese students attending Viterbo as part of an exchange is being discussed.)

**It’s Been a Very Good Year For Earl Madary**

Sometimes it feels good when we accomplish one thing on our annual to do lists. But Viterbo’s Earl Madary is meeting all of his goals and then some this year and he’s feeling on top of the world.

“It’s been a year when a lot that has been brewing for a long time came together and fit,” said Madary, who has been teaching at Viterbo for five years.

In January, Madary, a Catholic, and fellow Viterbo Religious Studies Professor Bill Reese, a Lutheran, became published authors of a textbook they co-wrote These Things are Written: A Practical Introduction to the New Testament.

The two have searched for years to locate a quality text on the undergraduate level that teaches beginning Bible study, but to no avail. “There are many wonderful texts for graduate students, but not for undergraduates,” recalled Madary. So Reese submitted a proposed outline to Forbes Publishing in New York and it was accepted. Then in June and July of 1999, Madary and Reese put pen to paper and developed a teaching tool that would meet the needs of college New Testament instructors.

“It’s much harder than it sounds,” said Madary, who describes the book as a product of teaching in both the traditions of Catholics and Lutherans. “We divided the work equally, wrote our share, then exchanged and edited and exchanged and edited until we were satisfied with the product.”
Each chapter has reflections on various themes, recommended readings, and applications that encourage further thought. While designed mainly for students, it can be used as a resource for anyone wanting to learn more about the New Testament.

The two use the book to teach New Testament classes at Viterbo. It is also being used on other college campuses and more than 1000 copies have been sold. Madary and Reese are already anticipating the minor revisions they would like to see in the second edition of These Things are Written to be published this fall.

Following on the heels of that success, Madary released his own CD recording called “Prodigals” in April. The CD contains 11 original songs written, composed, and sung by Madary. While some of the songs are adaptations from scripture, all are originals with themes of compassion and restoration.

“Writing music has been an extension of prayer for me since the beginning of high school. 'Prodigals’ really is a record of prayer and song and a synthesis of the people I teach, and the people that teach me,” he explained.

Although it has been more than five years in the making, the idea for Madary to record a CD actually developed during Madary’s senior year as an undergraduate at Viterbo in 1988. Madary was introduced to local music producer Jeff Cozy by fellow Viterbo alumnus Jeff Hefti ’93.

Cozy saw real talent in Madary and encouraged him to think about recording his own CD. Eventually, Madary began recording material over a period of three years. Then, in 1997, he threw it all away and started from scratch.

“It didn’t feel genuine to me. Things have to feel honest and genuine before I can do them,” said Madary.

At that point, Madary got serious about his recordings and Cozy, who had started his own label, Little L.A. Records, picked it up. Finally, on April 25, Madary’s CD was released at a concert celebration in the Viterbo University Campus Church. That night, Madary played a free concert to a crowd of more than 200 people. And he’s already at work on a follow-up CD called “Gilead” that focuses on the issue of healing.

Despite his recent successes in the publishing and recording business, Madary’s mission to teach and mentor students remains closest to his heart. “Both of these projects were outward signs of my time with students and teaching campus ministry,” he said. “It’s been a great year of teaching, which in turn feeds my prayer life.”

“I can think of thousands of opportunities where I’ve been enriched and blessed by the people I share my life with. They teach me and encourage my thinking in ways I never thought of. Everyone who works with young people sees it as a blessing. I see it as a blessing. You can name it as work or see it as a vocation,” he said.

It’s clear to those who know Earl Madary that his daily work with students is more ministry than a job. “Earl’s voice mail message ends with pax et bonum, peace and all good—a phrase by which he lives. He is a person of peace and promotes the good in people, events, the
environment, and the classroom. It’s the way he tries to live his life,” said Fr. Thomas O’Neill, director of Campus Ministry.

Since he started teaching at Viterbo in 1995, Madary has helped Fr. O’Neill breathe new life into old ideas by rejuvenating campus ministry programs that had fallen by the wayside many years ago, and by starting new ones.

Madary established the weekly Deep Thoughts discussion group early on. “Deep Thoughts started as a joke,” said Madary, in reference to Saturday Night Live’s “Deep Thoughts” by Jack Handey series. “Some students and I were sitting around talking and Aaron Engebreth (‘96) said we should turn it into a Deep Thoughts discussion group.”

On a weekly basis, the Deep Thoughts group gathers at a local café or at the campus church having read classic works by Thoreau, Whitman, or others, and reflects on the texts’ meanings. “It’s learning for the sake of it, not for credit,” explained Madary. “We read an assortment of books not being read in class and experience spirituality and philosophical ideas for the joy of it.”

Madary helped start weekly Taize (sung) prayer and also founded and directs the St. Francis Choir, a group of students numbering 35, that provides music for the 11 a.m. campus liturgy each Sunday. On any given Sunday, about 25 students participate. While a student at Viterbo, Madary belonged to a similar group and that was his inspiration for the St. Francis Choir. “The beauty of it is that not all members are music majors. They come from a variety of majors. They donate three hours each weekend. They receive no credit and it’s not part of their service hours. They’re just doing it because they enjoy it,” he said.

In addition to music, social justice issues also spark a passion in Madary. In the spring of 1996, he started a program of non-academic campus service trips. Traditionally held over spring or Christmas break, the service trips offer students opportunities to learn about social justice and diversity issues through volunteer service experiences.

“In childhood, while students learn and see all of the good teachings about the church, it doesn’t seem real until they make a commitment to live out those values. Service experiences are bridges that help them get there,” said Madary.

Since Viterbo won’t be able to offer a Christmas service trip due to a change in the academic calendar this year, Madary plans to start another service trip opportunity, “Urban Plunges.” A three-day service trip, an Urban Plunge, offers a compact service experience that fits into the busy lives of students.

“I’ve been offered so many opportunities professionally and spiritually. I feel very nurtured by my work. Work is very rewarding and on so many levels—professionally, but more importantly, spiritually,” he said. “I see the work I do at Viterbo as a natural return for the gifts I’ve received from Viterbo. It’s a circle of generosity.”

You can reach Madary by email at ejmadary@viterbo.edu.

Interested in Ordering Your Own Copy?

*These Things are Written*

A limited number of These Things are Written were published. The cost is $36 and it is available in the Viterbo Bookstore. To order a copy, contact the Viterbo Bookstore at 608-796-3848 or email viterbo_bkstr@fheg.follett.com.
“Prodigals”
Madary’s debut CD, “Prodigals” is also available through the Viterbo Bookstore for $15. A portion of the proceeds from each CD benefits the Place of Grace Catholic Worker House in La Crosse. To order a copy of the book, contact the Viterbo Bookstore at 608-796-3848, email viterbo_bkstr@fheg.follett.com.

On Campus

Maykut is 2000 Teacher of the Year

She’s met the Dalai Lama and inspired a play about her experience as a volunteer teacher at the Tibetan Home School in India. She is a mentor and inspiration to hundreds of college students. And she inspires and teaches teachers.

She is this year’s Viterbo College 2000 Teacher of the Year—Dr. Pam Maykut.

Maykut, an associate professor of psychology, has been with Viterbo since 1986. She received a B.A. degree in psychology and sociology from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, in 1974, a M.A. degree in school psychology from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in 1976, and a Ph.D. in Studies in Behavioral Disabilities from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1983.

Prior to joining Viterbo, Maykut served as Director of Research and Training at the Fairbanks Rehabilitation Association and served as an instructor in the Department of Psychology at UW-La Crosse. She has served as a consultant for many organizations and has written numerous articles for publication. In 1996, she spent her spring sabbatical working with Tibetan refugee children in India. A play by Vic Passante, “Seeds of Tibet,” was inspired by her trip and the artwork and stories of the Tibetan refugee children taught by Maykut.

Her colleagues admire her many strengths and abilities. “(Pam’s) approach in the classroom benefits all learners and learning styles,” said Dr. Mary Hassinger, dean of the School of Letters and Sciences. “She individualizes her teaching relationship with each student and encourages students to think about how they think and learn. By increasing their self-knowledge, Pam allows students to recognize their own competencies and values—perhaps for the first time.”

Maykut’s students feel she is an exemplary role model. “Pam lives education,” said senior Rebekah Aderman. “She motivates students first by having a high expectation of herself, then by having a high expectation of her students ...Her challenge was to help you become your best, not her best.”

Senior Karen La-Motte agrees. “After having Pam for a teacher, I feel better about myself as a student and a person. I realized that it is possible to achieve the impossible if someone believes in you, like Pam believes in me.”

The following people also were recognized at the Honors Convocation, held annually near the end of the college’s academic year:
• Earl J. Madary, an assistant professor in the Religious Studies Department, who received
the J. Thomas Finucan Award for his exceptional contributions to furthering the mission of Viterbo University.

- **Lisa Schoenfielder**, an assistant professor in the Art Department, who received the Alec Chiu Memorial Award for pursuit of scholarly activities and studies.
- **Rochelle Cadogan**, an assistant professor in the Dahl School of Business, who received the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award, for her dedication and commitment to the academic advising of students.
- **The Connect Club**, a campus group dedicated to increasing awareness of alcohol-related issues and promoting alcohol-free alternatives, which received the Pax Et Bonum Award for its fulfillment of the Franciscan values of service, respect, hospitality, stewardship, and joy.

Servant Leader Awards were presented to the following for their leadership and service to others:

- **Elissa Kamaka**, FSPA, instructor in Extended Learning
- **Kathleen Kenkel**, FSPA, an assistant professor in Religious Studies who retired this past spring.
- **Ed Morrison**, instructor and Micro Computer Systems Specialist
- **Darrell Pofahl**, associate professor and chair of Sociology/Social Work/ Criminal Justice.

**Bright Star Season Opens September 28**

The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Vienna Choir Boys, and the American Players Theatre's production of “A Midsummer Night's Dream” are just a few of the delights featured in Viterbo's 2000-01 Bright Star Season schedule.

The 29th season of performances, held at the Fine Arts Center on the Viterbo campus, begins in September. The events are:

- **American Repertory Ballet**, Thursday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m. Set to the music of Bach, Copland, and Mendelssohn, this classic ballet company's presentation is a diverse program choreographed by George Balanchine and Canadian Mark Godden.

- **“She Stoops to Conquer,”** Friday-Saturday, Oct. 13-14, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 15, 2 p.m. Written by Oliver Goldsmith, his play has been described as one of the funniest “laughing-comedies” ever. A Viterbo production, it tells the tale of Kate Hardcastle, a country girl who “stoops” to a lower social class to win the love of her betrothed.

- **American Players Theatre's “A Midsummer Night's Dream,”** Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. Shakespeare's delightful comedy continues to intrigue audiences with its celebration of relationships, revelations, romance, and revelry.

- **Trinity Irish Dance Company**, Sunday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. The first ensemble to make the leap from competition to performance, Trinity Irish Dance Company has inspired other productions, such as Riverdance.

- **Vienna Choir Boys**, Saturday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. The incomparable Vienna Choir Boys will feature works by the great composers associated with the choir, like Haydn, Schubert, and Strauss, as well as the signature Viennese folk songs and short operettas that are favorites of their modern repertoire.
“Messiah,” Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m. The Viterbo Music Department’s production of Handel’s “Messiah” has become part of the Christmas tradition and includes a festive lobby party following the concert.

_Ladysmith Black Mambazo_, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. Famous for their work on Paul Simon’s “Graceland” album, this 10–man Zulu group’s music is rooted in contemporary South African culture—from its high kicking and stop-stomping dances to its songs about conditions in the mines and apartheid.

“Crazy for You,” Friday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. This Tony-Award-winning musical is filled with unforgettable music from George and Ira Gershwin, including “Embraceable You” and “I Got Rhythm.” A 1930’s style musical, it features dazzling choreography.

“Cosi Fan Tutte,” Friday-Saturday, March 30-31, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 1, 2 p.m. One of Mozart’s most beloved comic operas comes to life through the collaboration of the Viterbo Music and Theatre Departments. The story of two men who test the love, loyalty, and faithfulness of their intended is filled with beautiful music, colorful characters, and clever plot twists.

_Glenn Miller Orchestra_, Sunday, April 29, 7:30 p.m. Still one of the most sought after big bands in the world, The Glenn Miller Orchestra proves that Swing is King. Their unique sound has popularized tunes like “In the Mood,” “Chattanooga Choo Choo,” and “A Sentimental Journey.”

_Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra_, Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 p.m. The internationally renowned Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra makes a return trip to La Crosse as pianist Lydia Artymiw joins the orchestra for an evening to remember.

Individual and season tickets are available. For additional information on Bright Star Season events, please contact the Viterbo Fine Arts Center Box Office at 608-796-3100 or check out its website at www.viterbo.edu/academic/ug/sfa/bss.htm.

**Theatre Students Take National Honors**

Two Viterbo Theatre Arts students were recently named recipients of national “Awards of Excellence” by the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival (ACTF).

Senior theatre major Kevin Schniepp was selected as the national winner of the “Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award” for the best play written on the theme of a disability. Schniepp’s play, _A Simple Autumn_, is set at a city bus stop and deals with a life-changing meeting between a businessman and a mentally disabled young man. The play, a project completed for Theatre Arts Professor Dean Yohnk’s playwriting class, was staged last spring at Viterbo as part of the “Original Play Festival.”

As the winner of the Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award, Schniepp will receive a $2,500 cash prize, membership in the American Dramatists Guild, and a full fellowship to attend a national playwriting workshop and conference.
Jesse Dreikosen, a sophomore majoring in Theatre Design, was also selected as a national finalist in the ACTF Makeup Design Competition. Dreikosen’s makeup designs for Viterbo’s production of A Flea In Her Ear were chosen “best of show” at the five-state Region III ACTF in January and were entered into the national competition in Washington, D.C. Dreikosen traveled to the national ACTF and presented his designs and participated in design workshops. The winner of this competition will be granted a fully paid fellowship to study makeup at a major Broadway theatre or Hollywood film studio.

The aims of the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival are to identify and promote quality in college-level theatre production. During the past five years, Viterbo theatre productions and students have been awarded a number of regional and national awards in acting, design, playwriting, and directing. With more than 90 Bachelor of Fine Arts majors in theatre, Viterbo is home to the largest professional theatre training program in the state of Wisconsin.

Viterbo theatre faculty member Dr. Dean Yohnk serves on the Regional Executive Board and is the Wisconsin State Chair for the American College Theatre Festival.

**Viterbo Senior will be Missed**

On Saturday, June 10, the Viterbo community suffered a significant loss with the death of senior Brad Frohmader.

Frohmader and his friend, Christopher Jordan, died from carbon monoxide poisoning aboard the cabin cruiser they were sleeping in while camping overnight on a Mississippi River sandbar near La Crosse. Another friend was treated for carbon monoxide poisoning at a Minneapolis hospital.

Frohmader’s funeral was held at Mary, Mother of the Church in La Crosse on June 15, where family and friends gathered to celebrate his life.

Frohmader was a marketing and management major at Viterbo and was expected to graduate in December. Brad will be remembered and missed by all of his friends and by the entire Viterbo community.

**Finucan Receives Honorary Doctorate**

Former Viterbo College President Fr. J. Thomas Finucan, the first leader of the college who was not a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters during Spring Commencement on Sunday, May 14 at the La Crosse Center. Fr. Finucan was the President of Viterbo from 1970-80. In his tenure, the college became co-educational, started its athletics program, initiated its first major capital campaign, and dramatically increased its enrollment of lay students. After a 19-year absence, Fr. Finucan returned to Viterbo in 1999 to take the position of Assistant to the President for Vision 2005, the college’s strategic plan, and to promote the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership.
Honor Society Inducts Members at Chartering Ceremony

More than 140 members were inducted into Pi Phi, Viterbo University's chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, at a special chartering ceremony on April 18.

In addition, the following people were installed as officers: Mary Christianson, President; Lisa Lock, President-Elect; Stephanie Genz, Vice President; Carol Oldenburg, Secretary; Teri Kunavich, Treasurer; Delayne Vogel, Faculty Counselor; and Pat Wessels, Faculty Counselor.

Membership in STTI is by invitation and is extended to undergraduate and graduate nursing students, faculty, and professional nurses who have demonstrated superior scholastic, leadership, and nursing achievements. Area nurses and alumni interested in learning more about Viterbo’s STTI chapter can call Delayne Vogel at 796-3692 or email her at dgvogel@viterbo.edu.

Desmond Joins Viterbo Board

The Viterbo University Board of Directors welcomes its latest member in October when John Desmond joins for a four-year term.

Desmond is president and CEO of Desmond's Formal Wear. No stranger to community boards, he has served on a number of them throughout the Coulee Region, including: Greater La Crosse Area Schools, La Crosse Festivals-Oktoberfest, and St. Francis Hospital Foundation. He has served as President for the La Crosse Country Club Board, the Oktoberfest Board, and the Aquinas Foundation. Desmond continues to serve on the Boards for the La Crosse Country Club and the Aquinas Foundation.

As the Board of Directors welcomes Desmond, it also says goodbye to two long-term members, Grace McDonald, FSPA, and Marikaye Robers. A former President of Viterbo University from 1960-70, Sr. McDonald leaves the Board with distinction as its longest serving member, having served for 40 years. Robers served on the Board of Advisors (10 years) and the Board of Directors (20 years). She also served on the steering committee during the college’s $4.9 million capital campaign—“Building the Future."

Teaching Teachers: Viterbo Leads Nation

July 14th was a memorable day.

That mid-summer date marked the occasion when Viterbo broke all existing records by awarding 375 Master of Arts in Education degrees to teachers from all across the Midwest. Informed sources indicate that Viterbo leads the United States in number of MA in Education degrees awarded at a single graduation.

The burgeoning program has been the model of success. Just 10 years ago, Viterbo graduated its first class of teachers with masters degrees—41 in all. Now, in addition to the coursework offered on the Viterbo campus, thousands of students are taking classes in locations throughout Wisconsin and Iowa. And any fear that the unprecedented growth would stymie innovation or reduce quality have never been further from the truth, said John Schroeder, director of the graduate education program.
“Right now, we are the undisputed leader—the quality leader so to speak—for the entire region. Our graduates are our biggest promoters and they share their experiences here at Viterbo and ‘sell’ the program to other teachers,” Schroeder said. “The teachers are literally out there everyday, advertising for Viterbo.”

Several 1999 graduates did just that in written testimonials which were shared with college officials. “The quality of instruction was at its best. I’ve never met so many dynamic people all involved in one program,” said Annette Ihde, a teacher at Grant Elementary School in Waterloo, Iowa.

An elementary teacher from Suamico agreed. “Viterbo is a terrific college dedicated to improving the whole person. The professors were extremely educated and warmhearted. They are wonderful role models,” said Lisa Joseph.

The compliments and accolades that continue to stream in have humbled, yet overwhelmed, those in charge of Viterbo’s program. “Think about 375 teachers...multiply that times the 100 or so children each teaches everyday. The total is staggering and to think that Viterbo is instilling its sense of mission and purpose into all these graduate students is an awesome responsibility and privilege,” Schroeder said.

**Good work honored at “Transitions” Banquet**

Colleges and universities have a tradition of not only honoring retiring faculty, but also, selecting members of the Board of Directors who have given significantly of “time and talent.”

Sr. Grace McDonald, FSPA, attended her last board meeting this past June and found herself unable to escape an avalanche of best wishes included in an evening of reminiscing devoted to retiring and long-standing members of the Viterbo Board of Directors.

Sr. Grace was an original member of the board, and served Viterbo for 48 years. For many, her name is synonymous with the growth and progress of modern-era Viterbo. She was president from 1960-70 and during that time, the Fine Arts Center was constructed, the enrollment of lay students mushroomed, and men were admitted for the first time. Viterbo’s horizons expanded in many other ways. The nursing program, now Viterbo’s largest, was also introduced under Sr. Grace’s tenure and Marian Hall North, a residence hall, was constructed.

In describing her exceptional service to Viterbo, President William Medland said, “In her own extraordinary way, she has added greatly to the spirit and definition of our university. Our lives and the life of Viterbo have been enriched by her presence as Professor, President and Director.”

Sr. Grace was granted the title “Director Emerita,” and her retirement from Viterbo will not be complete. Medland indicated that she has agreed to stay on as a member of the National Advisory Council, a group which meets twice a year.

Other Board members were also recognized June 19 at a “Celebration of Transitions” banquet. They were:

- **Father J. Thomas Finucan**, for 30 years of service on the Board of Directors. Fr. Finucan, president of Viterbo from 1970-80, recently was awarded an honorary degree from the university.
• **Marikaye Robers**, also for 30 years of service to Viterbo, including 20 years as chair of the Institutional Advancement committee which is charged with overseeing the university fundraising effort. During her tenure, donors contributed more than $35 million for various endowments, scholarships, building projects and other initiatives. Robers’ last meeting as a member of the Board was June 19.

Four others were recognized for 20 or more years of service on the board. They are William Bast, Mary Funk, Charles Gelatt and Paul Noelke.

**Partnership Meets Needs of Underserved**

A new venture among three La Crosse organizations means improved wellness efforts for the medically underserved in the community.

The Viterbo University School of Nursing, the La Crosse County Health Department, and The Salvation Army have joined together to form “CARING, Inc: A Partnership for Public Health Practice.”

Short for “Caring, Assessment, Resources, and Intervention through Nursing Guidance,” CARING, Inc. is designed to serve the community's health and enhance student learning. Students and faculty from Viterbo work with the La Crosse County Health Department to provide services such as blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, vision and hearing screenings, flu shots, and health education to those in need. The program’s goals are to:
- Provide access to health promotion, health screenings, and health education services through establishment of a Health Resource Center at The Salvation Army.
- Strengthen the nursing curriculum by providing nursing students an opportunity with a significant public health nursing experience meeting the health needs of a medically underserved population.
- Establish an ongoing academic-community partnership with potential for expansion to include students in other health professions and disciplines.

“The project serves as a model of collaborative care in which Viterbo undergraduate nursing students participate as care providers and health educators, and in which Viterbo graduate nursing students partner with the community in planning and evaluation,” said Silvana Richardson, dean of the Viterbo University School of Nursing.

Doug Mormann, director of the La Crosse County Health Department, agreed. “It enables our department, working with Viterbo nursing students and faculty, to provide public health nursing services to the homeless in La Crosse,” he said.

This innovative partnership has received more than $9,500 in funding from the Southwest Wisconsin Area Education Center (AHEC) System’s Model Program Grant under the Division of Medicine, Bureau of Health Professions Program.

“This [project] exemplifies a forward-thinking program with the use of important grant funds. It embodies more than its whole—more than we could accomplish individually in meeting health needs of a vulnerable population,” said Bob Monk, director of development and community relations with The Salvation Army.

Stephanie Genz, RN, MSN, a Viterbo nursing faculty member, serves as the Project Director. Julie Frank, a Viterbo master’s degree in nursing student, conducted a community needs assessment this past summer and developed the program planning based on those needs.
For more information on CARING, Inc., contact Stephanie Genz, project director, at 608-796-3693 or email her at srgenz@viterbo.edu.

Philanthropy Notes

Follow the Viterbo Brick Road
Viterbo’s Brick Road Campaign was a success! More than 420 bricks were sold.

Though not paving the way to Oz, the bricks will be used for paths in Viterbo’s latest beautification project, V-Hawk Court. Each brick owner received a detailed map showing the exact location of their brick so they will always be able to find it.

Construction began in late May and was completed in August, prior to the start of this academic year. V-Hawk Court is located on Winnebago Street between the Student Activities Center and Rose Terrace. Park benches, a clock tower, and walkway complete with engraved bricks are just some of its features.

For information on other Viterbo projects, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 608-796-3070 or email cmsanger@viterbo.edu. You can also find us on the web at: http://www.viterbo.edu/aboutvit/advancement/.

And remember, “There’s no place like Viterbo... There’s no place like Viterbo... There’s no place like Viterbo.”

Junior Earns Prestigious Fellowship
Staci Wenaas, a Viterbo University nursing major, is one of only 20 recipients from across the United States to receive the prestigious Helene Fuld Trust Fellowship for emerging nurse leaders.

As a 2000 Fuld Fellow, Wenaas participated in a leadership conference in New York City in June. The conference focused on issues and themes shaping the health care system in the 21st Century—interdisciplinary collaboration, community-based practice, and cross-cultural competence. The 2000 Fuld Fellows will again gather in October in Washington, D.C. for a capstone retreat.

The Fellows will also develop mentoring relationships with health care professionals. The mentorships will serve them well beyond their fellowship.

“This is a real opportunity especially because of the networking—meeting people who can help advance my career and help me define goals for the future,” said Wenaas, a junior.

Wenaas was nominated for the award by the Dean of Viterbo’s School of Nursing, Silvana Richardson, and selected by the Helene Fuld Fellowship Selection Committee from approximately 300 applicants.
“Staci is a very hard worker, an excellent student, and is also very kind and humble. We are so pleased that she’s been chosen as a Fuld Fellow and we’re confident she’ll make an outstanding nurse,” said Richardson.

Following her anticipated graduation in 2001, Wenaas plans to work as a nurse for several years and then pursue her master’s degree. Wenaas is the daughter of Michael and Linda Wenaas from Eleva.

**Student Wins Scholarship for Extra Effort**

Former West Salem High School student Amber Rademacher enrolled at Viterbo University this fall as the La Crosse Tribune’s Extra Effort Scholarship recipient.

The Extra Effort Award is presented to high school seniors who have overcome significant hurdles and provided important volunteer service to their community and school. Three of the students who receive the award throughout the school year are selected to receive a one-year, full tuition scholarship from Viterbo, the UW-L Foundation, or Western Wisconsin Technical College (WWTC).

According to an April 28 La Crosse Tribune article, Rademacher lost her father shortly after he received a kidney transplant. She also donated bone marrow two years ago to her brother, who was battling leukemia. At Viterbo, Rademacher plans to study nursing.

The Extra Effort program is a partnership among Viterbo, UW-L, WWTC, and the La Crosse Tribune.

**Viterbo Receives Heartland Arts Fund Grant**

Viterbo’s Arts for Young America Program was recently awarded its second Heartland Arts Fund grant in the amount of $1,425.

The grant was given to Viterbo in support of a residency with the Dallas Children’s Theatre, including several performances of “Heidi.”

“Heidi,” presented by the renowned Dallas Children’s Theatre, will be seen by approximately 2,000 local children.

The Dallas Children’s Theatre, a touring theatre company that has been to La Crosse three times, most recently performed “King Arthur” for hundreds of students from local schools. In addition to performances, the company will hold workshops using drama in conflict-resolution situations.

The Heartland Arts Fund is a joint venture with Arts Midwest and Mid-America Arts Alliance, with support from the state of Wisconsin and the National Endowment of the Arts.

**Scholarship Awarded for Academics, Service, & Leadership**

One Viterbo student’s efforts in academics, community involvement, and civic leadership have been highly rewarded.

In May, sophomore Sarah Nau received a $9,000 Rath Distinguished Merit Scholarship through the Wisconsin Foundation for Independent Colleges from the Rath Foundation. The scholarship is in honor of Duane Rath, a successful businessman from Wisconsin who pioneered higher education benefits to his employees.

Nau, a nursing major from Washington, Ill., has a 3.83 grade point average. In 1999, she spent the summer working at a camp for mentally and physically disabled children and adults. She plans to pursue a master’s degree or become a physician after graduating with her
undergraduate degree. Ultimately, Nau wants to open and run a free clinic/Catholic Worker House for the needy and disabled of her community.

Grant Means Updates in Chemistry
Thanks to the National Science Foundation (NSF), Viterbo University will soon be upgrading equipment in chemistry classrooms.

In June, Viterbo received a grant for $58,105 to update existing equipment and to purchase additional equipment, including some that introduces magnetic resonance concepts and technology into the chemistry curriculum.

The NSF, located in Arlington, Va., is an independent agency of the U.S. government. Its mission is to promote the progress of science; advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense.

Chris Lee Memorial Golf Open a Success
Golfers turned out in droves to enjoy a beautiful day on the course and a special dinner at Forest Hills Golf Course in La Crosse. The reason for the gathering was to raise funds for a very worthy cause.

In total, 92 golfers participated in the May 2 event—the Chris Lee Memorial Golf Open. Proceeds support an endowed scholarship in Chris Lee’s name.

Lee played on the baseball team at Viterbo and graduated in 1999. He died that October of injuries sustained in a car accident. The scholarship will be awarded to a junior and a senior baseball player.

Chris’s father, Gary, from Burnsville, Minn., along with his wife, Gwen, and brother, Derek, were the primary organizers of the event, putting in countless hours making arrangements and seeing to the details.

“Planning something like this takes a lot of energy and organization and Gary certainly gave this his all,” said Kenna Christians, vice president for Institutional Advancement. “And the cause is excellent. The scholarships will make a big difference, especially for athletes who might not be able to work outside of school due to demands of both academics and athletics.” Close to $20,000 was raised in Chris’s memory.

Alumni Now

Alumna Publishes Book

Frank Named Distinguished Professor
Congratulations to Viterbo alumnus Mark Frank, who was named Distinguished Professor of the
Year for 1999-2000 at Coffeyville Community College (CCC) in Coffeyville, Kan. Frank, who has been the Theatre Director at CCC since 1994, received his undergraduate degree from Viterbo in 1989 and went on to receive his Masters in Fine Arts from Western Illinois University. Also a playwright, Frank has written six plays, several of which have been presented at CCC.

FSPA Doll Placed in Museum
Looking for an interesting road trip this fall? Check out the doll museum at The Cross in the Woods Catholic Shrine in Indian River, Mich. Not your ordinary doll museum, this one has more than 525 dolls dressed in the traditional habits of women religious from the U.S. A doll designed to look like a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA) in full habit was added to the collection this year.

Border Ministry
It is a common practice along the Mexico-U.S. border for giant corporations to put headquarters on the U.S. side of the border and factories on the Mexican side. In this way, corporations reap the benefits of high profits by paying very low wages to Mexican workers. Oftentimes, working conditions are poor and the health condition of the workers declines.

In order to minister to the needs of these people, Joyce Blum FSPA '63, has left her Arizona state prison chaplaincy to start a border ministry. Thanks to a grant, Sr. Blum will serve the poor on both sides of the Arizona and Mexico border through her ministry. She also plans to open a few new educational centers that will teach English, provide worship services, and help those in need learn and develop important job skills.

Sr. Blum plans to organize others who are willing to help in this ministry to border towns. If you know anyone interested in helping her border ministry, contact Sr. Blum at 702 W. Roller Coaster Road, Tucson, AZ 85704-3820.

Voice in the Wilderness
A mobile Christian ministry venture has turned into a full-fledged Christian retail store called “A Voice in the Wilderness” for Viterbo alumna Shelly Clark.

Clark, who graduated in 1984, and her daughter Corey, now 12, began their ministry two years ago. Based in Prentice, the two traveled to parishes, schools, and church meetings with a line of religious goods and sacred music. The business was so successful that last winter, they opened a store that not only sells Catholic and Christian items, but also retails unique gifts and art from the Third World.

Operating a principled business is important to the Clarks. “We're a 'fair trade' establishment,” said Clark, “which means, to the best of our knowledge, our products are made by skilled artisans who are fairly compensated for their work and do not work in sweatshop conditions.”

In addition to the store, the building houses a private music studio where Clark gives piano, voice, and band instrument lessons as well as coaches students preparing for pageants, and auditions.

Nursing Reunion
Mark your calendars for the School of Nursing Reunion which will be held Saturday, April 21, 2001.
Watch future publications and the alumni web site for registration information and details. (www.viterbo.edu/alumni).

**The First and the Last**
When Jeanne (Swing) Pavela graduated from the first nursing class at Viterbo in 1971, she never dreamed her daughter Sarah would be graduating from the last. Sarah, who graduated in May, was part of the last nursing class to graduate from Viterbo College. The diplomas for next year’s graduates will read Viterbo University. Jeanne is a clinical nursing instructor at Viterbo and Sarah is a nurse at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, Minn.

**CLASS NOTES**

Over the years we inevitably lose touch with some of our alumni and need the help of others to keep current. We’d like to include these missing folks in upcoming mailings and ensure they are kept informed regarding the current Viterbo news. If you know the address or phone number of any of these people, please call the Alumni Office at 608-796-3072 or e-mail us at sbemerson@viterbo.edu. Thank you!

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<thead>
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<th>Non-Graduating:</th>
<th>1946</th>
<th>1969</th>
<th>1979</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cecilia</td>
<td>Verona</td>
<td>Pilar Cruz</td>
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<td>(Leung)</td>
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<td>Clare F.</td>
<td>Drier</td>
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<td>Martha</td>
<td>(Linzmeier)</td>
<td>Elizabeth J.</td>
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<td>(McClellan)</td>
<td>Hanson</td>
<td>Lucas</td>
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<td>Nikols</td>
<td>Virginia Lease</td>
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<td>Vana M.</td>
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<td>(Clincy)</td>
<td>Doris (Mason)</td>
<td>Francis S.</td>
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<td>(Holthaus)</td>
<td>O’Leary</td>
<td>Norris</td>
<td>Fong</td>
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<td>(Holter)</td>
<td>Desotelle</td>
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<td>Connie R.</td>
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<td>Dulahey</td>
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<td>(Wesley)</td>
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Phyllis (Dunne) Hose 1973 Margaret Chow
Driscoll 1965 Margaret A. Johnson
Judiann (Hao) Chen 1974 Ann M. (Johnson)
Duncan Martha Dalle Munroe 1974 Owie
Elizabeth Mary L. (Johnson) 1974 Deborah L. (Poulton)
(Weigel) 1975 Arneson
Dwyer 1975 Carol R. Walker
Kathleen Dora (Barchinas) 1976 Fatemah T. Windler
(White) 1976 Jeanette Johnson
Halverson Salasyar 1976 Clifford Price
Carole Diane (Hall) 1976 Arlen
(Allen) Walker 1976 Aalpoel
Hartman 1966 Roslyn Job Thomas W. Windler
Vilma Jeanette Johnson 1976 Fatemah T. (Gillette) Harvey
(Morales) 1976 Arneson
Hoevertsz 1976 Carol R. Windler
Donna Arlene Ostendorf 1976 Susan J. (Craig) Owens
(Buelt) Carole 1991 Denise L. (Pautz) Krentz
Holmes 1967 Carolyn C. Windler
Ingrid Carol G. Thomas W. Windler
Homstad Adams 1977 Maria F. (Vega) Gomoll Schneider
Gail Mary D. (Craig) Owens
Hupfauer Foley 1991 Lawrence J. Schneider
Laurette 1968 Susan J. (Craig) Owens
Isensee Margaret M. (Stefanak)
Carmen Dimaio 1978 Barbara Ford
(Artero) 1991 Maria F. (Vega) Gomoll Schneider
Kasperbauer Eleanor T. (Artero)
Karen Walters 1996 Grace E. (Koenig) Goodenough
Knotone Cheryl A. (Carter)
Janet Yeager 1996 Grace E. (Koenig) Goodenough
Krotzman 1996 Grace E. (Koenig) Goodenough
Carolee Yeager 1996 Grace E. (Koenig) Goodenough
(Allen) 1996 Grace E. (Koenig) Goodenough
Miller Rosemary Miller
Mary B. Moe
Jennifer (Arnold)
Myler Irma
(Bekkum)
Newbery
Berni (McNallan) ’70 and George Carmona have relocated to the Netherlands, where George has taken a job with Trane Company.
Kristine (Koetting) Campbell ’74 was promoted to Brigadier General in the U.S. Army Reserve, April 1, 2000, at Fort Lewis, Wash.
Mary Meehan-Strub ’76 is a recipient of the Foremost Farms USA Cooperative scholarship.

Bob Owens ’81 is employed by Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. in Saint Charles, Mo. as an Environmental Engineer. Bob
has been working with the group responsible for waste management and treatment at the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project. The project is a $900 million Department of Energy mixed hazardous waste CERCLA site where radiological and chemical contaminants are present. Rhonda (Voelz) ’81 and Alan Lemke celebrated the birth of a daughter, Sally Mae, April 26, 2000. She joins her brother Dustin, 2, at home.


Carl Henry ’84 is employed by the Great River Steamboat Company in La Crosse as the captain of the Juliana Belle Swain. In the off-season he assists in the advertising and planning of upcoming seasons, along with coordinating off-season maintenance of the boat.


Deanna (Burns) Dickinson ’85 received her license for Nursing Home Administrator May 10, 2000. She is employed as the administrator of St. Joseph’s Rehabilitation Center, La Crosse.

Jean Pintz Olson ’85 and Joel Olson own and operate Olson’s Hillview Greenhouse, La Crosse. Oct. 2000 marks their 14th year in business.

Gina (Hynek) Haefele ’87 and her family relocated from Spokane to Montgomery. Right before they left Spokane, she co-wrote a book called Who’s Cookin’ Tonight about a cooking co-op that Gina and some friends formed in their neighborhood. It’s a how-to-cookbook, explaining how to spend more time with your family and less time in the kitchen cooking and cleaning up each day. They are currently searching for a publisher and hope to see it on the best-seller list soon. Gina is also writing a cooking article for The Better Half, a bi-monthly newsletter based out of North Carolina, which caters to Military Spouses.


Cindy (Hutson) Arndt ’88 is the pastor for the Ossian-Stavanger Lutheran Parishes, Ossian, Iowa.

Elizabeth (Sorenson) ’88 and K. Michael Van Asten celebrated the birth of a daughter, Michelle Marie, Jan. 19, 2000. She joins her siblings, Laura and Luke, at home.

Craig Grealapp ’89 recently accepted a job as an account manager with US West Federal Services in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Craig is responsible for all voice, data, and CPE requirements for the federal government accounts that are served by US West in the state of Minnesota.

Mark Frank ’89 was awarded Outstanding Professor of the Year at Coffeyville Community College, Coffeyville, Kan. May 2000. Students at the college vote this award. Also, Mark was awarded Post Secondary Educator of the Year, which is voted on by citizens of Coffeyville,
and presented by the city. Mark has been a Theatre Instructor at Coffeyville Community College for six years.

Kimberly Helgeson ’89 is a clinical dietitian on a bone marrow transplant unit for children at the Fairview University Medical Center, Minneapolis. Melissa (Weinberger) ’89 and Todd Jacobson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emily Anne, Dec. 24, 1999. She joins her brother Matthew, 2 1/2, at home.

1990
Dione (Davidson) ’90 and Randy Brandt celebrated the birth of a daughter, Bergen Mae, April 18, 2000. She joins her brother Camron Scott, 2, at home.

Amy (Borke) ’91 and Duane Boris celebrated the birth of a daughter, MacKenzie Jayne, Feb. 1, 2000. She joins her brother, Riley, at home.

Eric Lettner ’91 works with Campus Crusade for Christ in Campus Ministry. He is a Campus Minister and is the Metro Director in the Greater Milwaukee Area.

Valerie and Mike Reis ’91 celebrated the birth of a son, Lawson Michael, April 5, 2000. He joins his sister, Payton, at home.

Rebekah Smith ’91 and Stacy Smith celebrated the birth of a daughter, Rachel, Jan. 1, 1999. She joins her brothers, Zachary and Kirkpatrick, at home.

Cheryl (Cota) ’92 and Greg Hanson celebrated the birth of a son, Noah Amor, Dec. 5, 1999.

Cynthia (Kelly) ’92 and Elijah Hansen celebrated the birth of a son, Aaron, Feb. 7, 2000. He joins his brothers, Sean and Gabriel, at home.

LaVonne (Waite) ’92 and Michael Hundt celebrated the birth of a son, Steven, May 30, 2000. He joins his sisters Rachel, 4 and Sarah, 2, at home.

Nancy (Anderson) ’93 and Brett Grams celebrated the birth of a son, Spencer Stephan, May 20, 2000. He joins his brother Nickolas George, 1 1/2, at home.

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

Kristin (Theobald) ’93 and Shawn Drager celebrated the birth of a son, Reese Kamren, Mar. 16, 2000. He joins his brother Ryan, 1 1/2, at home.


Jodie (June) Szewczyk ’94 received her Master’s Degree from St. Mary’s University of Minnesota May 1998.

Marla (Norder) ’94 and Keith Snyder celebrated the birth of a daughter, Mya Jean, April 18, 2000.

Michelle Farrell '94-'96 graduated May 2000 with a Pharm.D. from the University Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy. Upon licensure she plans to work for Bohlman Pharmacy Services and Boscobel Area Healthcare Hospital in Boscobel.

Elizabeth (Ekern) '95 and Mark Lakmann celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel Joseph, May 28, 2000. He joins his sister Lexie, 2, at home.

Connie (Gronemus) '95 and David Kuhn celebrated the birth of a son, Evan John, May 11, 2000. He joins his brother, Brandon, at home.

Jane Joniaux-Delcore '96 and Ken Delcore celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kathyrn, Nov. 1998.


Kerry Loge '96 is the part-time, acting house manager of the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines.


Peter Fleming '97 is in the second semester of the Master’s program in voice performance at University of Southern California. Both semesters he has played the lead role in the USC opera productions. This summer he participated in an Italian program in Verona, Italy.

Kathy (Garvey) '97 and Ken Flathoff celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kaylee Janay March 17, 2000. She joins her brother, Kollin, at home.

Stephanie Hanson '97 married Rob Myers May 20, 2000.

Leslie and John Hotvedt '97 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jenna Louise, June 19, 2000.

Letzbeia and Christopher Laing-Martinez '97 are currently serving as lay missionaries for the Milwaukee Archdiocese at a sister parish in Sabana Yegua, Dominican Republic. Chris may be reached at laingmart@yahoo.com.


Quinn Marquardt '98 married Brian Hause June 3, 2000. Quinn is currently a social worker for the Sauk County Department of Human Services.


April Onstad '98 married Brian Pendleton March 27, 1999 at the Viterbo Campus Church.

Shannon and Todd Walters '98 were married Sept. 25, 1999.


Jennifer Grant '99 married Doug Brandau Nov. 11, 1999.
Chad McGuire '99 is enrolled in the Emergency Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Texas-Houston, the only program of its kind in the USA.


Cynthia Spiess '99 and Glenn Spiess celebrated the birth of a daughter, Sophia Kate, Nov. 29, 1999. She joins her brother Alexander, 4, at home.
Tabetha Wallace '99 is currently living in New York City pursuing her career in acting and writing. Her one-woman show, Cloe and Olivia chasing Lilith’s Wolves, which was originally performed at Viterbo in 1998, was performed at the Producer’s Club Theatre off-Broadway in late July. In addition to writing and directing the show, she starred in it as well. Tabetha also worked with a Boston software company on a live action cd-rom game that she starred in that was produced this summer.

IN MEMORIUM

Helen Saxton, April 3, 2000, sister of Yvonne Jenn, FSPA ’42.
Delbert Foegen, April 15, 2000, brother of Leora Foegen, FSPA ’47.
Irene Rickelman, FSPA ’49, April 23, 2000.
Catherine Clark ’51, June 19, 2000.
Giovanne Blume, FSPA ’52, March 5, 2000.
Anton Pehler, April 16, 2000, brother of Theophilia Pehler, FSPA ’52.
Evelyn Close, March 28, 2000, sister of Louise Rahe, FSPA ’52.
Agnes Berger, May 24, 2000, sister of Rita Marie Bechel, FSPA ’56.
Elaine Feld, March 6, 2000, mother of Joan (Feld) McGuire ’60.
Elmer Friedman, April 29, 2000, brother of Maria Friedman, FSPA ’63.
John Tessler, April 17, 2000, husband of Marjorie (Eichman) Tessler ’66.
Leona Alt, February 27, 2000, mother of Ardell (Alt) Bergin ’70.
Arthur Servais, April 24, 2000, father of Veronica (Servais) Besch ’72, grandfather of Tim Clements ’81.
LaVerne Olson, April 2000, father of Barbara (Olson) Molling ’76, and uncle of Anita (Bruha) Schubring ’86.
Hazel Emerson, June 13, 2000, mother-in-law of Sally (Kramer) Emerson ’77.
Robert Dunn, May 1, 1998, husband of Marion (Kohlhaus) Dunn ’78.

James Graham, March 1, 2000, father of Kathleen Graham ’79.

Larry Jerome Bark, May 31, 2000, brother of Cheryl (Bark) Levendoski ’83 and brother-in-law of Joan Bark ’98.


Rosemarie Mitley, May 12, 2000, mother-in-law of Sue Ann (Davis) Mitley ’84.


Ed Kramer, father of Karen (Kramer) Korpal ’85.

Terrence Theede, July 13, 1999, husband of Holly (Nelson) Theede ’86.

Sandy Thomas, March 7, 2000, sister of Ellen (Speltz) Prill ’89.

Robert Fuchs, February 29, 2000, grandfather of Tammy Riggall ’91.

Helen Mellick, June 5, 2000, grandmother of Michael Mellick ’94.


A FINAL WORD
Francis Dares to Dance: A U.S. to Italy Odyssey
By Pat Kerrigan

Italy—Michelango’s Pieta and the painting of the Sistine Chapel...Now, Viterbo’s finest artistic expression takes its place among the masterpieces.

What a story! A second casting of Dancing Francis, an inspiration to thousands of students and visitors to Viterbo’s campus, has made its way across the ocean where the bronze sculpture now resides in the hometown of St. Francis, Italy’s patron saint.

Yes, Dancing Francis is in Assisi, Italy, the spiritual center and birthplace of the Franciscan movement—the place of the famed Giotti frescoes and of much Renaissance art.

Believe it. The 5,000-mile cross-Atlantic journey is real; the donors whose generosity made this $50,000 gift possible do exist; and despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles the series of events instigated by Viterbo actually happened.

If radio commentator Paul Harvey were telling this tale, he might suggest that beyond the simple facts lies the “rest of the story,” and that’s the truly interesting part.

That story began 11 years ago when a couple donated funds to commission the original Dancing Francis. The sculpture, which depicts St. Francis of Assisi dancing on a crescent of Sister Moon while holding the Brother Sun in his hands, was an instant success. The contemporary interpretation of a joyous and animated Francis—one not limited exclusively to an association with birds and animals—was enthusiastically received. Patrons of the arts and
Francis scholars alike praised the bold and powerful imagery sculptor Paul Granlund used in crafting a more cosmic and universal interpretation of the man from Assisi.

Two years ago, the same donors approached Viterbo again with a seemingly incredible idea. “Wouldn’t it be wonderful,” they suggested, “if the Franciscan Sisters in Assisi were also to receive Dancing Francis for their St. Anthony Guesthouse as a gift from Viterbo College?” The donors, convinced that this “new” Francis also had a place in this saint’s homeland, would make it financially possible for Viterbo to make the gift.

Viterbo President William Medland readily agreed although he knew the obstacles would be formidable, perhaps insurmountable. “Was there a place in Italy for a new Francis crafted by Paul Granlund, an American artist?” he asked. After all, imported art in Italy is virtually non-existent. And Francis? His serious, sacred, and pious image portrayed for centuries by famed Italian artists, can be found everywhere. Number of Francis’s who danced? Zero.

Nevertheless, perseverance prevailed. On June 27, Dancing Francis was loaded into the cargo bay of Northwest flight 758 enroute to Rome and then on to Assisi where, according to Kelvin Miller, an agent working in Viterbo’s behalf, the Franciscan Sisters of Atonement were “absolutely thrilled” to see their gift finally arrive.

The story of Dancing Francis was destined to have a happy ending, thanks largely to the sheer tenacity and determination of a number of people who believed in the project.

Topping the list was Miller. He worked tirelessly for the better part of two years, contacting the Italian ambassador, the Consulate General, the Italian Cultural Institute, and the Italian Trade Commission, to name just a few. His arrival in Rome with Dancing Francis in tow went none too smoothly. Miller experienced numerous delays in working with customs and the Ministry of the Arts before receiving the required assortment of permissions and permits necessary to get Francis disembarked and transported to its final Assisi destination.

Sister Ramona Miller, a Franciscan scholar who has organized dozens of pilgrimages to Assisi, was asked early in the process to locate a suitable home for Dancing Francis. After several meetings with the Franciscan Sisters of Atonement, she suggested their St. Anthony Guesthouse, and that destination proved to be the perfect site. Her appreciation and skill in dealing with a complexity of cultural nuances were invaluable.

The generosity of the donors, whose insistence on anonymity emulated true Franciscanism, inspired other charitable gestures including the donation of transportation by Northwest Airlines.

All considered, it was a good feeling—make that a great feeling—for those associated with the project to see it end so positively. Perhaps this sculpture will help in healing Assisi which was so devastated by a major earthquake three years ago. Much art was destroyed. This year, something new was added, one that adds to the legend of Francis.

When he was young, Francis was known to pick up a stick and hold it as if it were the bow of a violin. He would rhythmically make joyful music only he could hear while dancing throughout the streets of Assisi.

Now this modern-era Francis has picked up on this theme and danced across the ocean from one Franciscan home to another.

What a story!
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 Berni (McNallan) Carmona ’70 for this response. “I recognized the photo and suspect I may have been the photographer. They were all Resident Assistants. The photo was taken in a Marian Hall North lounge.”

Front row: Maureen Joyce Colburn ’70, Mary Ann (Hinke) Schneider ’68, Mary Jo Johnson ’68.
Second row: Mary Kay (Zweibohmer) Spille ’69, Mary (O’Brien) Claussen ’69, Barbara Hebert ’70, Marlene (Infeld) Hayek ’68, Esther (Gil) Loiselle ’69.
Back row: Alice (Judd) Smith ’69, (unknown), Darlene (Eberhardt) Wolfe ’69, Jackie Stemper Pitel ’68.

Viterbo Calendar

September 26
Second City National Touring Company, FAC Main Theatre

September 28
American Repertory Ballet, FAC Main Theatre

October 13-15
"She Stoops to Conquer," FAC Main Theatre

October 14
Alumni Night at the Theatre

October 25
American Players Theatre, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," FAC Main Theatre

November 5
Trinity Irish Dance Company, FAC Main Theatre

November 11
SoVoSo, FAC Main Theatre
November 29
Alumni Cup Game

December 2
Vienna Choir Boys, FAC Main Theatre

December 2
Alumni Children's Christmas Party, FAC Lobby

December 9-10
Handel's "Messiah," FAC Main Theatre

December 16
Winter Commencement

January 10
MBB and WBB vs. St. Ambrose University

January 17
MBB and WBB vs. Iowa Wesleyan College

January 24
MBB and WBB vs. Mount Mercy College

February 2
Gaelic Storm, FAC Main Theatre

February 7
MBB and WBB vs. Grand View College

February 14
Ladysmith Black Mambazo, FAC Main Theatre

February 16-18
Homecoming-Outstanding Alumni Awards, Annual Alumni Association Meeting, Wall of Fame, Alumni Game, Pops Concert, Mass, Family Weekend

February 17
MBB and WBB vs. Marycrest International University (Homecoming)

February 19
MBB vs. Mount St. Clare

* Sporting events listed are home conference games

** WBB-women's basketball, MBB-men's basketball,
FAC-Fine Arts Center