President Medland Nearing Decade Anniversary

Almost 10 years, but who’s counting?

Come July, that’s how long Dr. William J. Medland will have held the office of president and all indications are that his tenure is far from over. In fact, chances are quite good he will be the longest-serving president in the history of Viterbo University. Statewide, only five of the 21 private college presidents exceed his tenure.

At 57, President Medland is confident in the future of Viterbo University and of his role as president, passed down to him by his predecessor, Dr. Robert E. Gibbons, who departed in July 1991 after having served 11 years—the longest on record. Fr. J. Thomas Finucan and Sr. Grace McDonald each served 10 years.

Now that Bill Medland is approaching the watershed mark himself, what are his thoughts and impressions of his time at Viterbo and the future he will continue to shape?

“The challenges that we encounter will require each of us to risk what we are today for what we can become tomorrow.”

—William J. Medland, Inaugural Address October 4, 1991

Truer words were never spoken. Viterbo University has changed and so has Bill Medland. His time as president of Viterbo has exceeded his original expectations—much to his own surprise. “When I first visited Viterbo and went through the interview process, my initial thoughts were tending toward a five- or six-year tenure. For a president, that’s the norm rather than the exception. Turnover is frequent; I had been at six other colleges and universities for generally five years each and I figured this was going to be my next-to-the-last move.”

While Medland’s prediction about length of stay was wrong, his forecast of change was not. Nationally and regionally, higher education experts were predicting that tight budgets would get even tighter and the pool of college-bound students would continue to shrink. Consequently, in the early ’90s, Viterbo’s then new president put a lot of his personal and
professional stock on the line cajoling, promoting, even pushing for changes that he believed were necessary for the long-term vitality of the institution.

**Difficult early years**

Convincing others was not easy and not all of Medland’s proposed changes were popular. For some, it seemed as if the inauguration ceremony was barely over and already the new president was embarking on a vigorous effort to transform Viterbo.

He proposed reorganizing Viterbo’s academic programs into six schools. He approved measures to have Viterbo assume full responsibility for the growing graduate program which was being operated jointly with a second party. To bolster enrollment, Medland strongly urged the admission office to completely revise its recruitment strategy. And donations to the university were removed from the operational budget at the same time that a first-ever contingency fund and physical plant reserve were created.

Gradually the changes occurred, but not without controversy and a great deal of hard work that involved the president literally placing the prestige of his office on the line. “For those first three years, it was almost an annual decision to stay. I had a year-to-year contract—I could see the university or myself saying it was time to separate.”

Then in his sixth year, the board of directors extended an unprecedented vote of confidence in President Medland by offering him a five-year renewable contract. The agreement was the first five-year contract in the history of the university. It affirmed the president’s leadership decisions and goals, while setting the stage for long-term planning.

That contract extension coincided with the board mandate to develop a formal plan to outline the university’s future for the remaining ’90s and beyond. Vision 2005: A Renaissance for Living and Learning in the Twenty-First Century was the highly successful outcome of that planning process. The document was crafted by Medland from input he received from the board of directors, faculty and staff, his executive cabinet, and research on recent trends in American higher education. Continuing change was now all but a certainty; there would be no turning back.

**A changing climate**

Taking prudent yet calculated risks created enormous opportunities for Viterbo throughout the decade as President Medland continued to advocate an environment where the university could rapidly respond to new situations. “Whether people liked it or not, much of our success occurred because of his creativity and foresight in knowing where higher education was moving,” admitted Dr. Jack Havertape, academic vice president. “We were pushed in directions we were not ready for, but look where we are now as a result.”

New programs and revised admission strategies paid off. The ’90s saw Viterbo double its enrollment—an unheard of increase during a decade when many other private colleges were struggling with enrollment. The graduate program in education awarded its first 41 master’s degrees in 1990. Today it is the largest Master of Arts in Education program in the U.S., awarding nearly 400 degrees annually.

“Bill Medland had a good sense of where we were going from a recruiting standpoint, although it was not obvious to others at the time,” Havertape said. “Often the internal community fails to fully recognize the value of all of this change until the results come in.”
Financially, Viterbo’s picture was also improving—albeit slowly. “It was only after the first three years that we could begin to focus on some items beyond the immediacy of the moment,” Medland recalled. “Roofs, renovation projects, air conditioning—all took considerable time and budget. But the seeds we planted those early years in areas of enrollment and budget were beginning to bear fruit.”

Endowment grew from $2 to $10 million in 10 years. The overall budget increased from less than $8 million to over $27 million, and skyrocketing enrollment filled Viterbo’s residence halls to the brim. With contingency funds and contributions set aside, the university was poised to make real progress on some longstanding priorities.

Rising opportunities

Rose Terrace, a student residence complex, was constructed in 1997 and solved the on-campus housing shortage that became so critical that students were living in area motels. Shortly thereafter, Viterbo purchased land for much needed soccer, baseball, and softball fields. Portions of Ninth and Winnebago streets were closed, creating Viterbo and V-Hawk Courts, two beautifully landscaped areas which tie the entire campus together.

The new system of academic schools streamlined the management of Viterbo’s academic programs and created opportunities for new off-campus initiatives targeted at adults, and non-traditional and returning students.

Donors embraced the goals of Vision 2005 and responded with generous gifts. Friends of D.B. Reinhart created an endowment to support an Institute for Ethics in Leadership named in his honor. Viterbo also received a $3 million gift from the Reinhart Foundation and a $2 million anonymous gift, the largest single contributions in the history of the university.

While Medland is quick to credit others--particularly the FSPA, members of the board of directors, donors, and faculty, staff, and administrators--for accepting and bringing about the many changes that have benefited Viterbo, it is a well-known fact in academic circles that it is the role of a president to lead and share a vision that others can support.

Todd Ericson, Vice President of Finance, is pleased with how that vision contributed to an improved financial picture that has benefited the entire campus community. “During the last 10 years, we have enjoyed significant budget growth,” he said. “We are as strong financially as we have ever been. Bill’s leadership has put us in a good position to recruit students, retain good faculty and prioritize projects rather than just take care of emergencies.”

What’s next?

Hindsight is 20/20. A review of President Medland’s tenure fits well with the entire history of the institution, revealing Viterbo’s uncanny ability to put forward the right person at the right time. The recent-era presidencies of McDonald, Finucan, Gibbons, and now Medland, faced the incredible challenges of creating a vision for an unknown future. All three expanded programs, built buildings, and remained faithful to the Franciscan mission. And all faced criticism and periods of uncertainty.

Medland candidly recalls the difficult and lonely times a president can face dealing with enormous change. “I remember the many problems and controversies in my initial years. And
I recall vividly several instances when difficult and challenging situations required decisive action for change. The most difficult decisions, however, are those affecting people. I try to put myself in another’s place, and treat individuals as I would hope to be treated. That is not always easy or successful. It is negative personnel decisions that are the most difficult. Those are very lonely experiences.”

As a former president, Father J. Thomas Finucan understands what it’s like and offers his assessment of Viterbo’s current president. “Bill Medland has been, and continues to be, an extraordinarily successful president during times of great change and difficulty. He has been faithful to Viterbo’s mission and courageous in sticking to his principles. I admire him greatly.”

As far as Medland is concerned, he remains excited about Viterbo and would like to continue to be a part of its future. On a personal note, he was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1998, had surgery, and has been cancer-free ever since. The board has implemented a presidential assessment to coincide with his contract renewal, which was the procedure followed for the first five-year contract. “I’m looking forward to it,” he said. “God willing and given good health, I fully expect to be President at least another five or six years.”

However, lest anyone doubt it, he has not lost his fervor for change. “In the community, I believe our reputation is as positive as it has ever been. But we cannot be complacent. The most difficult and most complex challenge we face is to ensure that we, as faculty, staff and administrators, remain flexible. Education will continue evolving and we cannot use the same processes and methods of operation that we have used in the past if we want to take advantage of our opportunities.”

When asked what he enjoys most about his job, Medland indicates he has learned to enjoy the subtleties of the Viterbo community as much as any one activity or event. “My greatest satisfaction? I derive my greatest reward as president from our students, rather than from any program, building project, or landscaped court. I did not get into higher education for any reason other than to serve students—and at Viterbo they are wonderful. They volunteer in Mud Creek and David, Kentucky and locally at Place of Grace Catholic Worker House and for Habitat for Humanity. Their volunteerism is extraordinary and very inspirational. They give us all hope for a better future.”

**Exploring Values - A Conversation with Richard Kyte**

Richard Kyte hopes the [D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership](http://www.viterbo.edu/ethics) can be a beacon of light for Viterbo University students and the La Crosse community.

Kyte, who joined Viterbo in July as director of the institute named in honor of the late businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist D.B. Reinhart, feels the institute can serve as a valuable resource by bringing in speakers and presenting programs that provide a values-based and moral component to issues facing society.

In addition to directing the Institute, Kyte serves as an associate professor in the philosophy department. He has a doctorate in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University and brings a broad range of academic and community experience to the D.B. Reinhart Institute.
For the past six years, he taught courses in business and medical ethics, contemporary moral issues, and critical thinking and logic at Christian Brothers University in Memphis. While there, he also authored a number of commentaries confronting such subjects as school violence, the death penalty—even the Clinton impeachment proceedings—for The Commercial Appeal, a daily newspaper with a circulation of 335,000. He also served on the Memphis Biomedical Ethics Consortium and the Ethics Committee at St. Francis Hospital in Memphis. Strides recently visited with Kyte about ethics, living in a diverse world, and his goals for the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership.

**How did you become interested in philosophy and ethics?**
Entering college, I had no idea what philosophy was but I was attracted by the fact that we were encouraged to ask the most fundamental questions about things and there didn't seem to be any place at which you could no longer ask questions. I've been studying philosophy ever since. What attracted me to Viterbo and the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership was the opportunity to continue teaching but also to try to bring the discussion about ethics and about these fundamental questions to a larger audience.

**What are your goals for the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership?**
The end goal is to have a community that is more knowledgeable, more hospitable, and better-equipped to deal with issues that come up involving deep-seated disagreements. We'll do this through a variety of means … from conferences, which are largely academic in nature, to public lectures, which will address a broader audience. We will serve as a forum for public debate that will both model and inform ethical behavior so that we can work together really to understand controversial issues better and make more informed public decisions.

**When there are ethical issues to be debated, is there a right and wrong?**
Yes, I do think there is a right and wrong but the challenge is getting us to agree on what's right and wrong in a way in which we remain civil with one another and continue to work to mutual benefit. The most important thing is that we continue to work well together as members of the community even when we disagree with one another. Ethical disputes are disputes about how we live with one another and what we do to one another, how we treat one another. It's not simply up to me to decide what I'm going to do when that affects somebody else.

**Is the Ethics Institute prepared to handle controversial issues, deal with the controversy, and take a stand?**
Yes. The Institute should expect to be controversial at times, but always to engage the issues with the idea that the whole point of doing this is to improve mutual understanding. It doesn't do any good to avoid controversial issues because those are the issues we need help thinking about. It's no good to bring in people who won't give us their strongest possible views about those controversial issues. We want to hear what people really have to say. The Institute has to rely to a great extent on the trust and the good faith of the community. When a program is offered or a speaker comes to campus that says things that some people take issue with, the point is that their voice should be heard because it's an important voice in our community.

**Why is the Ethics Institute placed in an educational setting? Isn't it a parent's job to teach ethics?**
It's the job of society. Children are not raised to have a set of values in isolation from others, so parents have limited control over the values that their children end up adopting. That's one of the reasons why there's such public concern right now about violence and sexuality on
television--because values become part of the air we breath, but they're not just what I
decide to teach my children. So when there are issues that we as a society need to address,
that's when you need something like a public space for discussion of the issues, and one of the
things the Ethics Institute does is provide that kind of space.

More and more institutions are opening ethics institutes. Is this merely a fad or trend?
I don't think it's going to go away. I think the reason there are so many of these centers arising
right now is that we've seen how successful they can be and when something is very
successful, there's an attempt to copy it. But, it also indicates there's a changing conception
of what education is. In our society, we no longer think of education as something that only
lasts until you're 18 or 22. It's something we continue throughout our lives. This is one
opportunity to offer a kind of education without requiring people to attend classes or make a
daily or weekly commitment. We also have in our society a real dissatisfaction with the lack
of opportunities for meaningful dialogue with one another. If you've noticed recently how
much the word community is used in so many different places, it's because many of us feel
that we have very isolated and fragmented lives ... that we don't have meaningful dialogue
with other adults. These institutes all over the country try to provide a place for this.

Is this institute a Catholic institute? Are ethics a "Catholic thing" because Viterbo is
Catholic?
Ethics is a very general term, which just means a set of values. But Viterbo University, where
the Institute is housed, has a particular set of values and the principal values are those of
humility, hospitality, love, joy, and respect. Those are Franciscan values. The Institute has to
act on the basis of those values. But those values aren't exclusively Franciscan or Catholic. I
expect a great number of people who are neither Franciscan nor Catholic identify with those
values and embrace them. Also, there are the principles of Catholic social teaching which
include giving service to the poor and the needy, a reverence for life, stewardship of the
environment, the importance of community, and again, while those are Catholic values,
they're not exclusively Catholic. The Institute's job is not to preach Catholicism nor to convert
people to a particular religious point of view. On the other hand, it will always act out of and
try to make clear what the Franciscan, Catholic values are. It's Catholic in where it takes its
core values from and it's ecumenical in its outreach.

Aim of Scholarship to Eliminate Barriers
by Cristeen Custer, Director of Communications, St. Rose Convent

Three freshmen studying at Viterbo this year were given the opportunity to pursue a college
degree because of a newly created Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Scholarship
designed to eliminate barriers which have traditionally prevented adults from completing
their studies.

Colleen Roush (front left in photo), an FSPA scholarship recipient interested in children's
nutrition, alluded to the significance of the award in a letter she sent to the scholarship
screening committee, "Although my husband supports my schooling, we are unable to afford it
without suffering financial hardship. Receiving this scholarship and finishing school would
completely change my family's life."
The FSPA scholarship was designed to reach mature students who have not previously been enrolled in a four-year program. Sr. Rochelle Potaracke, the FSPA scholarship liaison, worked with Sr. Sue Ernster, campus minister, and Debra Murray, member of the psychology department at Viterbo, to establish protocols for the award and to recruit applicants.

This past January, over 100 letters were sent to contact groups in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois, inviting them to identify possible candidates for the scholarship.

Terry Norman, Viterbo director of financial aid, worked with the committee to qualify candidates for the award. She says, "It was incredible. the phone was ringing within 24 hours of the mailing. I was surprised by the response. it was very well received."

The scholarship can be used for education expenses not funded by federal, state or institutional grants, including living expenses and childcare. All three recipients identified childcare as a need.

**Tammy Perry (center in photo)**, one of the recipients, graduated from a paralegal program last May from Western Wisconsin Technical College (WWTC). Daycare has been a challenge for her family, she said, "My husband works 6 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. When he is getting home from work, I am getting ready to go to school and our son is waking up. We can't afford daycare so my husband has to stay up and watch our son."

Perry is familiar with hard work. While she studied at WWTC she carried a full load of classes, interned at a local law office and worked at the WWTC foundation office. She made Viterbo's version of the Dean's List in her last two semesters in technical college and graduated with high honors.

"The law has always fascinated me and I really think I could make a difference in someone's life. In my future I see myself working for the FBI or one day becoming an attorney."

**Jennifer Drangstveit (back right in photo)**, a 25-year-old divorced mother of three children, was recommended for the scholarship by Tim Quam from the Housing Authority of the City of La Crosse. He recognized Drangstveit as an asset to the neighborhood, citing her willingness to lead the neighborhood tenant organization and develop activities for neighborhood children. He said, "She is an extremely hard worker with her obvious goal of providing for her three small children as her driving force."

Drangstveit, who wants to be a midwife, had her own reasons for pursuing college. "I want to show my children how important an education is." She is a trained nursing assistant and currently works as a phlebotomist.

Colleen Roush has been employed by the West Salem School Food Service. In her letter of recommendation, Katie Wilson, food service director, praised Colleen's leadership and commitment to child nutrition. "With her enthusiasm and energy Colleen has changed the image of school meals in the middle school." Colleen and her husband have a boy, eight, and a girl, 10, who is retarded with a severe seizure disorder. Her daughter's health needs have increased her interest in nutrition.

Sr. Potaracke and the scholarship committee will be in regular contact with the recipients. She said, "We anticipate they will need help making the transition to academic life. We will go the extra mile to make sure they get the help they need." They plan to provide mentors and meet with the recipients monthly to work on goals and other issues.
The FSPA scholarship was established to provide funding for women or minorities who would not attend college due to circumstances such as poverty, cultural barriers, dysfunctional family situations, or a rural poor background. Currently the scholarship is not available to high school seniors. The scholarship is perpetual and will be funded by the interest income from an endowment established by the FSPA. This year, students received awards ranging from $4,000 to $6,300. The number of scholarships and the amount is determined by the interest available. Although each scholarship is awarded for one year, recipients are eligible to receive it for up to five years.

**ON CAMPUS**

**It's Official: Viterbo University**

The Viterbo community celebrated the official transition from Viterbo College to Viterbo University on Tuesday, Sept. 5, during a ceremony called "Change and Continuity."

The ceremony started at the flagpoles in the Fine Arts Center parking lot where the new Viterbo University flag was raised. The procession then moved throughout the campus, pausing at a few historic spots until reaching V-Hawk Court for an "unveiling." Then the group stopped outside the Murphy Center entrance for an official proclamation and the presentation of the President's Medallion to Dr. William J. Medland by Viterbo Board of Directors President Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA.

An ice cream social, sponsored by the Student Government Association, followed. President Medland distributed roses to students, staff, and faculty in honor of the feast day of St. Rose of Viterbo (Sept. 4), the university's patroness.

**Viterbo Razes the Bar Again**

For the third time in its history, Viterbo University has razed a bar to make room for a growing campus. First it was Jungles, then Horschaks, and now the Wunderbar. In fact, when Dr. William J. Medland became President of Viterbo, one of his main goals was to acquire the Wunderbar property, have the bar torn down, and use the land for a building addition for Viterbo's growing campus. Now, 10 years later, his dream has become a reality. Viterbo University officially acquired the Wunderbar property on Aug. 1, and it was demolished on Thursday, Sept. 7. The land on which the Wunderbar stood is a portion of the land that will house an ethics, science, and technology center, one of the top initiatives of Viterbo’s Vision 2005 campaign. Details on the new building will be included in a forthcoming issue of Strides.

**Congratulations Dr. Nelson!**

At its Oct. 9 meeting, the Viterbo University Board of Directors approved a motion to name Roland “Buzz” Nelson Vice President for Enrollment.
Nelson has been at Viterbo since 1975 when he originally was hired to teach in the English Department. Later, he moved on to direct the start of Viterbo’s first venture into evening and adult programming. He has been with the Admission Office as its director since 1985.

Book Talks Promote Young Adult Reading

How can young adult literature be used in the classroom to help resolve social problems? That is the question being explored in a series of book talks that began in September and will run through April 2001. These free discussion groups, organized by Viterbo University Professors Grant Smith and Phyllis Blackstone, allow middle school educators, student teachers, education students, and parents to explore adolescent literature with the help of young adult literature scholars from Wisconsin and Iowa.

The talks will culminate with a discussion and presentation on April 27 in the Viterbo University Recital Hall by young adult author Jacqueline Woodson, author of Lena, Miracle’s Boys, and Last Summer With Maizon. Woodson received the Coretta Scott King Author Honor Award for her novels From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun and I Hadn’t Meant to Tell You This. She has been a Fellow at the MacDowell Colony and at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Mass. and has worked as a drama therapist in a New York City residence for runaway and homeless children. She lives in Brooklyn.

“I have found the first two discussions to be energizing and provocative in a positive way,” said Smith. “Parents always bring new and different insights to the book discussions, insights the educators sometimes overlook. Our goals are to introduce quality young adult literature to parents and teachers, and to suggest ways that the parents and teachers can use those books in their homes and classrooms to generate dialogue on social issues. The discussions are lively, informative, and very helpful.”

All book talks are from 7-8:30 p.m. and are held in a variety of locations throughout La Crosse. The talks are funded, in part, by the Wisconsin Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Wisconsin Humanities Council supports public programs that engage the people of Wisconsin in the exploration of human cultures, ideas, and values. Seating is limited so reservations are required and can be made by calling Smith at 608-796-3485 or by email at gtsmith@viterbo.edu.

YWCA Honors Pam Maykut

The YWCA honored Viterbo Psychology Professor Pam Maykut with an Outstanding Achievement Award at its annual Tribute to Outstanding Women event in November.

Maykut was recognized for her leadership, achievement, encouragement, and inspiration to others in the area of Education/Teaching. She was one of 10 area women chosen to receive high honors at the event.

The ceremony was held at the La Crosse Center Ballroom. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley was the Mistress of Ceremonies.
Receiving a Certificate of Recognition for their contributions to Viterbo were (left to right in photo): Rose Reinert, senior social work major; Erin Fargen, senior criminal justice major; Rose Kreutz, nursing; Pam Maykut; Marilyn Jaekel, health services; Kenna Christians, institutional advancement; and Stephanie Genz, nursing (not pictured).

Dr. Linda Malick: Viterbo Community Mourns Loss

Dr. Linda Malick (left in photo), 62, longtime member of the Viterbo biology faculty, died Dec. 28 of an apparent heart attack. As news of her death spread throughout the university community, colleagues and students reminisced about this remarkable woman who dedicated her life to Viterbo’s students and her profession, which included a passion for protection and preservation of our natural environment.

In 1980, Dr. Malick accepted a teaching position at Viterbo and for over two decades, she taught thousands of students the intricacies of biology. In 1988, she was named recipient of the Fr. J. Thomas Finucan Award and the YWCA Outstanding Women Award.

She belonged to many professional associations in education and biology. Dr. Malick was a founding and past board member of the Hixon Forest Nature Center. She was a teacher for the Elderhostel program, a consultant for the Boy Scout Nature Center and served as a tutor and member of the board of directors of the Hmong Literacy Center in La Crosse. She organized a tree-planting project which paired Viterbo students with local first-graders to plant seedlings to reforest vacant land.

Dr. Malick also gained somewhat legendary status in her work tracking the migratory patterns of Monarch butterflies.

Her death occurred over Christmas break and Dr. Joe Kawatski, a retired colleague, stepped in and offered to teach Dr. Malick’s spring classes so that students wouldn’t need to reschedule. It seemed like the right thing to do--a small gesture to honor a person who did so much for others.

“Linda was a very generous and giving person. She did many things in quiet ways which drew little attention to herself,” said Dr. William Medland, Viterbo president. “The Viterbo community has lost a truly wonderful teacher and mentor.”

The Dr. Linda Malick Scholarship has been established to honor her work and individuals wishing to make a memorial gift may do so by sending a contribution to the Office of Institutional Advancement, in care of Viterbo University, 815 Ninth Street South, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Taize Brothers Visit Viterbo

In late September, the Viterbo community experienced a special prayer opportunity when brothers from Taize, France led Taize Prayer in the San Damiano Chapel. Earl Madary (middle), campus ministry, poses with the brothers near the San Damiano cross. Madary and a
group of students provided music for the various Taize services the brothers led in southwest Wisconsin during their visit to the U.S.

The Spirit of St. Rose and Viterbo find a home in New Mexico

Sam Anderson (center), Director of St. Bonaventure Preschool with Dick Brostrom, Sr. Celestine Cepress, Doreen Brostrom and Sr. Bernyne Stark pose next to St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School. The school which serves 300 Navajo youth, dedicated two new buildings Sept. 1 in Thoreau, New Mexico, including a new cafeteria and dining hall named after Saint Rose of Viterbo.

Doreen was a member of the nursing faculty at Viterbo for many years. Since leaving La Crosse, she and her husband have volunteered their time in Thoreau.

Health Science Center Opens

Members of the Viterbo community joined the greater La Crosse community at the grand opening of the La Crosse Health Science Center on Sept. 15.

The building is a state-of-the-art facility comprised of 168,000 square feet located on six floors. The center is expected to serve 530 students in 13 graduate and undergraduate programs. It will also house the offices of 80 faculty and staff.

The Health Science Center was developed by the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium. Partners in the consortium, in addition to Viterbo University, are: Gundersen-Lutheran, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, UW-La Crosse, and Western Wisconsin Technical College. The building is located at 1300 Badger Street.

Mission Accomplished

Another casting of Viterbo’s Dancing Francis sculpture now resides in Assisi, the homeland of one of the world’s most famous and beloved saints. The actual sculpture arrived in July.

Three months later, Viterbo President William Medland(left) traveled to Assisi for a formal dedication of the sculpture which was placed at St. Clare Guesthouse operated by the Franciscan Sisters of Atonement. He was joined by Board of Directors Chair Sr. Marlene Weisenbeck (right), and a number of other individuals, who were in Assisi for a Franciscan pilgrimage.

Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, presided at the blessing. Other dignitaries attending were Giorgio Bartolini, mayor of Assisi and Monsignor Orlando Gori, Vicar of the Diocese of Assisi.

The gift of Dancing Francis, valued in excess of $50,000 was made possible as a result of a generous donation from a couple who wish to remain anonymous.
“We approached shipping a contemporary work of religious art to Italy, the undisputed center of religious art in the western world, with respect for the centuries-old images of St. Francis,” said Medland. “But, when Franciscans in both Italy and the U.S. enthusiastically endorsed Granlund’s interpretation, we knew that Dancing Francis would withstand the test of time.”

The original casting of Dancing Francis continues to reside peacefully in Viterbo’s Assisi Court, his home since 1990, when the sculpture was installed as part of the university’s centennial celebration.

Alumni, Students Return to Viterbo Stage in American Players Theatre Production

Three Viterbo University graduates and two Viterbo students were members of the American Players Theatre (APT) company last season.

Jodi Jean Amble ’00, Kelly Behrens ’00, and Tony Courtwright, a senior, returned to Viterbo in October as part of the American Players Theatre (APT) production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream for the Bright Star Season.

Amble (see photo) portrayed a fairy in service to Titania, the Queen of the Fairies, in the Shakespearean comedy. Courtwright and Behrens served as stage hands/electricians. Viterbo sophomore Rebecca Kaasa spent last summer working as a dresser for the company.

Shakespeare is the heart and soul of the APT repertoire. Located in Spring Green in a natural amphitheater, the APT was founded in 1979. The acting company of 28 members, along with a staff that reaches 120 during the heart of the season, produces five plays each summer. Having grown in popularity, it is now the second most popular outdoor classical theatre in the country.

Jodi Jean Amble
Amble ’00 is working as an actress with the APT. While at Viterbo, she performed in a variety of roles, including Irina in Three Sisters, Shelby in Steel Magnolias, Clorinda in Rossini’s Cinderella, and Rosalind in As You Like It. Her summer stock credits include the role of Philia in the Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre’s production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and Susie in Babes in Arms at the Huron Playhouse in Ohio. Amble is from Arena.

Kelly Behrens
Behrens ’00, an Eau Claire native, is a production assistant at the APT. While an undergraduate at Viterbo, she received national recognition through the 1999 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for her work as a lighting designer on the 1998 Viterbo production of All My Sons. She was also selected as an honorary guest technician for the festival and assisted with the staging of full-length shows that appeared during the festival. Behrens left APT after its tour to work with Nebraska’s Theatre Caravan based in Omaha.
Tony Courtwright
A senior at Viterbo, Courtwright took the fall semester off to serve as an assistant electrician and lightboard operator for the APT. He plans to return to Viterbo to complete his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in technical theatre this spring. He is from Blaine, Minn.

Angela Finnes
Finnes, 1998 graduate, is the costume design assistant for the APT production of The Winter’s Tale. Since graduation, Finnes has worked for Houston Grand Opera and as a freelance costumer. She is from Pine Island, Minn.

Rebecca Kaasa
Kaasa, a sophomore in theatre with a performance focus at Viterbo, spent her summer working at the APT as a dresser for the company. The responsibilities of a dresser include coming in during the day to prepare and do any maintenance work needed on costumes and, during performances, assisting actors in dressing and quick costume changes. Kaasa commented on the fast-paced nature of the job and how “eye-opening it was to see how much work goes into every aspect of the production. This was,” she said, “a definite learning experience about how hard everyone has to work in professional theatre.” She is from Richland Center.

Alumni Children’s Christmas Party
A good time was had by all at the annual Alumni Children’s Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 2. The Ninth Street Singers sang carols while more than 230 people participated in a variety of activities including face painting, visiting with Santa, games and caricature drawings. The party was organized by the Alumni Board and the student alumni association, Sigma Pi Delta.

SPORTS CENTER
Maher’s Rewards Keep Growing
Regardless of the number of awards graduate Luke Maher has earned, perhaps the most important one was just being a student athlete at Viterbo.

As a four-year starter for the Viterbo men’s basketball team, Maher made a tremendous impact on the squad with which he played. In May, he received his bachelor’s degree in business administration and marketing. But his path to success has not always been smooth. At Homestead High School in Milwaukee, Maher was cut from the basketball team. Later, after transferring to Dominican High School as a senior, he started in half of the games but caught the attention of very few college coaches. In fact, he barely caught the attention of former men’s basketball head coach at Viterbo--Todd Eisner.
So when Maher received a letter from Viterbo saying he was welcome to come to school in the fall of 1995 and walk onto the men's basketball team, he jumped at the chance. Determined to succeed, he went to open gym at Viterbo throughout the summer.

It didn’t take long for him to impress the coaches. Maher, who graduated from Viterbo in May 2000, boasts the following honors:

- Tops the V-Hawk 1,000 Point Club with 2,030 points
- Is the school’s leading rebounder with 779 rebounds
- Was named to 13 different all-tournament teams, including the All-Tournament Team at the 1999 NAIA National Tournament
- Earned All-Conference Honorable Mention recognition
- Earned 1st Team All-Conference honors twice
- Earned unanimous Player of the Year in the MCC conference
- Earned Preseason All-American selection, All-American Honorable Mention, and 2nd Team All-American

But the fruits of Maher’s efforts don’t end there. Following graduation, he found himself a ninth-round draft pick in the CBA. And he was briefly a member of the La Crosse Bobcats’ 2000-01 roster.

Maher credits much of his success on and off the court to the individuals and atmosphere at Viterbo. He believes the rewards that have evolved from the lessons learned at Viterbo are just as important as the awards he receives for his athletic talents.

“The family environment in the basketball program, and the support from the academic standpoint motivated me to work harder every year at what I love to do,” commented Maher.

He added, “The Viterbo basketball program has always been a very close, family-type environment. It is a type of brotherhood. Each and every player, current and alumni, look out for each other in all aspects of life. The friends I have made being a member of this team are the most valuable rewards I have ever received by far.”

Several Viterbo individuals were particularly influential to Maher as a student-athlete. Todd Eisner, who was the men’s basketball coach for the first several years of Maher’s college career; Wayne Wagner, current V-Hawks men’s basketball coach; Viterbo Athletics Director Barry Fried; and Lesley Stugelmayer, Viterbo’s student counselor.

“The people at Viterbo—in both athletics and academics—if they see you work your hardest, they will break their back for you and take you as far as you want to go,” he said.

The Alumni Cup: A split decision

The V-Hawks basketball teams took to the court Nov. 29 against cross-town arch rival UW-L to determine who would own bragging rights and bring home the Alumni Cup trophy. The decision was split. The men found themselves on the short end of a 73-56 score, but the V-Hawk women evened the score, completely overpowering UW-L, 86-62. For the record books, Viterbo men own an 8-5 advantage overall in the series and likewise, V-Hawk women are up 7-5. Next year the Alumni Cup will change its format, rotating back and forth between the
two campuses on an annual basis. The move was made to build more enthusiasm for the rivalry and to “pack the rafters” with fans, something that was lacking at the neutral site, the La Crosse Civic Center.

PHILANTROPY NOTES

Viterbo Receives $740,000 Estate Gift

Viterbo has received $740,000 from the estate of the late Loraine Dahl, a longtime friend and supporter of the university.

The bequest, which constitutes one of the largest estate gifts received by the university, will be used to fund initiatives identified in Viterbo's Vision 2005 strategic plan.

Loraine Dahl was a noted pioneer in the area of audiology and served in a volunteer capacity on a number of boards. During her lifetime, she was president of the League of Women Voters, the St. Francis Auxiliary and the La Crosse Chapter of the American Red Cross. She died June 30, 2000.

In 1992, Viterbo named its new School of Business in honor of Loraine and her late husband Howard, a highly successful businessman, president and CEO of WKBT television and WIZM radio, formerly WKBH. Howard was one of the first two members of the Viterbo Board of Directors, having served from 1966-86.

"Loraine made it very clear that the estate gift represented the deep and lengthy commitment both she and Howard demonstrated in their involvement with Viterbo," university President William J. Medland said. "As a couple, they provided tremendous leadership at a very critical time in the 60s and 70s. During that time, male students were admitted for the first time, an ambitious campus building plan was initiated, and enrollment more than doubled."

Lectureship Honors Paula Ripple Comin '55

Best-selling Catholic author and spiritual leader Sr. Joyce Rupp (center) visited Viterbo University Dec. 5 for a presentation and booksigning to inaugurate the annual Paula Ripple Comin Lecture Series.

Rupp’s free presentation, “When Our Hearts Hold Hope,” was held in San Damiano Chapel. Advent was the theme of her talk, which also focused on the power and encouragement of hope and included specific examples of how hope impacts our everyday lives.

Rupp also paid tribute to the late Paula Ripple Comin, whom she describes as a woman of hope. Ripple Comin was a Viterbo graduate, former dean of students at the university and past president of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. She succumbed to cancer in 1998. “She was a wonderful woman of vision and hope,” said Rupp.
A member of the Servite religious community, Rupp is also widely recognized for her work as a spiritual and retreat director. She has written 11 books including, Your Sorrow is My Sorrow, which topped the Catholic best seller list in 1999. She has led retreats throughout North America as well as in Australia, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Imagery, poetry, song, and story are all part of her presentation style.

In addition to an annual lecture in the area of spirituality, a scholarship will be conferred in Ripple Comin’s name yearly to one or more Viterbo students who plan missionary work in spirituality. Kristin Krocker (right) was the first recipient of that scholarship. Ripple Comin’s husband Don Comin (left) and other family and friends provided seed monies to initiate the scholarship and lecture series.

**Phonathon Results are in!**

The hard work of Chris Helixon (back right) and Viterbo student callers, along with the generosity of alumni, have made this year’s Alumni Phonathon a great success. Thus far, alumni have pledged $96,000 in the 2000-01 Alumni Phonathon. These funds will be used to complete special projects not covered by Viterbo’s annual operating budget. The Parent Phonathon is scheduled for Feb. 11-21.

**Employees Carried the Torch**

Left to right: Sally Emerson, Heidi Benish, Wendy Wegner, and Jason Ramaker get into the spirit of the 2000 employee campaign.

This year, 193 Viterbo employees participated in this year’s Olympic-themed Employee Campaign. This breaks the previous all-time record of 191 pledges set just last year. The Employee Campaign is an annual employee pledge drive. Monies from the campaign go to areas and departments specified by employees or to a general fund where they are used as needed.

**Senior is UPS Scholar**

Tony Bell, a Viterbo senior majoring in elementary education, was among 31 students statewide to receive the United Parcel Service (UPS) Scholarship.

Bell received $3,500 for tuition from the UPS Foundation’s Education Endowment Fund, the charitable arm of UPS, the world’s largest package distribution company. The UPS endowment fund has provided more than $25.1 million in scholarships and financial aid to the nation’s private colleges and universities.
An Educator's Tools

When the Masters of Art in Education graduates of 2000 gave their class gift to Viterbo, they wanted to ensure it would be something which spoke to generations about the importance of teachers. That's why they have gifted a sculpture to Viterbo University.

"An Educator's Tools" is a metal sculpture, approximately six feet tall, consisting of several "tools" used by teachers--including a ruler, pencil, paintbrush, journal, and cylinder. The plaque at the base of the sculpture, which will be located in Viterbo Court, will say, "In honor of teachers, past, present, and future. A gift of the Masters of Art in Education Class of 2000. Sculpture by Brad Nichols."

The dedication ceremony is set for Sunday, July 8, the same day the next graduating Master of Arts in Education class arrives on campus. There will be a mass followed by the dedication and a champagne brunch for members of the Class of 2000 and others who are interested. Contact the Alumni Office at 608-796-3072 or email Sally Emerson for more information. For details on the sculpture’s progress, visit the Master of Arts in Education Class Gift 2000 web page.

Grant Announcements

- The Dr. Scholl Foundation recently awarded Viterbo a grant of $25,000 in support of full and partial tuition scholarships for the 2001-02 academic year for Viterbo University students wishing to pursue careers in health-related fields.
- The Emory T. Clark Family Charitable Foundation recently awarded Viterbo a grant of $25,000 for scholarship support for inner city teachers in Milwaukee to take classes through Viterbo’s Graduate Education Program.

A Steinway is Saved …

After a couple of years of fundraising and months of careful restoration by local craftsman Joel Lidstrom, Viterbo’s 1911 Steinway grand piano is even grander than before.

Timothy Schorr, assistant professor of music at Viterbo, said the instrument "elevates, dramatically, the quality and polish of both student and faculty performances, and will help attract a high caliber of guest artists to the campus."

The Recital Hall is the home for the newly refinished Steinway.

Thanks to the Save Our Steinways(S.O.S.) Committee, half of the funds to refurbish the next Steinway have already been raised! The first piano cost approximately $20,000.

Above: Roger Christians takes a seat at the new Steinway.
Chicken Que Raises $1,400

Thanks to the goodwill of the alumni and others in the Viterbo and La Crosse communities, the annual Alumni Chicken Que, held last August, raised $1,400 for the Sr. Celestine Cepress Alumni Children's Scholarship.

This year's recipients of the Sr. Celestine Cepress Alumni Children's Award are: Susan Becker from Rushford-Peterson, Minn., daughter of Jacqueline Welscher '75, and Monica Beaty, from Denver, Iowa, daughter of Brenda Beaty '94. The scholarship is awarded annually to children of Viterbo alumni. The deadline for application is Feb. 15. For more information, contact an admission counselor at Viterbo or check out the alumni web page.

Chicken Que volunteers pictured above include (left to right): Mary Wetterling '90, Sr. Marie Leon La Croix (partially visible) '45, Nicole Pecore, Angie Beatty, and Pete Anderson '86.

Innovation is Up to Parr

Much has been happening in the world of Christopher Parr '89.

He was recently named vice president and partner with musicnotes.com, an online sheet music store. The Madison-based site has teamed-up with music publishers, including Warner Brothers and Mel Bay, to distribute legal and encrypted digital sheet music that musicians, educators, and fans can download, play, and print instantly. Musicnotes.com also offers more than 200,000 traditional music books.

Parr's firm, Christopher Parr Internet Design (CPID) has developed the design, strategy, and online marketing for musicnotes.com since 1997. Check out his web site at www.cpid.com to see the other sites developed by his firm. Or explore the musicnotes web site at www.musicnotes.com.

In addition, Rushlight Entertainment has optioned the rights to Parr's screenplay, Last Men, a project that originally began as a comic book. Find out more about Last Men at http://www.last-men.com/.

From Documentaries to CD-ROM and Howard Stern. It's been an exciting year for Tabetha Wallace

The 1999 Viterbo graduate who has been pursuing an acting career in New York City had a few big breaks this year. The one-woman show she wrote, produced, and starred in, Cloe and Olivia Chasing Lilith's Wolves, which debuted at Viterbo in 1998, was performed at the Producer's Club Theatre off-Broadway in late July for about 100 industry people by invitation only. Wallace is currently in pre-production with several of the guests to turn the show into a documentary film.

And, keeping up with the electronic age, Wallace is the star of Apex, a CD-ROM game in which she plays the main character, Uziter Luzit, an intergalactic spy in the year 2177. The CD is expected to be released this summer.
As if that’s not enough to keep this talent busy, Wallace has been doing stand-up comedy at a number of New York clubs and has also had guest spots on the Howard Stern radio show.

**Getting Our Name Out There**

When Sean Vigue ’97 appeared in the Seaside Music Theater production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in Daytona Beach, Fla. this past summer, he made sure to recognize his alma mater, “Viterbo University,” in the playbill. Among other roles he has played at Seaside, Vigue was “Hero” in *Forum*. He also recently finished a successful run of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Actors’ Playhouse in Miami.

**Alumna Reports to International Conference**

During the International AIDS Conference in South Africa last summer, Laura Bertsche ’80 made a presentation on the global AIDS epidemic in Francistown, Botswana where she and her family have been serving as missionaries for several years.

Bertsche, who graduated from Viterbo with a bachelor’s degree in nursing, has been serving as a health educator in Francistown and has been involved with Peer Approach to Counseling by Teenagers (PACT), community AIDS ministry, and a women’s Bible study group. Tim Bertsche, her husband, has been teaching leadership and Bible study courses. They have three children, David, 14, Maria, 12, and Erik, 10.

**Teaching in the Czech Republic**

Since the democratization of the Czech Republic in 1990, more and more people in that country have wanted and needed to learn English--including a large number of men and women religious.

That’s why several Viterbo alumnae, also Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, have been spending their summers teaching English in the Czech Republic.

Presently, all schools in the Czech Republic teach English but, in the past, when the country was under communist rule, English was forbidden. With increasing globalization, fluency in English is becoming more and more important to the people of that region, particularly to the religious, many of whom work in various ministries, including hospitals, and who travel extensively.

The program to teach English to women religious was begun in 1997, when Sr. Emma Kriz ’62 and Sr. Bernadette Prochaska ’62 taught English to 23 sisters from seven congregations. Four years later, four sisters were teaching English to 42 sisters from 20 communities. Last summer, a number of priests in the Czech Republic asked the sisters for an English program as well. So, Sr. Mary Ann Gschwind ’65 taught an English class in the Archbishop’s Palace in Olomouc, Moravia and Sr. Kriz taught an English class to priests in Prague.
Elsewhere in the world ... "Hola, amigos y amigas"

From Melinda Van Slyke '97 we hear news that she is returning to a familiar remote outpost in Central America. She writes: “I just wanted to drop you all a line to let you know that I’m heading back to Nuevo Mexico, Guatemala Dec. 3. I’ll be working as a human rights observer until April/May.” You can write to Melinda at: NISGUA/GAP, F-65, P.O. 591828, Miami, FL 33159-1828 Attn: MelindaVan Slyke. NISGUA/GAP stands for The Network in Solidarity with the people of Guatemala/Guatemala Accompaniment Project.

Despite the seriousness of her work, she issued a parting shot that wasn’t so nice to those of us who live and work in the northern climate. She writes, “Have a nice winter! I’ll be thinking of you as I sway in my hammock, eating mango.”

Sharing the spotlight

Broadway star Linda Balgord '82 returned to Viterbo’s Black Box Stage Nov. 17, not to act, but to share her experiences with theatre students. The advice the New Lisbon native, now 40, offered to budding actors and actresses looking for their first break was candid and reality-based. "I don’t want to be negative, just honest. It’s (Broadway) so competitive. You are judged all the time. Sometimes only a few people in the profession get all the jobs. But never lose track of who you are because you have to look at yourself in the mirror every day and you have to feel good about the way you behaved."

Despite the difficulty of this challenging work, particularly the daily and weekly routine of Broadway, many aspects of the job remain attractive to Balgord. "Theatre can be a great place to call home. The people who work in this profession can be much more fun and relaxed."

At Viterbo, Balgord performed in a number of memorable plays including, The Importance of Being Ernest, Fiddler on the Roof, My Fair Lady, and Cat On a Hot Tin Roof. On Broadway, she starred in Cats and Sunset Boulevard and Aspects of Love.

Her thoughts about Viterbo? "It’s wonderful to be back. I learned so much here working in all departments. I gained an appreciation for all aspects of the job, including backstage, where on Broadway, she said, these workers are often treated poorly. How you treat people matters in this world," she said. "You should treat people the way you want to be treated."

Balgord and her husband now live in New York and she is exploring a variety of options regarding her career.

While here, Balgord fielded dozens of questions from theatre majors who wanted to know all about the glamorous and not-so-glamorous life of a performer.
1940
Mary Myron Stork, FSPA ’48 received the Sr. Anita Hayden Award from the David Alternative School in David, Ky. June 2000. The award recognizes her service as a teacher of reading and language arts to high school dropouts.

1950
Leclare Beres, FSPA ’56 received the Jean Harris Award May 11, 2000 from the La Crosse Rotary Club. The award is given to a non-Rotarian woman who has given outstanding service to her civic community. Sr. Leclare was a key player in organizing and operating the Indochinese Screening Clinic, which served 3000 Hmong, Thai, Laotian, Chinese, Cambodian and Vietnamese people. She currently serves as director of the St. Clare Health Mission, La Crosse.

1960
Rita (Walsh) Modjeski ’62 recently retired from teaching Speech and English at the Richland Center High School.

Jean (Heiderscheit) Herbeck ’69 was recently named the Chief of Management Information Systems at the Ohio Department of Aging.

Mishap Ends on Golden Note
In the summer of 1966, Susan (Chapiewsky) Adams ’67 lost her Viterbo class ring somewhere in or around the Black River Beach on La Crosse’s North Side. Susan, and others, including her boyfriend Tom, who was a lifeguard there, combed the beach to no avail for the precious keepsake, given to Adams only weeks earlier by her parents. In early September of last year, 34 years later, the ring, with the initials “SRC,” was found by Eric Swan of Independence, who was treasure-hunting with his metal detector at the very same beach. Swan arranged to have the ring brought to Alumni Director Sally Emerson who searched the 1967 graduating class and discovered the initials were unique and belonged to the one-and-only Susan A. Chapiewsky, who was soon reunited with her long-lost ring. “I remember very well the day I lost this ring,” Adams said. “I was so upset and had everyone on the beach looking for it. To have it returned now is like a miracle.” Adams, by the way, later married her “boyfriend/lifeguard.” Today, she and Tom Adams live in La Crosse where she is a substitute teacher.

1970
Rebecca (Hommer) Johnson ’74 recently began working for the Menominee Indian School District as a school nurse. She is one of three nurses at this school district.
Judy Bartels ’77 was honored at the YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women in the area of Business/ Professions Nov. 13, 2000 in La Crosse.

Marilyn Omernick ’77 graduated from the Claremont School of Theology/ Episcopal Theological School at Claremont, Calif. with a Master’s of Divinity degree. She was ordained as a transitional deacon in the Los Angeles Diocese of the Episcopal Church on June 26, 1999,
and on Jan. 8, 2000, she was ordained an Episcopal priest in the Los Angeles diocese. She is the associate pastor at St. Cross Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach, Calif.

Jean Felber ’78 represented Viterbo University at the inauguration of college president Dr. William J. Hynes at St. Norbert College Oct. 6, 2000.

Mary (Juza) ’78 and Paul Rinzel celebrated the birth of a daughter, Anne Marie, Dec. 22, 1999.

Lynn (Steinsdoerfer) Congdon ’78 received an MA from Webster University in Human Resources Development.


Mike Shimshak ’79 received a specialist degree from Winona State University December 2000. Mike is the Superintendent of the Tigerton School District. Mike and his wife Margaret have twelve children, Eric, 28, Brian, 26, Danny, 25, Davin, 20, Aurora, 17, Zenda, 15, Ben, 10, Getasew, 8, Shawn, 8, Shannon, 8, Sara, 6, and Bezayehu, 6.

1980

Laura (Gilbertson) Bertsche ’80 was a representative to the International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa. Laura has been doing missionary work in Botswana for 10 years and in Zaire for five years.

Theresa (Stevens) Owens ’85 and Robert Owens ’81 recently moved to Osseo from Mo. Theresa received a MSN in Women’s Health in May 2000.

Kathleen (Dowse) ’82 and Paul Thesing celebrated the birth of a daughter, Bridget Janice, March 22, 2000. She joins her siblings, John, Maggie and Jacob, at home.

Jann (Kunstman) ’83 and Michael Callahan celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ellise Hope, July 21, 1999. She joins her siblings, Emily 10, and Mitchell 6, at home.

Janice (Meier) ’83 and Jim Gordon celebrated the birth of a daughter, Christina, Dec. 26, 1999. She joins her brother, Anthony, at home.

Jonathan Earp ’84 has been hired by Napster as the Director of Business and Legal Affairs.

Robert Ross ’84 completed his Master of Science degree in Natural Resources August 2000 from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Mary (Splittstoesser) Thompson ’84 had the second highest points scored at the 1999 competition of the United States Dressage (Equestrian) Federation, Central States Division, making her Reserve Grand Champion.

Lynette (Zitzner) Ender ’86 has accepted a position in the cardiac catheterization lab at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, La Crosse.

Melanie K. Johnson ’86 received a MS, Clinical Nurse Specialist from Winona State University, May 2000.

Suzanne Komis ’86 married Todd Meerdink May 20, 2000 at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Waupaca.


Diane (Donskey) ’87 and Scott Hefle celebrated the birth of a son, Nathan Scott, Sept. 8, 1999.

Jay Ellingson ’87 was recently appointed the new Director of Food Safety Services at the Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield.

Laurie (Johnson) Wunnrow ’87 received an MS in Reading Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls May 2000.
Jane Kocon '87 married Bill Klein Oct. 28, 2000 at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Medina, Minn.

Karen (Linde) '87 and Bruce Rogers celebrated the birth of a son, Tanner Caleb, May 29, 2000. He joins his siblings, Gunnar and Brenna, at home.

Laurie (Otte) Finn '87 passed the requirements to earn a first-degree black belt. She has studied martial arts for four years at Nicklaus Martial Arts America, La Crosse. Laurie is the vice-president of High Desert Marketing and manager of Retail Main Street Nuts and Candies in La Crosse.

Shari (Bauer) Wallick '88 co-authored an article, Differential Effect of National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) Step II Diet on HDL Cholesterol, Its Subfractions, and Apoprotein A-I Levels in Hypercholesterolemic Women and Men after One Year.

Maureen (Doran) '88 and Dan Ehlers celebrated the birth of a son, Bryce Conor, May 26, 2000. He joins his brother Brendan, 4, at home.

June (Hunsley) '88 and Dennis Johnson celebrated the birth of a son, Sean Robert, Oct. 2, 2000. He joins his siblings, Jennifer, Mark, Michelle and Kristen, at home.

Pamela (Lindner) Alt '88 was named the Wisconsin Outstanding Nurse of the Year for 2000.

Christina (Meier) '88 and Ralph Valentine '89 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Megan Mackenzie, Oct. 12, 2000. She joins her sister Katharine at home.

Cathryn Cook '89 married Mark Buttell Sept. 9, 2000.

Michelle (Felt) '89 and Joseph Johnson celebrated the birth of a son, Nicholas Anthony, July 28, 2000. He joins his sister, Alyssa, at home.

Carolyn (Jore) '89 and Kirk Hankins celebrated the birth of a daughter, Laura Jane, Dec. 6, 1999. She joins her sisters, Hannah, 7, and Holly, 4, at home.

Molly (Murphy) '89 and Jeff Garwood celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hannah Caitlin, Aug. 23, 2000. She joins her siblings, Sean and Shannon, at home.

Christopher Parr '89 was recently named vice president and partner with musicnotes.com, an online sheet music store. The Madison-based site has teamed up with music publishers, including Warner Brothers and Mel Bay, to distribute legal and encrypted digital sheet music that can be downloaded, played and printed instantly. Parr’s design firm, CPID.com has developed the design, strategy and online marketing for musicnotes.com since 1997. Rushlight Entertainment has optioned the rights to Chris’s screenplay, Last Men.

Mary (Scharonbroch) Reszczynski '89 recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a MS, in Nursing. She is employed by Plymouth Family Physicians as a nurse practitioner.

Sarah (Woodson) '89 and Bruce Lehmann celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ryan Eleanor, Sept. 18, 2000.

Kim (Benrud) '90 and Jeff Ellens celebrated the birth of a daughter May 2, 2000.


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


Joanne (Justmann) '90 and Brent Hoag celebrated the birth of a daughter, Carmen Elena, May 10, 2000. She joins her siblings, twins Ethan and Emma, 2, at home.

Theresa (LaFleur) '90 and Paul Ringo celebrated the birth of a son, Ethan Cole, July 22, 2000.

Michelle (Munson) '90 and Paul Fellenz celebrated the birth of twins, Zachary Mark and McKenzie Michelle, Nov. 13, 2000.

Laura (Skogman) '90 and Jim Wendt celebrated the birth of twin sons, Jordan and Jeremy, Aug. 24, 2000. They join their brother Jamie, 4, at home.

Kimberly (Woodworth) '90 and Dennis Lulling celebrated the birth of a daughter, Rebecca Ann, January 2000. She joins her brother Zachary, 3, at home.

Lori (Boldhaupt) '91 and Patrick Ogden celebrated the birth of a daughter, Amber Elizabeth, July 2000. She joins her siblings, Ryan, Andrew and Allison, at home.

Rey Eduvas '91 accepted a new position as Manager of Product Analysis within the technology finance area of American Express.

Amy (Johnson) '91 and Timothy Pierce celebrated the adoption of a daughter, Leidy Marie. She was born May 2, 2000, in Bogota, Colombia.

Jennifer Bernatovich '92 and Daniel Leclaire celebrated the birth of a son, Bennett Roger, June 13, 2000.

Heather (Cutting) '92 and Erik Gustafson celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel, Aug. 6, 2000. He joins his sister, Madelyn, at home.

William Griffel '92 and his barbershop quartet, Chicago Swing, won the Illinois District Barbershop Championship Oct. 9, 2000 in Peoria. Bill and his wife Sandy recently moved to Indianapolis where Bill is the new Director of Choral Music at Franklin High School, and Sandy is a resident in Urology at Indiana University Medical Center.

Paula (Hlavaty) '92 and Jason Taylor celebrated the birth of a son, Devin Patrick, July 26, 2000. He joins his sister Erica Ann, 2, at home.

Eric Wallbruch '92 was recently booked to appear in the national tour of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, starring Ann-Margret.

Pamela (Bandstra) Hagley '93 received a MSHA from the Medical College of Virginia June 1999.

Carlena (Buttner) Goddeau '93 received her MBA from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse May 13, 2000. She is the new manager of the Viterbo Bookstore.


Keri (Ress) '93 and Joe McCormick celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madeline Kate, April 13, 2000.

Meg (Schlicht) '93 and Joseph Buchner celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lane Elizabeth, Aug. 29, 2000.

Susan Springer '93 married Dean Judd November 1998. They celebrated the birth of a daughter, Shawnee, Nov. 19, 1999.

Anne (Storandt) '93 and Alfred Philipson celebrated the birth of a son, Jonathan, June 1, 2000.

Michele (Thorsen) '93 and Rick Grothaus recently opened the IMPACT School of Oconomowoc.

James Bockeloh '94 received a MS, Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee May 2000. James is currently certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner.
Jamie (Getty) ’94 and Mike Eichman celebrated the birth of a son, Gage. He joins his two brothers at home.


Teresa (Larson) Pulvermacher ’94 was recently certified as a legal nurse consultant. She owns her own consulting service for attorneys.

Brenda Peterson-Haight ’94 was recently promoted to Training Coordinator for OnIT Consulting, Madison.


Shawn (Roberg) ’94 and Charles Dutchin ’95 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kelsey Renee, Aug. 1, 2000. She joins her brother Alex, 3, at home.

Lori Strittmater ’94 and Matthew Jahr ’99 celebrated the birth of a son, Carsten Matthew, April 18, 2000.

Nancy Davenport ’95 recently started her own catering business, Serves You Right, in La Crosse.


Julie (Fromm) ’95 and John Falkers celebrated the birth of a daughter, Rachel Anne, June 19, 2000.


Samantha (Greenwood) ’95 and Robert Talmage celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jessica, Jan. 17, 2000.

Jennifer (McConkey) ’95 and Jamie Havlik celebrated the birth of a son, Ryan James, Sept. 19, 2000.

Stacy Jankowski ’95 married Peter Sinks ’95 June 10, 2000.

Sarah (Pavlik) ’95 and Duane Fanta celebrated the birth of a son, Theodore Gerard, April 4, 2000. He joins his sister, Claire, at home.


Jill (Wallace) ’95 and Kenneth Kietzke celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jessie Claire. She joins her brother Benjamin, 2, at home.

Lynn and Bart Boettcher ’96 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Tyra, Jan. 30, 2000.

Teri (Gillis) ’96 and Tim Zepnick celebrated the birth of a son, Mason Charles, June 12, 2000.

Michelle and Paul Hoch ’96 were married July 10, 1999.

Denise (Koxlien) Ring ’96 received a MS, Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Winona July 2000.

Tara (Maurer) ’96 and Morgan Reynolds celebrated the birth of a daughter, Faith Christine, Aug. 21, 1999. She joins her brother, David, at home.

Melanie (Nickel) ’96 and Paul Church celebrated the birth of a son, Cody David, Sept. 4, 2000.

Shannon (Peters) ’96 and Jason Franek celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, Sept. 21, 2000.

Nancy Small ’96 married Hans Feld April 3, 1999 in Sturgeon Bay.

Rosemary Stubitsch ’96 recently became the Health Care Coordinator at the Alterra Assisted Living Residence in Madison.

Dana (Watkins) ’96 and Christopher Radle celebrated the birth of a son, Riley Christopher, Aug. 26, 2000.

2000

Marisa Arnoldi '00 has been selected to receive an American Psychiatric Nurses Association-Janssen Student Scholarship. This is a scholarship program to stimulate student’s continued interest in psychiatric-mental health nursing. Marisa is one of 29 students in the nation to receive this scholarship.

Jolene and Michael Kramer '00 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Megan, Sept. 14, 2000.
Sarah Pavela '00 married Ted Bauer June 10, 2000 in La Crosse.
Lynne and Randy Peters '00 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emma Lyne, April 22, 2000.
Jenni (Reischel) '00 and Todd Orth '00 celebrated the birth of a son, Reiley, Oct. 18, 2000.
Megan Tester '00 began teaching sixth grade at Our Lady of Grace School, Edina, Minn. August 2000.
Kelly Wolslegel '00 married Scott Suda July 29, 2000.
Renee Wrobel '00 married Mark Bellacero June 17, 2000.
Marnie Zander '00 and Chris Zander celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel, May 20, 2000.

In Memoriam

Dorothy Ann Brugman, Nov. 12, 2000, sister of Leona Brugman, FSPA ’46.
Helen Chapman, Nov. 23, 2000, sister of Flora Lesczynski, FSPA ’46.
Becky Becker, Aug. 10, 2000, sister of Helen Liewer, FSPA ’46.
Agatha Esselman, Sept. 30, 2000, sister of Mary Helene Weiler, FSPA ’46 and Mary Victor Weiler, FSPA ’53.
August Falkner, Sept. 1, 2000, brother of Barbarita Falkner, FSPA ’47.
Anton Foegen, Aug. 30, 2000, brother of Leora Foegen, FSPA ’47.
Bill Gutting, July 26, 2000, brother of Hope Gutting, FSPA ’47.
Vivian Larkin, Oct. 27, 2000, mother of Carol (Larkin) Paul ‘47-‘49.
Richard Stork, July 12, 2000, brother of Mary Myron Stork, FSPA ’48.
Eileen Russell, June 20, 2000, sister of Nona Grover, FSPA ’55.
Eva M. Putz ’55, April 24, 2000.
Don Spinner, Sept. 17, 2000, brother of Magdelle Spinner, FSPA ’55.
Marie Look, Aug. 26, 2000, sister of Margaret Heil, FSPA ’56.
Hedwig Schultz, Oct. 16, 2000, sister of Catherine Theurer, FSPA ’57.
Melvin Weis, Oct. 21, 2000, brother of Mercita Weis, FSPA ’58.
Gerald Larkin, Nov. 11, 2000, father of Marian (Larkin) Sake '59 and Ruth (Larkin) Merrell '71.
Arnold Odendahl, Nov. 19, 2000, brother of Marie Odendahl, FSPA '62.
Ed Odendahl, Nov. 22, 2000, brother of Marie Odendahl, FSPA '62.
Virgina Wingert, June 26, 2000, sister of Joyce Blum, FSPA '63.
John Hornick, Nov. 1, 2000, brother of Mary Hornick, FSPA '63.
Raymond J. LeBlanc, husband of Patricia LeBlanc '63, and uncle of John C. Clark '93.
Donald Potaracke, Oct. 10, 2000, brother of Rochelle Potaracke, FSPA '64 and Theresa (Potaracke) McHenry '55.
Rosabella Schmit, June 21, 2000, mother of Therese (Schmit) Buckley '64, Rita (Schmit) Underdahl '77 and mother-in-law of Guy Underdahl '78.
Toni Weis, Nov. 29, 2000, sister of Betty Hebert, FSPA '68.
Frank Kasperbauer, July 1, 2000, father of Jean Kasperbauer, FSPA '69.
Bernard Sheffer, July 30, 2000, brother of James Sheffer '73.
Mary Ellen Koetting, Oct. 9, 2000, stepmother of Kristine (Koetting) Campbell '74 and Carol (Koetting) Campbell '78.
Mary Vach, Oct. 1, 2000, mother of James Vach '76 and Jefferey Vach '80.
Rose Tranchita, May 23, 2000, mother of Julie (Tranchita) Skalak '79.
Mary Ellen Hochhausen, December 12, 1999, mother of Ann Hochhausen '82.
Patti Lynn Zielinski, Sept. 27, 2000, sister of Paul Zielinski '82.
Mary DuCharme, Nov. 5, 2000, mother of Delores Ducharme, FSPA '85.
Fred Stevens, June 22, 2000, father of Teresa (Stevens) Owens '85, and father-in-law of Robert Owens '81.
Michael Sage, Nov. 5, 2000, brother of Richard Sage '82.
Dr. Robert Sneed, April 9, 2000, father of Randi (Sneed) Cole ’87.
Owen Bronson, Aug. 1, 2000, father of Tamara (Bronson) Mulder ’87.
Lado Peroutka, Sept. 27, 2000, grandfather of Brian Peroutka ’88.
Jill Staniforth, Aug. 28, 2000, daughter of Sharon Staniforth ’91.
Catherine Ella Aschom, Oct. 5, 2000, grandmother of Sara (Aschom) Heiss ’92.
Esther Fitzpatrick, Nov. 21, 2000, grandmother of Becky Fitzpatrick ’93.
Ceceilia Rose, April 8, 1999, grandmother of Angie Rose ’93.
Michael Rose, Aug. 7, 2000, brother of Angie Rose ’93.
Theresa (Knaapen) Steeno ’93, Feb. 2, 2000.
Alice Germanson, Oct. 26, 2000, mother of Larry Germanson ’94.
Roy Hamm, Aug. 26, 2000, grandfather of Melissa (Riffe) Grade ’95 and Matt Riffe ’99.
Calvin Yeske, Nov. 9, 2000, uncle of Minerva Yeske ’97.
Brad Frohmader ’00, June 10, 2000, cousin of Kristin Skifton ’99.

A FINAL WORD

A Lesson in Giving

It occurred to me the other day as I was returning to La Crosse from a weekend in Mauston, my hometown, just how fortunate I really am. After many trials and tribulations, my life has come full circle and for the first time I feel at peace. I have a good job, which I enjoy. I have very caring family and friends who welcome me with open arms and are always there for me. I live in the city of La Crosse, which is truly the closest thing to heaven on earth. These things, among many others, have made me a very content and happy soul.
This sudden epiphany of mine was due to, of all things, chocolate chip cookies. Not just any chocolate chip cookies mind you, but my Mother’s chocolate chip cookies—the ones she baked that day and sent back with me in a care package. It reminded me so much of the cookies and care packages she sent to me during my college years at Viterbo that I grew nostalgic. I’m 31 now and I still love my Mother’s cookies but, it’s not so much the cookies that got me thinking, as it is the fact that I have often overlooked the many amazing things my Mother has done for me.

As I drove the stretch on I-90 between La Crosse and Mauston and enjoyed the aroma of those homemade cookies, I started to think about how much of my life I owe to the sacrifices my Mother made to ensure that I had the education of my choice.

Without her assistance and support there was no possible way I could have financially or emotionally afforded to attend Viterbo. I know my life would have been drastically different had I not been a part of the Viterbo community. I’d never have met the lifelong friends who have become such a major part of my life. I’d never have been trained to use my brain analytically—a skill that has given me the ability to better understand the world as well as a desire and belief in myself to try and make it a better place.

Until I attended Viterbo, my definition of diversity was limited to understanding the difference between a Catholic and a Lutheran or a farmer and a city dweller. Viterbo exposed me to many different people from many different cultures. If I hadn’t experienced Viterbo, I’d never have known what it was like to sleep outside in a box in the middle of winter, the way some of our world’s poor are forced to do—nor been able to understand their plight as well as I now do.

I’d never have had the influence of Sr. Annarose Glum as an instructor, boss, and friend, who helped me believe in myself and empowered me to become more self-sufficient. I’d never have had the pleasure of experiencing a lecture by Dr. Bob Richgels, Br. George Klawitter, Dr. Jim Larson or one of the many other brilliant minds that teach and have taught at Viterbo. I’d never have experienced the intoxicating feeling that goes along with the revelation of understanding a new concept or idea. I would still be lost when trying to understand Shakespeare, which now gives me many hours of pleasure. I’d never have owned the tools to be in my current occupation, which has provided me with a better quality of life.

All of these gifts I’ve received from Viterbo would not have been possible without the gifts from my Mother. She worked an extra job and sacrificed many of her own personal goals and dreams to ensure I had what I needed to graduate from Viterbo. I was not the only person for whom my Mother made sacrifices. I have two older siblings, a brother, Cullen, and a sister, Kathleen, who both attended Western Wisconsin Technical College (WWTC) in La Crosse. Thanks to my Mother, my brother is a graduate of their electronics program and my sister is a graduate of their nursing program and both have gone on to very successful careers in their fields.

Together, my siblings and I share an overwhelming gratitude for everything our mother has done to ensure our growth and success. This year, my Mother turns 62. She is eligible for retirement; however, she’s chosen to continue working. She’s not the kind of person to sit back and take it easy.
When I reflect about her life and what she has done for us, I wonder “Why did she do this? What has she learned from her sacrifices?” The only answer I can come up with is rooted in my Christian belief and in the words of St. Francis of Assisi: “It is better to give than to receive.” That lesson is something not often taught in classrooms, but it is by far the most important lesson one can learn. My Mother taught that to me. I only hope I can take that lesson, along with the many others I’ve learned, and use it well in this world.