If Chicago is the City of Neighborhoods, Darrell Pofahl has been to almost all of them.

And, thanks to Pofahl, so too have nearly 1,000 Viterbo students. Since before it was fashionable for schools to offer living and learning experiences, he has been leading an annual cultural/educational tour of Chicago. Pofahl, a sociology professor at Viterbo University, began the trip 32 years ago as a way to give students perspective in his classroom discussions about sociological issues and different racial and ethnic groups.

Though the trip has undergone many changes in itinerary since the first trip in 1969, its purpose remains the same -- broadening students’ horizons by expanding their level of exposure to different cultures. Having fun along the way just happens.

So, come on. Get on the bus, step back in time, and relive the memories of the Viterbo Chicago trip with your tour guide Darrell Pofahl.

’60s-'70s

“We’re getting near the neighborhood I used to work in before I came to Viterbo in 1969. I worked the west side of Chicago for a year. You get used to the neighborhood. I used to come take a nap in the park, read a book. You get comfortable because people know you belong there. But it wasn’t comfortable the day we were evacuated when the riots started.”

Though from Bristol, a small, rural community in Wisconsin, Pofahl lived in Chicago from 1962-69 -- first as a student at DePaul University and, later, working there. He was even there during the riots of 1968, which followed the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. In fact, the racial tensions of the time heavily influenced his decision to become a sociologist.

“I was a psychology major but switched to sociology because of everything that was happening around me,” said Pofahl. After finishing his degree, he worked in Chicago for another year before accepting a teaching position at Viterbo in 1969.

The majority of students attending Viterbo during the ’60s and ’70s were from small-town America, to which Pofahl could relate. Few had traveled much beyond their hometowns, let alone the tri-state region.

“During the first five years, I had one student who’d never been farther east than Sparta and never been farther west than Rochester,” Pofahl said.

It quickly became clear to Pofahl that ethnicity and diversity was a mostly foreign concept to his students.
“Most students had never seen inner-city neighborhoods, ethnic neighborhoods. They didn’t know what I was talking about when I spoke the words in class. I wanted to give them a reference so they had images, so we had common ground,” he explained.

So, Pofahl used his ties to Chicago to create a trip that would provide that ethnic exposure to Viterbo students. “Diversity can be exciting. I don’t think students thought of that as something a city had to offer. Diversity of neighborhoods, restaurants, types of people. That’s something people who live in a big city appreciate—the cosmopolitan nature of it. For some, this trip did that and, for others, it reinforced why they wouldn’t want to live there and made them glad they grew up in their hometown. For some, this is the closest they’ve come to taking a world tour,” he added.

Still, Pofahl found the Chicago riots caused rippling effects on his trips during the first 10 years. “There was no place that I felt comfortable letting a busload of people out,” he said. “On the west side, people weren’t invested in the neighborhood. Things just went out of hand. One of the worst riot sites, Roosevelt and Kedzie, was basically rubble. It was like a bombed out wasteland. You didn’t see places to buy things. You didn’t see places to work. For 25 years, there was nothing built there.”

Aside from an eye-opening learning experience, the results of the riots did create an economic benefit for students. Hotels in Chicago weren’t doing well financially so students got good deals on their overnight stay at the Palmer House Hotel, a site on the National Registry of Historic Places. In fact, in 1969, the hotel stay was $4 a night for those staying four to a room. The bus trip was more than double that cost at $10.60.

Economics aside, Pofahl always enjoyed taking students, especially those who’d never stayed in a hotel, to the Palmer House for the first time. With an intricate, ornate, and gilded lobby, it was an awe-inspiring experience. “That was always fun to see -- when students walked into the lobby for the first time and just said, ‘Wow!’,” he recalled.

‘80s-’90s
“We just turned onto Halstad Street which is a long street that goes the whole length of the city from the north side to the south side. This part of it is Greek Town ...Some of you from my class remember that Greeks were heavily involved in the restaurant business. Not only Greek restaurants but restaurants in general.”

Times they are a changin’. With the expansion of downtown Chicago, many of those living in Greek Town moved out of the neighborhood, according to Pofahl. And, though no longer on the itinerary, Greek Town was a stop on several trips during the ’80s and early ’90s.

“I remember Greek Town, though I didn’t like Greek food,” said Jean Pintz Olson ’85, “It was neat because it was a new atmosphere that I had never experienced -- from the people to the food.

It was a fine-dining experience. It was festive and had colorful wait staff. The waiters were men, which was different for me because it was mostly women where I came from.”

Olson and her mother went on the trip in 1983. She enjoyed it so much she went back the following year with her boyfriend, now husband, Joel Olson.

She admitted the main purpose of the trip was initially different from her own. “I was honestly looking forward to the Art Institute the most. I was really excited about artists and
here I was studying their work and I was going to see the paintings and works of these famous artists. That’s what I vividly remember,” she said.

But Olson was surprised to learn and experience much more during her time in Chicago. From Greek Town and Chinatown to the museums and Michigan Avenue, it was an experience she never forgot.

“I remember being a little afraid because I’d never been exposed to inner-city neighborhoods before. When I did go through the different neighborhoods, I was apprehensive. For me, the trip was about learning not to be so afraid and it was about being exposed to the whole other culture of the big city … It was an amazing and very positive experience for me,” she explained.

So positive was her experience that she and her husband have made many return trips over the years. “We’ve brought our children to Chicago, too, because we wanted to show them what we experienced.”

According to Pofahl, it was during the ’80s that Chicago finally caught on as a tourist destination. This transition had an impact on trip costs and hotel accommodations.

Due to booming business at the Palmer House, the trip was cancelled during 1996 and when it came time to book there again, the cost had risen beyond affordability. That summer, Pofahl scoured the city for hotels and found the Executive Plaza on East Wacker. And, though not as ornate as the Palmer House, it offers larger rooms and a more convenient location -- right on the Chicago River and just off Michigan Avenue, the Windy City’s main downtown artery.

Also new to the tour is a juvenile court experience. In 1989, after a sabbatical working part-time at the juvenile court in Chicago, Pofahl began taking students there. Since then, students have been able to listen to and ask questions of a panel of parole officers who work daily with juveniles from the inner city.

“The juvenile court experience gave us the opportunity to hear stories that were graphic enough for us to form a strong mental image of the situations being talked about. I know the images formed in my mind won’t be going away for a long time. I admire the parole officers who try their best to make the world a better place to live by helping the kids who need it the most,” said Amy Prill, a sophomore from Bloomer, who took the Chicago trip for the first time in 2001.

Pofahl agreed. “Social work started in Chicago and the first juvenile court started there as well. They developed the idea that juveniles were still in development and that they ought to be dealt with in different ways to rehabilitate them so it’s a great experience for sociology, social work, and criminal justice majors. Plus, the officers reference many of the neighborhoods we drive through,” he said.

**Today**

“Here’s an example of black gentrification. These homes were falling apart, slums. As the group of middle class blacks grew, they came into this area, fixed the houses up, and built new homes. So not all urban renewal is coming in and forcing out blacks. It’s called the ‘Gap’ because it’s a gap between some poor neighborhoods. It gets national attention because it’s a black neighborhood coming up rather than down.”
With increasing gentrification and revitalization, much has changed within the city of Chicago during the past 32 years and so too have the students taking the tour each spring.

“It used to be that many of the students had never stayed in a hotel. Now, there are more opportunities in high school and with families. In general, students now are a bit more sophisticated and a little more used to being around people of color,” said Pofahl.

“Still, many, until this trip, haven’t been in a situation where they’re surrounded by people of color and where they’re in the minority,” he added.

Junior Nicole Ellefson, from Gays Mills, agreed. Until taking the trip, “I was somewhat a racist. I did not realize it before, but the majority of minority people I see in La Crosse I am often afraid of and try not to get too close to them. In Chicago, I got over that very fast. Just because someone has a different color skin than me doesn’t mean that he or she is a bad person,” she said.

Pofahl said that kind of inner exploration is a healthy result of the experience. “We have to look in our own hearts about where our discomfort is coming from. We can use the experience to close our minds and forget poverty exists. As a sociologist, I’m a great believer in exposing ourselves to things that make us uncomfortable.”

In fact, Pofahl often prepares his students for the realities they will face and lays basic ground rules that include respect and courtesy. “I don’t dictate what people think and feel but reinforce that the purpose of the trip is to increase people’s appreciation and understanding of diversity. There’s no place for slurs or narrow mindedness. I’ve been proud of my students. They haven’t caused problems.”

The cultural exposure is equally as important as the racial exposure. No matter how much or how little experience a student has had in this world, it’s easy to get lost in the ethnic neighborhoods of Chicago. In fact, one student on this year’s trip found herself shopping in Chinatown, picking up an item, and wondering aloud to her friend, “I wonder how much this costs in the States?”

Another found the trip like traveling abroad. “The whole trip was fascinating to me. It fascinated me how various neighborhoods can change when you just simply go under a bridge or pass a factory. You enter into another country without ever leaving the one you’re in,” said Prill.

One of Pofahl’s fondest memories about his trips is that “on the way home, we get involved in discussions about what aspect of the trip students were most excited about or about something in the trip that triggered their curiosity and thirst for knowledge. That’s my purpose.”

One thing that’s notably different on today’s Chicago experience is the bus trip itself. With the invention and increasing portability of personal radios, computers, and video games, and with the availability of a TV/VCR on the bus, there isn’t as much group interaction as Pofahl enjoyed in the past.
“Students used to talk more and process the trip. People would sing to entertain themselves. They talked and sang group songs. Now, they’re tuned into their own world more and less likely to talk. That’s one thing I do miss a bit,” he said.

But change or no change, something keeps Pofahl and the Viterbo students coming back each year. “Often times, I do all the details and wonder, ‘Why am I doing this?’ But when I get on the bus and so many students come to say ‘thanks’ or I read what they wrote for class, they get excited about these things and that excites me about sociology. It gives me the energy to continue.”

“And so we say goodbye to Chicago. And we hope that one day we’ll return -- maybe alone, maybe with someone we love -- or maybe not.”

This article was written by Beth Erickson ’93, who took the Chicago trip for the first time in 2001. What are your memories of the Chicago trip? Let us know by emailing Beth at bmerickson@viterbo.edu.

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**Enough love to go around**

As Mike and Margaret Shimshak took a rare moment together on the couch in their farm home in rural Tigerton, twins Margaret and Michelle went about their business as normal two-year-olds, each happily scribbling on paper, with pencils grasped in their tiny hands. Margaret imitating adult handwriting that falls neatly between the lines and Michelle making more bold marks on her paper.

“Look at mine! Look at mine!” they shouted when finished, both vying for attention.

“‘Look at mine.’ Look at that English!” said proud Dad Mike, a 1979 graduate of Viterbo University.

Having been in America since only February, Margaret and Michelle aren’t your typical American two-year-olds. In fact, they were adopted from Ethiopia and are the youngest of the Shimshak brood of 15, a number well beyond that of a “typical” American household.

**How it All Began**

When the Shimshaks married in February 1990, they had a ready-made family of six—with Margaret’s boys Eric, Brian, Danny, and Davin and Mike’s girls, Aurora and Zenda, from previous marriages. That December, they had their first child together, Ben, followed two years later by twins Shannon and Shawn.

“By that time, I was almost 40,” recalled Margaret. “The twins were a hard pregnancy, because of my age and because they were twins.”

It was then the Shimshaks made the difficult decision to not have any more biological children. Yet, despite the size of their family, then numbering nine, they still wanted more children. So, they turned to adoption.
Meet Sarah, from India
Since the Shimshaks were already a large family, the adoption agency they contacted told them they had to be open to a special-needs child in order to adopt.

“We figured we could do that because I’m a nurse and Mike’s a teacher,” said Margaret.

So when the agency called and asked if the Shimshaks would take a baby that was “short in stature,” Mike and Margaret agreed. Sarah, from India, became their 10th child in 1997. As it turned out, “short in stature” meant Sarah had achondroplasia, a form of dwarfism.

Sarah is lucky. She doesn’t have many of the problems children with achondroplasia normally have, like severe joint problems and an enlarged skull and facial features. “She has some joint problems but the doctor is amazed at how well she’s functioning. He said a lot of it is due to her muscle strength, which is so strong her joints are actually getting more solid,” said Margaret.

Brothers from Ethiopia
Within a year of adopting Sarah, the Shimshaks put their name in for another child. But, month after month, their application was overlooked. After repeated calls, they were told the social workers thought their family was too big. They began contacting other agencies and finally reached Americans for African Adoptions, an organization that accepted larger families. So within two years of adopting Sarah, the Shimshaks had added two brothers from Ethiopia, six-year-old Getasew and four-year-old Bezuayehu (“Bezzy”).

“The boys had been in a hospital. Not because they were sick but because they went there when their father had surgery. He died and the hospital just kept the boys until they were adopted,” explained Margaret.

Twins ... and a Big Sister
By this time, Margaret’s boys had all become adults and left the nest. The Shimshak team of 12 was down to just eight living at home. But eight was not enough. Soon, Mike and Margaret contacted Americans for African Adoptions to request another child. They were presented with twins, Feven and Rosa, whom they renamed Margaret Feven and Michelle Rosa. The girls had been abandoned outside a clinic in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

But the additional two quickly became three. Getasew and Bezzy had an older sister, Tadela. She too was at the hospital the day their father died but the Shimshaks were told she’d “disappeared.”

A degree of mystery surrounds her adoption status. While the Shimshaks were in the process of adopting Margaret and Michelle, a government official contacted the adoption agency and told their agent that Tadela was in Gondar and available for adoption. While this was good news, it was also a problem since the agent wasn’t told where to find her.

As it turns out, the agent inquired about Tadela’s whereabouts at the hospital and was told to come back the next day. And there was Tadela. The hospital had known where she was the entire time.

“We don’t know the whole story yet. She’s telling us she lived with a doctor and nurse. Our agent was told she was a servant. Why she all of a sudden became available for adoption, we don’t know,” said Margaret.
Forming Bonds
Adopting children turned out to be more of a blessing than the Shimshaks had anticipated. “It was much better for Aurora and Zenda,” said Mike. “They joined the family more when the others came.”

But bringing new children into their home, especially those from a foreign culture, wasn’t easy. “Everybody loved Sarah,” recalled Margaret. “But she hadn’t been socialized much in the orphanage. They had a social hour where they were taken from their playpens and put together in a room. From that experience, she developed a lot of hitting and biting habits because she had to fend off kids that were bigger than her. So it took a while for her to get over that. But not too long; she’s a real sweetheart.”

Adapting to a new culture isn’t easy, especially for those coming from a Third World country to the wealthiest country in the world. “When we go into stores, they often can’t understand why we don’t just buy everything we want. They think because we have a lot of stuff, we can buy everything they want, too. We just have to tell them no,” said Margaret.

Luckily, there have been few problems with racism in the community. For the most part, the Shimshaks’ large, multicultural family has been well received by the Tigerton community, population 815. “It’s been positive,” said Mike. “They’ve been very accepting and it’s expanded their vision of what a family can be. Because I’m in a position of leadership, I think I was able to provide an example that was multiracial and not be called into question about it. We didn’t make an issue of choosing multiracial children. It really was never a question. We see beyond that.”

Perhaps the person who experienced the most difficulty transitioning to life in America was Tadela. Tadela was the oldest child the Shimshaks adopted. “Overall, she’s doing very well,” said Mike. “They all go through stages.” Margaret agreed. “It’s a grieving process. Tadela’s is just more apparent. She misses her friends. She misses her culture. The food.”

The Shimshaks understand that leaving one’s culture isn’t easy. That’s why items from the children’s homelands can be found throughout their home. From the Ethiopian tapestry in the living room and the cookbooks in the kitchen, to the history and language books and tapes from India and Africa, Mike and Margaret want to ensure their adopted children don’t lose touch with their roots.

“We encourage them to continue talking in their own language. Getasew and Bezuayehu have really forgotten most of their language but their sister knows it and writes it really well. She speaks it to the kids all of the time. She’s even teaching Ben how to write in her language,” said Margaret. “When the kids get bigger, we plan to travel with them and take them back to their own countries to visit.”

How Do They Do It?
The Shimshaks estimated the cost for their six adopted children totals $75,000. That doesn’t include the cost of food, clothing, health care, and other costs associated with raising children. “We had the resources to do it,” added Mike. “When we thought about material wealth vs. the wealth of relationships, relationships won out.”

Had they chosen not to adopt the children, quipped Mike, “we could be rich.” But there’s never been a doubt in the mind of either Shimshak that they made the right decision. “I
actually asked myself what I could do to make the world a better place. I thought about what I do best. Well, I’m a good nurse, good counselor, and all of that, but I’m a good parent, too, and that was something we could do,” said Margaret.

Still, it isn’t easy raising a family of 12. In addition to Mike’s job as school superintendent, Margaret is a registered nurse at nursing homes in Wittenburg and Clintonville. She works evenings and every other weekend while pursuing a degree in social work so she can make a difference for parents of large families looking to adopt children.

The Shimshaks also farm their own land, raise horses, and practice economy by raising their own animals for meat and by gardening. What they don’t grow, they buy in bulk. Plus, Margaret has a detailed system for hand-me-downs.

The Tigerton community has pitched in, too. “They’ve been good to us as far as dropping off bags of clothes and, if they have something going on at church and there’s leftover food, they’ll bring the leftovers here. We’re not proud. We feel it’s for the kids,” said Mike.

But the Shimshaks, who will be moving soon to Lodi where Mike has been named school superintendent, make sure they’re not the only target of the community’s goodwill. “There are others in the community who need food,” said Margaret. “And we make sure they’ve been given some, too.”

Clearly, the Shimshaks’ primary concern is for their children’s welfare. But with the amount of work involved in raising that many children, it doesn’t leave much time for Mike and Margaret. “We don’t go out on many dates,” said Mike. “Instead, we look to the future.”

**Will the Shimshak Family Continue to Grow?**

“We’ll see. We have to settle down a little first,” said Mike.

“Our agent has offered us another, a little boy,” replied Margaret.

“Oh yeah?”

“She said it’s hard for her to find homes for little boys.”

“I didn’t know that.”

“She’s willing if we are.”

“We’ll have to build a bigger house,” said Mike. “Might happen.”

“We always say this is the last one and then we get them here and it feels like, ‘Oh, there must be room for at least one more,’” said Margaret.

**The Shimshaks’ Adoption Advice**

- Start the process early. Adoptions often take 1-2 years.
- Find a good agency, with a good reputation, that is willing to work with your family.
- Understand your options and be clear about your choices. Are you interested in domestic or foreign adoption? Are you open to children of other ethnic backgrounds? Would you accept a child with special needs?
- Be prepared for a long wait and government bureaucracy.
- Anticipate heartache. At times, children become “unavailable” at the last minute or the time of their arrival is postponed.
- Be persistent and follow up when you don’t hear back from the agency.

**Adoption Web Sites**

Americans for African Adoptions [www.africanadoptions.org](http://www.africanadoptions.org)

Adoptive Families of America [www.adoptivefamiliesmagazine.com](http://www.adoptivefamiliesmagazine.com)

Catholic Charities [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org)
ON CAMPUS

Business Prof is Teacher of the Year

Although David Schulz has been on the Viterbo University faculty for only one year as a full-time instructor, his teaching style has struck a resounding chord with students -- so much so that he was chosen as the 2001 Teacher of the Year.

Students wrote in their nomination letters that he always has a welcoming smile, a joke, and a kind word. He encourages critical thinking, they said, and asks students how they learn best. Plus, he whistles as he walks.

“As a professor, Dave truly cares about his students,” wrote junior Emily Olson in her nomination letter. “The students know exactly what he expects of them at the beginning of the semester, and he sticks to his word throughout...Dave is also a very approachable man outside of class. If I ever wanted to know where I stood in class, or had a question on an assignment, he was always in his office, ready to assist me.”

Kindness and hospitality aren’t the only reasons students are singing his praises. Schulz has about 30 years of non-academic working experience and a passion for his subject that inspires students.

“I appreciate the way Mr. Schulz relates the business material learned in class to real-world situations. This makes it much easier to understand the concepts,” wrote senior Chris Cook.

“His knowledge of the material he presents is superior and he is exceptionally enthusiastic about it...His students can feel his love for the subject material, and it encourages them to embrace the concepts,” added junior Lacie Lyste.

Other students wrote that he shares his knowledge, and has them apply the concepts and ideas. He never gives answers; instead, he challenges and leads students through a process that helps them think critically.

Schulz received his undergraduate and master’s degrees in business administration from Winona State University. In 1977, he was certified as a public housing manager. From 1971-89, he worked for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Winona, Minn. as the assistant director and, later, the executive director. In 1989, he joined Hawkins, Ash, Baptie, Inc. in La Crosse and served as a manager until 1993 when he took a job as business administrator for the Monroe County Department of Human Services. In 1996, he began serving as adjunct professor of economics at Lakeland College. He joined Viterbo’s adjunct staff in the Dahl School of Business during fall 1999. He was hired for full-time employment at Viterbo in fall 2000.
In addition to Schulz, the following individuals were recognized at Honors Convocation held May 3:

- Fr. J. Thomas Finucan, a past president of Viterbo University (1960-70) and current assistant to President William Medland for institutional advancement, received the J. Thomas Finucan Award for his exceptional contributions to furthering the mission of Viterbo University.
- Grant Smith, associate professor in the English department, received the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award for his dedication and commitment to the academic advising of students.
- The Learning Center, a campus department that provides academic support to Viterbo students, received the Pax Et Bonum (Peace and All Good) 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:
  - Mark Franz, director of computer services
  - Marilyn Jaekel, campus nurse
  - Joseph Kawatski, retired biology professor who returned to lead the classes of Linda Malick, a Viterbo biology professor who died suddenly in December
  - Neil Rouse, assistant director of computer services
  - Manuel Williams, custodian

**Two Join Board**

Mark Connelly, MD, and Fran Ferder, FSPA, have been elected to four-year terms on the Viterbo University Board of Directors. Connelly serves as board chair of the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation. He is also a staff member in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and co-chair of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Gundersen-Lutheran.

Sr. Ferder is co-founder and co-director of Therapy and Renewal Associates, a ministerial counseling and consultation center in Seattle for priests, sisters, and other career ministers. She is an internationally recognized leader of workshops and conferences and the author of several books on spirituality and human relationships.

**It's Six More Years for Viterbo's President**

The turnover rate for college presidents these days averages under six years. Viterbo University President William J. Medland has exceeded that statistic by four years -- and counting.

July marked the 10-year anniversary for Medland as president of the university and, with only one year left on his contract, the Viterbo Board of Directors wanted to make sure it wasn’t his last. In a move this past April, the Board unanimously approved a five-year extension on Medland’s contract.

“I’m looking forward to it,” said Medland. “Much has been accomplished at Viterbo in the last 10 years and, God willing, we’ll accomplish much more in the next six!”
During Medland’s tenure, endowment has grown from $2 to $10 million. The overall budget increased from less than $8 million to more than $27 million, and skyrocketing enrollment filled the residence halls to overflowing. In addition, Medland’s strategic plan, *Vision 2005: A Renaissance for Living and Learning in the 21st Century*, created many changes on campus. Those changes include: establishment of the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership; construction of Rose Terrace, a new residence hall; interior and exterior renovation of the Fine Arts Center; development of an outdoor athletic complex; and development of two new campus malls, V-Hawk Court and Viterbo Court. A new Center for Ethics, Science, & Technology and annex to the Student Activities Center are also planned as part of *Vision 2005*. See the February 2001 issue of *Strides* magazine for a more in-depth look at Medland’s tenure.

**Wired to the World**

Viterbo University students no longer have to worry about staying in their dorm rooms when they need to log onto the Internet for research. V-Hawk Court has become the site of one of the Coulee Region’s first permanently installed stations that provides outdoor Internet access. Students can now check class assignments, send email, or connect to the web by plugging into any of the 16 ports conveniently located at picnic-style tables. Above, international student Ama Awuah-Asamoah (left) and President William J. Medland recently logged on using these ports. The new technology was demonstrated to members of the media and campus community in late May. Later, in nearby Viterbo Court, Medland demonstrated Viterbo’s next technological offering—outdoor wireless service. Viterbo Court is a test site for the wireless service, which allows Internet access that doesn’t require port connection. Instead, users purchase a smart card that is inserted into their computer’s disk drive and allows them to log onto the Internet in any area that is set up for wireless service. This new technology will be prevalent in Viterbo’s new Center for Ethics, Science, & Technology, which is scheduled for groundbreaking in 2002.

**From the XIX Winter Olympics to Tibet, Faculty are on the Move**

This past summer, five Viterbo University faculty members began journeys that allowed them to share their knowledge and experience with people around the world: 
**Lyon Evans**, English, recently returned from a three-month teaching experience in China. Evans also taught in China during his spring 2000 sabbatical. 
**Sue Frauenkron**, nursing, spent seven weeks in Shisong, Cameroon conducting a nursing certification course for the Tertiary Sisters. 
**Pam Maykut**, psychology, traveled with psychology students Ryan Nelson, Stacey Scott, and Jennifer Holtz, to Tibet this summer to continue work on an award-winning research project. The group put together a proposal, “A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Three Aspects of Child Development in Tibetan and U.S. Children,” funded by the ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows Program. The students developed their individual proposals last fall and spent spring semester conducting research with children in the La Crosse area. In June, they journeyed to India with Maykut to complete their research with children from Tibetan Homes School.
Silvana Richardson, dean of the School of Nursing, has taken a year-long sabbatical to serve on the medical team for the U.S. curling team for the XIX Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Her husband, Bob, will serve as the sports administrator for the curling team. She will return to her position at Viterbo for the 2002-03 academic year.

Grant Smith, English, traveled to Sacred Heart College in Belize, Central America in July to present a workshop on strategies to prevent school violence by curbing bullying. Smith’s talk was featured at the conference and was attended by approximately 150 teachers and principals from secondary schools located throughout the Caribbean region.

Collaboration Benefits the Laity

A charter class of 16 graduates of the Viterbo-Diocese of La Crosse collaborative Pastoral Education Program (P.E.P.) were honored in a ceremony on campus April 21 during the First Biennial Conference on the Laity.

The conference provided a forum for the students, who had earned 26 credits in the program, to present their research on topics as far ranging as Aging Spirituality to Humor in the Church.

According to coordinator Tom Thibodeau, “This program has really had a positive influence in the diocese. Most of the participants already have prior experience in ministry and are committed to deepening their understanding of their faith while developing competencies in ministry.

“The program is designed as a communal project so that students take all their courses together forming a cohort which prays, studies, and interacts together,” Thibodeau added.

Participants in the P.E.P. took two years to complete the program. Another cohort class is starting up. Classes are held on weekends at St. Joseph Parish in Black River Falls.

New Faces in Theatre

Viterbo University bid a fond farewell at the end of last semester to former theatre professor and ’87 alumnus Dean Yohnk, who accepted a teaching position at UW-Parkside in Kenosha. And, recently, the school and theatre department welcomed three new faces to campus. New theatre professor David Gardiner (above left) has extensive teaching experience in a variety of venues. For the past three years, he has taught at Rhode Island University. He has also taught at the University of Florida, the Danish State Conservatory, the Norwegian State Centre for Film Studies, Show og Teater Skole in Copenhagen, and ARTTS International in York, England. At the same time, he has maintained an active professional life as an actor and director, having worked at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Denmark’s Mussik Teater, the Young Vic in London, Citizens Theatre in Glasgow, Arizona Theatre Company, the Long Wharf, and Oregon Shakespeare. Gardiner will be teaching directing courses, a course in Acting Shakespeare, and he will direct The Crucible next year.

Another new face in theatre is Rick Walters (above center), who has been teaching acting and scene study at the Guthrie Theatre and the Academy for Film and Television in Minneapolis for the past three years. With extensive experience in theatre, industrials, and
commercials, Walters has performed at the Guthrie, the Indiana Repertory Theatre, Penumbra Theatre, Park Square Theatre, and the Empty Space. He will teach acting courses and direct this season’s Black Box production of Brighton Beach Memoirs. **Rod Reiner** (above right) has joined the fine arts staff as a full-time dance teacher and choreographer. Most recently, Reiner was in Nashville where he served as deputy director of the Tennessee Arts Commission. Prior to that experience, he was a freelance choreographer and dancer on Broadway, off-Broadway, and on national television—including a five-year stint choreographing for the Opryland U.S.A. theme park. His work is familiar to many since he also choreographed the Country Music Awards television shows for a number of years. At Viterbo, Reiner will teach the full complement of dance courses, redesign the dance curriculum, and choreograph the Into the Woods production this October.

**Pieterek Achieves Honored Status**

Congratulations to Laurian Pieterek, FSPA '53 who received Professor Emerita status at the commencement ceremony in May. Pieterek, who has a doctoral degree from the Aquinas Institute of Philosophy and Theology, has taught philosophy at Viterbo University for almost 30 years. She continues to teach part-time in the Graduate Education Program.

**SIFE Team is Regional Champ**

Viterbo business students who matched their educational outreach projects against those of 16 other college teams captured the Regional Championship award at the 2001 Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Regional Exposition and Career Opportunity Fair held April 12 in Minneapolis.

SIFE encourages students to take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it to real-life situations and to use their knowledge to better their communities through educational outreach. The projects presented by the Viterbo SIFE team included Junior Achievement, Teach a Child about Business, School of Business Career Fair, and the Book Exchange. Teams were judged on the effectiveness of their projects during a 24-minute presentation and were evaluated on creativity and innovation, demonstrated results, success in utilizing resources, and documentation of activities.

Business professor John Nebeck serves as the Viterbo SIFE advisor. Last year, he was named a Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Fellow in recognition of his leadership and support of the Viterbo SIFE program.

**Group Examines Health Care Worker Shortage**

With an aging population, health care has more patients to serve than ever and more of its workforce is headed for retirement. That’s why there’s a current- and a future-projected shortage of health care workers.

The La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium took steps toward addressing this concern at a special health care forum in April focused on the workforce shortage confronting that
industry. Diane Peters, vice president of Workforce Development for the Wisconsin Health and Hospital Association, was the keynote speaker.

According to Silvana Richardson, dean of the Viterbo School of Nursing, “We need to make the public aware of the seriousness of this problem which is widespread. We need more trained nurses, nurse’s aids, pharmacists, and other health care professionals.”

The Fine Arts Center Lobby was filled with participants in the event, which included representatives from Viterbo University as well as Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, Gundersen Lutheran, UW-La Crosse, and Western Wisconsin Technical College. “We looked at comprehensive strategies ranging from education to the actual work environment while identifying regional health care issues and needs,” said Richardson.

2001-02 Bright Star Season: Something for Everyone

From Japanese Wadaiko drummers (above) and the powerful artistry of the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company to the Broadway smash hit Annie Get Your Gun and the Grammy-winning sounds of Sweet Honey in the Rock, Viterbo’s 30th Bright Star Season is hotter than ever.

The 2001-02 season of performances, held in the Fine Arts Center’s Main Theatre on the Viterbo University campus, begins in September. The events are:

**Club Swing** -- Saturday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. -- The sounds of swing have Americans stomping their feet and the music of Five by Design’s Club Swing will have them dancing in the aisles.

**Into the Woods** -- Friday-Saturday, Oct. 12-13, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 14, 2 p.m. -- Based on the book by James Lapine and with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Into the Woods is magic. With wit, melody, and sentiment, this musical fairy tale, presented by the Viterbo theatre and music departments, celebrates choices and companionship with a magical company of special characters.

**Yamato: The Wadaiko Drummers of Japan** -- Thursday, Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. -- Experience the “rhythmic beating of the human spirit” through the “physical music” of the ancient traditions of Japanese taiko drumming.

**Sweet Honey in the Rock** -- Sunday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. -- Combining jazz’s improvisational flexibility, doo-wop’s sensuality, and hip-hop’s rhythmic ingenuity, this Grammy-winning a capella quintet transcends cultural boundaries.

**Hodie** -- Saturday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m. -- The Viterbo music department presents this musical masterpiece by Ralph Vaughn Williams, about the spirit of Christmas. A festive lobby party follows the concert.

**Annie Get Your Gun** -- Saturday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. -- There’s no business like show business with Irving Berlin’s unforgettable music and timeless songs in this classic Broadway show based on the life of Annie Oakley.

**Trio Voronezh** -- Saturday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. -- With a beautiful blending of classical and world music, this trio of Russian musicians plays original arrangements of classical, folk, and popular music on traditional folk instruments.

**Vogler Quartet of Berlin with Angela Cheng** -- Thursday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. -- Remarkable technique, tonal beauty, impeccable balance, and rich sounds highlight the skills of Berlin’s Vogler Quartet with pianist Angela Cheng.
Regina Carter Quintet -- Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m. -- Described as one of the most raved-about new jazz artists, Regina Carter’s Quintet is “funk driven” and “irresistibly rhythmic.”

The Crucible -- Friday-Saturday, April 19-20, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 21, 2 p.m. -- The Viterbo University theatre department presents Arthur Miller’s timeless, Tony Award-winning historical drama of superstition, blind faith, and false accusation.

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company -- Saturday, May 4, 7:30 p.m. -- Modern dance has a new image with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company’s “sharply, sinuously, powerfully presented” work.

Viterbo University continues its tradition of providing outstanding local, national, and international performances at the Fine Arts Center. Events range from plays, musicals, and operas to symphony, jazz, and dance. Season tickets are on sale now. Individual tickets will be available beginning Aug. 23.

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 web site.

Second NexStar Season Promising
Featuring performances based on popular culture, Viterbo University’s hip NexStar series is entering its second year of programming, following on the heels of a successful first season.

The 2001-02 NexStar events, held in the Fine Arts Center’s Main Theatre, include:

Rockapella -- Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. -- Rockapella is the hottest and most hip a capella group to hit the airwaves in years. Flawless harmonies and the distinct stamp of ’90s funk prove they’re about to make it big with their magical talents.

I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change -- Saturday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. -- This new, off-Broadway musical revue is a bright, refreshing look at what everyone has felt about relationships but was afraid to admit. Written with style, wit, and a fabulous score, it will have you humming along and chuckling away.

Riders in the Sky -- Saturday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. -- As America’s favorite cowboys step up to the microphone, the magic begins for these romantic, comical, and whimsical men. Join this Grammy Award-winning group as they hit the trail for the old west.

BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet -- Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. -- BeauSoleil, the best Cajun band in the world, according to Garrison Keillor, is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its special blend of Cajun with elements of zydeco, New Orleans jazz, Tex-Mex, country, blues, and more.

Featuring four different events during each season, NexStar is a distinctly different series from Viterbo’s popular Bright Star Season. The NexStar performances are influenced by modern comedy, music, and theatre from a variety of top performing artists from around the globe.

Season tickets are on sale now. Individual tickets will be available beginning Aug. 23. For additional information on NexStar performances, please contact the Viterbo Fine Arts Center Box Office at 608-796-3100 or check out its web site.
Hearst Foundation Awards $100,000 Grant to Viterbo

Viterbo University has received a $100,000 grant from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation to endow a new scholarship for first-generation college students.

The decision to fund the scholarship was made after an official from the Hearst Foundation visited campus and met with university administrators, faculty, and students. The awards will be particularly meaningful to incoming students who are most unfamiliar with a college environment. According to the federal government, a first-generation college student is defined as a person neither of whose parents received a bachelor’s degree. If a student lives with and receives support from only one parent, the student qualifies as first-generation if that parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree.

Typically, students who fit this profile have required additional assistance in making an initial adjustment to the college environment. According to Viterbo President William J. Medland, 66 percent of last fall’s freshman class was categorized as first-generation. “We have a long history of serving students who are traditionally under-represented in college student bodies and this certainly includes students from families who have not had exposure to higher education. Because of limited income, many of these students are unable to afford college.”

The Hearst Foundation was established in 1945 by philanthropist and newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst. The foundation supports undergraduate education most often through the establishment of endowed scholarships at private liberal arts colleges and universities.

“It is very exciting to be able to associate the William Randolph Hearst Foundation with Viterbo University,” Medland said. “This foundation is very prestigious and we feel very honored to receive a gift.”

Former Students Salute SARG

More than 100 Viterbo alumni and colleagues paid tribute to their favorite taskmaster, Sr. Annarose Glum, a.k.a. SARG, at a special celebration on May 5.

For 39 years, Sr. Glum provided leadership in the music education program at Viterbo. She is known for leading students by her example of dedication, perseverance, and stamina, thus the nickname SARG. She continued to mentor music students with vigor and enthusiasm despite a 15-year battle with cancer and other significant health problems.

Donations made at the event, which featured musical performances by faculty, students, and alumni, contributed to the more than $23,000 raised for the Sr. Annarose Glum Endowed Music Scholarship. The fund will be directed to students who exemplify characteristics of self-discipline and tenacity, characteristics that are reminiscent of Sr. Glum.

If you would like to remember Sr. Glum with a gift, please send your donation and/or pledge to: Sr. Annarose Glum Endowed Music Scholarship Fund, 815 Ninth Street South, La Crosse, WI 54601. You can also email your pledge or request more information at giving@viterbo.edu.
Two Receive Major Scholarships

Students **Brenda Cetera** (left) and **Catherine Scrivner** (right) have proven that hard work does pay off. In April, the two students were named recipients of prestigious scholarships for this academic year.

Cetera, a senior majoring in music theatre, was named a Liberace Scholar and received a $3,000 scholarship from the Liberace Foundation. Liberace scholarship recipients are promising and deserving juniors and seniors enrolled in a course of study leading to a career in the arts. Cetera is from Wausauke.

A junior from Woodruff, majoring in health care administration, Scrivner received the $9,000 Rath Distinguished Scholarship. These awards go to students who have combined high academic achievement, leadership, and community service. Scrivner, who has a 3.6 GPA, is active in serving both the campus and La Crosse communities through volunteer work with Campus Ministry, the American Heart Association’s annual Heart Walk, and the Place of Grace Catholic Worker House. The Rath Foundation was established by the late Duane Rath, a businessman who was one of the first and only business owners in the nation to offer tuition assistance to all children of employees.

Gift is a Lifesaver

Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center’s gift of a new, automatic external defibrillator to Viterbo University may someday save the life of a guest, student, or staff member in the University’s Fine Arts Center.

Viterbo President William J. Medland accepted the defibrillator from cardiologist Julio J. Bird, MD; cardiology nurse clinician Jo Lenarz, RN; and David Houge, clinical engineering, in March.

“I want to thank you for the donation. If it saves just one life, it’s worth having on hand. Hopefully, we’ll never have to use it,” said Medland in March at a brief ceremony to announce the gift.

Emergency personnel use automatic external defibrillators to deliver an electrical shock through the chest wall to the heart in persons who have suffered sudden cardiac arrest. The electrical shock stuns the heart’s electrical activity momentarily, allowing it a chance to resume effective beating. Several members of the Viterbo community are being trained in its use.

Grants Support Bright Star Events

Viterbo University was recently awarded more than $17,000 from the Wisconsin Arts Board and the Heartland Arts Fund.

The Arts Board Performing Arts Network grant program awarded Viterbo $12,467 to support performances in the 2001-02 Bright Star, NexStar, and Arts for Young America programs.
addition, the Heartland Arts Fund awarded $5,000 to support a three-day residency by the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company in May 2002. During its three-day residency, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company will appear at Viterbo as part of the Bright Star Season, perform two Arts for Young America programs, and lead three dance master classes. The Heartland Arts Fund is a collaborative venture of Mid-America Arts Alliance, Arts Midwest, their member state arts agencies (Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin) with primary funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and support from private contributors.

SPORTS CORNER

V-Hawk Women Complete Phenomenal Season

Women’s softball coach, Chris Helixon, was named Midwest Classic Conference Softball “Coach of the Year.” Helixon led the V-Hawks to a 17?20 record, including a 7?5 third place finish in MCC regular season play. The squad compiled an excellent batting average of .324 and committed the lowest number of errors recorded over the past three seasons.

Helixon’s teams have posted gradual and consistent improvement in his three years at the helm. The honor acknowledges this progress as the V-Hawks set their sights even higher for next year.

New Baseball Coach Named

Larry Lipker, assistant baseball coach at Morehead State University (KY) was named new head baseball coach.

“Larry will bring a lot of strengths to the V-Hawk program. Our search committee was impressed not only with his coaching background but with his communication skills and his proven recruiting abilities,” said Barry Fried, Viterbo’s athletics director.

Lipker served as assistant coach with the Morehead State Eagles for the past five years, working in all areas of the program including recruiting, travel arrangements, fundraising, and monitoring players’ academic progress.

Lipker has a Bachelor’s degree in psychology/secondary education from Campbellsville University and a Master’s in secondary guidance and counseling from Morehead State University.

He succeeds Dale Varsho as head coach of the V-Hawks. This past year, the team finished the season with a 17?24?1 record. Lipker will assume his duties effective Aug. 1. In addition to his coaching responsibilities, Lipker will also serve as the Outdoor Athletics Complex coordinator.
Men's Soccer Gets New Head Coach

In men’s soccer, Mark Brandenburgh of Athens, Ohio was named as new head coach. Last season at Ohio University, Brandenburgh led the men’s soccer team to a 10-4-5 record. After finishing second in the conference regional tournament, his team advanced to nationals before losing 2-1 in overtime to Texas Tech in the quarterfinals.

Prior to Ohio University, Brandenburgh played and coached at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. He has over 17 years of soccer-playing experience in addition to his coaching experience at Samford and Ohio University.

Brandenburgh just earned his Master of Science Degree in physical education and he will also serve as director of intramurals at Viterbo.

ALUMNI NOW

Alumna Receives Honorary Degree

Cyrilla Barr ’56 became the first lay graduate to receive an honorary degree from Viterbo University. Barr, who received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at spring commencement, advanced the world’s understanding of women’s roles as early patrons of music and made significant contributions to the world of musicology through her research on Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge. Her journal articles led to a monograph; a full-length biography, Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge: American Patron of Music, published by Schirmer Books; and a book on women patrons of music, Cultivating Music in America, co-authored with Ralph Locke.

After graduating from Viterbo, she received her master’s degree in musicology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison before returning to teach at Viterbo from 1957-61. She received a doctoral degree in musicology with a minor in medieval and Renaissance history from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. in 1965 and returned to teach again and serve as chair of the music department at Viterbo from 1965-74. From 1974-75, she studied as an I Tatti Fellow at the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies in Florence, Italy and returned to the U.S. to teach at Catholic University of America in 1975, where she served as chairperson of the musicology department in the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music until retiring in 1999. She is a former Fulbright scholar and received Viterbo’s Outstanding Alumni Award in 1983 and has twice received the Outstanding Teacher Award from Catholic University.

Sharing Their Skills

What does it take to be a leader? Six Viterbo nursing alumni shared their experience and thoughts on the subject during a Nursing Leadership Panel presentation to current nursing students. Presenters were Kay Zibrowski ’85, ICU staff nurse leader, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare; Jim Schlichenmeyer ’88, occupational health and ergonomics specialist, Midwest
Environmental Management Company; Julie Bartels ’77 administrator of family practice, occupational health, and employee health, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare; Nancy Johnson ’76, director of nursing, Onalaska Care Center; Mary Lu Gerke ’74, administrative director for perioperative areas and intensive care, Gundersen Lutheran; and Lu Ann Fowler ’94, community outreach coordinator, Tomah Memorial Hospital.

Viterbo’s First MSN Class Gets Diplomas

In May, the Viterbo University Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) program graduated its first class. Congratulations to the 16 graduates: Linda Charles, Friendship; Stacy Clement, Reedsburg; Christine Dietrich, Thorp; Kimberly Dockham, Onalaska; Kathleen Garrity, Prairie du Chien; Michelle Gavin, La Crosse; Cindy Glennie, Mindoro; Deborah Hallingstad, Rice Lake; Pam Johnson, Holmen; Dianna Myhre, Readstown; Mary Nedland, Prairie Farm; Brenda Reisdorph, La Valle; Kelly Strand, La Crosse; Cynthia Tierney, Portage; Susan Wolf, La Crosse; and Lorraine Zoromski, Athens.

The MSN program offers a nurse educator track, an adult nurse practitioner option, and online coursework aimed at reducing weekly campus visits. For more information, contact Bonnie Nesbitt, assistant dean of the Graduate Nursing Program, at 608-796-3688, email bjnesbitt@viterbo.edu, or visit us on the web.

Happy 30th, School of Nursing!

Thirty years have passed since the first class of Viterbo nurses received their pins and graduates celebrated that milestone this April with an Anniversary Reunion.

Featuring time for professional development, shared memories, and fun, more than 100 alumni attended the event. The conference portion featured keynote speaker Kathleen Poi, a clinical professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Nursing. Poi discussed “New Code of Ethics in Nursing—Guidance for a New Millennium.” In 1996, she served on the American Nurses Association Task Force, a group which revised the current Code of Nurses and recommended changes that reflect today’s nursing issues. Break-out sessions were presented by the following alumni: Greg Lind ’76, Judy Garfield ’66, Susan (Gruber) Dzubay ’85, Janet Braun Wuoremma ’80, and Karla Mees ’85. All of the presentations were held on campus except for the evening banquet which was at the Radisson Hotel.

“The 30th Anniversary Reunion was a very fun event,” said Silvana Richardson, dean of the School of Nursing. “Our nursing alumni came home to Viterbo, celebrated their profession, rekindled friendships, and made new memories. Plus, they were able to see the many changes that have taken place on campus since they graduated.”

Teachers team up to honor their profession

“Tools of Teaching,” a sculpture which honors teachers and their profession, was dedicated in a special ceremony July 8.

The metal sculpture, created by Galesville artist Brad Nichols, was made possible thanks to a $5,000 gift from the Master of Arts in Education graduating class of 2000.

Located at the corner of Ninth and Winnebago streets, the graduates hope “Tools of Teaching” will honor past instructors and inspire current and prospective teachers.
According to Kathi Snyder '00, the idea for a sculpture gained momentum throughout the summer of 2000 as the graduate students were finishing up their studies. “Students really love this graduate program and we felt that this sculpture would be a very unique way to give something back to Viterbo as well as provide for a permanent recognition of the teaching profession.”

Snyder, a 30-year veteran of the teaching profession who currently teaches at La Crosse’s Southern Bluffs Elementary School, helped spearhead the fundraising drive, an effort she said was made easier because of her experience at Viterbo. “Viterbo’s graduate program is fantastic. The courses are practical and really fit the individual needs of the teachers. Because of the enthusiasm we all feel, it’s nice for us to give something back to Viterbo and that’s what this sculpture allows us to do.”

The July 8 dedication also featured a reunion mass at San Damiano Chapel and brunch in the Fine Arts Center.

CLASS NOTES

1950
Nancy A. Lafferty, FSPA '58 was awarded the National Catholic Educational Association Citation for 43 years of outstanding service as a Catholic school educator. Sr. Lafferty became a full professor in 1994 after teaching for 26 years in universities and colleges and has been an ESL consultant for the past seven years.

1970
Joe (Gauss) Paulauskis '78 recently became the Director of Genomic Pathology for Phizer Global Research and Development. He is also an adjunct associate professor in the pathology department at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
Barbara (Johnson) Plaut '78 began working as assistant professor of computer science at Maryville College, Maryville, Tenn.

1980
Diane (Storer) Brown '80 was invited to Beijing Hospital, China, to teach nurses how to set up a quality program in their hospitals. Two hundred nurse leaders from Beijing participated in a three-day lecture where Diane shared how quality is measured in hospitals in the United States.
Becky (Coel) '81 and Phillip Martzahl, Sr. celebrated the birth of a son, Spencer Cole, Jan. 21, 2001.
Kelly Funk '82 completed her doctorate in educational policy and leadership at Ohio State University, August 2000. She is the director of student learning outcomes assessment at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.
Karen Kay Kinkor '83 became the scenic designer for productions at Iowa Public Television, October 2000.

Amy (Fagerland) '85 and Paul Moore celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hannah Louise,
Dec. 16, 2000. Paul is the pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church, Plainview, Minn. Pictured at left is Drew Gilman and his baby sister Hannah Moore.


Carol (Sendelbach) Snyder ’86 received a Master of Arts degree in education from the University of St. Thomas May 19, 2001.


Maureen (Doran) Ehlers ’88 recently accepted the position of administrative manager of patient care systems at North Memorial Medical Center, Minneapolis, where she has been employed for 12 years.

Janelle (McClelland) ’89 and Rob Oldham celebrated the birth of a son, Lucas Lloyd, May 1, 2001. He joins his siblings, Katrina, Kiersten, Mitchell, and Makayla, at home.

1990

Claudia Groz ’90 is employed by Loyola University Medical Center as a medical illustrator.

Sue (Schunn) ’90 and Jack Putnam celebrated the birth of a daughter, MacKenzie Ann, Sept. 29, 2000. She joins her sister, Abbey, at home.

Linda Aarness-Gluch ’91 and David Gluch ’92 celebrated the birth of a son, Alex Krist, June 11, 2001. He joins his brother, Owen, at home. David recently became the new principal of State Road Elementary School, La Crosse. He had been the principal of Winskill Elementary School, Lancaster.

Amy (Johnson) ’91 and Timothy Pierce celebrated the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Leidy Marie, May 21, 2000.

Jennifer (Domask) Ostreng ’92 recently became the manager of nutrition services at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, La Crosse.

Brian Freisinger ’92 recently began working for ESC Entertainment in California, where he is currently the modeling supervisor (3D visual/special effects) for The Matrix 2 & 3.

Amy Kamps ’92 received a Master of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was in the adult medical/surgical/clinical nurse specialist program.

Beth (Brigson) Ferrel ’93 was recently hired as the coordinator for the Family Crisis Center, Stevens Point.

LaTonya (Lewis) ’93 and Mark Sala celebrated the birth of a son, Adam Lloyd, Aug. 30, 2001.

Kathleen (Wunnicke) ’94 and David Schoen celebrated the birth of a daughter, Julia Violet, May 2, 2001.

Heather Larsen ’95 received a Master of Education degree in counseling from Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Md., May 26, 2001.

Cherilyn (Loos) ’95 and Ryan Jakobi celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jenna Rose, May 3, 2001.

Lana Peck (Svetlana Peker) ’95 recently began working as the director of marketing and public relations for Quicksilver Assoc., Inc., Chicago. Quicksilver Assoc., Inc. is a corporate communications agency providing web development, graphic design, production and media services, and marketing and public relations consulting.

Jan Scott Pierce ’95 was recently employed by Weiss, Berzowski, Brady, and Donahue LLP, Attorneys-at-Law.

Tina Daniels ’96 married Christopher Mueller April 28, 2001 in Neillsville.

Heather (Noelke) ’96 and John Merfeld celebrated the birth of a son, Brandon Robert, Aug. 21, 2000. He joins his sister, Morgan Marie, 21/2, at home.
Jane Potaczek '96 married Luke Brunner April 28, 2001 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Medford.
Jody and Kris Connors '97 celebrated the birth of a son, Micah Jackman, April 24, 2001. He joins his sister Rebekah, 2, at home.
David Kinsman '97 received a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, May 19, 2001.
Chris Wood '97 recently joined Bentz Chiropractic, La Crosse as an associate.
Rebecca Conway '98 married Jacob Tillman May 27, 2001.
Tonia (Kaehler) '98 and Mike Stevens celebrated the birth of a son, Izaak Michael, March 2, 2001. He joins his brother, Ben, at home.
Amy and Nate Keller '98 celebrated the birth of a son, Austin Daniel, April 15, 2001.
Allison (Stursa) Peterson '98 graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a Master of Arts degree in counseling psychology May 19, 2001.
Sasha Stephany '98 married Duane German June 30, 2001 in Baraboo.
John Swartwout '98 has been accepted to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Master of Fine Arts program for 2-D art.
Kristin Skifton '99 has been nominated for the Gold Start Award for Outstanding Teaching. She was nominated along with other teachers throughout Blackhawk County, Iowa, and has the chance to win an award of $1,000. Kristin teaches 4th-8th grade general and choral music and directs three show choirs at Hudson Middle School, Hudson, Iowa.
2000
Jenny Drexler '00 is currently enrolled in the University of Iowa Osteopathic School in Des Moines.
Christy Manke married Sam Hinton '00 June 2, 2001 in the San Damiano Chapel at Viterbo University.
Jenny and Curtis Salm '00 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Andi, Jan. 6, 2001.
Laura Schachtner '00 married Brant Schimmel June 17, 2001.

In Memorium

The Viterbo University community joins in prayerful remembrance of those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Cleo Abts, March 21, 2001, brother of LaVonne Abts, FSPA '51.
Leo Wendl, May 23, 2001, brother of Joan Marie Wendl, FSPA ’54 and Lydia Wendl, FSPA ’55.
Stella Marie Swoboda, FSPA ’54, April 27, 2001.
Edward Hennig, April 18, 2001, brother of Flavia Hennig, FSPA ’55.
Veronica Frank, April 5, 2001, sister of Immacula Lynch, FSPA ’55.
Mel Spence, April 2001, husband of Rita (Morrissey) Spence ’57.
Roman Theurer, March 4, 2001, brother of Catherine Theurer, FSPA ’57.
Stephanie Marcus, April 7, 2001, mother of Lucille Marcus ’58.
Margaret Fleece, April 21, 2001, sister of Marie (Adams) Sattler ’59 and Cordelle Adams, FSPA ’60.
Leo Shakal, April 4, 2001, father of Betty Shakel, FSPA ’65.
Valeria Bongiorno, April 17, 2001, mother of Sharon Bongiorno, FSPA ’69.
Carole Cassel, April 26, 2001, mother of Cyndie (Cassel) Peterson ’70.
John R. Zahn, April 20, 2001, husband of Rosalie (Chesebro) Zahn ’72.
Joseph Kotnour, Sr., May 2, 2001, father of Joe Kotnour ’75, Debra (Kotnour) Siebenaler ’75, Mary (Kotnour) Muller ’78, father-in-law of Samuel Siebenaler ’88 and uncle of Kaye (Kotnour) Knudson ’64, Linda (Kotnour) Kidd ’69 and Nancy Kotnour ’74.
Sylvia Durschke, April 23, 2001, mother of Darre Druschke ’76.
Shirley Statz, April 13, 2001, sister of Rita Feeney, FSPA ’77.
Rita Mary (Kosse) Frisch ’77, June 12, 2001.
Ethel Finanger, May 23, 2001, grandmother of Susan (Briggs) Knorr ’93.
Robert Butler, April 25, 2001, grandfather of Tanya (Voter) Greener ’93.
Michael Ziegler, Sr., June 2, 2001, father of Wendy Ziegler ’96.
Sophie Klenke, May 6, 2001, grandmother of Rebecca (Conway) Tillman ’98.
A FINAL WORD

The Story Beyond our Placement Rates

“There is no higher good than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.”
-- Albert Schweitzer

Viterbo touts a 98 percent placement rate. No doubt about it, the statistic is impressive and certainly reveals Viterbo’s contribution -- nearly 350 undergraduate and an equal number of graduate students per year -- supplying America with a generous allotment of new and highly trained workers.

But not all of our graduates grab their diplomas, pass “Go” and head off to the nearest perfect job. Some choose to go a completely different route.

They pass on the “good” job, the fabulous salary, the remarkable opportunity, leaving us to ponder, “Why?”

Why choose otherwise? Why poverty and hardship rather than security and comfort?

Blame it on Viterbo’s founding order of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. That’s all I can figure. The sisters, after all, championed the idea that a little peace and justice and service to others never got in the way of a good education.

And today, long after the sisters got the ball rolling, our students and alumni continue to be inspired with an infectious desire to serve. Examples can be found everywhere.

Sister Rosemary Nfunji (above left), who is from Cameroon, Africa, graduated Magna Cum Laude in May. A member of the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis, she returns to her country with a bachelor’s degree in nursing

“I’m ready to go home,” she says. “I’m needed and I want to work for my people.” Sr. Nfunji has worked in nursing homes and schools, orphanages, or wherever she is needed in her impoverished nation of 14.5 million. Most recently, she worked with the poor in villages, teaching Cameroonian how to improve sanitation, prevent illness, keep water clean, and to recognize and treat simple illness before more serious sickness or even death occurs. Frequently she vaccinates for tuberculosis, measles, whooping cough, and polio.

“It’s hard to get to a faraway hospital on impassible roads,” she says. “When a person is sick, they must be carried for miles on someone’s back because the buses and taxis can’t reach them.”

Most people struggle with daily survival and can’t pay for this ministry or many of the services provided at the remotely located health centers. But Sr. Nfunji and the other sisters manage to survive. “If a person cannot pay, sometimes they will bring a chicken, a basket of ground nuts, or a bag of corn. We do not turn anyone away.”

Sr. Nfunji hopes to teach others what she has learned at Viterbo, thereby multiplying the benefits of the precious three years she has spent here. She will also be teaching at the Shisong Nursing School, helping others to serve the basic needs of the people.
For all of this, she thanks the FSPA and Viterbo. Her Viterbo stint is the result of a happy coincidence that came about several years ago when Marla Lang, FSPA met with other Franciscans at a worldwide conference in Assisi. Sr. Lang became acquainted with Sr. Nfunji’s provincial superior, and the needs of Cameroon, and an effort to reach out to Third World countries was born.

Sr. Nfunji is grateful for the outcome.

“My time here has given me strength and renewed my energy. I have learned much, thanks to the kindness and generosity of the FSPA and others.”

What makes Sr. Nfunji’s story so remarkable is that she is just one of many equally remarkable stories that “graduate” out of Viterbo every year. Most are not members of religious orders and their motivations are as varied as one can imagine.

One serves meals at La Crosse’s Place of Grace Catholic Worker House (Mickey Collins’89 above right). Another was a human rights observer stationed at the Guatemalan border. One of our promising pre-med students went on to medical school, graduated, and joined the Peace Corp to treat the poorest of our world. Many stay within our borders, teaching inner-city children, serving as social workers, lay ministers, and hospice workers. Their pensions are most likely poor, retirement prospects limited, and stock portfolios non-existent. But they go on to find meaning in life that is rich, immeasurable, and very real.

It is impossible to know how many of our alumni are choosing these types of career paths. They are a modest lot and consequently their names don’t show up in class notes or in other more public forums.

So, to all of you who are serving others; for those able to do what we can’t...thanks. Viterbo’s placement rate stands at 98 percent. And within that figure is a statistic representing your story. Your service is a compliment to the FSPA and to your educators and is a source of pride that goes to the very reason for our existence.

Pat Kerrigan
-- Do you have an idea for a Final Word?
Email us at communication@viterbo.edu.