Theme Houses: More than just a place to live

When Cindy Maas set foot on the Viterbo campus four years ago to start her college career she had no idea that one of the most important lessons she’d learn had nothing to do with her major; it had to do with being a good neighbor. Maas, from Saukville, and her four roommates were among more than 25 students who lived in six community-service theme houses on Viterbo’s campus last year. Students living in them define a theme, set expectations for themselves, and perform a variety of community service and educational programs to benefit the campus, their neighborhood, and the community.

As members of the “Closing the Gap” theme house, Maas and her roommates focused on bridging the gap between students and older members of the community. One way they did that was by forming a relationship with their neighbors--the 13 Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration who live in apartments across the street from their theme house.

It all started with one simple act of kindness. “We picked up roses one day and gave them to the sisters because they’re our neighbors. Now they’re our best friends and support system. They even say prayers for us when we’re taking tests,” said Maas.

The relationship blossomed throughout the semester and the students’ goodwill included holiday greetings and homemade goodies. The sisters reciprocated the students’ kindness with cookies, friendly advice, and prayers. But the highlight was the evening the students invited the sisters over for a homemade, five-course Christmas dinner. “After the Christmas dinner, one of them cried and said, ‘Thanks.’ She said she was grateful because they are often forgotten,” said Maas.

Described as “exceptionally good neighbors” by the sisters, Maas and the other young women at the “Closing the Gap” theme house had such an impact that they were awarded Viterbo’s “Good Neighbor Award” at a student awards ceremony in April.

“The sisters have commented over and over how appreciative they are of this group of students who wanted to develop a relationship with them as neighbors,” said Jason Ramaker, director of residence life and advisor to the “Closing the Gap” theme house. First developed in 2000, the Viterbo theme house program has led to an increase in student volunteer work in places such as the local Ho Chunk Learning Center, Place of Grace Catholic Worker House, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, domestic abuse prevention program, and the Children’s Museum. Maas and others living in theme houses also develop and distribute flyers...
and lead educational sessions aimed at increasing awareness of public issues—including prevention of AIDS, domestic abuse, and child abuse.

Students interested in living in the theme houses submit a bid during the spring semester each year. They outline their community service proposal, theme name, advisor, house head, and house rules for cleaning, mediation, phone use, and more.

As a result of the extensive bid process and preplanning, there are fewer roommate issues among theme house residents than those in the residence halls. Theme house students are encouraged to form a community, have a set of rules, and talk things through. And, each year, the number of students applying to live in theme houses grows—creating stiff competition for the now seven available locations.

“It’s a privilege to live there. The students really have independent living. It’s like living off campus except you have the benefit of being close and having campus meal plans and other benefits. Plus, you get the experience of being part of a residential neighborhood,” said Ramaker.

According to Ramaker, the students have taken pride in their homes by bringing their own furniture, painting, and putting their personal stamp on their rooms. “There’s really a sense of home ownership,” he said.

That’s not to say there aren’t the occasional problems. “Learning how to live in a house brings unique experiences that prepare you for life. Whether it’s having a bat, having mice, or some other issue, those are situations where you have to take care of problems that you wouldn’t have if you were in traditional college housing,” added Ramaker.

While the students deal with some issues on their own, they aren’t homeowners yet. Viterbo’s maintenance and security staff is only a phone call away. Other help is also available. “I try to go to the houses a couple of times each semester to check on maintenance and to visit. I like to interact with the students. It’s nice to be on campus, and in a home. It’s a totally unique situation,” said Adrienne Appler, a residence life staff member who serves as liaison to the theme houses.

Students living in this unique campus-living situation learn and grow in ways that impact all areas of their lives. Ramaker and Appler said they’ve noticed students gain skills as leaders, time managers, and team members.

“It’s relatable to any kind of work setting that you’re going to have after college. Certainly in any career, it’s important to be able to plan and organize your time, and have the ability to work with a group of people. Not every situation is perfect. Certainly, throughout some of these programs there were conflicts. The hope is that they learned from that experience,” said Ramaker.

Maas sees other benefits. “Being a good neighbor is important to me. I’ll be a physician one day and this experience will help me get to know my patients on a more personal level and build connections,” said Maas.

For others, living in the theme house has exposed them to social justice and diversity issues. “We all came from really small towns that weren’t culturally diverse,” said Jessica Grimsled, a sophomore from Ferryville who lived in “One World or None,” a house dedicated to increasing awareness of cultural diversity.
One way Grimsled and her roommates fulfilled their mission was by educating themselves and others about different cultural traditions around the globe; still another was by volunteering to work with people who are impoverished and with people of other nationalities. “The experience really opened our eyes,” said Grimsled.

If student satisfaction is any indication, the theme houses are here to stay. “Students who live in the houses tend to be more involved on campus,” said Appler. “Their sense of involvement and their sense of connectedness to the university is higher. I think their level of satisfaction is probably higher, too. It’s truly a living and learning experience versus just a place to live and study,” said Appler.

“We feel we’re making more of a difference together than if we weren’t in this house,” said Maas.

By Beth Erickson ’93
bmerickson@viterbo.edu

**Artist Finds Niche in Creating the Spectacular**

Brian Freisinger has made quite a name for himself since graduating from Viterbo in 1992, eventually leaving the area to seek his fortune amid the glitter and glamour of the film industry in California. No, he is not an actor, a producer, or a writer. But the success of many Hollywood blockbusters depends upon the work he and a small group of highly skilled tradesmen do in creating the digital special effects we all love to see in the movies. The art in business major is now working as a digital animator—a modeling supervisor, to be exact—for ESC, a contractor for Warner Bros. His studio in Alameda is located on a sprawling former naval base which received a multimillion dollar renovation. The site is now the hub for production of the much anticipated *Matrix 2* and 3 sequels scheduled to hit theatres in time for the big Memorial Day weekend. More than 200 specialists representing all aspects of the digital industry have joined forces in Alameda to work on the project.

Freisinger was recently in La Crosse to visit relatives, and he stopped by Viterbo to catch up on the news and to share how he got into the industry. While his domain is digital, he still works side-by-side with the likes of Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, and Laurence Fishburne—just some of the all-star cast appearing in the two upcoming *Matrix* sequels. His job is to make the actors look good on screen, often by having them do the impossible. Flying ... dodging bullets ... walking alongside some dinosaurs—all digitally within reach for the most talented of animators.

“I never figured I would work in film. The digital/special effects industry was just getting started while I was at Viterbo. Now when I tell people what I do—working on the *Matrix* movies—some totally don’t believe it. There’s only a handful of us around.” One individual who is not surprised is Peter Fletcher, a member of the art department and an advisor to Freisinger, known for his unorthodox and unusual style. “I remember there was something different about him even back then,” Fletcher recalled. “When I did the portfolio review, he had some things in there from the game Dungeons and Dragons. Not the kind of
things you would normally see. Afterward, I used to tease him that I was telling other prospective students the only ‘Dungeons and Dragons’ slot was already filled.”

What Fletcher spotted early on was only a clue for what was to follow, as Fresinger’s fascination with art outside traditional boundaries continued to grow.

In 1996, after four years of work with design studios in La Crosse, Freisinger decided to pack it up and head to San Francisco where he earned his MFA in Animation from the Academy of Art College.

He was recruited to work as a modeler/animator for Newtek, a software development company. He was also loaned out to effects houses when they were in need of a specialist.

During that time, he also worked on several films and traveled the world. “I worked in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) for about a month with the Ministry of Information and with the Dubai security forces forensic unit creating crime scene reenactments,” Freisinger said.

“After that, I was sent to India for six weeks to work in ‘Baliwood’ the ‘Hollywood’ of India, so to speak.”

Other stints took Freisinger to Singapore, Bangkok, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Paris, and London.

“I would generally be home for a week and then leave for a month or so again. I also did a couple of videotapes, one for basic character animation and one for character ‘rigging’ (setting up a character to be animated).”

Now with ESC Entertainment, which is allied with Warner Bros., Freisinger is with the firm that is doing the lion’s share of the work for Matrix 2 and 3 (www.whatisthematrix.com), and he can hardly contain his excitement. Call it a digital animator’s version of heaven.

“We’ve honestly got the computer graphics industry dream team working here. Folks who created effects for Shrek, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, and other great movies. People have left other major studios to work on these Matrix sequels. The effects are going to be cutting edge--things that people have never seen before, which is hard to pull off these days,” said Freisinger, who supervises a team of eight.

“Basically my team creates the 3D models which are used in the animation and effects. We also encompass the texture team, or the guys who paint the models to look real. I also have to deal with all the cyberscans. Basically our task is to take sketches, create 3D models, and make them look real.”

Ten years removed from Viterbo, Freisinger admits that--“no way” could he have predicted the turn his career would take, working with technology and effects that didn’t exist during his undergraduate days. Still, he values the education he received at Viterbo. And at 31, Freisinger is hardly old, but in his field, his age is considered veteran status.

“I’m very happy that I had Peter Fletcher as an instructor at Viterbo. I learned most of the basic design skills from him. He was a harsh taskmaster and was always pushing for me to do more. Many of the illustration skills that come in handy I owe to Diane Crane as well. I am glad I attended as I walked away with a serious toolbox full of skills that are still coming in handy.”

Despite the fact animation is very technology-driven, Freisinger still ascribes to Artistic Rule Number One that goes something like: “A computer and software doth not an artist make.”
“From Viterbo, I learned about muscle tone, skeleton makeup. I did it over and over. I learned this in original 2D art. In this industry, I can teach anyone how to push a button but the art we must create in many ways is not different from paper and pencil. You have to have the foundation and background.”

For his part, Fletcher is glad to have contributed to Fresinger’s artistic development although he refuses to take credit. “I recall Brian to be quite aggressive, and he believed in himself. Sometimes he offended people but that’s okay. It didn’t bother me because I’m that way myself. I like people who show conviction because my way of doing things is not sacrosanct. As an art instructor, my job is to help them find their style. If they know what they want, you don’t have to spoonfeed them. And that was Brian.”

The Matrix movies are expected to keep Freisinger busy for a while, but he’s not worried about his future once the sequels are completed.

“This is a very small industry and there are not a lot of us around. Everybody knows everybody so there will always be new and exciting projects to work on. I plan to stick around for a long time.”

By Pat Kerrigan
pgkerrigan@viterbo.edu

ON CAMPUS

Board of Directors Marks Changes

Viterbo bid farewell to two long-time directors in a special reception held at the spring meeting June 10.

Two resolutions were approved by the board to mark the occasion. La Crosse businessman Charles Gelatt, who served on the board for 32 years, received special recognition in a resolution “for exceptional leadership, philanthropy, and service.”

Marlene Weisenbeck FSPA, was honored for “exemplary leadership as board chair from 1994-02.” In leaving the board, Sr. Weisenbeck becomes the new president of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA), succeeding Marla Lang, FSPA.

Both received the designation “Director Emerita.”

In other board news, three individuals were approved for membership: Bernard Aldrich, Eden Prairie, Minn., CEO of Rimage Corporation; Karen Dratzkowski, a teacher from La Crosse; and Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA, former FSPA vice president and long-time educational administrator.

The board also seated its new executive officers: Celesta Day, FSPA, board chair; Richard Lommen, vice chair; Richard Record, treasurer; and Sr. Gschwind, secretary.

You Like Us! You Really Like Us!
The results are in from the Strides readership survey--and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Most interesting was that 99 percent of all readers felt that Strides was their best
source of information for news about Viterbo University, and 88 percent believe that, as an alumni magazine, Strides is excellent/very good. Other highlights include:

- 94 percent of readers reported reading their issues within a week of receiving them, and 54 percent read it cover to cover.
- The most interesting sections are: Campus News (70%); Faculty Features (84%); and Class Notes (86%).
- Most popular feature stories over the past two years were: Jan Linderbaum’s retirement, Ron Schafer’s Sept. 11 experience, Mike and Margaret Shimshak’s adoption story, Darrell Pofahl’s Chicago trip, and President William Medland’s 10-year anniversary.

2002 Teacher of the Year Named

Why has Viterbo University English professor Rolf Samuels been named the 2002 Teacher of the Year? According to his students, that’s exactly how he’d like to approach the topic. In the three years he’s been at Viterbo, Samuels has made a name for himself as a teacher who loves to ask, “Why?” As such, he is always pushing his students to think critically—a fact they’re impressed with.

“Rolf is a person I can go to when I have questions about anything. However, he doesn’t provide the answers—he pushes me to think logically and discover the answers myself,” wrote senior Tiffany Ertman. “He wants us to think for ourselves, because he knows it will make us smarter, stronger students.”

Even students who didn’t know him in the traditional classroom role were impressed. Samuels was one of the readers for Darcie Vacek’s ’01 senior thesis. Although she never took a class from him, she said, “I still consider Rolf to be one of the best professors I had the opportunity to learn from at Viterbo. He challenged me every step of the way to be a better writer and thinker and never gave one criticism without a compliment right after.”

Another trait of Samuels’ that impresses students is the fact that, although he possesses the highest academic degree in his field, he doesn’t believe he holds the answer to all of life’s questions. “On the contrary,” wrote Susan Lundquist ’01, “he made it clear that there were many things he did not know and encouraged us to learn along with him to ensure that we were getting the most out of our education.” Lundquist, who is a substitute teacher in the La Crosse and Onalaska area, also said she still maintains contact with Samuels to discuss teaching methods and ways to reach students—both hers and his. Samuels no longer considers her a student or former student. In his words, she is now a “colleague.”

Perhaps above all else, it’s Samuels’ passion for teaching that inspires and incites the desire to learn in his students. “He shows as much passion for the use of a comma as he does in discussing literary concepts. His fascination in even the tiniest detail makes him a delight to listen to. He makes learning both challenging and fun,” said junior Renee Arndt.

His colleagues agree. English Department Chair Richard Ruppel states, “He brings truly astonishing energy, creativity, and passion to his teaching. Rolf’s evaluations are the best I’ve ever seen.”
Bill Stobb, English professor, added, “He has exhibited what it means to truly care about the success of each student as an individual: No one, as far as I know, spends more one-on-one time helping students to succeed as writers...He puts in long hours in the service of teaching, often seeming to sacrifice his personal well-being for the good of his students, the department, and the university at large.”

Samuels received his undergraduate degree in English from Earlham College, Richmond, Ind.; his master’s degree in English, with an emphasis in creative writing and fiction, from Iowa State University; and his doctoral degree in English, with a concentration on the novel, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before joining Viterbo in 1999, Samuels taught in the English department at Edgewood College in Madison for two years.

Several other individuals were also recognized during the Rose Awards ceremony, held annually near the end of the university’s academic year:

William J. Medland, Viterbo president, received the J. Thomas Finucan Award for his exceptional contributions to furthering the mission of Viterbo University.

Larry Harwood, assistant professor of philosophy, received the Alec Chiu Award for his exemplary work and his efforts to engage students in scholarly activities.

Ward Jones, assistant professor in the biology department, received the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award for his dedication and commitment to the academic advising of students.

Rose Kreutz, who retires at the end of this academic year after more than 30 years of teaching nursing, received the Sr. Helen Elsbernd Distinguished Service Award.

Rosemary Matiak and Vickie Schaefer from the registrar’s office, received the Pax Et Bonum Award for their fulfillment of the Franciscan values of service, respect, hospitality, stewardship, and joy.

Servant Leader Awards for leadership and service were given to:
- Heath Thayer, a student and dedicated community volunteer.
- Chris Sanger, the office manager for institutional advancement.
- Debra Daehn Zellmer, a social work professor.
- Heidi Benish, a math specialist in the Learning Center.
- Debra Kappmeyer, a graphic designer in communications and marketing.

Bright Star Season Shines With Creativity

Doc Severinsen and His Big Band and the Tony Award-winning shows Fosse and Ain’t Misbehavin’: The Fats Waller Musical Show are highlights of the new Bright Star Season at Viterbo University. The 2002-03 season of performances, held in the Fine Arts Center’s main theatre on campus, begins in September. The events are:

Forbidden Hollywood, Thursday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m.--Nothing is sacred during this satirical look at Hollywood today.

Celebrating 100 Years of Richard Rodgers, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 11-12, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 13, 2 p.m.--Relive a century of classics as the Viterbo theatre department presents a musical revue of Richard Rodgers’ music. The audience will enjoy this retrospective of Rodgers’ music through song and dance.

Doc Severinsen & His Big Band, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.--In a vivid array of exhilarating styles, Grammy Award-winning Doc Severinsen plays sizzling jazz and big band tunes with former members of his Tonight Show band.
Turtle Island String Quartet, Sunday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.--With special guests the Ying Quartet, Turtle Island presents an evening of traditionally classical music, paired with innovative jazz improv.

Christmas Celebration & Lobby Party, Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8, 2 p.m.--The Viterbo music department presents the traditional Christmas concert and lobby celebration with its performance of the J.S. Bach baroque choral masterpiece, “Magnificat,” and John Rutter’s 20th century collection of carols, “Dancing Day.”

Les Percussions de Guinée, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.--The New Year starts off with the excitement of this African percussion ensemble, which presents its authentic African drumming and dancing.

Fosse, Friday, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.--Experience Tony Award-winning director and choreographer Bob Fosse’s sexy style and unique vision of dance during this musical tribute.

Die Fledermaus, Friday-Saturday, Feb. 28-March 1, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 2, 2 p.m.--Misbehaving upper classes, love affairs, and the lilting waltzes of Johann Strauss combine to create this cornerstone of operatic repertoire, performed by the Viterbo music and theatre departments.

Cherish the Ladies, Monday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.--What better way to spend St. Patrick’s Day than with a traditional Irish folk group? Cherish the Ladies shares their Irish traditions and music with spirit, precision, wit, and soul.

Le Trio Gershwin, Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.--From the heart of Paris, this trio succeeds in conveying all the spirit, magic, and swing of Gershwin. With a unique instrumental combination, they fascinate audiences with the pure natural sound of piano, guitar, and the profound sound of cello.

Ain’t Misbehavin’: The Fats Waller Musical Show, Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.--This finger-snapping Tony Award-winning revue of Fats Waller’s 1930’s Harlem is considered one of Broadway’s very best. Humor and infectious energy are trademarks of this rollicking American original.

Bright Star Season events are supported, in part, by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin. Individual and season tickets are available. For information, please contact the Viterbo Fine Arts Center Box Office at 608-796-3100 or check out their Web site at: www.viterbo.edu/academic/ug/sfa/bss.htm.

Cardinal Honored at Spring Commencement

His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters during spring commencement on Sunday, May 12 at the La Crosse Center.

Cardinal Keeler was appointed archbishop of Baltimore by Pope John Paul II on April 11, 1989 and appointed to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II on Nov. 26, 1994. An influential participant in a wide range of national and international issues, Cardinal Keeler was elected president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and the U.S. Catholic Conference in 1992.

As part of his work with the NCCB, Cardinal Keeler has developed a reputation for effectively building interfaith bonds. He is particularly noted for his work in fostering an effective
Catholic-Jewish dialogue and is the Episcopal moderator of Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. As chair of the NCCB’s Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs from 1984-87, he helped arrange the Pope’s meetings with Jewish leaders in Miami and with Protestant leaders in Columbia, S.C. during the 1987 papal visit. Cardinal Keeler was appointed to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in the summer of 1994 and to the Congregation for the Oriental Churches in November 1994. He is the vice president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and a member of the Black and Native American Missions Board.

Among his many honors, he has received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from the National Catholic Educational Association, the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem Lifetime Achievement Award, the Mahmoud Abu Saud Excellence Award from the American Muslim Council, and the Marylander of the Year Award in 1994 from The Baltimore Sun. He is also the recipient of honorary degrees from eight other universities.

Earl Madary ’88, President of the Faculty Assembly, was the master of ceremonies at spring commencement. Sarah Klitzke ’02 presented the senior address, and Rose Ann Kazmierczak ’61 gave the alumni welcome. The benediction was given by Most Rev. Raymond L. Burke, bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse.

**Grim Reaper Project**

Knowing that the greatest risk for developing a substance abuse problem occurs during the teen years, and that drunken driving is one of the leading causes of automobile accidents, three Viterbo students wanted to do something that would make a difference.

That’s why, as part of their Introduction to Chemical Dependency course, they led “The Grim Reaper Project” at La Crescent High School.

Sophomore Jami O’Brien, senior Tina Dahl, and junior Nikki Brill went to the school in April, the week before prom, to increase awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Two students each hour were selected at random to illustrate the statistical figures for how many people die in alcohol-related accidents per hour. The students selected had their faces painted white and were no longer among the “living” that day. Cardboard “tombstones” were placed on their lockers and the chosen students could not participate in activities (unless teacher-required) or socialize with other students for the rest of the day.

The project stressed the severity of risks associated with drinking and driving. At the end of the day, O’Brien, Dahl, and Brill presented at an assembly before the entire student body.

**PHILANTHROPY NOTES**

**Student’s Hard Work Pays Off**

Whoever said hard work doesn’t pay off obviously never met Jen Jahsman.
The Viterbo senior community medical dietetics major is the recipient of a $9,000 Rath Distinguished Scholarship for the 2002-03 school year. Jahsman, who is from Medford, is a student leader both on and off campus. Her activities include involvement in the Resident Student Board, Student Government Association, tutoring program, and Place of Grace, the local Catholic worker house. She has also held three dietetic internships and a part-time job while maintaining a 3.71 GPA.

The Rath Distinguished Scholarship goes to students who combine high academics with leadership and community service. 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.

Pledges Helping "Close the Book"

By pledging more than $36,000, alumni, parents, and friends have provided a hot tip that is helping Viterbo University solve “The Case of the Mysterious Challenge.”

Issued by an anonymous friend of the university, the “case” is a challenge to alumni, parents, and friends to financially support the new Center for Ethics, Science, and Technology on the Viterbo campus. The anonymous benefactor will match every dollar raised--up to $100,000.

“The generosity of our alumni, parents, and friends has been overwhelming,” said Gary Klein, vice president for institutional advancement. “With their support, we’re forming a stronger Viterbo--one that will even better meet the needs of future students and the community.”

The Center is a state-of-the-art facility with science labs and distance-learning capabilities. Located on Ninth Street, across from the Fine Arts Center, the new building is currently under construction. For more information about the new building, or to see up-to-date progress on our live Webcam, visit www.viterbo.edu/estbuilding/.

Persons interested in making a donation toward the new Center may still do so by mailing it to the Office of Institutional Advancement, Viterbo University, 815 Ninth Street South, La Crosse, WI 54601; or by going to www.viterbo.edu and clicking on “Giving to Viterbo.”

“Extra Effort” Earns Extra-special Scholarship

Editor’s note: A La Crosse area native is the recipient of this year’s Extra Effort Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a student who has performed outstanding service or who has demonstrated exceptional tenacity and effort in dealing with life’s challenges and obstacles. The recipient receives a one-year, full-tuition scholarship. The following article, which appeared in the La Crosse Tribune, is reprinted with permission of the publisher. The scholarship came about as a partnership between the newspaper and area colleges.

When Jennifer Schoen lost her father, Lou, to a heart attack in November 2000, she was afraid for her family and wondered how they would make it. “The first three months or so, I didn’t know how to react,” she said. “I was so scared. There were days I didn’t want to do anything.” Jennifer turned to the two constants in her life--her dancing, which serves as a sort of therapy, and her mother, Corinn, who gave up her role as an at-home mom and went back to school to learn a trade.
“I realized that my true hero in my life is my mother,” Jennifer said. “I have learned from her to keep pushing for what I want and not to worry about every little event in life.”

But Jennifer was soon dealt another cruel blow—as co-captain of Central High School’s Dance Team, she was told she needed surgery on her legs for compartment syndrome or she would have to quit sports.

“I love to dance, and the thought of not dancing made me want to cry,” she said. “It hurt to run. It hurt to do anything.”

So Jennifer had surgery on both legs in June and spent the entire summer recuperating, receiving physical therapy even as the 2001-02 school year began. She was chosen as the Tribune Extra Effort Award winner at her school for her perseverance, said Central High School counselor Barb Everson-Bunton.

“She’s been able to maintain her grades even though she’s been through a lot with her father,” Everson-Bunton said. “She’s the kind of person that even though she may be down, she doesn’t let it affect her responsibilities.”

Jennifer’s mother, who currently is studying supervisory management at Western Wisconsin Technical College, said she is very proud of her daughter. On top of everything else, Jennifer’s grandfather, Armin Degner of Wonewoc, was diagnosed with colon cancer, she said. “It hasn’t been easy at times,” Corinn said.

Eighteen-year-old Jennifer said her dancing is therapeutic because it makes her feel like she’s in another world. She has been taking dance lessons since age 4, and some of the styles she has learned are ballet, tap, Irish, and jazz. It’s her third year on the Central Dance Team.

“It’s a way that I can express myself on stage,” she said. “It just takes me to a different place. It’s beauty and it’s art and it’s me performing.”

Jennifer plans to major in nursing at Viterbo University this fall despite the financial obstacles she faces. With two older brothers and her mother already in college, Jennifer said she will need to work and borrow money to get the degree that will allow her to “help other people get better.”

“I plan on trying out for Viterbo’s dance team, and I’m still thinking about minoring in dance,” she added.

Jennifer said the biggest lesson adversity has taught her is that life is too short.

“You have to face each day as if it’s going to be your last,” she said.

“That’s how I view my life now.”

By Anastasia Mercer

La Crosse Tribune

Viterbo Has Another Liberace Scholar

Over the past four years, three Viterbo students have been honored with the prestigious Liberace scholarship. This year, that number has increased. Junior Suzanne Flater, from Fort Dodge, Iowa was named a Liberace Scholar and received a $3,000 scholarship from the Liberace Foundation.
A junior vocal performance and vocal pedagogy major, with a minor in music theatre, Flater is an award-winning vocalist. She has consistently finished with firsts or seconds at the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition and was a finalist for the Schubert Club award in the Twin Cities. Last year she shined in major roles for several Viterbo productions including Cosi fan Tutte and Into the Woods.

Flater was nominated for the award by the Viterbo faculty in recognition of her strong academic and vocal talents. Liberace scholarship recipients are promising and deserving juniors and seniors enrolled in a course of study leading to a career in the arts.

**Milwaukee Teachers Find Viterbo Courses Useful**

Viterbo’s graduate program in education has been in existence for 12 years and in that short time, it has grown to be one of the largest in the U.S., enjoying an excellent reputation. Far from Viterbo’s home campus in La Crosse, the impact of the program is making a real difference.

Over the past four years, 287 inner-city teachers in Milwaukee have made use of a special grant from the Emory T. Clark Foundation. The scholarships, offered via the grant, provide teachers with the opportunity to take graduate-level education courses at Viterbo’s satellite campus in West Allis. Through these classes, teachers can refresh their teaching skills and learn new techniques for dealing with youngsters from challenging backgrounds. To date, 10 individuals have enrolled in Viterbo’s Master’s program as a direct result of this grant. Thanks to the Emory T. Clark Foundation, many of Milwaukee’s urban poor children who have so few advantages, are learning in the classroom of a Master’s-level educator.

**SPORTS CORNER**

**New Coach to Lead Volleyball**

Kelly Aspen has been named new head women’s volleyball coach. Aspen replaces Lynn Sirianni, who led the team to a 1953 record in her two seasons as coach. Aspen will officially begin her duties on Aug. 1.

“Kelly brings a wealth of playing and coaching experiences to our program,” commented Barry Fried, Viterbo athletics director. “She has a passion for the game of volleyball and will be a great fit with our staff,” said Fried.

Aspen graduated from Bemidji State University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts in business administration. While at Bemidji, she was a scholarship athlete for basketball and volleyball. Since then, Aspen has been inducted into the BSU Hall of Fame under the Top 60 Women Athletes category.

Most recently, she has been the head volleyball coach at Amherst High School, posting a record of 37187. Aspen has also worked with the Impact Volleyball Club of Wautoma for the past two seasons.
Prior to that, Aspen served as the men’s club volleyball coach at Bemidji State for two seasons.

“I am eager to begin developing a volleyball program that will be another feather in the hat of an already attractive school,” commented Aspen. “I relish the opportunity to demonstrate who I am, my philosophy of life, my love for working with young people, and my passion for volleyball.”

New SID Announced

Nels Popp has been named the new sports information director (SID) at Viterbo. He is currently the Midwest Classic Conference SID, and for the past two years has been the assistant men’s basketball coach to Wayne Wagner.

The last name of the new director should also be familiar to V-Hawk enthusiasts. Nels is the son of Rod Popp, the highly successful men’s basketball coach who earned a place on the V-Hawk Wall of Fame roster.

“Nels represents everything that’s good about Viterbo University. He’s been very loyal and committed to Viterbo athletics. He was definitely the perfect fit for the job,” said Barry Fried.

Popp graduated from St. Mary’s University in 1997 with a degree in English Literature. Following graduation, he served as a media officer and promotions officer for the Cairns Basketball team in Cairns, Australia.

“I’m very excited to remain here at Viterbo,” commented Popp. “I have a lot of history with the school and have enjoyed watching the athletics department grow over the years.”

Popp replaces Lynn Sirianni, who held a joint assignment as volleyball coach and SID.

Fall Sports Wrap-up

Tony Procopio (left) was a key player in the V-Hawk’s successful season. Chelsea Muckenhirn's (right) play earned her All-Conference honors.

The men’s soccer team had three players receive MCC All-Conference honors. Tony Procopio earned first team honors, goalie Brett May was named to the second team, and Pat Graham was an honorable mention.

The volleyball team also had three players receive MCC All-Conference honors. Chelsea Muckenhirn became the first volleyball player to be named to the first team since 2001. Seniors Katie Tomsyck and Carly Chenoweth ended their volleyball careers by earning MCC honorable mentions.

V-Hawk Camps a Big Attraction

Summer is traditionally the off-season for most college athletes and coaches. But that doesn’t mean the Viterbo athletics facilities go unused. Soccer coaches Will Lemke and Mark
Brandenburgh, as well as basketball coaches Wayne Wagner and Bobbi Vandenberg kept busy running University youth camps and leagues on campus.

Both Lemke and Brandenburgh held two weeks’ worth of camps in June. Close to 50 area youngsters worked on their soccer skills over that period at the Viterbo Outdoor Athletic Complex.

Meanwhile, at the R.W. Beggs, Sr. gymnasium, Wagner and Vandenberg hosted 11 different camps. The girls’ camps, which specialize in specific skills such as shooting and post play, attracted over 250 campers, ranging from third graders to high school seniors. Vandenberg, who will begin her 10th season as coach of the V-Hawks, has built a strong reputation for player development in the Coulee Region, and had to add an additional camp this season to meet demand.

“I think our camps are so popular because they’re different,” said Vandenberg. “We keep our camper-to-coach ratio very low so kids receive a lot of individual attention and we spend much more time on skill development than just playing games.”

Participation in Wagner’s boys’ camps also jumped significantly. Close to 140 boys worked on their fundamentals and played games at camps this year.

In addition, Viterbo again hosted the Coulee Region’s premier summer girls’ high school league. Under Vandenberg’s supervision, the league, which runs from June to August, has grown to include 30 varsity and junior varsity teams. Also, Viterbo hosted a summer men’s league, featuring several of the area’s top recreational players, as well as teams from Viterbo, UW-La Crosse, and Winona State.

ALUMNI NOW

Touring with Ann-Margaret
If being part of the ensemble cast for a popular Broadway show and touring with Ann-Margaret is any indication, then Eric Wallbruch ’92 hit the big time.

From January 2001 through May 2002, Wallbruch was touring with Broadway’s The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. As a member of the ensemble cast, Wallbruch danced and sang in many of the scenes. Still, no matter how famous he gets, Wallbruch remembers Viterbo—he even thanked his Viterbo mentor and music instructor, Diane Foust, in the playbill.

A group from Viterbo University went to the show when it was in Minneapolis in April. (Pictured are: front row, left to right: Rick McGarry, Ann-Margaret, Natalie McGarry and Sally Emerson, institutional advancement office; back row, left to right: Timothy Schorr, music professor, Eric Wallbruch ’92; and Diane Foust, music professor.) They visited with Wallbruch after the show and got the chance to go backstage and meet Ann-Margaret. So what is she really like? “She was always in a good mood, and never had anything bad to say about anyone. She was always the consummate professional,” said Wallbruch.
Wallbruch has also performed in *Phantom of the Opera*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Guys and Dolls* as well as in tours of *Buddy* and *Pump Boys*. His plans for the future include a much-needed summer break, which he will enjoy while vacationing around the globe.

**Leaders in Health Care**

The health care industry is changing so rapidly it’s difficult to keep up.

That’s why the Viterbo University School of Nursing and the Alumni Association held a special Nursing Leadership Panel in April to discuss these issues with senior nursing students and to explore methods for leading and managing in the changing environment. Alumni who spoke at the event were: Dianna Myhre ’97, Gundersen Lutheran; Julie Bartels ’77, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare; Bob Ustby ’74, Gundersen Lutheran; Kay Zibrowski ’85, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare; Mary Lu Gerke ’74, Gundersen Lutheran; Bob Fendt ’77, Gundersen Lutheran; and Nancy Johnson ’76, Onalaska Care Center.

**Striking the Right Chord**

Matt Boehler ’98 has been singing his way to success. The two-time first prize winner in the Schubert Club vocal competition recently placed third in the Metropolitan Opera National Council regional auditions. He also finished his first year as an affiliate artist with the Minnesota Opera where he performed at the Orway Theatre as “Colline” in *La Bohème*, as “Mr. Dashman” in *Little Women*, and the “Monk/Charles V” in *Don Carlos*. A bass, Boehler joined the company after touring with the Minnesota Opera’s 2000-01 Midwest Tour as “Don Basilio” in *The Barber of Seville*.

Comfortable in music theatre, Boehler also performed in a number of different productions in the Twin Cities area. A Minneapolis native, he returns to Central City Opera this year to play “Snug” in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and “Dr. Buchanan” in *Summer and Smoke*.

**Catching Up with Old Friends**

Almost 40 Viterbo alumni showed up at Mister G’s Restaurant in Appleton in late May to mingle and reconnect with Viterbo religious studies professors Tom Thibodeau and Earl Madary.

The two were in town to kick off a new discussion series from the Viterbo Alumni Office, “Conversations With...” As part of the series, Madary and Thibodeau presented “Living in the Franciscan Tradition,” a talk about finding meaning and purpose in our everyday work.

“It was great to see fellow alumni again and especially wonderful to talk with and listen to Tom and Earl,” said Debbie Truyman, a 2000 graduate of the Master’s of Art in Education program.

The “Conversations With …” series is a new offering from the Viterbo University Alumni Office. The series brings together alumni and their favorite Viterbo faculty and staff members for an evening of conversation and camaraderie. If you are interested in having a “Conversations With …” event come to your community and have suggestions for professors and staff members you’d like to reconnect with, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@viterbo.edu or call 608-796-3072.
Like Old Times
In 1959, tickets for the Viterbo production of *The Crucible* were only $1 and men had to be recruited from the La Crosse community to star in the production. Memories like these flowed when the cast of the 1959 production came back to campus to mingle with the cast of the 2001-02 Bright Star Season production of *The Crucible*. Marie Leon La Croix, FSPA, the director for the 1959 performance, invited her cast back to campus in April for this year’s performance. The group of 18 enjoyed a pre-show dinner at Fayze’s, the play, and a post-show reception for the past and present casts. A display featuring highlights from both performances, including a *La Crosse Tribune* critique of the 1959 performance was in the Fine Arts Center Lobby.

Reality Shock
So what is working in the health care world really like? That’s what a number of Viterbo University nursing alumnae came back to tell senior nursing students in May.

The alumnae, who have been working in health care for one year now, told their “Reality Shock” stories in a sometimes funny, sometimes very serious session that discussed everything from how to survive the first year transition from the ideal world to the real world, and taking state boards, to their first mistake and first death experiences.

The nursing alumnae included: Trisha Williams-Reese, Jenna Fischer, Julie Fisher, and Sherry Walkowicz from Gundersen-Lutheran in La Crosse; Jennifer Myuskowitz, Jessica Gosh, and Katie Germain from Franciscan Skemp Healthcare in La Crosse; Grace Hanson from Minneapolis; and Staci Kothbauer from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospitals and Clinics.

Alumnus Publishes Original Plays
According to amazon.com’s book description, *A Collection of Plays by Mark Frank* is a “mind blowing good time!” Frank, a 1989 graduate of Viterbo, became a published playwright in March with this collection of six of his original plays, including *Bend, Hotel 5, I Figaro!, A Purrfect Life, He’s Harry,* and *But Arent We All Torn.* The book was published by Barnes and Noble’s Writers Club Press. Frank, who has a MFA from Western Illinois University, is currently the artistic/technical director at Coffeyville Community College in Kansas. *A Collection of Plays by Mark Frank* is available for $15.95 through *www.amazon.com.*

A College Without Tears
When William Jong-Ebot ’82 came back to Viterbo last spring to present a paper, he couldn’t escape the old habit of doing a little homework while he was on campus. After giving a talk on “Public and Private Space: The Media, Government, and Privacy in the New America” at “Community: Living with Difference in Art, Religion, and Politics,” the annual Ethics Across the Disciplines Conference, he took the time to do a little research. He interviewed several Viterbo students about what makes them want to stay at a particular college or university. Jong-Ebot, an associate professor of mass communications at Florida Memorial College in Miami, is writing a book on college retention issues, *A College Without Tears.*
1960
Rose Ann (Mashak) Kazmierczak '61 was invested in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by the Most Reverend Raymond Goedert in a century-old ceremony at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Ill. on Oct. 21, 2001. The major purposes of this group are to strengthen their personal Christian lives and to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land. The La Crosse Diocese has about 40 members in the Order.

Bernadette Prochaska, FSPA '62 presented a paper at Harvard University May 9, 2002, The Mystery of Pain: Walt Whitman’s Lilacs and Edmund Husserl’s Meaning. The Conference of Phenomenology and Literature was held at the Harvard Divinity School.

Mary Ann Gschwind, FSPA '65 became the FSPA archivist July 1, 2002. She also joined the Viterbo Board of Directors, effective October 2002.

1970

Joe Keller ’75 ran in the Paris marathon April 7, 2002.

Dale Stafslien ’78 and his wife, Barb (Lund) Stafslien ’93, will be taking the Tomah showchoir on a three-week performance tour of Austria, Germany, and Italy this June. Dale recently completed his master’s degree in educational leadership from Winona State University. He has been the vocal music director at Tomah High School for 17 years.

Linda (Fosmo) Kopecy ’78, and her children, Emily, 14, Katy, 12, and Ben, 9, received black belts in Tae Kwon Do March 25, 2001 from the American Tae Kwon Do Association.

Carol (Wegerbauer) Hassan ’78 won the Tae Kwon Do state championship in the Golden Seniors Division, Vienna, Va. The Golden Seniors Division is for anyone age 35 and older.

Marilyn Johnson ’79 was employed by Causeway, June 7, 2002. Causeway provides services that enable older adults and individuals with disabilities to remain in their own homes. Besides program planning and publicity, she will arrange matches between volunteers and people whose needs may include respite care, visits, errands, chores, and transportation.

Karen (Richardson) Miller ’79 received the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Wisconsin Society of Healthcare Education and Training, November 2001.

1980
Patricia Bruger ’81 received a Nurse Mentor award at the 11th annual Nursing Student Recognition Day April 25, 2002 at Viterbo University.

Tammi Miller-Solomon ’82 was promoted to a Program Manager position for diagnostic systems development at Abbott Diagnostics.

Anthony Stokman ’83 received a Nurse Mentor award at the 11th annual Nursing Student Recognition Day April 25, 2002 at Viterbo University.

Kay (Wittershaus) Zibrowski ’85 received a Nurse Mentor award at the 11th annual Nursing Student Recognition Day April 25, 2002 at Viterbo University.


Cindy (Przybilla) ’88 and Michael Meyer celebrated the birth of twin daughters, Ariel Jo and Alexandra Rose, March 13, 2002. Cindy is employed as a nurse clinician for Interventional Neuro-Radiology Group of Minneapolis.
Kristine and Barry Valk ’88 celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob Christopher, March 29, 2002. He joins his siblings, Celess, Sean, and Justin, at home.

Mark Frank ’89 became a published playwright in March 2002. Barnes and Noble’s Writers Club Press published his book, *A Collection Of Plays by Mark Frank*. The collection of six plays was produced at Coffeyville Community College. He has also had his plays produced at Pace University in New York, Colorado State University, and Independence Community College. His plays are also being made into films by two University of Kansas students and entered into the Cannes Film Festival in April 2003. Mark is working on his second book of plays due out in 2005.

Jacqueline (Monroe) Fredrickson ’89 was awarded the Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers for 2002. A former fourth grade student of hers, who is now a freshman at UW-Madison, nominated her.

Andrea Philhower ’89 has accepted a position as an attorney with the litigation department of Williams, Kastner, & Gibbs in Seattle. She defends health care professionals and institutions against malpractice claims. She maintains her nursing practice by continuing to work on an on-call basis for the Medical/Surgical unit at Tacoma General Hospital.

LoAnn (Stinson) DeBoer ’89 graduated from the College of St. Catherine-Saint Paul with a Master of Arts in Nursing degree specializing in the Neo Natal Nurse Practitioner option.

1990

Marci Lau ’90 married Curtis DeBoer July 6, 2002.

Brenda Valadez ’91 married Bill Franken April 27 2002.

Cristina Barros married Martin Welles ’91 Dec. 29, 2001 at St. Paul’s Catholic Church near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A separate ceremony in Washington, DC was held earlier in the year. Martin is employed by the United States Postal Service, Office of General Counsel, in Washington, DC as a Labor and Employment Attorney. Cristina is employed by the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, DC. They live in Washington, DC. After graduating from Viterbo, Martin received a Master of Arts degree in Communications in 1994 and a JD in 1998 from Loyola University in New Orleans.

David Young ’91 received a Ph.D. from the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at Yale University spring 2002. He has accepted a Post-Doctoral position in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the Harvard Medical School.

Brian Freisinger ’92 taught a visual effects class in Belfast, Ireland, December 2001.

Susan (Briggs) Knorr ’93 received a Nurse Mentor award at the 11th annual Nursing Student Recognition Day April 25, 2002 at Viterbo University.

Johanna (Sanders) Deffenderfer ’93 recently received case manager certification through Canyon College and The American Academy of Case Management. She and her husband, Michael, live in Evansville.

Cindy (Soller) ’93 and Cory Kleman ’93 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Marissa, Oct. 17, 2001. She joins her siblings, Jordyn, 4, and Adam, 12, at home.

Kimberly (Sloane) Adams ’95 was named one of the Top 40 Business People Under 40 in the Metro Las Vegas area. She is a Family Practice Physician at Rainbow Medical Center. Kimberly emphasizes patient education and leads a monthly education program covering topics such as heart disease, glaucoma, diabetes, and menopause at the Sun City Senior Center in
Summerlin, Nev. as well as offering free blood-pressure screenings for seniors. Kimberly is the author and co-author of articles that focus on women’s health and infertility.

**Bridget (Bartels) Schmidt ’95** was recently promoted to Clinical Services Supervisor for Dean Health System in Madison. She oversees clinical operations for two Dean clinics in Oregon and Waunakee, along with the family practice department.

**Diane Datka ’95** was chosen Middle School Teacher of the Year in Janesville.


**Karin Maresh ’95** married Michael Silva July 13, 2002.

**Jenna Robeck ’95** married Jason Miller Oct. 23, 1999. They celebrated the birth of a daughter, Cambrie Rosemarie, March 14, 2000. Jenna received her Associate Degree in Nursing from WWTC in 1996, and is employed by Bethany St. Joseph Care Center, La Crosse.

**Jolene Schuh ’95** married Scott Branch May 4, 2002.

**Valerie Kokott-Rebhahn ’96** received a Master of Arts in Counseling and Psychological Services degree Jan. 26, 2002 from St. Mary’s University, Winona. She was hired as a therapist in the residential unit at the Family and Children’s Center, La Crosse, March 11, 2002.

**Rob Anderson ’96** was named the winner of the David and Sis Hogue College Student Development Administration Scholarship Award through the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation. This scholarship is given to a graduate student in the College Student Development Administration program who shows great promise in the field of student affairs. Rob received the award in April. He also participated in the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Regional Conference April 12-14 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Rob was involved in the planning of the regional conference over the past 18 months and served as chair for the Programming Committee. In light of his achievements, he was asked to fill two important positions within the association. Rob will be a member of the conference planning committee for the National NODA Conference to be held in November 2004 in Chicago. Rob has also been asked by the executive board to serve as chair of the LGBT and Allies Network on the national level and will be a key player in implementing more diversity programming into the national and regional conferences.

**Jane (Potaczek) ’96** and Lucas Brunner celebrated the birth of a son, Brody William, March 27, 2002.

**Francesca Von Arx ’97** married David Ortmeier May 13, 2002.

**Marilyn (Hart) ’97** and Brendt King celebrated the birth of a daughter, Allison Kay, May 15, 2002. She joins her sister, Megan, 2, at home.

**Rebecca Rudolph ’97** completed a Master of Science in Community Counseling degree from Winona State University May 2002. She is currently employed as a chemical dependency counselor and a recovery support specialist for Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center, Winona.

**Angela (Timm) ’97** and James Gulrud celebrated the birth of a child, May 2002.

**Matt Boehler ’98** is one of three district winners in the Metropolitan Opera auditions. On Feb. 2, 2002, he competed in the regional competition. He made his debut as “Colline” in La Boheme with the Minnesota Opera at Ordway, March 3, 2002.

**Marirose Lucey ’98** was recognized by the Wisconsin Reading Association as an Outstanding Administrator in 2002. The award is given to administrators who promote reading as a priority. She received a Master’s in Education degree with a reading specialist emphasis in July of 1998. She is currently the principal of Cooper Elementary School in Sheboygan.

Arbender “Dell” Robinson '98 is a freelance studio vocalist and a contract vocalist with the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando as a member of the world-renowned Voices of Liberty for 2 years. Before that, he did regional theatre and tours all over the US and Europe. He will be in the revival of Smokey Joe’s Cafe this summer, reviving the role of “Victor Trent Cook” in Virginia and will return to Orlando as a vocalist in the fall. He is also in production of his own album, His Unconditional Love. He lives in Orlando.

Carrie Weber '98 married Wayne Koenig. They live in Madison.


Erin Urbanek '99 received a master’s degree in social work from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, May 2002. She lives in Coon Valley.

2000

Ann Marie Franz '01 married Alf-Harlad Dahl June 9, 2001. She is currently enrolled at Palmer College of Chiropractic in their Chiropractic DC program.


Tami Sullivan '01 and Ryan Sullivan celebrated the birth of a daughter, Noelle Grace, August 2001.

Sara DeGier '02 married Anthony DePaolo '00 May 11, 2002.

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.

Nick Schmitz, March 24, 2002, brother of Catherine Schmitz, FSPA '49.

Fred Stork, March 17, 2002, brother of Mary Myron Stork, FSPA '50.


Betty McCracken, March 17, 2002, sister of Norine Wachtl, FSPA '52.


Vera Marie Andrle, FSPA '56, March 9, 2002.


Blanche La Tendresse, March 19, 2002, mother of Sherry La Tendresse '58.

Fr. Benedict Adams, April 15, 2002, brother of Cordelle Adams, FSPA '60.

Helen Fleming, March 29, 2002, aunt of Theresa (Boland) Levi '62 and Helen (Boland) Melde '96.


Marjorie (Eichman) Tessler '66, April 26, 2002.


Mark Kelsey, March 5, 2002, father of Mary (Kelsey) Hayden '72.


Leonard Bahl, Sr., May 6, 2002, father of Rose (Bahl) Peterson '77.
Arlene Carlson, April 18, 2002, mother of Ronni Lynn Boe ’89.
Donald Althof, March 21, 2002, father of Jody Althof ’94.
Donald Remus, May 20, 2002, father of Brenda Remus ’98.
Ronald O. Hanson, April 25, 2002, father of David E. Hanson ’02.

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

1946
Verona Goetzinger
1949
Martha (McClellan) Nickols
1962
Kathleen Busch
1964
Antonia (Mafnas) Guerrero
Janet L. (Vitcenda) Hose
1965
Martha Dalle
Mary L. Munroe
Dora (Barchinas) Salasyar
Diane (Hall) Walker
1966
Roslyn Job
Jeanette Johnson
Arlene Ostendorf
Lois (Willits) Schuster
1967
Carol G. Adams
Mary D. Foley
Rosemarie Jaekel (Sr. Ada Mae Jordan)
1968
Eleanor T. (Artero) Walters
1969
Clare F. (Linzmeier) Hanson
Virginia Lease
Esther (Gil) Loiselle
1970
Mary M. (Latendresse) Dulahey
Barbara J. Hebert
Stephanie L. (Wesley) Lewis
1971
Annamae Borja
1973
Margaret Chow
Margaret A. Johnson
Ann M. (Johnson) Owie
1974
Deborah L. (Poulton) Arneson
1975
Carol R. Aalpoel
Clifford Price
1976
Fatemah T. Dehnoo
1977
Ana E. Marin
Susan J. (Craig) Owens
1978
Barbara Ford
1980
Francis S. Fong
Mary L. Norales
1981
Connie R. Anderson
Beth A. (Foley) Lohmeyer
1983
Gary Callahan
Deborah M. Schmitt
1985
Denise A. (Bjorge) Anson
1998
Laura Philips
NON-GRADUATING ALUMS
Cecilia (Leung) Adrian
Lorenda Biesen
Cecilia Bustamante
Linda Cadotte
Emily G. Clark
Gregory F. Conrad
Anna M. Cupello
Mary K. (Hottell) Devoult
Phyllis (Dunne) Driscoll
Judiann Duncan
Elizabeth (Weigel) Dwyer
Kathleen (White) Halverson
William D. Harrison
Carole (Allen) Hartman
Ingrid Homstad
Gail Hupfauer
A FINAL WORD

Going for the Gold: My 2001-02 Olympic Sabbatical
by Silvana Richardson, dean of the Viterbo University School of Nursing.

I have always had a special place in my heart for the Winter Olympics. I remember clearly the mural my fourth grade class created with scenes of skaters, skiers, and flags from around the world. At the time, I thought, “Maybe one day I’ll participate in some way.” Although, I knew even then that it would probably never be as an elite athlete.

My husband had a similar dream, and over the years, we watched many Olympics on television together. When it was announced that Salt Lake City would host the XIX Winter Games, we decided we would get involved. He had trained and officiated at the Utah Olympic Winter Park in the sport of luge for a couple of years already, so we were somewhat familiar with the area.

My husband, Robert, began knocking on doors in 1995 and volunteered to help the newly selected manager for curling learn about the sport. She was a national champion in gymnastics but had never seen nor participated in curling. As a result, Robert and I both helped with curling clinics held in Utah to create an interest in the sport, and we were part of the charter group of the Ogden Curling Club. Ogden is where the Olympic curling venue for 2002 was situated.

I volunteered to help with medical services for the 2000 U.S. National Curling Championships in Ogden. I enjoyed explaining the game to the physicians, nurses, and athletic trainers from the Intermountain Health Care System since none had ever heard about curling, much less been out on the ice. Most of those same people volunteered for the 2001 Junior World Curling Championships and had grown to be avid curling fans. They began to appreciate the finesse and strategy of the game; many had gotten out onto the ice themselves and played the game. As a medical team, we simulated a number of emergency medical scenarios including evacuation of victims from the site of a disaster.

We also planned what equipment and supplies would be needed for care of athletes and spectators.

In 2000, I applied, through the Salt Lake 2002 Web site, to become a volunteer. The process included a self-assessment of my nursing skills. A medical credentialing committee checked my licensure as a registered nurse and contacted my employer as a reference. All volunteers also had to pass a criminal background check and complete a personal interview, which I did over the telephone in spring 2001. I feel fortunate to have been selected as one of 230 nurses who worked for the Games, since over 13,000 nurses applied for positions. I requested and
was assigned to work at the Ice Sheet in Ogden, the site of the curling competitions. My teammates were the same professionals with whom I worked the last several years at the trial events.

Volunteer training occurred during the summer and fall. In three general sessions, volunteers became familiar with various aspects of Olympic events and venues. We were expected to answer questions any visitor might have and to be aware of the resources available for Olympic visitors. The sessions also provided the motivation to keep volunteers interested as the Games approached and people waited to hear what their assignments might be—everything from shoveling snow, inspecting bags, serving food, to checking inventory. The most inspiring session I attended was on Sept. 15, 2001. Many wondered if any volunteers would show after the frightening events of that week, but over 2,500 were present as Mitt Romney, head of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, spoke of his resolve to execute the “best and safest” games ever. I have never heard the song “God Bless America” sung with more spirit!

During a session for “job specific training,” our individual roles and responsibilities were described. As a medical volunteer, I participated in tabletop scenarios of medical issues and emergency situations that might arise. During the final training in January, just a week before the Olympic Winter Games started, the medical team offered free flu shots to all the volunteers and participated in orientation to the curling venue. It was exciting to see the changes that occurred, which gave the area the “Olympic look.”

During the curling competitions in Ogden, there were 11 doctors, nine athletic trainers, five nurses, and 13 mobile first-aides on the team. We rotated shifts from 6 a.m. to midnight during the 14 days of the games. We had two clinics on site—one inside the facility for athletes and one in a trailer adjacent to the spectator entrance for staff, volunteers, and spectators. There was an ambulance ready to transport critical cases to the nearby medical center. Fire and EMS personnel were also on hand to assist as needed. I worked as the triage and clinic nurse in the spectator medical area. This was an ambulatory care clinic supplied with over-the-counter drugs for colds and headaches, splints to stabilize fractures, as well as oxygen, drugs, and an automated defibrillator for emergency treatment.

The most prevalent medical issues we treated were upper respiratory illnesses and injuries occurring with the volunteers and venue staff. The cold weather and altitude affected a good number of the volunteers who came to Utah from the southern states. Headache and fatigue were common symptoms. Only a small number of people needed transport to a hospital from this venue.

Although I will remember many things about this Olympic experience, the positive spirit and pride of the people of Utah and other Americans who hosted the world during these days was inspiring. I was amazed at the degree of detail needed to organize and plan such a massive event and by the dedication of so many people who willingly shared their time and talents to achieve a focused mission. I talked with a 10-year-old girl who skated in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and as a “flower sweep” at the ice-skating competitions. She was thrilled to be able to skate on the same ice as Scott Hamilton, Kristi Yamaguchi, and Sarah Hughes. She spoke of rehearsing for four months prior to the events—with her mother driving 120 miles daily for her to do so. All of the volunteers were cheerful and genuinely interested in providing hospitality to visitors and each other. Even those who had been naysayers somehow caught the Olympic spirit once downtown Salt Lake City and the surrounding valley were filled with visitors.
The Olympics are not only about athletic events but also include art and cultural activities. The Opening and Closing Ceremonies alone were beautifully choreographed displays of visual art, music, history, dance, and culture. We also attended other art exhibits, photo displays, concerts, and dance performances as part of the Cultural Olympiad.

It was wonderful to experience not only national pride among the spectators but also an appreciation of long-term dedication, discipline, and achievement. National flags were waved at all of the sporting events, but spectators also applauded excellence in performance by all athletes. How could one not stand during the ovation for the Canadian pair skaters or the American women bobsledders?

The Olympic Winter Games were followed by the Paralympic Games, which are for athletes with physical disabilities. These were started by a physician working with WWII disabled veterans as part of their physical rehabilitation process. We attended the alpine skiing, sledge hockey, and cross-country relay events, which were held at the same venues as the Olympic competitions. I marveled at the extreme dedication these athletes have to their sport development. Blind skiers flew down the course for the Super G behind sighted ski guides. They communicated via radio as both skied the course. Others skied with one leg or on sled skis using the physical power of their arms to propel them across the Nordic cross-country course. The integration of “body, mind, spirit” was exemplified in these games and was an awesome reminder for me of the power of the human spirit. Through physical effort, positive attitudes, and focused intention, these athletes optimized their abilities and surpassed what others might have considered limitations.

In addition to this Olympic experience, I was a visiting scholar at the University of Utah. In the fall, I studied descriptive and qualitative research methods with Mary Duffy, a professor at the College of Nursing. During spring semester, I completed a national survey of nursing programs regarding the inclusion of complementary health practices within baccalaureate curricula. Results were presented at a seminar in the College of Nursing and have been submitted for journal publication. I also learned more about a number of healing practices including traditional Chinese medicine, Reiki, Qi Gong, and Healing Touch and how these modalities are becoming integrated into health care systems across the country. I am now sharing this learning with my Viterbo colleagues.

My last academic course of study with the Intermountain Academy in Higher Education Leadership continues. This class has offered new perspectives on current issues facing leaders in today’s changing higher education environment. Our cohort is exploring budget and finance, information technology, strategic planning, team building, and managing change. The case studies we tackle are familiar challenges that we face daily be it in Utah or Wisconsin.