Telling Times: Read All About It

*Touchstone, Lumen, Imprints.* If you attended Viterbo any time during the past half-century, you’ll recognize the names of at least one of these student-produced publications. Each has enjoyed a longstanding tradition of offering students a regular diet of news, opinion, homespun art, prose, and poetry while, at the same time, chronicling a permanent record of the life and times of Viterbo University and its people.

Gone from the scene is *Imprints*, the college yearbook. Started in 1970 (as *Cameo*), *Imprints* ceased publication in 1992 due to cost overruns and competition with other technology such as video. No other independent Wisconsin college or university currently produces a yearbook.

“*Touchstone* came first,” recalled Celestine Cepress, FSPA, founder of *Lumen* and *Touchstone*, who, at age 98, is now living at Villa-St. Joseph, the FSPA retirement home. “Some of the girls said, ‘Let’s have a magazine,’ and this was a group that meant what they said. I suggested the name Troubadour, but they didn’t know enough about St. Francis to like that.”

There were 15 other choices and they eventually settled on *Touchstone*, inspired by a passage from Shakespeare (from *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*: “Holding out gold that’s by the touchstone tried.”). In explaining the choice to readers in the inaugural spring, 1949 issue, the staff wrote: “... the magazine is representative of the college and should serve as a standard, a criterion, a touchstone by which the public may judge the institution and its student body ... It is our hope that the readers of *Touchstone* will be stimulated by it, finding, perhaps, some article that will prove a flint upon which to try the gold of their own thoughts.”

At 46 pages, the first issue, edited by Bernardine Kavanaugh and Bernyne Stark, FSPA contained essays, poetry, an original musical score, four art sketches, and several book reviews. For the next 28 years, *Touchstone* would, for the most part appear biannually, typically in fall and spring. In 1997, the editors of *Touchstone* doubled its size, agreeing to publish just once annually.

The quality and number of art submissions continued to grow, thanks to printing improvements and the addition of four color. Originally, only Viterbo art and writing was included--later *Touchstone* expanded its horizon and began accepting work from outside the college, often from national sources. That decision has since been reversed and the magazine is once again, 100 percent “Viterbo original.”
Critics apparently like the results. The American Scholastic Press Association reviewed the 2002 issue of the magazine and awarded it the highest honor: first place for colleges and universities with an enrollment of 1,701-2,500. (Back in 1954, Touchstone was awarded a Magazine of Distinction by the National Catholic Press Association—with 955 out of a possible 1,000 points.)

Five years after the start of Touchstone, Sr. Cepress and her students were clamoring again for more opportunities for self-expression. “There was a bunch of girls that were so lively. They said, ‘La Crosse State (now UW-L) has a newspaper. Let’s have a really good one!’,” Sr. Cepress recalled. “We wrote around and got ads, and that’s how we financed it.” Again, Sr. Cepress would lose the battle over the name of this new publication. “I wanted just plain ‘News’ but we had a Latin major and she said, ‘Let’s call it Lumen because that means light and we want to shed light.’ I lost both times.”

Lumen debuted in 1954 with an issue that, to this day, evokes strong memories for the first editor, Ione (Derner) Schloegel ’57. The date was Oct. 8.

“It’s only been recently that I have discussed with friends, how sometimes in our lives, we are totally overcome with emotion and we will burst into tears for no apparent reason. That happened to me at the convocation at which the first Lumen was introduced. It was one of the first times I have ever cried in public,” Schloegel said.

In the first editorial to appear in the Lumen, Schloegel reflected the pride of her 30-person staff, writing, “In the annals of Viterbo, 1954 should always be considered a memorable year, for in October of that year, Lumen arrived.

“Lumen sounds funny doesn’t it? I don’t think so. The name means light. Have you ever stopped to realize what a vital role light plays in your life? ... Lumen should bring a new life to Viterbo--a life of increased action and interest in activities at Viterbo through the publicity they receive.”

Almost as if to anticipate that “enlightenment” could at times mean taking unpopular positions or writing about controversial subjects, Schloegel promised that at the end of the day, “The policy of our paper will always be a charitable one.”

And, from those early years, the publications of Viterbo blossomed. Not always without controversy, conflict, or the stress that goes hand-in-hand with publication deadlines.

“We did really well with what we had,” Sr. Cepress said. “I only had one semester of journalism. After a time, Sr. Rita Rathburn took over Touchstone and did an excellent job as advisor. The Lumen? I had that for a long time and we were blessed with wonderful editors. David Stoeffler, who is now publisher of a large daily, was really good. So were Ray Mallarkey and many, many others.”

“Now they have Dr. Lyon Evans from the English department and he has been the advisor for a long time. He’s a journalist and it’s doing very well,” she said. Renee Arndt is the current editor of the Lumen, and she enjoys the newest technology that allows her to file stories electronically and to lay out the newspaper using state-of-the-art
desktop publishing software. Nothing left to do but push the right buttons to produce the paper, right? Hardly.

The job of editor remains one of great responsibility, requiring an enormous amount of work, Arndt said. “I enjoy the job as editor but it’s a lot of work dealing with constant deadlines. You definitely can’t procrastinate. I guess I’m at the top so if somebody doesn’t do the assignment, it’s one more thing I have to do.”

Arndt indicates that editors should possess a “thick skin” and the confidence necessary to handle criticism and move on, because “criticism is just part of the work. I don’t expect people to always agree with me. I don’t want to anger people, but I do believe my mission is to get a response from readers.”

Lumen and Touchstone continue to evoke memories long after editors have left Viterbo. The Viterbo archives are quiet, but the atmosphere changes when the bound Lumen volumes and Touchstone files are opened, revealing the energy of days gone by. Much like any intensive experience that throws a group of people together for a common purpose, the editors, writers, and artists remain very much a team, if only in spirit, as Dr. Dean Yohnk, now on faculty at UW-Parkside recalls from his publication days.

“We truly had great times together creating a product and process that was collaborative and stimulating,” he said recalling his role—that of a writer and editor, part of a group that has faithfully told the Viterbo story for nearly a half century.

By Pat Kerrigan
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An Alum and Employee?
Why Not? Say Many Viterbo Graduates

All students make a financial investment in their college education. For some, the commitment goes beyond money and graduation day. At Viterbo, 54 graduates have returned to their alma mater where they are invested as alumni as well as university employees. The reasons why this group has chosen the dual role of alumni-employees vary considerably. Just ask them.

Assistant Athletics Director Wayne Wagner ’92, who is also the men’s basketball coach, took a job with Viterbo “because I felt very good about the people that are associated with the university.”

Georgia Christensen ’71, a Franciscan sister, returned to Viterbo under different circumstances, taking a route familiar to many religious. “I am a FSPA and this is our institution. I was asked by my community and the university.”

Many of the sisters spent much of their working lives at Viterbo, serving the very same institution that conferred their degrees. Today, Viterbo’s employee base is made up of the laity, but adherence to the Franciscan mission and guiding principles remains strong.
For Sr. Christensen, the return to Viterbo took a while. She accepted the position of director of institutional research and assessment many years after receiving her undergraduate diploma from Viterbo, and she identifies “getting reacquainted after a 30-year absence” as quite a challenge.

A classmate, Teri Kunavich ’71, credits her “back to Viterbo” journey to the persistence and tenacity of the late Grace Clare Beznouz, FSPA, the founder of the nursing program. “She kept asking me to come back, so in 1979 I did,” said Kunavich who has been at the university ever since.

Rob Anderson ’96 represents one of the newer returnees. His major was music, but at Viterbo, he puts his skills to work in residence life as an area coordinator in Marian Hall.

For Anderson, a stint at Viterbo seems very natural. “I always knew I would return here to work at some point in my life. It was like a second family to me. It is quite strange how I fell upon the ad in the paper for the position in residential life. I happened to be by a paper one Sunday, and there was the ad. The rest is history,” he said.

And, then, there is the newest of the new, representing another variation of alumni-employee status. Linda Whitehead ’03, an administrative assistant in physical plant, is representative of employees who were hired and then have chosen to earn a Viterbo degree while working. Despite the challenges in balancing job and school, Whitehead feels the effort has paid off.

“There was no way I could pass up an opportunity like this to better myself,” Whitehead, a management major said.

As Viterbo grows in size, adding programs and employees, the stories and connections university alumni-employees bring to the job is invaluable, said Viterbo president William Medland. “These employees have graduated from Viterbo and have chosen to either remain here or return to the university after being elsewhere. Their status as employees and alumni is very special and valuable to Viterbo,” he said. “These are people who have come full circle and, I believe, many of us are inspired by this commitment.”

ON CAMPUS

Three Honored with Pope John XXIII Award

Elmer Grassman, a retired educator, now recognized for his contributions to the Rotary Lights project; Sue Anne Gelatt, an active community volunteer; and Tony Melendez, a renowned musician, received the 2003 Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service in a ceremony at Viterbo University in April.

Recipients are selected by the Viterbo Board of Advisors, and the award represents the highest non-academic honor conferred by the university.

Elmer Grassman is a very familiar face to the many professional educators and students of the La Crosse area as he spent more than 40 years as a teacher and principal before retiring in 1988. He was the first principal assigned to Hintgen Elementary School, a position he held for
20 years. In 1975, his colleagues named him area Principal of the Year. Elsewhere, Grassman has been active and visible. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Downtown Rotary and, in 2000, he was designated the Maple Leaf Parade Marshall. He currently puts an enormous amount of time into the Rotary Lights project, spending hours each day checking and repairing the tens of thousands of lights that make up the Riverside Park holiday display.

Sue Anne Gelatt is well known for her commitment to many La Crosse-area organizations. Her involvement includes working with the La Crosse Public Library, Chileda, the Boy Scout and Girl Scout joint fundraising campaign, the La Crosse Symphony, St. Joseph Cathedral, Riverfront, and Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center. She has served as past president of the La Crosse County Historical Society and, with her husband, is co-chair of the Gundersen-Lutheran, “A Home for Hope” campaign.

Tony Melendez, a musician currently performing in Branson, Mo., became an instant household name as the result of an event that occurred more than a decade ago. It was an unforgettable moment when, on Sept. 15, 1987, he played his guitar for Pope John Paul II in Los Angeles. Born without arms, he performed a touching song entitled “Never Be the Same.” When the Pope approached him from the stage to kiss him in appreciation, it seemed to reflect the sentiments of the entire country.

Since then, Melendez has performed in every state in the union and in 27 foreign countries, making countless television appearances, including The Today Show, Good Morning America, and CBS This Morning. He has also received numerous awards and honors, including the first annual Inspirational Hero Award from the NFL Alumni Association at Super Bowl XXIII in Miami.

Melendez and his band currently have a show in Branson, and when on the road, he is often invited to visit schools, colleges, and universities to give presentations on drug abuse, the importance of self esteem, disability awareness, cultural awareness, and family support.

First Online Program Now Available

In January, Viterbo University launched its first program offered exclusively online. Called the Leadership Program, the course of study, which will lead to a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, is targeted to adults who have earned an associate degree in marketing, accounting, supervisory management, or other business areas.

The program is available to online learners from throughout Wisconsin who have access to a computer and an Internet connection.

Because of the Leadership Program’s unique value to students with associate degrees, Viterbo is in the process of signing articulation agreements with Wisconsin’s 16 technical colleges. Two institutions, including Western Wisconsin Technical College, have already signed formal accords, and at least six other schools are expected to shortly follow suit.

In the past, Viterbo has offered several “blended” courses that provide for a combination of classroom and online learning. The Leadership Program will be the university’s first foray into an exclusive online format. “We are very excited to offer this 100 percent online program,” said Darcie Brezany, outreach coordinator for the Extended Learning Program. “Online programs really work for adults who are organized and motivated. Viterbo continues to offer
an array of campus-based programs, but with the changes that are occurring in education and technology, it’s important to have online opportunities available to those who prefer that learning style.”
Each online course is offered in seven-week blocks. Additional information is available on our web page under the category of Adult Learning or by email at online@viterbo.edu.

Viterbo Community Works for Peace

In these uncertain times, only one thing is certain: People are hungry for peace. The Viterbo community is no exception. Several events last semester focused on the need for exploring peace in our times.

**Peace Prayers:** The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration led a peace vigil for the Viterbo and La Crosse communities in January. More than 100 people attended the evening vigil, located at the Dancing Francis statue on the Viterbo campus, to pray for peace.

**Talk:** "Waging Peace in our Times" was the topic of an evening of reflection and song held for students and members of the community Feb. 27 in San Damiano Chapel. Over 100 attended the event led by Tom Thibodeau and Earl Madary, both of the religious studies department.

**The Lysistrata Project:** The Viterbo University Student Theatre Board joined in a global effort to protest war as they presented a staged reading of *Lysistrata*, a comedy by Aristophanes, that examines the lives of women from opposing states who join together to stop a war by refusing to sleep with their husbands until the war has ended. The Viterbo reading of *Lysistrata* is one of five done in Wisconsin and one of more than 250 done in the world on March 3 as part of The *Lysistrata* Project. The *Lysistrata* Project was organized by Theatres Against War, an organization devoted to the mission of creating original theatre that advances the craft and creative methodologies of the theatre artist while contributing to the development of contemporary experimental theatre in North America. Freewill offerings accepted at the door were donated to Doctors without Borders, an international volunteer organization of doctors who travel the globe providing medical assistance to countries in need. For information on The *Lysistrata* Project visit [www.lysistrata-project.org](http://www.lysistrata-project.org).

Students Honored at Theatre Festival

Viterbo theatre faculty and students spent six days in Evansville, Ind. in early January participating in the regional competition of the American College Theatre Festival. Students who competed in various areas of theatre made a strong showing among other colleges in the region.

Senior Jeramy Felch of Porterfield advanced to the semifinals for the Irene Ryan Acting Competition -- finishing in the top 40 out of more than 420 participants.

Senior Amandah Macleish of Merrimac and junior Adam Erdmann of Evansville were both finalists for the directing and stage-management categories, respectively, in the 10-minute, one-act festival.

Junior Jennifer Spridco of De Forest advanced to the finals for her unrealized costume design work for *A Little Night Music*. 
Recent graduate Dan Nord of White Bear Lake, Minn. twice performed his production of *King Me* with cast members Jeramy Felch and senior David Adamick of Lakeville, Ill. The play and production were highly praised by judges from New York University and the University of Kansas.

The annual festival is a regional competition involving 2,000 graduate and undergraduate participants from Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. The aims of the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival are to identify and promote quality in college-level theatre productions.

**Prep School Welcomes Liberace Scholar to Staff**

The Viterbo Preparatory School of Arts has added a new voice instructor to its faculty -- Suzanne Flater.

Flater, a current student at Viterbo University, was named a Liberace scholar during the 2002-03 academic year. Funded by 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. A competitor at the National Association of Teachers of Singing auditions, Flater was also awarded First Place in her divisions both in 1999 and in 2000. At the prestigious 2002 Schubert Club Auditions in St. Paul, she received a Second Place award in her division.

She has performed featured solo work in Handel’s *Messiah*, Vaughn Williams’ *Hodie*, and Bach’s *Magnificat*. She also holds a great passion for theatre and opera. Her roles have included “Dorabella” in Mozart’s *Cosi fan Tutte*, “Little Red Riding Hood” in Sondheim’s *Into the Woods*, and most recently “Rosalinda” in Viterbo’s production of *Die Fledermaus* by Strauss.

She is currently completing a degree in vocal performance at Viterbo University.

**Students Flock to the HERD!**

So, what’s this “Bird Herd” thing all about anyway? There seems to be a “buzz” around campus. Attend a V-Hawk athletics event, and you’ll be sure to find out.

During winter, the Birds keep warm by residing in the northwest corner of the R.W. Beggs, Sr. Gymnasium -- otherwise referred to by the students as “The Nest” or the “Bird Cage.” During the fall and spring, the Birds spread their wings and soar to the great outdoors. They can be seen at the V-Hawk Athletics Complex perching over a baseball, softball, or soccer game. Whatever the season, whatever the reason, the Bird Herd is catching on. The Birds are easy to recognize. They can often be spotted cheering enthusiastically, shaking their noisemakers, or waving pompons at the games. And, yes, of course, wearing their official Bird Herd T-shirts.

Herd memberships sell for just $8. Membership includes an official Bird Herd t-shirt and a ticket for a free item in the concession stand for every V-Hawk game the student attends wearing his or her shirt.
Visiting Japanese Group Brushes up on Wellness

Learning about nursing education and health care in the U.S. was the goal of a group of 10 nursing students and two nursing faculty from Japan that visited Viterbo University in February. From Kagoshima Immaculate Heart University in Sendai, the group toured health care facilities and other sites where Viterbo nursing students have clinicals; they shadowed Viterbo students at those sites, and observed nursing classes with the assistance of an interpreter. While here, the group also observed and participated in a Viterbo-sponsored Senior Wellness Program, a free program designed to help older adults engage in activities that positively affect their health, well being, fitness, and health knowledge. Above, the Japanese students and faculty participate in a Tai Chi Chih session led by Marian Massman, FSPA.

Ethics Institute Keeping Busy

The D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership continued its mission of promoting the values of ethics in leadership with its series of lectures and conferences. In addition to sponsoring Jane Kirtley’s talk on “Media in the First Amendment,” part of the annual Humanities Symposium in February, the Ethics Institute featured:

Gregory Paul Wegner: Using propaganda images from Nazi school curriculum and extensive research, local expert Gregory Wegner offered insight into the significance of that chapter in the history of education during an ethics talk at Viterbo in March. Wegner, a professor and administrator at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, is the author of the recent book Anti-Semitism and Schooling under the Third Reich. He received his bachelor’s degree in broad field social studies in secondary education from UW-La Crosse in 1971. In 1975, he graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a master’s degree in modern European history. In 1988, he received his doctorate in curriculum and instruction from UW-Madison. In addition to authoring a number of research articles, Wegner has taught on several occasions in Germany and Poland. And, in 1976, he had the opportunity to interview Albert Speer, Hitler’s former architect and armaments minister at Heidelberg, Germany.

2003 Ethics Across the Disciplines Conference: In April, “Service: Being with/Doing for” was the topic of the annual ethics conference. Notre Dame University theology professor Rev. Michael Baxter inaugurated the conference with his talk “Present Your Bodies as a Living Sacrifice: A Theology for Those Doing More than ‘a Year of Service.’” Working from Paul’s Letter to the Romans, Baxter offered a theology of service based on an integrated concept of justice and love. In addition to Baxter, Viterbo speakers and scholars from throughout the nation talked with Viterbo students, faculty, staff, and other members of the La Crosse community during the conference about traditional, ethical values and practices that are fundamental to the Franciscan and Catholic heritage of Viterbo.

For more information on Ethics Institute events, explore www.viterbo.edu/Institute/.

Hot Topic, “Media,” was Focus of Symposium

Drawing 250-500 people per keynote session, this year’s Humanities Symposium at Viterbo University was a resounding success. National and local journalists, media critics, and media ethicists gathered on campus Feb. 3-6 to talk about the hot topic “Through the Looking Glass: Media, Perception, & Reality,” offering insight into the many issues facing media and communities. In addition to talks by Viterbo professors, a community panel of local
journalists, and a Media Literacy workshop, the event was peppered with several keynote speakers. They were:

- Mark Crispin Miller, a professor of media ecology and director of the project on Media Ownership at New York University as well as the author of *The Bush Dyslexicon*, who took an in-depth look at U.S. media and how it gathers, shapes, and delivers its message to the public -- both before and after 9-11. Miller has been featured on dozens of radio and television programs worldwide, including: BBC, National Public Radio, and Fox TV’s *The O’Reilly Factor*.

- Keith Murphy, a radio broadcaster for WMCS-AM in Milwaukee with 17 years of media experience, who discussed “Black Media: The Same Facts, a Different Reality.” Murphy’s talk explored the difference between “black” media and “white” media, using examples, such as the 2002 beating death of a black man by black teens in Milwaukee.

- Jennifer Pozner, a journalist and media critic who founded Women in Media and News, exposed how media conglomerates serve corporate agendas, reinforce stereotypes, and limit political debate about women’s and human rights issues.

- Jane Kirtley, director of the Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics, discussed “Media and the First Amendment.” Kirtley explored what freedom of the press means in the U.S. and abroad and addressed the roles and responsibilities of the U.S. media in keeping citizens informed.

The symposium was supported by grants from the Wisconsin Humanities Council and the Denzer Memorial Endowment Funds. For more information, visit the Humanities Symposium Web site at [http://www.viterbo.edu/academic/ug/sls/symposium/](http://www.viterbo.edu/academic/ug/sls/symposium/).

**Brown Bag Series Featured Political Veteran**

Do we expect the conduct of politicians to adhere to stricter ethical standards than people do in business and other professions? Do we have different ethical expectations for politics than we do for government? Former legislator Brian Rude, an individual who speaks from experience both inside and outside government circles, shared his perspective during a February talk, “Ethical Leadership in Politics and Government.”

Rude, now director of external relations at Dairyland Power Cooperative, has logged 17 years of service in the Wisconsin State Legislature, including one term in the State Assembly and four terms in the State Senate. From 1993 to 1996, and again in 1998, Rude served as president of the Wisconsin State Senate.

The lectures are sponsored by the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership and the Dahl School of Business. Randy Smith, CEO of City Brewery; Ed Kondracki, chief of the La Crosse Police Department; and Tom Downs, superintendent of La Crosse Public Schools, have been previous presenters on topics that are intended to accentuate sound and positive business practices.

**V-Hawk Athletics Give Back to the Community**

Viterbo students Carly Chenoweth and Travis Peterson visit with Colleen Loomis (center) during the second annual Christmas with the V-Hawks on Saturday, Dec. 7. Thirty-five Viterbo athletes and five coaches spent the afternoon with 60 kids from grades K5. The children had the opportunity to play basketball, baseball/softball, soccer, color Vic the V-Hawk, and take home a Viterbo athletics t-shirt.
PHILANTHROPY NOTES

Big Day for Scholl Scholar
Erin Benoy, a senior from St. Croix Falls High School is the recent recipient of Viterbo’s most prestigious scholarship. The valedictorian of her class, she was chosen to receive a full tuition scholarship renewable for four years and valued in excess of $60,000. Benoy was on campus Feb. 21 competing with 24 other honor students interested in pursuing science-related careers. After a test, essay, and interview, Benoy, who is interested in studying chemistry, was selected.

Ronald McDonald House Charities to the Rescue
Tony Melendez, a Christian musician who was born without arms, was at Viterbo recently to receive the Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service. His visit did not go unnoticed by a charitable organization that chose to make Melendez and his powerful message available for area children. After receiving the award, Melendez stayed an extra night and he and his band performed a free concert in the Fine Arts Center. Interspersed with music, his message was one of hope, the importance of family, and positive self-esteem. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Wisconsin provided financial support, allowing the concert to be offered without charge. “What a valuable investment in the education of children and a generous contribution to the community,” commented the La Crosse Tribune in lauding the support of the charity for the many events it sponsors for youth.

Dollars for Scholars
The economy may be dwindling, but the need for higher education isn’t. In order to continue making private university education affordable for all students, Viterbo is placing a stronger emphasis on the importance of scholarships.

“Continuing the mission and tradition of providing students with a quality education that prepares them for a life of leadership and service is important. And, one of the best ways to ensure that education is available to all is to make it affordable,” said Gary Klein, vice president of institutional advancement.

Here are just two of the recent efforts to increase scholarship opportunities for Viterbo students:

Dialing for Dollars: Thanks to the generosity of parents who responded to the Viterbo student callers, additional funds have been raised in support of Viterbo University scholarships. To date, parents of Viterbo students have pledged $11,000 in the 2002-03 Parent Phonathon. As part of Viterbo’s general scholarship fund, this money will be used toward the education of Viterbo University students.

New Brochure Highlights Scholarships: Curious about the difference between an annual and endowed scholarship? Ever wonder how much money it takes to establish a scholarship? Want to be able to donate money to an existing scholarship but don’t know how or which ones are available?
You’re not alone if you’re confused. Many people aren’t aware of the many ways they can contribute to the higher education of today’s youth. That’s why Viterbo has created a new scholarship brochure -- to explain the ins and outs of scholarship giving.
It also shows the impact of giving by profiling benefactors like Jim and Cathy Senty, Lindy and the late Jane Saline, and Marv and Annette Friedewald, along with the individual recipients of their endowed scholarships. And, with a complete list of the annual and endowed scholarships currently available at Viterbo, it shows the many opportunities available to Viterbo students. Watch your mailbox for a copy of this brochure or contact institutional advancement at 608-796-3070.

Alumni and Friends Gather in the Citrus State
Viterbo President William J. Medland, left, Beth (Parker) Waldron ’99, center, and her husband Bruce, right, were among members of the Viterbo University and Franciscan Skemp Healthcare communities to attend a Mass and reception at the Florida home of Dr. Donald Comin and Gloria Vallejo-Comin this February. More than 40 people attended the event, which is part of La Crosse Days, an annual gathering of Viterbo friends and alumni from the La Crosse area who are now living or wintering in the Naples area.

Natural Sciences Receives $60,000 Merck Grant
The Viterbo University Natural Sciences Division was one of only 15 programs in the U.S. to receive an Undergraduate Science Research grant this year from Merck and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The $60,000, three-year grant supports programs that foster interaction between biology and chemistry departments and will provide Viterbo University students with greater research opportunities directly on campus.

“This is a really exciting time to be in the sciences at Viterbo. The grant will greatly enhance our science program and strengthen our faculty-directed undergraduate research -- providing more opportunities for student learning and more career opportunities upon graduation,” said Glena Temple, biology, who wrote the grant with visionary support from Mary Hassinger, dean of the School of Letters and Sciences, and involvement of the natural sciences faculty.

Viterbo University has offered strong programs in biology, chemistry, and physics for a number of years, with the chemistry major certified by the American Chemical Society since 1994. However, the traditional lines between the two departments have been disappearing as the science community has realized the best preparation for scientists involves interrelatedness of the fields. In response, Viterbo has developed a plan, which caught the attention of AAAS and Merck, to bridge the gap between biology, chemistry, and physics through an interdisciplinary approach to undergraduate science education.

The goals of the Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research program are to enhance undergraduate education through direct, interdisciplinary biology/chemistry research experience; encourage students to pursue graduate studies in the sciences; and foster undergraduate programs that bridge biology and chemistry departments. It is funded by The Merck Company Foundation and administered by AAAS.

Other Grant News
The Wisconsin Humanities Council supported the Viterbo University 2003 School of Letters and Sciences Humanities Symposium with a $2,000 mini-grant. The symposium “Through the
Looking Glass: Media, Perception and Reality,” was held on campus Feb. 3-6 and drew record attendance at keynote events.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for an evening of food, music, and fun on Saturday, Sept. 20, for the fifth annual Save Our Steinways (S.O.S.) gala.

A fundraiser like no other, the S.O.S. event raises money to restore and reclaim the full beauty and sound of a number of older Steinways that Viterbo owns. To date, approximately $50,000 has been raised and one seven-foot Steinway has been completed, renovated, and returned to service. Another nine-foot grand is nearing completion in work done by Joel Lidstrom at his studio in rural Caledonia, Minn. Viterbo owns a number of other Steinways and plans to continue fundraising to allow the university to renovate several others.

For more information on S.O.S., contact Natalie McGarry, institutional advancement, at 608-796-3070 or email njmcgarry@viterbo.edu.

SPORTS CORNER

55: The Number that Almost Wasn’t

Strides’ Note: On Feb. 22, 2003, Kara Brandau became the first female athlete at Viterbo to have her number retired. Her career was certainly remarkable, but as Nels Popp found out, it almost didn’t happen.

Ten years from now, Kara Brandau plans to come back to her alma mater and look proudly at her number “55” hanging from the gym wall at Viterbo. Three years ago, though, she told women’s basketball Coach Bobbi Vandenberg, she could give her #55 jersey to someone else. Brandau was quitting.

“I didn’t get to go home much during the season,” said Brandau, about her sophomore year. “It seemed like whenever things came up, when friends had things to go to, I couldn’t go because of basketball. I wanted to focus more on school. And, when the season ended, it seemed like such a long time until the next season started.”

It was a difficult time during that second year for Brandau. She had never missed a game in any sport at tiny Royall High School and had been thrust into the V-Hawk starting line-up her freshman year, earning Midwest Classic Conference (MCC) Honorable Mention status. But in January of 2000, Kara suffered a knee injury that kept her off the court for almost the entire second semester. And, when she did make it back to court, it was as a bench player.

Vandenberg had found a line-up that was playing well, and decided it would be better for the team to not disrupt that group, meaning Brandau would be starting on the sideline.

“At the time, I don’t think she accepted that role well,” said Vandenberg. “She was never a problem, and she didn’t have a bad attitude. I just didn’t think she was giving everything she had on the court.”

When the 2000-01 campaign ended, Brandau did some thinking. By the time summer rolled around, she told Vandenberg she was through playing. She stuck to that decision the rest of
the summer. But, a funny thing happened when she got back to campus that fall. She would see other players shooting in the gym and she felt the urge to join them. The V-Hawks were returning four very strong seniors that season and Brandau thought, “I want to be a part of this team.” The rest is history.

“I think those five or six weeks really helped Kara,” said Vandenberg, who had told Brandau she would be welcomed back should she decide to return. “She was completely different when she came back. She had a change in attitude, which elevated her from a conference honorable mention player to an All-American.”

Or, as Brandau explained, “Reality set in. I only had two years to play basketball. The other stuff that I had wanted to do could wait.”

So, play basketball she did. Brandau, 5’7”, always had the physical talent, but as an undersized post player, she needed more than talent. When her new attitude adjustment met that natural ability, Brandau suddenly became the most dominant player in the MCC. Her junior year, she led a strong V-Hawk team to an unprecedented 120 conference record, a #4 national ranking, and the program’s first appearance at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament. And, for Brandau’s trophy cabinet, she picked up MCC Player of the Year and NAIA Division II First Team All-America plaques.

She still had that laid-back personality. But, when she committed herself to playing as hard as she could, that easygoing approach became her biggest asset.

“What separated Kara is that she was always calm in extremely tough situations,” said Vandenberg. “The more pressure, the better she performed.”

That junior season, Brandau nailed buzzer beaters against both St. Ambrose and Mt. Mercy to keep a perfect conference record intact. Come tournament time, she scored 34 in the MCC championship game vs. Grand View, then went out to the national tournament and lit up Ohio’s Tiffin College for 29 and Kansas’ Sterling College for 32.

Her senior season, Brandau was even more remarkable. She finished the year as the second highest scorer in the nation at 23.5 points per game, and set a school record with 39 points against Cardinal Stritch. Again, she was named MCC Player of the Year and NAIA First Team All-America. Then, she became the only NAIA Division II player to be named to the Kodak All-America Team.

Brandau completed her playing career as the school’s all-time leading scorer (2,104 points), all-time steal’s leader (315), and finished as the school’s second all-time leading rebounder (835).

In a deserving tribute to those achievements, Brandau’s number “55” was officially retired at a homecoming ceremony in February. She joins the likes of Major League Baseball player Damian Miller, all-time soccer assist leader Aaron Gibbons, and former V-Hawk men’s basketball stalwarts Mark Skogen and Kenny Koelbl. She is also the first Viterbo female athlete to have her number retired.
“I was surprised that it happened and that it was so fast,” said Brandau, “I guess it seems like something that might happen later down the road. I was also surprised because it hadn’t happened yet for a female athlete. It’s a pretty big honor.

“I guess it says a lot about what people think of me.”

Wall of Fame Sports Three New Names

Three new faces adorn the Wall of Fame display in the Student Activities Center. Men’s basketball stand-out James Vacek (right) and soccer tandem Pat Lauer (left) and Jason Emerick (center) were inducted to the Wall during Viterbo Homecoming festivities on Feb. 22.

Vacek, a 6’1” point guard from Holmen, was a four-year starter for the V-Hawks. He led several strong men’s basketball teams, including the 1994-95 squad, which was the first to qualify for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament. Upon graduation, he was the school’s fifth leading scorer with 1,423 points, and still holds school records for most assists in a game (18) and most free throws made in a game (16). Vacek was named the Midwest Classic Conference Player of the Year and a NAIA All-America Honorable Mention his senior year.

Lauer and Emerick were a natural fit to go on to the Wall together. Teammates since elementary school in Osseo, Minn., the two formed one of the best duos in Viterbo soccer history. Emerick graduated as the school’s second all-time points leader with 115, while Lauer finished third at 114.

Lauer was “Mr. Versatility,” playing a variety of positions, and, according to former coach Bruce Erickson, was one of the best all-around players. Pat was a District 14 Player of the Year and a NAIA 3rd Team All-America selection, as well as Viterbo’s first ever Senior Bowl participant. He finished his career with 36 goals and 42 assists.

Meanwhile, Emerick, a nifty striker who could score with ease, finished his career with 46 goals (14 were game-winners) and 23 assists. He was a three-time selection to the All-MCC first team and the All-District team and was awarded NAIA All-America Honorable Mention status following his senior season.

The Viterbo men’s soccer team also compiled a record of 46-11-6, including three district and two conference championships, during the Lauer and Emerick era.

ALUMNI NOW

Grad Wins $16,000 on Millionaire

A 2001 graduate of Viterbo University’s Master of Arts in Education had a chance to win back a little tuition money during an appearance on ABC's Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? in October.

Joe Kane, a teacher at Jerstad-Agerholm Middle School in Racine, took an exam to qualify for the show in July 2002. He took the 30-question, 12-minute test during a commercial advertising audition in Chicago with 200 other people and was one of only 40 to pass it. In
September, he received a call from the show’s producers and they made arrangements for his appearance on the show, taped in New York City, in October. The show paid for his trip and accommodations. The taping aired on Jan. 23.

In an interview with the La Crosse Tribune, Kane said he won “a nice little chunk of money” and said he had “no regrets” as to the way he played the game, in which he used all of his lifelines.

As for his plans for the money? Kane celebrated after winning the money by buying himself a lobster dinner in New York. A little closer to home, he’s already used some of the money for new kitchen and bathroom flooring.

Saying Goodbye
The past year has brought the loss of two long-time Viterbo University supporters, alumni, and former Alumni Board members Elaine Reget Weisbecker ’59 and Peter Bevington ’79.

“Peter and Elaine both served the Viterbo Alumni Board well. Their dedication and commitment to the success of their alma mater will be missed,” said Sally Emerson, director of alumni and parent relations.

Both Weisbecker and Bevington served on the Alumni Board from 1986-92. Weisbecker, who majored in sociology and minored in music at Viterbo, served on the board’s Services Committee, which was responsible for the start of the alumni newsletter. She died in La Crosse on Nov. 11, 2002 at age 65. Bevington, who majored in math and minored in psychology at Viterbo, served on the Development Committee, which is responsible for advising Viterbo on its alumni fundraising efforts. He died in Atlanta, Ga. on Feb. 18, 2003 at age 48.

Three Named to Outstanding Alumni
Three Viterbo University alumni will be honored for outstanding achievements during Celebrate Alumni Weekend 2003 on June 21 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Lobby. They are:

Kimberly Adams ’93, Outstanding Young Alumni Award: Named one of the 2003 Top Businesspeople under 40 in Southern Nevada in a special report from Las Vegas InBusiness magazine, Kim Adams is known for her commitment to customer satisfaction. And, that’s important these days, particularly in her business -- health care. Adams, who received her medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, has been a family practice physician with Rainbow Medical Centers in Las Vegas since July 2001. Since joining Rainbow, she has increased revenue and patient flows at her office by more than 50 percent with her dedication to making people happy and keeping them healthy. She is also known for her emphasis on wellness and prevention -- holding free blood pressure screenings and leading monthly programs that discuss topics like diabetes, menopause, glaucoma, and heart disease for seniors. In addition, Adams is active in a variety of volunteer opportunities and often dons her tennis shoes for the American Heart Association HeartWalk and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure. A member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Practice, Adams is also dedicated to women’s issues and is the author and co-author of several articles on women’s health and infertility issues.
Rose Kreutz ’66, Outstanding Alumni Award for Community Service: Unselfish. Altruistic. Empathetic. Generous. These are just some of the words that friends and former colleagues use to describe Rose Kreutz, who retired from a more than 30-year career as a professor of nursing at Viterbo University in 2002. Although caring and commitment to the well-being of others is at the core of Kreutz’s professional life as a nurse and nurse educator, Kreutz also made it the mantra by which she lived -- dedicating herself in service to others. As a pediatric nurse by training, Kreutz feels a special connection to children, whether by reaching out to the children she’s nursed or serving as a volunteer at Camp Wekidas kids with asthma in Wisconsin Dells for the past 16 years. In addition, Kreutz has organized special summer camp programs for Native American, Hmong, and underprivileged students on the Viterbo campus in cooperation with local hospitals and clinics. The camps introduced the youth to health care related career options. During her tenure at Viterbo, Kreutz served as advisor to the Wisconsin Student Nurses Association. She was also president of the La Crosse District Nurses Association, a member of the Board of Directors for Citizen Advocacy for the past 10 years, and was influential in establishing and serving on the board for the Crohn’s Disease Support Group in La Crosse. A lifelong member of Holy Trinity, Kreutz served the parish as a Eucharistic minister, a member of the Parish Council, and a friend and minister to the shut-ins.

Jeanette Hertges ’85, Outstanding Alumni Award for Professional Development: From a Viterbo University graduate with a degree in English to a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy who serves as an intelligence analyst for strategic assessments in the Middle East, Jeanette Hertges’ career has been on a fast-paced course. Hertges, who entered the Navy as an enlisted radioman, quickly rose to the level she’s at today through hard work that has been recognized with medals, honors, and letters of commendation from senior officers. Over the years, she has served as a cryptologic technician in Pearl Harbor, attended aviation training school and intelligence training, served as an intelligence officer in Korea and Virginia, and served as a counter-drug intelligence analyst in California. Among her most impressive achievements, say her colleagues, was her assignment from December 1997-January 2000 in which she was responsible for working directly on the U.S. war on drugs. During that time, Hertges was deployed in a variety of remote locations like Hong Kong, Burma, and Thailand, where her intelligence analysis was directly responsible for the seizure of almost eight metric tons of illegal drugs that would have wound up on the streets of the U.S. Her work also led to the indictment and extradition of a number of drug traffickers. In addition, Hertges supervised the command’s 24-hour intelligence and counter-terrorism operations center established as a result of Sept. 11.

For more information on the Outstanding Alumni Awards and banquet dinner, contact Alumni Relations Director Sally Emerson at 608-796-3072 or email alumni@viterbo.edu.

Get Down at Alumni Weekend 2003
“Oh What a Night!” Relive the memories of your days at Viterbo University during Celebrate Alumni Weekend 2003 June 20-21 on the Viterbo campus. Celebrating the 1993, 1978, 1963, and 1953 class reunions and a School of Education reunion, the event features a picnic, your favorite faculty, a silent auction, a cruise on the La Crosse Queen, the Outstanding Alumni Awards banquet, and more. Get details at the Alumni website.
Have We Got it Right? Let Us Know!

All 10,500 Viterbo University alumni were recently notified of our upcoming new alumni directory and were asked for their input. If you have not already done so, please return your questionnaire today. This will ensure that your personal information will be accurately included in this great new reference book.

Within two to three months, the verification phase of this project begins. Alumni will receive a telephone call from Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc., the official publisher of the new directory. Please give the representative who calls you a few moments of your time to verify your listing.

To place a reservation for the Viterbo University Alumni Directory, please advise the Harris representative during this conversation, since this will be the only opportunity for alumni to order the book.

Scheduled for release in January 2004, the Viterbo University Alumni Directory promises to be the definitive reference of over 10,500 of our alumni. Don’t miss the opportunity to be a part of it!

CLASS NOTES

1960

Dorothy Schneider, FSPA ’63 received a Gospel of Life Special Needs award from the Diocese of La Crosse. The award recognized her ministry to the sick, bereaved, elderly, and handicapped. Sr. Dorothy has ministered at St. Matthew’s Parish, Wausau for the last nine years.

Delores Schneider ’64 received a Gospel of Life Special Needs award from the Diocese of La Crosse. The award recognized her ministry to the sick, bereaved, elderly, and handicapped. Delores works in pastoral ministry at Holy Name Parish, Wausau.

1970

Mary Lu Gerke ’74 gave a presentation on “Generational Diversity in the Workplace” at a Diversity Breakfast hosted by the Greater La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce Intercultural Network Committee Feb. 20, 2003.

Phyllis Ann Hackman, FSPA ’74 retired Aug. 1, 2002. She had been performing her ministry in pastoral care for the last 22 years in Bellview, Ill., and New Hampton, Iowa.

Janice Roskos Passe ’74 was recently employed as a clinical consultant for Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation, Chicago.

Pat (Thompson) Johnson ’76 became a National Board Certified Teacher in 2002 -- one of 56 teachers certified this year, bringing the Wisconsin total to 134. She is certified in Adolescence and Young Adulthood Mathematics.

Karolee (Hogden) Sowlee ’77, chief nurse executive at Desert Regional Medical Center, Palm Springs, was recently promoted to chief operating officer.

Mary (Garvey) Verrill ’78 teaches writing and introductory literature courses at Century College, White Bear Lake, Minn. She also plays violin with the local symphony in St. Paul.

Nicholas Narloch ’79 has completed his three-year term as the Wisconsin Music Educators Association’s north central vice president. Nick is the vocal music director at Marathon High
School, Marathon, and the music minister at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Marathon, and St. Matthew’s Catholic Church, Wausau.

1980

Greg Gilman ’83 is in his 13th year working as a research nurse in echocardiography at Mayo Clinic, Rochester. He has been granted a fellowship in echocardiography by the American Society of Echocardiography.

Kristin Steger ’84 retired March 1, 2002, due to a disability.

Amy Hansen-Strom ’85 and Thomas Strom celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emily, Dec. 19, 2002.

Lorie Rae (Liebl) Liss ’87 was recently awarded the Wisconsin Association of Catholic Secondary Schools Teacher of the Year award for 2002.

Carie Novitzke ’87 received her Ph.D. in Special Education and Rehabilitation Psychology with honors from UW-Madison in 2001. She is an associate lecturer at UW-Madison with a research focus in cognition and teaching strategies for adults with severe mental illness. Carie works as a clinician at the Mental Health Center of Dane County, serves as artistic director of Mercury Players Theatre Company in Madison, and began volunteering for the Red Cross Disaster Services in mental health following Sept. 11, 2001.

Ann (Miller) Anderson ’87 is the director of the Sunrise Club for Decorah Bank and Trust, Decorah, Iowa. She plans, directs, and escorts fun and educational worldwide tours, along with day tours and monthly educational and social activities for club members of the bank. They have traveled to Alaska, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Northern Ireland, Germany, Hawaii, Canada, and Austria.

Deanna Simpson married Doug Gralapp ’89 Aug. 24, 2002 at St. Hubert’s Catholic Church in Chanhassen, Minn.

Steven Heinz ’89 presented a lecture to choral directors at the State Music Convention at the University of Michigan. The lecture, *Music Literacy: Bridging the Gap Between Exercise and Artistic Rehearsal Response*, gave practical methods for enabling student success throughout the artistic development of music in the choral rehearsal.

1990

Connie (McDonald) ’90 and Gene Gibson celebrated the birth of a son, Drew Richard, Jan. 4, 2003. He joins his brothers, Grady, 5, and Reed, 7.

Ruth Wills ’90 recently received a Master of Theology degree in Pastoral Ministry from St. Mary’s University, Winona, Minn.

Patricia (Beyers) Pelzel ’91 received her Master of Arts degree in Instructional Design from Alverno College in Milwaukee, December 2002.

Todd Goldsmith ’91 became the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Tulsa, Jan. 1, 2003. He is responsible for collaborating with faculty and staff at 11 elementary schools and middle schools in four cities and at two high schools.

Jodi (Crapser) ’92 and John Priebe celebrated the birth of a daughter, Allyson, Jan. 8, 2003. She joins her siblings, Alexis, 7, and Hunter, 4.

Julie Gorski ’92 and Wayne Gorski celebrated the birth of a son, Adam Jacob, Jan. 19, 2003. He joins his siblings, Alec, 4, and Anna, 1. Julie recently became employed by Astra Zeneca as a pharmaceutical sales representative.

Donna (Statz) ’92 and Chad Milne ’94 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lauryn Sandra, Sept. 18, 2002. She joins her sister, Paige Darlene, 3.

Sara (Everson) Barry '93 is an RN with the Hospice of Florida Suncoast.

Sheryl (Melde) '95 and Brock Jessesski '92 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emily Colleen, July 18, 2002. She joins her brothers, Max and Brody.

Laura (Ledden) '92 and Rob Gilbertson celebrated the birth of a son, Lane Michael, Nov. 12, 2002. He joins his siblings, Sydney, 3, and James, 5.

Jon Fossen '93 was promoted to vice president of Prizm Companies, March 2002.

Debra (Kempf) '93 and Tom Schumacker celebrated the birth of a son, Jackson, Jan. 29, 2003.

Carolyn Boland '94 received a master’s degree in professional development from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, August 2002. She has been employed as a library media specialist at the Dodgeville Middle School since September 2002.


Marla (Norder) '94 and Keith Snyder celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ella Eileen, Jan. 20, 2003. She joins her sister, Mya, 3.


Tina (Daniels) '96 and Christopher Mueller celebrated the birth of a son, Logan Christopher, Dec. 29, 2002.


Heather (Noelke) '96 and John Merfeld celebrated the birth of a daughter, Molly, Dec. 16, 2002. She joins her siblings, Morgan, 4, and Brandon, 2.

Larry Nutter '96 is currently a member of the National Academy for Film and Television. In addition to auditions for commercials and doing voice-over work for video games and other forms of media, Larry is also a certified personal fitness instructor at the Calhoun Beach Club of Minneapolis.

Laura and Charles Priebe '96 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Sofia, Feb. 14, 2003. She joins her sibling, Dante, 2.

Michelle Barribeau '97 recently became employed by the Janesville School District, Janesville. She is the vocal music instructor at Marshall Middle School.

Nancy (Satala) '97 and Mark Herrmann celebrated the birth of a son, Jordan Allen, Dec. 12, 2003.

Nicole (Carrubba) '98 and Howard Sickman celebrated the birth of a son, Ethan Paul, April 23, 2002. He joins his brother, Dylan, 3.

Sara (Clemens) '98 and J.D. Root celebrated the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Marie, Dec. 13, 2002.

Deborah (Erickson) Clements '98 received a promotion to MRLA service coordination supervisor at Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation in Amarillo, Texas.


Molly Schultz '98 is a tour associate for the Children’s Theatre Company, Minneapolis.

Amy (Lilla) '98 and Seth Barna '99 celebrated the birth of a son, Addison James, Jan. 5, 2003.


Erin Urbanek '99 was recently employed as a child protection social worker by Trempealeau County, Wisconsin.
2000

Dana (Bell) ’00 and Tom McCauley celebrated the birth of a son, Izaak Thomas, March 8, 2002.

Marcia Brandt Knupp ’00 received certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, November 2002.

Erica Hough ’00 married Jeff Westbrook Nov. 16, 2002.

Pauline (Potter) McCormick ’00 is a registered nurse for the U.S. Army. She recently returned from Bosnia to begin work at West Point.

Angie Beaty ’01 married Ben Johnson Feb. 8, 2003 in Holmen.

Brian Konkol ’01 was one of six students chosen to spend next year abroad for his internship in a Lutheran church. He has been offered a position at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in New Amsterdam, Guyana. Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America.

Christina Kress ’01 received her master’s degree in social work from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. May 3, 2003.

Bobbie Tippery ’01 is pursuing her master’s in community counseling from Winona State University in Minnesota.

Elizabeth Zietlow ’01 married Nicholas Dobbins ’01 Aug. 3, 2001 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Holmen.

Corrine Swigart ’01 and Tom Swigart celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madelyn Marie, July 6, 2002.

Kelly Christensen ’02 married Jeremiah Buchholtz Aug. 10, 2002.

Vicky Freybler ’02 was recently employed as a family services counselor for the Diocese of Madison-Department of Cemeteries.

Cathy Hilby ’02 was recently employed as a pediatrics radiology manager at Fairview University Medical Center, Minneapolis.

Nick Johnson ’02 is the new finance manager for Saturn of St. Paul.

Nan and Matt Lohmann ’02 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth, Feb. 2, 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.


Dorothy Mulheron, FSPA ’47, Feb. 9, 2003.

Leone Donelson, Feb. 21, 2003, sister of Eloise Nees, FSPA ’53.

Patricia Wiesman, Jan. 1, 2003, sister of Sharon McChesney, FSPA ’55.


Philip G. Roets, Oct. 29, 2002, husband of Lois (Schelle) Roets ’64.

Thomasine Schmolke, OSF, Feb. 14, 2003, sister of Margaret Schmolke, FSPA ’70.


Thomas Lynch, February 2003, father of Theresa Lynch ’72.
Clifford Price ’75, June 27, 2001, brother of Linda (Price) Botens ’70.
Norma Ellefson, Nov. 18, 2002, mother of Myrna (Ellefson) Brinkley ’76.
Peter Miller, Oct. 7, 2002, husband of Rachelle (Dyb) Miller ’77.
Roger Krueger, Jan. 11, 2003, father of Jeff Krueger ’87, Julie (Krueger) Mugavero ’89,
Scott Krueger ’95, and father-in-law of Jane (Eckendorf) Krueger ’91.
Judith Wenzel Theisen Moe, Nov. 28, 2002, mother of Paul Thiesen ’89.
Leona Harvieux, Feb. 21, 2003, grandmother of Wendy (Granger) Payson ’90.
Carol Schams, Dec. 18, 2002, mother of Paula (Schams) Hilby ’92, Tracy (Schams) Servais ’92, and mother-in-law of Deb (Kelly) Schams ’81.
Robert Novitzke, July 22, 2001, father of Denise Notvitzke ’90.
Harvey Haskell, Feb. 5, 2003, grandfather of Jennifer (Haskell) Brown ’90 and Jay Haskell ’01.
Bernard Bissen, Dec. 29, 2002, father of Becky (Bissen) Roell ’01.
Helen DuCharme, Nov. 21, 2002, grandmother of Scott DuCharme ’01.
Kenneth Eastman, Feb. 9, 2003, grandfather of Jessica Eastman ’02.

A FINAL WORD

I Graduated College … Why am I Living in a Tent?
Becky Rochester ’02.

It is 2 a.m. on June 2, 2002, and I wake up shivering in my sleeping bag. Not to mention, there is a huge stick poking me right in the middle of my back. As I lie awake for hours listening to the sea lions barking below on the New Brighton State Beach, I put my pillow over my head to try to keep myself warm. I ask myself over and over again why am I living in a
tent, have no job, and am over 2,100 miles away from home? Why did I choose to move to Santa Cruz, Calif.? And, where is the warm California sunshine and the abundant job opportunities?

I graduated from Viterbo University in May 2002 and, right after graduation, Nicole Goodnature, another Viterbo graduate, and I packed up a 4 x 8 U-haul and headed west. We thought that finding a job and a place to live would be a piece of cake. I mean come on—we had a college degree, work experience, and we were ready for the real world—so we thought. Boy, were we in for a big surprise.

Due to the lack of our “real-world” knowledge, we ended up homeless for a month. We camped at a couple of state parks during the week, but on the weekends we had to resort to sleeping in the car because the campgrounds were booked with reservations for the entire summer. We lived out of the car, had a small cooler for our food, and a mini-grill that we cooked all our meals on. Our days consisted of a continuous cycle of waking up and eating breakfast, going to the beach, and then coming back to the campsite, eating dinner, and going to bed. It really wasn’t as bad as it sounds; in fact, now I wish I could go back and do it all over again. The worst thing was that it was really cold at night. Sometimes I would wake up and wonder if I was actually in Alaska and not California.

One day, while we were out exploring the town, we wandered across a [INCOMPLETE]

**EXTRAS**

**Progress Continues with End in Sight**

Construction of the Viterbo University Center for Ethics, Science, and Technology continues to stay on schedule, thanks in part to good fall and winter weather.

Despite a tight timeline, officials are anticipating that the $11 million building will be open for students in fall 2003. Viterbo science programs will occupy the top two floors, utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. This is a welcome relief from the current space in Murphy Center—a space which is outdated and no longer functional for the sciences.

The remaining space in the new building is intended for distance-learning classrooms, research, the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership, and several other administrative offices. The center will be officially dedicated on Oct. 6 and, appropriately, an alumna of Viterbo, Judith Andre ’67 will provide an address to commemorate the occasion. Andre is director of the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences at the University of Michigan, East Lansing. Her new book, Bioethics as Practice, was recently published.

**Learning by Doing:**

**Students Sleep Out to Raise Awareness**

The average age of a homeless person living in the U.S. is 9.

Homeless shelters are turning away an average of two families a day.
The facts speak for themselves. With a dwindling economy, layoffs, and hardship, there is a growing number of homeless people living in the U.S. today.

For 16 years, Viterbo University Professor Tom Thibodeau has been helping students better understand the plight of those living in poverty through his class on Homelessness.

In addition, students sleep outside in February, living from a cardboard box, to confront the issue of homelessness and gain a better understanding.

“The class’s goal is to help people see the homeless differently, not as ‘undesirables’ to be avoided or ignored, but as unique individuals with hopes and dreams just like everyone else. Each person is somebody’s parent, brother, sister, or child--deserving every opportunity to reach his or her full potential in life,” said Khris Kuck, a student in the class.

The cardboard sleep out is only the beginning for these students. Throughout the semester each fulfills 10 hours of volunteer service in the community and raises $50 to help fund a trip to Omaha, Neb. during which they participate in a service-learning component--talking and working with those experiencing homelessness and poverty first hand. This year’s trip was March 5-7. Fundraising can include the student requesting spare change, asking for dollar donations, or receiving pledges. “This gives them the experience of relying on others for help. Every social interaction helps create awareness of the student’s project,” said Thibodeau.

Thea’s Spirit Captured in Stained Glass Image

Joining three other remarkable women, Thea Bowman, FSPA ’65 has been immortalized in a beautiful stained glass window at St. Benedict the African Parish in Chicago. Created by well-known Chicago artist and illustrator David Lee Csicsko, the windows depict Sr. Thea, the Mississippi Franciscan known as “everybody’s Sister”; Rosa Parks, the mother of the Civil Rights Movement; Harriet Tubman, the Maryland slave turned abolitionist; and Sojourner Truth, the New York prophet and preacher. The 6’ x 3’ windows are located in a foyer that accommodates overflow crowds at liturgies. It is Sr. Thea’s second appearance in stained glass. Her first is in a window in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in De Pere where she joins the likes of Kateri Tekakwitha, Katherine Drexel, Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa, Thomas the Apostle, John XXIII, and Joseph Cardinal Bernardin. Above, Sr. Thea, at left, is pictured with Rosa Parks.