With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, what better time to ask, “Where did you meet your spouse?”

For many students, college is fondly remembered as that special place, where more than just the diploma was awarded. Viterbo is no exception. A quick scan of the alumni directory or Strides magazine class notes reveals that meeting one’s marital companion while on campus is hardly a rare phenomenon.

Jason Ramaker, director of residence life, proves the point that you can meet that “special someone” under virtually any circumstance. “I was an RA (resident assistant) and I wrote my future wife up for a noise violation. She was loud to the point that it was a violation of the rules.”

“Oh, obviously,” Ramaker added, “that led to other things,” including a 1995 marriage.

Now as an overseer of similar chance meetings, Ramaker is not surprised at the number of budding romances that occur as part of college life. “For most students, this is their first time living away from home. The residence halls are a safe place to live and a good environment in which to develop adult relationships for the first time. It’s not exactly the ‘real world’ but for young men and women, it’s where you can learn a lot about life and the development of healthy relationships.”

Sally Emerson, in her job as director of alumni relations, also hears about many of the matrimonial ties in the news that filters through her office. “It’s very common. Students who attend Viterbo often share the same values. And, as they proceed through school and begin to accomplish their goals, there comes a time when many look to settle down.”

Five couples who received a degree and a whole lot more during their time at Viterbo, agreed to share a few of their special “Viterbo moments” with Strides readers:

**Joy Wiedenbeck ’84 and Kevin Hennessy ’83**

**Professions:** Joy is a registered nurse at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center and Kevin is a school-to-work consultant with CESA #4.

**Wedding date:** August 16, 1986

**Wedding location:** Immaculate Conception Church, Lansing, Iowa

**Children:** Amanda, 14; Allison, 10; Erin, 7
When did you meet your spouse? “I was a junior nursing student and Kevin was a senior education major. We met at a 3-South party. Kevin didn’t give me ‘the time of day,’ but he soon learned!”

Where was your first date? “We went to the Pump House for a play. I knew in my heart after about five dates that Kevin was the guy I wanted to marry.”

What was it like to be at Viterbo at that time? “The male-female ratio was wild! All the girls fought over the few guys that were there. Viterbo was one big family/community. You were friends with underclassmen as well as upperclassmen.”

Do you have a story to share about your time as a couple at Viterbo? “Every time we were together, it was memorable. Kevin had a great group of friends, as I did, and ‘our group’ was always doing something.”

If you graduated single, was the plan all along to get married at some specified time after graduation? “The job market was tough at the times we graduated. We didn’t get engaged and went to where the jobs were--putting us about 200 miles apart. We stuck together even though it got tough at times, but it was good for us to be on our own. We were engaged two years after Kevin graduated and one year after I graduated.”

Other comments? “For our 10th anniversary, Kevin blindfolded me and took me to 3-South on the patio for a surprise party with many of our friends from that time. I was pregnant and we had to sleep in the dorm rooms. It was 100 degrees and Kevin forgot the fans!

Mary Jo Lewis ’98 and Ryan Lium ’95
Professions: Mary Jo is music director at St. Patrick’s Parish in Onalaska. Ryan is an insurance agent with Lium Insurance Agency.
Wedding date: June 13, 1998
Wedding location: St. Edward’s Church, Bloomington, Minn.
Children: They had their first child in November.
First meeting: “During my senior year and Mary Jo’s freshman year, she came to a party that my roommates and I had at our house.”
First date: “I asked Mary Jo to dinner. She said, ‘Yes, anywhere would be great.’ I picked her up and said, ‘We’re going to Ciatti’s.’ She said, ‘I hate Ciatti’s.’ We hit it off from that moment on.”

What was it like to be at Viterbo at that time? “Fun, crazy, and extremely busy with school and baseball. Marv’s (Friedwald) homework kept me up too late.”

Humorous recollection: “Mary Jo was known as the ‘chapstick girl’ because she always wore a chapstick necklace around her neck. I think it was purely for attention. It got mine.”

Was the plan all along to get married at some specified time after graduation? “We graduated single and were apart for a while because I had graduated and she was still in school. I worked in Eau Claire briefly and came back to La Crosse. We ran into each other again and she locked on to me for life.”

Felicia Schmitt ’81 and Allen Miedema ’81
Professions: Felicia is administrator of nursing practice at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Allen is general manager of Office Depot, also in Des Moines.
Wedding date: June 2, 1979
Wedding location: Viterbo University
Children: Brent, 21; Darrin, 20; David, 10; Hannah, 5
First meeting: “We met at Viterbo during our freshman year. The first time we recall meeting was at a party in the Pub during the winter of 1978. Al actually had a bit of a crush
on another freshman who was a friend of mine, and our first conversation had to do with his romantic ‘woes’ with this friend.”

First date: “We didn’t really have a first date, but went together in a group down to the Macumba Club on 4th Street. Since Al was the only person in the group who had a car, he took a car full of us down to the club from Marian Hall. Somehow I was the only one who got a ride home with him, and that was kind of our ‘first date.’ On Valentine’s Day 1978, I found a huge card on the bulletin board in Marian Hall. It was a flowery, mushy card from Al that proclaimed his love for me. Even though we had only dated a few weeks, that card was my first clue that things might be getting serious.

What was it like to be at Viterbo at the time? “I think that Viterbo in 1978 was really the end of an era. The dorms were still closed to visitors except on weekends and curfews were in effect. Living together prior to marriage was rare, and it was still somewhat scandalous to stay out all night with your boyfriend. Despite its Catholic culture, however, Viterbo could be a really great place to party. Beer was cheap and we had some great gatherings at the Pub and at the Wunderbar.”

Story to share: “Since Al and I were the first to get married, we also were among the first to have an off-campus apartment. Our home became a favorite place for friends from work and school to gather. Both Al and I worked during school to support ourselves, so we really enjoyed the times that friends would come over to our house. It kept us connected to the social aspects of school.”

Other comments: “Hindsight is always 20/20, and in retrospect we both realize just how naive we were to think that getting married at the age of 20 while we were both still in school would lead to ‘wedded bliss.’ In truth, the early years of our marriage were difficult because of the stress of full time school, near full time work, and financial challenges. But it is great to look at how far we’ve come and how God had a purpose in our attending Viterbo at the same time that went far beyond just the degrees we obtained.”

Jennifer (Domask) ’92 and Christopher Larson ’89

Professions: Jennifer is a registered dietician and manager of the nutrition clinic. Christopher is a bariatric surgery physician assistant and registered dietitian. Both are employed by Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse.

Wedding date: The couple eloped on June 20, 2002.

Wedding location: Married on a gondola at the Venetian in Las Vegas.

Children: Christopher has two children from a previous marriage (Joseph, 19, and Mary, 16). Christopher and Jennifer had their first child in January.

How we met: “We met at Gundersen Lutheran while both employed as registered dietitians in the nutrition clinic.”

Hillary Laurent ’01 and Adam Schellinger ’00

Employment: Hillary is a Career Qwest instructor and graduate student at Argosy University. Adam is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota.

Wedding date: October 19, 2002

Wedding location: Viterbo University

First meeting: “While I always knew Adam because I was an RA on campus for three years, I never really talked to him until we had a class together. Since I didn’t know anyone else in the class, I decided to sit in the back row with Adam. Adam was always very sleepy during class because he worked full-time security at night. During lecture, Adam used to fall asleep. Every so often, he would wake up and ask me if we discussed something important. After we
started dating, Adam revealed that he had to ask me out because he knew that he liked waking up next to me.”

**First date:** “I switched a night of residence life on-call duties in order to go out to eat with Adam. Since both of us share a passion for Chinese food, we decided to meet in the Student Union promptly at 6 p.m. to go to Hunan’s downtown. It was 6:30 p.m. and no Adam. I called him and was worried that he had changed his mind. He apologized half a dozen times for falling asleep on his sofa while watching TV. At dinner neither of us really talked because we were so nervous. After the first date, most of our other dates involved studying for upcoming sociology tests.”

**Memories:** “After Adam graduated from Viterbo and before entering graduate school at the University of Minnesota, he worked for a short time in the cafeteria. He liked the job because of the people he worked with and the fact that he could still be a part of campus life. On his breaks, when he worked in Crossroads, Adam would come up to my room in Marian Hall South just to see me. Although he smelled like burgers and fries, I was still happy to give him a hug and kiss.”

**Was the plan all along to get married at some specified time after graduation?** “We graduated as singles, but agreed to marry the fall thereafter. We both knew immediately that we would get married at Viterbo in La Crosse because it was a place that defined our character as individuals and as a couple. Coincidentally, most of our wedding pictures include campus sights, from the church to the swing where we often sat.”

By Pat Kerrigan
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**ON CAMPUS**

$5.8 Million Already Raised for New Project

Eighteen-year-old Jed Denning is one of many young adults who have taken part in the Boys and Girls Clubs’ activities through the Hamilton Elementary site. And, like others, he’s excited about the partnership between Viterbo University and the Boys and Girls Clubs--the first of its kind in the nation--which will lead to the construction of a $7.5 million, 58,000 square foot joint recreational and educational center on property owned by the university.

Denning was a high-school dropout. But, thanks to his own determination and the advice he got from the university students at the Boys and Girls Clubs who served as his mentors, Denning completed his GED last year and is studying to be an auto mechanic.

“I realized that my friends, everyone, would go to school, and I sat home doing nothing and being bored. I told Ryan and Rich (from the Boys and Girls Clubs) that I was thinking about going back to school and they said ‘Good! Go back to school,’” said Denning.

That kind of mentoring and bonding is sure to continue in the new joint facility. In fact, Viterbo student teachers, student nurses, and student social workers will be volunteering and helping at the new center. “It’ll bring people together,” said Denning. “It’s an extra spot to
hang out and get to know other kids, and when the college kids have their homework done, they can go and spend time with the kids there, too.”

“Yeah. We can hang out with college kids who can give us facts about how it is in college, about the rules, doing homework, being responsible for themselves, and facing the consequences for things,” said Quincy Goodwin, 11, who hopes to be a “heart doctor” one day.

Currently enrolled at Viterbo University and the assistant site director at the Hamilton club, Rich Hernandez knows a thing or two about getting involved at the Boys and Girls Clubs from a student volunteer’s perspective. With the new building, he said, “college students in education will get a real chance to find out if they want to be in education. Others who are undecided about their careers can work with the kids and see if they like that. If they want to volunteer and find out, they’ll only need to go across the street.”

To date, just over $5.8 million has been raised for the collaborative project, which is over $2 million more than when the project was announced in early July. The facility will be located on Eighth Street between Winnebago and Mississippi Streets. Construction is expected to begin in May 2004, but it can’t begin soon enough for the kids and staff who spend time at the Hamilton club.

With 60?100 drop-ins a day and limited room, the Hamilton site is bursting at the seams. “We’re making do,” said Hernandez. “We often have 30 people in a very small gym, 40 in our tech lab at times. We’re packed to capacity.”

The new building will far exceed their existing space and include three regulation-size gymnasiums, a teen center, a cardiovascular fitness room, a 1/8-mile walking and jogging track, game rooms, a free-weight strength center, a computer lab, cooking room, and art room. Some of the space, like the gymnasiums, will be shared, while other sections will be designated specifically for either Viterbo or the Boys and Girls Clubs.

But it’s the regulation-size gymnasiums that really get some of the local kids excited. The current facility only has 10-foot rims, which means the kids now have to adjust their game for the court. Plus, “more courts means more basketball time,” said Denning with a smile.

In addition to serving the Hamilton site and Viterbo University students, the new recreational and educational center will also serve La Crosse’s other south side Boys and Girls Clubs’ sites--at Lincoln Middle School and Huber Homes--and provide space for Viterbo University’s youth programs and summer camps.

Viterbo Forms 3+3 Agreement with Chiropractic College

Students who want to pursue a career in chiropractic medicine are finding it easier than ever thanks to a 3+3 agreement between Viterbo University in La Crosse and Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis. It is the only agreement Logan College of Chiropractic has made with a university in Wisconsin.

The agreement allows students to complete a Bachelor of Science degree at Viterbo University and a Doctor of Chiropractic degree at Logan College of Chiropractic in one year
less than it would usually take. Undergraduate students would take three years of study at Viterbo then transfer to Logan for three additional years. The student would then be able to transfer 34 credits from their first year at Logan back to Viterbo upon successful completion. Those credits would serve as their fourth year at Viterbo and Viterbo would issue the student an undergraduate degree.

According to Patrick Browne, vice president for enrollment services at Logan College of Chiropractic, “This partnership provides pre-chiropractic students at Viterbo a direct pathway to fulfill their professional education at Logan College. It’s a great opportunity for students seeking a career as a chiropractic physician.”

Students interested in participating in this program must maintain a 3.25 grade point average during their three years at Viterbo and pass an interview at Logan College of Chiropractic to ensure themselves a spot in the program.

“This agreement will help us better serve our students,” said Kim Fredricks, a biology professor at Viterbo and pre-chiropractic advisor. “It takes the stress off our students when they’re planning their future. They always seem to have in the back of their mind, ‘What if I don’t make it into chiropractic school?’ Now, they know that if they meet the basic requirements, they’re guaranteed a spot at Logan College of Chiropractic.”

Logan College of Chiropractic was established in 1935 and has over 7,000 alumni around the world. It is an accredited, non-profit institution that teaches chiropractic medicine on a 112-acre wooded campus. For more information, visit www.logan.edu.

Shedding Light on Tough Issues

Controversy over the constitutionality of a 10 Commandments statue in La Crosse’s Cameron Park was rampant the past year. Viterbo University offered a safe public forum where all sides could address the issues during a debate on “The Place of Religion in the Public Square” on Sept. 9.

Organized and presented by the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership, the debate featured Francis Manion, senior counsel with the American Center for Law and Justice; Dan Barker, a self-described former-minister-turned-atheist from Madison’s Freedom from Religion Foundation; and Scott Moore, an academician from Baylor University.

Over 500 people attended the event, at which all sides of the issue were discussed.

Other ethics events last fall included:
- “Can We Talk? Ethics in a Divided World,” with Judith Andre, a 1967 graduate of Viterbo and author of the book Bioethics as Practice. This was the keynote address for the dedication of the new Reinhart Center for Ethics, Science, and Technology on Oct. 6.
- “Terrorism: the Effect on Families,” with Sally Cahalan, a former film producer for the BBC in the Middle East and North Africa, on Oct. 21. This talk was also sponsored by the La Crosse Public Library.
- “An Evening Conversation with Cheryl Broetje,” held on Nov. 6, centered on the servant leadership principles established in Broetje Orchards, a Washington-based business owned by Cheryl and Ralph Broetje. In addition to this talk, Broetje spoke about the business to
local farmers in a talk early in the day that was co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Farmers Union.

- **Brown Bag Lecture Series**: A series on family-run businesses, featuring local business owners, was begun on Oct. 15 with a talk from John and Donna Hansen and their daughter, Amy Hansen-Strom ’85, from Nesnah Ventures. Dave and Mark Skogen ’92 from Festival Foods continued the series on Nov. 11, and Jim and Tim Servais from Hamburg Hills Farm spoke on Jan. 27. The series concludes on Wednesday, March 3, when Steve and Nancy Rose with Rose Jewelers and Todd and Deb Ondell with Grounded Specialty Coffees talk about their businesses from noon-1 p.m. in the Reinhart Center.

**Viterbo Helps Victims of Vandalism**

Viterbo University was one of eight local organizations that presented the Hunger Task Force in La Crosse with a cumulative gift of $4,000 to replace produce that was lost as a result of theft and vandalism this past summer at the Kane Street Community Garden.

Laura Clary, garden program coordinator, said news of the contribution came at a critical time in the growing season. “The Kane Street Garden is a vital part of our hunger relief efforts,” she said. “Right now, our main concern is recovering what crops we can and replacing what was lost. This generous gift from these wonderful organizations will go a long way in helping us do that.”

The donation was issued collectively by CenturyTel, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, Gundersen Lutheran, Trane, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Viterbo University, Western Wisconsin Technical College, and Xcel Energy.

The Kane Street Community Garden, sponsored by the Hunger Task Force of La Crosse, provides free vegetables to families who either cannot afford fresh vegetables or have nutritional issues and need a healthier diet. Since 1998 when the garden was established, volunteers have been growing 40,000-50,000 pounds of fresh produce a year for low-income and elderly people in the region.

**Free Español Classes, Anyone?**

Viterbo Spanish Club students began offering Spanish language lessons for area elementary school students for free beginning in September.

The students taught beginning Spanish for an hour each Monday for 11 weeks.

“Children in elementary school are at the best time in their life to learn a new language. The earlier a child starts studying a new language, the more natural it will become and, by the time they get to middle school or high school, it will no longer feel foreign. Instead, it will be second nature to them,” said Maribel Bird, chair of the world languages department and advisor to the Viterbo Spanish Club.

The Spanish Club began tutoring Onalaska elementary school children in Spanish last year. That program was a great success, said Bird. The Onalaska students commuted to Viterbo University to continue their tutoring this year.
A spring tutoring session is also being held. For more information, contact Bird at 608-796-3491 or email spanishclub@viterbo.edu.

Reinhart Center Dedication

On October 6, 2003, the Viterbo community gathered with benefactors and friends to dedicate the newest addition to campus—the $11 million ethics, science, and technology center. Above left: Many members of the Reinhart family were present for the special occasion including daughter Patti (Reinhart) Harrison, who in a speech, shared her thoughts and memories on behalf of her parents, brothers, and sisters. Above right: It’s now the Reinhart Center as workers lift the tarp revealing the new name which honors Marge Reinhart and her late husband D.B.

Losing a Friend

The man behind the Viterbo University sculpture, “Dancing Francis,” Paul Granlund, died Sept. 15, at age 77, in a Mankato, Minn. hospital of respiratory failure and complications related to his decades-long exposure to the dust and chemicals used in his sculpting process.

During his lifetime, Granlund created 650 sculptures, mostly bronze, which are located in the United States, and throughout Europe. On the creation of “Dancing Francis,” Granlund said, “The idea of a dancing Francis was given to me and it was a great blessing. Motion and gesture in a figure are inherent in sculpture. But, I did have to figure out why Francis was dancing. He was dancing for his love of God, his marveling at the universe God made.”

In 2000, a cast of the “Dancing Francis” sculpture made its way to Italy, a gift from Viterbo to the Franciscan Sisters of Atonement in Assisi. Another of Granlund’s sculptures is located in La Crosse in front of the main branch of the public library.

The only son of a Lutheran minister, Granlund grew up in Minneapolis. He developed an interest in art at a young age and received a scholarship to attend Saturday school at the Minnesota School of Art while still in high school. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Gustavus Adolphus College and his Master of Fine Arts from Cranbrook Academy of Arts in Michigan. In 1954, he received a Fulbright Fellowship to study sculpture in Italy; two years later, he received a Guggenheim Grant. Granlund was also the recipient of Viterbo’s most prestigious award, the Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service.

Viterbo Adds New Talent to Faculty

David Banner is director of the Master of Business Administration program. He received his bachelor’s degree at the University of Texas and his master’s degree in business at the University of Houston. His doctoral degree is from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northern University. He can be reached at 608-796-3376 ordkbanner@viterbo.edu.

Bruce Black is an assistant professor of art. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in design and illustration from the University of Arizona and his Master of Fine
Arts degree with an emphasis in painting from the University of Delaware. He can be reached at 608-796-3751 or bmblack@viterbo.edu.

Susan Brooks is an instructor in the Graduate Education program. She received her bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and her master’s degree in reading from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She can be reached at 608-796-3388 or shbrooks@viterbo.edu.

Elizabeth Harrison is a professor in nursing. She received her bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, an associate’s degree in nursing from Rochester Community College, and a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Marquette University. Her master’s and doctoral degrees in nursing are from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She can be reached at 608-796-3691 or emharrison@viterbo.edu.

Joan Henthorne is co-coordinator of the School of Education programs. She received her bachelor’s degree in broad field social studies with a minor in English and her master’s degree in reading education from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She can be reached at 608-796-3383 or jlhenthorne@viterbo.edu.

Kimberly Nelson is an assistant professor of nursing. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Viterbo University and her master’s degree in nursing from Winona State University. She can be reached at 608-796-3678 or kanelson@viterbo.edu.

Audrey Penner is an assistant professor of education. She received her bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University in Emporia, her master’s degree from the University of North Colorado-Greeley, and her Ed.S. from Kansas State University at Pittsburgh. Her degrees are all in education and school administration. She can be reached at 608-796-3385 or alpenner@viterbo.edu.

Linda Schams is an instructor in biology. She received her bachelor’s degree in community health education, with a minor in biology, from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She can be reached at 608-796-3464 or lmschams@viterbo.edu.

Donna Benden is co-coordinator of the School of Education programs. She received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Winona State University in Minnesota and her master’s degree in education from UW-La Crosse. She can be reached at 608-796-3383 or djbenden@viterbo.edu.

Trish Dougherty is an instructor in English. She received her bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in English from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu. She can be reached at 608-796-3487 or pjdougherty@viterbo.edu.

Mary Ellen Haupert is an instructor in music. She received her bachelor’s degree in music education from the college of St. Scholastica. She has a master’s degree in piano performance from Washington University and a master’s in pastoral ministry from St. Mary’s in Winona, Minn. Her doctoral degree is in piano performance practice from Washington University. She can be reached at 608-796-3770 or mehaupert@viterbo.edu.

Naomi Stennes-Spidahl is an instructor in English. She received her bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis and her master’s degree in English from the University of North Dakota-Grand Forks. She can be reached at 608-796-3481 or nrsstennes@viterbo.edu.
Grant Proposal Tops in Nation

As if receiving a five-year $1.755 million grant isn’t exciting enough, Viterbo University’s grant proposal was rated tops in the nation, receiving a 100 percent score from each of the three members of the readers’ panel.

The grant is from the U.S. Department of Education for a project entitled “Becoming Learner Centered: Improving Academic Quality through Outcomes Assessment and Active Learning Strategies.” It is the largest grant in Viterbo history.

Funding comes from the Strengthening Institutions program, which provides funds to eligible institutions of higher education so that they might increase their self-sufficiency by improving academic programs, institutional management, and/or fiscal stability.

Viterbo will receive $348,704 in the first year alone.

Other Grant News

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Viterbo a $125,927 grant for the purchase of four large and two small growth chambers, each fully programmable for time, temperature, humidity, and carbon dioxide. The new chambers will enable science students and their faculty mentors to control and measure environmental factors during genetic and other experiments with insects and plants. The grant was awarded through the NSF’s Division of Biological Infrastructure’s Major Research Instrumentation program.

The Performing Arts Network (PAN), a program of the Wisconsin Arts Board, awarded over $12,000 in grant funds to Viterbo in support of fine arts events. The PAN program of Wisconsin provides funding for arts organizations that sponsor a series of four or more performances by professional touring artists who reside outside the sponsor’s community.

The Wisconsin Humanities Council awarded Viterbo $4,000 in grant funding in support of the Belize National Dance Company’s residency. It was the first time Viterbo applied in the “major grants” category and was the largest grant ever made to Viterbo by the council. The project was titled “Bringing Belize to Wisconsin: A Cultural Introduction through Dance.” The workshops focused on the cultural and ethnic makeup of the country as illustrated through dance. During its three-day residency, the company gave two performances for the Ronald McDonald’s Arts for Young America series, as well as workshops in area schools.


Gifts Restore Piano Masterpieces

Past S.O.S. Chair Gloria Vallejo-Comin (left) was recognized for her part in the S.O.S. program. Current chair Fe Abellera honored Vallejo-Comin with a flower.
The life of another nine-foot Steinway piano is being saved by Joel Lidstrom of Caledonia, Minn. thanks to the generosity of Save Our Steinways (S.O.S.) benefactors.

Following the sixth annual S.O.S. event on Saturday, Sept. 20, the total funds raised for restoration of these grand pianos stood in excess of $60,000. The event began with cocktails at the home of David and Kim Pretasky. Dinner and music followed in the Viterbo University Fine Arts Center Lobby. During the evening, Gloria Vallejo-Comin, who has chaired the S.O.S. committee for three years, was honored for her efforts.
For more information on S.O.S., contact Natalie McGarry, director of development at 608-796-3073 or njmcgarry@viterbo.edu.

Did You Know...
- Over 64 percent of Viterbo University employees made a gift or pledge to the university this year? On Oct. 14, employees gathered to celebrate their participation by holding a reception and raffle. At the event, Business Professor David Schulz won a $250 travel voucher donated by Carlson Wagonlit Travel.
- Viterbo University participated in a gift-planning event with the Catholic College Consortium on Sept. 10? Over 70 alumni and friends attended the lecture series and dinner. John Fulton, president of Legacy Financial Group, was the featured speaker and covered a variety of topics including the importance of Values-based Inheritance.
- Sponsors of the Bright Star and NexStar seasons were thanked for their generosity to the Fine Arts at a reception and performance of Blind Boys of Alabama on Sept. 23?
- Over 60 individuals representing 23 companies attended a Vendor Social on Aug. 14 in the Fine Arts Center Lobby? The hor d'oeuvre reception was held to express the university’s appreciation for the vendor’s ongoing support and service to Viterbo.

Obang's Odyssey Inspires a Full House

This year’s Paula Ripple Comin Memorial Endowed Lectureship featured Obang Okello, a 25-year-old student at Bethel College in St. Paul. He had quite a story to share--one that began at age 11 when his life changed dramatically. Growing up in a border village between war-torn Ethiopia and Sudan, Okello was one of only 17 among 2,400 classmates who survived a bomb blast of his school. The violent conflict also decimated his village and left him homeless and orphaned. On foot, 11-year-old Obang embarked on a 1,000-mile, 40-day journey to a Kenyan refugee camp. Through a series of chance encounters, Okello left Africa for Washington, D.C., was adopted, found his brother living in Minnesota, and discovered the family he thought was dead, was living in Africa. Okello spoke on Tuesday, Nov. 18 to a crowd of 250 people. At the event, Tessa Smasal from Farmington, Minn., was named the Paula Ripple Comin scholar. Smasal is a senior majoring in ministry.

Rooms Dedicated

The bricks and mortar are in place, students are busy studying and learning, and other functions of the university are underway in the new Reinhart Center--thanks to the help of
friends of Viterbo. During the new building’s inaugural semester, five rooms were specially dedicated:

- On Aug. 18, an Organic/Analytical Laboratory was named in honor of Ron Amel, a Viterbo University chemistry professor. Amel has taught chemistry at Viterbo since 1972 and received several distinguished awards during his tenure. In 1982, he received the leadership award; in 1986, the Teacher of the Year award; and, in 1998, the J. Thomas Finucan Award for his dedication to the mission of Viterbo University.
- Also on Aug. 18, the Science Reading Room on the second floor was named in honor of the biology and chemistry faculty for their generous contributions to the new facility.
- Viterbo University founders the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration were on hand Oct. 1 for a dedication to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of their continuous prayer. The Large Distance Education Room in the Reinhart Center was dedicated to the sisters.
- President Bill Medland welcomed Marion Elliott to the Reinhart Center on Nov. 7 to dedicate the presidential suite in honor of her and her late husband, John. While on campus, Elliott had the opportunity to meet with several students who received scholarships from the Elliott Foundation.
- Finally, on Dec. 18, the Distance Education Room was dedicated to Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation and the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center. Viterbo was honored to dedicate this state-of-the art room to both organizations for their support of the D.B. and Marge Reinhart Center.

**Reinhart Center Honoring Our Founders**

The 15th annual Founders Day Banquet was held on Oct. 6 in conjunction with the Dedication of the D.B. and Marge Reinhart Center for Ethics, Science, and Technology. Founders Day, a celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, is an opportunity for Viterbo to express its gratitude to our founders, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, and long-time friends who have perpetuated its heritage.

**SPROTS CORNER**

**The Search for Viterbo’s Greatest Sports Moment...**

V-Hawk fans: What are the greatest moments in Viterbo sports history? Here’s a collection that Sports Information Director Nels Popp considers to be tops on his list.

**1984: A New Field**

For Mark Botterill, who saw plenty of Viterbo sporting events in his nine-year career as men’s soccer coach and sports information director, Viterbo’s first big sporting moment was “laying the turf on our own home field at the Dairyland Complex. We had everyone out there helping. Bob Gibbons (then president of Viterbo), myself, our players, we all had a hand in putting down that turf. It was a really proud moment.”

Dirty athletes on their hands and knees, installing muddy sod, hardly conjures images of grandeur. But, that field was the start of a much greater vision. The Dairyland Power Complex was Viterbo’s first “home field.”
In their first game that season on a new home pitch, the 76ers, as they were then known, played Ripon College to a 00 draw. It would be the only game Botterill’s club would not lose that year. It was also the start of something special for the school as a whole.

1989: UW-La Crosse at Viterbo
On March 4, 1989, the UW-La Crosse men’s basketball team journeyed grudgingly across town. At the time, both UW-La Crosse and Viterbo were in the NAIA and both were among the eight teams that qualified for regional play-offs. However, when the seedings came out, UW-La Crosse was #5, Viterbo #4. That meant the V-Hawks would host the first-round game. A public debate played out in the local media.

UW-La Crosse officials claimed Viterbo’s gym didn’t hold enough seating for a play-off game. When portable bleachers were brought in, UW-L argued that there were not enough bathrooms. Viterbo then opened up locker rooms to add more restroom facilities. UW-La Crosse countered that the gym did not have adequate emergency exits. Viterbo called in the La Crosse Fire Department to give the Student Activities Center a stamp of approval.

For local sports fans, the hype in the week leading up to the contest was Super Bowl-esque. For the V-Hawk faithful, the game lived up to its billing.

“Looking around the gym that night, the walls were sweating,” said Botterill. “It was really cold outside and we had so many people inside that the walls were dripping water.”

That night, the V-Hawks set a defensive record, holding UW-L to just 39 points, and winning their inaugural encounter 53 to 39.

1990: Men’s Soccer Goes to Nationals
Under Botterill’s direction, the men’s soccer program slowly turned from a team that didn’t even have a home, to a squad that would challenge for a national championship.

A 31 victory over Judson College that year ranks among the all-time greatest soccer memories.

That season saw the V-Hawks go 1711 in the regular season, but they had to win their region to advance to the 10-team national tournament held that year in Boca Raton, Florida. It was a feat Viterbo had never done before, and one made all the more difficult by perceived bias in the seeding of the regional tournament. During their four-game tournament run, the V-Hawks had to hit the road three times, traveling to Duluth, Minn., Kenosha, and the finale in Elgin, Ill.

“From a 90-minute perspective, I think that team, during that game, was the best we ever had during my time as coach,” said Botterill. “I thought our team showed all the heart and soul that you could expect. Winning against Judson, that was really a special situation.”

1990: Miller’s Big Break
On Tuesday, June 6, 1990, at about 1 p.m., the phone rang at the Miller household in West Salem. The call was for Viterbo baseball player Damian Miller. It was the Minnesota Twins, who with their 20th round pick, selected the V-Hawk catcher. What followed is still one of the most remarkable stories in Viterbo history.

Miller toiled for several years in the minor leagues, before being called up to play with the Twins in 1997. He was then taken by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the expansion draft of 1998, and soon became the Diamondbacks starting catcher. Working behind the plate for
pitchers such as Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling, Miller helped lead his club to a World Series victory in 2001. The next year, he earned a selection to the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, where he hit two doubles in the mid-summer classic. Miller still holds several V-Hawk baseball records, including career batting average (.423).

Damian Miller’s success has been a source of inspiration for many Viterbo student-athletes and winning the game that sends a team to a national tournament is every player’s dream.

1990: The Shot Heard Round the Globe

Searching for the greatest Viterbo sports moments, one event, one shot, comes up over and over. It took place in a game that Viterbo lost and featured a basketball player who was the most unlikely of heroes.

“The shot,” as it is referred to around the athletics department, was a three-quarter court heave by freshman Brian Behnke that banked off the backboard and went in at Zorn Arena in Eau Claire. The V-Hawks were taking on the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds in the NAIA regional championship game with the winner going to the 1990 national tournament in Kansas City. The game was played in front of a capacity crowd, as well as a large television audience as NBC-affiliate WEAU broadcast the game live throughout Western Wisconsin. And, despite Viterbo coming into the game as heavy underdogs, Behnke’s miracle shot at the buzzer tied the ball game at the end of regulation, and sent the game into overtime. It was a game Viterbo would eventually lose by three points, but that moment would stay ingrained in the minds of all who saw that contest.

The person most surprised by the shot was Behnke.

“I was at a social event about a week later and someone came up to me and told me I was just on David Letterman. The shot had made Marv Albert’s Plays of the Week segment. It was also on ESPN’s Plays of the Year, which is kind of cool.”

19982001: Women’s Basketball Makes Mark

An 11-year veteran of women’s basketball coaching at Viterbo, Bobbi Vandenberg sent the first women’s basketball team to a national tournament in 2001, a club that finished the season 305, and a #4 national ranking. But, when reflecting on her most memorable moment as V-Hawk coach, she thinks immediately of a particular opponent, the Grand View Vikings.

In 1998, the Vikings also were ranked as high as #4 in the country and finished the conference season 111. When Grand View and Viterbo locked horns in La Crosse that year, the Vikings held a 5352 edge in the dying moments of the game. Somehow, the V-Hawks managed a basket at the buzzer to win the contest.

“That was a huge win, it was so much fun,” said Vandenberg. “It was incredible because they were such a good team. I just remember that we hit a shot, the buzzer went off, and all of sudden, all hell broke loose.”

But, who hit that last second shot? “I think Beth Vacek hit the shot,” said Vandenberg. “Beth drove the lane, missed, but I got the rebound, and put it in,” corrected Kim Hendricks, currently an assistant coach for Vandenberg.

That upset of Grand View set the stage for another historic game with those Vikings in 2001. The V-Hawks had reeled off a perfect 120 season in the MCC and won 19 straight before running into Grand View in the MCC tournament championship game. While Viterbo was
ranked among the top five in the country and would earn an at-large bid to the national tournament if they lost the game, the Vikings had only one chance to extend their season: upset the V-Hawks.

“That game was just so intense, that was easily the most people we’ve ever packed in the gym for one of our games,” said Vandenberg. “I usually don’t notice the crowd, but it was really loud and boisterous. You could just feel the energy.”

The V-Hawks indeed collected a hard-fought 56-51 victory that brought out emotions not just from the participants, but also the fans. “I just remember screaming our heads off,” said Jean Moore, FSPA, vice president for student development. “When it was over, everyone just poured out on to the floor. It was a good 45 minutes that people were on the court celebrating, watching the players cut down the nets.”

ALUMNI NOW

Online and Printed Directories

Our Viterbo University Alumni Directory project is completed and the newest edition has recently been released. This comprehensive new volume, available in book or CD format, is a compilation of the most current data available on over 11,000 Viterbo alumni. Information was obtained from questionnaire mailings, telephone verification, and alumni records. All alumni who reserved a copy of the directory during the verification phase of the project should have received their personal copies by this time. If you have a question on your order, or if you wish to place an order, please contact our publisher directly at the following address: Customer Service Department, Bernard C. Harris Publishing Co., Inc., Norfolk, VA 23502, Phone: 1-800-877-6554.

Our new directory is an excellent way of reliving your school days and getting reacquainted with former Viterbo classmates.

And, we are proud to announce the addition of a new alumni benefit—an online directory. Now, you will be able to access information about your classmates and friends via the Web. You will need to use your alumni ID number to enter the site and then create your own user name and password. Information was mailed to every alum last month, but if you misplaced your ID number or have questions, just contact the Alumni Office at 608-796-3071. The great thing about this new service is that you can add or hide information that is available to other alumni and security is greater since only fellow Viterbo alumni will have access to the site.

Link up through the Viterbo Alumni Web page: www.viterbo.edu/alumni.

Telling “The Hider’s Story”

“Compelling and honest” is what critics are saying about 2000 Master of Arts in Education alumna Jacqueline Gordon’s memoir, “The Hider’s Story.” Recently published by I Have a
Voice, the book tells the story of Gordon’s childhood sexual abuse and the alternate reality she created for herself as a result. Although a sad story, it’s also an inspirational survivor’s tale.

"As more and more people tell me how much they appreciate my book, offer their empathy for what I endured as a child, and encourage me about the good things “The Hider’s Story” will accomplish, I feel a sense of pride and great accomplishment," said Gordon, who now teaches Family and Consumer Education at a small middle/high school.

"The Hider’s Story” is available for $12.95 plus shipping and handling by calling 1-888-493-3719.

Alumni Reunite on the Field


Viterbo Alums Join Forces to Refer Students

The Viterbo Alumni Board recently developed a new student referral plan with the undergraduate admission office that not only rewards the participating alumni, it rewards the students who are referred.

Each alum will initially receive five referral certificates, good for either fall 2004 or fall 2005, from the admission office. When meeting a high school senior or junior, alumni are urged to complete the certificate and give it to that student. Alumni participating in the program can also use the $25 fee waiver certificate for their own children or relatives. Plus, there is an added incentive for each referral certificate that is returned to the admission office with a completed application.

Explained Mike Hoeft ’95, chair of the alumni board’s Recruitment and Careers Committee, “For each certificate received in the admission office, the referring alum will be mailed a new Viterbo University T-shirt. Each year, the admission office purchases shirts of a different style, and since the program covers two years and includes five certificates, one could win a number of shirts. All the alumni need to remember is that when they hand out a certificate, they need to enter their name and address on that section of the certificate. That way the admission office will know where to mail the shirt.”

But there’s also an important benefit for students who receive the certificate. “There is a real motivation for the high school student to use the certificate to submit an application
because the certificate serves as an application fee waiver, currently a value of $25,” said Diane Osterhaus Neefe ’81, president-elect of the alumni board.

The alumni student referral plan was developed jointly by members of the admission office and the Recruitment and Careers Committee of the alumni board.

Dream Come True for Alumna

A prayer, a dream, and a rose led 1977 Viterbo University alumna Teresa (Briedenbach) Cochran on a journey that would end in a book. That journey took her to the true story of John Bosco, a young boy who lived in 19th century Italy and was a friend and champion to the homeless and poor. Cochran decided to bring the story to life as an inspiration to children. The book, which she authored and illustrated, is called "Boschetto’s Dream." It was published by Premiere Editions International in 2000. It can be ordered online for $9.95 through [www.teamarie.net/childrens-books.html](http://www.teamarie.net/childrens-books.html).

Cochran, her husband, and three children live in Oregon.

A Good Use for Old Equipment

Virginia Thompson is the mother of Heidi Thompson Ferris ’87, who works at Winona Community Hospital as a registered dietitian. Recently, Virginia contacted Kim Fredricks, a Viterbo biology professor, to ask if there were any outdated microscopes she could purchase as a Christmas present for her new son-in-law, who is a doctor at Winona Community Memorial. Virginia had obtained an antique microscope case from Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, which she refinished, but had nothing to put in it. Since the science labs at Viterbo had recently moved from Murphy Center into the new Reinhart Center, old and outdated microscopes were available. Fredricks took one to Virginia’s home for her to complete the set. Virginia is a retired decorator for Franciscan Skemp Healthcare and, prior to that, A & C Johnson Co.

Greetings from Gae Gok Elementary

Just miles from the DMZ, South Korea, Bill Zoll ’02 and crew say hello from his classroom where he is teaching English. Zoll accepted the assignment in December and he is the only native English speaking instructor within miles of any direction. If you recognize a familiar “personality” in the picture, it could well be Vic the V-Hawk, Viterbo’s athletic mascot who is proudly displayed by the student third from left in the back row.

Presidents Past and Present

It was a time of reminiscing and laughter, of meeting old friends and new. Viterbo University held “An Evening with the Presidents” on Thursday, Sept. 25 in St. Paul at the Town and Country Club. Over 20 people gathered to hear an update on their alma mater from current President William Medland and learn what past presidents have been doing since their Viterbo
days. Past presidents Sr. Grace McDonald and Fr. Thomas Finucan shared their news. Plus, a personal message from former President Robert Gibbons, who was unable to attend, was read.

Cruisin’ Milwaukee

It was a beautiful late summer evening as Viterbo University alumni took a scenic cruise in Milwaukee. President William Medland; Wendy Wegner, nursing; John Schroeder, education; Gary Klein, institutional advancement; and Christine Valenti, graduate education, mingled with guests. Alumni attendees were: Jason Blasiola ’98, Tina Buchholz ’99, Brigid Burns ’98, Jaci Carlson ’02, Jennifer (Stefanich) Delwiche ’98, Sally Emerson ’77, ’98, alumni director, Terry Fojtik ’03, Derek Jackson ’99, Jacque Jurewicz ’01, Dianne Krueger ’03, Stacy McKendry ’03, Amy Preisler ’98, Sr. Bernadette Prochaska ’62, Linda Reed ’77, Jennifer Schultz ’97, Ann Sepersky ’98, Chris Sepersky ’99, Wendy Wegner ’76, and Sr. Jo Weiler ’54.

New Alumni Association Board Members

New members were elected to serve on the Viterbo University Alumni Association Board. They are: Samina Grimes ’97, Scott White ’97, Brenda (Neubauer) Witz ’94, Christopher Wood ’97, Melanie Johnson ’86, and Mary Larson ’71.

CLASS NOTES

1950
Nancy Lafferty ’58 participated in the U.S. Catholic China Bureau’s 8th religious study tour to China in May 2000. She was the contact person for an FSPA Ministry grant to the USCCB for the medical training program in Wuhan, China, the pastor training program in Z’ian, China, and religious leadership training at the Catholic Institute for Religion and Society in Hong Kong.

1960
Dianne (Schiltz) Lotter ’63 is currently writing a book, The Why of Me. Lorrie (DeWitt) Oestreicher ’67 is a Title I teacher for Westby Elementary School, Westby. Arlene Hodapp ’67 celebrated her 50th Jubilee this year as a School Sister of Notre Dame. She is a foot reflexologist in the Mankato, Minn. area. Theresa Connolly, FSPA ’67 is the director of faith formation for St. Stanislaus Parish in Stevens Point. Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA ’67 has been appointed to the canon law committee for the Catholic Health Association, a national organization representing more than 2,000 Catholic health care sponsors, systems, and facilities. Lawrence Burns, son of Colleen (Byrnes) Burns ’63?’65, brother of Brigid Burns ’98 was deployed to Iraq in 2003.

1970
Marilyn (Klein) Leclair ’70 was promoted to director of hospital operations for Laboratory Alliance of Central New York in Syracuse.

Mary (Salseider) Holt ’71 was recently employed by the Beaver Dam Community Hospital, Beaver Dam, in occupational health.

Cynthia (Jensen) Krings ’78 received her master’s degree from UW-La Crosse December 2003. She is an instructor for the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College Nursing Assistant Program, as well as a part-time staff nurse at the Rush County Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home.

Mary K. Mauel ’71’74 volunteers with the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens and Nature Center and for the Museum of Science and History, Corpus Christi. She studies the behavior of butterflies and is currently compiling a list of butterfly species sited in the Corpus Christi area for both organizations. She has registered approximately 63 different species. Mary is also a member of the National Audubon Society and The National Audubon Outdoor Club.

1980

Richard Boortz-Marx ’80 was recently employed by Gundersen Lutheran, La Crosse. He practices in the Department of Neurosciences Division of Pain Medicine.

Lorraine (Grunewaldt) Fernandes ’80 was promoted to senior vice president for healthcare practice at Initiate Systems, Inc., Chicago.

Marie Senzig ’80 was promoted to the rank of captain in the United States Navy May 8, 2003. She will be the senior nurse executive at the Naval Hospital in Keflavik, Iceland starting Nov. 15, 2003.

Jean (Elsbernd) Boyer ’81 is working at the Gundersen Lutheran Regional Clinic in Decorah.

Patricia (Flock) Bodden ’82 was promoted to quality improvement coordinator for Sherman Home Care Partners, Elgin, Ill.

Lisa and Greg Gilman ’82 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Catherine Barbara, Oct. 12, 2003. She joins her brother, Andrew.

Pamela Flannery ’83 received her Master of Nursing, Midwife degree from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

Susan and Michael J. Smith ’83 celebrated the birth of twins, Antonia and Lucia, April 14, 2003. They join their siblings, William, Addie, Katherine, and Bridgid.

Joyce and Jack Felsheim ’84 celebrated the birth of a son, John, Oct. 16, 2003. He joins his sisters, Emily, Elizabeth, and Mary.

Dorothy (Boehm) ’85 and Michael Fitzgerald celebrated the birth of a son, Matthew Paul, Sept. 28, 2003. He joins his siblings, Sarah, Elsa, and Nathan.

Deanna (Burns) Dickinson ’85 accepted the position as associate dean of nursing at Southwestern Technical College May 21, 2003. She is responsible for all nursing programs.


Tammy (Scheer) ’87 and Terry Bartowitz celebrated the adoption of a son and daughter, Anastasia, 17 months, and Alexander, 6 months. They were brought home from Russia February 2003.

Heidi Thompson ’87 married Richard Ferris, May 17, 2003 at the Episcopal Church, Winona.

Pam Alt ’88 was one of several nurse practitioners from across the United States who authored the recently published Clinical Handbook of Pediatric Endocrinology.

Carrie (Witcraft) Hankes ’88 was recently employed as the director of training and development for Affinity Health Systems, Appleton.
Dawn (Lipkie) '94 and Jeff Bojarski ’89 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madeline Cosma, July 28, 2003. She joins her sisters, Katelyn and Hannah.

Cathy (Cook) ’89 and Mark Buttell celebrated the birth of a daughter, Claire Cathryn, Sept. 16, 2002.

Diana and Ronald Krajnik ’89 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emma Clare, Oct. 16, 2003. She joins her sisters, Isabella and Azrianna.

1990

Mary (Cunningham) ’90 and Jody Miedema celebrated the birth of a daughter, Megan, July 4, 2003. She joins her brother, Caleb.

Laura (Skogman) ’90 and Jim Wendt celebrated the birth of twin daughters, Cora Johannah and Emma Julianne, July 28, 2003. They join their brothers, Jeremy, Jordan, and James.

Tanya Vaughn ’90 and Norval Greenwold celebrated the birth of a daughter, Blair Vaughn, Jan. 28, 2003. She joins her sister, Taylor.

Scott Baeseman ’91 was awarded a prize of $5000 and one of the prestigious Second Century Teaching Chair Teacher of the Year Awards at Lake Forest Country Day School August 2003. The award is given annually to two teachers who demonstrate an enthusiastic commitment to teaching excellence. Scott is the director of choral activities, music history, and a general music teacher at LFCDS.

Patricia (Beyers) ’91 and Jeff Pelzel celebrated the birth of a daughter, Clare Elizabeth, July 29, 2003. She joins her brother Ross, 5.

Joe Haines ’91 has recently accepted the position of executive director/CEO for Camp Fire USA Rocky Mountain Council, a youth development organization that serves youth and families in Colorado and Wyoming.


Keri (Ress) ’93 and Joe McCormick celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kylie Ann, March 28, 2003. She joins her sister, Maddie, 3.

Meg (Schlicht) ’93 and Joseph Buchner celebrated the birth of a son, Vincent Cade, April 24, 2003. He joins his sister, Lane, 3.

Kristin (Theobald) ’93 and Shawn Drager celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lauryn, May 24, 2003. She joins her brothers, Reese and Ryan.

Rhonda (Griesmer) ’94 and Brian Bartelt celebrated the birth of a daughter, Annabeth, Dec. 13, 2003.

Jill (Hefty) ’94 and Thomas Nguyen celebrated the birth of a son, Jackson, July 5, 2003. He joins his sister, Claudia, 5. They live in Ft. Bliss, Texas.

Tonya Benson ’94 married Kurt Limberg (photo at left) Oct. 12, 2002 at St. Sebastian Catholic Church in Milwaukee.

Lisa and Patrick Kiedrowski ’94 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Josephine, July 24, 2003. She joins her sister, Alexandria, 10.

Amy (McIlmail) ’94 and Tim Wysocki celebrated the birth of a son, Gabriel, March 17, 2003.

Susan McKenna-Slapp ’94 and Todd Slapp celebrated the adoption of a daughter, Molly, Dec. 5, 2001.

Jennifer Snapp ’94 recently started her own consulting business. Business Planning Solutions, LLC is focused on counseling businesses in planning and obtaining capital.
Meghean (Dineen) '95 and Todd Shea celebrated the birth of a son, Michael Dineen, April 4, 2003. He joins his siblings, Matthew, 6, and Claire, 3.

Jeanmarie and Chris Graziano '95 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Maria, April 17, 2003. She joins her siblings, Abraham, 12, Jack, 9, and Alya, 7.

Keri Duell-King '95 had four teacher resource books published. She authored *Make-It-Your-Way Math*, Creative Teaching Press. She also authored full color literacy activities: *Sounds and Letters (Pre K?1st)*, full color literacy activities; *Rhyming and Sight Words (K?1st)* and full color literacy activities; and *Reading and Writing (1st?2nd)* teacher created materials.

Julie (Ewing) Lassa '95, '03 recently joined the Cardiology Department of Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, La Crosse as an adult nurse practitioner.

Thomas Gonyo '95 is an operations team member for Ash Meadows L.L.C. of Nevada. Ash Meadows mines, processes, and packages zeolite, an odor absorbing natural mineral used in cat litter, and spa and pool filtration.

Traci (Krultz) '95 and Dean Lindner '95 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Rachel Marie, July 1, 2003. She joins her brothers, Aaron, 5, and Cole, 4.

Karin Maresh Silva '95 was recently employed by Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa. as an assistant professor in the theatre department.

Jennifer (McConkey) '95 and Jamie Havlik celebrated the birth of a son, Lucas John, June 19, 2003. He joins his brother, Ryan.

Janine (Johnson) Miller '95 teaches 5th grade at Oak Ridge Elementary School, Tallahassee. She also mentors new teachers.

Janell (Thompson) '95 and Iver Rondestvedt celebrated the birth of a son, Ty Sanford, March 8, 2003. Janell has finished her family practice residency and has joined a family practice clinic in Eau Claire.

Rob Anderson '96 was employed by the University of Iowa-Iowa City Oct. 13, 2003, as an educational programmer. He will deal exclusively with programming initiatives for the campus.

Janell (Bell) '96 and Scott Haske celebrated the birth of a son, Braedon, June 30, 2003.

Tracy (Fernholz) '96 and Tom Ferris celebrated the birth of a daughter, Bella, Aug. 29, 2003. She joins her brother, Tommy, 2.

Renee (Hilby) '96 and Todd Jordan celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ella Madeline, July 5, 2003.

Stacy (Jankowski) '96 and Peter Sinks '95 celebrated the birth of a son, Braden James, July 9, 2003.

Kaye (Krogen) '96 and Jeffrey Mortimer celebrated the birth of a son, Mason. He joins his sister, Maggie.

Mandy Olsen '96 married Jay Burleson Oct. 11, 2003 in Clearwater Beach, Fla. Mandy is currently employed as a traveling nurse, and has worked all over the United States.


Danielle (Klingbiel) '97 and Scott Krueger celebrated the birth of a son, Joseph Erich, June 18, 2003. He joins his foster sister, Jasmine, 2.

Christopher Laing-Martinez '97 was recently employed by Dominican High School, Milwaukee as a Spanish instructor.

Debra (Myhre) '97 and Brad Augedahl celebrated the birth of a son, Brady, July 30, 2003.
Teresa (Sheahan) '97 and James Field celebrated the birth of a son, Conner Richard, June 2, 2003. He joins his brother, Adam.
Angela Finnes '98 has been a freelance and staff costumer in both theater and film as well as film production work. Some of the theatres she has worked include the Alley Theatre, Houston Grand Opera, Utah Shakespearean Festival, American Players Theatre, Goodman Theatre, and the Santa Fe Opera, in addition to both feature and independent films.
Jennifer (Manske) '98 and Robert Masewicz celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madeline Kathleen, Feb. 27, 2003. She joins her brother, Charles Robert, 2.
Shane Peper '98 received his Ph.D. in Chemistry at Auburn University in Auburn, Ala. and has published 19 articles and has one patent for a polymer electrochemical sensor. He presented two papers in Hungary at the electrochemical sensor conference, and spent three weeks at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich testing new technology. Shane received a post doctorate position at Los Alamos, N.M. in the Nuclear Chemistry Division.
Stephanie Persick '98 and David Zukerman '95-'97 were married on July 6, 2002 in Green Bay. They live in Schaumburg, Ill.
Becky (Slife) '98 and John Soper celebrated the birth of a daughter, Olivia Jean, July 31, 2003. She joins her sister, Hailey.
Jeff Spaulding '98 marked his 5 year anniversary with Old Republic Title Insurance as Senior Internal Auditor May 2003.
Amanda (Sprehn) '98 and Nathan Byom celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emmarie May, Dec. 14, 2002.
Melinda (Williams) Spaulding '98 recently accepted a position as the Director of Analytical Services for G&S Research in Carmel, Indiana.
Lisa Davis '01 married Kevin Biondo '99 Sept. 6, 2003 at the Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center.
Tad Diciaula '99 (left) graduated from Logan College of Chiropractic, St. Louis, August 2003. He is a doctor of chiropractic for Albrecht Chiropractic Center, Waukesha.
Jodie (Mickelson) '99 and Steve Brawthen celebrated the birth of a daughter, Taryn Haley, Sept. 16, 2003. She joins her brother, Jacob.
Tammy (Schofield) '99 and Joel Klink '99 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Caitlin Elizabeth, June 17, 2003.
Ryan Shea '99 was recently named head men’s soccer coach for Austin College, Sherman, Texas.
Rebecca (Suhr) '99 and Jared Oswald celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hayley, Oct. 1, 2003.
Donna (Venner) '99 and Dave Ernst celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kyler Rose, Dec. 26, 2002.
Laura (Dopp) ’90?’94 and Mike Running celebrated the birth of a daughter, Peyton Elizabeth. She joins her brother, Nicholas, 2.

2000
Judy and Shawn Handland ’00 celebrated the birth of a child, Maren, Dec. 10, 2002.
Chris Herman ’00 recently passed the Ohio State Bar and was sworn in as an attorney. He is currently employed by New Philadelphia Public Defenders.

Megan Tester ’00 married Matt Woods on July 13, 2003 at the Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Church, Negril, Jamaica. Megan is a 6th grade teacher at Our Lady of Grace School in Edina, Minn., and Matt is employed in hospital administration for the U.S. Air Force.
Katherine Ziegler ’00 married Anthony Tang June 28, 2003 in Phoenix. Katherine will be graduating from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., in May with a master’s degree in divinity. Both she and Anthony are United Methodist clergy, and reside in Tempe, Ariz.

Erin Fargen ’01 recently became the manager of a movie theater in Swansea, Mass. She plans to attend either Harvard or Georgetown in order to obtain a degree in legal education.
Jessica Stoudt Duckwitz ’01 was recently employed as district school nurse for the Whitewater School District.
Nicole Brill ’02 is a live-in caretaker for United Cerebral Palsy of Portland, Ore., and is a full-time student at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore. in the doctoral program for clinical psychology.
Rebecca Larson married Mike Brudos ’02 Aug. 16, 2002.
Nicole Budimlija ’02 married Jesse Lukewich ’02 June 21, 2003 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Medford.
Haley (Donner) ’02 and Jarred Reed celebrated the birth of a daughter, Gabriella Elizabeth, Aug. 9, 2003.
Jill Hamus ’02 and Paul Hamus celebrated the birth of a daughter, Paityn, Sept. 24, 2002.
John Kouchich ’02 was recently employed by Andrew Automotive Group, Glendale, as a sales and leasing consultant.
Betsy Wolf ’02 and Joe Wolf celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kylie Jo, Sept. 13, 2003.
Kate Bohn ’03 is the assistant technical director for McCain Auditorium at Kansas State University.
Christine Carlone ’03 married Jeremy Rickert July 5, 2003 in Sparta. Christine is a personal banker for M&I Bank.
Emily Herritz ’03 was recently employed by North Central Trust, La Crosse, as a marketing assistant. She will assist in the development and execution of marketing and advertising plans.
Raisa Thornton ’03 married Samuel Ellingson May 24, 2003 at English Lutheran Church, La Crosse.
Megan Welch ’03 married Matthew Bielanski Aug. 30, 2003 at San Damiano Chapel, Viterbo University.
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.

Leon Sahr, July 10, 2003, brother of Matthea Sahr, FSPA '43.
Angela Bengfort, Nov. 9, 2003, sister of Catherine Schmitz, FSPA '49.
Patricia (Mary Bonaventure, FSPA) Hinckley '52, Nov. 10, 2003.
Mary Daniel, Nov. 6, 2003, sister of Eloise Nees, FSPA '53.
Bernice Hansmeier, Aug. 18, 2003, mother of Ann (Hansmeier)Kerkenbush '61, and grandmother of Lisa (Kerkenbush) Fahlgren '85.
Clarence Hofacker, Feb. 18, 2003, father of Rosemarie (Hofacker) Skenandore '63, uncle of Mary (Schlosser) Collins '66, and brother of Willa (Hofacker) Gaines '61'64.
Ralph Kluesner, Aug. 23, 2003, brother of Marian Kluesner, FSPA '63.
Gerald Bauer, May 1, 2003, brother of Marlene Bauer, FSPA '64.
Alma Doorley, July 19, 2003, sister of Marguerite Bruening, FSPA '64.
Dorothy Ruetten, Sept. 10, 2003, sister of Marguerite Bruening, FSPA '64.
Loretta Blume, June 1, 2003, mother of Joan (Blume) Plant '67.
LeRoy Koller, September, 3, 2003, father of Nancy Koller Bibeau (Sr. Mary Le Roi, FSPA) '68, Janet Koller-Narloch '78, Mary Koller Voss '79, and father-in-law of Nicholas Narloch '79 and Terry Voss '80.
Jean Ann Smith, sister of Marilyn (Frommelt) Reeves '72.
Ruth A. Anderson, July 8, 2003, mother of Thomas A. Anderson '77.
Elaine Hanson, July 7, 2003, mother of Teresa (Hanson) Helseth '80.
Roxanne (Schmidt) Blakeley '80, July 13, 2001.
Janice M. Robertson, May 17, 2002, mother of Cheryl (Robinson) Leith '82.
Lewis Busjahn, Jr., Oct. 21, 2003, father of LuAnn (Busjahn) Jordan ’84.
Orin Thompson, April 10, 2003, father of Heidi (Thompson) Ferris ’87.
Peter O’Sullivan, June 29, 2003, father of Kathy O’Sullivan ’91.
Kurt Happe, Sept. 9, 2002, father of Joan (Happe) Gundersen ’97.
Myrtle Christianson, Sept. 18, 2002, grandmother of Sara Christianson ’01.
Marilyn Hegenbarth, Sept. 8, 2002, grandmother of Joycelyn Branson ’01.
Ludwick Remus, July 8, 2003, father-in-law of Linda (Johnson) Remus ’00.
Donovan Pfaff, July 1, 2003, grandfather of Tracey (Pfaff) Tumaniec ’00.

A FINAL WORD

On Foot: Reflections on a 26-Mile Journey
Maria Keilman ’81

Maria (Rodriguez) Keilman ’81 is the administrator of Madonna Manor, a non-profit, charitable independent living facility for senior women in Salinas, Calif. She also is a registered intern marriage and family therapist. A mother of two children, Maria ran the Big Sur to raise funds for Madonna Manor. She raised over $27,000.

I ran my first marathon. What an incredible, powerful, and unforgettable experience! I woke up the day after without the concern of getting out in the street to continue my training. I was relieved, yet nostalgic. There was a sense of loss. However, the memory will remain with me. I used to say there were three “best decisions” I’d made in my life: The first was to marry my husband, Jim; the second to adopt my daughters; and the third to pursue the profession I am in. Now, I have a fourth, and that was to run California’s 2003 Big Sur International.

Marathon day started by getting up at 3 a.m. in order to go to Monterey and board the school bus that was going to take us to the starting line. We got there, at Pfeiffer Park (26.2 miles away from the finish line in Carmel), at 5:55 a.m.

As we lined up, we talked, asking each others’ names, if this was our first marathon, where we were from. We embraced each other and wished each other good luck and safety. Even without knowing one another, all of a sudden, it was as if we’d known each other for years.
The starting ceremony was beautiful and emotional. Once all 3,000+ runners were lined up, the noise stopped and they announced the benediction. The silence was penetrating. And, when I looked around, every runner had their hats in their hands and their heads bowed. Afterward, a woman sang the National Anthem and, toward the end, 26 white doves were released (one for each mile).

The run, although difficult, was smooth. A few times, I turned back to look at where I’d been, and was in awe at the beauty. People passed me and I passed them—some friends I’d met during training. I could hear many conversations along the way. The highway patrol with their loudspeakers rode along giving us encouragement and providing much-needed humor. Paramedics on bicycles with defibrillators rode by, making sure we were all right. Families who live in homes along the course came out with blankets, signs, water, to provide cheer. I could smell, feel, and hear the fresh ocean and its breeze.

There were musical groups every two miles, and people along the way said, “You’re looking good,”—even if we felt a lot less than good. They yelled, “Keep going! Just a little more now! No more hills,”—even if you knew you still had a lot more to go, including hills.

I’ve always dreaded hills. I’m glad my training took me to many because it paid off. But, I was still afraid. Every time I approached a hill, I thought of the loving angels I have in heaven—like my husband Jim, my father, parents-in-law, grandparents, and others. I thought of a dear friend who encouraged and supported me in runs before she died of cancer last year. I knew these angels were giving me a push. So I kept going.

My daughter Kathy, wrote me a motivational letter the night before. I read her letter at 3 a.m. on marathon morning. It was profound and gave me courage. I folded it and put it in my shorts pocket. As I faced those hills, I touched my pocket and that letter, which was full of love, confidence, and the support only a daughter can give. I ran that marathon not alone but with all kinds of support.

At mile 24, I experienced sudden cramping of my left hamstring and right calf. Plus, I felt blisters developing on my toes. During training clinics, they had told us “Beware, toward the end, your body does weird things.” So, I started walking fast short steps to loosen the muscles. This helped and by mile 25 I resumed my run.

When I started seeing the flags for the finish line, it was like an oasis. What a beautiful sight! About 1/8 mile, before the finish, I realized I couldn’t feel my left leg. I was actually dragging it. I had to make one last super-mental effort to lift up my leg. It was then I heard my brother and sister-in-law calling my name, I saw and heard my daughter, Olivia, and her friend Paige screaming “Go, Mom!” and, I heard two of my employees cheering. On the left, I saw Sr. Roberta and Marguerite from Madonna Manor.

I was crying by then, not of pain but of joy. I raised my arms up and crossed the finish line at exactly five hours and five seconds. 5:00:05! An official representative of the Big Sur was there to greet me, shake my hand, and give me my medal.

While this was highly physical, psychological, and emotional, it was even more a major spiritual encounter. All along, I realized that the essence of the day was not so much about running as it was about what I believed in. That being a part of a great togetherness can make
goals and dreams come true. I have recovered now and resumed my regular routine of daily workouts and runs. I am determined to run the Big Sur again next year. How could I not?

EXTRAS

Campus Sparkles with President’s Festival of Lights and Carols

Angelic harmonies, lights twinkling like stars in the sky, Christmas carols, and other delights awaited those in attendance at the President’s Festival of Lights and Carols on Friday, Dec. 5.

The evening began with a special advent service, accompanied by the dulcet tones of the Viterbo University Concert Choir and Women’s Chorale, celebrated in the majesty of the Maria Angelorum Chapel at St. Rose Convent. Guests then strolled along an illuminated path to the Fine Arts Center where they were treated to sing-along carols and musical performances as well as an array of hors d’oeuvres and wine.

The President’s Festival of Lights and Carols is a holiday occasion the university uses to honor the generosity of benefactors who give at the level of Viterbo’s President’s Club and above.

The News Doesn’t Get Much Better Than This

The La Crosse Tribune carried the news that President William Medland had secretly known for several days. He was named the 2003 Person of the Year and heralded for his “visionary leadership.” Medland, at 13 years in office, holds the distinction of being the longest serving president in the history of the university. To read the complete feature which extensively covered Medland’s personal and professional achievements, log on to: www.viterbo.edu/news/visionary.