Meet three Viterbo alumnae working in higher education and serving as a guiding force in the lives of the next generation of nurses.

Lori Stutte | Lisa Skemp Kelley

Connie Delaney is on Top of the Nursing World

Nursing student Connie White Barr Delaney ’75 was doing quite well as she entered her senior year at Viterbo in the fall of 1974. She was already working as an LPN at St. Francis Hospital. She was married and had a beautiful four-year-old son, Jeremy.

Then something happened that greatly affected her life and could have meant the end of her career at Viterbo. She suddenly and unexpectedly became a single mother.

“I met with Sr. Grace Clare (Beznouz) and told her I needed to quit,” Delaney said. “I needed to be a mother to Jeremy and I didn’t have a cent.”

Grace Clare Beznouz, FSPA, then the head of the Viterbo nursing department, would have none of that, however. “You will not quit,” Sr. Beznouz told her. “We will find a way for you to finish.”

Instead, Sr. Beznouz and Viterbo went out of their way to put together a combination of loans, grants, and scholarships, even finding money to pay for childcare.

Delaney went on to graduate the next spring, beginning a meteoric rise in the world of nursing. Today she is a professor and dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota, one of the largest nursing schools with graduate programs in America. Delaney oversees a nursing school with 364 undergraduate and 419 graduate students.

“Viterbo never leaves my heart,” said Delaney, now 56. “I have no idea what Sr. Grace and others at Viterbo really saw in me, but they made it possible for me to be where I am today. They treated me as a unique individual and saw that I’d graduate. That made my whole life possible.”

And quite a life it’s been. In addition to her post at the University of Minnesota, she is also a Professor Emeritus at the University of Iowa, a professor at the University of Iceland, a Fellow at the American College of Medical Informatics, and the recipient of countless major awards and honors in the field of nursing and health informatics.

Ironically, Delaney wasn’t the least bit interested in nursing while growing up on a farm in northeast Iowa.
“I wanted to be a farmer,” she said. “But in 1968, that wasn’t something women did. I knew for sure I didn’t want to be a teacher, and I didn’t have the aptitude to be a secretary, so I decided on nursing.”

She enrolled in St. Luke’s Methodist School of Nursing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which she attended for a year and a half before transferring to Viterbo. She had just moved back to northeast Iowa and was looking into options for finishing her education.

“Two wonderful things happened,” she said. “Viterbo literally accepted all of the credits I had earned, and I passed my boards to be an LPN and accepted a position at what was then St. Francis Hospital, right across the street.”

“The first clinical experience I ever had, I knew immediately I was in the right profession,” she said. “My patient was a retired farmer who had suffered a stroke who couldn’t talk or move the left side of his body. I learned to communicate with him. I’ll never forget him.”

Viterbo also appealed to Delaney because it was a Christian school, she said. There was no culture shock, despite the fact she was Lutheran and not Catholic.

“Many sisters and some fathers were also professors,” she said, mentioning Sisters Beznouz and Fran Ferder, and then college president Fr. J. Thomas Finucan by name. “It was a wonderful experience. Just phenomenal.”

While at Viterbo studying nursing, Delaney decided to take a math class with Larry Krajewski. The class was full, but when she told him she was keeping the book to study on her own, he offered her the opportunity to take the course as an independent study. She would eventually add math as a second major. She and Krajewski are still good friends to this day.

“I think I’m Viterbo’s only graduate in history who majored in nursing and mathematics,” she smiled. “I just love nursing and love math.” Math has also greatly helped her career in nursing and informatics, she said.

Her fellow students in the class of 1975 added to her educational experience, she said. “There were six or seven men in our class, which was a large number at the time,” she said. “Some of them had served in Vietnam and came to the program with wonderful in-the-field experience.”

“We even managed to have some fun at the corner bar once in a while,” she laughed.

After graduation, Delaney worked for a year at St. Francis as an RN in the intensive care unit before enrolling in a master’s program at the University of Iowa. “It was difficult being a single mother and working nights. I decided I needed to get on with my education,” she said. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in 1986, also from the University of Iowa. She taught there for 18 years before accepting her new position in August 2005.

“At every level, I absolutely love teaching and working with students, whether it be with undergraduate, masters, or Ph.D. students,” she said.

Despite her deep affection for teaching, Delaney said being a dean is just as rewarding and satisfying. The search firm found her; one key reason she accepted the position was because
it allowed her to blend the deanship with her informatics background. Informatics is a specialty of managing and processing data to solve and prevent health problems.

“You can see the link between what you’re doing and what it ultimately means to students becoming nurses,” she said. “If you keep that full-circle in your mind, it’s very rewarding.”

Whether as a professor or dean, there have always been three things she wanted to instill in her students: that their absolute responsibility is to the people they serve, that they need to step out and do their part for the health care system, and that literally nothing is impossible.

“There are so many possibilities in our profession that the challenge is seeing the endless opportunities and making a choice,” she said. “There has never been a finer time to be a nurse.”

Delaney has plenty of activities to keep her busy in her personal life, including her four granddaughters, Ashley, 15, Aana, 14, Skye, 9, and Stormejade, 3, and their parents, Jeremy and Jessica. Her mother, Betty White, lives in Waukon, Iowa. Her father Edmond recently passed away.

She is also just finishing the requirements to earn a pilot’s license. She still manages to find time to work with her siblings in restoring a 1860s log cabin discovered by their father.

Becoming a dean has been a “wonderful fit.” Throughout her career, Delaney has never forgotten the help she received at Viterbo. In fact, she makes it the basis for her teaching philosophy.

“It mattered immensely to me that I would matter enough that my individual needs would be addressed,” she said. “Viterbo’s belief in my potential affected my whole life. I believe in Viterbo’s fundamental commitment to each student. I’ll do anything I can to help the students succeed.”

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**Parting Thoughts from President Medland**

*He is the longest serving president in the history of Viterbo University and his list of accomplishments and recognitions are a fitting testimony to a “job well done.” Citing health concerns and a desire to spend more time with family, Dr. William Medland notified the Board of Trustees a year ago that he would step down as president effective June 30. He will transition to the newly created position of Chancellor which will continue his involvement in fundraising and community relations. He recently spent a relaxed morning reminiscing and sharing his thoughts.*
about his 15 years at Viterbo and the transition ahead.

Q. Did you ever think you would be staying at Viterbo as long as you have?

When I started, I made a commitment to be here five years. I thought I could make a few important and needed changes after which I would move on and let a new president build upon those changes.

In 1991 if you had asked, “Are you going to be here ten or fifteen years?” I would have said “absolutely not.” I was wrong in that analysis because I discovered I had the best job I could ever imagine having. I arise each day looking forward to my work as president.

That’s the short of it...those five years turned into 15!

Q. Are there any particular accomplishments that stand out?

My fifteen years as president can be compartmentalized into two very different periods. The first period extended from 1991 to 1996 and was a time of clarifying the governance structure, instituting the concept of schools within a university, significantly increasing enrollment, and strengthening Viterbo fiscally.

The second period extended from 1997 to 2005 and was a time during which Viterbo initiated and completed successfully VISION 2005: A Renaissance for Living and Learning in the 21st Century. Most notably this included the construction of the Amie L. Mathy Center, the Reinhart Center, Rose Terrace Apartments, a physical plant building, and a new V-Hawk outdoor athletic complex. But VISION 2005 also included the expansion of graduate and undergraduate programs, a significant increase in our still minimal endowment, and an ever increasing positive view of Viterbo University by our alumni and the civic community.

I believe that perhaps the most important accomplishment of Viterbo during my tenure was the inauguration of the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership. Viterbo is now identified by our ethical programming, our ethics-across-the-curricula, and our soon-to-be Doctor of Philosophy in Ethical Leadership. This also positions Viterbo as a leader in the most important organizational, social, cultural, and moral issue of this new century.

Q. Challenges you recall?

Of course, the job of president has many challenges. I remember in the early years, some of the choices were grim. Either get more students or lay off faculty and staff. I would lay awake at night thinking about the many employees and their families who would be affected if Viterbo needed to reduce its personnel. And when you are considering laying people off it becomes a very personal issue for you and for them. Those first few years were indeed years of challenge.

Q. Who were the mentors in your life--those who shaped who you were to become?

My leadership style has been influenced by a strong moral and ethical foundation. My parents were people of faith, integrity, and ethics. My father was an architect and my mother was a teacher and social worker. They were both involved in community organizations and each promoted minority causes and causes of the less fortunate. Both were committed to doing what was right for the community as well as for their four boys.

I went to the University of Notre Dame where Fr. Charles Sheedy was one of my mentors. Fr. Sheedy was Dean of the School of Letters and Sciences. He convinced me to stay in college even though I considered leaving the university every semester for my first three years.
He would often stop by to encourage me and tell me to “hang in there.” He was a powerful influence in my life and because of people like him, I did not give up. I decided then that I might be in the bottom five percent of my incoming class but I could compete. I ended up graduating in the upper third of my class and I was on the dean’s list the last four semesters. He gave me a chance; and I was successful. Perhaps, this is why I have always had a partiality toward the underdog. Everyone can succeed if they have someone who believes in them.

Other mentors have been, most definitely, the Franciscan sisters. I was born in a Franciscan hospital and I began my education with Franciscan sisters having attended St. Bridget’s, an elementary school in Indiana. At the other end of my life, it has been my privilege to serve the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at one of their sponsored institutions for the past fifteen years. My life has brought me full circle with the Franciscan influence.

Q. You’ve had cancer for a number of years. How has your health affected your work and your outlook on life?

I enjoy what I am doing even with the cancer. My work is important to me both psychologically and spiritually. To me, it is part of the balanced life…that I can contribute something. I mean, really, what’s the alternative? An oncologist at the Mayo Clinic told me that I survived my most recent surgery because of my faith, positivism, Irish stubbornness, and a desire to return to work.

I was diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer in July 1998 and I had major surgery. It was four years before it returned and another surgery was required in July 2002. On September 15, 2004, I had a third operation for the complete removal of the left lung. Unfortunately, the surgeons were unable to get all of the cancer but I knew what the odds were going in. I have since been able to regain much of my strength and I take experimental chemo tablets daily. In my control group of 24, there are seven of us for whom the experimental drug is still having a positive impact.

You asked earlier about mentors. I would like to mention my wife Donna. She is my role model. She also has had surgery for cancer and has been through a lot; yet, she is able to keep going with a positive outlook. She is a loving wife and an inspiration to me.

Q. How would you like to be remembered?

Hopefully, people will see me as a person of integrity who tried to do his best under a variety of changing circumstances. That is far more important than any building, endowment, program, or materialistic achievement.

In the end, what really matters? For most of us, when all is said and done, it’s not about money, titles, or things like that. Can you answer this question, “Have I lived a meaningful life?” If you can say yes to that question then I believe you have achieved all that really matters. It is not important what others may think, it is what you think of yourself. Only you have to answer to God.

Recent Recognitions

2005
- Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa (Viterbo University)
- William Medland Scholarship Endowment ($300,000) established by Trustees
- Boys & Girls Clubs National Man and Youth Award
2004
- Chamber of Commerce’s Community Service Award
- LADCO Triangle Award for Collaboration

2003
- La Crosse Tribune Person of the Year
- Iverson-Freking Ecumenical Award

2002
- Exemplar of Mission Award

1991-2006 Viterbo During Medland Tenure
- Thirteen years of record enrollment: total nearly 2,700
- Initiated graduate degrees in: Business, Nursing, Servant Leadership, Educational Leadership
- Initiated development of a Ph.D. in Ethical Leadership
- Vision 2005 ($44 million in enhancements, new facilities, endowment growth)
- Transitioned Viterbo from college to university
- Total degrees granted: 910 up from 186 in 1991 (490%)
- Budget: $38.4 million, up from $8.9 million in 1991 (432%)
- Endowment: $17 million up from $2.7 million in 1991 (630%)
- Alumni: two-thirds have attended Viterbo during his presidency

Newest Viterbo Graduate Communicates...Success

Brittney Stanek ’05 has a conversation with professor Earl Madary through her interpreter outside on the Viterbo campus.

Viterbo student Brittney Stanek ’05 had a special relationship with someone in each of her classes. If a lecture was a little slow that day, they could talk about what they did the night before or what they had planned for the weekend. They would share laughs and private jokes.

Their conversations were never heard by anyone else, though. Other students knew they were communicating, but very few, if any, spoke their language.

Brittney Stanek is deaf. Her relationship is with each of her interpreters, with whom she communicates using sign language.

Stanek, 24, is one of Viterbo’s newest alumna, graduating in December of 2005 with a degree in liberal studies and a minor in women’s studies.

“It was a wonderful experience,” Stanek said, reflecting on her time at Viterbo. “Everyone at Viterbo was very friendly and very helpful. It really surprised me because La Crosse is a small town and there are not a lot of deaf people, but at Viterbo, they were very open-minded and accepting. I felt so comfortable here.”

She is now a successful graduate, but her life has certainly not been without its challenges. Loneliness was a recurring theme. She also was subjected to her share of ignorant or
prejudiced people. But in the end, perhaps those challenges made her accomplishments even more special.

“Brittney is a wonderfully creative and thoughtful student,” said Earl Madary, associate professor in religious studies and philosophy, “and she has a compassion that’s inspiring.”

Long before coming to Viterbo, Stanek attended Emerson Elementary School and Logan Middle School in La Crosse. She was born deaf, rather than losing her hearing later in life.

“When I was born, my parents taught me sign language and that’s what I grew up with,” said Stanek, who does not read lips. “That’s my first language.”

While she had what she describes as a “good experience” in public school, at times it was still difficult. “By middle school, the social life was very limited for me,” she said. “I was kind of isolated.”

Rather than attend a local high school, she chose to attend the Wisconsin School for the Deaf in Delavan. There she found herself and began to blossom.

“It was a deaf school, where everyone knows sign language,” she said. “The teachers knew sign language, so the communication was straight on, without a third person. I enjoyed school very much. It was just so much easier to socialize and communicate. I was much happier in Delavan than I would have been in La Crosse.”

After high school, Stanek enrolled at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., a school that offers programs for deaf and hard of hearing students. She then transferred to the Rochester Institute of Technology, home of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, in Rochester, N.Y., mainly because she didn’t like Washington, D.C. She went on to earn an Associate of Applied Arts and Science degree with a concentration in exercise science.

“I still wanted to earn my bachelor’s degree,” she said. “I went back to La Crosse because it was close to my family and I really missed being home. I was gone for so long.”

“I decided to attend Viterbo because I knew there was another deaf student (Lindsey Treanor, who is still a student) and I had heard wonderful things about the school,” she said. “I just thought, ‘why not?’ Why not go to Viterbo and give it a shot?”

Give it a shot she did, and the happy result was walking across the Fine Arts Center stage to accept her diploma Dec. 17, 2005. While she spoke very highly of Viterbo, there were, of course, some challenges to overcome.

“The transition for me was more difficult,” Stanek said. “I was at a deaf college, and then I came to Viterbo and none of the teachers knew any signs. Sometimes, other students seemed uncomfortable having me in class at first. It was difficult, but I got used to it.”

As her education continued, things began to improve. “The professors really went out of their way to meet with me and to learn about signing and deaf culture,” she said.

Outside of class, Stanek enjoyed spending time with her family, visiting friends, or “doing her own thing.” On campus, her favorite professor was Earl Madary.
“He is just a wonderful man,” she said. “He has all this energy and is super-motivated. If you’re having a bad day and you see him, it makes you feel better. He puts a smile on your face. He is such a nice man.”

Stanek had chosen a liberal studies major because she “wanted a lot of choices when she graduated.” Shortly after graduation, she planned to move to Arizona where she hoped to work at a school for the deaf. One day, she would also like to establish a shelter for abused deaf women.

“I want people to know that deaf people really can be successful in whatever they want to do,” Stanek said. “And I want people to know I really enjoyed my time at Viterbo and I’d like to thank all the students and staff who made it a great experience.”

**ON CAMPUS**

**Student Development Names New V.P.**

When Diane Brimmer was offered her position, she said she realized Viterbo had everything for which she was looking.

“The university has great leadership, a fine student development staff, honest, friendly and hardworking people, and a good plan for action,” said Brimmer, new vice president for student development. “Viterbo students, staff, and faculty make a big difference in this community and that was also important to me.”

Brimmer came to Viterbo from Southern Oregon University, where she served in a similar position. She takes over for Sister Jean Moore, who resigned to accept an assignment as director of Mission Effectiveness with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Brimmer can be reached at dlbrimmer@viterbo.edu.

**$300,000 Scholarship Named in Honor of President Medland**

Led by members of Viterbo’s Board of Trustees, over $300,000 was raised in less than two months to endow a scholarship in honor of outgoing university president Dr. William J. Medland.

The announcement, made at the December Trustee’s meeting, surprised Medland, who was unaware of the effort. “I’m ‘flabbergasted.’ There is not a better word to describe how I felt when I heard the news,” Medland said. “The fact that Viterbo friends and leaders thought so highly of me, and more especially of Viterbo,
to give in excess of $300,000 for this scholarship endowment will remain one of my greatest joys.”

Medland, who asked to determine the eligibility for the new scholarship, selected first-generation college students as the recipients of the fund. Individuals interested in contributing to the Medland scholarship may do so by contacting Gary Klein at glklein@viterbo.edu.

**Lunches are All Business**

For the third year in a row, the very popular Brown Bag series is bringing local business leaders to campus, where students and members of the community have packed the Reinhart Center to hear some remarkable success stories.

This year’s four-part series, entitled “The Vision and Values of Successful Business Leadership,” features local entrepreneurs discussing the elements of successful business leadership.

Coulee Bank President Dirk Gasterland and Senior Vice President Brad Sturm opened the lunchtime discussion series in September. The series continued with Jerry McGeorge of Organic Valley Co-op of La Farge in November, and with Gerald Baldner and Jason Baldner of KitchenSolvers in January. Dan Wettstein of Wettstein’s, a La Crosse appliance and electronics store, will conclude the series March 15.

The Brown Bag Series is sponsored by the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership and the Dahl School of Business.

**VISTA/Americorps Volunteer on Campus**

Viterbo welcomed VISTA/Americorps volunteer Lindsay Cummings who is coordinating community volunteer opportunities for students. She discovered service learning first hand as a student in the form of tutoring and mentoring.

Cummings was looking for a teaching job when a friend told her about the VISTA/Americorps program. She should be very busy at Viterbo. Prior to graduating each student must log a certain number of volunteer hours (varying by department) and Cummings helps match volunteers and potential sites. She can be reached at lrcummings@viterbo.edu.

**Viterbo’s Family Day**

A complimentary picnic cookout and a sightseeing cruise were just two of the many highlights of Family Day in September.

Students and their families enjoyed a musical performance, had pictures taken with Viterbo mascot Vic the V-Hawk, and could attend a men’s and women’s soccer match, a special mass in San Damiano Chapel, and the play Old Times in the La Croix Black Box Theatre.

The annual Family Day at Viterbo was created by the university in an effort to bring parents and students together on campus.
Viterbo Welcomes New Bishop

Bishop Jerome Listecki presided at the St. Francis Day Mass (at left). Also pictured are President Bill Medland, Father Tom O’Neill, and student Justin Schiltz. Diocese of La Crosse Bishop Jerome Listecki joined students on campus to celebrate St. Francis Day Oct. 4. Bishop Listecki celebrated Mass in the Maria Angelorum Chapel and ate lunch with students in the Marian Hall dining room.

“I was very pleased that Bishop Listecki celebrated his first St. Francis Day as bishop of our diocese with us,” said Father Tom O’Neill, vice president for mission and ministry.

Viterbo University was founded by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, descendants of the Franciscan religious order established by St. Francis, making Francis Viterbo’s principle patron.

No Candy, but Plenty of Food

Viterbo students collected 90 bags of groceries for Place of Grace Catholic Worker House during an annual Halloween fundraiser in which students went trick-or-treating for canned goods and other non-perishable food items. Collection boxes were also set up around campus for the Viterbo community. The “food-raiser” was organized by members of Connect Club. Members of Global Rhythms and the Social Work Club also participated.

Understanding the Amish

Why do Amish people dress the way they do? Are all Amish people craftsmen? How do the Amish meet the needs of the sick and elderly in their communities?
These were just some of the many questions answered during the “Understanding the Amish” program. It was presented by Father Bernard McGarty in November, with the help of students Augusta Hefti and Ryan Soberg. The program followed the life of a fictitious Amish couple through 40 years of their lives, illuminating their traditions and culture.

“Understanding the Amish” is one of a series of lectures on Catholic and other faith traditions given by McGarty in his position of Visiting Scholar in Ecumenical Studies.

New Faculty

Patrick Barlow is an assistant professor in psychology. He received a bachelor’s degree from Loras College, a master’s degree from the University of Northern Iowa, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. He can be reached at pbarlow@viterbo.edu.
Karla Hughes is an assistant professor in music theatre. She received a bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University and her master’s degree from Wichita State University. She can be reached at kmhughes@viterbo.edu.
Kathy Schams ’71 is an assistant professor in nursing. She received a bachelor’s degree from Viterbo University and a master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She can be reached at kaschams@viterbo.edu.
Martha Scheckel is an assistant professor in nursing. She received a bachelor’s degree from Graceland University, a master’s degree from Clarke College, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She can be reached at mmscheckel@viterbo.edu.

Christine Wilson ’02, ’05 is an assistant professor in nursing. She received a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Viterbo University. She can be reached at cmwilson@viterbo.edu.

Michael Wodzak is an associate professor in math. He received a bachelor’s degree from the University of London and a master’s degree and Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He can be reached at mawodzak@viterbo.edu.

Sr. Laurian Remembered

The Viterbo community said good-bye to long-time philosophy professor Laurian Pieterek, FSPA, who died Oct. 22, 2005. Sr. Pieterek began her career at Viterbo in 1973. Known for her love of animals, she is most remembered for touching the lives of countless students.

Said one, “I treasured her as a teacher, a mentor, and most of all, as a friend. She once told me that God had sent her into my life to help me through a difficult time. She did so with courage, grace, wisdom, and an outrageous sense of humor and love. I miss you, Laurian.”

Ann Dallman, MA Education ’98

For much more on Sr. Pieterek, including student tributes and memories, her obituary, and an article in the La Crosse Tribune, remembering her life, visit www.viterbo.edu/alumni/pieterek.htm.

Nursing Symposium

The 24th annual Transcultural Diversity Symposium was held in November.

The day’s events included the presentations “Working with the Amish: A Nursing Perspective,” “Nursing in Scandinavia: Denmark Experience,” and “Ho Chunk Healthcare: Perspective on Nursing Care with Native Americans.”

The symposium was sponsored by the Junior Nursing Faculty and the Viterbo School of Nursing.

Sold Out

The Yamato drummers of Japan played to a capacity crowd in the Fine Arts Center Main Theatre in November. Yamato was just one of many events which make up Viterbo’s very successful Bright Star and NexStar seasons.

Trustees Added to Board

Viterbo University recently welcomed Donald Weber (left) and Ernest Micek (right) to its Board of Trustees.

Weber and his wife Roxanne are residents of La Crosse. He is the chairman and CEO of Logistics Health, Inc. Micek and his wife Sally reside in Dresbach, Minn. He is the retired president and CEO of Cargill.

Weber and Micek were elected to four-year terms.
Perspectives from the Holocaust
The D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership 2005?06 lecture series “Perspectives on the Holocaust” opened with holocaust survivor Nesse Godin (top left) in the Fine Arts Center Main Theatre in September.

Godin was a girl in Lithuania at the outbreak of World War II. She survived a concentration camp, four labor camps, and a death march. She is now the co-president of the Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Friends of Greater Washington. She also serves on the Jewish Community Council, United Jewish Appeal Federation, and is a featured speaker of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The series continued in October with Martha Teichner (top center), one of only a handful of female battle correspondents and who now works for CBS News Sunday Morning.

In November, part three of the series featured Resistance member Mireille Rostad (top right). Using a false ID and relying on a system of underground networks established by the resistance, she walked to France where she served as a medic and distributed clandestine newspapers. She is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Part four of the series took place in February with Gerda Weissman Klein (bottom left), who has lectured throughout the country and has written several books, including All But My Life, The Hours After, and A Boring Evening at Home. One Survivor Remembers, a documentary about her experiences during the Holocaust, won an Academy Award in 1996.

Frank Buscher (bottom center), professor of history at Christian Brothers University, will continue the series at 7 p.m. Monday, March 20. Using examples from his experience as a professor of history and as a war crimes investigator for the Canadian government, Buscher will help the audience understand why people have such different, and often conflicting, perceptions of the Holocaust.

The series will conclude April 4 at 7 p.m. with Dr. Sabrina Zimering (bottom right). After three years in a ghetto in occupied Poland, where fear, hunger, and typhus were a daily part of life, the deportation of Jews to the gas chambers of Treblinka began. She and her sister used false identification to escape and live as Catholic Poles in Nazi Germany. Her memoir is entitled Hiding in the Open.

All events are in the Fine Arts Center Main Theatre and are free and open to the public.

Reaching At Risk Students
Area teachers, school administrators, and parents were invited to join the more than 460 Viterbo University graduate students on campus in July in attending “Reaching the Untouchables,” an address by two-time California Teacher of the Year Erin Gruwell.

In addition to her teacher of the year honors, Gruwell also has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Good Morning America, and the Rosie O’Donnell Show and is the author of the book Freedom Writers’ Diary.

“Gruwell has talked with many educators about how to work with students who are considered unmotivated,” said Shirley Frick, director of the Graduate Studies in Education program at Viterbo.
**Viterbo Students Implementing General Mills Grant**

Nine Viterbo University junior dietetic students are working with children and their day care providers thanks to the $10,000 General Mills Champions Youth Nutrition and Fitness Grant awarded to the La Crescent-Hokah School District.

The Viterbo students are providing lessons on healthy nutrition to children and their childcare providers. Twenty-five childcare providers in the Minnesota school district are taking part in the program. The students will present eight different nutrition and physical activity lessons throughout the school year.

The project also provides an outstanding opportunity for the dietetic students to gain valuable hands-on experience, said Viterbo dietetics professor Alida Herling.

**Mexican Economist Speaks Against NAFTA**

Mexican-born economist and researcher Miguel Pickard spoke to members of the Viterbo faculty during in-service week in August about the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and what he says has been the negative effect it has had on Mexico and the Mexican people.

Pickard is the co-founder of the Center for the Economic and Political Investigation for Community Action based in San Cristobal in the Mexican State of Chiapas. He is a graduate of Cornell University and earned a master’s degree in Economic Sciences from the National Autonomous University in Mexico. He has been published extensively and has traveled throughout the world as a speaker and consultant on matters related to the effects of globalization, trade agreements, the World Trade Organization, and grassroots initiatives.

**It's Official: Rick Artman New Viterbo President**

After an extensive search, Dr. Richard Artman was announced as the new Viterbo p-resident at a November press conference. Artman has served as the president of Siena Heights University, a Dominican, Catholic institution in Adrian, Mich. for the past 11 years. Under his tenure, Siena’s enrollment, facilities, academic programs, and endowment have each grown significantly.

He greeted faculty and staff at a press conference announcing the news, saying, “I am honored and privileged to have been chosen to lead and serve this outstanding university and to follow the lengthy and superb leadership of President Medland.”

“What is really impressive becomes quite evident when you meet him. Rick’s boundless energy will be invaluable when he assumes the leadership role at Viterbo next summer,” said Sr. Mary Ann Gschwind, chair of the Viterbo Board of Trustees.

Artman, who describes himself as “(V)iterbo-charged,” begins his duties at Viterbo July 1. For much more on Artman, visit [www.viterbo.edu/aboutvit/admserv/president/](http://www.viterbo.edu/aboutvit/admserv/president/).
PHILANTHROPY NOTES

Golfing for Athletics
The annual Athletics Golf Scramble was held in August at Cedar Creek. Approximately 125 people and 44 sponsors participated in the Viterbo golf outing.

Thanking Our Sponsors
A sponsor reception was held prior to the performance of Canadian Brass in the Fine Arts Center. The event was held to show appreciation to the more than 24 businesses and organizations that support the arts at Viterbo through the sponsorship program. The ability to generate sponsorships provides Viterbo with the means to attract major performances to La Crosse that would normally be available only in major cities.

New Grants Awarded
- The La Crosse Public Education Foundation awarded a $500 Arts For All grant in support of the arts.
- The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Wisconsin awarded a $20,000 Ronald McDonald Arts For Young America grant in support of the arts.
- The Heartland Arts Fund awarded a $4,200 grant in sponsorship of the River North Chicago performance.
- The Wisconsin Arts Board provided a $1,000 Arts Challenge Initiative grant in support of the arts.
- The Wisconsin Arts Board awarded a $10,943 Performing Arts Network grant in support of the arts.
- The Midwest Campus Compact awarded a $6,000 grant for service learning projects at the Hixon Forest Nature Center.
- The Wisconsin Humanities Council awarded a $2,000 grant for the Young Adult Literature Reading Group.
- The Wisconsin Humanities Council awarded a $9,824 grant in support of the ethics series on the Holocaust.
- The La Crosse Rotary Founddtion provided a $2,000 grant to be used for materials for service learning projects at the Amie L. Mathy Center.
- The Department of Health and Human Services awarded a $18,933 Nursing Advisor Education Traineeships grant.
- The FSPA Ministry Fund awarded a $6,000 CARING, Inc. grant to the School of Nursing.
- The Dr. Scholl Foundation awarded a $5,000 grant for the Pre-professional Scholarship.
- The Franciscan Skemp Foundation provided $1,500 to be used for a nursing scholarship.
- The John A. Elliott Foundation provided $50,000 for a scholarship.
- The Liberace Foundation awarded $3,000 for a music scholarship.
- The La Crosse Rotary Foundation awarded $1,000 for a scholarship for a non-traditional student.
- The Wisconsin Foundation for Independent Colleges donated $2,250 for three scholarships.
- The American Chemical Society Project SEED donated $2,275 for a science scholarship.
• The La Crosse Community Foundation awarded a $2,000 grant to be used for servant leadership training for youth.

New Scholarships

New endowed scholarships are created when the funds from a benefactor’s gift are invested, and the earnings from the core investment are distributed annually. New endowed scholarships to be awarded this year
• The Dr. William J. Medland Scholarship for a first-generation college student with financial need.
• The Roger W. Brosig Scholarship for Sociology for a student majoring in sociology.
• The Muriel Kuntz Dutcher Scholarship, a memorial to the mother of Sandra (Dutcher) Schwalbe '63 for a student who demonstrates financial need.
• The Marv and Annette Friedewald Business Scholarship for a student in the school of business who is committed to service activities on campus and within the community.
• The Jiracek Family Endowed Scholarship for a nursing major.
• The Ethel Robinson Meehan Education Scholarship for a student in the undergraduate education program, Post Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure Program, Master of Arts in Education Program, or in the education strand of the proposed Ph.D. in ethical leadership program.
• The Herman R. Reback Scholarship for a junior or senior student majoring in math or science.

Other new scholarships to be funded this year include:
• The AnchorBank Scholarship, which will provide funds for a student majoring in business or finance from a low-to-moderate income family.
• The Father Michael C. Braun Scholarship created in memory of Father Braun, who taught at Viterbo, for a student majoring in religious studies, theology, ministry, or related areas.
• The Beres Family Nurse Practitioner Scholarship for a nurse practitioner student in the Master of Science in Nursing Program.
• The Mary Burich Nursing Scholarship is a one-time scholarship in memory of the mother of Mary (Burich) Wetterling '90 for a junior or senior student majoring in nursing.
• The Lori Lewis Scholarship was established in honor of Viterbo dietetics professor Lori Lewis for a dietetics student.
• The Russell and Vera Smith Business Scholarship for a business major.
• The Cindy Tierney Nurse Educator Scholarship was established in memory of Cindy Tierney '97, '01 for a student in the Master of Science in Nursing program’s educator track.

Faculty and Staff Show Their Support

Over 72 percent of Viterbo employees participated in the annual employee campaign, the highest percentage of participation in the university’s history. The good news did not go unnoticed, as participating employees celebrated the success of the campaign with a pizza party and door prizes.
Founders Day

The Founders Day banquet was held in October. The annual event, celebrated on or near the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, is an opportunity for Viterbo to express its gratitude to the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, the university’s founders and long-time friends.

New Face in Institutional Advancement
Deb Chesebro began her duties as the director of major and planned gifts for institutional advancement in January. She can be reached at 608-796-3076 or djchesebro@viterbo.edu.

Festival of Lights

The President’s Festival of Lights and Carols was held in December. The evening began in Maria Angelorum Chapel with a special program which combined music and scripture readings entitled “Lessons and Carols.” Guests then strolled along an illuminated path to the Fine Arts Center where they enjoyed sing-along carols, hors d’oeuvres, and wine.

Calling All Alumni

Student callers raised over $94,657 from Viterbo alumni during the annual alumni phonathon held this past fall. Over 1,900 alumni participated, a 34 percent increase from last year.

SPORTS CORNER

Women’s Soccer Team Takes Next Step

The V-Hawks Soccer team had a very successful 2005 season. In fact, it was the most successful season in team history. With a record of 16-4, they played outstanding and competitive soccer throughout the season, claiming the conference regular season and tournament titles for the first time in team history. The conference title also gave the team its first ever NAIA National Tournament berth.

Along with the team’s great success this year, many individuals experienced outstanding seasons. Forward Sam Anderson (Baraboo), midfielder Jessica Bischoff (Kenosha), midfielder Kailey Husby (Johnsburg), and midfielder Karla Pryzbylski (Wausau) all garnered First-Team Midwest Classic Conference Awards. Anderson was also named as the MCC’s Newcomer of the Year.

Other members of the V-Hawks squad who earned MCC honors this season were defender Amanda Lube (Minneapolis), forward Ashley Sorenson (Reedsburg), and goalkeeper Charlotte Large (Mukwonago). Lube and Sorenson were each named to the MCC Second Team, while Large earned MCC Honorable Mention honors.

The V-Hawks also had three players recognized with regional honors and three players receive All-America honors. Anderson and Bischoff were named to the NAIA Region VII first team and
Pryzbylski was named to the Region VII second team. Amanda Lube was honored as an NAIA All-American Scholar-Athlete, while Bischoff and Anderson received NAIA All-American honorable mention honors.

The team’s success came under the guidance of five-year head coach Will Lemke. Lemke has seen his teams grow throughout the years. He has brought in talented recruiting classes each year, which has paid dividends. His most recent recruiting class is the largest on the team, with ten members. Lemke saw the team perform at a new level when they beat St. Ambrose and William Penn University for the first time.

The V-Hawks and fans will have something to look forward to next season. The team does not graduate a single player from this year’s squad and will return five juniors, four sophomores, and ten freshmen.

**Christmas with the V-Hawks**

Viterbo’s Student Athlete Advisory Committee hosted their fifth annual Christmas with the V-Hawks Dec. 3. Over 50 kindergarten through fifth grade students participated in activities including learning about motivation, playing basketball/soccer/baseball/volleyball, and coloring a picture. The young people received a free Viterbo athletics t-shirt, pizza and pop, and free admission to the men’s basketball game against Cardinal Stritch.

**Fall Sports Wrap-up**

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

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

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

**Drive It to the Hoop Food Drive Huge Success**

The recent women’s basketball and residence life Drive It to the Hoop food drive generated 780 food items to be donated to Place of Grace. Residence Halls donated 727 of the items and 53 came from walk-ins.
Bobbi and Joe Vandenberg believe in the mission of Viterbo University. Both have seen first hand how the school has made a positive impact on thousands of students and the La Crosse community.

After being involved with the university for over 13 years they have decided to give back. Recently the Vandenberg's decided to make a gift to Viterbo University to help replace the old bleachers in the R.W. Beggs, Sr. Gymnasium—the home of V-Hawk volleyball and basketball. The new project includes approximately 500 chair back seats with an additional 350 modern bleacher seats. The new seats will not only provide additional comfort for spectators, but will also brighten up the facility.

“We knew this project was part of Barry Fried’s vision (Viterbo’s athletics director) for the past few years,” commented Bobbi Vandenberg. “After talking with my husband, Joe, we both felt this would be a great project for us to support.”

Vandenberg, otherwise known as Coach “V”, has been the head women’s basketball coach at Viterbo since 1993. Her husband Joe has been a physician at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center since 1991. The Vandenberg family includes 11-year-old Patrick, 9-year-old Mollie, and their new puppy, Lucy.

The Vandenberg’s gift was made possible by Joe’s parents, Francis (Van) and Dee Vandenberg. The Green Bay couple established a trust for each of their six children to oversee. The only requirement was that proceeds from the trust be given to a non-profit organization that they believe has made a difference in the lives of others.

“We as a family, have already invested a lot of time and energy in the university and we saw this as another way to invest in the lives of our student-athletes as well as the campus community,” commented Bobbi Vandenberg. Over the past ten years, Viterbo has experienced a tremendous amount of growth, both in the number of students and the number of campus improvements. The university just finished its Vision 2005 strategic plan. It included four new buildings, several facility renovations, and numerous program offerings.

“The Viterbo campus has been totally transformed since I started here in ’93,” Vandenberg said. “We’ve been here through all the fantastic additions and enhancements including the Fine Arts Center atrium, the Reinhart Center, and the Mathy Center. We felt this gift would complement those improvements.”

Not only has Viterbo been transformed, the V-Hawk women’s basketball program has also been transformed. Since the arrival of Coach V, the V-Hawks have won two conference championships, two conference tournament titles, and made two trips to the NAIA Division II national tournament. Over the last six seasons, the V-Hawks have not finished lower than third place in the Midwest Classic Conference. In her time at Viterbo, Vandenberg has compiled a record of 211?175. The 211 wins give her the most wins by any women’s basketball coach in the history of Viterbo.

“Coach Vandenberg has become a cornerstone of our athletics program,” commented Fried. “Over the years, she and her family have given so much of their time and energy to the
university. This gift to help purchase new seating in the gymnasium is yet another example of their commitment to Viterbo. We are truly lucky to have the Vandenbergs as a part of our Viterbo family.”

ALUMNI NOW

Mathy Center Available for Alums

Alumni have the benefit of using the fitness facilities in the new Amie L. Mathy Center. Cost is $75 per year, including the summer. Bring

Career Connections

Viterbo business alumni have been invited to participate in “Career Connections,” a mentoring program for current students and alumni. To register, visit www.viterbo.edu/alumni/connection.asp.

Participants will be asked to speak to classes, provide internships, or just talk with a student over the phone and give some advice. The alumni office staff members are currently working with the Dahl School of Business and hope to expand into the other schools to assist in the career development process.

Art Alumni Enjoy Reunion

Over 100 people attended the art alumni reunion in October. The evening featured an alumni art show, a potluck dinner provided by the art department faculty, and slide presentations featuring the works of former faculty Tim Crane, Steve Bigler, and Ed Rushton.

Alumni Gathering in Madison

Viterbo alumni met in Madison at the beautiful Olbrich Gardens in September for a university update and some networking.

Research Science Panel Brings Experience to Campus

The research scientist panel included two Viterbo science alums, Michelle (Roers) Skrede ’00 (left) and Stacy Glidden ’00 (right).

Research science alumni and two research faculty members spoke with students and faculty members during “An Evening with Research Scientists.” They shared their career experiences, decisions they made, and the features of their careers with students.

"Decades of Change"

Alumni Weekend 2006 -- June 23?24


Interested in helping? Contact the alumni office at 608-796-3072 or alumni@viterbo.edu.
Learning the Business
Business Panel L to R: Scott Koenen '81, Beth (Jaekel) Erickson '93, Carlena (Buttner) Goddeau '93, and Michelle Wilcox '95.

Alumni were on campus to share information about their career choices and experiences with current business students and faculty.

November Remembrance
Over 1,000 alumni submitted the names of people for whom they would like prayers offered during the month. The November remembrance names came by mail, email, and were submitted online. The basket of names is in the foreground of the picture of San Damiano Chapel.

Theatre Department to Celebrate 50 Years
The theatre department will celebrate its 50th birthday with an alumni reunion Saturday, Feb. 25 and Sunday, Feb. 26. Sister Marie Leon La Croix, who came to Viterbo to start the department in 1955, will be in attendance, as will four of the original players in the department’s first production, *The Importance of Being Earnest* in 1956. Several other prominent alumni also plan to attend. Alumni and guests can catch up with old friends, tour the facilities, and attend the 2006 production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Children’s Christmas Party
Over 250 children and adults enjoyed the annual Alumni Children’s Christmas Party in the Fine Arts Center on the Viterbo campus. Activities included performances by the 9th Street Singers, an appearance by Santa Claus, face painting, storytelling, a relay race, crafts, puzzles, and treats.

New Board Members

First Australian Alumni Association Meeting
Viterbo’s vice president for mission and ministry Father Tom O’Neill caught up with alum Tyson Clarke ’05 in Cairns, Australia in July. Father O’Neill was in Australia on a Fulbright Scholarship. They dubbed the meeting the “first Australian Alumni Association Meeting.”
Cheering the Brewers on to Victory

Jancie Hertzfeldt '03, Mark Hertzfeldt, Kirstin Seizer '03, and Rick Seizer.

Viterbo alumni gathered at the pavilion in Milwaukee’s Miller Park for pre-game food and fun before watching Viterbo alumnus Damian Miller and the Milwaukee Brewers defeat the St. Louis Cardinals.

Hail to the Chief

Government employee Chad Hrdina '01 and visitor Erin Fargen '01 were recently on the White House grounds when President Bush arrived by helicopter.

Spotlight On

In a recurring section, Strides recently caught up with three alumni with interesting careers.

Erin (Bean) Mani '01

Erin (Bean) Mani is an organic chemist with the Environmental Health Division for the State of Wisconsin. She works with air samples for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS).

She and her colleagues look for toxic compounds and hydrocarbons for the DNR to use this information to help make decisions about the air quality. The samples from DHFS are taken in buildings and areas where people are getting sick or where a strange odor is reported. Compounds in the sample are analyzed to determine which ones could be dangerous, and the DHFS then takes appropriate action based on the findings.

Emily Caldwell '95

Emily Caldwell is living 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador in the Galapagos Islands.

Upon arriving, she and her husband started a tourism agency called ICE Tourism: Immerse Connect Evolve in hope of bringing people to the Galapagos not just to visit the Islands, but also to take a deeper look and immerse themselves in the islands’ dynamic culture.

In September, she and family members also opened a U.S. non-profit called Galapagos ICE, which is dedicated to improving the health and educational systems of the Galapagos Islands. Why all this work? Emily has been concerned about the failing educational and medical care systems of the Galapagos, and believes that the conservation and care of the islands should not be limited to its unique natural ecosystems, but to the people who live there as well. For more information visit her Web sites at: www.icetourism.com and www.galapagosice.org/

Scott Koenen '81

Scott Koenen is the owner of Scott Joseph Menswear, a men’s clothing store he opened in downtown La Crosse in April 2005.

“This is something I had envisioned 10 years ago but the best opportunities weren’t always present,” said Koenen, who had worked as a manager at a local JC Penney’s for the past 22 years. “Now that my children are grown (two in college, one in high school) and with the revitalization to downtown La Crosse, I figured now was the time to pull the trigger.”
Scott Joseph Menswear offers upscale casual and dress clothing and caters to customers 35-55 years old. The business also has added custom suits and tuxedo rentals and by 2007 would like to be able to promote their business online.

Unusual requests from customers are not uncommon. Nick Dobbins ’01 was one such customer. Being six feet nine inches tall and weighing 275 pounds, he does not fit the typical size range. Fortunately, Scott Joseph Menswear has access to many vendors and has no problem outfitting him for any occasion.

Koenen said all the unknowns in the business world have made his first year in business very nerve racking, but he’s surviving thanks to his great staff, supportive wife (Katie Rowan-Koenen ’81) and lots of luck.

CLASS NOTES

1960
Mary (Liston) Liepold ’66 recently completed a one-month residency at the Blue Mountain Center, an artists’ colony in the Adirondacks dedicated to work of artistic and social merit. Sandra Hoeser ’69 accepted a position as branch manager for Reachout Home Care in Arlington, Texas.

1970
Mary Lou (Murphy) Ihrke ’70 writes a column for the newspaper in Bismarck, N.D. as a ghostwriter for her dog Shimmer. The column, “Barks from Bismarck,” is very popular and she has compiled her columns into a publication titled, Just for Licks. Mary Lu Gerke ’74 was a keynote speaker at the Wisconsin Nurses Association annual meeting. She spoke about a healing hologram. Wendy (Young) Wegner ’76 married Ron Storandt Aug. 14, 2005 in Lewis Valley Lutheran Church in Mindoro.

1977
Mary Lou (Murphy) Ihrke ’70 writes a column for the newspaper in Bismarck, N.D. as a ghostwriter for her dog Shimmer. The column, “Barks from Bismarck,” is very popular and she has compiled her columns into a publication titled, Just for Licks.

1978
Suzann (Kane) Balduzzi ’77 is the author of Homemaker Home Health Aide 6th Edition and of the script for the Basic Skills for Home Care Aides DVD series. Catherine (Daley) Prindle ’78 completed her initial administrator program through Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore. in May 2005.

Susan (Kirby) Timm ’78 graduated in May 2005 from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with her Master of Science in Nursing degree.

1980
Marie Senzig ’80 transferred from Naval Hospital, Keflavik, Iceland to Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, N.C. as deputy director, Branch Clinics. Gregory Gilman ’82 received an appointment to associate in research at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Monica (Ciokiewicz) Dixon ’85 received the Leading by Example Award by the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Betty (Dean) Helthe ’85 was promoted to house supervisor at Luther Midelfort in Eau Claire.
Michelle (Pixley) Reichert ’86 has been promoted to the position of division director for Environment, Safety, and Health by BWXT Y-12, a Department of Energy contractor in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Margaret (Walleser) McDonah ’86 recently became supervisor of NP/PA Inpatient Cardiology Services at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, Minn.

Suzanne (Jones) Linder ’87 received her master’s degree in elementary education from Saint Xavier.

Linda Lorenz-Hamilton ’85-’87 and Vince Hamilton celebrated the birth of a daughter, Aaliyah Rachel Kay, Nov. 1, 2005. She joins her brothers, Vincent, 7 and Jacksun, 3.

Kelly (Hogan) Peroutka ’88 was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army on Sept. 1, 2005. She is currently assigned as the head nurse at the McWethy Troop Medical Clinic at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Michelle (Felt) ’89 and Joseph Johnson celebrated the birth of a son, Michael Joseph, Oct. 18, 2005. He joins his siblings, Alyssa, 7, and Nicholas, 5.

Mark Frank ’89, Coffeyville Community College theatre director, recently had his second volume of plays published by iUniverse, a subsidiary of Barnes and Noble. The second book, *A Collection of Plays by Mark Frank Volume II* introduces seven new plays.

1990

Kyrst Hogan ’90 is currently co-producing a limited engagement production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in New York City.

Theresa (La Fleur) Ringo ’90 has accepted a position as director of Human Resources/Risk Management at Saint Anne of Winona in Winona, Minn.


Patti Poss ’90 and John Henderson celebrated the birth of a son, Nathan, June 2005.

Margaret Wood ’90 was appointed to the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing by Governor Doyle. It is a two-year appointment.

Lisa (Evansen) Perz ’91 received her Master of Science in Nursing degree from Graceland University and is currently working as an orthopedic nurse practitioner at Tomah Memorial Hospital.

Danielle (Murphy) ’91 and Timothy Sprain celebrated the birth of a daughter, Liberty Althea, Sept. 2, 2005. She joins her brother Abbie, 3.

Laura (Ledden) Gilbertson ’92 was promoted to a national account executive with Sodexho’s Entegra, a group purchasing organization.

Teresa (Freiberg) Conroy ’93 passed the national certification exam in October to obtain the prestigious status of Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN). Teresa works at Barrow’s Neurological Institute in Phoenix.


Vikki (Seefeldt) Harraden ’93 has taken a hiatus from nursing to home-school her daughter, Alyson. The Harraden’s will be in Hawaii for a year and will move to Washington, D.C. in summer 2006.

Lisa (Runde) ’93 and Andrew Horstman celebrated the birth of a son, Henry, Feb. 11, 2005. He joins his sister Natalie.

Amy (Folz) ’94 and Judd Hanson celebrated the birth of a son, Benjamin Duke, Feb. 21, 2005. He joins his sister Josie, 3.
Mikki Maddox '94 has been elected to the Executive Board for the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies as a regional delegate. WCSS is the state affiliate of the National Council for the Social Studies.

Terri (McHugh) '94 and Steve Olson celebrated the birth of a son, Alec Hugh, July 26, 2005.


Anne (Walker) '94 and James Hassett celebrated the birth of a daughter, Grace Anne, April 23, 2005.


Jennifer Hedrick-Erickson '95 and David Erickson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Elle Ruth, Nov. 23, 2005. She joins her brother Taylor, 13.

Stacy (Jankowski) '95 and Peter Sinks '95 celebrated the birth of a son, Grayson James, March 23, 2005. He joins his brother, Braden, 2.

Kellie (Hentschel) '95 and Brian Reitzel celebrated the birth of a daughter, Annabel Kate, Feb. 9, 2005. She joins her sister, Jillian, 3.

Amy (Jankowski) '95 and Eric Brieske '92 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Avery Candice, Nov. 28, 2004. She joins her sister, McKenna, 4.


Jean Surguy '95 completed her Master of Arts in Education from Marian College in May 2005.

Rob Anderson '96 has accepted a position as assistant director for Residential Life at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Shelly (Danczyk) '96 and Dan Heertz '94 celebrated the birth of a son, Elijah Philip, June 17, 2005. He joins his brothers Seth, 8, Caleb, 6, Joshua, 4, and Aaron, 2.

Tina (Daniels) '96 and Christopher Mueller celebrated the birth of a daughter, Bailey Mae, March 7, 2005. She joins her brother Logan, 2.

Laurie Finch '96 married Christopher Popp at Ridgeway United Methodist Church in Ridgeway, Minn., Oct. 22, 2005. Laurie is employed by Mayo Clinic in the department of Anatomic Pathology as a histotechnician candidate.

Bridget Flanigan '96 married Joseph Domiani May 21, 2005 at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Milwaukee.

Matt Hemberger '96 has accepted a position as a principal scientist at GlaxoSmithKline in Philadelphia, Pa.


Judy (Lang) Garfield '96 was honored as the American Cancer Society’s Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

Karl Nordin '96 was a speaker at the Wisconsin Nurses Association annual meeting. He spoke about geriatric healthcare.

Shannon (Peters) '96 and Jason Franek celebrated the birth of a son, Mason Joseph, May 26, 2005. He joins his siblings Lauren, 5, and Ethan, 3.

Christine Stevenson '96 married Fred Adam, July 4, 2005 in Fiji.

Wendy (Brereton) '97 and Troy Arenz '92 celebrated the birth of a son, Tyler William, Oct. 18, 2005.

Connie (Eckerle) Spanaus '97 received the Teacher of the Year award for Merrill Area Public Schools.

Yvette (Heritsch) ’97 and Michael Geissinger celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kala Elizabeth, Aug. 10, 2005. She joins her brother Christopher, 4.

Rebecca (Hill) ’97 and Cory Puuri celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jenna Mae, July 12, 2005. She joins her sister, Lauren, 2.

Kimberly (Kohlway) ’97 and Jeffrey Scott celebrated the birth of a son, Aaron, Oct. 22, 2004. He joins his brother, Samuel, 3.

Alisabeth (Mead) ’97 and Timothy Truebenbach celebrated the birth of a daughter Elaine Alyse, May 26, 2005.

Rebecca (Rudolph) ’97 and Steven Rosenthal celebrated the birth of a daughter, Abigail Diane, Sept. 22, 2005.

Jennifer (Stefferd) ’97 and Aaron Zilka celebrated the birth of a son, Gabe, Dec. 2005.

Jennifer (Waddell) ’97 and Don Black celebrated the birth of a son, Alexander Bruce Charles, May 13, 2005.

Christopher Wood ’97 celebrated the grand opening of his new chiropractic clinic, Chiropractic First of La Crescent, Minn. in May 2005.

Brigid Burns ’98 received her master’s in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Kelly (Camrud) ’98 and Ed Ewertowski celebrated the birth of a son, Eli Camrud, May 6, 2005.

Nikki (Carrubba) ’98 and Howard Sickman celebrated the birth of a son, Gavin Joseph, Dec. 17, 2004. He joins his brothers, Hayden, 5, and Ethan, 3. Nikki received her Medical/Surgical Board certification in 2004. She accepted a position as assistant clinical manager on the Medicine Unit at United Hospital in February 2006.

Julia Froehlich ’98 married Derek McKnight Oct 29, 2005.

Terra (Johnson) ’98 and Jason Hendrickson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ava Annmarie, July 19, 2005. She joins her brother Ethan, 2.

Tonia (Kaehler) ’98 and Michael Stevens celebrated the birth of a son, Aeron Stevens, Jan. 3, 2005. He joins his brothers Ben, 14, and Izaak, 4.

Arbender Robinson ’98 has landed a role in the show Hairspray on Broadway.

Jennifer (Stefanich) ’98 and Troy Delwiche celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kinsey Elizabeth, Aug. 23, 2005.

Frank Abnet ’99 was recently promoted to director of store operations for Skogen’s Festival Foods.


Beth (Parker) ’99 and Bruce Waldron ’89 ’95 celebrated the birth of a son, Elliot James, June 25, 2005. He joins his brother, Ethan 3.
Jennifer (Schoonover) '99 and Jeremy Melde celebrated the birth of a son, Tanner David, March 11, 2005. He joins his brother, Ethan 3.

Jenni (Shultis) ’99 and Scott Kluever celebrated the birth of a daughter, Karleigh Faith, Oct. 20, 2004. She joins her siblings Alex, 11, Zachary, 6, and Keaton, 5.


Kara (Walkes) ’99 and Mike Fabel celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob Michael, June 11, 2005.


Jenny (Zeman) ’99 and Greg Stenberg celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel Steven, June 23, 2005.

2000

Stephanie (Brower) ’00 and Andrew Czosnek celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jillian May, March 20, 2005.

Rebecca Bryan ’00 married Carl Schenzel Aug. 13, 2005 in Bayfield.

Katherin (Diedrich) ’00 and Steve Heiser celebrated the birth of twins, Renea Christine and Sawyer Steven, March 2, 2005. They join their sister Abigail, 3.

Kim Errthum ’00 accepted a position as residential service coordinator for Creatability, a community residential program for adults with disabilities in Madison.


Martha and David Hampton ’00 celebrated the birth of a son, Matthew David, June 24, 2005. He joins his sister Rachel, 2.

Christopher Herman ’00 was married Sept. 17, 2005.

Lynda (Palen) ’00 and Pete Privet celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ava Jane, May 6, 2005. She joins her brother, Samuel, 2.

Megan (Tester) ’00 and Matt Woods celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob Matthew, Jan. 17, 2005.

Heather Tomasek ’00 married Ryan Gick, Oct. 8, 2005 at the Auburn, Cord, Denselburg Museum in Auburn, Ind. Heather graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic June 17, 2005. She is an independent chiropractor at Sell Chiropractic Clinic.

Karen LaMotte ’00 married Christopher Cook ’02 Oct. 23, 2004 in Door County. Karen is employed by the Minnesota School of Business as an academic advisor and Associate Dean of Students. She will be Dean of Students at the Rochester campus.

Erin (Latham) ’00 and Nicholas Walters celebrated the birth of a son, Jake William, March 4, 2005.

Megan (Tester) ’00 and Matthew Woods celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob Matthew, Jan. 17, 2005.

Katherine Wiederholt ’00 and Matt Wiederholt celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emily Rose, July 16, 2005.

Anthony Courtwright ’01 has accepted a position as the technical coordinator for the Mitchell Auditorium at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn.

Jessica (Stoudt) ’01 and Brian Duckwitz celebrated the birth of a daughter, Arwen Olivia, June 13, 2005.
Scott Hendricks ’01 accepted a position as residence hall director at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

Brian Konkol ’01 was ordained a Lutheran pastor by Bishop James Justman in Nelsonville, Wis. June 11, 2005. He is a Lutheran pastor in Guyana, South America.

Heidi (Koplien) ’01 and Edward Nickel celebrated the birth of a son, Koda Mark, Aug. 19, 2005.

Susan Lundquist ’01 married Christopher Baldwin Aug. 6, 2005 at San Damiano Chapel in La Crosse.

Sr. Adela Rosemary Nkfunji, TSSF ’01 is working as the director of the Catholic Private School of Nursing, Midwifery, and Medical Laboratory Technology in Shisong, Cameroon.

Rita Olson ’01 married Jason Grade July 23, 2005.

Nicki and Brian Quarne ’01 celebrated the birth of a son, Nolan William, June 5, 2005.

Christine Stram-Kainz ’01 and Scott Kainz celebrated the birth of a daughter, Amelia Jean, July 12, 2005.

Bobbie Tippery ’01 married David Herold Sept. 23, 2005 at the Pump House in La Crosse.

Brenda Bushera ’02 is a member of the Wisconsin National Guard band and is vocal soloist as well as a sax player.

Brian Conner ’02 received the 2005 Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship Award. He is a first grade teacher in Portage.

Hayley (Donner) ’02 and Jared Reed and grandmother Janet (Eide) Reed ’77 celebrated the birth of a daughter Abigail Sophia, May 4, 2005. She joins her sister, Gabriella, 2.

Elizabeth Elher ’02 married John Blum June 25, 2005.


Nicole Goodnature ’02 married Sean Wilhelmsen Aug. 13, 2005 in Rochester, Minn. The couple resides in Scotts Valley, Calif. Nicole graduated May 28, 2005 with a Master of Social Work degree from San Jose University, San Jose, Calif. Nicole currently works for Learning Services in Gilroy, Calif.

Jessica (Hagelberger) ’02 married Joshua Effertz May 22, 2004 at Heyde Arts Center in Chippewa Falls. Jessica and Joshua celebrated the birth of a son, Nicholas Aiden, April 12, 2005.

Emily Heser ’02 married Joe Dawson ’03 Oct. 15, 2005 at San Damiano Chapel in La Crosse.

Paul Klitzke ’02 graduated from seminary in May 2005 and has accepted a position as the rector of St. David’s Episcopal Church in Wasilla, Alaska.

Crystal Pearson married Shane Lanning ’02 July 19, 2004. The best man was Michael Fautch ’02.

Sheila McDonnell ’02 married Ricardo Rodriguez June 4, 2005 at St. Peter’s Cathedral in Rockford, Ill. The couple resides in Clearwater, Fla.

Emily Olson ’02 received her CPA license officially on March 31, 2005. She has accepted a position as a staff internal auditor at CUNA Mutual Group.

Nichole Podobinski ’02 married Lyle Castona on July 22, 2005.


Kelly Doering ’03 was promoted to sales at La Crosse Technology in La Crescent, Minn. in June 2005.
Michelle (Oldenburg) Knoble '03 has accepted a position as a first grade teacher at Eagle Bluff in Onalaska.

Emily Seberger '03 married Scott Naugle June 18, 2005.

Amy (VanEgeren) Philips '03 celebrated the birth of a son, Henry Michael, Aug. 17, 2005.

Travis Peterson '03 received a Master of Science in Sports Administration from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Aug. 12, 2005.


Julie and John Busch '04 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lisa Layne, July 15, 2005. She joins her siblings, Will, 6, and Olivia, 3.

Elizabeth Eggert '04 and Michael Eggert celebrated the birth of a daughter, Victoria Ilene, July 21, 2005. She joins her sister, Madeline, 3.

Jennifer Hebda '04 married Garret Belisle '04 Oct. 1, 2005 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Medford, Wis.

Michelle Holen '04 married Dan Herricks Aug. 13, 2005 at Sacred Heart Church in Cashton, Wis.

Kimberly Jain '04 married John Peach Aug. 13, 2005.

Jacki and Jeffrey Kuepker '04 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emma Grace Rose, Oct. 2, 2005.

Kerri Mohwinkle '04 and Jeff Mohwinkle celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kinsey Emalyn, Sept. 23, 2005. She joins her siblings Jonathon, Kaitlyn, and Kasyid.

Nicole Sorensen married Eric Mutchie '04 July 30, 2005.

Erin Peterfuso '04 and Chad Edlund celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lauren Alexis, July 9, 2005. She joins her brother, Joshua Parker, 2.

Wendy Rabe '04 was selected for one of the YWCA’s Tribute to Outstanding Women awards.

Alesia Reihl '04 accepted a position as a first and second grade teacher at All Saints Elementary School in Madison Lake, Minn.

Michelle (Salmon) '04 and Thomas Breuer celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emma Rose, July 18, 2005. She joins her siblings, James, 4, and Maria, 3.

Pamela Hammill '04 married Jacob Schwarz June 25, 2005.

Amy Spychalski '04 accepted a position as a sixth grade science and social studies teacher in the School District of Random Lake.

Julie Wysocky '04 and Dan Wysocky celebrated the birth of a daughter, Molly Marie, July 13, 2005. She joins her brother, Dylan, 4.

Amanda Beier '05 married Josh Euler Dec. 4, 2004 in Holmen Lutheran Church in Holmen, Wis.

Erin Doherty '05 married Dan Benner July 23, 2005.

Shayna Evans '05 married Kevin Arndt June 11, 2005.

Amyjo Reed '05 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madelyn Arlene, Sept. 12, 2005.

Denise (Jackson) Schmidt '05 attended a four-day End of Life Nursing Education Consortium qualifying health care providers in end of life care.

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.


Ed Schlosser, Nov. 8, 2005, brother of Margaret Ann Schlosser, FSPA ’47.
Matthew Tsai, Nov. 12, 2005, brother of Marda Tsai, FSPA ’50.


Vaughan Forster, Aug. 3, 2005, brother of Lorraine Forster, FSPA ’52.


Rosanne Clark, Oct. 23, 2005, sister of Mary Bates, FSPA ’56.


Rita Oien, July 11, 2005, sister of Donna Storm, FSPA ’60 and Jeanne Storm, FSPA ’63.


Nancy Schedlo, July 9, 2005, sister of Antona Schedlo, FSPA ’65.

Alexander Grossbeier, July 17, 2005, brother of Marian Grossbeier, FSPA ’66.


Eleanor Tydrich, July 20, 2005, mother of Julie Tydrich, FSPA ’72.


Don Klaube, July 16, 2005, brother-in-law of Donna (Blake) Cummings ’74.

Alan Hazen Read, July 16, 2005, husband of Mary (Culver) Read ’74.

Gregory Conrad ’72-’75, June 4, 2005.

Steven Smith ’74-’75, Aug. 4, 2005, husband of Arlene (Baumler) Smith ’74.


Diane (Gordon) Anderson ’82, May 7, 2005.


Alice Towne, Nov. 7, 2005, mother of Sharon Zernia ’84.

Marvelyn Dean, Feb. 10, 2005, mother of Betty (Dean) Helthe ’85.

Donald Dean, Sept. 6, 2005, father of Betty (Dean) Helthe ’85.


Helen Doubek, Oct. 24, 2005, mother of Margaret Hammell ’87.

Patricia Campbell, Feb. 9, 2005, mother of Michelle (Miller) Lemke ’89.

John Granger, Sept. 10, 2005, father of Wendy (Granger) Payson ’90.

Roxanne “Roxie” Hefti ’95, Nov. 10, 2005.

A FINAL WORD

New Nurse Faces National Disaster

By Katie Trelstad ’05

May 2005 was a month I knew I would never forget. I was a senior nursing student awaiting graduation and the mere thought of taking state boards and starting a new career were intimidating.
I graduated cum laude and passed boards the first time I took them. What a relief I thought, one less thing to worry about. The next obstacle was starting a nursing career at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, one of the best hospitals in the world. I had just finished a 10-week orientation on my floor, ENT (Ear, Nose, Throat) and plastic surgery, when the opportunity to go to Louisiana and help with Hurricane Katrina’s victims came about. I jumped at the chance. I put my name on a list of over 650 volunteers and didn’t have to think twice. I knew this was something I needed to do; it was a calling.

I had been glued to the television after the hurricane hit. Seeing the hurt, devastation, and loss made my heart go out to those people. I knew I could not just watch it on television or just send money to the American Red Cross. I had this incredible desire to physically go down there and do something!

Mayo organized a relief mission called Minnesota Lifeline, which was composed of 33 registered nurses, nine physicians, and 30 support staff from Mayo Rochester, along with 11 volunteers from the University of Minnesota and the College of St. Catherine.

I had received a call from the Mayo Emergency Incident Command System on a Friday and was told I could leave as early as that coming Monday. I was overwhelmed with excitement. I immediately called my friends and family sharing the news. More than 60 volunteers had a briefing and we were not told much. We were told, however, to be “extraordinarily self-sufficient. Prepare for difficult, unpredictable, and changing conditions.” We were also told to pack light, being able to carry all of our supplies on our back if need be.

I had two days to get ready and the only thing I knew for sure was that I needed a Hepatitis A vaccine and supplies. I was able to bring only three changes of clothes (that I could wash in a bucket), sleeping bag, toiletries, comfortable shoes, and cash; they advised against cell phones and credit/debit cards. I thought, wow, quite a change from the current living conditions I was in. Still, I had no regrets and knew this is what I had to do, was supposed to do, what I wanted to do.

Arrival in Louisiana was by plane, we were stationed in Lafayette, which is about 45 miles west of New Orleans; the majority of evacuees had come to this area. We slept on cots on a stage at a fine arts center, which also housed evacuees with special needs in a different area of the building. A curtain separated the men and women, the food wasn’t much to speak of, and the work was long and demanding. Our main interventions were mass immunizations against Hepatitis A and Tetanus and Diphtheria, providing health care for those at shelters, public health clinics, school health units, and to relieve the medical staff that had been working continuously since the hurricane had hit.

While working, I realized how much I have in life and how much I take for granted. I had heard so many stories of families being split up, not knowing whether their loved ones were alive or not. Priceless possessions were lost and memories and keepsakes were washed away. Some did horrible things. And yet, every story had one common thread--faith.

The people I met along the way were all incredible, from young to old, educated to uneducated, and wealthy to poor. They were always thanking God for what they still had in life, and had this amazing strength, hope, and faith that God would somehow help them overcome this tragedy.
I have learned through the interactions I had and the things I saw to appreciate everything I have in life. I am truly blessed. And when I’m having that “worst day,” I will always think of the people I met, and try to be as strong as them.

I continue to work on my nursing floor in one of the best hospitals in the world. Yet, I now see everything in a different light, and will forever thank those who made this experience for me a life changing one.

EXTRAS

DANCING CLARE JOINS DANCING FRANCIS

Dancing Clare, a bronze sculpture commemorating St. Clare of Assisi, was installed in Assisi Courtyard in October.

Clare, who lived in Assisi at the same time as St. Francis, is considered the co-founder of the Franciscan orders. She lived from 1194 to 1253 and was a confidante and friend to St. Francis. During her lifetime, she established an Order, which eventually would be named the Sisters of the Poor Clare.

Dancing Clare is the creation of artist David Kocka, a student of Paul Granlund. The bronze artwork is intended to be a visual companion to Viterbo's Dancing Francis, a sculpture by Granlund, which was installed on campus in 1991.

AMIE L. MATHY CENTER GRAND OPENING

“Olympic Gold” was the theme as gold medal Olympians Jennie Finch, Aaron Peirsol, and Julie Foudy were the special guests at the grand opening of the $7.5 million Amie L. Mathy Center for Recreation and Education Sept. 10.

The medalists participated in an Olympic-style ceremony, shared their thoughts on the new Mathy Center, and signed autographs.

The event also featured a special program and dedication ceremony and self-guided tours of the state-of-the-art facility.

“We really wanted to send out an inspiring message at the grand opening,” said Bill Medland, Viterbo University president. “The Olympic gold medal winners shared their inspiring stories of hard work and dedication.”

The Amie L. Mathy Center for Recreation and Education was made possible through a historic collaboration between Viterbo University and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse and the generosity of countless benefactors and community members.